

Meet Max T. Moose

By Ronald Wolf Freelance Writer

There is a moose that looks over and protects the town of Dryden ON. Children, adults and tourists have been visiting the moose which stands motionless for the past 46 years. Only one moose can fit this bill and that's Max the Moose. Max, (full name Maximillian) stands 18'x17', weighs 2 tons with an antler span of 11 feet. Elwin Palmer, past president of the Chamber of Commerce, bore Max from an idea he had in 1955. His reasoning was simple. Palmer said he felt the moose was typical of the Dryden area and it would make a suitable attraction. Seven years later the moose (pre-Max) went from thought to reality. In July 19, 1962 the giant moose stood, watching over his people and the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 17) in the parking lot of the Chamber of Commerce. The cost of having the moose built was \$5,000, jointly shared by the Chamber of Commerce (\$1,000), The Town of Dryden (\$1,000); and the Patricia Regional Tourist Council (\$3,000) according to Canadian magazine, Welcome Traveler. For thirteen years the moose enticed people from all over Canada to visit him. On June 10, 1975 the nameless moose was about to be given a name but this was no easy task. A huge contest "Name the Moose" which spanned from Ontario to British Columbia undertook its massive mission-to find a name for the moose. Over 500 names were entered, only one was chosen. On June 14, 1975 the moose was given a name at an event. Barbara Astley won a Hudson Bay blanket as her prize to name the moose. Max the Moose was introduced at the event to the large crowd of

people in Dryden. During the event Dryden's CKDR radio announcer Terry Alix reported his radio show on top of Max's head for the community as part of a promotional for the contest from which took place 6 a.m. to noon. But Max had his misfortunes. In October 1976 Max was shot and in other years he was wrapped in orange flags and spray painted. Max, being the real trooper that he is, survived his misfortunes. Max's birthday is celebrated the third Saturday of July each year. Max will celebrate his 33 rd birthday or the moose will celebrate his 46 th

birthday on July 21, 2008. Either way you look at it the day should be filled with fun and laughter. Max is no dummy. Max was educated at the Institution of Moosology where he graduated from, the "herd" of the class. Max's former employment includes Mooseketeer Leader, Mooster of Ceremonies at the local Antler Club, and served as a Moose Court Judge. Max's hobbies include mooseball, "racket" ball, observing traffic and getting more mooscles. Max's special abilities are withstanding drastic temps and conditions.