

COOMBS FAIR

\$5

Our First Century
1913-2013

SOUVENIR PROGRAM



AUGUST 10-11, 2013 • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A Time To Celebrate

On behalf of the directors of the Arrowsmith Agricultural Association it gives me great pleasure to celebrate our 100th anniversary with the publication of a souvenir program entitled *Coombs Fair: Our first Century*.

Since Sept. 13, 1913 the Coombs Fair has been a showcase for the agricultural community in our district. Each year we encourage residents to “share what you know and show what you grow.” As farm land disappears and farming changes, we need to keep our farms active, not only as providers of top quality food products, but also as educators on the past, present and future of agriculture.

Many in our district enjoy the pleasures of hobby farming, backyard gardens, flower gardens, home canning, baking, needlework, art work and hobbies. Each year the fair provides them with an opportunity to show off the fruits of their labours by entering in friendly competitions with others in



the community. As you read through the pages of this history you will see how important 4-H has been to the success of the fair. We host one of the largest 4-H shows on Vancouver Island. There are also many classes for youth who are not involved in 4-H. Our youth are our greatest asset, and we are always looking for ways to encourage their participation.

The success of the fair is directly related to the combined efforts of the many people who volunteer their time and energy to operate the fair and to the hard work of the many exhibitors who compete each year.

We look forward to the fair continuing as an annual event for many years to come. If you would like to get involved call 248-4478 or join us at our monthly board meeting on the third Tuesday each month beginning at 7:30 pm.

Doreen Patterson, President

Arrowsmith Agricultural Association 2013 Board of Directors

President

Doreen Patterson

Treasurer

Barbara Smith

Secretary

Richard de Candole

1st Vice-President

Donna Furneaux

2nd Vice-President

Debbie Adkins

Directors: Bob Rowe, Tim Boley, Skye Donald,
Marg Acton & Dawn Osborne

Fairgrounds Manager: Janet Boley

www.coombsfair.com, Email: jboley@shaw.ca

Phone: 250-248-4478, Fax: 250-752-9757

P.O. Box 195, Coombs, B.C., V0R 1M0

Research & Writing by Richard de Candole

Cover Design by Kris Masson



From left: Janet Boley, Donna Furneaux, Tim Boley, Debbie (Schug) Adkins, Richard de Candole, Doreen Patterson, Dawn Osborne & Barbara Smith.
Missing: Marg Acton, Skye Donald & Bob Rowe

Cover Photo: From left MP Howard MacDiarmid, Stu Fawdry & Isaac Neden in 1970

Program of Events

Saturday, August 10

Gates open 8 am – 5 pm

OPENING CEREMONY 10 AM

Parade led by Piper and Horse & Carriage

Dignitaries: MLA Scott Fraser, MLA Leonard Krog,
BC Fairs Past President Leah Hryko & Coombs Pioneers



Leonard Krog



Leah Hryko



Scott Fraser

Pancake Breakfast 8 – 11 am
4-H English Horse Show 9 am
Exhibits open 9:30 am
Pigs Judging 9:30 am
Poultry Showmanship 10 am
Rabbitt Showmanship 10 am

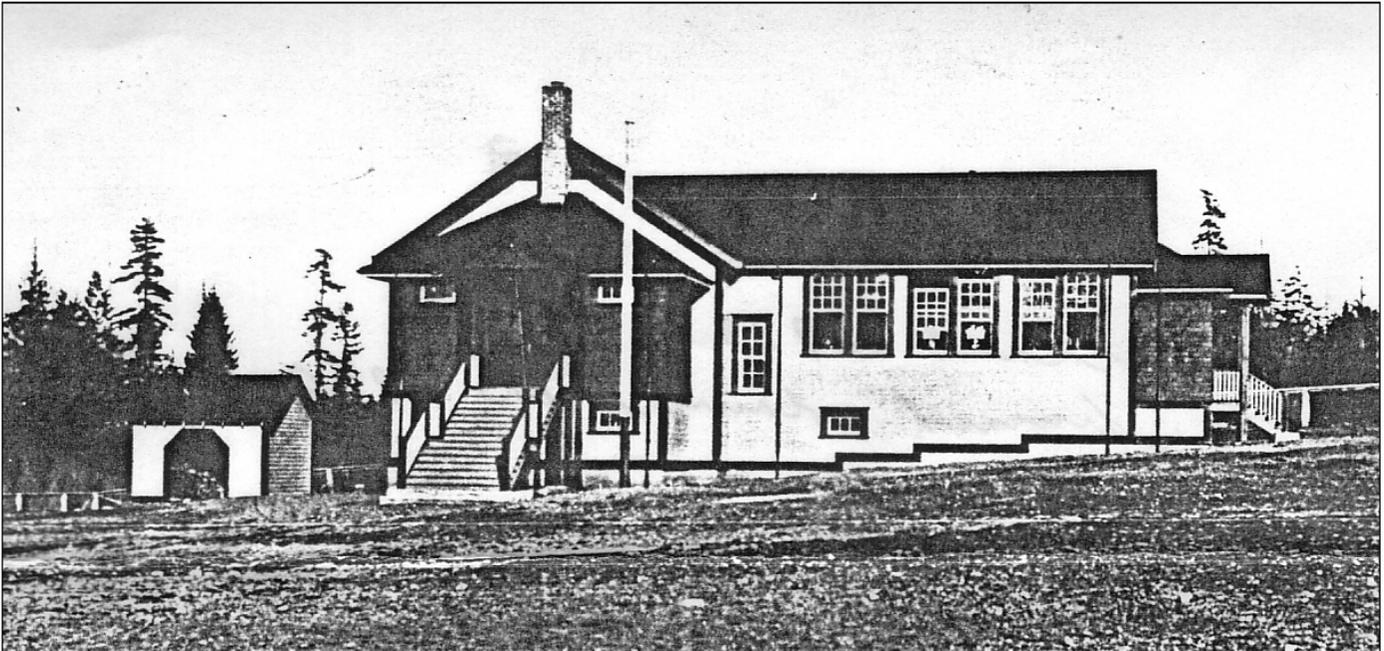
Bandstand 11 am – 5 pm
Drill Team Presentation Noon
Open English Horse Show 1 pm
Dairy Judging 1:30 pm
Goat judging 1:30 pm
Chicken & Duck Races 4 pm

Sunday, August 11

Gates open 8 am – 5 pm

Pancake Breakfast 8 – 11 am
Exhibits open 9:30 am
4-H Western Horse Show 9 am
Sheep Judging 9:30 am
Kids' Pet Parade 11 am
Centennial Cake Cutting 11 am

Bandstand 11 am – 5 pm
Open Western Horse Show 1 pm
Beef Judging 1:30 pm
Ladies Nail Driving 3 pm
Chicken & Duck Race Finals 4 pm



Hilliers School - home to the fair until 1922

100 Years At A Glance

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1913 – First fair, Sat. Sept. 13 at Hilliers Crossing | 1969 – Paid off mortgage on new lot |
| 1914 – Incorp. Cameron, Nanoose & Newcastle Ag. | 1970 – Bingo tent bought 16x32 |
| 1920 – Name change: Hilliers & District Ag Assoc. | 1972 – North-south riding ring built |
| 1921 – Coombs Community Hall built | 1973 – Hobby Pensioners lease Exhibition Hall |
| 1922 – Fair on Sat, Sept 11 | 1975 – 1st Midway |
| 1923 – Fair moves to Coombs, cattle shed built | 1977 – Top lot cleared for \$1,500 |
| 1924 – First District-wide fair, 955 entries | 1979 – Canada Works grant for new cattle shed |
| 1925 – Incorp. Cameron, Nanoose, Newcastle Dist Ag | 1981 – Poultry shed extended 30' |
| 1930 – 200 Ag members, Pig Guessing 1st prize - \$5 | 1983 – First two-day fair, Sat & Sun, Aug 20 & 21 |
| 1931 – Bought 1.5 acres for \$450 | 1984 – United Church annex moved to grounds |
| 1936 – Bought Lot 6 for \$100 | 1986 – Horse Barn built |
| 1940 – Pavilion (Tea House) built | 1990 – Farmer Jones Challenge |
| 1943-1945 – No Fair | 1991 – 1st Chicken & Duck race |
| 1946 – Wed-Thur, Sept. 11-12 fair, \$1,341 income | 1993 – Coombs Community Hall sold |
| 1947 – Change to Arrowsmith Agricultural Assoc. | 1994 – Addition to Poultry & Rabbit Bldg |
| 1948 – Fri & Sat fair, 1st horse show & logging sports | 1995 – 1st Taste of the District showcase |
| 1949 – Stock shed built 96 x 16 ft, Kids gardn club | 1996 – Country Music Bandstand |
| 1950 – Bought another 1.5 acres for \$1,000 | 1998 – Sheep Barn No. 1 built |
| 1951 – Exhibition Hall built 30 x 80 ft | 1999 – 1st Year B.C. Gaming bingo grant |
| 1952 – Pig shed built | 2000 – Tea House replaces Beer Garden |
| 1953 – Whist Drives started | 2001 – Sheep Barn No. 2 built |
| 1954 – Office (4-H Bldg) built 28 x 18 | 2003 – Arrowsmith Hall opens |
| 1956 – Poultry Barn built | 2004 – Katimavik youth workers project |
| 1957 – Tractor Driving competition | 2006 – First Yr Garden Show |
| 1958 – B.C. Centennial | 2009 – First Yr Christmas Craft Show |
| 1964 – 1st 4-H section | 2010 – Community Fisheries worker grant |
| 1965 – Fire Hall built on grounds | 2011 – Recreation Hall opens (8,000 sq ft) |
| 1967 – Amusement Shed built 26 x 37 ft | 2013 – Centennial Music Stage built |
| 1968 – Bought Lot A remainder for \$1,000 | |

1922 Fair

Posing outside an exhibition tent at the 1922 fair are: l-r, Mrs. Thornhill, Mrs. Burgoyne, Mrs. Busby, Mrs. Chambers & Ruth, Mr. Busby, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Lewis, Lola Ward and Mrs. Deugau



Birth of a fair

The construction of the railway from Parksville to Port Alberni in 1911 brought an influx of settlers to Coombs and Hilliers seeking a new life in farming.

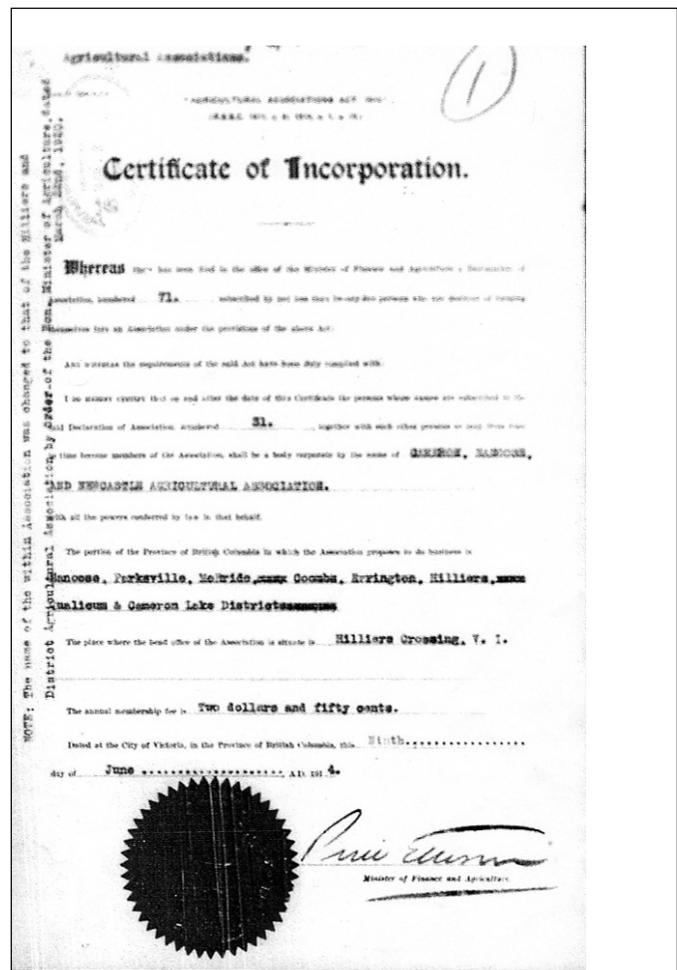
With the help the B.C. government several of the new arrivals organized the area's first agricultural fair on Sept. 13, 1913 at Hilliers Crossing.

Arriving by train from the government farm in Saanich, displays of crops, fruit and produce were set up beside the tracks. Residents were also invited to exhibit for judging what they had grown.

In an interview published in the 1960s, pioneer Caroline Moore recalled winning enough prize money at the first fair to finance a trip to Victoria. The following year she and her husband George Moore were among the two dozen residents who became the founding members of the Cameron, Nanoose & Newcastle Agricultural Association.

In its application for incorporation on April 17, 1914, the association set forth the following objective:

"To promote the progress of agriculture, horticulture and arboriculture by holding exhibitions at which there may be awarded prizes for livestock, agricultural, horticultural and arboricultural products, implements and machinery and for any excellence in agriculture productions or operations, by importing or otherwise procuring seeds, plants and



1914 Certificate of Incorporation

One fair favoured by rival groups

The Hilliers fair soon found itself in competition with two other fairs, one in Parksville and one in Qualicum Beach.

Judging by stories in the Comox Argus the rivalry continued well into the 1920s. A headline in the Sept. 13, 1923 Argus proclaimed: "Fine Quality Exhibits at Parksville Fair."

"Potatoes, fruit and wheat were the main features of the Nanoose Fall Fair at Parksville last Thursday. It has been a good year for grain but judges hardly expected to find such well-filled, good coloured heads on Vancouver Island. Parksville is of course famous for its fruit and there was an excellent exhibition of all kinds."

Two weeks later on Sept. 27 the headline read: "Plenty of Interest in Coombs Fair." Appearing in the list of 250 winners printed were the well-known family names of Ford, Winchester, Grafton, Rowbottom, Hodgson, Twa, Morrison, Marples, McMillan, Buller, Parks, Price and West.

The Hilliers fair had relocated to Coombs that year because of its more central location and the opening of the Community Hall on the highway.

However, that fall it was recognized that there was only room for one fair in the district and the decision was made to join forces and operate just one fair in 1924. Coombs was chosen as the location because it was more central.

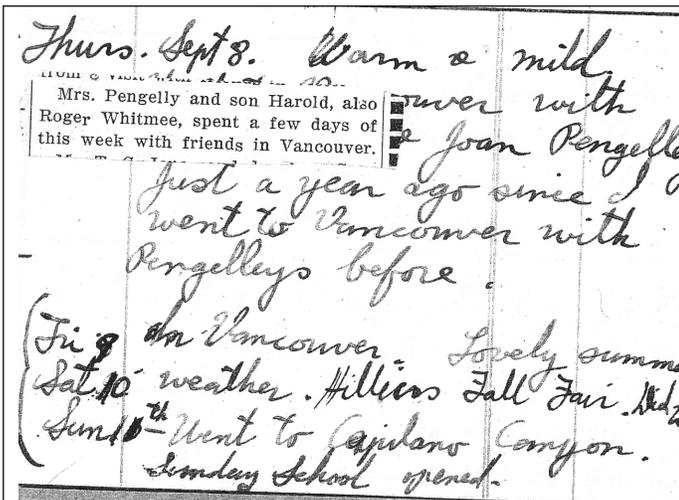


Alberni Highway in the 1930s

HILLIERS FAVORS ONE BIG FAIR

Wants Show to be Held Permanently at Coombs

Parksville, Dec. 3.—The annual meeting of the Hilliers and District Agricultural Association was held at Hilliers on Friday last. After the report of the year relating to the show had been made, the question of amalgamation with the Nanoose District Agricultural Association was brought up and fully discussed. It was felt that one show instead of two, or even three as this year, would benefit all, if the matter could be arranged fairly to all parties, and a resolution was eventually carried to this effect. The members made the stipulation that existing charters be cancelled and a new one in the name of Cameron, Nanoose & Newcastle Districts Agricultural Association, and that the Department of Agriculture guarantee that no other charters in these districts be issued. They also asked that each settlement have equal representation and voting powers at general meetings as advocated by the other Association in meeting at Parksville and that the fair be permanently held at Coombs, and not taken around to different districts each year, which point was also endorsed at the annual meeting of the



ABOVE: Roger Whitmee of Qualicum Beach's diary entry for Sept.10, 1921. AT RIGHT: Comox Argus story on Dec. 6, 1923

The 1920s

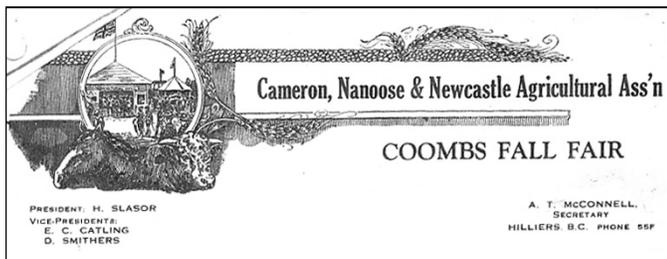
On March 10, 1924 representatives of the three organizations met to approve the formation of the Cameron, Nanoose and Newcastle Districts Agricultural Association. William Gregory of Coombs was chosen to serve as president and Robert Taylor of Errington as vice-president. In addition for the first time honorary presidents were appointed. Local member of parliament A.W. Neil agreed to be honorary president and General Noel Money of Qualicum Beach became the honorary vice-president.

The association's financial statement for 1924 showed a total income of \$955.36. Expenses included building a cattle shed for \$105 and awarding prizes totaling \$545 and printing \$128.

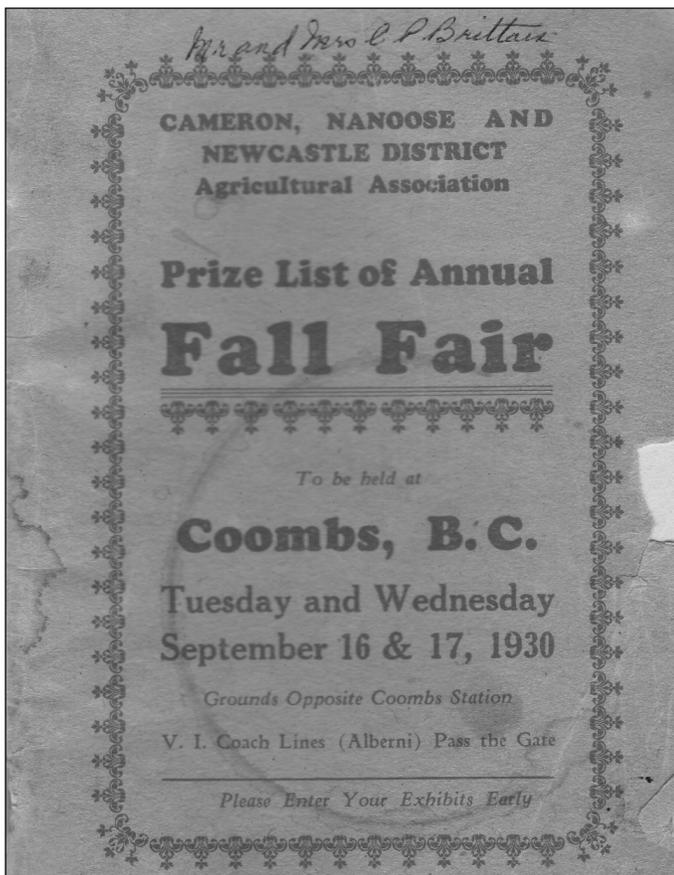
Later that year Coombs' most prominent citizen, Walter Ford, became involved first as the landlord then as a director. In 1910 Walter Ford and his business partner Peter Pearson had acquired the logging rights for 32,000 acres between Nanoose and Cameron Lake. In 1914 Ford purchased two of the sixteen 20-acre Salvation Army lots in Coombs and registered a subdivision plan creating over 200 small and medium-sized lots on the highway and along Ford Road. The Community Hall sat on two of his highway lots. Demand for his lots during World War I and into the 1920s was non-existent and at some point he consolidated most of the subdivision into larger lots.



1930s Parade Float



1940 Fair Association letterhead

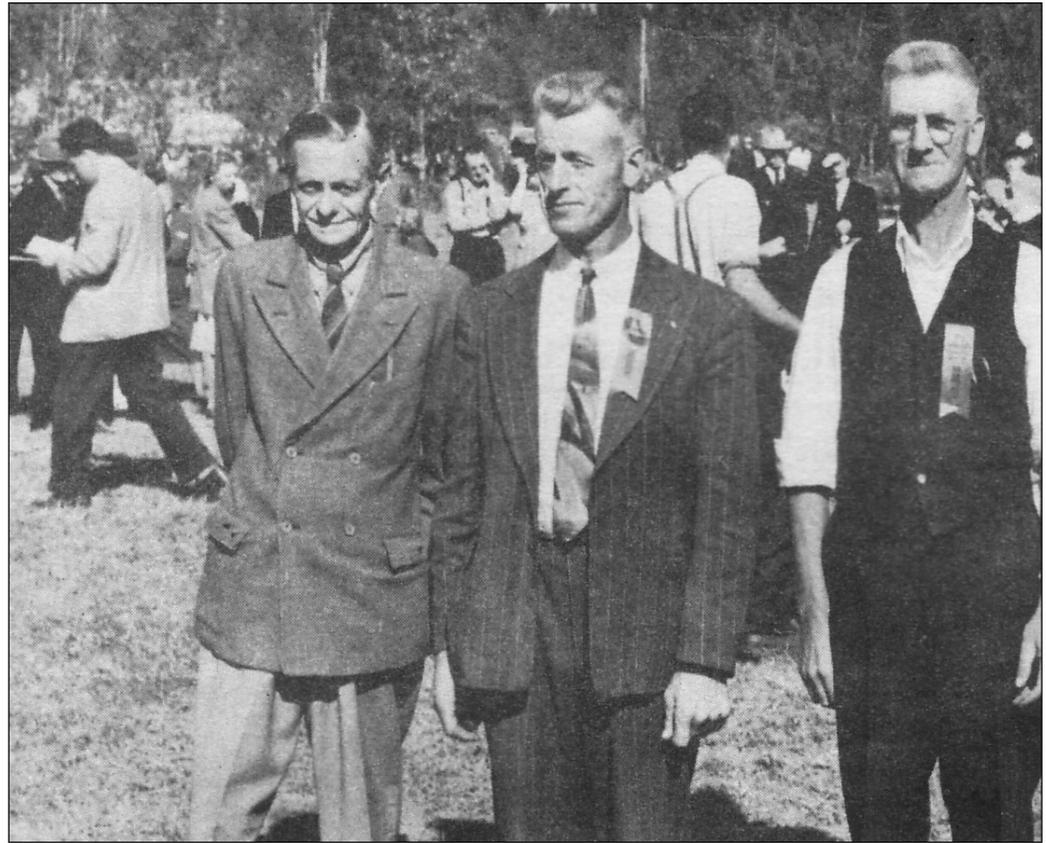


1930 Fair Book cover



1930s view of fairground behind Community Hall

President Preston MacGowan, centre with board member F.A. Mathews, left, & A.J. "Bert" Mason opens the 1949 fair.



The 1930s

Ford joined the fair board in 1925, serving as vice-president for five years and director for another 10. In 1930 he arranged the purchase of the association's first piece of property, a 1.5 acre lot behind the community hall for \$450.

Records show that by that year the membership list had grown to over 200 names. Local accountant Ernest Leffler had become secretary-treasurer. The fair prize book was 56 pages and offered 389 classes divided among 13 sections.

The Coombs and District Boys and Girls Pig Club had its own section for an essay competition called: "How to raise, feed and care for pigs." James Foster took first followed by Barney Ward. Honorable mentions went to Armine Walter, Rudolph Walter, Cyril Thatcher, Jerry Gault, Gusty Nelson, Betty Rashleigh, Henry Mant, Lola Ward, Fred Krog, Ernest Knott, Stafford Lockhart, Katie Knott and Stanley Nelson.

In 1933 William Stanhope of Parksville and former president of the Nanoose Fall Fair was elected president. During his three-year term he negotiated the purchase of a second lot from Walter Ford, a 33-ft wide piece on the Alberni Highway beside the cur-



Tea House was built in the 1930s

rent new & used store.

Over the next 10 years the office of president was filled by four individuals: M.J. Willcock, Robert Taylor, Henry Slasor and Jas Campbell. The financial statement for 1942, the year before the fair was suspended for the duration of World War II, shows an income of \$906.35 and expenses of \$860.32. Assets listed were land, \$550 and buildings, \$116.



**Beryl Cox and
Roberta Clinton
line up for the
1945 parade**



**Joanne & Betty-Lou Lambert
wrestle with prize winning pumpkin in 1949**

The 1940s

The fair resumed operations on Sept. 11 and 12, 1946 with Preston MacGowan serving as president. He was assisted by A.J. Mason as secretary-treasurer. Over the next decade Mason was the driving force behind an impressive list of expansion projects.

In 1948 he persuaded the board to adopt the more distinctive and inclusive name Arrowsmith Agricultural Association. The following year a live-stock shed measuring 96 ft x 16 ft was built. Entries to the fair in 1949 topped 1,000 first the first time reaching 1,054. In 1950 memberships increased to 351 and the association bought another 1.5 acres for \$1,000. In 1951 the Exhibition Hall was built as well as the fair office which today serves as the 4-H Building.

In the post war years, a variety of new events were added to the already familiar attractions of pig weight guessing, pet parade and horseshoes. In 1948 logging sports were added including bucking (men and women), chopping, eye-splicing and nail driving.

The following year the first horse show was held. In 1950 a Children's Garden Club was started by director Matt Van Horne. Seeds were supplied in spring and the results were judged at the fair. Within



ABOVE: 1964 4-H Calf Club members, left to right, Mark Molliet, Peter Tryon, Unidentified boy from Cedar, Stanley Wheat & Mark Morris
BELOW: Parksville Qualicum 4-H Calf Club members, from left, Frances Dawson, Sid Dawson, Mary Cowling & Julie Malcom
BELOW LEFT: John Cox's winning potato entry in 1944

five years 75 kids were planting and tending gardens each year. In 1957 a tractor driving competition, bingo and the coconut shy were added.

During the 1950s, the association also began holding military whist nights during the year as fundraisers. During the 1960s, the November whist night included a trophy presentation.

In 1971, an awards night was instituted in October to present the nearly 30 Silver Trays, Silver Cups, Challenge Cups and Shields up for grabs each year. By the 1980s, the event was again combined with the November Whist night.



1960s

The 1960s began with the participation for the first time of local 4-H clubs, particularly the Calf Club.

By 1964 4-H had their own section in the fair book. Led by Rose Brittain, who 50 years later continues to serve as a 4-H leader, the section listed classes in dairy, lamb, calf and dress revue.

In 1963 the association began holding a dance in the Coombs Hall on Saturday evening.

In the mid-'60s, two other long-serving board members joined. Isaac Neden, whose grandparents arrived in the area in the 1910s, served as either vice-president or president for 25 years.

Dr. Corry de Candole was a new retiree to the area who served as secretary and often treasurer up until his death in December 1985. Previously at the annual meeting in January 1985 he was presented with a Life Membership. Isaac Neden became an Honorary President in 1997.

In January 1965, the board agreed to rent for \$1 per year space along



1967 Pet Parade winners were: Standing, l-r, Donna Holmes, Peter Holmes, Charlie Pickard & Kenny Neden. In front, l-r, Glenda Oaks, Kurt and Vern Sandegren



Have a Coke! Working the hamburger concession in 1956 were from left: Mrs Len Geekie, Mrs Paul Hoyland and Valerie Valentine



Ford Road for community's first fire hall. In 1968 the association built an open-air amusement shed at the rear of the new fire hall.

The same year the Arrowsmith Ag bought a 4.5 acre lot from Eli Iantkow for \$1,000. The fair-grounds now extended from the Alberni Highway to Burgoyne Road.

1970s

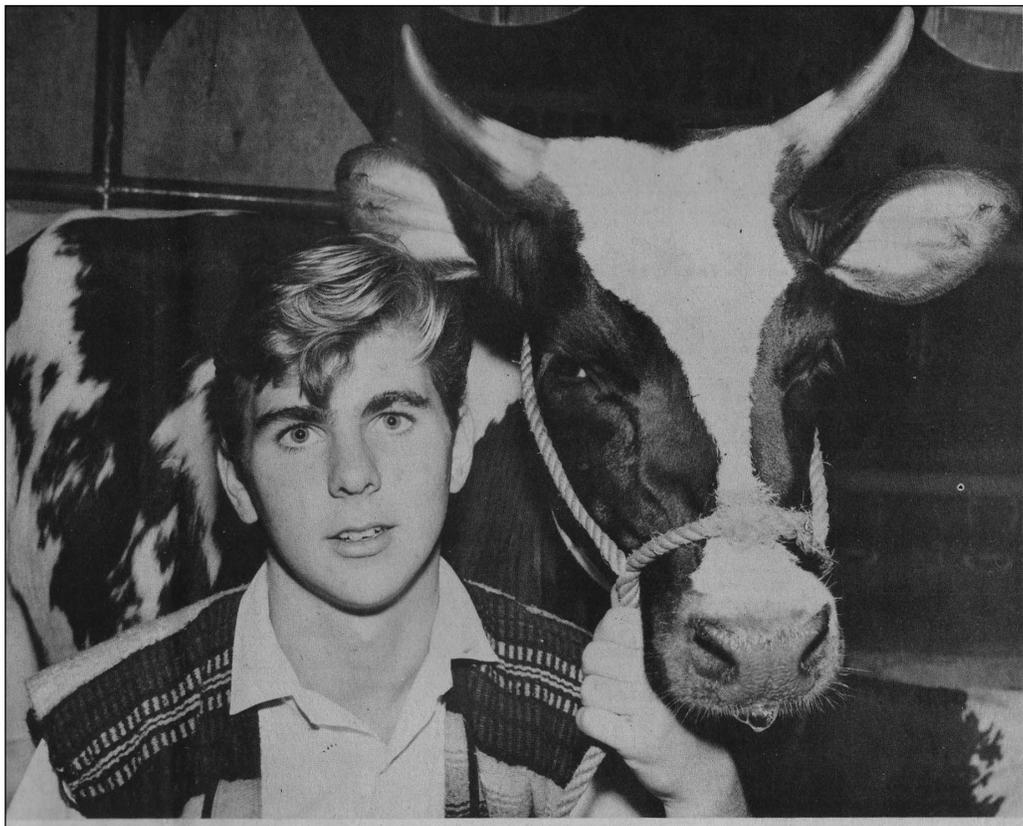
By the early 1970s the new lot had been cleared to make way for a new riding ring and a parking area. In June 1973 the Coombs Hobby Pensioners Association was formed and arranged a 25-year lease with the Ag Board for the Exhibition Hall. For the next 20 years a week before the fair all the hobby-making equipment was moved into an outside storage area and then moved back as soon as it was over.

Over the years the hobby pensioners made many improvements to the building to make it comfortable for year-round use. In 1993 they relocated to their new building, the Bradley Centre, on Shearme Road.

ABOVE: Beef judging in 1973

BELOW: Alex Turner with prize-winning cow & calf in 1968





**Ralph Martin
with Ayershire
heifer
in 1968**

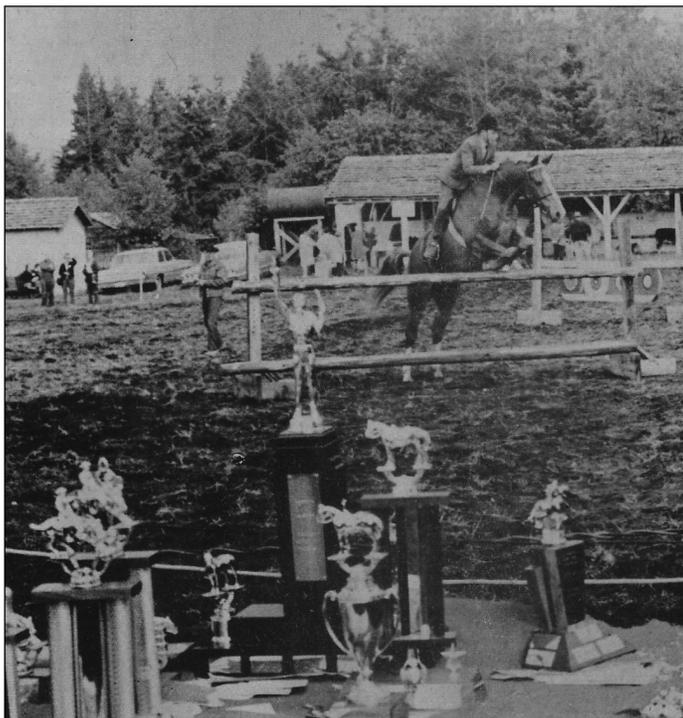
Janet Boley, the fair's longest serving board member, joined in the mid-1970s as a 4-H representative and has been involved ever since. In the mid-2000s she was appointed fairgrounds manager and serves as fair secretary.

In 1974, following an amendment to the bylaws, the board appointed the association's first trustees: Cyril Brittain, George Hutchinson and George Ward. Their only responsibility was to oversee the dispersal of assets in the event the association folded.

For several years during the 1970s the fair included a Vancouver-based midway and carnival. First it was Camillo's then it was West Coast Amusements. They came usually because they had a break in their schedule of fairs to attend in larger centres on Vancouver Island.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s men's baseball teams and volunteer fire departments vied for Tug-o-War bragging rights. And one year during this period there was a greased pole competition. The prize was nailed to the top – a \$50 bill. It took the creation of a human ladder to finally produce a winner.

In the late 1970s the Coombs Hilliers Fire Dept. began hosting a community bonfire on the fairgrounds at Halloween. The Parent Advisory



**Horse trophies on display during
jumping competition in 1968**



ABOVE: Richard de Candole leads kids on the pony ride in 1970

BELOW: Lots of action at the cocoa-nut shy

RIGHT: 1969 Parachute jump by CFB Comox



1980s

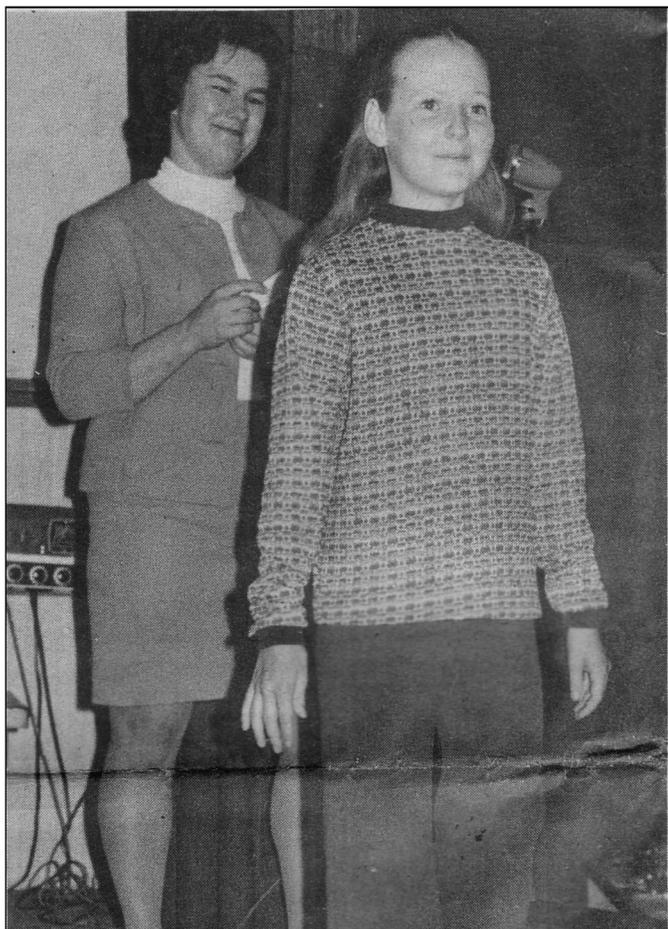
In 1980 after being awarded a \$13,000 Canada Works grant employing five people, the association built a 30 x 65 ft timber frame cattle barn and extended poultry barn.

During this period the association also acquired for the cost of moving Knox United Church's old annex on MacMillan St in Parksville, a building that today serves as Sound Garden Music Studio. The association spent \$1,600 moving the building and \$10,000 on renovations.

In 1983 the decision was made to expand to a two-day fair. The Friday night and Saturday for-



George Ward opens fair in 1971 with Isaac Neden, Mary Parker & Dr. Corry de Candole



Janet Boley, left, introduces Anne Scott during Make & Model in 1973

Committee (PAC) at French Creek Elementary provided a Candy Walk.



Tilly Dillon in action during the Ladies Nail Driving in 1970



Coombs Hobby Pensioners outside Exhibition Hall in 1991. Back row: 1-r, Gunter Buschhaus, Leonard Laukkanen, Nancy Korman, Alice Antonelli, Sylvia Kennedy, Doris Stephens, Unidentified, Unidentified, Hattie Brittain & Henry Hawrig. Front row: Bert Buskell, Hildegard Buschhaus, Nona Sommers, Opal Erickson, Eva Thompson, Lydia Bradley, Ella Allen, John Allen & Unidentified

mat had been in place since 1948 but it was felt that the fair would do better financially and not require a lot of extra work by running for two full days. That year the gate receipts jumped nearly \$1,200 from \$6,627 to \$7,821.

In 1982 the association acquired its own post office mail box, Box 195, Coombs.

In 1984 the board hired a year-round caretaker for the fairgrounds and a mobile home was bought for his residence.

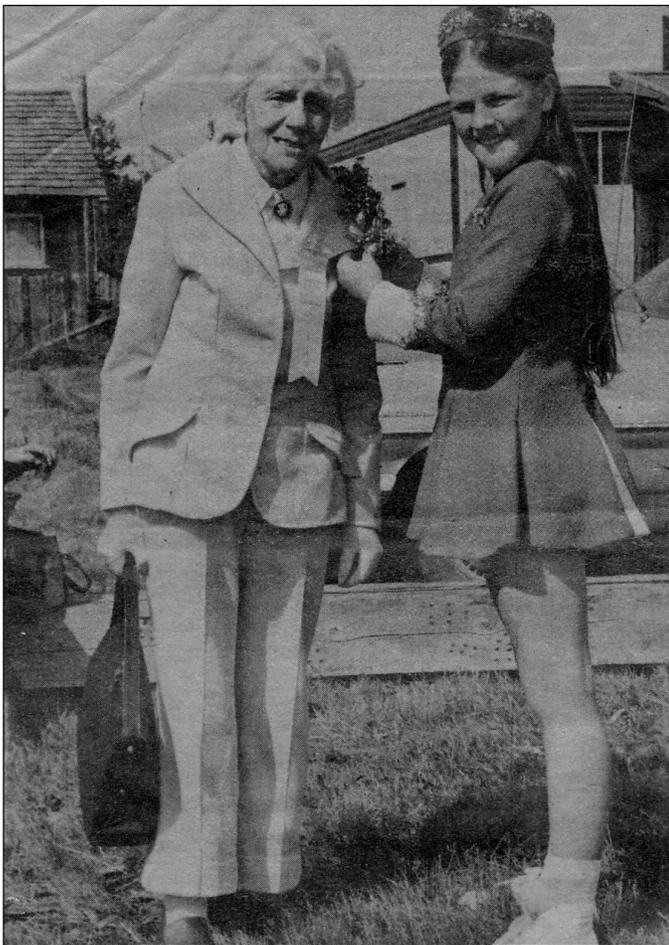
For 10 years beginning in 1987 the Tea House was used for a Beer Garden during the fair.



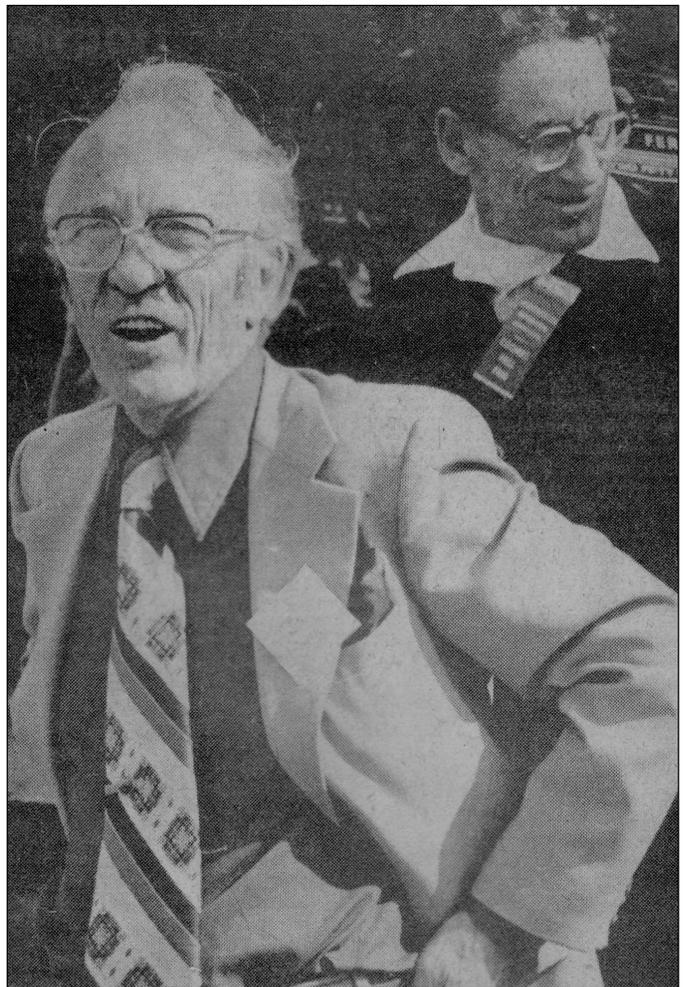
Jean McDonald, left, and Barney Lewis with trophy collection in 1977. For most of the 1970s they were favourites to win Most Points trophies



An attentive audience during a Karate demonstration in the old Coombs Community Hall in 1976



Mary "Hawksey" Hawkes, receives a corsage prior to officially opening the 1975 fair. She moved to Coombs in 1944 and was a colourful community volunteer and local newspaper correspondent.



MP Tommy Douglas & Ag president Isaac Neden during the opening ceremony in 1977

1990s

The sale of the Coombs Community Hall to a private individual in April of 1993 meant the association no longer had access to an all-weather building for fair exhibits and fundraising events.

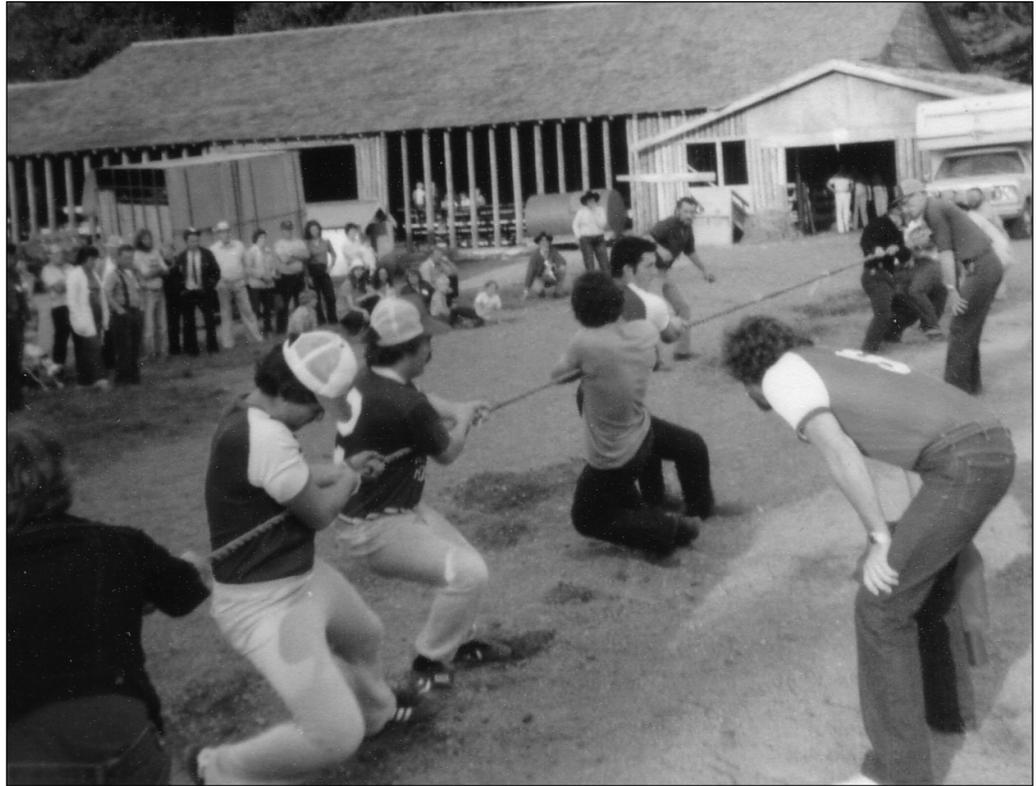
The first step in solving that problem was taken in 1995 when the Arrowsmith Ag applied for a B.C. Gaming bingo license.

By volunteering at bingo halls on the mid-Island the Ag could apply for operating and capital project grants.

On Feb. 28, 1997 the Ag's bingo license was finally approved. Over the next 10 years various board members took turns volunteering five hours per month at the bingo halls in Nanaimo and Port Alberni.

In 1995 the fair board launched a major new project called Taste of the District led by Donna Furneaux, Doreen Patterson and Debbie Adkins.

Each year a map of 28 Oceanside farm vegetable stands was published and during the fair under a big tent local chefs would pre-



Tug-o-War in 1980



West Coast Amusements brought a midway in 1975

1990s

pare free samples of locally-grown foods for fairgoers.

The annual Taste of the District showcase continued until 2000. That year it was recognized by the B.C. Fairs Association with a special award for “A New and Unique Idea.”

The very popular Do-Little Square for kids and the Chicken and Duck races were introduced in the early 1990s. The fair also began offering musical entertainment throughout the day in the 1990s. The Bandstand has since evolved into a popular showcase of local talent. The first of two new sheep barns was built in 1998 for \$12,000, partially funded by a B.C. Gaming capital grant. The decade ended with Doreen Patterson becoming president, a position she has held for all but one of the last 13 years.

2000s

The 2000s began with the board committing to build a 200-seat hall and kitchen. The fair had been without a hall since 1992 when the Community Hall was sold. It was expected to



Fruit & vegetable entries in 2009



Pig judging in 2011



Old-Time Fiddlers perform in 2009

cost \$137,000. By August of 2001 the building was completed to lock-up. The board approved the borrowing of up to \$100,000 in February of 2002 and the hall was completed in time for the fair that year.

The following November the new kitchen was christened with the first Prairie Fowl Supper. The turkey dinner was so successful a second annual supper was added the following March. At each supper 350-plus dinners are served in two sittings.

In 2002, Nancy de Candole, Flo Neden and Lillian Banks were named Honorary Members. Their involvement in the fair dated back to the 1950s. In 2004 Janet Boley became the Arrowsmith Ag's first paid employee. She was hired as Fairgrounds Manager from the association's annual B.C. Gaming grant.

A corporate sponsorship program was also begun in 2004 to boost revenues.

That year students participating in the national Katimavik youth volunteer program came to work on the fairgrounds. They spent several months doing various landscaping and maintenance projects. In the fall of 2004 25-year-old cattle barn was demolished due to instability.

In 2006 an annual spring garden show was begun organized by board member Debbie Adkins. In the mid-2000s two programs were added to broaden the educational focus of the fair.

First was the Passport Book Scavenger Hunt to encourage fairgoers, especially the youth, to have a little fun answering animal questions as they toured the grounds. A year later saw the opening of





**Comox Valley
4-Hers Emma
Hyatt and
Kristianna
Vouwers at the
fair in 2011**

2000s

Demonstration Garden where visitors could view fruits and vegetables and ask Master Gardeners their gardening questions.

In 2007 discussions began about building a new cattle barn. Wilfrid Worland agreed to head up the project and was hired as project manager. By the spring of 2008 construction had begun on an 8,000 ft steel span building budgeted to cost up to \$330,000.

A capital grant was obtained from B.C. Gaming and a line of credit was arranged with the Farm Credit Union. By the time it was officially opened in June 2010 the facility had evolved into a community recreation and meeting centre equipped for volleyball, basketball and badminton. It ceased to be used as a barn after the installation of gym flooring.

In December 2009 the Ag held the first annual Coombs Christmas Craft Show in Arrowsmith Hall.

In 2011 Employment Canada funded a crew of



Matthew Pickard & Tim Boley judging poultry in 2011

workers through the Community Fisheries Retraining Program. In addition to helping complete the recreation centre they renovated the Church Annex which in February 2012 opened as the Sound Garden Music Studio, operated by Sharon Tomczyk and Shelley Beeston.

By 2013, its 100th year, the Coombs Fair had grown to become a year-round operation with an annual budget of \$125,000. In 2012 gate receipts totaled \$14,900 and \$4,530 was paid in prize money. An estimated 8,000 people attended the fair.

Several projects are being undertaken to celebrate the 100th anniversary.

These include the construction of the cedar log Centennial Music Stage, the installation of a new highway gate, a Box Social fundraiser, the writing of a history booklet, the issuing of a Coombs Fair stamp and the creation of the Preserving the Harvest special exhibit category offering \$120 in prizes.



From left Wilfrid Worland, Bob Rowe, MLA Scott Fraser & Doreen Patterson cut the ribbon during the official opening of Recreation Centre in 2011



Kids rides with new Activity Centre at back in 2011

Coombs Fair Presidents: 1913 - 2013



Preston MacGowan
1946-1951

Percy Buller 1913-19
D.E. Waldic 1920-23
William Gregory 1924
Col. Alan Playfair 1925-28
Percy Rushton 1929-32
William Stanhope 1933-34
M.J. Willcock 1935
Robert Taylor 1936-37
Henry Slasor 1938-40
Jas Campbell 1941-43
1944-45 No Fair
R.J. Higgins 1955-56
J. Musselwhite 1962-65
Joe Lynn 1966-67



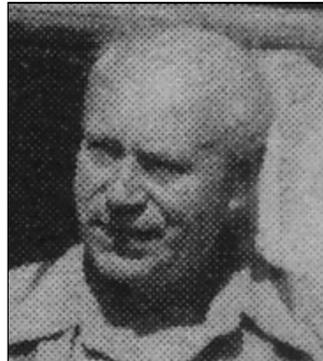
Ernie Smith
1952-54



Jack Tranfield
1957-1961



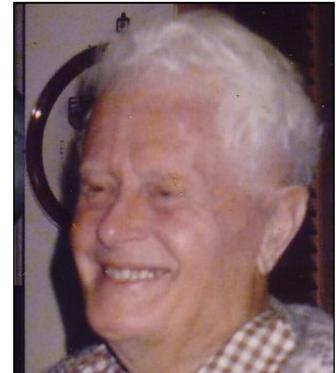
Evert Van Herwaarden
1972



Joe Garner
1973-74



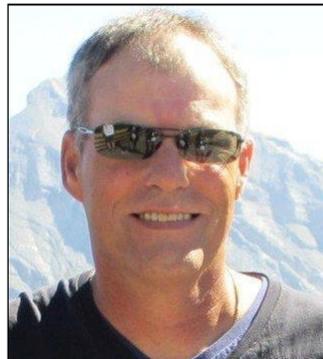
Isaac Neden
1968-71, 1975-79
1981-86, 1989-91



Dr. Corry de Candole
1980



Don Alberg
1987-88



Steve Dunagan
1992-93



Janet Boley
1994



Anne Raffle
1995-96



Donna Furneaux
1997



Adina Lawrence
1998



Wilfrid Worland
2011



Doreen Patterson
1999-2010, 2012