

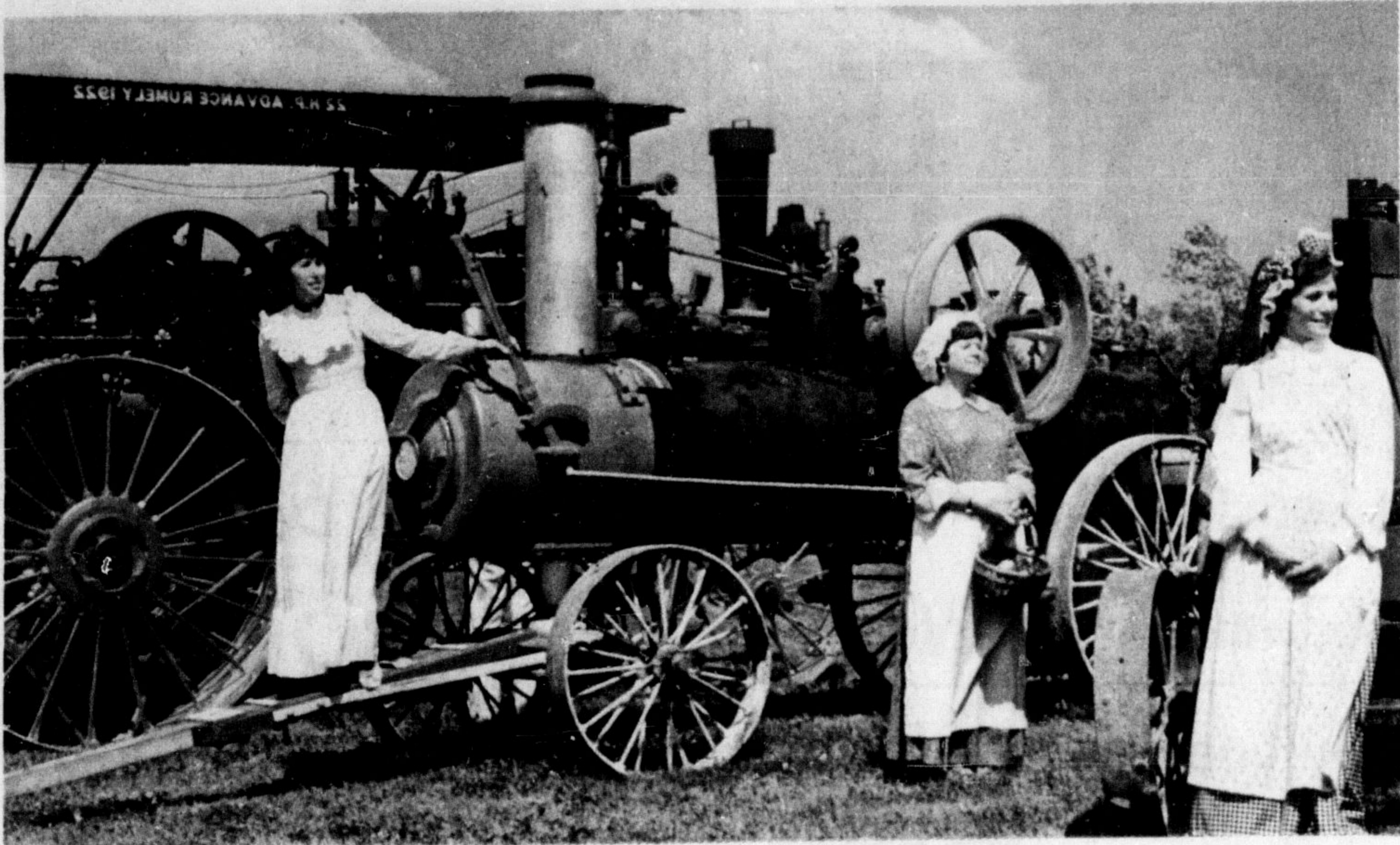
The Canadian Champion

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People made Milton great in 1979



THINK OF MILTON and you automatically think of Steam-Era, the show that is without doubt one of the most talked-about and largest attended in the Dominion.

Agricultural museum. . . .had 30,000 tourists

A pleasant place to visit

Milton has one of Ontario's most prestigious tourist spots.

It is so important that more than 30,000 people from across the country and the United States looked for Milton on the map and made sure to stop.

The tourist attraction is the Ontario Agricultural Museum which officially opened May 14 to the public.

"This is a 10-year project and we feel there are enough buildings completed to make a several hour visit worthwhile," said museum general manager Bob Carbert when the museum swung open its doors to Ontario's agricultural past.

Construction of the 80-acre site on Town Line, south of Highway 401 began more than three years ago, but it was 10 years in the planning.

The idea began as a Centennial project in 1966 when Ontario Minister of Agriculture Bill Stewart made it known such a museum was needed.

At about the same time, the Ontario Government came into possession of an extensive collection of equipment, machines, and tools which had been built up over the years by the late Charles Matthews of Langstaff, Ont. This was the nucleus of what Milton residents can see today.

In the hours it will take to go through, people from and visiting Milton, will see agriculture from primitive Indian

beginnings through the pioneer to the almost present.

One of the highlights of the power section is the Adam Beck Hydro Circus.

This travelling show was once used to ply Ontario's rural communities and sell farmers on the advantages of electricity.

Take a trip into any of the five display barns. In one is the largest collection of heavy farm machinery in Canada.

If it wasn't already big enough, there are plans for the future.

The Museum wants to set up a general store, carriage house, farm machinery dealership and a church.

And the museum doesn't forget those Ontario residents who have made a contribution to our area.

It is planned that early in 1980 a gallery will be opened to honor those who have made an outstanding advance to agriculture.

People from across the province can be nominated.

But mostly it's people who have helped make the Ontario Agricultural Museum a success.

People like Bob Carbert and his staff have helped put Milton on the map.

If readers have friends coming to Milton, we urge them to take a tour through and get in touch with our past. It's worth the trip.



ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM is one of the great tourist attractions in Ontario. It opened to the public in May. Bob Carbert, manager of the museum is shown working on one of the vintage tractors.

The end of a year and the end of a decade have come for the Town of Milton.

This year the staff of The Milton Champion was assigned to come up with the year's top stories and pictures. As we delved into picking just what was most important, we came to a realization.

The most important thing in Milton is its people. All

year long we have reported on a town composed of what we feel are just about the greatest collection of human beings in the galaxy.

So to close out the year and the decade, The Canadian Champion would like to take the front page (and the back page) of the front section to highlight just a very, very few of those great Milton people who make living in our town an honor.

Steam-Era the highlight of Milton during 1979

Unquestionably, Steam-Era has helped to put Milton on the map.

It has been a local success for 19 years now, partly because of the unique agricultural implements it displays, and partly because of the people who work together to make Steam-Era an even bigger and better steam and antique reunion each year.

The 1979 reunion was much like its 18 predecessors, yet unique again because it showed off new exhibits, involved new people, and played host to many newcomers who had never before seen a steam reunion.

The '79 show broke records, crowd-wise, and played to full house

crowds beneath sunny skies over the four-day labor day weekend.

Officials estimate over 25,000 saw this year's show.

It had more steam engines, gas tractors, gas engines, antique cars and trucks than ever before. On display were more models, displays and daily activities than at any previous show.

"It was just a great show," from start to finish," beamed a happy club president Don Partrick, of Bramalea. "Look at those crowds — we must be doing something right."

With its salute to the early days of agriculture in Ontario, Steam-Era provides something for every generation. It's a trip down memory lane for the "oldtimers" who were there, working on them, when the antique implements were in vogue. It's an educational display for those too young to remember the days of steam whistles, threshing bees and harvest times.

Steam-Era sends up a big cloud of nostalgia over Milton ever labor day weekend. They come from near and far to see it, play in it, watch it perform.

But the folks who put on the show — the 600-member Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association — probably get the biggest kick out of the show. These are the men and women who have lovingly restored and researched the early implements and put them back in shape, not for work but for display. They take great pride in their toys and lovingly show them off to interested onlookers. They travel miles to exhibit their hobby, and they get

big buckets of self-satisfaction from the annual reunions.

Steam-Era began back in 1960 when a group of

enthusiasts got together to plan a hobby club.

First reunion was held two days of labor day weekend, 1961, and 8,000

people came. The club has never looked back.

All its officers are volunteers, and so are all the members.



OLD FASHIONED DAYS is an event unique to Milton. Prior to Steam-Era almost everyone dresses up in clothing from a bygone era.

Old Fashioned spirit

An evening in the park, dressed in turn-of-the-century costume, on a soft summer's night, with people strolling by, it could only happen in

Milton. Old Fashioned Days is unique to the Town of Milton.

Every year prior to the Steam-Era extravaganza, the people of Milton get together and recreate a piece of the past when times were easier.

Merchants throughout the town dress up in period costumes and dress up the stores with special displays.

The residents of Milton spend weeks getting ready because Old Fashioned Days has a special feel which no one wants to miss. It's that friendly people feeling that so typifies the town.

And of course everyone is getting ready for the judging which takes place in Victoria Park.

This year the competition was adjudicated by Jim Dills, president of the Milton Historical Society who noted the park in which the judging was held was more than 100 years old, truly a fitting locale.

In all, 75 contestants took to the stage and paraded before the Judges to the singing of The Entertainers from Oakville, who provided barbershop harmony for the event.

The top award went to the Gordon Wrigglesworth family who came dressed in formal attire of yesteryear replete with a buggy for daughter Erin.

All in all an evening of gentleness and community spirit one can only find in Milton.

Politics an important factor

The Town of Milton is run by its politicians.

Be they Town Councillors or Regional Councillors, they are charged with representing the interests of all the citizens.

But 1979 has not been a year to remember on the political scene.

This week we will all be

receiving our equalized water and sewer bills and there are going to be some shocks.

But we must remember the regional councillors are doing this to provide a system of rates which are applicable across Halton.

Perhaps the most agonizing issue Milton

Council has had to face during the past year is the continuing saga of Site F, the landfill area near Tremaine and Britannia Rds.

For the first time since the founding of the Region, the Town of Milton has found itself fighting against the entire regional council.

which some feel has ganged up on Milton.

The Ontario Municipal Board ruled in favor of allowing Site F to become the next dump.

Even though the preferred site in Burlington may now come on stream in 1980, the move towards Site F continues.

But it was people again

which prompted so much digging in of the heels.

The councillors and the members of the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens Group are now preparing for an Environmental Assessment Board hearing and may just be able to turn the tide.

Milton Council has been responsive to its people.

The 11 of them, Mayor Don Gordon, regional councillors Gus Goutouski and Bill Johnson, and town councillors Brad Clements, Rick Day, Terry Gibbons, Rose Harrison, Blanche Hinton, Gord Krantz, Don McMillan and Brian Penman have had some contentious issues.

Throughout their deliberations, though, one constant aim remained.

As one of them recently said while debating an issue, "it's not who is right, but what is right."

Although some of Milton's citizens may disagree on what is right, the council has tried to do exactly that when considering such touchy issues as:

Equalized assessment, which was approved.

The group home, operated by the Lovatts, which was denied following intense pressure from neighbors.

Service clubs — the town's heart

We can't say enough about the Milton men and women who make up our service clubs.

This week the fire department's rescue tool fund was pushed over the top. Who made it possible? It was the Lions Club of Milton which topped off the fund—and several other local clubs contributed too.

Typical of the work, and by no means are we trying to play favorites, are the Milton Jaycees who helped make this Christmas a little brighter for needy families.

They transplanted Santa's Workshop to the Milton Mall where they accepted battered toys. The Jaycees then went to town and did the repair work so the toys could be recycled in time for yesterday's big event.

Milton is blessed with hardworking Kinsmen, Lions, Rotarians, Kiwanis, church groups and many more, all trying to make this a better Milton in which to live.

We can't praise each and every person but The Champion would like to recognize all the work done throughout the year.



SANTA CLAUS AND elf Mark Thornborrow are happy because the Milton Jaycees helped repair broken toys and distributed them to needy families with the help of the Milton Salvation Army.



PREMIER BILL DAVIS officially opened the new Halton Regional Headquarters on Highway 25. The June day of the opening was warm but cold has crept in between the regional members.