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## 250th HANTS COUNTY EXHIBITION

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Minister of Canadian Heritage  
and Official Languages



Ministre du Patrimoine canadien  
et des Langues officielles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5



**F**or 250 years, the Hants County Exhibition has highlighted the agricultural heritage of this beautiful part of our country. Our Government is pleased to salute this event which allows Canadians to celebrate their traditions and take part in activities rooted in local history and heritage.

**O**n behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Government of Canada, I thank everyone who helped make this Exhibition possible.

**D**epuis 250 ans, la Hants County Exhibition met en lumière le patrimoine agricole de ce magnifique coin de pays. Notre gouvernement est heureux de souligner cette foire qui donne la chance aux Canadiens de célébrer leurs traditions et de prendre part à des activités ancrées dans leur histoire et leur patrimoine.

**Au** nom du premier ministre Stephen Harper et du gouvernement du Canada, je remercie tous ceux et celles qui ont permis la présentation de cette exposition.

The Honourable / L'honorable Shelly Glover

Canada

## Welcome to the 2015 Hants County Exhibition!



As Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, I am pleased to welcome you to the 250th annual Hants County Exhibition – the oldest continuously run agricultural fair in North America.

The Hants County Exhibition is rooted in agriculture and is a living reflection of our history and the vibrant culture of our province. It is a unique showcase that acknowledges our past and celebrates the future of agriculture.

Congratulations to the exhibition's organizers and the people of Hants County on this special anniversary. Enjoy the exhibition!

### **Tony Ince**

Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage



## Celebrating the Hants County Exhibition



On behalf of the Government of Nova Scotia, I am proud to welcome you to the 250th Hants County Exhibition.

Since before confederation, the exhibition here in Hants County has been showing Nova Scotians and the world what our farmers and agriculture sector has to offer. This event allows Nova Scotians to connect with their local farmers and learn more about how the food we eat is grown. This is the perfect opportunity for all Nova Scotians to come out learn more about the hardworking people that make up Nova Scotia's agriculture sector.

This year's historic exhibition features a variety of events and activities throughout that celebrate agriculture but also the important cultures such as the Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian and Acadian communities that make Nova Scotia a vibrant place to live. These events wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication of volunteers, participants, visitors and sponsors. Thank you to everyone for supporting this event. It is because of you that this event has been so successful and has reached its 250th year.

Enjoy your time at the 250th Hants County Exhibition.

### **The Honourable Keith Colwell**

Minister of Agriculture





Windsor Agricultural Society would like to thank the generous sponsors & supporters of the 250th Anniversary of the Hants County Exhibition.

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## President's Message

Welcome to the 250th anniversary of the oldest agricultural fair in North America. Many generations of families have been involved with the Hants County Exhibition over the last 250 years. When you look back at the past presidents, managers, directors and committee members, it's amazing how many family names from the past are still involved today. Agricultural exhibitions and agriculture in general, are all about our culture and families passing on traditions but they also about looking to the future. It's hard to imagine the future in the next 250 years but if the changes that have taken place

in the last 250 years are any indication, the future is bright.

As in past years, we have tried to keep the old traditions alive and provide some new events as well. This year we are highlighting culture and our heritage with many special events and new venues. Our opening night celebration will feature something for everyone young and old alike.

While enjoying yourself at this year's exhibition, take time to consider the milestone achieved in surviving and thriving for 250 years. It's quite an accomplishment in this, "the little town of big firsts".

I would like to thank all of our management, staff, directors, committee members and generous volunteers. This is a special year and of course that has meant a lot of extra work for those involved. Nothing happens without considerable effort. A special thank you to all of OUR SPONSORS for helping make this anniversary a great celebration.

**Brian Casey**, President, Windsor Agricultural Society

250th Grand Opening *Friday, September 18, 7:30pm*



# *Legends of the Land*

Join us on a journey through time, cultivation, culture, and community - celebrating 250 years of the Hants County Exhibition! Witness a magical journey symbolically representing Nova Scotia history. Be dazzled by the the night glow of lanterns and fire dancing, sparking the illumination of the People of the Dawn. It is a new day, we are a united community. Representing the settlement story we all share, the Mi'kmaw will share a smudge ceremony honouring the four directions and the four races of humanity, stomping into an Acadian musical performance, flashing into a Colour Party, and harmonizing into African Nova Scotian song. Feast upon visual images from past to present; featuring local children's clubs, sharing the opportunities that have grown forth from Hants County's Agricultural Community.

*followed by:*

**250th Anniversary \$1000 Invitational Barrel Race  
& celebratory Pyrotechnic Finale by Fireworks FX**

## ADMISSION PRICES

**250th SPECIAL THREE DAY pass price:** \$25.00 (any three days)

**Friday admission:** Sept 18 / Sept 25 (250th Celebration Opening Show - Friday Sept 18 @7:30PM)  
\$6.00 Adults 14 & over; \$5.00 for 13 & under; under 5 FREE

**Saturday and Sunday admission:** Sept. 19 & 20 / Sept 26 & Sept 27

\$12.00 Adults 14 & over; \$5.00 13 & under; under 5 FREE

(\$2.00 off adult Saturday & Sunday admission with NS Federation of Agriculture card)

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## Exhibition Commission

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**PAST PRESIDENT:** Andy Woolaver

**SEC. MANAGER:** David Coombes

**OFFICE SEC.:** Debbie Watson

**DIRECTORS:** Kimm Kent, Lori

Dolliver, Victor Oulton, Bruce

Saunders, Melanie Francis, Mitch

Brisson, Dean Manning, Janet Redden,

Lisa Hines, Philip Burgess, Josh Dill,

Forrest Lothian, Cheryl Williams, Jane

Abbot, Harry Ullock, Rod Corkum

## Commitees:

**LIGHT HORSE:** Janice Keith (Chair),

Carrie MacDonald, Lorraine Rawlins,

Mike McKenzie, Scott McLean, Doug

Wilson, Angela Balcom

**ROOTS, VEGETABLES & FRUIT:**

Don Wilson (Chair), Bill McNeil, Phillip

Davison, James Bremner, Monique

Wilson, Leonard Sherman

**DRAFT HORSE:** Leon Taylor,

Lawrence Boyd, Brian Casey,

Janice Casey, Suzanne Partridge.

**DAIRY CATTLE:** Cynthia Duey,

Lindsay Greenough, Chris Casey

**CLASSIC HERITAGE BEEF:**

Doug Ormon, Gary Dill

**HORSE PULL:** Mike Oulton,

Victor Oulton, Darren Allison,

Stephen Rafuse, Eugene Swinamer

**OXEN:** Freeman Swinamer, Mike

Oulton, Paul Taylor, Frances Swinamer

**JR. OX COMMITTEE:**

Stephen Rafuse, Eugene Swinamer

**FLOWERS:** Beverley Harvey, Linda

Benedict, Wilma Lynch, Jane Kerr,

Carolyn Crawford, Beverly Fletcher

**HOUSEHOLD ARTS:** Effie Smith,

Karen Sexton, Evelyn Collicutt,

Doris Benedict, Glenda Kenny, Angela

Hazel, Norma Waugh, Ruth Tyner,

Teresa Combes and June Mumford.

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Don Brooks, Frances Swinamer, Ida

Mounce, Irene Harvey, Gayle

Berggren, Pat Ward & Bill Ward,

Sharon Baldwin

**POULTRY & PET:** Wayne Oulton,

Cheryl Williams, Jody Clark,

Scott Kay & Jim Brimicombe

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# SUNSHINE & CHANGE

## 250 years of AGRI-culture

The first agricultural fair in North America took place May 21, 1765 at Fort Edward, overlooking fertile Acadian dykeland and the world's highest tides. There was a considerable show of cattle, horses, sheep, and good samples of grain, butter, cheese, and homespun cloth.

Just down the road 250 years later, not much – and everything, has changed. There are still prizes for quality forage at the Hants County Exhibition. Horse and cattle shows now share time with motorsports and the midway, and ox pulls remain popular despite today's demand for instant gratification. Industrious 4-H kids continue to be the heart of exhibition, just as they have for the past 100 years – though craft projects outnumber calf projects. And sunshine continues to be an exhibition's best friend.

Roughly 30,000 visitors come through the gates of the Hants County Exhibition if the weather cooperates. A 1996 hurricane brought on the decision to double the odds of a sunny Saturday and Sunday, and change a week long exhibition to one running over two weekends. Next to weather, planning a program that draws a crowd is the greatest chal-



lenge. A Saturday night in 2013 hit the mark, when the "Redneck Olympics" packed exhibition arena. Dave Coombes has seen many big crowds since he was hired as manager fresh out of college in 1965. George Jones, ostrich and pig racing, wrestling, and even soap stars from *Another World*, drew well throughout the years. But it's harder now. "The challenge, is to invent and implement new twists to sometimes old ideas to create a buzz," he says. "A strong enough buzz to encourage the masses to visit the fair rather than a competing venue."

The directors of the Windsor Agricultural Society in the late 1940's made the courageous decision to purchase land housing a former WWII training facility, and move the Hants County Exhibition from Fort Edward to it's current location. Coombes' father, Herb, was one of those directors. "They met every week," he says. "Dad was a livestock showman. They were all farmers. The

fair, the tradition, was important to them." Shortly after the purchase, a local construction company was tasked with the job of joining two army drill halls to make a 2500 seat arena. Since the early 1950's, exhibition arena and the arena that replaced it after a fire in 1981, has also been the community hockey rink, made available by the society rent free to the Town of Windsor from November to April.

The 41 acre site has 4 acres under cover, as well as Playland, a camp ground, and



parking. There are upwards of 250,000 annual visits to the facility, bringing people into the town of 3,000 almost every weekend. The society generates all operating income through exhibition revenues, facility and equipment rentals.

The volunteer board of 18, led by President Brian Casey, has been busy planning the 250th for several years. Over 70 volunteers make up the many exhibition committees. Along with the manager, there are six seasonal employees, and up to 25 part time employees.

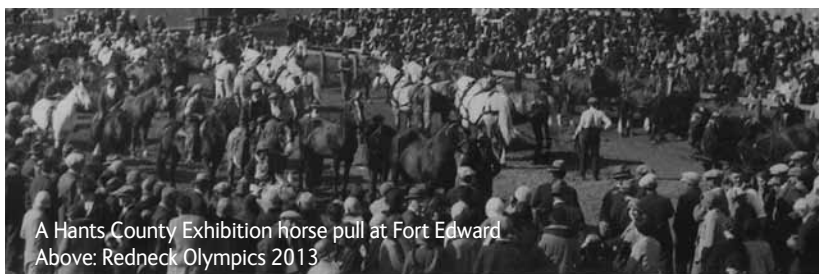
The 250th anniversary celebration has received strong support from Heritage Canada and the province of Nova Scotia. The year kicked off on May 21 by acknowledging and celebrating the Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, and Acadian communities contribution to agriculture with four performances of DRUM!. Also in May, the AgArt Festival showcased agriculture through art and craft.

The 2015 Hants County Exhibition opens Friday, September 18 with "Legends of the Land" – journey through time. cultivation, culture, and community. Throughout the exhibition, special prizes will be offered in competitions including 4-H; tug of war; motorsports;



ox pulls; livestock, and poultry shows, along with many new events and venues, all of which are outlined in this booklet.

The 250th year closes fittingly, with the Nova Scotia Provincial 4-H Show on October 2-4, when the spotlight moves from acknowledging the past, to celebrating the promise of youth, and the future of agriculture. The kids will shine. Hopefully the sun will too.



A Hants County Exhibition horse pull at Fort Edward  
Above: Redneck Olympics 2013

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# 250 Years

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# Don't miss **The Hants County Exhibition Poultry & Waterfowl Show** September 18-20

The Hants County Exhibition Poultry & Waterfowl Show is a noisy colourful spot, with birds of all different shapes and sizes. Beautiful breeds of poultry, pigeons, ducks, geese and turkeys, from Maritime exhibitors and breeders are judged and showcased. Make sure you visit the poultry barn!



The poultry barn is located just left of the main side entrance behind the western end of the industrial building (water slide end).

Welcome to the 2015  
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A 1921 exhibitor's pass belonging to Arthur Curry of Falmouth. Curry was a long time competitor at the Hants County Exhibition.



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Photo: Charlie Levy



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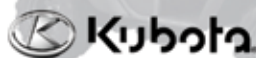
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From left to right: The Honourable Tony Ince; Lloyd Smith, Town Crier of Windsor/West Hants; artist Susan Sweet; Brian Casey, President, Windsor Agricultural Society; Richard Dauphinee, Warden West Hants; and the Honourable Scott Brison, MP Kings-Hants

## Commissioned painting celebrates 250 years

To celebrate 250 years, Windsor Agricultural Society commissioned Susan Sweet to create a commemorative painting. Sweet grew up in Martock. The NSCAD educated painter is a life long enthusiast of Hants County Exhibition. Her Dad, Ernest Sweet, was president of the Windsor Agricultural Society during the 200th anniversary year. Oxen are the focal point in the painting. Acadian dykes, that protect fertile farmland, were built with their powerful assistance, restraining the unrelenting tidal waters of the Bay of Fundy system. Oxen still play a key role in the exhibition today. The painting was unveiled May 23 by The Honourable Tony Ince, Minister of Communities, Culture, Heritage, and African Nova Scotian Affairs. Signed, matted, and framed reproductions of the painting are available for sale at the Hants County Local venue at the O'Brien Building during the 250th Hants County Exhibition, at the very reasonable cost of \$75+HST, or at the exhibition office during regular hours. Purchasing a print is a wonderful way to remember the 250th anniversary of the oldest fair in North America.



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- Art in Agriculture Art Show - featuring work created by Hants County Artists
- Food demos
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Learn about about local food - sourcing, preparing, eating, and preserving during the harvest season. Details are being finalized at press time. A full schedule of demos, presentations and participants will follow at: [www.hantscountyex.com](http://www.hantscountyex.com)



## A sampling of participants:

Be inspired, support local! Come learn about the benefits of healthy, local food for your body and see how easy it can be to make delicious snacks and meals from local sources! Join Dr. Adrienne Wood, a local Naturopathic Doctor and Michelle Jodrey, owner of **Mosaic Market-Health and Local Food**.

**Meander River Farm** is a family run farm. We are expanding our hop yard, brewing beer, growing lavender, perennials and fresh cut flowers, managing our woodlot, and producing high quality pastured livestock.

**Cogmagun Poultry Processing Company** supplies free range poultry and meat products for families and commercial food providers. We are licensed free range growers of chicken and turkey, on our second generation family farm. We are thrilled to be part of a growing community that places an ever increasing awareness and importance on healthy free range meat and buying local.

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**Moon Fire Farm** producer of Quality Heirloom Organic Vegetables, will be available on both Sunday's with a display and an opportunity to engage in discussions about sustainable farming practices, heirloom vegetables, seed diversity and seed sovereignty. Come sample some local heirloom vegetables, learn, and support Hants County Local!



Chef and Co-owner of the newly opened **Flying Apron Inn & Cookery**, and Cooking School in Summerville Nova Scotia, Chris Velden has been Cooking and Teaching for more than 35 year across Canada, the US and in his home country of Germany. He is a Certified European Master Chef and Culinary Instructor. His restaurant, The Flying Apron prides itself on using seasonal ingredients, wild ingredients, and most importantly ingredients locally grown by a farmer. Join Chef Chris Velden for *Chicken 101 Cooking Demonstration*. Learn how to make the most of a Whole Local Chicken ~ Includes Butchery, Recipes and a Delicious Chicken Tasting!

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# Hants County 4-H at Hants County Exhibition

Hants County 4-H events are happening at various venues throughout the Exhibition.

Hants County 4-H has an exciting program planned for its membership at the Hants County Exhibition and the public is invited to come and see what our 4-H members have learned as they compete in various livestock showmanship and conformation classes, as well as Lifeskills exhibits and competitions... everything from scrapbooking to a fashion show.

In 2015 there are 6 clubs in Hants County with a total enrollment of 276 members, (including 40 Cloverbuds), 105 generous and dedicated volunteer leaders and members are involved in just over 530 individual projects. Members enroll in a wide variety of projects and in 2015 members in Hants County could choose from 38 different livestock and lifeskill projects.

4-H members are not only involved in their individual clubs but also in their communities, as they complete community service in a variety of ways. 4-H members also represent their clubs at the Hants County Exhibition competing to attend the Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Members participate within the county at Royalty competitions and public speaking events. Many members attend Camp Rankin on an annual basis as well as competing in woodsmen and Tug-of-War Competitions.

This year Hants County 4-H Leaders Council will be hosting the 38th Nova Scotia Provincial 4-H Show at the Hants County Exhibition Grounds from October 2-4, 2015. For more information about NS 4-H Show go to <http://novascotia4h.ca/>. For a schedule of the 4-H events taking place, visit the Hants County Exhibition website at **[www.hantscountyyex.com](http://www.hantscountyyex.com)**.

Show Sponsor: **Kings Mutual Insurance**



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4-H weekend!

# First **BiG** Weekend

Entertainment Highlights - September 18-20

**Legends of the Land - Grand Opening** *Friday, September 18, 7:30pm*  
*followed by: 250th Anniversary \$1000 Invitational Barrel Race*  
**& Pyrotechnic Finale by Fireworks FX**

The CIBC **Butterfly Encounter** has hundreds of butterflies including 6 different species. The educational exhibit shows the life cycle of a butterfly from the egg to the adult butterfly, and how to fix a broken wing class. Feeding sticks are provided so you can feed and interact with the butterflies. Butterfly kits are also available so you can take home your very own butterfly. The CIBC Butterfly Encounter is located in the industrial building and open from 10 am until closing **both weekends**.



Energetic, and amusing **Christina The Crazy Hooper** is filled with talent. She engages the audience, and delivers highly intrepid movements leaving the audience impressed and motivated. Christina demonstrates basic hula hooping techniques to her audience members and also provides many opportunities for audience participation. The 18 year old hula-hoop entertainer is from Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. *Three shows daily September 18-20.*  
*Heritage Hootenanny Tent*

**MBRA Ram Rodeo Tour** *September 18-20*



**Saunders Brothers Comedy Kitchen Party** is always a knee-slapping, hand-clapping, fun time. The act includes unique, audience interactive versions of East Coast classics, plus a number of salty originals, sprinkled with a generous dose of comedy. Your guests may end up playing the spoons, grunting like a pirate, scratching a wooden toad, scratching a washboard tie, pounding a drum or singing along with the fun!

*Sunday September 20, 4 pm*  
*Heritage Hootenanny Tent*



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## *Acknowledging and celebrating the Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, and Acadian communities contribution to agriculture*



**Clara Gough** is one of the few remaining Black basket weavers in Nova Scotia, has been weaving baskets of red maple. The daughter of the late Edith Clayton, grand-daughter to Selena Drummond, passed the art of basket weaving on to Clara at the age of 8 years old, as a family tradition with origins from Africa. *Cultivating Culture Room (Saturday only)*



**Dr. Daniel N. Paul on Reconciliation**  
**Mi'kmaq Elder Dr. Daniel N. Paul**, C.M., O.N.S., is a powerful and passionate advocate for social justice and the eradication of racial discrimination. He is an outspoken champion for First Nations Peoples and all other disadvantaged members of society. Through

his newspaper columns and his book, *First Nations History - We Were Not the Savages - Third Edition*, he has widely publicized the proud heritage and history of the Mi'kmaq Nation.

Paul is the author of several books, chapters and forwards for several others, a book reviewer, and writer of hundreds of newspaper columns, magazine stories, etc. He is a member of the Orders of Canada and of Nova Scotia, and has two honorary degrees, etc.. He has lectured at many universities in North America, high schools, etc. *Saturday September 19, 2pm, Heritage Hootenanny Tent*

*Purchase your lunch and join the community table under the tent and be entertained while you eat, stay for a discussion about reconciliation with Dr. Daniel Paul.*

## **Cultivating Culture Room**

O'Brien Building, 10am - 6pm

- **Clara Gough** basket maker
- **Al Carter** drum maker
- **Lorraine Whitman** quill basket display
- **Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq** display
- **Whyte Brothers** barrels
- **Tom Saulnier** Acadian / Metis basket weaver / ongoing weaving demonstrations
- **Historical overview of the African NS farmer - Perennia**
- **Remi Muise** Acadian style woven canoe / traditional baskets
- **Acadian quilts & painting**
- **250 years of Agriculture and Fair** photo show



## **Mi'kmaq First Nation Cultural Area**

Glooscap First Nation, Bear River First Nation and Annapolis Valley First Nation, as well as (CMM) Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq - Join us for Mi'kmaw cultural teachings, demonstrations of basket making, bead and leather working, quill work, story telling, drumming, dancing and more.



**All Nations Drum** is the women's big drum group in the Urban Aboriginal community of HRM. We sing for community events, schools and for gatherings of all kinds. Our drummers come from many nations across Turtle Island. Because of this we bring traditions, culture and traditional songs from many nations to our drum. Being a diverse group we have developed a unique sound that we are proud to call our own. We are proud to have several teenage girls and Elders of our communities as full time members of our group. As well, we have much younger children that help us drum and sing at events from time to time. We encourage the children to come to the drum as we believe they are our future.

*Sunday September 20, noon  
Heritage Hootenanny Tent*



### **Mary Beth de Scène**

is the high-energy acoustic project of accordionist and song-writer Mary Beth Carty. Original songs with Parisian, Polish, Acadian, or Brazilian flavors are full of humour and intrigue. Performing as a duo with Greg Melchin on double-bass, Mary Beth de Scène offers a rollicking and unusual world music spectacle! *Saturday September 19, noon, Heritage Hootenanny Tent*



### **Umoja Cultural Diversity Drummers**

Dr. Henry Bishop, of the Umoja Cultural Diversity Drummers (pictured here) trained with the Nova Scotia Museum complex, studied African History at Dalhousie University and

currently sits on the National Stamp Design Committee and is a Juno Music Award judge. Dr. Henry V. Bishop was born in Weymouth Falls, Digby County, in south western Nova Scotia. He is a direct descendant of both the Black Loyalists and migrant workers of Barbados.

*Saturday, September 19, 1pm,  
Heritage Hootenanny Tent*



### **You are invited** to join West Hants

Artist Cara Sawka to create a lantern, made with modern materials, in the spirit of lighting from 250 years ago. Free of charge upon gate entry. Available while supplies last. Spaces may be limited.

(Your created lantern will not look like image as shown)

For info on lantern making: [www.carasawka.com](http://www.carasawka.com)

*Saturday September 19th from 3:45 - 5:45 pm, Heritage Hootenanny Tent*



<b>ARENA EVENTS - FRIDAY SEPT 18</b> buildings open @10 - midway @ noon	
8:30am	Draft Horse Line Classes - Clydesdale, Belgian, Percheron
11:30am	Mini Horse - Obstacle
12:45pm	Clydesdale Team – Light ( <b>Robert Shaw Memorial</b> )
1:00pm	Belgian Team – Light ( <b>Centre Burlington Gas &amp; Variety</b> )
1:15pm	Percheron Team – Light ( <b>Keith Casey</b> )
1:40pm	Mini Horse - Working
2:00pm	Clydesdale Team – Heavy ( <b>Durell Murphy Memorial</b> )
2:15pm	Belgian Team – Heavy ( <b>Wayne Stack</b> )
2:30pm	Percheron Team – Heavy ( <b>Trinity Lane Farm</b> )
3:00pm	Drag Ring
3:15pm	<b>MBRA Ram Rodeo Tour</b> presents - Open Barrels #1
4:05pm	<b>Brooklyn Insurance</b> presents - Open Poles #1
5:00pm	Clydesdale Men's Cart - ( <b>Maurice Brown Memorial</b> )
5:15pm	Belgian Men's Cart ( <b>Delbert Nunn Memorial</b> )
5:30pm	Percheron Men's Cart ( <b>Wayne Stack</b> )
6:00pm	Mini Horse - Roadster
6:15pm	Prepare ring for opening ceremonies
7:30pm	<b>Legends of the Land - Grand Opening</b>
8:30pm	Intermission
9:00pm	250th Anniversary \$1000 Barrel Race (invitation only)
9:30pm	Pyrotechnic Finale by Fireworks FX

<b>DEXTER CONSTRUCTION MARY HENRY CENTRE - FRIDAY SEPT 18</b>	
9:00am	Ox Show
11:00am	Steer Pull followed by light ox pull - ending at 2:00
7:00pm	4-H Draft Horse Showmanship

<b>BOVINE RING EVENTS - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18</b>	
5:00	4-H Events

<b>HERITAGE HOOTENANNY TENT EVENTS - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18</b>	
10:30am - 1:00pm	Toria Aidoo / African Drumming and Story telling (Future Farmers Friday)
5:15	4-H Dog Obedience - ending at 7:30pm
TBD, TBD, 5:00pm	Christina The Crazy Hooper

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Reid Davis Trucking  
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Jeff Chandler Construction  
Hants County Exhibition

MEMORIALS  
Cecil Levy Memorial  
Gerald Nichols Memorial  
Nate Myles Memorial  
Jennifer, Wade, Crystal  
Swinamer Memorial  
Mary Joan Anthony Memorial

# Tentative schedule Saturday September 19

## ARENA EVENTS - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19 (Buildings open @ 10:00, midway @ noon)

9:00am	Draft Horse Farm Class ( <b>Super Clean</b> )
9:45am	4-H Light Horse Show Classes
10:45am	Draft Horse Junior & Cart Class ( <b>Doug Burgess Electric</b> )
11:00am	(Set up) and then Relay Ox Pull
12:30pm	Mini Horse - Reinsmanship
12:45pm	Clydesdale Unicorn ( <b>Reid Davis Trucking</b> )
1:00pm	Belgian Unicorn ( <b>Co-op Atlantic</b> )
1:15pm	Percheron Unicorn ( <b>XL Trucking &amp; Equipment Ltd.</b> )
1:40pm	Mini Horse - Barrels
2:10pm	Clydesdale Four In Hand ( <b>Reid Davis Trucking</b> )
2:25pm	Belgian Four In Hand ( <b>Annapolis Valley Ready Mix</b> )
2:40pm	Percheron Four In Hand ( <b>Cambridge Natural Resources</b> )
3:00pm	Four In Hand Classic ( <b>Bob &amp; Cheryl Thomson In Memory of G. Allison (Al) Smith</b> )
3:30pm	Mini Horse - Poles
4:00pm	Ladies Team Driving - all breeds ( <b>Caseydale Farms</b> )
4:30pm	All Breed Junior Team Driving ( <b>R.G. Security Services Hantsport</b> )
4:50pm	Drag ring
5:05pm	<b>Pothier Motors</b> presents - Little Dodge Challengers Barrels #1 & 4-H Jr/Sr Barrels
5:25pm	<b>MBRA Ram Rodeo Tour</b> presents - Open Barrels #2
6:15pm	<b>Pothier Motors</b> presents - Little Dodge Challengers Poles #1
6:35pm	<b>Brooklyn Insurance</b> presents - Open Poles #2
7:30pm	All Breed Ladies Cart Class ( <b>Celtic Cuts-Letitia Deemer, Owner</b> )
8:00pm	Set up for Ox Pull
8:15pm	Medium & Heavy Ox Pull

## BOVINE RING, 4-H LIFE SKILLS AREA, TENT & MARY HENRY EQUI CENTRE EVENTS - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19

4-H Events

## HERITAGE HOOTENANNY TENT - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19

Noon	Mary Beth de Scene
1:00pm	Umoja Cultural Diversity Drummers
2:00pm	Dr. Daniel Paul - On Reconciliation
3:15pm	Lorraine Whitman - Mi'kmaw Story Telling
3:45pm - 5:45pm	Cara Sawka - Lantern Making Workshop
11:45pm, 3:00pm, 5:45pm	Christina The Crazy Hooper
9:00pm - 12:00pm	Emerald Tide Band

<b>ARENA EVENTS - SUNDAY SEPT 20</b> (Buildings open @ 10:00, midway @ noon)	
8:15am	4-H Light Horse Show Classes
9:45	Drag Ring
10:15	<b>Pothier Motors</b> presents - Little Dodge Challengers Poles #2
10:30	<b>Brooklyn Insurance</b> presents Open Pole Bending #3 Presentation of <b>Brooklyn Insurance</b> High Point Cooler
11:30	<b>Pothier Motors</b> presents - Little Dodge Challengers Barrels #2 Add presentation of <b>Pothier Motors</b> High Point Cooler
11:45	<b>MBRA Ram Rodeo Tour</b> Barrel Racing presents - Open Barrels #3 Presentation <b>MBRA Ram Rodeo Tour</b> High Point Championship
1:00	Clydesdale Six In Hand ( <b>Mantua Cash &amp; Carry</b> )
1:15	Belgian Six In Hand ( <b>Co-op Atlantic</b> )
1:30	Percheron Six In Hand ( <b>Andrew Connolly Dispensing Optician</b> )
1:45	Mini Horse Turnout - Formal Dress
2:30	4-H GRAND CHAMPION LIVESTOCK CHAMPIONSHIP
3:30	Set up for Ox Pull <b>Heritage Memorials</b> presents - Championship Ox Pull

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<b>BOVINE RING &amp; 4-H LIFE SKILLS AREA - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20</b>	
	4-H Events

<b>HERITAGE HOOTENANNY TENT - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20</b>	
Noon	Lorraine Whitman - Mi'kmaw Story Telling
1:00pm	Shoulder to Shoulder / Lawrence Parker
2:00pm	ACA Jam
3:00pm	All Nations Drummers
4:00pm	Saunders Brothers Comedy Kitchen Party
11:45pm, 2:45pm, 5:00pm	Christina The Crazy Hooper

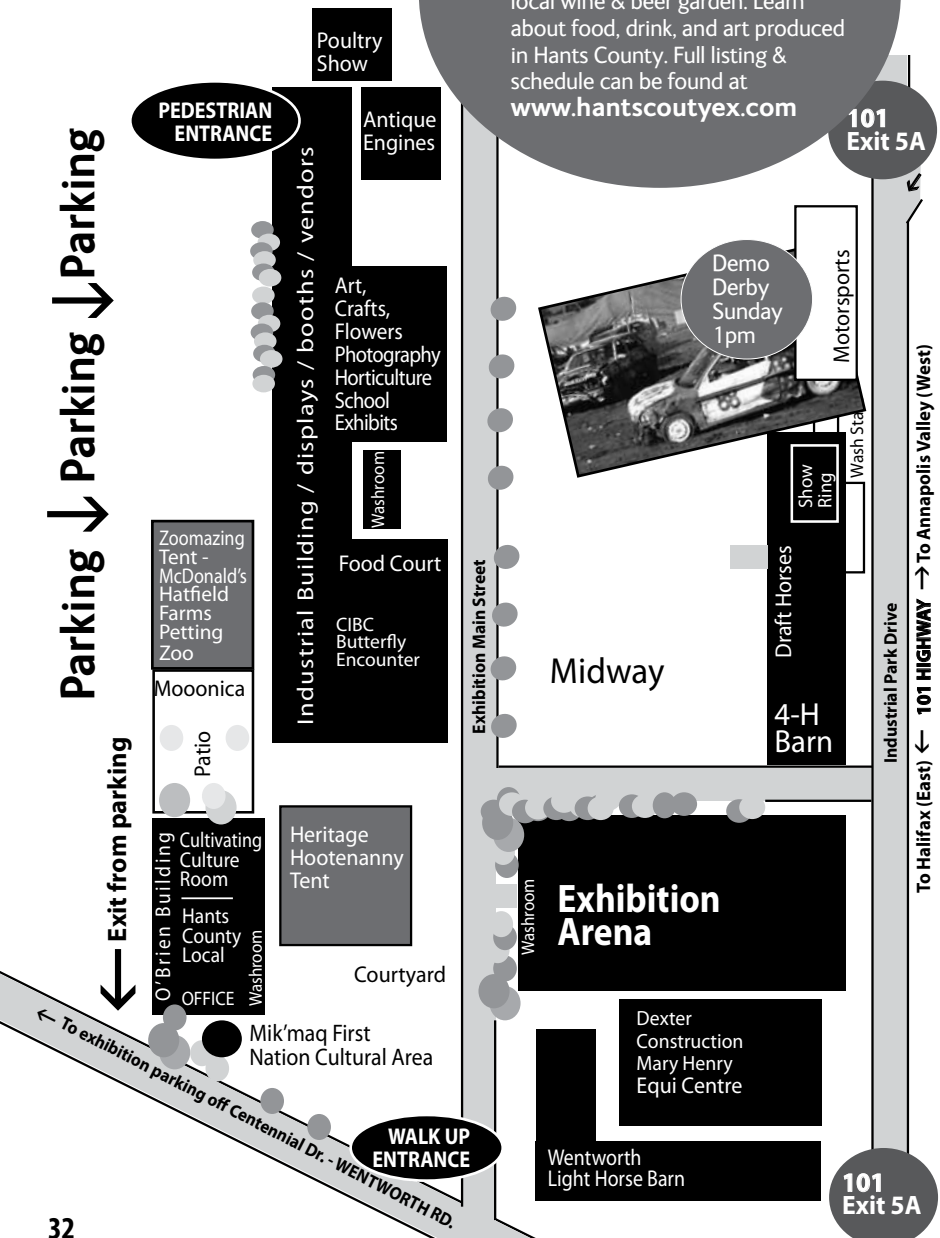
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Event Map:  
**Weekend One**  
September 18-20

Don't miss events at the **Heritage & Culture Venues** and stop by **Hants County Local** (O'Brien Building) for food demos, presentations, and local wine & beer garden. Learn about food, drink, and art produced in Hants County. Full listing & schedule can be found at [www.hantscoutyex.com](http://www.hantscoutyex.com)





# A reason to celebrate.

As part of our commitment to supporting the communities where our clients and employees live and work, CIBC is proud to sponsor **The Hants County Exhibition –** Canada's oldest agricultural fair celebrating its 250th anniversary. CIBC supports what matters to our clients, employees and community.



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# Future Farmers Friday

An adventure in food, culture & learning

The Hants County Exhibition is a celebration of agriculture and community. As our society becomes further removed from our rural roots it becomes more necessary to create opportunities for children to learn about agriculture and how it impacts our lives.

**Future Farmers Friday** provides an opportunity for learning about the production of food while celebrating our local harvest.

In this 250th year, Hants County Exhibition is also acknowledging the Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, and Acadian communities contribution to agriculture. Stations will provide hands-on learning to engage and teach children about where their food comes from, and to increase awareness of and celebrate Nova Scotia's diverse cultures.

On Friday September 18 2015, the oldest agricultural fair in North America will open our fair to over 500 local school children, their teachers and chaperones. This year we will be joined by Brooklyn and Windsor Elementary Schools.

The event is cost free to the schools attending and would not be possible without the support and engagement of local farmers, growers, producers and the many others who give of their time, knowledge and product to help make this special event happen.



Above: Kimm Kent, organic farmer and director of the Windsor Agricultural Society shows students how to save seeds.  
Photo: Jim Ivey



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two weekends

# visit Moonica!

on the patio both weekends, next to the Zoomazing Tent



A lot of families are not aware that the milk they drink everyday, and at breakfast actually comes from a real cow on a farm in Canada.

The **Dairy Farmers of Canada From Farm to Table Experience** strives to educate families about life on a farm, the dairy process and how their milk gets From Farm to Table. Families are able to interact with Moonica, a life-size mechanical cow, making the learning process fun.



# Second **BiG** Weekend

Entertainment Highlights - September 25-27

The CIBC **Butterfly Encounter** has hundreds of butterflies including 6 different species. The educational exhibit shows the life cycle of a butterfly from the egg to the adult butterfly, and how to fix a broken wing class. Feeding sticks are provided so you can feed and interact with the butterflies. Butterfly kits are also available so you can take home your very own butterfly. *The CIBC Butterfly Encounter is located in the industrial building and open from 10 am until closing both weekends.*



Keith Ross Presents **Memories of DON MESSER and his ISLANDERS** A look back at the "Good Old Days" of radio and television, oldtime dances, concerts and vinyl recordings. It is thought that the Messer group played at the 200th anniversary of the Hants County Exhibition in 1965. Keith has assembled a group of today's musicians to play the parts of Charlie and Marg and other Islanders. Keith Ross - Fiddle; Bill Guest - Piano; Carl Bezanson - Guitar; Alan Fitch - Drums; Rob Rix - Bass; Cyril Sampson - Vocals; Tina Munford-Kehoe - Vocals. *Saturday September 26, 2pm, Heritage Hootenanny Tent*



## **Hants County Partner Carrying Contest & Hopping Pony Races \*\*NEW HANTS COUNTY RULES\*\***

- "Partner Carrying" teams can be same sex, or one male and one female. The male can be carried by either the male or female. Both must be 18 years or older. Carrying methods often include the piggyback or fireman's carry but teams are encouraged to create their own Hants County style. Enter one hour prior, dressing room #5 in Exhibition Arena. Limited entries, first come, first served. Prizes and bragging rights! *Saturday September 26, 8pm, Exhibition Arena*



**Scotiabank Classic Heritage Beef Show** brings back a tradition, and celebrates the efforts of a farmer's hard work and dedication to his/her livestock. The resurrection of the professional showing of beef cattle at the Hants County Exhibition does much to ensure the future of beef farming and agriculture in Atlantic Canada. *All weekend, Cattle Barn*

Rare Breeds & Heritage livestock, drumming, quill work, Acadian music, story telling, local beer & wine, tasty food, barrel racing, Theresa Malenfant and more!

*Acknowledging and celebrating the Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, and Acadian communities contribution to agriculture.*

**L'ensemble vocal Les Voix d'Acadie** est une chorale francophone qui est fort active dans la région métropolitaine d'Halifax Nouvelle-Écosse depuis 1973. L'ensemble compte une quarantaine de membres de diverses origines. Qu'ils soient acadiens, francophones ou francophiles et qu'ils soient d'Acadie, du Québec, de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon ou d'ailleurs,

*tous les membres partagent un grand intérêt pour la musique et pour la chanson francophone, et reconnaissent la franche camaraderie qui règne au sein du groupe.* Heritage Hootenanny

**Tent Les Voix d'Acadie - L'ensemble vocal Les Voix d'Acadie** is a French choir of forty or so members that has been very active in the Halifax Metro area since 1973. Whether they hail from Acadia, Quebec, St-Pierre-Miquelon or elsewhere, all share their love of music and interest in the French songs repertoire. *Sunday, September 27, 3pm, Heritage Hootenanny Tent*



## Cultivating Culture Room

O'Brien Building 10am - 6pm

- **Al Carter** drum maker
- **Lorraine Whitman** quill basket display
- **Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq** display
- **Whyte Brothers** barrels
- **Historical overview of the African NS farmer** - Perennia
- **Acadian quilts & painting**
- **250 years of Agriculture and Fair** photo show
- **Basketry Guild** (Saturday)
- **Suzie Paul Leather and Bead demos** (Saturday)
- **Marlene Jodrey** porcupine quill work (Sunday)
- **Lorraine Whitman** narrates the importance of quill work to the Mi'kmaq (11:30 am Sunday)



**Theresa Malenfant** - Raised in Dieppe, New Brunswick, a young Theresa's mother introduced her to the big band era of the 1940's. She spent long hours listening to the recordings of her favorite performers in order to learn their techniques. It wasn't long before Theresa formed her own band and started making an impact on audiences wherever she played. People raved about the NB girl who sang like Janis Joplin. There have been many awards over the years. "Your Good Thing" won Theresa recognition with nominations for Best Female Artist at The East Coast Music Awards in 1993, as well as, Best Female Artist and Blues Artist in 1994. In 1995 Theresa won The East Coast Music Award for Best Female Artist, and nominations for Female Artist of the Year at the 1997 & 1998 Canadian Maple Blues Awards. She is loved in Canada and Europe. *Sunday, Saturday 26, 4pm, Heritage Hootenanny Tent*



**Weldon Boudreau et sa fille Josée, en spectacle** - Depuis longtemps, Weldon se présente sur scène avec sa fille, Josée. Ils partagent le même intérêt à la préservation des traditions acadiennes d'une force musicale inoubliable. Ensemble, ils jouent nombreux instruments. Ils ont une certaine vision et ils engagent la foule avec de très jolis arrangements. Weldon et Josée ont maîtrisé une expérience authentique et sincère qui plaît à tout âge. À son tour, Josée est capable d'intéresser la foule avec son talent et sa passion.

**Weldon Boudreau and Josée, in concert** - For the past numerous years, Weldon Boudreau has put on performances with his daughter, Josée. They share a similar interest for preserving Acadian traditions, the culture and the language with an unforgettable musical exchange. They play numerous instruments and they engage their audience with interesting arrangements. Weldon and Josée have mastered a unique and authentic experience that appeals to all ages.

*Sunday, Sept. 27, 12:30pm, Heritage Hootenanny Tent*



**Patrick Jarvis** Ancient Hermit Drums - Patrick was born in Weymouth Falls in 1959, the second of seven children. He attended Weymouth Consolidated School then went on to the Nova Scotia Agricultural College where he received a diploma as a Farm Equipment Technician. Not able to get a job in this field, Patrick worked at whatever was available at the time. Around the age of twelve Patrick tried his hand at carving for the first time. He carved a trout from an alder. Patrick carved as a hobby until 2004 when he decided to take up carving drums on a full time basis.

*Saturday, September 26 noon, Heritage Hootenanny Tent*

## Mik'maq First Nation Cultural Area

Glooscap First Nation, Bear River First Nation and Annapolis Valley First Nation, as well as (CMM) Confederacy of Mainland Mik'maq - Join us for Mi'kmaw cultural teachings, demonstrations of basket making, bead and leather working, quill work, story telling, drumming, dancing and more.

## Traditional Native Crafter

Richard McKinnon - Traditional Native Crafter, tipi, birch bark canoe, baskets, woven Eel basket, brain tanned buckskin, spruce tea, fire starting demonstrations with bow and drill Traditional fire starting demonstration with bow & drill *Saturday 1:15 pm & 3:15 pm / Sunday 11:30 pm & 1:45 pm, Patio*





# *and the horses shall dance*

Presented by: R.I.D.E.R.S. N.S. Dressage Group  
**Saturday September 26, 5:30pm**

**Susan Fraser** has had a long successful career, training throughout Europe and Canada. She operates her own establishment 'Fraser Equestrian Center' in Port Williams. Susan was the first Maritimer to compete in Grand Prix level dressage and the first to develop a student to Grand Prix level. Her current students are competing successfully up to FEI level. She has contributed greatly to the Maritime dressage and hunter/jumper world, and her students are beyond number. A Pas de Deux is her generous contribution to the 250th anniversary celebration.

Dressage or 'ballet on horseback' is recognized as the sound basis for all mounted horse sport. Nova Scotia is a contributor to the elite membership of world-class dressage riders. We have a rider who has been short-listed for two Olympics, and New Glasgow's Brittany Fraser was on this year's silver medal winning PAM AM games team.

Join us on the evening of September 26th to enjoy high end dressage dances or Kurs (the German word for freestyle) from two N.S. dressage schools. Cheryl Meisner of Futureview Dressage riding her Warmblood stallion Paganini will perform a Grand Prix Kur to music. Susan Fraser of Fraser Equestrian Centre is producing a Pas de Deux – a dance for two!

Viewing the Kurs you will see the lovely PASSAGE – an elegant slow-motion seemingly suspended trot; the arresting HALF-PASS – the horse appears to float diagonally across the arena at a trot or a canter; the PIROUETTE – the horse circles on his haunches; the TEMPEs – the canter changes of lead every 1, 2 or 3 strides – the horse appears to skip down the arena; and finally the PIAFFE – the trot, slowed and suspended until the horse literally trots on the spot.

We invite you to come enjoy the horses, the riders, the dances, and the music. It will be a hour to remember!



'Futureview Dressage' near Truro, where she offers her experience and coaching to the next wave of dressage riders, and stands Paganini at stud. This pair will delight 250th anniversary spectators with a Grand Prix Kur to music.

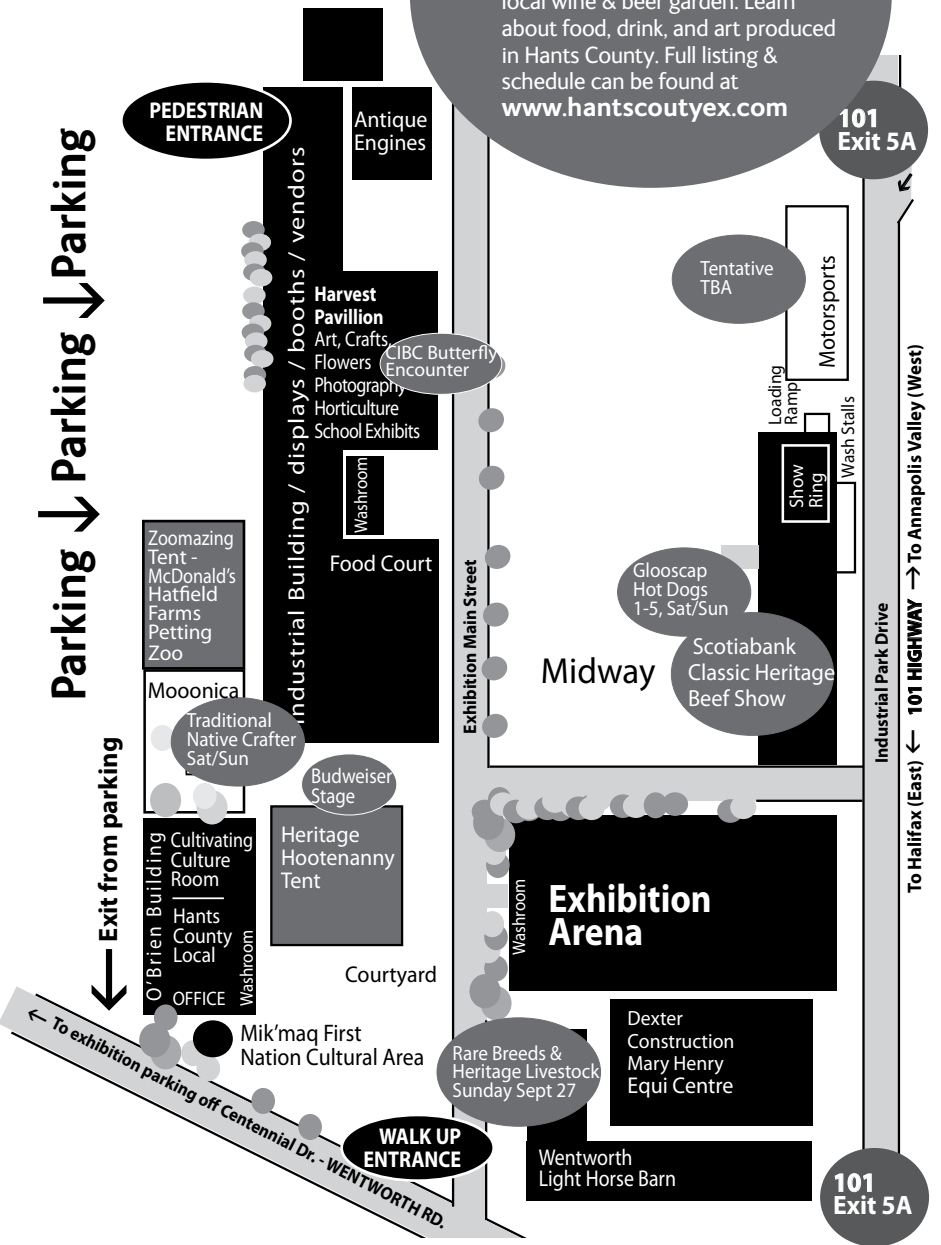
**Cheryl Meisner** has trained and competed extensively in Europe. She and her bay Warmblood stallion Paganini have been highly successful, winning Grand Prix, and Grand Prix Freestyles in Europe and North America. They have been shortlisted for two Olympics. Today she is based at

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Event Map:  
**Weekend Two**  
September 25-27

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<b>ARENA EVENTS - THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24</b>
<b>8am start</b> Lg Pony Hunter o/f #1 & 2
Sm/Med Pony Hunter o/f #1 & 2
Pony Medal
Short Stirrup Hunter o/f #1 & 2
Baby Green Hunter o/f #1 & 2
Low Modified Hunter #1 & 2
Mod/Child/Adult/Nonpro Hunter #1 & 2
Lead Line
Walk Trot
Walk/Trot/Canter
Lg Pony Hunter u/s <b>Tim Hortons Award</b>
Sm/Med Pony Hunter u/s <b>Ultramar Award</b>
Short Stirrup Hunter u/s <b>Nova International Award</b>
Baby Green Hunter u/s <b>Evangeline Wealth Management Award</b>
Low Modified Hunter u/s <b>Super 8 Motel Award</b>
Mod/Child/Adult/Nonpro Hunter u/s
Pleasure Pony #1
Pleasure Horse #1
Pleasure Pony #2
Pleasure Horse #2
Pony Hack <b>Shur Gain Feeds 'n' Needs Award</b>
Horse Hack <b>Philip &amp; Barbara Christie Award</b>
Anyone on this day can leave after their last class.

<b>ARENA EVENTS - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25</b>	
8:00	Schooling Hunter o/f
8:45	Performance Hunter o/f #1 & 2
9:30	Pre Green/Green/Regular Hunter o/f #1&2
10:15	Childrens Hunter o/f #1&2
11:00	Adult Amateur / Non-pro Hunter o/f #1&2
11:45	Jr / Amateur Hunter o/f #1&2
12:15	<b>\$500.00 Horse Hunter Stake -3'/3'6"</b> <b>Avon Animal Hospital Cooler</b>
1:15	NSHJ Medal
1:45	Remove Jumps / drag ring
2:15	Performance Hunter u/s <b>Victory Credit Union Cooler</b>
2:30	Pre Green/Green/Regular Hunter u/s <b>Brooklyn Office Supplies</b>
2:45	Childrens Hunter u/s <b>Strum Insurance Cooler</b>
3:00	Adult Amateur / Non-pro Hunter u/s
3:15	Jr / Amateur Hunter u/s
3:35	Presentation of Township Hunter \$1000 stake
4:00	Set jumps
5:00	.9 M Welcome
5:45	1.0 M Welcome
6:30	1.1 / 1.15 M Welcome
7:00	1.2 / 1.25 M Welcome
7:30	Presentation of Jumper Township Challenge <b>\$1500 Dexter Construction</b>

<b>HERITAGE HOOTENANNY TENT - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25</b>	
1:30	Lorraine Whitman – Mi'kmaw story telling
TBA	TBA

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Margot Christie  
Annapolis Animal  
Hospital

<b>ARENA EVENTS - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26</b>	
10:00	.9 M Jumper - Power & Speed
10:30	1.0 M Jumper - Power & Speed
11:00	1.10 / 1.15 M Jumper - Power & Speed
11:30	1.20 / 1.25 M Jumper - Power & Speed
12:30	<b>Armstrong's Auto Sales</b> .9 M Jumper Mini Prix
1:15	<b>Clarence Farm Supplies</b> 1 M Jumper Mini Prix
2:00	<b>Bits &amp; Bridles Tack &amp; Feed Store</b> 1.10 / 1.15 M Jumper Mini Prix
3:00	<b>Windsor Pharmasave</b> 1.20 / 1.25 M Jumper Mini Prix
3:40	Remove Jumps / drag ring
4:00	Open Western Pleasure Stake
4:20	Open Versatility
	English Barrels
5:30	<b><i>And the horses shall dance</i></b>
6:30	Glooscap Hot Dogs set up
7:00	Glooscap Hot Dogs
8:00	Partner Carrying & Hopping Pony Races
9:00	Tug of War

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## **BOVINE RING- SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26**

9:00am	Scotiabank Classic Heritage Beef Show
--------	---------------------------------------

## **HERITAGE HOOTENANNY TENT - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26**

Noon	Patrick Jarvis Drum Circle
2:00	Keith Ross - Don Messer Tribute
3:00	Acadian First Nations Drumming and Dancing



**Tentative schedule  
Sunday September 27**

# **ARENA EVENTS - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27**

10:00am start	Open Halter Gelding, Open Halter Mare Rising Star Showmanship Junior Showmanship Senior Showmanship Pleasure Driving Pony -- Turnout Pleasure Driving Pony -- Reinsmanship Walk/Jog/Trot Trail Rising Star Open Trail
	Rising Star Horsemanship Junior Horsemanship Senior Horsemanship Junior Western Pleasure Senior Western Pleasure Pleasure Driving Pony -- Working Pleasure Driving Pony -- Obstacle Maiden Western Pleasure Open Western Command Ride & Drive Class
TBA	350 years of the Canadian Horse
3:30	Ox Pull
4:15	Horse Pull

# **BOVINE RING- SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27**

9:00am	Scotiabank Classic Heritage Beef Show
--------	---------------------------------------

# **HERITAGE HOOTENANNY TENT - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27**

12:30pm	Weldon Boudreau and Josée
2:00pm	L'ensemble vocal Les Voix d'Acadie
3:00pm	The Windsor Plains United Baptist Choir
4:00pm	Theresa Malenfant



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# *In Memory*


Gary MacNeil (June 25, 1953 - June 25, 2015) was a great friend to the Hants County Exhibition. Gary and his wife Connie, worked on the grounds for many years with the R&G crew. He will be missed!


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Stay tuned for information about a visit from Les Amis de Grand-Pré - on [www.hantscountyex.com](http://www.hantscountyex.com)



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Jack Brady, Sheffield Mills, is shown here with his team and the 1946 Hants County Exhibition Champion Load.



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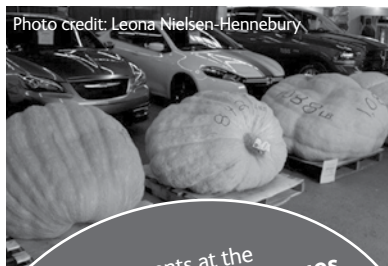
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The Hants County Exhibition 250th Anniversary Celebration, presented DRUM! at Mermaid Imperial Performing Arts Centre in May, launching what has been a full season of events.



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# Charlie Levy – Exhibition Hero



Charlie Levy has been coming to the Hants County Exhibition since he was old enough to walk. In those days, animals were led to the exhibition at Fort Edward. Levy would hang around when the exhibition ended in hopes someone would need help walking animals back to the farm. He retired from teaching in 1994 – but he didn't retire from working. Throughout the months leading up to the Hants County Exhibition, he can be found working on the

exhibition schedule, selling ads for the program, getting the books ready for judges, and generally doing whatever needs to be done. He has been a director, and involved in some volunteer capacity for over 45 years. For most of those years, he exhibited draft ponies, roadster ponies, and hackney ponies. Today he puts on his sports jacket and hat and takes part in the pleasure driving classes with his lovely Welsh pony. In 2014 he won the Hants County Exhibition pleasure driving division, and the championship cooler.

Like so many events and festivals, exhibitions are dependent on volunteers. Thousands of "invisible" hours are spent behind the scenes. Without the service of people like Charlie Levy, there would be no exhibition.



Tractor Display



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# Scotiabank Classic Heritage Beef Show

The 250th Hants County Exhibition **Scotiabank Classic Heritage Beef Show** brings back a tradition of encouraging communication and education within the beef farming community, and celebrates the efforts of a farmer's hard work and dedication to his/her livestock. The resurrection of the professional showing of beef cattle at the Hants County Exhibition does much to ensure the future of beef farming and agriculture in Atlantic Canada. Entries are expected from all three Maritime provinces. Sponsors have been kind, and the prizes are generous. A highly esteemed beef judge has been hired from Western Canada. This will be a top quality beef show, not seen in many years in the Maritimes.

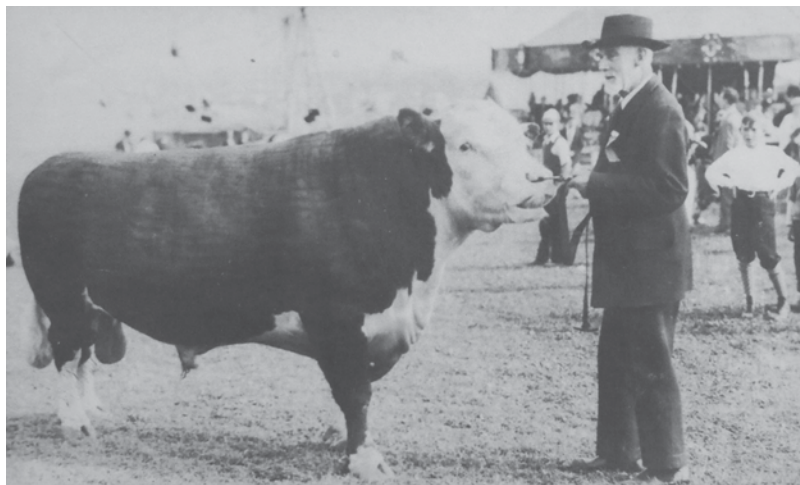
The judge will be looking for the traits that make a beef cow ideal. Those include five major categories: frame/size; muscling; volume/performance; trimness/condition; and structure/soundness. An ideal animal weighs roughly 1250 - 1300 lbs, is heavily muscled with good depth, and is in perfect weight. The beef cow that most closely resembles the ideal for the breed category will be the top animal. It's genetics will be the most valuable to herd improvement. Come out to test your judging ability, and enjoy the efforts of hard working Maritime beef breeders.

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## Classes offered

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Windsor Agricultural Society President from 1901-1921, William O'Brien is shown here with his Grand Champion Hereford bull at Hants County Exhibition at Fort Edward.

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*- Canfax, Statistics Canada 2012*



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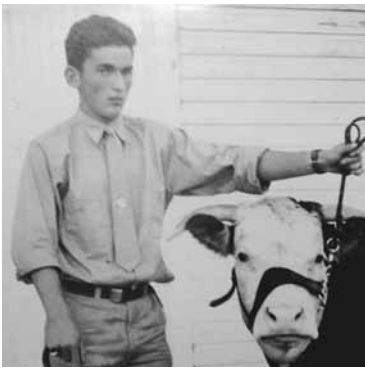
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# EXHIBITION

## *A life's work*

It is said that as long as you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life. For fifty years Dave Coombes has been managing the oldest fair in North America.

Coombes grew up at Castle Frederick, Upper Falmouth. Like many Canadian farm boys he worked along side his Dad, went through 4-H, and played hockey. He didn't have much of an interest in school, but after a couple of years working on the farm, school looked more appealing. He enrolled at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, where he was class valedictorian. He went on to MacDonald College, at McGill in Montreal to complete his B.Sc in Agriculture, graduating in 1965.

In that year, Coombes was president of College Royal, and he and Frances welcomed their first of two daughters. Theirs was a true 4-H love story. They met when Frances Davis and her Holstein calf finished first, just ahead of Coombes and his Hereford calf, to claim 4-H Grand Champion Showman.

The young family headed back to Nova Scotia, settling briefly in Truro where Coombes took a job as Ag Rep in Colchester County. Watson Maxner, the Hants County Exhibition manager at the time was ready to retire and in August of the 200th anniversary year, Coombes moved home to become the new manager. Maxner, also manager of the Atlantic Winter Fair, passed away suddenly between the two exhibitions, and Coombes found himself in that position as well. For much of his working career he managed Nova Scotia's three major exhibitions and exhibition facilities, adding the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition to the list in the 80s and 90s.

Never one to shy away from controversy, he saw a financial opportunity in his early years with the AWF and developed the first casino, and first major lottery in Nova Scotia



200th anniversary of Hants County Exhibition, 1965. Back row: N. Spence, R. Wilson, J. Dill, H. Coombes, J O'Brien, M. Kehoe Front row: W. Maxner, E. Sweet, W.G. Oulton, D. Coombes. Top photo: Coombes and "Monte Vista Coronet Victoria the 9th".

– Ex Hi Lotto. Church groups and the public, including his own mother, were outraged. Both made money. Soon after, the provincial government recognized a good thing, stepped in and took over the lottery. It was not uncommon in those days for the AWF to be the subject of the Chamber's editorial cartoon in the Chronicle Herald. Those were good days for the exhibition business.

Along the way he was President of the Livestock Council of Nova Scotia, President of Nova Scotia Hereford breeders, and President of the Canadian Exhibition Association. In 1980 he was named Canadian Fair Manager of the Year.

In the 80's he oversaw the construction of Exhibition Park, the new home of the Atlantic Winter Fair after it's move from the Halifax Forum. Ironically the Forum, still in use today, was considered old and in need of being torn down. Exhibition Park and the AWF thrilled the local horse community by hosting the \$100,000 DuMaurier Cup, drawing big name competitors from across North America to Halifax each October for the word class show jumping event. In 1999, the Nova Scotia Government took over Exhibition Park from the Board of Directors. The grand days of the prestigious livestock event were over and the Atlantic Winter Fair was no more.



When he wasn't working, Coombes hauled his girls and their ponies around. He continued to play hockey into his sixties, giving it up when he started exploring the world. He has visited five of the seven continents – traveled the Silk Road from Ubekistan, climbed Machu Pichu, walked the Great Wall of China, and experienced a world of contrast in South Africa. He saw the pyramids of Egypt, and in 2009 marveled at the wonder of Petra in Jordan, with his granddaughter.

Coombes has been a sound financial exhibition manager, being both creative and frugal, during a challenging time for agricultural exhibitions. The choice to make exhibitions his life's work was an easy one – exhibition is in his blood. Father Herb was a long time director of the Windsor Agricultural Society. The elder Coombes brought up his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren with the philosophy that as long as there was an exhibition to attend, there was no need to be in school. His photo hangs along with the other presidents in the O'Brien Building. You only need to scan the wall to realize why exhibitions matter.

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## Nova Scotia 4-H Show



The 38th NS 4-H Show will be held on October 2-4, 2015 at the Hants County Exhibition Grounds. This is the largest independent 4-H Show in Canada and it provides an excellent opportunity for the public to experience the 4-H youth leadership program in an interactive way. The first NS show was held in Windsor in 1977, thus it is fitting that the NS Show returns to the grounds as they celebrate their 250th anniversary.

At the provincial event 40 projects, 90 classes and 2400 entries are expected to be displayed. Highlights of the Nova Scotia 4-H Show include livestock auctions, fashion show, dog handling, tug of war, grand champion showmanship and dairy and beef cattle selections for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

Nova Scotia has a very active 4-H program and all the exhibitors at the NS show are 4-H members from 9-21 years of age. For more information on 4-H or the Nova Scotia 4-H Show contact the Valley Region Office at (902)-679-6027 or [Valorie.Skinner@novascotia.ca](mailto:Valorie.Skinner@novascotia.ca).



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*Paul Beazley, Mayor  
Town of Windsor*

On behalf of the Councilors' and residents of the Town of Windsor, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the 250<sup>th</sup> Hants County Exhibition.

North America's longest running agricultural fair can trace its origins back to 1765 when the founders of our community celebrated the bounty of the land on Fort Edward Hill.

I invite everyone to check-out the Nova Scotia Provincial 4H Show, October 2-4, and help celebrate our youth who are committed to continuing the tradition of agri-culture.

While in Windsor, sample the many charms of the "Birthplace of Hockey". Enjoy our restaurants and unique shopping experiences while you tour through the hamlets of the AVON region.

Yours truly,

### OCTOBER FAMILY EVENTS

#### *Provincial 4H Show* October 2-4



*Miniature  
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September 27  
October 3 & 11



#### *31<sup>st</sup> Annual Pumpkin Weigh-off* Dill Family Farm, College Road

October 3



October 11  
*WishMaker  
Pumpkin  
Parade*



#### *Windsor~West Hants Regatta*

For more information visit the  
[www.town.windsor.ns.ca](http://www.town.windsor.ns.ca)

# Rare Breeds at the 250th Hants County Exhibition

The industrialization of agriculture has helped keep down the price of food, but the cost has become much greater. The consequence: the extinction of many breeds of livestock.

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*It is estimated 190 breeds of livestock have become extinct in the past 50 years alone, with another 1500 at risk.*

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The Hants County Exhibition has partnered with Rare Breeds Canada to bring you a live display of some of Canada's rarest breeds of livestock. Come meet the dedicated farmers and breeds such as the, critically endangered Newfoundland Pony and Cotswold sheep (fewer than 30 of each registered females in Canada!) along with Scottish Highland oxen, Canadian horse and many more. It's about individual heroes taking action before its too late - and saving endangered breeds from extinction. It's about honouring, preserving and protecting the future for our entire planet!  
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In May, Members of Hants County's Fillies Riding Club, travelled from Fort Edward, the site of the first Hants County Exhibition in May 1765, to Hants County Exhibition Park delivering the proclamation declaring the start the 250th anniversary year.

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