

Entertainment

Take a kid to the Ex



Princesses meet at the CNE

Getting to know you — was the theme of the first day of the Canadian National Exhibition when contestants in the Miss CNE competition chatted together in the shade of a large tree on the grounds. Left to right are: Debbie McFadden (Miss Rodney), Judy Woodstock (Miss Richmond), Kathy Gibson

(Miss Roseneath), Phyllis Devlin (Miss Richmond Hill), Elizabeth Margaret Klodt (Miss Rockton) and Linda O'Flaherty (Miss Riceville). Winner of the title "Sweetheart of the Fair" was Janet Ann Kennedy of Elliot Lake.

Women's show is international

By Louise Robertson
"In celebration of 1975 as International Women's Year, the Women's Division CNE has made the Better Living Centre,

the international heartland for the exhibition," says manager Elsa Jenkins. I spoke briefly with Elsa and with Eva Ollino,

publicity manager of the Women's Division. Eva pointed out a number of interesting displays and presentations in the BLC: in-

cluding the display of school children's handicrafts (over 7,000 entries were made in approximately 500 different categories) and the adult handicraft display (which showed about 1,000 of the more than 8,000 entries submitted).

Also in the BLB is the A and P Kitchen Theatre with its four shows a day. Depending upon your schedule you can watch bread being baked at 1 p.m.; soup and pancakes being made at 3 p.m.; catch a dish from the ethnic culture of the day at 5 p.m. or drop around at 7 p.m. when they offer one of the many dishes "from our repertoire" which have delighted viewers over the years.

The BLC also has the Canadian Indian Hall of Fame, a number of films made by young folk, and a variety of rooms representative of some of the cultures which make up the Canadian mosaic.

Correcting lawn problems

Despite fertilizing and watering, many homeowners find areas of their lawns grow poorly for one of many reasons — too thin a layer of topsoil, poor drainage, excessive shading, weak competition.

J.K. Hughes, horticulturist, with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, suggests how, after identifying the problem, homeowners can take the necessary steps to correct it.

"For example, where topsoil is shallow, or low

in fertility, top dressing will improve the rooting medium, and help to level out slightly uneven areas," he says.

Frequent light treatments give best results, and should be spread evenly over the surface, then raked in.

If the topsoil is too thin on your lawn, thoroughly work up the lawn area and add at least four inches of good topsoil, then reseed.

Sometimes only small areas require renovation. "But it is difficult to establish new seed in turf

unless the soil is well worked prior to seeding," the specialist adds.

With areas larger than one square foot, work up the soil, reseed and keep the area well watered.

Lawn areas that have thinned because of excessive shading should be replanted to a grass that is shade-tolerant, such as one of the fescues.

Take a look at your lawn and plan your renovations during August. When the nights are cooler in September, you can start making the necessary corrections.

By Louise Robertson
Horses and homes. Cats, crafts and candy apples. Flowers and furniture. Bingo and the Bandstand. Fashions and food. Peanuts, popcorn and prizes.

As a kid, I used to trail along with the folks through the various exhibits at the CNE, pick up pamphlets and paper hats, taste a variety of foods, and dream of the moment when we would hit the midway with its sound, action, and excitement.

Friday, I went along with 12-year-old Penny Smith of Victoria Square when she visited The Ex. I wanted to see how much it had changed and how much it cost to 'take a kid to the Ex' these days. We carried our lunch, so just had to buy a drink (25c for milk, pop, or coffee).

Basic costs were: an express bus from Steeles and Yonge (\$1.75 adult, return: 25 cents each way for children 12 and under), and entrance to the grounds (\$2 for adults, \$1 for teens 13-17; and 50

cents for children 12 and under.) After that, unless you wish to go on rides, buy extra drinks and food, or tackle the games, you can 'do' The Ex and bring home a bundle (of pamphlets, stickers and memories) without spending anything more.

These days, the Midway and Alpine Way are handled by Conklin shows of Canada. You buy tickets at one of their many booths and then present the requisite number for the ride of your choice. (Tickets run 25 cents each; 14 for \$3, and 54 for \$10) Some rides call for two tickets, some for three — but the ticket method makes for a lot fewer hassles when you go to get on, cuts line-ups and speeds things all along the way.

We arrived at The Ex about 10 a.m. and were there for a good nine hours, during which we walked, rode, listened, looked, tasted and tried a multitude of things.

These included listening to a talk on the famous Carlsberg horses and how they are prepared for parades. Looking at exhibits in a vast number of buildings such as the Horticultural Building, the Agricultural Educational Display, and the Better Living Building — we still missed a great many.

We heard Macdonald's Road To The Isles with emcee Billy Meek at the Bandshell during lunch and nearby tried to drill for oil in the Riskiest Game in Earth.

Penny had her first ride on the ferris wheel and I had my first trip on the Wild Cat down in the Midway and we both took off on the Jumbo Jet just before supper (great fun,

but hold on to your hat). We 'dined' at the Food Building and then walked over and met our bus near the Princess Gate at about 7:20 p.m. A brief ride, a drive home and that was it. A host of memories to add to a mental scrapbook.

Afterwards, Penny (a horse lover) said she liked the Carlsberg horses most, with the Jumbo Jet ride as a close second. After some thought she said maybe the flowers were least interesting, but added "they weren't bad".

A Few Afterthoughts. These days you can buy milk, as well as pop, from coin machines throughout the grounds. And for those who object to

sweets, there are several stands which sell fresh fruit.

The grounds were very clean when we arrived in the morning (less so later) however, more litter containers are on hand and more people are using them so things stay a lot neater than in past years.

We were glad we'd taken the bus. Traffic and parking are a hassle at the best of times — and worse during The Ex — but for those who must drive, we saw that there were still some vacancies not too far from the grounds at 10 a.m.

One thing's sure — we're all going down again if we can — and at today's prices it's a bargain.

Butterflies are free

Leonard Gershe's *Butterflies Are Free*, directed by Jack Walters, will be the first play of the Toronto Truck Theatre's 1975-76 season.

A bittersweet comedy revolving around the assertion of a blind man's freedom and the people who help and hinder him in his struggle, the sharp-edged wit and empathy of the characters provide an evening of comically entertaining social comment.

The play will be presented Wednesdays through Sundays from September 3 to October 4

at the Heliconian Hall, 35 Hazelton Avenue (north from Yorkville). Reservations 922-0084.

News next door

AURORA: Bonnie Branch, 13, swam the 1.8 miles from Jackson's Point to Sibbald's Point in 46 minutes, 56.7 seconds to smash the men's record by nine minutes in the second annual Lake Simcoe Marathon. Bonnie slashed four minutes from the men's record in the Unionville Marathon a week earlier, swimming two miles in 47.5 minutes.



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Presents its eighth season and invites old and new members to register on

MONDAY, SEPT. 8, 1975

at

Thornlea Secondary School
Bayview Avenue, Thornhill

All people residing in Thornhill, Richmond Hill and surrounding districts interested in any aspects of theatre are most welcome to be part of on stage or backstage, of our next production, an exciting musical comedy, "Anything Goes" by Cole Porter, to be presented in March 1976.

We need singers, actors, dancers, chorus, stage managers, costume assistants, carpenters, set designers, make-up people.

Ms. Marie Shearer, 884-2510

Hanging baskets are gardens in miniature

Hanging baskets need as much care as gardens and flower beds during the summer.

John Hughes, horticultural specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, says: "Whether you are growing tomatoes, cucumbers, petunias or impatiens in your hanging basket, the relatively small volume of soil in which the plants are growing will require certain precautions."

Watering is possibly the single most important aspect of summer care. The baskets need to be watered thoroughly and frequently, since there is no reserve of water in the subsoil, as is found in gardens and flower beds.

If a product called hydrogel has been added to the soil prior to planting, the baskets will need much less watering. Many baskets have a slow-release fertilizer incorporated in the soil mix. Ask the retailer from whom you buy the

basket if fertilizer has been added.

If necessary, it can be carefully incorporated so that the roots are not disturbed. Most slow-release fertilizers will last for the complete growing season.

Insects can also cause problems in hanging baskets. If insecticide treatment is required, apply one of the recommended materials available at garden supply centers.

Read the label carefully and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Keeping your hanging plants in good condition helps to ensure that they will provide summer-long enjoyment on the balcony or patio.

Red Barn party

Bringing to a happy conclusion one of the best seasons in many years, the Red Barn Theatre at Jackson's Point has scheduled its annual grand fund raising party and draw for this coming Friday evening.

There will be a buffet, bar, music and dancing and a number of prizes to win.


First prize is a trip for two to St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. Tickets are on sale at the Barn at \$16 per couple.

All proceeds go to the Lake Simcoe Arts Foundation so that during the 1976 summer season the Barn may offer a full program of interesting and entertaining plays.



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RESUMES SUN., SEPT. 7th
7:30 P.M.
RICHVALE LIONS HALL
31 SPRUCE AVE. — RICHVALE

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