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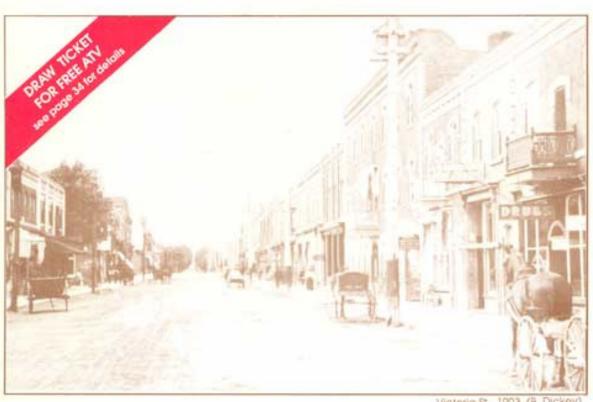
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THE ALLISTON POTATO FESTIVAL HISTORY

The history of the "Potato Festival" is not just a summary of a gala of events happening every August. It is a tribute to the devoted people working together and coming up with new and different ideas.

Like our "potato", the festival was started by a tiny seed, an idea planted in the minds of a few interested people – nurtured by many helping hands, and with input and determination has grown and flourished.

Our "Potato Festival" needs a continual flow of helpers willing to make phone calls, attend meetings, make new suggestions and do all the little jobs - when spread around they take very little time.

KEEP OUR FESTIVAL ALIVE...
"MR. SPUD" NEEDS YOUR HELP.

OUR BEGINNING - 1973

In 1973, David Willis, owner and publisher of the Alliston Herald, wanted to have something that involved everyone, yet, was unique and different. It had to be something representing our area and our people without duplication of any other area.

Alliston was the finest potato area in all of Ontario and a steady stream of trucks passed through our town during harvest. What better could we find to pull our town together for a fun time but something connected with our potato?

Mr. Willis wrote an editorial about his idea and was invited by the Rotarians to speak at a dinner expressing his ideas. On Thursday, November 15, 1973 the first public meeting was called.

Twenty or more interested people made a showing. It was agreed that to make such an event possible, total community involvement would be necessary. It was agreed a "Potato Festival" would be a great thing for the community.

The first investigation committee was formed to look into suggestions as to where the monies taken in from the festival should be used. This committee consisted of ten people:

C. W. Nap, Lorraine Pinkney, Wayne Bishop, Mike McLaughlin, Al Sevon, Jerry Moon, Ron Sproule, Elmer Hawkins, Bruce Middleton, Bob Card.

On November 15, 1973, the first public meeting was called.

Chairperson – W. Napp, Agricultural office

Vice Chairperson – Jerry Moon Recreation Chairmen – Elmer Hawkins

A meeting of all community organizations was called with the objective to raise money towards recreation for Alliston such as an indoor pool. A list of desired activities was made up, St. Johns Couple Club organizing the pancake breakfast.

We had eight contestants in the Queen Contest and winner was Jasmine Jozwich. Special guest was Canadian Indian Princess of 1974 Janet Jonathon, a Mohawk Indian from Ontario's 6th nation reserve. She presented a gift of a ring from her tribe.

Other activities for the weekend included the Circle

Theatre's Lampoon Puppet show, a horse snow on Rumble's farm that drew a large crowd, Riverdale Park firemen's sports, antique show and pee wee baseball, a car rally went through Alliston beginning at the Nottawasaga Inn. We had a beef barbecue in the park which was accompanied by the Alliston band. Our very first "tractor pull" in the area drew a crowd of 2,500 people, local men on local machines. The firemen provided a beer garden and food booth in the park.

At a meeting on April 9, 1975 a design by Richard Dogger was presented. It was a humanized "potato" to be used for all advertising and promotion of the Alliston Potato Festival Committee (APF Committee). All committee organizers were asked to contribute some activity to make this a success.

1974 - CHAIRPERSON JERRY MOON

Our main street was the centre of activities. Donations from clubs and individuals helped boost festival activities.

- 240 pies were sold, 80 dozen ear of corn along with bacon on a bun, pancakes
- Booth rentals were \$10
- Games of chance, antiques, dances and a beef barbecue helped boost our finances

All was not profit. Bands for the parade, the circus (approximately \$4,500 per day), advertising, rentals, etc., all had to be paid.

A profit of \$15,000 was raised.

In 1974, out of 47,000 acres of potatoes in Ontario, Simcoe County grew approximately 15,000 acres making us the potato capital of Ontario.

1975 - CHAIRPERSON JERRY MOON

Another full weekend. Friday night activities included the parade, the Legion's Monte Carlo, the High School's teen dance, Rotary Octoberfest dance in the arena, a talent show, square dance demonstration, trampoline display, Victoria Street flea market and auction sale. Our Potato Festival Queen contest was a success with 1.000 people attending at the arena.

1976 - CHAIRPERSON JERRY MOON

1976 saw the incorporation of the Potato Committee for the protection of its members who could be sued in case of accidents.

Sidewalk sales started Thursday, August 11 and continued until closing Saturday at 6:00 p.m.

The Friday night parade was a success as well as the talent show and Friday night dances.

Because of poor acoustics in the arena, holding the Queen contest at the high school would be looked into. This year's Queen was Marg Van Hart.

Firemen's competitions were well attended.

We were entertained with a horse show, tractor pull Cont'd on page 3

Alliston Lions Club



We are proud of our fifty-five years of service to the community

Cont'd from page 1

and parachute jumping. Soccer at Nottawasaga Inn, Saturday night singing with the Post family under the ball diamond's lights. Sunday morning gospel singers started our day and after a full day of entertainment the activities closed with a great concert by the Alliston band.

8,000 people strolled the main street on Saturday.

When St. John's pancakes finished at 11:30 a.m. the Presbyterian ladies moved in with hamburgers on the grill. The Anglican ladies served hot buttered corn and St. Paul's served home-made pies. Rangers sold ice-cream and the cubs, scouts, rovers and venturers did a lively hotdog business.

Talent shows and live bands kept everyone entertained. The Junior Farmers ran free guided tours to potato farms and packing plants, also free service to all areas of activity. Potatoes were the name of the day at 10 lbs. for \$1.00. You could also buy potato candy, cookies and chips.

1977 CHAIRPERSON JERRY MOON

As of January 10, 1977, a finalized auditor's report was given stating the Potato Festival assets to date were \$62,108. A motion was passed for this statement to appear in the Alliston Herald.

Lynda Arthur became the new chairperson for the Festival Queen contest which was still held at the arena. The 1977 Queen was Ann Marie Powers.

Bob Fraser had earned the title of Potato King of Simcoe County and participated in both the parade and at the Festival Queen contest.

Mrs. Holland held a garden party to give senior citizens the opportunity to meet old friends.

A review of the coverage and profits follows:

review of the coverage and broths	LOROWS.
- Festival Queen contest profit	-\$1,000
- Legion Monte Carlo	- \$3,550
- Lions Frolic	- \$3,000
- Teen Dance	-\$ 55
- Pancake Breakfast	- \$1,649
	(1,829 pancakes)
- Flea Market	-\$1,500
- Souvenirs	- \$3,069
- Firemen's Beer Garden	-\$1,000
- Rotary Beef Barbecue	-\$4,600
	(2,900 served)
- Kinsmen Dance	-\$4,600
- Tractor Pull	- \$4,155.42
- Admission to Park Area	- \$3,155
- Souvenir Programmes	-\$2,397
	(2,708 copies sold
- Legion Dance (a sell out)	terr so copico aoia

At this time a lot of discussion as to the feasibility of an indoor pool and recreation centre was continually going on.

1978 - CHAIRPERSON JERRY MOON

A treasury report of March 17, 1978 showed the amount of \$80,845.39 in the bank. On Wednesday, January 18, 1978 a meeting was called by the Potato Festival Committee with a committee of representatives from area Municipal council to inform area councils of the Potato Festival Committee's interest in conducting a study of recreation facilities needed in the Alliston area.

It was decided a feasibility study be done and a committee was formed by the Potato Festival Committee to do the groundwork and take the information to the Town of Alliston and area.

1979

The first meeting of 1979 was chaired by Roger Hayward.

Present balance - \$93,056.25

At this time a committee looking into long-term projects felt that the grant system was no longer wanted and long-term projects should be looked into. A motion was made as follows:

The Alliston Potato Festival terminate the system of grant dispersal of its funds as approved by a majority vote in 1978 by all members which allows the Alliston Potato Festival appointed sub-committee the authority in an allocated time to disperse a maximum amount of the preceding year's festival profits plus accumulating interest to an approved project to a maximum funding of 25 per cent of said project.

This motion was carried.

- A suggestion was made at that time that the first major project be the extension of the Alliston Public Library.
- 2.A second project to the expansion of the arena area to eventually be made into a sports and cultural recreation complex in conjunction with Alliston Town Council and Alliston Recreation and Parks Community Centre committee.

This proposal was carried by a majority vote with two against and one abstaining.

Grants given at this time were:

- \$1,000 for Alliston Minor Hockey equipment
- \$ 133 for Alliston Junior Farmers for extension of the Cookstown Curling Club
- \$ 520 for the Rotary Club for park beautification.

A motion was carried to spend \$1,100 to provide privys for the Potato Festival.

1980 - CHAIRPERSON TIM BAKER PEARCE

This year a suggestion of an Irish theme was made, a citizen of the year chosen and the Chamber of Commerce was to have a sidewalk sale and window decoration contest. This display should carry the Potato Festival theme of the year.

A motion was passed to purchase a much needed storage trailer for the Alliston Potato Festival materials, not exceeding \$3,000.

St. John's pancake breakfast lost its bid to move to the church because of traffic blockage.

T-shirts were given to the Governor General's family. Cont'd on page 5

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Best wishes to all who attend the Potato Festival



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Cont'd from page 3

\$60 was donated to Banting to help with the repair of benches.

This was the last year of the 100 per cent turn-over of profit from the service clubs.

Profit assets from the 1980 Potato Festival were \$129,442.

1981 - CHAIRPERSON TIM BAKER PEARCE

The 1980 meeting opened with an agreement of a western theme being adopted.

It was suggested that funds raised at the 1981 festival be applied to the arena floor fund in accordance with the wishes of the Town as outlined in their letter of January 16, 1981.

It was suggested, moved and seconded that the position of Secretary of the Potato Festival be a paid position with a salary set at \$4,000. The position to be advertised in the Herald and applications chosen by the executive members.

\$3,500 was transferred to the Kinsmen Club for the purchase of gold coins for the elimination draw at their Gold Fever Dance.

A ten mile hike was set to go and our ever-faithful curling club ready to entertain the dignitaries with refreshments.

It was during this year that contributions of \$90,000 to the new library and \$12,828 contribution to the new arena floor were given.

A helium balloon race was held. Balloons were tagged, sold for \$1 and the winner received a prize.

Souvenirs loss - \$2,120 Rodeo loss - \$6,528

5,000 buttons were purchased at a cost of \$1,000 (sold for \$1).

1982 - CHAIRPERSON JOHN HEYDON

It's 1982 and time for changes.

The 100 per cent profit turnover is being replaced by a split of 25 per cent to the Potato Festival and 75 per cent to organization. A suggestion that all activities be moved to the south end of Alliston and the parade taking place Saturday morning.

Midway and beer garden held in the Salada area for increased parking areas. The market held at Gibson ball field manned by Seniors. An information booth be set up. A motion was made and carried that the festival be held in the general area of Church-Beech and Tupper Streets. It was moved and seconded that a souvenir program be made up.

The Junior Farmers did tractor pull runs for moving guests from one place to another.

A suggestion was made to hold a band competition of approximately 10 bands at a cost of \$5,000. These bands would participate in the parade and then compete at the Salada grounds.

The pancake breakfast was held between the Bank of

Montreal and Hydro building.

A motion was made to go ahead with live bands. Fees of \$2/ adult and senior, and \$1/child under 12, were charged to watch the competition.

The art show was held in the Library. Parade started at 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Rotary beef barbecue was held in the arena. A change of name from Flea Market to Arts and Craft show was made. The old firetruck was parked on the front street selling souvenirs and tickets.

1983 - CHAIRPERSON JOHN HEYDON

1983 marks the Potato Festival's 10th Anniversary and time to spruce up the main street.

A motion was put to the floor and passed for the purchase of new road banners for the main street at a cost of up to \$2,000.

24 banners with the "SPUD" motif and three banners which measured 30'x30"each were ordered at a total cost of \$17492.45. These banners are still in use as they were custom made so that the dates could be changed.

Four washrooms were again reserved at a cost of \$2,837.50. The Air Cadets helped with the parking at \$.50 per car this year and the Boy Scouts did their usual great job of cleaning up.

Helicopter rides were back and for the 10th Anniversary, 7,000 flyers and 5,000 placemats were printed and handed out. The parade was held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Bahai's group set up a lost child booth. The Couple's Club fed 2,000 people. St. Paul's sold 231 pies.

Questions were being asked as to whether a continuation of the band competitions was feasible. It was thoroughly enjoyed but without more sponsors a great deal of money was being lost.

1984 - CHAIRPERSON JOHN HEYDON

A motion was made to go ahead with another band concert. This was carried and an attempt to get a grant would be made.

The souvenirs for this year's festival were spoons, hats, bells, key chains and t-shirts. A move was made to hold the festival the third weekend in August. For lack of runners, the 10-mile race had to be cancelled.

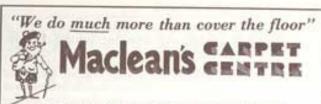
Expenses of this festival amounted to \$26,510.52. \$350 went to the Boy Scouts for clean-up; \$350 went to the Air Cadets for parking.

A suggestion was made that perhaps the 25 per cent split for the Potato Festival was not enough to carry expenses.

1985 – CHAIRPERSON KEVIN BURT

In 1985 the feasibility of continuing the band competition was again questioned. Seven bands had been booked. Gate receipts amounted to only \$316 in

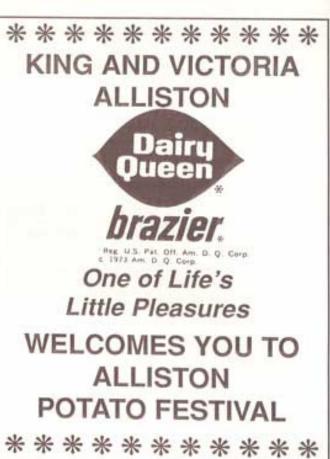
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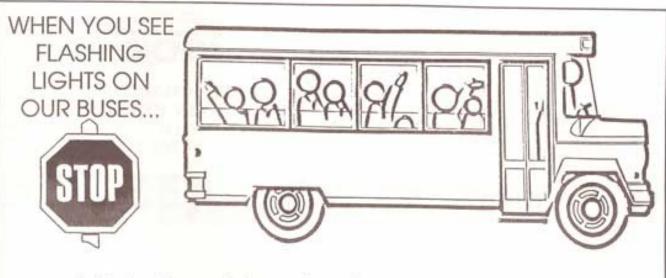


WELCOME TO THE ALLISTON
POTATO FESTIVAL
Congratulations to the Centennial

ALLISTON 99 Victoria St. 435-9461 STOUFVILLE 23 Main St. 640-3884







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We Care at...

LINES

Cont'd from page 5

1984. \$4,900 had been spent on bands alone. After much deliberation and a show of hands, the competition was put on hold.

The 1985 festival had only \$12,310.09 to work with.

The Potato Festival parade was changed to Friday night.

A motion for a new split of profits was made and carried. It would now be: Potato Festival – 35 per cent, Clubs – 65 per cent. A suggestion was made to bring the activities back to main street but because of traffic tie-ups, etc., it was not possible.

1986 - CHAIRPERSON KEVIN BERT

St. John's pancake breakfast was moved to their own church parking lot. The Rotary Club found the cost too high to run the beef barbecue. Junior Farmers were looking for sponsorship to help pay for a sled for the tractor pull – cost \$750. The Alliston Herald came to the rescue of the Junior Farmers with the \$750 for their tractor pull sled.

Due to lack of manpower the OPP could not supply men for road closures so the Potato Festival hired officers for four hours at \$25 per hour.

The parade was run by the Rotary. The theme was in honour of the Legion's 60th Anniversary.

Potato Festival Revenues	- \$16,877.51
Expenses	- \$15,009.06
Largest expense was the portable	4
washrooms	- \$2,232
Advertising	- \$3,080.92
Insurance	- \$1,376
Parade and Prizes	- \$2,328.65
Garbage collection, disposal bins &	40,000,00
packing	- \$1,085

A gift of \$200 each was given to the King and Queen of the Potato Festival - Pete Quinlin and Lori Cannon.

Friday evening: Bed races, fireworks, Granny Limbo, Midway and Dance.

1987 - CHAIRPERSON DIANNE GASTON

An Irish theme for the Potato Festival was discussed and accepted.

Proposals were once again made to move the activities to the main street and the rides in Riverdale Park.

The Queen contest was to be held Thursday night in arena.

A potato recipe cookbook was compiled at a cost of \$1,500 and sold for \$5 x 1,000 books: 35 per cent Potato Festival, 65 per cent Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

A sponsorship of bands was requested for \$500, each company to be recognized by a banner which displayed their name.



Planning under way

The 1991 Potato Festival Executive Committee was recently elected. Members are, front row left to right: Geri English, secretary; Jodi Elvish, vice-president; Wendy Ovens, president. Back row: Jon Hoffarth, director of ways and means; Chris Stillar, publicity; and Melissa Cowl, arts and crafts.

A fireworks display costing \$1,200 was approved for Sunday night.

A budget of \$500 was given for a three-band concert to be held Sunday night before the fireworks.

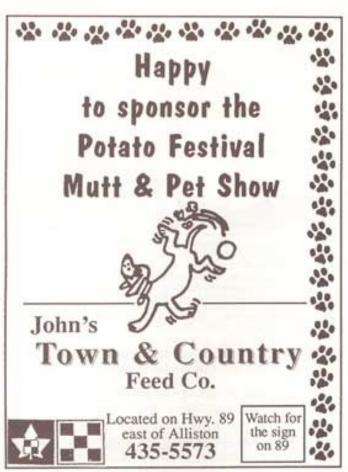
Bob Cat Rodeo to attend the parade Friday night to Sunday.

Wintario was held August 6, 1989 at Banting Memorial High School. Potato Festival supplying volunteers for ushers and ticket sales. A pre-show entertainment group, The Tip Splinter (Irish Group) was hired at a cost of \$400 to precede the Wintario Show.

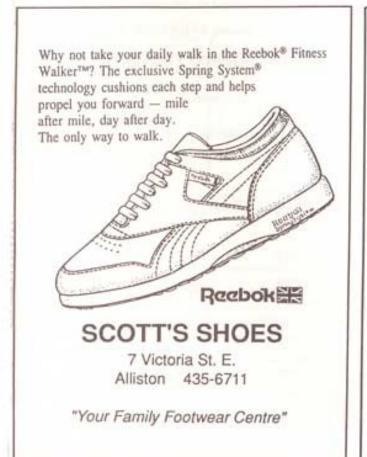
Irish band and dancers for the Friday night parade.

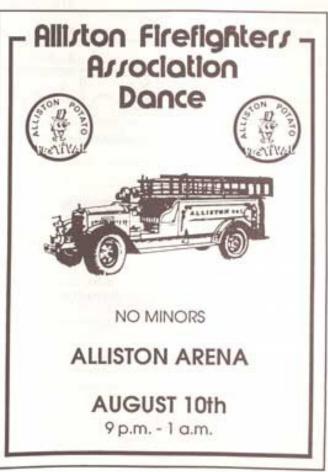
ALLISTON POTATO FESTIVAL

RECEIPTS: PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS ARTS AND CRAFTS POT OF GOLD INTEREST FOR TERM DEPOSIT DONATIONS COMMISSION - HELICOPTER RIDES IRISH HATS	1988 815770.83 2492.00 1997.22 447.45 2500.00 497.00 36.75	1987 \$11434 1615 617 1810
PINS COOKBOOK SALES PARKING TEEN CONCERT	127.80	2260 169 802
	823689.05	\$18707
EXPENSES: PORTABLE WASHROOMS ADVERTISING GROUNDS REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE INSURANCE PARADE POSTAGE AND OFFICE SUPPLY TELEPHONE BANK CHARGES ARTS AND CRAFTS FOT OF GOLD GUEENS PAGEANT ENTERTAINMENT	\$3449.74 4765.74 1122.96 1397.00 3779.16 551.16 119.81 142.44 494.83 1485.70 243.93 4419.97	\$3958 4646 1267 1391 257 119 6 443 450
FIREWORKS ENGRAVING AND TROPHIES BANNERS, SIGNS AND AWNING FOR STAGE WALKIE-TALKIES	1374.50 230.12 314.20 172.80 Cont'd o	1200 179 221 257 n page 9









\$2	8114.53	823524
RECEIPTS FOR COOKBOOKS FRENCH FRIES AND CHIPS		304
DONATION TO HOSPITAL -		2015
CONTESTS		165
B.M.H.S TEEN CONCERT		438
POTATO FARM PHOTOS & TOURS		186
ARM WRESTLING		200
PARKING	250.00	200
RENT FOR MEETINGS	30.00	
IRISH HATS	306.18	
GIFT, FLOWERS & SHIRT FOR PRESENTATION	170.43	26
STREET PENNANTS & SIGNS	406.49	
PRIZES FOR WINDOWS & BOOTHS	275.00	
GAS FOR TRUCK	65.00	
POTATO FESTIVAL PINS	819.18	
AUDITING	660,00	593
GARBAGE PICK-UP	500.00	400
BALLOONS AND HELJUM	568.66	148
Cont'd from page 7		

1988 - CHAIRPERSON DIANNE GASTON

'88 15th Annual Potato Festival

Irish theme adopted once more with Irish football, music and dancing.

The Queen pageant was held Thursday, August 4.

All Potato Queens were invited to ride on floats at the Festival Parade Friday evening. Fireworks were held Friday night. A Hoolee (Irish party) was held at the Legion and with the Carleton Showband at a cost of \$3,500. Pancake breakfasts and spaghetti eating contests, potato shoots and Irish bands made the shamrock's smile.

1990 - PRESIDENT MIKE KOWALSKI

"We Survived"

1990 and a whole new start. New ideas but not too many new faces. Volunteers to help with everything from organizing to counting money were needed. A theme committee was set up and 'Salute to Simcoe County Farmers' was passed recognizing the importance of Agriculture business in the '90's.

Dates set - Friday, August 10 to Sunday, August 12.

At a discussion of moneys from festival proceeds a good point made was to strive to make the festival bigger and better each year, with extra funds going to the community.

Ten picnic tables at a cost of \$100 each were purchased by the committee. These tables were to be donated to the Town of Alliston.

A discussion was opened to the floor for changes to the constitution. This came to a vote and carried,

New by-laws are now legally in place. A survey and information sheet were sent out for all those wishing to participate in, or sponsor an event.

An old-fashioned barn dance under the big top

complete with country decor helped to bring us back to country fun.

Tug-of-war. 10 km road race, beach volleyball tournament, petting zoos and pony rides helped to keep everyone happy.

Rock'n rollin' at the arena, Monte Carlo games, eating, buying and just plain visiting with friends and old acquaintances made this "a really big show."

Fairground admission of \$1/ person were charged with children under 12 free. A lot to see for only \$1. The fee certainly helped to cover the many expenses encountered to make this a good festival.

The demolition derby and tractor pull provided all the thrills and excitement of a big city extravaganza.

The parade route was changed for safety reasons. The new route started from Sommerville's property, Victoria St. to Centre, Nelson and back to Sommerville's eliminating the railroad tracks.

"COME HOME TO POTATO COUNTRY AND WE'LL SHOW YOU A GOOD TIME" is certainly a phrase well put.

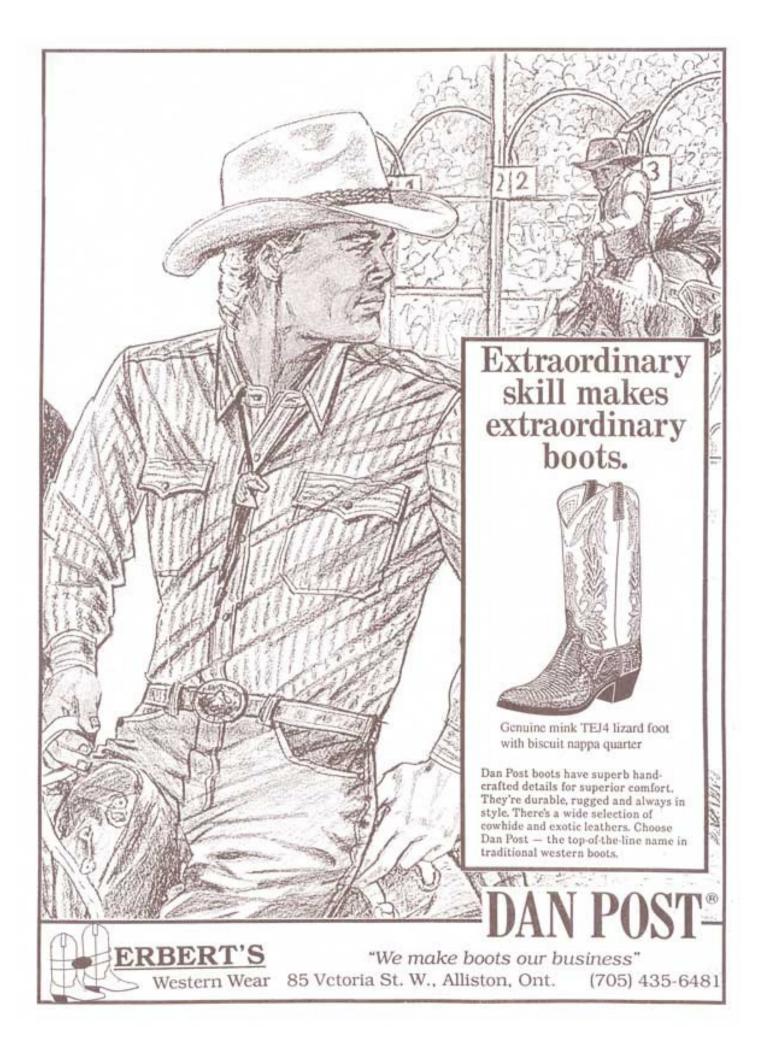
POTATO FESTIVAL FINANCIAL RECORDS SUMMARY REPORT SEPTEMBER 30, 1989

DAST PESTIVAL BUNDS AVAILABLE DOOR PERTUAN

PAST FESTIVAL FUNDS AVAILABLE CURRENT ACCOUNT	FOR 1989 4451.79	FESTIVAL.	
TERM DEPOSIT (WHEN CASHED)	5261.06		
PAST FESTIVAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	FOR 1989		9712.85
1989 FESTIVAL PROCEEDS AS AT S	SEPT. 30		
ARTS & CRAFTS		2242.50	
PARADE		1120,00	
DONATIONS & OTHER		944.00	
GATE PROCEEDS		8751.80	
POT OF GOLD		2269.00	
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS			
STEVEN'S RAD PLUS	5870.00		
1ST ALL BOY SCOUTS	465.41		
SOUTH SIMCOE COMM.			
INFO CENTRE	47.68		
ALLISTON GOLDEN AGE	0.00		
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	613.36		
OPTIMIST CLUB, ALL.	290.76		
ALLISTON LIONS' CLUB	3467.25		
ALLISTON HORNETS JR.			
HOCKEY ASSOC.	350,08		
BEETON OLD STINGER			
HOCKEY CLUB	210.00		
ST. PAUL'S C.W.L.	505.93		
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZ	ATTONS		
SUBTOTAL.		11820.47	
1989 FESTIVAL INCOME	AS AT SEP	T. 30	27147.77
1989 FESTIVAL EXPENSES AS AT S	EPT. 30		
PARADE		3266.38	
ARTS & CRAFTS		493.74	
MEETINGS, AUDITORS FI	RES	STATE OF	
& ADMINISTRATIVE EXP.		2139.80	
ADVERTISING, INCLUDIN	G SIGNS	5033.15	
WAYS & MEANS AND MIS	C.	10884.69	
1989 FESTIVAL EXPENSE	S AS AT S	EPT. 30	21817.76

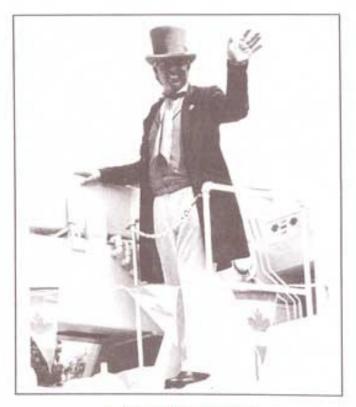
15042.86

SEPT, 30 NET FUNDS AVAILABLE



PERTINENT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF ALLISTON

- 1826 Alliston first settled by Irishmen who came from York, Ontario.
- 1847 Alliston founded by William Fletcher, an energetic businessman who established the first industry, a saw mill in 1848 and a grist mill in 1853.
- 1854 The first white child, Margaret Grant was born. She married William Banting and became the mother of Sir Frederick Banting. The Methodist Hall was built.
- 1856 Town named "Alliston," after William Fletcher's home town in Yorkshire, England.
- 1857 A post office was established in the Fletcher home and John Fletcher, the son of William Fletcher, was the first Postmaster.
- 1862 Mr. Malcolm McCarthy first published the Alliston Star. The first Presbyterian church was opened. The Buyers brothers built a school. Prior to this, classes had been held in the Methodist Hall.
- 1868 Aitken, Knight and Crossley established a foundry and agricultural works.
- 1871 The Alliston Star became the Alliston Herald.
- 1872 Wesley Methodist Church erected. This church, now called St. John's United Church, is still being used today.
- 1873 Masonic Seven Star Lodge established.
- 1874 Alliston incorporated as a village.
- 1875 First Council held. Reeve George Fletcher presided.
- 1876 St. Andrew's Anglican Church completed.
- 1881 A second school was built on land purchased from Fletcher.
- Alliston was incorporated as a town. The first Mayor, who also served as Reeve, was John Stewart. On May 8, fire began in the stables of the Windsor House (then the Queen's Hotel), destroying a large portion of the business section and leaving many homeless.
- 1892 Water Works were installed. At that time there were only 15 customers.
- 1902 Population at this time was 1,475.
- 1903 First cement sidewalks were laid.



A WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our new Amalgamated Town for the 18th Annual Alliston Potato Festival. Alliston is "The Potato Capital of Ontario" and this industry plays a large part in the economy of our area.

You will be able to see some of the potato operations as well as enjoy the many fun activities that have been planned by a very hard working Committee.

Many hours have been put into organizing this weekend and its success only becomes a reality by your continued support. Each year this event becomes bigger and better and I would invite each and everyone of you to come out and be a part of the activities. I guarantee you will find something for everyone.

I look forward to meeting old friends and making new ones during this special weekend.

Have a Happy Potato Festival Weekend.

Rick Milne, Mayor

Best Wishes to Centennial Potato Festival 1991



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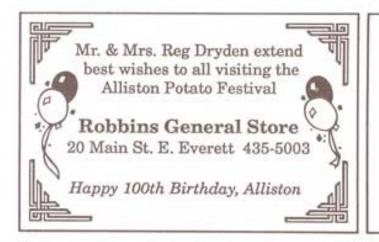
Robert Angevine

Hwy. 89 West Alliston, Ontario

(705) 435-3859

PERTINENT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF ALLISTON

1906 Fletcher builds reservoir. 1911 Riverdale Park turned over to Town Council. Defries, Woodman and Co. brought their silver plating factory to town. Town was flooded which caused several improvements to be made to the bridge and reservoir. 1914 Streets were lighted by 125 watt light bulbs. These lights were not used on moonlit nights. The Mayor had the final say as to what constituted a moonlit night. 1918 Alliston Electric Company sold to the P.U.C. for \$12,000. 1924 Memorial Library opened by Sir Frederick Banting. 1928 Stevenson Memorial Hospital erected and equipped by T.P. Loblaw, was officially	andry for Works ficial plan. New be facility built on hall. J. Construction of ink. Provincially- tment plant built. Depening of Eleanor
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Banting. Valentine Beattie Memorial over Boyne River. 1928 Stevenson Memorial Hospital erected and 1975 Reconstruction of Westeria	
opened July, 1928. Theatre opened in the	Street downtown
town hall showing "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Chapel erected in the Alliston Union 1976 Alliston Engineering opened	1.
Cemetery. 1979 Oetiker Ltd. opened.	
1929 Sewer system installed and a disposal plant established. Alliston Creamery made artificial 1980 Westinghouse opened.	
ice for the first time. Paving program started, largely financed by Loblaw. Newly constructed Alliston opened on same site as Opening of W.G. Boyes I	former library, Reservoir, which
1931 Legislature designated the road through town as a Highway. holds 600,000 gallons below	1000
1938 Circle Theatre opened. Diamond Wood Products started production. 1984 In June, Honda annou construct new auto manuf Alliston area. Opening of Station.	facturing plant in
1945 Dorothea Knitting Mills opened.	
1950 Alliston Memorial Arena opened by Leslie of Alliston from Township opened their ARG distribut former Kellogg, Salada b	p of Adjala. PPG tion centre in the
1957 Baxter Laboratories opened. Golden Age Club facility ope	ened.
1959 Salada, Sheriff, Horsey opened. 1988 Opening of new Alliston Centre and expanded Police	ce Station. Town
1960 South Simcoe Pioneer Museum opened. hired first full-time Staff P first aerial fire truck.	
1961 Alliston P.U.C. Board increased from 3 to 5 members.	
1962 Council passed by-law to discontinue police patrol tax on Victoria Street. 1989 On January 1st, 450 acres of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of population now 6,200 per Treatment Plant under expansion of Alliston from Township of Plant under expansion of Plant und	f Essa. Estimated ersons. Sewage
1963 Building of Cunningham bridge. 1991 Alliston celebrates 100th	
1964 Official opening of new Stevenson Memorial Hospital (June 28). First zoning by-law implemented. being incorporated as a Tow erected July 1. A proud additional Simcoe Pioneer Museum.	





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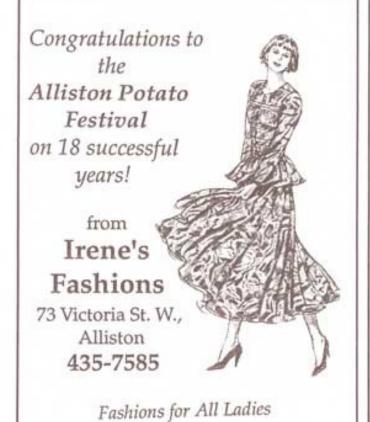
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Alliston, Beeton, Tecumseth and Tottenham
PARKS, RECREATION and CULTURE

106 Victoria St. W., P.O. Box 1286 Alliston, Ontario L0M 1A0 (705) 435-0678

I would like at this time to welcome all participants and visitors to this year's Annual Potato Festival. It is our pleasure as a Recreation Department to have all the Potato Festival activities held at our facilities and parks.

As of January 1991 four municipalities amalgamated to form one because of Bill 177 which was introduced by the Provincial Government. At that time the Town of Alliston, Village of Beeton, Township of Tecumseth and the Village of Tottenham amalgamated to form one Town which forced a lot of changes throughout the Recreation Department.

The changes affected the whole operation of the Recreation Department including operations, staffing, registration, rentals, billings and receivables.

These changes have created a lot of problems to start but are ones that can be ironed out given time. We must all realize the fact we have amalgamated and are now one. The sooner we all accept this and start working together, the easier and quicker we can iron out the problems.

With the amalgamation, we now have a lot to offer as a Department and it is really surprising how many people in the new municipality were unaware of the parks and facilities that we have to offer.

With a population of approximately 22,000 people, we have three (3) arenas which are used for ice hockey, figure skating, broomball, curling and public skating during the winter months, and ball hockey, roller skating, trade fairs, dances and weddings during the summer months.

We have three (3) community halls which includes one large gymnasium. These halls are air-conditioned and have a full supply of silverware, glass dishes, refrigerators, stoves and bar facilities for dances, weddings, fashion shows, theatre shows and fundraisers. These facilities are also used for recreation programs such as aerobics, ballet and dance, yoga, karate, day camps etc.

The Recreation Department also operates a 1/2 acre swim lake pool which can offer public swimming and lessons at the same time. The maximum bath load is 1,200 people and is located on a beautiful setting along the Boyne River in Alliston.

There are also two (2) bandshells open for concerts in the parks located in Alliston and Tottenham.

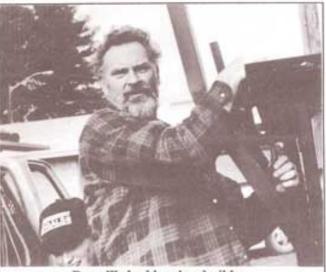
Other facilities include three (3) tennis court complexes with lights and lawn bowling facilities in both Beeton and Tottenham.

We offer a very important part of our heritage with the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum located in Alliston which displays the important roots of our past.

Throughout the municipality are a number of ball diamonds, (5 with lights) soccer fields, football/rugger fields and open space areas.

We also have a number of walking/nature trails throughout Alliston with the Kinsmen's Participark and Tottenham Conservation Area.

The municipality has a number of large parks and parkettes fully equipped with playground equipment for our children.



Dave Wade, bleacher builder.

In Tottenham we have a large Conservation Area which offers camping, swimming, walking/nature trails, tree and animal species identification spots.

There are also three (3) Pavilions one each in Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham available for rent for such functions as family reunions, birthdays, weddings and picnics etc.

The total acreage of parkland throughout the amalgamated municipality is approximately 250 acres. The Recreation Department also has tables and chairs available for rent for such events as picnics, garage sales, family gatherings and family dinners etc.

Our Recreation Department is in the process of increasing the programs available to the people of our municipality.

As you can see the Recreation Department of the Amalgamated Town has not only a lot of facilities available but also a lot of services. If any of our services or facilities can be of use to you or your organization or you have any suggestions or ideas to improve recreation in our municipality, please do not hesitate to call at 705-435-0678 or drop a line to P.O Box 1286, Alliston, Ontario LOM 1AO.

Our Recreation offices are located at 106 Victoria Street West Alliston, Ontario LOM 1AO and our hours of operation are Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

I ask you to get out and at least visit our parks and facilities to see first hand of what the Recreation Department has to offer for a municipality of our size. I know you will be surprised and feel very fortunate for what we do have in our municipality.

Take time, get involved and become a volunteer or participant in our municipality. We need you.

> John Archibald Manager - Parks, Recreation & Culture

SPECIAL EVENTS - August 24 - Beeton Casino Night; September 20, 21, 22 - Beeton Fall Fair.

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ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 171



Similar to the Town of Alliston's Centennial celebration, the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 171, of Alliston is also celebrating its 60th anniversary since receiving its Charter on July 2, 1930.

Since inception, the Legion has continued faithfully to fulfill obligations to the veterans and their dependents of both World Wars and Korea, who made the supreme sacrifice and laid down their lives for their country in order that we may have peace and freedom.

As a service-orientated organization and having the community at heart, we have been honoured to provide our sponsorship for many youth sports programs in the area. Alliston's minor baseball and hockey leagues have continued to receive the support and recognition from the Legion that is deserving for the dedication and efforts put forth by the youth of today.

For the past 27 consecutive years the Legion has had the privilege of being the sponsor of Air Cadet Squadron 734 and has had the opportunity to witness the progress of the young boys and girls as they become the men and women of tomorrow and leaders of their respective communities.

On behalf of the Executive and all members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 171, please allow us this opportunity to publicly thank the Town of Alliston and the surrounding communities for accepting us as your neighbour and permitting us to participate in your activities and to be your friend.

1ST ALLISTON SCOUTING PROGRAM

There is never a dull moment for the boys involved in Scouting in Alliston. This active program features Beavers (5-7), Cubs (8-10) and Scouts (10-12). Although our Canadian climate makes it difficult, the focus is constantly on our community and the great outdoors.

Community services include the following: Trees for Canada, cleaning up after special events such as Potato Festival and Soccer Tournaments, and singing carols at Christmas in various retirement homes. Fundraisers include Apple Day and Easter Bunny Sales.

Each group has its own program with crafts, songs and specialized learning activities. Parent help is always appreciated because there is always so much to do.

The Beavers stress sharing and friendship. Their program centers around themes which may take them to the Police Station or a visit to a Beaver Dam.

Cubs and Scouts concentrate on Badge Work and feature many camps year round.

All levels of Scouting meet with other groups in the area for special games orientated days, weekends and weeks. Beavers have Beaverees, Cubs. Cuborees and Scouts, Jamborees. All of these events take place outdoors.

Once a year the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers meet with the Guides, Brownies and Sparks for their annual church service, usually in February during Baden Powell week. (Baden Powell was the founder of the Scouting movement.) We also have an annual Founder's Day Banquet.

We are very encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by the boys in the 1st Alliston Group and hope this continues into the future.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

The Club has activities,
There are many things to do.
So you share the fun whenever you can
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They bake and crochet,
They sew and they knit
Quilts and crafty things they make
But never idle sit.
Rummage and bake and bazaars we have too.
With this review of what we do
We close our little rhyme
Being ever grateful for God's care
At this time.



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AIR CADETS



734 Squadron of the Canadian Air Cadet League has been serving the Alliston area for almost 37 years. The squadron is sponsored by the Alliston Legion (Branch 171) and the Department of National Defence. The squadron operates out of Banting Memorial High School on Wednesday nights with a staff of five officers. There are between 60-65 cadets currently enrolled. Weekly activities cover a broad area and include Ground School Courses, Drill, Sports, and Leadership Training. Frequent weekend exercises ranging from Gliding to Canoe trips to Camp-outs.

For many cadets it is the opportunity to attend summer camps/courses offered at Canadian Forces Bases all over Canada. Summer camps include: Junior/Senior Leadership Courses, Band Courses, Gliding/Power Flight Scholarships and even International Exchange Programs.

BEETON OLDTIMER STINGER HOCKEY CLUB



The Beeton Oldtimer Stinger Hockey club started old-timer hockey approximately nine years ago in the Beeton-Alliston area. The club provided an opportunity for local hockey players and their families to share in hours of fun. sport and group activities.

The Stingers have hosted tournaments and other fundraising activities and have been able to contribute financially to local minor hockey, the new fire hall in Beeton and recently donated a Life-Line system to Stevenson Memorial Hospital. We hope all kids over 35-years-old get as much enjoyment from Oldtimer hockey as our team does.

Thanks to Alliston Potato Festival for allowing us to share in the presentation of 1991 Festival.

ALLISTON UNION SCHOOL - BRIEF HISTORY



In 1854, the first school classes began in the Methodist Hall. Approximately eight or nine years later the first school was built on the west side of the Scotch Line about fifty yards north of Victoria Street. Due to the growth of the school, an addition was built in 1878.

Seven years later, a meeting was held to discuss the feasibility of a new school. Council then passed a bylaw issuing \$6,000 to construct the building which was completed in 1885, on the south side of Albert St. between Church and Paris Streets. This new building contained six classrooms.

Further extensions were added over the next few years. Before long the public school and continuation school were combined. In both 1902 and 1905 two room additions were added to the school. Then in 1921, four more rooms and four cloak rooms extended the size of the school.

In January 1912, with the formation of a high school board, the high school began to occupy the upstairs of this building. Along with the Alliston students, young people from outside the town arrived by train, came in car pools or else boarded in town for the week, swelling the high school's population. One of the school's most famous students was Sir Frederick Banting, the co-discoverer of insulin.

This old school, after years of service to the community, was torn down in 1968, and was replaced by an openconcept school which was opened in the fall of 1969. To date Alliston Union Public School remains the largest elementary school in Simcoe County.

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> Best Wishes to the Potato Festival in their 18th year!

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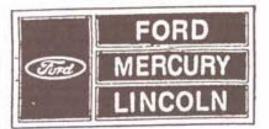
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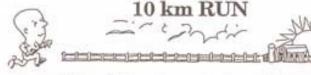
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the herald

THE HERALD SPUDRUNNER



The Herald Potato Festival run has a history that dates back to 1979. For the first six years the race was a 10-mile course. The popularity of the event built steadily over the early years and in both the '83 and '84 events there were over one hundred participants.

Dr. Jerry Ross, Terry and Marilyn McCauley and Tim Baker-Pearce deserve much credit for initiating this event, and doing the work

necessary to see it through the early years to the point where it was a successful well attended race.

Unfortunately after the '84 race we were unable to find the necessary manpower, commitment and expertise to keep a good thing going; and there was no Run from '85 through '89. However, in 1990 there was a successful revival of the Herald Potato Festival Run, with a slightly revised format. The distance became 10 kilometres and for the first time the race was accredited through the Ontario Road Runners Association. The accreditation process ensures that the race meets the required standards in terms of organization, course safety and marshalling, and providing results and refreshments.

Last year's race had one hundred and seven participants and the feedback we got from the competitors was very positive. The quality of competition was excellent; with times for the overall male and female winners; Dan Howat in 31:56 and Maggie Swan in 38:46, being competitive with winning times for much larger races held in bigger communities.

It's great to see a few elite athletes competing locally; however we want to emphasize that this is a participation event where we encourage local competitors of all ability levels to come out, socialize and have fun while getting a good physical workout. Support the '91 Herald Potato Festival Run.



ALLISTON CURLING CLUB

The Alliston Curling Club was first formed in 1900. Curling was played on an open air rink located on the north side of Victoria St. just west of the present CPR R.R. tracks. (Approximately where the small plaza is located.)

From available reports this was only done for one year at this site.

A wooden rink was built in 1900 very close to the site of the present day Arena. The construction was designed to accommodate hockey and skating in the centre and one sheet of curling ice on each side.

The Club continued to curl at this location until 1916. Then a two pad corrugated iron rink was built on the south side of the river just east of the present Church St. bridge. This was used until 1930 when it was torn down. From 1930-1938 curling was at a stand still.

In 1938 under the sponsorship of the Lions' Club they reorganized and used the old skating rink in shares with the owner, Mr. Baycroft. The Club continued to use this rink and membership slowly grew. The annual fee of \$3/year was raised to \$5 in 1944. In 1945 the rink was closed.

It was not until 1950 when the new Alliston Memorial Arena was opened that the curlers again reorganized. They curled one day a week December 1950 until 1956. At this time the game of curling had grown and enthusiasm had reached such a pitch that the members decided to build their own rink.

They moved in December 1956 to the four sheet curing rink now being used in 1991.

Presently a very active club with good representation at competition. Also qualified instructors for Junior and school curlers. At this time two high schools and five elementary schools participate in the game of curling. A sport that has ins and outs but just keeps going and growing.



ALLISTON JUNIOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

The Alliston Hornet Hockey Team received its Franchise from the O.H.A. in the 1950's.

Until 1960-61 they were a "D" team, then became Juvenile "A" Minor.

1962-63 saw them playing as Jr. team again but in the "C" category. They played at this level until 1964 when they folded.

The Alliston Hornets returned in 1971 as a "D" Club under the guidance of Allan Edgar and Paul McKelvey, and later returned to their "C" category where they are today.

Since that time the Club has prospered with the help of local business, loyal fans and time and energy of volunteers.

Good hockey players have come from this team; some have made careers in the N.H.L. others through their hockey skills have attended colleges and universities in Canada and the U.S.A.

We can be proud of the young men who have come through the Hornet ranks and also the people who have given their time, talent and money to support them.



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In 1981, the theme for the Alliston Potato Festival was "Western" and Chairman Tim Baker-Pearce was at Banting Memorial High School to congratulate the new queen, Lori Shibish, right, and her princesses Chris Tomporowski (left) and Shannon Kirkpatrick. (Herald photo).

THE HERALD AND ALLISTON POTATO FESTIVAL

Participation in community events has always been a strong point with The Alliston Herald from its beginning in the 1870's. Reporting the happenings in the community is the main job of a community newspaper but many times support for events is needed over and above the reporting of activities which have taken place.

In the early 1970's there was talk of some type of summer festival for the town and The Herald took its place as a supporter. Why not a potato festival? The main farming crop of the area had helped bring prosperity to the town and Dave and Helen Willis who owned the newspaper threw their support behind the efforts of the whole town during those first few years.

The Willis' retired in 1977 and the new owners, Tim and Jean Baker-Pearce and their staff tried to help where they could. The parade needed an organizer and for two years Tim took on that job. He became chairman of the festival in 1980. That job is one of coordination and trying to be in 14 places at once. The Herald office became the centre for finding your starting place in the parade to learning when the church service started in the park. They were exciting days.

The Herald 10 Mile Run was started in 1981 as a special Sunday a.m. event. Terry and Marilyn McAuley, their family and friends along with Herald staff ran the very successful event the first few years. To become part of the list of accredited runs in Ontario was an aim and with the change of distance to 10 kilometres,

the run was sanctioned and the local committee is still running a successful event in 1991 with support of The Herald.

Alice Spud, Peter Potato and Sally Spud have become fixtures at the parade and other festival events. Have you ever wondered who was inside those scratchy potato costumes? The Herald staff, led by Marilyn MacMurchy, designed, made and wore those costumes through scorching heat and teeming rain. They have also been asked to help promote the festival at other events over the past 10 years.

Organizing the Festival Queen contest, blowing up those hundreds of balloons released on the official parade opening, and counting money in the old days when the treasurer handled all the funds for the festival events, are just a few of the other ways Herald staff has tried to help when there was a need.

And this year, 1991, Chris Stillar, advertising representative has been an active member of the committee.

These jobs are all on top of the publicity, picture taking and coverage of the events which was part of The Herald's job in Alliston. The festival Bulletin has been a special section of The Herald for 12 years, giving the final official program, items of history and stories about the potato as well as pictures from prior years.

The Herald is proud to be part of the Alliston Potato Festival, a festival which has put Alliston on the map of fun-filled weekends in southern Ontario.



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ALLISTON FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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The Alliston Firefighters have been involved with the Alliston Potato Festival since it started in 1973. The fire department was instrumental in organizing the festival parade for approximately 12 years.

The firefighters have had a fundraising event since 1973 with the beer gardens being first and then the Saturday night dance which they still hold.

In the early years of the Potato Festival, the firefighters travelled throughout Ontario advertising the festival with a large potato that they constructed, being pulled by the 1929 firetruck.

In 1982, the firefighters reorganized the Potato Festival as participation was deteriorating and profit sharing was introduced at this time. They also built 6 small potatoes which were mounted on go-carts and lettered to advertise the Alliston Potato Festival.

The fire department has had members active as president, vice-president and treasurer for many years with one member still being active and assigned to attend Potato Festival meetings each year.

The Alliston Firefighters Association was incorporated April 15, 1980 and over the past ten years we have donated \$31,779 as a result of their profit sharing in the Potato Festival.

ALLISTON LIBRARY AT THE POTATO FESTIVAL



1991

The Alliston Library's involvement with Potato Festival has been ongoing for many years. In the early years displays from the Ontario Museum, Ontario Science Centre, Huronia Spinners and South Simcoe Museum were featured during Festival weekend both in front of the Library and inside.

With lack of library space being a problem for many years, the Potato Festival Committee helped out in a MAJOR way by donating \$90,000 to the building fund in 1981. That year the Library float was a cardboard replica of the new building.

Thanks to the financial help from the Festival Committee and the community as a whole, the Library since 1982 has been able to offer a coo! quiet haven to visitors during the hectic Festival celebrations. In the larger facility we continue to offer art displays and various other displays such as children's potato crafts. Local history books, local postcards, etc. are also available.

Many volunteers have contributed ideas, materials and time to designing a wide variety of theme floats for the Potato festival parade. In 1983 the Library float won first prize.

The Library's recent annual Potato Festival Event is the "Stuffed Pet Contest." Its popularity has increased each year and we are again anticipating an imaginative crowd of children and their "stuffed" friends.

The Alliston Potato Festival provides the Library with a wonderful opportunity to be involved in a major community even while promoting the Library as an informational, recreational and cultural centre of our community. We can only hope to participate in more ways as our Library continues to expand.



ALLISTON LIONS' POTATO FESTIVAL HISTORY

Just as 1991 marks the Town of Alliston's Centennial, it also marks the 55th Anniversary of the Alliston Lions' Club. We are proud to be a part of this community and Alliston's oldest service club.

We have been involved with the Potato Festival since its inception, and this year is no exception. Once again we will be responsible for the midway and will also hold our very popular Bingo games on Saturday and Sunday. For those who get bitten by the gambling bug, our Crown and Anchor

game and Over and Under also attract a crowd.

The Potato Festival is one of the few activities that all of our members can be involved in. Everyone is expected to help out as much as they are able. From set up on Thursday till dusk on Sunday, the purple and gold Lions' vest is always visible at the Fairgrounds. We also enter a float or our fire truck in the parade on Friday night.

The following are some of the different causes we contribute to with the proceeds from our Potato Festival activities; Canadian National Institute for the Blind; Alliston Minor Hockey; Alliston Minor Baseball; Diabetes Awareness; Lions' "Sight First" project; Alliston Recreation; Easter Seals (crippled children); Lions' Camp Dorset for Kidney Dialysis; Lake St. Joseph's Lions' Camp for the Blind; Lions' Deaf camp; Boy Scouts; Alliston Figure Skating; Lions' Foundation for Organ Donation; Community projects; Lions' Quest for Drug Awareness, and the Christmas Hamper Program.

There are many others we have helped through your generosity and we will continue to do so for many years. The Lions' meet the second and last Wednesday of each month, except for July and August.

We would like to wish the Potato Festival History Committee success with this Centennial program and look forward to seeing everyone at this year's Potato Festival.



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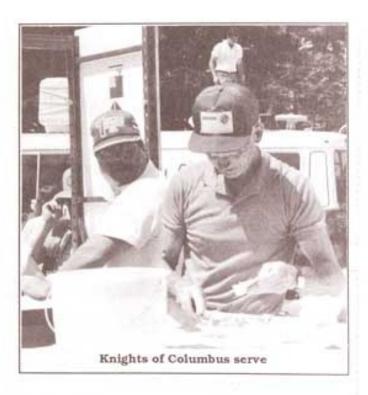
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our local Knights of Columbus Council was instituted on June 16, 1986. Thirty-five members set out to achieve the goals of the Knights of Columbus:

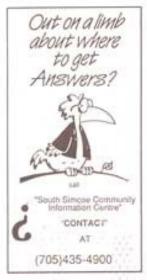
Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

Under these guidelines and the leadership of Bill Skelton, Charter Grand Knight, we have donated monles and manpower to our local hospital, the People in Transition House, V.I.P. programs, freethrow basketball competitions and numerous others. All of this through the efforts of our members at projects such as the baked potato booth, the sale of our car draw tickets, and our famous garage sales. As our garage sales chairman John Kennedy says, "If it can be carried, it can be sold. All for fun and charity."

The ideals of these Knights of Columbus will be always carried out says our present Grand Knight Jim McDevitt; and certainly they will.



SOUTH SIMCOE COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE



"CONTACT"

CONTACT was begun 13 years ago to gather and provide information for the general public, to refer those in need of help to the appropriate agency and provide a listening ear for those in conflict. Our mandate was to keep detailed statistics on each approach to our office, whether by telephone or in person. We were not to offer counselling but act as an advisory and referral service for the general public.

There were few, if any, social service offices in south Simcoe. As our statistics grew we were able to help pinpoint specific needs within these townships. The need was shown for a mental health clinic and the Mary McGill Mental health Clinic was formed. Using our statistics other county agencies, such as the Children's Aid Society were able to substantiate the need for offices in this part of the county. With the high number of calls we received on domestic problems in the area, the need for People in Transition was identified and My Sister's Place was established.

The problems people have, whether social or informational, have not disappeared but grown over the years. The first year we received in the neighbourhood of 1,000 calls. During 1990 the total was 7,080. Most calls are made to find out who the big "they" is they should be talking or writing to. Many of our callers don't know where to turn.

We have worked closely with the police department in Alliston and the Ontario Provincial Police over the years. We find a place for a vagrant to spend the night and supply money for a taxi driver to take that person to a hostel in Barrie or Newmarket. These services help cut policing costs by officers not having to take people to these centres or lock them up for the night.

For several years we organized local lawyers to handle a legal advice clinic locally and since local lawyers have found that demand too heavy, we bring in the Simcoe Legal Services clinic lawyer from Orillia each week to attempt to meet the needs of south Simcoe people.

A job board is available in our office where we post Canada Employment Service positions available as well as help wanted columns from south Simcoe newspapers. We have a baby sitting register and organize baby sitting courses for young people. We keep a complete supply of forms needed for all purposes - to apply for Social Insurance Numbers, birth certificates, GST numbers and many, many more. Many of our visitors need assistance in filling these out.

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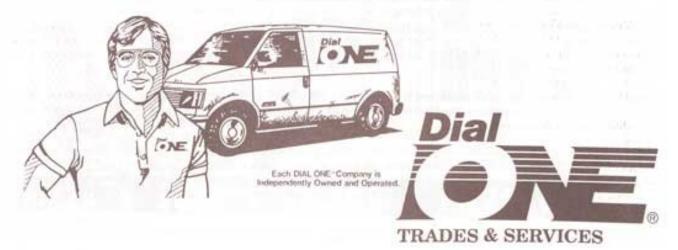
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Quality Work At A Fair Price



Continued from Page 27

Funding for this operation has always been slim. The first support we had was from a Beeton service club which signed as a sponsor to allow the group to get a Canada Employment grant. Later we were able to find some funding from the provincial government. This funding was to be no more than one third of the operating expenses and that was 12 years ago. The sum of money has grown very slightly over the years and now represents about one sixth of our operating costs. To fund raise ourselves and help those in need, we began a gently used clothing store. This has filled a real need in south Simcoe and provided the South Simcoe Community Information Centre with more than half of its operating funds. Although we sell donated clothing and housewares for nominal charges, we supply these items, free of charge, to the clients of People in Transition and others which the staff knows are in need.

We always have a shortfall in funding each year whatever we try to do. We still have only two staff people, which is the same number we began with 12 years ago. The rest of the work is done by a handful of very loyal and overworked volunteers.

THE KINSMEN CLUB



The Alliston Kinsmen Club Inc. was formed in 1964. They meet at the Lions Hall on the first and third Thursday of every month except during the months of July and August.

Some our past projects saw us build the Participark, built the dugouts on Donor Diamond as well as buying playground equipment in Riverdale and Hanley Parks.

We have supported the Potato Festival in past years by running dances and the beer gardens. At present we are involved in running the parade.

We have been sponsor members for the St. John's Ambulance as well as Block Parent's and we continue to support them in their reforming. We have also been the sponsor group for the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinics until just recently.

Our Kinsmen National Projects are the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and The Shining Light Child Abuse Program.

Our two major fund raisers are, our annual Kinsmen Christmas Tree sale and our Kinsmen Club 200 Trip of the Month.

We are always looking for new members to help us achieve the goals as set out in our motto;

"Serving The Community's Greatest Needs"

ALLISTON & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber works closely with the Potato Festival Committee and the Downtown Businesses to coordinate and operate activities along Victoria Street during the Potato Festival each year. Individual merchants develop special displays promoting the Festival, and offer special sales promotions. They also contribute funds to help the Chamber co-sponsor activities by other merchants. Usually there are six to a dozen co-sponsored events such as, street painters, skipping demonstrations, square dancers, limbo dancers, talent shows, puppet shows, face painters, clowns, and more.

The Chamber and Downtown Businesses promote the Festival through these events and through shop and window displays prior to the Festival weekend.

To provide a more festive atmosphere, extended shopping hours are a common practice throughout the Town.

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A Pictorial History of the Town of Alliston in Celebration of Alliston's Centennial

The Alliston Centennial Committee,

in conjunction with Banting Memorial High School's History and Contemporary Studies Department has compiled a Pictorial history of the Town of Alliston which traces several aspects of our town's development from the Great Fire in 1891 to the present time.



Available at Potato Festival & Town Hall for \$25.00

We are excited about this project and we hope that you will help us to preserve the town's history. Thank you in advance for helping us to preserve the history of Alliston.



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GREETINGS ONE AND ALL

As this year's Alliston Potato Festival President, I would like to welcome you to our festivities to celebrate Alliston's centennial. I was born in Alliston and have always lived in this area.

The Potato Festival has been a major event around here for most of my life. I have always enjoyed it because it's a time when old school chums come home for a visit and relatives re-unite. It's a time for memories and tears, a time for laughter and children's smiles.

If you are a first time visitor then you can enjoy Alliston's friendliness too. When you walk down the street, people are talking and laughing and the merchants are always cheerful and helpful.

It doesn't matter whether you are an old friend or a new friend, everyone can nestle into Alliston's heritage. In closing I would like to pass this poem on to you:

May friendship, like wine, improve as time advances,
And may we always have old wine, old friends, and young cares,
Friendship is a sheltering tree.
Keep thy friend
Under thy own life's key.
Ellye Howell Glover, 1907.

Yours in Friendship, Wendy Owens, President LOOSTERMAN EQUIPMENT LTD.

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Interesting photos of another year

Courtesy of Kevin Burt





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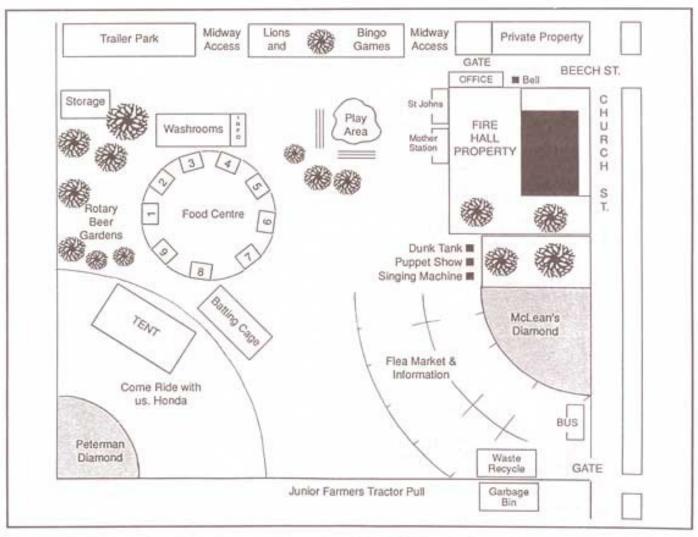


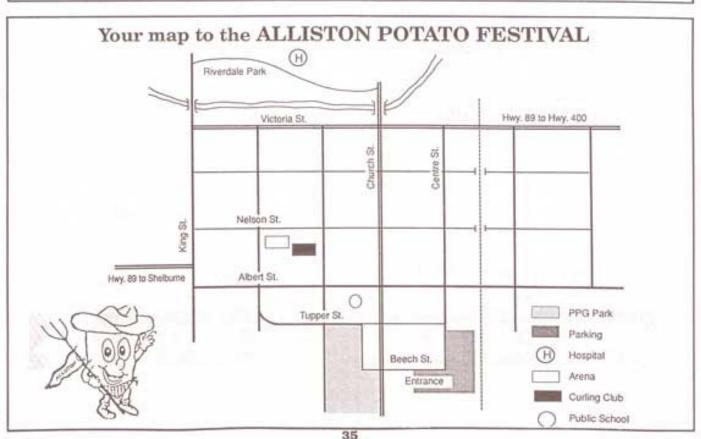
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18TH ANNUAL ALLISTON POTATO

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

TIMES	EVENT AND SPONSOR LOCATION		
7 p.m.	Grand Parade Kinsmen Club of Alliston	Victoria St Downtown Centre St. W. on Nelson	
7 p.m 1 a.m.	Midway & Game Lions Club	Fairgrounds	
8 p.m midnight	Teen Dance Banting Memorial H.S.	Alliston Arena	
8 p.m 1 a.m.	Monte Carlo R.C.L. Br. 171	Alliston Arena	
8 p.m 1 a.m.	Street Dance	Church St. South	





SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

TIMES	EVENT AND SPONSOR LOCATION	
Sunrise to 5 p.m.	Street Artist Contest Lloyds Gallery & Chamber of Commerce	Victoria St. West
7:30 a.m 11:30 a.m.	Potato Pancake Breakfast -St. John's Couples Club	St. John's United Victoria at Centre St.
All day & evening	Midway & Games Alliston Lions' Club	Fairgrounds
All Day	Come Ride With Us Fairgrounds Honda Canada & Addison Honda	
9 a.m. Start	Beach Volleyball Banting Memorial Athletics	Riverdale Park
10 a.m. Start	Horseshoe Tournament P.C.L. Br. #171	Legion Hall Dufferin St. South
10 a.m 5 p.m.	Dunk Tank Rotten Kids Society	Fairgrounds
10 a.m 5 p.m.	Puppet Show Rotten Kids Society	Fairgrounds
10 a.m 8 p.m.	Singing Machine Alliston Community Theatre	Fairgrounds
10 a.m 5 p.m.	Arts & Crafts Show Arts & Crafts Director	Alliston Union Public School
10 a.m 4 p.m.	Lincoln Leapers, Granny's Attic, Chamber of Commerce	Victoria St. West
10 a.m 4 p.m.	South Simcoe Cloggers Traditions and Chamber	In front of Traditions

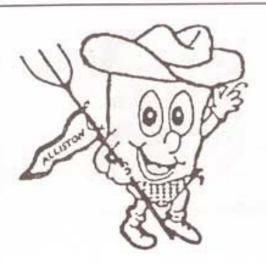
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 (cont'd)

TIMES	EVENT AND SPONSO	R LOCATION
10 a.m 4 p.m.	Talent Contest Alliston Music, Oberon Sound and Chamber	In front of Alliston Music Shop
10 a.m 4 p.m.	Brian Nesle Band Promotions Oberon Sound, Avantgarde Hand Chamber	Alliston air Music Shop
11 a.m.	Pet & Mutt Show John's Town & Country	Fairgrounds
11:00 a.m 1:00 a.m.	Continuous Western Music in Legion lounge	Legion Hall
11:30 a.m 4:30 p.m.	Bingo-Over & Under & Crown and Anchor - Lions' Club	Fairgrounds
11 a.m 12 noon	Stuffed Pet Contest Library and Chamber	Library
11 a.m2 p.m.	Alliston Swing Eights Modern Square Dancing MacLeans Carpets & Barb's Clothes Closet, Lloyd's One H and The Extra Special Ladies	Victoria St. West our Photo Wearshop
Afternoon	Celebrity Readers Library and Read Canada	Reading Ten
1 p.m 5 p.m.		Matthy's Field Beech & Centre St
2 p.m 4 p.m.	The Back Line Live Concert Main Street Music	Victoria St
8 p.m 1 a.m.	Western Dance Everett Legion	Fairgrounds in the ten
8 p.m 1 a.m.	Western Dance in Walker Hall	Legion Hal 111 Dufferin St
9 p.m 1 a.m.	Dance Alliston Firefighters' Associatio (no minors permitted)	Alliston Arena



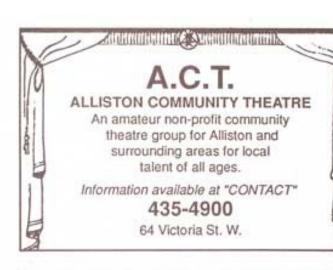
FESTIVAL 1991 PROGRAM

TIME	EVENT & SPONSOF	R LOCATION
All day & evening	Midway & Games Alliston Lions' Club	Fairgrounds
All Day	Come Ride With Us Honda Canada & Addison H	Fairgrounds Ionda
All day 9 a.m 6 p.m.	Truck & Tractor Pull Alliston Junior Farmers	Field south of the Fairgrounds
9 a.m Start	10 km Run Community & Alliston Herald Sanctioned by the ORA Ontario Road Races Associ	
9 a.m.	Beach Volleyball Banting Memorial Athletics	Riverdale Park
10 a.m 5 p.m	Arts & Crafts Show	Alliston Union Public School Gymnasium
10 a.m 5 p.m	Dunk Tank Rotten Kids Society	Fairgrounds
10 a.m 5 p.m	Puppet Show Rotten Kids Society	Fairgrounds
10 a.m 5 p.m	Arts & Crafts Show Arts & Crafts Director	Alliston Union Public School
11 a.m 6 p.m	Singing Machine Alliston Community Theatre	Fairgrounds
12 noon 8 p.m.	Open Dart Tournament R.C.L. Br.#171	Legion Hall 11 Dufferin St, South
12:30 p.m 2 p.m.	Bingo-Over and Under Crown & Anchor - Lions' Clu	Fairgrounds ab
1 p.m 4 p.m.	Fig Leaf Jazz Band R.C. Legion #171	Legion Hall 11 Dufferin St. South
7 p.m.	Concert and Festival wrap u Party in the park, Big Band 3 with Brampton concert band by Alliston Potato Festival	Sounds Park



FOOD BOOTHS DAY & TIME FOOD BOOTHS LOCATION Pie Booth **Sat. and Sun. Fairgrounds Catholic Women's League 9 a.m. -5 p.m. **Saturday Baked Potatoes & Pop Fairgrounds Knights of Columbus 10 a.m. -6 p.m. 10 a.m. -4 p.m. Sunday ** 11 a.m. until French Fries, Potato puffs Fairgrounds Potato coins, Potato patties & pop closing Sunday Alliston Jr. Hockey Assoc. ++9 a.m. -Hot dogs, Sausage on bun Fairgrounds, Demolition Derby & 8 p.m. Sat. & pop Alliston Community Theatre 9 a.m. Sunday Tractor Pull ++11 a.m. -BBQ Roast Beef on a bun, Demolition Derby, 6 p.m. Alliston Pathfinders & chips & pop Saturday R.P Bar-B-Que Service **Sunday all day BBQ Roast Beef on a bun, Tractor Pull chips & pop Alliston Pathfinders & R.P. Bar-B-Que Service **Saturday & loe Cream Booth Fairgrounds Beeton Stingers Sunday all day *+Saturday & Hamburgers, chips & drinks Fairgrounds Golden Age Club Sunday ++Saturday & Beef on a bun Fairgrounds Sunday Young Life Com on the cob Youth for Christ *+Saturday & Baked Goods Alliston Sunday

DAY & TIME	FESTIVAL SERVICES	LOCATION
** Sat. 9 a.m. & Sun. 9 a.m.	Curling Information Booth Alliston Curling Club	Fairgrounds
Saturday & Sun, 11 a.m closing	Information Booth Historical Society	Fairgrounds
Saturday & Sunday	Information Booth Focus Community Youth Service	Fairgrounds es
◆ Fri, 6-9 p.m. Sun. 1 p.m 4 p.m.	Information Booth & Raffle Draw Learning Disabilities Assoc. of South Simcoe	v Fairgrounds
Saturday & Sunday	Beer Gardens Alliston Rotary Club	Fairgrounds
Saturday &	Grounds Clean-up 1st	Alliston Scouts



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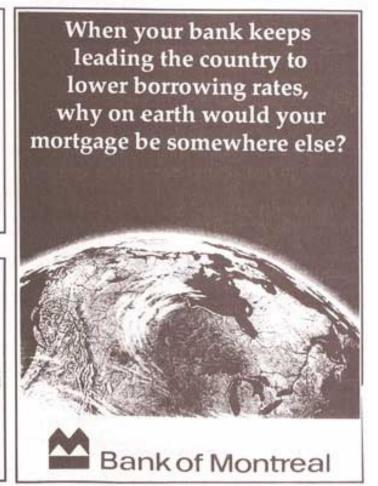
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THERE WAS A BARN RAISING

Restoring a piece of yesteryear rural Ontario was one of the big projects undertaken by the Alliston Centennial Committee. This involved dismantling a barn built about 1850 near Bond Head and reassembling it adjacent to the log house at Riverdale Park.

The spare barn was donated by Robert Keffer of Bond Head and the Centennial Committee has had the assistance of Rudy Wiederer, an expert in barn-moves, as a consultant on the project.

Judy Gibbs, Project Co-ordinator, is excited about the project and is one of several people involved in planning this program overall.

The barn raising was but one of several additions being considered for the site, advises Judy Gibbs. At some point in time she can visualize a working, living museum expanding from the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum facility.

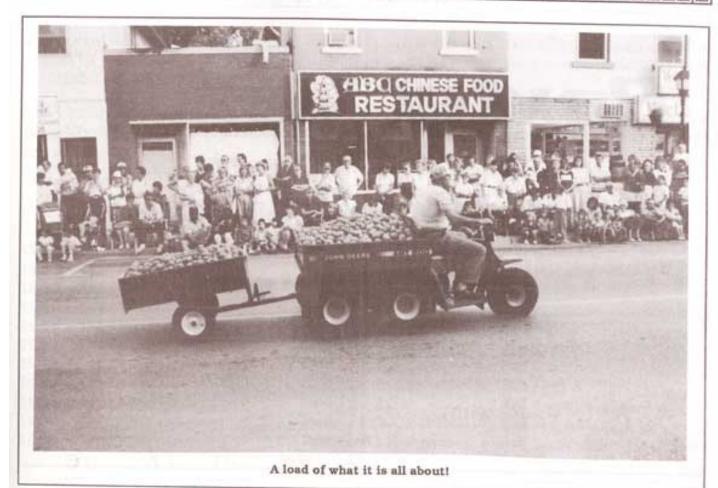
The barn went up during Canada Day weekend and became another step towards the development of an Alliston cultural heritage centre.

ACKNOWLEDGEME

The Alliston Potato Festival History Committee acknowledges the support to

make this book possible. We thank all who cont We thank all who contributed pictures, stories and information; The Herald, the sponsor members for their editorial material; the advertisers; Honda Canada and Addison Honda for their generous contribution.

Editor: Jack MacMurchy
Advertising Sales: Judy Gibbs,
Theresa Reid
Research: Jean Scales,
Marjorie Goymour
Cover Design: Chris Stiller material; the advertisers; Honda Canada



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Oetiker welcomes visitors to Alliston Potato Festival



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THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS

A sincere thank you is extended to readers, advertisers, contributors and all who helped to make this Centennial Issue possible. Each contribution is acknowledged with gratitude.

Every effort has been made to ensure that every editorial submission has been included in this book. If, by space limitation or error, something has been omitted, please accept our apologies.

POTATO FESTIVAL WINDOW DECORATION WINNERS

1980 - 1st Bank of Montreal, 2nd Dollar Stretcher. 1981 - 1st Lewis Hardware. 2nd T-D Bank. 1982 - 1st R'Allies Ladies' Wear. 2nd Wray's Pharmacy, 3rd Lewis Hardware. 1983 - 1st Maclean's Carpet, 2nd Lewis Hardware. 3rd R'Allies. 1984 - 1st Maclean's Carpet, 2nd R'Allies. 3rd Wilson Flowers. 1985 - 1st R'Allies. 2nd Lewis Hardware. 3rd Patton's. 1986 - 1st Lewis Hardware. 2nd Contact Centre. 3rd Patton's. 1987 - 1st Lewis Hardware. 2nd Maclean's Carpet, 3rd Fish & Chip Plus. 1988 - 1st Lewis Hardware. 2nd Patton's. 3rd Contact Centre. 1989 - 1st Lewis Hardware. 2nd Barb's Clothes. 3rd Mutual Life. 1990 - 1st Patton's 2nd Lewis Hardware. 3rd Barb's Clothes Closet.

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THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA



POTATO FESTIVAL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE PROGRAM

C.W.L. PIE BOOTH HISTORY

In 1974 the Potato Festival Pie Booth was first created and run as a parish project of St. Paul The Apostle Roman Catholic Church under the auspices of the Catholic Women's League, or the C.W.L.

Each year the men of the parish both assembled and disassembled the Pie Booth while the C.W.L. and the ladies of the parish donated and sold the variety of home-baked pies.

Originally all the proceeds were given to the Potato Festival Committee to finance a joint community project of their choice. In later years it was decided that eventually only 35 per cent of the total proceeds from the Pie Booth would be required by the Festival Committee to cover administrative and operating costs.

The remaining 65 per cent was then directed towards the many and varied community projects decided upon by the C.W.L. Some of the more recent community projects undertaken by the League from past Ple Booth proceeds include the longstanding support of Stevenson Memorial Hospital with such donations as a geriatric Go-Chair as well as helping in the funding of many other much needed medical equipment. In other years, charitable donations went to My Sister's Place, Contact Community Information Centre, The Angus Food Bank and Alliston Parks & Recreation with the purchase of a basketball net and stand for McCarroll Park.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is the largest national organization with over 125,000 Catholic women members pledged to serve others for the good of all in 1,500 parishes and 58 dioceses throughout Canada.

In 1920, the League was organized nationally with the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of "Our Lady of Good Counsel" as its Patroness. This year on June 21st the League celebrated its 70th Anniversary of becoming part of the World Union of Catholic Women Organizations (WUCWO), holding membership in the Conference of International Catholic Organizations and having consultative status with the agencies of the United Nations.

In 1989, here at St. Paul The Apostle parish in Alliston, the women celebrated their 25th Anniversary of becoming a local council of the League with a silver tea service honoring all the former C.W.O. past presidents. Honorary pins were presented to them depicting the Seal of the League - which is a Cross (symbolic of Holy Faith) surmounting ten maple leaves (symbolic of the ten provinces of Canada) with the words "The Catholic Women's League of Canada -For God and Canada" enclosed in an unbroken circle, the symbol of constant service to God and Canada. The colors of white, blue and gold represent the purity, loyalty and royalty of our Patroness.

Today we at St. Paul The Apostle Council continue to plan, direct and coordinate the work of the Catholic Women's League in support of religious, charitable and community activities. The Potato Festival Pie Booth, with its continued parish support, is just one of the ways in which this can be made possible.



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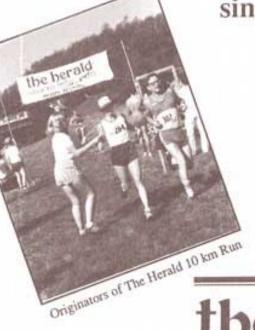
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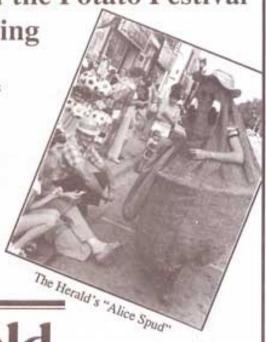
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the herald

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TO THE POTATO

Twinkle, Twinkle little spud, As up among the clouds you scud, You are doubtless feeling gay. Chasing round the Milky Way. You have reached to such a height, You are surely out of sight. Like a diamond now you seem. In your price, and that's no dream. Twinkle on another twink, And you'll drive us all to drink As we chase for needful chink. You are sailing rather high As you wink your shrivelled eye. Up there somewhere in the sky. Tuber since the coop you flew. We have only longed for you; That our fireside you forsook. Broke our heart and pocketbook. Never felt how we could love Till you left and went above: Never felt how dear you were, Till we paid four dollars per. Small potato, please come back. In our lives there's such a lack: For your presence we so pine. That our stomach hits our spine. We are tired of eating greens, Stewed prunes, sauerkraut and beans, Darling "tater" please return.

> appeared in the Tottenham Sentinel May 24, 1917



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THE MERCER BROTHERS' FOUNDRY OF ALLISTON

The land where the present Co-op buildings and Gibson warehouses stand has an old and varied history. It was originally crown land and in 1835 it was granted to Rosalie M. Stronick, a widow of Toronto. Over the years it changed hands many times, changing in value from 50 pounds sterling to more than \$55,000 in 1974.

No one seemed to hold the property for very long until the Mercer Brothers bought it in 1889 and built a factory for the making of farm machinery. They invented the first successful knotter to tie sheaves on the reaper and used in the harvesting of grain in that era. They molded their own parts, assembled them and had a staff of around 100 skilled workmen. To transport their machines, they had the CNR run a spur line from the Beeton line to their premises. However, they suffered financial disaster when a large consignment shipped to Australia suffered salt-water damage and was rejected. They never recovered from the loss, and so the foundry was shut down.

In 1907 the building was bought by Senator Merner of Berlin, Ontario, and continued to be a manufacturing place for machinery. It was operated by sons Herbert and Harry. To accommodate their employees, they built a row of houses on Albert St. West, and these houses are still known as "Merner's Row". Competition from Massey Harris and other manufacturers of farm machinery reduced their volume of sales so radically that in order to meet their financial obligations, Merner, who was a major shareholder in the Waterloo Threshing Machine Company, decided to move that plant to Alliston. He needed more space so he built a long one-storey brick building to the east of the original plant. But before the factory could become operative, the steam engine had lost out to the newer gasoline-powered engine and tractors of the day, and so the doors were closed again.

A series of firms took over the premises and all ended in failure. Some of these were: McIntyre Iceless Refrigerator Company (1913), Brunswick Gramaphone Company, a wood-working plant and Campbell Construction. Twice, enterprising individuals filled it full of hens and sold eggs.

Then the building was sold to J.F. Knight, who had operated a general store in town. He bought out Hecla Furnace Company, which turned out to be a fairly successful business. After a few years, Knight sold out to Alice Chalmers Tractor Company under the management of Alex Sinclair. When that company closed down the buildings lay vacant for some years, its windows smashed by school children and flocks of pigeons made it their home, and, eventually, the roof blew off.

However, in 1950 the mill set up by the Alliston Co-operatives on Church St. N. was burned out, and so they bought the foundry building on Tupper Street and which is, in 1986, still the Alliston Farmers Co-operative store. The long shed to the east is a warehouse for Gibson's Transport Trucking Company.

The pictures show an aerial view of the area and the Co-op stores as they are today.





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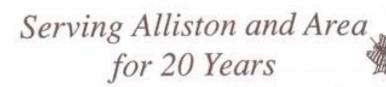
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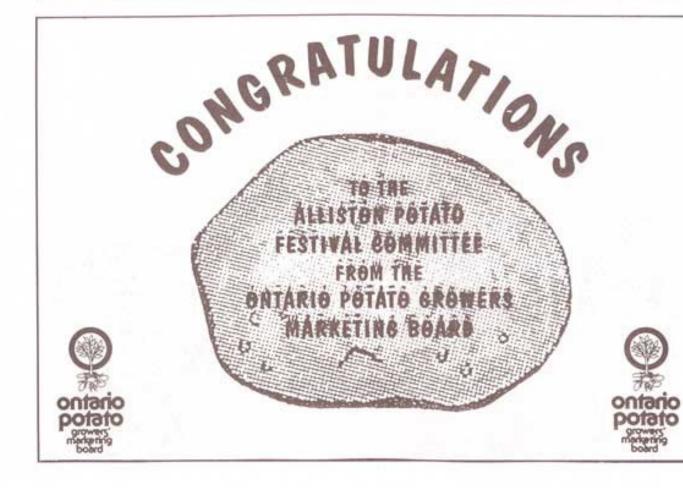
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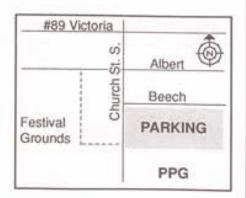
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As of November 1990, Alliston Community Theatre was officially one year old as corporations go. We sure have accomplished a lot in that short space of time. Our accomplishments serve to point out only too clearly to me that without the support, co-operation and participation from

the good people of Alliston and the surrounding area, we would never have been so successful.

We try to involve as many people as possible in every one of our activities, however, I feel we may be faulted, at times, for not communicating our needs effectively. We are now working to remedy that through media such as our newsletter. Whatever your talents are I am sure that they can be put to good use with A.C.T. We have many exciting challenges ahead and urge you to come out and be a part of this dynamic, growing group.

> Warmest wishes. Gerry Gibbs President

For membership information contact Rona Bolton at 435-6022.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUPLES CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST

When the Potato Festival was first formed, we were asked to participate by providing a potato pancake breakfast. I recollect that two questions crossed our minds. Potato pancakes? Who has ever heard of making pancakes out of potatoes! They sure would look weird all bumpy and brown! How can we ever pull off such an event? Naturally we accepted the challenge as we were all quite excited about the Festival.

"How do you make potato pancakes?" "How many can we expect to feed?" "What equipment do we need?" These questions were only partially answered by much sampling, testing and variations in the recipe. The recipe was made using Salada instant potato flakes that used local potatoes. The recipe for the first year is still our recipe today and just as secret!

Many can remember our first booth, assembled in the middle of the intersection at Victoria and Church. The booth went up in about three hours that first year, from pre-cut materials that had been designed, built, modified and dismantled ahead of time. We still use the same booth today and the original builder/designers are still active in our club. The stoves were and still are fired by propane. Our electricity came from a temporary power line slung from our booth to Patton's Drug Store. It certainly does not hurt having one of the local hydro "pooh-bahs" as a member of our club! We transported countless picnic tables from the park. It seemed that we always loaded the lightest picnic tables first and the heaviest one went on the top of the load. It also was amazing to see the transformation of the intersection after the breakfast. In under two hours from serving the last pancake, cars would be moving through the intersection.

On the morning of the breakfast, the weather would be sunny if we had to wipe the dew from our plastic table cloths. We would be up by 4:30 a.m. racing to and fro from the church with supplies as well as racing against time. We would begin to make pancakes at 6:30 a.m. so that the club members could test them, fine tune the mix, the cooking and our stoves.

In the early years, we were always greeted by the participants in the Early Bird contest. These people would arrive in their pajamas, wigs and dark glasses to watch us work and hopefully win a prize. The prizes were donated by Robert Banks Men's Clothiers and other local merchants. Today, our earliest customers are many of the shop keepers on their way to work. We anticipate their arrival that signals another busy and successful day,

In later years, Ontario Hydro allowed us to use their shop to mix the pancake batter. We also changed location to Church Street South across from the old fire hall. We eventually used the old fire hall as our central command post to make our pancakes. We now cook the pancakes in our church parking lot which is a most convenient and more relaxing location. Many people return year after year, They are like old friends re-visiting. At first, we served 1,000 people, we now serve between 1,600 and 1,800 people. Part of our proceeds are turned back to the Potato Festival Committee and the rest is used within the community to assist such groups as Stevenson Memorial Hospital, My Sister's Place, Contact and Big Sister's to name but a few.

It is hard work, many laughs, great fellowship and memories to last a lifetime.



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THE POTATO

In 1907 when the first Agricultural Representative offices were established in the province, Simcoe County had an office established in Collingwood to cover the entire county and in 1920 the office was moved to Barrie.

In June of 1921 the first Agricultural Representative's office in Alliston was opened with J.J.E. McCague as the Agricultural Representative for South Simcoe. The first office was located where Lady Di's Florist shop is today and a year later was moved to the building occupied today by Nan's Restaurant, just west of the library. The office was moved across the street to the building currently used by Touch of Class Ladies' Wear, just west of the Post Office in 1953. In 1967, with a much expanded staff it was moved to its present location just east of town next to the Red Pine Motel.

Alliston is the largest potato growing area in Ontario. At present about 10,000 acres (33,000 acres in Ontario) are grown here. Ontario is the largest producer of potato chips in Canada and much of the special potatoes grown for chipping are produced here today.

In the early 1970's many tobacco growers in this area sold off their tobacco rights and went into potato production. The Alliston area in those years was the largest fresh pack area. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food established an office for the provincial potato specialist. The University of Guelph maintained a potato research sub station here. Large processing companies established significant farming and potato growing farms, these are now gone in favour

of the more efficient family farm operations that exist today.

Competition in the potato growing end is keen and Alliston potato growers now are as technically advanced as you'll see anywhere. This is evident by the large modern planting, harvesting and pivot irrigation set ups on today's farms. Large storage and distribution systems (mostly by truck) are in this area as well.

An average potato farm in this area now produces annually approximately eight million pounds of potatoes or enough to supply 60,000 people for a year.

The kettle chip business was revived in the 1980's by a local housewife who had a dream. This created a whole new market in Ontario for this type of chip. Today many of you have no doubt already developed a taste for "Miss Vickle's."

The potato over the years has slowly been recognized as one of the world's finest, most nutritionally balanced foods. A native son of Alliston has for years been a potato missionary in South East Asia helping people grow potatoes and upgrade their diet. He has recently come home to farm here and try new seed potato growing technologies and watch the sunrise over beautiful Alliston.

We at the Agricultural Office are proud of our potato industry, recognize that the town's boast as the "Potato Capital of Ontario" is valid, and wish The Potato Festival every success in the future.

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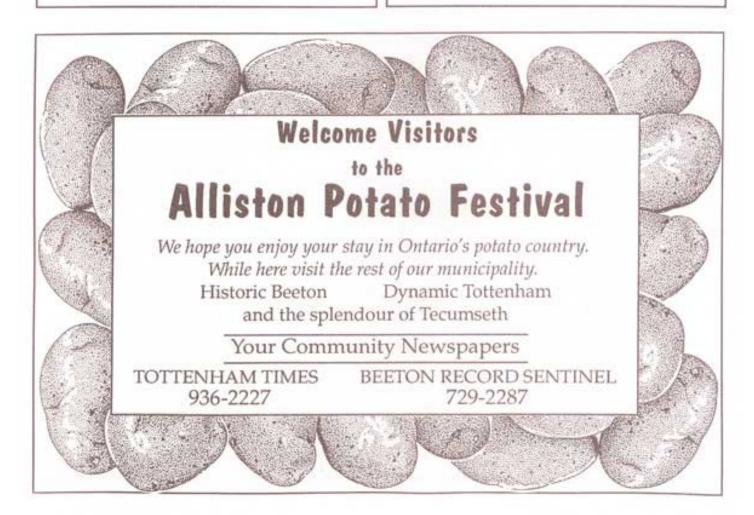
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IN CELEBRATION OF POTATOES It All Started On 50 Acres

Potato farming is a big industry around Alliston today but when John MacKenzie turned over 50 acres of his 160 acre farm to the crop in 1918, his neighbours all thought he was crazy.

The man he'd bought the land from expected to have it returned to him within the year, but after only two years' harvest, John MacKenzie had paid off the purchase price. In later years, other farmers followed suit and by the 1920's, potato farming had caught on big in the Alliston area. Bill MacKenzie grew up on that "pioneer" farm, in the '30's and '40's, but he's not quite sure whatever made his father decide to take such a drastic step.

"I remember him saying that when he came here from Mono Township he thought it was beautiful land, and good land to plant potatoes, but that's about all," says Bill.

That original farm, Lot 7, Concession 14 in Tecumseth Township remained in the family until after his father's death in 1961, when Bill decided to sell it off, Ironically, that 160 acres had by then become economically unviable to farm by machine. As the first large-scale potato producer in the area, John MacKenzie was often the first to introduce new machines and methods. Diggers and sprayers were first seen here on the MacKenzie farm.

Storage also presented certain challenges. Aproximately 1,600 bags of potatoes were stored under the brick farmhouse, and a further 10,000 bags were kept in a specially constructed storage shed near the barn. Half of its space was underground, in order to keep the crop at cool temperatures, but the cold did prove to be a problem in the winter. "My father used to tell me how on very cold winter nights when I was a baby he'd take me into the storage shed and set me on a bag of potatoes while he stayed awake feeding a pot-bellied stove to keep the crop from freezing," says Bill. "I guess it was a little more rugged upbringing than it is today."

But other problems kept cropping up for his father, including marketing. After grading potatoes with a handpowered machine, his father would have to bring the crop into town by horse and cart and ship them down to
Toronto by train. Some years ago he'd receive an unheard of \$5 a bag, right out of the field, but other year's prices
would be so low that he'd dump them in the barnyard for the pigs to eat, hoping to save at least some money on
animal feed.

Spraying the young plants for bugs was not an easy task in those days either. Bill can recall having to get up at 4 a.m. to begin spraying with hand tools. They'd have to complete the task by 8:30 before the dew evaporated, because they depended on the moisture for mixing with the spray. "It wouldn't even be light out when we'd start," Bill says. As the business grew more successful, so did the prosperity of Alliston. In later years, John MacKenzie would embark on potato tours of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island to pick out seed and view the progress of the eastern industry. Many Alliston women would find seasonal employment at the farm cutting the seed when it arrived from the east.

But John MacKenzie not only grew a lot of potatoes, he grew good quality ones as well. He won first prize at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in 1948 for the best potatoes in his class, against competitors from all across Canada. Just recently Bill has had inquiries from an agricultural museum in Milton which would like to make a collection of his father's photos and documents.

Even though Bill's not a potato farmer himself, many of his cousins are. It seems that shortly after John MacKenzie's potato farm looked like it was headed for success, his two brothers, Kenneth and Robert moved to Essa from Dufferin County and took up the same business. Today, their descendants are scattered throughout the area still in the business.



78 VICTORIA ST. ALLISTON



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Thank you to all those who helped make the Alliston Potato Festival a huge success!

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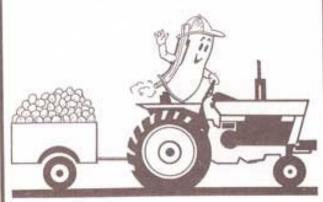
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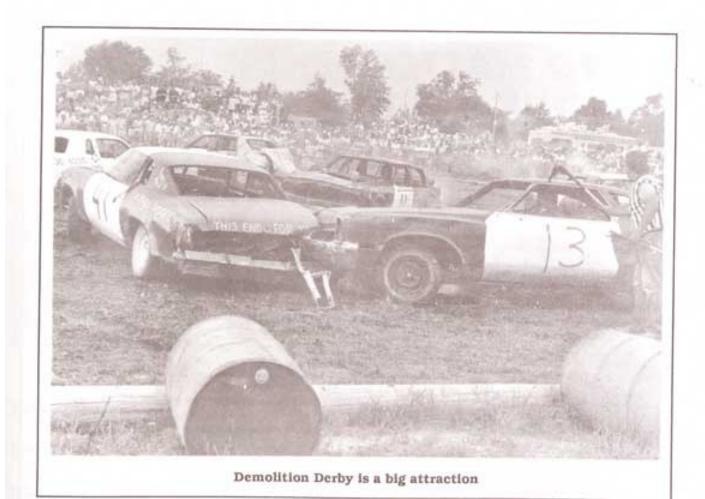
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The RED PINE MOTOR INN



DEMOLITION DERBY

THIS WILL BE A BASH!

One of the most popular events of past Potato Festivals has been the Demolition Derby and it has been included in the program this year.

Rick and Steve Goymour are again organizing this year's bash and have added a new feature to guarantee a smashing time for all who attend.

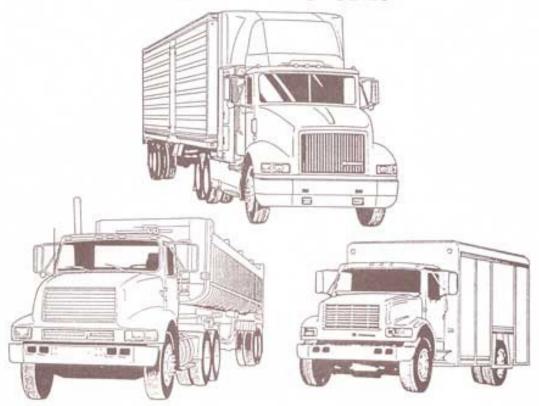
A Ladies' Powder Puff Heat has been added to the program and should draw even more people to this successful festival feature.

The derby has been scheduled for Saturday, August 10 at 1 p.m. in the field behind the Baxter Travenol Laboratories at the corner of Centre and Beech Streets.

It is expected there will be more than 60 vehicles in this exciting and spectacular event.

Last year the derby raised \$7,500 for the Potato Festival Committee, improving on its life saving experience of 1989.

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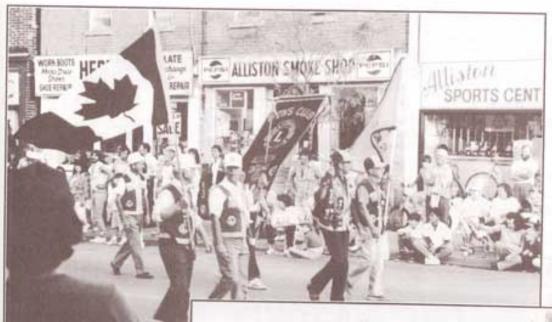
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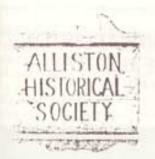




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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALLISTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On behalf of the members of the Historical Society, I would like to congratulate the townspeople of Alliston on the occasion of their centennial.

I would like also to mention the purpose of our Society since that purpose is in accord with the present celebration.

Simply stated our goal is to recall in accurate and vivid detail the local past which has made this present possible. So we are actually an association of friends who share a love and appreciation for the past as we had it in this lovely corner of Canada.

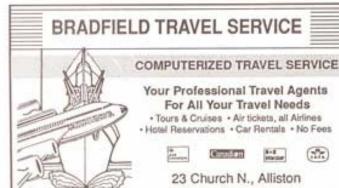
We believe it is necessary to remember carefully and deliberately the sacrifice, industry, generosity, inspiration, playfulness and - sometimes - the sheer cantankerousness of the men and women who gave us this place to live. The idea is that an honest appreciation of our past will help us to cultivate the quality of civic responsibility that these tough times demand. We heartily urge any interested person to join us in this rewarding and useful pursuit. Best wishes to all.

Shirley Gibson, President.



Marching bands are popular at Potato Festival





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VERWOOD COMES UP WITH WINNERS

Riverwood Retirement Home opened its doors to the Residents, December 1, 1985. Riverwood's capacity is 90 residents. It has a very homey atmosphere, large recreation room, T.V. rooms, plus lounges for small groups to enjoy. The coffee and tea pot are always on for everyone's convenience. We have a residents' council, with members at large. Also, there is a tuck shop run by the residents for their convenience.

We have double and single rooms, with suites available. We have nurses on duty 24 hours a day. We have a Social Director who plans activities and special events throughout the year. Our kitchen provides delicious, nutritious meals for our residents and they accommodate special diets as well.

Our residents certainly enjoy working on the Potato Festival Float each year. They are already planning for this year's float, and are quite anxious to get started. They have won 1st prize two years in a row, and they're very excited about it.

MUSEUM FINDS FRIENDS



Born out of a need to preserve a part of Alliston, 19 concerned citizens gathered in the former council chambers on a wintery evening in January of 1959 to begin assembling what was then a new museum. It was decided that the council of the day would be approached in the hopes that space would be made available somewhere in the town where the past could be preserved in a proper environment. And as it happened the town council was in possession of a building that was standing empty in what is now Riverdale Park.

Council agreed to let the museum board use one half of the building while the other half was used as an indoor picnic ground and a

refreshment stand. The building itself was built originally as a place to hold agricultural fairs and later during the war, music and laughter were heard coming from the inside of the building where dances were held.

On July 1, 1960, on the same day that Canada was celebrating its 93rd birthday, the town of Alliston turned out to celebrate the birth of the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum. At the time the chair of the museum board was Don Downle and the secretary-treasurer Clare Watson. Articles about the museum described it as "fascinating" at the time while a later one quoted Frank Mears, a former curator of the museum, as saying it looked like a "junk room," When the museum board first proposed its project, it was with the intent that future Alliston residents would keep it a viable project that kept the past alive. Instead, it has become neglected and some whisper that a wrecking ball may be in its future.

Presently it is under the care of the Amalgamated Town's Parks, Recreation & Culture Department. It is open to the public during the months of July and August, and is looked after by students. It has no curator and as a result has lost any hopes of scooping up grant money from the government. What's worse is that the artifacts inside the museum are suffering from harsh environmental conditions due to the lack of power in the building during the off season. As a result some of the artifacts are beginning to show their age. Among the endangered list is a canoe brought back from the Arctic by Sir Fredrick Banting, some of the old books, paperwork and maps are turning brown and fading fast, clothing is beginning to fall apart, as is anything bonded together by glue.

A plan to save the museum is now in the works. Spearheaded by volunteer Judy Gibbs, the project coordinator for the Alliston Centennial Heritage Centre, the plan is to turn the museum and the neighbouring log house into a cultural centre. Gibbs said that modernizing and updating would increase the chances for grants. She presented her idea to the Alliston Centennial Committee and received unanimous approval for the idea to go beyond the dream stage. Gibbs envisions the museum as the ideal home for the newly formed historical society. As it now stands, Gibbs said the museum lacks a firm identity.

"We need a collection policy and then develop a theme," says Gibbs. She sees the museum housing clubs that would be relevant to a cultural centre such as the Pallette club and a theatre group. Gibbs said the construction of the building would allow the ceiling to be opened up, creating an open concept structure, adding esthetics to the inside. She suggests that since most of the inventory does not add any relevance to an actual theme, a number of the artifacts could be better utilized if they were housed in their appropriate settings. The old wheelchairs could be displayed at Stevenson Memorial hospital," she said as an example.

To add to the setting is the log cabin which was built in 1851 by Angus McDonald on Conc. 5 and moved to its present location in the early '60's by the Salada-Kellogg Co. For the time being, the cabin has been set up to resemble the past, however, Gibbs said it is not set to period. Her plans would include amalgamating both buildings with a similar theme and possibly adding a school house which could be part of school field trips. With the amalgamation of Alliston, Beeton, Tecumseth, and Tottenham, Gibbs said the new Town must take special care of its history.

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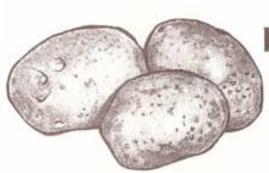
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ROTARY CLUB OF ALLISTON

The Rotary Club of Alliston, chartered in February 1955, has contributed much to the life of Alliston during its 36 year history. Its first, and largest project was the building of the swimming pool in Riverdale Park. Over \$100,000 1950's dollars were raised locally and invested in the pool which was later turned over to the town. The club has been an active participant in the Alliston Potato Festival since its inception.

For many years the huge beef barbecue was a Rotary project. The club has also managed the parade, at present operates the beer garden in the park and has supported two Rotary members as chairmen of the festival. Among the local organizations helped significantly by Alliston Rotary have been the Canadian Cancer Society, Community Living Association of South Simcoe and CONTACT.

International projects play a large part in the life of the local Rotarians and they have been leaders in the student exchange program, hosting students from many countries in their homes and supporting local young people in visits to countries such as Japan, Brazil, Australia and France. A sawmill for Dominica, hospital equipment for Pt. Antonio, Jamaica, and an over subscribed campaign for funds for Polio Plus vaccine are among the other projects undertaken.

ROTARY IS...a service organization of business and professional men united worldwide who conduct humanitarian projects, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and work toward world understanding and peace.

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Rotary meets weekly, not just to eat but to enjoy each other's fellowship and discuss how they can serve others.

Rotary is compassion for the underprivileged, the underfed and the disabled, many of whom are the beneficiaries of 25,000 service projects conducted by Rotary Clubs in the world each year.

Rotary adds fulfillment to the lives of more than 7,000 young people each year of secondary school age as they study in a country other than their own.

The Rotary Foundation contributes approximately 20 million U.S. dollars to its various programs to promote international understanding.

Rotary sponsors Interact, over 4,500 service clubs for young people of secondary school age in some 80 countries.

Rotary sponsors Rotaract, over 4,500 clubs for young adults between 18 and 28 in almost 100 countries.

Rotary began in 1905 in Chicago. The international headquarters is in Evanston, Ilinois, U.S.A. and there are branch offices in 7 countries on 4 continents.

Rotary for the last 10 years has been growing at the extraordinary rate of a new club every 18 1/2 hours.

If you have questions about ROTARY, ask your local Rotary Club. They'll be glad to provide the answers.

RECIPES

GERMANY POTATO CAKES

- 4 cups firmly packed, peeled, grated and drained potatoes (about 2 lbs.)
 2 eggs slightly beaten
- 3 tbsp. flour
 1 tsp. salt
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup salad oil

Put grated potatoes into mixing bowl, add eggs, flour, salt and sour cream. Beat with mixing spoon until well blended. Heat 2 tbsp. of the oil in each of two large skillets until very hot. Carefully spread 1/2 potato mixture in each skillet about 1/2" thick. Cook over moderately high heat until browned on bottom. Carefully turn over. Cook until brown, add more oil if necessary. Serve immediately.

SWITZERLAND DUMPLINGS

- 6 medium potatoes peeled and boiled
 2 eggs
 1 tsp. salt
 ground black pepper
 1/8 tsp. ground nutmeg
 1/2 cup flour
 3/4 cup grated swiss cheese
 6 tbsp. butter
- onion cut into rings tbsp. fine breadcrumbs

Mash or rice potatoes. Add eggs, salt and pepper, nutmeg, flour and 1/2 grated cheese, beat until smooth. Form mixture into 1" balls. Drop into gently boiled salted water and simmer for 10 minutes. Melt butter, add onion rings and sauté 5 minutes. Sprinkle dumplings with bread crumbs and remaining cheese, top with onion rings and hot melted butter.



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RECIPES

FRANCE POTATO SOUP

4 cups chicken broth

1/2 tsp salt

4 medium potatoes

4 yellow onions chopped

1/2 tsp. marjoram

2 tbsp. finely chopped parsley

1/2 cup heavy cream

1 tbsp. butter

Bring chicken broth to simmering point and add salt. Peel potatoes and cut into eights. Add potatoes and onlons to broth. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Mash potatoes into broth using masher. Add marjoram. parsley and cream, add butter and serve hot.

FINLAND HASSELBACK POTATOES

12 oval shaped potatoes, peeled

1 tsp. salt

3 tbsp. margarine or butter

4 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese

2 tbsp. bread crumbs

Cut potatoes into thin slices about 3/4 of way through, so potato holds together. Place potato slices upward into a well buttered casserole. Sprinkle with salt and dot with bits of margarine. Bake at 450° for 20 minutes, basting occasionally. Sprinkle with cheese and bread crumbs, bake for another 25 minutes without basting.

ALSATIAN GARLIC POTATOES

2 lbs. boiled potatoes

2 tbsp. butter

2 eggs beaten

2 tbsp. flour

2-3 minced cloves of garlic

2 tbsp. fresh finely chopped parsley or 2 tsp. dried parsley pinch of nutmeg

salt and pepper

1-2 tbsp. Parmesan cheese

Mash potatoes and beat in butter and eggs. Mix well. Mix flour, garlic, parsley, nutmeg and seasoning to taste. Pile mixture in buttered baking dish and bake at 350° for 15 minutes until top is lightly browned. Pour a little melted butter over crust before serving. Parmesan cheese may be added before browning.

DENMARK FRIED POTATO CAKES

In blender combine and blend for 1/2 minute:

1 egg

1 cup flour

2 cup milk

1 1/2 tsp. salt

Peel and cut into 1" cubes six medium potatoes. Add to blender a few pieces at a time until well mixed. Heat a thin layer of oil in frying pan, add 2 tbsp. of batter spread thinly. Fry on both sides until crisp and brown. Serve with syrup or plain with meat.

POTATO PASTRY MEAT PIE

4oz. sifted flour pinch of salt

1/2 tsp. baking powder

oz, l ard

Mix above ingredients with 8 oz. freshly mashed potatoes and enough water to make a fine dough. Let set 15 minutes before rolling out. Place in bottom of pie plate and fill with meat filling, cover with remaining pastry.

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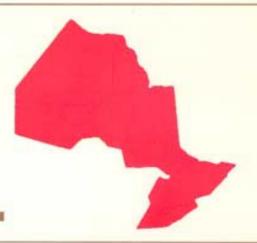
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