

Plowing Match 'largest ever'



Good soil, mild October weather, and the biggest turnout in years marked a highly successful Halton Plowing Match held Saturday on the farm of Lee Wilkinson of Hornby.

Plowing match president Dwight May said it was the largest he had seen since becoming involved in the annual competition. This was confirmed by match secretary-treasurer Jack Taylor who said there were 17 entrants in the Halton-only utility class. There were a total of 69 entries this year.

A highlight of the match was a visit by John Kyle of New Zealand, a judge in the world plowing match held this September in Northern Ireland. Mr. Kyle said he enjoyed coming to Milton and was impressed by the ability of local plowmen.

Adding cheer to the day was Peggy Kneisz of Bruner, Ont., the 1978 Ontario Queen of the Furrow who was on hand all day publicizing the 1980 International Plowing Match in Woodstock.

At the banquet, held in Hillcrest United Church, Mr. May started off the evening of awards with praise for the plowing match executive, without whom "we couldn't have had the kind of match we had this year."

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed cast a sombre note on the evening, predicting rising fuel costs can be expected to seriously affect the farmer right across the province.

The Liberal energy critic in the Ontario Legislature, Mr. Reed warned the days of farming as we now know it "are disappearing before our very eyes." "The next 25 years will be as different from today as the preceding 25 years... it will boggle the mind."

"It will have a profound effect on the way we grow our food... and the land we need to grow our food," Mr. Reed closed by saying he did not want to spread gloom and doom and predicted the cost of food and energy should be looked upon as a challenge and a very real opportunity for Ontario.

But the evening soon turned to happier things with the announcement of winners in the various plowing classes and the crowning of the new Halton Queen of the Furrow.

The highlight of the Halton Plowing Match banquet was the selection of Halton's Queen of the Furrow 1980. The honor went to Eartha May whom judges selected over Lori Early of Acton. From left: Lori Early, Eartha May, Halton Queen of the Furrow.

Nancy McKinnon, who was Halton Queen of the Furrow last year and was the first runner-up in the Ontario Queen of the Furrow this year, and Peggy Kneisz of Bruner, Ont., Ontario Queen of the Furrow for 1978.

The choice for the crowning was done by judges was between Lori Early of Acton and Eartha May of the Milton area. After speeches, the queen, and she was joined by Peggy Kneisz. In the awards special mention should be given to John Reid of Hornby.

The 16-year-old won two premier trophies this year. He was first for the best plowed land by a Halton competitor under 18 and was awarded the Lloyd May Memorial Trophy. They also took the Judge George Elliott Memorial Trophy presented by the Halton Plowmen's Association to the youngest Halton contestant.

Region investigates disappearing water

The Region of Halton is trying to find out why one in every four gallons of water it treats, "disappears."

Regional public works director Robert Moore told the public works committee the water can probably be found after three methods of detection.

The first is a system of spot checks. Basically, meters will be used to check how much water is going into a certain area and how much is coming out.

This will be coupled with upgraded water meter calibration to ensure the meters are working properly.

He noted this is a problem in the north where lime in the groundwater tends to gum the gears of water meters.

Another source the regional staff will investigate is breaks in older mains. In Oakville where the watermain system is the oldest in Halton, a 26.4 per cent water loss rate has been recorded.

Public works committee chairman Ron Planché said he suspects Oakville has the greatest problem with water loss.

Last winter, record cold caused a high rate of watermain breakage.

In Milton, the water loss rate is dropping.

Burlington Councillor Pat McLaughlin said this is probably due to much new watermain improvement in areas like Timberlea which are not affected by age.

CLASS 1, Junior plow in sod: Andrew McRobbie, Gilbert McRobbie, there was no third competitor.

CLASS 2, tractors in sod, Halton only: John Reid, Paul Williams, and Alan Cunningham.

CLASS 3, open plows, two or more furrows: Larry Pickett, John Hays, Murray Breckon.

CLASS 4, open mounted plows: Charles Perkin of Carlisle, Larry Hord, Robert Jones.

CLASS 5, tractors in sod: Darlene Walton of Cayuga; Theresa Sleser, and Jim Patton.

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ACTON'S KEITH MCKENZIE leaves a long wake of freshly-turned sod during the annual Plowing Match, held this year on the farm of Lee Wilkinson of Halton Hills.

Water-sewer rates

Publicity campaign

By Jim Robinson
A ding-dong battle between regional councillors on how to explain equalized water and sewer rates, continues to be the hot topic at regional headquarters.

The squabbling could break into a full-scale donnybrook Nov. 7 when the whole topic of the region's "public information" program is discussed by the full council.

At the recent administration and finance committee meeting, the method of what form the program will take was discussed at length despite a report on how a consultant feels it should be done.

The consultant Jim Carr, vice-president of the Ontario Editorial Bureau, wants two brochures, mail displays, and press conference, and perhaps public meetings in various areas of the region.

The wording of the brochures and just who is going to answer the tele-

phone calls of disgruntled residents, are the main points of concern.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon said he wants the brochure to be clear and precise so residents can understand.

"It's better to spend a little more on the brochures and get the message across," he said.

Mr. Gordon said once the message has been sent out, he expects he will not have to take telephone calls because "the opus ends" at that point for individual councillors to make explanations.

"That's the whole reason for a public relations campaign," he said.

The committee has sent a four-part recommendation to council for discussion.

It recommends: That the Ontario Editorial Bureau, public relations consultants, be retained to advise the region regarding a proper program to advise Halton residents on the

new uniform rate system to start with January 1980 PUC billings.

That advertising and brochure preparation as required under the program, be accomplished by Ray Gentle Communication in conjunction with the public relations consultants.

That the general concept of the public relations program as outlined, be approved subject to final approval by council of the detailed program on Nov. 21.

That the preliminary budget of not more than \$15,000 be approved for conduct of the public relations program.

Business development director Bill Marshall had originally suggested Ray Gentle Communications do the entire program but he came under fire for going to just one source.

The result of that was bringing in Mr. Carr, the former business editor of the Hamilton Spectator, to discuss how he feels the program should go.

implementation of a public relations program.

"The recommended consultant has worked with Ray Gentle Communications for other clients and has recommended a similar arrangement in this instance," Mr. Marshall said.

"It is normal for public relations consultants to work closely with advertising agencies for the

implementation of a public relations program.

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