

# The Compton County Exhibition at Cookshire

the  
**Record**

## 144th Edition



August 17, 18, 19 and 20 — 1989

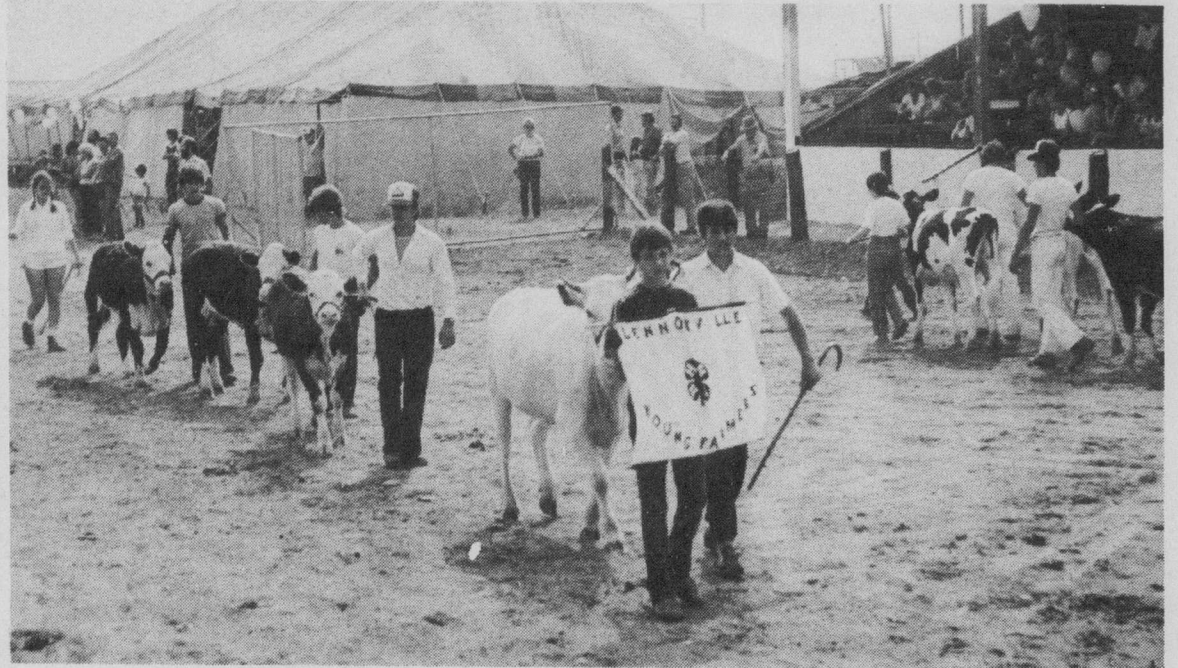
# The 1989 Compton County Fair opens Thursday

By Claudia Villemaire

COOKSHIRE — That's right — it's that time of year again — local fairs are all geared up ready to go

with the Compton County exhibition leading off this weekend.

Now here's one of the smaller ones that has kept its old-fashioned



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country flavor through the good years and the bad. With well over a hundred years of success behind them and only a few years when financial troubles threatened the fair's future, this event is one the entire community looks forward to eagerly.

**VARIED PROGRAMS**

"We have put together a program that is much the same as other years at the same time making changes in keeping with 20th century progress. For instance, we have scheduled ATV pulling competitions along with a farm tractor event that is open to all. We're mixing clog dancers with pipe band music and the latest in country music too," Barry Parsons, exhibition president said this week.

But programs and entertainment are not the only thing Compton County officials have been up to. Fair visitors this year will be pleasantly surprised to find new facilities for dining, fair offices and light horses standing ready for the crowds.

**NEW FACILITIES**

"The new dining hall building is 130 feet long and 40 wide," said the president. "It's a multifunctional building complete with just the right kind of a polished cement floor that just tempts folks to want to dance up a storm. As a matter of fact, we'll have our beer tent in there this year along with lots of music, so Mother Nature has lost her hold on the success or failure of that particular event."

But the character and role of an agricultural exhibition is carefully preserved at Cookshire. The usual

classes that bring the best the county has to offer into the public eye are still firmly entrenched in the fair program. And of course, the farmstead homemaker is another worthy area where visitors can get a glimpse of the talent men, women and children dedicate to the arts and crafts, sewing and cooking the visitor finds on display in the main building.

**NEW OFFICES TOO**

"And that reminds me," said Parsons. "We have relocated our offices in the old dining hall which has been completely renovated. We've new washrooms strategically located in the new buildings as well as elsewhere on the grounds. And to back up the new facilities, we also have a new well that will ensure adequate water supplies at all times, even when exhibitors are washing cattle and horses," he added.

**FIRST EVENT**

The 1989 Cookshire (Compton County) Exhibition starts off with a bang on Thursday night. First event is a BINGO, with \$600 in prizes up for grabs. There is no charge at the gates for this event, and the welcome mat rolls out at 6p.m.

Exhibitors must be in place by Friday morning when the first judging gets underway. The Main building is the first stop for the judges who will face record entries in several departments including all that luscious home cookin', sewing, handicrafts and the children's and men's sections, all located on the second level. And the ladies are putting on their usual delicious snacks too with tea and coffee and homemade donuts their very own specialty.

Downstairs you'll find commercial exhibits where there's lots to see and usually a tidbit or two as well.

Now we've just been talking about things to do before lunch. The afternoon begins with light horse judging, the 4H judging competition with several clubs competing, a pony pulling competition at 2p.m. and the official opening scheduled for 6 o'clock.

Then it's registration time for the Tug of War, an open-to-all

event. The evening is just beginning with this competition and things should really start to get warmed up when, at 7:30, the three and four-wheeled ATV's turn out for a pulling competition of their own. Other years these vehicles have negotiated obstacle courses, but planners and public opinion seemed to think a pulling event would be more fun. They managed to find a tiny weight sled and the volunteers to organize and run this event.

A bonus will be the appearance of small, garden-type tractors — you know — the kind you see folks using to mow their lawns and weed their gardens. Should be interesting to see just how strong these little devils are.

By 9:30, most folks will be ready to relax, grab some refreshment and perhaps enjoy some good dancin' music. The organizers have thought of everything it seems as they've got popular Lyndon Sheldon and his group scheduled to play up a storm. Sheldon is even bringing along a dazzling local singer — name of Renée Legault — a Townships talent showing that's already wowing folks in the Montreal region.

**SATURDAY'S PROGRAM**

Now that was just for Friday. The fun keeps on and so do those judging classes that bring all the farm produce and animals in their best bib and tucker. Saturday is Children's Day as well, with magic acts and special activities planned all day long.

Sheep and poultry are judged in the morning as well as cattle and light horses beginning at 10. The 4H's get things started with their breed and showmanship classes at 9.

Entertainment begins at 1:30 with Clog dancing another special feature. Alice Mellish, leader of the first group started in Richmond, is bringing out her second troupe which hails from the region around Cookshire.

There's an act called The Benny Illusion Show which feature lots of sleight of hand and magic tricks on stage at 2:45 followed by the Parade of Champions including the winners in the 4H individual and

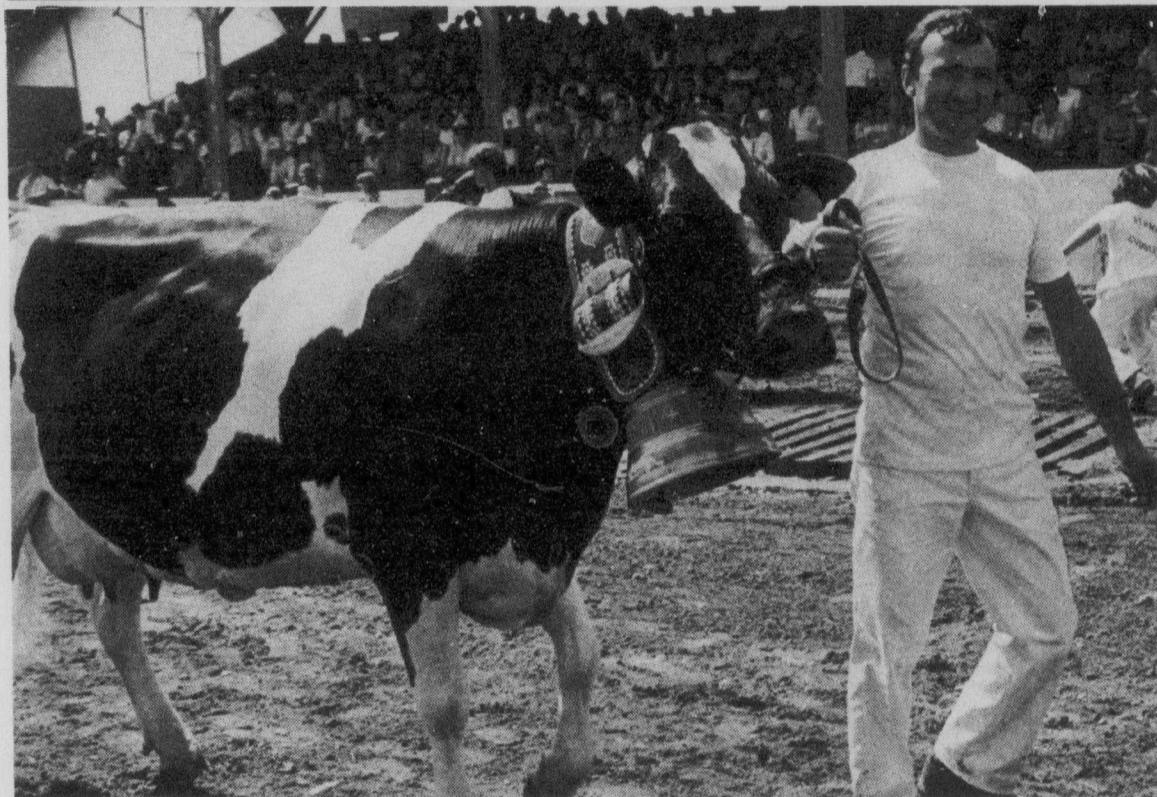
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inter-club competitions. That begins at 3:15.

The setting sun will herald another new sound as the Eastern Townships Pipe band come out at 4. The skirl of the bagpipes and the swirl of kilts in a highland fling was first heard here last year and proved beyond a doubt the bagpipes can still draw a crowd in spite of several years absence from the Townships entertainment scene.

There's barely time for supper before folks begin arriving for the Open Farm Tractor pull. "This event is for everyone. All you need is your favorite tractor, at the fairgrounds before 6 so you have time to get all registered and everything and maybe look over the competition. The event gets underway at 7:30 and we're hoping that lots of locals will get the urge to show off their prowess at the wheel of the machine that helps them make a living," Parsons suggested.

Again organizers plan to keep everyone busy all day and half the night as they set the stage for yet another evening's entertainment with the MOUNTAIN DEW band and their own brand of good country music.

#### THEN COMES SUNDAY

Sunday is yet another fun-filled day with the light horse show beginning at 10. They'll be out in the special ring near the new light horse

barn and their event will go on all day with special kiddies classes for ponies and the always-interesting performance classes for western and english styles.

At the same time, heavy horse harness classes begin again near the grandstand, winding up judging in the regular fair classes.

**SUNDAY IS PARADE DAY**  
Compton County fair planners wouldn't think of doing away with one of the oldest traditions still popular these days. That's the horse, cattle and farm machinery parade beginning at 1. And more entertainment follows with the Benny Illusion Act at 3:30 and the Eastern Townships Pipe Band around 4.

Then one of the most popular events each year takes over the track in front of the grandstand. The Teamsters' Obstacle Course competition — driving those huge horses hitched to a wagon through a set of obstacles — is next. The course includes twists and turns and one spot where teamsters must back their wagon and team into a narrow slot, always an exciting event as competitors complete the course driving as quickly as they dare and making a galloping dash for the finish line.

In the meantime, visitors will notice more trucks and teams of horses getting harnessed and walked about out in the stable

area. That's right, there's a horse pulling competition Sunday evening for both heavy (3200lbs) and light (under 3200lbs) teams. This is the closing event of the '89 exhibition.

"The midway is supposed to be bigger this year and they've promised us two more rides," the president added. "Entries are up in the beef and small animals sections and the Main building is full to bursting. Everyone has worked very hard to make sure the new buildings were completed on time. But this all couldn't be done without community and volunteer support. This year, special thanks go out to each and everyone who have turned out to help or donated money or material for our new buildings and facilities. We've a great team and we're proud," Parsons concluded.

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## Compton County fairgrounds has a new Albert McAuley: affable leader

By Claudia Villemaire

COOKSHIRE — He's a jolly man, blue eyes twinkling and a sense of humor he applies to everything he does. But Albert McAuley knows how to motivate people and get things done.

At least, that's what the folks scurrying around Cookshire fairgrounds putting finishing touches to several projects told me this week.

It seems McAuley is chairman of the Building Committee and with an army of volunteers and mountains of goodwill from all concerned, he headed up a team that will see two new buildings completed, another renovated, a fully equipped kitchen and several new washrooms completed for their 144th exhibition which begins this Thursday.

"Now look here," this modest gentleman insisted, "Why are you picking on me when there's lots of others who deserve much more credit than I do?" he questioned with a wry smile.

### MISCHIEF AND DETERMINATION

But McAuley early learned the meaning of hard work and determination, combined with a quick wit and not a little leaning towards some mischief.

"School days were kind of dull for me and, thank goodness, before too long — about the eighth grade I guess — they needed me to go to work and that was that," he recalled. But this energetic personality admitted to some awkward moments when trouble was kind of his middle name.

"I remember being punished one day and ending up sitting at the teacher's feet, almost under her desk. Well, you know, that's where she always put her lunch in a paper bag, thinking it was a relatively safe place. But she didn't plan on a farm boy's appetite and I ate that lunch, every last crumb. Well, you want to see a mad teacher. She sent me walkin' a mile down the road to fetch her another lunch she was that mad."

McAuley laughed at the recollection as he recalled what got him in all that trouble in the first place. "You know, in those days school was a pretty prim and proper place and when I winged an eraser at her back while she was writing on the blackboard, she just had no sense of humor at all," he chuckled.

### GROWING UP ON THE FARM

The McAuley family learned the meaning of an honest day's work at an early age. "My Dad, who is still hale and hearty at 94 today, cut logs on Chagnon mountain near Magog where I was born. We hauled between 800 and 1,100 feet of hardwood logs every day we could during the winter and let me tell you those hills were some steep."

The double sleds were equipped with 'bridle chains' that were kind of primitive brakes, thrown under the mocassin runners as the loaded sleds, pulled by a pair of horses, started down those slippery slopes.



Albert McAuley has been involved with horses all his life. Matter of fact, he's more at home with horses than modern farm machinery.

"We crossed three small lakes and a pond on our way to the mill and in spite of the distance, we could make five trips most days. My Dad got \$1 per trip making up to \$5 per day. And you know, he was able to hire another man at that rate, but it's almost unbelievable now when you consider what the same work would cost today."

Farming, logging and, as a matter of fact, the farmer in the 30's depended entirely on the ability and stamina of his team. "I knew nothing about tractors," he laughs, "and still would rather drive a good team of horses than anything."

But boyhood on the farm ended shortly before the war when McAuley joined a construction gang at St. Benoit du Lac where the present-day monastery was being built. "The war changed all my plans," he remembers.

### THEN CAME THE WAR

Joining up in the fall of '39, before another twelve months had gone by, McAuley had courted and married his true love, Irene Parent, and found himself on board a ship called the Buttori, a Polish cattle boat, bound for the coast of Scotland.

"What a trip that was," he said. "Just about everyone on board was seasick and, because we had no escort, we zigzagged across that ocean for 14 days."

McAuley joined the 9th Canadian Forestry Division. "and I think we

cut down pretty near all the trees in Scotland"... where they stayed close to a year before heading for the front.

Then the troop formed the advance corps in charge of building bridges and securing lumber to shore up trenches through France, Holland, Germany and Holland. "I lumbered in the Black Forest," he chuckles, "and it was no piece of cake either," he adds.

Discharged as a sergeant, McAuley treasures a clipping that certifies he was one of the Canadians on hand at the Battle of the Bulge.

### THEN BACK TO THE LAND

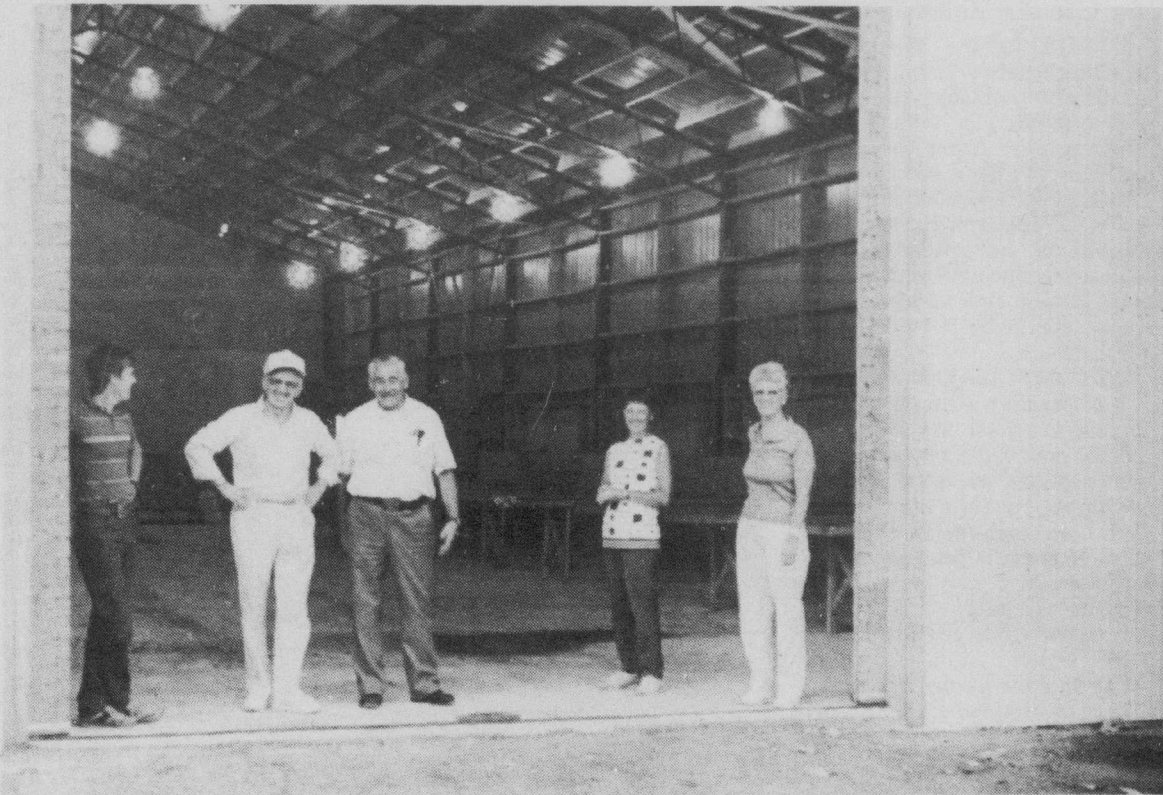
But horses and farming was in his blood. He came through his four-year tour of duty relatively unscathed, and, settling on a small farm in Cookshire where he could keep his beloved horses, began a trucking company that picked up and hauled milk to the Carnation milk plant in Lennoxville. When the old eight-gallon milk cans were phased out, he switched over to trailer driving, working a total of 29 years for Maislin.

But there were always horses about and fairs to go to. "I'd be showing my team this year if one hadn't hurt her leg and hoof," he insisted.

### AND FAIRS WERE A FAMILY TRADITION

"My father showed some at Ayer's Cliff and Brome and I've

# look this year of the '89 building committee



Just a few of the folks who have dedicated time and money for the new buildings just in time for this year's expo.

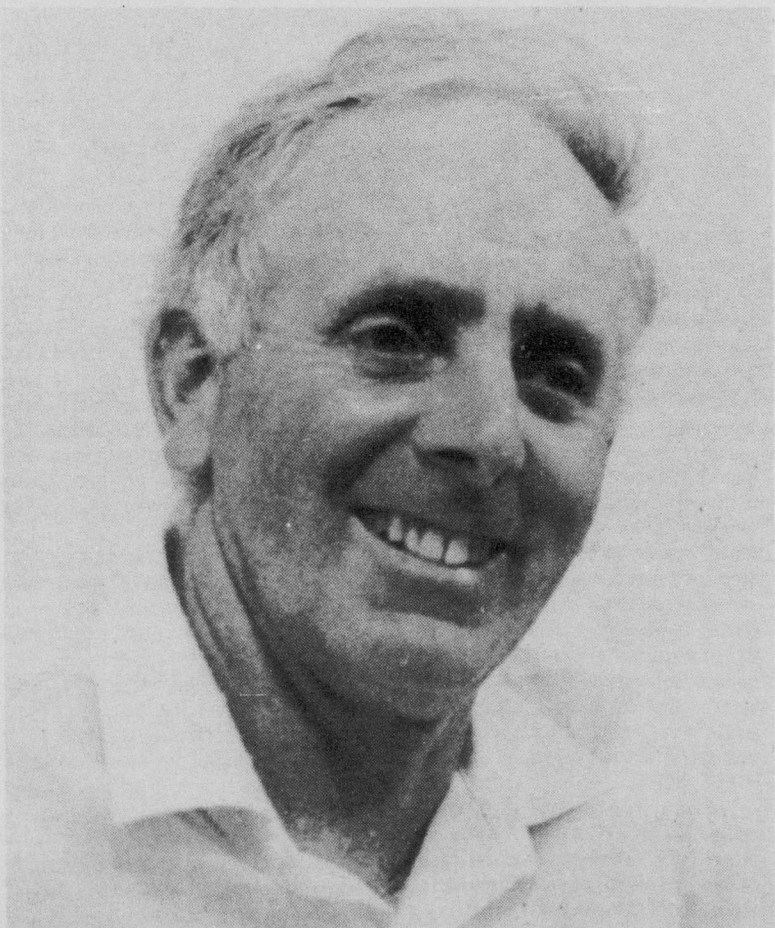
been involved here for about 20 years now. My brothers and I used to come out a few days before fair time and help spruce up the grounds. I guess the bug just stayed."

For the past few years, mainly since he retired, (he's 71 now) McAuley has had the best interests of the 144 year-old fair at heart. This year, with the projects to build a new multifunctional building along with a light horse barn

and renovate the dining hall, the fair board agreed that McAuley was just the right guy to head up the Building Committee.

The proof is in the pudding they say, and the evidence stands ready for public scrutiny beginning Thursday night. A fully equipped kitchen, walk-in cooler for social functions, 'real washrooms', they laughingly told me and another spring dug for water, is all waiting for the first fair visitors this year.

"But, you know," McAuley pointed to the joints and rafters, the varnished table tops and polished cement floor, "every bit of this work and lots of the material was donated. I'm not the one who should get the credit, it's all those folks who have given time, money and material that will make these projects successful. And we do have the promise of financial help from the government. I just tried to keep up folks' spirits," he laughed.



Barry Parsons, Compton County Exhibition president.

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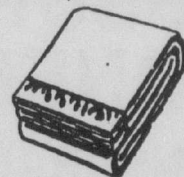
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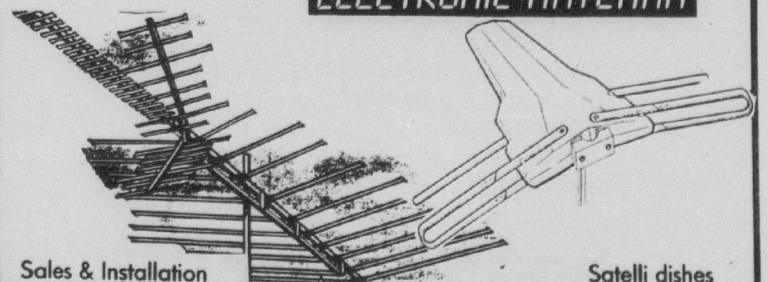
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## Local 4H clubs need members to ensure their survival here

By Claudia Villemaire

MELBOURNE — The english-speaking Quebec Young Farmers (or 4H'ers) are looking for members — frantically — these days.

"We need to find a way to persuade more young people around 12 years old to come out and join us," said John Beerwort Jr. recently as he contemplated his last year as an active participating member of the Brome club where he began showing his Dad's Holsteins so many years ago.

### NOT COMPLICATED

"Our problem is simple — really. During the past few years new members haven't joined up in the numbers they did when I started, and there is an age limit of 21 for club competition. So suddenly, between one thing and another, we find ourselves very short on new recruits," he said.

### ITS FUN AND INFORMATIVE TOO

The Quebec Young Farmers or 4H'ers or calf clubs are groups of youngsters who decide what category they wish their club to promote such as dairy calves or horses or sheep. General club policies include the courses, practical training, seminars and leadership training required to get acquainted with the animal of their choice, with the final result taking that animal out to the show ring and competing with fellow members and other clubs at club functions such as achievement days or at local, regional and sometimes, provincial, national and interantional exhibitions.

Of course there's much more to the agriculturally oriented clubs. Leadership training, group activities and trips, community projects involving other young people and the conviviality of such groups, has, in the past, brought communities and families closer together while increasing awareness and cultivating a spirit of camaraderie and community consciousness.

### NO APREACHING

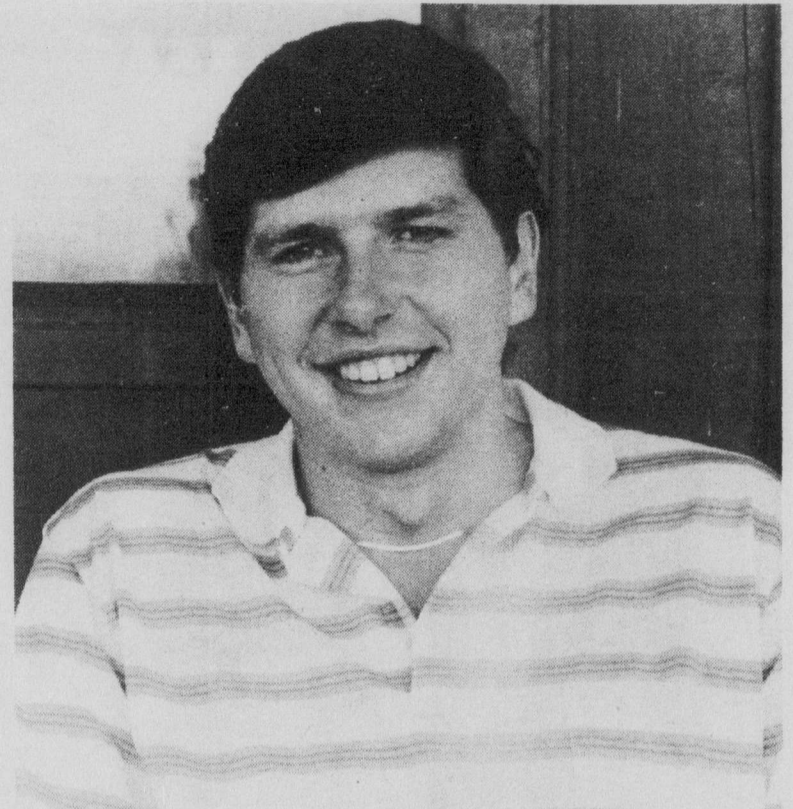
"We don't even think about preaching all those things. We have a good time together, learning, competing individually and as a team, going on trips and generally doing lots of fun things," Beerwort said.

It was obvious that a good time with club friends was a priority. We talked just before Beerwort and 4H'ers David crack Jr., Tony and Mark Fortier along with a city friend, Tom Gerrick set off on a round of golf at the Melbourne club.

### ADOPT A PET

"You know, I think lots of kids would join but they think they have to own an animal to do so. But that's not so here in Québec. I know of lots of breeders who would be proud to let a city kid adopt one of their calves or colts or maybe a lamb or two for the summer. And that's almost like owning your own," he said.

So, as Beerwort prepares to leave the club showing and take



John Beerwort will leave the Calf Club competitions behind this year but he'll still be around, rounding up new members and promoting the clubs.



Beerwort is flanked by fledgling golfers Mark Fortier, Ted Gerrick on the left and Tony Fortier and David Crack, all club members in the region.

up duties as a promoter and director on an administrative basis, already his first concern is building up the club's ranks here in the Townships.

"Our French-speaking counterparts are doing great work. Their clubs have full rosters and participation is at a very high level. That's the way we used to be and if we can persuade some urban youngsters that we really do have a great time while they learn about farm animals and even have one to look after each summer, that's a good start on guaranteeing some efficient, community-conscious farmers in the future.

### FOR INFO

Anyone interested in finding out more about 4H'ers or Young Farmers will have a chance to see them in action this weekend at the Compton County Exhibition at

Cookshire. Breed, showmanship and judging competitions will take place individually and between several clubs. This is the usual procedure at all the local fairs and prizes are awarded to winning clubs and members — a very important event for each and every youngster taking part.

Or, if you miss Cookshire Fair, John Beerwort will welcome calls at his home in Brome.

"Age 12 or so is a good age to join up. And any time — the sooner, the better — is the right time. We really look forward to having urban youngsters because it gives us a chance to bridge that gap between town and country, introduces farm life to the kids and gives them lots of incentive to participate in an agriculturally oriented organization with their adopted animals," Beerwort concluded.

# Country fairs offer friendship fun, info & latest farm news

By Claudia Villemaire

**COOKSHIRE** — It started 144 years ago when the old gravel highway between Sherbrooke and Megantic was hardly more than a dusty trail. Then the Compton County fair was only a Shorthorn show, located in a region where the dual purpose breed meant bread on the table to local farmers.

Gradually through the years, the show included several beef breeds until finally becoming the exhibition event for all types of agricultural produce and livestock it is today.

## BEGAN AS A ONE-DAY SHOW

Back in the early days of the fair, the event was held for one day only. But even at first, the local fair was the high point on local folks' event calendar.

## A LONG TREK

Often they would start the trek to the grounds the day before, driving livestock at a snail's pace along dirt roads, trundling farm wagons with perhaps a sheep or two, poultry, eggs and the best cooking and handicrafts the rural ladies could dream up carefully packed away. The team consisted of at least one mare with a colt gamboling along beside her and the little caravan would slowly and surely trudge through the night so as to arrive bright and early at the grounds.

Fair buildings were sparse and frequently the only midway ride was a merry go round. Livestock was tied to the perimeter fence, judging began early in the morning and by dusk, most exhibitors and visitors were picking a weary way home over the dusty hills.

## TIME AND PROGRESS

Today, the highway rises from Lennoxville, fairly straight and smooth, to the grounds located just outside Cookshire. There have been difficult years when Mother Nature didn't cooperate, flooding out the exhibition which grew to a three day event before the two wars.

But agriculture is still a mainstay of the community and people still believe in the value of an agricultural exhibition. The old-fashioned friendliness and hospitality is still an integral part of our county fairs and many people come just for the chance to meet old friends and renew acquaintances.

Fairs have become important promotional tools for the breeders of purebred livestock. Often it's the only chance a producer gets to promote his line and the county fair has become the show window of a region's agriculture. Governments encourage them and local folk staunchly support them and it looks as though the county fair will be around for sometime to come.

## TODAY THERE'S LOTS TO DO

Midways have grown to include a variety of games of chance, concessionaires sell trinkets and the inevitable midway fare of hot dogs and pogos and popcorn is part and parcel of the fair scene. Rides are more daring and scary than



ever too. But the smell of the country is still in the barns, 4H members still sweat it out in the showing, dressed in their whites and struggling to keep the tail end of a halter coiled up out of sight of the judge and the sound of dozens of roosters crowing in the poultry house hasn't changed one bit.

There's almost always a bingo game somewhere, and country music is the order of the day.

Those are just hints of what will

be happening at the Compton County fair this weekend. Admission is the one price system at \$4 per head. Babes in arms will get in free but the \$4 price tag gives access to all the midway rides and entertainment on the grounds. Admission charges begin on Friday, but the gates open Thursday for the traditional Bingo. Now, all the organizers need to chalk up a record success is some fair, fair- weather for the weekend.



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the Cookshire Fair  
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Sherbrooke

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Best wishes to the '89  
Cookshire Fair

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# AUGUST 17-18-19-20, 1989

## THURSDAY AUGUST 17, 1989 SPECIAL NIGHT

- 7:30 p.m. Bingo
- FRIDAY AUGUST 18, 1989
- 11 p.m. Pony pull
- 6 p.m. Official opening
- 6 p.m. Registration Tug of war
- 7 p.m. Tug of war competition men and women
- 8:30 p.m. 3 and 4 wheelers pull
- 9:30 p.m. Dance with Lyndon Sheldon orchestra

## SATURDAY AUGUST 19, 1989 CHILDREN'S DAY AT THE FAIR ORCHESTRA ALL AFTERNOON

- 10 a.m. Cattles and horses judging.
- 1:30 p.m. Clog dancers exhibition
- 2:45 p.m. Magic with Benny Magic
- 3:15 p.m. Parade of champions and 4-H clubs
- 4 p.m. Eastern Township Pipe Band show
- 5 p.m. Farm tractor pull registration
- 6:30 p.m. Start of farm tractor pull
- 9:30 p.m. Dance with Mountain Dew orchestra

## SUNDAY AUGUST 20, 1989

- 10 a.m. Open light horses show
- 10:30 a.m. Harness classes heavy horses
- 1:00 p.m. Cattles, horses and machinery parade
- 3:30 p.m. Magic with Benny Magic
- 4 p.m. Eastern Township Pipe Band show
- 4:30 p.m. Horse teamsters obstacle competition
- 7 p.m. Horse pull - 3200 pounds and more  
- 3200 pounds and under



## JUDGING TIME FRIDAY AUGUST 18, 1989

- 10 a.m. Housekeeping  
Honey and Maple  
Flowers  
Vegetables and fruits preserve  
Vegetable, fruit and grain  
Children's and men's department
- 10 a.m. Young farmers (expertise) 4-H
- 10 a.m. Light horses (halter class judging)
- 2 p.m. Light horses 4-H
- 4 p.m. Light horses (costume and trail classes)

## SATURDAY AUGUST 19, 1989

- 9 a.m. Young farmers (judging and showmanship)
- 10 a.m. Bovins Holstein Cattles  
Bovins Ayrshires Cattles  
Beef cattles  
Heavy horses  
Goats  
Light horses
- 1 p.m. Sheep  
Poultry

## SUNDAY AUGUST 20, 1989

- 10 a.m. Open light horse show
- 11 a.m. Harness classes

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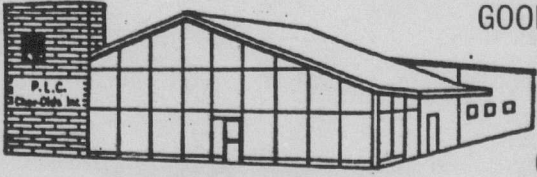
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