

Borcsok named champion at Royal, attains world record

By Mark Pavilons



A keen vegetable grower in King Township has once again collected a lot of ribbons from the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. She also broke a world record along the way.

Joanne Borcsok, affectionately known as 'the Queen of the Royal' has broken the world record for the largest beet. She has been submitting entries for vegetable and giant vegetable categories for years. The winning ways was a family affair this year. This specimen weighed in at 53.4 pounds, almost double that of her closest competitors, including Karoly Borcsok, whose 24.4-pound beet took second.

Joanne was named as the Grand Champion Giant Vegetable Exhibitor and earned several 'Royal Bests.'

Jennifer Borcsok was tops in the cabbage category, with one weighing 51.6 pounds. Joanne was second with one at 50.6 pounds, while Karoly took 5th.

Joanne and Karoly came 1st and 2nd respectively in ornamental/flowering cabbage by diameter.

The family ruled in carrot root by length. Joanne was first with one that measured 7'9" while Karoly and Jennifer finished 2nd and 3rd, about a foot and a half behind.

Joanne and Karoly fell to 3rd and 4th in carrot root by weight.

Karoly, Joanne and Jennifer took 3rd through 5th in marrow by weight. The trio dominated the top three in parsnip root by length, ranging from Joanne's of 8'3" to Jennifer's of 7'8". By weight, their parsnips were good for 2nd through 4th place ribbons.

Joanne was the proud owner of a 5.2-pound potato, good for first. Her nearest competitor tipped the scales at 3.8 pounds.

Joanne took 1st in giant onion by weight, with a 2.6-pound specimen.

Karoly and Joanne took 1st and 2nd in sunflower head by diameter, with 1'7" and 1'6.5" respectively.

In the kohlrabi category, with Karoly was 2nd at 50.8 pounds, while Joanne took 3rd with one at 49 pounds. Jennifer earned a 4th with her 41.8-pounder.

Joanne was tops in turnip by weight, with an 18.8-pounder.

Joanne's 19'4" corn stalk was good for 1st in that category, while Karoly took second at 14 feet, one inch.

Joanne and Karoly were all alone in the sunflower stalk by height category.

Joanne's forte seems to be the smaller veggies. In the giant pumpkin/squash category, she finished 5th with one that weighed 915 pounds. The winner came in at a whopping 1,398.6 pounds!