

34th annual heritage and antique show...

by Bob Richardson. Reproduced with permission of "Old Autos" originally published Oct 18th 2010.

ILDERTON, ON - Located 8 miles northwest of London, Ontario is the village of Ilderton. For years this area has been a farming community supporting both livestock and crops and giving good reason for farmers to stay on the land and provide for their families and the public in general.

Not much has changed with the farming way of life except over the years improvements to machinery have made a big difference for today's farmers. It is still today a tough way to make a living and yet without our farmers, just where would the rest of us be? Yes! if you ate today - thank a farmer...

Each year the Tri-County Heritage Club has presented their annual Heritage and Antique Show (this being their 34th event) which is held on the Ilderton Fairgrounds. This year's event was July 10 and 11 and the grounds were open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. As expected, there was no lack of eager folks waiting to get in the gates. This show is a family event with something of much interest for everyone from youngsters to adults of all ages.

The day starts out at the on-site Community Centre at 9 a.m. with a "farmers breakfast" and boy oh boy, do they load your plate with scrumptious eggs, bacon/ham, home fries and toast and jam plus coffee/tea, all for a meagre price you can't refuse. Meanwhile, out on the grounds all the participating folks in the show are more than ready to say good day to you and show you their displays

Each day of the two day event is filled with all kinds of activities suited for all ages such as to name but a few - children's activities at the grandstand; ladies make and take crafts in the "curling arena"; a jamboree in the Community Centre and as well musical entertainment in the curling arena. The list goes on, too much to put down on paper.

At 4 p.m. the big parade of tractors, cars, trucks and odd ball driving machinery drives by the grandstand. And to top off the days event, on Saturday, is the big pork BBQ at the Community Centre. Tickets are \$10 each and usually sold out .

Sunday's events were more or less a repeat of the day before although at 10 a.m., a non-denominational church service is held in the curling arena for those who wish to partake.

Each year, a particular tractor make and machinery are featured. This year the feature was John Deere, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the John Deere Model B tractors from 1935 to 1952. The John Deere folks neatly put on a display of their tractors and other interesting equipment and owners were most pleased to converse with the public about their machines. As well as John Deere over 10 other makes and models were on hand adding to the many tractor displays.

Antique cars and trucks are always welcome to display at the event. Each day some 50 plus vehicles (many pre-1935 makes) gave the spectators a great look back in years of automotive history. Out door food vendors were busy each day keeping tummies happy and content. The weather was great, the display areas were full, the flea market areas were busy and the indoor events and vendors always had an audience.

The children's games were much fun, the ladies fashion shows kept the ladies interest, the tractor pulls drew large crowds, the musical entertainment kept toes a tapping and the church service was attended by many. To say the least, if you've never been to this event, you might want to put it on your summer list of events to attend.

Official host of the event is the Tri-County Heritage Club. Ken Day, president and show chairman appreciated all the club helpers, volunteers, participants, spectators, DJ Mark McCullaugh and the Ilderton Community for their continuous support and success of this yearly event. Next. year's event will be held on the second weekend in July 2011 Hope to see you there!