

The Big Brome Fair - More than an event, it's a destination!

By Mable Hastings

While Florida and California have Disney World, a group of very enthusiastic kids and adults gathered for the Jersey-Fortin Annual Pre-Brome Fair BBQ held in Potton each year to celebrate the weekend to come. For nine years, Chris Fortin and Sarah Jersey have welcomed family, friends and children to join them in celebrating this special event that, through the years has meant so much to many families and children far and wide. With over forty people in attendance, the day was a joyous one with Brome Fair indicators strategically placed as reminders to add excitement to all present. **THE BIG BROME FAIR IS COMING!!!!!!**

For little Ava Fortin aged three, she has followed in her older sister, Kendra's shoes as far as her love and excitement for the Big Brome Fair. Ava's room is dedicated from paint to each decoration in her enthusiasm with a carousel painted on the wall, farm animal portraits and posters, fair themed objects and traces of the mix of amusement park music, the smell of fresh popcorn and cotton candy. A visit finds the very enthusiastic Ava welcoming guests with excitement and anticipation.

"Look," she exclaimed, "my room is filled with Brome Fair!"

It is no surprise that the Jersey/Fortin children as well as the kids of their families and friends look so forward to this annual event. Since childhood, most of the parents in this circle grew up with the fair running through their veins. With the Jersey trophy presented during the horse activities and their parents packing up a picnic each day, loading the cars and planning attire from the heated summer days to the cool chilly evenings. These are avid Brome Fair attendees who make the most of each day from start to finish.

In questioning the guests at the barbecue about what they most look forward to, I got a variety of answers:

"Derby Burgers!" "The Food!" "The



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Rides." "Marie Andre Leblond's art and the other artisans!" "Finding out who wins in the craft and baking competitions!" "The animals..." One person summed it up with, "EVERYTHING!"

If you are not a family who can relate to this kind of excitement for a rural county fair, don't try to understand it...It is something that you live and then you carry on as a tradition; instilling the excitement, joy and memories in your own children's hearts. For little Ava, Kendra, Isabella, Chloe (1 & 2), Liam(1 &2), Savannah, Amelya, Felicity, Rachel, Isabel, Peyton, AJ and Abel...the Big Brome Fair

is coming and they are counting the sleeps until it arrives! That time of year when you devour chocolate covered bananas, beaver tails coated in icing sugar, cotton candy that sticks to your lips, fingers and nose....

Much like Disney's Peter Pan, I'm sure if I asked Ava to describe her love for Brome Fair, she might simply say...

"I have a place where dreams are born,

And time is never planned.

It's not on any chart,

You must find it with your heart.

The Big Brome Fair!"



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