

It's not fair!



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

For those who have long embraced the Big Brome Fair as a celebration ending summer and welcoming fall, this week feels empty and odd at best. The Covid 19 Pandemic has managed to turn the fairgrounds into an old west ghost town where the air

that has long promised the smells of French fries, onion rings, burgers and beaver tails every fall but where now blows a soft scent of flowers, fields and dust. The sound of neighbours greeting neighbours, calliope and organ music filling the air as the carousel, Ferris wheel and other more lively rides find screams of excitement escaping the mouths of youth filled with excitement are now silenced.

Where last fall families gathered as plans were solidified and included tours of the barns, a walk through the craft and display areas as well as the allotment of funds for playing games and meeting times for shows at the grandstand and small stages, this year the grounds are quiet. Closing ones eyes we are transported to walking the dusty paths of stone, pipes and wires and greeting those who strategically push baby carriages, strollers and

manoeuvre children along as the crowds move at a steady pace. People carrying stuffed toys, popcorn and cotton candy passing in a rhythm that one could not plan if tried but rather one that conducts itself in a steady flow of mayhem and purpose.

Regarding the absence of the Brome Fair this year, a friend of ours, Jeremy Eldridge suggested that families consider their own version of an event this week in the backyard while respecting the Covid regulations. He ingeniously entitled the small gatherings as, "It's not Fair!" Corn on the cob, home fried donuts, burgers on the barbecue and a variety of small family games as elaborate or simple as you choose in keeping the Labour Day weekend a celebration. "We owe it to the fair," he said. "If we can't go to the Big Brome Fair, let's bring its joy, ritual and fun in our own ways to our own backyards."

It would be fun to share on social media sites like the Brome Fair site and Facebook the ways in which families did this and to see the ingenious ideas that creative Townshippers' come up with to honour the fair season filled with memories and traditions. We each hold our own rituals and we each see our own family members, neighbours and friends in this setting each year making memories at the fair, why not celebrate it in your own backyard?

At <https://bromefair.com/> you can take part in the Brome Fair Cyber Edition 2020 from September 4-7. For details visit the brome fair site where you will find some creative and



PHOTOS: JEREMY ELDRIDGE

interesting ways in celebrating the Big Brome Fair during this abnormal year. The organizers are doing all they can given the Government directives and they remind us that as long as we keep the fair in our hearts we can keep the spirit alive until we all gather once again in Brome for those familiar days and chilly nights of food, fun and memory making experiences.



Brome Fairgrounds at night

The history of Molson's Bank

Submitted by Sylvain Bolduc

One of Knowlton's first financial institutions was Molson's Bank, located on Victoria Street in 1899.

This branch is an excellent representation of boomtown style architecture. As Knowlton began to develop, these buildings became popular because they were easy and inexpensive to construct. The 'boomtown' style was characterized in particular by its flat roof which maximized space and by false facades to make the structure appear larger than it actually was. The ground floor of these buildings was generally used for commercial activities such as banks. In 1914, however, Molson's bank was

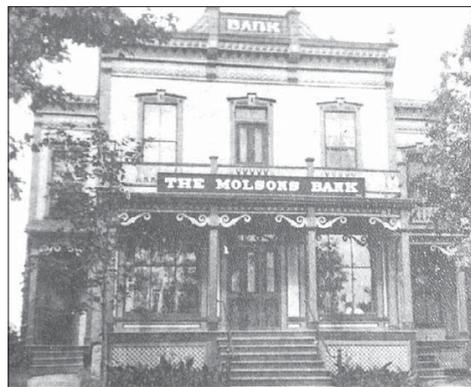
relocated to 101 Lakeside and housed in a more modern building.

Knowlton is characterized by its many buildings, institutions and architectural styles which have great historical value, both for local and national development.

Their own dollars

Banks were allowed to have their own banknotes back then. The first banknotes that Molson's Bank printed date from 1837.

Molson's Bank was open from 1837 to 1925. And yes, it was run by the same people associated with Molson beer. The first banknotes they printed date from 1837. Canada passed a law that restricted banking institutions with the issuance note of rights to banks that were managed only by bankers.



PHOTOS COURTESY

Molson's Bank then and now

The Molsons were disqualified due to their association with brewing and distillation. In 1853 they resumed

their banking activities under the Free Banking Act. Molson's Bank issued a huge variety of designs and currencies.

Back to school rules

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be required to maintain a two-metre distance between classmates.

Physical distancing: Students will need to keep a two-metre distance from all school staff, as well as all other students outside their classroom bubble. There are no physical distancing requirements for children or teachers in pre-school.

Masks: All students in Grade 5 and

up - as well as all school staff - must wear a mask inside all common areas of the school except the classroom. Masks can also be removed when students are eating.

Transportation: No more than 48 students will be allowed on a school bus, with no more than two students sitting on the same bench. Preschool and elementary school students are

strongly encouraged to wear masks, while older students are required to wear them.

New routines: When schools return in the fall, teachers will move from classroom to classroom, but students will stay put.

Backup plans: In the event of an outbreak in one class, the entire classroom bubble will be sent home to

continue studies remotely. Authorities are also putting together an emergency protocol in the event of a second wave to ensure instruction continues online if entire schools are again forced to close. Ideas include quickly distributing tablets or laptops to students needing them and establishing a digital platform to continue courses and maintain communication.