

Belmont celebrates the 'Good Old Days'

By TIM CAMERATO | Aug 03, 2015

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TIM CAMERATO/CITIZEN

RICHARD AND GEGE PERRY dance to King Chrome's rendition of "Stand by Me" during Belmont's Old Home Day.

BELMONT — Belmont Village was alive on Saturday morning, as the sound of oldies music, children games and dozens of vendors marked Old Home Day.



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This year's events were themed as celebrating "The Good Old Days" and started at 7:30 a.m. with a pancake breakfast at the new Tioga Pavilion. The fun then moved to Concord Street when more than 20 children and family members participated in the 27th annual Tioga Fun Run.

Down on the Belmont Library lawn, children competed in three-legged and sack races. They also fought to get a top spot in this year's pedal tractor pull.



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Jennifer Mcwhinnie brought her three-year-old son, Mikey, to compete. She's lived in Belmont her whole life and comes to Old Home Day every year.

Mcwhinnie said the celebration gives her the chance to see old friends and "it's all family oriented."

Courtney Robert's daughter, Joanna, also competed in the tractor pull. She took part in the morning fun run before seeing what events were happening in the village. Roberts said she likes that Old Home Day has a lot of events to offer.

Games weren't the only thing to take in at the Village. Gretta Olson-Wilder, Belmont's special events coordinator, said 37 vendors offering a variety of food, drink and information on local activities were open on Mill Street.

One of those vendors was Friends of Belmont Football, a local organization that raises money to support Belmont students playing alongside Gilford's Golden Eagles. President Eric Shirley said they come to Old Home day yearly to offer up quesadillas, corn dogs, lemonade and other fare. He said the money raised goes towards the \$15,000 needed to maintain the football program.

"It's not a daunting task but it's constant, all the time," Shirley said.

The upcoming football season will mark the second year Belmont High School students will play alongside their Gilford counterparts on the JV Golden Eagles team. Shirley said they're also in talks to integrate Gilford's varsity team as well.

"We've got a fair amount of kids playing. They were pretty successful last year," Shirley said.

The Rotary Club also had a booth nearby. Rotarian Ronald Mitchell said he likes that Old Home Day offers people the chance to catch up.

"It's a gathering of the community to greet old acquaintances," Mitchell said.

At the celebration, the club was selling popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy to help fund its community initiatives. Mitchell said the day was going slowly, especially without the presence of racers.

The races that usually accompany Belmont Old Home Day were moved this year to the weekend of Aug. 8, as a Road Relay and Fun Competition Day.

"It's depends on the weather too," Mitchell said. "If it's a nice day, people go to the beach as opposed to coming here."

The village's Historic Bandstand was also in use throughout the day with the King Chrome band holding an opening concert at 10:30 a.m., followed by the Rockin Daddios.

Fred Fecteau was one of the many people enjoying the music with a vantage point on the library's lawn. He said he lives nearby and doesn't miss the Boy Scouts' strawberry shortcake.

"That's the number one thing. That's why I come," Fecteau said.

The morning actives were followed by the annual parade, led by grand marshals Linda Frawley and Wallace Rhodes in a stylish 1957 Buick Century. Frawley is the Belmont Heritage Commission Chairman and Rhodes is the Town Historian and president of the Belmont Historical Society.

Evening events included a chicken barbecue at the Fire Station, performance of Annie and the Orphans at Bryant Field and a 9:30 p.m. fireworks show.

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Staff Profile

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