

All systems ready for 141st Perth Fair

By Janice McEwen

The green light is on for this year's Perth Fair. The directors of the Perth and District Agricultural Society have arranged liability insurance coverage for the fair and the fairgrounds on a year-round basis.

Activities such as lob ball and Perth Summer Theatre can carry on as usual instead of being cancelled as was originally feared.

Horsemen using the track and stabling areas will have to secure their own insurance coverage. Families with 4-H Club members are covered by a 4-H Club policy, but animals exhibited by them will be required to produce proof of liability. This applies to exhibitors of animals in other divisions as well.

The insurance agency handling the liability policy for the Ontario Liability Pool has requested that all exhibitors of livestock, commercial exhibitors and participants in the horse races must send proof of their own liability coverage along with entry forms.

Prize lists are now in the mail to last year's exhibitors and new exhibitors can pick them up at the Perth Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food or by telephoning fair secretary, Carol James at 267-4643.

The fair will kick off this year with a parade, fireworks and clowns and an official opening with CJOH weatherman J.J. Clarke. A rock video dance will close out the evening.

Saturday is horse show day in centre field. The saddle and harness horses begin competition at 9 a.m. and the show will feature the Ottawa Valley Saddlebred futurity.

Poultry and rabbit judging begins at ten and cattle shows commence at noon with the junior calf class. The British beef breeds cattle show will highlight the day's cattle exhibit ending with a steer sale in the evening.

Clown acts go on continuously throughout the day at varying locations.

The Pioneer Country Music Show with Mark Reid Band, Donna North and the Debbie Reid Dancers wind up festivities for the day at the grandstand. Mark Papousek from CKBY radio will MC the event.

Sunday is heavy horse show day with line classes in the morning followed by heavy horse hitch (starting with 8 horses) in the afternoon. The Family Horse and Pony Show as well as the Hunter show are also scheduled.

The afternoon activities will grind to a halt at 2:30

when the Delmer and Cecil Cow Chip Throwing Contest steals centre stage.

The Gospel Music Show with the Snider Family wraps things up for Sunday in the Lions Hall.

Monday morning would be an excellent time to check out the many commercial exhibits and attractions: Home baking, sewing and fancy work displays and food displays and demonstrations in the country corner of the Lion's Hall, all open to the public at 10 a.m.

Harness racing, featuring the Scott Burchell Memorial starts at 1:30 p.m. with parimutual wagering. If racing isn't your thing you can wander over to the cattle barns for the Leeds-Lanark Red and White Show, the Open Jersey Show and the Open Holstein Show.

Of course the Peter March midway will operate during the entire three days to keep all the young and young at heart happy.

Perth Fair officials are already busy judging the Field Crop Competition for early and late hay and wheat. Ten local fields have been judged and the top three placed as follows: Allan McFarlane, Bruce McFavish and Jack McTavish.

See you at the Fair!



The kids at Merrywood Camp were treated with a visit from the Fort Henry Guard last week and the youngster above not only received a little guard-power for his wheelchair, he also got to try-out the guardsman's sabre.

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Core viability report ready soon

By Steve Forster

A report on the economical viability of the Joe Perkins proposal for Perth's downtown core site and the value of the property for lease or sale should be ready this week.

Town planner Steve Fournier said copies of the report should be in the hands of town officials sometime this week and a meeting will likely be organized between the town and the authors of the report in the near future.

The report was prepared by Royal LePage at a cost to the town of \$14,000.

Part of the Royal LePage mandate was to determine the economic viability of the Perkins proposal.

Mr. Perkins has proposed a multi-use three-storey development for the site which was purchased by the town in the late 1970s at an overall cost of nearly \$1 million.

The Perkins proposal includes condominium units, numerous retail outlets, a small food store and many other features.

Members of the Perth Business Improvement Area completed a questionnaire

late last month dealing with the core property and the Perkins proposal.

The questionnaire will be used by members of town council and town officials to gauge input on the proposal from members of the business community.

The Royal LePage report is also expected to give the town a model to test any future projects proposed for the downtown core site, said Mr. Fournier.

The report will also give an estimation of the value of the property with regard to the Perkins proposal for sale or rent.

Mr. Perkins was quoted earlier this summer as saying he is ready to move on the project, but needed to know where the town stands with regard to the property.

Mr. Perkins has said he feels there would be no problem attracting a developer for the project and he feels retailers would soon fill the development.

Parking has been noted as a problem with the Perkins proposal. There are only a few parking spaces available in the Perkins plan.

Collie Plans

A public meeting has been scheduled for August 24, to

discuss plans to eventually build 96 housing units on the site of the old Collicie factory in Perth.

The proponent of the plan, Tayside Estates, would start with construction of 16 townhouse-style condominiums and continue with two 40-unit apartment buildings.

A meeting has also been scheduled for August 14, between the proponent and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The Authority could halt the proposal since the property is on flood plain land.

However, local municipal sources say it is likely the

Authority will leave the go-ahead in the hands of the town.

In other municipal news the town is going ahead with an overall housing needs study.

The study will encompass all types of housing, but will key on senior citizen and family assisted housing in Perth. Town officials are going to attempt to encourage neighbouring municipalities to undertake similar studies.

The municipality is hoping to receive input from any organization in the community with a particular interest in housing in Perth.



Canoe jousting anyone? This mountain of a man emerges from the waters of the Mississippi River at Mal's Campground near Lanark on Sunday. He was taking part in canoe jousting competitions as part of the Ontario Trappers Summer Rendezvous. Hundreds of trappers and their families from across the province attended.

Block race on Thursday

The annual Glen Tay Block Race will be held this Thursday at 6 p.m. with the start and finish line at the Perth Museum.

The event is sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion and the Perth Runners. Race officials expect a good turnout and many of the participants are marathon competitors.

Local runner, Gloria Opzomer, who has run three marathons, will be entered in the Block Race for the first time and her training partner, a thirteen year old Mark Durant of Robertson Lake, will be one of the youngest runners in the race.

Mr. Durant, who has his sights set on the Boston Marathon when he turns 16, has already chalked up an impressive list of wins at local school track meets.

The race is broken into two divisions, men and women, and within each category there are junior (under 20), senior (under 40) and masters (40 and over).

Medals will be given for first, second and third in each division and everyone who finishes will receive a certificate. The course covers 14.7 k, and it is possible to register on race day for a slightly higher entry fee.

Boat fracas on Rideau

Westport OPP and the Leeds and Grenville Crown Attorney's office in Brockville have been investigating a boat battle on the Big Rideau which allegedly involved police officers firing paint pellet pistols at two Perth men.

Eight police officers were on board a Three Buoys houseboat on June 14 when the incident occurred.

Crown Attorney Douglas Mackintosh is expected to wrap up the investigation this week and announce if there will be any charges laid in

connection with the incident. Perth resident Bentley Crain, 26, has been quoted as saying he was struck by one of the paint pellets allegedly fired by the police officers.

Apparently Mr. Crain and a friend were aboard a motorboat when the fracas began. Eventually about \$2,000 in damage was caused to the houseboat, say Westport OPP.

Police say different witnesses have been giving different versions of events on the lake that day.

TRU teams called to Arden area home

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police tactics and rescue unit (TRU Team) from Belleville and Perth were called out Saturday to a lake near Arden where a gun-wielding man was holed up.

The police were called to a home on Garrison Lake, about 15 miles west of Sharbot Lake, around 9:30 p.m. on Saturday following an apparent domestic dispute.

A man apparently ordered his family to leave the home, but a 12 year-old boy

voluntarily stayed with the man who allegedly fired a shotgun blast into the air.

Members of the TRU teams along with a canine team from Belleville and a hostage negotiator surrounded the home.

About 5 a.m. Sunday morning a man emerged from the home and was arrested by police. Charged with careless use of a firearm is Edward Philip Desrosiers, 38, of R.R. 4, Arden. Sharbot Lake OPP say more charges are pending.

Trappers braced for battle with activists

The president of the Ontario Trappers Association says he is worried about a major campaign launched last weekend in Toronto to destroy the fur industry in Canada.

Ian Marshall, of Sioux Lookout, was in Lanark on the weekend participating in the 3rd annual Ontario Trappers Summer Rendezvous held at Mal's Campground.

Mr. Marshall, who is a trapper and also holds a degree in biology, says he feels the animal activists leading the fight against the fur industry will deal in misinformation and emotionalism.

On Saturday in Toronto there was a rally of animal

rights activists with the Ontario Humane Society, one of the major rally sponsors. The director of the Ontario Humane Society said the trapping industry is "going to be extinct in this country and people had better get used to it."

"They portray us as people who don't have feelings about animals," said Mr. Marshall. "Trappers have more feelings about animals than the average person, they know animals."

He went on to say, "It's very frustrating from our side to look at this (the bid to destroy the fur industry). We've got an area to manage and we manage it as best we can and we take pride in animal

management."

Trapping, he noted, is also one of the "last vestiges of native culture. It's important to these people who are also involved in animal management. They've been around for 10,000 years and the animals are still here."

Mr. Marshall said most trappers would survive if the bid to destroy the fur industry is successful.

He says he would worry about the animal population if trappers were no longer operating. Selective removal ensures reproduction of the species and trappers harvest the surplus.

Man, he notes, has changed the natural environment and altered animal habitat.

"I look upon the trapper as

another link in the food chain," stated Mr. Marshall. "It's frustrating because they're (the animal rights activists) not looking at the reality of it (trapping)."

Roger Redner, who coordinates the Napanee district for the Ontario Trappers Association, said he feared outbreaks of disease among animals if trapping is eliminated.

He said he didn't believe the Ontario Humane Society had ever put money into research of new, more humane traps.

"It's something like this happens (the bid to destroy the fur industry) the taxpayers better get used to paying the keep of the people that are put out of work," stated Mr. Redner.



The Glen Tay Block Race is scheduled for Thursday evening, August 7 and local runner, Gloria Opzomer, is busy jogging the miles in preparation. Ms. Opzomer has competed in three marathons and is looking forward to her first Block Race. The event, popular with runners from all over Eastern Ontario gets underway in front of the Perth Museum at 6 p.m.



The Sharbot Lake Triathlon, held on the holiday weekend, boasted an impressive turnout of 285 competitors. The event started with a 1 km swim and the participants above are shown emerging from the water for the transition

to the 32 km bike race. An 8.8 km run through the village of Sharbot Lake to Highway 38 and back made up the third leg of the grueling competition. Photo by Janice McEwen