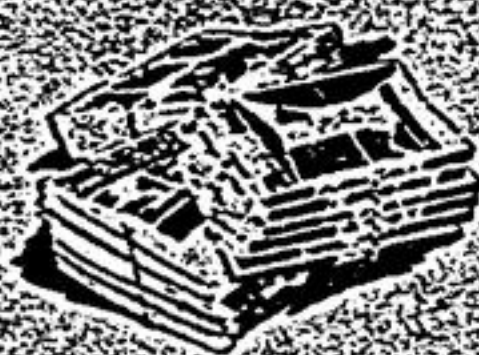




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Tournament of Champions returns to York Region

Prestigious Cedar Valley equestrian event attracts Canada's top show jumping riders

BY LISA QUEEN
STAFF WRITER

The horse crowd thought it was a little strange.

In York Region, one of Canada's premier equestrian areas, there wasn't a horse show worthy of the country's best riders.

The Tournament of Champions, an event that had attracted world-class attention, died 10 years ago. That event had been hosted by the former Eglinton Equestrian Centre, on Davis Drive, west of Hwy. 48, in Cedar Valley. But the centre was forced to close six years ago, crushed by a \$4-million debt.

Four years ago, the centre was resurrected by Kim and Suzanne Philip, who renamed it the York Equestrian

Centre.

In addition, Brookfield Homes Ltd., formerly Coscan Development, is planning The Paddocks, an estate subdivision for people interested in equestrian sports adjacent to the facility.

Now, the Tournament of Champions is making a comeback after a 10-year hiatus. The event starts today and runs through Sunday.

"It's been a labour of love," said show manager Mac McQuaker, who, along with chairperson Eddie Creed, first proposed reviving the event a year ago.

His wife, Christi, competes in hunter and jumper events around Ontario and in the United States.

"But there was nothing in our own



STAFF PHOTO/ROB ALARY

Dressage rider Jessica Costello, left, and Kim Philip of the York Equestrian Centre, promote the Tournament of Champions event which runs until Sunday at the Cedar Valley facility.

backyard," McQuaker said.

"The Tournament of Champions used to be one of the most prestigious shows on the hunter/jumper circuit. We want to bring that back again. We want to make it a red-ribbon event for here in Canada."

Riders from Ontario, Quebec and upper New York State will compete, including top Canadian show jumpers Beth Underhill, Eric Lamaze and Ian Millar, who has just returned from his successful European tour.

The tournament will be the final send-off for the Canadian team before the World Equestrian Games in Rome the first week of October.

According to Suzanne Philip, volunteers have devoted countless hours to launching the new tournament. "It's been so wonderful, the tremendous amount of excitement generated by this horse show, serving

such a huge geographic area," she said.

Philip and McQuaker stressed the tournament isn't geared only to the equestrian set. There are events for the whole family. Attractions include the Techni-Cal Superdogs, the horse/dog speed relay, the Boulevard of Champions Trade Fair and Craft Show, McDonald's petting zoo, dressage "ballet on horseback," and the parade of hounds.

On Saturday night, organizers are hoping to raise between \$20,000 and \$25,000 for the Children's Wish Foundation at a gala, which will feature the superdogs, dressage performances and the grand prix challenge.

Admission today and tomorrow is free. On Saturday and Sunday, admission will be \$5 per person, including parking. Seniors and children under 12 get in free.

ATTENTION YORK CATHOLIC STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Talks between the School Board and the Teachers' Association broke off Tuesday night. Classes for both elementary and secondary school students continue to be cancelled, regular bus service is not available and parents are encouraged to keep their children at home.

A provincially appointed mediator will call the parties back when he feels there is something new to be brought forth.

The Board has written to the Education Relations Commission (ERC) to express its concern with the unique circumstances that exist in the York Catholic District School Board with respect to the loss of instructional time.

We are currently working on plans to make up for lost instructional time, and we will be seeking input from school communities and the Ministry in this endeavour.

The Board is always prepared to remain at the bargaining table as long as meaningful negotiations are taking place.

Daily learning activities for Grades 1 to 8 can be accessed on the Board's Website and have also been made available by schools. Secondary school students may contact their school for study materials.

Throughout the province, our Catholic teachers, Catholic parents and Catholic students are caught in a dispute over issues like class size, teacher workload, finances, salaries, and the struggle over who controls education in the province. We sincerely regret the impact this strike has had on our school communities and we pray that this situation will soon be resolved.

For current updates, contact our Teacher Negotiations Information Hotline: (905) 713-1211 or (416) 221-5051, ext. 7040.



York Catholic District
School Board

WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP AT FATHER'S

Thursday, Sept. 17th ~ Open Jam Night

Hosted By **JOHN STEWART**

Friday Sept. 25th and Saturday Sept. 26th

TONY PRIOR and the POSSE

Live Country Band



Sunday, Sept. 27th

ATLANTIS

Corner of Hwy. #7 and McCowan Rd. - (905) 294-0134

Abacus Explosion

- ◆ ABACUS vs. ABACUS (TROPHY or GIFTS FOR WINNER)
- ◆ ABACUS vs. CALCULATOR
- ◆ ABACUS vs. MENTAL CALCULATION DEMONSTRATION & PERFORMANCES
- ◆ CALCULATOR vs. MENTAL CALCULATION

~ ABACUS DANCE - FIRST-TIME PERFORMANCES ON PLANET EARTH ~

Come And Be Amazed

CONTESTANTS ARE WELCOME!

DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1998
TIME: 2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM
PLACE: FIRST MARKHAM PLACE
3255 HWY. #7 EAST (E. OF WARDEN)
MARKHAM, ON
(NEXT TO HOME DEPOT)



◆ CONTESTANT REGISTRATION STARTS AT 12:30 PM ◆

INFORMATION - 476-491-3228

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