

2013 Shelburne Fall Fair ? President's Message

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the 146th Shelburne Fall Fair. This year's theme is 'Preserving the Harvest'. Come and see our hall displays and then come out to the grounds to see the power of machinery and animals!

Our Fair brings country to the town, uniting the rural community with the urban. We are always surprised at the Agri-cation Centre to see kids learn that the chickens they are looking at lay the eggs they eat, or that the baby calf they are petting will grow up to produce the milk that they drink or the meat they eat.

Everyone should remember generations past who organized the very first Fair, as well as all those people throughout the years who have volunteered their time to sustain it. Many of the events and shows of the first Fair are still a part of the Fair today: including pie baking, quilt making, livestock shows, horse pulls and the games of chance at the midway. Categories have expanded over the years to include things like wine-making and men's pie baking to ensure that the fun and excitement grows.

As with all things, time and technology move forward. People and society change and so the Fair has had to evolve. Recent years have seen the addition of the Cultivating Young Minds display, which is an enhancement to the Agri-cation Centre; these were made possible by generous grants from the People's Credit Union and the Trillium Foundation respectively. Lorelee Farms will be putting on a Horse Show again this year showcasing some of their talented young riders. Don't miss crowd favourites like the Baby Show, the ever popular Dog Show, 4-H Shows, the Midway ? and of course the Demolition Derby on Saturday night and Classic Car Show and Lawn Mower racing on Sunday. The Kids' Pedal Tractor Pull is scheduled as usual for Saturday afternoon.

Once again the Fair Ambassador Competitions will be held on the Friday night of the Fair in conjunction with the Grand Opening, Pumpkin Auction and the Lamb Carcass Competition we will be having a Cake Auction again this year with the cakes being made by the Ambassador competitors and is open to all as well. It isn't too late to enter the Ambassador competitions. Be sure to check out all of our vendors and displays in the Hall and outside. In fact, with so much to do over the three days of the Fair, it makes sense to buy a weekend pass!

This is my third year as president of the Agricultural Society and I know the Fair would not be a success without the help of all of our Volunteers. These people are dedicated to enhancing and improving the Fair every year and it is done with hours and hours of donated time. This is a great and fun opportunity for students to obtain community service hours. For adults who have the time to dedicate to the community, consider joining the Shelburne Fair ? a tradition since 1867. For all of the details, check out our website at www.shelburnefair.com. See you at the fair this weekend.

Earl Smith

2013 Shelburne Agricultural Society President