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Yard sale turns Claremont into bargain bonanza headquarters

By BRUCE STAPLEY
 The sixth annual Claremont Yard Sale hit the streets Saturday, with 31 vendors setting up shop. Shoppers, who came from as far as Toronto for the well-publicized event, were treated to some bargains, some unusual items, and free water from Rick Card's bottomless well on Brock Rd. to help them cope in the sweltering heat.

The sale sees residents get together to attract people from near and far.

"Each participant puts in five dollars, and we do a publicity blitz at the shopping centres with

flyers," says co-organizer Debbie Drake. "Everybody saves their stuff all year for the sale," she continues.

The event is usually held in June, but the Claremont Sesquicentennial celebrations caused it to be delayed this year.

And despite the intense heat, the turnout was impressive. Bargain hunters combed the streets of the village, checking out everything from catcher's mitts to George Johnson's 1949 Chev.

There was a pulpit from a local church, said by vendor Lindsay Graham to date back to the 1890s.

The United Church Women's Institute made an elaborate quilt, which was on display on an old cart in front of Patti-Lynn Interiors on Brock Rd.

The focal point of Lynn Blanchard's display was a 19th-century wagon, adorned with flowers. The Wellington St. residents indicated she'd be willing to part with it "if the price was right."

Other unusual items included John McArthur's shaving mirror and stand, as well as his antique sofa from Vermont. Auctioneers combed the sale for items to peddle at their own outlets lingered

over this display a little longer than others.

There was a pine change table on Wellington Street, antique glassware on Brock Road, and entire kitchen cabinet and antique clothing in another location.

But most visitors just looked longingly at Peter Bigalke's snow sleigh that sat in front of his Victorian century home on Brock Rd., along with his neighbor's snowshoes. Most folks would have welcomed a flurry or two.

Co-organizer Lauri Towata-Roy said the secret of the giant yard sale's success was in the organization.

"All the people have to do is pick up a map showing the location of the vendors, and they are on their way," she claimed.

"We put a blitz on Stouffville, Uxbridge and Pickering with flyers on windshields," she noted. "And we get a lot of repeat customers."

Merchants on both Brock Rd. and Central St. also participated, setting their wares set up in front of their stores.

"The businesses welcome it," said Ms. Towata-Roy. "They get involved, and help promote it with ads."

And in the end, the event was just one more feather in the 150-year-old village's cap. Their "endless summer" just seems to keep getting better.



Serious bargain hunters ignored the weekend heat for a few dollar deals at the sixth annual Claremont Yard Sale. Shoppers could get everything from an old snow sled displayed by Peter Bigalke (top right photo) to the open-air concept 1949 Chevrolet being offered for sale by George Johnson (bottom right).

Antiques figured largely in the sale, including an 1890 church pulpit being considered by Lindsay Graham (above left) or this shaving mirror and washstand displayed by John McArthur. — Chris Garbutt



Rural royalty

Dairy Princess prepares for a second year of fun

By JIM THOMAS
 Nineteen-year-old Michelle Down is everything Durham Region could wish for in a Dairy Princess. She holds a deep appreciation of country living.

She's had a long association with 4-H. She enjoys speaking to audiences of all ages. She's had a year's experience in the position. She stresses the importance of

good education. All these things add up to an excellent choice. The competition was held Friday at the farm of Les and Ted Smith and Jim Ferguson near Sunderland. Close to 400 people attended.

Michelle, a student in Honors Business Administration at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, admits she gave defence of her title considerable thought.

"I didn't want the second year to be anything less than the first," she explains. She was encouraged to give it another whirl by Sharon (Wilson) Simmonds, a former dairy princess and close friend.

"It's an excellent program," she says.

Born on the family farm at R.R. 1, Sunderland, Michelle is the youngest in the family of Grant and Helen Down. Heather, her oldest sister, is a teacher on the staff of Sunderland Public School.

Next in line is Allison, an honors sociology student at Queen's University in Kingston. A brother, Steven, will be attending teachers' college at McGill University, Montreal. He's currently on a world tour, expected to arrive home some time next month.

A graduate through the ranks of 4-H, Michelle speaks highly of the program.

"I've certainly benefited by it," she says. She's been associated with both the Homemaking Course and the Calf Club, participating in many events at Sunderland Fair.

Prior to admission to college, Michelle attended Brock High School in Cannington. She received the Students' Council Award in Grade 13.



Nineteen-year-old Michelle Down is entering her second year as Durham Region's Dairy Princess, bringing with it another term of rural responsibilities. A business administration student at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, Michelle is encouraged by friend and former Dairy Princess Sharon (Wilson) Simmonds to defend her title. — Jim Thomas



Generosity is one of Rick Card's better qualities. The Brock Rd. resident offers cold, clear water from his 300-foot well to anyone who cares to indulge. And there have been many takers during the recent dry spell. The well was drilled as part of a federal government program which paid 80 per cent of the cost. — Chris Garbutt

ing the recent dry spell. The well was drilled as part of a federal government program which paid 80 per cent of the cost. — Chris Garbutt

All's well at local well

By BRUCE STAPLEY
 There may be water restrictions in effect, but Claremont's Rick Card has so much water he's giving it away free.

The Brock Rd. resident was offering the water at the giant yard sale in the village Saturday. And there were plenty of takers.

"There used to be a water problem in Claremont," Rick explains. "Most houses had shallow wells, and there was a problem with the septic systems leaking into the wells."

But then the federal government stepped in, offering to pay 80 per cent of the cost of drilling deeper wells for certain village residents: Rick

was one of the benefactors. "This water comes from 300 feet below the ground, and it's cold," he says. "You don't even need a pump. It just keeps coming up by itself."

Rick maintains the pressure is always the same, heat wave or not.

"I'm getting about 15 gallons a minute from this hose," he claims. "And it's pure, clean water, with no pollutants."

"I'm thinking of opening up a brewery," he laughs. He claims there are still a few new wells to be drilled in the village. From the looks of things, there is plenty of water for everybody. He says when the town works

truck comes through Claremont, it will often fill up with water from the well on the corner of Brock Rd. and Central St.

Rick, whose well was drilled two years ago, explains his altruistic approach to the limitless water supply this way: "I figure that since everybody out there helped pay for my well, it's only fair that I let them have a sample of the water that keeps coming up."

And on Saturday when temperatures soared into the 90s, folks walking the streets during the big sale were more than happy to taste the fruits of their tax dollars.