

# Hometown son achieves dream of being a designer

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff Writer

By the time Ryan Roberts was a teenager he knew he wanted to be a fashion designer, so he set out to make it happen.

When he was a high school student he could often be found with a notebook of his designs tucked under his arm and spent many of his Saturday nights learning to sew so he could turn his creations into garments. He studied pattern making in the evening at Sheridan College and when he graduated from high school he headed off to Sheridan to study fashion design full time.

It appears his determination has paid off because Roberts recently opened his own studio.

Roberts, 28, heads Ryan Roberts Designs in Toronto and his menswear is selling successfully in the U.S., particularly San Francisco.

His fall menswear line was featured earlier this year in the Toronto Ready to Wear New Label Show and received favorable reviews from the Canadian fashion media.

Roberts, who worked for top Canadian designers before venturing out on his own, says he owes much of his success to area resident Donna Robin, who used to own Georgetown Fabrics.

"Donna taught me to sew in her basement," says Roberts. "I really admire her and think she's great."

He adds Robin taught him the importance of a well-made garment and encouraged him to

take night courses at Sheridan while he was still a student at Georgetown District High School.

After graduating from

Sheridan's fashion design program Roberts began working as a design assistant with Dean Hutchinson, a women's sportswear design firm.

The company was small and Roberts says he had the opportunity to design and get involved in other aspects of the business, such as establishing retail outlets in San Francisco and L.A.

In 1993 he began working for well known Canadian womenswear designer Lida Baday

and designed the more tailored items in her line. He stayed there for about two years.

Roberts says he always "played" with designing menswear and his menswear designs in 1987 and 1991 design competitions landed him in the finalist categories. In October 1995 he opened Ryan Roberts Design in Toronto's garment district.

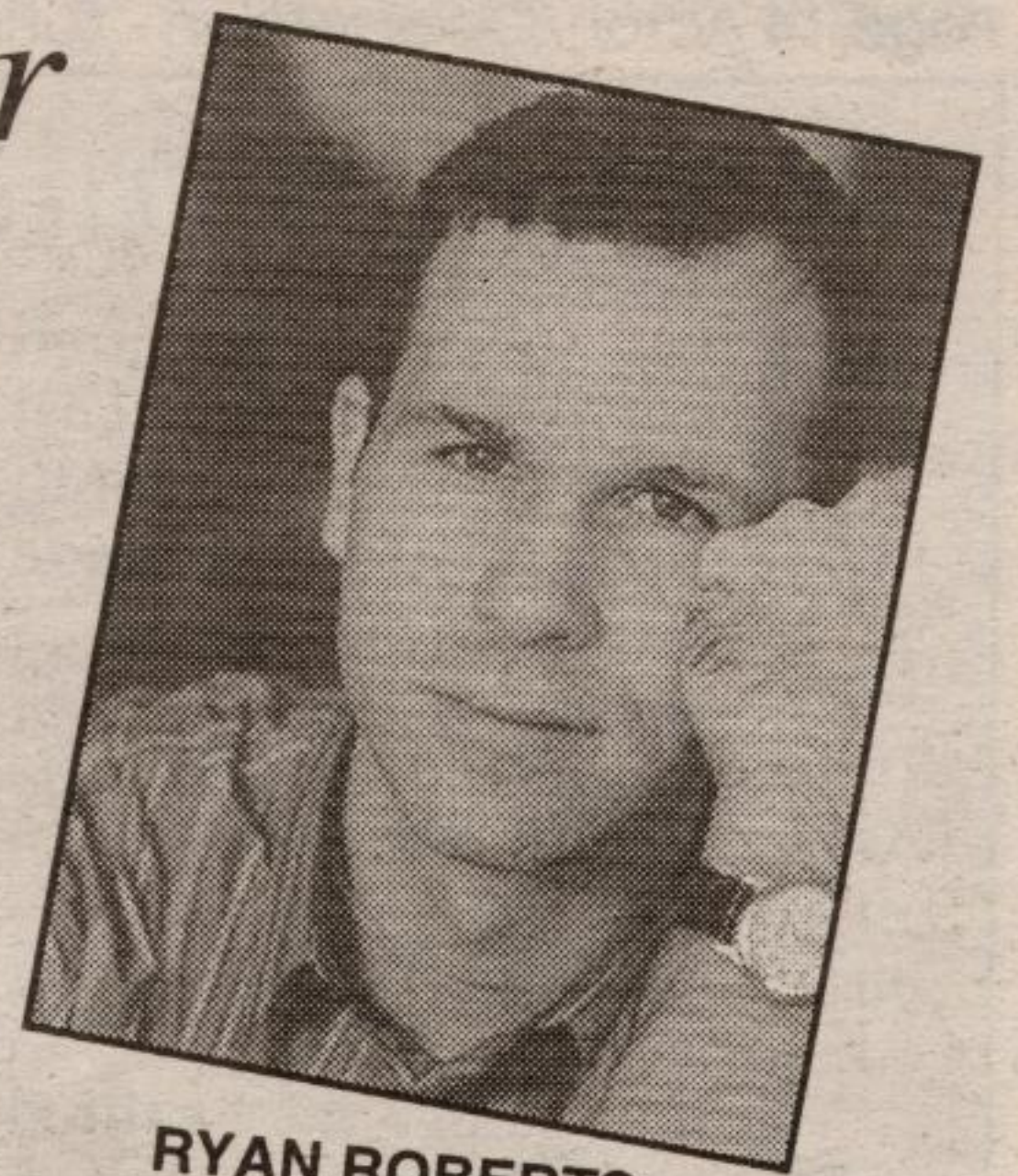
He says his company is still very small and he does all the designing himself. He is working on the spring 1997 collection.

"There is always an evolution to what you are doing; I am trying to build an identifiable look."

Roberts says his clothes are geared to professional men, and both 20 and 50-year-olds like them. His suits sell for about \$1,000.

Like women's fashion "we are now seeing a little retro" in menswear says Roberts.

"There are elements from different decades. There has been a return to a much more classic

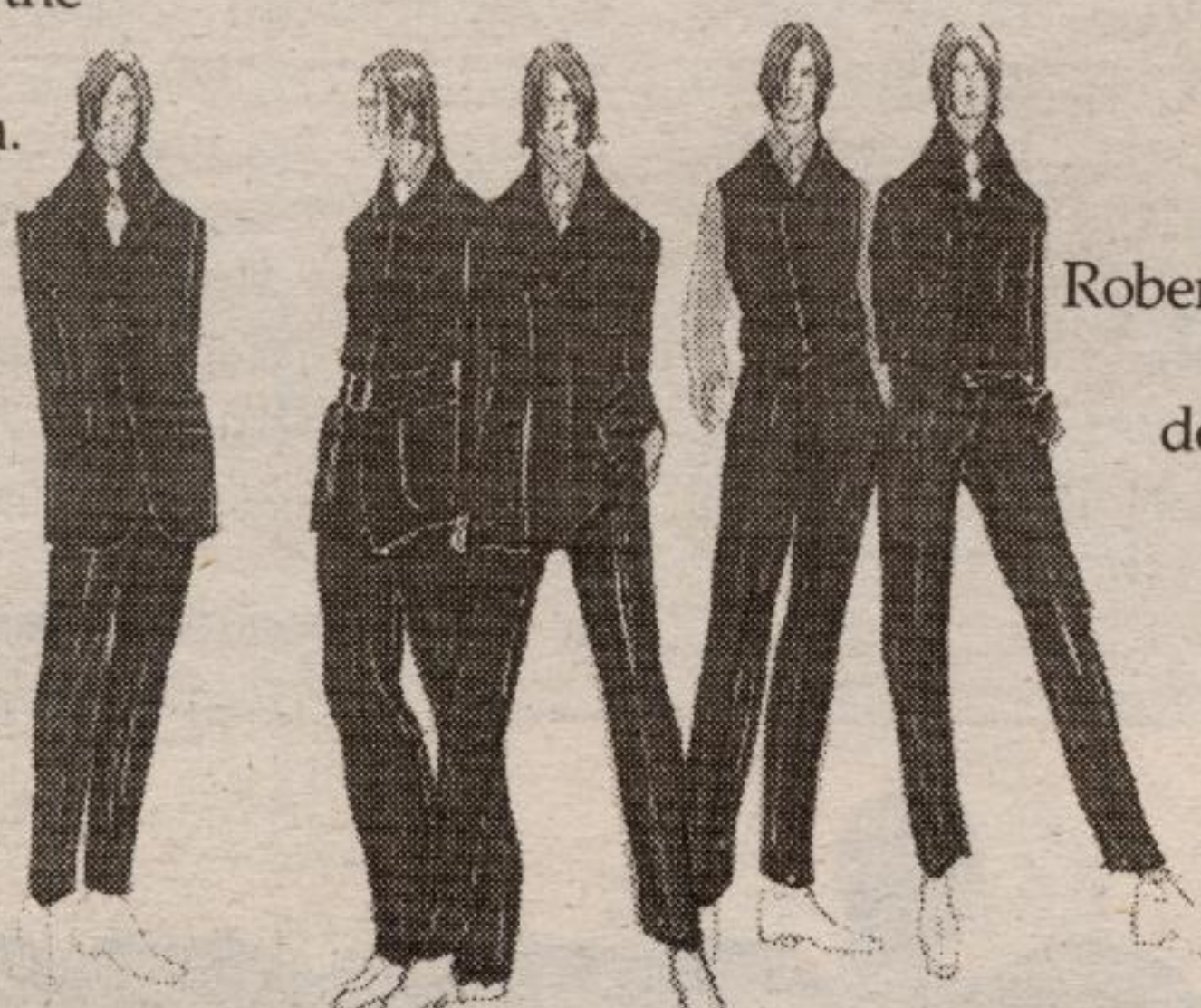


RYAN ROBERTS


tailored suit, the focus is on the body again."

"Someone's personality should never be overwhelmed by clothes. They should enhance their character."

Roberts sees designing as a creative outlet. "It's my own vision, an opportunity to say something," says Roberts. In the future Roberts would like to see his business grow, and adds home decorating is an area he may explore.



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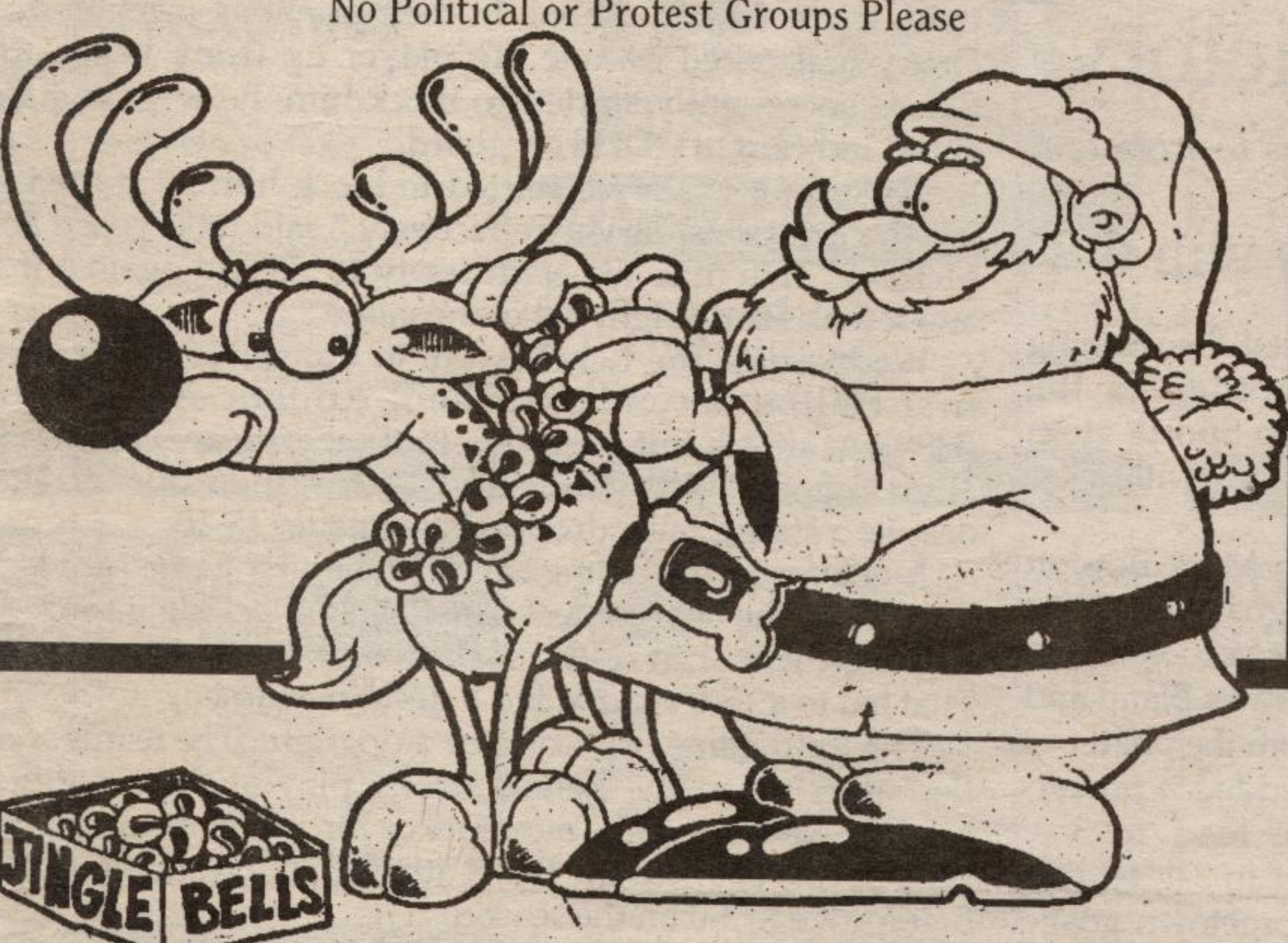
**ENTRY FORM**  
*Theme: An Animated Christmas*  
**Saturday, November 9, 1996**  
**1:30 p.m.**

Name of Group \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Brief Description of Float \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Marchers/Walkers \_\_\_\_\_  
Overall Length \_\_\_\_\_

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY OCTOBER 31, 1996  
(POLICE REQUIREMENT)  
MAIL TO: Lions' Santa Claus Parade  
Box 73, Georgetown L7G 4T1

El Lloyd 877-6831      Al Watt 877-9896

Parade Route: Sinclair + Guelph St. to Downtown  
No Political or Protest Groups Please



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**FRIDAY EVENING OCT. 11th**  
7:00 p.m. Opening of Fair - Exhibits Hall Open - 25th Anniversary of Ambassador Competition  
Midway Open - Truck Pull on the Track

**SATURDAY, OCT. 12th**  
9:00 a.m. - Exhibits Hall Open 9:00-11:00 - NEW - International Horseback Competition  
Please note new times for following events:  
1:00 p.m. - Horse Draw 6:30 p.m. - Evening Tractor Pull  
Goat, Dairy and Horse Shows throughout day. Children's Fair at the Public School at 9:30.  
In the hall Chip Off Old Block Contest at 12:30 followed by Gentle Ben Pet Show at 2:00.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 13th**  
10:00 a.m. - Exhibits Hall Opens. Sheep, Beef and Western Horse Show throughout day.  
11:00-1:00 - NEW - International Horseback Competition.  
10:30 - NEW - Heavy Horse Show on track 1:00 p.m. - Kids Pedal Pull and Farmer's Field Day

**MONDAY, OCT. 14th**  
10:00 a.m. - Exhibits Hall Opens - Ponies, Light Horses, Beef and Poultry Show all day.  
Homecrafts awards at 4:00 p.m. in the hall.

**AVAILABLE ALL WEEKEND LONG**  
Homecraft Exhibits, General Store, Silent Auction, Quilt and Building Fund Raffle, Tents & Midway.  
**ENTERTAINMENT IN THE NEW EXHIBITS HALL:**  
Sunday - Hartland Band and Jennifer Mitchell Monday - Terry Sumsion Trio and Katie Roth