

GRAPEVINE



Fair facts

Weather willing, as many as 15,000 people will flock to the 88th Acton Fall Fair this weekend for fun, food and farm stuff.

Some early highlights include the first fair in 1913, held under a canvas tent, and billed as "Open to the World."

In 1913, the prize purse was \$800. That jumped to just over \$27,000 last year. The first school children's parade was in 1916 and the first beauty contest was in 1919. The first poultry show was in 1930 and, in a portent of things to come, in 1961 the Acton Agricultural Society raised \$6,000 for an arena/community centre.

Simulated escape

Acton students can practise fire escape skills in the Chief Life Line Fire Safety House that will be set up for Education Day tomorrow (Friday) at the Acton Fall Fair.

Simulated smoke and heat conditions in the mobile "house" will give kids the experience of "escaping" a fire through windows and doors as part of a 15-minute fire safety presentation.

The Halton Hills Fire Department and Insurance Brokers' Association of Halton Hills are sponsoring and hosting the fire safety house that will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The fire department pumper truck will be parked nearby; a magnet for many of the younger students taking part in the agriculturally based Education Day events.

Saturday Fair date

Acton musician Jenn Johnson and the Vivids will entertain under the tent on Saturday night, along with country singing sisters Jacqueline and Cassandra Williams.

Johnson and her three-man band, all Acton residents, will offer up two sets from their 11-song, original music, as-yet-unnamed CD.

"It's kind of like pop, alternative, it's like hard rock with soft vocal melodies," Johnson said, adding she first played at the fair six years ago while in high school.

Beef draw bonus

Rotary Acton and Godfathers Pizza have joined forces for this year's Rotary beef draw at the Fall Fair.

A beef draw ticket - top prize is \$1,000 cash or 1,000 lb. (gross) of beef - also gives you a shot at winning one of 52 large Godfathers pizzas in a weekly draw.

Godfathers took care of printing the 5,000 tickets and GM Deb Fendley said sponsorship by Godfathers is a good promotion and a chance to help Rotary.

Beef draw chairman Jake Kuiken expects a \$4,000 profit from the draw - money that will be funnelled back into the community.

Tickets, \$2 each or \$3 for 5, are available at Godfathers, Halton Hills Furniture, all Rotary members and on the Fair midway until the draw at 4 p.m., Sunday.

New blood needed

Two Acton organizations that help youth develop leadership and decision-making, and have fun, need help from parents to operate all of their programs this fall.

Without a new Pathfinder leader in Acton, local girls will have to go to Milton or Georgetown for the Guiding program designed for 12-to-15-year-olds. Pathfinders plan their own program, with guidance from the leader. If you can help call Linda Ellis at 853-0264.

Acton Scouts warned parents of eight, nine and 10-year-old boys if a new leader doesn't step forward, there won't be a Cub program this year.

Prior to registration on Tuesday at the Scout Hall, Acton Scouter George Henderson said Cubs is in "serious risk" without at least two parent volunteers to help two returning leaders, but he's hopeful.

"Once you get an Akela (leader) people are less reluctant to volunteer," Henderson said, adding the lack of volunteers is nothing new. To volunteer or register call 853-0655.

Animal lover remembered

The late Christine Lindsay's love of pets will be remembered this weekend with a barbecue and draw at the Ospringe General Store for the Upper Credit Humane Society.

"Christine had a way with animals, she was crazy about them and I'm doing this in her name," said Christine's mother, Karen Lindsay, who operates the chip truck at the store, opposite where her daughter was killed two years ago.

In Acton, tickets are available at Leathertown Lumber. Prizes include a dog basket full of puppy treats, a cat carrier and a John Deere suede jacket. The barbecue begins at 11 a.m. with the draw between 3 and 4 p.m.



FAMILY FUN: This year's Gilwell Reunion at the Blue Springs Scout Reserve, four kms west of Acton, had a theme of the 'Gathering of the Clans'. Taking this literally, the group from Willow Valley in Toronto and friends from Baltimore, Maryland, donned their scouting gear with kilts during Saturday's frivolity. - Angela Tyler photo

No dogs please, it's only fair

Excuse me, I seem to have misplaced summer. It seems like yesterday we were digging out from yet another snowfall. Yet here we are, the Fall Fair starts tomorrow. I've heard that time seems to go by faster the older you get, but this is ridiculous.

I'm amazed at the number of locals who don't come to our fair. My personal observation is that those who do attend have a grand time. Our fair has an exciting midway, a fine agricultural component, delightful down-home arts and crafts and, since it's bordered by Fairy Lake, a very pretty setting. The best deal for admittance is the three-day pass, available at banks, the Credit Union and selected stores. You can also get a three-day pass at the gates on Friday night. The pass, in essence, gets your three admissions for the price of two. It's also transferable since one person can use it Friday, another Saturday and another Sunday. It's just the ticket for a busy weekend of "fairing."

Again this year, we will be enforcing a policy of "no dogs please." There are just too many kids tearing around. Obviously, dogs will be allowed in for the pet show, but please take them home. Right after. You do have "in and out" privileges with your admission. Just ensure you get your hand stamped on the way out.

We've never had a huge problem but every year we get two or three sets of "lost parents." May I suggest you have a family talk and make arrangements for a "meeting place" should your family become separated? I would suggest the petting zoo at the south end of the midway or the St. John Ambulance station in the parking lot. If you do lose a child, please notify any of the fair board members or security who carry two-way radios. Security does have a search procedure for lost children. Smaller children should be shown police officers, St. John Ambulance staff and front gate security as people lost children should look to for help. Anyone with questions regarding security can see me at the front gate.

On that note, there is a situation where we may have to ask your patience. When a child is lost, we

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



close the front gates. Any cars and trailers leaving the grounds are looked through, including trunks. Please co-operate if you are caught in a search. A frightened child can crawl into the most impossible places to seek safety. No one is accusing anyone of impropriety. All we care about is the safety of the children. Thank you in advance for your co-operation and understanding.

Parking at the fair is always a contentious issue. There is limited parking in the fairgrounds. There is an additional charge for parking over and above your admission. If it rains (which it never does at the fair), parking is restricted when the parking areas are soft. We have to minimize damage to the grounds. Free parking is available at the Legion and a shuttle bus runs back to the grounds. The bus is complimentary. Be sure to check the bus schedule. It's a long walk back to the Legion after a full day at the fair, if you miss the last bus.

We do have handicapped parking on the grounds. Please tell the front gate people if you have any special needs. We will bend over backwards to accommodate you. The same goes for the elderly who may not be as mobile again. Please inquire at the front gate if you have any questions regarding access.

There is always a huge line-up for tickets after the parade passes into the grounds. I suggest you buy your admission before the parade starts and get your hand stamped. Then, after the parade, you can avoid the stampede. This is especially true for those entering the baby contest. The judging starts just after the parade.

Purchasing your admission in advance will spare you the aggravation and hassle involved in the annual mob scene. A final note for those who are in the parade and who drive into the grounds. Please be patient. Until the streets are clear,

and we can ensure a safe exit, there will be no cars/trucks passed out of the grounds. Once again, safety will be the primary concern.

Plan your visits to the fair. There is so much to see and do that it takes some time to absorb it all. Last year Greg Barrington, The Horse Whisperer, was a big hit. His show is Sunday at 1 p.m. and is not to be missed. There are so many events that a careful perusal of the program will ensure you see everything.

If you have any questions or concerns I encourage you to speak to an Agricultural Society member - they wear name tags, or any of the security people. I can assure you that your comments/suggestions will be welcomed and, when necessary, acted on. It is, after all, your fair and all involved want you to be proud of it. As well you should.

I've been accused of being a "homer." I unabashedly admit it. I like our towns. I'm happy we moved here to raise our family. The fair is the biggest single event we, as a community, put on. Every year visitors tell me what a great time they had and what a great little fair we have. I hope to see you all there.

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Sunday morning, the annual Terry Fox Run will be held at the high school. I remember the day Terry Fox ran through town. I remember the heartbreak when his cancer returned and he was forced to abandon his Marathon of Hope.

You don't have to be an athlete to participate. You can run, walk, ride, roll or just drop by to throw a few bucks into the pot. Acton has always ranked near the top of Canadian communities for dollars raised on a per capita basis. Last year the Terry Fox Run raised over \$29,000. Let's try for just \$1 more this year.

Tragically, almost every Canadian family has been affected by cancer. Terry Fox gave his life to try and find a cure. It's up to you and me to continue to fight. We all have a vested interest.

If you don't get over to the run, but would like to contribute to the cause, call Jon Hurst at 853-2015. Someone will run right over and pick up your cheque.

Cancer can be beaten.

Oh, those medical...

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taken, eyes checked and the questions were being answered by him, some before I had a chance to reply. "Alcoholism or drug problems" as I started to say no, I had never even tried drugs, he checked off the no boxes and told me, "Ah, not too many people say yes to those questions."

He then gave me his sales pitch about the clinic, which took longer than the medical, I think. They do it all including having a gynecology he told me. All I could think about was that on the sign in the lobby "gynecologist" was spelled wrong and if they can't spell it correct there is no way my legs are going to be up in any stirrups there.

He was surprised I came from Acton. When I explained the situation he couldn't believe it. I did my little plug for the town as you never know when you might be able to find

a doctor fed up with the city who wants a taste of the 'country.'

As I left, Dr. Anonymous followed behind me heading for the wash-room when he asked me if we had another doctor. I told him we had a temp and are trying to entice a replacement. He then asked, "You're a business woman, right?" As I nodded, he continued, "You know how to get a doctor?" As I stared waiting for the answer to cure the town's problems he told me, "Just give the doctor a twenty every time someone visits. Tell your Mayor that."

I think I knew where my \$60 went. I guess I'm lucky that there is a clinic like that I can go to, but I really hope we get a new doctor soon. I learned to truly re-appreciate small town Acton during my walk-in clinic visit. And the odd thing is, I kind of missed that moment when you first walk into the medical centre. You know the one when everyone in the waiting room looks up from their magazine to see who is coming in.