

BRAMPTON GUARDIAN



Brampton downtown has lots to offer this weekend

By PAM DOUGLAS

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Downtown Brampton will be abuzz with activities— and even the sound of a chainsaw— Saturday with the opening of the Farmers' Market, the Flower City Parade, a mural unveiling, and more.

The market, with its fresh local produce, preserves, baked goods and handmade crafts, opens at 7 a.m. It wraps up at 1 p.m. and will be back every Saturday from now until Oct. 9. It's the 24th season for the market, and more than 40 vendors will line Main Street north and south between Theatre Lane and John Street.

In addition to the annual events planned for the day, there are two firsts taking place, too.

At 8 a.m., artist Robbin Wenzoski will fire up his chainsaw in Ken Whillans Square in front of city hall and begin the city's first tree sculpture, which is being sponsored by the Brampton Downtown Development Corporation. The southwestern Ontario-based artist will turn an old tree stump into a work of art over the next seven hours, creating a bouquet of flowers. It will find a home in Vivian Lane.

Between 8 and 11 a.m., the Inzola Pancake Breakfast for the Arts will be serving up breakfast in the Rose Theatre's Garden Square. Proceeds are donated to the Peel Art Gallery and Museum.

Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Brampton Blooms— A Flower Show, will be set up in the atrium at city hall.

At noon, in Garden Square, the city will unveil the first mural, complete with a celebration cake and a free kids' colouring mural. It's a partnership between the city and the Brampton Arts Council and it is the first of a series of murals that will be displayed in the city. The artwork is designed by Michael Ciupka Designs and it will adorn the Rose Theatre stairwell. And the man who came up with the public art ideas of tree sculptures and murals will be greeting visitors to a showing of his own artwork at Beaux-Arts, 70 Main St. N., between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. The show runs June 13 to 26.

The grand finale will be at 2 p.m. when the annual Flower City Parade will meander its way down Main Street from Church to Frederick streets, passing Gage Park along the way. With flower-filled floats, marching bands, costumed characters and entertainers, it brings a crowd of spectators to the curb,

There will be the Brampton Blooms flower show and the Walk for the Art of It. While June 21 is the first official day of summer, Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell has declared, "Summer begins this Saturday in Brampton."

The events are considered the official kickoff to a full two months of activities around the city. Those include Canada Day celebrations, this year being held at the Powerade Centre, and the Blazin' Summer Weekend 2010 FireFit National Competition at South Fletcher's SportsPlex on the Labour Day long weekend.

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