

Fair Person of the Year

Roberta Bellefontaine, reflects on her memories of exhibitions gone by.

By: Ellen McFetridge

For more than eight decades she and her family have dedicated their time and talents to show their support for the county fair.

Annually, the Halifax County Exhibition provides folks and their families an opportunity to celebrate rural living.

A volunteer board of directors and its sub-committees arrange competitions, contests, displays, along with musical entertainment and a mid-way as part of the four-day summer event.

As a nod of recognition to individuals who have demonstrated their support for the agricultural fair, the group also chooses a person to be honoured as Fair Person of the Year.

This time around, Roberta Bellefontaine, of Brookvale, has been chosen. “I’ve always been involved in the Ex,” she says. “When the kids were in 4-H, we were there every day showing their animals. Over the years, they’d taken a horse, pony, calves to mention but a few.”



Photo by: Ellen McFetridge

From the time she was a child, Roberta can remember looking forward to the Exhibition. “We used to have a nickel to spend. My favourite ride was the merry-go-round,” she says chuckling. “I don’t think they even had a Ferris wheel at that time. It certainly wasn’t like it is today. And, I think it was only a two-day Ex then or, maybe even only one day.”

Busy with day-to-day life on their farm, Roberta always made sure to set aside time to prepare entries to be judged in the baking competitions. “I’d enter my bread, rolls, cookies, muffins, usually a chocolate cake - well, just about everything and anything,” she laughs. “I didn’t care about prizes. I just wanted to show my support.”

In later years, Roberta decided to become a judge of the baking goods section instead of an entrant. “I was a judge for about five years, I guess. I took courses in Truro and Kentville to become certified. I enjoyed it,” she explains.

This year, instead of watching the street parade on opening day, she’ll be part of it. “I’m honoured to be chosen,” she admits shyly. “I think our Exhibition is one of the best. I wish it continued success in the future.”