



Preserving, promoting and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

Our Cultural Moment celebrates the Arthur Agricultural Society & Arthur Fall Fair

Curiosity and competitiveness prompted a group of farmers to organize the Arthur Township Agricultural Society in the winter of 1855. In 1856, under the direction of Fair President John Anderson, Wellington County Land Registrar, the first fairs were held in Kenilworth. In 1863 the Fair moved to Arthur Village, across the street from the present Senior's Hall, allowing farmers from West Luther, West Garafraxa and Peel Townships to exhibit.

By 1890, the Fair Board had purchased the Village Common bordered by Tucker, Eliza and Domville Streets and in the early 1920's the Agricultural Hall was constructed at a cost of \$15,000 including the well. This hall, situated where the Curling Club is now, was condemned in 1976 and torn down. The stone Gateposts, using stone from the old United Church Shed, were erected in 1956 and presented by the Ontario Department of Agriculture honouring agricultural pioneers in the community. 1958 saw the grounds reluctantly sold to the Village of Arthur for \$1.00 plus other considerations when the Province of Ontario mandated that the municipality have a Recreation Centre. In 1977, the present arena complex was built and opened.

Considering the ups and downs, the annual Fall Fair, held the weekend after Labour Day, continues to be a presence in the community. Starting 9:00am Wednesday, volunteers set up the hall and grounds and on Thursday night, over 800 people will enjoy a delicious Roast Beef Dinner. The parking lot contains Monster Machines for kids of all ages to inspect. On Friday the hall exhibits are accepted and judged along with a parade downtown and opening ceremonies to finish the day.

Saturday sees the outdoor competitions like the 4-H shows and Welsh Pony show while continuing the indoor commercial exhibits, kid's entertainment and Baby show. At 8:00am the Firemen serve a Pancake Breakfast, at 5:00pm there is a chili cook-off and at 6:00pm "Weiner Dog Derby Races". Sunday at 10:30am the buildings open to review the exhibits along with a Lions Breakfast, Western Horse Show, Sheep Dog Herding & Kids Power Wheels Demo Derby. At 2:45pm there is the crowning of the Fair Ambassador and Quilt raffle. At 4:30pm the buildings close, exhibits are removed and by 8:00pm there is little left to indicate there had been a Fall Fair.

This year the 162nd Arthur Fall Fair runs from September 6th – 9th. There is something for everyone so please come and enjoy!!



Submitted by Robert Macdonald, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable