JANUARY 6 - 14, 1996

MATILDA WINTER CARNIVAL

Carnival Highlights

Saturday January 6
The opening ceremonies and 21st annual Matilda Winter Carnival Queen Pageant takes the stage at Matilda Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday January 7
Pancake Brunch and Face Painting at Matilda Hall from 10:30 to 1:30. And games too!

Monday January 8
Line Dancing and Square Dancing at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday January 9
Amateur Talent Night begins at 7:00 pm. Don't miss it!

Wednesday January 10
Afternoon tea and fashion show from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Thursday January 11
BINGO at 7:00 pm with a $1000 JACKPOT. Doors open at 6:00 pm.

Friday January 12
Theatre of Soul performs for the kids. Preteen dance from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Teen dance from 9:00 to 12:00 pm.

Saturday January 13
Car and snowmobile rallies with afternoon and evening full of live entertainment. Stay for the dinner and then dance the night away with "Jim Wicks and Westburg Union."

Sunday January 14
Sleigh rides and ecumenical service.

Turn to page 4 for a full listing of Winter Carnival events

1996 Matilda Carnival Queen Pageant Jan. 6

With the arrival of the 21st annual Matilda Winter Carnival, comes the arrival of the Carnival Queen Pageant at Matilda Hall.

The pageant is set to go on Saturday, Jan. 6, 1996 starting at 7:00 p.m., and will kick-off the carnival fun!

According to committee chairperson Linda Thompson, the contest will be run a little differently this year. As had been done several years ago, the contestants will represent a local business.

"This will make it nicer for the girls," she says. "Everyone will be a big part of the pageant (not just the winners)."

This year's contestants include (as of Dec. 29, 1995): Tracy Lewis sponsored by Plante Farm Equipment Ltd.; Amy Casselman sponsored by Frank Ault Excavating; Sherri Shaver sponsored by Sears/The Nook; Vicki Zandbergen sponsored by Fred's Farm Supplies; Joanne Fawcett sponsored by C&L Feeds; Angie Thompson sponsored by Gibson Electric; Stacey Lewis sponsored by Cooper Sport Trophy; and Leslie McDonnell sponsored by Harbers Flame Centre.

Each young woman will be given a sash to wear, and the winner will have a special sash.

"They all deserve the recognition and a keepsake," Thompson says.

Contestants have to be between the ages of 15 and 18, and must be a resident of Matilda Township. They will each have to answer one of 10 questions during the pageant, and will wear both casual and semi-formal attire, as they walk down the runway.

Before the pageant, they will each be interviewed individually by the judges. Judges will look for various qualities when looking at each contestant. They will look for: versatility, sincerity, originality, credibility, confidence, enthusiasm, tone of voice, annunciation, grammar, attire, concern for others, and many other characteristics.

This year's judges include: Prescott resident Pat Harper, a veteran contest judge; local MPP Noble Villeneuve; and Brockville Mayor John Doran.

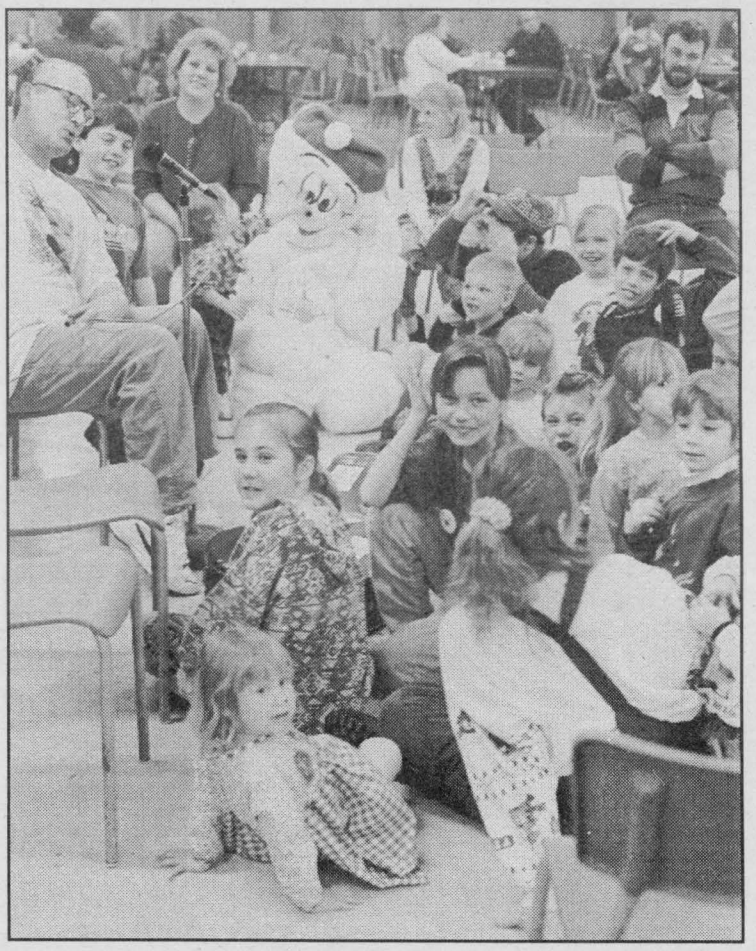
Dave Holmes, evening radio personality with 96.3 Country FM Kingston, will be the pageant's emcee. He has been in the radio business for many years. His experience has taken him from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Brockville and now to Kingston.

The 1995 Matilda Carnival Queen Jo-Anne Larocque will be on hand to crown the new winners, and will take her final walk down the runway.

Betty Casselman will provide musical entertainment throughout the evening, as will one of her students Bradley Wylie. Billy Sypes will once again play his accordion, a tradition which he began 21 years ago.

Reuben Geleynse will also be singing throughout the pageant. And Andrew Thompson will serenade the newly-crowned queen as she walks the runway.

For more information please call Linda Thompson at 652-2486 or Joy Harbers at 535-2301. Once again, this Carnival kick-off promises to be a huge success!



Fun entertainment

Entertainer Paddy Stewart had everyone laughing and participating in fun games at the Matilda Carnival pancake brunch in 1995. Everyone can look forward to Sunday's brunch this year, as Paddy comes back to entertain! *Chieftain photo by R. van Noppen*

Amateur night is ready to take place Tuesday, Jan. 9

A successfully huge crowd can always be found at the annual amateur night contest at Matilda Hall.

Singing, dancing, piano, violin, there is always something for everyone and this year marks the addition of karaoke!!!

Amateur night has long been a favourite of carnivalites as they turn up to see certain traditions they have come to expect, and also look for up and coming talent that springs forth from their Township.

Mark Tuesday, January 9th, 1996 on your calendar.

The amateur contest is open to all age groups and all you need to do is show up at 7 pm and register yourself or your group.

"This year everyone will be a winner," said Linda Thompson. "I give the participants a lot of credit and I think everyone should get a prize."

This year's amateur talent contest could also feature a showdown between the area's two newspapers. That's right people, The Chieftain and The Leader could possibly be facing off in a duel beyond your imagination!

No Matilda Citizen of the Year Award in 1996

They have many in the community that are deserving of the award, yet no one wants to accept.

Matilda Council began bestowing their citizen of the year award in 1982, and this year on the 15th anniversary of the award, no one will be receiving.

"It's been really hard to find somebody to accept," said Matilda recreation member and Councillor Bev Sabourin.

Mrs. Sabourin pointed out that there are many deserving people in the community, "but when you call they tell you they won't accept and that there are others who are more deserving."

Matilda has struggled with the decision on whether or not to continue with the award and this year it was decided to put it on hold.

Recreation decided to put it on hiatus for a year and when they approached council, they agreed.

Clerk Bill Horner told The Chieftain that he personally had no problem with the award, but felt it might be received better if there was a name change.

"I'd like to see them call it an outstanding citizen award," said Mr. Horner.

His argument being, that people who have contributed to the betterment of the township for years could be classified to accept an award of this type.

Because of the name, citizen of the year, some people who have been approached feel that they aren't deserving because they may not have done anything spectacular in that specific year.

By calling it an outstanding citizen award, the committee could develop certain criteria that could be followed on a yearly basis. That criteria could then be used to make nomination and those nominated would be judged accordingly on the basis of compliance to the nomination criteria.

Since its inception in 1982, there have only been two years

Please turn to page 7

Township of Matilda

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Final day of winter carnival promises lots of fun for all

The week-long Matilda Carnival will end with a bang on Sunday, Jan. 14!



Carnival tradition

Billy Sypes has played his accordion at every Matilda Winter Carnival since 1976. Look for Billy at the amateur talent night and at the pageant as he plays during his 20 such performance.

Dancing the night away

Come on out to the Matilda Winter Carnival's line dancing - square dancing night on Monday January 8th, 1996. The evening will begin at 7:00.

Come on out and try your feet at line dancing with Gwen Bosma and her line dancers from Hainsville. If square dancing is more to your liking, try square dancing with Harold Moore from Morrisburg.

Other dancing organizations are welcome.

There will be a donation box at the door for a free will offering.

Following Saturday's snowmobile rally and dance, Sunday's activities will be a welcome way to spend the day.

Starting at 1 p.m., until 3:30 p.m., families and local residents can take part in the family sleigh ride and weiner roast at Ron Smail's farm, east of Brinston. Signs will be posted to direct carnival participants.

Ron Smail has once again graciously offered the use of his land and team of horses that will draw the sleigh. A bonfire and weiner roast will be a welcome treat as part of the festivities.

Weather permitting, this event will bring families throughout the area together to enjoy a perfect winter afternoon.

The final carnival event runs Sunday evening, starting at 7 p.m. There will be a hymn sing and ecumenical church service at Matilda Hall, sponsored by Matilda Helping Hands.

Freewill donations will be accepted at all carnival events! Refreshments will also be served at each event. Once again the 21st Matilda Winter Carnival looks like it will be an exciting and successful time.

Carnival organizers are encouraging everyone to come out and enjoy lots of events for the whole family, during this special carnival week!

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Pageant queens

Jo-Anne Larocque was named the 20th Matilda Carnival Queen. Tracy Lewis (left) was chosen as runner-up to the queen. Sherri Shaver was chosen Miss Congeniality 1995. The pageant judges were sports reporter Nick Gardiner, Mountain Township Reeve Estella Rose and former Matilda Township Reeve George Cooper.

Chieftain photo by R. van Noppen

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Annual Car and Snowmobile Rally January 13th

The Matilda Winter Carnival is here and it is sure to be another huge success.

The Annual Dr. Tom Maxwell Car/Snowmobile Rally will take place on Saturday, January 13, 1996. The car and snowmobile rally runs the second weekend of the carnival and has been dedicated to the memory of Dr. Tom Maxwell.

Dr. Maxwell was an active member of the amateur radio operators' club which helped look after the check points along the route. A dedicated community-minded individual, his memory will live on.

Registration for the event kicks off at 11 am and will continue until 1 pm. Plan to make a day of this event because it will be one you and your friends won't want to miss!

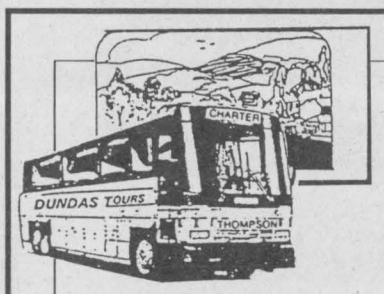
Last year's 20th Anniversary Rally was one of the best ever with over 200 people participating in 96 cars. Due to the loss of the snow, the snowmobile rally had to be cancelled, but the car rally more than made up for this.

The afternoon dinner with entertainment saw 200 people sit down to eat and this year organizers are hoping to exceed that number.

This year Jim Wicks and Westburg Union will be entertaining in the afternoon and evening and tickets for the events of the day will go on sale during registration and continue into the dance.

The cost is $15 per person for the three events (rally, supper and dance). The rally alone cost $3 per person, supper is $7 per person ($3 ages 6 to 12 and free age 5 and under) and the dance is $5 per person.

There will be a great many door prizes and spot dances during the event. Rally prizes will be given out at 9:30 p.m.



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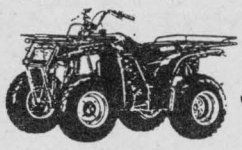

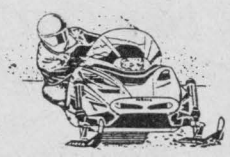

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Carnival fun...

The Matilda Winter Carnival is an absolutely great time for all. In fact, it has been such a huge success that attendance numbers have risen steadily in the last few years. Pictured above these young ladies enjoy singing in the kitchen.

Calendar of events

Saturday, January 6
7:30 p.m.
- Opening of the 1996 Matilda Winter Carnival
- Winter Carnival Queen Pageant

Sunday, January 7
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Pancake Brunch & Face Painting
- Games at Brinston Park

Monday, January 8
7:30 p.m.
- Country Entertainment
Gwen Bosma, Line Dancing - Harold Moore, Square Dancing

Tuesday, January 9
7:00 p.m.
- Amateur Talent Night
Karaoke Will Be There!!

Wednesday, January 10
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show

Thursday, January 11
7:00 p.m.
- Bingo - $1,000 JACKPOT - Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 12
6:00 - 8:30 p.m. - Pre-teen Dance
Admission
9:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Teen Dance
Admission
Music by "Theatre of Soul"

Saturday, January 13
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
"Dr. Tom Maxwell Memorial Car & Snowmobile Rally"
Supper, entertainment and dance
11:00 - 1:00 - Registration Car/Snowmobile Rally
4:00 - 6:00 - Supper
8:00 - 1:00 - Entertainment for afternoon & dance by "Jim Wicks & Westburg Union"
(Rally/supper/dance - $12/person)
(Rally only - $3/person) (Dance only - $5/person)
(Supper only - $7/person; $3/6 - 12 yrs.; Free/5 and under)

Sunday, January 14
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
- Family Sleigh Ride and Weiner Roast
(Ron Smail's farm - east of Brinston - watch for signs)
7:00 p.m. Hymn Sing/Ecumenical Church Service
(Sponsored by Matilda Helping Hands)

FREEWILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED
Refreshments served at ALL events

Come out & enjoy lots of events for the whole family!!!

Looking back at last year's Carnival Queen Pageant

As Matilda Carnival celebrated its 20th anniversary last January, judges chose Jo-Anne Larocque as the 1995 Carnival Queen.

She was chosen out of seven contestants after several hours of judging by three local, well-known residents - Brockville Recorder and Times sports reporter Nick Gardiner, Mountain Township Reeve Estella Rose and former Matilda Township Reeve George Cooper.

Larocque, 18, was completing her OAC year at Seaway District High School last January when she decided to take part in this annual event. She had been encouraged to enter the pageant by friends and family. She had thought about running other years but had always been "too chicken." Her decision to become a contestant last year seems to have been a wise choice.

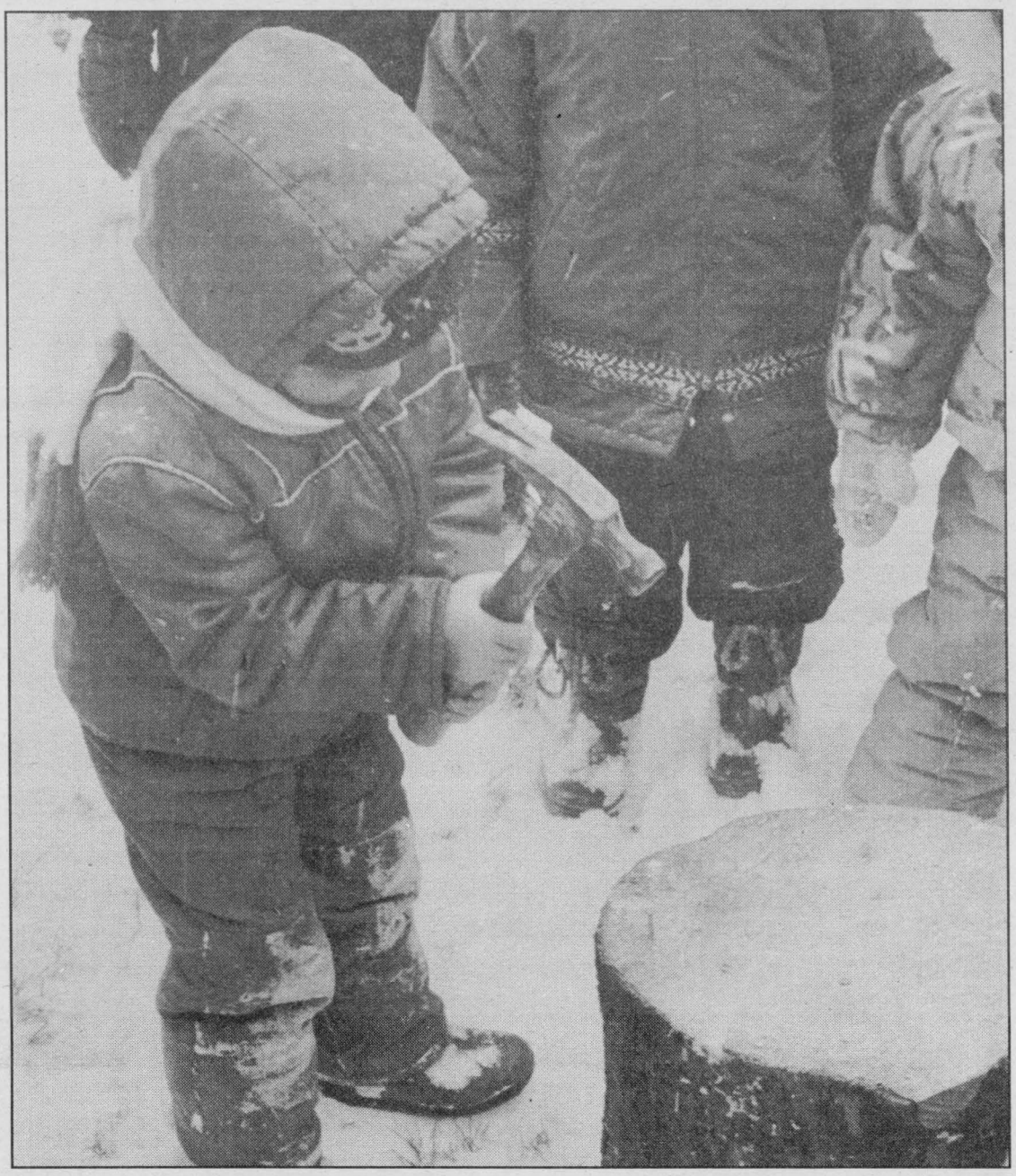
Among the other contestants, 16-year-old Tracy Lewis was chosen as runner-up. Sherri Shaver, 16, was chosen Miss Congeniality 1995. The other contestants included Viviane DeAlmeida, Vicki Zandbergen, Mandie Lafaver and Vicki Markell.

Judge Estella Rose said choosing the top three contestants was no easy task. They looked for who would be the best ambassador of the carnival. Someone who would make you feel comfortable and would make you want to come back again.

The contestants were interviewed by the judges preceding the pageant. The young women were asked what extra curricular activities they were involved with and what they enjoy doing with their time.

The pageant's master of ceremonies was Bruce Wylie, co-host of the morning show on CFJR Radio in Brockville. Musical entertainment was provided by Betty Casselman on piano and Amy Casselman on violin. For the 20th year-in-a-row, Billy Sipes entertained the audience with accordion music. Andrew Thompson sang to the queen as she walked the runway.

It was an evening the pageant contestants and all those who attended would not soon forget. Organizers said the pageant was an immense success.



Bang, bang!

Both the young and old got into the swing of things during the family fun afternoon at Brinston Memorial Park last year. In 1996, the outdoor activities will be held at Matilda Hall following the pancake brunch on Sunday, Jan. 7, 1996. Local residents won't want to miss these fun activities, especially this year's snow sculpturing contest. *Chieftain photo by R. van Noppen*

First fashion show an amazing and immense success

It was a welcomed change that turned into a huge success. The 20th Anniversary edition of the Matilda Winter Carnival saw the addition of a fashion show.

Introduced to the seniors special afternoon, over 125 people attended the afternoon tea party and fashion show. Positive comments ran like wildfire as local models showed off wares compliments of Marge Veltkamp and Fashion Network.

Although it required a great deal of work to pull off, attendance at the show exceeded everyone's expectations.

Organizer Bev Sabourin was so impressed that she told The Chieftain she was, "as pleased as punch," with the show.

"It is nice to live in a community, that when you call and ask for help everyone says yes," added Mrs. Sabourin complimenting the many volunteers who helped make the day.

This year will see the 2nd Annual Fashion Show take place Wednesday January 10th. It will be held at the Matilda Hall from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Fashion Network is a company that sells clothing through parties or out of the home. The head company is in Richmond Hill, Ontario, and this line of garments is quickly becoming known as quality clothing at affordable prices.

The Matilda Womens' Institute is helping organize this year's fashion show.

They're also going to put on a fun fashion show, and this will feature some humorous and interesting outfits.

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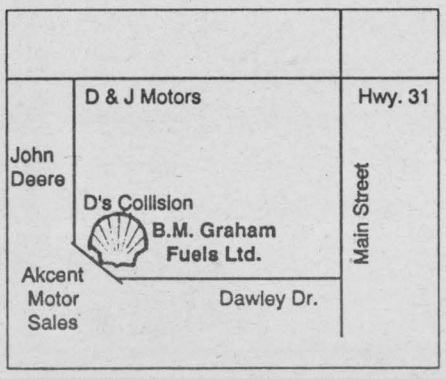

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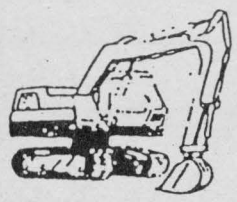

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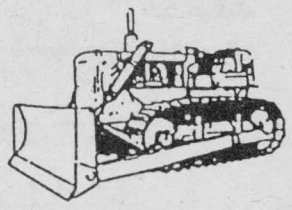

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Have a Great Winter Carnival! *Roger and Penny Levesque*

Pancake brunch and family fun day this Sunday, Jan. 7

The Matilda Winter Carnival committee would like to invite local residents to enjoy another successful Sunday pancake brunch and family fun day on Jan. 7, 1996.

Brunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Matilda Hall. Matilda's infamous chefs will be serving up pancakes, sausages, juice, coffee, tea and doughnuts. It promises to be a delicious meal.

The only price they're asking is a free-will donation for the food you eat. You couldn't get a better deal anywhere! As it has been for years, this brunch promises to be another resounding success!

As part of the brunch, Paddy Stewart will once again be providing the entertainment. He promises to keep everyone in stitches! He is a performer, not to be missed.

There will also be face painting available, compliments of Tanya Hill. Young and old will have the opportunity to have their faces decorated in celebration of the winter carnival season.

Following the brunch, local residents will have the chance to participate in a number of games outside the hall. Instead of holding these activities at Brinston Park this year, organizers decided to keep all the games at the hall. This way, if it gets too cold, young children can go inside the hall to warm up.

There will be a woodsman's competition at the hall, and if it's good weather, snowmobile rides will be available. Both the young and old may also have the chance to participate in snow sculpturing. But that is also dependent on the weather. Once designed and constructed, the snow sculptures will be judged the same day.

With a variety of outdoor games to take part in, this family fun day promises to be a Matilda Carnival winner and great success.

For more information, please call Linda Thompson at 652-2486.



Theatre of Soul perform Jan. 12th

Hey all you pre-teens come on out to Matilda Winter Carnival on Friday January 12, 1996 to dance to Theatre of Soul from 6 to 8:30 pm. Admission will be $2.

Teens come on out to dance to the sounds of Theatre of Soul from 9 to 12 pm. Admission will be $3. Canteen will be open from 6 to 12 pm.

Fashion show

The first annual Fashion Show held last year was a huge success. Added to the afternoon tea, the Fashion Show was packed last year and organizers are expecting a better crowd this year.

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A noble return!

Thirteen of 19 Matilda Carnival Queens attended the 20th annual Matilda Carnival Queen Pageant that kicked-off last year's celebrations. In the back from left to right are Nancy Cooper, Robbin Whitteker, Jennifer Sluiskes, Gayle Carroll, Cathy Gibson, Kelly Smail, Connie Bosma and Shelley Gibson. In the front row are Wanda Zandbergen, Pam Dickson, Leslie Dishieu, Debbie Cooper and Tammy Henderson.

Chieftain photo by R. van Noppen

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Winter Carnival Highlights

One of the highlights of the 1995 Matilda Carnival Queen Pageant was seeing 13 of 19 former Matilda Carnival queens in attendance.

They came to kick-off the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Matilda Carnival at Matilda Hall on Saturday, Jan. 7

Former queens included: Nancy Cooper (Duffield), 1976; Robbin Whitteker (Kerr), 1977; Wanda Zandbergen (Douma), 1981; Jennifer Sluiskes (Thompson), 1983; Gayle Carroll (Ault), 1984; Cathy Gibson (MacDonald), 1986; Pam Dickson, 1987; Leslie Dishieu (Baldwin), 1988; Debbie Cooper (Hodgson), 1989; Kelly Smail, 1990; Connie Bosma, 1992; Shelley Gibson, 1993; and Tammy Henderson, 1994.

The other six queens could either not be reached or were working, so they could not attend. They include: Penny Major (Roke), 1978; Angela Casselman (Mackler), 1979; Claira Karlse, 1980; Leslie Casselman (Keeler), 1982; Sharon Anderson (Froats), 1985; and Rhonda Lapier (Van Beilen), 1991.

It was an evening the queens probably won't ever forget. For a first-time reunion, it was a regal success!

Citizen of the year

from the front page

that Matilda has not had a citizen of the year.

"There were no winners in 1991 and 1992 because no one was nominated," explained Mr. Horner.

Previous winners
1982 - Bruce Coons
1983 - Joan Zandbergen
1984 - Gerald Munroe
1985 - Helen Gilmer
1986 - Allan Tysick
1987 - Grace Strader
1988 - Glen Shaver
1989 - Lorne Strader
1990 - Frank Sisty
1991 - no nominations
1992 - no nominations
1993 - Robert Thompson
1994 - Jerry Bureau
1995 - Ken Kirkby

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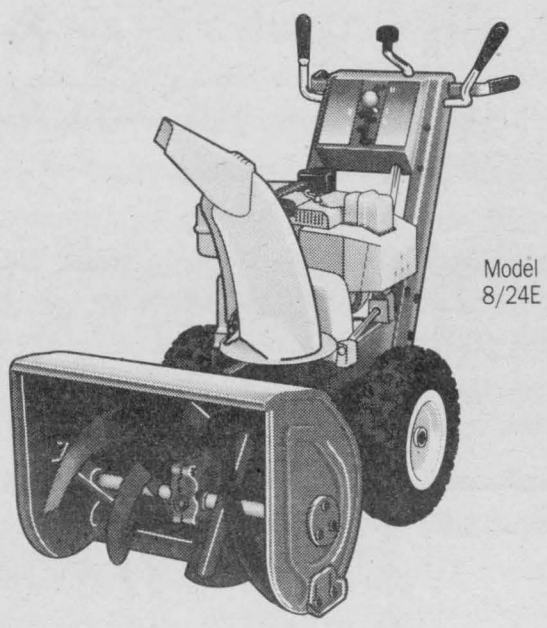

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