

Farmers market hits street with festival atmosphere

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The Stouffville Farmers Market is taking it to the street.

The market, which begins its third season May 12, will be located on Park Drive between Latham Hall and Burkholder Street/Booth Drive on Thursdays.

"We need this step in order to grow and succeed and make it come back next year," said Anna Rose, downtown co-ordinator for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

For its first two seasons, the market was located within the Park Drive parking lot, which Ms Rose said did not provide the visibility from Main Street the vendors wanted or needed.

The market relocated to Park Drive last year during the Strawberry Festival and Ms Rose said it was a great success.

"We all anticipate this move onto Park Drive will attract more people," she said. "That feeling of an event atmosphere was created."

And that is something Ms Rose wants to continue with. Along with about 20 vendors, there will be entertainers, demonstrations in cooking and fire safety, as well as yoga from the town's leisure services department and fitness for seniors.

Although a list of vendors has yet to be finalized, applications were received from a baker, meat vendors, a pet photographer, kettle corn maker and mobile kitchen as well

as a travelling bike repair shop.

Ms Rose said a lot of cyclists from Stouffville and outside of town came to the market last year.

"I want to really take advantage of that group," she said. "Hopefully we'll capture some of that tourism."

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As part of the opening-day activities, there will be a carrot-breaking ceremony at 3 p.m. and at 7 p.m. the official unveiling of the Angel sculpture, created and donated by Ron Baird, which is located on the sculpture walk behind the Silver Jubilee Club west of Market Street.

Mr. Baird, an Uxbridge artist who is well known in Stouffville, is expected to be at the unveiling.

The Spring Fling, which is a downtown sidewalk sale, will also take place May 12.

The market runs from May 12 to Oct. 6, rain or shine, from 2 to 7 p.m.

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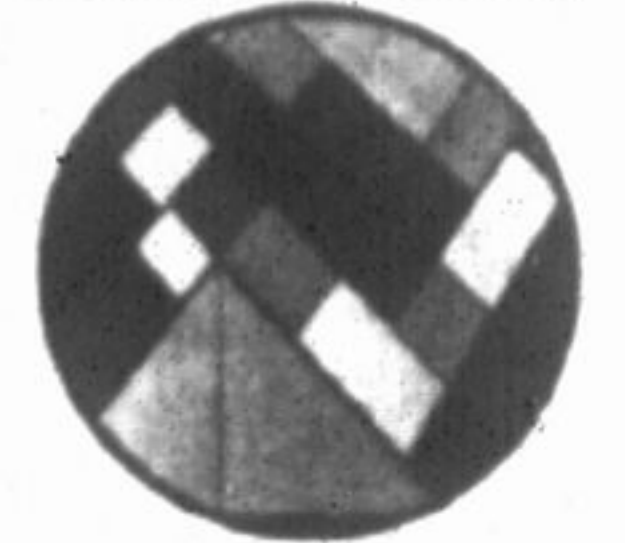
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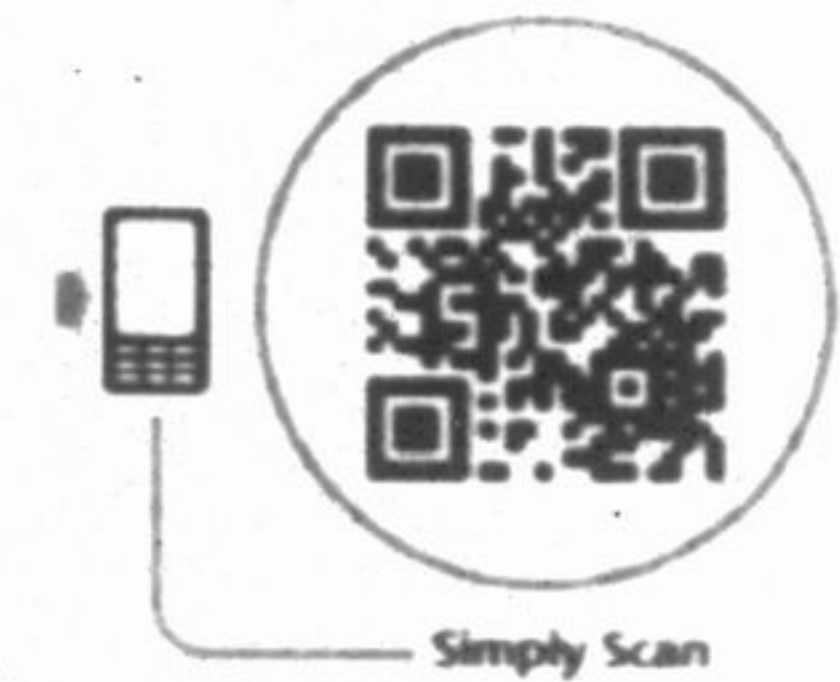
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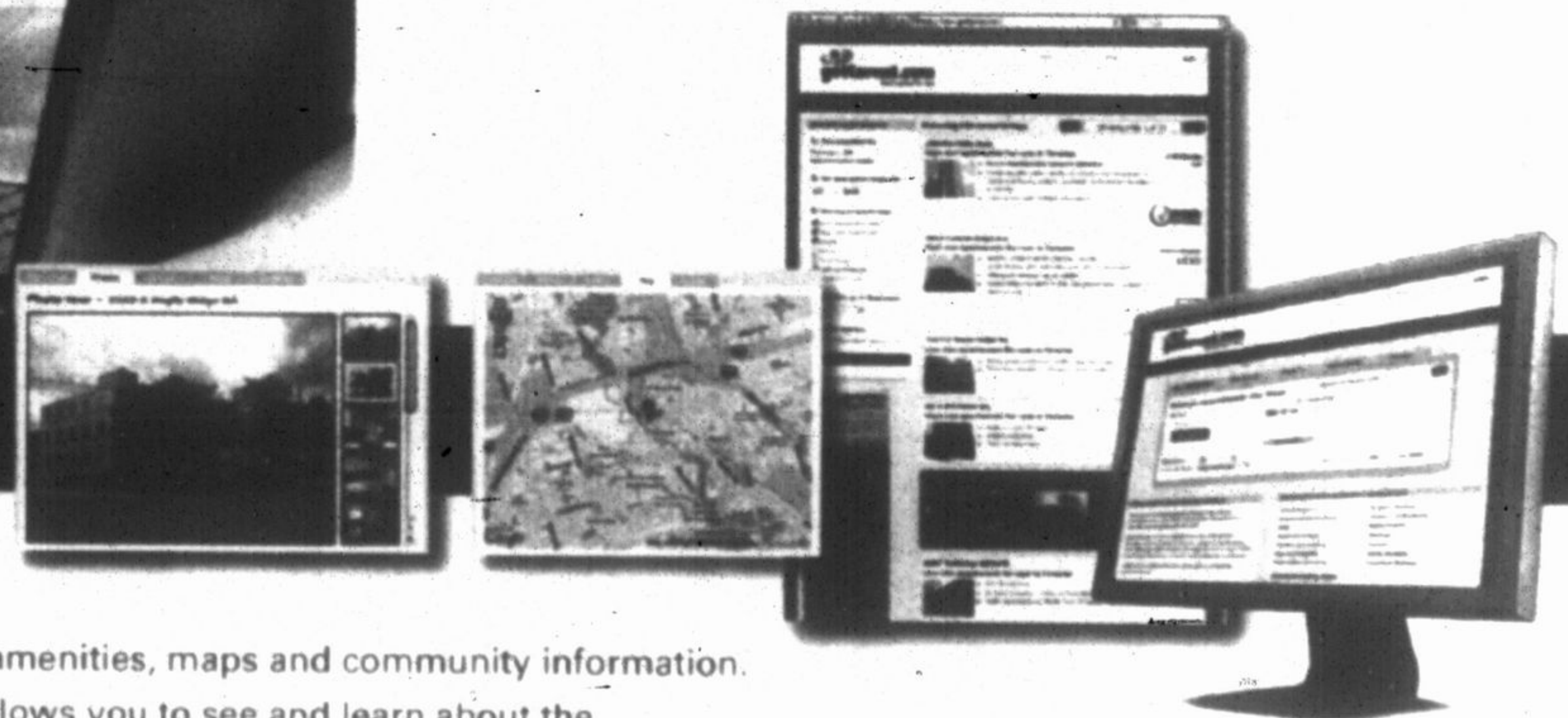
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