

Ken Brown does it again, one's best of the plowmen

By William Lever

RICHMOND HILL — If he keeps up this pace, Ken Brown is going to become as dependable a part of Autumn as colorful leaves, cool nights and hockey tryouts.

Brown, a 39-year-old Richmond Hill tax consultant, plows fields as a hobby. And in a series of plowing matches he's established himself as one of the best in the world.

His most recent triumph was last weekend in Walkerton, when Brown topped 80 competitors to win the International Plowing Match in a four-day event which attracted some 200,000 spectators.

This time last year he was runner-up in the event, held in Brooklin, and won the right to represent Ontario in the national plowing competition in Quebec.

That match was held the weekend before last. Brown won it, so he'll now represent Canada in the world-wide plowing competition to be held in Holland in October 1977.

And he'll again represent Ontario in the nationals next year, having a shot at the 1978 world competition in Germany.

"It's just a hobby to me," says Brown, "like golf might be to someone else. I enjoy it and get to meet a lot of nice people."

And, now that he's consistently in winning form, he also gets the satisfaction of seeing practice pay off.

That's the only real explanation for his success, Brown says: "A lot of practice. For several years I'd finished in third or fourth or fifth place, and I just kept on practicing."

The competition itself is based strictly on judgment of the quality of work.

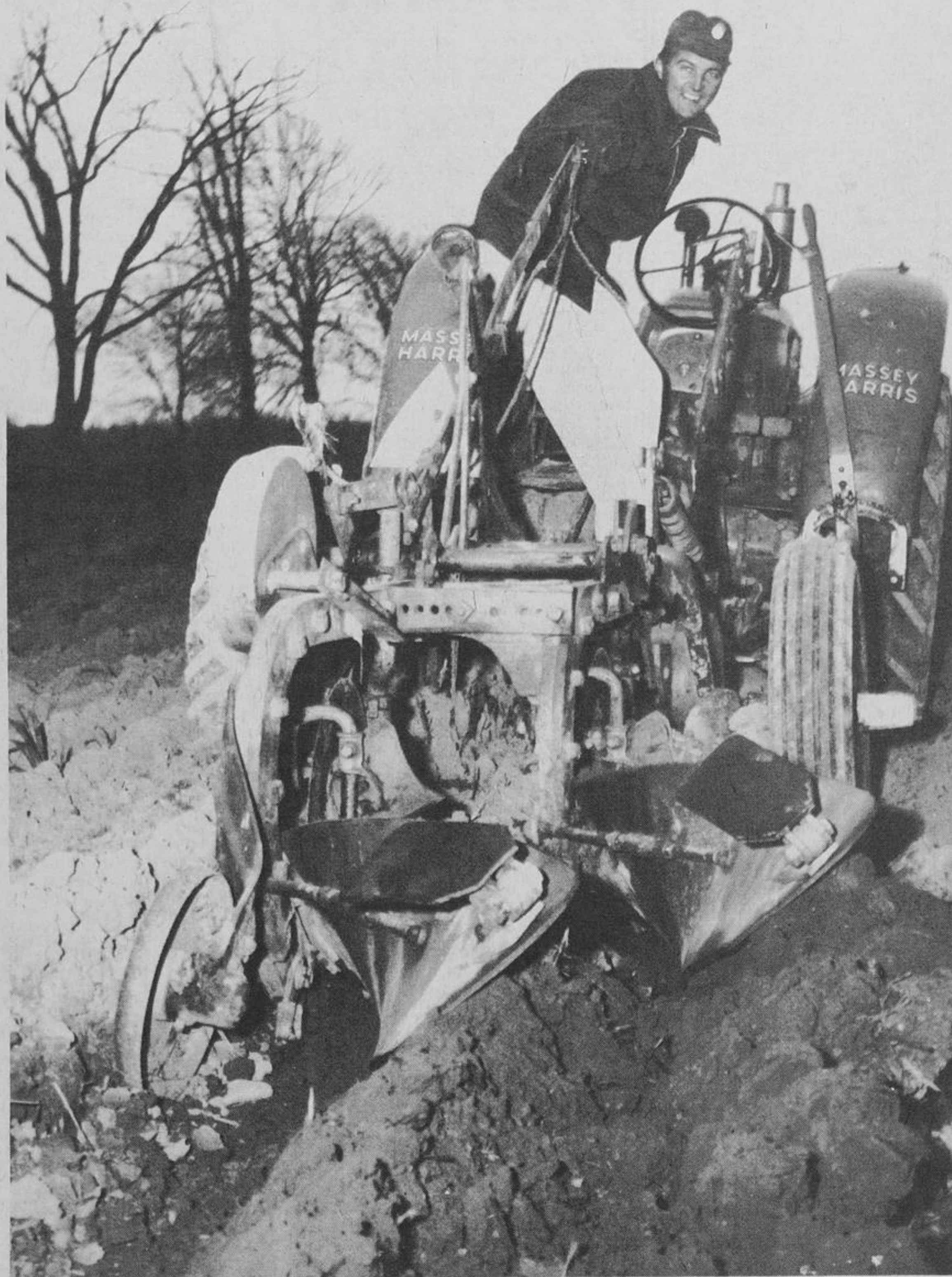
Explaining the Walkerton match, Brown says "each day you plow one plot of land, usually 50 by 150 feet. You're judged on the basis of straightness of furrows and uniformity of the width and depth of the furrows."

Each plot takes about 2½ hours to plow, he says, "and that's going about as slow as a tractor will go."

Since he doesn't have his own farm, Brown uses friends' fields for his practice these days. But he was a farm boy when he first started plowing, back in the early 1950s at his parents' farm near London.

He was in school competitions back then, but after leaving high school, "I got away from it for a few years and started working in a bank."

He came to Richmond Hill in 1964 as the manager of a trust company. He and his wife Bonnie have two children, Michael and Michelle.



Headed to Holland

"Strictly a hobby," says Ken Brown of Richmond Hill, but it's one he is getting better at all the time. Brown, in a field of about 80 competitors, won the International Plowing Match at Walkerton last

weekend, only a week after winning the Canadian National in Quebec. Next year it's a world match in Holland.

Wednesday, October 6, 1976

Churchmen plan October-feast

king city

Correspondent
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KING — MASK (Men of All Saints' King) will present "Steak-in" on Oct. 15 in the church auditorium.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with dancing to the music of George Cowie and his orchestra from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$10 each and include prizes, dinner and refreshment. Call 833-5432.

Good Morning Group

Guest speaker at the Good Morning Group today (Wednesday) will be Marjory Linton of the Richmond Hill and Thornhill area Family Services organization.

The \$1 admission for non-members includes baby-sitting and coffee.

The program starts at 9:45 a.m. at All Saints' Anglican auditorium.

On Oct. 13 the members and guests will participate in a mini-auction.

Bring your donations and go home with some great bargains.

Kingsmen show coming

Rehearsals are under way for the annual Kingsmen Variety Show scheduled for Nov. 18-20. Performances on the first two days are for the public, with the final performance being the Congregational dinner and show.

Bazaar on Nov. 6

The King City United Church Bazaar

will take place on Nov. 6 at the church.

Kingcraft has birthday

Kingcraft members celebrated the 26th birthday of their organization at their monthly meeting on Sept. 28. Studio dates for the sale of handcrafts at Kingcraft House are Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and 11.

WI plans meeting

The Oct. 12 meeting of the King branch of the Women's Institute will be held at the home of Eileen Nielsen with Marg Innis as convener. Members are asked to have a resolution in mind.

Humane society meets

The first meeting of the season for the Humane Society will be a luncheon at noon on Oct. 14 at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Aurora.

Guest speaker will be the new president of the Ontario Humane Society, Dr. Ian Gilroy. At this meeting the nominating committee will present the new slate of officers for the next two years.

Thousands turn out for Markham fair

MARKHAM — A record attendance for another year was predicted following the wind-up of the Markham Fair on Sunday.

Last year, the attendance was estimated at over 100,000 and this year, fair officials expected a larger turn-out, although more exact figures will not be available until later in the week.

"We had a fantastic fair, just superb in every area," said director Len Cooper, who is in charge of the light horse show.

He estimated there were 30,000 people watching the light horse show Saturday, "which wouldn't take a second place to anybody."

"The cattle shows are just as good," he says. The fair draws visitors from the United States as well as all parts of Ontario. Some of these people are buyers who are attracted to Markham "because we go for quality, not quantity," he says.

Traffic tie-ups

The fair causes traffic jams, both inside and outside the grounds and the directors are looking forward to moving to a much larger site on McCowan Road next year.

Cooper said he didn't have room to park another horse trailer on Saturday and the people were backed up right to the gates.

The new site will have activities spread over 40 acres with the remainder of the grounds available for parking, he said. At the present site, only 29 acres altogether is available.

Construction has already started on the site which will require five new buildings, a track and grandstand

seating 2,000. Over 150,000 tons of earth have to be moved to prepare the grounds.

The heritage of 121 fairs at Highway 7 and 48 was marked by a special closing ceremony.

A cairn of field stone was unveiled. The choir of Central United Church, Unionville, sang and senior citizens were let in free on the closing day to get a last look at the fair in the old location.

The cairn will provide a place for four plaques, two off the gates and one from the grandstand, plus a new one.

The old fairgrounds have been designated for a housing development although the town and the developer who bought it from the Markham and East York Agricultural Society have yet to come to terms on a specific subdivision plan.

The Markham fair is a mixture of real corn, agricultural exhibits and cornball. There was a button hole contest, hoola hoop drills and yo-yo championship, a rocking chair contest for those 65 years old and over, and a contest to see who could throw a rubber boot the farthest.

A dunking machine, where participants who hit a target could dunk a celebrity in a tank of water, was a big attraction. Among those to get wet were York Centre MPP Alf Stong, several town councillors and Jack Luftman, head of the Save the Fairgrounds Committee.

One thousand helium balloons were released at the closing ceremonies. The person who brings one back from the farthest distance away will be invited to take part in next year's opening ceremonies.

Gardeners make good teachers

Correspondent
Millie Stewart
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OAK RIDGES — For the past couple of weeks, I have seen strange things happening in the neighborhood. People seem to be haunting the back yards at odd hours.

Can you imagine my surprise, when I discovered that the strange people were actually my neighbors? What they were up to in the dark, I wondered.

With the weather being so cool at night lately, there are certain things that have to be done in the garden. Well, not being a gardener, I hadn't the foggiest about anything that grows. But I learned a lot: For instance, tomatoes cannot take the frost like some of the hardier plants such as squash. The tomatoes have to be covered in a mild frost and picked before a heavy frost.

So now we all know that my neighbors are not strange, just the reverse — they know what they're doing.

oak ridges lake wilcox

Once the crop is picked, the fun really begins. Would you believe that a girl who has lived in this area for over eight years also knows zilch about canning food for the winter. That's me. But this year I've finally learned a few basics about canning foods and how to get the best from a garden or fruits from an orchard.

Doing these kind of things for your family is fun. The best part is when you can look on the results of your labor and see how much the family and friends enjoy. It is worth the effort; so if you are like me, and would like to learn and you have the friends to teach you, go ahead. It's fun.

Hallowe'en dance

Bond Lake Skating Club is sponsoring a swingin' 50s dance to celebrate Hallowe'en. It will be held Oct. 23 at 8:30 p.m. at the arena in the Lions Den. The music will be provided by Don Holgate. Tickets are \$10 per couple and are available by calling 773-5897 or 773-5201.

More dancing

Our Lady's Guild is hosting a Hallowe'en dance on Oct. 30 at 8:30 p.m. This will be held at Our Lady of the Annunciation School on Bond Crescent. The music will be provided by a disc-jockey, and there will be door prizes and a buffet. Tickets at 7 per couple will be available at the door.

JCW to meet

United Church Women of St. Paul's will resume meeting on Oct. 12 at 8 p.m.

at the church. All women in the community are invited to come hear Bernadette ZanRooyen, the assistant director of Daybreak in Richmond Hill. After her talk, there will be a film entitled Walking Together which gives some insight into the kind of work that is being done for retarded adults at Daybreak.

Seniors on safari

The seniors and all who joined them thoroughly enjoyed the recent trip to the African Safari at Rockton. A bus took them for a scenic trip through Hockley Valley to see the colors of autumn.

The fall rummage sale at the Wheelhouse Club will be Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone with rummage to contribute may leave it at the rear door to the Wheelhouse.

The September evening euchre prize winners were Beatrice Thompson, Dorothy Wayne, Annie Phillips, Doug Carter, and Mrs. I. Lebar.

Development red tape protested

RICHMOND HILL — Municipalities in York Region are not geared toward positive decision making for balanced growth, Gino Matrundola, president of York Region real estate board, said this week.

Matrundola made his comments Monday to Jay Chauhan, a Richmond

Hill solicitor, on the program "Doing Business in the York Region" on Cable 10 TV.

There is a lack of decision making and councillors seem undecided in many instances, Matrundola said.

While they wanted to vote in favor of development, they appeared to be afraid of "small, vociferous, anti-development groups."

The primary function of the municipality is to regulate growth and it should be taking advantage of the provincial and federal grants available for development, he said.

When asked by Chauhan how Richmond Hill council was coping with development, Matrundola said the growth permitted was too slow, "and as a matter of fact, it seems to have stopped."

He said he would like to see balanced growth in the area, with provision for industrial development, so that Richmond Hill didn't end up being a dormitory community.

Development should give rise to employment opportunities within Richmond Hill, he said. That would save energy and allow people to spend more time at home.

Commenting on housing costs, Matrundola said the developer has to deal with a maze of government regulations and other red tape, incurring substantial expense, which was then passed on to the consumer.

The housing market therefore

essentially catered to the blue chip fringe of society, rather than the blue collar or office worker, he said.

Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller is being invited to reply to Matrundola on the next program.

Trees missing

NEWMARKET — Of the 2,000 trees planted in York Region last year, about 200 were stolen at various times, engineering Commissioner Bob Hodgson told region council last week.

Hodgson unveiled the statistics as council was pondering a report of the engineering committee asking for \$15,000 for tree-purchasing purposes.

Death also claimed its share of trees, Hodgson said.

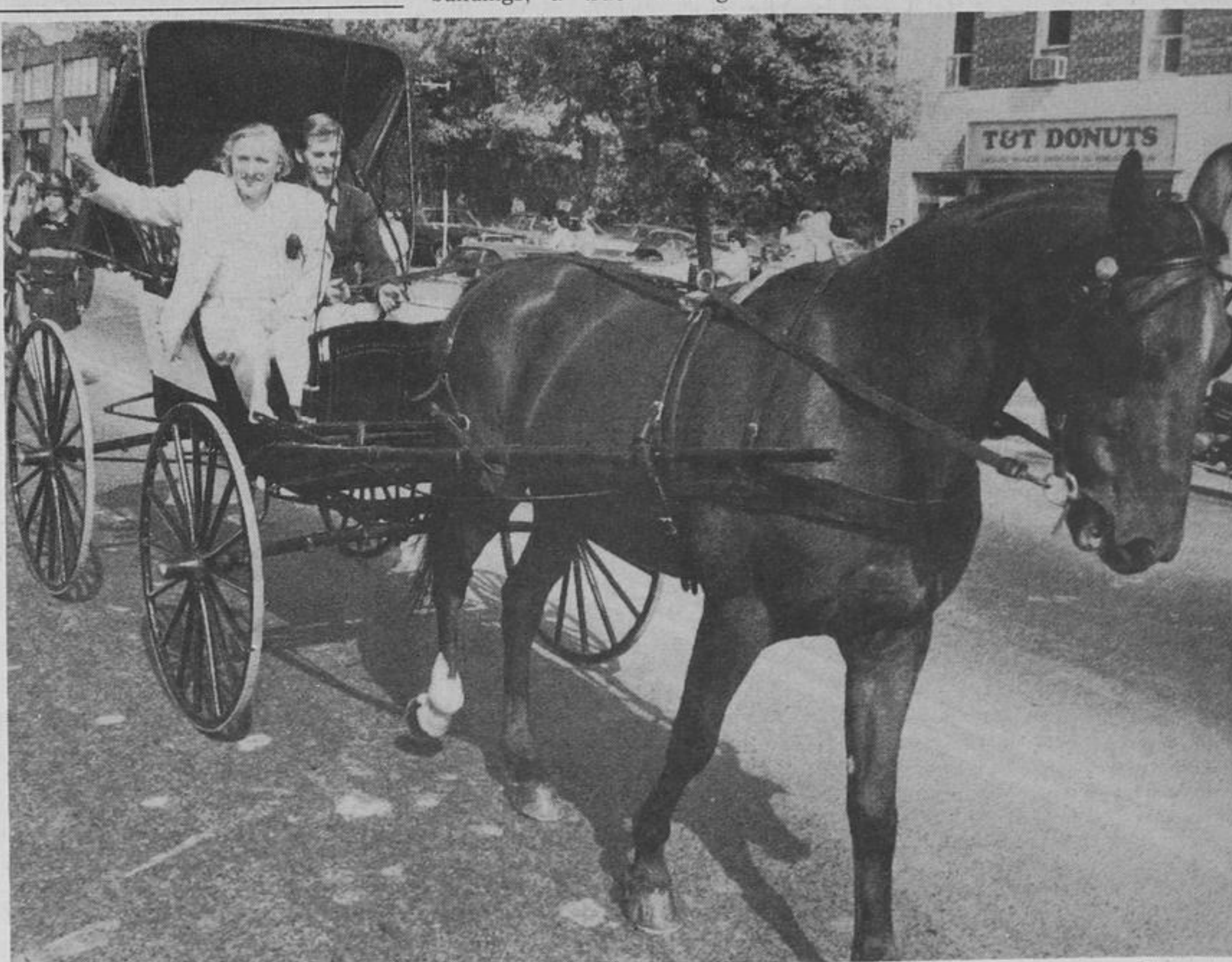
Council approved the request.

Kinettes to present Lotta Hitschmanova

RICHMOND HILL — The Kinette Club of Richmond Hill will present Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova, organizer and executive director of the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada.

Dr. Hitschmanova will present a slide demonstration entitled Jottings, Oct. 12 at 8 p.m., concerning 30 years of travel carrying Canadian volunteer relief and redevelopment programs to war torn or starving countries around the world.

The presentation will be held at Bayview Secondary School on Bayview Avenue. Coffee will be served and admission is free.



Uncle Bobby at the fair

They came by the thousands, and they kept on coming, as the annual Markham Fair attracted yet another record crowd on the weekend. Midway and agriculture exhibits, as usual, were part of the

fun, and so was the big parade through town Sunday. That's children's TV star Uncle Bobby riding in the buggy above.

(Photo by Hogg)