

# Fair to help out U.S. relief workers

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN  
Staff Writer

Come to the Markham Fair on opening day and you'll help support emergency workers in devastated New York City.

Fifty percent of the day's receipts on Thursday, Sept. 27, go to the relief workers at the Work Trade Centre site — those firefighters, police officers, hospital workers and emergency services personnel who have been working tirelessly since the horrific events of Sept. 11.

"Everyone has just been immersed in it and they all say 'What can I do?' This is something we can do," said David Morrison, general manager.

"We already recognize the work our own emergency services workers do by giving them the opportunity to visit the fair on opening day for half-price. We're just augmenting that."

This year marks the 157th edition of the fair, a weekend steeped in local farming tradition that has grown to include entertainment, competitions, magicians and gymnasts as well as rides, games and food.

The annual gathering is still a way for Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville farmers to compare their crops and livestock and learn new production or genetic techniques. Holstein, Angus and shorthorn cattle shows, light and heavy horse shows, sheep shearing and goat milking demonstrations are only a few of the livestock shows and competitions taking place.

The tractor, truck and horse pulls are always popular as is the Thursday night demolition derby.

On Saturday and Sunday, fairgoers can bet on their favorites during the horse races which go at 1 p.m. both days.

The list of performers at the fair grows every year and 2001 is no exception: Watch for six-time Juno-award winner Prairie Oyster Saturday night while local favorite Nuraw Blooze Band plays Thursday evening. The Extreme Sports area offers demonstrations on skateboards, BMX bikes and roller blades.

More than \$100,000 in prize money is up for grabs as 13,000 items from pictures and preserves to needlecraft and baked goods will be judged in competitions.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for youths and \$2 for children 12 and younger. Children under four are free while seniors are \$5. Family passes are also available.

The fair runs Thursday through Sunday at McCowan and Elgin Mills Road.

For more information call 905-642-3247.

## Fair shuttles run in Markham, Stouffville

As part of its commitment to maintaining individual community services, York Region Transit is offering shuttle bus service to seniors during the Markham Fair.

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents and selected seniors homes in Markham and Stouffville will be served by frequent buses beginning on Thursday, Sept. 27 and running through to Sunday, Sept. 30.

"We're trying to keep the events we had in the past and the point here is get seniors to the fair," explained Robin Brown, operations supervisor in Markham.

Riders can catch a ride every two hours, on the hour, at the Success Square plaza at Main and Stouffer Streets in Stouffville. Subsequent stops include the firehall, the old library, the GO station, Parkview seniors home on Ninth Line and the A&P plaza.

After dropping passengers off at the McCowan Road fairgrounds, the bus will arrive at Swan Lake on 16th Avenue at 10:45 a.m. and every two hours after that for Markham residents.

It will then make stops at the seniors complex at 20 Water Street and Thomson Court on Main Street Markham.

In Unionville, the run begins at 11:10 a.m. at Bethany Lodge on Second Street and will make a stop at the Heritage Centre on Anna Russell Way in Union Villa before heading to the fair. Buses will do the route every two hours until 8:10 p.m.

The regular shuttle between Markville Shopping Centre and the fair will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday on every hour and half hour.

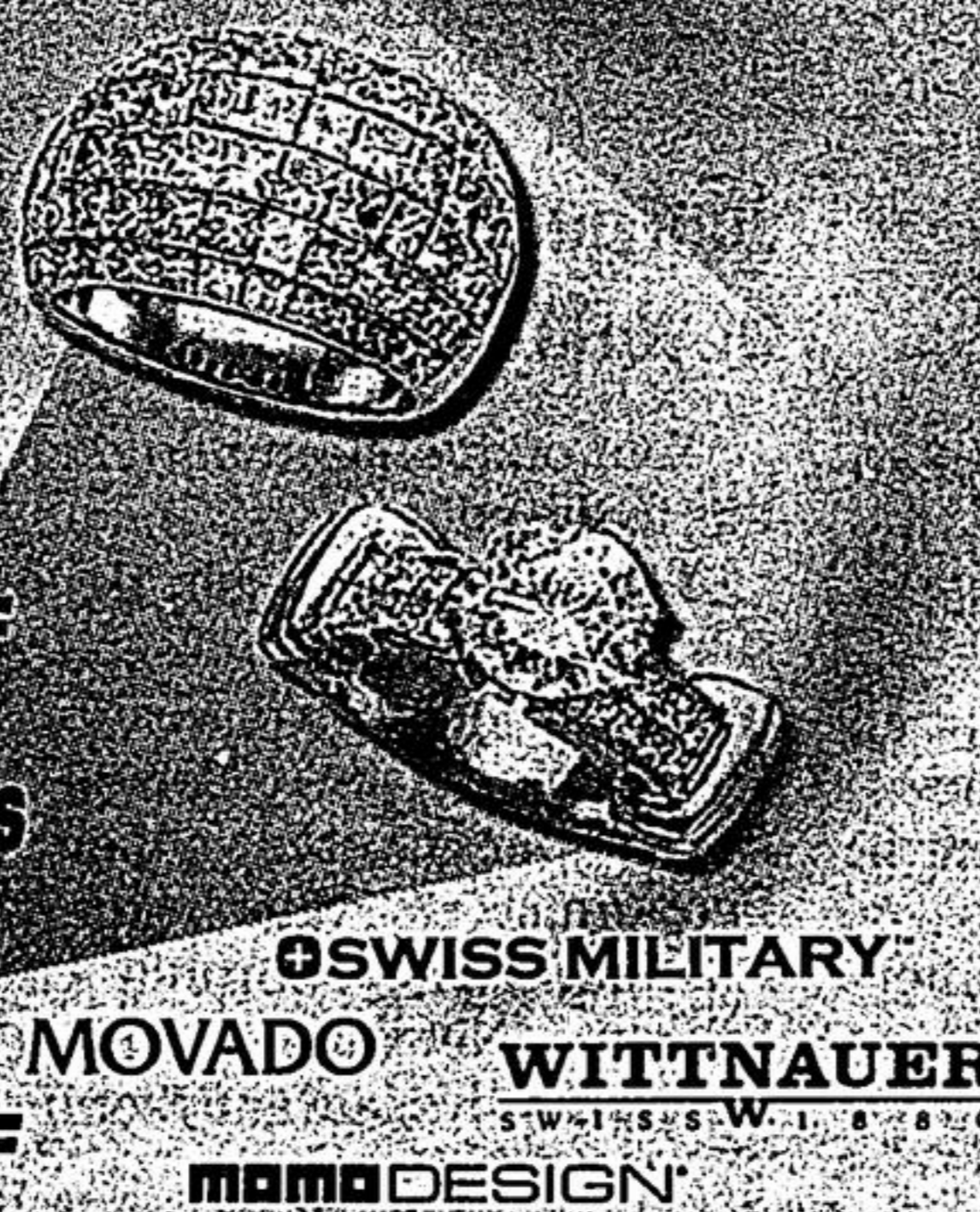
Buses can also be flagged down at any point along the route.

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