



Track Watch

JULY 2023



306097 192 St W, Millarville, AB T0L 1K0



office@mras-track.com



(403) 931-3411



www.millarvilleracetrack.com



OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 9 AM - 2 PM

OUR VISION

Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society is dedicated to building community spirit.

OUR MISSION

Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society provides authentic family experiences and exceptional facilities which celebrate our agricultural heritage, inspiring a sense of belonging for the community.



Track Watch

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Director's *Message*



Lorraine Cathro
MRAS Secretary

The summer events at MRAS are in full swing. The Half-Marathon Run to the Farmers' Market, the Grand Opening of the Playground and the 118th running of the Canada Day Races have been enjoyed by a total of thousands. The first summer Farmers' Market on June 17th recorded 2,043 counted at the main gate. That number doesn't include all the runners—in excess of 500—who entered the facility through the track crossing. New and returning vendors were greeted with enthusiasm by market customers. A 'tip of the hat' to all the committee leads, committee members, volunteers and staff who spent many hours preparing for, and working at, these events. Without you, the events would not go on for the community to participate in and enjoy. Now, we have the Priddis Millarville Fair to look forward to on August 19 & 20. The committee has been working very hard and has planned a diverse lineup of activities. Fair books are available online at <https://www.millarvilleracetrack.com/priddis-millarville-fair/> and print copies have been distributed throughout the community. The MRAS office has a few copies available as well. Volunteers are the heart of the MRAS. A special thanks to a great group of hard workers on the MRAS Maintenance Committee who put in many hours, much of that time behind the scenes. That group exemplifies our Mission: "MRAS provides authentic family experiences and exceptional facilities which celebrate our agricultural heritage, inspiring a sense of belonging for our community."

The hansa rose blooming in front of the MRAS Hall gives me a feeling of belonging. That hansa rose closely mirrors the hansa blooming in my husband and my acreage yard. Our hansa, as shown in the photo, came from my maternal grandparents' farm yard. It has been uprooted and moved several times since they left their farm in 1947 but still it blooms, a symbol of my heritage. Hansas tend to be incredibly hardy, often with a long lifespan although generally not as long as the 118 years of the Canada Day Races! If anyone knows when the MRAS hansa rose was planted, please let me know as I'm curious about its history. On the topic of flowers, have you noticed all the pots and planters blooming so beautifully? The Millarville Horticultural Club (MHC) volunteers, led by wonderful Patty Webb, maintain the pots and planters on the MRAS grounds. If you're around on a Tuesday or a Friday, you'll notice people watering, fertilizing and tidying up the plants, for a total of 290 volunteer hours last year. In return, the MHC is given use of the Quonset for their annual Plant Sale. This cooperation is an excellent example of our Vision: "MRAS is dedicated to building community spirit." Two heart-shaped plaques in our front flower beds on the acreage were given to me by my grandchildren. They read: "Bloom where you are planted." Wise words for all of us to live by. Have a great summer everyone. See you at the Farmers' Markets and at the Priddis Millarville Fair.

Regards,
Lorraine Cathro

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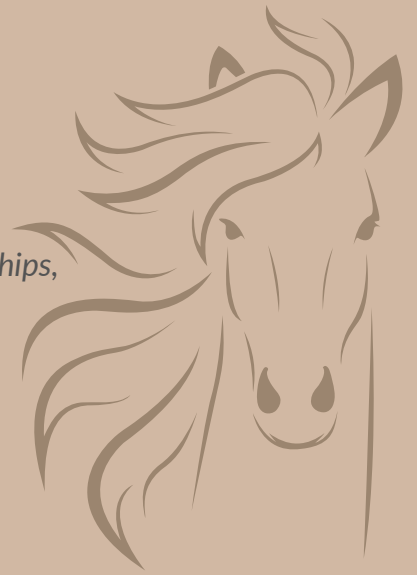
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Director

EQUINE NEWS

Questions about the MRAS Equine Facilities and memberships,
email: mras.equine@gmail.com



The MRAS riding rules and sign-up sheet have been developed to help our members have a safe and enjoyable time riding while also maintaining or building in good condition.

The maintenance and riding committee volunteers are still facing regular issues with:

- Cleanup of manure both inside the arena and outside beside trailers, etc.,
- Dogs in the arena – Dogs are NOT Allowed, and
- Booking sheet misuse i.e., booking and not cancelling if you are not going to use the time, booking more riders than are actually riding, booking more than two one-hour slots in a day.

Help us take pride in our arena and its use by following the rules that we have in place,

Thank you!



UPCOMING EQUINE ACTIVITIES:



Upcoming Activities

COWBOY CHALLENGE PRACTICE

Join us for a Cowboy Challenge Practice - a time to practice your skills with obstacles and have fun. All ages and skill levels are welcome!

Maximum 10-12 Riders

MRAS Arena Members \$20

Non-Arena Members \$30

(All prices are inclusive GST)

Dates:

Sunday, July 23rd, 2023

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

To register contact mras.equine@gmail.com

If you have any questions please reach out to Sylvia at 403-629-2960 or epi4animalheath@gmail.com. Once

registered payment instructions will be sent to you. Payment will confirm your spot

DRESSAGE LESSONS SERIES with KIMBERLY COX

Work on the fundamentals of Dressage:

- Fine tuning of aids
- Rhythm, balance through suppleness
- Connection and softness through transitions

Lessons are open to both Western and English riders. Participants will be divided into groups base on their riding ability and training needs.

Maximum 12 Riders
Pre-registration required

Current MRAS Riding Members \$157.50 -

Priority registration until July 1st

Non-Members \$189.00

(All prices include GST)

Dates:

Three consecutive Thursday Mornings: July 13th, 20th, 27th, 2023

If you are interested in attending, contact mras.equine@gmail.com to register.

Additional details available on the MRAS website under Equine

OTHER ACTIVITIES, CLINICS, EQUINE EVENTS

The MRAS Riding Committee is working on a variety of clinics to offer our riding membership and equine community. See below. Check the website regularly to see what is available at: www.millarvilleracetrack.com Facilities > Equine > Upcoming Events.

If you have ideas or suggestions for any clinics or activities that you would like us to explore, please send us the information to mras.equine@gmail.com. One of our goals is to incorporate activities that our members are interested in.



We would like to give a big THANK YOU to AdFarm and Bryce Mckenzie for creating an amazing logo for the MRAS Junior Rodeo Fun Series. We cannot thank you enough for your time and creativity in designing this logo. We hope to use this logo for many years to come. Thanks again!





Happy
Canada Day

ROD McBRIDE

Submitted by Lorretta Stabler – Millarville Historical Society

Rod began volunteering with the Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society in 1995. His many contributions included: MRAS President (2002), Past Pres., Director, Canada Day Races (starting gate), Priddis & Millarville Fair for eight years, and Rodeo for seven years.

For his volunteer contributions, Rod was awarded Life Member status in the Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society in 2010.
Our condolences to his family and friends.



1920-2023

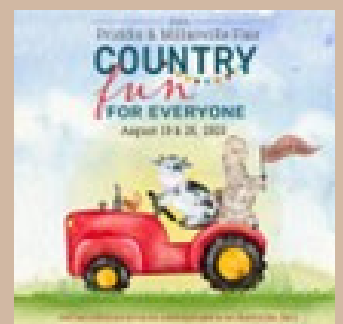
If you haven't looked yet, be sure to peruse the Fair Book to get a good feel for all the country fun being offered on August 19 & 20. Print copies are available in the MRAS office while supply lasts.

This is a great opportunity to try out exhibiting your skills – ride your horse, show your cow, sheep or poultry, enter in one or more classes in Arts & Handicrafts, Fibre Arts, Flowers, Home Cooking & Baking, Photography, Vegetables & Fruit, Woodworking. Register online with Showworks anytime between now and the deadline of August 6, 2023.

The detailed schedules for each Fair day should be finalized by mid-July. Check the website, Facebook or Instagram for the big reveal.

Interested in volunteering at the Fair – we have all kinds of jobs, big and small, 2 to many hours of commitment – there is always room for fun-loving people. Let us know if you are interested by going to our website under get involved.

See you at the Fair!





Flower Festival

Christ Church, Millarville
Sat & Sun July 15 & 16, 2023
Tea served on Sat only
11:00am to 3:00pm

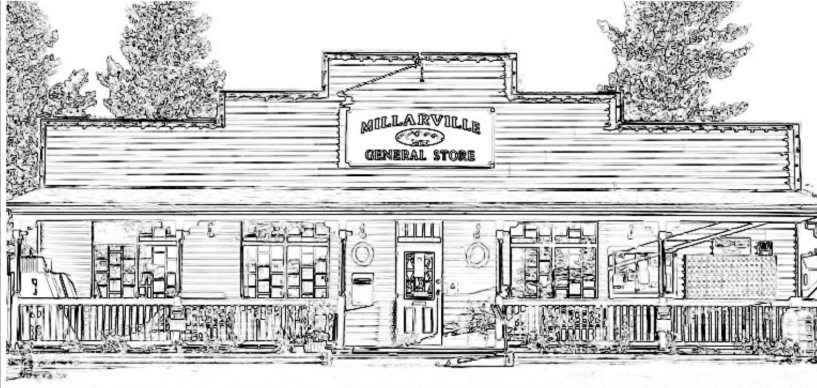
Cost: \$8.00
kids 6 & under: \$4.00

Church Service
Sunday at 11:30am

All are Welcome



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- ★ CURIOS AND WHATNOTS



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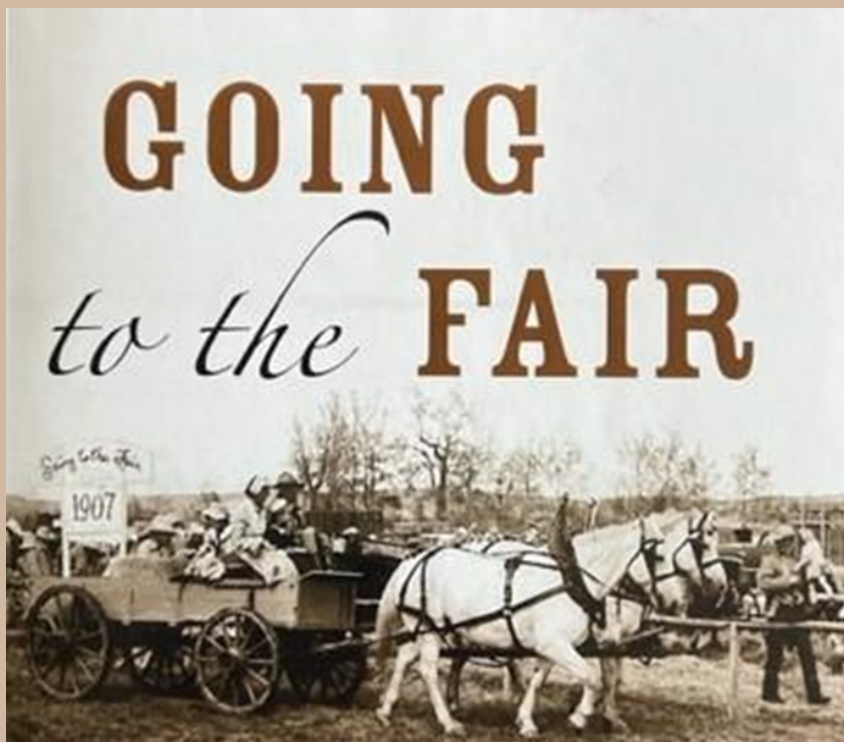
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NEW ON THE MARKET

NEW 127 ACRES OF LAND AT RED DEER LAKE

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Memories of the Priddis & Millarville Fair



Add a little bit of body
Going to the Fair 1907-1957

Fair Day in 1957 dawned bright and sunny, and we got up very early to get all our things on the wagon, which was standing in the yard, all scrubbed and polished for the big day. This was the 50th anniversary of the Priddis and Millarville Fair, and a committee including the Pattersons, Grace & Dode Bull, Bill & Jean Mills, and High & Dessa Macklin had been planning a three-part float to commemorate the occasion. The committee had found an antique 1927 car, and the Bulls had their brand new red 1957 International truck all shined up for the parade. I think this may have been the first time the Fair Board put on a Parade at noon in front of the Grandstand. Many people in the area were still farming with horses, or

hauling lumber from the forest, so there were lots of beautiful Percherons and Belgians and mixed breeds at the show every year for the Heavy Horse Pull. These magnificent beasts would also have a place in the parade, along with various dignitaries in open cars. Our part was the 1907 family with wagon and team "Going to the Fair" to give the folks a flavour of the old days.

Weeks ahead of time, the Macklins had enlisted the artistic talents of Phyllis Johnstone, who was a frequent visitor to the Macklins. The Johnstones were great friends of the Macklins whom the Macklins had met while delivering eggs to them on their 'Egg Route' in the city. The Johnstone's house, in lower Mount Royal, was always tumbling over with their 7 children and lots of laughter. The children spent as much time as possible 'on the farm' with the Macklins or Pattersons for many years. Phyllis was about 15, and quite an accomplished artist. Soon she came up with a beautiful big sign painted with "Going to the Fair 1907 - 1957", which the men mounted on the wagon. The wagon belonged to Billy Mills, who lived over the hill from us. On Fair Day, Billy arrived with the team, in time for Dad to hitch them up to the wagon. With much excitement, we loaded up our baking, livestock, and exhibits. For years everyone had driven a truck or car to the Fair, but today, we were going by team and wagon, exactly like the old days! It is 7 miles from our place to Millarville Racetrack, so we started early.

We had all dressed carefully in our old-fashioned outfits. Theresa had got out her Singer treadle sewing machine and whipped up three gingham dresses, a green one for her, a blue one for my sister Anne and a green one for me, with sunbonnets to match. Hugh arrived in a suite and tie and Stetson, and Mom had found a checked shirt and overalls for David. Donnie, 5, looked cute in his little sailor suit. We sat on wooden crates and blankets for the long ride. Mom and Hugh sat in the front seat, Hugh driving and Mom holding a pie on her lap, with little Donnie by her side.

In the back, David held onto a lamb with a collar and some rope. Anne and I had bouquets of flowers, some of Mom's delphiniums, and a jar of wildflowers we had gathered the day before: brown-eyed susans, scotch thistle, clematis, and wild geranium. In the boxes were some potatoes, beans, peas, carrots, beets and maybe a few petunias, all chosen with care and displayed on paper plates or pie pans.

Away we went under a blue sky with a few fluffy clouds, clopping along the road to the tune of blackbirds in the swampy ditches, butterflies dipping here and there, the horses snorting at the odd blow fly, magpies squawking, and silent hawks floating above us like kites. As I remember, the team behaved perfectly, and the lamb stayed in the wagon with David, where he belonged.

Soon we pulled into the fair grounds and caused a great sensation as we joined the Bulls' red truck with George Bull at the wheel. Brenda, Gerald, and Larry were in the back of the truck with their show animals. When we drove into the racetrack, old Norman Willans jumped on the end of the wagon. "I was there at the first Fair in 1907", he declared, so he got to be with Grandpa.

It was a merry sight, as we all lined up and drove in the parade in front of the grandstand, to give the people a glimpse of the old days. How thrilled the crowd was, as they clapped and cheered us. How many memories they recalled, of their own families and their long connections with the fair.

Now we arrive at 2007. Another 50 years has passed and we are still remembering with affection and nostalgia our 100 years of history and community in this place. May our children and grandchildren be as fortunate as we, to keep this Heritage.¹

¹Louise's article, from Going to the Fair, collected and compiled by Dorothy Jackson 2007

The Millarville Historical Society still has a few copies of this incredible collection.

Contact us at: millarvillehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Burrows Family in the Western Horse Family Class



Left to Right: Royal and Janette Burrows, Theresa Patterson, Fae Winthrop, Lois Burrows, Bob Winthrop, Anne and Louise Patterson, David Patterson, Lauren Burrows and 6 cousins

In 1956 this was the Burrows Family entry in the Family Class at the Priddis and Millarville Fair. There were 16 of us on horseback, all in matching white shirts and string ties.

Frank Patterson gleefully accepting the prize-winning cake from a lady who won his \$5 prize special at the Priddis and Millarville Fair in the late 1930s (Fordville School).



COUNTRY *fun* FOR EVERYONE

August 19 & 20, 2023

9am - 4pm ~ Admission \$5/Person, Children 8 & Under Free



116th Priddis & Millarville Fair

Farm Animals • Bench Exhibits • Equine Events • Antique Tractor Pull
Competitions • Activities for All Ages • Millarville Farmers' Market (Saturday Only)
Fair Pop Up Market (Sunday Only) • World Fair Fun Race Championships (Sunday Only)



June 17th
to Oct 7th,
2023

Saturdays
9AM – 2PM

Over 180 Vendors
ENTRY FEE BY DONATION



MILLARVILLE
FARMERS'
MARKET

make it,
bake it,
grow it!

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COUNTRY *fun* FOR EVERYONE


August 19 & 20, 2023



116th

Priddis & Millarville Fair

 PRIDDIS MILLARVILLE FAIR

 THEPMFAIR

millarvilleracetrack.com/priddis-millarville-fair

Country Fun for Everyone continues on the weekend of August 19 & 20 this year.

The Fair Book is [here](#) !! The 2023 book contains ALL the info you need to discover how you can be part of the best family fun events of the summer. Be an exhibitor or participant in any of the 650 competition classes to win colourful ribbons and prize money. There are all kinds of special prizes this year too, all donated by local fair enthusiasts. Books are also available at the Millarville General Store, Priddis Store, libraries in Millarville, Diamond Valley and Okotoks and the High River town office.

Interested in volunteering at the Fair – we have all kinds of jobs, big and small, 2 to many hours of commitment – there is always room for fun-loving people. Let us know you are interested by clicking [here](#).

Fair Sunday will be extraordinary this year and a great day for the whole family to experience Fair fun. Watch for the daily schedule of events and other updates on our [website](#).



Millarville Horticultural Club

Thank You

Thank you to the plant donors and the plant purchasers at the annual plant sale.

It was held on June 1. As usual the sale was over in 30 minutes with many full vehicles leaving with their haul of plants. We look forward next years sale, the first Thursday in June.

The club is holding a garden tour in July, date to be determined.

This year the 116th Priddis Millarville Fair is taking place August 19-20, 2023 at the Millarville Racetrack. The fair book is available online. Take a look at the classes and consider entering; baking, flowers, vegetables, handicrafts and livestock.

There are also many volunteer positions available so if you have a couple of hours (or days) consider lending a hand. No experience necessary.

Call Arlene Visser at 403-933-2885 or email her at vissera@hotmail.com

Have a great summer!



Memory Cafe



**An opportunity for people with memory loss and their caregivers to meet
for mutual support**

**Griffiths Center
122 Government Road, Black Diamond
1:00 - 2:30 pm
Fourth Friday of the month starting June 23, 2023**

**Contact
Jennifer 403 969 6040**



Advertising Opportunities in the Track Watch!



CONTACT THE OFFICE
at office@mras-track.com

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

- ✓ WESTERN & ENGLISH TACK
- ✓ WRANGLER JEANS
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