

Competitions will highlight SnowFest activities this coming Monday

Sochi isn't the only place where there's winter competition.

Spirited competition will take center stage at the third annual SnowFest Family Day this coming Monday (Feb. 17).

Presented by James Dick Construction, service clubs, community groups, volunteer firefighters, elementary school children and regional ambassadors will compete for podium position and coveted gold, silver and bronze medals at the Caledon Fairgrounds.

One of the most hotly contested events at SnowFest is the Chilly Cook-Off, with eight service clubs, churches and community groups vying for culinary honours. Judged by award-winning chefs from three renowned restaurants; Bistro Riviere, Terra Cotta Inn and Ray's Third Generation Bistro, visitors to SnowFest can experience culinary wizardry at its best.

Excitement mounts for the first ever Alliance Agri-Turf Ambassador Challenge which is enthusiastically supported by representatives from eight agricultural fair boards across the region including: Acton, Bolton, Caledon, Erin, Grand Valley, Schomberg, Shelburne and Orangeville. These young ambassadors will go toe-to-toe in a timed obstacle course which tests their strength, agility and team spirit.

Students from elementary schools across Caledon will compete in the Snow Castle competition, supported by the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program and judged by the incomparable creative talents of local artists Lucille Weber and Wendy McLeod, as well as local photographer Lisa Scales, with a competition theme this year that is none other than the Olympics! DARE will also have a police cruiser for public education on site.

Medal fever builds for the blockbuster Fire Fighter's Challenge involving Caledon Fire Stations as they go head to head in a race against the clock, station against station, over simulated fire and rescue obstacles.

Throughout the day, visitors can climb McDonalds Snow Mountain, test their blades on the public skating rink, learn snowshoeing from Caledon Hills Cycle, watch wood carver Kevin Pinkney and the ice sculpture demonstrations brought to you by the Shriners Club.

The Orangeville Snowmobile Club will be on site, teaching safety as well as having their rescue sled on display with maps showing local snowmobile trails for the enthusiast.

Arguably the hottest tickets in town are the horse drawn sleigh rides, generously sponsored by Orangeville Home Hardware and Orangeville AutoSport, and the dog sled rides provided by The Good Guys Carting Dogs, with all proceeds donated to support dog guides.

Maple sugar taffy (also known as sugaring-off), presented by Love's Sweetness, Howard the Butcher's incomparable beef burgers and the legendary Beavertails will bring winter comfort food to SnowFest visitors.

Voted 2013 Festival/Event of the Year by Ontario Tourism for the Hills of Headwaters Region, SnowFest will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fairgrounds on Highway 10 in Caledon village. Admission and parking is free.

For more information and schedules, visit www.snowfestcaledon.ca

SnowFest is owned and managed by the volunteers of the Caledon Agricultural Society, and is the first of three events this season. The other two are Caledon Fair (June 6 to 8) and Canada Day Strawberry Festival (July 1). All proceeds raised during these events are dedicated to community based projects, refurbishment and maintenance of the 154-year-old grounds.