

June, 2021

On Behalf of the VITEO Executives:

By Tom Van Dusen

With COVID-19 looking like it's finally fading from our lives, I wanted to contact VITEO members with a brief update from our executive meeting May 27. It was held outside around a campfire in the beautiful yard at Henry and Cora Staal's farm in North Russell, distanced and with masks when required.



Thanks to Hank Bakker for keeping the fire well supplied with wood... to the point some of us had to back away a bit. And thanks to Henry and Cora for organizing snacks and drinks, and for opening and lighting up the old dairy barn which, as most of you know, is filled with thousands of fine antiques. At a time when regular VITEO events remain on hold, the biggest news I have for you is plans for three tractor parades coming up starting June 19.

The first parade is for Glen Armstrong. It will muster at Bearbrook Community Centre June 19, 10 a.m., and will cover about three km there and back to the Armstrong family farm; the second parade will be out of Carp July 25 starting at 1 p.m. in honour of Dave Creighton and will be 10 km from start to finish; the third parade, 10 a.m., Aug. 14 is a repeat of one held last year from St. Albert to Chrysler and back.

A veteran VITEO member is coordinating each parade: Past President Hank Bakker at Bearbrook; Past President Barry Dean at Carp; and myself, current President, at St. Albert. With Covid protocols in place, everyone is welcome to the three parades, either as spectators or participants. The processions are open to all vehicles, not just vintage tractors.

As most of you know, Glen was working on a farm pond May 16 when he was thrown in a front-end-loader rollover. He and Hank were lifelong friends involved in many committees and projects together; the procession will pull into the Armstrong farmyard and pass in front of family members, with an urn containing Glen's ashes resting on a parked tractor seat. Our secretary, Sharen, was at the meeting at Staal's; she thanked the club for the gesture of respect for her younger brother and indicated full family support for the parade. Contact Hank for details.

As you know, Barry and Dave attended many VITEO and other functions together. After passing from natural causes, Dave left most of the proceeds from his estate to the Carp Fair Antiques Division. Barry says 60 tractors have already registered for this parade. Contact Barry for details. There were 118 vehicles in last year's St. Albert parade and I expect similar numbers this time out. With most rural events cancelled for a second year, the parade gives the community at least one thing to look forward to. You can get hold of me for details.

As the pandemic fades, all three parades will show the vitality and resilience of the rural community and the respect we hold for our own.

In other business at the executive meeting, we agreed to make the Oliver 2255 its latest miniature with 50 copies to be sold for \$100 each, the sixth edition of the fundraiser; in the past, 100 models were offered in each series but C-19 restrictions slowed sales. We expect most sales to be through the web page or word-of-mouth, with Daryl coordinating.

We voted to forego advertizing on the exterior of the club event trailer we are considering purchasing. Executive members felt that, although they would help cover some of the costs, the look with ads would be too cluttered and the trailer should be used exclusively to promote VITEO.

On a final note, the executive decided to reach out to about 50 members who have not yet paid their 2020 membership dues. If you are among them, please cover your dues as soon as possible and continue to enjoy the many VITEO benefits such as group insurance, regular collection visits and gatherings, club merchandize, an annual meeting and annual picnic... as soon health guidelines allow us to them!

Take care for now: Tom
/MM