

Animals treated humanely, rodeo says

From page 1.

Generally, (other people) are more educated about the sport of rodeo (in places) where you are not as apt to believe everything they hear," he said.

"These animals are bred and raised for this purpose," Mr. Prince said.

"This is a chance for people to showcase their skills with livestock. Can I say there will never be an injury? These animals work less than 60 seconds per year," he said, pointing out the cattle compete for short periods at various events. "Every animal has their inspection, vaccinations, they are on a feeding regimen. The care that goes into the livestock is second to none."

Stouffville's Mary Brown, in a letter to the editor, asked: "What madness is this that we are teaching our children, our families, and condoning in our community?"

"These are the helpless creatures who suffer pain and torture trying to flee in fear and panic to run from the agony and pain of bucking straps," she wrote. "The calf roping of child animals the size of your golden retriever who are slung by their necks, thrown to the ground and bound."

"This is cruelty, inhumanity, and exploitation of helpless creatures trying desperately to run from the agony and pain, inflict-

ed on them by civilized society in the name of rodeo entertainment."

Thornhill resident Marcela Donato has been lobbying MPs and councillors on the issue.

"I wouldn't call it sport or entertainment if animals are at risk of getting injured," she said.

While rodeo companies say animals are treated in a humane way, she does not agree.

"I don't believe it. Not from what I've seen (on TV or in photos)," she said.

Ms Donato has never been to a rodeo and said she does not need to see it live to know the animals suffer psychological distress.

"They are not willing participants," Ms Donato said. "I don't believe animals should be used for entertainment. I believe animals are supposed to be left alone."

The Ontario SPCA is opposed to rodeos, but because they are legal, the society works with the Ontario Rodeo Association, acting chief inspector Hugh Coghill said.

The SPCA has an inspector on scene the day before a rodeo to make sure animals are healthy and at the event so if an animal gets hurt, it receives adequate treatment.

Rodeos get a bad name because of misconceptions, Mr. Prince believes.

For example, some people

believe bulls or horses have their genitals tied with a belt to make them buck or go up on their hind legs.

Mr. Prince says the animals they use are either female or castrated.

But Mr. Coghill says the way the belt is tied around the animal's stomach can still be painful.

"Without it (the belt), it (bucking) would be a half-hearted attempt to get the cowboy off their back. They use that (the belt) to irritate the animal," he said.

But Mr. Prince says it is a misconception horses buck because they are angry. Rather, they buck before they are even ridden by a person.

"If you watch horses playing in a field, they run, buck, play," he said. "Those that want to buck, we use them as bucking horses. Those that want to ride, we use as riding horses."

Mr. Prince recommends the following websites to educate yourself about rodeos: the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association at www.prorodeo.com or Friends of Rodeo at www.friendsofdeodeo.com

For more information about the Rawhide Rodeo Company, go to www.rawhiderodeo.com/ or e-mail info@rawhiderodeo.com For more information on The Great Markham Stampede, go to www.themarkhamstampede.com/

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Wednesday at 7:00 pm
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Call church at 905-640-5696 for information
www.spckids.ca

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Ed Yoshida - Wesley Chapel
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info@stouffvilleuc.ca

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www.stouffvilleanglican.ca
e-mail: admin@stouffvilleanglican.ca

Springvale Baptist Church
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
905-887-5651
www.springvale.org

Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
Student Ministries: Jay Sandiford
Children's Ministries: Sharon Russell
Counselling Services: Karla Kamerman

May 20th, 2007
9:45 am
Pastor
Jay Sandiford

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Kathryn Strachan, Minister
6432 Main St. Stouffville
Phone: 905-640-3151
email: st.james.stouffville@bellnet.ca

Sunday, May 20
Service of Worship
Ascension Sunday
10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 22
Presbyterian Women's Meeting
Guest - Betty Burkholder
"All about gardening"
7:15 pm
A Friendly Family Church

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
13660 Ninth Line N.
(905) 642-4414

Sunday, May 20th, 2007
Rev. Peter Pallant - Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship Service - 11:00 am
Lunch May 27th followed by
Wedding Shower for Karolyn
Howarth & Eric Withers
6:30 pm - Evening Service
Everyone Welcome

HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL
Sunday Service 10:00 am
at Middlefield Collegiate
525 Highglan Ave., Markham

"Standing on the Promises - Galatians 3:15-29"

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