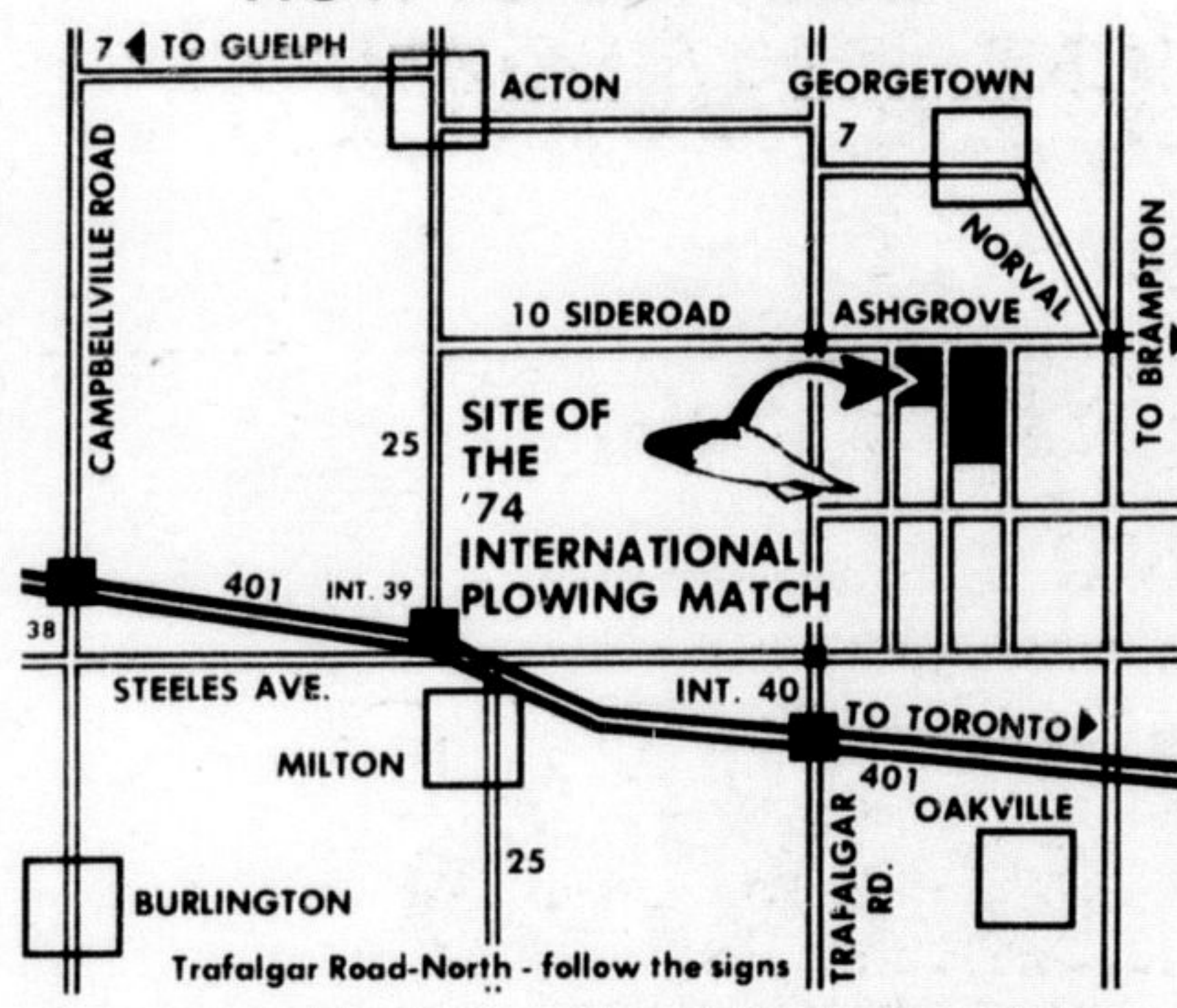


HOW TO GET THERE



Mayor's challenge

Tom aims to win plowing contest

Tom Hill, Mayor of Halton Hills, has issued a province-wide challenge to other mayors to try to beat him in a tractor plowing contest, during this year's International Plowing Match in his own municipality.

As host mayor, Tom was asked if he would send out the challenge some months ago and quickly replied "yes".

"I used to plow, with both horses and tractors, so I know what it's all about," Mayor Tom said today on the eve of the big event. "I used to work as a hired man on a farm and did lots of plowing in my younger days."

Has expert coach

The mayor admits his municipal duties have kept him away from the plow in recent years, but that doesn't worry him. He's got one of Canada's best plowing coaches working with him and he's confident he can win the class.

His coach is Spencer Wilson, a longtime plowman from the Norval area who has competed and won and coached winning plowmen (and plowgirls) at recent International matches. Mr. Wilson has promised to give Mayor Hill at least two days of practice before the mayors' match, scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28.

A trophy is offered for the best plowman in this class and Tom Hill has his eye on it. Beware, visiting mayors, he's out to win!



A PROPOSAL FOR an annual Agricultural Week in Ontario was advanced at the IPM press and exhibitors day by agricultural minister Bill Stewart. He thinks something is needed to bridge

the gap between rural and urban people and suggests a special farm week might help educate urbanites to the problems of making a living by farming in these modern times.

Stewart at press day

Suggests Agricultural Week

Launching of an official agricultural week in Ontario—perhaps in conjunction with the International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show—was proposed Wednesday by Ontario's Minister of Agriculture and Food the Hon. William A. Stewart.

Stewart was guest speaker at Press and Exhibitors Day at the IPM site, the Craig Reid farm in Halton Hills. An estimated 350 press, exhibitors and committee workers attended the open air function and later enjoyed a beef barbecue.

The minister said the gap between urban and rural people must be bridged and he felt an "agricultural

week" might do the trick. Many people have never been on a farm, "they have no concept of what farming is all about", he said.

P. R. work

An agricultural week would be an opportunity for farm people to "do a little more public relations work" concerning food prices too, he thought.

Stewart said many school groups will visit the IPM Sept. 24-28 and for some urban students, it will be their first look at anything connected with farming. He felt school authorities would put more emphasis on Ontario's agriculture and take their children to see an operating

farm, if a farm week was established. He predicted the press media would give coverage to the subject and suggested service clubs could run special projects or tours of farms, to tie in with the theme.

"Let's break down the barriers caused by ignorance," he said.

Stewart was one of a host of speakers who told the crowd what the IPM is all about at Wednesday's press-exhibitors day. Jack Taylor, Halton's director to Ontario Plowmen's Association (which co-hosts the big show with the Halton Local Committee) was emcee and Ross Segsworth, chairman of the

Halton committee extended an official welcome.

Bridge the gap

OPA president Len Jefferson also brought greetings and suggested the IPM was helping to bridge the gap between rural and urban people.

Halton committee's secretary Henry Stanley, agricultural representative for the region, praised all those who have worked so hard on the match and suggested Halton was proud of its agriculture. Despite rising fears about the loss of good farmland, he assured the audience Halton would work hard to maintain what it has and would still have good soil and good agriculture in 20 years' time.

Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill said he hoped for good weather, good crowds and good plowing. Halton's MP Dr. Frank Philbrook added a word about preserving good farms, to feed the people of Canada and those who are starving in less fortunate countries. "I hope you have a superb match," he said.

OPA's secretary-manager Ed Starr praised the local committee for the three years of work that has gone into preparing the match, plus the Ontario Hydro, Bell Canada, St. John Ambulance and Ontario Provincial Police personnel. "We have broken records the last two years with this match, and I see no reason why we can't set new records in 1974," he said.

Queens

Two furrow queens were also on hand to bring greetings—Halton's queen Carol Somerville of Acton and Ontario queen Sheila Armstrong.

Regional Chairman Allan Masson suggested Halton has "gone all out" on the match and hoped it would be a success. He told of how he has challenged Ontario's wardens and regional chairmen to a tractor plowing contest on opening day, Sept. 24 and to date expects over 20 to enter.

At the conclusion of the program Mr. Taylor, the emcee, said he has just returned home from a trip to Helsinki, Finland for the world plowing match competitions. He said he was proud to announce that Canada's Carl Timbers of Stouffville was runner-up to the new world champion, C. J. Holmstrom of Finland.

Thirteen furrows

Then the crowd moved to an area behind the tented city's headquarters where the first "official" furrow was



LEANING INTO HIS WORK, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture and Food William A. Stewart guides the walking plow pulled by a team of draft horses to get the 1974 International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show off to a good start. Stewart

officiated at a pre-opening press and exhibitors day Wednesday at the IPM site in Halton Hills. Guiding the reins is William Rayner of Milton, one of the local committee members helping to organize the big Halton match.

(Continued on Page 20)