

Your \$5 rubber duck could net you \$50 in prize money at the Strawberry Festival this month.



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Racing rubber ducks aid town park projects

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Rubber ducks will race from the bridge at Main Street to the one at Market Street in downtown Stouffville June 29.

The inaugural Stouffville Lions' rubber ducky race is part of this year's Strawberry Festival, which runs from June 28 to 30.

Each numbered duck costs \$5 and can be purchased race day. Between 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. heats of 100 ducks will be released between the two bridges.

The first duck in each heat to arrive at the Market Street bridge wins \$50.

Those ducks will then be entered into the grand championship heat, which goes at 4:30 p.m. The winner will receive prizes and the Stouffville Lions' Strawberry Festival Rubber Ducky Racing Championship trophy.

The race is part of the Lions' initiative to find new revenue streams for community projects.

There are two programs in particular the club is working on.

One is creating a new arboreum park that starts at the former outdoor pool site and grows along the paths, according to Cap Cowan, the Lions' club rubber ducky race co-

ordinator.

The second project is sponsoring the new skateboard park in Memorial Park.

Lower prices for beef barbecue

As a way of saying thank you for all of your support, the Lions' annual beef barbecue dinner will cost \$10. Last year it was \$15.

The June 27 dinner at the Memorial Park pavilion will include slow-roasted beef on a bun, two salads, a drink and strawberry shortcake for dessert.

The dinner runs from 4:30 to 7 p.m., rain or shine. On average, about 700 people eat roast beef for dinner that night, according to Sharon McClenny, the Lions' club president and beef barbecue committee chairperson.

Last year, hot dogs were also offered to children. But not this year.

"Right or wrong, that is what we decided to do," she said of the single menu.

"I think the menu sounds pretty good and they will get value for their \$10," Ms McClenny said.

Another change is there will be no pre-sale dinner tickets. However, they will be available starting at 2 p.m. at the pavilion.



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