

Hundreds of prizes make Showcase '86 a must for the family

More than \$10,000 in gifts and prizes will go up for grabs when Milton Chamber of Commerce hosts Showcase '86 May 22-24 at Memorial Arena.

"The value of the gifts and prizes must be at least \$10,000," said Showcase chairman Tom Richardson. "For the \$1 admission fee, a lot of people are going to get their money's worth."

Among the major draw prizes are a patio deck, a trip for two to Bermuda, a trip for two to Florida, a 20-inch colour television, a blue fox choker, a weekend for two in Ottawa, an RCA

14-inch colour television, a crib and mattress, carpet including installation, a Binkley Papa Bear by Gund, and a complete radiator job.

Other prizes include a weekend getaway, emergency road kits, hand vacuums, a 35mm sport camera, grass trimmer, computer desk wall unit, pro baseball glove, TV converter, lawn-care program, and balloon gift arrangements.

Some draws will be held in exhibitors' booths from ballots obtained at that particular booth. Others will be general prizes, available to anyone filling in a ticket at the chamber booth.

In addition, there is a long list of free gifts available to all visitors.

Included in that list are balloons, pens, pencils, key fobs, paper magnets, book matches, jar openers, lighters, buttons, pom-pom animals, stick-ons, emery boards, luggage tags, telephone emergency stickers, coasters, caps, book marks, rulers, scratch pads, litter bags, candy, discount vouchers, and samples of the exhibitors' products.

The first 10,000 visitors to Showcase will also receive a special shopping bag stuffed with coupons from at least 35 corporate sponsors.

"The giveaways and draws were among the major attractions at our first Showcase last year," added Mr. Richardson, "and they're shaping up to be a big drawing card this year too."

Last year's Showcase was considered by most observers to be a tremendous success, especially for a first-year venture. More than 70 exhibitors took part. They were visited by about 10,000 visitors.

This year, more than 125 exhibitors

Bill blasts councillors for no show

A routine proclamation by regional council has given Milton regional councillor Bill Johnson a chance to chide councillors about attending public functions.

Mr. Johnson said he hoped the region "does a better job" on "Seniors Awareness Week" June 16-21 than it did during the recent Volunteer Week.

He said few of the 24 councillors attended a reception honouring volunteers at Halton Centennial Manor, and even fewer attended a gathering in the regional administration building.

Oakville's Peter Arch said he was the only regional councillor in attendance at the reception.



You only have until tomorrow (Thursday) to purchase your tickets for the Showcase '86 Chicken Barbecue to be held next Friday evening during the made-in-Milton consumer show. Here Chamber administrator, John Lawrence, sells a ticket to Dave Katz.

are taking part and organizers are hoping for at least 20,000 people for the three-day show.

Exhibits are open from 10 a.m. to 9

p.m. Thursday and Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$1 for adults. Children accompanied by adults are free.

Mrs. Welcome Wagon retires after 15 years



Bev Gibson has retired after 15 years as the Milton Welcome Wagon Lady. She says she will miss the job.

It was August of 1971 when Bev Gibson moved to Milton with her husband.

Her husband was a Canadian military flyer. At Camp Borden, just before they moved to settled down in Milton, Bev got a job as the assistant Welcome Wagon Lady and she learned to love it.

"We moved every 3 1/2 years from place to place so I know what it's like to be new in an area, not know your way around, and feel lonely."

"So the Welcome Wagon was perfect because I do know what they are feeling."

And from August 1971 until just last month, Bev Gibson became the personification of the Welcome Wagon Lady spending 15 years and countless hours of being the town's semi-official greeter.

"I really did enjoy it. I get a kick out of helping people and it gives me a chance to find out so many things new

about people from other cultures and other lands.

"It really was the perfect job for me."

A founder of the Newcomers Club as well, Bev says she was pleased at the way people would shine when they got the Milton Welcome Wagon basket.

"It's just like Christmas really. It has everything—and the biggest is a letter of welcome from the mayor. When people come from Toronto and get a welcome letter from the mayor, they are impressed."

A natural good listener, Bev says there have been many incidents during the past 15 years when she has been deeply touched by the sincerity with which she has been welcomed into the home as a friend.

"Oh I've been into a Japanese home and had the full tea ceremony where you sit on the floor; but there was one time when I met a woman

who had just arrived from a South American country.

"At the end she said that in her country a sign that you are a friend is when they kiss you, and she did on both cheeks. She even gave me one of her own necklaces as a sign of appreciation."

"It's things like that which made the job so much fun for me and why I am going to miss it."

Although she has given over the reigns to the new Milton Welcome Wagon greeter, Lucy Hannant, Bev said it is a little hard to let go.

Now that her husband is retired, Bev has decided to do the same and enjoy living in Milton; and she'll do that with a legion of friends she has made over the years, many made during her work with Milton Welcome Wagon.

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