

Weatherman co-operates

Acton Fall Fair delights thousands



Cathy McGrath, centre, was crowned Miss Acton Fall Fair 1979 Friday evening in the Acton Community Centre. She is shown here with her princesses, Kim Ottaway, left and Wanita

Andrews. Miss McGrath was chosen from among 19 entrants to reign as the queen for the next year.

(Herald photo)

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

Bad weather had the Acton Fall Fair pretty much on the ropes last year, but this time the fair had a record year.

Fair board president Brent Marshall said Monday it will be a couple of days before the attendance figures are calculated, because of the addition of the weekend pass this year. He said fair organizers are very optimistic and all concerned think this is the fair's best year ever.

"We really did well," Mr. Marshall said. "We're really satisfied with the way it went."

One of the innovations of this year's fair was a bus from Tyler Transport, which ran the same route through town that was run during the Christmas season last year, to get people to the fair. The bus ran all day Saturday and Sunday until 6 p.m., Mr. Marshall said, and enabled many people to leave their cars at home. It also made it easier for senior citizens to get to the fair, he said, and the bus will probably be back next year.

ANOTHER CHANGE

Another change this year was the decision to divide up the beef and dairy cattle shows and the swine and sheep shows in an effort to encourage more entries in these categories. Mr. Marshall said the results of this decision were very encouraging. He estimated that about 400 head of cattle were shown over the Saturday and Sunday, making the fair one of the bigger shows in Ontario this year.

Entries in the sheep shows were also up, although the swine shows are still not as well attended as the fair board would like to see, Mr. Marshall said.

The beer garden, "A Spot in the Park", went smoothly this year, thanks to the efforts of the Halton Regional Police Force, Mr. Marshall said. The garden had a minor problem last year which arose partly because the police force was only partly involved in the security for the beer garden, he said.

This year, however, the police department organized the entire project as far as security was concerned, and the beer garden went smoothly, Mr. Marshall said. It was open for as long as the licence would



The Acton Citizens' Band led the fall fair parade Saturday morning, followed by numerous floats, bands and marching groups which followed the route from McKenzie-Smith Middle School to the fairgrounds. Spectators lined the parade route in spite of the chill in the air to hear the bands and scramble for the candy handed out by generous parade marchers.

(Herald photo)

allow this time, 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday, without any problems, he said.

Mr. Marshall said he thought the police had done an excellent job of acting as security officers for the beer garden, and he complimented the officers involved.

The Acton Fall Fair caps which were an addition this year went very well, Mr. Marshall said, with all but 15 of the caps having been sold.

NOT RESTING

In spite of the success of this year's fair, the fair board won't be resting on its laurels, Mr. Marshall said. There are already some changes being planned for next year, he said.

The lay-out of the fair was re-arranged this year, and once everything was in place, the amount of wasted space in

the fairgrounds became noticeable, Mr. Marshall said. There is no additional space available in the park, and the board will have to come up with a lay-out which utilizes every available inch of space, he said.

Mr. Marshall said the fair board is very pleased with the midway at the fair this year. This is the first time in Acton for this particular group, "and we're very pleased with them," he said.

"This year is the first year we've been able to show off our full three days of activity," Mr. Marshall said. "Last year the weather prevented that. We had the waterball contest planned for last year, but it couldn't go on. People really enjoyed it this year, though."

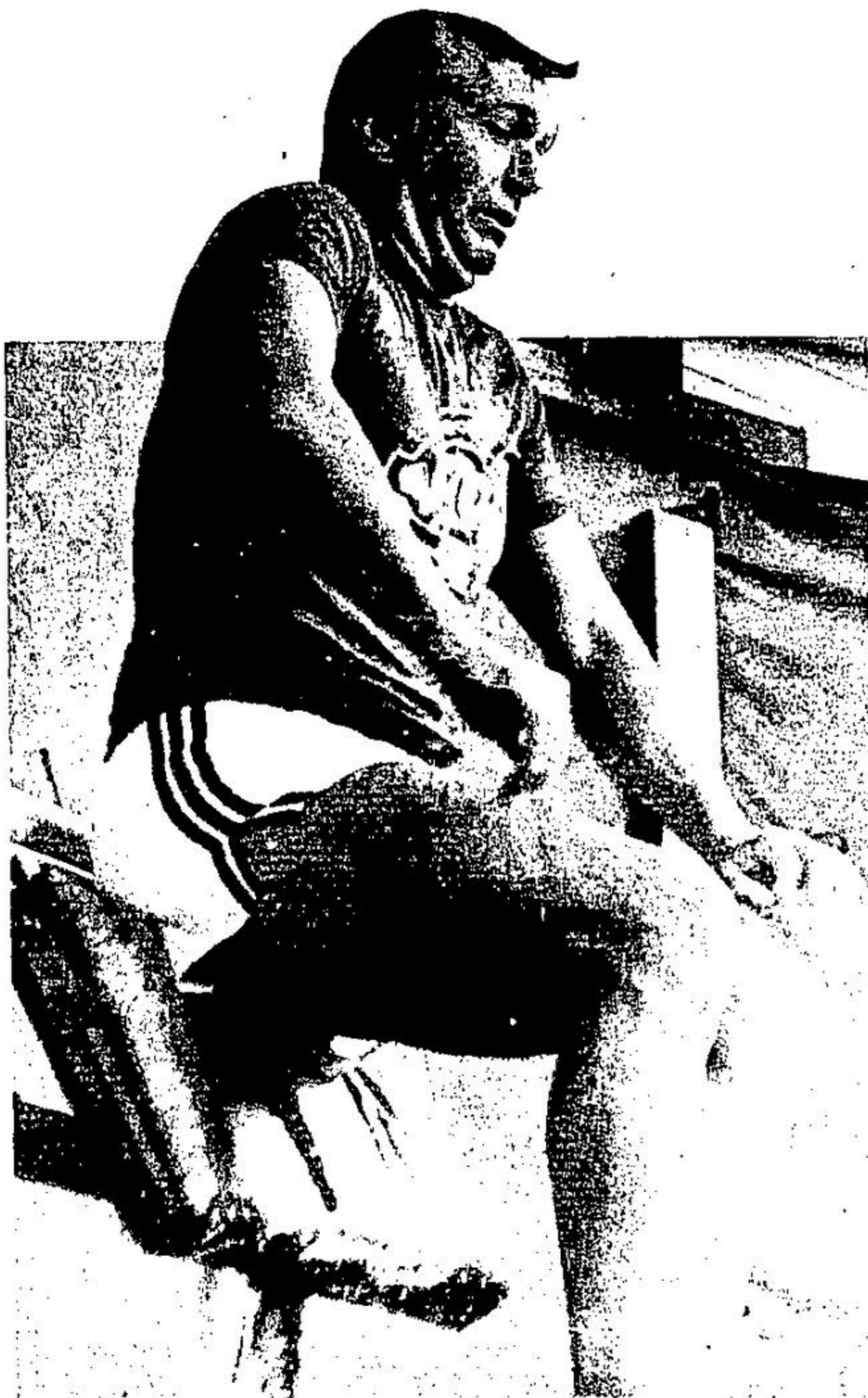
A representative from the provincial Ministry of Agricul-

ture who attends about 75 to 80 per cent of the fairs in Ontario as part of his involvement with fair grants from the province, said the Acton Fall Fair was the best in the province, Mr. Marshall said.

"We're very proud of the activities we have," he said. "We spent between \$60,000 and \$65,000 to organize all these activities and I think it was worth it."

CALIBRE IMPROVING

Mr. Marshall said the calibre of many events is improving, and he cited the old-time fiddlers' contest as an example. In one class, the entrants who were first, second and third at the fair, came first, second and third at the Shelburne competition, "and they get world-class competition, so Acton has world-class competition, too."



Visitors to the Acton fair had a laugh on the politicians when Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy (above), Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed (right) and Halton MP Otto Jelinek took turns at the dunking machine operated by one of the participating groups. Several partisan comments were exchanged in the "heat" of the moment, according to witnesses.



Photos by Lori Taylor and Maggie Hannah



Michael Ross, Master of Maya, performed his magic act for spectators gathered around the Canadian Cancer Society display at the Acton Fall Fair over the weekend.

(Herald photo)