

Strawberry Festival hits the street tonight



KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

You don't need to bring a picnic to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival.

The Stouffville Lions Beef Barbecue gets things off to a delicious start tonight at 5 p.m. in Memorial Park and a wide variety of refreshments will be available from festival food vendors, beginning late Friday afternoon. To get an early start on Saturday's fun-filled day, join the Ballantrae Lions for their pancake breakfast at Memorial Park, from 7 a.m.

Visitors to Stouffville's train station can partake of refreshments Saturday, courtesy of President's Choice, and local restaurants will offer an excellent selection of food and drink throughout the festival.

Ice cream-making demonstrations will be featured from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the museum booth.

Visit Pepsi's Mountain Dew Dewds Ford Explorer for samples of the popular soft drink and a chance to win some fabulous prizes, then try some of the company's Mug Root Beer at the Mug Bug, a restored original Volkswagen Beetle.

Buy locally-grown strawberries from the Stouffville Boy Scouts booth, located outside Freckles, and don't forget to join the Novopharm Strawberry Social at noon Sunday, following the Ecumenical church

service in Memorial Park.
Touch of Magic

There's a touch of magic in the air at this year's Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival.

You can catch it at Friday night's Variety Show on Memorial Park Stage, with Dave Houston - also known as Shakespeare the Magician - and his guests Dan Laffey, Bruce Leonard, Ken Norton, Herb Statts and John Wilkes. The fun begins at 7:30 p.m., following festival opening ceremonies and awards presentations.

The library's multi-purpose room at 3 p.m. Saturday is the place for some Close Up Magic.

Town stage hopping

The town stage will be hopping with fabulous live entertainment, demonstrations and contests all day Saturday.

Students from Expressions Dance Studio get things off to a graceful start at 9 a.m. Mayor Wayne Emmerson officially welcomes the crowd at 10:15 and will be followed by our own Music Mania singers at 10:30. Next up are the high energy Cloggers, while the Music Mania dancers strut their stuff at 11:30 a.m. and Stouffville Martial Arts presents karate demonstrations at noon. The soothing sounds of the Homespun Singers can

be heard at 1 p.m.

Fans of Celtic music with a 90s edge are in for a rare treat when high profile east coast band MacKee hits the stage from 1:30 to 3 p.m. The Nova Scotia ensemble released their first CD 'Plaid' in 1996 and the recording quickly became the Maritimes' top selling independent album of the year.

With a repertoire which blends traditional Celtic music with new material, the six-member band employs fiddles, bagpipes, rock guitar, bass and drums to produce a lively, unique sound which defies easy categorization.

Rounding up a day of great entertainment, the presentation of the Spelling Bee awards takes place at 3:05 p.m., followed by the Pie Auction and a final set by the Cloggers at 4 p.m.

Dog show Sunday

Show off your dog Sunday afternoon in the Markham Kennel Club Fun Dog Show contest at Franklin Park at 1 p.m. The show and contest are sponsored by Purina and Ballantrae resident Dave Probert. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. sharp. Leashes mandatory.

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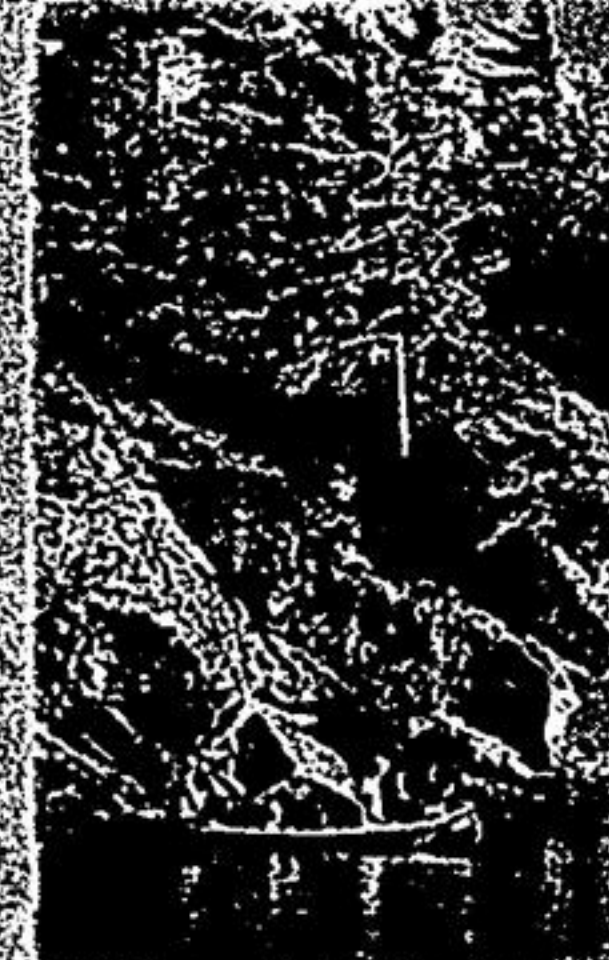
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