

Talent, fashion shows, band battle on youth week schedule

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Battle of the Bands is back. Stouffville Has Talent is expected to have lots of youths auditioning and there's a pool party, dance and multicultural fashion show taking place during Whitchurch-Stouffville's six annual Youth Week, April 28 to May 5.

"We're trying to make it so the kids are more active in the community," said Jen McEachen, recreation programmer for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and adult supervisor for the Mayor's Youth Council.

The council has been working on the seven-day event since September.

A multicultural fashion show is a first for the event. All of the designs showcased are from Stouffville District Secondary School fashion arts students and local businesses.

"I thought it was a great suggestion from the youth council; add something new to the program," Ms McEachen said of how the fashion show came to be.

"The demographics have changed in Stouffville. We're trying to highlight the new people and different cultures in Stouffville," she said.

The free, all-ages show takes place May 3,

6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park.

Not new to local youth events, but a new edition to Youth Week is the pool party, which runs May 2, 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

GROWING CONCERN

Stouffville Has Talent has grown so much "we're actually having to be more selective in who we select," Ms McEachen said of the event for dancers, singers, musicians, jugglers or anyone else with talent.

In the past, judges have been brought in to decide upon Stouffville's most talented youth, according to Ms McEachen, but this year, it will be peer judged.

"It just seems to work better," she said. Auditions take place April 30 and May 1, 5 to 7 p.m., Latcham Hall, 8 Park Dr.

The competition is open to all youth between 11 and 18 years of age. Acts must be no longer than five minutes in duration and students must bring his or her own props, costumes, instruments, music etc.

Those selected to be in the show will be notified immediately following the completion of auditions.

Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place finishers.

The show is May 5, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Nineteen on the Park. All ages are welcome and admission is free.

Battle of the Bands returns to Youth Week April 28, 4 p.m. at Nineteen on the Park. The entry fee is \$10.

The supervised dance for 11 to 14 year olds, is May 4 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Latcham Hall. Admission is \$6 per person or \$4 with a canned item to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank.

The dance is not the only event collecting items for the food bank. Non-perishable food items will be accepted at all Youth Week events. It's an initiative new to the week.

"This way we're helping out residents in need," Ms McEachen said.

Youth Week started in 1995 with a handful of events taking place throughout the country, according to TakingITGlobal's website.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

"The aim of Youth Week is to bring the positive achievement of young people to (the) forefront of the society's consciousness. To give youth a chance to see what other young people are doing in their communities and inform them as to how they can get involved," according to the TakingITGlobal's website.

For more information, go to www.townofws.com

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