

The Herald Second Front

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Thibodeau sisters capture crown for second time

Capturing the title of Miss Acton Fall Fair seems to run in the Thibodeau family of R.R.2 Rockwood.

Eighteen-year-old Susan Thibodeau won the title Friday before a capacity crowd at the Acton Arena to repeat the feat of her 24-year-old sister Anita who won in 1976.

Admitting later to being just a "little confused" and surprised by the judges' decision, Miss Thibodeau said she wanted to complete her activities of reigning over the three-day fall fair before considering what her duties will be for the remainder of the year.

Miss Thibodeau, a secretary with a Mississauga firm, hopes to return to school possibly for a degree in business or law. Assisting her for the next year are

runners-up Princesses Cathy Upton of 23 Church St. Acton, and Laura Milbourne of Rockwood.

The queen and princesses were selected from 12 contestants who appeared before a panel of three judges for evaluation on poise, personality, and appearance. They appeared before the judges during a private interview, an introduction before the audience in street clothes and in evening gowns and for the five finalists, answering a selected question before the audience.

Judges for the 1977 Acton Fair Queen contest were: Norma Friday, formerly with CHUM-FM and now with the television show \$128,000 Question; Jim Perry, host of the Miss Canada Pageant; and Mark Leahy, assistant

agricultural representative for Halton.

"I believe something like this is very important," Miss Friday said. "I remember people very much wanting to be the harvest queen."

She agreed with the other judges that poise and personality rank higher than appearance for the contestants.

"What they have in their minds is more important than how they look," she said, adding that appearance can't be overlooked by the judges.

There really is no comparison between the fair queen contest and the Miss Canada Pageant, Mr. Perry said, but the criteria for selection remains similar.

"We just have a few minutes to select the best all-round girl," he said, noting that Miss Canada contestants must be under judge's scrutiny for at least a week. Poise can make a young girl stand out in the contest, he explained.

A first time as judge of a beauty contest, Mr. Perry said he was "frightened and a bit hurried not to be on the other side and have to say 'the envelope please.'"

Mr. Leahy summed up the essential nature of the contest by saying it is "natural" which becomes evident as the judges make their decision.

As in the Miss Canada Pageant, Mr. Perry said, the winner should be able to speak to large groups and the press without becoming flabbergasted.

In an emotional closing speech the 1976 Queen, Charmaine Bigelow, thanked the organizers and officials of the fall fair for their help during the past year, noted the numerous arena events she attended and wished the new queen success in her reign.

It was, she said, a "learning and growing experience" which she hopes the new queen also enjoys.

Acton Fall Fair Queen Susan Thibodeau will now compete in the 1978 Canadian National Exhibition fair queen competition.



Charmaine Bigelow, 1976 Acton Fair Queen crowns her successor Susan Thibodeau Friday evening.



Judges of the Fair Queen Contest, from left, Mark Leahy, Norma Friday and Jim Perry watch carefully as the contestants step down from the arena stage.



"A miss is as good as a mile"

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed gave up his dignity Saturday in favor of helping to raise funds for the Acton Minor Lacrosse Association at the Acton fair. As the photographs illustrate it turned out to be a cool day for the legislature representative as some of his constituents — pardon the pun — "throw out their frustrations" in his direction.



Oops!

Rain cuts attendance

Once again the weatherman played havoc with Acton Fall Fair attendance figures.

Good crowds for the Friday evening entertainment lead officials to say that they would probably have broken attendance records for the weekend if the grey skies and intermittent showers had held off.

As it stands the estimated attendance of 12,000 is slightly lower than usual.

Fair board secretary John Rowe says that attendance at the Saturday night dance was down a bit because the Garrisons are not a well-known group in this area.

The reaction was favourable from those who heard them, however, and by next year the hall should be as full as usual for the dance.

Splitting up the cattle show proved to be a great success and the dairy show on Sunday drew more entries than ever before in spite of the bad day. The horse show drew a good number of entries in both English and Western classes and there were 11 teams in the horse pull.

Mr. Rowe estimated that there were 200 people watching the Old Time Fiddlers in the arena Sunday afternoon. The contest drew 19 entrants from surrounding communities as well as Halton Hills.

by Maggie Hannah and Bob Rutter



James Morgan, 8, didn't want to miss the parade and marched with his soccer-playing friends and teammates.



Mrs. Jesse McEnery looks over the first place finishing display of vegetables from the garden submitted by Nick Tummers of RR3, Puslinch.



A hockey-playing Snoopy appeared on the Acton Sabres float.



You've got to hold on tight when you take a ride on the midway.



Ahhh! That's refreshing!