

Spotlight on the big International

Stress Halton hospitality plowing match next week

Halton residents have a chance to show off (and enjoy) some of that Halton hospitality for which they're known next week, when the 61st International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show comes to Halton

Region. The welcome mat is out, the weatherman is promising his most pleasant September

weather, and behind-the-scenes organizers have been busy for over three years preparing for the big five-day

show, which runs Tuesday, Sept. 24 to Saturday, Sept. 28.

Known as the largest outdoor show of its kind

in Canada and one of the largest annual agricultural shows in the world, the IPM is an important show window on agriculture, but don't get the idea it's just for farmers. Each year the program and exhibits lean a little more heavily on educating and entertaining the urban folks and trying to "bridge the gap" between the rural and urban people. From all indications this year's match will break all records and organizers are counting heavily on urban people to help break those records.

Close to town

It all takes place on a typical, quiet 200 acre farm in Halton Hills, "Reidson Farm" owned by W. T. Craig Reid. It's located on the south side of Ashgrove Sideroad (officially No. 10 Sideroad) between the Eighth and Ninth Lines of what was formerly Esquesing. It's just a mile east of Ashgrove, a mile west of Norval, and a stone's throw from the southern boundary of built-up Georgetown.

More than just a plowing match, the International is a mixture of exhibits, displays, entertainment, education and above all, fun. The plowing competitions are still important, as they have been the mainstay of the match for the past six decades, but over the years the plowing has had to take a back seat to the tented city.

Tent city is 100 acres of streets, tents, wooden and steel buildings where farm and home products manufacturers and dealers show their wares. It's where you'll find the newest tractors and silos and barn cleaners

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THIS IS TENT CITY, focal point of all International Plowing Matches, where exhibitors and caterers educate and entertain the thousands of IPM visitors. The photo was taken from a helicopter at last year's International in Lambton County, by a Ministry of Agriculture and Food photographer. Next week the IPM comes to Halton from Tuesday to Saturday and an even larger tent city, more exhibitors, more displays and expanded plowing classes will be featured.

Be sure to visit the

International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show

Halton Hills

Tuesday, Sept. 24 to Saturday, Sept. 28

