

Local show will be haven for toy collectors

By LISA CARTWRIGHT
The Champion

People interested in toys should make a point to visit the Milton Toy Show Sunday.

The second annual toy show, held at the Halton Grounds Care Equipment, will feature displays as well as toys people can buy, said organizer and Milton resident Lorne Weston.

Mr. Weston, who has been collecting Allis-Chalmers toys (tractors and machinery) for the last 15 years, said the hobby has gained popularity in North America in the last 30 years.

Today, there are shows and sales held throughout Canada and the United States. There's even a toy museum in Ohio.

"It is an interesting hobby. It is fun," he said.

At the Milton show, serious collectors will also be able to pick up several magazines dedicated to toy collecting as well as books detailing toys and their value.

"It can go up to hundreds of dollars for one toy," Mr. Weston said.

But collectors have to be careful when buying toys, looking for authenticity, age and condition.

Milton resident Diane Fisher said her husband John started collecting tractors and implements after the couple went to

their first toy show 10 years ago.

"We went to it and he (John) realized he had some old toys at home. He went home and unearthed them."

Now Mr. Fisher has an entire room full of toys, some as old as 40 years old.

And the only time Ms Fisher says there are too many, is when it come time to clean them.

"I can't complain, I helped buy them," she said.

"I have been bitten by the bug, too. When we go out and see a new model, I see the twinkle in his eye and think, why not one more."

Mr. Weston said toy collecting is a
• see FARM on page 17

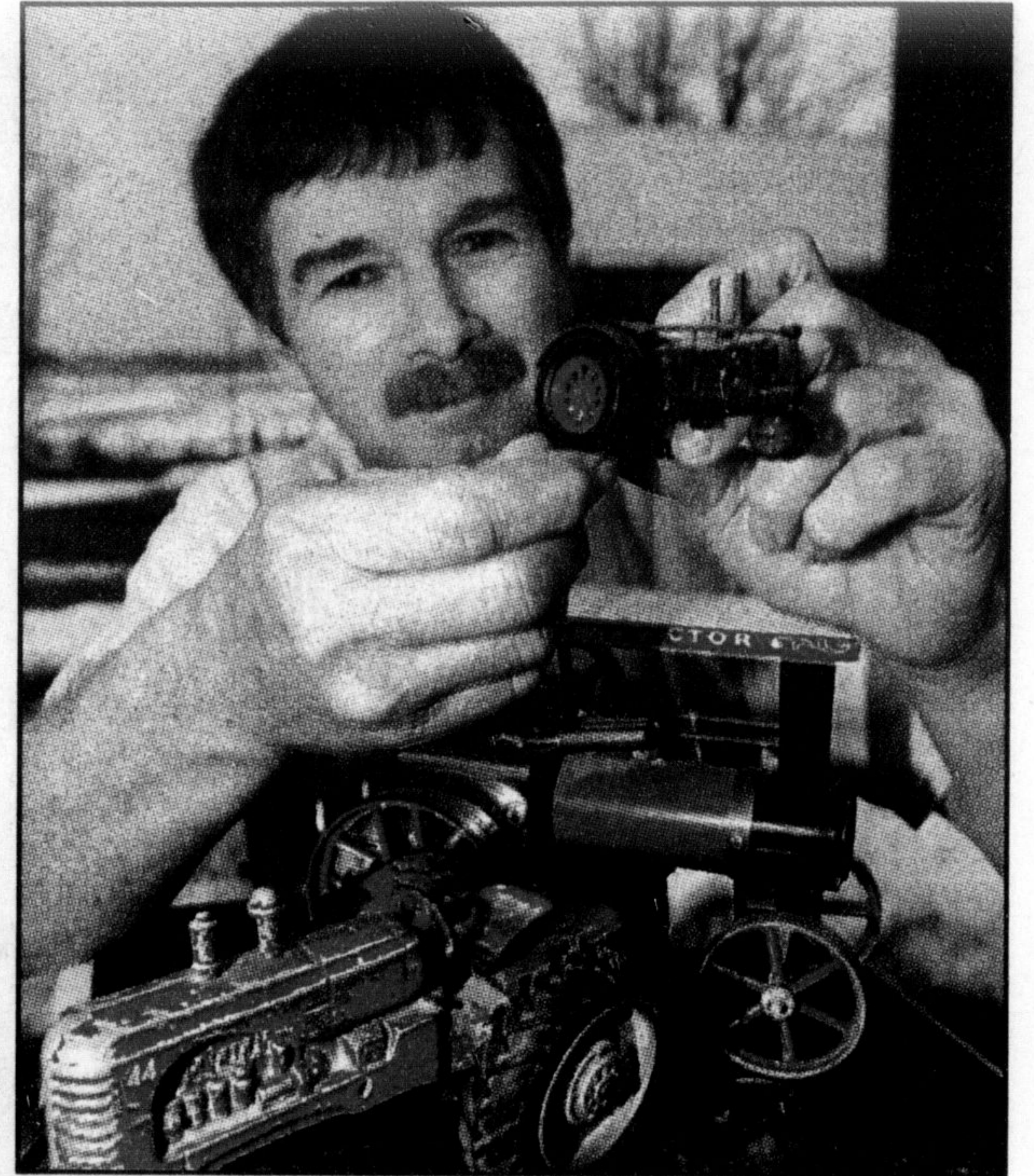


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Local resident John Fisher will set up a display of his toy tractors at the Milton Toy Show Sunday.

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