

Out in Write Field

Today Stouffville, tomorrow New York?



By Bruce Stapley

I don't know what Stouffville's founder, ol' Abe Stouffer, would have had to say about it in his upright, early 1800s Mennonite rigidity. I doubt very much he would have allowed his daughter Elizabeth to enter such a modern event.

But the Search for Stouffville's Top Model, which builds to a final crescendo this week at Headlines Salon & Spa, is unlike anything this town has ever seen. This well publicized, superbly organized competition has attracted upwards of 100 of Stouffville's young ladies between the ages of 14 and 24, with the 10 finalists taking to the "runway" at the Main St. salon Sunday (Sept. 10) afternoon.

According to Sarah Garvin of Headlines, who helped organize the event, the concept was borrowed from TV's 'America's Top Model' show. The Headlines owners and staff were trying to come up with a fun idea for a customer appreciation event, something that went a little further than the standard wine and cheese gathering.

It seems they hit the nail on the head with the

model search scheme. "There's been tons of buzz about it," said Sarah. She insists no one is getting overly serious about it, that the whole idea is for everyone to have a good time. There'll be no gruelling walks down a long, intimidating runway under the searing spotlights, with the candidates wearing those outlandish outfits and ultra funky hair in a myriad of colours, as stern faced judges search for any hint of a flaw in their presentation.

Instead, the candidates will take a casual stroll in the midst of those in attendance, including family, friends and whoever else wants to come. Yes, there will be four judges, including the editor of the *Stouffville Free Press*, Kate Gilderdale, who, once she got over the disappointment of being told she was just a few (light*) years beyond the cutoff age for candidates, has promised to go about her duties with the same gusto she brought with her when she helped judge the Legion's speech competition a few years back.

For the young lady chosen as Stouffville's Top Model, who knows. Today Stouffville, tomorrow...New York? Along with some great prizes, she

may well find herself with a foot in a door that could lead to some real modelling opportunities.

While Sarah says it's too soon to tell if the Model Search will become an annual event, the interest shown would indicate a high likelihood that it will. Some have suggested that an event be held for more mature women as well as those 24 and under. Others would like to see a similar competition for males. That will be up to the salon's owners and staff to decide in the aftermath of their successful inaugural competition.

As for Abe Stouffer, it's hard to imagine that even a man with his vision could have foreseen such a big city event taking place on his Main Street a little over two centuries after he arrived here.

But even if he did, I'm sure he would have been more comfortable if the thing had involved the judging of something a little more practical - such as live-stock!

**We aim for truthfulness, even when it hurts - Ed.*

GETTING IN THE SWING with Whistle Radio

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

Cedar Beach Pavilion will return to its roots Nov. 4, with a benefit dance and live auction for Whistle Radio.

Originally built for the big band generation of the '30s, '40s and '50s, the pavilion boasts a beautiful hardwood floor and can accommodate up to 450 guests. The Bluesual Suspects will perform a selection of swing classics, evoking the glorious sounds of Benny

Goodman and Louis Armstrong. And if your swing is rusty, or you're new to the genre, the town is offering a series of swing lessons during October to get you in the mood.

Tickets for the dance are \$40 each, or \$75 for a couple, which includes food. Group discounts are offered and beer and wine will be available. For details, or to buy tickets, visit www.whistleradio.com, email jim@whistleradio.com or call 905-640-6429.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Online Directory & Tourism Guide

Cedar Beach Swing Dance

Saturday,
4 November

Cedar Beach

15007 9th Line
Musselman Lake

Doors open 7pm
Dancing 8pm

Live Auction

Tickets
In Advance:
\$40 Single \$75 Couple
At the Door:
\$50 Single \$95 Couple
Ticket prices include food.
Group Discounts Available
Beer and wine available.
(905-640-6429)



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