



# North Dorchester Agricultural Society

Box 146, Dorchester, Ontario N0L 1G0

*"Home of the Dorchester Fair"*

[www.dorchesterfair.com](http://www.dorchesterfair.com) 519-268-8152 [info@dorchesterfair.com](mailto:info@dorchesterfair.com)

The Municipality of Thames Centre  
Community Grant Program

November 29, 2024

The North Dorchester Agricultural Society (NDAS), proud organizers of the Dorchester Fair, extend our gratitude to the Municipality of Thames Centre and the Community Grant Program for your generous financial support of the 2024 Dorchester Fair.

For 169 years, the NDAS has been a community-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to fostering connections to agriculture and rural life. Through hands-on experiences and meaningful educational opportunities, the Dorchester Fair has become a cornerstone of our community, celebrating our shared heritage and values.

The funding received through the Thames Centre Community Grants Program is essential in preserving the beloved events and attractions that bring our community together and sustain family connection across generations. Your support ensures that the Dorchester Fair continues to thrive as an enduring symbol of community spirit and rural pride. Your generous support enables us to deliver impactful programs and events at the Dorchester Fair, including:

- **Annual Ambassador Program** – A transformative opportunity for youth aged 18 to 24, offering leadership development and empowering the next generation of community leaders.
- **School Art Collaboration** – A partnership with local schools to collect and display non-competitive art, giving students a platform to showcase their creativity and share their talents with the community.
- **Grade 3 Agricultural Awareness Day** – An annual educational event held the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. In 2024, we welcomed 170 students from five local schools who were introduced to the importance of agriculture in engaging ways by our 12 community presenters.
- **Annual Cereal Drive Challenge** – A collaborative initiative with local schools to support the food bank and school outreach programs, fostering community spirit and addressing food insecurity in our community.
- **Competitions for All Ages** – Showcasing talents across categories such as antiques, arts and crafts, culinary arts, field crops, flowers, fruits and vegetables, and photography, celebrating creativity and agricultural heritage.
- **Agricultural Awareness Barn** – Featuring live animals and knowledgeable presenters, this exhibit is open for the duration of the fair and connects attendees to the heart of rural life and farming practices.
- **Saturday Morning Parade** – A vibrant tradition featuring a record-breaking 36 float entries in 2024, bringing the community together in a celebratory display of local pride.



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- **Engaging Entertainment** – Including crowd favorites such as the Demolition Derby, blacksmith demonstrations, and talented local musical groups that foster an appreciation for community arts and culture.

The annual Dorchester Fair, held every Thanksgiving weekend, owes its success to the dedication of our board members and volunteers, who collectively contribute over 6,000 volunteer hours each year. Their hard work and passion are the backbone of this cherished community tradition.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for an extraordinary milestone as we celebrate the 170th Dorchester Fair in 2025. This momentous event will require continued financial support to ensure its success and the preservation of the Fair's legacy for future generations.

Thank you once again for your invaluable contribution. We deeply appreciate your commitment to strengthening and celebrating our community.

Sincerely,

The North Dorchester Agricultural Society Executive Committee

President - Kathy Breen  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Sidney Williams  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Katie Ward  
Past President - Mark Williams  
Secretary Treasurer – Lisa Morris