

IPM New Year's Eve Gala

Jan 2008

by Anne-Louise Gibbons



Above: Carol and Jim Armstrong ring in 2008, the year of the Bruce County International Plowing Match to be held near Teeswater.

2008, the year of the Bruce County International Plowing Match (IPM), was welcomed at a sold out New Year's Eve Gala held in the Formosa Community Centre. The 300 people enjoyed the "special event" organized by the Gala Gang made up of members of five IPM Committees. Members of Tented City, RV Park, Souvenir, Queen of the Furrow, and the Lifestyles Committees were joined by Jim and Marianne Batte, Paul Kuntz, and Susie Oberle to become the New Year's Eve Committee. In addition,

more than 40 people arrived to help with meal preparation, desserts, decorating, and setting tables.

The special attractions for the evening included a "Walk Down Memory Lane" that featured quilts, Queen of the Furrow memorabilia, plows, antiques, and other aspects that reminded people of past plowing matches. During the social time before the meal, background music was provided by the piano stylings of Jacquie Borho.

The meal began with Mary Eadie-Wiley introducing the 2008 IPM wines produced by 20 Bees Wine, a co-operative made up of 19 grape growing families and a chief wine maker. 20 Bees Wine created a special home grown wine for the 2008 IPM; the full bodied red is a 2006 Merlot and the crisp white is a 2006 Chardonnay. Both wines are available in area LCBO stores.

Following an excellent meal, Graham Craig, Vice-president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, and Jack Riley, Chair of the 2008 Bruce County IPM, unveiled a prototype of the 2008 official poster.

Fran Farrell and Shirley Kuntz, Co-chairs of the Family Lifestyles Committee, announced the Quilt Block Challenge Winners. First place was awarded to Shirley Grubb of Walkerton/Hanover; second place, to Ann Walden of Barrie; third place went to Joan Wand of Point Clark; and honourable mention went to Judy Williams of Tiverton.

An IPM song, music and lyrics, was introduced and sung by the composer Jacquie Borho. The chorus begins "Come on home to the country" and concludes with

"Oh Bruce County, at last, I am here." Each verse details an activity or sight from Bruce County. It didn't take long for everyone to join Jacquie in the chorus. Words were provided on the program at each place.

The Kung Fu Lawyers of Walkerton furnished the music for the dance that followed the dinner. Between 11:30 and midnight, two special draws took place. The Souvenir Committee has 12 completely unique collectible trucks that will be used as raffle prizes. New Year's Eve was the first raffle.

The unique collectible was won by Jennifer Batte of Belmore and Wayne & Wendy McKague, the host farmers, drew the winning ticket. In addition, one of the Antique Committee's collectible tractor seats was raffled and won by Brent Leifso.

As the count down to 2008 commenced, hats, noise makers, and balloons were passed out. At exactly midnight, the noise level in the hall rose and the words Happy New Year echoed. Count down for the 2008 Bruce County IPM has begun and 1 Jan marks 259 days to opening day.

IPM ... (from P. 1)

Committees. They chose the Lunches Committee and asked Deanne to help because she is the "best organizer in the country." They have approached three other people so the Lunches Committee will have six core members. During the Match, however, the Committee will have to expand in order to make and deliver the required number of lunches daily. They think they will need approximately 20 additional people per day to make and pack lunches.

The lunches will consist of two sandwiches that will be made late in the afternoon and kept under refrigeration until they are delivered the next morning. 90 loaves of bread per day will be used to make sandwiches filled with egg salad, salmon, summer sausage, freshly roasted pork, beef, or ham. Deanne added that the meat will be "real meat, not plastic luncheon meat." Ellen stated that all the meat they need to buy will come from Green's Meat Market in Wingham because they give "great service and have a top quality product." Each day's lunch will include two sandwiches - different kinds - two sweets/snacks, a fruit, and a choice of drink. The lunches will be packed in individual boxes and delivered to designated drop-off points for each individual who has ordered one. They plan to have three vehicles delivering lunches to the drop-off points that have been coordinated with the Committees involved. The Lunches Committee has requested hand held radios from the Internal Communication/Transportation Committee to allow for voice contact between the delivery vehicles and a central supply station.

When Deanne and Ellen were asked why they took on this responsibility, Deanne responded that "it is important to support the event and the people from our community who are very involved." They have "no worries" about community support and are "looking forward to supporting the IPM." To volunteer to assist the Lunches Committee, contact Ellen Harkness @ 519-392-8170 or the 2008 IPM Headquarters @ 1-877-IPM 2008 or 519-392-6556 or ipm2008@wightman.ca.