

Acton Fall Fair 100TH edition a "success"

"Chocolate 101: An Acton Affair." The theme for the 101st edition of the Acton Fall Fair, on September 20, 21 and 22, was revealed on Saturday when the Acton Agricultural Society held its annual general meeting.

It was a successful Fair, according to Secretary/Treasurer Jill Medland who said she would provide financial information by deadline. In an email on Tuesday, Medland provided a retrospective of the past year, which included the 100th anniversary of the fair, but no financial information.

The Fair's bottom line – revenue from three sources including the gate, midway and beer tent, were discussed during a closed session at the Dufferin Rural Heritage centre. During the 15-minute public meeting, several committee chair briefed members on the anniversary Fair, and several committee reports were submitted in writing, but not discussed.

Betty Walsh, general manager of the Dufferin Rural Heritage Community Centre, reported a "very active" year as they handled on-going maintenance/repairs, and worked to attract new users, including lacrosse, Milton and Rockwood soccer, and the popular morning walking program, which attracted approximately 100 people one recent day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- New classes drew additional light horse exhibitors to the Horse Show. Organizers will continue to work on drawing more exhibitors with new classes for this year's event.

- Education Day drew approximately 900 students and 227 volunteers/teachers/students that enjoyed the historical demonstrations in honour of the Fair's 100th anniversary, and the 25th anniversary of Education Day.

- Concession chair



ACTON FAIR DIRECTORS: Members of the Acton Agricultural Society held their annual general meeting on Saturday at the Dufferin Rural Heritage Community Centre. The new Directors include, front, from left; Past-President Brad Swackhamer, Secretary/Treasurer Jill Medland, President Kathryn Brown and Homecraft President Theresa Lockerbie. Back: George Henderson, John Miller, Hank Walsma, Dominique Evans-Zldin, Willie Tallon, Janeen Swackhamer, Dale Hewitt, Natalie Tuitman, Dave Somerville, Mary Walsma, Susan Kuechler, Anjali Viegas and Judy Burtney. Absent: First Vice-President Brian Kuechler, Second Vice-President Ken McIsaac, Alaina Love and Troy Laroche. – Submitted photo

George Henderson reported they expanded the concession area and welcomed seven new vendors. The new Farmers' Market on Sunday had three booths, and will

probably be staged again next year.

- Forty-five babies entered the always-popular Baby Show, which was moved to 10 a.m., and held with a staggered schedule for each age group, resulting in less congestion and fewer cranky babies.

- Over 100 head competed in the Beef Cattle Show – some exhibitors having showed for generations – and the largest class in the Showmanship Division was one for Senior Competitors, and the Junior Show continues to grow.

- There was tough competition in the Poultry Show with 624 birds entered from across Ontario and Quebec. Acton's Show is considered a premier event on the Ontario circuit.

- Beer sales (one of three main revenue sources) were up by two per cent over the previous year, and included a 25 per cent sales increase on the Saturday of the Fair, but also a 30 per cent drop on the Sunday, mainly because of cool, damp weather.

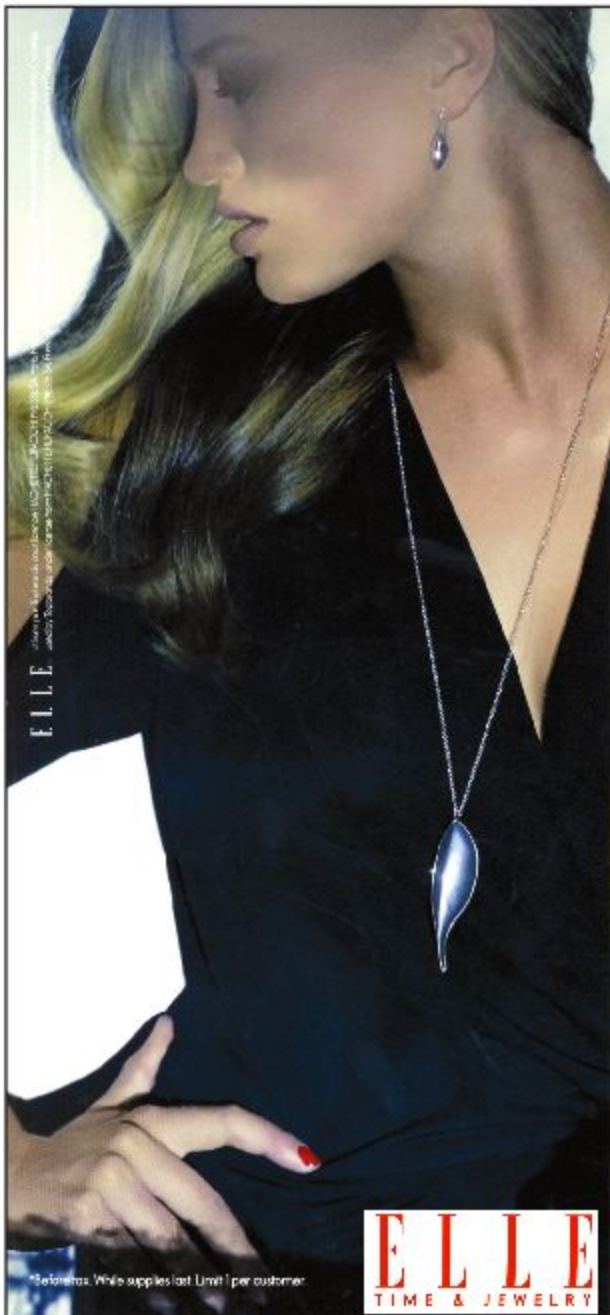
- Homecraft President Marg Aitken reported all of the anniversary displays/

exhibits/classes were well received. There were increases in entries in the Grain, Wine, Baking – up to 150 this year – Arts and Crafts, and Mary Ann Slowka earned the most prizes in the Baking entries, including the Saunder's Bakery Best of Show for her Maple walnut muffins, and a blanket, which won the overall 100th Anniversary Special.

- Nine contestants entered the 50th anniversary edition of the Miss Acton pageant. Approximately 30 former winners joined in the celebrations as Jordan Lenz was crowned with first runner-up Rebecca Nellis and second runner-up, Amanda Van Helden.

- The sheep shearer was a hit and will be invited back this year as part of Agricultural Awareness efforts, which included a milking demonstration, goats and llama in the Maine Attraction petting zoo, and harness and cart race horse demonstrations.

Fair Board Directors held annual elections: The President is Kathryn Brown, Brian Kuechler is the First-VP, and Second VP is Ken McIsaac.



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