



# Our advertisers Welcome you to the 98<sup>th</sup> Acton Fall Fair



The fruits of the labours of a dedicated group of volunteers has transformed Prospect Park into a fairgrounds for the 98th edition of the Acton Fall Fair - billed as "one of the best little fairs in Ontario" - which officially opens

with a ceremony at 7 p.m. tomorrow (Friday). The theme of this year's fair "Ontario Fruits - The Fruits of Our Labour" has been woven into the Homecraft division exhibits and is sure to generate some fruity floats in Saturday's

Fair parade which winds its way through Acton, beginning at 1 p.m. on Acton Boulevard.

Friday is Education Day at the fair when approximately 1,000 local elementary students visit the grounds to dig for potatoes, compete in

wheelbarrow races, take wagon rides and learn, hands-on, what it is like to be a farmer. While the KenJen Petting Zoo will not return as a Fair favourite this year, there is an expanded

Agricultural Awareness tent where people can get up close to farm animals.

For Fair Board President John Miller, the Fair really is a labour of love - this year, he took two weeks holidays

to devote to the Fair and has been a fixture at the Park since they started preparing for the Fair on Saturday.

Miller, who followed his Dad John Miller Sr. into the Acton Agricultural

Society and the Fair, said this weekend is like a homecoming to him. "I just kind of grew up with it and I enjoyed helping with it," Miller said on Tuesday during a break.

"You play hard and you really enjoy yourself getting

ready for the Fair," he said, adding the Fair is the joint effort of a lot of people who help make it happen, year after year.

Miller, who knows he will be busy all weekend in his role as President, hopes he will get to see the truck and

tractor pulls on the track. "When we started the lawn and garden tractor pull we'd get 15 to 20 people come out (to compete.) Now, we get from 150 to 180 pulls," Miller said, adding he also likes spending time looking at the Homecrafts.

## A proud history of celebrating rural life

In the spring of 1913, the Town of Acton held a meeting at which many citizens came forward to support a "Fall Fair". Previous to this meeting the Esqueving Fair had been held two years in Acton, then two years in Georgetown, starting in 1846.

For a period, from 1889 to 1892 the Acton Fair was called the Acton Union Fair and was a two-day fair held during the week. Two well-known families, the Sprows and the Somervilles, were exhibitors and won prizes.

In 1892, the Fair in Acton was known as the Acton Horticultural and Agricultural Exhibition.

In 1908, the Fair at Acton was advertised in the Acton Free Press - "Open to the World - Esqueving Fall Fair at Acton. Admission 25 cents, children 10 cents."

In 1909, the Fair at Acton had 459 entries in horses alone.

In 1912, the Fair was held at Georgetown and the Acton Free Press was 3 cents a copy.

At the annual meeting of the Township Society held in January 1912, it was voted to cancel the alternating arrangements and hold the fair annually in Georgetown.

After the town meeting in the Spring of 1913, the Acton Fair committee formed

and it canvassed the town for funds.

George Havill was elected President and George Hynds was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Acton Fair has carried on through wartime, depression and rainy fair days.

The first school children's parade was held in 1916, and the first beauty pageant was held in 1919 with the prize going to the "Handsomest Married Lady" on the grounds.

The first poultry show was in 1939, and the fair continued unabated through the war years.

Excerpts taken from the 50th Anniversary Committee, Mac Sprowl Speech, 1988



2011 FAIR BOARD EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS  
Front from left: Jill Medland, President John Miller, Brad Swackhamer, Kathryn Lynch and Marg Aitken. Back: George Henderson, Mary Walsma, Natalie Tuitman, Brian Kuechler, Susan Kuechler, Anjali Viegas, Russ Murray and Bill Lasby. Absent: Dale Hewitt, Stacey Hewitt, Hank Walsma, George Marsh, Deb Mashinter and Willie Tallon. - Submitted photo

## Welcome from Fair Board President

By John Miller  
Welcome to everyone to the 98th annual Acton Fall Fair. We hope you enjoy the "Fruits of Our Labours" for another year.

It takes a great team of dedicated volunteers, putting in many, many hours, to put on an event like this. However, the result is worth the efforts. As we quickly approach our 100th anniversary. It's great to see how many families make

the Fair an annual tradition. It is also great to have the continued support of our community - both attendees and local businesses. What a great town we have.

As you wander the grounds, be sure to sample the great range of food from our vendors, check out the expanded Ag Awareness tent and poultry show, horse shows, 4H events, and find some room on the

bleachers to cheer on the tractor pulls.

In our building, you will find displays of school work, baking, needlework, arts and more - many depicting the 2011 theme "Ontario Fruits - the Fruits of Our Labour." The Homecraft exhibits highlight an array of talent.

Stroll through the grounds, chat with old friends (and new) and enjoy the tradition that is the Acton Fall Fair.

**Have you heard the news?**

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**AND WE ARE PLANNING TO CELEBRATE!!**



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11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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**GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE FAIR CONTESTANTS!**



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**Best Wishes!**  
TO THE MEMBERS OF  
THE ACTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,  
THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS FOR  
A SUCCESSFUL 2010 FALL FAIR.

**DANIEL VARANELLI**  
Certified General Accountant  
273 Queen St. Acton 519-853-4311

Dr. Stephen A. Hess & staff  
**ACTON VETERINARY CLINIC**

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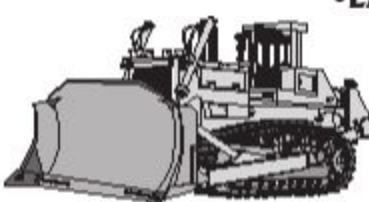
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