

**TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS**

# Charity events warm hearts

The Tournament of Champions is about more than great equestrian sport; it's also about giving to worthy causes.

The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada and CARD (Community Association for Riding for the Disabled) will benefit from two gala events at the tournament, held Sept. 18 to 21 at the York Equestrian Centre, minutes from Newmarket on Davis Drive.

The sixth annual Children's Wish Charity Challenge will be presented by The Home Depot Sept. 20. The Children's Wish Foundation grants wishes of children suffering from life-threatening illnesses and the Tournament of Champions has raised more than \$200,000 for the foundation over the past five years.

As well, five children have had their wish for a horse or pony granted at the tournament and another child will receive a wish horse this year.

"When you see the looks on the children's faces when they get their horse or pony it's absolutely heart-warming and touches you to the core," says charity challenge chairperson Linda Pabst of King City.

"Each year the charity challenge sells out. Attendees love the action-packed afternoon and evening events, atmosphere and superb cuisine. They're especially generous because the cause is so worthy and the actual giving takes place before their very eyes."

The Home Depot Children's Wish Charity Challenge features gourmet food, live and silent auctions and the rousing Mercedes-Benz Ride & Drive, where celebrity drivers pilot Mercedes-Benz automobiles through a challenging course. They are paired with show jumping horses and riders, who run their own relay. The fastest time posted by the teams of real and motorized horsepower wins.

A new charitable initiative this year is Couture for CARD, a luncheon and fashion show from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19.

Professional models and riders will strut the runway in fashions from renowned designer for the stars, Pat McDonagh, and from Jones of New York, featuring Polo Ralph Lauren.

Master of ceremonies for the occasion will be Ravi Baichwa, co-host of Canada AM.

One of the models in Couture for CARD will be Maria Simpson, who has cerebral palsy, which affects her ability to walk. She has ridden at CARD for 15 years and is an accomplished dressage rider, who has represented CARD and Canada at many demonstrations and competitions, including the Paralympic Games in Atlanta. Riding at CARD has helped her to improve her balance and co-ordination and strengthened her muscles.

Also at the fashion show will be Sarah Dell, who became an ambassador for CARD when she was eight.

Riding at CARD has improved Sarah's muscle control, stamina and endurance and especially her breathing. Sarah savours the freedom of movement on a horse that she cannot experience from her wheelchair.

"CARD is a great organization and has helped thousands of children and adults," says luncheon/fashion show chairperson Dodie Creed.

The York Equestrian Centre is on Davis Drive (Hwy. 9) just east of Hwy. 404. Admission on Thursday and Friday is free.

Show gates open daily at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.

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**September 16, 2003**  
**11:30 am or 6:30 pm**  
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## Stouffville Kinsmen Club



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**When: Saturday, Sept. 27, 2003**  
**Time: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm**  
**Where: Memorial Park in Stouffville**  
**Outdoor Pool Parking Lot**

**Other Events:**

Stouffville Chamber Car Rally, Midway Games  
 Antique Car Show featuring The Motor City Cruisers  
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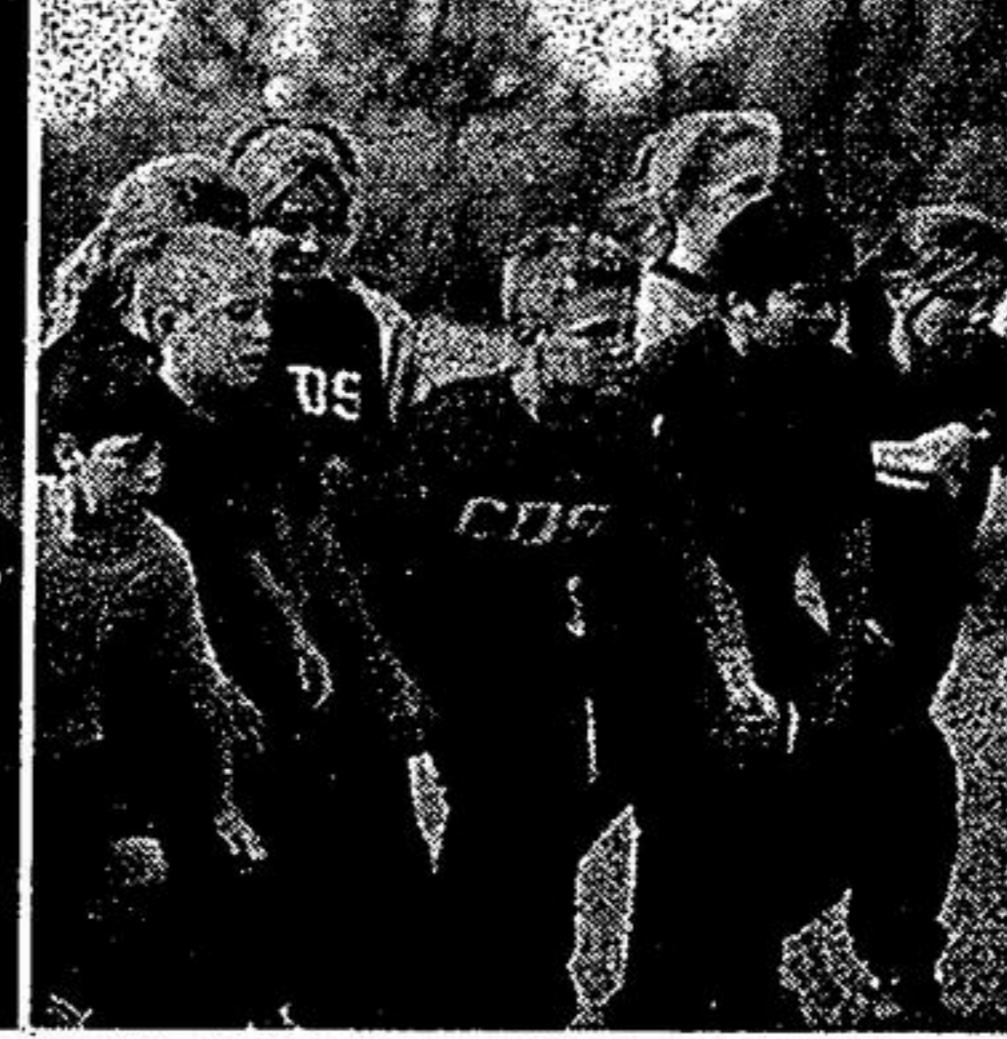

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