

Summary of 2024 Activities of Ripley Agricultural Society

Through the year, the Ripley Agricultural Society sponsored a session of Family Skating at the Ripley arena; sponsored Ice Painting and partnered with the Ripley Lions Club to sponsor the Costume Skate during the Winter Carnival; held a drive thru Fish Fry for the community in May; participated in neighbouring fall fair parades; will sponsor the annual Ripley Huron Community School Grade 7 and 8 trip to the 2024 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. On the Friday and Saturday following the fair, October 4 and 5, the Ripley Agricultural Society hosted two – one day Food Preservation (canning) Courses which were very popular. Originally planned for 1 course but the registration filled up quickly so a second course was offered.

In 2024 Ripley-Huron Fall Fair celebrated its 161st fair with the theme “Fall Trees and Honey Bees”. The fair hosted a 4-H Beef Invitational Show and a 4-H sheep Invitational Show, and the Ripley 4-H Sheep club held their achievement day. An open Beef Show also returned to the fair. The exhibit hall in the arena was filled with the entries from many returning exhibitors as well as 40 new exhibitors and 34 new junior exhibitors.

Two new features of the 2024 fair were photo boards and a sensory area. The two photo boards depicting agricultural related themes were painted by local artist, Lisa Farrell and sponsored by Bev and Joe Fry. The successful Ripley Fall Fair Sensory Space was created in partnership with Community Living Kincardine and District. Thank you to staff member Angela for volunteering at the sensory space and to Community Living Kincardine and District for the vision of the space. Special thanks to NWMO and Trillium Mutual Insurance.

In addition to our usual events including a Mammoth parade, petting zoo and pony rides, midway, cake and pie auction, etc., and the light horse show, the FMX show, and the SuperDogs show returned. Due to the popularity of the Escape Room on Friday evening at the 2023 fair, the Escape Room returned for both Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. And we capped the Saturday evening off with a fireworks display. A new feature – laser tag – proved to be quite popular with the youth. We once again had a refreshment area with live bands open on both Friday and Saturday evenings. Admission to the grounds on Sunday afternoon for the Garden Tractor Pull; Mega Machines; midway and food trucks was free.

The wonderful weather, the attendance at the fair and the impressive volunteer participation were highlights frequently commented on.

Thanks to our directors, our many committee members and fair volunteers for the success of the 2024 Ripley Huron Fall Fair.