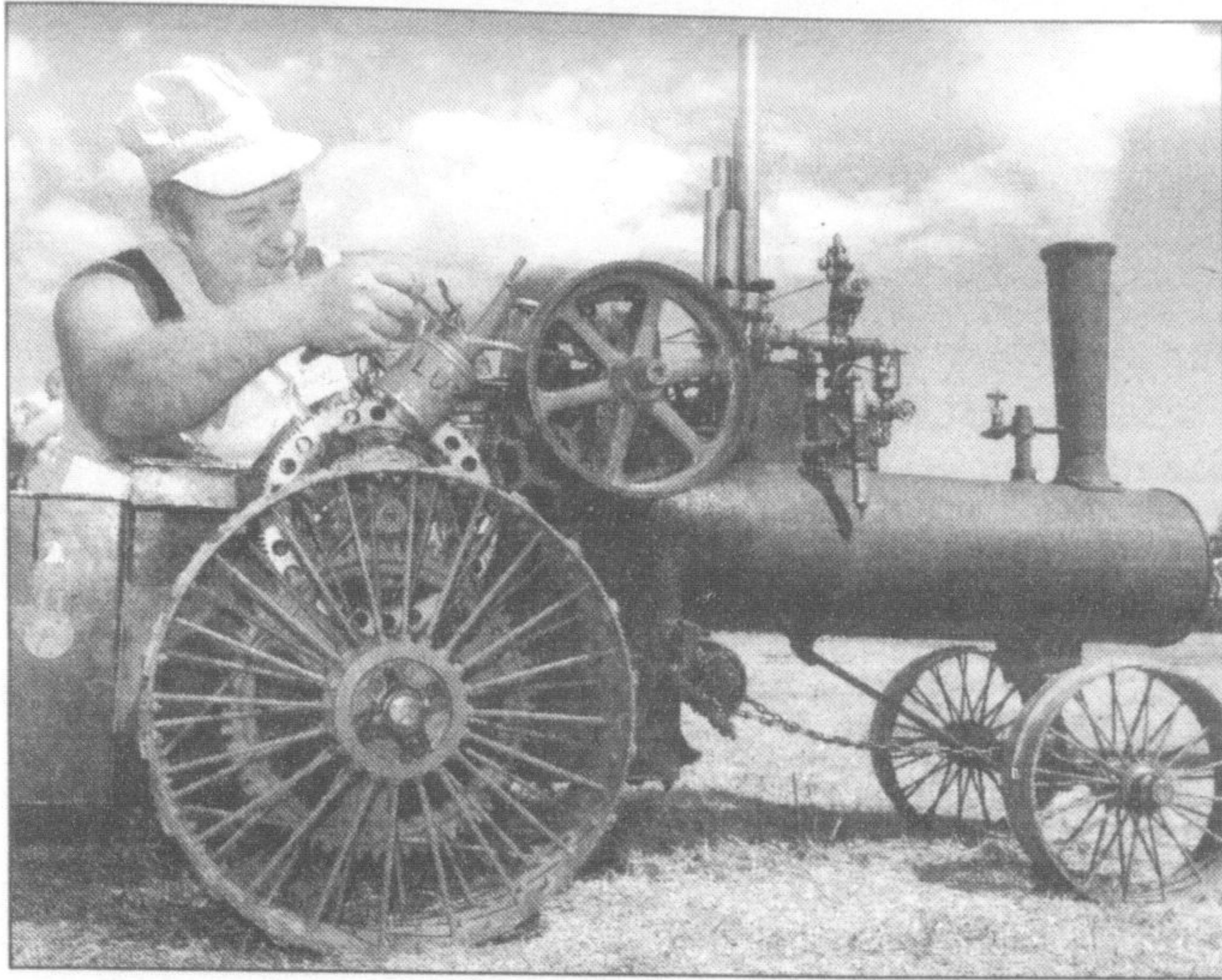


Crowds come in droves for 47th annual Steam-Era



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

MAN AND MACHINE: At top, Wayne Lowden oils some of the 2,000 moving parts on this quarter scale replica of a 1916 Case Steam Engine, which produces 1.8 horsepower. Above, René Doucette tosses sheaves of wheat into a thrasher during the afternoon thrashing competition. His team finished second.

The 47th annual Steam-Era rolled through Milton over the long weekend, and according to organizers this year's turnout was definitely better than last.

While rain kept the crowds away during the 2006 edition of the show at the Milton Fair Grounds, sunshine and warm weather brought people out in droves this year.

"Attendance was in the thousands for sure," said David Stirk, president of the Ontario Steam and Antique

Preservers Association. "It was a safe show with a good turnout — what more could we ask for?"

Some of the most popular events of the weekend included the opening ceremony, a parade through the downtown and a display that showcased the evolution of the gas engine.

The kids' attractions also drew big crowds, like the little steam railroad

that youths had a chance to ride on.

"We had about 600 or 700 kids on that," noted Stirk.

New this year was a Jack Russell terrier racing event, which Stirk said drew a pretty good response as well.

He thanked everyone in Milton who supports the Steam-Era each year, emphasizing that local involvement is an important part of the show's success.

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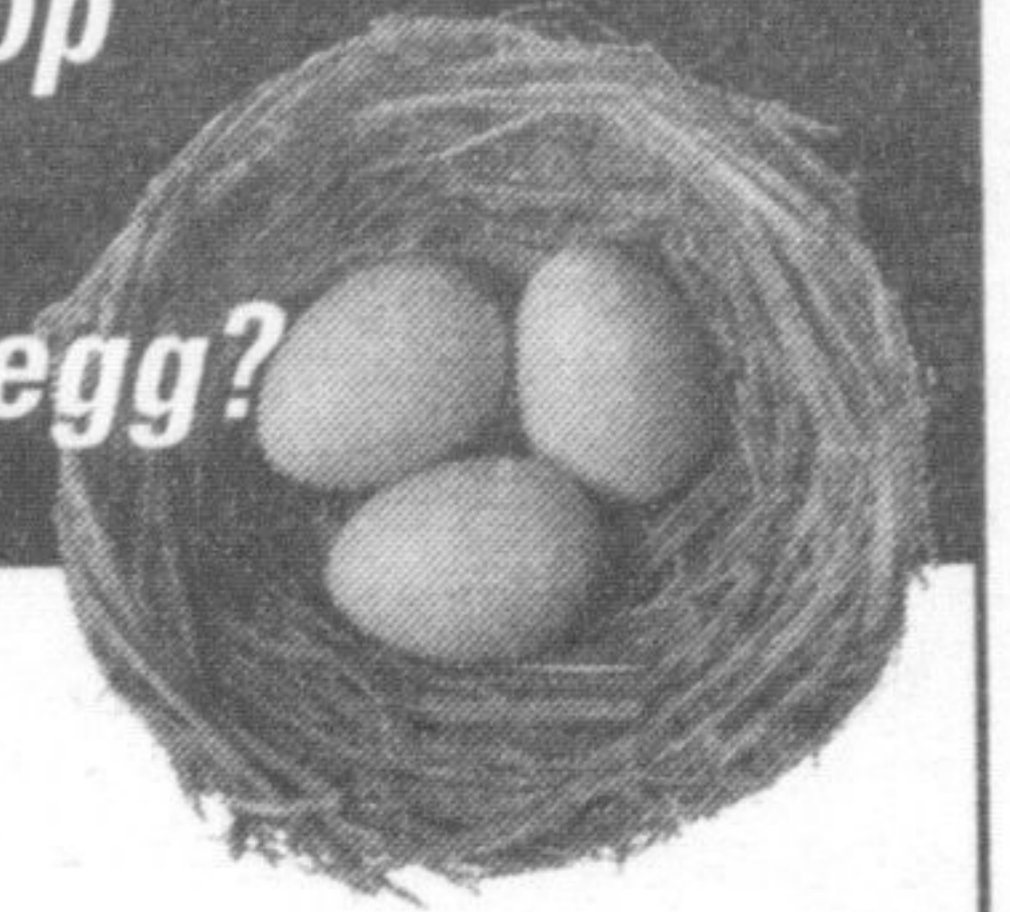
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