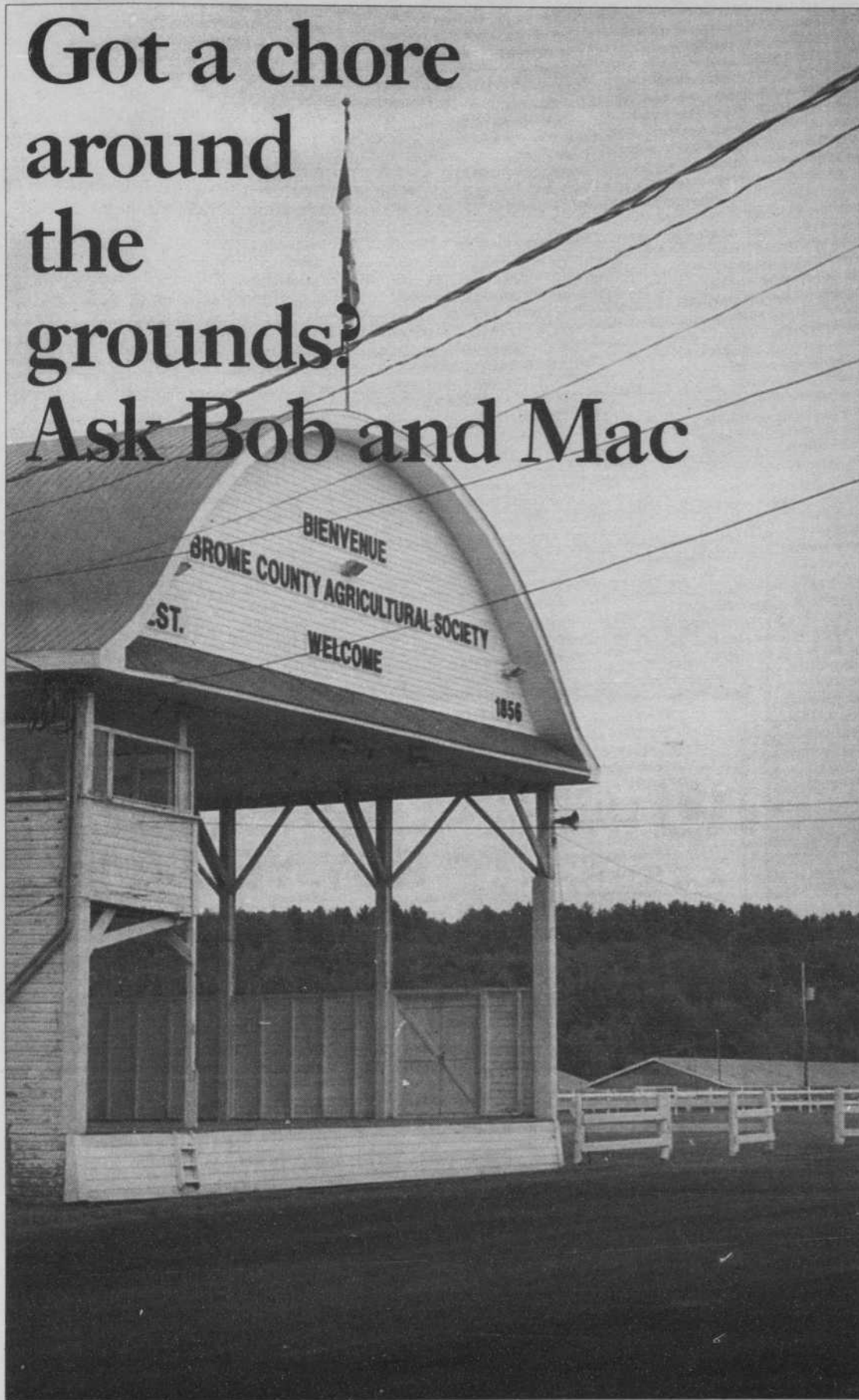


THE RECORD *Big Brome* FAIR

September 3 to 6, 1999

Got a chore
around
the
grounds?
Ask Bob and Mac



CLAUDIA VILLEMARE

'They get us doing the darndest things'

By Claudia Villemaire
BROME

There they were, those two veterans of over a hundred fairs between them: Bob Douglas and Mac Crittenden, working away in the blazing sun, sweat trickling out from under fair caps, sawing plywood into squares - more signs for more buildings to make sure people find what they came to see.

Bob Douglas, once the feared and revered principal of Massey Vanier Regional High School, has long since retired and now he devotes his time to helping get things ready for the Big Brome fair. His partner and, according to him, instructor, Malcolm Crittenden, a fountain of knowledge when it comes to where water pipes, valves, pumps and such are located.

Both volunteers claim to be nothing more than 'go-fers'.

"They get us doing the darndest things," Douglas says, laughing. "But seriously, it's taken Mac two years to try and educate me about this fairgrounds."

In other years we've found Crittenden painting a gross of garbage pails, patching a whole in a wall or trying to decipher what water pipes go where on these grounds, which cover 30 acres of land.

Want a picture of precise organization? Imagine preparing for nearly a thousand head of livestock and horses, well over a thousand entries in handicrafts and horticulture, and upward of 50,000 visitors over a four-day weekend.

Douglas and Crittenden have long histories of participation. Both are past presidents of the fair board and have been directors for years.

"Bob has been here more than me this year but we both usually work several weeks each summer," Crittenden admits ruefully. Plagued with serious illness since Christmas, Crittenden has been back with his sidekick for just a couple of weeks.

"But there's nothing you can do but take the good with the bad, and just keep on going," he says, picking up the power saw for another cut across the sheet of plywood.

We sat in sun and shade near the hay building, where the old ticket office also stands.

"We use this now for a tool shed and a bit of storage," he points out. "At one time, our only security guard, a Mr. Foster, kept an eye on things round the clock and he even slept in here."

"We've boosted security," Douglas says. "And we always work with local authorities too. There's a lot of value in these stables, and of course, all the vehicles too."

"We've got a new fence up behind the hotel and we try to maintain a sturdy fence around the lot but it's a big, expensive project. We have to do a bit each year rather than the whole thing at once."

"I've always been around the Brome fair, ever since we came here from the Rawdon-Lachute area. Farming was my family's way of life and so were fairs. So it was natural I would adopt Brome fair as my own."

The shadows begin to get longer as we talk. It's time to put the tools away after a long, sweltering day. The team of Crittenden and Douglas pack it in, climb into their vehicle and head for the office and a cool drink. But wouldn't you know, we find them later, tools unpacked once more, working on gateposts in the parking lot - they just couldn't resist the urge to complete one more little job before heading home.

Our Fair Lady

"I've been coming to this fair so long,
I really don't know when I started,"
said Irene Miller, Brome Fair secretary.
"After helping here in the office for years,
they gave me the job of secretary when Albert Smith retired.
You wouldn't believe the paperwork we go through but we love it.
I love this fair and my only worry is
interesting the young people in keeping this fair going.
Everyone works so hard, directors,
volunteers and all the people involved.
We just have to keep the younger ones motivated...
they are our future in the next century."



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'We all trundled along behind the cattle'

Early Brome fair-goers walked all the way from home

By Claudia Villemaire
BROME

We've heard it time and again. We're on the brink of a new millennium, almost at the end of an old, now almost obsolete century - to the point of nausea.

But wait a minute. A lot of good things have been nurtured since the beginning of the 1900s. Things like automobiles, aviation, computer technology, (albeit a more recent development,) fashion, food and of course, agriculture.

Gone are the days of pulling out tree stumps with patient oxen or building a log homestead in the wilderness with trees felled with the ax and sawn with a water-driven crosscut saw at the nearest river mill.

But some old things have survived the century. Such things as county agricultural fairs, horse racing, showing off one's expertise at growing things in field and garden are still with us, changed a bit with modern technology but still depending in large part on the perseverance of country folks and the gentle hand of nature.

Few people around can recall those first days of the century but some remember those who could.

"My grandparents thought of Brome Fair as the social event of the season."

Mary Jackson Crandall recalled during our visit last week. "Not only did we pick the very best from herd and garden to take to the fair, but I remember my grandmother fussing about her new outfit, including a new hat that she must have to attend this annual ritual."

"I was pretty small, but I do remember the train that ran across the valley right at the back of the grounds at that time. Folks would come from far and wide to this fair."

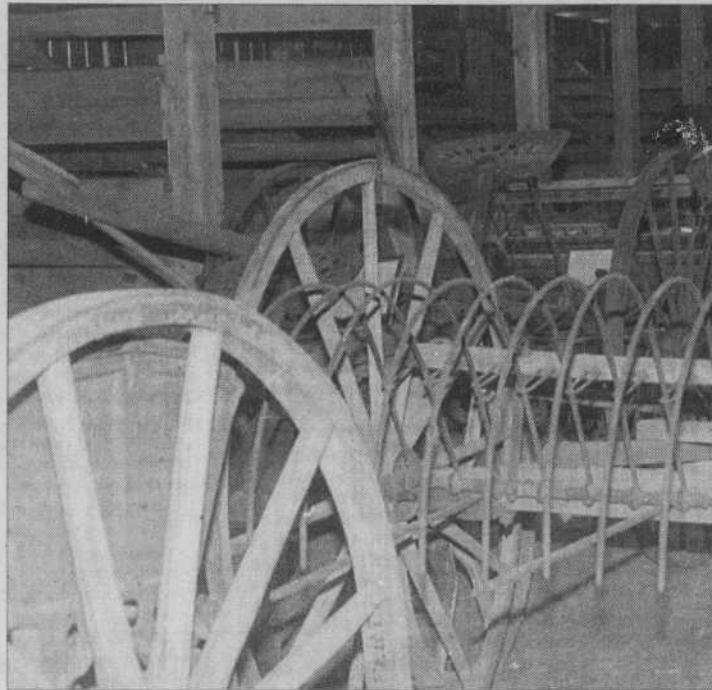
They would tumble out of their wagons, the train, later their cars, straightening skirts and hats, primping a bit, gathering whatever produce they had stashed in the baggage cars and proceed demurely to their allotted stalls and stands in preparation for the judging.

Part of a widespread movement to upgrade industry standards, Brome County fair was the brainchild of a few leading farmers. They thought a fair would give them a better chance to pro-

mote their produce while each one cast a sly eye on what his neighbors had come up with.

They knew promoting agriculture at an event such as this would be the best way to advertise. They found open ground in various places through the years - Knowlton, Sutton, finally purchasing the present lot in Brome Village in 1891.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

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'We've come a long way since the first days'

CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

Those first years were pretty meager. Before stables of any kind were built, exhibitors tied their cattle and horses to the perimeter fence.

Many walked their herds to the grounds, some coming many miles before sun up, picking up other exhibitors and their cattle or horses along the way.

In those days there were no limits on the number of animals any one exhibitor might bring and the Crandalls can recall walking as many as 24 beef cattle the two or three miles to the fairgrounds.

"We'd have the family along with what cooking or canning, preserving or pickling my mother had managed to prepare for the fair. Some years we took a few chickens in cages and even a few

sheep the odd time. The best horses pulled, colts ran along beside their mothers and we all trundled along behind the cattle."

The fair kept growing, and trains eased the transport problems a bit, but Brome Fair didn't change a whole lot, says Rod Crandall.

"They had horse stalls all around the inside of the fence, you know. Then they built cow sheds in the centre of the circle of horses and those sheds were used until they all burned down in 1952. They were roofed but open at the back."

Crandall doesn't remember the first time he went to the fair but says healways goes.

"I don't think I've missed any so that would make quite a record," he adds, smiling pensively. He's over 70 now.

Hugh Salisbury, another director and past president, remembers too.

"Fairs were always a big event for my family. My mother's family was among the first settlers in the Sutton area and were strong supporters of this fair at the turn of the century," he says, remembering the big day when the family would pile into the farm wagon, tie some of the cattle on the back, and some of the men folk would walk way at the back, helping herd the family's best to the fair.

After the Second World War, things began changing more quickly.

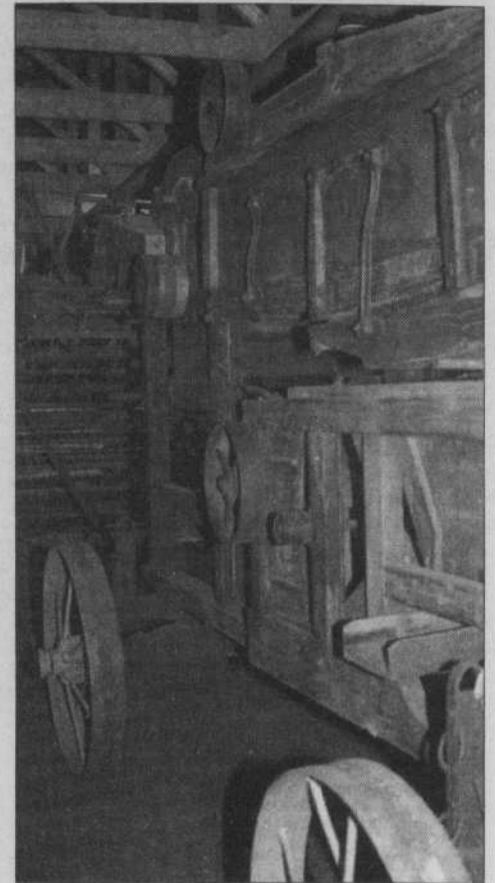
Technology was just beginning to roll toward the future and fair boards had to work hard to keep the best of the old and come up with new ideas too."

Since the 1850s, the goal of the Big Brome Fair has always remained the same - promote agriculture the best way. Keep the link strong between city and farm with the best possible exhibits as well as up-to-date commercial counters that underline the connection between agriculture and lifestyles on the brink of the 21st century.

"We've come along way since those first days when there was only a merry-go-round for a midway and the horses still had the harness marks on their rumps as they paraded past the judges," says Salisbury.

Cattle and horse barns have been modernized. The present-day grandstand and main building built during the Depression years, the acquisition of more land, modern facilities such as electricity, ample water supplies and washrooms - and a midway at least 20 times larger - have not dimmed that first goal, now a century and a half old: promoting agriculture.

The 1999 Brome Fair opens Friday at 7 a.m.



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

In the early days, farmers would use this antique wooden thrashing machine.

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Parking for 50,000 is no small chore

Mizener turns over reins to Clarkson

By Claudia Villemaire
BROME

He's tall, lanky, muscle and bone, tanned where his cap doesn't cast a shadow, with deep blue eyes that twinkle as we talk. Arthur Mizener has the weathered look of long hours

spent in the fields this year. He sports what city folks call a farmer's tan, arms below the elbow, copper colored, the v-neck of a work shirt and from the hairline to his shirtcollar if you catch him with his back to you.

Arthur Mizener is the fifth generation of a long line of farming Mizeners who not only tilled the land and raised quality dairy cattle, but were dedicated,

for generations, to their county fair, the Brome County Exposition.

"I guess we go back a long way if you're talking about coming out to help at this fair," Mizener replies. "I seem to have gotten pigeon holed in the parking dilemma years ago, and that's where I have spent my time. Until this year," he adds.

This will be the first time in probably 25 years that Mizener hasn't been in charge of the parking lots at the Brome County Fair. But, Wayne Clarkson, the new head of this difficult department can bank on all the support and help he needs from his mentor.

Mizener has seen a once small lot turn into one that covers several acres. He's been instrumental in changing parking policies to include changing the distance between rows and taking the time to park vehicles snuggled up close to each other. He was there when negotiations made possible an exhibitors' parking area where trailers and campers can stay for the duration of the fair and Mizener can talk for hours about training the parking attendants to be courteous and effective.

"We like to get as many people here, on the grounds as possible. Of course, it helps to keep the same staff year after year. They know the ropes and that's a big plus too."


Most folks would agree, even though there are numerous private areas open for the weekend on the approaches to

CONTINUED PAGE 6



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

Mac Critterden, Wayne Clarkson and Arthur Mizener prepare for onslaught of traffic



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PARKING:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

this fair which will welcome nearly 50,000 people before the gates close Monday. Fair visitors seem to try to get here early so they can park on the grounds. I guess they feel they'll find their friends and other family members more easily and there's many a party I could talk about right here. You only have to notice all the open trunks or watch for a group gathered around a tailgate to know there's a lot of good times going on right out here."

Mizener's talent at organizing comes

from natural experience on the farm where his father and grandfather worked and lived before him. Located near Foster, the farm sits upon a gentle slope that overlooks the valley that leads to Knowlton and Brome. Passersby will see quality Holsteins grazing the pastures nearby and the green of hayfields tell those who know such things that there's a good farmer on the corner. On a summer evening, one can imagine neighbors and friends dropping by to 'set a spell' on the front veranda where, very often, deer would come out to graze just down the sloping field in front.

"I remember my grandfather walk-

ing a small herd down to the fair. I remember the fuss and excitement we kids felt as the big day approached and how we would save our pennies for a ride on the ferris wheel or a treat at the fair."

Even at that age, Mizener and his pals dreamed of fair days. Later they would dream of taking along something to show and win a prize ribbon and finally, when Mizener followed his Dad's footsteps, the family show herd, with young Arthur at the head, would strike down the trail either by train or by truck to their favorite fair.


"My nephew will take over the farm soon and we are more than pleased," he tells me. "Time to slow down a bit," he says, a bit sadly. "But we sure are glad to have someone in the family taking over the reins. You know, we haven't made it

easy for our young people to stay in agriculture. It's time the powers that be took a long look at their policies. If farming is to continue in this province and in Canada, we'd better look sharp," he adds.

Mizener and Clarkson have chatted now for nearly half an hour. They are starting to fidget a bit and it's time to stop the questions.

"It'll soon be supper time," Clarkson announces, "and we still have lots to do."

"You mean YOU still have lots to do," Mizener quips to his new boss, "I think I'll go home pretty soon," he says, but, doesn't move to his car, just falls in behind the Clarkson, one of the new directors this year who brings years of experience as a volunteer to his new position, and sets off to give him a hand.



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Fair program is packed with things to see and do

By Claudia Villemaire
BROME

One hundred and forty-three years...that's a long time to be thinking up new programs each year and trying to make sure the famous Big Brome Fair will once again go on record as the best in the Eastern Townships.

It's a daunting task, but one that Brome fair presidents and directors, volunteers and exhibitors have managed since those first years when fairs in general, were just beginning and goals were not as clearly defined.

Now, with the 20th century drawing to a close, Brome Fair organizers can look back at their predecessors with pride. Success has been the key word for nearly a century and a half and no one involved in the production of this yearly event will leave a stone unturned to achieve yet another success.

The program tells the tale: Judging starts the moment the gates open on Friday at 9 a.m. beginning with farm prod-

ucts. Horse judging in front of the grandstand begins at 10 a.m. In the Expo Center beef judging day begins with Angus, Galloway and Hereford starting at 10 a.m. and continuing in the afternoon with Charolais, Short-horn and Simmental.

Entertainment begins early with Le Duc de la Magie...The Duke of Magic and at 5 p.m., the Young Farmers Horse show is underway. At 6 p.m., there's a line dancing demonstration with Wild Spirits and at 7 p.m., a Garth Brooks tribute...No Fences...paves the way to the traditional horsepull competition beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, horse judging continues starting at 8:30 a.m. and the dairy cattle take over the expo center. This time Ayrshires and Holsteins are the stars with a special demonstration of birds of prey flight demonstrations with their raptors, (handlers) in the outdoor cattle ring. Jersey dairy cattle take over the covered arena at 11a.m. and for the country music lovers, Sandy Ward's

band Roadhouse gets toes tapping in the entertainment area. Here there's shade, a few benches and lots of green space. Food and drink kiosks are nearby too so it's a great corner to enjoy local artists while grabbing a few minutes rest.

Out on the track, the Quebec Horse Extravaganza gets started at 12 p.m. - rabbit judging begins at 1 p.m. in the small animals house and the Duke of Magic will appear this time in the entertainment center.

Horse racing buffs get their first glimpse of the trotters and pacers on Saturday with races scheduled at 1:30 p.m. The entertainment center is taken over by the Home Brew Dixie Band at 2 p.m. and there's another horse race out front at 2:30 p.m.

Once again the birds of prey flight demonstration is scheduled, but this time they are in front of the grandstand. For those who have never seen the speed and precision of a falcon striking for earth after his prey, it's well

worth watching. A falcon, in a straight dive, can reach unbelievable speeds and is always deadly accurate. Days of old hunting forays by royalty and the very wealthy usually included falcons along with their weapons. They were retrievers, much the same as the canine retrievers we know today.

There's another horse race at 4 p.m. with the line dancing demonstration moving to the entertainment center for another show, also at 4 p.m.

The Duke of Magic moves to the entertainment center too, at 6 p.m.

Then the stage is set. Brome fair organizers have once again succeeded in rounding up some of Canada's top entertainers. This evening it's Paul Brandt with his show, touted as one of the best in Canada at this time. Don't forget there's an extra cost for grandstand tickets...\$15 and seats on the track are \$20. The show begins at 8:30 p.m.

If fairgoers still have a taste for more country music, Sandy Ward's Road

SEE FAIR PAGE 8

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Young and old share the Brome fair tradition

FAIR:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

house Band will tune up for a dance at 10 p.m.

Sunday is sheep judging day in the covered arena. Horse classes continue in front of the grandstand and the Oompahpah Musikmeisters Band will be in the entertainment center first thing in the morning, at 9 a.m. Dairy goats make their first appearance in the covered arena at 10 a.m. and the Duke of Magic is also on duty in the entertainment center at 10.

At 11 a.m., the Rainbow Country Cloggers hit the dance boards in the entertainment center followed by the birds of prey flight demonstrations in the cattle show ring located near the cattle barns.

Noon brings the Horse Extravaganza back and at 1 p.m., the traditional horse and cattle parade begins. At Brome Fair, parade turn-out by exhibitors is an important feather in exhibitors' caps so here we find one of the best and most colorful parades of this kind at this end of the country. While all this is going on, there's still more judging going on

in the covered arena where Quebec Young Farmers begin their judging competitions. Outside, it's music by the Knowlton Harmony Band in the entertainment center at 2 p.m., harness racing at 2:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. In the meantime, if horse racing is not your thing, there's the cloggers again in the entertainment center, the Home Brew Dixie Band at 4 p.m. and Sandy Ward at 6 p.m.

Well known Canadian country music singer George Fox with his own band hits the main stage at 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Monday begins with the Young Farm-

ers calf and showmanship classes, horse classes and the musikmeisters, all starting at 9 a.m. The Duke of Magic, the Cloggers and the band all show up in the entertainment center at 10 a.m., 11 and 12:30 p.m.

This the also the racing day pari-mutuel racing fans have been waiting for. With a ten-race program and over 70 horses entered racing for purses that range from \$300 to \$600, fair organizers have made sure everything is ready for participants. The paddock area is freshly painted and adequate for the number of horses expected to arrive on Monday morning. There's another betting window in the track area as well along with

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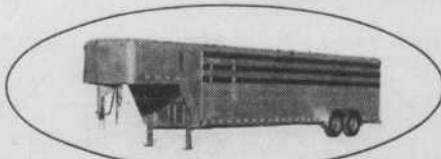
Organizers of this year's Big Brome Fair have gone to great lengths to ensure the tradition of a fun-filled Labour Day weekend continues to be a drawing card for thousands of friends and families throughout the Townships and beyond.

up to 24 betting windows in the building near the grandstand. Race fans and fair visitors are urged to arrive early to get parking space on the grounds. It's not unusual to find the gate closed to vehicles by noon on this, the last day of the fair so an early start is a good idea.

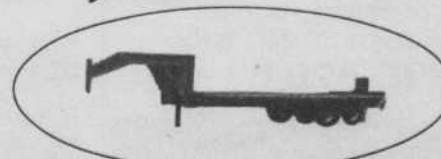
Over in the entertainment center, the fair winds down with the Home Brew Dixie band at 2 p.m. and Sandy Ward and his Roadhouse band put the finishing touch on the last hours of the fair with their own brand of country music favorites. They begin at 4 p.m.

Admission on the grounds is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children under 12. Friday is seniors and students' day with admission at the special price of \$3. A four-day pass is available for \$25 and parking is \$3. Don't forget. Paul Brandt fans must pay an additional \$15 or \$20 for the Saturday night show. Tickets are already on sale. Just call the Brome Fair office at 450 242-EXPO (3976). Taxes are included in these prices.

Best Wishes to the Brome Fair!



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Fair-goers recall favourite moments

By Claudia Villemaire

Rain or shine; the four-day Brome County Fair has proven its popularity time and again

Probably fewer than 300 people reside in Brome village itself but on a good year, the fair, that has endured 143 years, will attract around 50,000 visitors.

Mary Crandall..."My grandmother thought it was important enough to warrant a new dress. In those days, that meant it was the social event of the year. Today, we it's more casual but seeing old friends, and, in our case, getting our young people involved in exhibiting and, hopefully agriculture. Those are most important priorities."

Ernest Banks..."Updating the communication system here has been kind of a pet project of mine, along with a couple of buddies who are very knowledgeable in this field. We have a great system set up, something that will be sufficient for many years to come and we hope our next generation of organizers and supporters will be there to use it."

"I started coming here years ago, working for the phone company, setting up communications system each year. Then I began staying on the grounds to help out and the rest is history. This is a great fair, one I loved to visit, and, before long, soon learned anyone offering to help was soon part of the Brome Fair family. It's a fun fair...one of the biggest and...probably one of the best." (Banks is vice-president this year.)

Alan Webster..."I was president in '69 and have been working for the Brome Fair ever since. It's not easy keeping that agricultural connection going when you're renting space to people who might be offering fudge or bottled water. Seems like a long way from agriculture, this type of item."

"But we try very hard to always keep agriculture in the spotlight while filling up the spaces we have. And you know, there are folks who must think fairs are important because they've been coming back year after year, reserving their kiosk as soon as the fair finishes. To me, that's a definite sign the future looks good." (Webster is the coordinator, in charge of commercial space)

Alain Lavigne..."I'm in charge of horses and I can tell you right now, the horse barns are full to cracking, the race program is full and I'm all tired out. We have horse show classes to see to every day of the fair and race day."

"Everything must be letter-perfect. We have roadster classes and the special postman's competition, reminding

folks that mail was not always delivered to a postal box somewhere. In those days the postman was sometimes a social worker, a shoulder to lean on in times of stress and a listening ear when sorrow struck along the mail route.

We think we have a good fair here but we'd like to find ways to get more kids involved, more classes for them, more attention paid to them. That's where the future lies and we'd best not forget it."



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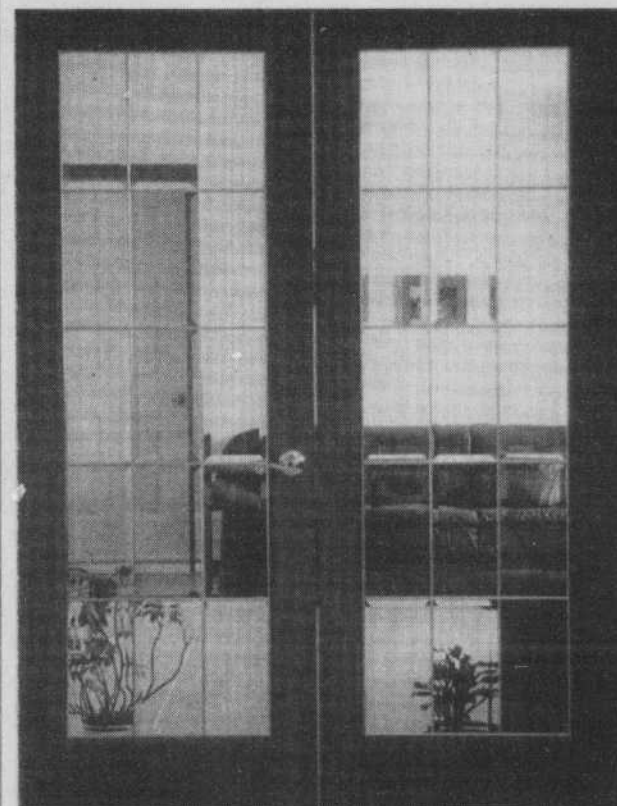
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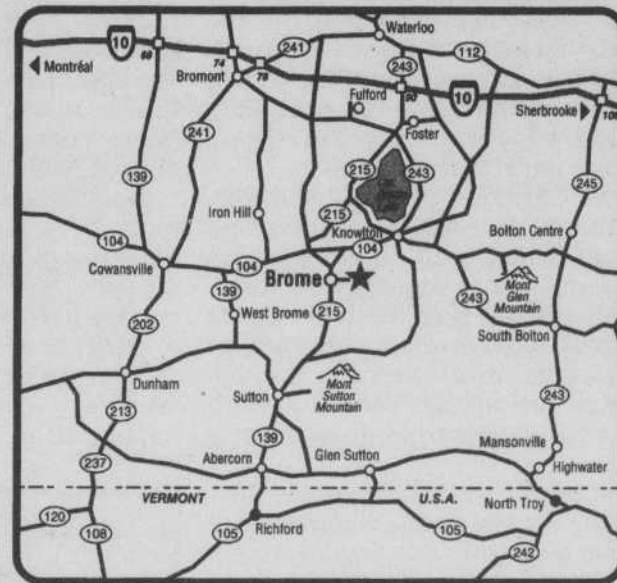
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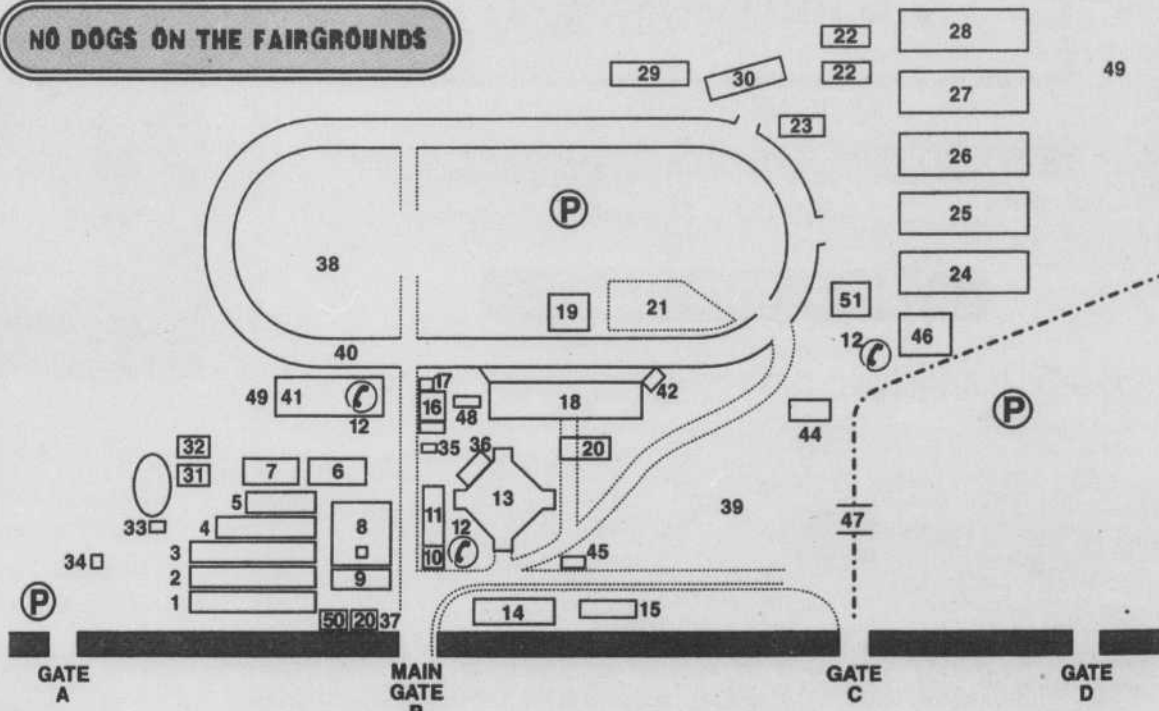
HORSE PULL
Friday night 8:30 pm



MAP OF GROUNDS

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1- 4 Cattle | 15 Artisan Kiosks | 34 Loading Ramp | 46 East End Washrooms |
| 5 Sheep | 16 West End Washrooms | 35 Main Power Station | 47 Pedestrian Entrance |
| 6 Poultry | 17 Washroom Handicap Facilities | 36 Museum display | 48 Pari-Mutuel Betting Booths |
| 7 Dairy Goats/ Display Cattle | 18 Grandstand | 37 Ambulance | 49 Exhibitor House Trailers |
| 8 Outdoor Cattle Show Ring | 19 Stage | 38 Agricultural Machinery Display | 50 Milking Parlour Exhibits |
| 9 Bleachers | 20 Canteen | 39 Midway | |
| 10 Main Office | 21 Holding Ring | 40 1/2 Mile Race Track | |
| 11 Handicraft Exhibits | 22- 28 Horse Barns | 41 Covered Arena | |
| 12 Public Telephones | 29- 30 Race Horse Paddocks | 42 Viewing Stand Handicap | |
| 13 Main Building | 31 Hay Straw | 44 Container | |
| 14 Horticultural Exhibits | 32 Maintenance | 45 Entertainment Centre | |
| | 33 Wash Stand | | |

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BROME FAIR

PROGRAM


FRIDAY
 09:00 Farm Produce Judging
 10:00 Horse Judging***
 Beef Cattle Judging, Angus, Galloway & Hereford
 12:00 The Duke of Magic**
 13:00 Beef Cattle Judging, Charolais, Shorthorn, Simmental
 15:00 The Duke of Magic**
 17:00 Q.Y.F. Horse Show***
 The Duke of Magic**
 18:00 "Wild Spirits" Line Dancing Demonstration**
 19:00 NO FENCES Garth Brooks Tribute***
 20:30 Horse Pull***

SATURDAY
 08:30 Horse Judging***
 10:00 Dairy Cattle Judging, Ayrshire, Holstein Poultry Judging
 Birds of Prey Flight Demonstrations****
 11:00 Dairy Cattle Judging, Jersey Sandy Ward "Road House" Band**
 12:00 Quebec Horse Extravaganza***
 13:00 Rabbit Judging
 The Duke of Magic**
 13:30 Harness Racing***
 14:00 Home Brew Dixie Band**
 14:30 Harness Racing***
 15:00 Birds of Prey Flight Demonstrations****
 16:00 Harness Racing***
 "Wild Spirits" Line Dancing Demonstration**
 17:00 Birds of Prey Flight Demonstrations****
 18:00 The Duke of Magic**
 20:30 THE PAUL BRANDT SHOW***
 22:00 Sandy Ward "Road House" Band*

SUNDAY
 09:00 Sheep Judging*
 Horse Judging***
 Musikmeisters**
 10:00 Dairy Goat Judging*
 The Duke of Magic**
 11:00 Rainbow Country Cloggers Demonstration**
 Birds of Prey Flight Demonstrations****
 12:00 Quebec Horse Extravaganza***
 13:00 THE BIG PARADE***
 The Duke of Magic**
 13:30 Q.Y.F. Judging Competitions*
 14:00 Knowlton Harmony Band**
 14:45 Harness Racing***
 15:00 Rainbow Country Cloggers Demonstration**
 Birds of Prey Flight Demonstrations****
 16:00 Home Brew Dixie Band**
 16:30 Harness Racing***
 17:45 Harness Racing***
 18:00 Sandy Ward "Road House" Band**
 18:45 Birds of Prey Flight Demonstrations****
 20:00 GEORGE FOX with three piece BAND***

MONDAY
 09:00 Horse Judging***
 Q.Y.F. Calf & Showmanship Classes*
 Musikmeisters**
 10:00 The Duke of Magic**
 11:00 Rainbow Country Cloggers Demonstration**
 11:30 Quebec Horse Extravaganza***
 12:30 Knowlton Harmony Band**
 13:30 PARI-MUTUEL Horse Racing***
 14:00 Home Brew Dixie Band**
 16:00 Sandy Ward "Road House" Band*

*Covered arena (#41)
 **Entertainment Centre (#45)
 ***Grandstand (#18)
 ****Cattle Show Ring (#8)

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FRIDAY 7:00 p.m.


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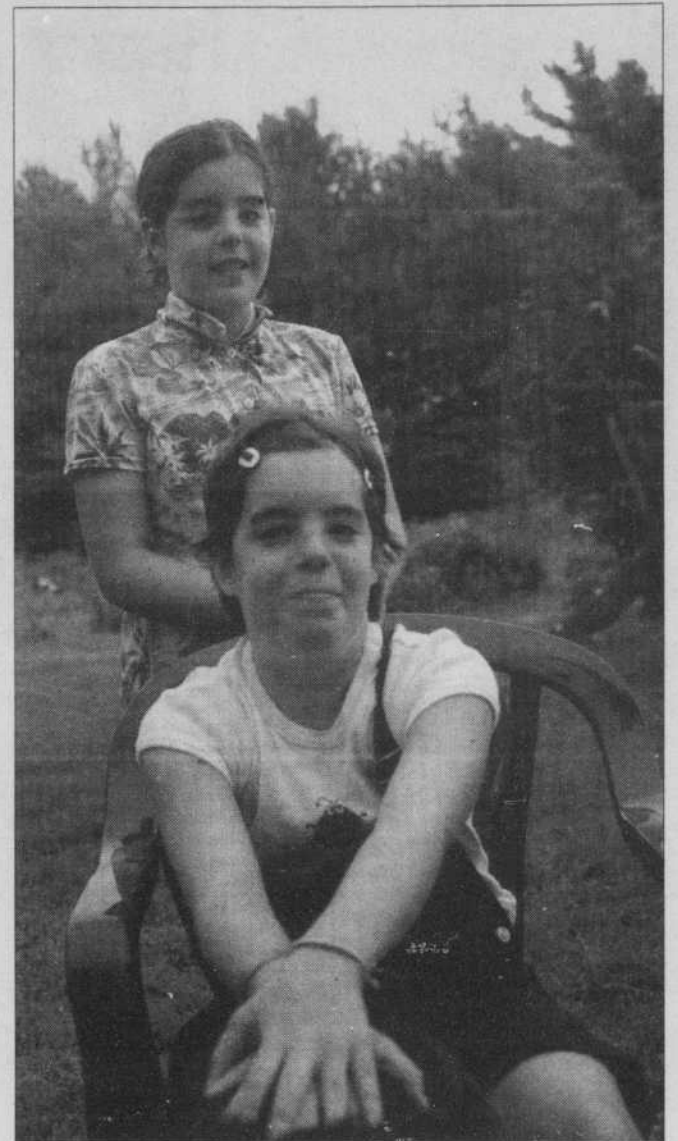
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A touch of color on the hillsides now

Imagine the creek of wooden-spoked wheels and leather springs

By Claudia Villemaire
Brome

Whether you take the short way or the long way, on Labour Day weekend all roads lead to Brome.

There's a touch of color on the hillsides now, a sign of summer's end, and prime time for a ramble through those very hills.

Fair-goers can plan ahead a bit to give themselves time to enjoy the setting. Brome village is hidden in a small valley, nestled beneath the Sutton mountains, Echo and Glen.

Getting off the highways is a great first step. Gravel roads may not be for everyone, but there are plenty of secondary paved roads to open up new vistas and appreciate the area.

If you don't mind a bit of gravel try Stagecoach Road, which can be an adventure into an imagined past where 'la diligence', the horsedrawn passenger coach, was the trendy mode of gracious travel. Later a railway would carry goods and people across the valley but early and we must add, brave, travellers had to climb those mountainous trails to travel between Brome or Nelsonville, (Cowansville), and points more distant. But a motorist must stop to really re-live those bygone days. Shut off the motor and listen to the earth sounds. Pick a spot high up, where the road runs straight and smooth, seemingly tacked to the side of a steep hill, and the vista is clear straight up the valley to the mountains, layer up on layer, shrouded in misty blue miles away. Imagine the sound of jingling harness on four sweating horses, the thunder of iron shod hooves, the creek of wood-spoked wheels and leather springs on a heavy

SEE DAY TRIPPING PAGE 14

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Day tripping through Brome

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

coach. It's made from virgin timber from those very hills, and held together with spikes and bolts forged in a village on the stage run. In the mind's eye we can see the horses' ears dip as they struggle to pull the heavy vehicle. It only takes seconds before we see the neck yokes and then the coach swinging a bit in rhythm with the horses' slow gait up that miles long hill. If the imagination is really in gear one will soon smell the sweat and the pipe smoke of the driver, leaning patiently forward, with a sharp eye on the harness and vehicle. Wheels would come loose and harness break under the strain, and no self-respecting stagecoach driver began a trip without all the spare parts he could carry.

Usually they would stop up above where there was always a breeze. But not for long as sweaty horses must keep moving while they cool down. Otherwise they could get sick and never be useful again. Sometimes passengers would step gingerly onto the step near the door then down, obviously grateful to feel terra firma once again. This was a terrifying ride, and trust in the driver and surefooted horses were the only insurance passengers had.

Coming up to Brome through Bolton

Pass must have been a nightmare for man and beast. The winding hill is still there and we can imagine the driver telling his passengers to walk beside the coach, carry what they could and prepare for at least a three or four hour climb. Even today's cars have to work getting up those sharp inclines. But the driver must be wise and wary even in a modern vehicle.

There's an old farmstead at the top with a dilapidated barn nearby. Today's adventurer can imagine a stagecoach topping that daunting grade, the driver turning in at the stable and calling to his passengers, "you all can get some vittles here or a cup of tea while I hitch on fresh horses. It'll take about 20 minutes. Mind you get back out here right quick."

It's probably not five miles from Bolton Pass to Echoview Road, and well worth leaving home a bit early for on Brome Fair day. This trek was on a fair summer's day. We haven't talked of horses spooked by bear or rumbling thunder in the hills, or of washouts or wind-fallen trees. And we haven't even mentioned winter travel in the days when these mountain roads were closed, snowdrifts were as high as a telephone pole and most folks didn't plan on going anywhere until the trains came by - but that's another story.

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Success to Brome Fair!



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Young farmers need support to continue tradition

By Claudia Villemaire
BROME

She's a past president of this huge event and for a long time, a director. Few folks realize this is a city girl who adopted country life, coming home to the Frizzle farm as a young bride. She admits to being initially frightened by the large Holstein cows the Frizzles were famous for but yearned to learn all about life in the country and on the farm.

Well, learn she did and in no time at all, Diana Frizzle was joining hubby Larry at the fairgrounds, helping out where she could and almost without realizing it, falling in love again, this time with what she now calls her county fair.

Today Diana Frizzle is worried. Her involvement with the Young Farmers Association began soon after their first son was born. Three sons later, dozens of achievement days, hundreds of meetings and countless fairs under their belt, the Frizzles are wondering about the future of farming and of youth groups such as the Young Farmers where young people are gently taught the habits that will turn them into community-minded citizens of the future through the medium of farm animals, pets and hobbies.



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

Diana Frizzle's involvement with the Young Farmers Association began soon after their first son was born.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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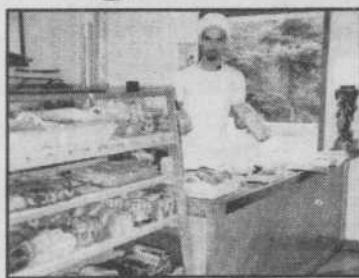
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Michael Kachani, a Pastry Chef and Artisan Baker, apprenticed his trade in Berlin (West-Germany), where he was born. He arrived in Canada ten years ago when he was 18 years old. In Montreal he has experienced working for Greek, Portuguese, French, Jewish, German and Italian bakeries and pastry shops. Places like: Le'Notre, La Tûlpe Noire, Kilo Gateau, St. Laurents Bakery, Navarino, Le Fournil and Panissimo were among his repertoire.

From Friday to Monday awaits the customer, a colourful array of goodies in a different and artful setting. There is plenty of parking space available with a back entrance for easy access and no stairs.

So don't wait and come with the kids.

Hours are: Friday - 9-18 pm; Saturday - 9-18 pm; Sunday - 10-17 pm; Monday - 9-18 pm.

337 Knowlton Road, P.O. Box 246, J0E 1V0, Lac Brome (Knowlton), Qc

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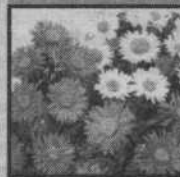
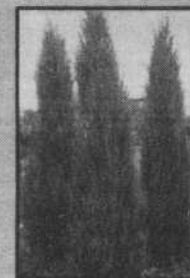
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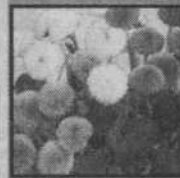
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Frizzle worries about future of farming

CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE

"A lot of people think the Young Farmers is only for farm kids. That's not so. If you look at the twin organizations in other provinces and the U.S., they are called 4H, but, because the Quebec 4H name was claimed by the forestry groups, we had to call ourselves the Quebec Young Farmers Association," she explains.

"You know, this year, we have seen more young people turn out for achievement days and fairs than we have in several years. We have also seen kids from town turning out with

rabbits, chickens and ponies. There are now gardening clubs and even, in some provinces, sewing and handicraft clubs. The main point is the 4H motto, head, heart, health and hands. The first objective is to get kids involved in an organization that will offer them help in their chosen category at the same time as they are taught leadership, sportsmanship, community involvement...you know, the things that help a youngster do better than just survive in today's world."

Frizzle never stops being surprised and dismayed by the fact Quebec is the only province where there is no help, financial or otherwise from the provincial government. "I know in Ontario the government not only helps out to a lesser or greater extent on the money side, but they have a whole depart-

ment devoted to giving the seminars, clinics and courses that educate the youngsters about their chosen categories. It's not just a case of training one of Dad's calves to lead quietly, it's the whole package from genetics to nutrition, showmanship to sportsmanship. They cover agriculture like a blanket, introducing the kids to other productions such as hay and cereal crops."

At one time, 4H clubs required members to qualify in the show ring where, if they won or placed high in the winners' circle, went on to regional, provincial, national and north American championship. Until recently when club membership dwindled and encouragement from outside agencies such as government departments was nil, there are still local agriculture producers who remember their day in the winners' circle at such prestigious shows as the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto or the Canadian National Exhibition in summer. They still remember the pride they felt as they competed for national honors and the right to represent Canada in the US. These competitions were much as they are on the local level with judging competitions,

judging cereals such as oats or barley, different types and qualities of forage crops such as hay or corn, perhaps several varieties of apples and sometimes they are also required to judge hogs, poultry or sheep or goats. Even the casual observer must realize this kind of expertise requires long hours of study, and hands on experience in the stable and in the field.

"That's what we're missing here," Frizzle states. "We need the technology government can afford to give. There's no way a small local club can hire experts in any given field and that's where the other provinces are leagues ahead of us."

Frizzle referred to the upswing in membership and participation this year. "We've had nearly one hundred kids turn up at each of the county fairs this year, including Ayer's Cliff. At Brome, where there's a new horse club formed, there'll be a horse show for the Young Farmers. They had one at Ayer's Cliff too this year. Interest is growing and we're worried. If the government doesn't begin to take an interest in this age group instead of giving all the kudos to the 18 to 35ers, our clubs will sink back down again. These kids are our future in agriculture and even these county fairs especially my favorite...Brome. They will be offered the torch and they need encouragement and support if we want them to carry it."

"You know, it's a great time to encourage our youngsters, being at the end of a century and starting a new page as it were, couldn't be a better time."




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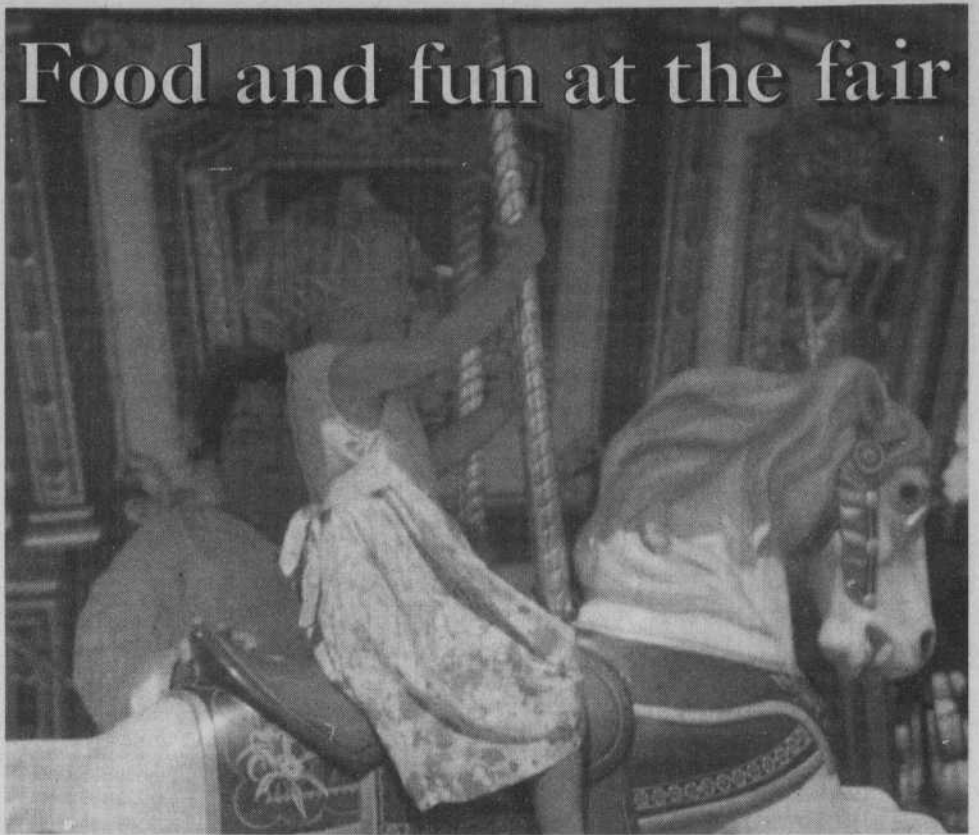
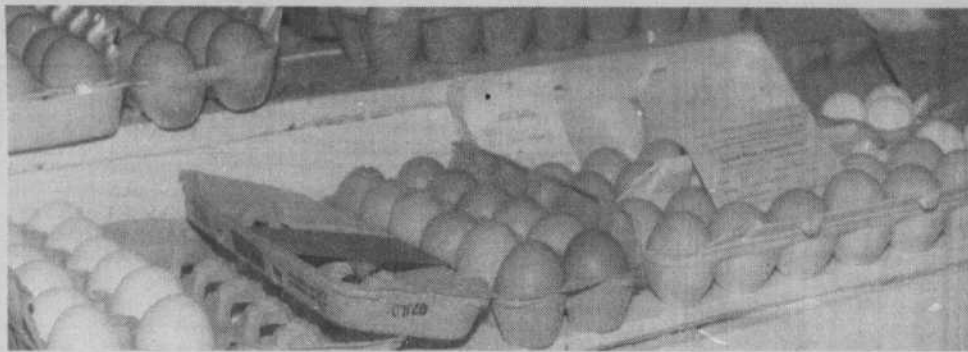
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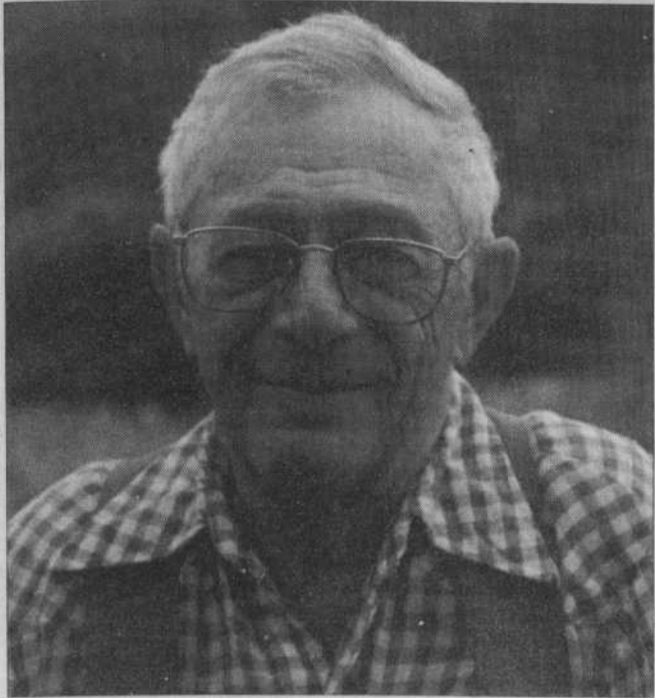
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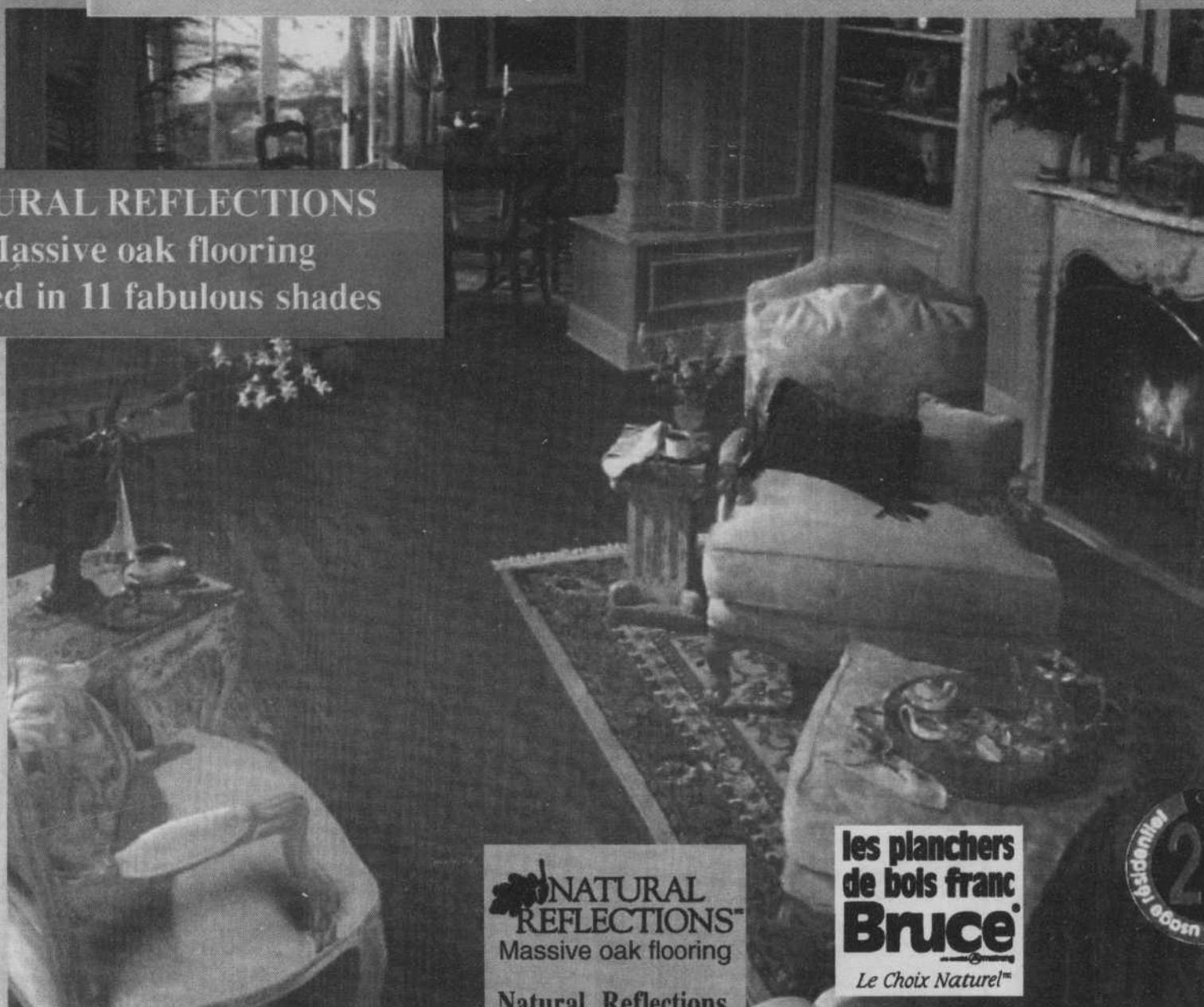
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