it a true three-day event."

Fireworks and Canada Day cake will remain a part of the July 1 celebration.

What will change for sure, however, is the carnival.

A new company has been hired and they are expected to bring in more rides for the teenagers, along with an inflatable play area for the younger kids.

Friday, July 2, will be known as Eco-Friendly Friday.

All activities will be geared towards environmental sustainability, including the scavenger hunt and other contests.

"It was something (the board was) very passionate about," Ms Toomey said.

TVO's Enviro Girl and Woodbridge's Earth Rangers will also be in attendance that day.

On Saturday, the strawberry takes centre stage. Bus tours will be available to three local

berry farms, Applewood Farm Winery, Reesor's Farm and Barry's Garden, for some berry picking.

"Strawberries are wonderful, but no one knows where to pick them locally," Ms Toomey said.

Main Street will once again be closed from the GO station to Park Drive, however vendors will be set up in the middle of the street, not on the sidewalk in front of the businesses, in order to improve pedestrian traffic flow.

Among the many contests taking place that day is best lip-smacking strawberry dessert, best homemade jam and best homemade pie and tart, all of which have major

sponsors such as Robin Hood and Crisco.

"You're handing your secrets over to a big corporation, so a little more thought is going to be put into these (recipes)," Ms Toomey said of the contest.

Comedy night and live entertainment throughout the day and evening will also take place.

"I've been scouring new entertainment and I welcome any entertainers," Ms Toomey said.

... vendors will be set up in the middle of the street, not on the sidewalk in front of the businesses ...

The festival will wind down on Sunday with the ecumenical service and strawberry social, however, there will be some minor tweaks to the flow of the things to better utilize the revamped Memorial Park, according to Ms Toomey.

The Downtown Stouffville Farmers' Market, which will be in its second season, will operate throughout the festival.

"Because it's a new project, it had to sort itself out," said Rebecca Mustard, economic development officer for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. "The plan is to extend the market's reach. ... The Strawberry Festival and the farmers' market looks like it will be a great partnership."

For more information on the festival, go to strawberryfestival.ca

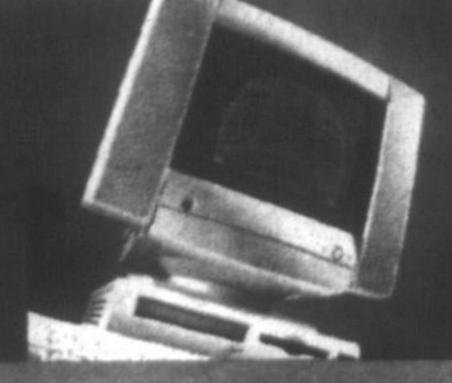
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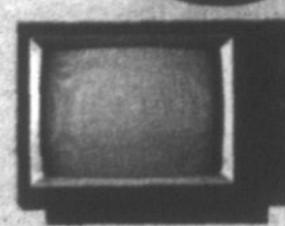


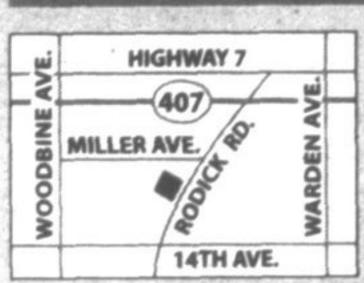
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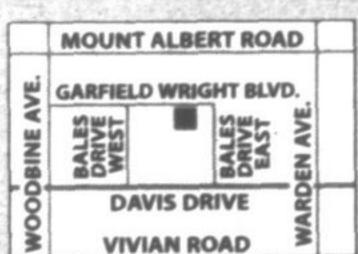
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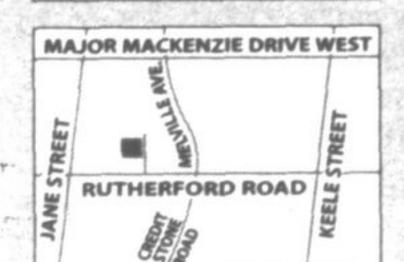


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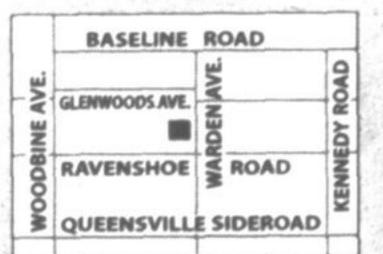
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