

Blue whirlwind coming

Sud-Berry Bear introduces his new-found love in time for festival

By Star Staff

Blueberries have long been recognized for their tremendous health benefits because of their high level of anti-oxidants.

But now it appears the berries that abound in Sudbury are also good for your love life.

After almost 20 years, the Sud-Berry Bear has found a girlfriend and Sudbury Blueberry Festival organizers are asking the public to give her a name.

The couple will enjoy its first date July 16 when the 20th Annual Sudbury Blueberry Festival du bleuets kicks off at Bell Park.

The mascot for the popular festival and his new lady friend apparently met at Sudbury Credit Union, one of the sponsors of the festival in which the focus is on all things blueberry.

As the story goes, Girl Bear fell while picking blueberries, which were two weeks ahead of season, struck her head and can't remember her name.

That's why the community is being asked to come up with a moniker for her.

The giant bears attended a news conference Monday at Market Square to announce the lineup of for the festival, co-founded by late Sudbury mayor Peter Wong.

The festival will run from July 16 to 23, and one thing is for certain this year, say organizers. There will be no shortage of blueberries.

Several events will run throughout the week-long festival, among them blueberry wine making at U-Brew Centre, the 24th Annual Sudbury Gem and Mineral Show on July 21-23 at Carmichael Arena, muffin week at Cranky Joe's Roadhouse, Minnow Lake Days on July 21-23, blueberry cheesecake week at Village International Sudbury and blueberry sidewalk sales at Southridge Mall July 17-23.

It will be a blue whirlwind



JOHN E. LIGHTFOOT JR./THE SUDBURY STAR

The Sud-Berry Bear (left) is now 20 and has met the Girl Bear of his dreams. He introduced her for the first time at a press conference Monday morning at the Market Square. She hit her head a couple of weeks ago while blueberry picking and is suffering selective amnesia and can't remember her name and are asking Sudburians during the week of the festival to give her a name and she will reveal her new name at the closing ceremonies.

of events during festival week.

Sudbury's Blues Brothers will play the festival kickoff from 7-8:30 p.m. July 16 at the William Bell Park Gazebo. Earlier that day, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Artists On Elgin (674-0415) will hold a blueberry candle fundraiser.

VoicePrint Canada (673-4463) is one of the major sponsors of the Blueberry Festival, and it will open its studio for a tour July 18 from noon-3 p.m.

One Eleven Seniors' Centre will hold a social from 1:30-3 p.m. that same day.

The Sudbury Real Estate Board and the Amazing Persona will hold their first annual garden tour July 19,

in aid of Habitat for Humanity.

Tickets for the self-guided, 1-7 p.m. tour, cost \$10. Phone 673-3388.

That same day, Red Oak Villa, the new seniors' retirement residence in the old St. Joseph's Hospital on St. Anne's Road, will hold a blueberry tea from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Phone 560-8733.

Three events will round out the agenda July 20, starting with the Ukrainian Seniors' Centre's 20th Annual Blueberry Family Garden Party from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Phone 673-7404.

The Sudbury Star's Rob "The Inhaler" O'Flanagan will come out of retirement to take on all comers at the

Celebrity Pie Eating Contest from 11:45-12:30 p.m. in front of the Rainbow Centre. Phone 674-5115.

Southwind Retirement Residence will hold an open house the same day from 2-4 p.m., featuring prizes, tours, entertainment and refreshments. Phone 521-1443.

Better Beginnings Better Futures, a community development organization in Sudbury, will hold its Blueberry Bash in Memorial Park from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. July 21.

The event will feature an all-day pancake breakfast, as well as a barbecue, exhibitions and other lots of fun.

Market Square will turn blue on July 22 for Blueberry Blast, featuring an all-day

pancake breakfast and vendors of all stripes.

The Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre in Capreol will also hold a blueberry garden party July 22 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Phone 858-5050.

The festival will wrap up July 23, but not before the Skead Recreation Centre holds its pancake breakfast and sale that day from 8 a.m.-noon. Phone 969-4633.

Closing ceremonies will be held at 7 p.m. at the William Bell Park Gazebo, with musical guest Kevin Closs.

For more on the festival or to volunteer a name for Girl Bear, phone festival co-ordinator Mikki Garofolo at 674-1717.