

Fair president's roots go deep

By T. ROGERS GARDHAM
Barry Little, the president of the 1983 Markham Fair, isn't a little that is. At over six feet in height and tipping the scales at 210 pounds, he is anything but little and his physical size is fully matched by his warm and pleasant nature.
Add to this his modesty and his almost acute sense of fair play and a picture emerges of the man, the farmer, the husband-father, the traditionalist and native son which blends well in the parade of 110 or more presidents who have served Markham Fair in its 129-year history.
There is also a sense of serenity to the man which is exemplified in the name of

his farm Meadow Lawn.
The farm is located on the north side of Steeles Avenue near Markham's 10th Line. Despite its location on the border-line with Metro Toronto and the ever present flow of traffic, there is a tranquility about the place. It is difficult to believe that only a few miles away is the bustling activity at the heart of the burgeoning Town of Markham.
The sign at the farm entrance announces the Littles live there, that they are Jersey Cattle breeders and this is a Dairy Farm. Barry's father and mother live on a portion of the farm in a house only a stone's throw away from his residence. His brother Bob

lives on an adjacent farm to the east (His sister Carolyn Hosbel is married to a dairy farmer and lives near Atwood.)
STEPPED IN TRADITION
Both maternal and paternal sides of the Little family are steeped in tradition. Barry's mother is a descendant of the Milnes (Milne's Dam) and Freemans, both prominent pioneer Markham families, and "Meadow Lawn" has been a Freeman farmstead for generations.
The large farm barn building has a concrete cornerstone (a unique inclusion for a farm building) which bears the date 1915 and the name Freeman. Mr. Little says the corner stone has a vault containing a jar in

which pictures and information of the times when the building was erected are stored.
The original Little farmstead was located in Scarborough in what is now the Morningside area. They were Scottish settlers who came to Canada in the early 1800's. The Littles have been Jersey breeders since Barry's great grandfather Freeman established a Jersey herd in 1891. The family continues to maintain the oldest established continuous Jersey herd in Canada.
Barry Little, who will be 43 in October, began farming on his own in 1970. With a herd of 50 cattle which need morning and

evening milking seven days a week and over 200 acres of adjacent land to seed and harvest; his lifestyle is well dictated by his farm related duties.
"A lot of times we have to break off visits with friends to be home in time for the evening milking," he said in an interview. While he has a hired man for help and harvesting is shared with neighbors, it still requires constant effort to keep on top of things.
Mr. Little has been part of farming all his life and feels that he was more fortunate than a lot of his friends in that he always wanted to be a farmer.

Part of his secondary school education was acquired at the then newly opened Markham District High School. He then went on to Guelph University where he took a two-year diploma course in Agriculture dealing primarily with Animal Health and Field Crops.

While he indicates that public school does little to provide specific knowledge for a farming career, he believes education is important to the farmer, particularly at agricultural schools and colleges, as it "opens up the mind" and helps the farmer "see other methods" in farm operation.

Mr. Little feels "Dame Fortune" also smiled on him when he and his wife Aileen were married in August 1965. Mrs. Little is the daughter of a dairy farmer and lived at Norval, near Brampton, before their marriage.

Aileen is a partner in the true sense of the word and has been active for many years at Markham Fair with Barry mainly in the Livestock committees.

In recent years Mrs. Little has increased her activity in order to assist her husband with the various presidential responsibilities and to help him see the Fair from a woman's point of view. She serves on an array of committees ranging from the Ladies' section to administrative to livestock.

The Littles have three children, twin daughters, Kim and Kelly, 15 and a son Christopher, 12. All are very involved in the 4H section of the Fair, showing calves and horses over the years. They enter various competitions and there is a healthy rivalry among the children when vying for prizes at the Fair.

Mr. Little is very much a community spirited individual. Besides his involvement in Markham Fair he is a past president of the Cedar Grove Community Club which draws membership from the community and operates Cedar Arena, an outdoor ice skating facility in the Winter as well as a baseball diamond in the Summer. He is active in the Jersey Breeders Club and a director of the Jersey Cattlemen Ltd. formed from a group of breeders which support export sales of the breed. He is also active as a Jersey Cattle judge at various Ontario fairs and will judge a show in Calgary later this year.

According to Barry, his presidency of Markham Fair takes priority over all other activities this year, but he admits the farm operation still orders his day.

In choosing the theme for 1983 — Markham Fair the place to be in '83 — Barry Little feels that Markham is a fine example of how a fair meets its challenges because the Town is an excellent blend of rural and urban living.



BARRY LITTLE
Markham Fair president

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Young Turkeys	GRADE 'A' FROZEN, ENCAPSULATED-5 TO 12 LB AVERAGE	2.18/lb	99	615/kg	2.79/lb			
Lean Ground Beef	FRESH	4.39/kg	1.99/lb	500 g vac pac	2.39			
Round Steak	GRADE 'A' BEEF, INSIDE CUT	5.93/kg	2.69/lb	500 g cont	1.39			
Beef Liver	PREVIOUSLY FROZEN, SLICED	1.74/kg	.79/lb	500 g cont	1.39			
Pork Loin Roasts	RIB OR 3 TO 3 1/2 LB CUT TENDERLOIN	4.39/kg	1.99/lb	500 g cont	1.39			
				571/kg	2.59/lb			
				439/kg	1.99/lb			
				615/kg	2.79/lb			
				500 g vac pac	2.39			
				571/kg	2.59/lb			
				500 g cont	1.39			
				500 g cont	1.39			
				2.62/kg	1.19/lb			

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