

Summer '95

Bad boating caused deaths of 200 Ontarians

According to the Canadian Red Cross Society and Royal Lifesaving Society, over 200 people died in boating incidents in 1992.

The vast majority of these fatalities were preventable by very simple changes in the way people go boating.

Boaters will be reminded of these safe boating practices during National Safe Boating Week from June 4 to 10.

National Safe Boating Week coincides with the start of summer and the busiest time for boating incidents. During the week, the Canadian Coast Guard hopes to increase public awareness of the importance of safe boating practices in an effort to reduce the number of incidents involving pleasure

craft during the summer.

The campaign will help remind boaters of simple steps they can take to boat safely. Boaters should know that:

- most accidents occur in smaller boats because they are affected more by the wind and motion of the water,

- the law requires that there are always enough approved life jackets or personal flotation devices (PFDs) on board for everyone on the boat,

- the only "approved" lifejackets or PFDs are those carrying the approved Transport Canada label,

- drinking and boating is dangerous and illegal. The same laws that apply to drinking and driving

apply to drinking and boating: for a first conviction - a minimum \$300 fine; for a second conviction for either boating or driving under the influence - a minimum 14-day jail term; for subsequent convictions - not less than 90 days in jail plus fines,

- maximum penalties for drinking and boating include sentences up to 14 years in jail and a lifetime ban on operating a boat.

The effects of alcohol are worse on water than they are on land because the effect of the wind motion of the boat and increased sound levels double normal reaction time.

For more information on boating safety, boaters should call 1-800-267-6687.

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• Focus On Business •

Pick your own berries at Strawberry Creek Farm - fun destination for entire family

By RENA GALANIS
 Advertising Features Coordinator

The family-operated Strawberry Creek Farm in Stouffville is a fun destination for an outing with the gang to pick some fresh fruit and get away from big city life for an afternoon.

The 40-acre farm is run by Grant and Faith Hall and their sons Jonathan and Jeremy. Their spouses Heather and Christina round out the team.

The brothers had grown up working on what was then the Mangione Farm and the Halls finally took over the business two years ago and added seven and a half acres of new strawberry plants.

"Presently we're planning on including a petting zoo, children's play centre, haunted teepees during Halloween and various crafts," Jonathan says. "We want a visit to the farm to be a fun day's outing for the whole family."

June and early July are prime strawberry season and at Strawberry Creek Farm you can pick your own six-quart basket for about six to seven dollars (prices may fluctuate).

"The best time to pick is between now and Canada Day," Jeremy says. "We sell a variety of berries including Veestar which are very sweet. Berries found at many grocery stores

are not Ontario-grown. They're often not ripe and they're tasteless. Nothing beats picking your own strawberries fresh from a farm."

The Halls direct their visitors to ideal spots through their fields to gather their fruit but ready baskets are also available for purchase.

In addition to strawberries, the Halls grow sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins and Chinese vegetables.

Weekends are busiest and visitors come from all over the city, Jeremy adds.



Strawberry Creek Farm in Stouffville is a fun spot for an outing with the family. The 40-acre, family operated farm is run by the Hall family. Pictured above are brothers Jonathan (far left) and Jeremy (far right) with their wives, Heather (left) and Christina Hall.

Strawberry Creek Farm is open to the public from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and until 6 p.m. on weekends.

They are located at 12724 10th Line in Stouffville, just north of the Stouffville Flea Market.

For more information call 905-640-2168.

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