

COMING UP

New Year's Eve party's on in park

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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A long-standing tradition of fireworks in Memorial Park on New Year's Eve will continue under the new mayor, with a few new things for families to do.

"There's an expectation. People come every single year," said Tamara Carlson, manger of customer service for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville as well as the evening's co-ordinator, of reasons why the event will continue.

The evening gets underway at 6:30 p.m. and fireworks light up the night sky at 9 p.m.

"It's an opportunity for families to come out," Carlson said.

Along with horse-drawn wagon/sleigh rides, a bonfire and fireworks, there will be entertainment on the newly constructed stage, located in the area where the outdoor pool used to be.

Bring a chair if you want to sit and listen to the caroling.

There is also a theme this year - *Frozen*.

THEME IS FROZEN

"Mayor Altmman's decision," Carlson said of why, for the first time, the annual New Year's Eve celebration in Memorial Park has a theme.

Some of the activities planned for the evening will be weather dependant, such as ice sculptures and an ice rink.

"It will only happen if the weather is really cold," Carlson said of the rink.

Temperatures are expected to hover just above zero until Dec. 26 and then drop to -2C to -7C between Dec. 27 and 31, in Whitchurch-Stouffville, according to accuweather.com.

The evening will be spread throughout Memorial Park as it has changed quite a bit from previous years, allowing for "bigger and better events," according to Carlson.

Food will be available, such as hot dogs, french fries, popcorn, cider and hot chocolate, but there has been no decision made yet as to whether or not they will be free or people will have to pay.

As in previous years, the event is paid for through sponsors, not taxpayer money, according to Carlson. The evening costs about \$14,000.

In 2012, about 1,000 people attended the celebration but because of the ice storm aftermath and colder temperatures, attendance was a bit lower last year, according to Carlson.

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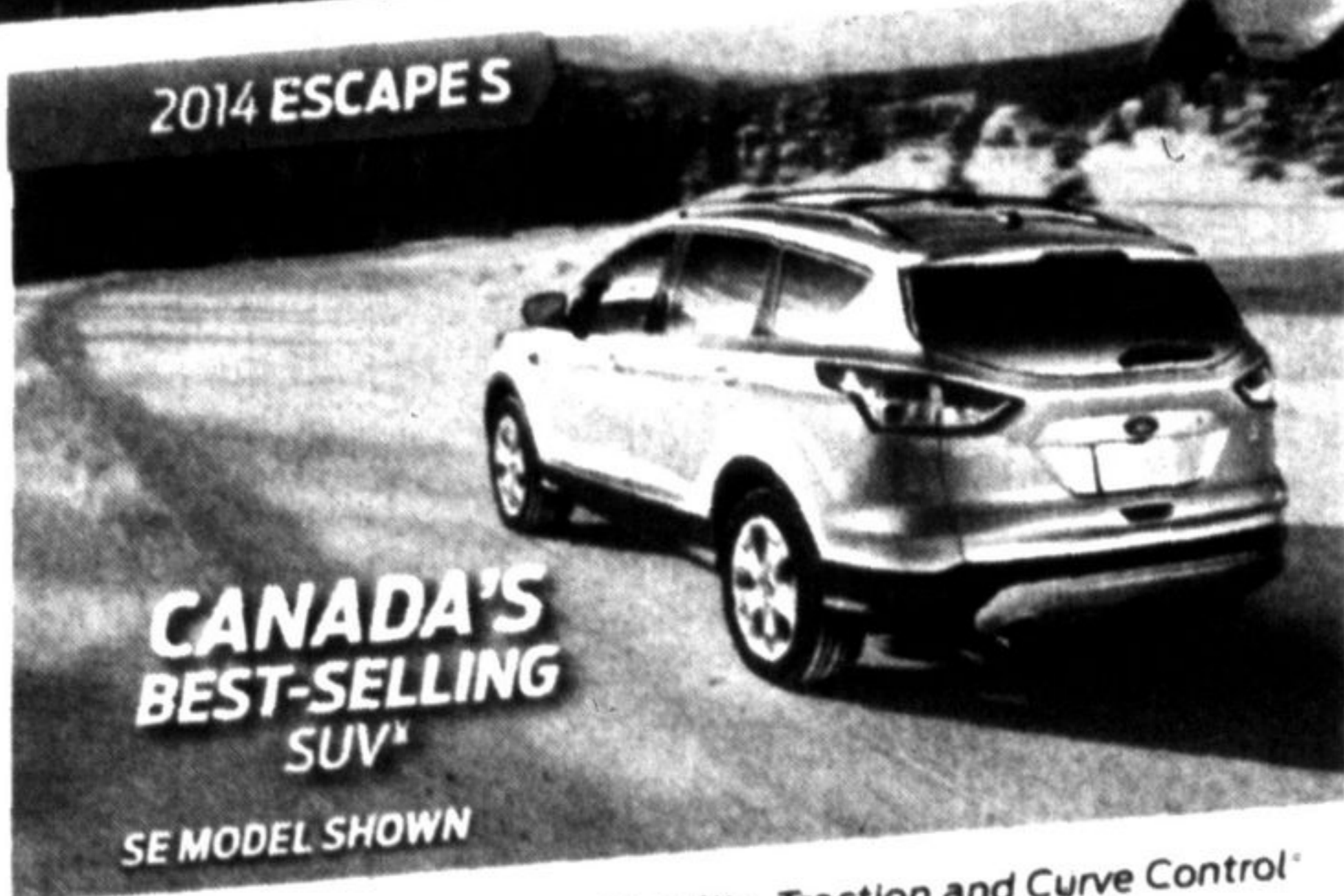
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