

Wainfleet's treasure; 19th annual Marshville Heritage Festival starts saturday

Marshville Heritage Village chair Margaret Robertson sits on a 1920 waterous steam-roller, one of the many pieces of antique equipment on display at the village. Robertson and hundreds of volunteers are preparing for the festival which starts this Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and runs until Monday.



Sounds of tractors and saws echo through Marshville Heritage Village as dozens of volunteers prepare for this weekend's signature festival. Volunteers are setting up booths, painting buildings, putting up fences, cutting wood and completing other tasks to prepare the village for 30,000 to 35,000 visitors that are expected to attend the 19th annual Marshville Heritage Festival.

"This is what put Wainfleet on the map, it's Wainfleet's treasure," said festival chair Margaret Robertson. "We take pride in this festival."

Visitors will be transported to 1883 upon entering the historic village which features a school house, general store, town hall, print shop, church and sawmill. Browse through 115 high quality craft booths, learn from 33 demonstrations from rope making, timber framing, spinning, weaving, horse drawn equipment, preparing grain, antique tractors and cars. Thirty five farming demonstrations will also keep agricultural enthusiasts informed.

"It's very much a family event, there's something for everybody," she said, noting the weekend is also fun for children of all ages with wagon rides, rope and shingle making, entertainment by the Robert Davis kids show, a juggler and Craig the comic comedian.

Sunday night features a free concert in the park at 6:30 performed by the Bay Boys and the Torchmen Quartet.

"People have been so kind to us. They donate lots of time and machines and I'm always amazed at how many people help out," she said of the 300 to 400 volunteers that make the event successful. However, volunteers are still needed to hand out programs and work in the "watering hole" selling water. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Robertson at 905-899-9995

Admission is \$6 for adults, free for children under 10 and \$5 on Saturday for seniors. Free parking and shuttle service is available in the soccer field beside the village on Regional Road 20. The festival kicks off on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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