MARKHAM FAIR HOMECRAFT MEETING, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:40

Mary Webster welcomed all the attendees and introduced the speakers for the evening.

Wendy Harris – Ambassador Committee - Wendy invited the committee members to purchase tickets, $15.00 for single, $25.00 couple and $5.00 children - for the BBQ and live band on Saturday September 17th.

Candice Ward – Advertising Committee – Candice reminded the committee members of the Promotional Weekend at Markville Mall September 23rd, 24th, and 25th and would appreciate any volunteers. There will be no animals this year. She also spoke of the raffle tickets, with a chance to win at TV being drawn on Sunday at the Fair. Candice explained that the raffle tickets will be offered to other groups to sell on our behalf, with a $5.00 per ticket returned to them for selling the tickets.

Diane Ward – Diane saved 150 Prize Books for the Committee Chairperson (2 per Committee). Please sign when picking up your Prize Books.

Kelly Winnatoy – Membership – Kelly spoke of the Volunteer Registration Form which can be picked up at the office or on line – those who wish to volunteer and are under 18 require a parent or guardian signature and the $5.00 registration fee with the completed form. There is also a Short Term Volunteer Form at the office only. This is for high school students etc.

There are 767 Active volunteers at Markham – 69 have not paid. There is a receipt at the roll up desk tonight.

Terry Boag – Admissions and Passes – New Pass Requisition Forms – must be signed by the Committee Chairperson and please be specific who the passes are going to, sponsors etc.

Elaine Rennie – 1st Vice Pres. Homecraft – Strategic Plan #6 – Conducting orientation meeting – Wednesday before the Fair. Please send new members. The Strategic Committee Members will be doing the orientation giving a guided tour of the buildings, where the Police, Ambulance, EMS will be etc. This will not interrupt the judging. The form is in the envelope please; keep it at your booth. We are looking for input; please come back and give your suggestions. The tour starts at the Wine tent at 8:00am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm and 5:00 pm – 4 sessions.
Mary handed out envelopes with the forms required to be filled in to the committee chairperson’s to be completed at the end of the meeting and handed in. Junior V.I.P. is for children 12 or under and must be a son or daughter of a Markham Fair Volunteer, committee chairperson needs to sign. Cheque requisitions for judges and ribbons need to be given to Lynda. Every committee has a file in the office; the cheques will be in there.

Please remember to renew your membership at the Information booth during the fair, where they will have the receipt book. Prior to the fair and after the fair it will be in the office.

Mary prepared a hand out of Dates to Remember.

Mary asked which committees would require high school kids on the night of set up – no one replied.

Plexiglas – the three committees that budgeted for their Plexiglas will have it measured when it comes out of the cases and Doug will have it cut to fit. Those that wish to have new Plexiglas please measure it while at the fair and put those measurement on the sheet with your budget (you also need to include the cost and labour talk to Mick about this), that way Mick could do the cutting and fitting over the summer.

Buildings will have more benches.

Elaine also reminded everyone of the Red and White theme this year.

Crafts are the only committee getting new skirting this year. John is looking into fire codes and also the height of the tables. Tables may need to be lowered for the handicap accessible rule that is coming out – hopefully we will know by November.

Kim Empringham is in charge of the commodities in a tent at the other end of the grounds. They are no longer in the General Exhibits building. She has asked that we use tables sparingly so she will not have to rent as many. She needs about 20 to 25 tables.

Doug van Wolde – District 5 – We will be the hosts of District 5 on October 29th. Food will be provided by Merlin. Dave Howlett is the guest speaker. There will be workshops – Agri Food Tent and Craft Demos. We are expecting a higher than normal attendance – everyone is welcome to attend – October 15th is the deadline. Mary offered to draw up a volunteer form for this event and given to each committee.

Questions & Answers:

Q - On Sunday after the fair there are no lights in the parking lots, what will be done about this
A – Rob – will leave the switch on

Q – Quilt judging

A – Doug – Will have judges for the quilts

Q – When will the posters be ready?

A – Lynda - Advertising has not said – please call the office next week

Q – New web site – the footer is same on every page

A – Doug – the menu is at the bottom of each page

Q – Barb asked is there a place for school children to have their lunch

A – Doug – Wine Tent

Rob Miller – President – Rob commented again on the theme for this year’s Fair – Canadian Harvest 2011 – Red and White theme – there will be flags throughout the building. Rob thanked everyone for their hard work and wants everyone to have fun. Rob then introduced John Peco.

John Peco – Fair Manager – John explained the Fair Lottery. As we can’t control the weather attendance drops. Advance tickets – if raining purchasers’ could get upset. By asking community groups, non-profit, church, cultural groups etc. to sell the tickets for us with a financial return to them for each ticket sold we would reduce the financial risk to the Fair. John introduced everyone to Lynda Goodwin – Executive Assistant of Markham Fair.

This year the draw would take place on Sunday for a TV and next year for a Car.

Doug van Wolde has developed a new web site for the Fair. All forms are still on the site. A new incentive is the purchase of gate admission on line. The main page features a Count Down to the Fair. Doug gave us a brief tour of the web site.

Elaine explained a little about the Agri Food Tent – The fair worked very hard to get grants to set this up, and would ask that we all support the new venue. Chefs will also give demonstrations.

Mary announced the next meeting will be November 8th at 7:30 and will be a pot luck dessert theme.

Meeting Adjourned