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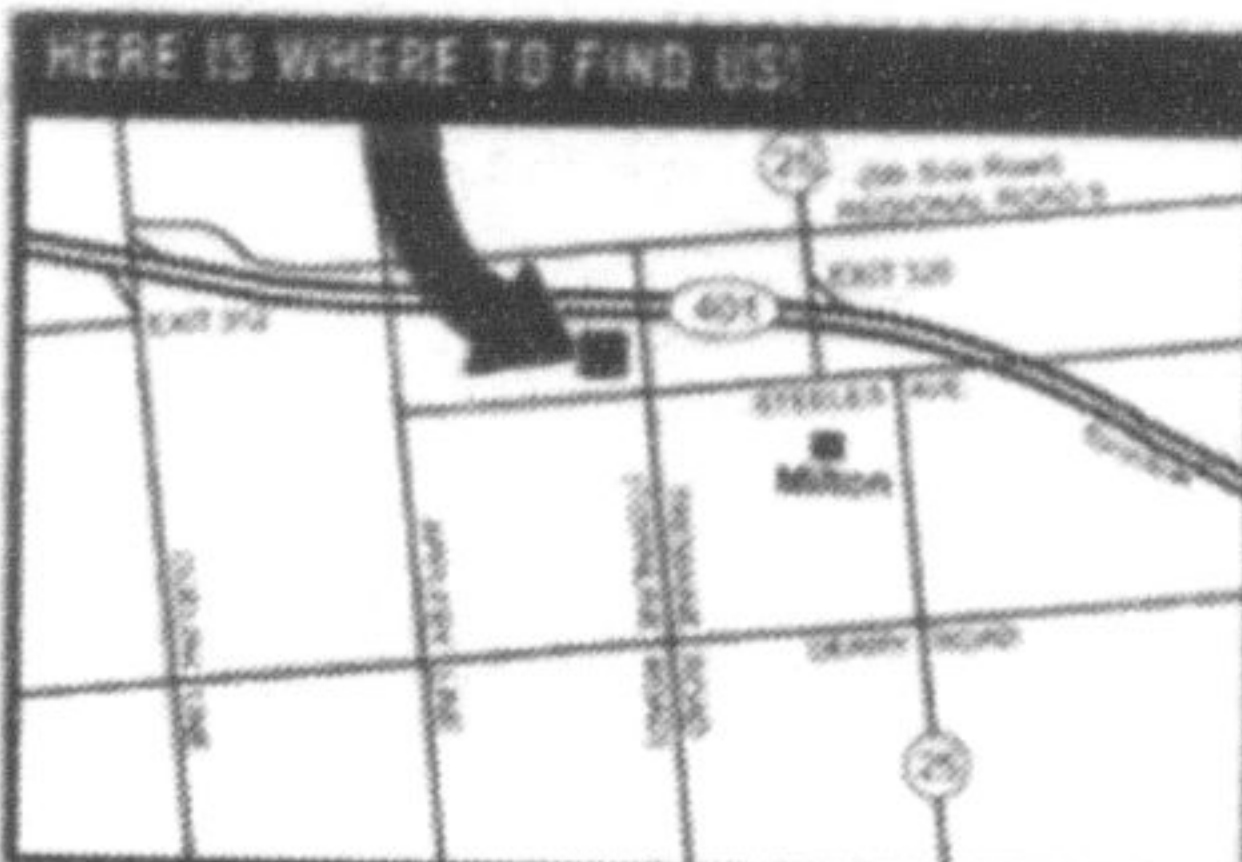
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 July 10 & 11
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 July 17 & 18
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Farm Animals
 July 24 & 25
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Check out our website for complete event listings

www.countryheritagepark.com

for event updates!

Farmers need to be prepared for power failures, warns federation

Now that hot weather is back in Ontario, the air conditioners will be running full tilt — and so will the electricity metres. This combination of an over-heated appetite for power and the scarcity of available energy put much of Ontario, including farmers, in the dark last August 14.

On-farm generators made it possible for many farmers to survive last year's outage. Farmers without such generators need a workable plan to get them through the next power outage if they have livestock that rely on fans to cool their buildings and electric motors to deliver feed and water supplies.

Portable electricity generators, while a life-saving device when the power goes out, can also pose a danger to individuals unfamiliar with their operation. Farmers contemplating the purchase of an on-farm generator to protect their investment and income, need to familiarize themselves and family members with all the necessary precautions for their safe use — everything from hook up to start up and disconnect.

If the decision has been made to buy a back-up generator for your farm, you need to ensure the unit is capable of meeting all the needs on your farm — everything from ventilation to cold storage to manure handling and feed and water delivery, to household appliances.

OFA Geri Kamenz Commentary

Self-contained and PTO generators will need an abundant supply of fuel to keep them running when needed. It's recommended that when you have calculated the hourly consumption of fuel for your generator, you multiply that by 300 to ensure you are covered for at least two weeks.

Generators should be serviced regularly and tested for an hour each month, just to be sure everything is operating efficiently — ready for the time when the lights go off. Farmers need to stay familiar with safe connection and operation of generators as any mistakes could cause injury or death.

Farm families should prepare an emergency plan that will minimize power consumption from a generator during a blackout. Operate all motors and appliances where possible on a rotational basis after you have prioritized from the essential uses down to the convenience uses.

Be prepared to make and implement some quick decisions during a blackout. If your generator can't keep your vegetable

cold storage unit running or ventilate your poultry barn at a reasonable cost, you might have to develop a back-up plan.

If something goes wrong with your emergency power source and motors on water pumps, milk coolers or any number of other farm applications are damaged and rendered inoperable, make certain there's a secondary plan ready. It can save your animals, birds and produce and protect your farm income.

Electricity has become an essential service for almost every farm in Ontario, but that doesn't mean farmers can expect uninterrupted service. Last year's blackout provided evidence of how vulnerable the province's supply of electricity energy is on a day-to-day basis.

Rural and remote areas of the province have become accustomed to short-term electricity interruptions, and farmers have developed ways of protecting their farming operations through these. Where excessive consumption leads to large, general blackouts, this results in a need for more comprehensive emergency plans.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture and its province-wide field service staff are ready to help farmers and their families help themselves.

Geri Kamenz is vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

Mock dig July 18

Have you ever dreamed of being an archeologist and digging up treasures? Has your child?

Crawford Lake Conservation Area will hold its first ever 'Dig in and Discover Archeology' event July 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

One of the highlights of the day will be a simulated dig in which participants will be able to learn how and why archeologists do what they do. Participants will learn about fascinating artifacts and Ontario's First Nations.

But beware, space for the dig is limited and pre-registration is required. A nominal fee will be charged. To reserve a spot, call (905) 854-0234.

Many other activities throughout the day don't require pre-registration. Crawford Lake staff will be found in the Turtle Clan Longhouse demonstrating traditional fire-starting techniques and storytelling.

Visitors will be able to explore the Iroquoian village, view videos and make clay pots to take home. There will also be discovery hunts with — of course — prizes.

A barbecue will help keep the whole family's energy level high.

Park admission costs \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3.50 for children aged 5 to 14 years. Children 4 years old and younger are admitted free.

Crawford Lake is located at the corner of Steeles Avenue and Guelph Line.

For more information, visit www.conservationhalton.on.ca.

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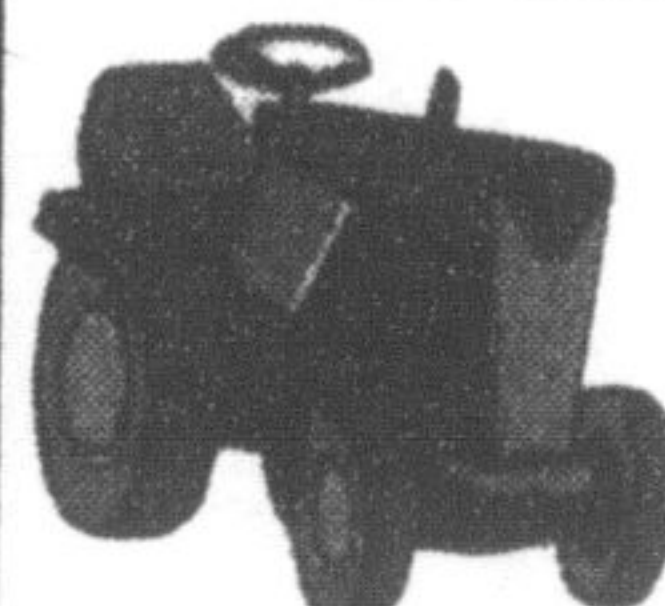
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