

Demo derby queen 'charges' ahead



Demolition derby enthusiast Alice Perry enjoys being in the thick of things during competitions. She gave it her best shot during the recent Markham Fair. Alice is seen here with popular television character ALF, alias Lee Spence. Lee is a close friend of Alice's and attends events with her.

BY KATE GILDERDALE
Brown Hill's Alice Perry is somewhat of a lone star. As such, she shone at last Thursday night's Demolition Derby at Markham Fair. It attracted large crowds and an excellent turnout of competitors, including Alice.

As the lone woman competing in the first event, she's a true devotee of a sport which resembles a kind of grown-up dodgems.

"The first couple of times I did it, I was really scared," she admitted. "After that I got right into it. This is about my seventh outing this year."

She first tried her luck in 1984 and since then has competed in

Uxbridge, Sutton, Beaverton, Newmarket and Markham, coming second at an event in Sunderland.

"The car I was using in Uxbridge I was also able to use in Sunderland, but I was losing my seat which started collapsing during the derby," she grinned.

Under the name "Comedy Club," chosen with her two children in mind, Alice usually travels with girlfriend Lee Spence, who dresses up for each event as well-known television character ALF.

Alice said it takes about two weeks to prepare a car, and she will go through about seven cars in a year.

"I got two of my cars for \$125, so it's not as bad as it sounds," she pointed out.

Her sponsor, Ray's Towing in Sutton, helps to defray the costs of competing and provides transport for her to and from events, as well as towing back what's left of her latest chariot.

Alice's enthusiasm increases with every event. "I used to say I couldn't do it," she acknowledged. "But after a couple of hits you really start to get into it. It's a great feeling and I really enjoy it."

If Thursday's crowd is any indication, she'll have plenty of opportunities to go on competing for as long as she feels inclined.

Talent lit up the Fair

By KATE GILDERDALE
Friday night's teen talent contest at Markham Fair attracted 24 entries, all put together with class and professionalism, leaving the judges with the tough task of selecting a winner.

There were two award categories: vocal and dance. Three prizes were awarded in each.

Dance was the biggest category, with representatives from several local dance schools presenting an evening of pure entertainment for the audience.

"This isn't just a talent contest, it's a show," said presenter Cathy Lee.

Costumes were imaginative, ranging from the crisp whites and blues of the Kick Up a Fuss Cloggers to the exotic black and gold bodysuits featured in a jazz number called 'Gold Rush.'

Thirteen year-old Vicki Galati from Maxine's School of Dance in Markham was the ecstatic first prize winner.

The second prize went to six students from Laurie Thacker's School of Dance in Markham, who performed a rousing jazz version of 'Hooked on Can Can.'

Third place went to Karen Dolan, 16, who performed a jazz solo to the number 'Rhythm is Gonna Get You.'

In the vocal section, 18-year-old Heidi Meisner, of Greenbank, took first place with a powerful country number called 'Crazy.'

Second was Markham's Anna Ferrari, 17, singing 'Can't Fight The Feeling,' while rock group Seldom Scene, of Aurora, took third place honors with an original song called 'Mirror Mirror.'

The prizes in each category were as follows: first-\$100; second-\$50 and third-\$25.

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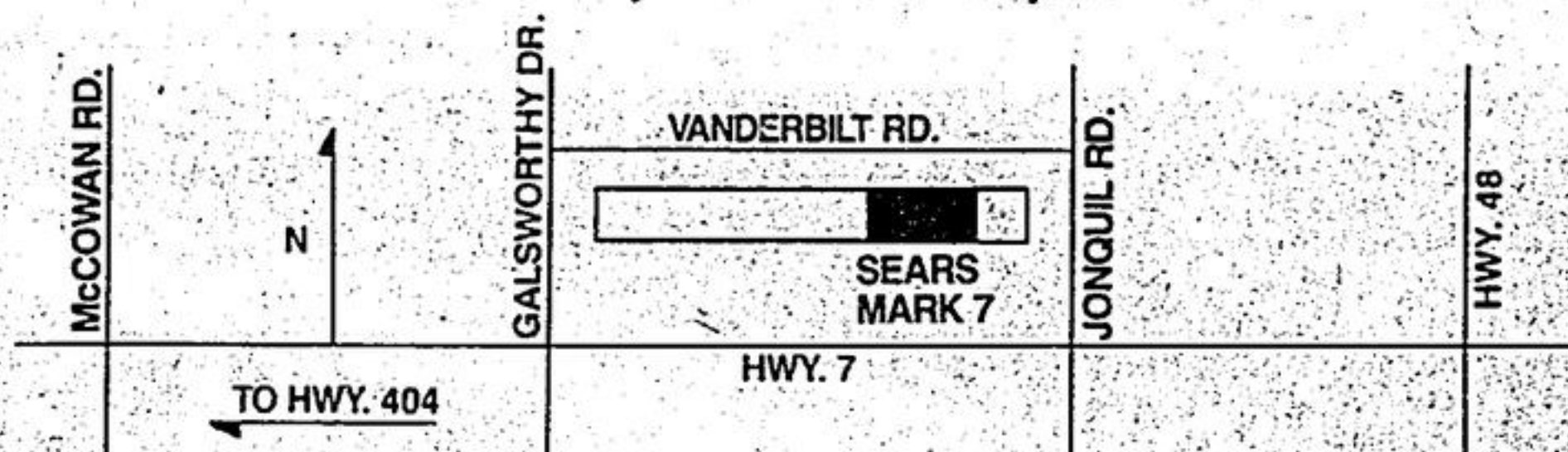
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