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Lots new at this year?s Home and Lifestyle Show

By Bill Rea

The annual spring Caledon Home and Lifestyle Show is just a couple of weeks away, and there are lots of new attractions planned for this year's event, being put on, as usual, by the Caledon Chamber of Commerce.

The show will run from April 24 to 26.

This year's show is being run in partnership with the Town of Caledon, with the presenting sponsorship of James Dick Construction.

?We're delighted to have the support of presenting sponsor James Dick Construction and the equally important partnership with the Town of Caledon,? declared Chamber Chairman Warren Darnley. ?Renowned for its philanthropic support of kids sports, health, cultural and tourism events, we are proud to be part of growing list of community activities supported by James Dick Construction.?

?Over the years, the Caledon Home and Lifestyle Show has shown that some of the best of the industry can be found right here in Caledon,? said Mayor Allan Thompson. ?As the 19th annual show takes shape, I'm particularly pleased that the Town has taken an enhanced role in partnering with the Caledon Chamber of Commerce to showcase and support our businesses.?

Liz Shaughnessy, event marketing specialist for the show, said people are going to notice changes before they even enter the Don Sheardown Memorial Arena.?

She said for the first time in years, show organizers have grabbed the three pillars of renovate, decorate and landscape, and have worked them into the event.

?Those are the pillars of any home show in North America,? she observed.

?The Home show this year is leading by example,? she added.

That promises to be evident even from outside the arena. Shaughnessy said Scott Waldner of SW Stoneworks in Caledon has created a brand new landscaped entrance, which will be donated to the Town permanently. This has been created in cooperation with Sunshine Landscaping and Permacon.

?This is a classic example of a partnership that works well,? Shaughnessy commented.

Other attractions will include floral displays throughout the hall, provided by The Flower Workshop, and they will be in evidence around the entrance, greeting area, stage, etc.

?They are ranked as one of the top floral design companies in Canada,? Shaughnessy said.

The show floor will also include a Wellness Centre, with displays from such firms as Core Solutions, Saunacore and the Naturopathic Wellness Spa.

As well, there will be a Pet Zone, anchored by Rovili's Pet World.

The show floor will open at 4 p.m. Friday night (April 24), but the actual official opening will start at 7:30. Shaughnessy said the Town will be putting on a celebration in honour of the upcoming Pan American Games and the equestrian events that will be taking place in Caledon. There will be athletes, past and present, who will be on hand, as well as plenty of Games memorabilia that will be available.

There will be lots of focus on the younger set Saturday.

Shaughnessy said there will be a demonstration by COPE Service Dogs at 1 p.m., showing how canines are trained to assist people in the community with disabilities or other needs.

The Amazing Rain Forest will be there at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. with a selection of interesting reptiles that people around Caledon don't get to see every day.

MARS Canada will be on hand, complete with samples of candy and dog food.

Humber Nurseries will be on hand with landscaping and gardening advise. Youngsters will be able to take in a Pet Rock display they will be running

Shaughnessy said Sunday will include ?a very different style fashion show.? It will be run by the Ascott Room in Belfountain with Angela Mara designs from Italy being modeled by Town and Regional councillors, accompanied by ?the best-dressed dogs you've ever seen,? from Dogs by Bryson in Caledon East.

Another attraction will feature Caledon resident and multi-award winning renovator Michael Upshall, who will be able to offer lots of expert advice. Shaughnessy observed many people who have made New Year's resolutions when it came to fixing up their homes.

?This is the place to come to get expert advice,? she said. ?Talk to people who can help you do it right the first time.?

And there will be more, as Shaughnessy boasted there will be ?a ton of new exhibitors at the show this year.?

She also said Scotiabank will be running the Penny Raffle this year. ?That is one of the most popular features,? she said.

Suzanne Doig, office manager for the Chamber, added there will be lots of food available too. Local sports organizations will be

barbecuing food both Saturday and Sunday, and both days will start with pancake breakfasts. She also said the local Scouts will be selling apple fritters Friday night.

?The Town's partner role with the show has been exemplary, starting with an action packed opening night featuring the Toronto 2015 PanAm/ParaPan AM Games Preview,? Darnley said.

?The Town's role as a partner with the Caledon Chamber of Commerce also illustrates our commitment to supporting businesses and shopping local,? Thompson observed. ?I look forward to opening night, sponsored by the Town, as well as meeting the many vendors and visitors to this year's show.?

It will be a showcase for local businesses seeking to attract customers who live nearby. Shaughnessy said she's organized major shows in Toronto, and she understands the whole concept of ?buy local,? and the firms on display here measure up.

?They're as good as they get,? she declared.

?Their kids go to school with your kids,? she added. ?They want to be proud of the work they do for you.'

