

NEWS RELEASE

Hottest community at the Brandon Home Show

Hottest community from the banana belt, none other than the Town of Melita, was a crowd favorite again at the 52nd Brandon Home and Leisure Show last April 6 – 8, 2018 at the Keystone Centre in Brandon. Visitors were treated to fresh bananas from Melita Bigway Foods, banana-shaped sugar cookies from Melita Bakery, updates on community news courtesy of the Melita New Era, and they got a chance to join the raffle draw.

The biggest prize was a weekend getaway that included an overnight accommodation in a suite at the Western Star Inn and Suites; golf pass; movie pass with popcorn; \$50 gift card from Water Boyz; and a \$25 gift certificate from Blossom Boutique. This prize was valued close to \$300. Other raffle prizes that attracted people to join the draw were: a beach tote from Blossom Boutique; Melita Banana Days shirts and bandanas; beauty tote with a \$35 gift certificate from Polished Hair & Nail Salon; golf and movie passes; Blossom Boutique gift certificate; and Melita Bakery's famous flour buns.

Community volunteers helped promote the town throughout the weekend, namely: Melita & District Chamber of Commerce president, Darren Stewart; Councillor Eric and Kandace Forster; Polished Hair & Nail Salon owner, Susan Cairns-Renwick with Donnie Renwick; Blossom Boutique owner, Merna VanCauwenberghe; Melita Therapy Centre owner, Krista VanCauwenberghe; and Marcus and AJ Laureola.

This is Iris Vercaigne's third year to join the trade show since she became the Economic Development Officer for the town, "Since I started coming here in 2016, the number of communities joining the home show has risen. There are definitely more communities promoting their tourism destinations, new amenities, vacant lots, and lake front properties, among others. This year, we added a new slide presentation showcasing tourism spots and activities, and the Melita Banana Days Committee provided us with save-the-date invites for the 9th Melita Banana Days Festival on August 10-12." Vercaigne adds, "We still get people stopping in at the booth who have never been to our famous festival or those that have not been to Melita for awhile. It gives us the opportunity to share information on why it is worthwhile to include Melita in their summer destination plans this year."

Support from various community organizations helps make the participation possible. Special thanks to: Banana Days Committee; Blossom Boutique; Melita Bakery; Melita & District Chamber of Commerce; Melita Bigway Foods; Melita New Era; Polished Hair and Nail Salon; Prairie Vision Arts Council; Townsend Valley Golf Course; Water Boyz; and Western Star Inn and Suites Hotel.

Check out the photos on [facebook/townofmelita](https://www.facebook.com/townofmelita).

PHOTOS



Blossom Boutique owner, Merna VanCauwenberghe; and Melita Therapy Centre owner, Krista VanCauwenberghe



Councillor Eric and Kandace Forster



Economic Development Officer, Iris Vercaigne and Melita & District Chamber of Commerce president, Darren Stewart

