

5,000 at South Mountain

Fair crowds set record, move to Class B a success

SOUTH MOUNTAIN — Record breaking crowds, increased prize money and more exhibits combined to make last weekend's South Mountain Fair an overwhelming success, according to Mountain Township Agricultural Society president Richard Gilmer.

The move up to Class B status was a success, Mr. Gilmer said after the turnstiles had stopped clicking through the record setting crowd.

The move up a class allowed the fairboard to increase prize money in Agriculture Canada sanctioned classes and makes more grant money available for improving and maintaining the fairgrounds.

More than 5,000 visited the fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday, taking in the agricultural exhibits, midway, horse races, entertainment and dance.

"We're quite happy with the results. There are a few things that have to be ironed out, but overall I think the fair was a success," Mr. Gilmer said.

The official opening Saturday afternoon was a more elaborate affair to mark the move up to Class B status and the opening of the new livestock building and betting booth.

SD&G MLA Osie Villeneuve and Stormont-Dundas MP Ed Lumley took part in the ceremonies along with past presidents of the agricultural society whose terms date back to 1946.

On the stage for the opening ceremony were past presidents Arnold Gilroy, who served in 1946-47, Dave Berry, Mac Graham,

Harry Williams, Arnold Shaver, Hugh Blaine, Harold McMenomy, Lloyd Cameron, Dwight Gilmer, Bob Weagant, Lynn Boyd and Bill Shaver. On the grounds but not taking part in the ceremony were past presidents Nelson Scharf and Phil Watson.

Mr. Villeneuve congratulated the fairboard for attaining Class B status, saying that its benefits were already being felt, especially with the new cattle barn which provides stabling facilities for the "valuable animals shown at fairs these days".

Mr. Lumley said fairs like the one in South Mountain provide an ideal meeting ground for people of urban and rural backgrounds. "This is my family's favorite time of the year," the MP said.

In the livestock classes — the greatest beneficiaries of the increases in prize money — 120 head were shown in the Dundas County Holstein Show with Terrdale Holsteins of Brinston showing the Grand Champion of Show, Terrdale Elaine, and Allison Fawcett of Winchester taking the Reserve with Fawcett's Shillelagh. Terrdale also captured the Breeder and Exhibitor rosettes in a show that took nearly five hours to complete.

Dundas Holstein Club secretary Tom Clapp noted after the show that prize winners donated 95 per cent of their winnings back to the fairboard to help pay for the new cattle building on the east side of the race track infield.

Golden Collen Carol, owned by Don Rose, Mountain carried off her second consecutive

Ayrshire Show Grand Championship Saturday afternoon with Bonnie Brae Bunty, owned by Barbara Merkley, Morewood, taking the Reserve.

Bettors flocked to the parimutuel windows in the new booth for Saturday afternoon's eight-heat racing card, wagering a total of \$5,506. The fastest time of the afternoon was a 2:10 mile by Dolly Hamilton, owned by Don and George Guy and driven by Ron McPhee.

In Sunday's beef show, Charbrook Farms of Cobourg showed the Grand and Reserve Champion Herefords and Igor Pancirov of South Mountain showed the Grand Champion Simmental. High Cross Farms of Ashton took the Simmental Reserve.

Hunter Down Farm of Smiths Falls swept the ram and ewe Grand Championships for Suffolks in Sunday's sheep show. Century Lane took the Dorset ewe Grand Championship and R&N Mathew took the Dorset ram Grand rosette.

Ruth Shaver, flower division director, reported a 10-per-cent increase in entries in this year's show and said all entries were of an especially high calibre.

Sandra Weagant, a handicrafts director, also reported a very high quality of exhibits in her division in the exhibition hall.

Mr. Gilmer said planning has already started on next year's fair. The cattle exhibition area will be levelled off this fall and the Carlsberg championship team and wagon have already been booked for the 1983 fair.



Lorne Henderson, left, of Terrdale Holsteins, Brinston, showed the Grand Champion in the Dundas County Holstein Show. Terrdale Elaine was the Grand and

best-uddered cow in the show while Fawcett's Shillelagh, owned by Allison Fawcett and here led by Hugh Fawcett, was the Reserve Grand champion.



first-place display of Heather Rose, Mountain, in the exhibition hall at South Mountain Fair

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