

History

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is now the site of Sunnybrook Hospital. There were 31 competitors with horse drawn plows, but one brave soul entered the competition with a plow drawn by a tractor. It proved to be a real curiosity.

Regular tractor classes were added in 1919 and eventually the faithful horse was put out to pasture and the tractor took over the work.

The match was so successful in the eyes of the association that a decision was immediately made for the provincial match to be an annual event. It was repeated on the same farm the next year but thereafter was rotated throughout those areas in Ontario where interest in plowing matches was keenest.

The plan of holding the match in the fall season and in a new location each year has never been changed in the 60 years of the association's existence. The match however was discontinued during the period of the last war but was revived again in 1946, the site being Port Albert in Huron County. In 1926 it was given the title International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Demonstration.

The setting up of a provincial association in 1911 gave new life to branches across the province. The number grew until today we have 69 affiliated with the parent body.

These branch matches have served as the training ground for competitors wishing to compete for provincial honors and more recently one of the rules of the International Match is that a competitor must have been a prize winner at a local match.

^{40 areas}
The provincial association has a board of 40 directors. Each represents a county or territorial district holding one or more matches. All board members are farmers or retired farmers. The board also has two junior directors nominated by the Ontario Junior Farmers' Association.

Each branch, which may either be on a township or county basis, holds its annual meeting in December at which delegates are appointed to attend the annual meeting and convention of the provincial association a month or so later.

Each branch assumes the full responsibility of carrying on its own program without financial assistance from the parent body. Provincial board members, on invitation, attend meetings and help wherever possible in the promotion of local match programs. Useful information is given branch delegates who attend the annual provincial convention.

During recent years, branches have enlarged their activities by staging other events in conjunction with their plowing match, such as demonstrations of farm drainage, brush, stump and fence removal, corn and soya bean harvesting, the use of newer types of implements, including plows. In addition, few branch matches are held without machinery displays of some kind.

STUDENTS VISIT

Thousands of Halton students will be bussed to the IPM next week but it won't be just a fun day—each student will be studying and filing a report on one aspect of the plowing match for discussion in later class sessions.

SLOW GOING

The average farmer plowing a field with a tractor travels about five miles per hour. At a plowing match, though, the speed is cut to about one mile an hour as the driver concentrates on well turned and perfectly shaped furrows.

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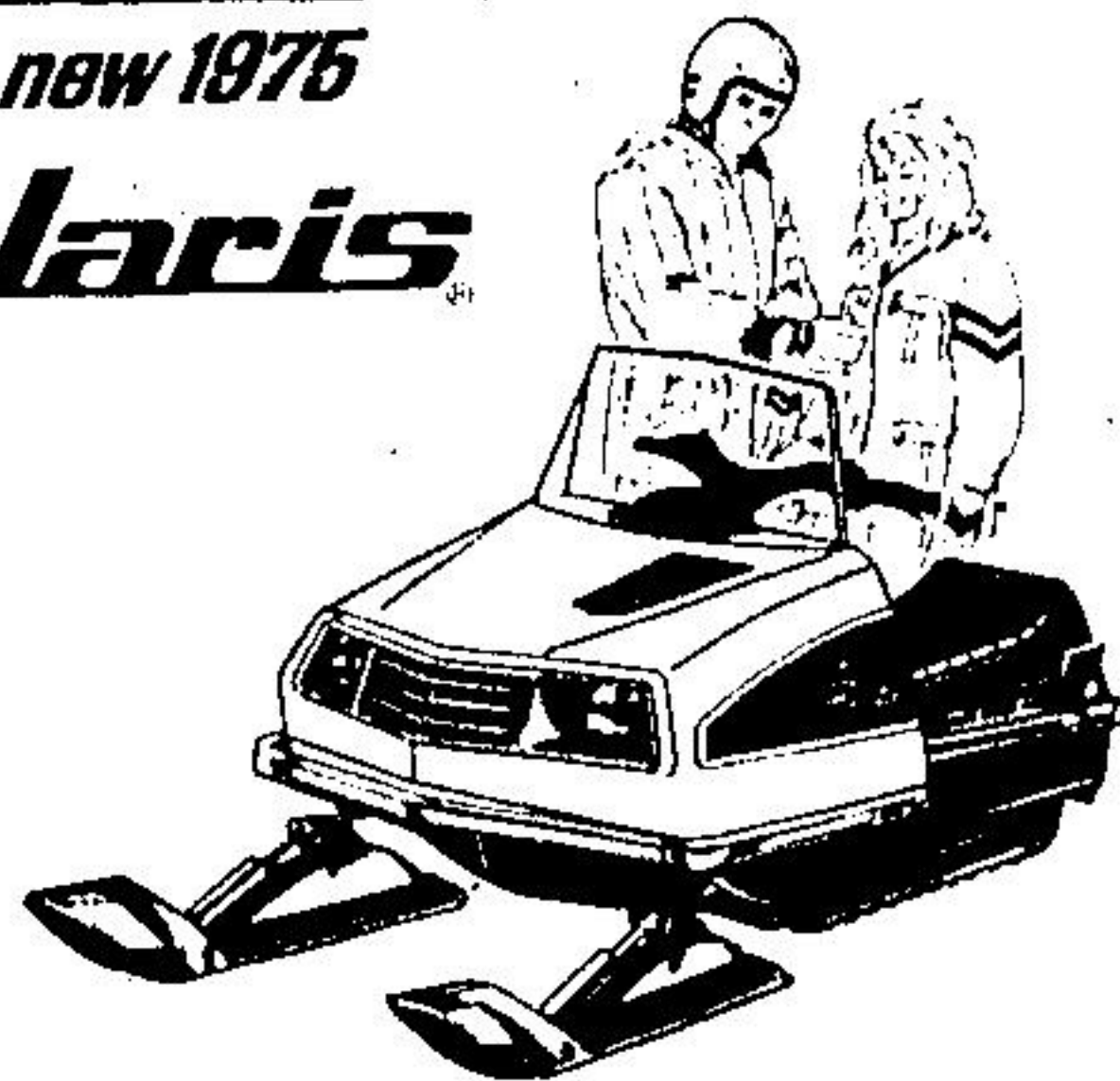
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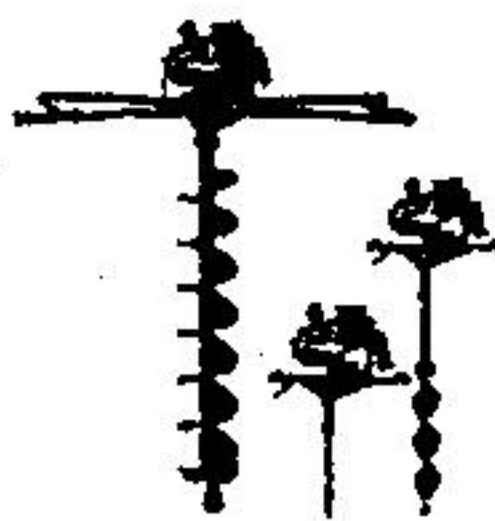


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