

Singing before full house at Dome 'incredible' for Woodstock resident

By JOHN SUMMERS
of The Sentinel-Review

TORONTO — Make the most of your opportunities, especially when they could be a once in a lifetime chance.

Linda Garner-VanWinden stepped to the mike in front of 50,509 people Sunday afternoon, sang both national anthems before the Blue Jays-Tigers baseball game, and earned a terrific roar from the crowd afterward.

"It was incredible, totally incredible," she said. "I always get a patriotic feeling when I sing the national anthem, but this was far more than that. A patriotic and emotional high."

Garner-VanWinden was one of about 1,000 Woodstock residents to attend Sunday's game, which the Blue Jays aptly dubbed Woodstock Day.

BIG DAY FOR ENTIRE FAMILY

For Garner-VanWinden it was an opportunity which she consciously planned on making the most of. "Let's put it this way," she said. "I'm never going to win a gold medal for my country. So I'm glad I could do my bit today and sing for the Blue Jays."

It was a big day for her whole family. In particular, her husband Steve's father, Arnold VanWinden of Listowel, was making his first trip to the SkyDome. "I think it was special for me and it was special for him to hear his family name announced over the PA system. I think he was pretty overwhelmed."

Although disappointed with the Jays performance on the field, Garner-VanWinden was much impressed by the way the pre-game staff treated her. "I was really impressed with how courteous they were. If you think



Photo by John Summers

LINDA GARNER-VANWINDEN, of Woodstock, sang spirited versions of the American and Canadian national anthems at the Blue Jays game Sunday at SkyDome. About 1,000 Woodstonians were on hand to help the Jays celebrate Woodstock Day. The Jays lost 8-7 to Detroit, their second straight one-run loss to the Tigers. *More coverage in today's Sports Tab.*

about it, they do this every day for people and they never lose

their cool. We were very impressed."

The Jays could not live up to their end of the deal though, los-

"It was incredible, totally incredible," Linda Garner-VanWinden says. "I always get a patriotic feeling when I sing the national anthem, but this was far more than that. A patriotic and emotional high."

ing a slugfest 8-7. Tony Phillips homered twice off Toronto starter Dave Stewart to give the Tigers an early lead.

The Jays clawed back to tie the game, dropping third inning homeruns by Paul Molitor and John Olerud between a Roberto Alomar double and a Joe Carter single to score four times.

In the top of the eighth, Tiger designated hitter Kirk Gibson yanked a 3-0 pitch from Tony Castillo over the right field fence to give Detroit an 8-6 lead.

Toronto scored once in the bottom of the eighth and threatened in the ninth, but to no avail.

Castillo was not particularly pleased when the throng of baseball writers converged on his locker after the game. "People have said to me, 'You've been doing a good job all year and nobody talks to you.' And I said, that's the way I like it."

Toronto's Paul Molitor took the loss in stride. "It was a game with a lot of twists and turns. (Dave Stewart) started slow, but kept battling for six innings. We got a couple of chances but we couldn't come through."

2—The Daily Sentinel-Review, Thurs., August 18, 1994

OUR OXFORD

Five area young people battle for Ambassador's job at CNE

Five young people from Oxford County will be among the more than 100 youths vying for the title of CNE Ambassador of the Fairs this weekend.

The five are Ellen Johnson of the Drumbo Fair, Dawn McCutchen of the Woodstock Fair, Sherry Sim of the Embro Fair, Alison Willsey of the Tavistock Fair and Trina Winters of the Tri-County Fair in Tillsonburg. All were winners of local

Fair Ambassador competitions in 1993, earning the right to compete at the Canadian National Exhibition this summer.

Many fairs across Ontario have changed the name of their official representative from Fair Queen to Fair Ambassador, and have opened the competition to both males and females.

Contestants in the CNE Ambassador of the Fairs competition will

arrive in Toronto on Friday and spend three days touring Toronto. During this time, judges will observe their attitudes, behavior and how they interact with others. In intensive interviews, the contestants will be judged on their knowledge of current affairs, agriculture, fairs and agricultural societies.

Final judging for the Ambassador of the Fairs Pageant begins at

5 p.m. in the main ring at the Coliseum on Sunday. Three finalists will then be selected and asked to make a speech and answer an impromptu question.

Following the competition, the 1994 Ambassador of the Fairs winner will become an official representative of the CNE. Throughout the year, the reigning CNE Ambassador travels extensively, promoting Ontario's fairs.