

REGISTRATION

Big Top adventure humbling experience

From page 16.

"OK, this is fun, we'll just do some easy stuff," said Mr. Nadtochii, lowering the trapeze and prying my rigid frame off the bar.

For the former member of the Moscow Circus and Cirque de Soleil, a 30-year veteran of circus arts, this was not even close to walking the high wire balancing three adults above his head.

"Can you do handstands, cartwheels?" he said quizzically as I flopped on the ground after an unsuccessful back arch. "It's just like a handstand," he said, posing me in a large metal wheel and rolling it. My arms howled in protest — or was that me?

My heart rate zoomed as I bounced on the trampoline attempting knee tucks and splits. A face-first dismount landed me in the foam pit and I struggled out as if from quicksand. Age was no excuse; the well-muscled Mr. Nadtochii had five years on me.

Balancing acts came a little easier. The tight wire, close to the ground, did not intimidate; I "stepped off" after a quick try. Stilts were OK as long as I was not upright. I would surely get the hang of standing on a board balanced on a cylinder and of juggling a tube on my feet. As I held his arm in an iron grip, Mr. Nadtochii told me I had great skill on the unicycle.

"Here, this is for five-year-olds," he said, handing me two short ladders and showing me how to climb them simultaneously, one foot on each. I balanced precariously by crimping my toes and squeezing my thighs together as if I'd had too much coffee.

At Big Top, Mr. Nadtochii has been offering sessions for children and adults in everything from juggling to flying trapeze for seven years. His wife and business partner, Iana, said adults usually choose one activity, while children dabble in everything.

The Nadtochii's bill their Newmarket school as a unique, fun way to get fit, flexible and co-ordinated. My "crash" course was causing something akin to rigor mortis as unknown muscles squealed before seizing.

Strapped into the harness and grabbing two fistfuls of stretchy cords, I was hoisted toward the ceiling with some difficulty by Mr. Nadtochii. "Pull, pull yourself up with your arms," he grunted as, dangling over the foam pit, I tried to co-ordinate my pulling with the upward bounce of the bungee. Soon the contraction built momentum and I plummeted earthward and rebounded with increasing force. Cool.

"OK, let go and grab the bar over your head." Say what? My mind refused even to contemplate the possibility as I struggled just to look up at the bar. My hands simply would not let go of the cords.

"Try a back flip then," Mr. Nadtochii said, sensing my reluctance and perhaps worried by my whimpering.

To save face, I valiantly tried to lift my legs over my head, battling G-forces like a bomber pilot. Unable to assist me using the harness, as he had on the trapeze, Mr. Nadtochii returned me to earth.

"Sorry, I chickened out," I said, emerging from the foam. Maybe next time, I thought, eyeing the elusive bar and grasping Mr. Nadtochii's helping hand out of the pit. Maybe next time.

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For more information please contact

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Parkview Village
 12184 Ninth Line South
 Stouffville
Sunday, January 20th, 2002
Rev. Mike Bishop
 Chaplain Port Perry Hospital
 7:00 pm Village Auditorium

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
 34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163
 Worship Minister: Rev. Robert Nightingale
 Education Minister: Nancy Monteith
Sunday, January 20, 2002
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 Baby fold,
 Children's Worship
 and Youth Pac
Everyone Welcome

STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
 6853 Main St., Stouffville (905) 640-5696
Sunday, January 20th, 2002
 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 6p.m. Evening Celebration
 Kid Zone at 7:00 pm Wednesday

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
 13660 Ninth Line
 905-642-4414
 Pastor - Dr. John Howarth
 (South of 47 Highway formerly Bloomington Rd.)
Sunday, January 20th, 2002
 11:00 a.m. "Be humble toward one another"
 1st Peter 5:5
 6:30 p.m. The Power of Prayer James 5:13-18
Everyone Welcome

Welcome to...
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday, January 20, 2002
 Worship & Church School
 10:30 am
 Nursery also provided
 Troubles abound, but Jesus said,
 "Come to me and I will give you rest."
 Those who seek Jesus still find peace
 & love.
Sharing God's Love since 1860
Everyone welcome.
 6432 Main St. 640-3151
st.james.stouffville@sympatico.ca

THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH
 254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville
 The Rev. Robert A. Shields
 (905) 640-1461
Sunday, January 20th, 2002
 Second Sunday after Epiphany
8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist
 Church School
 and Nursery Provided
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 e-mail: christchurch.stouffville@sympatico.ca
 web site: www3.sympatico.ca/christchurch.stouffville

STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
 A Fellowship Church
 6273 Main Street
 Pastor - Gordon M. MacCormack 905-640-2911
Sunday, January 20th, 2002
 Adult and Jr High Groups
 Morning Worship 11:00 am
 Pastor Gordon MacCormack
 Series in Nehemiah
 "Motivating the Masses"
 Every Wednesday Prayer Time 7:30pm
 Kids Club Wed. Jan. 23, 2002 at 3:45 pm
 Grades 1-6
 Coffee & Crafts Thurs. Jan 24th - 9:30am
 Gum Ball Machines
 "The better we know ourselves, the less we'll criticise others."
 All Welcome - God Bless - We Care -

Springvale Baptist Church
 Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
 905-887-5651
 Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
 Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton
 Associate Pastor/Student Ministries: Brian G. Simcoe
 Worship & Music Co-ordinator: Heather Thornton
 Children's Ministries Co-ordinator: Sharon Russell
January 20th, 2002
9:45 a.m. Message Series:
 Biographies - Lives Well Spent
Pastor Bob Flemming
 11:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Groups In Homes
 Wednesday January 23rd, 2002
 7:00 pm Kids Club, Jr. High & Midway Ministries
 For more info call Church Office

Wideman Mennonite Church
 • January 20th, 2002 •
 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education
 11:00 a.m. - Many People's Sunday
 - Ron Lofthouse
 1 km. North of Major Mackenzie on Hwy 48
 Church Office: 640-6219 For a ride call: 640-4185

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VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
 473-3543
 Pastor: Robert Okum
 On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd.
 Holding forth the doctrines of grace
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
 7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship
 Everyone is Welcome