

## Another Magna Hoedown is in the books

On behalf of our organizing committee, I would like to thank some 670 volunteers who gave of their time. This year, we added a second day to the Hoedown festivities at the wishes of Magna's CEO Don Walker. He asked if there was anything else we could do for the community.

In response, we hosted our 'Hoedown Showdown' finals on Friday night, September 12th, rounded out by some great entertainment featuring the Wolf Creek Band and Tim Hicks. It proved to be a huge success!

The following night, Magna hosted the 26th edition of the Wild Wild West Hoedown, raising \$463,000 for 15 worthwhile charities and community groups that make a contribution every day to our lives.

I also want to thank the sponsors for all they do, the countless amount of goods and services donated to the Hoedown is far too large to list here, but available on our website for all to see. Please take a look.

As I reflect on this year's event, I am proud of what we've been able to accomplish in helping to support our great communities. But, from a greater perspective, I believe Hoedown is much more than a fundraiser.

I believe Hoedown has helped bring our communities together. We gather to support this event from all over. There are no municipal borders involved here, but rather a group of people who all want to gather together to celebrate and have fun. There is an amazing sense of community in that tent that makes us different.

It's not always easy to put your finger on it but we hear from new residents who tell us 'it's different here'. I believe a part of that comes from annual events like the Hoedown that people come to look forward to every year for the sense of community they bring. I would be happy to hear your feedback and comments regarding this year's Hoedown and thoughts you might have about going forward. Thanks again to everyone who sponsored, volunteered and came out to help us celebrate.

Steve Hinder  
Hoedown Committee