



SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN CENTENNIAL



JULY 14 PORT UNITED



JULY 7 THE RAMBLERS



JULY 21 JAMES FUNNYHAT



The always enjoyable summer concerts in July featured Port United (left and middle), Bing Serrao and the Ramblers (above top), and James Funnyhat. The Ramblers and James Funnyhat performed without a hitch to happy crowds outside the Port Union CC, but Port United had to play indoors due to possible rain. Unfortunately, the community centre could only accommodate 150 people, so many had to sit outside. Fortunately, sound technician Daniel Menezes arranged for two extra speakers to be set up outdoors.

A minor hiccup didn't ruin the fun at our summer concerts

By Kathy Rowe

Despite a minor hiccup, the July concert series was a great hit this summer! The concert that kicked off the series was the Latin band Bing Serrao and the Ramblers. This was their first appearance at our Port Union concert series, and they were very well received.

Children's entertainer James Funnyhat performed for a third year in a row and closed our series this year. His music and storytelling was enjoyed by all who came.

What was the minor hiccup, you ask? On July 14, the day that Port United performed, the Weather Network was showing a 40 to 50

percent chance of rain for 8 p.m. Despite the possibility that the forecast could change, I decided to trust it and at 4:30 p.m., I made the call for an indoor concert that night. This is never an easy decision, and fortunately I haven't had to make it very often in the many years I have helped coordinate these concerts. This popular band can easily draw upwards of 250 people, but the hall at the Port Union C.C. can only accommodate 150.

I knew this was not going to be easy to manage. Thank goodness the band members were gracious about having to perform indoors and I thank them for being so understanding. By 6 p.m., audience members were arriving and ask-

ing why we couldn't be outdoors. My explanations regarding weather were repeated many, many times as the sun began to break through the clouds. It figures! But it was too late to break down and set up outside at that point.

By 6:30 p.m., I needed full-on security to control the numbers of people wanting a seat in the hall. Thanks to helpful building staff and an amazing concerts committee, all entrance and exit doors were covered.

In the meantime, I was in the parking lot apologizing to the arriving family-filled cars letting them know that the hall was full. I added, "but you are welcome to set up your chairs just outside the hall windows

on the strip of grass by the parking lot." Facial expressions changed from disappointment to contentment. The strip of grass soon filled with many patient and understanding music lovers. Doors were cocked open as the music spilled out toward the parking lot. Listeners pressed their noses to the windows to watch the band while others danced nearby. Quick thinking sound technician, Daniel Menezes, arranged for two extra speakers to be set up outside for the listeners.

I was so impressed by how flexible and agreeable everyone was. It turned out to be a terrific evening! By the way, it never rained a drop on our parade!



Some of the activities at the Port Union Waterfront Festival on June 22 included inflatable games (top), face painting (middle) and a rock-climbing wall.

Waterfront Festival marks its 15th year!

By Shelley Cooke and Don Lawrence

The annual Port Union Waterfront Festival is an early kickoff to the summer. Held at the Village Commons at the bottom of Port Union Road on Saturday, June 22, the festival marked its 15th year and it drew large crowds for a day of fun!

The parking lot was transformed with inflatable games and a climbing wall for the kids. The main entertainment area kept the audience delighted with a selection of seasoned favourites, up-and-comers and local dancing groups showcasing their talents. The lineup of performers included: Fossil Fire, Tempting Murphy, Roger Beckett, Shayne Ireland, and Sheryl

Joyner School of Highland Dancing. All manner of vendor booths lined the walkway dispensing everything from information pamphlets to ice cream. There was something for everyone!

As a main sponsor of the festival, the CCRA had lots of action happening at its booth. Many residents who attended signed up for their annual membership, and learned about all the exciting events that the CCRA is planning to bring our community together. People who visited the booth also had a chance to purchase a Centennial hoodie and/or T-shirt.

The Port Union Waterfront Festival is organized by the Festival Committee in association with community groups in Southeast Scarborough.



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