

Search soon to begin for new Miss Markham Fair

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

The 1992 Miss Markham Fair will give up her crown this fall, but she looks back proudly on her year representing the famous event.

Sarah Jane Meharg's latest appearance on behalf of the fair was prior to the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition when she competed for the honor of opening the CNE last Wednesday.

Meharg said making it as one of the seven semifinalists of the competition was one of the high points of her year as fair ambassador, although she calls her tenure a real learning experience that anyone would benefit from.

"Miss Markham Fair is not just a pageant to enter. It builds speaking skills and good public relations," said the 21-year-old Markham resident who made a speech to 4,000 people at the CNE competition.

Her topic focused on visualizing goals and used the farmer as an example of a person who can see the end result of his or her labor.

As the four-day contest progressed, Meharg said she discovered her goal of promoting herself changed to spotlighting Markham Fair.

"When I went into the competition I was thinking about myself, but after a couple of days I realized I wanted to represent my fair."

The Markham native said she's never missed a year of the fair which "has something for everyone."

The University of Guelph student, in her fourth year of landscape architecture, said her interest in farming, the land and especially her love of the fair, makes her an ideal spokesperson for the

event, and she said hopefully many people, especially from the multicultural community, will enter the 1993 pageant.

Stouffville residents are encouraged to enter the pageant.

With her term almost over,

and a new Miss Markham Fair to be chosen at the start of October, Meharg wants to keep in touch with the Markham Fair Board, supporting the new ambassadors and continuing to boost the annual event.



PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Sarah Jane Meharg, Miss Markham Fair for 1992, was a semifinalist at this week's competition at the CNE.

Rouge park should include federal lands

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

Some 5,000 acres of federal land should be added to the Rouge park plans instead of being let go at "fire-sale" prices, say Rouge Valley allies.

The federal government is selling off a number of lots on the outskirts of federally-owned land expropriated more than 20 years ago and destined to become an international airport.

Some of this land lies in southeast Stouffville and in the northeast corner of Markham.

Save the Rouge Valley System is proposing these excess plots of land be included in the plans for the Rouge Valley Park, an 11,500-acre preserve announced by the province that is supported by the promise of a \$10 million federal grant.

"We can't just save a piece here and a piece there and hope that they add up to a healthy environment," said SRVS vice-chair Glenn De Baeremaeker.

SRVS wants a forest planted on the 5,000 acres, land contained in the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Trees would help protect rivers from pollution and link the watersheds of three local rivers, providing a barrier-free migration path for wildlife.

Calendar

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MARKHAM/STOUFFVILLE HOSPICE needs volunteers for companionship, assistance with meals, transportation and errands, light bedside care, and fundraising. Training sessions for those willing to donate a few hours each week to help families who are facing life-threatening situations start next month.

If you can help call Lindsey for an application form at 472-5014. If you want information call Lois Holder at 640-1382 evenings and weekends.

BIG BROTHERS OF YORK needs help for September and October roster. For information call Maddy at 727-1251 or 1-800-363-9558.

PRE-REGISTRATION

PRE-REGISTER NOW FOR MENOPAUSE workshops sponsored by York Region Public Health Department featuring five continuous workshops exploring the changes and adjustments related to menopause on Sept. 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4, 18 from 6:45-9 p.m. at Markham Community Library, 6031 Hwy 7, Markham. Free of charge. To pre-register call Sheila McDowell before Sept. 8 at 940-1333 or 1-800-461-2135.

PRE-SCHOOL CLASS registrations at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library are now being accepted for its pre-school story hour for \$30 and musical discoveries program for \$40 which begin in mid-September. Children must be three to five years old when classes start. Call 640-2395 for information.

SATURDAY, AUG. 28

ANNUAL BEEF AND CORN Roast and dance hosted by the Goodwood Lions Club at the Goodwood Community Centre, North Park, Goodwood for community projects featuring a beer garden from noon-8 p.m. and a dance from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the community centre.

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