

# Downtown farm market could help merchants

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According to Farmers' Market Ontario, 60 to 70 per cent of market-goers visit neighbouring businesses on their way to and from the market.

*Markham, Newmarket and Uxbridge all run successful outdoor markets, while Bradford West Gwillimbury, which has a slightly smaller population than Whitchurch-Stouffville, just started one last summer.*

"A lot of shops would want to stay open if there were foot traffic," Ms LeBlanc noted. "I think they would embrace it." A downtown farmers' market was held for

one day only about six years ago, at the clock tower, according to Ms LeBlanc, who said "it was pretty good."

However, Stouffville doesn't have to look far for examples of successful downtown farmers' markets.

Markham, Newmarket and Uxbridge all run successful outdoor markets, while Bradford West Gwillimbury, which has a slightly smaller population than Whitchurch-Stouffville, just started one last summer.

No location, or day of the week, has been chosen for the potential market, but Ms LeBlanc likes the idea of the courtyard at Nineteen on the Park, once construction is complete.

"That would be a lovely location to have it in," Ms LeBlanc said. "Anywhere we can gather a lot of produce and get people wandering in" will be a good place.

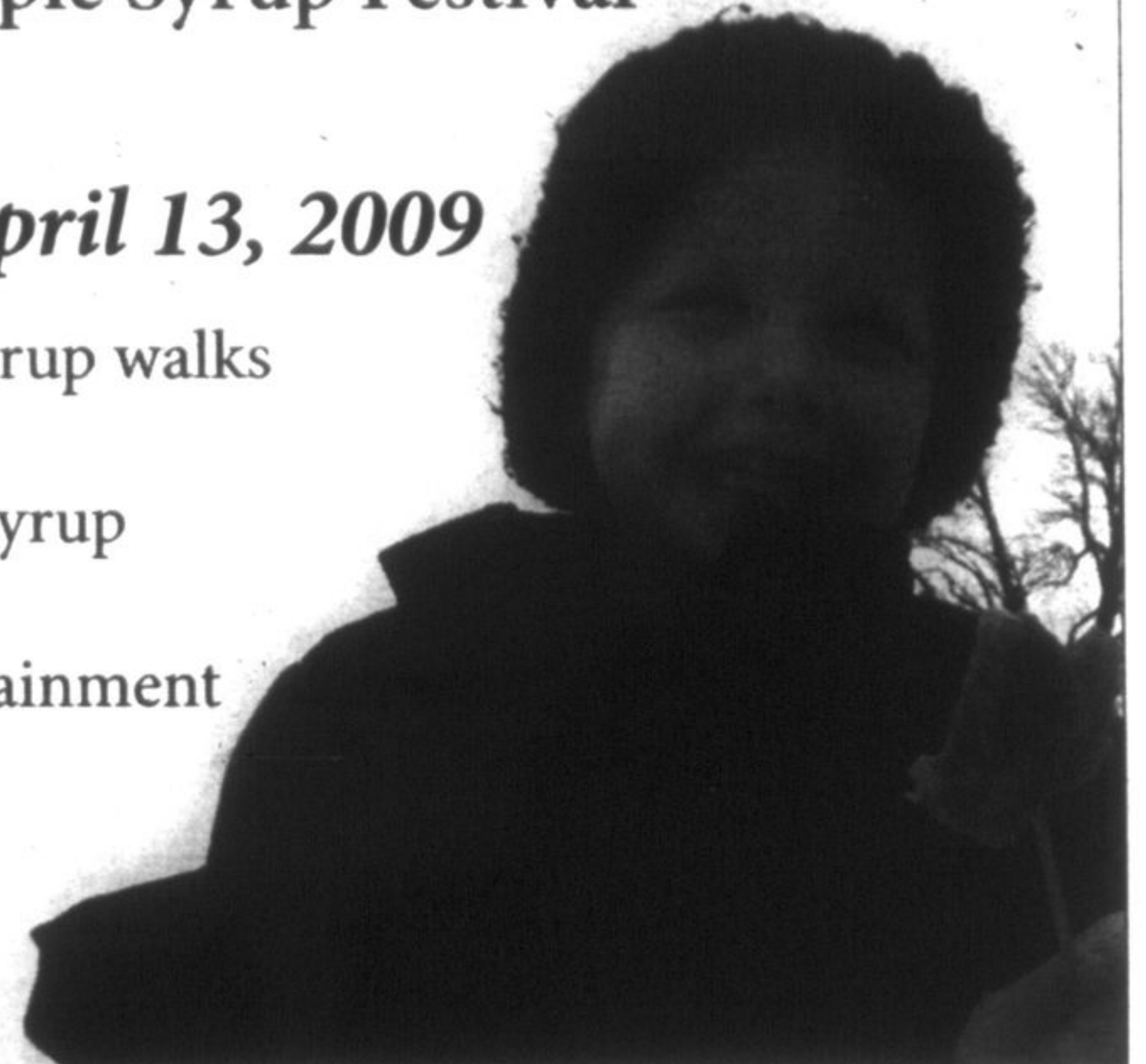
*The downtown Stouffville farmers' market meeting takes place Monday at 7 p.m. at Latcham Hall, 8 Park Dr. For more information, contact Rebecca Mustard at 905-640-1910 ext. 301.*

# Tap into Spring

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## Willowgrove's Family Day an Overwhelming Success!



On behalf of the Board of directors and the staff at Willowgrove, I wish to thank all those who came out to enjoy our first Free Family Day Event. Thanks to beautiful winter weather, we estimate between 1200 and 1500 people visited our picturesque 100 acre property on McCowan Rd to enjoy a variety of winter activities.

I wish to thank as well the staff and volunteers who worked so hard to make this day a success. The sheer numbers lead to some lineups that were longer than anticipated and I appreciate everyone's understanding.

There are numerous community partners who made this a success and I wish to acknowledge them as well. **The Stouffville Sun-Tribune and The Markham Economist & Sun** were our Media Sponsors. I also wish to thank Blair from Lionel's Pony Farm for supplying the horse draw wagon rides. Thank you to the following retailers for their contributions:

- Boston Pizza – Stouffville • Tim Hortons – Stouffville • Angus Glen Golf Club – Markham • Zehr's – Uxbridge • The Meat Merchant - Uxbridge • Panera Bakey – Richmond Hill • Cob's Bakery – Newmarket • Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

**The winner of our draw was Jean Wong of Markham.**

Once again, a huge thanks to everyone who made the day a success.

Sincerely,  
Ron de Roo Executive Director  
Willowgrove  
[www.willowgrove.ca](http://www.willowgrove.ca)

