

## Postponement of the 138<sup>th</sup> Caledonia Fair

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Caledonia Fair has been the highlight of the year for many families for generations. Whether it's preparing homecraft entries, exhibiting livestock, catching thrills on the World's Finest Shows midway, or grabbing that favourite fair snack – everyone loves the Fair.

It goes without saying that this year has been different than most. Normally at this time the Caledonia Fairgrounds are bustling with activity. Be it dog shows, festivals, Canada Day Fireworks, or weddings and dance parties, there is always something happening at our community hub. The Fairgrounds are a place where people come together. As we pen this letter today, however, the gates are closed, and with the exception of scores of Canada Geese, the grounds are empty.

COVID-19 has changed many aspects of our lives, but the volunteer board of directors who oversee the Fairgrounds have made the decision that they will not allow COVID-19 to change the Caledonia Fair.

As we come closer to autumn, it has become more apparent that the days of social distancing and small gatherings will have a significant impact on our ability to host the Fair that we all know and love.

Can you imagine social distancing at the demolition derby on the grandstands? Or on the gravitron? Or in line for your Laur's Taffy, Panzerolli, or Maple Leaf Fudge?

With the health and safety of our community in mind, we have decided that there will be no Caledonia Fair in 2020.

A sincere thank you to our Fair Family of volunteers, to our exhibitors, concessionaires, groundskeepers, and everyone who supports the Caledonia Agricultural Society each and every year. You are the heart of our Fair and we know that when we return in 2021, you will too.

The 148<sup>th</sup> Caledonia Fair will now be held on September 30<sup>th</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. We look forward to continuing to make memories together for many years to come.

With sincere thanks and gratitude,

Ian D Thompson  
Manager, Caledonia Fair

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### Quick Facts:

- The Caledonia Fair is coordinated by the Caledonia Agricultural Society- a registered Charity.
- The society is made up of over 225 volunteer members.
- The Caledonia Fair was first held in 1873, and the current Fairgrounds were purchased by the society in 1878.
- The only other year a Caledonia Fair was not held was in 1937 when all Fairs in Ontario were cancelled due to a Polio epidemic.
- There are approximately 30,000 visitors annually at the 4-day Fair, and 75,000 visitors to the Fairgrounds annually for other events.
- The Fairgrounds generates approximately \$5,400,000.00 towards the Haldimand-Norfolk economy each year\*

\*Figures provided by the Tourism Regional Economic Impact Model provided by Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport.