

# Stouffville Strawberry Festival

## Miss Stouffville pageant to be closely fought

The Miss Whitchurch-Stouffville Pageant promises to be a closely fought contest this year, with ten articulate and enthusiastic young women vying for top honors.

Contestants are judged on street clothes, sports clothes and a talent of their choice.

"It doesn't have to be dancing or singing," stated organizer Bunny Burton.

"They can read a poem or present anything which shows their particular skill. One year a girl showed the clothes she'd sewn herself, another year we had an artist; they talked about what they'd done."

Each entrant appears in her favorite party dress and answers one question which she has written herself and one written by the judges, for which no preparation time is given.

That's one of the most difficult segments of the Pageant and it calls for excellent speaking skills as well as plenty of mental dexterity.

For 16-year-old Karen Milling, entering the Pageant is a great opportunity to be with other girls

her own age and gain more experience in modelling.

"I haven't been in a pageant before, but I do fashion shows for some of the stores around town," she told The Tribune.

For the talent portion of the program, "I'm writing a poem and I'll be reading it that night."

Jennifer Brain was persuaded to enter by a friend who had participated in a previous contest.

"She asked me to go in - she said she'd really enjoyed it."

The 16-year-old admitted to being nervous about getting up in front of a large audience, "but I thought it would be interesting to go into, it seems like it would be a lot of fun meeting different people."

Meeting new people is also a big incentive for Tracey Emery, 19, who entered last year's Miss Markham Fair pageant.

"I'd like to get some experience in talking in front of groups of people," she said.

"I'm doing a gymnastics routine, I've been doing gymnastics since I was six years old."

Nicole Ellis just wanted to go in for the experience. My friends have helped me a lot to make the final decision. I've never done this before, so I'm very nervous," she explained.

For the talent portion of her program Nicole will demonstrate some of the sports she's involved in including basketball, volleyball, badminton, swimming and baseball. "I'm calling it 'Nicole, This Is Your Life,'" added the 16-year-old.

"I read about it in the paper and I thought it would be a lot of fun to get together with other girls" noted Monique Leblond, 16.

"My family and friends supported

me and said it would be a good idea. We're all in it to have a good time, we're all friends, even though most of us have never met, we're there to support each other."

Although she's never done anything like this before, she's excited about taking part; "all my friends and family will be there."

Modelling is not a new experience for 16-year-old Sandra Van Leeuwen, whose mother owns Leona-Lynn Fashions in Stouffville Place Mall.

"I was modelling at the Trade Show, and that gave me the idea of going into the Pageant," she explained.

While she admits to feeling nervous, she's looking forward to the event.

"I'm playing my flute, I've been learning for six years."

Other contestants in Thursday evening's Pageant are: Jennifer Nasior, Sonia Velocci, Lisa Tucker and Jennifer Ransome.

Among the prizes presented to the lucky winner will be a \$500 dollar travel voucher.

The Miss Whitchurch-Stouffville Pageant takes place at Stouffville District Secondary School at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 28th.

General admission is \$4, or \$3 for seniors, students and children.

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