

Barrie Fair will relocate to Essa, starting in 2009

By Richard Blanchard

The Barrie Fair will be held in a new location near the hamlet of Ivy in Essa Township beginning in 2009.

Officials of the Barrie Agricultural Society and township mayor Dave Guergis made the announcement at a press conference held at the township offices on Tuesday morning.

The society has bought

200 acres located to the north of the intersection of Essa Sideroad 20 and the 10th Concession between Ivy and Highway 27.

The property, which is presently farmland, was used for the International Plowing Match in 1997.

Township CAO Greg Murphy said Tuesday morning that it will be up to the agricultural society to rezone

the property.

"The property is currently zoned agricultural which will not allow the holding of an agricultural fair.

"A specialized agricultural zoning may be needed or a commercial zoning," he said. "It will be up to the agricultural society to decide on which zoning is appropriate."

Murphy said that the

township will go through the regular planning process in rezoning the property.

"Both zoning and Official Plan amendments will be required and a public meeting will be held to gauge public input into the proposal.

"Other government agencies will be have the circulated to them," he said.

The Barrie Agricultural

Society is celebrating its 155th birthday this year and sold its 38 acre property, between Essa Road and Highway 400, to the Osmington Group, a Toronto based developer, in January, 2007.

The society received \$33 million for their property which will be redeveloped into commercial space.

This year's fair will be the

last one held on the Essa Road property, which has been the home for the fair since the late 1940's.

The property was also home for the Barrie Raceway until its relocation to Innisfil.

There had been rumours that the society might relocate to the Town of Innisfil, but they decided on the Essa property.

Lionesses play some euchre and raise money for a local girl

By Chris Simon

The Innisfil Lionesses were in a dog buying mood recently, raising over \$1,000 for a new pooch for a local teenager.

Over 40 people attended the 4 Paws 4 Krysta Euchre fundraiser, which took place

at the Lions Hall in Alcona. Krysta Rossit, 16, has a congenital condition called C-ACC, where the left and right sides of her brain are not attached. As a result, she requires a service dog, said organizer Debbie Marges.

"It's a local girl, what a

good cause," she said. "People don't mind giving to Christmas Cheer and hurricane relief and all that, but when you get a real person, I can't believe the feedback. People were just sending me \$10 and \$20. People wanted to give because it was a real

person, not just a disaster."

The money raised will help Rossit's family purchase the service dog, said Marges.

"It'll help her get a dog," she said. "She's hoping to get the dog in June. Personalities have to match up, so if they

can't get a right match, she'll have to wait a whole year. But they've got a batch in training."

Plenty of money was raised, despite a significant snowstorm. And those that did turn out were treated to door prizes and a buffet.

"We had a lot of cancellations from out of town, but that was normal. It went off really well," she said. "The (people) who came out donated nicely, very generously. It really blew my mind how much people came together for this."

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