

MEET THE GEORGETOWN MAN COMPETING FOR CNE'S AMBASSADOR OF THE FAIRS TITLE

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Georgetown resident Alex Wall may not have grown up in the country, but he has a deeply-rooted passion for Canadian agriculture and the history behind it.

The 22-year-old, who is a history student at University of Guelph, recently became the very first ambassador of Country Heritage Park in Milton, where he also works as an educational interpreter, teaching schoolchildren about farming.

Now, in the days leading up to the Canadian National Exhibition, Wall has another responsibility on his plate: to hone his speech for the Ambassador of the Fairs competition.

As part of the Ambassador of the Fairs program, all competitors will be participating in a parade, a private interview and a one-minute speech in front of an audience and adjudicators at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. The speech must be about a topic related to agriculture or about the fair itself.

"I am definitely very excited and nervous about doing the speech, but I already have something worked out, so I'm definitely looking forward to that," Wall said. "But aside from that, it will be nice just being in a parade at the CNE because I remember I used to go there as a kid and it's going to be really crazy to be part of it now."

Wall says he enjoys being immersed in the realm of agriculture and learning about the importance of agriculturally-produced food as opposed to mass-produced food.

"Something that I've learned through studying history, particularly the history of Canada, is how important agriculture used to be and how central it was to people's lives then as opposed to now," he said, adding that part of the reason he loves his job is that it allows him to stay connected to nature.

"I really want to express to people, especially people like me who don't live in the country, just how important agriculture is, because that's something I have really come to understand through working with Country Heritage Park," he said.

The Ambassador of the Fairs competition will be taking place from Aug. 17-19. For further information, visit theex.com/footer/competitions/ambassador-of-the-fairs.



Alex Wall/photo
Alex Wall at Country Heritage Park's summer fair in 2017.



... Lend Me Your Ears

By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

GETTING USED TO NEW HEARING INSTRUMENTS

Part 1

A patient who has never worn hearing instruments before, or is wearing a new type or circuit may go through a period of adjustment. The following are suggestions to help you through that adjustment period:

Don't get discouraged. It may take time to realize the benefit of your hearing instruments. You have been hearing through a damaged system that has delivered distorted signals to your brain. Now the sounds you are being exposed to are louder and different than what you are used to. In time, your brain will adjust to the new signals it is receiving.

When you first start wearing the hearing instruments, you will suddenly hear sounds you were previously unaware of. Many you will recognize as sounds you used to hear before you had a hearing loss, and others will have to be identified for you. These sounds will seem bothersome at first because you are not used to hearing them. In time, like those with normal hearing, you will unconsciously block out these daily sounds.

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