

COMING UP

Meat Fest serves up aid for local causes

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Why is everything so expensive for special needs' children, Angel Neill asked.

She is the mother of an eight-year-old with tuberous sclerosis (TS).

Neill would like to buy her daughter, Waverly, a special bike. It costs \$5,000 new or \$2,200 used.

'There's really nothing I can do but raise money. Your heart goes out to the family. I've been lucky to have healthy kids.'

Neill, who is married and also has a six-year-old daughter, was recently bought out by her company and is not working.

"It's been tough," she admitted. To help pay for the bike, the Vulcan Meat Club is holding its inaugural Stouffville Meat Fest Sept. 13 in Memorial Park from 3 to 11 p.m.

Admission is by donation at the

door.

"There's really nothing I can do but raise money. Your heart goes out to the family. I've been lucky to have healthy kids," said J. J. Bouwmeister, co-founder of the Vulcan Meat Club.

Waverly was diagnosed with TS at three months of age.

TS is a genetic condition characterized by skin and central nervous system lesions, generally benign tumours and seizures.

While neither parent is a carrier of the gene, TS can occur as a "spontaneous genetic mutation," according to the Tuberous Sclerosis Canada website.

Cause of the mutation remains unknown.

How severely TS affects a person ranges from an individual never knowing he or she has the illness to developmental delays.

"She's definitely not eight years old," Neill said, noting Waverly is developmentally delayed, walks off balance and suffers from daily seizures.

Last year, her grandmother, Deanna Soules, published a children's book - *Waverly and the Blue Dolphins* - to help raise money for a TS cure.



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

J. J. Bouwmeister (right), of the Vulcan Meat Club, and Special Olympian Matt Nighswander get ready for Meat Fest at the Meat Merchant.

The Meat Fest, which is open to people 19 years of age and older, is also a fundraiser for Special Olympics.

Last year, the meat lovers sponsored three athletes. This year, they want to sponsor 10.

Along with all the meat you can eat, there will be a microbrewer village, mechanical bull riding and cattle lassoing.

Local restaurants will provide food stations and bragging rights will be handed out for best foodie.

A 1971 modified meaty mix machine will serve up lemonade.

There will be live bands and a silent auction with Maple Leafs' paraphernalia and dinner vouchers.

For more information, go to meatfest.stouffville.com

World Music Festival will take over Main St.

Irish and Chinese dancers, along with a pop band and world music guitarists will fill Main Street Sept. 11.

The World Music Festival rounds out the summer street festival season.

The World Music Festival began three years ago as a day-long event of food, music and dance in Memorial Park.

But whether it was the rain or time of year, attendance just wasn't there, said Mike Burns, this year's co-organizer.

So they changed the format and made it a street festival with continuous entertainment on three stages from 5 to 9:30 p.m.

"At some point, Stouffville

deserves a full-fledged music festival, but it needs training wheels to get off the ground," Burns said.

'At some point, Stouffville deserves a full-fledged music festival, but it needs training wheels to get off the ground.'

Some of the entertainers include Amber Crump, Bruce MacNeil, Chinese lion, Irish and bollywood dancers, as well as guitarists.

Admission is free. - Sandra Bolan

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