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Festival went berry well, gears up for 2011

Strawberry shortage, traffic jam among few hiccups for event

BY SANDRA BOLAN sbolan@yrmg.com

Providing daytime family entertainment on Canada Day proved to be a successful gamble for Strawberry Festival organizers.

"People want to be out on Canada Day and having activities for families is something we want to do (again)," said Catherine McCowan, chairperson of the Strawberry Festival committee in looking back on this year's event.

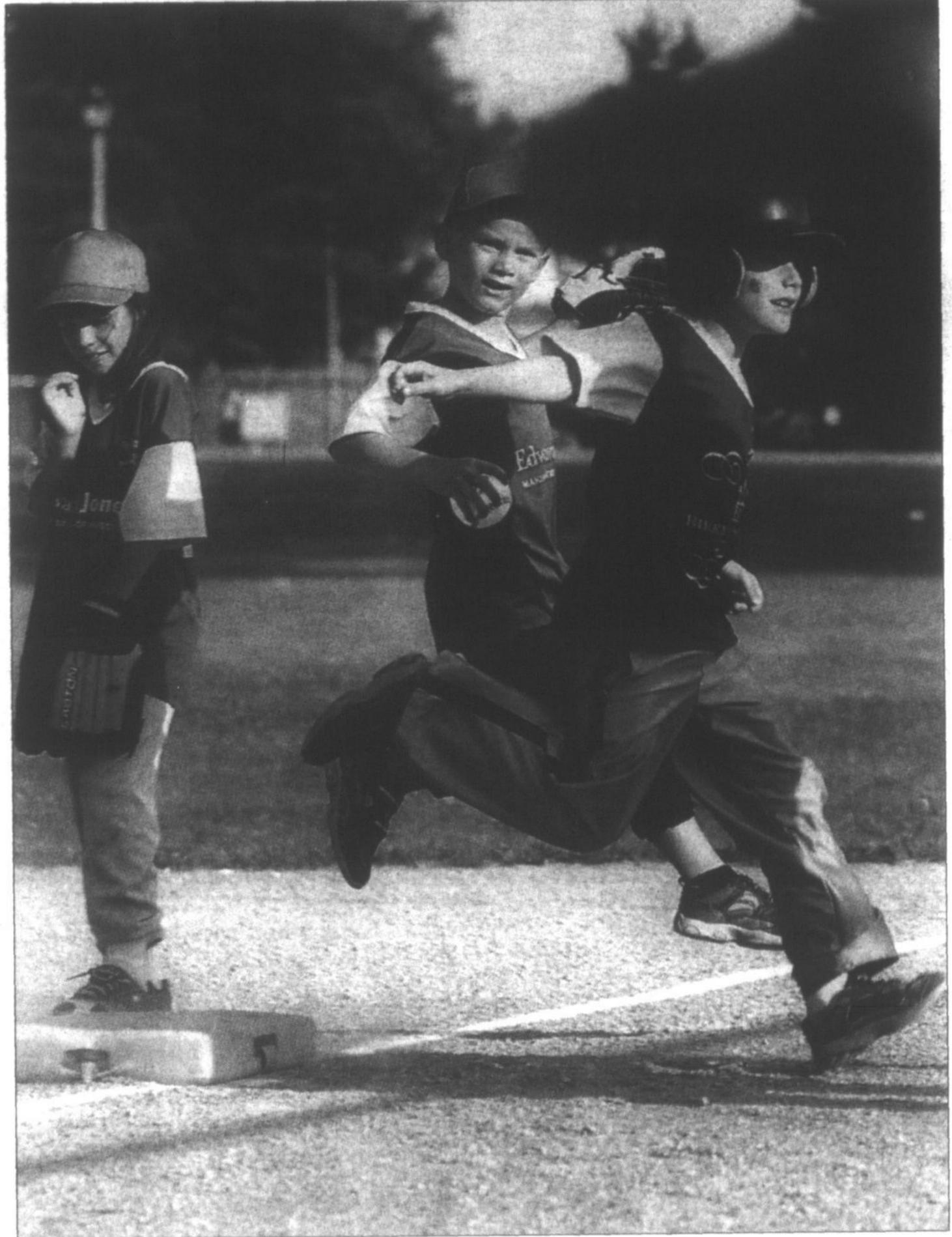
Another addition to the July 1 celebrations was the People's Parade. It normally goes down Main Street on Strawberry Saturday.

"It certainly made for a big crowd at the opening ceremonies," Ms McCowan said.

Exact numbers are not available, but Ms McCowan estimated about 30,000 people came out on Strawberry Saturday and attendance was up at the Giggles comedy show and the Grant Fullerton concert.

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BOYS AND GIRLS OF SUMMER



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Edward Jones' Lucas Vincent, with the ball, looks expectantly at the ump as Burkett & Hassard Insurance Brokers Ltd. runner Matthew Gottschling, going back to first base, is called out in Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association action at the Thicketwood Park ball diamond. First baseman Darya Papp looks on.

Fight to curb heavy trucks beefed up

BY SANDRA BOLAN sbolan@yrmg.com

Heavy trucks are not allowed on municipal roads, but that doesn't stop dump trucks and tractor trailer drivers from roaring down Main Street and Hoover Park Drive.

But now, the municipality has an improved bylaw that will enable York Regional Police to more easily fine offenders.

In order to enforce the old bylaw, police were required to use scales. Now, the police can lay charges based on the registered gross weight or, if they have a scale, by the actual weight.

"Now they've got more flexibility," said Paul Whitehouse, director of public works for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The town defines a heavy vehicle as: "any vehicle having either a gross weight, inclusive of any equipment attached thereto and any load, which exceeds five tons or a register gross weight, which exceeds five tons, but does not, in either case, include a passenger vehicle, an ambulance, police vehicle, fire department vehicle or any vehicle or equipment used for maintenance or improvement of the highway or public utility."

Another exception, according to Mr. Whitehouse, is a heavy vehicle making a delivery.

Although the police can now more easily determine the weight of a truck and lay charges accordingly, it does not mean greater enforcement is guaranteed.

"I can't commit the police to doing more enforcement," said Michele Kennedy, clerk for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

An information meeting for residents of the Lemonville area concerned about the speed of traffic and trucks going through the hamlet will take place July 21 at 7 p.m. at the Lemonville Community Centre, 13543 McCowan Rd. Representatives from York Region Police and York Region Transport management will be in attendance. For information, call 905-640-3965.

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