

Festival boasts plenty to be proud of, room for improvement

It's over. The 30th annual Strawberry Festival wound down July 1 with a ceremonial Canada Day cake-cutting; a vocal-instrumental blast by the Blackboard Blues Band and another of Pyro Mario's famous fireworks displays.

So what was your analysis? Was the event a success or a failure? Did you enjoy at least some of the activities or choose instead to spend a relaxing weekend at the cottage?

At the risk of pleasing everyone and subsequently pleasing no one, I've listed a few personal observations during forays up and down Main Street; seated in the marquee tent and meandering through Memorial Park.

The positives:

Friday's on-stage production, or opening ceremonies, was one of the best if not THE best in the Festival's three-decade history. 'The Albert St. Four', this year's Music Town award-winners, were wonderful. Rick and Liz Lightfoot; Rick Hannah and Larry Barnett entertained the audience with many fan favourites, concluding Something to Think About, a melody in keeping with the occasion. Paul Crowe, speaking for the Stouffville Lions Club, 'Citizens of the Year', covered all the bases in describing the organization's many charitable community contributions. Peter Harnsen, the 2014 'Sports Personality' was humble in his acceptance of so privileged a prize. Both presentations were made by Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason.

A fitting conclusion to the platform promenade was provided by the Stouffville Academy of Music and Dance. Their outstanding synchronized routines left the audience spellbound.

The announcement of Lion member Joe Cote's recent receipt of the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award was appropriate. The proclamation was accorded a stirring ovation.

The annual Baby Show, hosted by Top Spot, was professionally emceed by Alex Street, youth pastor at Springvale Baptist Church. In a tactful public relations move, the grand champion child was selected by means of a draw from all first, second and third prize winners.

Of all competitions, the Montessori-hosted spelling bee was the most exciting. Sixty-seven rounds, involving 16 entries, were required to decide a champion. And all children were sons and daughters of new Canadians.

This year, due to 30 degree Celsius weather, most Festival visitors



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

left their dogs at home.

Thanks to the Deptment of Leisure Services, the entire Festival area was kept spotlessly clean.

Hats off to Pyro Mario and his magnificent July 1 fireworks display.

The negatives:

The 2015 Festival committee requires additional volunteers. The project is too heavy a load for 16 people to carry.

There was too much inactivity between June 27 and July 1. How about an olde tyme dance in the Royal Canadian Legion Hall?

The Music Festival and the Lions BBQ should be considered an integral part of the Festival program.

The Memorial Park lacked diamond action. Bring two top-notch fastball teams to town for a Friday night engagement.

I still miss the age-old grandstand. Is nothing sacred?

Sunday's ecumenical worship service benefitted from a 30-voice community choir, but lacked the listening enjoyment of instrumental music.

It also, unfortunately, lacked the support of all town churches.

Bring back the Miss Whitchurch-Stouffville beauty pageant.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is classic car country. Return the golden oldies of the 1940s and '50s.

The same goes for the once-popular petting zoo — the children loved it.

More benches are required in the downtown area where people, particularly seniors, can rest their fatigued feet.

Refreshment prices continue to escalate; \$6 for a glass of lemonade, half filled with ice — too much!

The Festival committee should establish a modesty dress code for Saturday Main Street strollers.

Members of town council and the Festival committee were noticeable by their absence at the June 25 concert.

Town's former fire chief on the move again

Former Whitchurch-Stouffville fire chief Tim Beckett will head up the Mississauga department starting later this month.

Beckett, 46, became the local deputy chief in June 2000 and was promoted to chief in September 2003.

In 2005, he left Whitchurch-Stouffville to become Kitchener's deputy chief. He was promoted two years later to that department's chief.

"What really intrigued me was the opportunity to lead a much larger department. Mississauga is probably about three times the size of the city of Kitchener and I've always accepted that increased role and responsibilities," he said.

Beckett served two years as president of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs and was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his work with the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs.

Beckett, his wife and two children will stay in Kitchener because he didn't want to disrupt their lives. He has a third child in college out of town.

— with files from Metroland.com

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION START

Rehabilitation of Pavement Along Highway 404 in Both Directions from Aurora Road to Davis Drive Contract 2014-2000

THE PROJECT

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is commencing construction (Contract 2014-2000) for the rehabilitation of pavement on Highway 404 in both directions from Aurora Road to Davis Drive. This pavement rehabilitation project is considered regular MTO maintenance and will include the rehabilitation of the existing composite pavement structure in both directions, including main lanes and shoulders.

The project includes:

- Rehabilitation of existing pavement in both directions of Highway 404, including main lanes and shoulders from Aurora Road to Davis Drive;
- Rehabilitation of existing pavement at both the Mulock Drive/Vivian Road and Davis Drive interchange, ramps, bridge decks and approaches; and
- Reinstating of pavement markings.

In order to ensure safety and mobility of the travelling public and safety of workers, most of the work will be carried out at night time hours with one lane of traffic. In order to complete rehabilitation of pavement on critical areas, the Highway 404 northbound and southbound directions will be closed at different time intervals for a maximum of nine nights per direction to minimize impact on the detour route. The Emergency Detour Route (EDR) will be utilized during these closures (see map). The traffic will be detoured on to Woodbine Avenue between Aurora Road and Green Lane. All necessary detour signs will be installed at all critical points along the detour route to advise and guide the travelling public. The rehabilitation work is expected to require nine nights of full highway closure in each direction.

Highway 404 northbound and southbound direction closures will take place between **July 14, 2014** and **September 21, 2014**. Highway 404 northbound and southbound directions will not be closed at the same time.

THE PROCESS

This project is following the approved planning process for a Group 'C' project under the MTO *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000).

An Environmental Screening Document (ESD) has been prepared to document the study process, recommended improvements, consultation undertaken during the study and potential environmental issues and mitigation measures. The ESD will not be made available for public review and comment and there is no Part II Order (i.e. 'bump-up') request opportunity provided for a Group 'C' project.

COMMENTS

To obtain additional information, provide comments or to be placed on the project mailing list, please contact the Project Team as follows:

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