

Family Festival Fun

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival has come a long way since the early days of crazy Olympics and canoe races in Duffin's Creek.

Almost three decades on, the festival attracts thousands of visitors from across the region and incorporates wonderful entertainment, community contests, fabulous music, international taste treats, a fantastic firework display and strawberries galore. On June 27, the 22nd Annual Music Festival at Stouffville United Church, gets things off to a tuneful start.

The following day, the Stouffville Lions will prepare their annual beef barbecue in Memorial Park. Imagine hosting a dinner party for 1,000 guests and you've got some idea of the massive

amount of work that goes into this beloved local tradition. Food is served between 4:30 and 7 p.m. and a hot dog dinner is also offered for children.

Official opening ceremonies take place Friday, June 29 in the marquee on Burkholder Street at Park Drive, and evening events include a family swim, a movie at the ball diamond and Giggles Comedy Night.

On June 30, downtown Main Street will be closed to traffic as vendors set up booths with a huge selection of items including clothing, jewellery, crafts and food. Booths will also be set up in the park and entertainment will continue throughout the day.

Everybody loves a parade - now you can participate in one. The People's Parade gets under way at the train

station at 9 a.m. Contests of all kinds, free pony rides and demonstrations by the Stouffville Steppers will all be part of the fun. Evening events include a teen concert and live band music from What About Bob?

The action continues on Canada Day with a Family 5K Run & Walk, an ecumenical church service in the park, the Strawberry Social, a musical jam session and a free family swim. To round out a wonderful weekend, everyone is invited to enjoy Canada Day Cake, live entertainment with the Blackboard Blues Band and fireworks at dusk.

For a complete list of events visit www.strawberryfestival.ca.

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