

Annual meeting

# Russell Murray fair's new head, consider moving fair's class to B

With more snow yet to come and all of spring and summer to follow the fair board set its sights on this year's three day event at the board's annual meeting Monday.

September 17, 18, and 19—just seven months off—were set aside for the fall fair. The meeting, which saw Ken Murray step down as president and the election of Russell Murray—no relation—as the new president, tidied up some loose ends from the '75 edition of the fair and set new goals for the new executive.

The outgoing president made a strong move to have the board examine the possibility of upping the fair's classification to B from C. Mr. Murray, secretary-treasurer John Rowe who was re-elected to that post for another year, and Cathy Lasby are to make an informal review of the criteria for the class B fair and report to the board.

To Triple  
New president Russell Murray said the executive would like to see more entries to the fair. "We want the fair to triple in size, however long it takes", Mr. Murray said. The new president also called upon members to bring whatever problems or complaints they have to the board.

The approximately 30 board members at the meeting in the downstairs room in the community centre elected a new 18-member set of directors, heard remarks from the new and old president, passed the minutes of previous meetings and the year end financial report.

Executive  
Joining Russell Murray on the executive was Brent Marshall as first vice-president, Brian Evans, who was absent, was elected second vice-president. It was said that Mr. Evans had previously indicated he would accept the post.

In this final remarks as president of the fair board Ken Murray stressed the need to make the fair more profitable. "I don't think \$2,242.78 is enough profit on approximately \$40,000 income with today's dollar value", Mr. Murray told the meeting.

Mr. Murray also said that not enough of the approximately \$8,000 in fair prizes which are related to livelihood. The outgoing president called for increased security at the dances and a new contract with midway operators. "We'd better let them know we run the Acton Agricultural Fair, and they work for us", Mr. Murray said.

Praise  
The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Halton Regional Police were both praised by Mr. Murray. He said the OPP elite Golden Helmet motorcycle team, which performed in the 1975 fair, was a "huge success".

"We came out good", with the newly arrived Halton Regional Police Mr. Murray said. "Ten years down the road, we'll be voting them citizen of the year", he said. The OPP detachment, which policed Acton for 25 years, was voted citizen of the year in 1975.

On wages paid by the fair board Mr. Murray called for a graduated scale, in which the wage matches the work done. The flat fee of \$3 per hour to all employees was too much, Mr. Murray said.

Foreman?  
He also suggested that in the week prior to the opening of the fair a fulltime foreman be appointed to oversee the operation.

"I feel the directors and board of directors can do little more than they are", Mr. Murray said. Mr. Murray told the meeting that he had understood that the storage of the Fairy Lake ducks in the poultry barn was a temporary measure except that the ducks are becoming a permanent fixture. The topic of the ducks drew some remarks from the audience, but a discussion on the situation was put off.

Report  
In the annual report, prepared by John Rowe, the net prize money amounted to \$8,856.19. For 1975 the total receipts were \$33,135.87 while the

amount paid out totalled \$30,893.09 for a net profit of \$2,242.78. The board's total assets are \$9,656.38.

Commenting on the finance report Mr. Murray suggested that the board's payment for poultry feed be dropped. The cost last year was \$88.10. "These people are on the show circuit, the same as us", Mr. Murray said. "We don't feed the cattle or horses," he added.

Life Members  
Three board members—Stan Matthews, Mel McCullough and Cliff Storey—were elevated to the status of life members on the recommendation of outgoing president Ken Murray. Nino Braida moved that the new life members receive pins, like the ones first made in 1961.

The election of this year's directors was conducted by Mark Leahy, assistant agricultural representative for the Region of Halton.

Cathy Lasby, one of the 18 new directors, was also nominated for the post of second vice-president. She declined. Brian Evans was nominated by Mr. Braida, Mr. Braida, emphasizing the contribution of candidates, said seven new people were nominated, and an equal number from previous years were dropped.

Ken Stubbington withdrew from the list of nominations to the board of directors, and Mr. Braida asked that the past-president stand for election to round out the board.

On Board  
The new members on the board of directors are Russell Murray, Ken Murray, George Maltby, Murray Wallace, Eric Swackhammer, Stephen Lister, John Ottoway, George Milne, John McAdams, Brian Evans, Keith Aitken, Paul Thompson, Ted Brown Jr., Cathy Lasby, Lorna Marshall, Brian Hammond and Robert Murray.

Ken Murray reported on discussions at a recent district meeting. He said there had been suggestions of preparing a family ticket which would cover the fair's events. Some fair boards also suggested that a senior citizens committee be set up to contribute to the fair. "Many fairs feel it's a great success", Mr. Murray said.

A final suggestion reported by the outgoing president was that there be signs within the town limits directing people to the fair grounds.

Ken Murray said he felt that the fair's strength lies in its "esprit de corps", and that any disagreements are part of the fair's growing pains. Give reports  
Going through the list of departments Russell Murray called on the heads to report on the fair. Highlighting the report, Jack Marshall said that there appeared to be more heavy horses at the fair than before. He also said there is always room for improvement, though he thought increasing the prize money would attract more visitors.

Cathy Lasby reported on the beef show saying that the numbers were up last year and there are proposals to double the figures.

Mr. Braida said the dairy cattle show had a record 72 entries in the junior section. He said the key to a successful show is entertaining the people.

The new president said the poultry show was next to the

CNE and the Royal Agriculture Winter show in quality and quantity. New first vice-president Brent Marshall said that the fair's parade suffered when (one) band failed to appear last year. He said he hoped the parade would come up to the calibre of the Santa Claus parade.

There was a call to reduce the number of stalls on the south side of the arena—by one. The reduction would create more room near the

entrance. Ken Murray commented on the outside displays saying that the machinery companies had much valuable equipment on show. He called for an examination of the \$50 fee for entrants. "We need them more than they need us", he said.

To end off the three hour meeting the new president thanked the sponsors for donating trophies and special prizes.

The Acton office was opened on August 6, 1953,



THE NEWLY-ELECTED executives of the fair boards at the annual meeting Monday are, starting with the Ladies' Board, from left to right Linda Hignett, secretary-treasurer; president Irene Swackhammer, and first vice-president Carmela Cobham. Ladies' second vice-president Lorna Marshall did not attend. Secretary-treasurer for the men's Board is John Rowe, Russell Murray, president; Brent Marshall, first vice-president. Second vice-president Brian Evans was absent.

## Right to be heard

Councillor Pat McKenzie made sure a bylaw prohibiting parking on St. Alban's Drive, Acton, was not passed before a protester had a chance to air his views. When the bylaw came up Monday night, McKenzie asked "Where's the room for democracy if we pass this bylaw and have an appointment for one man who is opposed, lined up for the next committee meeting?"

He was assured only two readings would be given that night, so the bylaw would not be passed before the committee meeting.

Satisfied, McKenzie replied, "I just don't think it would be right for the man to come and find it's an accomplished fact."

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# Local people lose jobs in catalogue cancellation

Employees of the Acton Eaton's catalogue shopping store will find themselves out of work at the end of May as a result of the company shutting down the service.

Earl H. Orser, president of Eaton's company, announced last week the popular service had been losing money for the past ten years, and as a result had to be cancelled.

The catalogue was first introduced in 1885 in the form of a pamphlet passed out at what is now known as the Canadian National Exhibition.

The Acton office was opened on August 6, 1953,

according to communications manager Kay Staib, Toronto office.

Two full-time people are on staff here, with four occasional help for the busy periods. The employees have known about the deficit for some time, according to Ms. Staib, and although disappointed at the final outcome, most knew the move was the only thing possible. They were informed of the shut down during a special staff meeting before any of the media were contacted, and even before the department store employees, Ms. Staib said.

Purchase Books  
Customers' reactions have been that of sadness. The communication manager told the Free Press that many had offered to purchase the catalogue in an effort to overcome the deficit and maintain the service. It cost the company two dollars to send out each book with several million books being printed.

The Eaton company will be placing some employees in department stores, where there are openings. The company is working with Canada

Manpower, Ms. Staib said, to find work for all the employees possible. She said they have four months in which to find the necessary employment.

The Acton branch is just one of 400 outlets across Canada closing down. The 19 bargain stores which sell the

surplus of goods from the catalogue will also be closing within one year.

Local employees are among the 4,500 full time employees and 4,500 part time staff.

The thick Eaton's catalogue which comes twice a year will be greatly missed by most people, as will the regular appearance of sale books and flyers at the door. An era has come to an end in the home will now be just a memory, as people think back at the many hours spent leafing through the glossy

pages. The majority of people alive today have grown up with the catalogue. It is going to feel as if a member of the family has left.

## Negotiations continuing

Negotiations are continuing between the town of Milton and the owners of the proposed fire hall property in Campbellville. Council made an offer on the property just north of 401 on the Guelph Line for a fire hall recreation area complex.

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