



3 Everybody's getting ready for the Markham Fair

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Stouffville man first male fair ambassador

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

History has been made at the Markham Fair.

For the first time in the fair's 160-year history, a male has competed in and won the fair ambassador competition.

Whitchurch-Stouffville resident Andrew Fockler, 20, won the ambassador competition at Markville Shopping Centre Sept. 18.

"The competition was an exciting experience," said Mr. Fockler, a second-year student at Peterborough's Fleming College. "Being the first male ever in the competition weighed on my shoulders. But being the ambassador is a worthwhile experience. I like being a representative. During the fair, I'll get to meet people from across the region."

Joining him in his role of ambassador are team members Holly Norris of Stouffville and Amanda Davison of Markham.

The ambassador's competition is no longer a pageant, committee chairperson Gerri Seeley stressed.

"The competition has moved in the direction of being a professional role for the ambassador and two team members," Mrs. Seeley said.

Open to men and women between 18 and 24, the competition attracted six contestants.

The ambassador team will represent the fair until Sunday. As well, the team will take part in local and provincial events, including the Royal Winter Fair and the Canadian National Exhibition.

"The entire experience is always very exciting and educational for the ambassador and his team," Mrs. Seeley said. "The ambassador team

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STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Ferris for fair

Workers do a high-wire act as they set up the large ferris wheel at the Markham Fairgrounds Monday. The 160th edition of the fair opens today and continues through Sunday. For more on the fair, see Jim Thomas' column on page 7 or go to www.markhamfair.ca

AT LEAST ONE BALL FIELD LOST WITH REDEVELOPMENT

Big changes coming for Memorial Park

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Developing Memorial Park to meet the needs of citizens 10 to 15 years from now received the go-ahead from Whitchurch-Stouffville council last week.

The park in downtown Stouffville will eventually be split in half and one or two of its three ball diamonds will eventually be removed because of the extension of Park Drive from Burkholder Street across Stouffville Creek to connect with Hoover Park Drive.

The extension, to be built in the next two or three years, will allow the residents in subdivisions in the town's south end to have better access to downtown.

Removing the diamonds doesn't sit well with softball players and their parents, according to June Doner of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association.

"The diamonds are very convenient where they are now," she said. Ms. Doner wonders how young diamond-liners and junior umpires will get to new diamonds, which will most likely be in the new 51-acre Bethesda Park between Ninth Line and Hwy. 48.

Ms. Doner, the association's president for nine years, anticipates softball registration to increase in the coming years because of population growth. Registration rose this year to more than 500 players on 37 teams. In addition, there are three rep teams.

The Rethink Group/Basterfield and Associates was chosen from among six contenders to complete a

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