



# An Upclose view of the Highgate Fair

Cloudy weather didn't stop people from coming out to the 165th edition of the local fair Saturday

Maurice Verstraete of Bothwell was concentrating on his cattle at the Highgate Fair. The 4H competition is a staple of the 165 year-old fair. He was one of the hundreds on hand for the day-long community event. Nash Beecroft, 3, of Highgate, couldn't wait to see the sheep (bottom left), Peter Mutiso, nine months, and his mom, Melissa, made their way through the bubble area set up for the kids (right) and Autumn Towers, 5, and her friend Olivia, were looking for fun, dressed as Supergirl after being in the annual parade. This year's winning float was from Ryckman Farms in Duart. Eleven year-old Jamie Ryckman made a softball team in Springfield this year. He became good friend with his catcher, Kyle Eyndhoven of Stratfordville. But in June, Eyndhoven was diagnosed with leukemia. He's scheduled for surgery in December. The Ryckman's are actively supporting the family and made their float a tribute to the young catcher - with everyone wearing orange shirts and selling orange bracelets to raise money to help support the family during treatment. Kyle's mom, Tanya, says the Ryckman's have become like a second family. The winner of best float in the parade receives a cheque - that money was given to Kyle and his family during the opening ceremonies. Long-time fair volunteer Carolyn Gentes was also honoured. Gentes died in March at the age of 71. She had been involved in all aspects of the fair over the year including serving as its president. Volunteers at the event say her expertise was missed while they were planning and setting up for this year's event. Gentes' husband, Maurice, accepted a plaque in her honour.

Heather Wright Photos

