

Businesses to enter girls

# New wrinkle in Fair Queen contest



Martha Mulholland, queen of Markham Fair in '73, officiates at the crowning of her successor, Cathy Michaud (right), of 14th Avenue, Milliken.

By Debbie Shallhorn  
The 1975 3rd annual search for a Queen of the Markham Fair is being run by Gerri Seeley of Unionville.

"We have asked various businesses to enter contestants because it's a better way of getting girls, but we're not discouraging girls who enter themselves," she said.

Mrs. Seeley continued, "We ask for their name, address, phone number, hobbies and the name of their school or business affiliation. We want girls who know something of agriculture, we don't really want models or girls from Toronto, so we set

boundaries to the south and west, at Steeles Avenue and Bayview Avenue respectively."

All contestants must be between 16 and 21 and there are approximately 8 or 10 girls entered each year.

The judging this year will be on Friday October 3.

The girls are judged on personality, appearance, and their 2 minute prepared speech on Ontario agriculture or how the Markham Fair contributes to the community. The judges' names are always kept secret.

"First prize is \$100, with donated prizes from local businesses," said

Mrs. Seeley, "so the girls do quite well."

The queen is chosen along with 2 princesses, and last year's queen will crown the new one.

Mrs. Seeley said, "The new queen will then be on hand at the fair on Saturday and Sunday, when she'll be drawing winning tickets in various contests and presenting trophies."

She concluded, "Her duties over the year are light. She attends the annual banquet and assorted dinners of the agricultural society and she enters the Miss CNE contest in August with all other Ontario fair queen winners.

Cathy Michaud

## Completing her reign

By Debbie Shallhorn  
Cathy Michaud of 14th Avenue Milliken, is completing her year as 1974 Markham Fair Queen.

"I was entered by my boyfriend's sister, and at first I was angry," she said, "but I went through with it for a joke."

"I never had so much

attention in my life and I really loved it. You can also come in for a lot of criticism however, when you're walking around the fair, especially from guys. They can really be cruel."

She reflected on what winning did for her.

"It makes you more open, I was forced to be more outgoing," she said. "I had to answer questions geared towards agriculture on flowers, vegetables and even sewing, plus I made a prepared speech, which had to be on either what the Markham Fair does for the community or Ontario agriculture."

"I really didn't have too much to do over the year. I attended some dinners and dances of the agricultural society. In February I went to the convention of annual fairs at the Royal York for 2 days. All the fair queens had to be there. I was at the CNE August 13-14 for the Miss CNE Sweetheart of the Fairs contest. Again all the other girls were there, over 80 of us."

She enjoyed meeting the other girls saying "we were all in the same position, and we pretty well thought the same way about a lot of things."

Cathy said one of the girls she met was judged at her local fair by how good a sales pitch she could make to the judges about "an old wreck of a car".

Cathy will be on hand to crown the 1975 Miss Markham Fair. Asked about the possibility of entering another such contest herself, she replied, "I don't think I would."

"The woman who ran the CNE contest had been a Miss Canada, and she said the Miss Universe and Miss World contests had been the most degrading experiences of her life. I don't think I could take it."

Cathy is just back from Europe and hopes to be working this fall.

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