



## On The Main Street

Oct. 12/71

There are many reasons why the annual Fall Fair at Bobcaygeon still hangs on to the title "The Daddy of Them All". The fair, and oldtimers object to the word "Exhibition". The proper name of the sponsoring organization is Verulam Agricultural Society but that term is used mostly for identification purposes by the Ontario Fairs Association.

Merl Junkin has not missed a Fair at Little Bob for 71 years although he admits he is only 71 years of age. He stated last Saturday that his mother once told him that she carried him as a baby to the Fair in the days when the fair grounds were situated in the west end of the village. With one or two exceptions he has never missed the fair in a period of three score years and one.

Bobcaygeon Fair is the "homiest" fair in the country and the exhibition grounds are beautifully situated on the banks of the Little Bob and a number of families enjoyed dinner as they sat on the green grass overlooking the unpolluted water of the river.

"Bobcaygeon Fair" has everything," said one of the three parliamentary candidates as he shoved out his hand for a citizen to shake. This was not a rash statement. The main streets were crowded more than an hour before the hour of noon as young and old from far and near watched the parade, bands, decorated floats, beautiful girls and well groomed horses. Spectators did not stand with hands in their pockets but clapped loudly as the different floats, marching bands and school children went by.

The Warden of the County, Robert Thompson, was in the thick of events, including his manipulation of an old vehicle in the parade. Other former county wardens on the grounds included Thomas Martin and Bob Bradt, both from Bobcaygeon.

The village actually started "rolling" with excitement Friday night when the phenomenal number of 45 men and boys took part in the fiddling contest. It was after midnight when the judges came up with the winners. Many of the entries were from a distance, even from Shelbourne, the home of fiddle contests.

As Reg Cros, an annual visitor at the fair for half a century remarked, "The Bobcaygeon Fair is truly the Daddy of Them All" and I have attended these fairs since the days of Mossom Boyd and he was one of the founders of the fair. Miss Sheila Boyd, residing in the old Boyd mansion has been an exhibitor at the fair for many years — the Boyds were wonderful people and Miss Boyd is a wonderful woman." Au Revoir to the Little Bob Fair until another twelve months.