

Stress hospitality . . .

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and agricultural chemicals displayed alongside booths promoting the sale of kitchen appliances, furniture, labor saving devices and building systems.

Three miles of exhibits

This year over 300 exhibitors have booked space in the tented city's three miles of streets. And there will be about 50 catering booths concentrated near the centre of the city, offering a variety of food ranging from hot dogs to full course dinners. It will be the largest tent city in the match's 61-year history and as of Tuesday, Sept. 10 every available foot of space was rented to exhibitors.

The match is a joint venture between the Ontario Plowmen's Association and the Halton Local Committee. Each year the match moves to a different county or region and each year a new local committee pitches in to help OPA organize and operate the show. Halton's committee has been at work on the 1974 match for four years and there are over 100 Halton residents involved in carrying out every last detail, from parking to publicity, ladies' programs to lunches, bands to billeting.

"A large number of people have put a tremendous amount of work into this match," says Ross Segsworth of Burlington, overall chairman of the Halton committee. Len Jefferson, OPA president, says "without the untold hours of effort contributed by the organizers in Halton, we could just not put on a show this big."

Big? The match covers a total of 600 acres of land on the Reid farm and surrounding farms. Tent city and some of the plowing will be on the Reid property but about 15 area landowners have co-operated by loaning their land to the IPM for the week, for plowing, parking and crop demonstrations.

Hope for 200,000

Big? Last year about 150,000 people visited the IPM in Lambton County, near Sarnia and organizers are predicting a record 200,000 (or more) for Halton, if only the weather is agreeable. Halton's location in the centre of the Golden Horseshoe, less than 50 miles away from six large cities, ensures a good crowd of urbanites. And the match has a large following among farm people, some of whom can be expected to travel here from the far corners of the province in their annual pilgrimage to the OPM.

Besides the paying visitors (car parking is \$1, admission \$1.50 for adults and 50 cents for children) there are hundreds of workers, officials and exhibitors who will be at the match each day on passes.

Big? This year's IPM has a budget of \$100,000 for mandatory expenses. If any profit is made, the proceeds will repay Halton Regional Council the \$18,000 it has sunk into the match, then \$10,000 will go toward agricultural scholarships, and any balance will be divided among the three agricultural societies in Halton.

Tent city has been serviced with hydro, telephones, water lines and toilets. Roads have been carved out of the fields and exhibitors' space has been staked out for two weeks now. Garbage will be collected daily.

350 contestants

Special plowing classes include a Queen of the Furrow contest, plus special classes for wardens and regional chairmen, mayors, press representatives, and OPA directors. The 35 regular plowing classes include contests for both tractor-drawn and horse-drawn plows and over 350 competitors are expected. The Ontario Senior Championship will be held Friday, Sept. 27

and the top two winners will go on to be Ontario's representatives at the Canadian contest to be held in conjunction with the IPM at Oshawa next year.

Daily parades of farm machinery, horseshoe pitching and sheep shearing contests, a large display of antique steam engines and gas tractors, helicopter rides over the site, bands, free movies, free ladies' programs, lots of good food and even two beer tents are among the other attractions.

All Halton students and their teachers from grades five to eight will be admitted free in groups and thousands are expected to head for the match for an educational day's outing. Each class must do a project on some facet of the IPM while at the match.

Some of the automobile manufacturers will be showing their 1975 models at the match. Conklin Shows will have an avenue of thrilling rides to please all ages of show-goers. (No gambling or games of chance are allowed). Junior Farmers driving tractors will transport visitors from distant parking lots to and from tent city, and out to the plowing fields, on wagons.

Police protection will be provided by the OPP and 24-hour coverage will be given by Georgetown Fire Department. A big wind-up banquet will be held on the Friday evening for about 1,500 officials and competitors. The only place in Halton large enough for this gathering was the mutuels

area at Mohawk Raceway, Campbellville.

OPA officials report a large variety of exhibitors have booked space this year in tented city. They include churches, producers of all types of farm equipment, banks, automobile manufacturers, house and garden suppliers, realtors, press agencies, building firms, plus several government agencies.

Farms Improved

In conjunction with the IPM, a farmstead and rural home improvement competition was held in Halton and 130 rural homes and farms have been beautified as a result. Five top winners were named in each of three classes and everyone who entered the contest received a plaque. The idea is to "spruce up" the rural properties throughout the county or region, so the host municipality makes a favorable impression on the thousands of visitors.

Since 1952, when farmstead and rural home improvement contests were begun, over 1,800 farms in Ontario have been improved.

James W. Snow of nearby Hornby, Halton East MPP and Minister of Government Services for Ontario, will officially open the 1974 edition at 2 p.m. on opening day, Tuesday, Sept. 24. The ceremonies will be held at the conclusion of the daily one o'clock parade, at a garden court near the headquarters building at the east side of tent city.



JAMES JARVIS is shown at the 1896 Halton Plowing Match. The team belonged to John Henderson and was named Polly and Nellie. This type of plow was used by the Jarvis family for years until the Cockshutt Company made one almost exactly like it. Charlie Jarvis took part in the boys' class, coming first and James Jarvis came first for the best finish, best crown and best all-round ploughman.

In good old days

All they did was plow

In the "good" old days a plowing match was a plowing match, nothing more. No counter-attractions, no display of machinery—and the women stayed at home!

Competition was keen and enthusiasm among non-competitors ran high. Farmers left their homes to take in the plowing match and the plowing was all they saw. To come home without knowing every detail about the plowing would have been unthinkable!

The first arranged match in Halton took place November 17, 1891 and was sponsored by The Halton Mouldboard Association. It was agreed that anyone upon payment of \$1 be entitled to the privilege of plowing. In those days of course the plowing was done by horse, not tractor, and two

types of plows commonly used were the Gray plow and the iron highcut. A John Gray High-Cut was imported from Scotland and also popular in this area.

Early prizes

According to Gwen Clarke in her book Halton's Pages of the Past, the prizes donated by public spirited citizens were a little different from the prizes of today. There was a briar pipe and case, value \$1.50; a large lantern, \$1; a barrel of salt; a pair of mitts, 75c; a white shirt; \$1 worth of barbering, (how many haircuts?); six cabinet photos; and 50c worth of oranges for the worst finish!

Plowing matches within the county have been of three kinds—spring plowing matches in connection with the Halton Agricultural Society,

township fall plowing matches which preceded county plowing matches in most parts of Ontario, and finally the county plowing match itself.

Of course plowing matches took place long before 1891 but they were not county matches.

Manning gate is big job

At any major event there are hundreds of behind-the-scenes men and women who work hard and long to make the event a success. The International Plowing Match is no exception to that rule.

One of those tasks with very little glamor attached to it is the massive job of arranging to park thousands of cars daily.

Bert Stewart and Earl McDowell are key men in charge of this function for the 1974 match. According to Stewart there'll be some 60 people working on parking facilities and directing guests to parking spots on the first four days of the match, and up to 75 on the final day.

Lions club

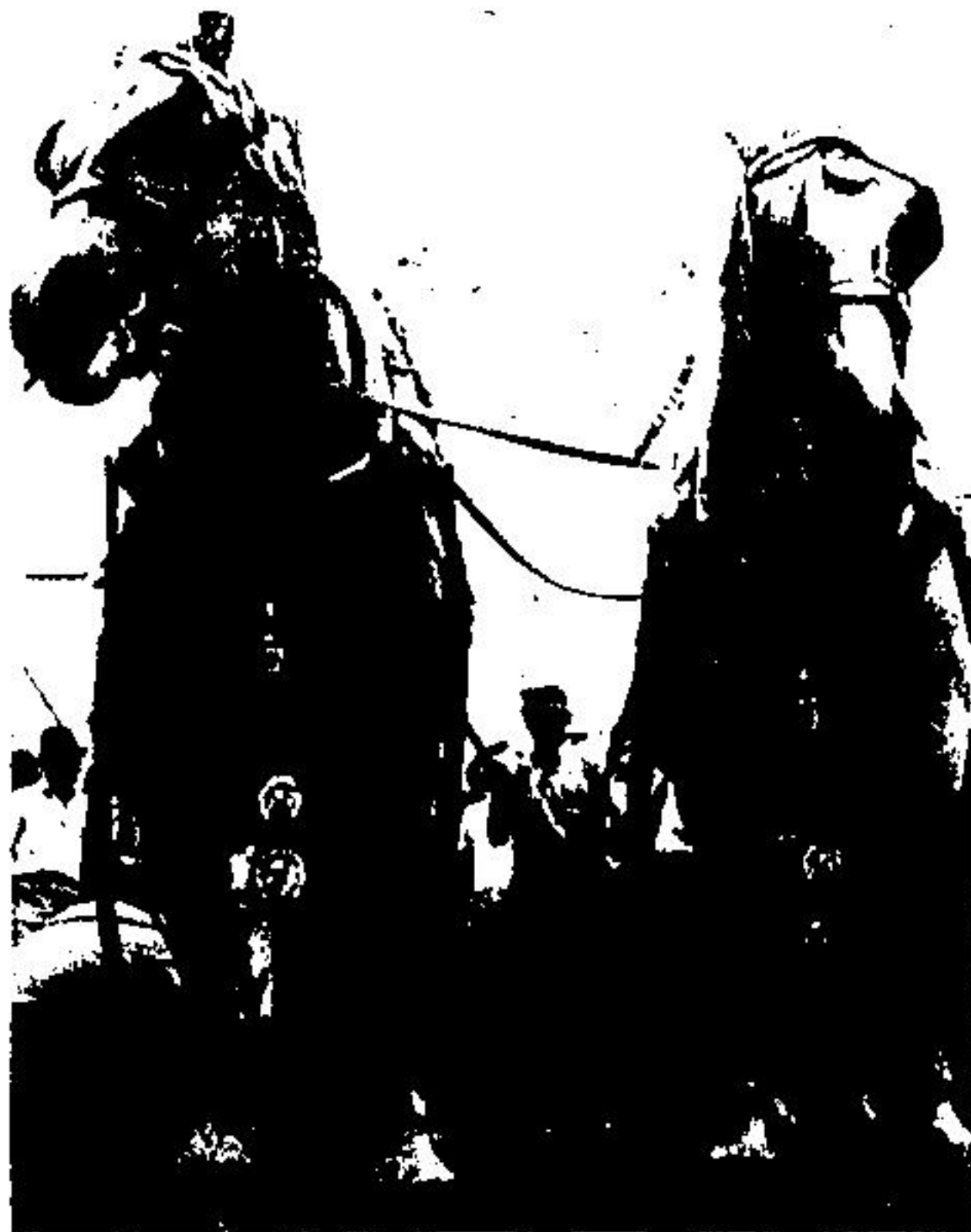
Streetsville Lions Club members have been recruited to handle the parking function Tuesday to Thursday and members of the Hornby Ball Club and Hornby area residents will handle the task on Friday and Saturday.

There will be 14 ticket booths in operation and three points of entry for the guests. Those people coming from the direction of the Ashgrove area should enter off the Ashgrove (No. 10) Sideroad, from the direction of Norval, guests should enter at one of five gates near the Nixon and Schertz farms and others coming from south of the site should enter at gates on the Ninth Line.

Hide to city

Stewart said there are provisions for guests to be brought from parking lots to the tent city area by tractors and wagons. That service is being offered by the Halton Junior Farmers. The chauffeur service will be provided only for those parking areas too far from the site for walking.

Promoters hope to have more than 200,000 people pass through the gates during the course of the event.



HORSE POWER will be in evidence once more when the IPM brings over 350 plowmen to compete for \$20,000 in prizes at the 1974 International. Pictured is William Rayner of Milton with his beautiful Belgians in show harness.

IPM fire protection

The Georgetown Fire Department will move onto the plowing match site sometime on Sept. 23 in preparation for the show which begins Sept. 24 and runs through to Sept. 28. They will provide protection the whole time.

The brigade plans to have one tanker and a pumper stationed at tented city along with three firefighters and one officer. The men will work in eight hour shifts and will provide 24 hour a day protection. "Some of the men will do it outside of their regular jobs and others are going to be there on vacation. We have been planning our schedule since last year at this time," Fire Chief Ken Buikema said.

All food caterers at the plowing match must have fire extinguishers on their premises.

"We haven't had a location allocated to us yet but we hope to have a central spot so we can get to all areas of the match with equal ease and time," Buikema said. The Georgetown Fire Department will also have a booth set up like the one they have had at other affairs around town where people can get fire safety information and other brochures.

Buikema said there are several potential fire hazards because of the tents and abundance of straw at the plowing match. He doesn't anticipate any problems since "visitors are generally pretty careful about fire. They are well aware of the hazards and are conditioned to be careful."

If there is a big fire in area two of Halton Hills the brigade from area one (Acton) will be called in

A day's plowing

How times changed!

Times have certainly changed since this article, by J. Harris, appeared in American Agriculturalist back in the late 1800s. Mr. Harris was trying to find out just how many acres of stubble can be plowed in a day, with a team of horses.

A DAY'S PLOUGHING

How much land can a man plough in a day? I have heard men tell of ploughing two acres and a half, but never saw it done. In England, where they plough narrow furrows, say nine inches wide and six inches deep, an acre is considered a fair day's work taking one day with another. Here we plough unwisely as I think, much wider, but do we not lose nearly as much time in resting the horses as would make up for the difference?

Narrow furrows, say ten inches wide and seven inches deep, turned over at an angle of 45 deg. is theoretically and practically the best style of ploughing; and if we plough wider, we should go deeper, and unless we use three horses no ordinary team can keep steadily at such hard work without injury. With a team that walks naturally at a good pace, it is better to plough narrower furrows and let them walk at a fair speed, than to tax them too heavily with a wide furrow, which necessitates their resting every other bout. The time lost in this way is far greater than is generally supposed.

But I am regarded already too much in the light of an innovator to attempt anything more than a very gradual change. I find it better to let men do pretty much as they have been accustomed to. Still I would really like to know what is about the average rate of ploughing in different parts of the country, and what hours are kept.

By looking at my record, I found that we ploughed a thirty acre field corn stubble for barley, with three teams in seven and a half days—say thirty acres in twenty-two and a half days, or just one and one third acres per day for each team. Hours, 6.45 to 11.45, and from 1.30 to 6.30, say ten hours a day. With a furrow slice ten inches wide, it takes about 16 and a half miles to travel to plough an acre and a half.

In a field 200 yards long experiments of the Earl of Mar, as given by Sinclair, show that over two hours are lost in turning. Even then, if no time is allowed to breathe the horses, they would have to walk steadily along at the rate of over two miles an hour to plough an acre and a half.

I doubt very much whether farmers really plough as much in a day as they think they do. They do not keep an exact account of the time or measure the land accurately.