

# Cowpokes ride into fair grounds for May rodeo

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

"Mamma don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys."

Unless it's May and you're in Markham.

Despite his warning to parents, country music icon Willie Nelson agrees there's nothing like a rodeo.

The event is hosted by the Markham Village Business Improvement Area to publicize village as a great place to

shop, work and live. Main Street will close to traffic for the day May 6, making room for a western-style breakfast, followed by a parade featuring horses, cowboys and cowgirls, horse-drawn wagons and marching bands.

The theme shifts to the Markham Fair Grounds May 27.

"The all-day events will offer something for the entire family," rodeo producer Ron McKeown said.

Kicking off with hot coffee and a cowboy breakfast, the wild west theme will continue.

Of course, since it's a rodeo, there will be cowboys and wild horses in the York Region Newspaper Group's open range area.

"The two, three-hour professional rodeo shows will feature bronco and bull riding," Mr. McKeown said. Included in the fun is a fork lift rodeo, while live musicians will serenade throughout the day. For more mature tastes, a saloon will be open.

There will be a place for children in the Kiddy Corral, which includes children entertainers and a petting zoo.

Outside in the OK Corral, it will be a good place to browse at a car dealership display.

Craig Riley's Markville Ford is offering a ride and drive challenge cup involving teams of horsemen and celebrities driving pickup trucks on a time-trial obstacle course. "Watch the mud fly," Mr. McKeown said.

Charities being helped include the Markham Food Bank, St. Andrews United Church and the Salvation Army.

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