

Action will be even faster at this year's Steam-Era

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

History is never dull at Milton's annual action-packed, eardrum-busting ode to the old days, Steam-Era.

The event blasts off Labour Day weekend at the Milton Fair Grounds. Gates open at 8 a.m. Friday, Saturday and Monday, and 11 a.m. Sunday.

And daily demonstrations of vintage racing cars from the Canadian Motor Racing Historical Society means the action will be even faster this year.

The cars will add a pulse-pounding element to the event, which will also feature Classic Canadiana farm equipment.

"Every year, Steam-Era features a 'theme' tractor but we felt this was a special year in many ways and it was time to give particular recognition to historical Canadian farm equipment manufacturers," said Steam-Era president Brad Clements. "We have a

rich history of Canadian-engineered, designed and built farm equipment over the past century — the Massey's, the Cockshutt's and the Waterloo's."

Examples of each will be present, revved up and ready to roar. "They'll all be here, dozens and dozens of them, all shined to a gleam and running good as new," said Mr. Clements.

The event will also feature the usual array of toys and miniature collectibles, as well as shopping at the Trading Post and flea market and the arts and crafts buildings.

New to the entertainment roster will be Canada's Largest Traveling Barn Dance Show, performed by the Barn Dance Historical Society Friday, Sept. 1.

But residents be warned — it's a show, not a real dance.

"It's a historical repeat of traditional country music done in the way the CKNX travelling barn show used to do it in the 1940s," said Mr. Clements. "We want to get as many local people as we can for that. We want to fill the grandstand."

If successful, the barn dance could become a staple at the annu-

al event.

Old-style country music will star in the 8 p.m. show, which will also feature Grant Heywood and Mandy Kraddock, among others.

On Saturday evening, the annual Country and Western talent contest will make its triumphant return, having first appeared at the show in 1976.

And Sunday night will feature a swinging jam with old country, new country, gospel and more in the annual Variety Show.

Daily tractor parades, tractor pulls, and demonstrations of steam engines and model gas engines will also inject full-throttle excitement into the weekend's events.

There will also be kids' activities, such as a mini-tractor pull, pony exhibits and the "usual competitions if the kids want to do them," said Mr. Clements.

They will include sawing wood and banging nails.

Steam-Era is the largest of its kind in Eastern Canada and is run as a non-profit endeavor by the volunteer members of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association.

The idea is to provide both fun and education about how things used to be.

"I hope part of it is educational in that people learn about the good old days," said Mr. Clements.

That, and an eternal fascination with how big farm machinery runs draws in the crowds — about 10,000 on a typical Labour Day weekend.

The event will operate in all types of weather.

"We've run in the rain. We've run in the hot (weather). We've run in the cold," recounted Mr. Clements. "The show goes on no matter what."

Admission to Steam-Era, including shows, costs \$5 for adults (\$4 on Friday), \$1 for children under 12 years of age, and \$2 for parking.

"It's a very good family value and a good money value as well," said Mr. Clements.

No extra trustee given to Milton

The paperwork and number-crunching is complete and the result is one more public school trustee for Burlington.

The Halton District School Board's response to a Provincial request has ensured it will increase by one trustee to 11 overall.

Representation is determined by population and for the next three-year term, five board members will be from Burlington.

But the situation could change after that, said acting board chair and Burlington trustee Michael Ellis.

"We happen to have a few more people, but that's not the true reality of the numbers," said Mr. Ellis. "There will be growth in Milton and Georgetown, but their numbers didn't warrant an extra trustee."

Currently, two trustees represent Burlington Wards 1, 2 and 3 (Mr. Ellis and Sheila Flook), while two others (David Abbott and David Bird) represent Wards 4, 5 and 6.

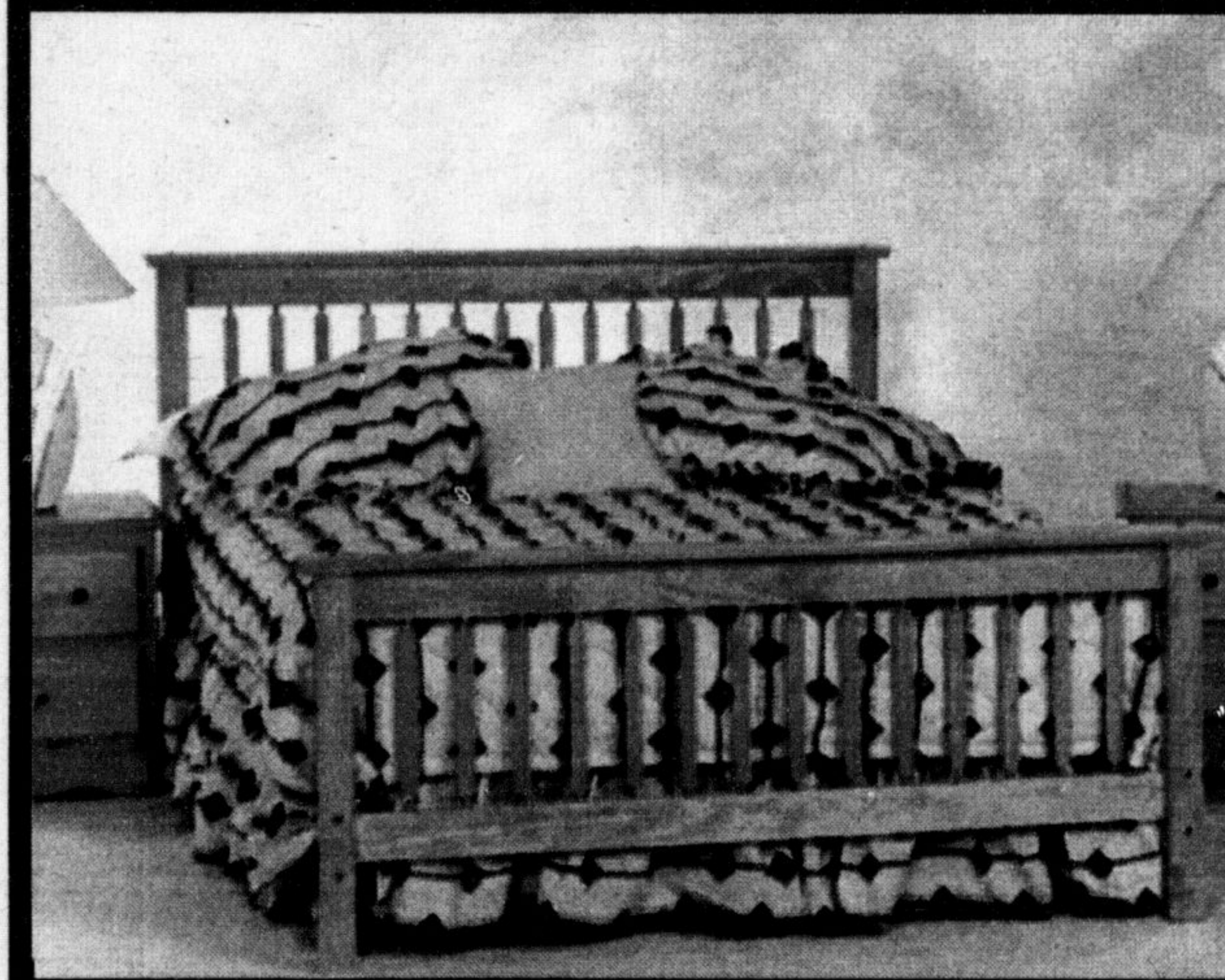
Under the new set-up, there will be one trustee each for Wards 1, 2, 3 and 6. Another trustee will represent Burlington Wards 4 and 5. "I've been representing 20 schools and next time it could be five or six," said Mr. Ellis.

He hasn't decided yet where to run in November's election.

The 11th trustee was added after the board informed the Education Ministry it preferred the extra representative instead of a redistribution of trustees. Trustees were polled by phone after the board couldn't obtain a quorum to pass the required resolution.

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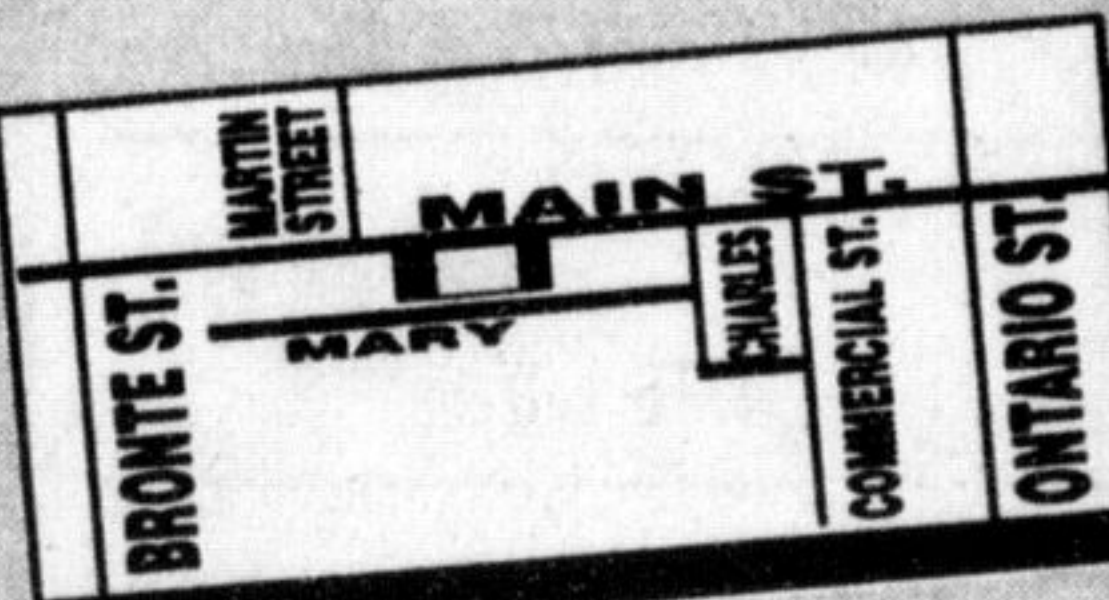
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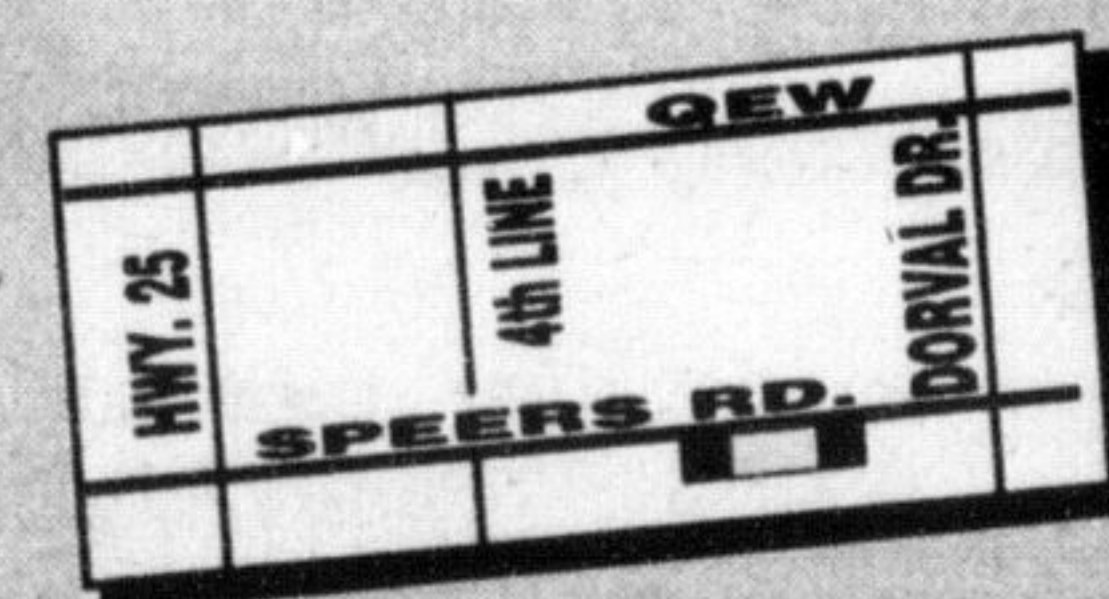
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