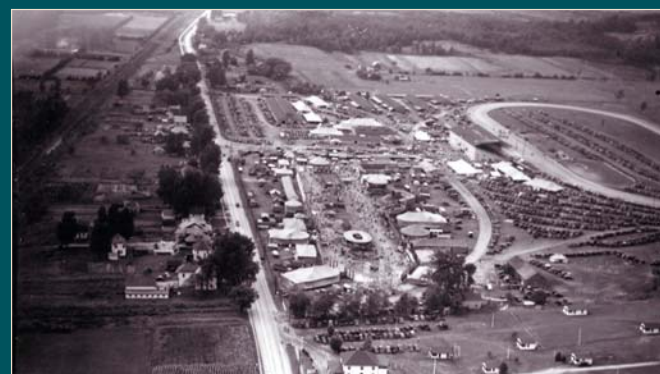


Decades of Summer Fun

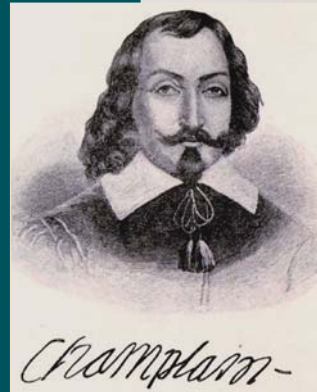


Started in 1923, the annual Champlain Valley Fair is Vermont's largest summer fair. In its early years the Fair featured a midway with newfangled rides such as the Whip and Ferris Wheel and a variety of live shows. For the next several decades, improvements in technology – such as electric power drives, fluorescent lights, and hydraulics – led to bigger and better rides. The midway was paved in the late 1960s and has since become one of the most popular features of the Fair. Cattle barns, horse show barns and racing stables were built to accommodate livestock. In 1967, the Dairy Center Milking Parlor was built to allow farmers to sell the milk their cows produced while at the Fair.

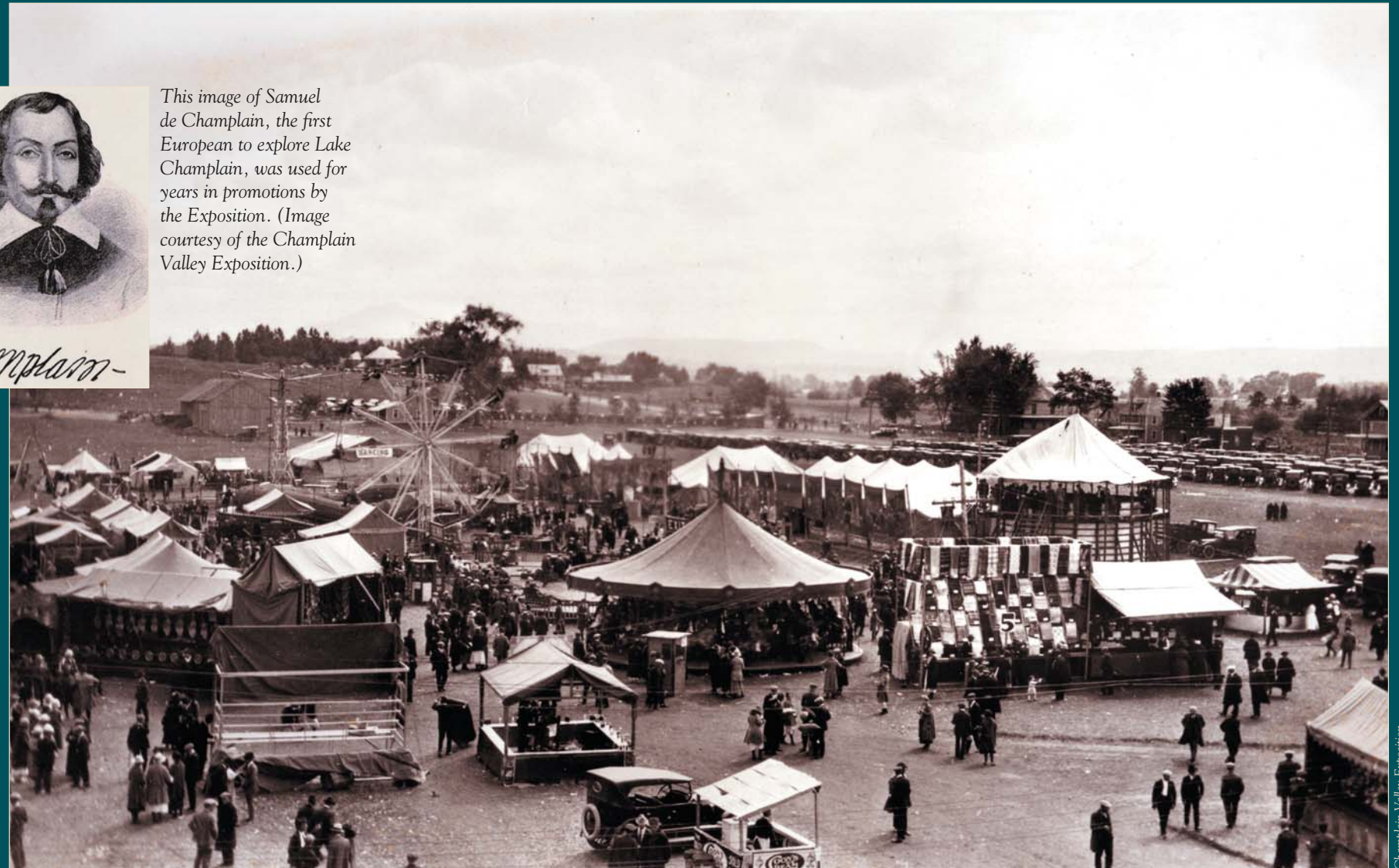
The Champlain Valley Exposition has become more than the summertime Fair. During the rest of the year, the Exposition hosts trade shows, RV rallies, sporting events and other major special events.



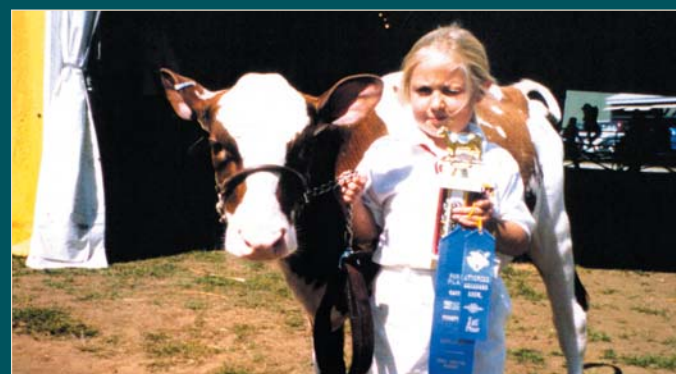
Vermont's most popular summertime tradition has taken place here since 1923, a year after the newly formed Champlain Valley Exposition purchased land from local farmers. Compare the pastoral landscape you see here with today's busy Pearl Street (Route 15).



This image of Samuel de Champlain, the first European to explore Lake Champlain, was used for years in promotions by the Exposition. (Image courtesy of the Champlain Valley Exposition.)



Opening Day - September 11, 1923, first year at the Champlain Valley Fair. The view is looking west toward Pearl Street (Route 15).



Over the years, agriculture has expanded its presence at the Fair, with buildings and tents dedicated to vegetable and fruit contests, experimental farming techniques, and maple sugaring. Children have always been a big part of the Fair, whether visiting or performing.



A racetrack was constructed in 1923. The public was invited to drive their automobiles on it to pack down the topsoil.



As Governor of Vermont from 1990 to 2002, Howard Dean (seen at front center with cap) often visited the Fair, including the popular pig races.

Champlain Valley Exposition

Champlain Valley Exposition

Champlain Valley Exposition