

Celebrating 100 years at the Acton Fall Fair

Looking back while looking to the future

A cherished and lovingly preserved doll which won first prize for "Best Dressed Doll entered by a girl under 15" at the very first Acton Fall Fair in 1913 will be on display at this year's Fair to help mark the 100th anniversary of the event, billed as the "Best Little Fair in Ontario."

The doll, with its \$2 first prize tag still attached to its skirt, was first entered by 11-year-old Elva Pearen. It will join other Fair memorabilia in a special display depicting the rich history of the Fair, which began as an agricultural exhibition and has grown to become the social event of the season, and a chance for many to see farm animals and implements up close.

While preparing for each Fair includes the time and talents of many

volunteers, this milestone anniversary has been a special labour of love for many, including Homecraft President Marg Aitken who has compiled a Fair history to be distributed during this year's event on September 13 to 15. "I feel some relief having this compiled in a booklet and (the historical information) not just sitting on boxes in my house," Aitken said on Friday, adding, "people will enjoy looking at it."

Along with the doll, which also won first prize at the 50th Acton Fall Fair, Aitken said they have lace and needlework samples, clothing, small pieces of furniture including a cradle and antique tools from past decades.

"We have a working 1913 Sawyer Massey stream engine and a 2013



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: This doll, owned by the Aitken family, earned first prize at the 1913 Acton Fall Fair, and won again 50 years later when entered in the 1963 Fair. It will be part of a centennial display as the fair celebrates 100 years in September. — Submitted photo

Massey tractor coming as part of the special anniversary exhibits," Aitken said, adding there will be historical demonstrations on the grounds including a Ferrier, candle-makers and tinsmiths from Black

Creek Pioneer Village.

"We have a couple of vaudeville acts — one is like a sideshow where you go into a small tent and several of the Homecraft ladies will also be in (period) costumes," Aitken said.

There will be a special anniversary Homecraft float in the parade, along with a band involved in the first Fair — the Royal Grenadiers — and the 48th Highlanders, a band that was supposed to be in the 1913 parade but at the last minute could not come. Both are expected to play short concerts on the grounds after the parade. While some of the competition categories have changed over the years — Christmas cakes went out of favour in the baking entries — Aitken said many of the classes are as they were 100 years ago. "Macramé was there for a few years and went out of fashion, and I don't think we have any tatting, and we've

added classes including photography. We still have most of the fruits and vegetables — I think what's changed is the prize money," she said, adding they have a special barley class with a \$50 prize this year, sponsored by an Acton resident who works for Canadian Malting.

In his message in this year's prize book, Fair Board President Brad Swackhamer praises the work of a "fantastic crew of people" who make the Fair a reality, noting that many small community fairs have faded away.

Swackhamer said the Fair has been part of Acton's proud heritage for a century and has become a tradition for many families. "We look back with pride and admiration to those who have helped along the way, and we look forward with anticipation to what the next century will bring for the Best Little Fair in Ontario."

Final Halton Parenting Directory now online

The Halton Parenting Directory gives parents and other caregivers access to over 130 parenting programs, workshops, supports, services and other learning opportunities. Produced by Our Kids Network, the directory covers September 2013 to January 2014 and is available online at www.ourkidsnetwork.ca Printed copies will

also be delivered to families through school boards and community agencies in September.

The programs, workshops and seminars listed range from courses for expectant parents to discussion groups for parents of teens. Although the programs are primarily geared to strengthening and enhancing parenting knowledge and skills, there are some listings for children and youth workshops and courses.

"We're always striving to make it easier for parents

and service providers to find, understand and access information and services," said Elena DiBattista, director of Our Kids Network. "We're thrilled that, this coming January, more information than ever will be available, consolidated in a searchable online database."

Starting in January 2014, parenting programs and other important information can be accessed through a searchable database at ourkidsnetwork.ca The listings will be current, updates will be timely and maps will display the location of services. Programs will be described in detail including contacts, dates and times.

COFFEE BREAK

Inviting All Women

Wednesdays starting Sept. 11TH

Opening Day

9:00am Doors open & Coffee Ready
Mornings begin 9:30am

Do you understand the Bible?
Is it just a collection of ancient stories
in one big book?
How can it speak into our lives today?

On the 18TH we will begin a journey going
through a study titled "The Story: Getting
to the Heart of God's Story"

~ Join us to find out ~

Story House Program for children 3-5yrs
Babysitting available

For More information

www.actoncrc.com/coffeebreak.html

Call Christine 519-853-3212

or Sandra 519-853-1189



Treatment for:

- Fibromyalgia
- Chronic Pain
- Stress
- Headaches
- ...and much more.

Naomi Bedell
Registered Massage
Therapy

65 Mill St. E.,
Acton, ON
519-853-8557



Deanna Wilson
BSc. DCh.
Chiroprapist
Foot Specialist

519-853-8557

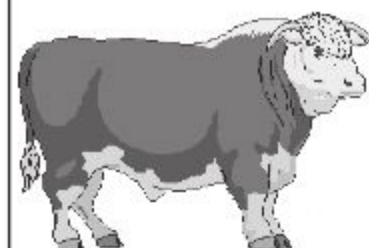
65 Mill St. E.
Acton, ON
L7J 1H4

- Foot/Nail Care
- Diabetic Footcare
- Custom Orthotics
- Home visits

www.actonhead2toe.com

What's Your Beef?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!



It's better than
just chewing
your cud!

Deadline is
Tuesday at noon.

Home and Pet Sitters

Serving Halton Hills since 2000

House and Pet Sitting Services
Mid-day Dog Walking

Providing a stress-free environment
Call us at 519.853.5049

homeandpetsitters1@gmail.com
www.homeandpetsitters.webs.com

