

Crowds descend on festival . . .

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Festival committee members said spreading out the booths so they were only on one side of narrower Juliana Street continued to be the best move they'd made in recent years.

"The crowd could keep moving and people could still look at the booths ... even if they had to make a couple of passes by to do it," said Chairman Steve Lambert.

He said the biggest struggle was shuttle service, since everyone seems to what to leave at the same time. "It takes four hours to get a crowd that size in here, and then everyone decides to leave in 10 minutes. It just doesn't work that way," he said.

The bus lines did stretch out, and in Fort Bedford Park, the committee quickly rigged some extra tents to give a little shade to those waiting for buses.

In Fort Bedford Park, museum director Huston Godwin said the museum tripled its business this year in just the first day compared to last year. He said the flow of people through the museum was non-stop. And local authors were set up outside to sign books.

The river was dotted with canoes and kayaks. The line for a pony ride never seemed to end. "If we'd even tried to count, we'd have given up long ago," said one of the advisors to the Tally Ho 4-H Pony Club. Those walking horses said what was unusual this year was that they never got time to take a break.

As the first weekend wound down Sunday, Bedford Fire

Chief Rocky Fetter said the firemen's booth went through approximately 1,200 pounds of potatoes Saturday and 700 pounds Sunday, all turned into french fries.

Joanne Porter, who was making her first Fall Foliage appearance with Chile Spot, said she sold out of everything from salsa to pepper dip. She had a few jalapena pretzel and was handing out samples of them as Sunday ended.

"We only made a commitment to one weekend, and that's good, because there is no way we could make that much product again in one week," Porter said. She and her husband, Jeff, are from Downingtown, and they make their own chile products, plus bring their peppers to a friend's pretzel factory and jump on his production line for that product.

"We had a great weekend. I'm just sorry I don't have any more to sell," she said, eyeing the clock as it moved toward 5 p.m.

Another producer of jams, jellies, sauces, dips and butters was doing a similar weekend. "We love coming here; we've been doing it for six years," said David Christofo. His wife, Louise, added, "And we love this spot," under the trees on the southeast corner of the Public Squares. The Christofors are from Reynoldsville.

Along Penn Street, another first year vendor, Merranda Dibert of East Freedom, said she also was having a good festival. She only started her stuffed animal and accessories business last spring. "The kids love to pick outfits and acces-



Gazette photos/Sharyn Maust
Joanne Porter of Downingtown hands out samples of jalapena pretzels, which is about all she had left to sell when the festival ended.

sories for their animals and dolls, and they love to make their own stuffed animals," Dibert said.

Mackenzie Kline of Aspinwall was busy stuffing her own plush moose, which Dibert completed with a fabric wish star that is inserted inside; she also filled out a birth certificate for the moose, which Mackenzie quickly named Chocolate.

Mom Annette Kline said she's been coming to the festival for 20 years, thanks to her parents who often made the trip and finally bought a cabin at Rainsburg. This year she was helping with a booth just two tents away from Dibert. "We waited until it calmed down at the end of the weekend to do our shopping," she said.