

Free Press Farm Page

Weather cold, windy

21 compete in Halton plowing match



AMONG THE TOP FLOWBOYS at the 1968 Halton Plowing Match held on George Readhead's north Burlington farm Saturday were these four, shown with their trophies and awards. From left are first-year contestant Murray Breckon who won the Eaton's silver trophy as the youngest contestant; Bert Robertson who was the oldest plowboy participating as well as the Esso Champions special winner; Bill Gray who won the Toronto-Dominion Bank tray for plowboys aged 14 to 17; and Robert Brander, winner of the 14 to 21 year contest and the Royal Bank tray.

(Staff Photo)

Cold and windy weather failed to deter 21 competitors who entered Halton's 77th annual plowing match, held at the north Burlington farm of George Readhead on Saturday. Six of the plowmen were from outside Halton, and 15 from the county. A smaller than usual crowd of spectators attended the match, and those who did venture to the site seemed more contented to watch the plowing from the warmth of their cars than to wander through the fields. Two neighbouring counties held their annual matches on the same day, and directors felt this may have helped to keep both entries and crowd figures below previous years.

Plowmen's Association president George Swann of Milton reports he was nevertheless pleased with the match. He indicated another 10 Halton competitors would have made it a much better competition, but it was a good show even with just 21 plowmen.

While tractors have gradually taken over in recent years, evidence of the horse-drawn plow was still in evidence throughout the match. A class was held for jointer plows, and another feature was the "president's class" where anyone willing to give it a try could do two rounds with a horse-drawn plow. Vernon Pickett and George Readhead topped the list of entries.

The Queen of the Furrow contest was another highlight. This year just two girls vied for the honor and after they were judged on their plowing ability, a three minute speech on plowing, their poise and personality, the judges awarded the honor to Mrs. Mary Pickett, wife of Larry Pickett. Mrs. Joyce Ruddell was runner-up. Mary takes over the title from Rosemary Booth who held it two years. Previous Queens of the Furrow from Halton included Janette Finnie, Verna

Thompson and Ria Wilson. Secretary of the Ontario Plowmen's Association Floyd Lashley and Mrs. George E. Elliott of Milton judged the class.

President Swann chaired the banquet at Fairview School auditorium Saturday evening. Secretary-treasurer Jack Taylor introduced the head table and gave out the awards, assisted by a number of the trophy donors.

Judges Ray Montague and Bob Timbers commented on the match, noting the soil was excellent for competition. Mr. Timbers said it was "a fine field, one of the best we have seen in years." Mr. Montague praised the plowmen's executive for helping bring the rural and urban people together for such affairs.

The furrow queens, in their speeches to the audience, noted the tractor is taking over at the matches which were once predominantly horse shows. The tractor made its debut in Halton in 1935. They noted the Halton Mouldboard Association had been formed in 1891 and its first match was Nov. 17 of that year. Mrs. Pickett said "to neglect the plow is to neglect the key that unlocks the fertility of the soil," and Mrs. Ruddell called the soil "God's greatest gift to man."

Greetings were extended to the plowmen by Halton M. P. Rud Whiting and Burlington Mayor George Harrington. Provincial members Jim Snow and George Kerr were also in the audience.

Guest speaker was Rev. E. E. Baskier, minister of Lowville and Zimmerman United Churches, who was introduced by past president Jim Cunningham and thanked by vice-president Cameron Marshall. Mr. Baskier traced the many changes in agriculture over the past few years, noting a farmer's life is not the easiest in the world. Power farming and mechanization are taking over, and farming is losing some of its

charm because of this, he felt. "There is still something tremendously noble in farm life... you are the breadbasket of the world... you work with the Creator in providing our food," he continued. Farmers need a sense of humor and optimism to carry on in the face of stabilized prices for their products in comparison to the rising costs of production. He concluded with a poem that pointed out just all the sunshine of life comes in one

window "look around you and you'll discover that your labor is not in vain," he challenged the audience.

The delicious turkey dinner was served by the ladies of St. George's Anglican Church. Vice-president Roy Currie extended the group's thanks to the ladies for catering.

C.I.A. Insurance donated six potted mums which were given away as door prizes to Anne Whiting, Charles Mitchell, Norman Biggar, Lloyd May,

Ross Segsworth and Jack Marchmont.



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Plowing winners

Boy takes armful of awards

Murray Breckon carted off an armful of trophies and cheques when the prizes were distributed to the top plowmen after Halton's 77th annual plowing match Saturday. Murray topped the Halton-only class for plowmen aged 14 to 17 and won the George E. Elliott memorial trophy for the youngest plowman competing. He also won a \$15 first prize donated by Geoff Drewbrook for being the best of the first year competitors.

Here are the prize winners: Class 1, jointer plows in sod, open, Stan May first, Lloyd May second.

Class 2, tractors in sod, open, Bob Armstrong, Bert Robertson.

Class 3, open mounted plows, two furrows or more, Bob Brown, Larry Pickett, Bryan Marshall.

Class 4, mounted plows, ages 14 to 17, Bill Gray, Ken Alderson, Harley Pickering, Elgin Jamieson. Bill Gray wins the silver tray donated by Toronto Dominion Bank.

Class 5, tractor mounted plows, Halton only, ages 14 to 17, Murray Breckon, Jean Wilson. Murray Breckon wins the Eatons of Canada silver waiter and Jean Wilson the Junior Champion trophy donated by Halton and Peel Trust and Savings in memory of the late J. E. Whitehead.

Class 6, tractors in sod, open, ages 14 to 20, Robert Brander, Harry Brander, John Breckon. Robert Brander wins the silver tray donated by Royal Bank of Canada.

Class 7, tractors in sod, open,

three or more furrows, Richard Dunnett, Dwight May, Howard Dunk. Richard Dunnett wins the silver tray by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Class 8, Ernest Irvine tractor utility class, two or more furrows, Halton only, ages 14 to 29, Janet Taylor, Bryan Marshall, Bill Speck, Dwight May, Larry Pickett, Ken Alderson, Harley Pickering. Miss Taylor won the Bank of Montreal trophy.

Class 9, tractor utility class, open, Bob Armstrong, Richard Dunnett, Bob Brown, Bert Robertson, Elgin Jamieson, Harry Brander, Bob Brander, Howard Dunk. Mr. Armstrong wins the Bank of Nova Scotia trophy.

A special class again this year was open to anyone, and consisted two rounds with a walking plow. First prize and the silver tray donated by Ledwith Food Markets Ltd., Milton went to Vernon Pickett with match host George Readhead as runner-up.

Horseshoe pitching saw Allan Brownridge of R. R. 2, Georgetown and his cousin George Brownridge of Streetsville win out over Allan's father Tom Brownridge and Bert Davidson.

There were also several special awards given out.

Bert Robertson won the Esso champions special in the utility class and will compete in the 1969 International which was won this year by John Wilson of Norval. Dwight May took the International Harvester company special in the utility class and

will also be eligible for the 1969 match.

Bert Robertson claimed the Thomas Howden special for the oldest plowman competing, plus a prize for the best finish in the first six classes.

Stan May won a prize for the best entry in the horse show, with William Rayner second.

The Geoff Drewbrook special for first year contestants was won by Murray Breckon with Ken Alderson receiving \$10 for second prize.



"WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE he thinks he is doing", seems to be the sentiments of the dog as he eyes Liberal M.P. Rud Whiting behind a horse-drawn plow. Mr. Whiting did not par-

take in the Halton County Match but did put in an appearance to meet the people, as did Halton East M.P.P. Jim Snow. (Staff Photo)

Halton meets stiff opposition at 4-H inter-club contests

By Jim Jenkins

Compared to last year, Halton County faltered in their standings at the Provincial 4-H Inter-Club competitions held at the University of Guelph on Friday, Oct. 25. Yet in this strong competition our teams made a good showing.

In the Field Crop competition, with 61 teams competing, the Halton 4-H Forage Club, with John Hulse of Georgetown and Don McClure, Georgetown, as members, placed third with a total score of 898 points out of a possible 1,040. The winning team from Wellington County had 906 points. The Acton 4-H Forage Club, with team members Norma Leslie, Acton, and Bob Lashby, Rockwood, placed 13th, while Bob Harris, Milton, and Ken Alderson, Homby, of the Halton 4-H Corn Club, made a 27th place finish—still very respectable.

In the Tractor Club competition the Halton 4-H Tractor Club placed fourth with 17 teams competing. Team members were Ted Brown of Limehouse and David Austin, Georgetown.

The Dairy Competition—the largest one of the day, with 80 teams competing—saw the Halton 4-H Holstein Calf Club finish 25th, and the Halton 4-H Jersey-Guernsey-Ayrshire Calf Club tied for 27th. Team members were Bob McGee, Norval; Murray Brownridge, Georgetown; Rae Swackhamer, Acton; and Gary Dobbie, Acton.

In evaluating these results one must keep in mind that our

members were competing against top 4-Hers from across the province. At the presentation of awards Ralph Cudmore of Oakville, President of the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs, spoke of the increased enrolment in 4-H clubs across the country, and said that competition was the only way attainment could be measured. It is a measurement of the individual as to how well he is achieving the objectives set in 4-H work. He reminded the members to support 4-H club work after they were past 4-H age.

Awards night on Saturday

By J. Jenkins

Halton's 120 4-H club members will be received at the annual 4-H Awards Night program to be held this year at the Ontario School for the Deaf in Milton, 8:00 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 2. Trophies will be awarded to top placing individuals, and also to winners of 4-H and Junior Farmer competitions this year.

A special guest this year will be Ralph Cudmore, President of the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs.

All members should make an extra effort to attend this evening of recognition. Parents, friends, and supporters of 4-H club work in Ontario are also urged to attend.

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