

**Minutes of Fall Festival Post Event Audit
Sept 22/2025, 8:30 AM – Village Meeting Room**

Chair: Gary Bikman. Present: Karma McClenaghan & Sandra Nelson

Approve Agenda: Sandra

Approve Minutes of Sept 7 202: Karma

What went well:

- Prayers answered – weather was PERFECT
- Karma provided a detailed summary of the activities (see separate pages) – did an amazing job of recruiting back up volunteers on short notice when existing ones discovered schedule conflicts
 - willing to continue as a committee member, but NOT as a chairman of an activity – really missing Aimee
- Sandra reported on the meal, and on the crafts, products and information tables. Impressions gathered from conversations with guests from the village and visitors from other places, were overwhelmingly positive. This is a great way to showcase the Village as a wonderful place to live and raise a family; also, very effective in bringing villagers together to meet, greet, get to know each other while having fun and enjoying the friendly, low-key atmosphere.

The Challenges:

- **Aimee was MISSED!** And her voluminous, detailed notes were never provided by CAO. As a result, we were all scrambling to fill in blanks and learn on the go, trying to remember what, where, when & how.
- We must keep track of all we learned, relearned and write it down in a permanent record – paper and digitally preserved.

What have we learned?

- Squash the Squash - Judges need to be “trained & oriented”. Categories need to be youth, adult, amateur and professional
- Post event audit s/b within 7-10 days
- Provincial Fall Events grant MUST be applied for in March. **Funds available: \$1,000 for single day, \$5,000 for 2 days**
 - We strongly recommend a Friday evening event be added: “Stirling Has Talent”, could be held at the school
 - 2nd natural gas outlet would be very helpful for 2nd Barbeque
 - Flat plate griddle - element not working properly. If it can't be repaired it should be replaced
 - PA system needed by games area (east of the “mound”) to facilitate engaging and coordinating kids' events

Better volunteer training and orientation (recommend written details for this)

- Axe throwing activity was popular; recommend 2 supervisors and targets angle away from each other to reduce/eliminate risk of injury when going to retrieve axes
- Fry bread – excellent, popular, delicious; should be smaller portions to shorten wait time; should be fried in serving area of reunion center and be done well before Pulled Pork set up/prep needs to start
- Chairs for parents and friends watching kids/youth activities
 - Supper: 301 paid plates; need to increase our capacity for meat (115# were purchased – s/b 130# to feed 350); corn (35 dozen) was adequate as was slaw; ice cream sandwiches could be reduced by?? Larger plates needed (10-12”?) Start cooking corn a bit earlier (method was excellent)

Reviewed expenses (see separate attachments):

Motion to approve by Sandra was passed

- Proposed outline for next year's event.** Keeping in mind what the goal/objective is for this event. (Remember KISS – fewer activities, within our ability to be done well, are much preferred to unbridled enthusiasm, dreams & visions)
- Pulled pork, corn, slaw, ice cream sandwiches
 - Vendors/crafts – should sign up at office so we know numbers (\$5 fee?)
 - Games should include some “historic” types, like sack races, wheelbarrow races
 - PA system by the games area
 - Activities like rope making and skills taught, like tying knots
 - Promotion/posters/notices/online, up & out, starting 2-3 week prior -

Suggestions for additions to our committee.

Qualifications to look for:

- People with lotsa contacts within the village and surrounding area & time to attend meetings, recruit, persuade and organize volunteers. Sandra, Karma and Gary to ponder and bring to next meeting

Other: Remembrance Day was on our budget list, but Events has not had any past duties – can we be of assistance?

Continuity: Current committee member finishing out our “term” or carry on ‘til we’re punted?

Next Meeting: Monday, Sept 29, 8:30 AM

Motion to Adjourn: @ 10:00 AM by Gary