

Lumberjack Show new to Strawberry Festival

By Nancy Hopkins

Special to Stouffville This Month

Calling all Paul and Pauline Bunyan fans of Whitchurch-Stouffville -- the Strawberry Festival is looking for you.

The Lumberjack Show, a major new attraction at this year's upcoming Canada Day celebrations, takes place from June 26 to 29.

As in years past, the 2003 Strawberry Festival is jammed full of activities. Also new this year are short train rides on the York Durham Heritage Railway, the return of the Conklin midway, and a performance of *Beauty and the Beast* on Sunday afternoon. The perennially popular Freckles Contest takes place at Latham Hall, while best pie and jam competitions, a spelling bee sponsored by the Book Connection, and the Baby Contest sponsored by Shopper's Drug Mart are also making their return, along with the Skate Park Competition.

The Lumberjack Show is sponsored by Scotiabank and will take place in

Thicketwood Park on Saturday, June 28.

Operating from the GO Train's central location, short rides aboard the York Durham Heritage Train, for a small fee, will prove a popular new addition. The return of the Conklin midway, complete with the Ferris wheel and many other rides, will be featured in the parking lot of the outdoor pool. Pet owners will have their chance to shine at Sunday's Pet Contest.

Always an important part of any Strawberry Festival Weekend, music and entertainment will be ongoing at the Strawberry Patch located at Civic Square and the tent will play host to Rod Stewart and Shania Twain tribute bands on Saturday evening. The Yuk Yuk's performance sponsored by the Stouffville Community Policing Association at a cost of \$15 per person will not only guarantee an evening of laughs, but proceeds will benefit the new Community Safety Village at Bruce's Mills Conservation Centre.

The Stouffville Missionary Church is sponsoring a free swim at the outdoor pool from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday.

As always, Saturday will find Main St. lined with merchants selling delectable strawberries, a large selection of food choices, and crafts and collectibles. And this year booths will also be set up at the park on Sunday.

With so many fun activities to choose from, be sure to check the Strawberry Festival website, www.strawberryfestival.ca or call 905-64-BERRY (905-642-3779) from June 9 for the latest details.



The Stouffville Lions Club asked residents to donate eyeglasses and hearing aids for people in developing countries and the response was incredible. Diane Winters stands behind a grocery cart full of donations with Barb Winters, Steve Pliakes and Helene Johnson to her left. Lion Tom Winters said the club was very grateful for the donations and the generous help of Sobey's staff and store manager Bruce Silver.

Stouffville Lions Club elects Helene Johnson as president

Helene Johnson, Chair of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, was elected president of the Stouffville Lions Club May 12.

Mrs. Johnson was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal at Queen's Park in January in

recognition of her hard work and community involvement as a volunteer and activist. She takes office July 1 and invites community groups and those requiring financial assistance to apply as soon as possible for budget considerations. Outgoing president Doug

Watson has been elected zone chairman for Region 45, with responsibility for the supervision of seven area Lions clubs.

The local club hosted an eyeglasses and hearing aid collection and barbecue outside Sobey's Food Store May 17 and ended up with a whole shopping cart full of donations. Lion Tom Winters expressed the club's appreciation for the support from the community and praised Sobey's Bruce Silver and his staff for their generous assistance in providing a venue and facilities to make the event a resounding success.

The Stouffville Lions Club welcomes new members. For more information call 905-640-1867.

Railway back on track

York-Durham Heritage Railway is back on track.

Because of space constraints on the line, there were fears that the tourist train would not be able to start its run from Stouffville this year. However, a solution was reached with the help of GO Transit officials and the tourist trains will operate weekends from June 8 to Oct. 19 between Stouffville and Uxbridge.

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