



# Forest & District Agricultural Society 1972-1988

The Forest Agricultural Society has been an active organization since the first Fall Fair was held in 1870.

In recent years, several exciting changes have taken place. In 1980, the Forest Agricultural Society received word that the Forest Fair had been elevated to "B" class from "C" Class, after many months of preparation, which included increasing the Prize money substantially in order to qualify for "B" Classification. As well, in 1980, a "building fund" was set-up, to begin a long-awaited financial campaign for a new exhibit building. The footings and foundation were in place by late

1981, and by September 1982, our dream had become a reality. The new exhibit building was used to display our entries for the 1982 Fall Fair. Further work has since been done, and the building now boasts a comfortable meeting room - kitchen, modern washrooms, and large display area. The official opening of the new building was held on July 29, 1983. Many hours of volunteer labour went into the construction of this building, as well as many dollars donated by individuals and organizations. This building is used to store cars, boats, etc. in the winter months.

In 1983, the Forest Fair was expanded to a 3 day Fair (Friday, Saturday, & Sunday). The main feature on the Sunday has been a demolition derby, with the Firemen and Kiwanis Club assisting the Fair Board. The Beef Cattle and Swine Judging has been changed to Sunday as well, resulting in much larger classes.

The old armouries building (known as the Crystal Palace) which housed our indoor Fair exhibits for many years, was demolished in 1985, since it no longer was deemed safe for use.

The Fair grounds have been used for several activities in recent years, including July 1st celebrations, car club shows, and trailer camp-outs, and we welcome the increased use of the grounds and building.

In 1984, the Forest Agricultural Society held its first "Rural-Urban Night" which has become an annual event, held in April. It features a guest speaker, dinner, and dance, and was the 'brain-child' of Gary Thorne.

A separate ladies division was formed, and the ladies are very active, catering to banquets, weddings, making meat pies, and serving lunches during the Fair, etc. Thanks to the ladies division, new tables have been purchased, gates obtained for the front of the displays during the fair, etc.

In 1987, showers were installed in the washrooms, and new fencing was put in place. A logo contest resulted in a new logo being chosen for our organization. The winning entry was submitted by Connie Boere.

At the annual meeting held in Jan. 1988, a new Constitution was voted on and passed. Features included changing the name of the Society to Forest **and District** Agricultural Society, since we always have had representation from all of the surrounding Townships as well as the Town of Forest.

**Presidents from 1972 to present:**

- 1972-73 - Don Smith
- 1974-76 - Jack Lester
- 1977-78 - Basil Steven
- 1979-80 - Dallas McColl
- 1981-82 - Bill Kingdon
- 1983-84 - Chas. Woodward
- 1985-86 - Gary Thorne

Ivan Crawford retired as Secretary of the Society in December 1975, after serv-

ing in that position for 10 years. He was replaced by Mrs. Vera Brand, who held the position until 1978 (Jan.). Wilma Jean Evans became Secretary-Treasurer in January 1978, and holds this job to date.

**Present Officers and Directors:**

President: Floyd Steven

1st Vice Pres.: Stan Stefanik

2nd Vice Pres.: Mrs. Betty Minielly

Directors: Albert Bell, Carl DeSchutter, John Fraser, Lee Garnham, Jack Henderson, Florence Kernohan, Frances Matthew, Betty Minielly, Hilda Pembleton, Stan Stefanik, Floyd Steven, Norma Steven.

**Ladies Division Executive: - 1988**

Pat Chairperson - Laura Logan

Chairperson - Bonnie Stefanik

1st Vice: - Nancy Steven

Secretary-Treas. - Norma Steven

The aim of the Agricultural Society is to promote agriculture and to promote a better understanding between rural and urban populations, by providing a meeting place for the two segments to come together and learn more about each other. We hope that the Forest Agricultural Society and the Forest Fall Fair will be a very active part of the next 100 years.

*LOGO - Designed by Connie Boere, RR3 Thedford, 1987*

*ORIGINAL COLOURS - Green, silver lettering,  
yellow sun with black background*