

Fair Time



Submitted by the BVX

What's new at the 2015 Fall Fair August 27-30, 2015

Heading into high summer, it seems kinda crazy to be thinking about summer's end and the Fall Fair – but the wheels have been turning down at the Fairgrounds for some months already, and there's a fantastic lineup of shows, events, competitions and displays to keep the entire family excited and busy for the whole four-day weekend.

The theme for 2015 is "There's Something in the Air at the Bulkeley Valley Fair" – and you'll see this theme often in murals, indoor and outdoor displays, and in the Fall Fair Parade, the traditional kick-off to the weekend. (And you just wait till you see what's leading the Parade ... but shh!! Spoilers!)



Probably the biggest change for the 2015 Fair is the enlarged and extended Loggers' Sports division. After a number of slow years, the Loggers' Sports has taken on a new lease of life with competitions for kids and adults (no logging experience required!) and the construction of the new Log Rolling Pond. You think you can walk along a log? What about a log floating in water? It rolls ... and so do you, with an almighty splash! Don't wear your best clothes for this one ...

Also bigger and better this year is the ever-popular Light Horse Show – with twice the prize money as previous years, and additions of new events to challenge the riders and enthrall the audience. This year sees the first BVX "Wild Trail Challenge" in the CityWest Main Ring, where horse and rider tackle an obstacle course – and the intent is not only to complete the course but also to demonstrate the partnership between horse and rider. Fastest time is not necessarily the winner here. Horse lovers will also be dazzled by the three-day Trainer of the North Challenge, where three outstanding horse trainers each attempt to train an unbroken young horse – in three days flat. No easy ride there.

Stage shows have always been a part of the Fall Fair, and this year is no exception. Teens and young adults will have a blast on Thursday night – not only is it Midnight Madness at the Midway (all the rides all evening for \$35) but you can also

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catch BC's Top Teen band The Racket on the Fairground stage. Friday night is for country & western lovers – CCMA winner Bobby Wills headlines the night with classic country sounds and a rock-inspired twist. Opening for Bobby Wills will be longtime favourites Appaloosa, who will also be powering the rodeo dance on Saturday night. Saturday at the fairgrounds will be for our homegrown hero Mark Perry, and for ex-Smithereen Theresa Pasaluko and her new Victoria band – and there'll be performances by various local artists throughout the weekend.

Livestock are a staple of the Fall Fair – and ours is one of the very few shows in BC that still features a full slate of livestock classes, for beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits and even guinea pigs! The Fair has also been chosen to host the prestigious Angus Gold Show this year, one of only two such shows in BC. There will also be a chance to see what 100+ 4H kids have been working on all year, with the displays of 4H Achievement in livestock, horses and dogs, culminating in the 4H Auction on Saturday afternoon.

Kids are never forgotten at the Fall Fair – and this year we have an expanded and updated Kids' Zone, featuring the perennial favourite Petting Zoo, the Kids' Dog Show, Penelope the Clown, the Activity Tent for the little ones, and starring our mindbogglingly awesome FANTASTIC feature attraction ... which I'm not going to tell you about yet because I'm going to spring it on you later. Spoilers!! Also new this year, families can take advantage of our special Sunday Family Day Pass, which gives all-day admission to the Fair and all its attractions for two adults and up to four children, for a paltry \$30.

Then there's the Draft Horse Show, including the BC Championship Pull on Sunday where 18 teams of these gentle giants compete for \$7500 in prize money. There's the Hall display all weekend, where adults and kids show off their best in baking, crafts and hobbies. There's the Rodeo – a perennial favourite with three days' of thrills and spills, not to mention the amazing Young Gunz trick-riding show. And there's a nod to farmers and country folk across the area, whose efforts throughout the year give us the countryside and the lifestyle we enjoy in the beautiful Bulkeley Valley.

If you think you'd like to put an entry into the Fair yourself this year – be it livestock, horses, arts and crafts (or maybe you're the new champion of the log rolling pond?) you can pick up a prize book at Smithers Feed Store, or at many of the downtown merchants, or online at www.bvfair.ca

Here's to the 2015 Fall Fair August 27-30 and never a dull moment!