

Champion Perspective

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION,
MILTON, ONTARIO,
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1979
THIRD SECTION — FEATURES

Lee Wilkinson hosts . . .

. . . 69 competitors

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 1979 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.

Milton Councillor Gord Krantz, representing Mayor Don Gordon, brought greetings from the town and echoed the words of Mrs. Mr. Reed, saying we should all realize "the handwriting is on the wall."

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 choice for the judges was between Lori Early of Acton and Eartha May of the Milton area. After speeches, the judges selected Eartha May, a 16-year-old student at Lakehead Christian College.

The crowning was done by Nancy McKinnon, who steps down after two years as the furrow 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.

the winners in the various classes in first, second and third places were:

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 Sisler, and Jim Patton.

CLASS 6, tractors in sod three furrows: Herb Jarvis of Agincourt, Stewart Sisler, Wayne Love.

CLASS 7, four or more 14-inch plows: Harley Pickering of Oakville, Howard Dunk, Ken Whetlauffer.

CLASS 8, Halton only utility class for the Ernest Irvine Tractor Utility Class: Murray Breckon who edged out Jack Taylor by half-a-point with John Reid coming in a close third.

CLASS 9, utility class open split: John Hayes, Herb Jarvis, and Darlene Walton.

CLASS 10, the horseshoe pitching contest was won convincingly by the team of Mary Pickett and Mrs. John Middlebrook.

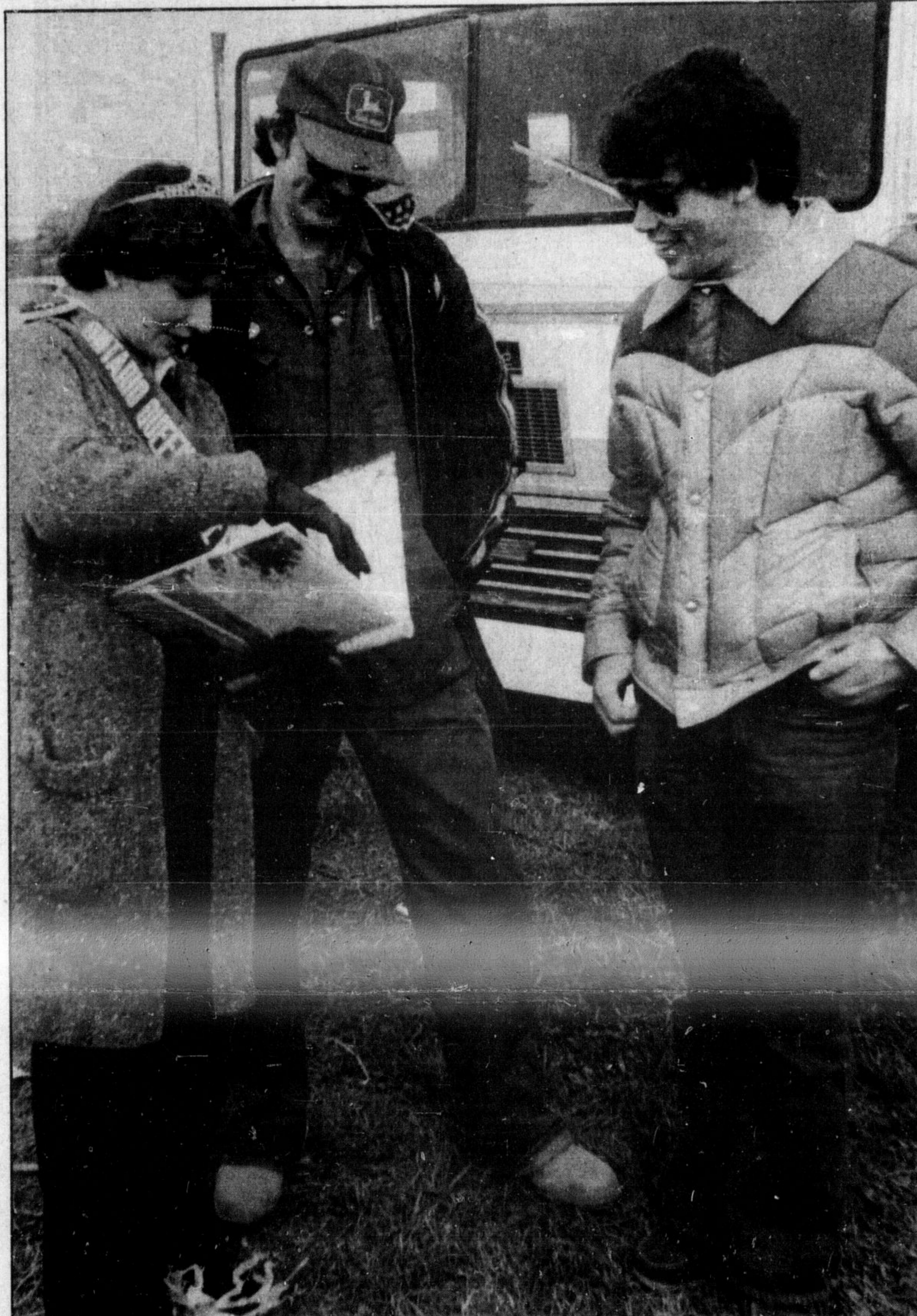
CLASS 11, antique tractor or steam class: John Middlebrook, Keith McKenzie, and Gord McDonald.



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.



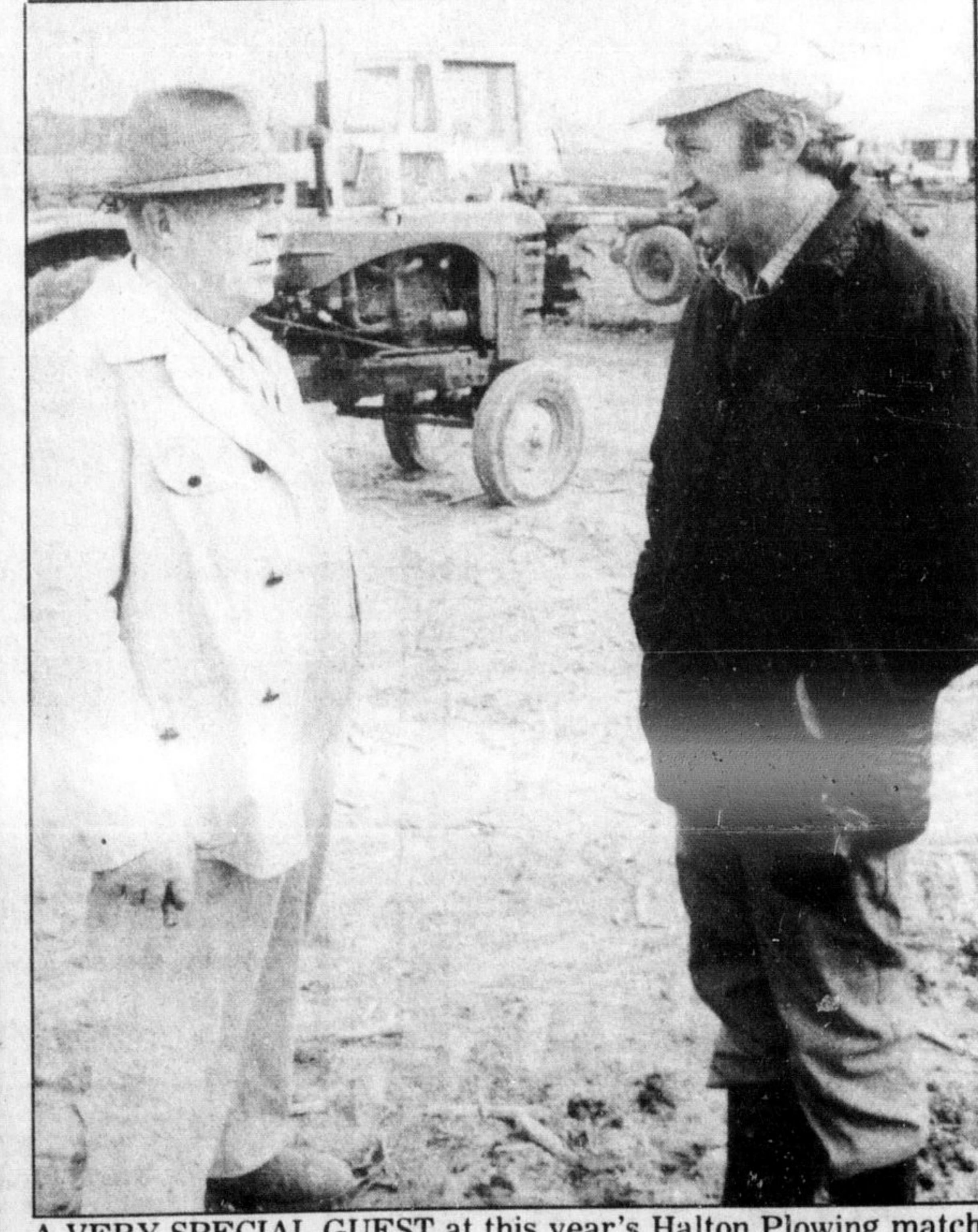
THE HIGHLIGHT of the Halton Plowing Match banquet was the selection of Halton's Queen of the Furrow 1980. The honor went to Eartha May whom judges selected over Lori Early of Acton. From left: Lori Early, Eartha May, Halton Queen of the Furrow; Nancy McKinnon, who was Halton Queen of the Furrow last 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 1979.



PUBLICIZING THE 1980 PLOWING competition in Oxford County was Miss Ontario Queen of the Furrow, Peggy Kneisz of Bruner, Ont. She is shown talking with Cecil Paterson, centre, and Doug Miller.



CHECKING TO MAKE SURE of a straight furrow, Theresa Sisler and her husband Stewart make final preparations just prior to Mrs. Sisler setting out in the ladies' competition.



A VERY SPECIAL GUEST at this year's Halton Plowing match was John Kyle of New Zealand. Mr. Kyle, a judge in the World Plowing Contest in Northern Ireland this year, came by as a guest of Halton's Wilf Leslie, who was also at the International. Mr. Leslie, left, chats with Mr. Kyle.

Stories and photos by Jim Robinson