

CNE contest "somewhat disappointing"



Cathy Michaud, 14th Avenue, R.R. 1, Milliken (left), the Queen of Markham Fair in 1974, congratulates her suc-

cessor, Debbie Byrnes of R.R. 2, Markham, the Queen of '75
—Jim Thomas

By Aileen Johnson
Debbie Byrnes, Miss Markham Fair for 1976, found great pleasure in her role as Fair Queen, but considered her involvement in the Miss CNE contest, "somewhat disappointing."

"The Canadian National Exhibition event just wasn't what I expected. The only question put to me that had any bearing on agriculture was to identify Eugene Whelan."

"At the Markham Fair level, I was questioned about animals, farm implements, vegetables and planting times for particular crops. My local agricultural society really cared that their representative was well versed on farm life. The CNE didn't appear to show the same interest."

Debbie indicated that contestants were advised in a CNE letter to practise walking, wear a slip under all dresses and to avoid wedge-heeled shoes.

"I met some terrific girls, and we discussed our mutual concern that several contestants were

graduates of two major modelling schools. I was told by my local agricultural society to dress simply and not to act too mature. After following these instructions I was surprised to see one girl in a dress that Cher might wear on television," she said.

"Mind you," Debbie said with a grin, "she didn't win."

"Contestants of only 14 or 15 years of age didn't have much of a chance." At seven years their senior, I realized that I too lacked basic modelling experience. Maybe that's one reason why a contestant for Miss CNE of 1977 must be at least 18 years of age," she said.

If given the chance to repeat her performance as Markham's entry in the CNE contest, Debbie said, "I wouldn't change a thing."

"Maybe I didn't win the CNE title but as Miss Markham Fair, I was supposed to be representing an agricultural society. After all, isn't that what it's all about?"

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