

Meat lovers host party for Special Olympians

A Stouffville group dedicated to the love of meat will host a fundraiser for the Special Olympics this September.

The Vulcan Meat Club was given permission Tuesday by Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville council to host the event in Memorial Park.

"This is why we spent the money down there," said Councillor Rob Hargrave.

The idea for the fundraiser came after the last Vulcan Meat Club meeting, during which a Special Olympian gave a thank-you speech.

"You could literally hear a pin drop," John-Mark Bouwmeister, founder of the meat club, told councillors.

"I was moved by this Special Olympian," he said.

The Sept. 13 event will include food and a micro-brew village.

All proceeds will go to Special Olympics, according to Bouwmeister.

-Sandra Bolan

Movie nights back in park

BY SANDRA BOLAN
sbolan@yrmg.com

Muppets, monsters, superheroes, an anti-villain league and a crop duster are just some of the characters people will be able to watch on a giant outdoor screen in Memorial Park this summer.

The free outdoor movie series kicks off June 13 with *Despicable Me 2* and ends Aug. 15 with *Planes*.

This is the fourth summer for the series.

"Time does fly. I can't believe it. ... It's so much fun I don't even realize the time flying by," said Anna Rose, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville's downtown co-ordinator who spearheads the weekly screenings.

In its 2011 pilot summer, average attendance was 150 people. Last year, the films drew an average of 500 people each time, Rose said.

"Proof is in the pudding — the community really liked it," she said.

The key to bringing so many people out is movie selection, Rose said, noting she chooses films a family with young children would enjoy as much as a senior or teenager.

When Rose started the outdoor movie nights, her goal was to bring all demographics of Whitchurch-Stouffville together and to the downtown to see what it had to offer.

"It's gone beyond what I expected," she said.

"It's a social destination. It reminds me of why people come and live in Stouffville — the camaraderie of it. You just feel like singing kumbaya," she said.

Popcorn and drinks are available for purchase at the movie site, but "people are more than welcome to come early and have a picnic" and bring their own movie snacks, Rose said.

A chair, blanket and bug spray are good things to bring.

For information on any changes to the evening, call 905-640-0749. Go to yorkregion.com for complete listings.

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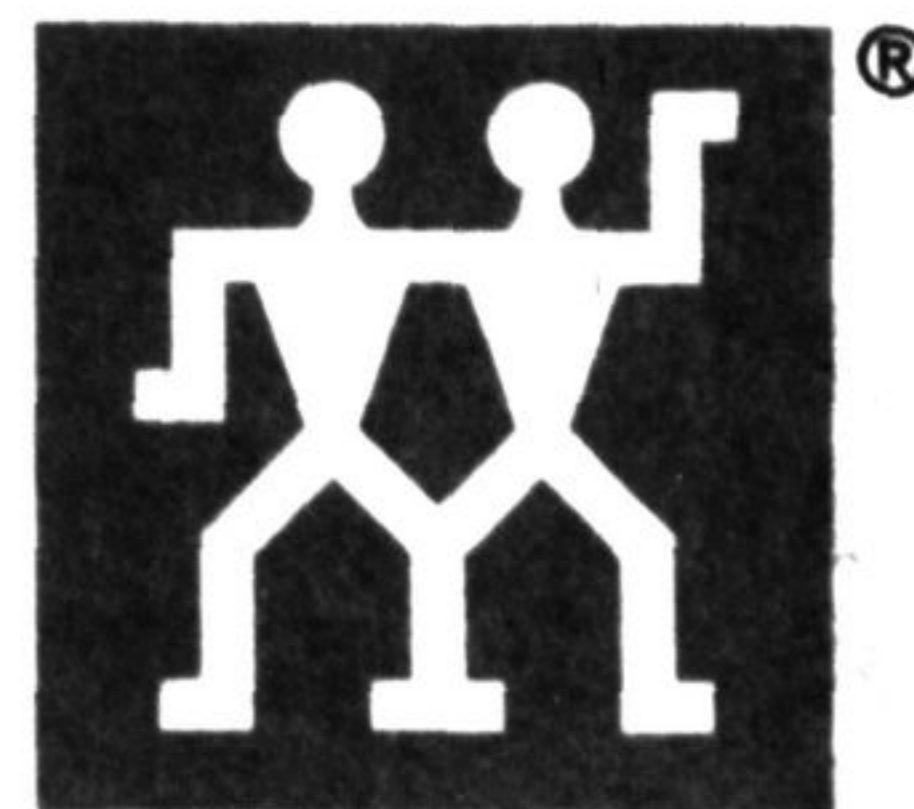
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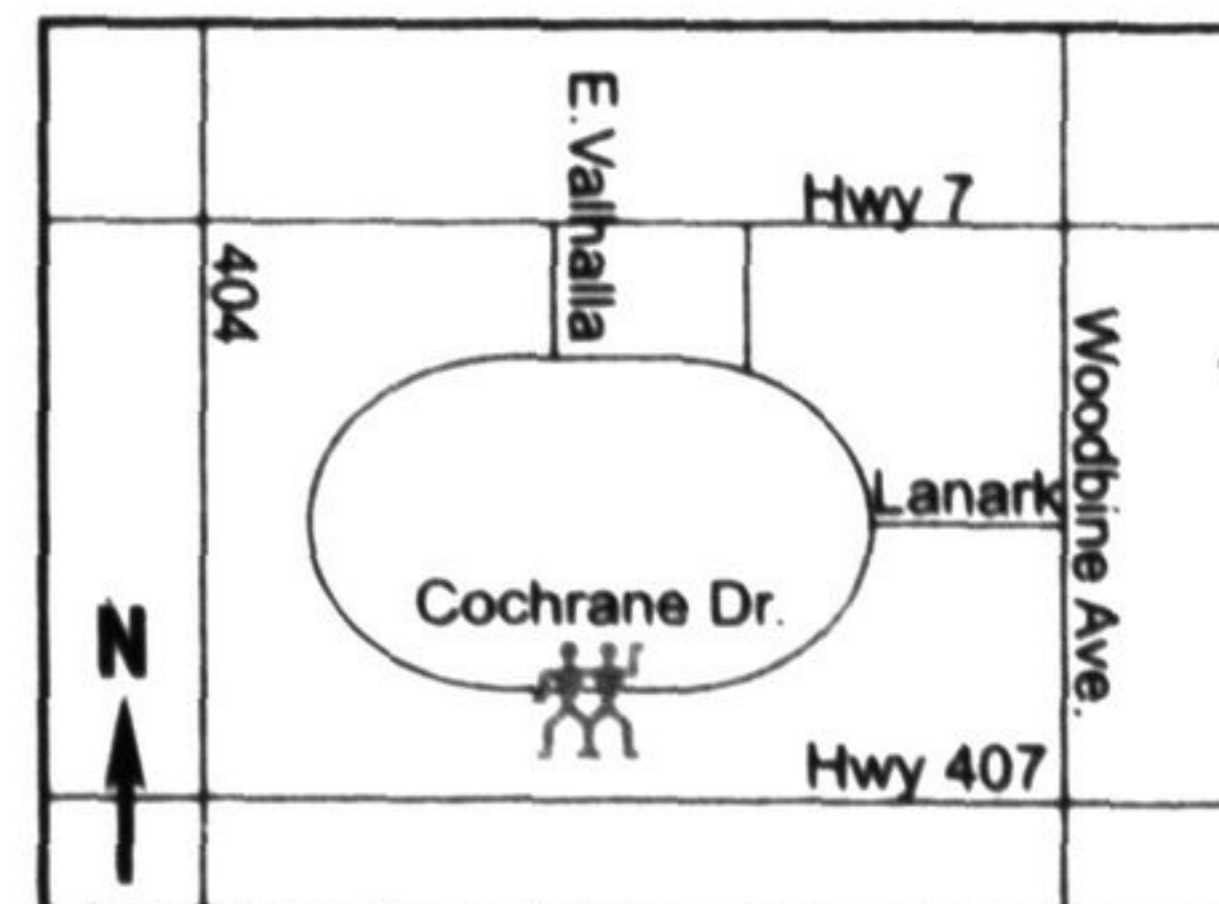


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