

1980 Fair days set September 19, 20, 21



New Acton Fall Fair Board Executive for 1980 are: front row Norm Shea, second vice-president and Keith Atken, first vice-president. Back row: John Rowe, secretary and Brent Marshall, past-president.

At the recent Acton Fall Fair annual meeting, held at Knox Church Hall, committee chairman reported on the 1979 fall fair and discussed plans for 1980, including setting the dates.

Fair profitable

The 1979 Acton Fall Fair made an actual profit of over \$3,000 during the three fine September days it ran. With adjustments for bad debt collection, loan repayment, and outstanding receipts, the net profit comes to close to \$5,000.

Receipts from the gate were up nearly \$9,000 over last year, \$23,448.78 in 1979 versus \$14,785.51 in 1978. Other events, such as various dances and barbecues, the spot-in-the-park, and dinners netted the fair board \$17,700.64, up over \$2,000 from the previous year.

The Fiddler's Contest cost the fair \$160 in 1974 when it was started. In 1979 more than \$1,000 was won by the contestants.

Sheep have been the big winners at the fair. Entries and prizes have been up from \$201 in 1973 to \$1704 this past year.

Total prize money paid has increased from \$5,700.05 in '73 to \$23,315.03 in '79.

Rowe also remarked the Gestetner machine had paid for itself in printing costs over two years.

Carmella Cobham, past president of the Ladies Board, reported on the District Five meeting and its value to the board members attending.

Past-president Brent Marshall said he was amazed at the District meeting to find the Acton board the youngest attending. Braida agreed an infusion of youth was needed in all fall fair boards.

Changes of ring use, placement, and availability for parking were discussed. Ken Murray said there were going to be "startling changes" in the dairy cattle show in 1981 because of Department of Agriculture

and track lighting made for a successful show, said Marshall. Horse shows in general needed improvement the executive felt and a general comment of "too many darn ponies" was made.

All other committees reported successful returns and shows. Murray and Marshall commented on absenteeism and agreed every committee should have at least one representative at the general meeting.

It was generally felt an increase in publicity money would improve the considerable gate receipts even more. "I'd like to see five thousand more people come through that gate," Marshall said.

In summary, Marshall the retiring president, said "We did what we said we'd do... we got tired of listening to people complain, we got off our behinds and did it... We worked too long and hard to let it go downhill again. If the new president doesn't keep it (the fair) up I will see that it is. I've put everything I've had into it for two years..."

Life member Bert Davidson thanked Brent and said he was highly impressed with Brent when he was nominated for vice-president and pleased with the results.

W.I. contributions still evident today

When president Dorothy Simmons called the January meeting of the Acton Women's Institute to a close, she ended 77 years of community and world wide service by the organization.

The Acton Women's Institute, formed on March 3, 1903, disbanded two weeks ago. A shrinking membership and difficulty travelling to meetings forced the existing group of 10 to call it quits.

Grace Nelles, who has been with the W.I. for so long she can't remember when she joined, said the group was too small to accomplish the objectives set out for them 77 years ago.

The many and varied projects of the Acton W.I. exemplified their motto For Home and Country. Their first major achievement was the stone entrance to Fairview cemetery, unveiled on October 23, 1938.

The W.I. was active during World Wars I and II, sending clothing to children in Belgium and France, assisting the Red Cross and sending jams and seeds to Britain.

Contributions to the community from the W.I. are still evident today. In 1921 they provided the town with a drinking fountain and in 1922 a trough for horses. Both are still standing.

The refreshment booth at Prospect Park and the recreation room at the YMCA are two more visible results of the W.I. The group was involved in medical programs, such as free dental service to school children whose parents couldn't afford it, which started in 1927. They made donations to the diabetic association, volunteered for health clinics and organized a penny round-up for mental health between 1940 and 1960.

The Acton W.I. were a supportive force behind the Halton Music Festival and the Boys Band and provided a scholarship at the McDonald Institute in Guelph to assist the training of home economists. The international head of the Women's Institutes today is a 1953 graduate of the course.

But, added Mrs. Nelles, they were never too busy to enjoy several bus jaunts around Ontario.

The last executive was: Dorothy Simmons president, Jean McLean, first vice-president, Marie Hargrave secretary-treasurer, Marjorie Hall, Jean McLean branch directors, Mrs. Doris Cooke, citizenship and world affairs, Marjorie Hall, family and consumer affairs, Mabel Denny, education and cultural affairs, and Grace Nelles, public relations.

The list of presidents and secretary-treasurers reads like a who's-who of Acton history. Mrs. J.R. Kennedy was the first president, while Mrs. John Cameron was the first secretary-treasurer. Since then there has been more than 30 other ladies held the posts, including Mrs. Jame Warren, Ada Holmes, Mrs. J.E. Gamble, Mrs. Jessie Harvey, Mrs. Geo. Havill, Mrs. W.D. Stewart, Mrs. W. Laird, Clara Ebbage, Mrs. George Agnew, Mrs. E. Graham, Mrs. H.S. Wilson, Mrs. J. Foster, Mrs. Wallace Lasky, Mrs. James Dobbie, Mrs. George Lantz, (1928-29), Mrs. E. Hawthorne, Mrs. A. Reesor, Alvina Wilderspin (1939-40, 1942-44), Mrs. W.J. Reed, Mrs. T. Lappin, Mrs. F.J. Wilds, Mrs. G. Lazenby, Mrs. R.L. Davidson (1945-54), Mrs. F. Anderson, Mrs. G. Hargrave (1960-62), Mrs. Doris Fryer (1954-60), Mrs. Cecil Maple-schen (1962-63), Mrs. William Allan (1944-45), and Mrs. Grace Nelles. Mrs. Fryer and Mrs. Wilderspin are life members.

So much time and every effort is made to cooperate with the owners," Taylor said.

The line is to be in service July 1, he said.

Construction of a 500 kV power line and compensation to farmers are different matters in the mind of Ontario Hydro.

"Construction of the line (through Halton Hills) will not affect property negotiations," according to Ontario Hydro community relations officer Chris Taylor Monday.

Mr. Taylor's remarks came in the wake of protests by some farmers against construction of the controversial line. Land owners complained they have not received compensation, under the expropriations act, prior to the start of construction.

Steps to legally curb construction of hydro tower foundations started last week. There was some protests Tuesday morning at the south Hydro station in Milton. On Monday there was a flurry of activity by opponents of the line.

On Monday Hydro construction crews started work on towers which will flank Highway 7 east of Acton.

"We are attempting to build a transmission line with a minimum of disturbance and disruption to the landowner and his property," said Taylor.

"The line is urgently needed and there is only one alternative," said Taylor.

Most of the ministers in Acton took part in exchanging pulpits Sunday, January 20.

The Anglicans and United Church members changed ministers for the service as did the Baptists and Roman Catholics and the Pentecostals and Salvation Army.

The exchange was arranged by the Acton Ministerial Association.

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Evans heads fair board

In a unanimous decision, Acton Agricultural Society named Brian Evans, former first vice-president, president for 1980 at the annual general meeting last Tuesday night.

New first vice-president, Keith Atken, voiced Evan's thanks and speech of welcome. Evans was unexpectedly called away to North Bay.

Atken welcomed Norm Shea, elected as second vice-president, to the executive.

In his remarks, Atken thanked Brent Marshall, past president for his considerable work and the changes his executive initiated over the two years Marshall was in office.

Second vice-president Lea expressed his thanks and remarked his election was "quite a shock" to him.

John Rowe was once again hired as fair secretary at a remuneration of \$2,000 for the 1980 season.

New board members elected included Rae Swackhammer, Ted Brown Sr., Cathy Lasby, Brian Hammond, Bill Lasby, Maggie Hall, Dave Donnell, Roland Height, George Hender-son Sr., Hans Kuechler, Ray Topelko, George Stull, Bob Johnson, Barrie Martin and Karen Hillman.

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Bill Perras

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