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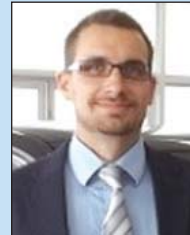


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Richmond Fair



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President Clifford Lancaster planning on another successful year

By Claudia Villemaire
RICHMOND

This county fair is keeping up with its big brother, the Brome Fair, celebrating the same 160th Anniversary as Brome did just a week ago.

"We've made some changes to our program and tried to keep admission prices down as low as possible," President Clifford Lancaster explained this week.

For several years, the horse show has been a constant, fair visitors, could depend on to be at the same time every year. However, this year start times have been moved to late afternoon Friday and Saturday and the show itself will be at the same time as a magic show and the antics of a clown.

"We realized having the pulling track so close to the horses was not very wise. So by getting the show going by 4pm and ending between 7 and 8pm, the horses should be back in their stalls just as the pulling competitions begin."

Exhibitors of horses have worried

about the noise factor, especially with the super modified tractors, which raise the noise decibels sky high, as they rev up and take off. With mud and water problems at the original starting point by the other end of the track, the start point was moved to the finish line, which happens to be in line with the hitching area and horse stable. This new approach should appease both horses and exhibitors this year.

"We have no special projects this year, but commercial space is pretty well taken up and our maintenance program is almost up to date now," the president remarked. "Just to mention a couple of the biggest and by the way, costliest repairs we've done has been building the shelter at the outside ring, for personnel and judges when they need a cooler spot during the competitions. Another has been painting the interior of the Main Building, a long over due project. We have also completed re-wiring the outlet mast on the arena to the campers' area, which has been the biggest expense by far." Lancaster added there will be no lack of power now. Some circuits have been re-routed, a procedure that will allow adding lighting on the grounds in the future.

"The new fence along the highway has also been quite a challenging project but we can't complain. That fence has been there thirty years or more so I guess it has paid its way over time."



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

According to president, Clifford Lancaster, everything is nearly ready, even the office has been expanded and renovated.

"I'm especially pleased to see the main building hall spruced up. We've had several social functions take place here, there have been auction sales and exhibitions such as the National Classic Sheep Show. Keeping these buildings in good shape has been a priority this summer. A goodly number of volunteers have

been coming out to help too and that has made all the difference."

On Monday many volunteers were on site doing last minute touch ups to be ready for the fair. Mary and Richard Goodfellow were busy sprucing up

CONT'D ON PAGE 3

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President Clifford Lancaster

CONT'D FROM PAGE 2

sections of divisions in this building where many social events take place all summer. Outside, lawn tractors and whippersnappers were buzzing along a new fence on the highway side of the grounds. Parking attendants were out in the furthest parking field, measuring and marking spaces. The pulling track was getting graded and compacted, new gates in the dairy barn were being installed. In addition, the last challenge, getting a mountain of paperwork in order, which was being deftly handled by Secretary Valerie Fowler-Redburn.

Fowler-Redburn has been keeping track of entries and announces most categories are up to last year's numbers. "I don't keep track of entries in the Youth Fair but I do know they get over 300 most years. Add them all together, entries number close to a thousand, keeping in mind the hundreds in the horticulture and arts and crafts sections.

"All we need now is decent weather, not too hot or cold with just a bit of rain during the night to settle the dust," he concludes, hurrying away to another project, his chuckle echoing as he disappears around a corner.

Admission: Thursday, opening at 6pm with registration for the dog race and modified lawn-tractor pulling competition - \$10.

Friday - gates open at 9 am. Children's Day and Youth Fair Day. 13 years and older - \$15, 12 years and under - \$10. 4 years and under, free all weekend. The same admission is charged on Saturday.

Sunday, admission is \$10.

Parking on the grounds is \$5. Rides and show costs are



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

Mary and Richard Goodfellow

included in the admission price.

A weekend pass, including parking is \$30 for adults, children 12 and under - \$20. For information call 819 826 2764 or check out the website at: www.exporichmondfair.com.



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

Martin Lancaster comes back every year to help out

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Thursday:		\$10.00
Midway & attractions included: Friday & Sunday		\$10.00
Saturday:	13 years+	\$15.00
	5-12 years	\$10.00
0-4 years old:		Free
Parking:		\$ 5.00
Weekend pass 13 years + (parking included):		\$30.00
Weekend pass 5-12 years old:		\$20.00

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Thursday September 8

- 4:00 pm Opening of the grounds
- 6:00 pm Registration for Amateur Dog Competition
- 7:00 pm Amateur Dog Competition, Minis Pulls

Friday September 9

- 9:00 am Opening of the Petting Zoo
- 9:30 am Miniature horse Judging, Draft horse Judging
- 10:00 am Horticulture & Ladies Build Judging, Beef Judging
- 1:00 pm Youth Fair Judging
- 5:00 pm **MIDWAY OPENS**
- 5:00 pm Country 'Like' Band
- 6:00 pm Official Opening
- 6:30 pm Street Truck Pull, Horse Show
- 9:00 pm Country Band: 'Groupe Xar'



The Richmond Fair grounds is located between Richmond and

September 8, 9, 10 and 11

richmondfair.com



P R O G R A M

Saturday September 10

- 9:00 am Pony Show
- Opening of the Petting Zoo
- 9:30 am Holstein, Ayrshire & Jersey Judging
- 10:00 am Rabbit & Poultry Judging
- 11:00 am **MIDWAY OPENS**
- Rock Music with <<Help>>
- 1:00 pm Country Les Perdus Line Dancing with Nicole du Club
- Sheep Judging
- 2:00 pm A.S.T.T.Q. Truck Pulls
- Modified Minis and 10-Wheels
- 4:00 pm Horse Show
- 4:30 pm 'Lucky Boy (Luc)' Band
- 5:00 pm Shepherd & Shepherdess Lead Class
- 7:30 pm A.S.T.T.Q. Modified Truck & Tractor Pulls
- 9:00 pm André The Magician
- 9:30 pm Country Band: "Bad Boys"

Sunday September 11

- 9:00 am 4-H & Young Farmers Interclub Competition
- Pony & Light horse Judging
- 9:30 am Registration for tractor pull
- 10:00 am Opening of the Petting Zoo
- 11:30 am Edith Lagrange: danse lessons
- 12:00 pm **MIDWAY OPENS**
- Farm Tractor Pull
- 1:00 pm Zucchini races
- 2:00 pm Horse Show
- Band: Duo SN (Country)
- 6:00 pm End of Richmond Fair



*Schedule subject to change without notice.
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Dogs in costumes and racing lawn tractors

By Claudia Villemaire
RICHMOND

away as Richmond Town itself.

However, there is a distinct difference in the two sounds you might hear. One is the high-pitched whistle of modified lawn tractors in a pulling competition and the other, surprisingly is the yap, yap of barking dogs, coming from the arena.

Visitors are beginning their weekend-visit on the right foot by checking out the Thursday night, whether it is the lawn tractors out on the pulling track or the traditional dog races. The dog shows have always begun with a costume class which usually includes a parade of these canines in TuTus, or trousers, some wearing feathered grand-dame hats, others in a dog-modified tuxedo, with their owners milling about and waiting for the invitation to take center stage and present their costumed dogs.

This has been Sarah Oakley's pet project for at least fifteen years now. As exhibitors arrive with large and small animals, poultry and sheep, taking a break from the tiring work of settling in and before the washing, clipping and trimming starts, there is some light-hearted entertainment in the arena to enjoy for a short time.

"We've been doing this for a long time now," Oakley says, "and, not only for the participants but a faithful group of spectators keep coming out for this year after year."

Before the races, it is the masquerade parade.

It is a colourful opening to this event including the tiniest Yorkshire terrier to the height and grace of Saluki hounds and just about every size and color in between.

The races, according to Oakley's regulations are divided into three categories - small, medium and large. Handlers come in pairs, one on the roped section of the start line, the other, of course, the dog's favourite person, crouches at the finish line, treat in hand. Oakley or a volunteer helper gives the 'Go' and hopefully the racing canine will not tear off to investigate the other participants lined up on the sideline or, heaven forbid, feel the need to stop and lift a leg on his way to that tempting treat held up in his line of vision.

This is a fun time, as much for participants and spectators as it has been for Oakley every year. With a variety of prizes up for grabs, just about every participant gets something to take home if they do not eat it first.

Oakley is contemplating retirement this year, with dog grooming her main occupation, a new facility ready for boarding dogs and her favourite pastime competing in Quarter horse competitions and county fairs, in her opinion it's time to try something new. "Richmond Fair has always been the most important event during the summer. When we lived on the farm, we turned the world upside down trying to borrow a horse we could take to the fair." Poultry, vegetables, flowers and some preserves from the home farm are all part of the history of this family's participation. Stories are still being told about great-grandmother's quilts and butter, churned right in the kitchen, moulded, packed in ice from the neighbours ice house and trundled off to the fair using the horses and wagon to carry everything.

"Not just going to the fair but taking part has been a family tradition for probably four, maybe five generations. It would be a difficult habit to break," she says, remembering the trips to the fair when she, two sisters and a brother watched Mom and Dad polishing harness and grooming the family team of Belgians, getting everything ready to take to the fair.

However, this does not mean giving up the fair totally. "There are lots of things to do and ideas for improvements never stop," she says, obviously not about to end this family's traditional participation at their county fair.

These days, the Double S Stable located just up the hill from Richmond town has acquired registered miniature horses, Quarter horses, a pair of Chanticleer chickens, a rabbit and house pets which include PeeWee, the Australian miniature sheepdog, several cats and one Chinchilla named Cooper.

"It's a busy place, grooming dogs, training and taking care of the horses and enjoying my pets. Now with kennels where folks can board their pet, it just gets busier. But we'll have miniature horses at the fair and I'll be there one more time for the dog masquerade and races on Thursday, halter and hitch classes for the 'mini's' all weekend. Actually I can't imagine ending summer without taking part in my fair," she says, hurrying away to groom another dog.



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

Sarah Oakley and PeeWee

The 160th Richmond County Fair starts Thursday evening with a sound that, if the fog is rising and there is no rain in the forecast, can be heard as far

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Robots coming to the fair

By Claudia Villemaire
RICHMOND

To an illiterate in the field of robotics, the RRHS Robotics Club's room is filled with seemingly meaningless accumulation of wheels, wires, lengths of steel, gears, small drive chains, nuts and bolts, soldering tools, insulation and panels - it's a jumble. This confusing assembly gives these students and members of the school's robotics club a chance, their imagination and talent gives reason and logic to this perplexing mixture. With several members on hand to answer questions together with a liaison person from the Community Learning Center based at the school, Siu-Min Jim, Darrin Lacroix St Pierre and Zachary Goorts took turns fielding queries.

"This is the robot we took to the competition in Montreal," said Lacroix. "You see all the wheels to ensure its mobility and agility and see this screen with this special bounceless ball under it. At the competition, we had a diagrammed course to follow which involved throwing that ball into various places, some high, some very high, some quite low!"

Enthusiasm from these students is almost tangible. "Each of these sets of wheels has its own motor, see there, that round cylinder, you can count eight of them. Now under this panel are the wiring, and the brains of the robot."

Nearby is Amelia Goertz, explaining how working together at these projects has really opened their eyes to quite a new world. "We have not only learned about the intricacies of building robots, but we've also learned to work together and stirred more interest in learning in the classroom."

Building robots requires a wide variety of skills. Certainly an avid interest in electronics is a major requirement, but learning about wiring, building sturdy framework that accommodates the type of robot we have decided on, and fitting it all together in a very small space means lots of teamwork, exchanging ideas and finding solutions together."

Siu-Min Jim, one of the agents at the Community Learning Center working with Gwenth Grant at the school has

provided leadership and incentive to these young people as they struggle to complete what seems impossible. Building a mobile robot, operated by remote control that will scurry around the field of competition and perform the required tests of strength and accuracy requires plenty of encouragement and support. "We have so many wonderful mentors who come from local manufacturing enterprises or have retired from this type of industry. These kids had to learn not only the electronics of the projects, but the physical aspect of building a robot using steel, wheels and gears and drive chains. Without the support financially as well as the expertise that encourages the students this wouldn't be possible.

As a matter of fact, the 2015-16 robot, completed in time for the Montreal Competition this spring, was rewarded with a winning spot about halfway up the line of more than forty competitors. "We were quite happy with that placing. The robots we saw there were from much larger schools across Canada and were amazing but we were quite proud of our robot," said Isac.

So, for the first time ever, the 'First' club will be at the fair this weekend, with their display booth, their star robot on hand and ready to answer questions and demonstrate the robot's ability. "We're really excited to be able to show off a bit at the fair," said Lacroix.

"I'm hoping visitors will stop by and ask questions," said Siu-Min Jim. "We are all very proud of our Robotics Club 'First'

and we're looking forward to the next competition with a new presentation.'

The students with their display will be spending the weekend at the fair making this new event something fair organizers are encouraging.

In addition, in the Kiddie Corner, located just inside the main door of the arena, The Mother Goose Program will also be featuring workshops and guest speakers, all expert in the care and nurturing of infants from newborns to Pre-K. Here nursing mothers will find accommodation for them at feeding

time and will also have the opportunity to get the latest information on this all-important time with their newborn.

This is a welcoming corner of the fair where visitors can appreciate the talent these young people are developing and get acquainted with a new generation of fair goers.

The Parent-Child mother Goose program is a group experience for parents, their babies and young children, introducing the pleasure of rhymes, songs and stories together.

Salon 4 Pattes

Sarah Oakley
Organizer of the Dog Races

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Avery Perkins and Billy Johnston, directors



Cecil Mason and his Grand Champion duck at last year's fair.



PHOTOS BY CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

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Good luck to all of the Richmond Fair participants!



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