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Fireworks, fastball return for festival

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Fireworks, tail-wagging dogs mugging for the judges, red luscious strawberries, the midway and dozens of vendors and musicians are part of this year's Strawberry Festival.

The downtown Stouffville event, which more than 25,000 people marked on their calendars last year, runs from June 29 to July 3.

The festival kicks off with the sacred music concert at Stouffville United Church. It features the Men of Note chorus, soloist Susan Brown and the German Harmonie Choir. The Music Town Ontario Award for 2005 will be presented to a resident who has made a significant contribution to music in the community over the past year.

Organizers hope to have a

beach volleyball tournament as part of the festivities.

The Stouffville Storm peewee boys fastball team is hosting an elimination tournament in Memorial Park July 1 to 3. The top two clubs from this event will go for further competition in Placentia, Nfld.

Comfort stations at the train station and near the CIBC on Main Street will give people a place to sit in the shade, said Sandra Stronach, Strawberry Festival committee chairperson.

The Stouffville Lions beef barbecue, the festival's opening ceremonies and the Yuk Yuk's comedy show take place Thursday.

Canada Day fireworks will be a highlight July 1. This year, because of encroaching construction of new homes, they won't be as high in the sky as in former years, Mrs. Stronach, said.

They're being billed as family fireworks. They can be viewed from Memorial Park as in years past.

Main Street will be closed to traffic on Saturday, with vendors and entertainers lining the street. The strawberry pie and jam contest at the Stouffville Train Station is sponsored by Reesor's Country Kitchen.

Other local businesses involved in the festival include the Kumon centre on Library Lane, which is hosting a spelling bee, and the Pet Stop, which is sponsoring Saturday's pet contest by the creek.

Foxy Radio at 88.5 AM is broadcasting from the festival.

Sunday is the last day of the festival, which closes with the traditional ecumenical church service and strawberry social in the park.

Active Green + Ross

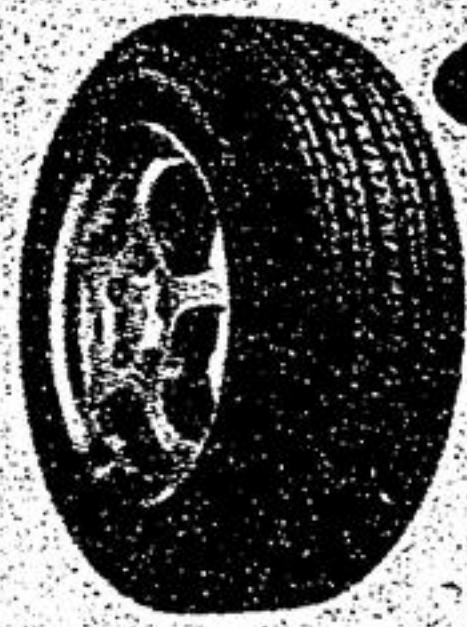
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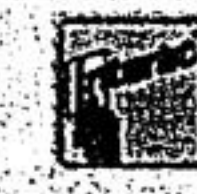


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