

Farmtown Park hosts the inaugural Kegs, Corks & Curds Festival

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FOR THE COMMUNITY PRESS

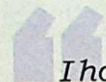
STIRLING If the success of an event can be measured by the number of smiles on the faces of those in attendance, then the very first Kegs, Corks & Curds Festival was an absolute triumph.

"Farmtown Park is a terrific venue and it's the perfect setting for such an event," said Dale Hoard, first vice president at Farmtown Park. "And we are spoiled in this area because we have three great cheese makers that sell curd... there's Empire, Maple Dale and Gay Lea and they all came on-board right away. Also, one of the first things we did was engage with the Rotary Club, the Lions Club - all the service clubs - and of course the vast number of volunteers that are here today. You can never ever thank the volunteers enough..."

But with any outdoor event, organizers are at the mercy of the weather. And last Saturday, Mother Nature did not disappoint as she delivered an almost perfect

summer's day - comfortable temperatures with a light breeze, all under a nice mix of sun and clouds.

The line-up of vendors was as impressive as it was varied. There were craft breweries, wineries, a mixed bag of tasty edibles, includ-



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ing burgers, pizza and hot dogs, along with the aforementioned cheese factories who were set up inside the Heritage Village building, offering samples and appetizing product for sale. In addition there were special workshops presented all day long.

Wayne Lain and his sons offered a fascinating, step-by-step demon-

stration of the time-honoured art of curd making. And David Brandow, a blacksmith from Guelph, was on site using his old-fashioned tools to demonstrate all there is to know about this age-old profession. The 'live' music, under the direction of local musician Dave Bush, was well received as Deb O'Connor, Trilogy Live, and Dave Bush & The River Valley Riders all entertained throughout the six-

hour event to a most appreciative audience.

"I had a bit of an idea of what to expect but I was bowled over when I saw the set-up here," beamed Sandra Wilson of Stirling, as she snacked on some Water Buffalo cheese samples in the Farmtown courtyard. "There are way more vendors than I thought there would be and the variety of food and drink is amazing. Lots of sam-

ples...we're having a lot of fun."

Now that the first Kegs, Corks & Curds event is in the rearview mirror it is time for Farmtown Park manager Margaret Grotek to reflect and assess.

"I believe we did very well in planning our first Kegs, Corks & Curds Festival," sighed a weary Grotek at the end of the event. "We could not have put this incredible day together without all the hard work of our dedicated volunteers... and the support we had from the Rotary and Lions clubs and all their volunteers...and, of course, all who came to enjoy the day here at Farmtown. We're already making plans for next year."



Stirling Rotarians Donna Graff, a.k.a. the Queen of Poutine, and Alan Coxwell are hard at work with a half-dozen volunteer Rotarians preparing delicious poutine for the steady stream of hungry customers lining up at their food booth throughout the six-hour Kegs, Corks & Curds event held Saturday. **PHOTOS: TERRY VOLLUM**