

Fest boasts parade, 100 vendors

Stouffville's Main Street in the downtown core will be closed to traffic June 27 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to allow for a safe and fun-filled Strawberry Festival.

In addition to the popular Berry Big Craft Show and Sale, featuring more than 100 vendors from across the province, the day's events will include a festival parade, strolling clowns and live entertainment from the clock tower stage and the gazebo. Local restaurants and cafes will offer a mouth-watering selection of strawberry treats and youngsters can enjoy carnival rides in the library parking lot.

Program information

You can learn more about three programs run by the Bahá'ís of Stouffville at the 1998 Strawberry Festival.

Three separate booths will be set up in the downtown area Saturday, each offering information on the free courses offered by the group, said representative Jalch Victory. "We have two classes in this community at present: the parenting and virtues guide which has been going for almost two years, and the cooking classes which we started more than a year ago. We're also trying to start a sewing class."

Delicious lunch

Cooking, Culture and Conversation offers people the opportunity to meet people from diverse backgrounds, learn about their traditions and enjoy cooking demonstrations of various national

dishes. The atmosphere is informal and friendly and lively discussions follow the delicious lunch.

All courses take place at Victory's elegant home and there is no charge to attend. For more information, visit the Bahá'í booths during Saturday's festival celebrations.



Testing blood pressure

Volunteers from the local unit of the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation invite residents to have their blood pressure tested during Saturday's Strawberry Festival celebrations.

"We are going to set up an information booth in front of the post office and there will be two nurses taking people's blood pressure," said organizer Jean Barclay. They are also going to have pamphlets on risk factors and awareness. It's very important that everybody, no matter how old they are, should know what their blood pressure is.

"So many people think high blood pressure is a seniors' problem, but it can affect people of all ages."

Anyone whose reading is too high or low will be advised to see their doctor, she noted. Volunteers will also give out information on healthy eating and exercise.

Bonnie Stern's latest Heart Smart cookbook will be given

away in a free draw and copies will be available for sale at the booth. "We are also recruiting volunteers that would like to be on the executive or work on a committee." For more information, drop by the booth or call Jean Barclay at 640-1635.

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EDUCATION ALERT

The teachers of Unionville High School would like you to know that the York Region District School Board has unilaterally changed the terms and conditions of our collective agreement. The Board intends to increase teacher workload by requiring most teachers to teach an additional class. The Board's funding does not necessitate this, nor does Bill 160.

The Board's actions will directly impact the students of Unionville High School, and our community, because:

- students will have far less contact with their teachers because most teachers will be responsible for an additional class of students
- students will receive less meaningful lessons and assessments from teachers who will have insufficient preparation time and be less able to offer extra academic help and personal counselling
- students will immediately lose some of their teachers. At a time when our enrolment has increased, staffing at UHS has been cut.
- students will lose extra-curricular opportunities. In the past, teachers have taken pride in participating in a wide variety of student achievements. Teachers will no longer have the time to volunteer. The following enrichment activities will be jeopardized:

sports: Archery, Martial Arts, Wrestling, Rugby, Track and Field, Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Badminton, Table Tennis, Skiing, Tennis, Golf, Swimming, Field Hockey, Cross Country, Volleyball

arts: Dance Council, Music Council, Tri-M, The Bonsai Trees, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Junior Band, Concert Band, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Senior Vocal Jazz, Vocal Jazz, Senior Only Jazz, Showtime

clubs: Amnesty International, Photography, Mock Trial, Interschool Christian Fellowship, Chinese Christian Fellowship, Chinese Student Association, Programming Games, Internet, Model Car, Architecture and Engineering, Canada First Black History, Chat Club, Decca, Flava, Yearbook, slntacks Magazine

activities: Dances, Student Council, Peer Counselling, Field Trips

- students will lose support services for special needs including ESL
- students will lose opportunities to use the library and computer labs after school, especially since the school day at UHS has been extended from five to six periods.

Teachers simply cannot increase their workload without a proportional decrease in student educational experiences and opportunities.

The Province has assured the public that cuts won't affect the classroom and that savings will be made by streamlining the educational bureaucracy. The Director has said, "we too have suffered," in defence of the board's position that they may roll back the salaries of teachers. York teachers have had no salary increase since 1992. Senior administrators at the York Region District School Board have had increases of between 1.8% and 8.8% over the last two years. Be aware of how both the Province and this Board are misleading our community. Be aware of our children's needs.

Teachers want to protect students' learning environment and to maintain dignity as professionals.

Paid for by the teachers of Unionville High School.

