

The Canadian Champion

VOL. 112 - No. 19

Serving the Community for 111 years

MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1971

Second Class Mail Registration Number -0913

Twenty Pages—Fifteen Cents.

Smaller crowd, better show

25,000 at Steam-Era

Attendance dipped slightly to an estimated 25,000 at the 1971 edition of the Steam-Era reunion, held in Milton on labor day weekend, but the organizers of the show weren't the least bit worried.

"It was still a great success and probably the best show we've ever had when you consider the equipment, the demonstrations

and the activities," a beaming Ross Calder of Preston reported Tuesday morning. Mr. Calder heads up the 350-member Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Assoc. which sponsored the weekend reunion and the 10 previous shows.

Great weather
Attendance figures were down a bit from last year on each day

of the show. Weather threatened rain Friday and Saturday but it never came. Sunday afternoon, when the show was closed, Milton was hit with a half-hour downpour that formed lakes around the grounds. But Monday the sun was shining and the humidity rose, leaving show-goers uncomfortably hot.

Last year Steam-Era hosted an

estimated 28,000. The previous record was 35,000 in 1968 but directors feel that figure was a little high and prefer to say their top attendance was 30,000. "This year's crowd was a good average crowd," president Calder reported.

With excellent weather, increased exhibits and better programming of events, the 1971 reunion went off without a hitch. A total of 30 steam engines, 48 vintage gas tractors, 32 miscellaneous large exhibits, a record 170 gas engines, 27 antique vehicles and an even 200 models were the main drawing card. Daily parades through the fair grounds at 4 p.m. and a parade from Milton Plaza to the fair grounds on Saturday morning were also highlights.

Bigger, better
Directors said the display of antique farm equipment and privately owned antique collections were larger than ever before and many new exhibitors' names were noted among the displays. The country store did a roaring business in candy, home made preserves and knitted goods, and even featured a big run on hats, postcards, watch fobs, souvenir "Steam Puffs" newspapers and other souvenir items.

Food booths were busy all weekend with soft drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs, pie and barbecued chicken the main items. Monday's heat was so intense crowds lined up 20 at a time for a drink of cold water at fountains beside the Scout Hall, and many booths ran short of pop.

Visitors came from near and far to see the show. The official guest book indicated they came from virtually every part of Ontario plus half a dozen United States and two western Canadian provinces, and two visitors signed in from New Zealand. President Calder praised the American members and their guests who belong to steam or antique clubs south of the border and bring their exhibits, coveralls and tool boxes to the Milton show not only to see it, but to be part of it.

Farm equipment
The agricultural hall was turned into a "barn of yesteryear" with an immense display of vintage farm tools and equipment in use on Canadian farms at or before the turn of the century. Exhibits spilled over into a second nearby hall. The models hall was again full of exhibits of mini-replicas of larger steam-driven rigs, model boats, trains and engines.

Beneath the grandstand at

least 20 members exhibited antiques from their collections—clocks, phonographs, books, postcards, barnyard sculpture, guns, china, farm tools and hundreds of other items too numerous to list.

At the stage in front of the grandstand, emcee Vince Mountford of Brampton and pianist Iva Davidson kept the crowd's toes tapping and sides splitting with music, jokes and announcements. Saturday entertainment at the stage included the Grand River Entertainers group from Dunnville; Monday the famous Maurice Bolyer ("King of the Banjo"), fiddler Laura Heighway and 11-year-old fiddle wizard Danny Howlett of Erin helped Vince and Iva entertain. The Milton Girls Pipe Band performed frequently in front of the grandstand and led the 4 p.m. parade each day of the show as well as the parade through town Saturday.

Contests
Sheaf tying and log sawing contests were held each afternoon at the grandstand, plus belting-up races and demonstrations to show how the huge gas tractors are started.

Around the grounds sawmilling, wood cutting, a shingle mill, fans to test the engines' strength a rock crusher and several threshing machines were in operation all day, each day of the show. Nine models trains ran around an oval track near the north end of the fair

(Continued on Page 10)



POLISHING UP their well restored Baker sporting a pretty blue-white paint job. A total steam engine are Clark and Myrtle Dell of 30 steam engines were stars of the weekend Otterville. The big blue engine was a sight to behold, all restored and shined up and Milton. —(Staff Photo)



ANOTHER HOOTIN' TOOTIN' WEEKEND has come and gone in Milton and the 11th Steam-Era reunion was a fun time for thousands of participants and visitors of all ages. The three-day show packed a crowd into Milton Fair Grounds and even the weather-

man co-operated and blessed the organizers with excellent show weather. Above, the telephoto lens takes a long view at Main St. and a line-up of antique vehicles during the parade through town on Saturday. —(Staff Photo by Steven Dills)



OH, THOSE HILLBILLIES . . . Anyone attending the Steam-Era reunion on the weekend got a belly-full of laughs out of the entertainment provided by the T-Model Hillbillies and their amazing old car. "I never saw a car look so bad and run so

well," a Steam-Era director said. Hillbilly driver Carl Rowe waits for the motor to cough over as his partner E. J. Hayes gives it a crank. —(Staff Photo)

Man, woman killed head-on 401 crash

A two-car collision on Highway 401 westbound near Campbellville Wednesday claimed the lives of two Toronto area residents.

Margaret Hutchinson, 40, of Weston and Dharam Puri, 28 of Toronto were killed in the crash. A passenger in the Puri vehicle,

Judith Bratkowski, 33, of Willowdale, was taken to Milton District Hospital suffering from numerous cuts and fractures.

The head-on collision occurred at 3.20 p.m., just east of the county line. Milton OPP investigated the fatal accident.

Council to appoint replacement for councillor who died

The vacancy that has occurred on Milton Council, through the death of Councillor William Woods will have to be filled by a council appointment, clerk Jack McGeachie noted this week.

A first term member of Council, Mr. Woods died Saturday Sept. 4 near the end of the two year term to which he was elected in December 1969.

According to the statutes, where a vacancy on council occurs before Oct. 1, the seat must be filled by council appointment. The appointment would be for the completion of the term.

Since this is an election year in Milton, the town's nomination meeting is likely to be Monday, Nov. 22 with election scheduled for Dec. 6. The election will be for a one year term to bring the annual election in line with the

schedule for the Halton County Board of Education.

Council in seeking a replacement for the late Councillor Woods, is allowed to appoint any eligible citizen who is willing to serve. Sometimes councils turn to defeated candidates in the previous election but this is not mandatory. The appointment is made on a simple majority of council votes.

Defeated candidates in the last municipal election included O. Ledwith who sought the mayor's chair, Colin Smillie an aspirant to the position of reeve, Ken Marshall who contested the deputy reeve's position and Frank Miller who sought a council seat.

Hospital names director of nursing

Mrs. Eva Darrach, presently director of nursing at Victoria Hospital in Renfrew, has been appointed director of nursing at Milton District Hospital. She is expected to take over her duties here on Jan. 3, 1972.

Hospital administrator Ronald Woods made the appointment and his decision was ratified by the hospital board's personnel committee, board chairman Omar K. VanSickle said Tuesday when the announcement was made public.

Mrs. V. Purnell has been serving as interim director of nursing at the local hospital since former director Mrs. L. Verrall left the position in May of this year.

The new director has experience as a nurse, as an instructor and as a director of nursing. Mrs. Darrach has worked in various hospitals all the way from Toronto to Newfoundland and has been involved in nursing since 1943.

She graduated from Victoria High School in Edmonton, Alta. in 1943 and trained for nursing at Grace Hospital in Windsor until 1946. She received a certificate in nursing education and administration at University of Toronto in 1950. Mrs. Darrach worked as assistant director of nurses and instructor at Grace Hospital in St. Johns Nfld. in 1950-51, then as instructor of nurses at Grace Hospital in Halifax, N.S. from 1951 to 1953.

Toronto, Renfrew
Then she went to Toronto General as nursing office supervisor and evening and night supervisor until 1956. In 1957 she served at Grace Hospital in Toronto as instructor at the training centre for registered nursing assistants. Between 1958 and 1963 she did general nursing duty on a part time basis at Scarborough General Hospital in

(Continued on Page 12)



Mrs. Eva Darrach

OMB hearing

Can't appeal project just the assessment

Unlocked cars gone

Unlocked cars and cars with the keys left in the ignition have been the targets of a rash of thefts and stolen cars in Milton this year.

Milton Police Department officials report 23 cars have been stolen this year, 12 within the last five week period and 15 of the 23 had keys left in the ignition.

"People must make it a practise to remove their car keys from the ignition and turn the ignition to lock," a spokesman from the department told The Champion. "If residents see suspicious looking people prowling around cars, houses or parking lots, they are advised to contact the department immediately," he said.

Thefts from unlocked cars have also been reported. Stereo equipment, clothing and groceries have been reported stolen.

An OMB hearing to hear Puslinch Township Council's objections to Halton Region Conservation Authority's plans for the re-development of the Glen Eden Ski Area will be held at 10.30 a.m. Sept. 16. The hearing will be held in Milton Council Chambers.

The Authority has proposed borrowing the \$92,500 required for the redevelopment work and plans to repay the loan within five years with the increased revenue from the ski operation.

When the work was first announced it brought cries of protest from at least three area councils but the only one to formally protest the decision to do the work was Puslinch Township.

Murray Stephen, Manager of HRCA said some municipalities had reservations but once their

questions were answered, they passed resolutions supporting the redevelopment.

Some reservations
"Both Nassagaweya and Milton Council had reservations but once they had heard the full story they were convinced it is worthwhile and should be carried out," Mr. Stephen said.

He pointed out Puslinch cannot appeal the project but just the assessment they are being asked to pay.

In a press release the Authority noted the project would likely have to be held up for another year and the development work won't likely be done now until 1972.

Since 1965, when the Authority assumed control of the Glen Eden Ski Area, attendance figures have doubled or nearly doubled every year and this increased

demand has been met in the past by the extension of operating hours and the clearing of a new trail.

However, the entire operation needs improvement and expansion if it is to continue to meet this demand and it is this proposed package of improvements that is the subject of the hearing.

Those municipalities who earlier had reservations had objected to the project because it was of a recreational nature and opponents of the plan said taxpayers should not have to foot the bill for recreation, especially when a great number of those people using the facilities come from outside of the county.

The municipalities will only have to pay a share of the cost if the Authority fails to bring in the revenue that they anticipate.