

# Experience a Country Christmas

## Journey to Bethlehem

November 26th kicks off the sixth annual Bethlehem Live!

This weekend, thousands of local residents will be obeying the Roman emperor's proclamation to return to Bethlehem to register for a taxation census.

Bethlehem Live! '98 is a re-enactment of first century events surrounding Joseph and Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, their ancestral home town, as ordered by Caesar Augustus.

This presentation is not a drama to be observed.

Participants actually become part of the cast, experiencing the same kind of encounters along the road that Joseph and Mary might have had to face.

Every attempt is made to maintain an atmosphere of realism.

The cover of darkness helps to hide 20th century surrounding.

All lighting is natural flame by torches, bonfires or lanterns, as it would have been two millennia ago.

The stage itself is a five acre site on the

grounds of Christian Blind Mission.

The walk takes approximately 30 minutes with 16 encounters along the way.

While family groups are waiting to take their journey they have opportunity to enjoy Christmas music at their first resting place.

Because this event occurs outdoors, all attending are advised to dress warmly and to wear comfortable shoes.

One busload of ladies arrived last year in high heels and fashionable clothing expecting an indoor concert.

Unfortunately they didn't get to Bethlehem.

Returning to the present, trekkers are able to warm up with hot chocolate and cookies.

Christmas shopping is available in Christian Blind Mission's A World of Goods gift store featuring

unique, quality items from around the world, where CBMI has rehabilitation projects for disabled persons.

The more than 100 character actors and many other volunteers needed to put together this special event come from the 60 plus churches of the Markham-Stouffville

area.

At the close of the walk a brochure is distributed listing these community churches and their particular special Christmas presentations.

Parking is supervised by members of the Stouffville Lions Club. The animal actors are provided by Lionel's Pony Farm on McCowan Road.

Although camels are not available, Lionel's Llamas provide a suitable alternative mode of transportation for the three Wise Men.

Bethlehem Live! is a great way for families to start the Christmas season.

This special feature runs nightly from 6 to 9 p.m., Nov. 26 to 29.

A \$3 donation per person or \$8 per family is requested.

Bethlehem Live! takes place for this sixth season on the grounds of Christian Blind Mission at 3844 Stouffville Road just east of Kennedy Road.

For details call 640-6464.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Every attempt is made to make Bethlehem Live as realistic as possible.

### FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PROGRAMME FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1998

The fun begins at 6:30 - 7:00 pm with

"Music on the Street" featuring

"Bach to the Blues" & Salvation Army Band

6:30 - 8:30 pm "A Living Nativity"

with live animals at the Clock Tower on Main Street

"Courtesy Stouffville Missionary Church"

### A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION ON STAGE 7PM IN THE CIVIC SQUARE

Acts in order of appearance

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ❖ Welcome by Master of Ceremonies<br>Ruth LeBlanc                                      | ❖ Stouffville Missionary Church<br>Carol Sing              |
| ❖ Official Christmas Proclamation<br>Whitchurch-Stouffville Town Crier<br>Marcel Bossi | ❖ Impressionist - Stephen Leach                            |
| ❖ Lighting of Christmas Tree<br>Mayor Wayne Emmerson<br>and Council Members            | ❖ 1st Ballantrae Girl Guides<br>Carol led by Kelli Carroll |
| ❖ Whitchurch-Stouffville<br>Public School Childrens Choir<br>Led by Odette Frye        | ❖ Soloist Diana Stover                                     |
| ❖ Excitable Elves<br>Respectful Lip Sync   | ❖ My First School Students<br>Meet Santa Claus             |
| Stage Elves: Nita Burdon, Kelli Carroll, Sandra Stronach, Barbara St. John             | ❖ B.I.A. Christmas Gift Draw                               |

"Come One... Come All" Lots of Fun!

Hot Chocolate • Courtesy Stouffville Chrysler  
Hot Apple Cider • Courtesy Strawberry Festival  
Candy Canes • Courtesy Shopper's Drug Mart

Donuts • Courtesy of:  
\* Dainty Donuts \* Coffee Time  
\* Tim Hortons

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HOURS:  
Mon. - Wed. 9:30 - 6:30pm  
Thurs. - Fri. 9:30 - 8:00pm  
Sat. 9:30 - 5:30pm • Sun. 11 - 4pm

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