

Stouffville Lions get ready to feed 1,000 at festival barbecue

What feeds 1,000 and gives back to the community?

The Stouffville Lions beef barbecue in Memorial Park.

The big dinner pre-dates the 26th annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival, which it will help open on Canada Day.

It was traditionally held on the last Thursday in June.

"The original thinking was to be a community gathering at the end of the school year before many headed to cottages for the long

weekend," said Lion John McTavish, the event's chairperson. "It has always been one of our major fundraisers for our community-support activities."

Those programs include student vision screening, Christmas baskets, family assistance and town projects, including the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park.

For many years, the last Thursday in June coincided with the opening of the festival.

COMING UP

"Last year it did not and, as a result, our turnout fell off greatly from years we were a part of Strawberry Festival," Mr. McTavish said.

That won't happen again, he said. The barbecue will always be part of the festival.

It's no picnic to prepare.

"It takes a lot of work from all of the Lions and many of their spouses to set up, feed approximately 1,000 people and tear down all in the same day," he said. "We also get great support from the town with Bruce Hatt and his crew helping with set-up."

Dinner includes at least a half pound of roast beef, bun, two salads, tomato slices, condiments, cold drink or coffee and strawberry shortcake.

"It's quite a meal," he said.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12.50 for seniors and children. A hotdog special for children is \$6.

Dinner will be served from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. from the picnic shelter, which was also a Lions' project.

You can buy tickets at the park or in advance at Card's TV and Appliances, Barthau Jewellers, Stouffville IDA or the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce in the train station.

7, Stouffville Sun-Tribune ■ Saturday, June 19, 2010



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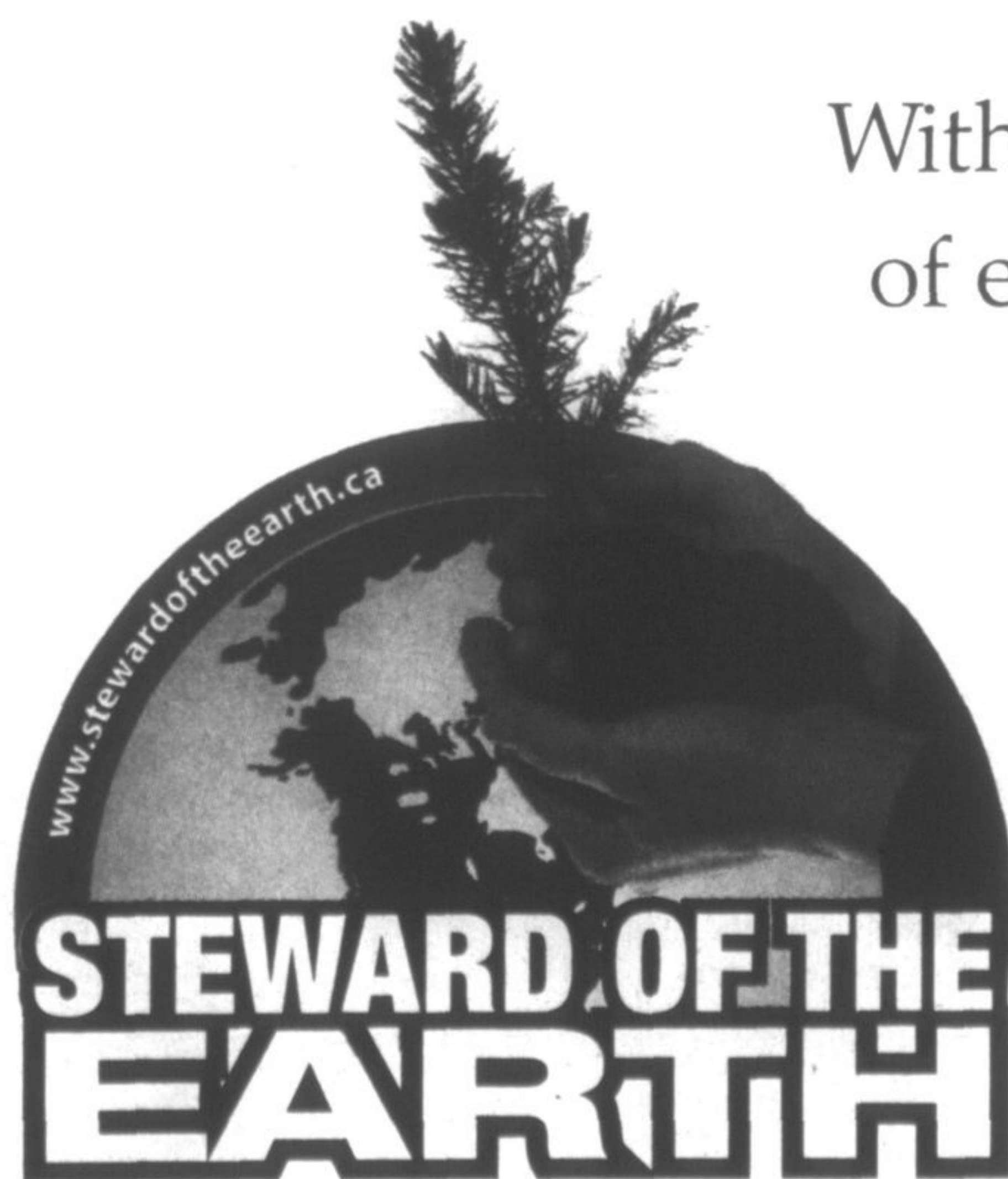


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