

HALTON'S PEOPLE

Judging fall fair women's exhibits can get hectic

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

The local fall fair was very much a community event when farming was the main industry in Halton Hills. Everyone from school children to senior citizens entered the various competitions and helped to organize the year's big show. Charlotte Ironside, a

judge in numerous women's classes, first became involved with fall fairs through her uncle W.A. Wilson, who was secretary of the Esqueping Agricultural Society for many years.

Although her initiation in fall fair work began at an early age and continues to this day Mrs. Ironside says she has

never exhibited her work. She first became really involved in fairs when she was the District 5 lady representative to the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies. District 5 includes Dufferin, Peel, Simcoe, York and Halton counties.

When agricultural societies were first formed men ran everything, Mrs. Ironside ex-

plains. The male directors even looked after the hand-crafts and food classes, usually with the help of a few of the director's wives. The trouble was many times the women who got roped into helping out really didn't care about the fair and there was no organized continuous program for lady exhibitors.

judged at fairs in Lindsay, Peterborough, Simcoe, Ancaster, Paris, Collingwood, London, Thunder Bay, and Ottawa as well as local fairs like Georgetown, Shelburne, Acton, Bolton, Beeton, Woodbridge, Brampton, Milton, Welland, Beamsville, Rockton and Erin.

to standard and Mrs. Ironside feels they should use it rather than letting people think they have produced a good product if they haven't.

"Even if there is only one entry in a class that's no reason to give it a first prize if it doesn't merit it," she says.

She also feels, however, that if a judge can help a competitor to improve her work by a comment then she should make it.

Silverwood Women's Institute. Mrs. Ironside knits, crochets, sews, makes broomstick crochet and hairpin lace, does bubble glass, bargello and even re-upholsters furniture when she has time.

Mrs. Ironside says she took no special training to qualify her for judge's role but she had

a lot of 4-H Homemaking club work and numerous short courses.

"We were our own club leaders in those days," she says. "We didn't have someone's mother to teach us the way the girls do now so we made some fine messes. But we had fun."



Fall fair Judge Charlotte Ironside enjoys handcrafts in her spare time and is working on a crocheted lap rug for the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto now. She judged at 22 fairs one year but declares that was altogether too many. (Herald photo)

ANNUAL CONVENTION

In 1937 a handful of wives of agricultural society directors attended the annual society convention in Toronto along with their husbands and decided to form their own ladies section of the fair board. Olla Somerville, wife of Acton Agricultural Society director George Somerville, was one of these independent-thinking ladies, Mrs. Ironside says.

Although the ladies formed their own section it was simply a division of the men's board and its aim was to help the men with the classes and exhibits of particular interest to women. Women had no voice on the men's board even though representatives attend the men's meetings to keep a liaison between the two groups and make suggestions when necessary.

Mrs. Ironside was president of the ladies' section of the provincial association in 1957 and began a 14 year stint as the association's secretary in 1959. It was during her term on the executive that a real effort was made to encourage women to form their own section of local agricultural societies and today most fair boards do have a ladies' section, she says. In fact, the number of women participating in the ladies' outnumber the men on agricultural societies, Mrs. Ironside says.

Fairs are really big business now, she says, since they handle so much money.

Her initiation to judging began in 1959 while she was provincial association secretary. Mrs. Dickenson of Mount Hope and Mrs. McKinney of Brampton look her along to show her the ropes and encourage her, Mrs. Ironside says.

Since she started she has

ONE YEAR

"One year I had 22 fairs between mid-August and Thanksgiving weekend," she says. "That's altogether too many." This will be the first Thanksgiving weekend that I'm going to be free in many years."

Mrs. Ironside says she judges mostly needlework, crafts and food classes. She has helped in organizing judges' schools to show prospective judges things to watch for in the course of their work at fairs. Last year she was one of three judges conducting judges' schools at Mitchell, Smith's Falls and Ancaster. The local Women's Institute branch provided the leaders with samples and score sheets from their short courses and the ladies went over judging items with the 30 to 40 would-be judges who attended the schools.

Mrs. Ironside says judges must be able to make a decision and work in different situations and working conditions. They must be very observant and pick things up quickly. Both the exhibitor and the judge must read the prize list carefully to ensure that the article meets the requirements of the class in which it is entered, she warns.

Judges have the power to discard items which aren't up

Mrs. Ironside would like to see fairs go to one special day for food displays the way the Canadian National Exhibition does. Food entries come in to the Ex in the morning, are judged and displayed during the day, then sold or taken home that night. Mrs. Ironside shares the concern expressed by many lady directors at the amount of waste when food has to be held on display too long at some of the larger fairs.

HAS A TWIN

Mrs. Ironside was a twin, one of nine children born on an Esqueping farm. She was raised by her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Wilson and worked on their farm north of Georgetown until 1955 when she went into Domtar. She married George Ironside in 1959 and they moved to Knox Avenue, Acton three years ago.

Mrs. Ironside has been secretary of the Esqueping Agricultural Society in Georgetown for many years, is a past president of the Georgetown Arts and Crafts, was secretary of the Halton District Women's Institute for four years, belongs to Unit A of St. John's United Church U.C.W., and has held office with, and is still active in, the

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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS
POSTING AND REVISION OF PRELIMINARY LIST OF ELECTORS
(WARD 1)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the list of all persons entitled to vote at the new election to fill the vacancy in the office of Councillor - Ward 1 will be posted on September 12th, 1979 in the Office of the Clerk Administrator, Municipal Administration Building, Trafalgar Road (Halton Road No. 31) for inspection.

A COPY OF THE PRELIMINARY LIST OF ELECTORS has also been posted at the following locations:

<p>WARD 1 (former Town of Acton)</p> <p>MUNICIPAL OFFICE, 40 Mill Street East, Acton, Ontario. PUBLIC LIBRARY, 17 River Street, Acton, Ontario. POST OFFICE, 53 Bower Avenue, Acton, Ontario.</p>	<p>MUNICIPAL OFFICE (Treasury), 36 Main Street South, Georgetown, Ontario.</p>
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WARD 3
(Former Town of Georgetown)

ALL ELECTORS are requested to examine the List and take immediate steps to ensure that their names and relevant information are correctly shown thereon.

YOU are entitled to be an Elector at this Election if you are not disqualified under The Municipal Elections Act, 1977, or any other Act or otherwise prohibited by law from voting in the election and if, at any time during the period commencing September 5, 1978 and ending on August 7, 1979, you:

a) were a resident in Ward 1 in the Town of Halton Hills, or if not a resident of the Town of Halton Hills, were the owner or tenant of land in Ward 1 in the Town of Halton Hills, or the spouse of such an owner or tenant.

b) were a Canadian Citizen or other British Subject, and

c) had attained the age of eighteen years, or on or before polling day will attain the age of eighteen years.

THE REQUIRED APPLICATION FORMS for corrections and alterations to the List are available at the Office of the Clerk Administrator and Revising Officer. All requests for additions, corrections or deletions from the List will be received by the Clerk Administrator and Revising Officer at the Municipal Administration Building, Trafalgar Road (Halton Road No. 31) commencing on Wednesday, September 12th, 1979 through Friday, September 21st, 1979, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. excluding Saturdays and Sundays.

THE LAST DAY FOR FILING FORMS requesting additions or corrections to, or deletions from the List, will be Friday, September 21st, 1979 at 4:30 p.m.

K.R. RICHARDSON, A.M.C.T.,
Clerk Administrator and Revising Officer

DATED THIS 12TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1979

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<p>FINN H. POULSTRUP, (MANAGER) 877-7858</p> <p>MICHAEL ADAMS 877-7071</p> <p>REG COOPER 877-9458</p>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>BEAT INFLATION</p> <p>100 Acre farm only 5 miles from Georgetown, scenic, workable, with bank barn, paddocks and pond sites. Complete with almost new brick rancher, 2 car garage, etc. Price is low due to partnership dissolution. Call Reg Cooper</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>COUNTRY ACREAGES (\$64,900.00)</p> <p>Heaven is the view from this 3 bedroom bungalow featuring a full floor to ceiling fireplace in the living room, large country kitchen. Owner regrets his being transferred. If you like country, you'll like this 2 acre mini estate. Call Mike Adams.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>BEAT INFLATION</p> <p>100 Acre farm only 5 miles from Georgetown, scenic, workable, with bank barn, paddocks and pond sites. Complete with almost new brick rancher, 2 car garage, etc. Price is low due to partnership dissolution. Call Reg Cooper</p>	<p>COUNTRY ACREAGES (\$64,900.00)</p> <p>Heaven is the view from this 3 bedroom bungalow featuring a full floor to ceiling fireplace in the living room, large country kitchen. Owner regrets his being transferred. If you like country, you'll like this 2 acre mini estate. Call Mike Adams.</p>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>TRUDY SIMMONS 877-9345</p> <p>TILLIE HARVEY 877-9550</p> <p>IRENE ZILIO 877-6302</p> <p>DIANNE ENDERWICK 853-3917</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>TRUDY SIMMONS 877-9345</p> <p>TILLIE HARVEY 877-9550</p> <p>IRENE ZILIO 877-6302</p> <p>DIANNE ENDERWICK 853-3917</p>
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