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Tradition continues as local Steam-Era on this weekend

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**

The Champion

Take a step back in time and see how previous generations worked the land this weekend at the 44th annual Steam-Era, an antique and historical machinery show.

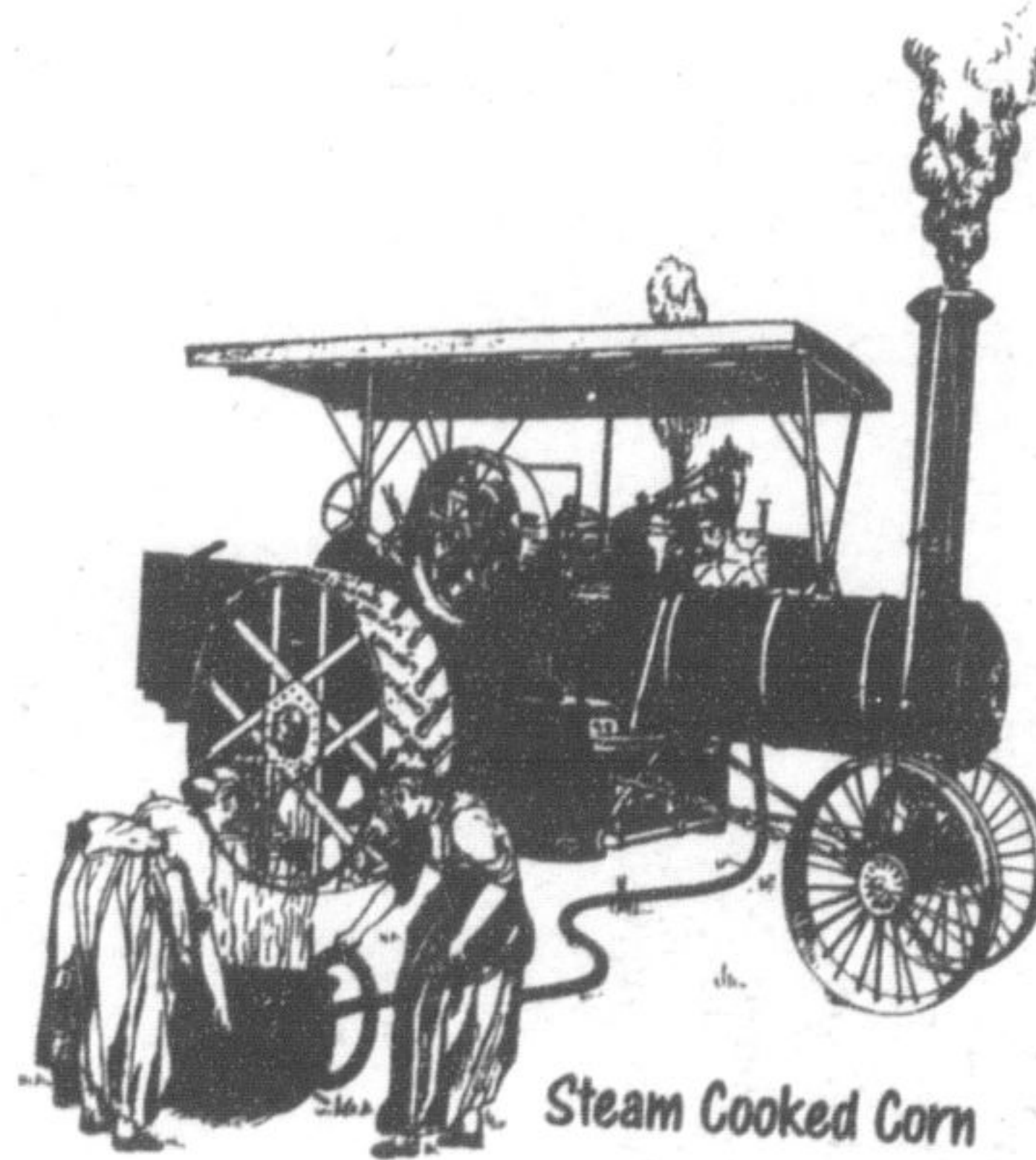
The popular event running September 3 to 6 draws thousands from across Canada to the Milton Fair Grounds to check out steam engines, tractors, antique cars, models and agricultural equipment.

"We're expecting a big crowd. We're optimistic the weather will be favourable," said David Stirk, president of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association, the group hosting the Steam-Era. "We hope to educate anybody that wants to know about equipment."

The fun starts Friday, with the grounds opening at 8 a.m. and activities running throughout the day. At 2 p.m., there will be a steam engine and thresher belting demonstration, followed by a threshing demonstration at the grand stand at 3 p.m.

Country music fans won't want to miss the Settlers Band, which will take the stage at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, the day will kick off with a tractor pull at 9 a.m. Then, visitors can see sawmill, threshing, baker fan and shingle mill demonstrations, which will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. These displays will also be held on Monday as well.



Steam Cooked Corn

Those who bring their kids will want to hit the second stage at 1 p.m. for games, contests, music and dancing. This will also include a junior talent contest for children 12 years old and under. Participants should be there by noon to register.

A skills competition and steam engine demonstration will take over the grand stand at 1 p.m., followed by log sawing, bag and sheaf tying at 2 p.m., which will all be held Sunday and Monday as well.

Steam engines will take part in a threshing competition at 3 p.m. and tractor pulls will continue at 3:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., there will be an annual country western talent contest.

Sunday will start with a church service at 10 a.m., followed by children's entertainment at the sec-

ond stage.

Gas tractors will go head-to-head in a threshing competition at 3 p.m.

After the daily parade, the mini-lawn tractor pulls will start, and then the Newfie Stump Jumpers will perform their down-east flavoured pop country music at 7:30 p.m.

The threshing competition finals will be held Monday at 3 p.m., with a gas tractor taking on a steam engine.

Grounds will open at 8 a.m. each day and an equipment parade and corn roast will take place each night, along with a Steam Engine Night of Fire spark show (weather permitting). There will also be craft and antique vendors.

"There should be something for everybody," Mr. Stirk said.

He added that he's expecting a great turnout, considering the on-site campgrounds are already fully booked and the association had to refer people to other camp sites in the area.

"It really brings tourists into the community," he said. "We even get people coming from British Columbia — it's their annual fall trip."

For more information, visit www.steam-era.com.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com.

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