

Bakers, babies have their day at festival

Anyone who thinks their pies are the best, is a genius at spelling or has the most beautiful baby has to come to the 21st annual Strawberry Festival in Stouffville this weekend.

The five-day festival officially begins tonight with the Stouffville Lions beef barbecue in Memorial Park at 4:30 p.m. and opening ceremonies at 7.

Friday is Canada Day with music, cake and a half-hour show of family fireworks intertwined with fire-eaters and other entertainers on nearby stages in the evening.

Earlier in the day, the Cat and the Fiddle band entertains children and parents at 2 and 3 p.m. in the Franklin Park marquee.

Then it's off to numerous contests on Saturday, when downtown Main Street will be closed to cars from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for music, vendors, food and entertainment. New this year are the Zero Gravity circus performers, who will perform in front of the Franklin Park marquee at 12:30 and 3:50 p.m. They combine circus arts both old and new. Acrobats, jugglers and fire-eaters perform before a background of special effects, black light, live music and light and laser shows.

The baby contest, sponsored

by Tim Hortons and Stouffville IDA and hosted by the Children's House Child Care in Stouffville, takes place in Latham Hall at 10:30 a.m. Registration forms are available by logging on to www.strawberrymfestival.ca

Young would-be spelling champions will head to the Kumon Math and Reading Centre on Library Lane at 12:45 p.m. Saturday to test their skills. Call 905-640-5078 for more information.

Youngsters who want to have the best-looking bike in the festival can have their creation judged at the Stouffville Lioness Club's bike decorating contest at 8:30 a.m. in the Stouffville Train Station's parking lot.

Culinary experts can drop off

their pies and jams and jellies at the station at 9:30 a.m. for judging at 11 a.m. The contest is sponsored by Reesor's Country Kitchen.

Every dog can have its day Saturday as well. A dog show, sponsored by The Pet Stop, is being held in Sangster's Grove in Memorial Park from 3 to 4 p.m.

Those with lots of freckles can come to Latham Hall at 12:30 p.m. to compete with other residents in the freckles contest.

The festival concludes with an ecumenical service Sunday morning followed by a strawberry social.

For information, log on to www.strawberrymfestival.ca

—Hannelore Volpe

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