



Scouts raft for treasure

by Mark Rowe

The Acton Fall Fair will have a special attraction this year for 'seafarers'. The Boy Scouts of Canada are sponsoring a raft race for its members and others interested. Visitors to the Fair will be able to watch rafters paddle around Fairy Lake in search of Indian Joes' gold just like Huck Finn. Rafters will also enter races and play water games.

Saturday evening there will be a variety show on the beach at Prospect Park for all rafters, their parents and anyone who would like to attend.

Sunday will feature a raft tug of war and a speed race.

The event is being coordinated by Bob Carlaw, a field executive for Halton Region Boy Scouts. Carlaw organized a similar event at Guelph Line in October 1979. First Acton Scouts and Venturers won that event.

Scout groups from Acton and Georgetown will be participating in the Raft Race on Fairy Lake.

When visiting the Acton Fall Fair be sure to look out on the lake, a flotilla of rafts may be sailing by.

The Acton Free Press

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Just two more days until 68th Fair

Acton and area residents must wait just two more days until the biggest event of the year starts, the Acton Fall Fair.

Regarded as one of the best, if not the best, fairs staged by a small community anywhere in Ontario, this year's fair will be the 68th annual spectacular.

Under hopefully clear, sunny skies the fair will open this Friday, September 18 and run through to Sunday evening, September 20.

The best way to see the fair is to pick up a three day pass for just \$5, a saving of \$2.50 over daily admission for three days, at any bank or the Credit Union and then climb aboard one of the free buses going around town hourly during the three day extravaganza. Avoid driving, there's limited parking in the area of the fairgrounds, Prospect Park.

Popular events and attractions are all back and a few new wrinkles have been added for this year's fair, making it the best yet.

Organizers are expecting record setting crowds as well as a mark shattering number of exhibitors.

The fun gets underway Friday morning with the gates opening at 10 a.m. and the start of the C.E.F. approved Arabian Horse Show. This is the second year for the Arabians and the attraction is becoming very well known and highly regarded, luring entrants and spectators from throughout the area and some from long distances. This is the earliest opening time yet for the ever growing fair.

Hall (arena) exhibitors should have their displays set up by 11 a.m. with judging beginning at noon and the doors opening at 4 p.m. There will be selections of school work, baking, canning and preserving, plants and flowers, fruits and vegetables, juniors exhibits, homecrafts, quilts and dozens and dozens of other interesting displays in the arena.

At noon the midway opens with games of chance and rides.

Besides the hall, the poultry exhibits in the barn will open at 4 p.m. Acton Fall Fair's poultry show is regarded as one of the best in Ontario.

Spot-in-the-Park (a beer garden) will also open at 4 p.m. with entertainment and the Fair Board's famed roast beef on a bun sandwiches.

By 6.30 p.m. under the lights the highly entertaining heavy horse pull, drawing entries from throughout Ontario and even the northern United States, will be set to go on the track.

The fall fair will be officially opened at 8 p.m. by Acton Citizen of the Year Ron McKnight, after fair goers have enjoyed a half hour of fine music from the Acton Citizens' Band.

And added attraction this year, in honor of the Year of the Disabled, will be a display of the ActiVan and a handicapped exhibit.

With the fair officially opened, settle back for an evening of great family entertainment in the rink. There will be music, acrobatics, comedy and dancing with the big show culminating with the crowning of the 1981 Miss Acton Fall Fair from among an already growing bevy of local beauties.

And be sure to get a good night's sleep after the first big day of the fair, you'll need it for Saturday.

The fair opens for its second day at 9 a.m. with the midway in action again, hall exhibits, and horse shows. There will be an English Pony Show, Harness Ponies, Heavy Horses and a light Horse show. There's also the famed Carlsberg team and wagon.

There are also plenty of booths and exhibits outside too; farm equipment, new model cars, commercial exhibits, displays and food booths from most local organizations and groups. New additions

include a dunking booth and tea garden.

Noon should be an exciting time at the fair with the big parade winding from McKenzie-Smith Middle School to the park. The parade will feature the Carlsberg hitch, Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band, Acton Citizens' Band, Ajax Sea Cadets Band, lots of floats, Miss Acton and her court, pony and horse riders, car loads of dignitaries, children's decorated bikes and much, much more. Parade entries must be lined up at the school on Acton Blvd. by 11.30 a.m. and there will be one big category for floats with prizes of \$75 for first, \$50 for second and \$30 for third.

Both Saturday and Sunday there will again be radio controlled model boat races on Fairy Lake.

And making more use than ever before of Fairy Lake the Boy Scouts will run a Huck Finn Raft Race and gold treasure hunt. Anyone can enter the raft race, contact Bob Carlaw at Blue Springs Scout Reserve for details.

At 1.30 p.m. the long-time favorite baby show will be staged in the arena. Entries are being taken now at Toddlers to Teens or register that day from 12.15 to 1.15 p.m.

The big cattle show goes Saturday afternoon starting at 1.30 p.m. There will be beef steers, a junior show, a junior and senior showmanship show, Herfords, Shorthorns, Angus and other beef breeds, including for just the second year at the Acton Fair the Belted Galloways judged by H. Gordon Green. The poultry show continues from Friday on the second day of the fair and there will also be a sheep show.

The tug-of-war returns with Acton's Bulldogs taking on all challengers. Children are encouraged to form teams at the fair and enter the junior tug-of-war competition. New for this year's fair will be Highland Games type events like a farmers' walk, log splitting and hay bale throwing.

Spot-in-the-Park reopens for Saturday at 2 p.m. There will be \$1,200 in prize money up for grabs in the old time fiddlers and step dancing competition in the rink beginning at 5 p.m.

The toe tapping music should get everyone in the mood to do a bit of dancing themselves at the Fall Fair dance at the Acton Curling Club featuring the Sierra dance band.

Giving everyone time to rest a bit, the fair doesn't reopen until Sunday at noon.

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Lois Murray was the youngest competitor in 1933 and shows off her second prize heifer.

Remember when?

It's fun to look back and that's just what we're doing in this year's issue of the Acton Fall Fair supplement. Old pictures from the Free Press files going back to 1937 have been reprinted and are featured here.

Keep this copy around — it'll be a collector's item.