

Ladies board reunion marks twentieth year

Blue skies and warm temperatures were a welcome sight Saturday for Ladies Fair Board members at their twentieth anniversary reunion.

Approximately 50 ladies gathered at the home of Eleanor Thompson, Churchill North for the afternoon.

This year marks the twentieth year of the Acton Fall Fair Ladies Board. Before 1958 most of the women worked along with their husbands who were members of the fall fair men's board. Then in 1958 the women in Acton decided to separate from the men's board to create a board of their own. Charlotte Ironside, then of Georgetown, attended the first meeting of the ladies at the home of Eleanor Thompson. Mrs. Ironside was then involved with the Ladies Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies. She helped the ladies to organize and set-up their objectives at their first meeting.

Now, 20 years later active

members and heritage members met again to celebrate the anniversary. The afternoon began with a welcome extended to all by this year's president Carmela Cobham. Mrs. Cobham spoke to the members about the purpose of the board and how it has not changed in twenty years. "...to organize and assist in the overall production of the Acton Fall Fair each year."

Mrs. Cobham spoke about the benefit of a reunion among the ladies. "Renews past acquaintances and draws together the pride of 20 years of growth in the Ladies Division."

After Mrs. Cobham's speech a reading of the history was done by Irma McEnery. Mrs. McEnery was the first president on the Ladies Board in 1958.

The hostess for the event, Eleanor Thompson, read a poem to the audience.

Two minutes of silence was observed for all the deceased members of the board.

Charlotte Ironside who attended the first meeting to help the ladies organize their group was also in attendance. A humorous recitation was given by Flora Bruce of Ospringe.

After the program the games began. Heather Rennie and Mark Aitken organized and ran them with prizes donated by the ladies' group.

Heading into the evening the ladies enjoyed a pot luck buffet. Two beautifully decorated twentieth anniversary cakes were supplied by Mrs. Edith Storey. Mrs. Storey is one of the 20 year members. The pot luck dinner was supplied by the current active members.

Thanks were extended to the hostess at the end of the evening by Grace McEnery.

The majority of the members attending live in Acton. However guests did travel from Rockwood, Erin, Guelph and Arthur to attend the anniversary.

Ladies' Fair Board remembers service

The following are excerpts from a speech of the history of the Ladies Division of the Acton Agricultural Society by Mrs. Lloyd McEnery and Mrs. William Thompson. The group recently marked their 20th anniversary with a reunion of present and past members.

On March 6, 1958, Mrs. William Thompson contacted the ladies and invited them to her home to form a Ladies Fair Board. They felt they could help to lighten the load of the men's group.

They have been very busy over the past years.

As Mrs. Evelyn Near quoted, when she was a voting delegate at the convention in Toronto, "It's what's up front that counts. Use all forms of publicity to advertise your fair and promote good public relations with the community."

This prompted the Ladies' Fair Board to purchase banners to hang across streets at each end of town to advertise the dates of the fair. Signs were made to hang over each class in the hall. Smocks were purchased for the directors to wear to assist exhibitors and visitors if needed.

One of the most important projects was the new bake cases in Centennial year.

The parade into the fair grounds for several years only included the band and school children marching. The ladies decided to give the parade a boost. They contacted the industries and organizations as well as advertising in the paper for entries for floats. Two directors acted as judges each year for best decorated doll buggies and bicycles in the children classes. They enjoyed decorating a non-competitive float to be entered in the parade.

The ladies were asked to help with the baby show and the entries increased each year by leaps and bounds. They help with the Miss Acton Fair Committee. The ladies were pleased to hear another young girl from Acton Miss Carol Thompson placed fourth in the Ethel Brant Montreue essay in the Provincial contest in Toronto.

For the 50th Anniversary of the fair the ladies sponsored a special section in the home-craft, paying the prize money. They give a special prize to the exhibitor with the most points in their class. The lady exhibitor who has the most points in all classes in the hall is awarded a special prize.

The 12 meetings usually deal with reports from conveners of the different classes after the fair. They try to improve the prize list to be more challenging to the exhibitor. Judges have to be chosen for another year.

They send two voting delegates to the convention in Toronto. At the district annual meeting reports are heard from other fairs. As each fair reports the highlights the ladies find it very interesting.

The board has many fund raising projects. Their first euchre and penny sale was held at the parish hall in 1959. Some years the ladies grouped together and held euchre in their homes.

Although it may seem all work up to this point they have time for pleasure. The ladies have enjoyed the annual Christmas parties, picnics, pot luck dinners, guest speakers and demonstrations.

They are proud of their accomplishments over the past twenty years. With the continued support of the diligent hard working members old and new, and the faithful helpers who arrive to lend a helping hand where needed, they look forward eagerly to the fair.

Past presidents are: 1958 Mrs. Lloyd McEnery; 1959-1960 Mrs. William Thompson; 1961-1962 Mrs. Wilfred Waldie; 1963-1965 Mrs. Donald Mathews; 1966-1967 Mrs. Melvin McCullough; 1968-1970 Mrs. Walter Linham; 1971-1973 Mrs. Edward Archibald; 1974-1975 Mrs. H. Beer; 1976-1977 Mrs. Wallace Swackhamer; 1978 Mrs. George Cobham.

Past secretaries are: 1958-1964 Mrs. Ralph Denny; 1965-1967 Mrs. Wm. McDonald; 1968-1969 Mrs. Donald Mathews; 1970-1971 Mrs. Wm. McDonald; 1972-1975 Mrs. Calvin Aitken; 1976-1977 Mrs. R. Hignett; 1978 Mrs. Brian Evans.

A group of ladies interested in the Acton Fair Board met on Thursday evening March 6, 1958 at the home of Mrs. William Thompson, 12 Wilbur St., Acton.

Mrs. Thompson had as her guest speaker Miss Charlotte McCullough of Georgetown, secretary of the Ontario Board, who gave a very constructive and interesting outline of the work the ladies could do to form a ladies' board in helping to make a better fair. At the close of this part of the meeting Miss McCullough conducted the election of officers.

Mrs. Wallace Swackhamer was secretary for the evening. nominations were as follows: president, Mrs. William Thompson, Mrs. M. McCullough and Mrs. C. Davidson. Mrs. McEnery was elected.

First vice president Mrs. William Thompson, Mrs. George Somerville. It was a tied vote. Mrs. Somerville withdrew.

Second vice president Mrs. Alex Near, Mrs. Jesse McEnery. The ladies elected Mrs. Near.

Secretary treasurer Mrs. Ralph Denny and Mrs. Somerville. Mrs. Denny was elected.

The new president took the chair for the rest of the meeting.

Since the Acton Fall Fair began in 1913, the ladies of the community took an active part in helping with the hall exhibits.



Heifers die in truck crash

Three head of cattle were killed when a pick-up truck, northbound on the 6th line, north of Side Road 20, plowed into a small herd that was walking south Friday morning.

John Kent, R.R.1, Acton, was in charge of a group of five cattle when the truck driven by John Beaulieu, of 103 Kingham Rd. came onto the scene from the south.

Three heifers valued, according to Halton Regional Police, at \$1,380 died in the collision.

Damage to the front and right front fender and door of the vehicle amounts to about \$2,000, police say.

Slightly hurt in the mishap was a passenger in the truck, Leo Michaud of Connecticut, USA.

BOTH THE FIRST and the present Ladies Board president were present at the fall fair Ladies division 20th anniversary reunion. Left to right, president in 1958 Irma McEnery, Edith Storey and present president Carmela Cobham. Mrs. Storey made two decorated cakes for the event.

Contact over 700

The Halton Hills FM Radio association set up camp on the hill at Hull's dam at Erin recently and made contact with more than 700 other amateur radio operators during a North-American-wide "Field Day." They contacted operators as far away as Australia, South America, Central America, and most of the provinces and United States. The aim was to practise mobile radio operations simulating emergency conditions. No commercial power was used.

Taking part were James Colter, Georgetown; Don Steele, Brampton; Peter Irwin, Bramalea; Don Thornton, Erin; Rod Pears, Bramalea; Ron Reynolds, Georgetown; Bob Pears, Bramalea; Roger Fonk, Acton, and Larry Sullivan, Streetsville. "We thought we'd make about 400 contacts, so we're extremely pleased with the 700 or so contacts we made," said Mr. Colter. They'll be at it again the third weekend of June next year.

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Lucky winner

Mr. Ware bought his ticket from Mr. and Mrs. George Hargrave during the Back to Acton Days festivities. Toshiba microwave oven.

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