

# Eden UCW hosts exceptional Doll Show

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When Eden UCW advertised a Doll Show and Tea, they weren't kidding. The calibre and quality of the hundreds of dolls on display were worthy of national acclaim.

There were antique porcelain dolls nearing 200 years in age, Inuit dolls with soapstone appendages and heads and authentic attire, rare collector's items like the three-faced doll, baby dolls, kewpie dolls, a Sioux Indian doll, Peruvian dolls ... and if there was a Barbie, I didn't see her.

"Well, it did take some organizing," Reta Cowie, costumed in pioneer dress, admitting, "but I used to be a 4-H organizer and all that experience stood me well."

Mrs. Cowie had the idea for a Doll Show held in conjunction with the springtime tea for fundraising last fall. This past January, she began to organize in earnest.

"Well, these dolls are from my sister, these dolls are from my cousin, and these ones are more family. Those dolls are all mine, and then I talked to friends and acquaintances, and that's how it happened," Reta explained.

What she pulled together was a testament to the treasures that are unassumingly here in this local area. Combining the interests of the individuals resulted in a top-class show.

But the calibre of the exhibit wasn't what was important to the exhibitors.

They're more fascinated with the individual stories and attributes of their dolls.

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Evelyn Isaac restrained herself for the Dundonald Show. She had 100 or so of her collection on display.

"I have about 650 dolls," she laughs. "I make my own porcelain dolls, from the greenware up, painting the faces, then dressing them."

The garments are impeccable. And, if she's depicting a specific era or character, even the undergarments are perfectly made and to the style.

She has cloth dolls, antique dolls, collector dolls, and tableau scenes.

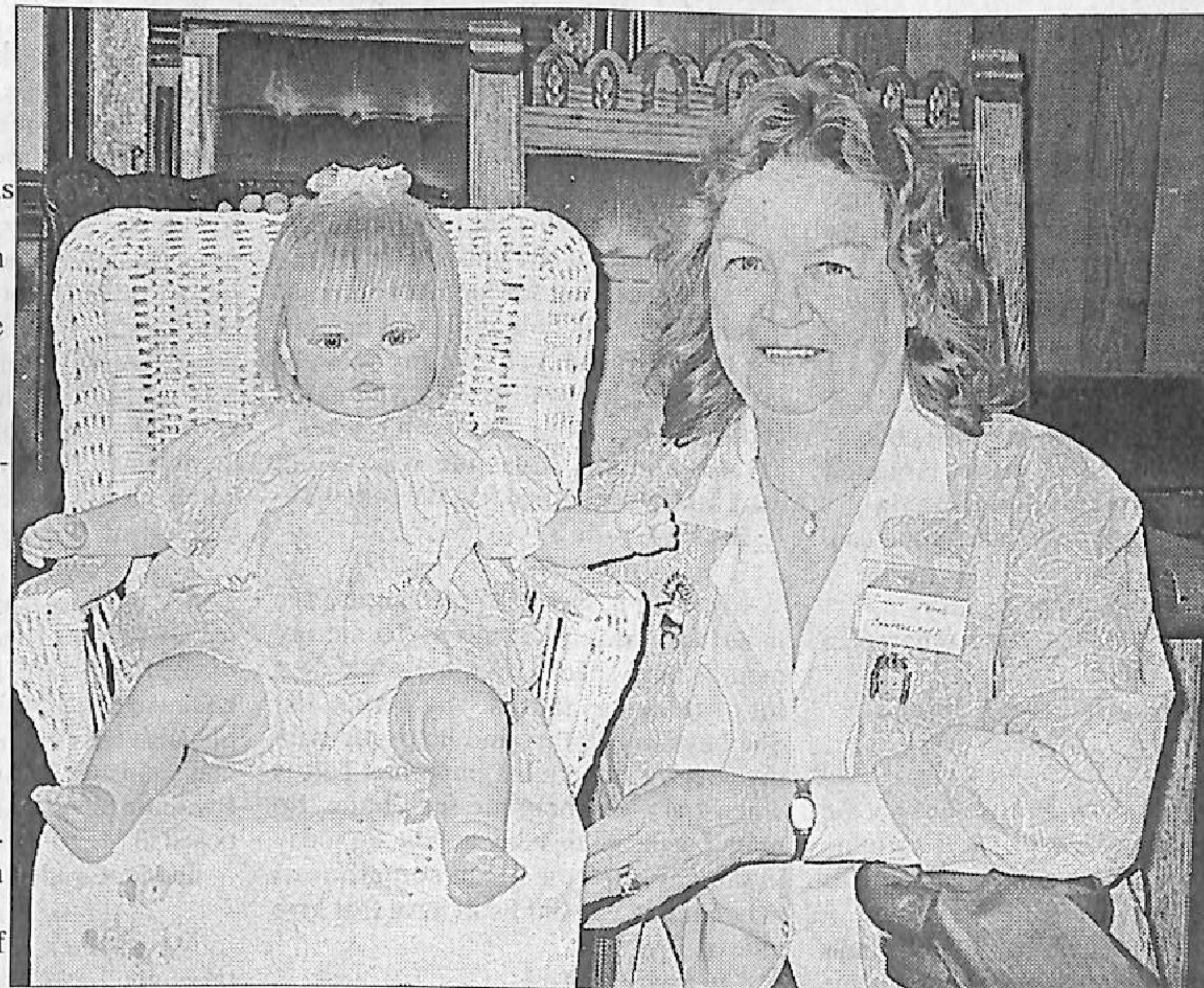
"Let's Party Till The Farmer Gets Home" is a collection of cow-dolls seated around a poker table, an award-winning entry she had in a fall fair featuring the theme "Cows" that year.

"I've always been interested in dolls, I think," she recalls. "As a

child, my grandmother taught me to sew on a sewing machine and that really started it.

For Reta Cowie, organizing the event had its pre-event challenges. She "inherited" dolls from people - many with no clothes and in sad state. Not only did Reta actually sew dozens of new doll costumes for her new "babies", she even washed their hair "and did them up in curlers" before coiffing.

Happily, Saturday's event was a great success - but Reta knows one person who is glad it's over: "My husband told me that after this show is over, I can't touch my sewing machine for one whole month! He's had to eat his meals at a table covered in material and sewing. I just scrunched the fabric back enough to clear a spot for he and I to put our plates - and that's it!"



Evelyn Isaac of Campbellford has a personal collection of over 650 dolls. Not content with merely collecting, she crafts dolls, including the life-like, painting of porcelain dolls.



There were hundreds of dolls on display at Doll Show organized by Reta Cowie in conjunction with a spring tea hosted by Eden UCW at Dundonald United Church Saturday.



A collection of antique porcelain dolls owned by Bea Mutton was part of the Doll Show held at Dundonald United Church Saturday. Her collection, including a Barbara Ann