

International Plowing Match Returns To York County On Oct. 13-16

By FRED SIMPSON
It was on a day in 1910 that a group of men met for a business meeting in a hotel in Richmond Hill and gave birth to an event that has become the "annual show window of Canadian agriculture."

That event — the now famous International Plowing Match — took its first tottering steps three years later at the Sunnybrook Farm in North York Township. And come October 13 to 16 — 54 years later — it'll be strictly giant steps when it sprawls out across 500 acres of land at the Massey-Ferguson farm at Milliken.

Entrants from all over Canada and the United States will vie for prizes totalling \$15,000. Spectators in excess of 100,000 will roam the tented city portion of the farm covering 60 acres. Its two miles of exhibits will represent a value of \$3.5 million. It was an enthusiastic but much smaller scene in November of 1913 with only a few entries in the hand-

plow classes and one tractor. The attendance at the first match was several hundred. "There were no tractors then," remembers Clark Young, 73, of Unionville, now treasurer of the Ontario Plowman's Association. "It was all horses and high cut-plows. It was just like a country fair."

Exhibits were non-existent. "There was plenty of keen competition," said Mr. Young "and you had to qualify in order to plow. Entry fee was \$1". Mr. Young attended the

first show and has won a number of prizes and trophies over the years.

Former York County Warden William Clark, of RR 1 Unionville, also attended the first international plowing match in 1913 and recalls there "were quite a few competitors but we plowed less land. We had about 100 acres then compared to the 500 now."

Mr. Clark recalls the show "really came into its own in 1927. There were a lot of tractors in by that time."

The 1927 plowing match, held on the old Langstaff jail farm, received considerable publicity from "The Liberal" which published a special edition.

The special edition led off with: "The Liberal" unites with the people of York County in extending to the Ontario Plowmen's Association and all the visitors... a most hearty welcome. York County as the birthplace of the Ontario Plowmen's Association appreciates the honor of

being selected as the site of what has now become a great international event."

On October 13 "The Liberal" reported "ideal weather prevailing for the match." An added feature of the October fair was a demonstration of alfalfa plowing which "proved an attractive and educational feature which interested a large number of farmers."

Another first at that 1927 match was an exhibition of dairy cattle by the York County Breeders.

"The exhibits of manufacturers and merchants also attract a good deal of attention and prove very interesting to the visitors to the match," reported "The Liberal."

will be held with the Massey-Ferguson Challenge Trophy up for grabs.

York County Plowmen's Association is preparing for more than 100,000 visitors to the plowing match.

Win Timbers of Stouffville general chairman of the match, said he is "hoping to get a new attendance record of 125,000. This largest annual agricultural show in Canada is based on plowing and we have more than 30 plowing classes and \$15,000 in prize money."

The four-day program includes a horse show, banquet, the Ontario Plowing

championship, high school competitions, corn demonstration areas, an antique steam show and a horse shoe pitching contest.

The Hon. Harry Hays, federal minister of agriculture, will open the match October 13 at 2 p.m.

Ontario Hydro linemen have built an extensive electric power distribution system for the Massey-Ferguson farm for the "tented city."

Hydro linemen from the commission's Markham Village office operating area under the direction of Assistant Manager John Bayes installed the electric power service for the match.

Garbage A Growing Problem To Metro And Neighboring Councils

While garbage disposal has probably been on the Vaughan Township Council agenda more than any other subject since the early spring, with just about as many words as garbage piled up in that time, neighboring municipalities are floundering in the same morass.

The closing of Metro's dumps in May, which caused the sudden starting increase of dumping in Vaughan Township, has caused a 62 per cent increase in the use of Toronto's four in-

landfills. The garbage disposal crisis in North York and East York will be alleviated shortly by the opening of a new dump operated jointly by the two municipalities.

The dump is partly in North York and partly in East York and is expected to provide space for garbage from the two municipalities for two years. By that time it will be known whether Metro will take over garbage disposal or leave it to the municipalities.

North York's new \$2,000,000, incinerator at Dufferin and Finch is expected to be completed early in 1967.

Incinerators will boost their operating costs this year by about \$349,315. Extra funds have been asked from the board of control to meet this expense.

The incinerators are now handling 6,800 tons of garbage a week compared to 4,200 tons before the Metro dumps were filled and closed up. Extra

shifts have been put on and other maintenance expenses have mounted.

The disposal problem is further complicated by increasing numbers of outworn household appliances and old furniture discarded because of redevelopment and general prosperity.

Last week Metro Council asked the province to make Metro legally responsible for garbage disposal. York Township has viewed this step with alarm and wants to ensure that Metro's 13 municipalities will have a say in the location of future dumps.

At present the 13 municipalities each provide their own disposal facilities.

Meantime, North York Council recently approved a two-day trip to five US cities by four councillors and two township officials to study incinerators there.

The trip was approved in spite of spirited opposition by some council members who felt it a waste of time and money as \$80,000 was recently paid a professional consultant for advice on incinerators and the design for an incinerator to serve the township has already been decided on.

Reeve James Service contended however that there were other facets of the matter to be considered. "We are attempting to come to grips with garbage disposal for 45 or 50 years for a population of 600,000 people," he said. "It is the responsibility of the elected representatives to take the field trip and come back with suggestions for the best possible incinerator for the township."

In March of this year, Mark-

ham Township closed a dump site between Concessions 5 and 6. Subsequently, they completed negotiations for a dump site, to be operated between the hours of 8.30 am and 5 pm on weekdays and 8.30 am to 1

pm Saturdays at a site three and a half miles north of Ringwood in Whitechurch Township.

Markham also has a contract with Miller Paving Co. for municipal garbage collection in certain sections and this company provides the dump site.

Whitechurch Township Council has also received complaints from ratepayers about a dump site on the CFRB Sideroad. Speeding garbage trucks carrying unwholesome Metro garbage have been the source of the complaints which are under investigation by township police forces.

Toronto Board of Control last week agreed to supply \$100,000 to maintain three shift operations at the city's incinerators until December.

Controller William Denison said the city could ask commercial and industrial companies to take their waste to private dumps but suggested that this could encourage companies to move out of Toronto.

Streets Commissioner Harold Atveo said the city may have to build a new incinerator unless Metro re-enters the garbage business.

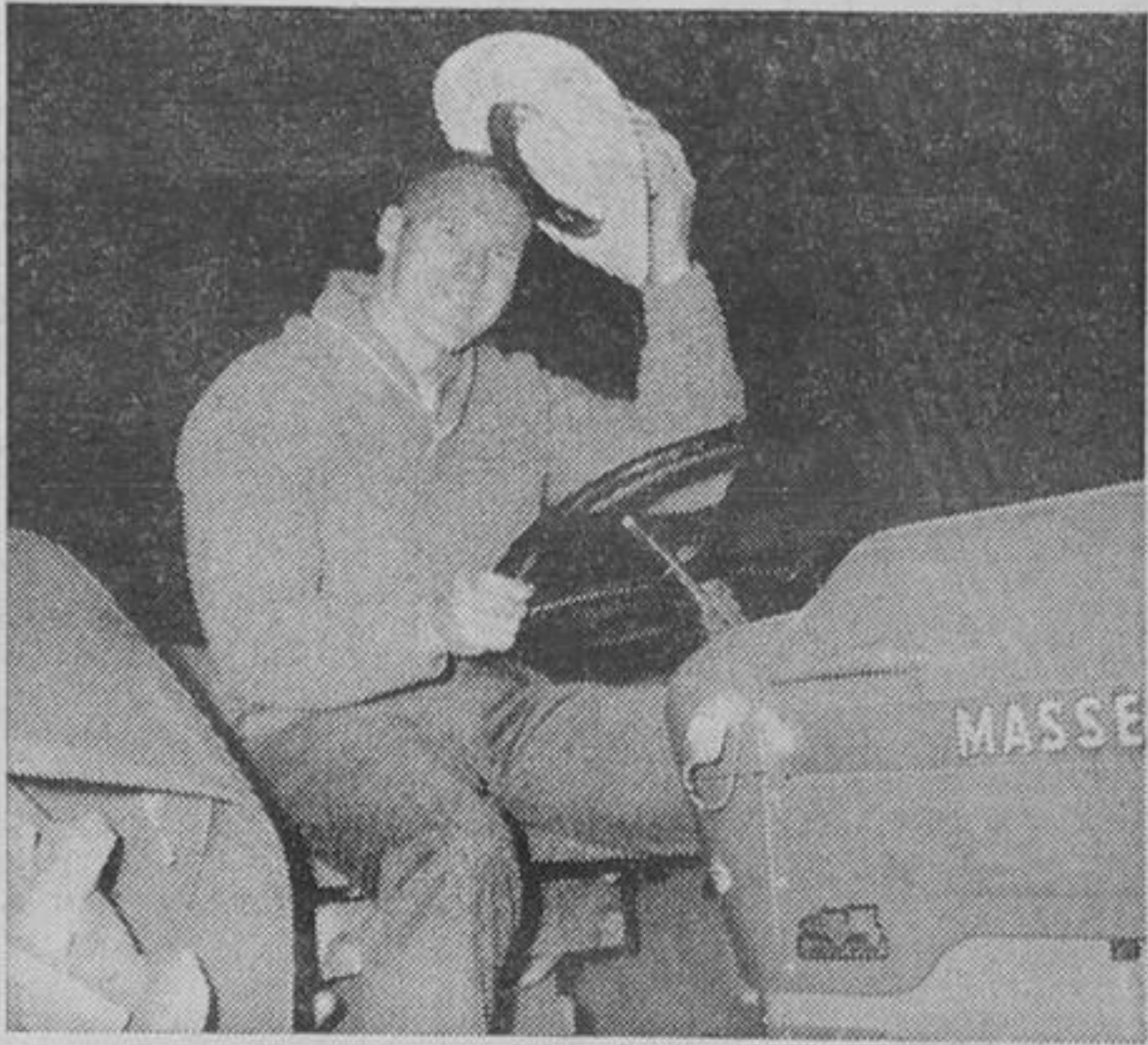
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Even Toronto Maple Leaf hockey star Tim Horton is trying one out for size. A cowboy hat, of course. The hats are being sold in conjunction with the 1965 International Plowing Match being held October 13 to 16 at the Massey-Ferguson Farm at Milliken.

Selling the hats are members of the Rotary Club of Markham and the Women's Auxiliary of the Thornhaven Retarded School. Proceeds will aid retarded children and adults in the Richmond Hill area.

For almost half of the competitors this will be their first entry in the national championships. Two of them have previously represented Canada in competition for the world championship. They are Charles Bonney, of Princeton, Ontario, and Tom Hickman, of Chilliwack, B.C.

Winner of the championship will earn the right to hold for one year the Esso Silver Plow Trophy. In addition, the two top contestants will win the Esso Travel Award for educational travel abroad. The winners will represent Canada in the World Championship Plowing match at Chilliwack next year.

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