

50th anniversary

Managing the Royal full-time job

by Jennifer Barr

On November 9 the 50th annual Royal Winter Fair, Canada's largest agricultural show, will open at the Coliseum in Toronto.

The show costs a million and a half, attracts visitors from all over the world, takes 850 people to organize it and is the highlight of the year for a nation's rural exhibitors.

In charge of all this is Acton's own Johnny Moles, General Manager for the Royal.

"I try to put it all together and see that everyone doesn't shoot each other", he laughs.

Ag. background

A well known Actonite, Mr. Moles used to host the "Country Canada" television show for the C.B.C. A graduate of Guelph University he has been in agriculture or related fields all his life.

John and his wife Marsha farmed on the Fourth Line during the fifties. Mr. Moles sold feed, showed livestock, worked for Ontario Hydro and has been co-ordinating the Royal for the past eight years.

This year is his last and he's not too happy about it but feels fresh faces and ideas are always a good idea.

The Moles now live full time on their delightful property on the First Line. Behind the new two-level house surrounded by woods, rocks and natural landscaping are 27 Murray Grey crossing heifers and a purebred Murray Grey bull imported from Australia pasturing on the Moles' 35-acre farm.

But the cattle are taking a second seat while the Moles gear up for another frantic season of the 50th Royal Winter Fair.

Year round job

It's a year round job, running a program as large as the Royal offers. All the committees meet in April, committee members coming from all over Canada at their own expense, ("we give them lunch"). Here plans and recommendations are discussed and presented to an executive representative from across the country. The executive have final approval and Johnny Moles "tries to keep the peace".

After Labour Day, the seven permanent staff hit their peak preparing prize lists and taking entries. Some of the biggest problems become apparent at this point with everyone working under

pressure.

After October 21 there are no more program or entry changes allowed because everything goes into the computer for official programming.

"We hold our breath every year hoping we get the programs before opening day."

Programs are not usually complete until early in the week of opening—that's how nerve-wrackingly close it runs.

During the show itself, Mr. and Mrs. Moles enjoy themselves—it's too late to change anything then. Mrs. Moles makes sure her husband's suit of tails are kept pressed and tries to pop some food into him once in a while. Their duties are social, escorting dignitaries around the grounds and to the horse show. Mr. Moles has some funny stories about the many celebrities who have opened the Royal.

He thoroughly enjoyed Princess Anne who presided over opening ceremonies in 1974 commenting that although she was the epitome of professionalism when on display, she became an ordinary young "24 year old bride" when out of public eyes.

Four facets

The four purposes of the Royal are competition, education and exchange of ideas, entertainment, and marketing.

Competitors come from all other continents, the British Isles and Australia to compete in the Royal. Entries from Quebec are up every year, a fact which delights John Moles.

"We have no language problems with Quebec—we talk the same language of agriculture."

Last year more than 43 thousand school children attended the fair. More are expected this year.

The horse show, presented twice daily, afternoon and evening, is always the gala entertainment but marketing is by far the most important part of the fair, according to Moles. Four thousand visitors come from off the North American continent with buying in mind. Visitors from Japan, Italy, South America come to deal with big cattle, grain, hog and horse producers. Although many sales are made at the fair, most of the dealing, and selling goes on long after. Going to the Royal is the greatest publicity a producer can receive. Which is why

Maritime and Prairie exhibitors go through long torturous days of travelling with their stock for the ten-day show.

Anniversary year

This year, the fiftieth Anniversary of the Royal, there are some interesting changes.

Youth Day will take place on Thursday, November 9, the first day of the fair. A thousand young 4 H's and junior farmers will be competing in judging competitions, show classes and the Queen's Guineas class.

There'll be a celebrity milking competition featuring Eugene Whelan, Bill Neuman, Gordon Bennet, our own John Moles, a dairy princess runner up and CFRB's Gordon Sinclair who will commentate.

All junior competitors will be in the ring to cheer the celebrity milkers on. Six horse draft teams will show their stuff and the youngsters will be taken to the flower arena for a piece of the enormous fiftieth birthday cake.

"We want to kick the show off with vitality," says Mr. Moles.

Country show

A big country Jamboree

with CFRB's Bill Anderson will take place the last Friday of the Royal, November 17. Five free shows will be offered throughout the day featuring many country artists.

A fashion show can be seen daily in the flower building, models changing in the centre of the enormous birthday cake.

In keeping with the massive plans this year, a six foot cheese weighing 28 hundred pounds and made from 30 thousand pounds of milk will be on display in dairy lane.

All through the Royal, nostalgia, old photos, "then and now" exhibits will remind visitors of the length of time the Royal has been in existence.

Instead of the Musical Ride nightly, a parade of old horse drawn vehicles of all types will delight spectators at the horse show.

And much, much, more. "It's a most interesting job," comments Mr. Moles. "It's rewarding to see so many people come together with a common interest."

For Johnny Moles, it's a job well done as the fiftieth Royal Winter Fair will attest when it kicks off November 9.



JOHNNY MOLES appears very relaxed in front of a Royal Winter Fair poster. It's a wonder because the Royal is only weeks away and Mr. Moles is General Manager of the entire show.

CUPW

Union orders workers off job Tuesday morning

Inside workers in the Acton post office were ordered off their jobs at 8 a.m. yesterday (Tuesday) morning as part of a nation-wide strike.

Local post master Gord McKewen told the Free Press the seven members of CUPW came into work as usual at 5 a.m., only to return home three hours later on orders from their union. Letter carriers stayed on the job and delivered what mail there was, he said.

At the time of the interview, the federal government was meeting to decide whether to legislate the workers back to their jobs. Mr. McKewen said if this were passed, his people would be back to work today (Wednesday)—if it were honored. If the Legislation is not honored, or not passed, he pointed out, there could be pickets in front of the post office. He did not expect letter carriers to cross these

picket lines, but noted there would be no mail for them to deliver anyway. Meanwhile, Mr. McKewen and supervisor Mrs. Chris McMillan are holding the fort. The only news they know of the strike is what they hear on the radio, see on the television or read in the newspapers.

The Acton post office, Mr. McKewen said, is comprised of four union—letter carriers,

inside workers, supervisors and secretary and professionals. Some 23,000 people across Canada are members of CUPW.

Parliament passed a bill to legislate the workers back onto their jobs yesterday, but the issue still had to be presented to the Senate at 11 a.m. this morning. It was not known at press time whether posties would return to work if ordered.

Pamela Sheldon seeks seat

Pamela Sheldon has declared her candidacy as Halton Board of Education trustee for wards one and two, Acton and Esquesing. Mrs. Sheldon will oppose incumbent H. H. Hinton of Acton and Betty Fisher of Georgetown.

Mrs. Sheldon lives in the former township of Esquesing just west of the Speyside area on 15 sideroad. Her husband Jim is an airline pilot and they have two children. Daughter Tauni, eight, is in Grade 4 and son Duff, six, in kindergarten at Speyside public school. They have lived in the area for eight years.

Mrs. Sheldon is an ex-member of the recreation advisory committee, wards one and two. She is secretary and a founding member of the Speyside Area Ratepayers Association. This Association was founded in opposition to a new aggregate industry on the escarpment and surrounding areas. It is still highly active.

She is a director of Acton and District Progressive Conservative Association.

She is a founding member of the Speyside Parents Education Group. This group was actively involved in the twinning process of school in Halton Hills with input directly to the board and its administration with respect

to the specialized needs of the rural and small town schools in the north. They are still actively involved within the school as a parent volunteer for the past five years, as well as community affairs, both political and social.

She has recently spearheaded the organization of rural Brownie packs.

A freelance writer, she is presently enrolled in a part-time Canadian studies degree program at York University. She is a regular observer of the Halton Board of Education meetings.

Mrs. Sheldon says her initial reasons for seeking the Board of Education trustee seat are two-fold.

"With two children enrolled in the school system in Halton Hills at the elementary level, I have a personal commitment to ensure they receive the best possible education. She mentions that her interests in talking to many people about education, listening attentively to many points of view, research and fact-finding are the attributes she will bring to the role of Trustee.

Mrs. Sheldon says she tends to be a "task-oriented" individual and believes strongly that the voting mandate of the individual Trustee should be used only after they have availed themselves of all the information pertaining to the question.

"I believe that visibility at the Board level is not synonymous with effectiveness," she said. "Wards 1 and 2 require effective leadership more today than ever before in our past as the trends in education seem to be towards 'bigness' as opposed to 'community needs'." She said that in her view "bigness" is not always best.

She went on to say that she perceives the individual school as an extension of the community and, therefore, is committed to preserving the special and distinct identities of the small town and rural schools within Halton Hills. Mrs. Sheldon feels that in order to impart this point of view to a Board of Education whose mix is both large urban centres (Oakville, Burlington).

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Meet candidates

A Meet the Candidates night will again be arranged by the Chamber of Commerce. Plans will be made later this week for the special public meeting.

All candidates for the Nov. 13 election, including those for mayor, will be asked to speak and answer questions for the local voters.

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CANDIDATE for Acton and Esquesing board of education seat is Pamela Sheldon. She hopes to unseat Bert Hinton.

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ADMIRING UNIQUE birthday cake is Ruby Clark, who turned 90 years of age last week. The cake was made by Hazel Agnew of Owen Sound, who created the original especially for Miss Clark. An iced doll complete with glasses stands in a fenced garden of detailed icing and lettering. Mrs. Agnew is a sister of Rhoda Shoemaker; the Shoemakers are special friends of Miss Clark's. Story on Page 8.

Clarification sought of Fluoridation Act

Clarification of the Fluoridation Act has been recommended by the Regional Health and Social Services Committee.

The committee will ask Regional Council to seek an amendment to the act which would permit the region to hold a plebiscite on fluoridation only in one part of the region as opposed to the entire region. At present, the act requires the question of

fluoridation to be put to all voters in the region if a plebiscite is held.

Recently, council passed a resolution for a bylaw to fluoridate all parts of the regional water works system with the exception of that part of the system serving the Town of Milton. The resolution further states that no action be taken concerning fluoridation in Milton until residents of the town have

voiced the direction in which they wish to go.

The amendment being sought would make it possible for Milton residents to determine whether or not they wanted fluoridation.

The bylaw will have the effect of providing for fluoridation of the Acton water supply, since Georgetown, Oakville and Burlington already have fluoridation. The amendment being sought would also clarify the region's power to pass bylaws to fluoridate only part of its water supply.

During discussion of the issue at last week's committee meeting, Oakville Councillor Laurie Mannell commented at no time had he heard anyone from Acton indicate a wish for fluoridation.

Halton Hills Councillor Pat McKenzie said although the issue had been raised by the press in Acton, he has had no calls on it, town staff have had no calls, and the only letter written to the paper came from a resident of Guelph. "That's good enough for me."

Also standing to be affected by the amendment, if granted, is a new subdivision near Campbellville which will have a communal water supply owned and operated by the region. If the amendment is granted, only the people serviced by that system, and not the entire population of Milton, would get a vote on fluoridation.

241 In 1979

Project \$17.77 average tax hike

A projected estimate by the treasurer's department shows an increase of \$17.77 in the average home tax next year.

Emphasizing the figures are only a basis to start work on the budget and are strictly guidelines, Treasurer Ray King predicted a 9.2 mill hike in Georgetown and Acton and an 11.5 mill raise in Esquesing. He explained the elimination of transitional grants causes the Esquesing increase.

Halton Hills finance committee, this week, adopted the proposed schedule as a working paper for next year's council.

Councillor Roy Booth ad-

Enforce bylaws council told

Unless the town can enforce its bylaws prohibiting the operation of motorized minibikes in the area of Elmire Drive and Fairy Lake, the bylaws "have no value," council was told Monday.

Councillor Garnet (Pat) McKenzie took council to task for not addressing itself to the question of enforcement in two resolutions it passed regarding the construction of fences, gates and the erection of signs in the area following complaints about mini-bike operators.

Upon learning that a recently installed sign in Prospect Park has since landed in the lake, McKenzie said "That's where the next sign will go." "Unless the bylaws are enforced, they have no value," McKenzie said.

Councillor Russ Miller said the town does not have a bylaw enforcement officer, only staff, to enforce the bylaws.

Putting gates and fences on the property in question would help, Miller said.

Council passed McKenzie's amendment that council address itself to find a method to enforce the signing.

Also passed were recommendations that public works erect a fence at the end of Elizabeth Drive between lots

135 and 136 and that the property line of the road allowance at Elmire Drive between lots 132 and 133.



ACTON SCOUTS, CUBS AND BEAVERS held their annual apple day on Saturday. Cub Eddie Robinson, Beaver Chris Marsh, Scout Calvin Robinson and Cubs Jean Paul Cowan and Sean

McVeigh enjoyed polishing and eating as well as selling the apples. About \$400 was raised for the program.