

Mighty mutt pools strength to pull float during parade

Pulling weight

He didn't look as if he was on steroids, but Muffin, the tiny poodle terrier "pulling" Farmer Jack's giant float during the Santa Claus parade, must have got his mighty muscle power from somewhere. The idea for using the superhound came from owner Debbie Gold, a Stouffville resident who's been on staff at the store for three years. "In the Grinch Who Stole Christmas, the grinch picks a dog to pull his sleigh up and down the hill, so I thought we should use a dog to pull our float," she explains.

The Big Chill

This year's parade was filled with terrific creative ideas; Todd Pools' Flintstones' float and the Lions' handmade train are just two wonderful examples. Despite relatively mild weather, small fry who participated still looked chilled to the bone by the time the parade got underway, partly because they had to be at their floats an hour beforehand to enable the judges to select winners. Maybe it would be better if they were judged during or after the parade, but is a contest really necessary? With the time and effort that goes into each entry, they're all winners. Congratulations to the Kinsmen for another fun-filled event!

Takeoff worm?

Taking the part of the worm's head in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library float was a cosy experience, reports Sheila McLeod, who was responsible for operating those incredible eyes. Gayle Dunford's tail-end job was no picnic, though, whenever the wind got up. Gayle had to hang on grimly to prevent takeoff, while Sheila wondered if they were about to become the first airborne exhibit in the parade's history.

Early planning

While many people are busy organizing Christmas celebrations, planning is already underway for next year's Strawberry Festival. At a recent meeting,



grapevine

kate gilderdale

former Tribune editor Jim Thomas proposed a sacred music night during the festivities, and suggested Parkview Village auditorium as a possible location. The Deer Park Inn's Roger Farrell expressed his desire to involve the facility in Stouffville's big birthday bash again next year. Both proposals were welcomed by the committee, which invites all community members to get involved in making 1990's festival better than ever. For more information call Pat Ratcliff at 640-5076 or Jim Heidema at 640-1194.

Trip cancelled

Bad driving conditions forced Brown Owl Karen Grimes and Tawny Owl Sue Ruttan to cancel a planned trip for Stouffville's 3rd Brownie pack to Weall and Cullen's miniature village on Wednesday night. Not wanting to disappoint their eager charges, Karen and Sue called Zappeion's Restaurant and asked if they could bring the girls in for hot chocolate. "We were made really welcome," noted Tawny Owl. "The kids had a great time and each of them was given a candy cane by restaurant staff. It really made up for missing their trip."

Pen pal club

Students from Grades 4, 5 and 6 at Dickson Hill Public School have formed a pen pal club, and this week they'll be replying to letters received from 26 students in Guadalupe. "Our first letters are going to be in the form of Christmas cards," explained teacher Mike O'Reilly, who's coordinating the group. It all started last year when he mentioned he would like to set up such exchanges. A mother whose family lives in Guadalupe said she would contact her parents and ask if they could help. "One of the teachers there responded,

and now the kids have started to write to each other." He hopes eventually to expand the program to include other countries.

Schools help needy

Summitview Public School is featuring a variety of different activities for students during the Christmas season, including a student/teacher volleyball game. Spectators are asked to bring a can or box of food, which will be donated to needy families, as the price of admission.

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