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Stars, cars come to town

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From July 15-17 downtown Brampton will transform itself into a scene from a bygone era as one of summer's most popular events– the 11th annual Classic Cars & Legendary Stars– shifts into high gear.

The annual event, hosted by the Brampton Downtown Development Corporation (BDDC), has been attracting hundreds of people from Brampton and surrounding areas by blending vintage cars with music.

Karen Campbell, BDDC president, said the roots of the event can be traced back to a '50s styled diner– previously located in downtown Brampton– and whose offerings boasted of food served against the ambience of a classic car theme with live music performed by an Elvis impersonator.

The idea became popular and soon transformed itself into the Classic Cars & Legendary Stars event.

"The event's popularity is partly because of the music and partly the classic cars," Campbell said. "I find that the classic car component attracts a broad age group– kids, teenagers, families and older people– and seems to cross a spectrum of people."

On Thursday, July 15, Jeff Sommerville/Debbie Sander Walker and the Jazz Mechanics, will sing several Frank Sinatra songs at the Legendary Stars Entertainment at Gage Park from 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, July 16, celebrations will continue with several tribute bands who will recreate the magic of the Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, Rush, and Kiss. The evening will kick-off at 6 p.m. and continue until midnight.

The highlight of the three-day event is the Classic Car Parade and Show and Shine taking place Saturday, July 17. This year, some 150 cars– buffed, polished and resplendent– will roll into town at 1 p.m. The best vantage position to watch the parade is the area around Gage Park and City Hall. After the parade, downtown Brampton will continue to be enveloped in a celebratory air until 6 p.m.

A Beatles RockBand contest– open to all ages– will get underway between 2 to 5 p.m. at the Gage Park. There is a \$15 registration fee which will go towards supporting the William Osler Health System Foundation.

Organizers have added several new features to the Classic Cars & Legendary Stars event this year and include: the market place and kids zone in Ken Whillans Square with face painting, bouncy castle, crafts and games.

For more information, visit www.bramptondowntown.com.



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