

## Column 070630

Save the weekend after Canada Day for a couple of traditional events.

The Portland District Firefighters' Bass Derby on Saturday July 7 won't even require a fishing licence, because it's timed to be on Ontario Family Fishing weekend, when the province allows everyone to fish licence free. You can register at Papa Pete's in Harrowsmith or Leonard's Fuel in Hartington and fish in area lakes. Prizes range from a fishing boat (L.D. Powersport) and trailer (Leonards) to a Mountain Bike (Papa Pete's) for the twelve and under winner.

After you come in from the lake on July 7, swing over to Sand Road for the Verona Lions Jamboree. Or come between 8 and noon that day for the Pancake Breakfast at the Farmer's Market. If you can't make it to the Jamboree on Saturday, plan to be there on July 6 or 8 for this old fashioned summertime treat. Take a stroll through Crown Amusement's family friendly midway. Try your hand at darts or crown and anchor, manned by a Lion or a friendly volunteer. Stop off for a few games of Bingo with terrific prizes, carefully chosen by Chad & Nicki VanCamp of Verona Hardware. By all means, place your bet on a fishie at Jim Lansdell's unique live minnow races. Top it all off with the famous Jamboree burger and fries while you sit in the moonlight and thank your lucky star that there are still places like this in the world where kids can roam the grounds while seniors catch up with friends and neighbours. All this and free admission! How can you stay home?

Speaking of Lions, the Verona Club held their volunteer appreciation dinner at Rivendell Golf Club this week. About 100 community members help the Lions members each year with everything from hall maintenance to Jamboree activities. With their help the club has been able this year to put almost \$8000 into local causes and another \$2600 into provincial, national and international aid. Money for the banquet is contributed throughout the year by Lions members themselves so that no fundraised dollars are used to pay for it.

The Verona and Area Heritage Society brings their annual old fashioned strawberry social to the Farmers Market. Fresh berries, lovingly picked and prepared by heritage society members and the best shortcake ever. June 30, at the market from 10-1. Adults \$5, Children \$3

Cousin Cameron has arrived! Cameron the Bog Lemming, Verona Festival's beloved mascot, has left for northern climes to visit his more famous relatives, and Cousin Cameron (born and raised in the same bog south of Verona) has agreed to take his place. Cousin Cameron has been travelling the world these last few years, but he's ready to settle down now in his old munching grounds. Look for him at the Canada Day parade in Harrowsmith this Sunday and on the stage at the Festival, August 10-12.