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## Markham Village: The Beat Goes On

By Keith Thirgood

The Markham Village Music Festival, June 18-19, 2010, covers the entertainment gamut. From Bollywood dancers, to hard rockers, from children's dance to big band, there's something for every taste. The Festival is a giant street party, as Markham Road closes to traffic from Hwy 7 to Parkway/Bullock. It's two kilometres of non-stop entertainment.

The festival kicks off Friday, June 18 when Main Street Markham closes at 6 pm. There's food to die for as vendors from our various ethnic communities bring out their best. Local pubs and restaurants are extending their patios into the street, and showcasing their own culinary specialties. From 6 until 8 pm, there are a number of cultural groups entertaining the crowd. At 8 pm, three headliner acts take to the various stages, The Groove Suit, Uptown Swing Band and King of Noth-

On Saturday, June 20, the fun doesn't skip a beat, as the music continues with four stages throughout the Village continuing to offer free, live entertainment. On

the Main Stage, at 2 pm, ABBA Gold Live tribute band takes us back to the heyday of ABBA. This is a live, nine-piece band, no pre-recorded tracks. Throughout the day, over twenty other bands provide a variety of music including jazz, rock, pop, swing, big band, folk, blues and more. The Carlaw Youth Stage hosts a number of young, local bands. The Markham Farmers' Market will be in their usual Robinson Street location, where they will be offering great produce, baked goods and crafts.

On Saturday, dozens of one-of-a-kind craft booths will line Main Street. This year vendors are featuring jewelry, woodwork, bird feeders, art, garden accessories, clothing, soaps and candles. Main Street merchants join the celebration by offering lots of in-store specials.

Starting Friday night, kids will enjoy the Children's Village in Morgan Park with thrilling rides and games. Saturday only, there's a petting zoo, free swimming at Morgan Pool and a guitar hero competition.

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