



Jeff Marsh and Dan Granger are all shook up after working the crowd at the BIA's ElvisFest in June. The event was attended by hundreds of people, and there were Elvis tribute artists on every downtown corner. Thank you, thank you very much, to the BIA and all the volunteers who put it together.

# Good rockin' with Elvis on Main St.

by Ruth LeBlanc  
Oh love me tender, love me true, Whitchurch Stouffville is the best!

The downtown core of Stouffville was rockin' with the Elvis tribute artists who spent their weekend entertaining the hundreds who gathered to listen the hours away the weekend of June 13-14. The second year for the Business Improvement Area's new annual event, it is still in the early growth stage, when testing and trial and error are the name of the game.

Last year, for example, we held a little parade, with a few classic cars carrying as many performers as possible. This year, we had over fifteen cars and a dozen ladies including locals Lyn Cox and Darlene Brown, riding some great motorcycles. Quite an improvement to say the least, thanks to the efforts of volunteer Clive Ross.

The Elvi started arriving Friday night at the Stouffville GO Station and it was like greeting old and new friends. These performers are not only talented, but are some of the kindest people I have ever met. They have embraced our town and travelled from all over

Ontario just to come and sing for us.

The event was greatly appreciated by one spectator all the way from England, who was visiting last year and happened to catch one of the shows. This year she came up to say hello and told me her trip to Canada was planned around our tribute to the King. Now, that's an Elvis fan!

Locals Willi and Leona Petri had company over from Germany and brought Ingrid and Georg, the visiting couple, to Elvisfest. Not understanding English, but loving Elvis, Ingrid swooned with the rest of the ladies over Gino Monopoli, one of the best-looking men on the planet earth. (I tried to talk some of the dancing ladies in the crowd to go in on a kidnapping scheme with me but they didn't want to get arrested!)

Gino not only sang to her but picked her out of the crowd and gave her enough memories to last a lifetime. That's the kind of guys they are. The new owners of the Clever Conductor, John and Dorothy, along with Pauline from the Emerald Isle and Steve and Melissa from the Earl of Whitchurch,

welcomed the entertainers with live back-up bands and great places for fans to gather.

This event, which was generously sponsored by Stouffville.biz, was created by the BIA to bring business to the downtown core, and it has really started to work.

The Clever Conductor had one of their most

successful weekends thanks to the tribute artists, with people having so much fun they were dancing on the chairs. The end of the performances had the crowd of over 400 on its feet, applauding as we sang the last song.

As the happy but tired chair of the BIA, Eric Button, said, "Can't wait for next year". Me too Eric, me too.

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