

Snow in stock for Caledon Snowfest 2013



Photo : Terra Ciolfe
Four-year-old Frances Crossley keeps warm with a cup of hot chocolate during the Snowfest in Caledon Village on Family Day.

Caledon Enterprise by Terra Ciolfe

Local residents layered on their long johns, snow pants, and ski-jackets and tied up their snow boots to come out for the second annual SnowFest in Caledon Village on Family Day.

“We had a fantastic turnout on Monday,” said Tim Forster, convenor for SnowFest. “We got another perfect day.”

From 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., the local fairground was turned into a winter playground for people to spend the day, as they are meant to, surround by family and friends.

Despite the brisk weather, many turned out to the numerous events throughout the day.

Organized by the Caledon Agricultural Society, the event upheld the true Canadian rural charm, featuring snowshoeing, horse drawn carriage rides, wood carving displays, dog sledding and family skating.

But the festival wasn't without its competition – there was a hockey tournament, chili cook-off, snow castle challenge and the firefighters' “Winter Olympics” pentathlon style challenge.

The Region of Peel dropped in 25 loads of snow for the day, according to Forster, in order to build a bigger snow mountain and for the snow castle sculpting competitions.

But there were some hiccups with all the fun. The event actually ran out of parking at one point, said Forster.

“But, when that’s your biggest challenge,” he said. “That means you’re doing something right.”

The weather also created optimal conditions for one of the more popular activities of the day – dog sledding. Members from a group called from Good Guys Carting Dogs, dog owners who train their dogs to pull carts and sleds for kids, were on hand at the event again this year.

Last year the group, who travels around with their dogs giving kids dog sled rides, raised money by charging \$2 per ride to help equip Caledon Fire Services with pet oxygen masks.

Thanks to their efforts, along with numerous donations from the Caledon Agricultural Society, Dr. Helen Wicki and Nobleton Veterinary Clinic and long-time Caledon residents, Mr. and Mrs. Goodfellow, the group was able to raise enough money to purchase 14 pet oxygen masks needed for the 20 fire trucks in the region.

Ross Hamilton, of Good Guys Carting Dogs, presented the mask to Caledon Fire Chief Terry Irwin during the day. An additional six masks will be donated The Cheltenham Veterinary Clinic, in partnership with Invisible Fence Brand within the next week.

For Forster, the favourite part of the event is seeing smiles on everyone’s faces.

“The best thing about that whole event is to see the property alive, to see the smiles,” he said. “That’s what it’s all about.”