

Markham Village June 20 & 21 Music Festival

Message from the 2008 Chair

Welcome to Markham Village and the 30th Anniversary of the Markham Village Music Festival. Enjoy our exciting attractions, performers, bands, entertainment, a smorgasbord of World Foods and Cultures on Friday night, while Saturday features the Markham Farmers' Market, a petting zoo, the Carnival rides, games, swimming, the Children's Village in Morgan Park, a Silent Auction, Arts and Craft booths, more Food and this summer we will showcase "BARKHAM" our new Dog Show Exhibition.

Thank you to all of the 2008 Festival Organizing Committee for donating your precious time and talents for another exciting year and a special thanks to all of the sponsors, contributors, volunteers, and committee organizers over the last 30 years for helping make the Markham Village Music Festival a continuing tradition for many generations to come.

Live, play, shop, and enjoy Markham, the most visibly diverse community in Canada!

Ed Joaquin
Festival Chair

30 Years Young

By Judi McIntyre

This year, the Markham Village Music Festival will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. In 1978, the Kinsmen of Markham created the Markham Village Festival to bring recognition to the businesses of Main Street Markham by featuring local performers and artisans. Except for one year when the Festival moved to Morgan Park, the format has basically stayed the same for 30 years. Main Street Markham has been closed from Highway 7 to Bullock/Parkway featuring lots of music, dance, craft and food booths and children's activities. Morgan Park was added by Grace Anglican Church and is now the Children's Village, complete with carnival rides, petting zoo and free swimming in Morgan Pool.

In 1985, the Kinsmen passed the organizing of the Festival over to a community group headed by the then

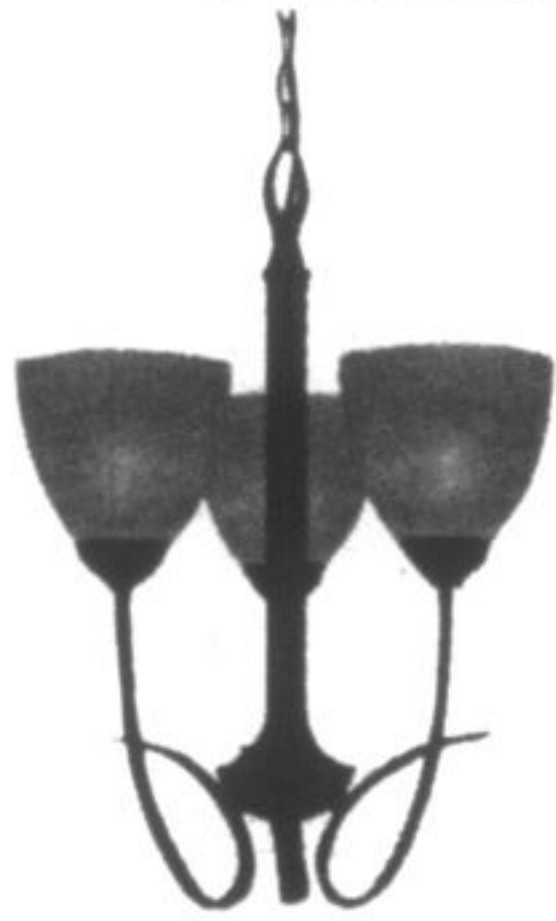
Ward V Councillor, Gordon Landon. The committee has had many very dedicated volunteers over the years and many of these people still volunteer in other community activities.

In 2002, the organizers decided to expand the musical component. Music has always been a very important part of the Festival and as a result of an Ontario Trillium Grant, the Festival was renamed to the Markham Village Music Festival. That year, we introduced more music competitions (including a Spice Girls competition), and covered a wider variety of musical genres: jazz, country, rock & roll and even some classical music. Along with music, dance has been very prevalent during the Festival. We've had everything from the Kick Up a Fuss Cloggers to break-dancing to Flamenco. Many of the local dance schools attend each year with their young students.

Over the years, there have been some exciting and different events featured during the Festival. These include the World Town Crier Championship, Parades, bike races, dog fly-ball competitions, hot air balloon rides, skydivers landing in the Festival (nearly hitting the stage), skateboard competitions and more. For a number of years, Friday night featured a dance in the old arena at Markham Road and Highway 7. Beer tents have come and gone, and the beat has gone on. Friday evening now features our ever-growing ethnic communities. We've learned and enjoyed each other's music and dance each year.

To keep our faithful attendees returning on an annual basis, the organizing committee makes a point of introducing something new each year. For our 30th we'll be featuring "Barkham" with dog competitions, dog-related vendors, dog rides and more. For a complete list of what's happening this year, visit www.markham-festival.org.

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Many Thanks to Our ... 2008 Markham Village Music Festival Committee:

- Ed Joaquin, Chair
- Judi McIntyre, Past Chair
- Ardy Reid, Entertainment
- Al Wallis, Craft & Food Booths
- Dave Shearer, Facilities
- Dave Kelso, Morgan Park
- Keith Thirgood, Marketing
- Helen Walter, Marketing
- Roger Clements, Markham BIA
- Steven Vasilevski, Secretary
- John Collins, Treasurer
- Samuel Carr, Volunteers
- Jobson Easow, Fundraising
- Joanne Olson, Silent Auction
- Annette Skamis, Booths
- Albert Alonzo, Stage Manager
- Loreli Redoblado, Stage Manager
- Councillor John Webster
- Councillor Carolina Moretti

... and of course, our thanks to the many adult and student volunteers that help out on the weekend of the big event.

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