

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. Infact, Bryan's great-great grandfather, Capt. Wm. Armstrong was the Fair's first presi-

dent 140 years ago. Later, Robert P.

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 dedicated 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.

With several ironson in the fire, Bryan jokingly remarked that the (long) distance between the Fair Office and his home might allow him to 'escape' anticipated calls. But no such luck. "Last week, it started," he said, "and my phone's been ringing ever since." Much current interest, he says, is related to the Cabbage Patch Kids Party this Saturday, Sept. 1, "an event no one would even dream about twenty years ago." He thinks these extracurricular activities are great and is loud in his praise of Mary Webster and Pauline Davis for heading up the 'cabbage patch' committee.

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.

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

Patch Kids Party

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

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

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 Jennifer 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

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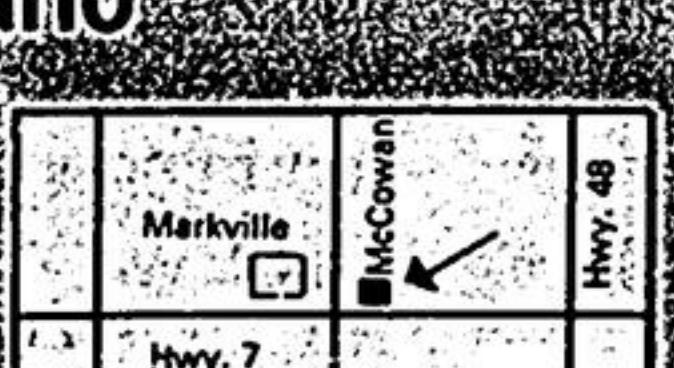
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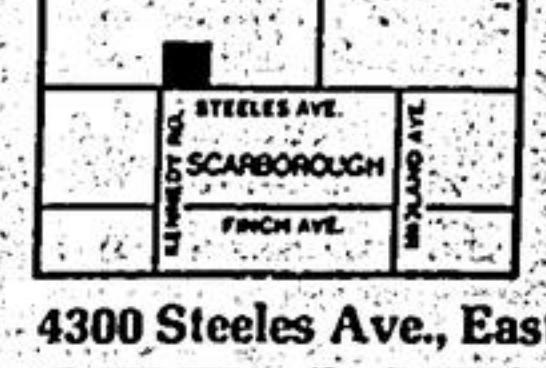
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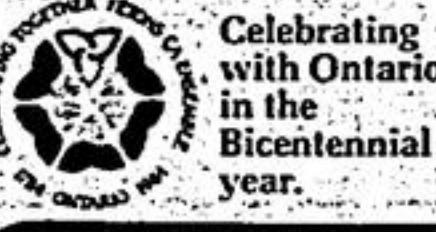
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