

Student concert features soloists, school bands from throughout Stouffville

By KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

The second annual Student Music Scholarship Concert, which takes place Friday, Oct. 21 at St. James Presbyterian Church, provides an excellent showcase for talented young musicians.

"It all originated back in 1993 when the Presbyterian church decided to drop their musical barbecue and corn roast, held for two

years in the park," explained organizer Jim Thomas, whose commitment to Music Town Ontario led him and other residents to seek an alternative musical celebration.

"Some of us got our heads together and decided we should try a program at the high school," recalled Thomas. "It was (Summitview principal) Doug Winger who suggested a concert involving the whole family of schools in Whitchurch-Stouffville, rather than just the high school."

Last year Summitview, Orchard Park, St. Mark's, Stouffville District Secondary School and Stouffville Christian School all participated in the concert.

This year, Whitchurch-Highlands will be represented by the school's band and choir. "The program itself starts at 8 o'clock but at 7.30 we have a pre-concert piano recital involving six student pianists, who each play for five minutes," Thomas noted.

Also featured at this year's concert will be 16 bell ringers from Summitview Public School and a ukulele orchestra from St. Mark's Catholic School. "It's still hosted by St. James Presbyterian Church with the support of our Music Town committee."

Organizing committee members are Gayle Atkinson, Stewart McElroy and Thomas. "The enthusiasm within the schools has been tremendous," he said.

There is no charge for admission

to the concert, but free-will donations will be welcomed during intermission. All proceeds will be divided among the participating schools for their music programs and additional donations have already been promised by the Latcham Foundation and the Ballantrae District Lions Club.

"Stouffville Lions and the Progress Clubs supported us very generously last year," Thomas advised.

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