



Mull'n
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Over
with

Bonnie Mullen

We tend to think of fall fairs being held in local towns like Milton, Acton, Georgetown and Erin. However, in times past the townships used to host their own fairs. In the *Early History of Nassagaweya 1850-1888*, the late Joshua Norrish noted the Nassagaweya Agricultural Society held their exhibitions in Brookville annually beginning in 1854. The township's Centennial Book of 1950 states that the Society fairs were held until 1913. The group disbanded and joined the Halton Agricultural Society.

Records show the Nassagaweya Fair of 1869 receipted \$289.45 while expenses totalled \$276.95. The same year, fairs were also held in Trafalgar, Esquesing, the village of Hamilton and Wentworth Township.

The Nassagaweya Fair was held in September and the children attending the nine schools throughout the township were key participants. This was before the school was built in Campbellville and village children used to attend S.S.#1. Each school paraded behind two senior

students leading and carrying a banner, followed by students according to age, with the youngest at the rear. Every school had their own yell. Winners were chosen for the best marchers, banner and yell.

Exhibits of fruit, vegetables, handwriting, school work, fancy work and domestic sciences such as sewing and baking were displayed at Brookville Hall. At that time the hall was on the east side of Guelph Line just south of the present day school. First, second and third prizes of 60, 50, and 40 cents were awarded. Across the road where the Works Department is now located, larger prizes of \$2 to \$3 were given for best calf, colt, pig and lamb.

"Kirstein and Whitelock were the agricultural representatives who used to judge the fairs. My brother, Lloyd Easterbrook, showed a pet pig one year. I also remember being in a buttonhole contest. We had to make a buttonhole by hand. Ruby Walker (Freeman) took first prize. She went on to become a great quilter but she was good at sewing even then," Lois McPhail said.

The spirit of competition was thriving as folks competed in various categories including public speaking, and harnessing, handling and riding horses.

Local historian Joe Henderson contacted me this

Rural Fall Fairs

month because he believes it's important that our readers be reminded of the significance of Guelph Road, Nassagaweya, in the settlement of our area. Settlers often arrived at Port Nelson (now Burlington) and made their way north on Guelph Road to settlements along the way such as Lowville, Campbellville, Brookville and into Eramosa Township. The road was known as Grey's Mills Road north of the Townline where you go east to Rockwood or west to Eden Mills.

In 1913 the Guelph Road became the first in the county to be surfaced with crushed stone. Hwy. 25, previously known as 2nd Line, Esquesing Township, was also surfaced that year.

Still referred to by many as Elm Tree Corner, a big, old elm tree stood centre at the intersection of Guelph Road and 25 Sideroad and traffic went around it. The tree died in 1916 and two years later the top was taken off. Because it was such a familiar landmark the trunk, which was three feet across, was left standing into the 1920's, and was a popular place to post sale bills and announcements.

If you have memories or photos of any of the rural fairs please contact Bonnie Mullen (519) 837-1300 or at The North Halton Compass.



THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

Richard Thomas
Eden Mills



Nassagaweya Aug 16/94

Dear Sir
I am requested by the Nassagaweya Agricultural Society to invite you to their fall show at Brookville on Oct. 5th to act as Judge of Cattle. Hoping you will be able to do so I await your reply. Yours Truly
E.L. Norrish
Secretary

COURTESY OF MABEL PARKER

A FINE EYE FOR CATTLE - A post card dated August 16th, 1894, sent by E.L. Norrish, then Secretary of the Nassagaweya Agricultural Society, to Richard Thomas, 2nd Line, Nassagaweya inviting Mr. Thomas to judge cattle. The card reads, "I am requested by the Nassagaweya Agricultural Society to invite you to their fall show at Brookville on Oct. 5th to act as Judge of Cattle. Hoping you will be able to do so I await your reply. Your Truly, E.L. Norrish, Secretary." Richard Thomas was well known in the area as a fine judge of cattle. His descendant, Mabel Parker, has various invitations of this nature from other rural fairs, including Aberfoyle, which is still in operation.

one VENDORS WANTED

On October 22 & 23 Mohawk's Annual Fall Fair is in need of new and unique crafters, potters, artists, candies & jams, all creative people!



Call now to book your space before October 1st!

It's A whole new Racetrack!

416 - 675 - RACE

Ask for promotions ext 2210

MILTON AREA STUDIO TOUR

SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

"By any measure, cars, people, sales, comments, compliments, the weather, the 1998 Studio Tour was a great success!"

That was the consensus of the artisans who participated in last year's first Milton Area Studio Tour. That success prompted the Fine Arts Society of Milton (FASM) to immediately begin planning its second arts and crafts tour, hoping that the tour will become an annual event.

This year's tour on Saturday, October 23, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, October 24, from noon to 5 p.m., will feature over 20 artisans in 14 locations throughout the Milton area. Work on display and for sale by these multi-talented artists includes painting in diverse media and subject matter, pottery, sculpture in wood, stone and metal, art photography, carvings in wood, glass and, yes, ostrich eggs!, signs, Victorian screen doors and giftware in wood.

The tour is self-guided and free.

It can be started from any of the 14 locations. Tour brochures with maps are available at a variety of convenient public and retail locations where people can pick them up prior to the tour or on the day of the tour.

They are available in area public libraries and in Milton at the Tourist Information, Seniors' and Leisure Centres. Among Campbellville area outlets are The Mohawk Inn, Ice House Restaurant, Lott's and Lots of Fine Baking, The Lowville General Store, and The Garden Studio. People in the north can also pick them up at the Eramosa Restaurant just east of Guelph on Highway #7, or at La Vieille Auberge Restaurant in Rockwood. For more information please call 905-876-2837.

The tour will take visitors through some of the most scenic byways in this area. All the studios are within an area bounded on the east by urban Milton, on the west by Kilbride and Moffat, and almost from Eden Mills in the north to just south of Britannia Road.

Take time to enjoy the fall colours and refresh yourself at some of the sponsoring restaurants, and return often to the natural beauty of the Niagara Escarpment!