

# Much to do on Canada Day in Markham, eh

BY BRYAN CAIRNS  
Correspondent

Say what you want about our beaver mascot, bilingualism, our multicultural mosaic, unique health-care system and chanteuse Celine Dion: it's what makes us great. Throw in a few "ehs", an insistence we really do pronounce words correctly, plus all the misconceptions from over the border and you've only begun to scratch the surface of our identity.

On July 1, this country gracefully

turns one year older and to celebrate Canada Day, Markham has planned a birthday bash of fun.

Kicking off the festivities is a special noon-hour luncheon for seniors.

Hosted by Mayor Don Cousens, the event promises a full buffet of goodies, live entertainment and a yummy Canada Day flag cake for dessert. For convenience, seniors will be picked up by bus at various locations and escorted back and forth from the Civic Centre

Registration is only a phone call away at 477-7000, ext. 2511.

"It's to show the respect and admiration our seniors deserve and have earned," Canada Day co-ordinator Wayne Patterson said.

At 4 p.m., the People's Parade leaves Markville Shopping Centre and marches towards Milne Park. A horse-drawn buggy full of seniors will lead the procession. Traditionally, Milne Park is where it all happens July 1.

Opening ceremonies begin with

a word from the town's dignitaries. From that moment on, it's a wonderland of fun. The sky is the limit with a hot air balloon set up to help raise money for the new Markhaven seniors building.

For a small fee, food vendors and booths featuring different ethnic backgrounds will offer tastes of their cultures' specialties. Thousands of Kisko freezies will be handed out to keep things cool. Over on the main stage, musical acts such as Crimson Moon and

The Markham Concert Band will be spotlighted.

Meanwhile, children can be enchanted at the popular storytelling tent, marvel as the clowns perform magical tricks and give out balloons, or catch Dan the Music Man's tunes.

Following the day's activities, the coup de grace comes as darkness falls. At about 9:30 p.m., from 10,000 to 15,000 onlookers are expected to watch the sky dance with dazzling fireworks.

## Eating strawberries and waving flags

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

Stouffville will salute Canada Day in grand style Saturday.

Canada Day falls on the busiest day of Stouffville's annual Strawberry Festival, giving residents a two-fold reason to celebrate: living in the best town in the

world's best country is definitely reason to rejoice.

The Canada Day theme is expected to dominate the festival's parade, beginning in downtown Stouffville at 9 a.m. The audience will be reminded of Canada when the entries in the Lioness Club sponsored bicycle competition

peddle by. The children have been asked to decorate their bikes in the country's red and white colours.

As well, parade watchers will get a special treat when the festival committee hands out Canada flag candies.

Throughout the day, Canada's 133rd birthday will be honoured

by such fun events as a pancake breakfast, baseball, live entertainment, complete with a midway, juggling and dancing, a teddy bear picnic and a bubble gum contest.

In the evening, a giant Canada Day cake will be served in Memorial Park. A fireworks display begins at 10 p.m.

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