

PORT PERRY'S FAIRS

At the time of the fire the Fair Grounds were down on the Curts property. There used to be buildings and a track there. On this property, too, the old drill shed stood, also a skating rink.

After the fire of 1884, there was a change of location proposed, and in 1886, the change was effected. The Central Ontario Fair came into existence, and bought the present Fair Grounds property from C. C. Kellett, who found the ground too low and cold for his purpose as a nurseryman.

At that time the present Kellett property was part of the Crandell estate and was used by the townspeople as a park. It did not seem to be well suited for this purpose, as the land was light and the trees did not thrive well after the bush around that part was cut down.

On the new Fair Grounds, which comprised some twenty-three acres, the buildings erected were the finest in Ontario outside the City of Toronto. They comprised a main building, horse stables, cattle sheds and grand stand. The half-mile track cost \$3,000 to build and is still in excellent condition.

The funds for this undertaking were raised by selling stock to all who were willing to buy, so that a large number of men were financially interested in the Fair, and that doubtless did much toward securing for it the success that came in the next few years. Public spirit was alive to everything that meant advancement to the town.

The managing board of the Fair included John Adams, Peter Christie, Thos. Manderson, N. F. Patterson, J. H. Brown, J. C. Browne, W. J. McMurtry, and Wm. McGill. It was an independent fair that received no Government grant. Its programs were after the style of the Toronto Exhibition. Sports, horse-racing, and grand stand performances were included. The buildings and part of the track were lighted