

Entrepreneurs exhibit wares

BY PAM CHIOTTI
Correspondent

They're new, they're successful and they're looking for you to look for them.

They are new business owners and they've successfully completed the federal government's Self-Employment Assistance Program.

On June 6, more than 70 York Region entrepreneurs will exhibit their wares at Showcase 2000 at Le Parc Conference Centre at Leslie Street and Hwy. 7 in Markham.

This one-day trade show is a sure magnet for manufacturers and other businesses interested in discovering quality small business people.

The show promises to be lively. For starters, the two sisters who authored the wildly successful *Looneyspoons - Low-Fat Food Made Fun!* cookbook will spice up the morning when they divulge

their rags-to-riches story.

As guest speakers, Ontario authors Janet and Greta Podleski will go into detail how they went for broke to get their zany healthy eating guide on store shelves. They'll tell how they quit their jobs, sold their possessions in a garage sale (car and wedding dress included) and went \$80,000 into debt before hitting the jackpot with their best-selling cookbook.

But the meat of their matter will surely inspire other entrepreneurs to hang on to what they believe in. Their *Recipe for Success* presentation (8:30 - 10:30 a.m.) can be attended for free by pre-registering with Job Skills conference co-ordinator Diane Prospero in Keswick at (905) 476-8088.

A variety of businesses will be represented at the show, including interior decorating, web design, massage therapy, digital imaging, playground consultants and bed and breakfast.

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Country decorating show back at fairgrounds

Wildly successful since 1987, the Markham Country Decorating and Collectibles Show & Sale is Canada's original and largest show dedicated to country decorating. Always at the Markham Fairgrounds on McCowan Road, a few minutes north of Hwy. 7, the show runs three times a year, traditionally drawing crowds of 25,000 to 30,000.

Among the more than 90 country artisans displaying their wares at the upcoming show is Judy A. Nelson, a lifetime Newmarket resident.

Nelson is one of those rare women who is more comfortable with saws and routers than with mixing bowls and blenders. "I couldn't wait for my father to build something for me, so I went out and bought a scroll saw," she said.

Earning a living as a country-type artist/carpenter, she runs Dat's All Folks, painting detailed, decorative scenes and designs on just about everything she can make out of wood.

Practical items and bright colours are her trademarks, but if you want something dull and impractical, she'll be happy to custom design for clients.

If tantalizing your tastebuds sounds like a

yummy idea, Henny Zaal-Brown from Aurora will be there selling her scrumptious cookies and fudge (Old English Cookie and Fudge Co).

Mount Albert couple Pat and Bruce Newland will be exhibiting authentic 18th and 19th century Canadiana pine furniture (Fine Pine Reproductions). This is the Newlands' first craft show presentation as they previously sold their pieces privately.

The Markham Country Decorating Show & Sale runs June 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and costs \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and a toonie for children under 12.

WIN A SHOPPING SPREE

You can win a shopping spree and passes to show just by entering our draw. Send your name to the Economist & Sun at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, ON, L3P 1M3, fax to 294-2200 or e-mail to newsroom@econsun.com.

The grand prize is a \$100 shopping spree and two passes to the show. In addition, 10 winners will receive a pair of admission passes.

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Sunday, June 18 is Father's Day and this would be the perfect time to let him know how you feel. Tell us how he plays road hockey with you and

your buddies. Tell us how he reads bedtime stories or makes you special treats. Is your dad always there to talk to?

Mail us your note and pictures by Friday, June 9 to: My Dad is the Greatest, attention: Rick Vanderlinde, news editor, 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, ON, L3P 1M3; fax us at 294-1538 or e-mail us at newsroom@econsun.com

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No purchase necessary. Contest is open to all Canadian Residents. Contest closes June 20, 2000. Winner will be notified by phone following the contest closing date. Winner must have answered skill testing question correctly to win. The odds of winning is dependent on the number of entries received. Employees, representatives and agents of Markham Theatre and Markham Museum and persons living with them are excluded from participating.



Wednesday June 28th

Gates open at 4pm at Markham Museum & Historic Village (Hwy 48 at 16th Avenue)

Ticket sales available at Unionville Festival Sat. June 3rd at Markham Theatre booth in front of the Varley Art Gallery

Ticket Price \$25.00. Call for tickets today! (905) 305-SHOW