



Barn Dance Historical Society

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FACTS ON THE BARN DANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AND JAMBOREE/CAMPOUT

We, the Board of Directors of the Barn Dance Historical Society have concerns regarding recent decisions made by the Council of the Township of North Huron regarding the closing of the museum and closing of the Concession Booth at the Blyth Arena Complex.

No consultation took part between the Municipality and the Barn Dance Historical Society regarding the use of the museum or the Jamboree/Campout event in Blyth.

The Barn Dance Historical Society has long maintained a museum in the municipality starting in the Armories prior to moving to its current location.

The purpose of the Jamboree/Campout held in Blyth on the 4th weekend of each May is to support the Barn Dance Museum in Wingham and help promote Tourism in the Town and the County of Huron.

2018 is our 21st year to hold this annual event.

Following are a few facts of the Economic Impacts on the Municipality of Blyth & Wingham Wards.

- 1.0 The event provides gross revenue of approximately \$14, 500 to the municipality each year for Facility Rental and Campground use. This is \$145,000 plus over the past ten years.
- 2.0 We also pay rent to the Township of North Huron each year. 2017 rate was \$4,356.81.
- 3.0 From the event, The Barn Dance Historical Society has donated \$25,450 to various Blyth Community Groups. This includes \$8,500 for the Blyth Arena Complex for Concession Booth Equipment, Fans for the Arena, Weather Early Warning System for the Campgrounds, and upgrades to the campgrounds electrical panels etc. We have donated \$4,600 to the Blyth Lions Club, \$5,000 to the Huron Pioneer Threshers, \$2,750 to the Blyth Theatre. Other groups receiving donations include the Blyth BIA, Blyth Community in Blooms, Blyth Skateboard Park, Blyth Girl Guides, Blyth Boy Scouts, Blyth Fire Department and the Blyth Royal Canadian Legion.
- 4.0 The Township of North Huron receives direct compensation of approximately \$20,000 per year from the Barn Dance Historical Society.
- 5.0 The event brings approximately 300 camping units to Blyth each spring.
- 6.0 We have 1,000 people attend our Saturday evening Show/Dance, 700 – 800 for the Sunday morning Gospel Show and another 500 to 600 persons attending the Friday evening Bluegrass Show. This brings business to the local grocery/variety stores, restaurants, fast food outlets and others in the village.

- 7.0 We spend over \$5,000 locally to promote the event through Blackburn Radio Group, Blyth Printing, Wingham Advance Times, The Citizen, and other local papers.
- 8.0 We rent tables, chairs and the stage locally. The Barn Dance Historical Society spends approximately \$30,000 locally to put on this event.
- 9.0 This event is the main fund raiser for the Blyth Lions Club and proceeds from their dinners and bar go back into the community.
- 10.0 The event supports Tourism in Huron County and the Township of North Huron. Visitors have come from British Columbia to Newfoundland and the United States.

Due to the uncertainty of the museum and difficulty putting on the event, the Barn Dance Jamboree and Campout is in jeopardy. Without the museum, we have no real reason to hold the Jamboree/Campout in Blyth. We have withdrawn our advertising from the Huron Pioneer Threshers and Hobby Association which has lost \$200 in revenues due to these uncertainties.

As a tenant of the museum, we require clarity that we can open the Barn Dance Museum for visitors and tourists to our town at our discretion. The Barn Dance Historical Society carries liability insurance to cover exposures for its Board and visitors. It is our intent to post a notice on the door advising tourists that they can visit the museum by appointment and that the museum will be open during our event.

We need to work together to make the event happen. Without cooperation, the event will disappear along with the benefits to the community.

We are asking the municipality for continued assistance and ensure that we can open the Barn Dance Museum at our discretion.

Board of Directors
Barn Dance Historical Society.

“CANADA’S LARGEST TRAVELLING BARN DANCE”