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# The Citizen

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## Festival takes on M. Hall

By Denny Scott  
*The Citizen*

North Huron Township Council has signed a 10-year rental agreement for Blyth Memorial Hall with the Blyth Festival that will see the theatre organization take over for the recently-disbanded Blyth Arts and Cultural Initiative 14/19 Inc.

After the disbandment of 14/19 Inc. earlier this year, North Huron had to find a new operator for the facility or take over operation itself.

As the operator of the hall, 14/19 Inc. was responsible for the facility after the group had funneled a majority of the funds necessary for significant upgrades to the hall.

The Blyth Festival stepped up and offered to run the site under a very similar contract to what had been implemented between 14/19 Inc. and the township.

The new lease was presented to council at its July 2 meeting and approved by council and by the Blyth Festival's board of directors. It was made official on Monday night when council approved the agreement by bylaw.

Minor changes were made to the document, which will see the Festival responsible for the site for 10 years with the possibility of a five-year extension.

The biggest change to the document is that the municipality will have to provide a building condition assessment for the hall in 2020 to help establish expected life cycle for the recently-renovated building's infrastructure.

Council approved the contract.  
**CHANGES FOR FESTIVAL**  
Blyth Festival Artistic Director

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### For dear life

The Rawhide Rodeo company stopped in Dungannon over the weekend to produce the Dungannon Pro Rodeo for the hundreds of visitors who took in the third installment of the annual event. The rodeo brought together numerous champions from various rodeo levels to put a top-notch

show in the ring. The Sunday show, billed as "Championship Sunday" included barrel racing, calf-wrestling and bareback bronc riding, seen above, which challenges the rider to stay on a bucking horse for eight seconds or more. As you can see, it can be a very long eight seconds. (Shawn Loughlin photo)

## New Rutabaga Festival continues to take shape

By Denny Scott  
*The Citizen*

With the revival of the Blyth Rutabaga Festival less than three months away, the Blyth Community Betterment Group is now in the midst of finalizing the schedule for the event.

The Rutabaga Festival hasn't been held in Blyth for years, and the Blyth Community Betterment Group wants to revive it this year, then align it with the village's homecomings.

Set for Friday, Oct. 4 and Saturday, Oct. 5 throughout the community the event kicks off

Friday at 8:30 p.m. with a special concert at Blyth Cowbell Brewing Company featuring country musician Kris Barclay.

Barclay, originally from Ajax, Ontario, found fame through the Boots and Hearts Music Festival in 2018, where he was voted by fans as a wildcard entry into the Emerging Artist Showcase. Competing against six other artists, he became the first-ever wildcard artist to win, earning him the right to work with country music's top songwriters in Nashville as well as a recording deal with Warner Music Canada.

Since then, he has released his debut single, "Loved You Like That"

and earned a Country Music Association of Ontario nomination for the Rising Star category.

Brussels Musician Adam Cousins will open for Barclay.

The concert is an exclusive event for the festival, with Cowbell serving as the venue.

Saturday morning the Blyth Lions Club will be hosting a breakfast at Blyth Memorial Community Hall from 8-11 a.m.

Shortly after, the Rutabaga Ride, a cycling journey through Blyth and some of its surrounding communities, will start. Details about the ride are still being finalized, according to festival

organizer and ride chair Annie Sparling.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., a market will be held at Memorial Hall featuring artisans and vendors, as well as Rutabaga Festival merchandise which recently was unveiled at the Blyth Outdoor Market.

Starting at 7:30 a.m. is 'Baga' Yoga at Horticultural Park on Dinsley Street hosted by Rachel Feddes.

Memorial Hall's stage will host children's entertainer BarryO from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Also at 9:30 a.m., tours of Hubbard's rutabaga plant will start,

running until noon. Sparling explained that visitors will also get the opportunity to harvest a rutabaga.

A youth-focused ping pong competition will be held at Memorial Hall starting at 11:30 a.m.

Sparling explained that part of the mandate of the event was to have something for all ages, and the tournament would give youth something to occupy their time.

"Right from our launch, we've wanted to aim for all ages, so we've been scheduling to hit," she said. "Ping pong is relatively easy to set

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