

Acton's Leathertown Festival celebrates 25 years

By: Dawn Brown

Acton's Leathertown Festival celebrated its 25th birthday this past Sunday, August 14 in the downtown. Crowds of people turned out to enjoy the vast selection of vendors, musical acts and community.

"The streets were packed from noon until five," said Acton BIA manager, Beth Paisley. While Paisley couldn't say for certain exactly how many people attended, she had heard that the numbers were

similar to last year, putting attendance in the 8,000 to 12,000 range.

"It went really, really well," Paisley said, who added that last year being her first time putting the event together she was focused on understanding the logistics, but this year she was much more confident and able to ratchet down the details better. "We got more vendors, recruited earlier for volunteers and just tried to build on what was there—the car show had over 40 cars, and the pet show had more pets than ever.

It was a great day."

While organizers hire different bands every year, and the festival saw a greater presence on the stage at the west end of Mill Street which featured youth and local acts, Paisley explained that organizers don't change the overall formula.

"While we tweak it to improve or add a fun event, I don't think we want to change the model too much," Paisley said. "It's nostalgia. It's what people expect and that is part of the fun year after year."



Ted Tyler, Dawn Brown and Les Schmidt photos

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