

Movies in the Park brings cinematic magic back to Town Park on August 15

Town Park has been a destination for music lovers all summer long, and on August 15, it will be a draw for film lovers as well as Aurora's Movies in the Park program unspools.

The annual series of three films will feature something for everyone, from brand-new feature films and a classic that has entertained generations of families.

On Thursday, August 15, the first film in the series will be *If*, a comedy-fantasy starring Ryan Reynolds.

After discovering she can see imaginary friends, Bea helps them reconnect with their kids, say organizers. Along the way, she uncovers magical family secrets and self-discovery.

It's an emotionally-charged movie that comes with some really great actors like Ryan Reynolds, in a hybrid movie which has animation linked to live actors, says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora, of *If* taking pride that Movies in the Park has been able to book such a new film.

Next up on the schedule, on Thursday, August 22, is the 1989 classic *Honey, I Shrank the Kids*, a Rick Moranis film which has spurred numerous sequels.

This one is almost timeless, says Ware. You're going to have those who saw it decades ago and those who want to share the experience, whether it is with their child, a friend, a niece or nephew it's cross-generational. But the humour as well is also timeless even if it wasn't a classic and just came out today, it would still be awesome.

With a focus on an inventor, Ware says it also hits a lot of boxes when it comes to STEM and STEAM programs.

Rounding out the program on Thursday, August 29, is *Kung Fu Panda 4*, where Po must find and train his successor as the new Dragon Warrior while battling a shape-shifting sorceress. Teaming with a clever fox, he finds heroes in unexpected places.

You can go to Cineplex seven days a week, but in Aurora you can only do Movies in the Park three times a year, says Ware. It's quite unique, it's free, it's in gorgeous Town Park with lots of on-site amenities like the splash pad and playground, and in that intimate residential setting when you watch movies inside, you're missing these elements and I think being outside connects you with nature and a very different experience.

All movies start at dusk and will be preceded by themed games and crafts on site. Popcorn will be available while supplies last.

Each screening is free, but donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged.

For more information, visit aurora.ca/moviesinthepark.

By Brock Weir