

Fair part of our heritage



MAYOR RUSS MILLER

The music of the midway, the smell of the fall air blending with the smells of candy floss and hot dogs are aspects of the Georgetown Fall Fair which bring back a bit of one's childhood, said Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller.

"The fall fairs (Acton and Georgetown) are part of our heritage here in Halton. I think they are very important," he said.

This year's Georgetown Fall Fair will include the traditional livestock competitions and craft shows along with sheep dog demonstrations and local entertainment.

The fair will also feature a Mini Tractor Pull and the Farm Olympics in which local people will compete in farm-related activities.

Since the Fall Fair is an opportunity for meeting new friends, Russ Miller said he would like to see people who are new to the area come out to the fair to discover what Halton Hills is all about.

"I have talked to people who have never been to a fall fair in their lives

and they've told me what a marvelous event it is to participate in," the Mayor said. "It's an experience you never forget."

Mr. Miller, who came to Halton Hills as a young person, said he looks forward to the event every year. It is a tradition that has gone on for many years, he said. The Georgetown Fall Fair is 141 years old this year.

The Mayor said he has noticed few changes in the characteristics of the Fairs in the 40 years he has been attending them.

"I think your interests change," he said. "When I was young I looked forward to the midway. As I got older, I started noticing the livestock a bit more. As I got older still, I became interested in the crafts."

The fair begins Friday, September 11 and will continue throughout the weekend. The final day of the fair, Sunday, is Children's Day, and will include special events for kids to participate in.



One of the attractions at this year's Georgetown Fall Fair that is sure to send people's spirits soaring, will be rides in a Bell 206 L-1 helicopter, similar to this one. (Herald photo)

A glance through fall fair's history book

A glance through the Agricultural Society history book takes us back 40 years to the 1947 Georgetown Herald. "Over five thousand people crowded the park for the 101st annual Georgetown Fair. The Hall exhibit was probably one of the fair's highlights. Never before has this display looked better to the public eye. It featured the work of rural and urban school children, ladies work, domestic science and classes for flowers and vegetables. Not for a number of years has there been so many horses in the harness class. Due to the threatening

weather the cattle exhibit was down in quantity but the high quality noted for Georgetown exhibition was excellent. Another big highlight of the fair was the music provided by the Girls Pipe Band and the Lorne Scots Band. The younger set took advantage of the rides and swings provided for their entertainment. The games and refreshment booths all had their places and everyone had a "grand time."

As the familiar saying goes, "everything old is new again" and 40 years later your family can still have a grand time at the Georgetown Fair. Although in

many ways the fair has grown bigger and better over the years, the same types of hall exhibits, local entertainment and livestock shows still proudly show the unique blend of rural and urban life that we enjoy in Halton Hills.

Wilbur the Purple Pig will once again be presiding over the usual and unusual animals at Old MacDonald's Farm. The fabulous fun tent, sheep dog demonstrations, pony rides and pet show are all back and guaranteed to satisfy the younger set.

The adults can take in the first-rate home crafts and agricultural exhibits in the Hall, play Bingo or browse through the Craft Tent.

It's been said that Halton boasts some of the best livestock in the country. Watching the ongoing livestock competitions is an excellent way to appreciate the rural aspect of Halton County.

As has been the custom for 141 years at the Georgetown Fair the entertainment for the weekend will provide a showcase for our local bands and talent.

Just as important as what's "old" at the Fair is what's "new" at the Fair. The thrills of the midway will be provided by Conklin Shows for the first time this year.

Otto the Magician and the Junior Jug Band are scheduled to

amaze and delight the youngsters on Sunday, which is Children's Day. Also on Sunday a "must-see" has to be the first-ever Georgetown Fair Farm Olympics where our own local heroes will show their prowess (or lack of it) in various farm related activities.

The Mini Tractor Pull on Saturday night is a new attraction and the O.P.P. Golden Helmets return to round out a great family weekend.

The long-time Georgetown tradition promises to be exciting, with lots of variety to satisfy all interests. "It's Your Fair," so don't miss it!

Expect entertainment galore

Entertainment galore is what you'll experience at the Georgetown Fall Fair.

Friday there will be a rock concert for youth featuring 357 Dwyer, who have previously played at Open Door and St. Xavier, who won a battle of the bands competition at Spanky's in Brampton recently.

Saturday entertainment begins at noon with music from the sixties, seventies and eighties by Sound Investment starting local politician John McDonald on vocals.

At 5 p.m. the OPP Golden Helmets roll onto the track for their precision riding show. Also on Saturday is the mini-tractor pull which is always a favorite whenever it comes to town.

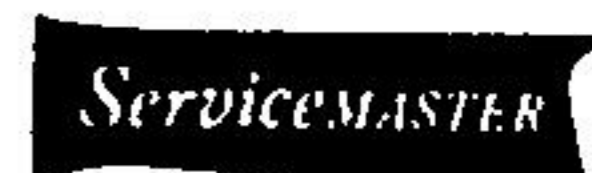
Children's Day Sunday is highlighted by Otto the Magician, Chris and Ken Whiteley and the Junior Jug Band, the OPP Golden Helmets and a Pet Show.

If you enjoy music of the 60's and 70's and especially the music of Burton Cummings, tune into Sound Investment, a local band that will be playing during the Georgetown Fall

Fair. You may have already heard the group at Poppy's one of the first bookings for this band since the four started playing together in January.

"We enjoy playing together," said John McDonald. "We thought it would be nice to go out and play about twice a month."

Mr. McDonald and band members Bruce Herd, Paul Thompson and Gary Chin, have families and full-time jobs - Mr. McDonald is a Halton Regional Councillor - but their love of music and entertaining brought them together.



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