

16-year-old restores antique gas tractor for Steam-Era reunion

By Roy Downs
One of the new old exhibits at this year's Steam-Era reunion will be an antique gas tractor restored by a 16-year-old Milton youth.

Ross Clarke of Meadowbrook Dr. purchased the old John Deere two-plow model B.R. tractor from a scrap yard at Dundalk last year, for \$125. It's "approximately" a 1936 model, perhaps 1937—the owner has no way of telling for sure.

Assisted by his father Bob and 14-year-old brother Cedric, Ross got the tractor restored and in running shape during the past four months. It sat in the Clarke garage through the winter but in April the three of them started spending about two hours an evening working on restoring the John Deere. Ross figures they averaged about 25 hours a week over the past four months.

Total cost \$175.
It cost Ross about \$50 for parts and repairs that had to be sent out, so his total investment in the antique is about \$175—plus all those hours of work, of course. Hardest job was scraping the tractor down, getting it ready to be painted. Some parts were painted by hand, some sprayed. The only extra cost was a new muffler they ordered through a fellow member of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association, sponsors of Steam-Era. The man happens to be a John Deere dealer and was able to obtain a muffler for the 37-year-old tractor. It cost \$22, but Ross' father Bob presented him with the muffler as a birthday present.

Not running when it was purchased, the tractor was stripped right down and a complete overhaul was done. The Clarkes did a valve and ring job, tightened the bearings, overhauled the governors, repaired the magneto and carburetor, rebuilt the steering and removed the fenders to fix them. The transmission and rear end, fortunately, were in good shape. All back together now, with a few new pieces here and there, it runs like a charm and starts easily after a couple of turns of the flywheel.

Reconverts it
Someone, in the tractor's earlier days, had converted it to an electric starter. But Ross wanted his tractor to be "original" so he converted it back to a hand-start style.

The Clarkes didn't do all the work themselves, they had a lot of helpers. Other collectors helped them obtain needed parts, Tony Windmoller at Clements Motors (where Ross works part time) did the valve job, local stock car racer Tom Neill hauled the tractor home on his trailer, and even some of the children in the neighborhood pitched in to give a hand, says Ross.

Ross has been a member of the Steam-Era club for the past five years. He displayed live steam models for a few years, then entered a small gas engine he bought and restored. Brother Cedric also has a gas engine and has shown it at the labor day weekend show for the past two years.

Family hobby
Restoring and collecting antiques runs in the Clarke family, of course. Father Bob Clarke has four antique tractors and recently bought two steam engines, which he hopes to put together to make one working engine. Even Mrs. Clarke is an active member of the Association and works at the headquarters and tent each reunion weekend.

So the whole family is looking forward to the 1973 Steam-Era this Friday, Saturday and Monday at Milton Fair Grounds.

AN ANTIQUE TRACTOR, a John Deere manufactured around 1936, was recently purchased and restored by 16-year-old Ross Clarke of Milton and it will be one of the newer displays at this weekend's Steam-Era reunion at the fair grounds. Ross is shown at the wheel with his father Bob and brother Cedric, right, who assisted with the restoration work. (Photo by R. Downs)



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Steam-Era reunion at the fair grounds. Ross is shown at the wheel with his father Bob and brother Cedric, right, who assisted with the restoration work. (Photo by R. Downs)

Disposal study earns support

Milton Council supports the principle of the Halton County Solid Waste Management Study. Halton County's Administration Committee was told at a meeting Thursday.

The study points out the variety of ways to attack the problem of solid waste management and the various land fill sites that might be used if land fill sites are chosen.

Both Milton and Georgetown are in a position of needing a new land fill site or some other method of disposal, almost immediately.

Milton Council has been working on a plan that might eventually see lands owned by Milton Brick used as a land fill site for this area.

No Zoning
Earlier attempts to use that site were stilled because the land is in Esqueping Township and the township council would not consider zoning the land for that use.

As of Jan. 1, 1974 when regional government comes into effect, the responsibility of solid waste disposal will become a regional responsibility.

Commenting on the report and the change in jurisdiction, Milton Mayor Brian Best said it will no longer be a matter of providing for one town or township but looking at the total package.

Public meetings will be held later in the year to present and discuss the report.

Planning board briefs

During their meeting last week, members of Milton Planning Board:

- Received a site plan from Pitfield Construction for a store at the corner of Ontario and Steeles Ave.
- Heard an outline of a draft plan for an 1,161-lot subdivision in the Timberlea Community proposed by Victoria Wood Development Corp. in the southeast corner of town. It would contain 605 single family lots, 278 lots with semi-detached units, 15 acres of medium density, three acres of high density, six acres of commercial, an eight-acre school site and 27 acres of parks. The plan will be studied at the board's next meeting.
- Received a revised plan for a condominium project planned by Halton Daylight Investments.
- Pay all costs
Noted Milton Council has passed a resolution calling for all future applicants for zoning by-law or official plan amendments be required to pay the total cost of processing the amendment.
- Learned Milton Council will in future require sidewalks be located along one side of each cul-de-sac over 150 feet in length, or where a walkway provides access to park or school lands.
- Learned the Alliance proposal for link housing is being held

- up as the Ontario St. creek is handling more than its maximum water volume.
- Noted Milton Council has authorized the Board to implement an official plan amendment to allow expansion of Milton Plaza on Ontario St., subject to the applicant bearing all legal and other costs.
- Gas station
Approved application from Imperial Oil Ltd. to rezone lands south of Chisholm Dr. on the west side of Highway 25 from "D" to "C3" to allow a gas bar and service station. The applicant must pay all costs of the rezoning.
- Learned council has amended its fencing policy and in all new developments fencing must be supplied for all park land abutting residential development; all medium density residential areas; and all commercial development abutting any residential lands. A four foot high chain link fence with one and a half inch mesh is required.
- Steamers back this weekend**
The steamers return to Milton this weekend. The Steam-Era reunion will be held Friday, Saturday and Monday at the fair grounds and record crowds are expected.

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Lists homes with rooms

Ron Harris, secretary-manager of Milton Chamber of Commerce, is planning to start a file listing names and addresses of people with rooms to rent.

Harris said he, as the Chamber's spokesman, has had several queries lately about rooms or room and board for teachers. Accommodations are particularly in short supply for female teachers at Ontario School for the Deaf.

If anyone wants to put their name on the list they can contact Mr. Harris at 878-3179.

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Notice of public hearings into the transmission of power from Middleport to Pickering

- The Province of Ontario appointed Dr. Omond Solandt, under the Public Inquiries Act by Order-in-Council OC-2053/72 dated the 21st of June, 1972, as amended by Order-in-Council OC-2947/72 dated the 13th of September, 1972 "to inquire into the transmission of power from Nanticoke to Pickering".
- Following on the recommendations contained in Commissioner Solandt's Interim Report, dated the 31st of October, 1972, Mr. Bruce Howlett, environmental consultant, was retained by the Commissioner Solandt to undertake a public study and to make recommendations on the best location for the 500 kV transmission lines between Middleport and Pickering.
- Mr. Howlett will file his report and recommendations pertaining to this matter, with the Commissioner, and will present an oral summary of the report and recommendations to interested parties, at a public hearing on September 13, 1973.
- Any interested party who wishes to present a brief related to this matter should file a copy of such a brief with the Secretary on or before October 5, 1973 indicating at the same time whether or not he wishes to speak to his brief at a subsequent public hearing.
- Any other interested party who wishes to make oral representations at the subsequent public hearing, either personally or through a representative, should indicate his intent to do so in writing, to the Secretary, on or before October 5, 1973.
- Commissioner Solandt will hold further public hearings on October 15, 17, 19, 22, and 24, 1973, (and on such additional days as may be required), in order that interested parties may have an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Howlett, and to present evidence.
- The public hearings on September 13, October 15, 17, 19, 22, and 24, 1973, will be held in the Ontario Room, Macdonald Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, commencing at 9:30 a.m. To accommodate special circumstances, and unique local concerns, Commissioner Solandt will consider requests, by interested parties, to hold additional public hearings in other parts of Ontario, either day or evening sessions. All such requests, however, should be filed with the Secretary on or before October 5, 1973.
- Copies of Mr. Howlett's report and recommendations will be on view in area Municipal Offices and the Solandt Commission office. Copies of all briefs will be on view at the Solandt Commission office. Individual copies of Mr. Howlett's report and recommendations may be purchased from the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1N8, for the sum of \$5.00 each.

For further information, please contact:
Neil B. Cole, Secretary,
The Solandt Commission,
9th floor, Ferguson Block,
Queen's Park, Toronto,
(416) 965-1431

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