

Super Pull returns to Dungannon June 18

By Dominique Milburn

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It's coming back for round 12 in Dungannon.

The annual Super Pull is scheduled to take place June 18 at the Dungannon Fair Grounds, says committee representative Shawn Rodger. The sounds of engines revving while they try for the longest haul are soon to fill the air in Dungannon bringing in spectators from all corners. But it isn't just the hard haulin' pull fans who benefit from the event. As with every other year, the Super Pull Committee will be celebrating their annual list of community service and good deeds.

As a not-for-profit event, Rodger said the Super Pull is responsible for a handful of donations made to those in need. In 2010, that included funds donated to the Dungannon Teen Group towards Fairground improvements, as well as cheques to Colborne, Brookside and Lucknow Public Schools toward their breakfast nutrition programs in 2011. They've even given support to local residents in need, giving funds following personal tragedies including two families in 2010, one following a home fire, and another a devastating snowmobile accident. Monies supplied by the Pull committee were used for a house rebuild, and travel expenses for medical treatment.

"We don't mind helping out if the cause is right," Rodger said last week. "[Giving back] is as much as what the Pull is about as anything. We're putting on a show that raises money that does make its way back into community."

Rodger himself has been one of about 10 local pullers in the event for the past five years, a committee member for four, and "an attendant since day one." He says this year planning got underway for the weekend Pull in January and features a list of events that span June 17, 18, and 19.

The Friday night dance will feature musical guests, Snakebite, who will set a country tone for the 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. party. Saturday, the main event gets going at 4 p.m., with about 15 classes of farm, truck, rod and modified engines, including stock semi trucks.

"In actual fact it's one of the largest organized tractor pulls that we have in southwestern Ontario. Maybe the largest aside from Fergus Truck Show," Rodger said.

"The feather in cap of everything is we have been voted number one pull of year by three different organizations, the South Western Ontario Tractor Pullers, Great Lakes Tractor Pullers and the Ontario Mini Rod pullers Association," he added. "It's easy to have one organization think you did a good job, but when all three we hosted thought we did the best job for their group, I think that's something."

The Pull features an 'open pit' design that allows pullers and fans to mix and mingle while getting up close with the engines, large and small. Along with children's face painting, the event will also include a refreshment area, open from 4 to 11 p.m.

On Sunday, pull fans are encouraged to return to the Fairgrounds for an Antique Tractor Pull, featuring engines 1960s and older. Registration opens at noon, pull starts at 1 p.m. Admission \$5.

Rough camping at the Fairgrounds has been growing in popularity over the past few years, Rodger, added, and will be available again for a flat weekend fee of \$35. Entrance to the Saturday Pull is priced at \$15 per adult, \$5 per child. Weekend passes are also available this year, covering Friday, Saturday and Sunday events for \$25 each.

More information can be obtained by visiting the pull web site at www.dungannontractorpull.ca, or by phone at 519-524-9878.

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