

Markham Fair is a family tradition

By Jim Thomas
MARKHAM — Bryan Armstrong's association with Markham Fair goes back more years

than he can remember. In fact, Bryan's great-great grandfather, Capt. Wm. Armstrong was the Fair's first presi-

dent 140 years ago. Later, Robert P. Armstrong, Bryan's grandfather, headed the board from 1933-35. Now,

Bryan himself holds this prestigious position, an honor that will reach a peak during the event's five days,

Sept. 26-30. While the office is indeed an honor, Bryan's the first to admit that without the help of a dedi-

cated board of directors and "hundreds of volunteers", a project of such magnitude couldn't be considered.

"I hope I can fulfill those duties for which I'm responsible," he said.

Bryan Armstrong contracted 'fair fever' at the age of 12 when, as a member of Markham 4-H, he began showing Holstein calves, grain and corn. Four years later, the late Howard Cosburn asked him to fill a Jr. Director's position when one of the members moved away. He's been associated with Markham Fair ever since.

Did he visualize the position of president back then? he was asked. "I thought I might become a director when I was fifty," he replied with a smile, noting that "back then", the office of president

hadn't crossed his mind.

Now 33, this personable father of three, divides his time between operating a farm at R.R. 3, Mount Albert and hosting a talk show on CFTO. His face is also familiar on many television commercials.

For Bryan, Markham Fair is a family affair. His lovely wife Janie is helping organize the Fair Queen Pageant, Sept. 21, and will be at her husband's right hand throughout the five-day show.

Patch Kids Party this Saturday, (Sept. 1), "an event no one would even dream about twenty years ago."

He thinks these extra-curricular activities are great and is loud in his praise of Mary Webster and Pauline Davis for heading up the 'cabbage patch' committee.

The five-day event, Bryan points out, is the culmination of twelve months of hard work. There's a minimum of three meetings every month.

Bryan sees a problem in that

some of the committee members aren't afforded an opportunity to really appreciate the Fair due to responsibilities far removed 'from where the action is'.

He explained this, he explained, while on Gates and Admissions. "You turn around and the Fair's over," he noted.

President Armstrong says handling directors' meetings has presented no problems. "I try and make sure everyone has an opportunity to express his/her feelings," he said.

This being Ontario's Bi-Centennial, Bryan says several activities have been planned with this milestone in mind.

The Fair's Bi-Centennial Committee, headed by Jennie Mann includes Dave Morrison, Glen Mowder, Suzanne Mowder, John Lunau, Fred Provis, Aloma Provis and Doug Harris.

Although Bryan's 'roots' are in agriculture, his Fair interests aren't slanted towards any one feature. "Everything about Markham Fair interests me," he concluded.



Bryan Armstrong's association with Markham Fair goes back more years than he can remember. The 1984 president carries on a family tradition that began with his great-great grandfather, Capt.

Wm. Armstrong, back in 1844. Bryan considers the position an honor, attributing the success of Markham Fair to a dedicated board of directors and hundreds of volunteers.

—Jim Thomas

Celebrating with Ontario the Bicentennial year. Hours: Mon-Sat. 9-9 Sun. 10-6

COUNTRY BARNS

1st Anniversary Celebration

you've never seen anything like it!

"WHAT A SUCCESS" That's what thousands of people are saying about Ontario's largest barns built strictly for people, and to celebrate one year of success we're offering an exciting line up of special events and entertainment JUST FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

Free Entertainment "Country Barn Pickers" Sat. & Sun. 1 pm & 3:30 pm Toe tapping good music from the "string picking pros". Great entertainment — FREE!

COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

SHOWTIME TUES. — 10:45 AM. 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM WED. THROUGH FRI. — 1:00 PM & 3:00 PM SUN. — 1:00 PM & 3:00 PM

presenting "Comradery" An entertaining look at the Canadian Lives and songs of the first & second World War. Where were you in '45?

ADMISSION — \$2.00 ADULTS, \$1.50 STUDENTS & SENIORS, CHILDREN (UNDER 12) \$1.00

LENS GENERAL STORE AND BAKERY

"Cooking & Preserving" Demonstrations Learn the do's and don'ts of preserving this season's garden harvest. The Country Barns Professionals will show you how — FREE.

Plus Everything you need to Preserve this year's harvest • JARS • PRESERVING POTS • PRESSURE COOKERS... AND MORE!

4 Great Eating Places!

Bring the family with their appetites!

Family Dining — Milliken Room/Markham Room — Enjoy the great food at family prices in the Markham Room — Main floor. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner 7 days a week. Family style buffet. In the Milliken Room — main floor, \$6.55 all you can eat. Hot & cold features daily.

Sandwich Bar Just in the mood for soup and sandwich? Guaranteed fresh food in a "serve yourself, sit and relax" atmosphere.

"Light Weight" Dining at The Garden Terrace The "greenhouse feeling" and the "lightweight" menu is perfect for lunch. 2nd floor, next to Connie's Antiques and the Men's Gifts and Hobbies.

CANADA'S LARGEST GARDEN CENTRE

Free BONSAI Exhibit in Canada's largest Garden Centre

See beautiful Bonsai specimens — hundreds of years old. Sponsored by the Toronto Bonsai Society.

CULLEN COUNTRY CRAFTS

Art Demonstration

Features Jack Hastie & Mary Holcroft

3rd floor craft loft. Meet these two popular artists in person and view their unique, popular work. Demonstrations Saturday, Sunday & Monday, Sept. 1, 2 & 3rd. Jack Hastie demonstrates painting rural Ontario scenes on the 3rd floor Art Dept. Mary Holcroft demonstrates Porcelain Jewellery. 3rd floor by the elevator.

CULLEN COUNTRY BARNS

4300 Steeles Ave., East 477-4475

Village Box Meats

GREAT LABOUR DAY SAVINGS

F.G. BRADLEY N.Y. STRIP STEAKS
12/9 OZ.

\$35⁹⁰
\$2.99 EACH

F.G. BRADLEY N.Y. STRIP STEAKS
12/8 OZ.

\$34²⁸
\$2.86 EACH

FREE! OKTOBERFEST MUSTARD WITH THE PURCHASE OF A CASE OF OKTOBERFEST SAUSAGE 3 Kg.

J.J. DERMA BURGERS
50/3.2 OZ.

\$12⁹⁹
26¢ EACH

FREE! OKTOBERFEST MUSTARD WITH THE PURCHASE OF A CASE OF OKTOBERFEST SAUSAGE 3 Kg.

F.G. BRADLEY N.Y. STRIP STEAKS
18/6 OZ.

\$36³³
\$2.02 EACH

F.G. BRADLEY N.Y. STRIP STEAKS
24/4 OZ.

\$32⁴⁰
\$1.35 EACH

OFFER VALID UNTIL SEPT. 4/84 OR WHILE QUANTITIES LAST

WE OFFER

WE PROMISE

WE GUARANTEE

The same top quality frozen portion packed meat, seafoods, poultry, & desserts purchased by fine restaurants in the area.

Good value, unique selection and expert advice on buying and preparing all our items.

Everything we sell.

8555 McCowan Road, Markham, Ontario
471-5260

ONE BLOCK NORTH OF HWY. 7, BESIDE THE BUNS MASTER

STORE HOURS: MON. - WED. 9:30 - 6:00 THURS. - FRI. 9:30 - 9:00 SATURDAY 9:00 - 5:30 SUNDAY 11:30 - 4:30