

MARMORA FAIR FAVOURED WITH GOOD WEATHER - GOOD CROWD

"It was one of the best Fall fairs we've ever had!" commented Bill Doyle, president of Marmora Agricultural Society. Gate receipts were the best in five years, and perfect weather brought the crowds out early.

William Shannon, reeve of the village, extended a genuine welcome to all attending. Clarke T. Collins, M.P.P. brought greetings from the Provincial Government and commented on the improvements in the agricultural grounds. Lee Grills, M.P., brought greetings from the Parliament of Canada, and paid tribute to Warden John Wilkes of Marmora Township who is serving his 25th year as a member of the township council and doing a worthy job as Warden of this County. Warden Wilkes extended greetings from Hastings County and declared the fair officially open.

MUSICAL PROGRAM

Afternoon platform program, emceed by Keith Tompkins of Campbellford, featured the Wildwood Boys of Cobourg who provided lively musical entertainment. Winners of stage competitions in charge of Boyd Warren and Ron Rhines were:

AMATEUR CONTEST

Terry Post of Oshawa; 2 Dave Kwan of Tweed, drummer; and

3. vocal trio Penny and Cathy Gray and Patricia Woods of Marmora.

STEP DANCING (Female)

Ruby Ellis of Campbellford; 2. Mrs. Albert Hubble, Stirling.

MALE

1. Lorne Gray of Marmora; 2. Milroy Morton of Thomasburg, and 3. D. McFarlane of Cordova

WOMEN'S NAIL DRIVING

1. Bonny Gray, 2. Mrs. Hubbell both of Marmora, and 3. Clara Hynes of Stirling.

LOG SAWING

1. Ern Smith of Cobourg and Norman Post of Cherry Valley; 2. Turk Gray and Dave O'Shea of Marmora; 3. Don Ramsay and Marvin Gorgerat.

OLD TIME FIDDLING

1. Charlie Campion, Marmora Bill Rylett, Havelock and 3. Alfred Althouse, Havelock.

PIE EATING CONTEST

Of the 20 entries in the Pie Eating contest, winners were: 1. Murray MacGregor, Marmora 2. Jerry Markland of Picton, and 3rd Mike Badgley of Marmora.

OLDEST LADY and GENT

Oldest lady on the grounds was Mrs. Lectie Chard in her 82nd year, of Marmora, and oldest gent, Wilbert Briggs, 84, of Marmora. Youngest baby was Rhona Maria, born August 26th, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ryan of Stirling. Mrs. Muriel McGregor of Marmora took the prize for the largest family (14) and Wyman Shelen of Break Haven, Ohio, 525 miles, visitor from farthest distance.

NEWCOMERS IN EXHIBITS

Several newcomers competed in fair building exhibits. Top prizes in the fancy work went to Campbellford women, with Mrs. Tom Kerr winning 13, including 6 firsts; Mrs. Stan Kerr with 13 winners, followed by Mrs. D. J. Stephens and Mrs. Alma Dunk. In baking, newcomers, Mrs. Don Walker from Stirling took top honours with 11 prizes, Mrs. Tom Kerr, Campbellford, 9 prizes, Mrs. Stephens, Campbellford, 6 prizes, followed closely by Mrs. Stan Kerr. Miss Patricia Fry of Campbellford also rank high in this category as did Mrs. Everett Barrons of Marmora. Prizes for the decorated birthday cake went to Linda Walker, Stirling, Mrs. Brian Goodchild, Marmora, and Miss Patricia Fry, Campbellford, in that order. Mrs. Mary Lavender won 20 firsts and 4 seconds for her flowers; Mrs. Charlie Lajoie 7 firsts in vegetable and flowers. Ross Lane of Shamrock Cheese Factory, Stirling, swept the cheese show.

MARMORA HERALD

2 SEP 1970

PG 1

Marmora Agric. Society Elects Officers 1971

The Annual Meeting of the Marmora Agricultural Society was held on Saturday evening, March 13th in the Town Hall with a fair attendance.

The following were elected to office for the year 1971:

President: John McGregor

1st Vice-President, Gordon Jones

2nd Vice-President: Boyd
Warren

Secretary-Treasurer: Tom
Bateman

Auditors: Charles Lajoie and
George Fox

In addition to the executive, the following people will serve as directors: Earl Clemenger, Patrick Bertrand, Tom Devolin, Dermont Bedore, Francis Cook, Al Mumby, Joe Maloney and Harold Carman.

A financial report given by retiring treasurer, Charles Lajoie

showed a substantial balance and was termed a very successful year.

It was announced that Sept. 4th and 6th are the dates of the Marmora Fair for 1971.

A vote of thanks was given retiring president, Wm. Doyle by Charles Lajoie, who congratulated him on a job well done.

A meeting will be called soon to outline the work for 1971.

MARMORA HERALD
24 MAR 1971
PG 2

Marmora Fair memories

By JEANNETTE MOORE

There is only one person now living who can remember the first Marmora Fair which was held in the fall of 1890. That person is John Doyle who was six-years-old at the time.

"I can remember things that happened back then better than what is happening today" said Mr. Doyle when visited at his Fabeth Nursing Home room last Friday.

"I attended the first fair and I haven't missed one since until last year when I felt I was too much of a nuisance to be taken, now that I can't walk very well."

That makes 92 fairs that he has seen come and go in this, the 94th fair year.

"When I was a boy I used to run over from our farm across the fields with some neighbour boys. We couldn't wait for our parents to get ready and it was quicker running across country than going by road."

"I was always greatly interested in horses and liked to watch the races and the draws. Then when I was able to drive myself I would enter the competitions. I remember one time before I was married my brother and I were racing. My horse was a little faster and I was driving along proud as a peacock in the lead when I got crowded over and my buggy hit a tree. It ran right up the trunk peeling off the bark and breaking the cart and I was thrown out. I skinned my face a bit and the girl I later married came running to see if I was hurt. I used to draw horses too. I was a great one for horses. I never got an education past the third book because at night I'd be out at the barn looking after the horses. Finally, my father said since I wasn't learning anything at school I might as well stay home and work, which I did."

"I never saw a horse I couldn't handle. One I got as a colt - a percheron - I called Fred. I could holler for him to come and he'd run right up to me. Eventually I taught him all kinds of tricks including walking on his hind legs."

"I bought him as a yearling from a man named Fitzpatrick who lived in Cordova. It had never been hitched, but I put the harness on him and hitched him to a buggy and drove him home stopping on the way at my uncle's for dinner."

"I always took pride in my horses and I broke a lot of them to harness for other people too. When I married and farmed on my own, we always had about 12 head of cattle and five horses with a colt or two every year. One year two mares had colts seven days apart. The one mare died and the other nursed the orphan as well as her own. Word got around

somehow that the mare had twins and I had a lot of fun explaining that the "twins" were seven days apart in age."

"When they grew up they made the best team I ever had. They were four years old when Highway 7 was put through and I had the best team working on the road. But I soon quit. They would put stone in a crusher and bits would fly out and hit the horses. I didn't want them to become nervous."

"When the first car came to this area the horses would bolt when they would see and hear it coming. I believe it was a man named Richardson had the first car, and I used it to train my horse. I stood beside the car in the yard and coaxed the horse with oats and little by little it came closer until finally it ate out of the bucket placed in the car."

Always interested in the fair and animals Mr. Doyle served as a director from the age of 25, in 1909, until he retired at 65, in 1949, after 40 years of fair work. One of his two sons, Bill, has proved the farmer in the family and has followed in his father's footsteps working as a director for over 40 years along with other longtime workers Harry Neal, Gordon Jones, Pat Bertrand and John Wilkes.

"The fair is something that gets in your blood, and you can't give it up" he says.

Bill confirms that his father had a way with horses. "He was always in the drawing match and didn't need to holler or carry on to handle his team. He could drive horses I couldn't even lead."

MARMORA HERALD

5 SEPT, 1984

PAGE 2

Centennial quilt, important piece of Marmora history

by Ruby McCoy
ACW Secretary

Work on the design part of the centennial quilt commissioned by the Marmora Agricultural Society is almost complete now and the craft group of St. Paul's ACW will soon begin the quilting to complete it. The design was created by our craft convenor, Ruth Potts, and the lucky winner of this quilt on Labor Day weekend will have an

important piece of Marmora history as a memento.

A good turn-out of members was on hand from the April 5 meeting held at St. Paul's Church hall. A warm welcome was extended by President Aline Smith to Kathleen Lea, who had been ill for several months, and to Marion Mumby, another member who had been absent for some time through holidays, illness, etc.

Acting Diocesan President

Ruth Smith has accepted our invitation to be guest speaker at our June meeting and potluck luncheon. It is hoped that members of St. Mark's ACW in Bonarlaw, will join us for that occasion also.

A notice accompanying Mrs. Smith's acceptance indicated that several people are needed to fill the vacancies on the diocesan executive.

Plans are going ahead for the second soup-sandwich

luncheon on April 20, following the success of the first one. The cost is \$3.50 per person and serving begins at 11 a.m.

Members are reminded of the next Inter-church supper meeting to be held at St. Andrew's Church on April 24; the two clinics to be operated by the Victorian Order of Nurses on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month starting in May for general health monitoring and foot care; also a meeting on healthy food choices sponsored by the local Cancer Society to be held on April 11.

It was decided that a yard sale would be held on June 16 and November 16 was chosen as the date for the Christmas bazaar.

A letter of resignation from Joan Sparrow from the position of vice-president was accepted with regret. It is hoped that some one in the church membership will offer their services to fill this position.

MARMORA HERALD

11 APR 1990

PG-12



Centennial Quilt completed Members of St. Paul's ACW were commissioned by the Marmora Agricultural Society to design and make a centennial quilt to mark the 100th anniversary of the Marmora Fall Fair. Accepting the quilt on behalf of the fair board was President Mary Binette from ACW President Aline Smith and quilt designer Ruth Potts.

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27 JUN 1990
PAGE 14



Appreciation Plaque

Over 47 years service... Marmora Agricultural Society member Edgar Storms (right) was pleased to present Bill Doyle with an Appreciation Plaque for the contribution he and his wife Marjorie have given to the Marmora Fall Fair for the past 47 years. The presentation took place during the opening ceremonies of the fair on Sept. 5. See page 6 for more fair photos. Photo/Nancy Powers

MARMORA HERALD
16 SEP 1992
PG-1

Fall ushered in with Marmora Fair



This large work horse had to put a new twist on getting a carrot from Wyatt Brownson and his younger brother Randy who brought the treats from their own garden to feed the horse and other animals at the Marmora Fair's petting zoo.

Judy Backus photo

Marmora - Another summer has floated away in a haze of sultry days. The local culmination of the season's events was the annual fall fair held as always over the Labour Day Weekend. Picture-perfect weather (with the exception of a few minutes' worth of errant showers) resulted in a fair to match. A colourful midway looked even more so against the blue of a September sky. The thrilled shrieks of riders on the "Zipper" could be heard against the music of the merry-go-round while young bystanders filled their tummies with taffy and other delectable delights.

The curling club was the place to be if gardening, baking, preserving, art, photography or handwork were among your interests. In addition, there were fascinating displays of honey bee colony and sheep farm with resulting products for sale.

There was plenty for animal lovers to see as well, from toddlers enjoying their first feel of a sheep's wool to retired farmers wistfully watching the horse draws and a show which featured 150 head of cattle.

Throngs of people with nerves of steel and ears to match were thrilled with the noise and excitement delivered by the demolition derby on Saturday night and the Great Lakes Tractor Pull held on Sunday evening.

The three winners of the fair board raffle were all from the Marmora area: Judy Aylesworth won a stained glass hanging; Anne Marie McGregor a basket full of handmade goodies and Joan Hutt went home with a new hand-painted address book.

COMMUNITY PRESS
EASTERN EDITION
12 SEP, 1998
PG 1'

Fair board upset after village goes ahead with work

by Judy Backus

Marmora - What began as a gesture by the village to assist the Agricultural Society with upgrades to the fairgrounds using \$52,000 in municipal funds, resulted in an emergency meeting being held by the fair board on October 24 to deal with a number of unexpected issues.

When Reeve Wilma Bush first attended a meeting of the Agricultural Society on August 10, it was, according to society minutes to ask, "the directors to prepare a list of projects, prioritized to enable the village to carry out work on the fairgrounds. The members discussed various projects and the costs involved with each of them. It was decided that the committee would formulate this list and forward it to the village for their consideration." That was accomplished.

The detailed list included three suggestions with regard to the fate of the cement block secretary's building located at the north end of the arena, listed in order of preference, the first being, "The Marmora Agricultural Society (MAS) feels it is more cost effective to upgrade and improve the present Secretary's Building. It is in an ideal location and can be made totally secure with the addition of a steel door with a good dead-bolt (locking) system ... The area around the building could still be paved and allow for overflow parking during arena events." Their second suggestion was to move the sheep building to the northern fence and build a new secretary's building at its east end next to the track. Their final and least favourable alternative was to locate the secretary's building and the food booths, "somewhere in the area north of the south entrance gate on the grassed area. It was felt by the Board of Directors that this would not be as secure an area for the secretary's building in terms of the money handled during the fair.

A meeting followed between four members of the MAS, Reeve Bush and Deputy-reeve

Russ Mitchell on September 27, which led to a project list presented to council on October 2, including mention of the demolition of the old secretary's building (to allow for additional parking space for arena events). Then, during the most recent council meeting held on October 16, Kim Hughes was awarded the contract for the removal of the secretary's building, food booths and an old horse barn at the fairgrounds at a cost of \$5,296.50.

Members of the MAS, now have concerns that \$52,000 will not be enough to complete the projects once the costs of paving at \$30,090, demolition at \$5,296.50 and the planting of five trees at an estimated \$2,000 for a total of \$37,386.50 are taken into consideration, leaving \$14,613.50 for construction of a new secretary's building/food booths. Another area of contention was the fact that when MAS members went to remove supplies and fair related items from the secretary's building, their job was complicated and slowed by the fact there was a three-foot pile of gravel, being used for sidewalk work, blocking the doorway to the building.

Since the October 24 meeting, the MAS belongings have been removed from the secretary's building by the contractor, Kim Hughes, and have been stored under the bleachers within the arena. Members of the MAS have asked to appear as a delegation at the next council meeting scheduled for November 6.

Village Councillors Bob Kent and Cathie Jones were at the October 24 meeting which prompted Jones to later comment, "I think there was a lack of communication between the fair board and the village council. We were led to believe that this is what they (MAS) wanted and at the last minute they came forward saying they didn't want it. From the very beginning, I think the paving at the arena is a blatant waste of money. Neither the fair nor SnoFest allow vehicles in."

COMMUNITY
PRESS
EXHIBITION
27 OCT 2000
PG 1

Vintage Car Show a first at the fair

Comfortable temperatures and overcast skies added to the success of the Marmora Agricultural Fair's first annual Vintage Car Show, held Sunday September 3 at Marmora Fairgrounds. A total of 36 vehi-

cle owners participated in the event!

Sponsors and prizes

First and second place trophies were locally sponsored for each of 6 vehicle classes: "Pre-1940" by Marmora Herald, "1940's" by

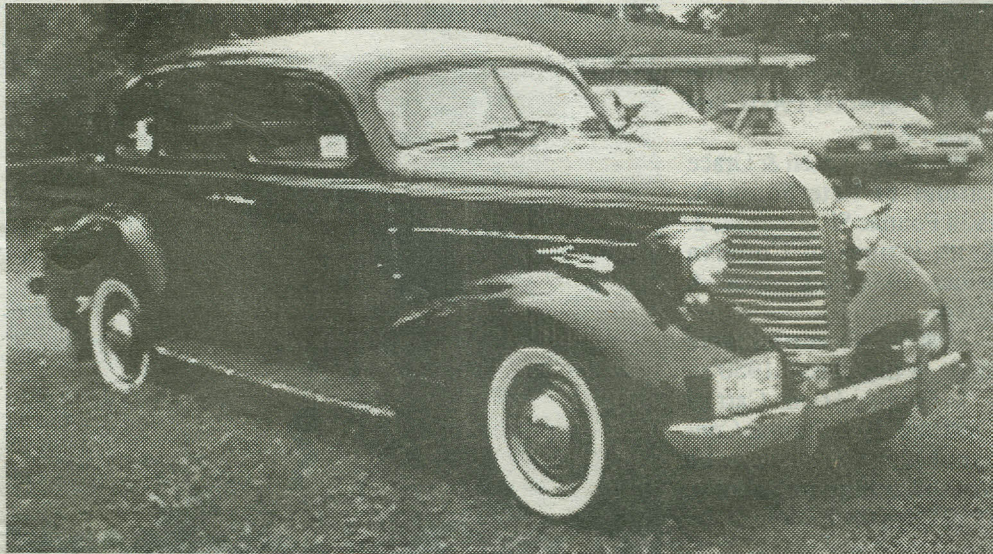
Andre Philpot Law Office, "1950's" by Bob's Pizza and Family Restaurant, "1960's" by Jenson Trucking, "1970's" by Cook's Barber Shop and "Trucks" by Marmora Insurance Ltd. The participants chose each class

trophy winners by ballot.

Marmora Agricultural Society sponsored the "People's Choice" trophy. The winner of this trophy was determined by 169 spectator ballots - representing their overall favourite vehicle in the show.

Dash plaques for all participants were sponsored by 5 local businesses. Door prizes were donated by yet another 32 Marmora area businesses, enabling each of the 36 show entrants to take home at least one door prize. Thanks to Ron Sanderson-Auto Service Manager at Canadian Tire Peterborough, each participant also received a "goody bag" upon entering the show.

Free admission to the fair and Car Show 2000 for all vehicles entered in the show was provided by the Marmora Agricultural Society. Organizers of Car Show



Waiting for a Sunday drive... at the Vintage Car Show. photo/submitted by K. Hamilton.

MARMORA HERALD
9 SEP 2000
Pg 11

Controversy over removal of agricultural building

by Michele Fairfield

Some members of the Agricultural Society are up in arms over the demolition of their secretary's building without what they see as a clear plan for its replacement. Spokesperson for the society Rosalie Payer maintains Marmora Village Council should be working in more cooperative and consultive way with the society. She said she feels "this has just been pushed through."

It all began with a "wish list" the society submitted to the village council in response to a request by council. Reeve Wilma Bush attended the August 10 Agricultural Society meeting where she asked the society to provide a list of projects, in priority, that they would like to see done at the fairgrounds to enable the village to complete the work there. Payer, also vice-president of the Homecraft Division, said a list of project ideas was drawn up by a committee after the meeting that accounted for cost and how well it met the needs of the Fair Board. The list outlined three options with regards to the secretary's building, she said. First preference was to repair and keep the building, the second was to combine it with the petting zoo building by adding an L-shaped extension, and the third was to tear it down and build another, according to

Payer. The next time the society heard from the village was in the form of a letter dated October 12 stating the decisions made by the council regarding the fairgrounds. It stated, "The Secretary's building is to be taken down. Present food booths are to be removed. In their place, new, closed-in booths will be installed. A secure secretary's building, containing hydro and heat, will be built on the West side of the food booths."

The Agricultural Society looked forward to having a building of that nature, Payer noted, but, they anticipated being involved in the design of the new one and expected the village to get back to them perhaps with plans for the new building.

A chance meeting with a councillor and an enquiry about the status of the fairground projects left Payer with impression that the village was paving the parking lot behind the community centre where the secretary's building stood using funds allotted for the buildings. She said she understands that the improvements to the grounds are going to fall under a \$52,000 allotment, and the parking lot would cost about \$30,000 leaving \$20,000 to build the food booth and secretary's building.

The concern of most members of the Agricultural Society, according to Payer, is that the remaining money after paving will not be enough to cover the cost of what they see as "the village's promise". She said it was suggested to her that the Agricultural Society help. She said the society is struggling to maintain enough people to care for the projects it runs now.

A delegation from the society comprised of Rosalie Payer, Ted Bedore, Joe McGrath, Shirley Kidd, and Joan Hutt went the village office Tuesday morning to learn more. Payers said she also submitted a letter to council October 23 requesting the building be kept greater input into the construction of a new building. In her letter to council October 23rd Payer did note, "We are pleased and excited to have new food booths and a new secretary's building..." The group spoke with administrator Carol Church and learned that the building was coming down. "It is such a waste. For the sake of an area the size of two parking spaces our building is being torn down," Payer later commented.

Payer said she invited members of the Agricultural Society, village council, Lionel Bennett who will be Reeve of the new council by acclamation, and the local press to a meeting that evening to discuss the handling of the issue and for clarification of the village's intent to provide new buildings. When she issued the invitation she said she was informed that some councillors and the reeve had other commitments that evening. Councillors Cathie Jones and Bob Kent and Lionel Bennett attended.

MARMORA HEAD

29 OCT 2000

PG's (1+16)

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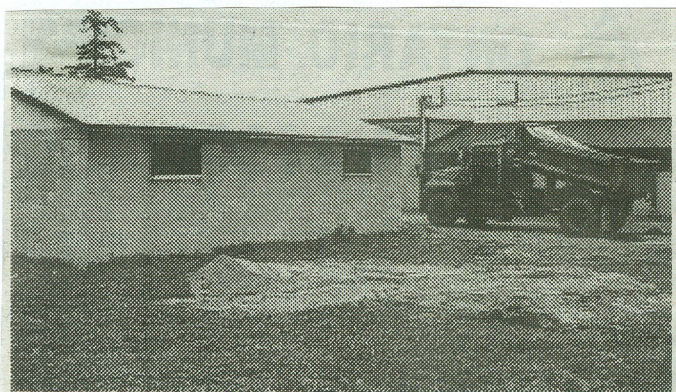
In the end, the building remained slated to be torn down and the society received assurances that a new building would be constructed. Payer said the Society still has questions though. They plan to address them to the next sitting of the village council.

Reeve Wilma Bush has confirmed the building is being torn down. In an interview, Reeve Bush said the intent of village council has been to continue improvements to the appearance of the village, including the fairgrounds. There are a number of things that need upgrading including the hydro.

She listed three occasions where she has met with members of the Agricultural Society: at their August 10th meeting to request a list of projects; a September 27th visit to the fairgrounds with the Deputy-reeve and four Society members to look at the buildings; and at their October 12th meeting where she presented the council's decisions. She said no objections to tearing down the secretary's building were voiced to her. Bush went on to say that village owns the fairground property but, they were trying to work with the Society by asking for their input.

She also stated that the paving of the parking lot is a separate issue from the Agricultural Society building changes although it falls under the budget for improvements to the grounds. Bush confirmed that \$52,000 has been allotted with the cost of paving to be included under that amount. She added that a further \$25,000 can be designated to fairground improvements if needed.

"We are going to do whatever is necessary," she said. She pointed out that the building will be made of cement-block like the old one and have a secure door. The village, she said, has also agreed to buy paint and paint supplies and have suggested the Society might work in conjunction with other volunteers, groups and individuals, to further fix up the fairgrounds. She admitted the village is in a hurry to tear down the building in order to complete the paving before the cold weather.



Secretary's building at north end of the Community Centre, centre of a controversy. Photo/Michele Fairfield



**Here is the
Fair Board
who put it
all together
for the
community**

*L-R, back, Joe McGrath,
a vendor, Dave Lanau,
Steve Airhard, Dale Cole,
Ingrid Lusty, Kent Knox.*

*L-R, middle row, Bruce
Cook, Marjorie and Ted
Bedore.*

*L-R, front row, Marjorie
Doyle, Jamie Hamilton,
President Marilyn Cole,
Lee Scrimshaw.*