

# Contests, contests everywhere



CATHY LEE  
She likes contests

By NANCY HOSKIN  
What would a country fair be without its contests? Their history stems back generations, with some of the same contests being participated in today as when our great grandparents attended fairs.

You'll find a variety of old time contests, adorned with new ones, at this year's Markham Fair for kids of all ages. Children and adults may enter as often as they wish, all are free to join.

The number one favorite contest is holding it's own. The Fiddling Contest which, this year, will be held on Saturday night at 7 p.m. attracts contestants from

across Ontario who compete for prize money.

Crowds, which in past years have topped 500, watch with delight as entertainers perform first-class country tunes. There will be four classes to watch, each with first, second and third prizes being offered.

"The fiddling contest has always played a big part in agricultural fairs — it adds to the down home, country atmosphere everyone enjoys," said Cathy Lee, chairperson of the contest committee.

Another event which is extremely popular at the Markham Fair is the Baby Contest. Because

this contest has gained much notoriety over the past few years, the contest committee has had to limit the number of applicants participating.

Babies aging from three to fifteen months are eligible to enter and are divided into several categories. Male and female contestants are judged in different groups as are their ages — three to six months, six to nine months, nine to twelve months and twelve to fifteen months old. There are also categories for twins and triplets.

The Stouffville Progress Club provides the trophies for this event, and sponsorship is secured

by several large manufacturers of baby products, including, Gerber and Heinz. All participants receive a grab bag filled with goodies.

"Chip Off The Old Block", a short contest which lasts only 45 minutes, is fun to watch or maybe you'd rather participate in it? Enter on the spot, or sign up prior to the competition.

Two people related to each other in some way and who look similar are eligible. The pair judged the most alike are the winners. Some dress up for the occasion in identical clothing, while others just make their way to the stage from the audience.

The Spelling Bee, a contest that had it's beginning decades ago, has always been a success. Champion spellers are pre-selected from local schools to participate and represent their classmates.

The adult spelling bee was introduced last year, a contest that was requested, with response being good.

Mrs. Lee hopes that this year's fair will attract the newcomers to the area.

"Our fair is for everybody and we hope everyone will join in the fun. People flock to Markham to escape the city's busy pace," she said. "Though we're growing, this is one event where you can still believe that Markham is a small town."

Since being crowned Miss Markham Fair in 1978, Mrs. Lee has been active in fair activities. She has served as a junior director and has chaired the contest committee for four years.

So, whether you're interested in watching the celebrity cake decorating contest, the popular pet show or just wish to relax and listen to some old fashion fiddling, there is a variety of contests which to provide quality entertainment and fun.

## Safety a prime concern

By NANCY HOSKIN

Safety is of prime importance when organizing any sized event, especially concerning the upcoming Markham Fair.

According to Harold Snowball, head of the emergency services committee, the fair has maintained a good record in the prevention of accidents.

"During the past several years we haven't had any serious accidents. The occasional broken leg from a rider being thrown from his horse is as serious as we've ever had," commented Mr. Snowball.

Heat exposure, children skinning their knees and children getting seperated from their parents are the top problems that keep the emergency service team busy each year.

Parents are advised to keep a close watch over their children. With good sized crowds it is easy to lose sight of one another creating frustration for both parents and children.

Search and Rescue, a volunteer organization, will be on hand, as in previous years, to administer first aid and to help look after children who are lost, while trying to find their parents. Their booth is manned at all times with between eight and 20 volunteers helping out at one time.

The Markham Fire Department will be located opposite the General Exhibits Building, along with all other emergency services. As well as being on hand for any mishaps that may occur, firefighters will also be manning a booth.

# DON'T LET YOUR LUNCH HOUR



## GO TO WAIST

### FREE WORKOUTS

FOR NON-MEMBERS FROM  
12:00 NOON TO 5:30 P.M.  
CALL FOR CLASS SCHEDULE  
ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE ON  
TIME STOP

**HURRY! LAST WEEK**  
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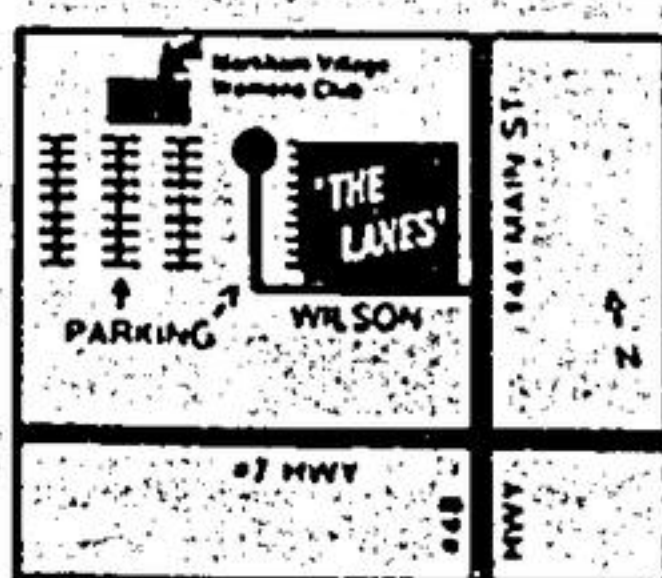
## MARKHAM VILLAGE WOMEN'S CLUB



Markham Village Lanes Shopping Centre



Early Bird Work-Out  
7:30-9 a.m.



Markham Village Women's Club  
We are temporarily located at the Works Department behind The Markham Village Lanes.

294-7764

144 MAIN ST. N., MARKHAM Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.