

Fair Board pleased with 2004 Fall Fair

The 2004 edition of the Acton Fall Fair wasn't a moneymaker "in a big way" but it was fun, educational and well received.

That's the consensus from fair board members who attended the Acton Agricultural Society's annual general meeting at Knox Presbyterian church on Saturday.

Secretary/treasurer Jennifer Allonby led off the committee reports for the 11th edition of the fair with financial statements showing the fair's three main sources of revenue - the gate, concessions and beer tent profits increased over last year.

Admissions increased by 6 per cent to \$58,566, and the midway revenue jumped 4 per cent to \$8,411. She said beer tent profits were \$3,332, up approximately 1,000 over last year.

Allonby said the Society's total income last year increased by \$5,000 to \$124,769, and expenditures



FAIR DIRECTORS: Directors and executive of the Acton Agricultural Society's fair board were elected to office on Saturday at the Society's annual general meeting at Knox Presbyterian Church. They include, front from left: Jennifer Allonby, Dale Hewitt, Jim Pink, Terry Foster Kathryn Brown and Hank Walsma. Middle row, from left: George Henderson, Caroline Bell. Back: Jason Brown, George MacPhail, Judy Burtney, John Miller, Charlie Plouffe, Russ Murray and George Marsh. - Frances Niblock photo

increased by 7.1 per cent to \$121,152 leaving an operating profit of \$3,617.

Income from the build-

ing fund, a savings account, trust fund and investments gave the Society a bottom line profit of \$9,086, down

33 per cent, or \$5,000, from last year.

The chairs of the various fair committees reported

on the most recent fair, and touched on plans for this year.

Homecraft: Organizers struggle to get entries that have decreased since they moved into a tent. Despite a poor growing season, entries in the plants and flowers categories increased by 70 to 252. Needlework entries increased by 13 from the previous year. Work from 130 Acton students was entered in the school work category - the committee is looking at increasing the prize money for junior and intermediate grades to stimulate entries. Baking entries were down while canned and preserved entries increased

Horse show: There was good interest in the heavy horse show and five entries in the light horse show. Five teams were entered in the light horse pull and five in the heavy horse pull.

Cattle: The 4-H Club involvement at the fair increased which drew more entries.

Truck and tractor: The committee spent \$5,000 on a heavy pull sled, saving annual rental fees. There were 115 pulls in all categories, with growing interest in the lawn and garden tractor pull.

Baby show: Seventy-five babies entered the show and received prizes and gifts from 41 sponsors.

Entertainment: The Charlie Chaplin and Silver

Elvis characters were well received while improvements are needed for the Saturday night show. The 1999 World champion Elvis impersonator is booked for this year.

Building committee: The committee is waiting for soil sample test results which, if favourable, could mean they could begin construction on a new fair building.

No reports were tabled for the Miss Acton pageant or Education Day.

Seven directors were elected to the 18-member fair board including Judy Burtney, Stacey Hewitt, Troy LaRoche, George MacPhail, John Miller, Jim Pink and Charlie Plouffe.

Pink is the returning president, Hewitt the first vice-president and Foster the second vice-president.

The 92nd edition of the fair is September 16,17 and 18, 2005.

Fund Fairy Lake clean-up in 2006

by FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

It will take partnerships, creative solutions and municipal money to begin to solve water quality issues that spoil Fairy Lake.

While there is no Town money this year, the budget committee put staff on notice at \$50,000 for a water quality study is the number one creation and parks budget project for 2006.

During capital budget debates last Tuesday, Mayor Rick Bonnette said the Town must be prepared to "put their money where their mouth is" when it comes to \$50,000 for the study that tops staff's list of unfunded projects in this year's capital budget.

"We're all sitting around here saying how much we love Prospect Park and we love Fairy Lake, but eventually there comes a time when we have to pay for what we want to see..." he said, cautioning that the water quality in the lake worsens each year.

Somerville said resolving

water quality issues must be a partnership effort because it is a great initiative, but too expensive for the Town alone.

"It's too bad that some of the other funding partners, like CVC (Credit Valley Conservation), Ministry of Natural Resources and Region and other park users aren't coming forward" to help implement the water quality plan Somerville said, adding staff will make overtures to those potential partners.

Ward Two Councillor Bryan Lewis said the Town's best kept secret - Fairy Lake - is also one of the most unkept natural resources in Halton Hills.

Lewis said it was "unfair" not to include funding in this year's budget for the study.

The previous night, Friends of Fairy Lake co-founder Betsy Cornwell told the budget committee that the water quality study is essential.

She noted that water quality and waterfowl problems were identified as the first issues to resolve to reha-

bilitate the lake in a 1999 master plan, yet nothing has been done.

Cornwell said the municipal response has been reactive with negative results for park users including cancellation of the weed harvesting program, which led to suspension of the Town's boat rental program because

of safety concerns.

"The budget submission under consideration is the first positive step in five years to address the long overdue implementation strategy," Cornwell said, adding it is an essential step to determine how to reclaim Fairy Lake, a "unique and hidden asset."

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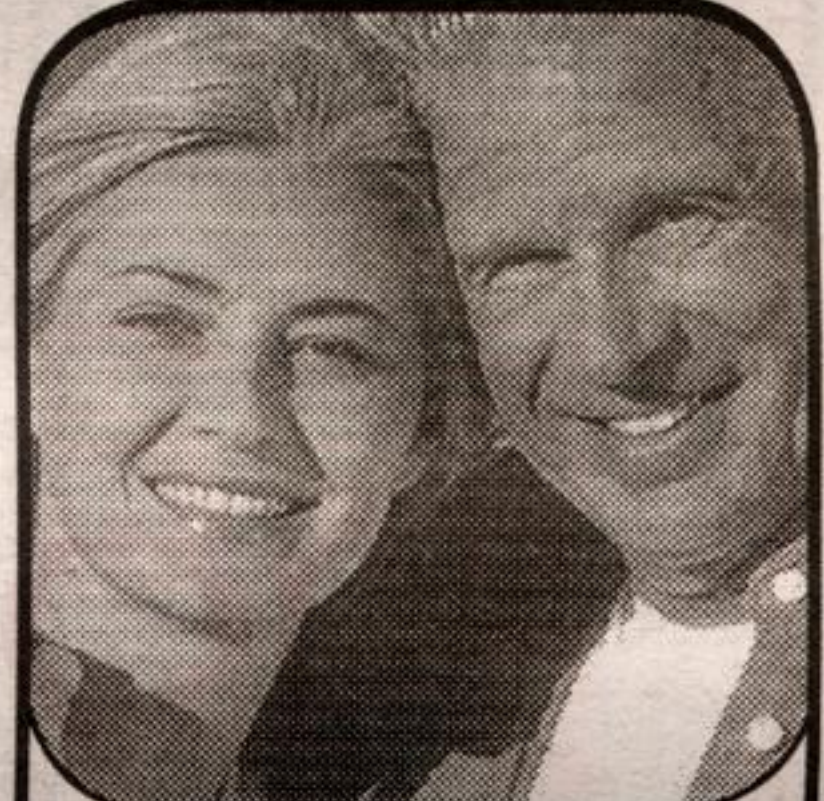
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