

# Lindsay fair kicks off early with trio of scavenger hunts

*This Week*

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen the plug pulled on many events this year, but when it comes to the Lindsay Exhibition, it's helped organizers plug into their creative side.

This year is the first time in the 166-year history of the Lindsay Exhibition that a traditional LEX will not be held.

But instead of cancelling the annual fall fair altogether, the Lindsay Agricultural Society set about coming up with ways to keep the tradition going through technology.

"We've worked all summer to reimagine the LEX in a virtual world," stated exhibition general manager Harry Stoddart. "We've tried to recreate the various aspects of the LEX in a manner that allows for social distancing but still lets people have some fun interactive experiences.

It's good news for those who can't get enough of the special treats and features.

The Virtual LEX kicked off Monday (Aug. 17) with chances to win 2021 Ride-All-Day Midway Passes, Swiss Fudge and more in the Little Scavengers' Hunt and the Little Bit Bigger Scavengers' Hunt. Both events are virtual, COVID-19 safe, scavenger hunts for ages five and under, and six to 12.

Details on the event are available via <https://virtual.lindsayex.com/scavenger-hunts/>.

A Community Scavenger Hunt for everyone else is slated to start Aug. 24.

Those who would normally submit items to the fair still can and organizers are saving them the gas and their time. Prize books for the Virtual LEX are available for most departments on the fair's website and virtually every department will have competitive classes. To find out how to enter visit <https://virtual.lindsayex.com/prize-books/>.

New for 2020 will be Community's Choice classes in each department where the class winner will be selected on social media by the community.

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"So be sure to watch for your favourite competitors and classes and give them the votes they need to come out on top," stated Stoddart, who encourages people to visit <https://virtual.lindsayex.com/regularly> for new details and new content.

Although it's not possible to deliver the sights, tastes and sounds in person, the LEX has worked to get these covered as well; in a way, better.

“We’ve spread the activity from five days over eight weeks to give people an opportunity to experience more aspects of the LEX,” said Lindsay Agricultural Society president Len Dawson. “The team has worked hard to ensure we have fresh, engaging content from now until the end of September.”

Since people can’t go to the fairgrounds, organizers are bringing it to them.

Instagram and Facebook feeds will feature virtual farm tours as local farms do a “takeover” one day each week.

Instagram visitors can also use the LEX Instagram augmented reality filters to put animated, life-like, 3-D farm animals in their backyard, living room, or anywhere else they think the critters might be happy.

As well, the Taste of the LEX online store is now open to order Swiss Fudge, caramel corn, cotton candy, DooDoo the Clown’s Animal Balloon Kit, and more. Order before Labour Day and pick up goodies starting Sept. 21 - the traditional week of the LEX. Specially designed LEX social distancing t-shirts are also available for purchase until Aug. 21.

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