

Barrie going to the dogs, Aug. 2-4

Molson's Park in Barrie will set the stage for Barrie Kennel Club's 24th annual version of its Championship Dog Shows and Licensed Obedience Trials. The show runs Civic Holiday Weekend, Aug. 2, 3, and 4 as part of Barrie's annual Kempenfest festivities.

Approximately 3500 dogs are expected to be entered over the three days of the event, making it the largest outdoor show in the country, and one of the largest in North America. All shows are sanctioned by the Canadian Kennel Club.

Since the first Barrie Kennel Club show in 1947, the event has grown to the point where it has gained in renown not only among Canadian dog fanciers but in American circles as well.

The event typically draws a very large American following, and a 'win' in a Barrie show is treasured by canine enthusiasts across the continent.

Tents
To accommodate the mammoth 1980 version

of the shows, three huge 40 by 100 foot tents and three 30 by 50 foot tents are being erected on the site. A total of 15 judging rings, most of which will be in action simultaneously throughout the three days of the event, are also being put up by the Kennel Club's 25 members.

Club members annually volunteer their services for the shows and set aside these three days on their calendars in order to help make them the success they are. This year there will be 23 club members working at the shows.

Judging gets underway promptly at 8 a.m. on Saturday, August 2 and will continue daily until approximately 5 p.m.

Twenty judges brought in for the event reads like a 'Who's Who' of the canine world. They come from such diverse places as Denver, Col., Louisville, Ky., New York, Ohio, Buffalo, and Oregon.

Canadian Judges will be in attendance from Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Oakville,

Fredericton, N.S., and Langley, B.C. One specialty show judge even hails all the way from Devon, England.

Categories
Judging is done in four main categories in each breed—Puppies, Male, Female and 'Specials' (or Champions). There are 1346 breeds recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club. These are divided into six major groups: Sporting, Hounds, Working, two Terrier groups and Non-Sporting. The top dog in each breed competes with the others of that group for 'Best in Group'. The six group winners then compete in the grand finale at the end of the day for 'Best in Show.'

A total of \$29,025 in prize money, contributed in part by Molson's, Master Pet Foods and by the Barrie Kennel Club, is being offered. As well, several dozen prestigious bronze shields are being offered, in addition to hundreds of best of breed rosettes, wooden plaques, and other trophies and prizes.

As an added attraction, there are five Specialty Shows being held on the grounds in conjunction with the Barrie Kennel Club shows. All take place on Sunday, August 3 in rings reserved for this purpose. These are separate shows sponsored by the Brittany Spaniel Club, The Black

& Tan Coonhound Fanciers of Ontario, The Canadian Bloodhound Club, The Rottweiler Club of Canada and The Saluki Club of Canada.

In addition, there will be 'booster' shows for nine breeds, as well as special competitions in 'junior handling' (for

children seven through 14 years old). There is also a complete set of three licensed obedience trials, one each day, with top prize money being offered.

A free bus service (sponsored by Molson's Brewery) will provide half hourly trips connecting the Dog Show with waterfront

Kempenfest activities. Admission to the Barrie Kennel Club's Dog Show is \$1 for adults, with children and seniors free of charge. Judging begins at 8 a.m. and runs as scheduled all day.

Whether you're a purebred fancier or a mutt-lover, this event is bound to delight you.

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