

Markham Country Show-Sale attracts over 16,000 people



Sandy Stronach of Stouffville's 'Freckles' was one of more than 75 exhibitors at the second annual Country Decorating and Collectibles Show at Markham Fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday. While the hat she's wearing is only a decoration Sandy does it justice.



Beverly Parker of Cam Fella Blvd., Stouffville had the welcome sign out and everybody came. The family booth called 'Fancy That Idea of Unionville' was crowded both days. Husband Ron and daughter Sandra provided assistance.



Sandford's Goose Berry Patch did a booming business. Hand-crafted gifts like the basket held by Wendy Beaton attracted much interest and many buyers.



John and Corinne Huddar of Country Mercantile Fine Gifts, 68 Brock Street West, Uxbridge had their age-old cash register hopping all weekend. Their booth attracted a large percentage of the 16,000 plus visitors.

All crafters ecstatic

By DENISE McDONALD

MARKHAM — Cars stretched bumper-to-bumper almost a mile.

A long lineup of people extended into the parking lot.

For a second straight year, Uxbridge area resident Debra Grose has shown home owners, decorating enthusiasts and collectors "the true essence of country."

The Country Decorating and Collectibles Show and Sale at Markham Fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday proved a tremendous success.

"I'm overwhelmed," Debra told *The Tribune*. "The first day alone we doubled the attendance of last year."

The initial show in 1987 attracted so many people, an improvement or even a duplication was considered unlikely. "But Debra proved the experts wrong."

Last year because many people had to wait a frustrating long time in line to enter the buildings, we worked on ways to speed up the process, and for those who did have to wait, complimentary hot cider was provided," Debra said. "On Saturday alone we went through 10 cases."

Because two buildings were utilized instead of one, more customers could be accommodated at

one time, Debra explained. Next year, three display centres will be used.

As well, the same careful jurying process was maintained in obtaining 75 of the foremost exhibitors across Ontario, resulting in high level displays to suit every taste.

"All are anxious to return," Debra said. "Attendance has been placed at 16,133."

The flow of people never stopped until after 3 p.m. both days, Debra noted.

While many viewers came from the Markham-Unionville areas as well as Metro, Debra described support from the Stouffville-Uxbridge communities as "wonderful."

In addition to a third building, hours will also be extended, Debra stated.

"She also promised the heating systems would be working. One of the enclosures lacked a heat making it somewhat uncomfortable during the show's early hours. Exhibitors there deserve medals," Debra said. "This won't happen again."

Many crafters were almost completely sold out, Debra told *The Tribune*. "This means it's back to square one in preparing for next year."

Debra faces a similar challenge. "We've started already," she concluded.



Small text at the bottom of the sewing machine image, likely a photo credit or additional information.

LYNN MACKENZIE

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