Steam engines are biggest attraction at show

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I'm glad to have the H back home."

Mr. Hadfield said he was just getting his farm started up back then and thought the Farmall H tractor was a useful machine.

"I told Sherwood to find me something for my collection and we'd trade. It was the best H I had — I wouldn't have sold it. But it's nice for Sherwood to have it."

George Woznuk, an exhibitor from Cambridge, said people are often surprised at how steam engines operate.

"The steam engines are the biggest attraction, they're what made the show," he said, who showcased his Baker steam engine. "They operate on wood and water. I've had this one for about nine years. I have 15 or 20 of these at home."

The people who stop by to view the locomotives are very inquisitive, he said.

"They want to know how it operates and they want to see it operate."

Besides tractor and steam engine attractions, the show also featured square dancing, a flea market, a working saw mill and daily parades.

Another exhibit that drew quite the crowd was the Toy Float.

The 45-foot display showcased toy houses, cars and trains which ran along a track. A large waterfall was positioned at the end of the model.

"It took six months to build," said Cambridge resident Peter Dyksterhuis, supervisor of the model, adding the model is over 34 years old. "It's quite popular, a lot of people have stopped by to watch the trains go around the tracks or look at the little houses. You don't see too many of these."

Wally and Linda Biernacki of Pickering proved setting up an exhibit away from the others paid off.

"More people walk by this way and stop and watch the engine run for a while," said

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Mr. Biernacki, who set up his quarter scale gas tractor model along a walkway between the tractor and locomotive exhibits. "People want to see something doing something, not something static. They want to see something turning, something making noise."

To demonstrate, he blew the whistle which was attached to the engine, causing a number of people watching the saw mill in action stop and gaze over. "The tractors are secondary to what people want to see."

Gladys Hume agreed.

"People are here to see activity - it

doesn't matter what," she said. "They're not here to see rows and rows of tractors. They want to see the engine running, the steam."

Dale and Chris Forsythe brought their three-year-old daughter Callie to the Steam-Era Show so she could see what a steam engine looked like up close.

"We thought it would be something she would like to see and something we would like to see at the same time," said Mr. Forsythe, who travelled from Guelph for the show. "This is great. It's better than what I thought it would be. There's so

many things to see."

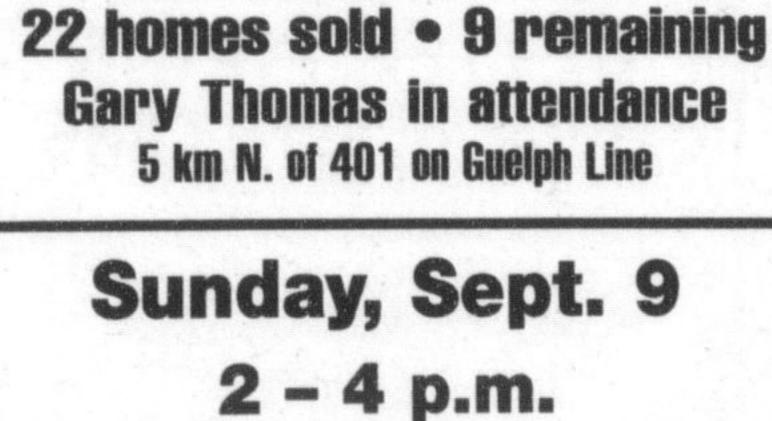
Tim Hudak, minister of tourism, culture and recreation toured the fairgrounds Saturday and rode on a steam engine during the Grande Parade.

"I think it went very well," Brad Clements, president of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association, said of the weekend overall. "We're very pleased with the turnout and with the weather."

Playing his electric guitar, George Rout of St. Catharines placed first in the Country and Western Talent Show Saturday night.

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