



FAIRGROUND BUILDING CAMPAIGN

Caledonia Agricultural Society Granted Charitable Status!



The Caledonia Agricultural Society (the Caledonia Fair Board) is excited to announce that it has been granted **Charitable Organization status**. The long running non-profit, volunteer based group applied for status to assist with its ongoing operations and its current “Creating Memories, Building Community, Fairground Building Campaign”.

“As a non-profit volunteer organization, we are often reliant on donations and grants to keep our grounds and buildings maintained and operational for the community to enjoy and use throughout the year,” says Manager Vickie Peart. “These are all becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain without charitable status. The ability to issue tax receipts will be a great incentive for individuals to make personal donations, and qualifies us for many more grant opportunities.”

The granting of status means that Fundraising efforts on the Building Campaign can now go into full gear. “We’ve got a goal of \$2 million that we hope to exceed.” Says Campaign Co-Chair Gary Nelson. “Paired with the generous gift of matching funds of \$1.6 million from Ron and Nancy Clark, we are going to be able to see this project through and transform the building into something spectacular.”

Wanted: Campaign Volunteers

Here at Campaign headquarters, we’re very excited about this fundraising effort and the project we’re working on – to renovate the existing Exhibition Hall/Old Arena into a first-class facility that the entire community will use for a multitude of events and activities. But we need your help to get there.

Have you ever thought of volunteering? We need people to help with Fundraising – as canvassers, administrative assistants, communications specialists, event planners, and general helpers.

Want to learn more? Call us at the Fair Office, **905-765-6861**, or email: manager@caledoniafair.ca

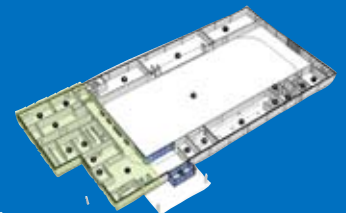
A Project Overview

Renewal is essential for any organization and to this end, the Society has embarked on a complete renovation of our Exhibition Hall (the old Caledonia arena). The new facility will address a vital missing link in our community - the need for a larger and more versatile year-round venue that can host arts, culture, entertainment, sporting, business and charitable events.

The comprehensive renovation will include:

- 14,000 sq. ft. event space
- Heating and air conditioning
- Fully accessible facilities
- Stage with professional appointments
- Commercial and teaching kitchen
- Multi-purpose space
- Upgraded accessible washrooms

The projected cost of Phase One (which includes the upgrades listed above) will be \$3.6M.



A capital campaign is a monumental task. We can’t realize this dream without your support. Help us bring improved services to Haldimand County year round, while creating new memories and building a stronger and more vibrant community.



The Current Status of the Building Renovation



CAS/Rotary Masquerade Ball - Oct.21

Party goers enjoyed a dinner by Debb's Cuisine of Dunnville and danced to the music of the Saturday Night Superstars. Thanks to Renee Hedley and her team of CAS and Rotary volunteers.



Handbag Bingo - Oct. 27

Over 600 people gathered for the first ever, "Designer Bag Bingo" held in the Exhibition Hall at the Fairgrounds. Thanks to organizers Janice Boyter & Patti Zadanyi and their team.



Christmas Marketplace - Nov. 10

Over 120 vendors showcased their arts, crafts, and giftware to an eager audience looking to get a head start on their Christmas shopping. Thanks, again, to Janice, Patti and Ruth.



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www.caledoniafair.ca

What's Happening in the Campaign Right Now?

A lot of prep work and a lot of fund-raising (see the sidebar to the left for some recent initiatives). The "Creating Memories, Building Community, the Fairgrounds Building Campaign", is the fundraising part of the project. The Campaign Cabinet meets every two weeks and discusses who might donate, how to approach people and companies, what sort of funds might be available to the project, and who can best help us solicit donations (ie. Canvassers). We hope you'll be hearing from one of them very soon.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

Are you considered a service club?

The Caledonia Agricultural Society is a registered charitable, community-based volunteer organization much like the Lion's Club, Kinsmen and the Rotary Club. We have over 225 volunteers. We share our grounds, buildings, assets and volunteer labour with other service clubs, charitable and community groups. Most people don't know this fact: every agricultural fair in Ontario is operated by an "agricultural society" and most are over 100 years old. The term "society" is somewhat dated and today we would probably be called a "club" or "association."

Who owns the Fairgrounds?

Many people think that the Fairgrounds are owned by Haldimand County. In fact, the Fairgrounds have been owned and operated by the Caledonia Agricultural Society since 1878. The Society is responsible for all maintenance and insurance. The Fairgrounds are open for public use 365 days of the year.

Why are you investing money in such an old building rather than building a new facility?

The main building has a new roof with a solar project installation and is structurally sound. Constructed in 1971, it also has a unique cedar ceiling that would be almost impossible to duplicate. One other reality is that the current building sits on the flood plain and subject to the restrictions of the Grand River Conservation Authority.

When will the shovel go in the ground and when is it expected to be completed?

We hope to begin construction in the middle of October 2018. If just phase 1 is being built, we expect to be finished by May 2019; if we are able to complete both phase 1 and 2, the completion date should be July 2019.

Caledonia Agricultural Society

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