

When it's fair to be fowl!

Hard to believe, but it's that time again. The 89th Annual Acton Fall Fair starts tomorrow. I thought it might be helpful to those who have never attended our fair to highlight a few of the events.

First the admission charge. Yes - there is one. Each year I am dumbfounded by the number of people who express surprise that we charge admission. Friends, it costs a lot of money to put on a show like this. When you consider the entertainment value you receive the sum is quite modest. The best buy is a three day pass. For \$12.00 you have three days admission to the grounds with unlimited in and out privileges. Passes are available from all local banks, the Credit Union, Pharma Plus and Wetherby's. Or, you can purchase them at the Fair on Friday. From the roundhouse or the nice young men at the front or back gates.

Tomorrow (Fri) the grounds are reserved from 10:00am to 3pm for Education Day. There are many planned activities. Children must come with a school group. Preschoolers must be accompanied by an adult, seniors are welcome. Youngsters arriving without an adult will be refused entrance. The grounds are closed to all others until 4:00pm. The midway will not, repeat **NOT** be in operation during Education Day activities.

Friday at 4:00pm the grounds open for the general public. There's lots to see but the midway doesn't open until after 5:30pm. Later Friday night is the Heavy Horse Pull, (always a favourite) and the Log Skidding contest. At 7:00pm the Acton Citizens' Band parades to the grounds. For me, this is the official opening of the Fair. The formal opening is at 8pm followed by the Miss Acton Fall Fair Pageant. Come out and

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cheer for your favourite contestant or, come out and cheer for them all.

The Homecrafts Tent should not be missed. You'll see everything from baking to antiques, flowers, children's projects, arts and crafts, 4-H projects and much more. So if you're a budding "Martha" check out what the neighbours have been up to. With Christmas approaching the Homecrafts tent (on the tennis courts) is a good place to discover some crafty ideas. I know this will come as a shock to some readers but there are tents at the Fair where beer is not served.

Another free exhibit which kids enjoy is the Poultry Barn (on the lake end of the parking lot). The variety of exotic birds is fantastic. Acton is fast becoming an urbanized society. The kids should see what birds look like before they end up on the 'Barby' or at KFC.

Did you know that the "Poultry Barn" is one of Acton's Historic Buildings? It was built in Confederation year, 1867, and was originally a "Drill Shed" for company 6 of the Halton Volunteers. The Drill Shed was originally located at Elgin St. and Bower Avenue. In those days the building hosted dances, concerts, plays and other social events. The building even housed six or eight families when a fire gutted their homes. They lived there for about six months.

In time the shed was moved to the park and moved again to its current site when the Acton Agricultural Society acquired the building. The Ag. Society is fundraising to build a new exhibit hall to replace the old arena, which was torn down by the Town Administration in Georgetown. When the new building is erected it is hoped the "Drill Shed" (Poultry Barn) will be moved to yet another site in the park. There, the plan is to restore the shed to its original grandeur.

So be sure to take-in the fantastic fowl in the "Drill Shed" and absorb a bit of Town history at the same time.

Saturday is Jam-packed with activities starting with the English and Western Horse Shows at 9:00am. My favourite event is the big parade, which reaches the Fairgrounds after noon. I love seeing the floats and excited children. A note of caution here, the line-ups for Fair Admissions are very long right after the parade. I suggest you buy your tickets early and get your hand stamped. This gives you in and out privileges for the day. Even better, have you heard about the three-day pass, which is a great value?

The baby contest (they're all winners) happens soon after the parade. Mothers please note: It will be easier for you, and less stressful for baby, if you purchase your tickets early. Send Dad down to pick them up on Saturday morning. Then we can speed you on your way to the judging.

While Fair Security makes every effort to keep fairgoers safe, please remember there are many vehicles coming and going and there's only one driveway at the main gate. Every year we have several moments of terror when someone pushes a carriage or stroller into the path of a big truck trying

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Enjoy yourself...
Attend the Fair!!!



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Heigh ho! Come to the fair!!



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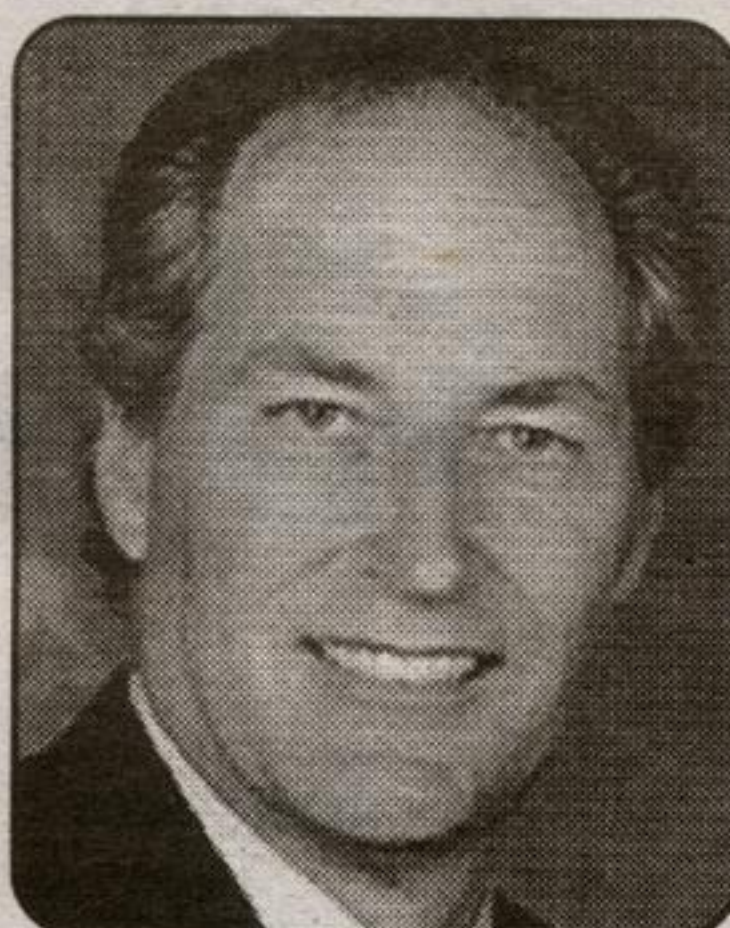


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