

She waited 17 years to become Canadian

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enthusiastically made snow angels and threw snowballs. Sharnaë has already been bitten by the skiing bug.

"I like to make snowmen," Michailah said.

Another local resident waited 17 years before becoming a citizen Thursday.

Camilla DeMelo, who came to Canada after finishing high school in Sweden to work as a nanny, finally decided to make her citizenship official.

What's unique about Canada, Mrs. DeMelo has found, is the wide variety of people who live here from different backgrounds.

Joe and Camilla DeMelo and their two children, Michael, 11 and Isabel, 9,



CAMILLA DEMELO

moved to Stouffville in 1999. The DeMelo children attend Summitview Public School.

Canadian citizenship judge Normand A. Allaire presented the new Canadians with their certificates, assisted by Anna Del Medico, citizenship and immigration counselor.

Family and friends, as well as students from the school, almost filled the St. Mark gym.

The quintessential symbol of Canada was there in the person of Mountie David Fenchak.

Markham's town crier John Webster came to Stouffville to clang his bell and welcome all to the ceremony. Several members of Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and emergency services attended.

The St. Mark choir performed at the solemn ceremony under the direction of teacher Susan Whitebread.

Mrs. DeMelo and the Mina/Lingham family are among the 150,000 people who become Canadian citizens every year.



STAFF PHOTO/HANNELORE VOLPE

The Mina/Lingham family, Carmelle (from left) and Michailah, parents Natalie and Paul Mina and Sharnaë, sing O Canada after being sworn in as Canadian citizens at St. Mark Catholic School Thursday. The Stouffville residents left Zimbabwe for the peace and freedom of Canada.

For information on becoming a citizen, go to cic.gc.ca

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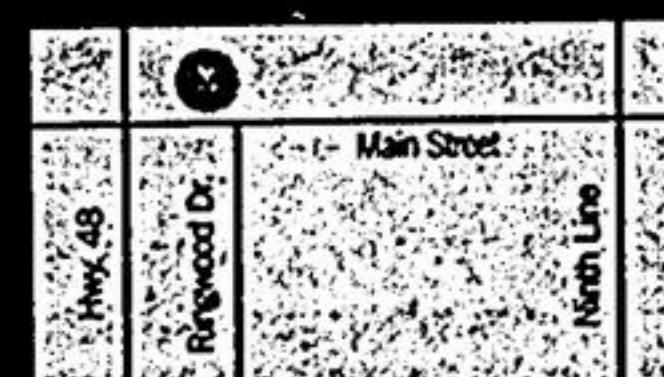
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Markham Fairground

MAIN EVENT STAMPEDE

Saturday, May 26th 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 P.M.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Markham Economist & Sun Presents: Rawhide Rodeo Production
(2) Shows 11:00am - 2:00pm & 5:00pm - 8:00pm

North American Cavalry Challenge / Superdogs
York Regional Police Drums & Pipers
(3) Shows 10:00am - 12:00pm / 2:00pm - 4:00pm / 6:00pm - 8:00pm

FTT Fordiff Rodeo 9:00am - 5:00pm

Seneca Iron Man Outdoor Games 11:00am - 4:00pm

Markham Board of Trade Trade Show 9:00am - 9:00pm

Suzuki Freestyle Team Demonstration 12:00pm / 2:00pm / 4:00pm / 6:00pm

Guinness Book Records Line Dance 8:00pm

ATV Dealers Show, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Vendors, Antique Cars, Outdoor Concerts and Beer Garden.

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For more information, visit www.thegreatmarkhamstampride.com