

Record crowd enjoys 53rd fall fair on weekend

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MISS ACTON FAIR, Margaret Given, 15-year-old Erin Township girl, was crowned Friday night at the arena performance. Back row left to right are Barbara McEachern, 16-year-old Acton high school student, runner-up; last year's

Miss Acton Fair, Patti McKay and 17-year-old Denise Parker, Acton, also a runner-up. The attractive trio and all the contestants were loudly applauded.

Mill-Main lights promised at official fair opening

A record crowd at Acton's 53rd fall fair heard a native son, now deputy minister of highways, declare the town will soon have stop lights, when he officially opened the fair Saturday afternoon. With perfect weather, an expanded program and a large midway, the event drew over 7,000 to the park on two days for the highest gate receipts ever.

After the Saturday parade with its two bands, floats and comics, cars jammed the park and lined the streets for blocks around. Police supervised the slow-moving traffic jam.

Under president Jack Marshall and secretary-treasurer Mrs. Irene Swackhamer, the multitude of simultaneous events ran smoothly. The many on their committees looked back on an extremely successful fair at their usual fair-night dance in the arena.

On the platform on the grounds with the day's master of ceremonies, Vince Mountford; fair president Jack Marshall; M.P. Dr. Harry Harley and M.P.P. George Kerr the words that officially opened the fair were spoken by Cameron McNab "on behalf of the prime minister of this province and the Minister of Highways".

"Within the next month or two, your dangerous intersection will be fixed up," he assured his many listeners. He indicated financial assistance might be available. (This was good)

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Highlights of the two-day fair included the Friday program with the surprise naming of Miss Acton Fair, the Saturday parade and an unusually full program in the fair grounds.

The midway was exceptionally good with several rides and games for adults as well as the usual thrills for children. The booths were jammed for two days. Late at night Saturday, while the closing dance was held in the arena, the bright lights of the midway still reflected in whorls in the cold waters of Fairy Lake.

Although the hall exhibits had been rearranged to make more

room — school children's work was all out on the ice surface — there were still the usual crowds circling each display. Commercial exhibits gave out souvenirs with information and dealers were pleased with the response.

At one end of the arena, the platform from the Friday show was used Saturday for the popular baby show, with admiring relatives ringing the captivating and most unself-conscious entrants.

While the midway blared, a continuous program emanated from the platform where joking, singing, Vince Mountford was in charge. He announced events, winners and special guests.

Mayor Les Duby welcomed the crowd; M.P. Dr. Harry Harley and M.P.P. George Kerr both spoke briefly.

Parade winners: baby contest winner — anything available was announced by Mr. Mountford, who filled in the blanks with songs and jokes.

C. K. Browne, 96, was the oldest person on the grounds. The prize for the person coming from the farthest distance went to Joseph Guth from Koro-westheim, south-west Germany, who is visiting with daughter's and sons-in-law until December. Mr. and Mrs. Adam Frost and family, Lakeview Subdivision, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Muehlbacher, Westcott Road.

Under the trees the Acton Pairs and Squares danced to loudspeakers, to earn themselves "grasshoppers badges" given to club members who dance on the grass. (Some of the members of the club this summer earned themselves "duck badge"

es" by dancing in a pool at Hospitality Inn). The group were advertising their new season.

Dancing on the green were Audrey and Harold Denny, Edna and Mansell Nellis, Marie and George Harrgrave, Nan and Stu Reed, Grace and Charlie Perry of Acton with Phyllis and Bill Cunningham of Port Credit. Norm Wilcox was caller.

Horse shoe pitching was located behind the arena to bring spectators to even another corner of the crowded grounds.

Lions Club members helped with parking, and directors of Erin Agricultural Society took tickets at the gate. Selling tickets in the booth were local bank employees, who totalled up about \$400 more than last year. Saturday's gate admission nearly reached \$2,000, and with many exhibitors and children entering without-charge, the attendance was set, by guess, at over 7,000 for both days.

Acton Citizens' Band played on the track during the afternoon.

With three dances on in town Saturday evening, there was a smaller-than-usual crowd at the fair dance. Marion Fair's orchestra played and the event "made a few dollars." Especially those who had worked so hard to make the fair the success it was, enjoyed this evening of relaxation.

There was the regular Legion dance and a special dance at the new band hall as well.

As usual the dependable St. John Ambulance brigade was on duty.

RIDING HIGH



Fall fair fills Free Press today

Full prize lists of winners in all classes at Acton's 53rd fall fair will be published in next week's issue of the Free Press. With the time required to type off lengthy lists from the judges' books and set them in type for publication, early Thursday morning. It is just not possible to have them ready for this week.

Instead, there is a summary of the prize lists, including winners of specials.

Miss Acton Fair crowned at Friday night program

Apparently Erin Twp. raises quite a number of attractive young beauties. For the third time, an Erin Township girl was chosen as Miss Acton Fair. Before a large, enthusiastic audience of well over 1,000 in the arena Friday night, pert, blue-eyed brunette, Margaret Given, 15-year-old Erin High School student, was crowned Miss Acton Fair.

The new Queen is the second youngest daughter of district farmers Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Given. Besides her parents, the Queen's four sisters, Lorrice, June, Cathy and Pat (Mrs. Fred Kentner Jr. Acton) were all on hand to congratulate the smiling Queen. This is the first time she has entered a contest.

Two Acton girls shared in the triumph when they were named runners-up and served as the Queen's lovely attendants throughout Saturday's Fair. Miss Barbara McEachern, 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred McEachern, River St., who attends Acton district high school, and Miss Denise Parker, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Parker, 34 Mowbray Place and who attends John F. Ross school in Guelph, placed third. Both received a large ovation from the crowd when they were named.

For the first time in the four-year history of the Miss Acton Fair contest, final judging was conducted before the Friday night crowd.

It took two rounds of judging before final announcement was made. The previous Saturday a panel of three judges, Miss Pat Knox, Ontario Junior Farmer vice-president, Major Ralph French of the 11th Field Regiment Guelph, and Charles Wells of the Guelph Business College interviewed the nine contestants at the high school.

After the Saturday judging, the Miss Acton Fair committee held a special meeting and decided all nine contestants would be interviewed at the arena Friday. Total of points from both judging would determine winners. Judges Friday comprised Miss Allysson Edwards of Bramford who is reigning Miss Snow Queen at Waterloo University, Jimmy Rogers and Terry Spears, both radio announcers with CJOY in Guelph.

During the Friday night show in the arena, the nine contestants paraded on stage before the audience and panel of the judges to receive gifts of French purses presented by Charles Heard from Beardmore and Co. Ltd. Contestants included the

Queen Margaret Given, runners-up Barbara McEachern and Denise Parker, Rena Schults and Susan Black also from Erin Township, Brenda McKeown and Lynda Reiners also from Acton, Joan O'Gorman from Nassagaweya Township and Greta Fienstra from Esqueving Township.

After the initial presentation of purses, contestants were escorted to a downstairs room in the arena where final judging took place. Cheers echoed throughout the arena when the girls filed back to the stage and committee chairman Bill Nelles announced the winners.

Miss Given broke into a broad smile when her name was announced as the 1966 Miss Acton Fair over the loud speaker. She congratulated all con-

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Two bands, floats, officials draw applause on parade route

Acton's Fair Day parade this year changed its route from the customary entrance to the park via Knox Avenue. Starting from the station, it continued west on Mill St. and entered the park gates by way of Park Ave. Waiting spectators on Main made a surprise dash to the corner.

Decorated doll buggies, bicycles, and tricycles were the first to arrive and were judged in the park.

The parade, headed by Acton Citizens' Band, began with a convertible containing Fair Board president Jack Marshall and ladies' division president Mrs. Melvin McCullough.

This was followed by the Acton 44 Club float and an open convertible containing Mayor

Les Duby and his wife and Acton's current Citizen of the Year, well-known F. L. Wright.

Next in the procession was the first prize winning Cubs' float so overflowing with lads some walked behind. In a convertible rode Reeve Jim Milne of Eramosa Township, and Reeve George Leslie of Esqueving Township.

A rickshaw with Sandra McLellan riding in it and pulled by Wayne McLellan and David Brown attracted plenty of attention. Clown Bill Taylor delighted the children.

Dressed in old-fashioned garb on the Golden Age Club float were binneted Mrs. Jack Harrgrave, Mrs. Pearl Kennedy and Mrs. R. L. Davidson, with pioneers Jack Ford, James Raiston and Jack Harrgrave. This float was awarded third place.

Life members of the fall fair board had places of honor in two convertibles. Still active in the fair, R. L. Davidson and Ab Robinson rode together. In the next car were honorary life members Sandy McLean, Duncan Walde and Smith Griffin Sr.

Miss Acton Fall Fair, Margaret Given of Erin Township, and her runners-up Barbara McEachern and Denise Parker of Acton, and all the contestants drew waves and scattered applause from friends. They were in several of the 10 convertibles.

The second section of the parade was headed by the Guelph Opti-Knights band in bright colored uniforms as they marched at a quick pace. Shorthorn Lassies Sandra Peart and Judy Gilmore followed in an open convertible. The charming Brownies float depicted the floral emblems of the provinces.

Ladies from the Acton Fair Board comically decked out as a far-out musical group called "The Termites" received plenty of applause. Another float was entered by Norm Turner.

Riding together, Halton's members of parliament, Dr. Harry Harley and George Kerr greeted the crowds lining the route.

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Full list later

Fair prize lists summarized

With perfect weather for exhibiting and judging, competition was keen throughout most classes Friday and Saturday. Exhibits in some classes, however, dropped to a disappointing low number.

This year, the school children's work was displayed in the arena area and covered one entire wall. Articles were entered by pupils from kindergarten to grade eight and judges had a difficult time choosing winners. Schools entering competition this year included the Acton Robert Little and M. Z. Bennett schools, Speyside and Linnhouse schools in Esqueving Township, Osprey school and Brookville School.

Domestic science entries were unusually good and after judges finished testing and tasting, Mrs. Norman Robertson-Lakeville Chapter I.O.O.F., Mrs. George Young, Mrs. W. Thompson and Mrs. M. Soovic were top prize winners.

Plants and flower arrangements were of high calibre and judge George Mussett had a difficult time choosing winners. Although exhibits in the potted plants were shown slightly cut, flower arrangements were plentiful, lending an attractive atmosphere to the auditorium among other displays.

In the canned and preserved products section the varieties were excellent again offering a challenge to the judges who went from jar to jar tasting before awarding ribbons.

Entries in the beef cattle exhibits were of high quality. In the Aberdeen Angus class, E. Smith won the Bank of Montreal trophy with his grand champion male as well as copping the E. Braida and Son trophy for grand champion female and many other prizes throughout the competition.



TIME MARCHES ON — and this watch has ticked off 50 years. Harry Harwood left Acton as a Sergeant with the First Contingent in World War 1 in 1914. Above he shows Mayor Les Duby the gold watch presented to him by the town of Acton after he was invalided home in 1916. He now lives in Windsor and came here last weekend especially to meet former friends and visit Acton fair.



ACTON'S OLDEST CITIZEN, Charles Kelly Browne chats with Deputy Minister of Highways Cameron McNab, centre, and Halton's member of Provincial Parliament George Kerr prior to the official opening of the Fair by Mr. McNab Saturday. Mr. McNab, who lived in Acton as a boy, and Mr. Browne recalled memories of the town in earlier days.