

Acton Fall Fair

"The best little fair in Ontario"

Acton ready for the 97th Fall Fair

The mammoth task of turning Prospect Park into fairgrounds began in earnest on Saturday morning as members of the Acton Agri-

cultural Society prepped for the 97th edition of the Acton Fall Fair.

As crews hauled bleachers, converted busses, miles

of snow fencing and huge piles of garbage cans from the Poultry Barn to their designated locations around the Park, another crew of

Homecraft members set up the partition walls, wooden tables and display tables for entries in Homecraft division.

Homecraft president Judy Burtney said she's looking forward to the "gorgeous exhibits we always get and the wonderful way each of the conveyors display them."

Burtney said they won't know until the entry judging on Thursday (today) how people have embraced this year's theme of "Wheat: Outstanding in our Field," but she's looking forward to seeing what comes through the doors on Wednesday night and Thursday morning at the Dufferin Rural Heritage Community Centre.

In the past, several Fair Board past-presidents have rejected suggestions that the Fair should have events

like a demolition derby, and although the Board wants to retain an agricultural focus, Burtney said they are always looking for new ideas. In needle crafts this year, there's a new long arm quilting section.

"The whole Fair is fun," Burtney said on Sunday when asked what she is most looking forward to. "We're entering a (Homecraft) float in the parade this year and its fun working with the Fair Board - they're a good bunch of people and we'd love to have new members come in and help us with new ideas."

One of the new events this year is a Kids' Passport. Kids 10 and under can pick up a list of eight questions in the exhibit hall and then find the answers throughout the fairgrounds. Each entrant will receive a small

token of appreciation.

"It will help them to learn more about agriculture and not just visit the mid-way," Burtney said, adding she hopes some people took her suggestion to take a walk in a wheat field before the fair.

Fall Fair parade chairman Jim Warrington is heartened with the response so far this year to the parade, which winds its way from McKenzie-Smith Bennett School to the fairgrounds, beginning at noon on Saturday.

"The parade looks good for this year. I'd say we're up (in entries) by 30 to 50 per cent this year and the phone is ringing off the wall right now with people who want to enter an old car or float or band in the parade," Warrington said on Sunday, adding he hopes to have a motorcycle police officer lead the parade. He said anyone who wants to enter the parade should call him at 519-853-3707.

Approximately 1,000 Acton and area junior students will get an up close and personal look at agriculture on Friday which is Education Day when the midway is closed and there are lots of hands-on agriculture-related activities for kids.

The Acton Legion Branch 197 will be serving breakfast on Saturday morning at the Branch from 7 to 11 a.m. Tyler Transport will offer its free shuttle buses to and from the Legion parking lot to the fairgrounds.



FAIR READINESS: Members of the Acton Fall Fair Homecraft division and volunteers spent the weekend building displays in the Dufferin Rural Heritage Community Centre for the Homecraft exhibits. - Frances Niblock photo

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