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## Think You've Heard It All?

by Lorraine Kennedy Vosu  
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### A NOTICEABLE SHIFT

When you experience ringing in your ears the day after a loud rock concert, you have a case of "temporary threshold shift." This phenomenon is the result of insult to the hair cells of the inner ear. These are the microscopic hair-like cells that are responsible for converting vibrations received from the eardrum into electrical signals that are carried by the auditory nerve to the brain. As the hair cells become damaged due to loud noise, their ability to function is compromised. As a result, there is fullness and ringing in the ears. Fortunately, the hair cells may recover to restore hearing, but more prolonged exposure to noise can lead to a permanent shift threshold and permanent hearing loss.

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DAVID BROOKS PHOTOS

Stephen Sword led 119 whistlers trying to set a world record on behalf of Whistle Radio Saturday in Memorial Park.

Charlotte Summerhayes, 2, was perhaps the youngest participant in the world record attempt at the Strawberry Festival Saturday.



# Whistlers hope they blew world record

Guinness must still give thumbs-up to Strawberry Festival effort

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

They hope they weren't just whistlin' Dixie.

The 119 people gathered in the Franklin Park Marquee, pursed their lips and whistled at the Strawberry Festival Saturday.

They were hoping to whistle their way to a Guinness World record. Under Guinness rules, they had to keep whistling for at least five minutes and breaks between songs could not be longer than 10 seconds.

The youngest whistler was two years old.

They did it, but the results won't be official until the Guinness organization gives its final approval.

Before that can happen, the organizers of the event have to send Guinness a list of the whistlers' names, colour photos of the event and letters from the three adjudicators, Jim Mason, editor of the Stouffville Sun-Tribune, Mayor Wayne Emmerson and Kate Gilderdale, editor of the Stouffville Free Press.

Not every record goes into the official record book, but all records are on the Guinness website at [guinness-worldrecords.com](http://guinness-worldrecords.com)

Whistle Radio board member Halvor Moorshead came up with the record-setting idea.

Participants were challenged by a variety of songs, which included Oh Canada, Frere Jacques, Col. Bogey's March, Onward Christian Soldiers, Amazing Grace and Take Me Out to the Ball Game.

The participants bravely soldiered on through the whole five minutes.

In the rendition of O Canada, "there were two versions going on," Jim Priebe, Whistle Radio founder and CEO said.

But a couple of people whistling really loudly soon got everyone back on track, he added.

The whistling event was led by Stouffville's Stephen Sword, aka the whistler.

The whistling can be heard online at [whistleradio.com](http://whistleradio.com).

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