

Bio

Catriona McHattie - President of the North and South Agricultural Society (Saanich Fair)

I have been a member of the Society since 2011 and have served on the Board since 2012. I have been involved with the Fair previous to 2011 as a volunteer since childhood. As with most farm families we all pitch in to help make the annual Fair come together, lending a helping hand wherever needed.

I come from a long-standing farm family on the Peninsula. My grandfather purchased our property on Keating X Road in 1929 and operated a gravel pit and farm passing it on through the generations. Both of my parents come from farming backgrounds.



My personal background is in Business/ Hospitality/Sales
Camosun College; Business Administration Programme/ Professional-Retail Sales
I have run a successful event business in Victoria since 2014
(coordinator/decorator/ floral)
Previously worked as a Manager operating bars/restaurants since 1986

Saanich Fair History

In 1868 10 peninsula farmers got together. The Fair began as a way for a small group of the pioneer farming families to have an annual gathering dedicated to celebrating their farms, gardens, and homes. They started out hosting the Fair on one of the fields owned by those 10 men.

They used to move it around from year to year, from one field to the next, and its popularity just kept growing, Western Canada's oldest Fair, the Fair is now the largest of its kind on Vancouver Island and on par with the Interior Provincial Exhibition on the Mainland and encompasses 43 acres of land on a permanent fair site that is the envy of other municipalities.

Today, the North and South Saanich Agricultural Society organizes the Fair with the mission to promote agriculture into the future. The Fair employs five full-time staff and the 11-member Board of Directors now oversees the activities of more than 2,000 volunteers. Although the 10 men who started the Fair are long gone, in many cases the farming families who were there at the beginning are still actively farming the area.