

Kinmount Gazette



KINMOUNT 150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE
A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE KINMOUNT COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

September 2, 2009 Volume 1: Issue 12

History of the Kinmount Fair

In 1872, the Somerville Agricultural Society was organized to promote agricultural improvement and rural lifestyles in Somerville Township. The society was one of hundreds of such organizations that sprang up all over Ontario in this pioneer era. An annual fair was the primary goal of this society, to be held in late September (after harvest) at a location within the township. Now since there were several "centres" in Somerville Township, the location of the fair was to be granted on a rotation basis between Coboconk & Kinmount (Burnt River did not even exist in 1872!). The first fair was held in Coboconk, but was such a success, the society refused to let Kinmount have the 1873 edition. After waiting 7 years, the Kinmount community realized Coboconk was not going to let them have a turn, and formed their own agricultural society in 1879. Since Somerville was already taken, it was called the Galway Agricultural Society.

The first fair in Kinmount was held on October 14, 1879. The fairgrounds were located in what is now the "new" cemetery. Over 200 inside exhibits were displayed in the hall over Henry Graham's store on the main street. The Kinmount Fair continued to use this site for

20 years, adding horse racing on the Main Street to its entertainment line-up. Eventually the Fair outgrew this arrangement (especially the Main Street race course!), and new grounds were sought. The current fairgrounds (lot 43, Concession A Galway) was purchased in 1900. Alex Moore loaned the Society the money to purchase the lot. The property was in disorderly shape, and \$700 was borrowed from Bob Oswald (labeled the richest man in town) to log, stump and organize the site. This year marks the 110th edition of the Kinmount Fair to be held on this site!

The first priority for the new site was a horse racing track! No more racing on the Main Street! A grandstand was erected to seat the patrons, and the area under the grandstand doubled as an exhibit hall. Earliest photos reveal a merry-go-round as the only midway ride. A pole livestock barn and horse stalls completed the earliest buildings. The early fairs were held on the first Saturday in October, when the harvest was complete. Kinmount Fair was a 1 day event, and admission was \$.15. Besides the traditional agricultural classes such as livestock & horse judging, early entertainment consisted of sports contests (especially baseball games), local (brass) bands and the ever-popular horse racing!

In 1918, the Society spent the following on entertainment: Military Band from Toronto-\$18.00 + trainfare \$17.85, sports prizes \$15.80 and prize moneys &149.00 (after all, it was a agricultural fair). In 1919, the Kinmount Fair held a special event: one of those new-fangled aeroplanes barnstormed at the fair! Charle Doherty travelled all the way to Toronto and negotiated with the Colley Aeroplane Company for this spectacle for the ripe sum of \$100 ! He spent 5 days on his mission and charged the Society \$22.55 for his expenses. Needless to say, the appearance of the first aeroplane in Kinmount was a hit!

Continued on page 3 The Kinmount Fairgrounds in 1905. Notice the Merry-go-round on the left. This was the only midway ride at the time. Original Grandstand center of the picture. The exhibit was located underneath the stands. It was replaced in 1970



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Neighbours and Friends: Bury's Green and Fell Station

Bury's Green & Fell's Station


As settlement pushed up the Bobcaygeon Road, newer settlers spread inland. The boundary between Somerville & Verulam Townships attracted pioneer farmers in the 1860s since it held some good farmland. Squire John Fell was the most prominent of these settlers, settling by 1860 in the first concession of Somerville Township. "Squire" is an English term meant to identify a prominent farmer. It was not a term for nobility, but rather it was unofficially given to prominent members of the community. John Fell was such a man, serving as Reeve of Somerville Township & 3 times as Warden of Victoria County. He was also a postmaster, Justice of the Peace & even a Member of the Provincial Parliament for Victoria North. It was Squire Fell who labeled the little community Bury's Green after his former home in Yorkshire, England.

Bury's Green was a prosperous little community in the 1800s, containing 2 churches, a school, a blacksmith, a harness maker, 1 general store and even a cheese factory. The businesses were not concentrated into any identifiable village, but rather scattered along the Boundary or Bury's Green Road. Squire Fell also operated a sawmill on Brandon's Creek, which only ran during the spring freshette, the creek being dry the rest of the year.

The arrival of the Victoria Railway was a boon to Bury's Green, and a flag station was set up on the west side of the settlement. It was called Fell's Station, and it attracted so many new settlers another school section was started, called Fell's School. Later Superior Propane built a depot beside the tracks.

Bury's Green was always an agricultural community, and

still is today, even though many of the poorer farms are abandoned. All the businesses have closed, the schools are gone and the railway station is no more, but the farmers continue. Bury's Green is perhaps best known for its horses, and a local tale maintains having a horse is necessary to live along the road! The only remaining public structures are the 2 churches: one closed, the other still active.

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The Gazette Challenges You!

The Anniversary Committee is sponsoring a special award for the best 150th Anniversary-themed Entry in the Warriors' Day Parade at the Kinmount Fair.

Greater Harvey Historical Society Annual Bus Tour

That rite of fall, the local historical society's annual bus tour, is all set to go on Saturday October 3. This year's theme is "Trains to Tottenham". The first stop is a ride on an authentic 1920s train on the South Simcoe Railway between Tottenham & Beeton. Proceeding north, our next stop will be at the Simcoe County Museum in Barrie. This splendid museum has a pioneer village, steam train,

display of old earth-moving equipment as well as native displays & a display of old mug shots from the OPP museum.

The tour leaves Bobcaygeon at 8:00 am and returns by 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$65 each, and this includes all admissions, bus, tour booklet and lunch. Seats are limited, so reserve your spot by contacting Guy Scott at 488-3182

Right: South Simcoe Railway Steam Engine; Bottom: A Huron Long House Simcoe County Museum in Barrie





History of the Kinmount Fair, *continued from page 1*

Even in the early 1900s, the Kinmount Fair was on the “leading edge” of fair entertainment!

The Great Depression of the 1930s hit the Kinmount area hard. Farms were abandoned, the rural population shrank and locals didn’t have the money to spend on fairs. Many local fairs folded during this tough time, but thanks to the dedicated efforts of the directors, the Kinmount Fair toughed it out. For several years bad (read rainy) weather drowned the Fair in debt.

Prize money was not paid and one year the secretary was given a donated quilt instead of a cash honorarium. Concerned residents held fundraisers and the show went on!

In the 1950s, a new & aggressive group of directors came to the forefront in the Kinmount Agricultural Society. Massive improvements were made to the grounds, new buildings were constructed and to-notch entertainment booked. While some fairs languished or even folded, the Kinmount Fair surged ahead. The Fair now opened on Friday night and in 1970, a Sunday Show was added. The old arena was opened in 1960, and a new grandstand built in 1970. Then in 1972, the Fair

got its big break. Thanks to “connections”, the CBC agreed to film an edition of the Tommy Hunter Show live at the Fair. Tommy Hunter Show was the #1 TV show in Canada (replacing the iconic Don Messer’s Jubilee. The hour long special filmed at the Kinmount Fair was aired across Canada and moved the Kinmount Fair into a major exhibition status. Since that break-through year, the Kinmount Fair has never looked back.

In 1970, a group approached the Kinmount Fair about camping over the weekend. The first year, 11 brave souls camped. Since this inauspicious start, the campgrounds has grown until today, approximately 550 camp sites are filled every year. The “camping at Kinmount Fair” is an unique experience which attracts a loyal crowd who for a whole week “live” the fair.

In 1985, the Fair decided to beef-up the Friday show and booked the “Chicago Knockers – All-Girl Mud-wrestling”. Needless to say, it was a “hit”. The Kinmount Fair then decided to have an “all-day” Fair on Friday, and has even crept into Thursday

night with the Lions Bongo & children’s tractor pull. To get a fuller sense of the history of the fair, check out the poster collection in the secretary’s office.

Over the years, the composition of the Kinmount Fair may have changed, but not its character or purpose. It was designed to be an agricultural fair, and the promotion of agriculture & the rural lifestyle remains its main focus. It is a blend of urban & rural, of tradition & modern all set amongst the rolling hills of the most beautiful fairgrounds in Ontario. Kinmount Fair is a family affair, filled with the sights, sounds and smells of a olde-country fair set in the space age. It has an atmosphere that makes fair-going fun. It is part of our past and future.



Sophia Macey and Queen Ruby compete in the Costume Class of the Dog Show at Kinmount Fair

Acts at the Fair

Each year, “name” stage acts were brought to the Fair such as:

- 1973 – Tommy Hunter Show (again)
- 1974 – Little Jimmy Dickens
- 1975 – Hank Snow
- 1976 – Marg Osborne
- 1977 – Carol Baker
- 1978 – Del Reeves
- 1979 – The Good Brothers
- 1980 – Peggy Sue & Sonny Wright
- 1981 – Eddie Eastman
- 1982 – Johnny Burke
- 1983 – Family Brown
- 1984 – Kalita Haverland
- 1985 – Marie Bottrell
- 1986 – Mike O’Reilly & Cody
- 1987 – Leahy Family
- 1988 – Prairie Oyster
- 1989 – Walters Family
- 1990 – Bobby Curtola
- 1991 – Bobby Curtola
- 1992 – Lucille Starr
- 1993 – Tracey Prescott
- 1994 – Carleton Showband
- 1995 – Tommy Hunter
- 1996 – George Fox
- 1997 – Jason McCoy
- 1998 – Thomas Wade
- 1999 –
- 2000 – Kitty Wells
- 2001 – George Fox
- 2002 – Charlie Major
- 2003 – Prairie Oyster
- 2004 – Whispering Bill Anderson
- 2005 – Wilkinsons
- 2006 – Michelle Wright
- 2007 – Tommy Cash
- 2008 – Aaron Lines
- 2009 – Beverly Mahood

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Kinmount Gazette

The Kinmount Pioneer Society: Celebrating 25 Years

*Compiled by Lynne Kilby
from the notes of Kinmount
Pioneer Society*

Back in 1984, Ontario was celebrating its bi-centennial anniversary. MP Bill Scott approached local Kinmount resident Mark Brelsford about creating a pioneer display as Kinmount's contribution to bi-centennial celebrations. A display in the arena featured demonstrations by local craftspeople and a pioneer cabin and drive shed created by a group of friends. The display was a huge success! In fact, it was so impressive, Bill Scott and fellow fair board members asked the display be expanded and presented at the approaching Kinmount Fair and as the saying goes, the rest is history! The theme of the first display was "The Early Settlers of Kinmount". Put together by Eva Stender, Bruce & Patti Fleury and Mark & Roni Brelsford, these folks really were true "pioneers". Everything on display came from their homes. Most of the hand-crafts demonstrated were their hobbies. Lorraine Swinson helped erect a tent Bruce borrowed from the Scarborough Boy Scouts. About 2000 people viewed the display. The event grew each year. More people got involved. The Fair Board rented a bigger tent and more peo-

ple came to visit. And so it continued..... Though a sub-committee of the Kinmount Agricultural Society, the group came up with their own logo and called themselves a "Pioneer Society" in order to promote the Pioneer Display. It was never registered as an historical society. It was a very casual, ad hoc group, putting on one exhibit annually at Kinmount Fair. In 1986, the first tearoom was established. Here, visitors found a comfortable place to linger with a cup of tea and cookie while savouring the flavour of the exhibit. As well, funds generated helped defray incurred costs. Each year the tea garden expanded with help from the Kinmount Civic Action Group (later to become the Kinmount Committee for Planning & Economic Development). The Senior's Group helped with baking and the general store continued to grow. Craftspeople, who demonstrated within the display, were provided a venue to sell their wares, with a portion of their profits being donated back to the group. By 1991, the rental tent had grown to a whopping 140' x 80' in size. Now an integral part of Kinmount Fair, the display had become far too much work to set up in just a few days. In 1992, after being ap-

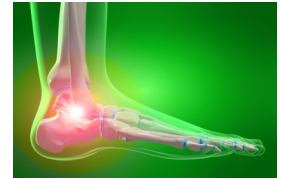
proached by Mark Brelsford, the fair board had a retaining wall and pad installed for a future permanent building. The building would house artefacts and staging props needed for the display. For the last time, the large rented tent was used. The following year Kinmount Fair saw the official opening of two newly constructed buildings that included plans for an adjoining roof to be added in the future. This major project was made possible through the support of the community and the generosity and hard work of a smaller group of individuals. By 1996, during Kinmount Fair's 125th year, about 20,000 people visited the Pioneer Display. Each year's Pioneer Display involves planning from members of Kinmount Pioneer Society, Kinmount Fair Board, and of course the many artisans and exhibitors. Planning takes place throughout the entire year. Meetings are work sessions as well as social gatherings. Volunteers Welcome. Call Louise at 488-2159. Kinmount Pioneer Society is now 25 years old! Today, visitors to Kinmount Pioneer Society Heritage Complex enjoy a magnificent collection of artefacts conserving heritage that speaks from our roots.

Continued on page 5

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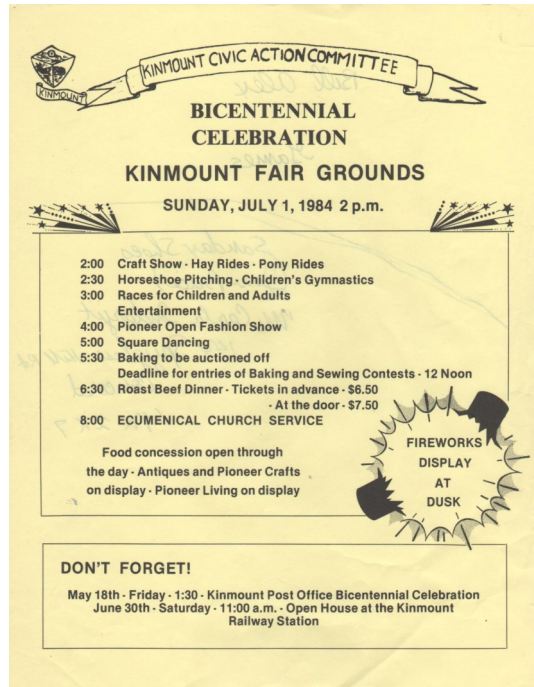
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We will remember them.



The Kinmount Pioneer Society *continued from page 4*

Guests meet and chat with a wide variety of local artisans who demonstrate their craft. They may print their name with a rare old press, send it along wires by antique Morse telegraph equipment, or seek out previous holders of their name on an 1870 map of Victoria County landowners. Guests often set a spell to talk with old friends, meet new friends, enquire about things they wish to know or share invaluable information about things they do know! Kinmount Pioneer Society is history in the making!



Poster for the 1984 Ontario Bi-Centennial Celebrations. From this special event grew the Kinmount Pioneer Society and the Kinmount Canada Day Celebrations. Both 25 years old this year.

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The History of Fairs and Agricultural Societies in Canada

Agricultural Societies, the parent organization of today's agricultural fairs, have a long history. The Bible records fairs over 3,000 years ago! Trade fairs were common in Greek & Roman Times, and throughout Medieval Europe these trade fairs were the "malls" of European history. But it was the English who developed the agricultural fair. This century some English fairs (such as the Nottingham Goose Fair) will celebrate 1,000 years of fair history! In the 1700s, the Agricultural Revolution swept through England with progressive farmers working hard to improve the agricultural industry. To this end, agricultural improvement societies were set up to teach improved & scientific methods of farming and animal husbandry. These societies were hugely successful, not only at the production of more food, but also creating more profits for farmers. The Government of Britain backed these societies with grants and encouragement, even to the point where King George III (nicknamed Farmer George) set up his own "Royal" Agricultural Society and Fair. The best way to show off new ideas & technology was via the "fair system" and thus agriculture

crept into the trade fair scene.

The earliest settlers from Britain brought their agricultural fairs with them to North America. The oldest, continually-held fair is the Windsor (Nova Scotia) Fair, first held in 1765 and still in existence today! Williamstown is the oldest fair in Ontario, held every year since 1812. By 1900, there were over 400 fairs in Ontario alone! Ontario settlers carried this fair tradition to Western Canada, where the greatest honour was to have your fair labeled as "good" as an Ontario Fair.

The agricultural fair became the symbol of rural communities, dispensing both education and entertainment to rural Canadians. Governments encouraged these agricultural societies by many means, including cash grants. The earliest agricultural societies did more than just hold an annual fair: they distributed seed grain, imported livestock & new machinery, held educational meetings & even published educational books. The ag societies started breed & farm industry organizations such as the dairymen's society as well as operated Mechanic's Institutes, the first public libraries. The Agricul-

tural College at Guelph was a product of the Fair's Association. In pioneer communities, the three most important institutions were school, church & the local agricultural society, and not necessarily in that order of importance! Over the years, most of the roles fulfilled by ag societies were given to other groups: and today, agricultural societies are reduced to holding annual fairs.

Ontario Fairs were organized in several levels. The basic unit was the Township agricultural society. Every Ontario township of any importance was expected to have one. These societies held annual fairs in a town or village within their boundaries. At one time, Norland (Laxton), Victoria Road (Eldon), Haliburton (Dysart), Gooderham (Glamorgan), Coboconk (Somerville) and Lakehurst (Harvey) all held township fairs. But as time went on, changes to the local agricultural scene led to the disappearance of these shows. Even so, today Kinmount, Wilberforce, Minden, Fenelon, Bobcaygeon & Carden still hold annual fairs. Their numbers may be reduced, but Ontario still has 220 agricultural fairs each year!

A level above the township fair was the county fair. Lindsay hosted the Victoria County Fair while Minden became home to the Haliburton edition. These "larger fairs" were another level of competition for the township winners, and served to be even bigger educational

shows. At the top of the fair pyramid were the Provincial Exhibitions (Ontario) and finally, the Dominion Exhibition for all Canada. These mammoth shows were larger, and supposedly better fairs. They were held in large cities on a rotational basis. They were often called "Industrial Exhibitions" because agriculture was just one of the featured industries. But make no mistake, they were the close cousins of the humble, but beloved, township fair. Even further up the "fair ladder" was the World's Fair".

Much has changed in Canada since the pioneer days of the 1800s, but the agriculture fair industry marches on. Over 600 fairs & exhibitions, large & small, are held every year across Canada. These traditional fairs are one aspect to Canadian culture every corner of this vast country has in common. Every province holds these treasured tokens of Canadian culture. They are more than just dry pages from Canadian History: they are living symbols of our past fitting in the modern world. Last year, over 23,000,000 fair visits were recorded across Canada! No other Canadian organization can boast such attendance! And while these agricultural fairs may be found in the USA (2,500 fairs!) and around the world, the Canadian edition is still uniquely Canadian. What does that mean? Visit a fair & find out!

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Cultural Corner: School Fairs

So successful were the agricultural fairs as tools of education, various imitators sprang up. One of these copycats was the School Fair. These mini-fairs were designed to involve school-age children in their own competitions in subjects ranging from vegetable growing to live-stock husbandry to crafts. The school fair was held in late September and often several schools would pool their resources & entries for a regional show. In true fair style, prizes were given to the competitors in listed classes. The object was to encourage children to improve their skills, reward excellent work via competition & learn new things. Oh yeah, some fun was also encouraged.

The school fairs were organized in the early 1920s and continued until World War II when they were discontinued as a cost-cutting effort. Some of the junior competitions still live on today at the local fairs & their School or Junior sections.

In 1935, the district school fair was held in Burnt River. Four schools participated: SS

8 (Burnt River), SS # 13 (Stoney Lonesome), SS # 10 (Bury's Green) and USS #2 (Union Creek). The prize winners were too extensive to list, but here is a sample:

- Beets – Patsy Byrne, Phyllis Hodgson
- Carrots – Dean Carew, Freda Chalmers
- Onions – Mary Dettman, Blake Dancy
- Field Corn – Madeline Johnson, Freda Chalmers
- Sweet Corn – Helen Dettman, Audrice Dancy
- Early Potatoes – Jean Cain, Joe Byrne
- Late Potatoes – Ray Cain, Margaret Cain
- Asters – Alfred Hylier, Mary Dettman
- Foal – Cyril Sheehy, Ralph Carew
- Dairy Heifer – Berta Handley, Jean Cain
- Beef Heifer – Bobbie Handley, Donald Maguire
- Market Lamb – Bobbie Handley, Ambrose Ferren
- Primer Drawing – Madeline Johnson, Agnes Pocock
- First Book Drawing – Loretta Tremblay, Glenda Young
- Second Book Drawing – Velma Howie, Goldie Taylor
- Fourth Book Drawing –

- Randolph Armstrong, M. Hughes
- Agricultural Scrap Book – Ilene Armstrong, Ethelwyn Chalmers
- Boys Plastecine Model – Ross Dettman, Delmar Henderson
- Wren House – Billie Shoshenburg, Roy Brooks
- Knitted Scarf – Shirley Hunter, Bernice Hunter
- Cheese Tea Biscuits – Berta Handley, Beulah Hanthorn
- Chocolate Cake – Doreen Handley, Audrice Dancy
- Primer recitation – Jessie Young
- Oral Arithmetic – Maurice Jones, Ethelwyn Chalmers
- Public Speaking – Audrice Dancy, Mildred Handley

Special most points awards went to Eugene Byrnes, Donald Maguire, Jack Young, Ailene Hodgson and Beluah Hanthorn.

The School Fair featured a wide variety of competitions, not all of them classroom-style, but rather emphasizing life in the community. The prize list also shows how closely related to the agricultural fair these school fairs really were.



Kinmount and District Health Centre

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School children from Ridgewood Public School in Cobocok enter their school projects for display and judging at the Exhibit Hall. Susan Pearson, a teacher at the school coordinates the annual collection of work over the course of the school year





Kinmount Kids' Corner

Kids at the Fair

Just for Kids at Kinmount Fair

Thursday, Sept. 3

Kid's Lawn Tractor Pull with weight transfer for kids 15 years & under at 6:00 p.m.
Mower blades removed. Helmets mandatory.

Friday, Sept. 4

Children's Day

Free admission for all pre-school & elementary school children.

Midway featuring World's Finest Shows opens at 11:00 a.m.
Pay one price, Ride all day for \$25.00

Freddie Fusion & His Science Magic Show in Kiddyland at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Mane Attraction Exotic Animals, Petting Zoo & Pony Rides begins at 1:00 p.m.

Prince & Princess of the

Fair Competition
For children ages 4 - 7
2:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Complex

Saturday, Sept. 5

Midway featuring World's Finest Shows opens at 10:00 a.m.

Mane Attraction Exotic Animals, Petting Zoo & Pony Rides begins at 10:00 a.m.

Freddie Fusion & His Science Magic Show in Kiddyland at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 6

Children's Races at Judges Stand, 9:30 a.m.

Midway featuring World's Finest Shows opens at 9:30 a.m.

Freddie Fusion & His Science Magic Show in Kiddyland at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

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Happy Anniversary Kinmount!!!

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Practice safety at the Kinmount Fair.

- As a family plan a meeting spot in case you become separated from one another.
- Missing children should be reported to the Secretary's Office or the Judges' Stand
- Drink plenty of fluids, wear a hat and sunscreen.
- Keep your hands washed regularly.





The Hot Stove Leak by Lynne Kilby

I hope you are ready because it's back – the beast we know and love as Kinmount Fair is upon us. This phenomenal extravaganza turns our hamlet into a place where tens of thousands of people converge to experience the adventures of Kinmount Fair. How does Kinmount Fair conjure up so many visitors? The dedicated Board of Directors of Kinmount Agricultural Society works diligently with a multitude of sources to put on this spectacular affair that compels throngs of people to return time and time again. For most of us, Labour Day Weekend signifies the unofficial end of summer. What better way to celebrate the last "hurrahs" of the season than by wearing the smile that Kinmount Fair will surely put on your face? Don't miss out or you will definitely be cheating yourself.

Please call me at (705) 488-2919 or send an e-mail to lynne.kilby@sympatico.ca to leak info through the Hot Stove Leak. In addition; your news will be posted at kinmount.ca. Hope to see you at the Fair!

TRY YOUR LUCK AT MONSTER BINGO

Win a jackpot of \$1,000 at Monster Bingo, a pre-fair event held in the new arena at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3. This event is sponsored by Kinmount & District Lions Club.

ARE YOU UP TO

THE CHALLENGE?

It's not late to join the fun. The theme of this year's Warrior's Day Parade is "Celebrating Kinmount's 150th Birthday." From Pioneer Days to present day, come show your community spirit. The Kinmount 150th Anniversary Committee challenges individuals, families, businesses & organizations to create a parade entry for Kinmount Fair Warrior's Day Parade, Saturday, September 5. Prize awarded for Best Heritage Entry. Meet at the Railway Station at 11:00 a.m. The parade begins at noon.

GUESTS IN THE PARADE

To celebrate Kinmount's 150th Anniversary, Kinmount Fair invites all Kinmount residents 80 years old or more to be guests in the Parade. Meet at the Railway Station at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 5, and ride in the Parade as honoured guests of Kinmount Fair. For more information contact Guy Scott at 488-3182.

KINMOUNT FAIR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2009

On behalf of the Kinmount

Fair Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the 2009 Kinmount Fair. Our Directors, staff and volunteers have been working very hard to make this another successful year. We hope you are enjoying the arena and other improvements we are making to the grounds. I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers, exhibitors, sponsors, and Friends of the Fair for their dedication in making the Kinmount Fair "The Fair With the Forward Look!"
Dale Smith, President.

2008 FAIR AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

The most extraordinary thing happened to a very shy person at the 2008 Kinmount Fair. I was elected Fair Ambassador! That was the beginning of one of the most memorable events in my life to date. Since that weekend, I have had the opportunity to participate in many other local fair parades and Christmas parades. As Fair Ambassador, I have had the privilege to meet many important and interesting people, learn some valuable lessons and experience lots of fun on this journey.

The highlight in the month of February was the Fair Ambassador Weekend at the Fairmont Royal York in Toronto. It was amazing to meet other Ambassadors from Ontario and learn about their fairs. It was quite unbelievable to see all the people needed and the amount of work and preparation required to make a fair successful. I now wait patiently for the next time I will join with my new Ambassador friends at the CNE Pageant in August. I really look forward to representing the Kinmount Fair at this event.

As my reign as Fair Ambassador draws to an end and I pass the crown, I wish the new Ambassador all the fun and excitement I had. The memories I have will last forever and I recommend any young person try to become a Fair Ambassador. I have gained confidence within myself and if a person as shy as I was can do this successfully, you can too! Thanks to the "Fair With the Forward Look." See you at the Kinmount Fair.
Ashley Bowins, 2008 Fair Ambassador.

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The Hot Stove Leak *continued from page 11*

2009 FAIR AMBASSADOR COMPETITION FRIDAY, SEPT. 4

If you've been toying with the idea of participating in the Fair Ambassador Competition or know someone who has been, now's the time to take the plunge. For lots of fun, prizes and a great opportunity, please contact Susan Pearson at 705-488-2547 regarding entry information.

PRINCE & PRINCESS COMPETITION

Children ages 4 - 7 who live within a 25 km radius of Kinmount are invited to join in the Prince & Princess Competition. Contestants will be asked to appear on stage giving their name, age and what they like most about the Kinmount Fair. Winners will be drawn during the Ambassador Competition and must be available Saturday, Sept. 5, to ride in the parade and make a few appearances at special events during the fair.

ARE YOU A PAST FAIR QUEEN OR AMBASSADOR OF KINMOUNT FAIR?

Help Celebrate Kinmount's 150th Anniversary by digging out your crown and sash and being part of the 2009 Kinmount Fair Parade. Meet at Kinmount Railway Station at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 5 to welcome the 2009 Fair Ambassador, join in the parade and Dignitaries Luncheon Celebration.

WHAT ELSE IS UP AT KINMOUNT FAIR?

Children's Day, Friday, September 4 features Ride All Day passes available at the grounds. Catch two Demolition Derbies Friday evening & Sunday afternoon. Don't miss Beverly Mahood at the Grandstand, Saturday, September 5 at 2:00 p.m. Relax and enjoy the Talent Show Saturday and Sunday afternoons and an Outdoor Church Service at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 6 in The Pines Bandstand. Explore the Pioneer Complex. Stop by the Kinmount Booth for various memorabilia. Check out Kinmount Legion's Support Our Troops Booth. Visit kinmountfair.net to view the full program of events or pick up your program at local retail outlets.

FAIR AMBASSADOR PLAQUE

Kinmount Fair sends thanks to Doug Pearson of Pearson Landscaping for his donation and ongoing updating of a plaque, which will identify past, present and future Fair Queens & Ambassadors.

23 LITRES AT KINMOUNT LEGION

No, I am not talking about beer! Drop by Saturday, Sept. 5 between 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. to enjoy a BBQ while you listen to tunes from the band "23 Litres" under the canopy beside the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 441. Everyone welcome.

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY ON FACEBOOK

The Lindsay Olympic

Torch Relay Community Task Force now has a page on Facebook. "We encourage everyone to become a fan and keep up to date on our plans," said Task Force member Brenda Stonehouse. "We'll be providing updates on the Community Celebration, the Torch Relay and the Vancouver 2010 Olympics." The page is available by going to

www.facebook.com and searching "Lindsay Torch Relay". The Facebook page also provides the opportunity for fans to interact and share their thoughts, photos and videos. The Olympic Torch Relay will be coming to Kawartha Lakes on Wednesday, December 16th. It will be

coming through Omeenee in the morning and stopping mid-day in Lindsay for a Community Celebration.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 2 - 6 - Treat yourself to a scrumptious Breakfast at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 441, served by the Ladies Auxiliary from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Cost \$3.50.

Sept. 16 - Big Buck Bid Euchre, 11:00 a.m. at Kinmount Legion. Cost of \$10 includes lunch.

Sept. 19 - Friends of the Library Book Sale, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., lower level of Kinmount Public Library.

Sept. 19 - Warren Fountain Memorial Ball Tournament, St. Patrick's Field, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Call 488-2211 for info.

Sept. 20 - 26 - Legion Week at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 441. Enjoy darts, cards, bingo & free lunches. Call 488-3462 for



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CARPENTRY - ADDITIONS - RENOVATIONS
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Hot Stove Leak *continued from page 12*

Sept. 26 - For a fun night, make sure to catch the very hilarious, entertaining Variety Show at Kinmount Legion. Don't miss this one. Laughs are guaranteed. Call 488-3462 for info or visit kinmount.ca.

Sept. 28 - Kinmount Sparks, Brownies, Guides & Pathfinders begin their new season. Bring materials to make a scarecrow. Call 488-2919 for registration information.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Seniors Cards: Enjoy potluck lunch, 12:30 p.m. Mondays followed by bid euchre at 1:00 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion.

Kinmount Playschool: Co-operative Playgroup meets Monday & Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - noon at Kinmount Community Centre. Call 488-3044 for more information.

Barnstorming at the Fair

Aeroplanes were "new" technology in the first 2 decades of the 1900s. Most Canadians had a hard time grasping the fact flight was now possible. The Colley Aeroplane Co traveled all over Ontario demonstrating the miracle of flight at fairs and other events. Kinmount Fair hosted this show in 1919. Doing stunts with an aeroplane was called "barnstorming". Sometimes the aeroplane took passengers for a flight, for a cost of course. Here are the recollections of one such fair-goer as he took his first flight at an Ontario Fair:

"The date was September 14,

Lunch at the Legion: Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Hot Meals \$6.00, Soup & Sandwich \$5.00, includes tea & coffee. Eat in/take out.

Preschool Storytime: Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. at Kinmount Public Library

Friday Night Bingo: \$300.00 Must Go Jackpot at the Royal Canadian Legion, 6:45 p.m.

Kinmount Farmers Market: Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Austin Sawmill Heritage Park.

Model Railroad & Museum: Saturdays at the Railway Station, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Highlands Cinemas: Call 488-2107 or visit www.highlandscinemas.com for info.

1916 – the day was misty & foggy- not a good day for flying. The pilot & owner of the little old plane was one of 2 brothers of the Colley Air Service out of Trenton who had purchased a couple of discarded aircraft from the Canadian Air Force to conduct a series of what they called "barn storming" performances. They landed and took off just east of where the cattle & horses were tied on the fairgrounds. It was not a perfect landing field with cross furrows every 50 or 60 feet, so that every time they landed they had to tighten up all the turnbuckles, struts, etc

Happy 150th Birthday, Kinmount



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before taking off again. However, I guess I was the adventurous type so I spent the last \$10 I had for a 10 minute ride. The rider before me was Wm. Bonhower and after me was Arch Tobin, who by the way, reached over and felt the seat of my pants to see if they were dry! They were!
PS. The next day at Chester-ville, the old plane crashed

killing both the pilot and his passenger. Besides the 1919 show, Kinmount Fair has featured barnstorming on at least 2 occasions. In the 1970s, the Carling Red Cap Aerobatic team buzzed the Fair, while in 2007, 2 Canadian Air Force jets let by Captain William Radiff (a Kinmount boy!) "visited the fair" after the CNE Air Show.



The Kinmount Horticultural Society

What is the difference between Horticulture & Agriculture? Horticulture is defined as the “art or science of growing a garden: vegetables, fruits or flowers”. Agriculture is “the art or science of the cultivation of the soil, livestock, tillage and farming”. Obviously there is an overlap in the 2 terms, perhaps the biggest difference being the size or scale of the cultivation. Nevertheless, both Horticultural & Agricultural Societies have been a large part of our history. Horticultural Societies have tended to concentrate on the growing of flowers.

In the late 1930s, a group of Kinmount residents formed the Kinmount Horticultural Society to promote the growth of horticulture & beautify the village. The main event of these gardeners was the annual flower show. It was always held in mid-August, when flower gardens were considered to be at their peak. The shows were held in the Community Centre, originally downstairs where the Artisans Marketplace is now situated, and then upstairs in the main hall. An extensive prize list for flowers was offered, and the hall was often filled with colourful entries. In true Victorian style, a “tea” was served.

The prizes offered covered a huge array of flowers, but the big competitions centered around displays and gladioli. Single glad, any colour, always carried a special prize, and the gardeners would gossip over the winners. Other very competitive classes were dahlias, phlox, asters, marigolds, petunias and countless other flowers varieties, many of which are scarce today. In the 1980s, the Ministry of Agriculture insisted vegetables be added to the prize list.

Most of the funds were raised via membership sales. As a bonus, each member was given a free flower of some type. The T Eaton Company of Toronto always gave a donation, usu-

ally a flower vase, as a prize. This trophy was usually given to the exhibitor with the most points.

The Kinmount Horticultural Society folded in the late 1980s, after 48 years of community service. The last president was Mary Hartin. Times had changed, many of the older members had passed on and horticulture was not a past-time favoured by the younger members of the community. There was still the horticulture division at the Kinmount Fair, but the Flower Show was missed. The Kinmount Economic & Planning Committee took over the town flowers and introduced the village to hanging petunias, a new addition to the horticultural field. Today Kinmount, even in the absence of a horticultural society, is noted for its wonderful floral displays. Flower Power: Kinmount still has it!




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Spot the Shot



Each week we will feature a photo from the Kinmount Area. We challenge you to identify the spot.

Submissions of photos welcome. Please submit to the editor via email with a detailed description of the spot you have captured.

Last week's Spot the Shot: The Burnt River Quarry.

From the Editor's Desk

It's Fair Time! Labour Day Weekend is the end of summer, the last hurrah before school starts and Kinmount Fair Weekend. On fair week, the village of Kinmount is abuzz with excitement and anticipation like no other time of the year. You can sense the excitement, especially among the children. Kinmount Fair is a bit of a legend in the community, and famous outside Kinmount as well. One old-timer once told me, "There are 2 things you look for at a successful fair: long traffic jams and full garbage cans". Kinmount Fair has both in abundance!

The Saturday traffic jam caused by the parade is legendary. Wise locals know when to go the fair and when to stay out of town! The parade leaves the railway station at noon on Saturday; the traffic line takes until 3:00 pm to disappear.

The Warrior's Day Parade is organized by the Kinmount Legion and is a sight as dozens of flag partys from surrounding legions lead the Parade.

The most common questions about the fair relates to "who's playing on stage?" and "what's new this year?". Beverley Mahood is on the Saturday Stage, while Am-bush plays the Saturday Dance. (Don't know who they are? Come to the Fair & see for yourself!) New this year, the Sunday Demo Derby features a "pick-up" demo heat! Fernandez, the hypnotist, will demonstrate his "magic" on stage, and if you want a laugh, come see what he can do! Freddie Fusion & his science/magic/comedy show returns to Kid-lyland.


But what I like best about Kinmount Fair is people-watching. Children especially are fun to observe as they ride on the midway,

check out the petting zoo or just hold a rabbit. They don't just "go the fair", they "live the fair". Ah, the innocence of childhood!

Another unusual aspect about the Kinmount Fair is the trailer park. Over 550 campsites are occupied by over 2,000 campers, well outnumbering the 500 residents of the village. The fairgrounds is totally packed with vehicles throughout the fair. And then like some magic Brigadoon-style story, the whole fairgrounds empties overnight and by Monday they are all gone. And so is summer.

On a sadder note, the community lost one of its oldest resident's last week with the passing of Clarke Simpson. Clarke is perhaps best known for his years in the Garage, and the Simpson Family were in the transportation business for 4 generations beginning with a livery stable over a century ago. GS

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