

Miss Aylmer Fair Contest

Aylmer & East Elgin Agricultural Society re-instated the Miss Aylmer Fair Contest in 1971 after several years absence from the Fair. Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute did not participate until 1973. Following is the list of contestants:

- 1973: Suzanne Willsey, R.R.1, Belmont, NOL 1B0
Parents: Clarence & Edna Willsey
- 1974: Shelley Page, R.R.1, Belmont, NOL 1B0.....2nd Runner-up
Parents: Harold & Freda Page
- 1975: Marianne DeKraker, R.R.2, Springfield, NOL 2J0...2nd Runner-up
Parents: Bob & Arne DeKraker
- 1976: Shelley Page, R.R.1, Belmont, NOL 1B0
Parents: Harold & Freda Page
- 1977: Bonnie Shackelton, R.R.1, Belmont, NOL 1B0.....WINNER*
Parents: Bill & Norma Shackelton
- 1978: no one
- 1979: Mary Pettit, R.R.2, Springfield, NOL 2J0
Parents: Ron & Marilyn Pettit
- 1980: no one
- 1981: no one
- 1982: Karen Van Rooijen, R.R.2, Springfield, NOL 2J0..2nd Runner-up
Parents: Tony & Agnes Van Rooijen
- 1983: no one
- 1984: Rosemary VanBommel, R.R.1, Belmont, NOL 1B0
Parents: Bill & Mary VanBommel
- 1985: no one
- 1986: no one
- 1987: Romana Snyders, R.R.1, Belmont, NOL 1B0
Parents: Joe & Jean Snyders
- 1988: Stephanie Jenkins, R.R.1, Belmont, NOL 1B0.....WINNER*
Parents: Ernest & Madeleine Jenkins
- 1989: Julie White, R.R.8, St.Thomas, N5P 3T3
Parents: John & Bea White

Miss Aylmer Fair Contest

(continued)

1990: Shelbi Davis, R.R.1, Belmont, NOL 1B0

Parents: Jim & Joan Davis

1991: Sarah Faulds, R.R.2, Springfield, NOL 2J0.....1st Runner-up

Parents: Paul & Shirley Faulds

1992: no one

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Bonnie Shackelton was sponsored by Kingsmill-Mapleton W.I.



LUCKY BUTTONS — Buttons, the Clown, was the lucky fellow who got a squeeze from the 1977 Miss Aylmer Fair Queen, Bonnie Shackelton, Friday, at the Fair. Bonnie, 18, is from RR 1, Belmont. Looking on through a thatch of hair is Rocco the Wonderhorse. (Photo by Fred Youngs).

Aylmer Fair's queen does her best

AYLMER (Staff) — It should be nothing new for Bonnie Shackelton, but being chosen the 1977 Miss Aylmer Fair Queen is a real thrill.

"I'm so excited," Bonnie, 18, said Friday. "It's a challenge. You're put into all these different roles, and you have to do your best, that's all you can do."

"Even in a cattle barn where I'm getting my feet dirty; I love it; it's priceless."

Bonnie has a long string of accomplishments. She was chosen the 1975 Miss Southwestern Ontario Farm Show Queen; she was 1976 Aylmer

Rotary Debutante, and she won the United Nations Pilgrimage Speaking Contest last year. That took her on a trip through Canada and the United States which included a five-day stop in New York at the United Nations.

Being the Aylmer Fair Queen shouldn't be anything special for Miss Shackelton. But it is. She exudes enthusiasm when she talks about her duties at the fair.

She admitted that she feels tired at the end of the day, but as long as she is on her feet, she doesn't feel the fatigue setting in. It is on her way back to her

parents' RR 1, Belmont farm that she feels the wear and tear of the day.

Miss Shackelton said that she and the other eight contestants became "a close-knit little family" before the contest.

She knew all the girls from going to school with them, but Bonnie said she learned a lot more about each girl during the contest.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Shackelton, were both present when she was crowned Wednesday night. They were "overjoyed" at her being chosen.

Bonnie has visited the Ayl-

mer Fair for many years. This year, she decided she wanted to try to become a part of it by entering the queen contest.

The most difficult part was writing an autobiography, Bonnie said. "It's difficult to do it without sounding boastful or uninteresting. It's hard to talk about things in respect to yourself."

The fair has been a learning experience for Bonnie. When it's all over, she will have fond memories, she said.

"You take something home with you," said Bonnie. "You take it in your heart."

A.V.R.



MISS AYLMER FAIR FINALISTS — Enjoying a ride on the ferris wheel Wednesday was 1982 Miss Aylmer Fair Dita Stanat, sandwiched between second runner-up Karen Van Rooijen, left, and first runner-up Chris Lindsay. Fifteen entered the contest. — (T-J Aylmer Bureau Photo).

Miss Aylmer Fair crowned as 8,500 crowd into grounds

Times-Journal
Aug. 19/82

By CLYDE WARRINGTON
T-J Staff Reporter

AYLMER — Aylmer Fair organizers were lucky with the weather Wednesday, drawing an open day crowd of 8,500.

But if it was luck that made yesterday's events prove so popular, it has been good management, courageous commercialism and the colorful agri-food industry that has allowed the fair to flourish for its 136th year, Elgin MP John Wise said as he officially declared the fair open.

"It's a colorful, tangible showcase of the agri-food industry," he said, "and an extremely important chance for the rural to meet the urban community."

The MP's comments preceded the highlight of the opening ceremony, the crowning of the 1982 Miss Aylmer Fair. Dita Stanat, an East Elgin Secondary School student representing the Aylmer Rotary Club, became the Rotary's first entry to capture the crown, which entitles her to compete in the Queen of the Fairs contest in Toronto next summer.

Sharing the limelight with Miss Stanat were the first and second runners-up in the contest

— which attracted a record 15 entries — Chris Lindsay, of the Aylmer Opti-Mrs., and second runner-up Karen Van Rooijen, representing the Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute.

A crowd of more than 600 packed the grandstand to witness the crowning.

MARK OCCASION

Joining fair organizers on the podium to mark the occasion were Elgin MPP Ron McNeil, Elgin Warden Larry Shaw, Aylmer Mayor Forrest Moore, St. Thomas Mayor Doug Tarry, Springfield Reeve Jack Hodgson and Malahide Reeve Bill Caverly.

The popular stunt team, the Trans Canada Hell Drivers, entertained a large grandstand crowd for about two hours following the evening ceremonies.

Open day '82 was stark contrast to last year's when heavy rain pelted the fairgrounds for several days before the opening, turning the midway into a quagmire.

Should it rain between now and the fair's conclusion Saturday, however, organizers expect a different story, having recently installed drainage tile in the areas worst affected last year.

Karen Van Rooijen was sponsored by Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute.

She was 2nd runner-up. Congratulations Karen.

J.H.

d.v.R.

1987

**Kingsmill Mapleton
Women's Institute**

would like to thank

Ramona Snyders

*for her participation
in the Aylmer
Queen of the Fair Contest*



J. H.
A.V.R.

1988

Stephanie Jenkins
sponsored by Kingsmill-Mapleton
Women's Institute and winner of
MISS AYLME FAIR 1988.

CONGRATULATIONS STEPHANIE!



J.A.

1990

*Our Sincere
Appreciation To*

**Shelbi
Davis**

*for her participation in
the Aylmer Queen of
the Fair Contest*

**Kingsmill-
Mapleton W.I.**



15c

J. B.

A.V.A.

1991

Cathy Penhale, Aylmer Fair Queen, was crowned during the fair's opening night by outgoing queen Michelle Hoogheim. On the left is Sheila Batty, second runner-up, and on the right is Sarah Faulds, first runner-up.

Sarah Faulds is first runner-up in 1991 Aylmer Fair Contest. Congratulations Sarah! She was sponsored by Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute.

J.A.
M.I.

The information contained in this Tweedsmuir History Volume records the life and work of the local people, organizations and memorable events.

In 1985 Mrs. Eleanor Stover succeeded Mrs. Lenora Free as Curator. The following four years she worked alone, compiling and typing the local History.

The next year, 1989-1990, the History books were stored at the home of the Curator, Mrs. Nell Bouthoorn. The following year 1990-1991, the History books were transferred to Mrs. Beatrice Fuller, Curator, for storage. Recording the local History commenced when Mrs. Eleanor Stover became Curator again. She continued for three years, 1991-1994. It was agreed by the Women's Institute members in 1991 that each member would be responsible for collecting relevant material for a specific section in the History Book.

Mrs. Janet Hiepleh became Tweedsmuir History Curator April 7th, 1994. She conducted a thorough review of the History books and discovered the pages were deteriorating around the ring area. Also, the original onion skin placed in Volume 1 and Volume 1A had not been re-inserted between the pages after the Volumes were microfilmed in July 1973. Not wishing to see these valuable History books deteriorate further she decided to correct the problem. Together with Mrs. Helen Widner, Assistant Curator, they worked tirelessly for nearly three years until the thirteen Original Volumes and Photo-copies were restored. During the above three year period, Mrs. Janet Hiepleh was researching and typing, particularly Women's Institute activities.

In 1997 the task of preparing the pages for Volume 4 began. Mrs. Agnes Van Rooijen assisted the Curator. Many days were devoted to cutting, pasting, placing pages in the correct section and numbering pages. Photo-copies of each page were made in order to have two extra books on hand. The pages (original and photo-copied) were inserted in protective page holders made of non-glare polypropylene. Joyce Zavitz was able to assist on a few occasions.

J.H.

The reader will notice two sets of initials at the bottom of each page. One initial is that of the person submitting the article, and the other is the Curator's. The following initials identify the person: EJS - Eleanor Stover; AVR - Agnes VanRooijen; MJZ - Joyce Zavitz; GM - Grace Manning; SL - Shirley Lunn; MJ - Madeleine Jenkins; JH - Janet Hiepleh. The coloured title pages were designed by: TH - Trevor Hiepleh.

A sincere "thank you" to the individuals who assisted me in so many ways. Volume 4 has been produced to reflect the development of the local community in the latter part of the twentieth century.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Curator for Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History.

For Home and Country

Janet Hiepleh

Janet Hiepleh

J.H.