

## Firing Up for the 2015 Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede

The Manitoba Agricultural Museum is firing up for its annual festival "The Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede" which runs from July 23 to July 26 this year. The Museum grounds have been a hive of activity over the last few weeks with Museum volunteers and staff working steadily to get ready for the Reunion.

The Threshermen's Reunion is the biggest show of Pioneer farm machinery in Canada and features many pieces of pioneer farm machinery in operation doing the jobs the machinery was designed to do. Heavy horses, steam engines and gas tractors will be in operation along with plows, grain binders and threshing machines.

If you like and want to see steam engines in operation then the Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede is the place to be with a range of steam engines in operation daily.

The 2015 Reunion is featuring Cockshutt equipment. "I think it's important that we acknowledge the Cockshutt farm line equipment that was made in Canada," said Executive Director Georgette Hutlet. "Cockshutt was made for Canadian conditions, it created Canadian jobs, it kept Canadian farm communities thriving. Cockshutt was a component of rural economic development that was very important in those times." In its heyday, Cockshutt sold farm machinery not only in Canada but also in the US, England, Scotland, Australia, South Africa and other countries. Cockshutt today is best known for introducing the first tractor, the Cockshutt Model 30, with a "live" PTO. Previous to the Model 30, all other tractors featured a PTO which quit turning the moment the clutch was pushed in. Obviously this was a significant problem when the tractor was powering a combine or baler. The "live" PTO immediately resulted in the Model 30 tractor being a sales success for Cockshutt. Cockshutt also possessed a substantial line of tillage equipment such as plows and is also known for the Cockshutt Number 2 swather and a line of combines. The Museum has combed through its collection and pulled out a number of Cockshutt artifacts for display at the Cockshutt Expo.

Visitors can also take a little bit of Cockshutt history home with them as the museum was given permission by the Cockshutt family to use the Cockshutt logo on souvenirs.

The Stampede, a CCA and MRCA accredited rodeo, is running in the evening and offers a full slate of rodeo activities from bull riding to barrel racing. The Stampede always features some great cowboys and cowgirls and offers great entertainment.

Other attractions at the Reunion and Stampede include the Manitoba Clydesdale Classic, a petting zoo, vintage machinery parade, fashion show (Thursday to Saturday), Saturday car show, food booths, the Corn and Barley Corral, a selection of local musical groups and much more.

The Museum operates a website at [www.ag-museum.mb.ca](http://www.ag-museum.mb.ca). This site provides the visitor to the Museum and Reunion with useful information such as how to get to the Museum, hours of operation, admission and other information.

So come on out to the 61st Reunion and Stampede and take in one of Manitoba's longest running festivals!

