

Model Show Displays Talent

By SCOTT BRIGGS

It all started with scattered pieces of plastic, metal and wood. Now, months later, results of the labor and relentless dedication were evident at the eighth annual Spring Classic Scale Model Contest & Show.

The model show, put on by the Capital Area Model Society (CAMS), was a chance for model lovers to share their work with others. Many entries were submitted for competition, while others chose to simply have their models on display at the Regent Mall, Saturday.

With the show's 13 categories, observers had the chance to see a wide variety of models, including a large collection of military planes, tanks and scenes. The show also featured a broad range of cars and trucks with everything from stock cars to transports.

In addition, figure models of the Predator and Spiderman were on hand as well as many well known science fiction displays. No matter the category, CAMS president Steve Milberry said all models represent something special.

"There's a lot of creativity involved in it," said Mr. Milberry, who is an avid car model builder. Mr. Milberry said the models represent extensive research through texts, photos, museums and computer data bases.

"A lot of them will do research for up to a year before they'll even start building the model," Mr. Milberry said.

There were winners selected from each of the 13 categories, after which judges selected one overall winner. Greg McKeown grabbed the honors for the overall prize. His model was a 12-inch high figure model of Iria, the female bounty hunter.

At the same time, the competition is just one part of the show.

"It's not a matter of coming in and trying to win trophies and stuff like that. It's more of coming to meet other model builders from around the province," stated Mr. Milberry, noting that the show attracted approximately 150 entries this year.

Despite all the effort, Mr. Milberry says some people still stereotype model building as a child's pastime.

"A lot of kids build models and as they get older, they're sometimes discouraged by their parents and their peers who sometimes say 'that's kind of childish stuff...put that away.' Unfortunately, about

the time they start hearing this is about the time they start getting good and some never take it up again," explained Mr. Milberry.

Like many hobbies, model building is fun for all involved, regardless of age. Mr. Milberry said he can't understand why there are social pressures to drop a hobby or interest when one reaches a certain age.

"Personally, I've never been able to figure it out. I think it has a lot to do with the models; when they start out, they look like toys. But as they

get older, the models start looking better and better," said Mr. Milberry.

Some of the military models at the show have been on display at the CFB Gagetown Military Museum.

CAMS, which consists of over 20 members, meets on a regular basis to discuss the hobby and talk about upcoming shows. Mr. Milberry said CAMS members are now gearing up for the Moncton military model show slated for May 4.



A FINE PIECE OF WORK — Bob Russell, left, of the Capital Area Model Society, and Steve Milberry, president of the society, judge a pair of models. The two items were among the many on display Saturday at Regent Mall at the eighth annual Spring Classic Scale Model Contest & Show.

(Rob Blanchard Photo)