again this fall.

Chudleigh's Pick Your Own

orchard will be hosting

groups of school children

tended the offical opening of the Ontario Agricultural Museum in Milton Sunday

afternoon. Three provincial cabinet ministers were among those taking part in the offical opening. Minister of Government Services Jim Snow, retiring Minister of Agriculture and Food William Stewart and Solicitor-General George Kerr proclaimed the opening and unveiled a plaque.

The museum is designed to preserve and display farm machinery and reflect the farming life of years ago. It is situated on a 92-acre site south of Highway 401 at Milton Heights. The complex cost \$1.8 million to build.

Mr. Stewart paid tribute to a number of people who he said were instrumental in getting the museum "on the tracks" and finally constructed.

He recalled a 1963 visit to Saskatoon where he saw an agricultural museum in

we did not have something like that in our province. It took us from 1963 to 1975 to get it, but we have a dandy."

He told the crowd the museum was the result of long, arduous hours put in by

He paid special tributes to Bob Carbert, General Manager at the Museum and Dave Pallett, Chairman of the Museum Advisory Board for their efforts.

He recalled his own days growing up on a farm and the hard work involved prior to effects on farm life.

The minister, a farmer himself, spoke of cutting corn by hand, working with teams of horses and the threshing bees that were common years as the museum.

While Stewart welcomed changes in technology as a great thing for the farming community, he noted "It's operation. "I wondered why, nice to preserve the things of museum complex: "The

the past. Just as the beaver opened the way for settlement."

Solicitor General George Kerr also recalled the early developments leading up to the museum. He told the many people. "They were crowd Steam-Era committed to an idea." representatives were instrumental in getting the project started.

The site, he said, was a natural one for the building and tied in well with the annual Steam-Era. He said club representatives had visited both him and Agriculture Minister Stewart, mechanization having its to house artifacts.

> Kerr introduced Jim Snow who, he said, is commonly known as the landlord for the province and is in charge of acquiring land for such things

Referring to the upcoming provincial election Kerr said Snow's timing for the opening was to be congratulated.

Snow described

single-storey museum building contains some 20,000 square feet of gross floor space and consists of two fall of 1974 and has provided large adjoining wings and a for the construction of a partial mezzanine. In ad- variety of facilities and dition to extensive exhibition services. These include space, this building houses a electrical, telephone and fire workshop for the construction alarm systems; water mains, of exhibits and the restoration fire hydrants and storm of machinery, as well as an

administration offices. Development of the for over 500 vehicles," he museum lands has been carried out in two main stages, with the first stage comprising preliminary preparation of the site. This work was completed during the summer of 1973 by students of the Heavy Equipment School, Milton Campus, of Sherldan College of Applied Arts and Technology in Oakville.

Many services Subsequent site development has continued since the drainage: landscaping, a implement storage area and picnic shelter, roads, walks

> pointed out. Further development of the site will see completion of an historic park where farm houses and buildings representing various regions and periods are to be located. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food will acquire the buildings and be responsible for their restoration and

and parking accomodation

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Hornby

Matthews collection is nucleus of museum

The Charles Matthews collection of artifacts, steam and gasoline powered machinery in a unique one. The purchase of these articles in 1971 by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food made it possible for a museum to be built to preserve the farming heritage o. Ontario. The collection includes many items that show the evolution of machinery

for the farm. blacksmithing and carriage building for centuries before in England brought about an appreciation of the art which

From his home and office on four and a half acres in Langstaff (now Thornhill), the late Charles Matthews operated a construction and housemoving business. He moved not only houses but also stores, churches, por-table school rooms, dredges, lakeboats, etc. For the Ontario Agricultural Museum, the Matthews firm

Museum's land. Buy, sell, trade

was the inner passion for collecting the unusual. Mr.

or trading anything he felt was worthy of preservation. His two surviving sons, Charles H. and Roger, recall or the farm. that telephone calls placed by their father to all parts of the been entrepreneurs for the world were a common every-past 1200 years. Their black- day occurrence. Mr. Mat-smithing in Canada and thews was a man of bonor and his word was his seal of business. He would dispatch the money to the seller and wait for the goods to arrive. had not been recognized He, in turn, was never disappointed in a business

At Northampton, the family's shop produced many of the stylish cabs and carriages that have found their way to many parts of the world. A stagecoach now on loan to Black Creek Pioneer Village was once owned by the Matthews.

Dream unfulfilled

moved the Lucas House from his collection, Charles Burlington to its site on the Matthews purchased a farm in 1964 at Hawkestone, Ontario. He rebuilt the barn, Behind the business-front erected airplane-style hangars for his huge locomotives and workshops for Matthews was constantly searching out, buying, selling repairs. At one time he had hoped to open a museum but this dream did not materialize. The Ontario Governpurchased the farm from him along with his collection, to help start the Ontario Science Centre in

> The collection of about Ministry of Agriculture and Food and this collection Museum.

Toronto, Mr. Matthews died

about a year later on March

The two surviving sons, Charles and Roger carry on the family business in

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Many contribute, assist at new provincial museum

buted to the Ontario Agriculture Museum in the way of exhibits and furnishings and in some instances, displays are loaned to the museum.

gavel made by W. C. Barrie of Cambridge. Mr. Barrie has made more than 1,700 gavels and has given them to Prime Minister Trudeau, the

Piano made in Kingston in 1900. Quilt making in the family of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Meisner of Guelph is displayed in the stairwell of

the slush scoop donated by Mr. and Mrs. Glen A. Wilson Dennis Weber of Kitchener of Milton. The scoop dates

centre hall.

Pencil sketches by Bruce Lepper describe the rural scenes of Ontario and dried flower arrangements by Mrs. Vici Gudgeon are on display.

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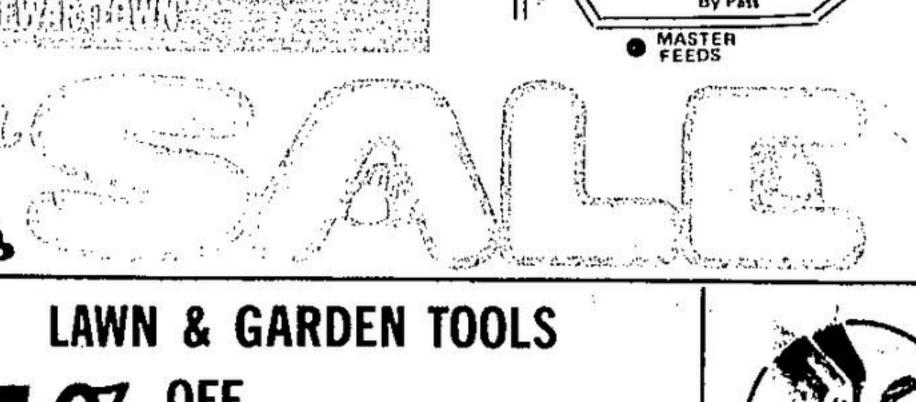
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PER GALLON

15,000 artifacts and the farm were later sold to the became the nucleus of the Ontario Agricultural

Toronto, still on the same site their father purchased 47 years ago, Mr. Matthews had converted a building on the property into a house for his family and built workshops

To find a suitable home for around it.

Many people have contri- donated a Wormwith Player

back to the early 1850's and appears to have been patented. It was used to turn the sod at the museum last year and occupies a place of prominence in the museum's

A farm implement seat that won world fame in 1918 when it was first demonstrated in England is from the Matthews collection and on

display in the museum.

the museum. The North The opening ceremony Sunday was convened with a American German Heritage quilts were made between the years 1880 and 1975 by four generations of the family. Slush scoop

A relatively rare piece of President of the United States primitive farm equipment is and Prime Minister of England to name a few.

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