

## Harvey Brown - Fair President

# Vital year in Markham Fair history

By Aileen Johnson  
Harvey Brown, chairman of Markham Fair for 1976 knew what he was getting into when he accepted the post during a vital year for future fairs.

"I must admit that this year's rain (requiring additional work for a farmer's already long days) and fair meetings three nights a week, have really kept me busy," he said with a smile.

Mr. Brown is a life-long resident of Markham. "My family homesteaded here in 1837," he said proudly. "The Fair is a great tradition and originally was also a reason for people to get together," he added. "We are all excited over our new location for the 122nd Fair in 1977," he said.

"The particular problem for me as this year's chairman is trying not to divide my loyalties between 1976 and next year's event. The tenders have been examined, contracts awarded and everything is in the final stages of completion, at least on paper. These tasks had to be looked after. Besides, I'm not the first chairman to be so involved. The planning for the new site began 2½ years ago," Mr. Brown said. "No chairman could do his job well without an excellent Board, and I am

especially proud of the work of our junior members," he added.

The new site of almost 110 acres will be located at the corner of McCowan Road and the 18th Avenue. Construction for next year will already be in progress when the '76 Fair opens at its present location.

"We will be exchanging our existing six acres of parking space for an area exceeding 60 acres. This is a vital aspect of the Fair. Many of our elderly residents have missed the annual event because it's too far to walk," Brown said. "People have to park as far away as a mile. That's a long walk for many seniors."

"We have a class 'A' Fair in Markham and expansion will mean a bigger and better show. The Sunday parade will be continued but will become an internal parade. We have the space, so there isn't any need to block roadways. Our aim is to promote activities throughout the year in order to offset costs and gain additional revenue," Brown said.

The first phase of the new Fairgrounds is scheduled to be completed by July 1, 1977. It will consist of five main buildings including Women's, Pet and Poultry, General

Exhibits, Commercial and Livestock. The latter will include an indoor show ring.

Vandalism, a major problem at the Fair's present site, has prompted the building committee to allocate over \$30,000 for chain-link fencing, topped by barbed wire.

As no municipal water is available, water will be obtained from wells on the site. Sanitary services will be provided by temporary facilities in much the same way the International Plowing Match held in Oshawa, handled the situation. A septic tank system is cited as the other alternative.

When asked if council has been co-operative on this venture, Brown commented, "They've given much more than co-operation, they have bent over backwards to assist us in any way possible and public employees have done the same."

Because Brown's farm is situated along one of the routes to the new Fairgrounds, he realizes that his farm will be engulfed in dust created by traffic. He merely shrugs his shoulders and says, "Oh well, it's only for a few days."

The chairman for 1976 is too much in love with Markham Fair to allow minor inconveniences to bother him.

## Theme of Fair Queen lost at exhibition

By Aileen Johnson  
If the Canadian National Exhibition continues to make new rules for entrants into the Miss CNE contest, Markham may consider pulling out of the competition.

Mrs. Gerri Sealey, organizer of the Miss Markham Fair said, "CNE officials may be losing the theme of the 'Sweetheart of the Fairs' concept. It's disconcerting to find that they fail to question contestants on agriculture." The originator of

Markham's contest added, "I have been saddened to note that many girls from small towns, have been stranded at the Bloor and Avenue Road dormitory used during the CNE event. Breakfast isn't arranged and that area isn't the greatest location to find a morning meal when you don't know your way around."

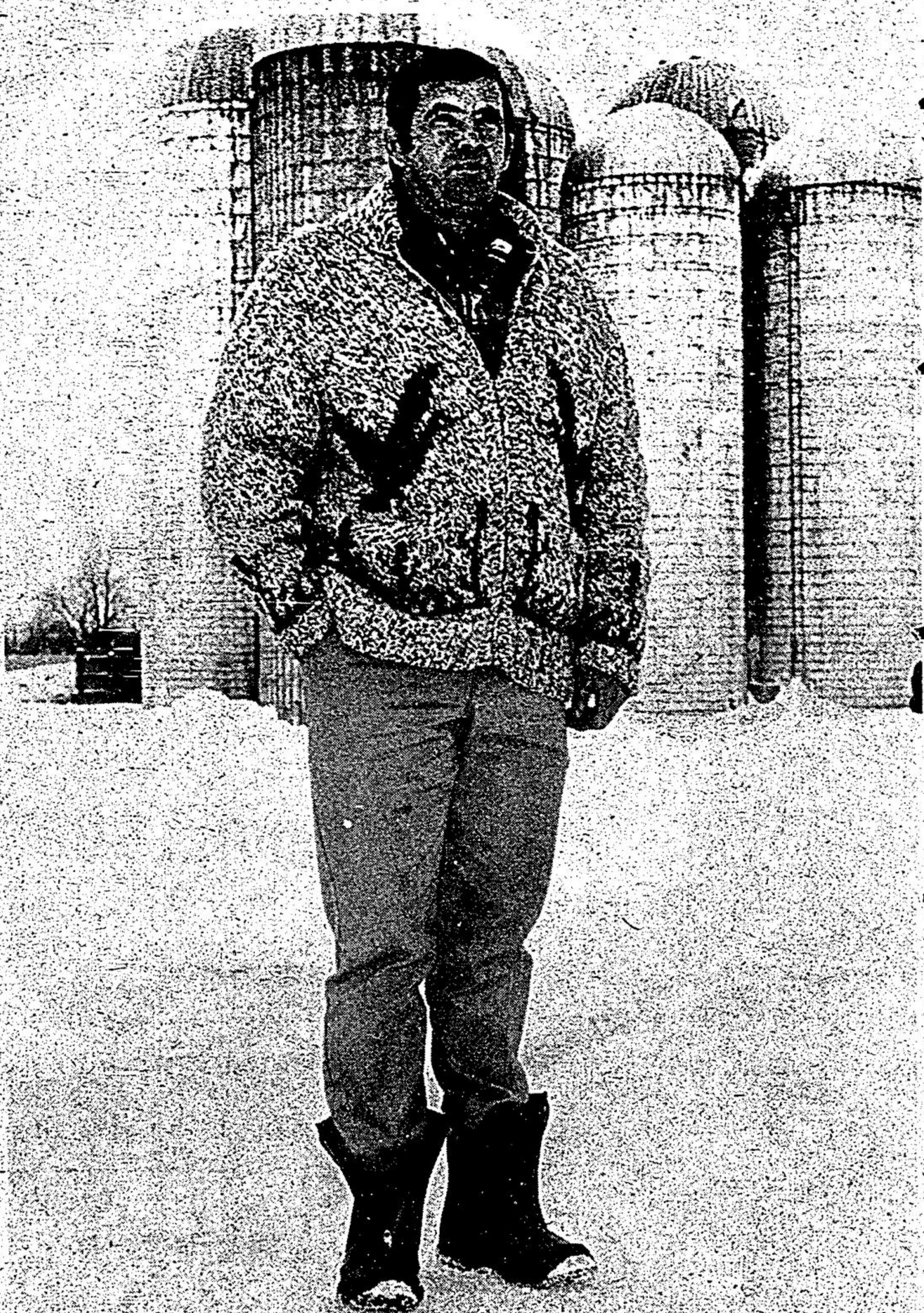
More than once I have been called by a contestant and asked to "bring a couple of apples or something."

This fall marks the

forth year for the Miss Markham Fair Contest and its subsequent entries in the CNE contest.

"It's getting to the stage where I wonder if we should bother involving a girl in all the hassles," Mrs. Sealey said.

"Perhaps the CNE should just have a beauty contest and give Agricultural Societies entrants a chance to enter something such as a Miss Royal Winter Fair Contest. In the future, it may be more meaningful



Harvey Brown, R.R. 2, Markham, is the President of Markham Fair, 1976. A well-known local farmer, Harvey has been an energetic worker on the Fair executive for many years. This year, it has been necessary for him to divide his time between preparing

for the upcoming show and the "big move" to the new site in '77. The property is located just west of his farm on 18th Avenue. Markham Fair dates back to 1855. The Brown family history dates back to 1837, so both have a solid stake in the community. —Jim Thomas

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