

Millarville Racetrack



Introduced by the early British settlers, the Millarville Races were the continuation of a racing tradition in England and Ireland. The first Race Committee was formed on 3rd June 1905, when the residents of Millarville met to discuss the possible organization of an event. The land for the racetrack was granted to the Committee by Raymond DeMalherbe rent-free for the first thirty-five years. The first Millarville races were held later that month, making the race meet the oldest in Alberta.

The track lay in an east-west direction and was simply marked out on the ground. In 1906, an inside rail was built, and an outside rail followed. In 1911, the first shed, with thirty stalls, was constructed with a committee room at one end. The stalls were rented out for a dollar for the duration of the meet. Later a grandstand was built over the stalls. During the First World War, racing was discontinued at the track in 1916 and 1917 but resumed in 1918 when the proceeds were donated to the Red Cross.

In 1940, the rent-free lease expired and the racetrack reverted to the land owners, but the club members were able to purchase it outright with monies raised through a debenture sale. In 1951, pari-mutuel betting was introduced under federal regulation and the Millarville Racetrack came to be listed in the roster of Canada's leading racing centres.

The Millarville Racetrack, the Racetrack Hall Association, and the Priddis and the Millarville Agricultural Societies amalgamated as the Millarville Racing and Agricultural Society in 1971 to coordinate the various committees involved at the grounds. Over the years, new buildings have been added and improvements made to the track and grounds, many through local donations. The board consists of many directors who volunteer their time, expertise, and community spirit to make sure this facility continues to thrive.



Millarville Races, 1912

July 1st this popular event features Thoroughbred Horse Racing w/ Pari-Mutuel Betting, Stock Horse Race, Ladies Side Saddle Race, Pack Horse Race, Beer



Gardens, and tons of kid's activities. Thousands enjoy this event – with an added bonus of dressing up elegantly for the Derby VIP area.

Farmer's Market – Saturday June-Oct. – For more than 30 years, the Millarville Farmer's Market has been a shopping

extravaganza for local fresh produce, organic and homemade items. 160+ vendors (local farmers, ranchers, and artisans) all showcase their offerings in colorful displays. Enjoy a one-of-a-kind shopping experience in Southern Alberta's largest outdoor Approved market.



Half Marathon is a point-to-point run through the Foothills finishing at the famous Farmer's Market the third Saturday in June, celebrating the first Farmer's Market of the season.



Pro Rodeo fans have enjoyed watching this event for more than twenty years, in August at the Racetrack. Spectators enjoy featured events such as: bull riding, saddle bronc, lady's breakaway roping and barrel racing,

steer wrestling, saddle bronc, team roping, tie-down roping, bareback riding and more. The best part is that you can be up close and personal to all the action!

The Priddis and Millarville Fair is an old-fashioned fair happening the third weekend in August. It began in 1907 and since 1950's has been held at the Millarville Racetrack. Ever increasing popularity of this country event led it to become a two-day fair in 2016. This agricultural weekend is a wondrous extravaganza for kids of all ages and rural and urban visitors and participants. Exhibitors participate in bench and livestock classes. Special demonstrations give audiences a glimpse of country atmosphere. This fair continues the tradition on which it was built – keen yet friendly competition showcasing excellence. The purpose has always been and remains “to put on a great show: where the entire community is welcome and encouraged to participate”. Through the diligence of generations of volunteers and new community members, exhibitors and sponsors, it continues as one of the oldest and largest agricultural fairs in this province.







Chuckwagon and Chariot Races give spectators close up views of drivers commanding a team of horses around the barrels and down the track. A very entertaining event promoting community, family spirit, education and companionship.

These important social events attract thousands of visitors each year to this rural setting.



Xmas Market happens the first weekend in November. Approx. 300 vendors display handcrafted gifts, soul warming food selections featuring at least 80% of locally Alberta made wares. There is something for everyone on Xmas lists and a winter



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