

Work continues at Agricultural Museum

Although the Ontario Agricultural Museum will never be completely finished, visitors have a chance to visit the local museum and witness its progress, according to museum manager Bob Carbert.

During the past three years, staffers at the 92-acre site in Milton Heights have been busy collecting, restoring and assembling exhibits of farm machinery and artifacts.

But the work is behind, according to Mr. Carbert. With only eight full time staff plus summer students, the Museum "has not had ready access to more bodies to develop the plan," he stated.

It was originally slated to open formally to the public this summer, but the plans have been cancelled, owing to government restraints which have kept the work behind, said Mr. Carbert. Next summer is the new date set for the opening.

In the meantime, work continues non-stop as carpenters, workshop employees and researchers continue to

prepare equipment and artifacts, collected from all over Ontario.

After three years, the inside exhibit hall is 90 per cent complete with numerous displays dating back to the turn of the century.

Power, and its transition from manually operated tools through to horse and oxen powered equipment and finally to electric power, is featured in the main display hall.

The exhibit hall has been a top priority, according to tour manager Mary Robertson, in addition to the outside construction of historic farm buildings and barns.

When staff first moved to the site, there was only one building, but now 21 buildings have been added on the site, said Mr. Carbert.

While some of the buildings will house displays and farm machinery of by-gone days, eight new buildings are planned to illustrate how farm homes and barns were built 100 years ago.

A log cabin is the first of the series, with several other

farmsteads being recreated and restored on the property.

A rebuilt Halton end-drive barn and a rare octagonal barn are among the buildings in the plans. Two additional farmsteads have been designated for future development to represent the years 2000 and 2050.

A "crossroads community" is also in the plan and will illustrate the services found in a farm community such as the local "smithy", butter plant, general store, church, school and a historic building to be devoted to the Women's Institute.

Although little advertised, the Museum has already attracted its fair share of visitors. Mr. Carbert predicts 10,000 people will visit the site this summer, despite the fact that the museum is not open on weekends and grants tours only through the week.

Last year, there were 5,000 visitors and the year before, 3,000.

In order to continue with research and restoration and the construction of displays,



KAREN BLACK, a summer student at the Museum has more than just a general interest in the museum. It stands on what used to be her grandfather's homestead. Now a tour guide with the Museum, she recalls the summer holidays she spent on the farm. Miss Black is a second year fine arts student at the University of Toronto.

the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has hired 35 summer students through Experience '78 to help out.

For tour guide Karen Black of Milton, the site means a little more to her than just a museum. It was originally her grandfather's homestead farm.

A student of fine arts at the University of Toronto, Miss Black says she has many memories of the way the farm used to be, but added she felt her grandfather would be happy to see the development of an agricultural museum on the property.

The land was sold to Halton county in 1966 and later acquired by the provincial ministry.

While it is a provincial project, many of the artifacts and several of the buildings represent the Halton area.

An important and rare member of the farm machinery exhibit is a threshing machine that was built in the Milton area in approximately 1873. According to Albert Fife, who takes care of all the farm equipment, the "Auburn" model originated from Downs Corner, which was the name for the corner at Derry and Trafalgar Rds. The settlement was also known as Auburn.

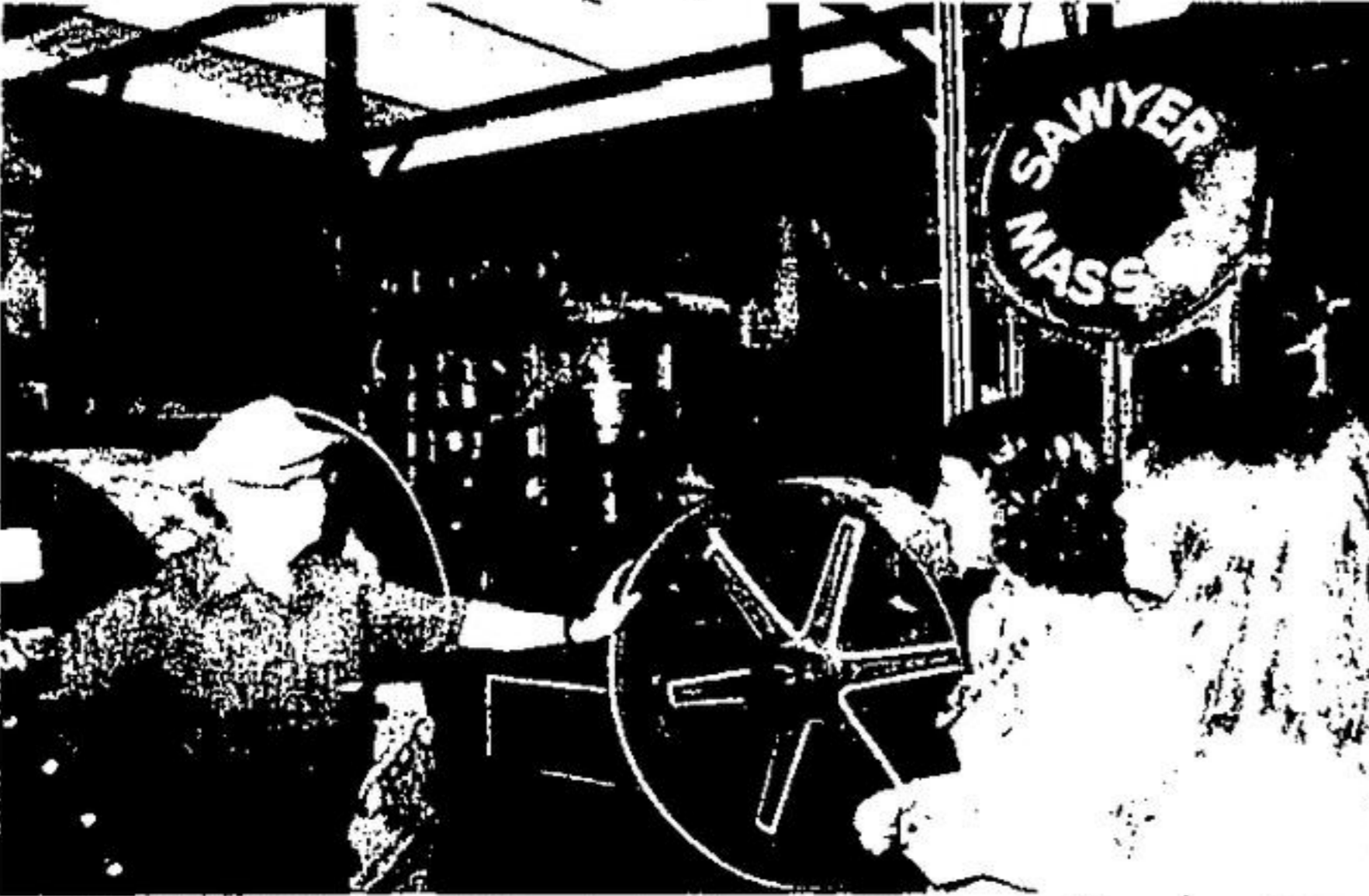
The grain threshing is the only one in existence, said Mr. Fife, who added that "just a few were ever made."

There is a story that goes with the find of every piece of equipment. The Milton threshing machine, according to museum officials, was first picked up at an auction in Sutton, then shipped and stored in Detroit, Mich., before it was offered for sale to the Museum.

A farmhouse dating back to 1830 has been moved from its North Service Rd., Burlington site, to the Museum where it will be renovated and prepared for display.

The First Methodist Church, Winston Churchill Blvd., is another building that is being renovated for display at the Museum.

Artifacts and buildings come from all across Ontario, Mr. Carbert said, in an attempt to provide an accurate



ALBERT FIFE from Milton is in charge of farm machinery and implements at the Museum. He takes great pride in the artifacts collected during the last few years. He is shown here with one of his favorite gas tractors with employees Marion Wallington, (left), and Karen Black. The Museum has already collected enough machinery representing a range of farming methods to fill two huge barn sheds at the site.



THE VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE shows many supplies used in "the good old days" that are still now being used to administer to a variety of equine ailments and other animal complaints. The display can be found in the exhibition hall of the Ontario Agricultural Museum.

WI hall museum addition

The building which has been designated the Women's Institute (WI) Hall at Ontario Agricultural Museum dates to about 1838.

It was built originally in the little village of Sheridan, located on the Town Line dividing Halton and Peel counties, south of where the QEW now runs.

The 20 by 24-foot building served the community of Sheridan as a church, school and meeting hall. It served various members of the Lawrence family, who bought it, as a temporary dwelling, an ice hut, a storage shed and a workshop.

Donated to the museum by the Lawrence family, the building has been resurrected as part of the museum's crossroads community and will take on a new role as a WI Hall. The original framework was preserved intact and used in the reconstruction.

The agricultural museum has been responsible for erecting the building and equipping it. A small addition, a kitchenette, is under construction.

The Women's Institutes of Ontario have provided the display materials and are staffing the hall with volunteers. This summer, two volunteers from Peel and Halton WIs are on hand to greet touring groups.

Establishment of a WI hall

on the grounds of the agricultural museum shows recognition of the WI as an important part of early rural Ontario life, says Bob Carbert, general manager of the museum.

The purpose of the hall is to

provide a building where WI displays and crafts can be shown and where WI members can feel at home when they visit the site.

Construction of the WI hall is part of the museum's on-

going site development project scheduled for completion in 1985. The crossroads community, of which the hall is a part, is intended to show the services of particular importance to early farm communities.

WIs were significant force in life of rural Ontario

Women's Institutes were a significant feature of early Ontario life. Displays in the WI Hall on the grounds of the Ontario Agricultural Museum illustrate some of the history and work of the organization.

Started in Ontario before the turn of the century, Women's Institutes spread throughout Canada and to Great Britain and other parts of the western world.

The establishment of WIs was inspired by the work of one woman — Adelaide Hunter Hoodless — and WI members today use her story to point out the impact a single individual can make.

Personal tragedy and loss were at the root of Mrs. Hoodless' campaign to educate women for homemaking. In 1889, at the age of 18 months, her youngest son died because she unknowingly fed him contaminated milk. She

became determined to help others obtain the education necessary to prevent similar tragedies.

Women's work was distinct from men's, Mrs. Hoodless argued, maintaining it was wrong for schools to provide the same education for boys and girls. She advocated the teaching of nutrition, sanitation and housekeeping skills be added to the curriculum for girls.

As a result, the domestic science course was introduced in Ontario schools in 1893, leading later to the establishment of the Macdonald Institute of Household Science at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph.

Mrs. Hoodless continued to teach and speak. She accused the government of spending more time and money on the care and breeding of animals

than on families and children. Invited by Erald Lee, a man active in the Farmers' Institute, to speak at a Farmers' Institute meeting in Stoney Creek, she proposed the idea of an institute for women.

Over 100 women responded to a call for a meeting in Stoney Creek and the first Women's Institute was born. Their objective — to raise the standard of homemaking — has changed little over the years.

The date was Feb. 19, 1897. In 1913 the first WI was established in England and in 1927 an international body, the Associated Country Women of the World, was formed.

Women's Institutes today perform a variety of functions. In Ontario these include sponsorship of the home-making groups of 4-H clubs and the provision of scholarships for women.

Barbecue safe way

Barbecue season is here again and Halton Region Fire Prevention Committee has a few tips on the safe way to barbecue.

Be sure you use a solid igniter or CSA-approved fire starter, the Committee recommends. Use proper barbecue fuel—never gasoline, lighter fluid or naphtha gas.

If a fire won't burn, or goes out after lighting, don't add barbecue fuel—it could flare up and injure anyone standing nearby.

It is dangerous to light a barbecue on an apartment balcony, in a garage, or within 10 feet of any building, says the Committee. Also be sure children stay well back from the fire, as a change in wind direction can send the flames toward them.

Once your barbecue is finished, either leave the hot coals in the barbecue to burn themselves out, or extinguish them thoroughly with water. Never dump coals in a garbage receptacle, as they may not be right out.

Most parks have a safe place where burnt coals can be disposed of.

One final tip from the committee—don't try barbecuing on a windy day.



MANY CHANGES have been made to this store. Pictured here about 1890 it became Hinton's store in 1929. The front is completely changed. Hinton's is closing out this month.

Nursery to move

Sheridan Nurseries plans to move its head office for 20 employees to Glen Williams in the next five to ten years.

Highway 27 and the Queen Elizabeth. They also plan to centralize the shipping offices in the pulling out of Etobicoke, near

shipping office to a new building beside the present warehouse. Pressure of population and traffic in Oakville prompted the move.

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