

# A 'fair' friendship of 30 years

By NANCY HOSKIN  
For more than 30 years Dave Morrison has been involved with the Markham Fair, this year serving as 1st Vice President.

Involved for 30 years? One might wonder just when he began helping out!

At age 11 he began entering exhibits annually, and attended the fair with fellow schoolmates. He firmly believes that a child's involvement in the Markham Fair gives them a better understanding of the area in which they live.

In 1977, after years of attending the fair, Mr. Morrison was innocently asked to help out with the animal exhibits.

"I grew up on a dairy farm and was familiar with animals," Mr. Morrison explained. "My first real duty, as a volunteer, was to clean out the livestock barns."

### Involvement escalated

Mr. Morrison said that his involvement with the fair has escalated.

"It's infectious, I enjoy what the fair does for children and our community," Mr. Morrison smiled. "That is why I have be-

come so interested in the cause."

Though there are no written directions as to what the 1st Vice President job entails, Mr. Morrison helps to look after administration and use of the fairgrounds throughout the year, along with selling tickets on fair days.

Following the natural evolution, as an elected director on the fair board, Mr. Morrison will serve as president next year.

With nearly 500 volunteers working on 74 committees, Mr. Morrison is proud to describe the fair as "the largest service club in Markham, making the community a better place to live."

### Wholesome forum

Mr. Morrison said that he looks at the fair as a wholesome forum for children and adults to preserve a part of the old.

According to Mr. Morrison, the fair's attendance fluctuates each year depending upon other competition, whether it is Canada's Wonderland, weather conditions or other area trade shows. This is an incentive for members of the

fair board to be competitive, maintaining the strong emphasis on agriculture.

"Agriculture and animals remain the focal point of our country fair. We try to generate further interest in these areas through varied activities, from showing the newest in farming techniques to a host of exhibits and competitions for all ages to enter," Mr. Morrison said.

### Local talent

Included in some of the additions to this year's fair is the strong emphasis in promoting local talent, the paramutual standard bred horse racing on Sunday and a larger display of heavy horses.

"It is a challenge for the fair board to market the event, a challenge that gets bigger each year. We're always striving to move forward," Mr. Morrison explained.

As this year's fair fast approaches, Mr. Morrison hopes to see more involvement with area children and teens.



## First vice-president

Dave Morrison, 1st vice-president of the Markham Fair, stands with three of his four children. From left they are Anji, 13; Molly, 11; and Tracy, 15. Two-year-old Andrew was absent when the photo was taken. — Nancy Hoskin

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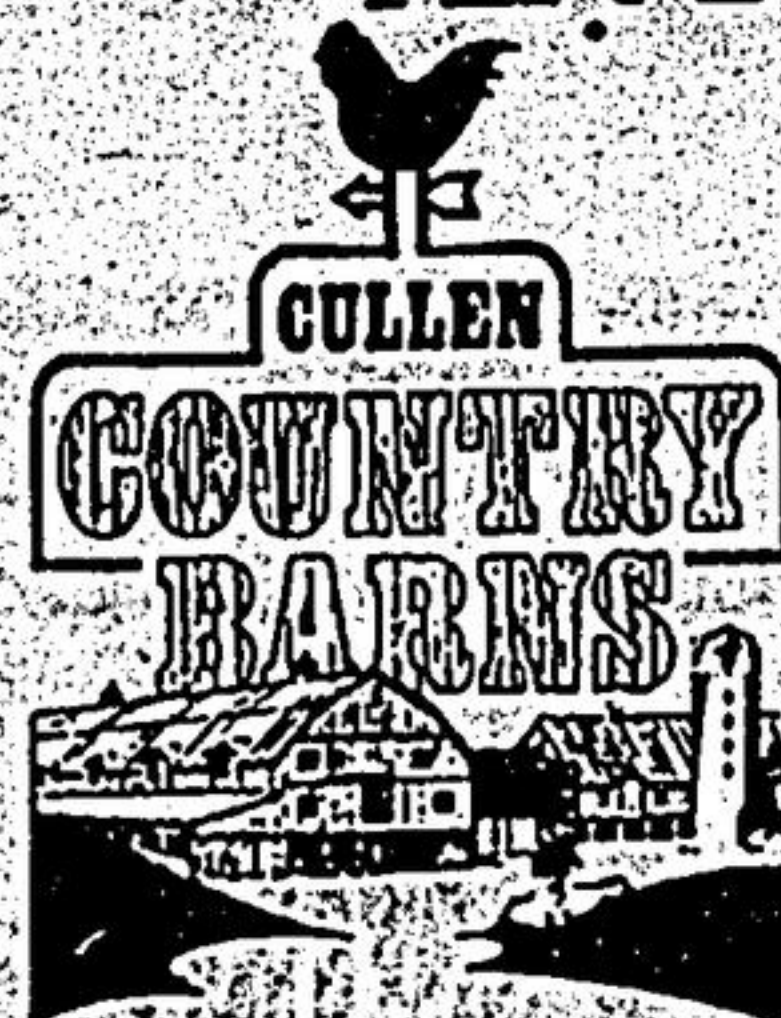
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