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*Local corporation
celebrating staff,
community*

TG Minto hosts Afforestation and Family Fun Day Sept. 11

BY SHANNON BURROWS
EXPRESS MANAGING EDITOR

PALMERSTON — Sunday, Sept. 11 is a day that will benefit local families, the local community, and even the planet as a whole.

That day marks the TG Minto Afforestation and Family Fun Day, the third held in North America and the first for the Palmerston facility. "It's a fun day for employees and the community," explained Mario Svigac, TG Minto assistant manager for human resources and environmental health and safety. "We want to ultimately give back to the community. The community has given us a lot, and been very supportive of our growth. We also want to give something back to our employees . . . without them, we really wouldn't be here."

The day will include tree planting — 7,200 trees, to be exact — fun activities for children and families, a barbecue, open house and exclusive live concert. Although more than 400 volunteers have already registered, TG requires about 800 in total. This is an ideal opportunity for local service groups, co-workers and families to attend for some fun, food and environmental awareness. Everything is free of charge.

Participants are asked to register ahead of time so event co-ordinators can plan for food and gifts. All tree-planting tools are provided.

"Just bring a positive attitude and have a good time," said Svigac.

TG GROUP'S AFFORESTATION & REGISTRATION INFO

The Afforestation initiative originated in Japan with 'tree whisperer' Professor Miyawaki.

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Andrew Smith/Express Photo

BALLOON TRANSFORMATIONS — Ben, Leah and Kara Kelly took advantage of the free face painting and balloon decorations as part of the Street Party in downtown Harriston Saturday. For additional coverage, please see pages 8 and 10.

2016 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo Sept. 20 to 24

Powering up — electrical grid installed as IPM framework takes shape

BY SHANNON BURROWS
EXPRESS MANAGING EDITOR

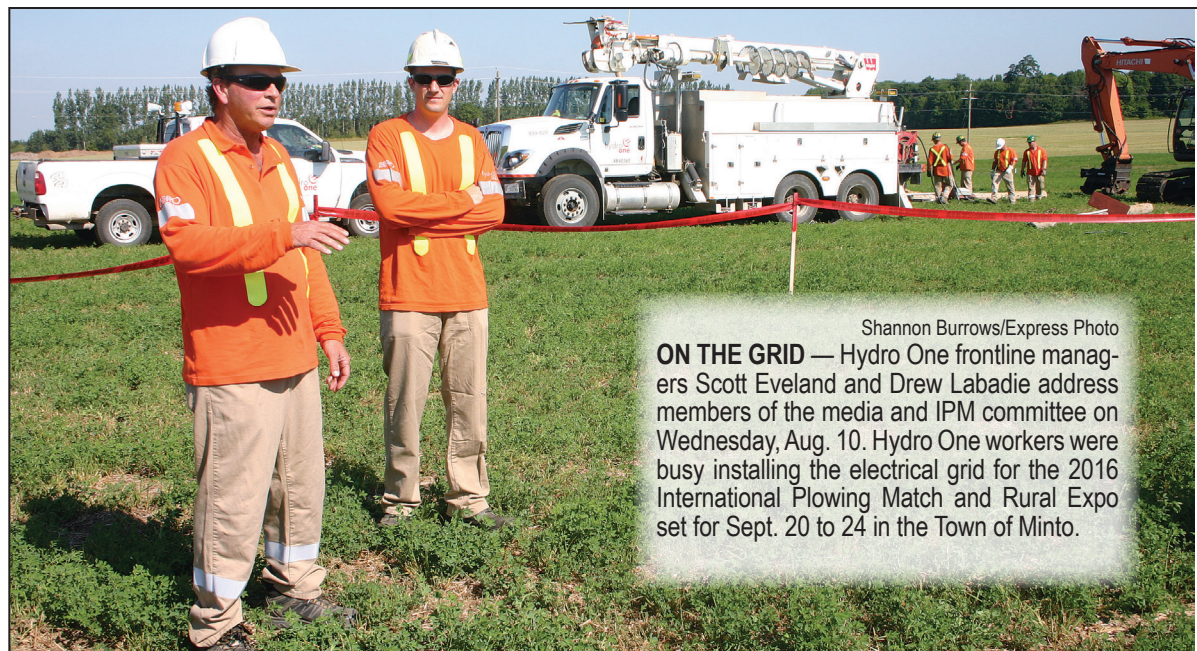
TOWN OF MINTO — On Gillespie Lane outside of Harriston, the site of the 2016 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo, workers are building the foundation of the hugely anticipated event — literally from the ground up.

IPM spokespeople and Hydro One crews were on site Wednesday, Aug. 10 constructing an electrical grid to supply power to various components of the Sept. 20 to 24 event, such as the Tented City and RV campground area.

IPM chairperson Ron Faulkner said the property, owned by Earl and Anne Schneider, is a wonderful site for the upcoming event.

Tented City committee chairperson and Town of Minto CAO Bill

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Shannon Burrows/Express Photo

ON THE GRID — Hydro One frontline managers Scott Eveland and Drew Labadie address members of the media and IPM committee on Wednesday, Aug. 10. Hydro One workers were busy installing the electrical grid for the 2016 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo set for Sept. 20 to 24 in the Town of Minto.

Powering up — electrical grid installed as IPM framework takes shape



Continued from front

White said the committee is anticipating about 1,000 to 1,200 RVs to visit Minto for the IPM over the five days.

“We’re so excited to see this, we’ve been planning it for years,” said White. “It’s a huge economic boom for the Town of Minto and the County of Wellington.”

White acknowledged the tremendous support from the county and the hundreds of volunteers who are contributing.

“It’s a wonderful thing for this community.”

Faulkner expressed appreciation for partnerships with the Schneiders and Hydro One.

“The advantage for us is, it allows us to put [on] this event on an economic scale,” said Faulkner.

It is indeed a win-win situation, Hydro One staff agreed, as it not only affords the company the opportunity to connect with customers from across the province over the course of the IPM, it also gives their apprentice crews a valuable learning opportunity.

“This is the opportunity to build an entire grid from the ground up,” said Nancy Clark. “It’s a tremendous training opportunity for them.”

The Minto Express watched and learned while crews used a pole-setter to install hydro poles in pre-dug holes. Once the poles were placed, workers

back-filled the holes. Second-year apprentices then ascended in the bucket to install a 100-kg transformer.

Hydro One frontline manager Scott Eveland said it takes about five weeks of physical feet on the ground to complete the job, and at this point the Tented City is over 80 per cent complete.

“It’s going fantastic, the guys are doing a great job,” he said, adding it’s difficult to duplicate the same hands-on experience in a live situation.

“This is so valuable for our apprentices to learn in a de-energized environment.”

Hydro One has been partnering with International Plowing Matches since about 2002.

“It gives us the opportunity to focus on our customer base, and have face-to-face time with customers from the town, city and rural areas . . . it builds a better relationship with them,” said Eveland.

EVENT INFO

The 2016 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo takes place Sept. 20 to 24 at 9000 Gillespie Lane. For further information, please contact info@ipm2016.com or 519-510-2016, and follow the IPM on Facebook and Twitter. Event details, tickets and volunteer application forms are available on the 2016 IPM website at www.plowingmatch.org



Shannon Burrows/Express Photos

GOING UP — Members of the local media met with 2016 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo spokespeople and Hydro One employees at the IPM site on Wednesday, Aug. 10 to discover what is involved in establishing an electrical grid for the numerous components of the IPM — and the tens of thousands of people expected to attend. After hydro poles were installed in pre-dug holes, second-year apprentices install a 100 kg transformer.

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Marathon of Hope still inspires a nation

SPECIAL TO THE MINTO EXPRESS

PALMERSTON — Hundreds of thousands of people across Canada are expected to participate in the annual Terry Fox Run on Sunday, Sept. 18, a fundraising event taking place in over 800 communities nation-wide that continue to embody the indomitable spirit of Terry Fox.

Terry's Marathon of Hope in 1980 heralded a new age in fundraising. Fox was an innovator, raising funds for a disease that was still referred to in whispers while attempting to run across Canada, an athletic feat few able-bodied athletes would even consider. He ran with his artificial leg exposed, he talked about his experience with cancer, he gave hope to those suffering from the disease. Fox's grassroots approach was a direct reflection of who he was — and Canadians embraced him with an intensity rarely seen before.

There is no doubt that Fox's example of courage and perseverance lives on today in Terry Foxers of all ages.

The Terry Fox Runs are non-competitive, all inclusive, family oriented activity where participants can run, walk, blade or bike.

On Sunday, Sept. 18, hundreds of thousands of Terry Fox supporters, family and friends, will participate in their favourite Canadian tradition to ensure that cancer research continues to make a difference. As Fox himself might have said, one dollar from every Canadian; that's it.

QUICK FACTS

• Terry Fox was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma (bone cancer) in his right leg in 1977 and had his right leg amputated 15 cm above the knee

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Shannon Burrows/Express Photo
AFFORESTATION AND FAMILY FUN DAY — More than 900 volunteers, including TG Minto employees and their families, community residents and local government officials planted about 7,500 trees and shrubs at the Palmerston manufacturing facility Sunday as part of Toyoda Gosei Group's commitment to the environment across the globe, and celebrating TG staff and the communities the company calls home. Please see full coverage on page 2.

IPM Media Day previews upcoming event

BY SHANNON BURROWS
EXPRESS MANAGING EDITOR

HARRISTON — Members of the local media were treated to a preview of the upcoming International Plowing Match & Rural Expo recently, watching and learning as the site continues to spring to life during the final days of preparation.

"This is a very, very special day," said 2016 IPM chairman Ron Faulkner. "This is the culmination of literally four and a half years of planning."

Clifford-area farmer and international competitive plower Carman Wepler performed the ceremonial first plow.

Much like a ground-breaking, this "turning of the furrow" kicks off what is sure to be a great event, said Faulkner.

He thanked the IPM volunteers for the thousands of hours they've contributed, the County of Wellington, Town of Minto,

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Shannon Burrows/Express Photo
TURNING THE FURROW — Clifford area farmer and competitive plower Carman Wepler completes the ceremonial first plow at the 2016 International Plowing Match & Rural Expo Media Day on Wednesday, Sept. 7.

2016 IPM Media Day previews upcoming event

Continued from front

hosts Earl and Anne Schneider, presenting sponsors Hydro One, Ontario Mutual Insurance Association and Bank of Montreal, and the local media. "I can't say enough thank yous," he said. "You're an integral part of holding this match [and] go a long way in making sure the crowds come to support the match."

Faulkner said the municipality and the county, working with the Ontario Plowmen's Association, are fortunate to host this international event Sept. 20 to 24 at 9000 Gillespie Lane outside of Harriston.

"Every day when you drive in here, it's literally exploding from the inside," he said. "The more it does, the more exciting it gets. We feel there is something for everyone . . . we're looking forward to showcasing this region to our guests."

With a full lineup of events planned, Faulkner said the main attractions include the RCMP Musical Ride running Tuesday and Wednesday, the Knights of Valour Jousting demonstration and the Dodge Ram Rodeo. Also not to be missed are the lifestyles tent, quilt tent, antique show, Wellington County Showcase, live local entertainment by the likes of Brittany Brodie, Ballagh Bunch and Western Swing Authority, parade, and more than 500 vendors and exhibitors.

"It's really going to be something to see," he said. "The match covers an incredible acreage of land."

Town of Minto Mayor and Wellington County Warden George Bridge praised the partnerships between local government, and recognized the Schneiders and the ideal location for the match.

"What a great site we've got," he said. "We're so proud to showcase it to the rest of the world — and it is the rest of the world."

Earl Schneider was quick to express his gratitude for the hundreds of people who have pitched in.

"We welcome everybody here," he said. "What a great day, and a great event. We're going to have the weather, and we're going to have the people. Everyone has gone the extra mile here."

Ontario Plowmen's Association president Don Priest said each year it is increasingly difficult to get the land required to hold the plowing match. But thanks to prime acreage and local partnerships, that wasn't an issue in Minto. "It's so important to get the land," he said. "To me, this whole thing has been a journey and we're all in this together."

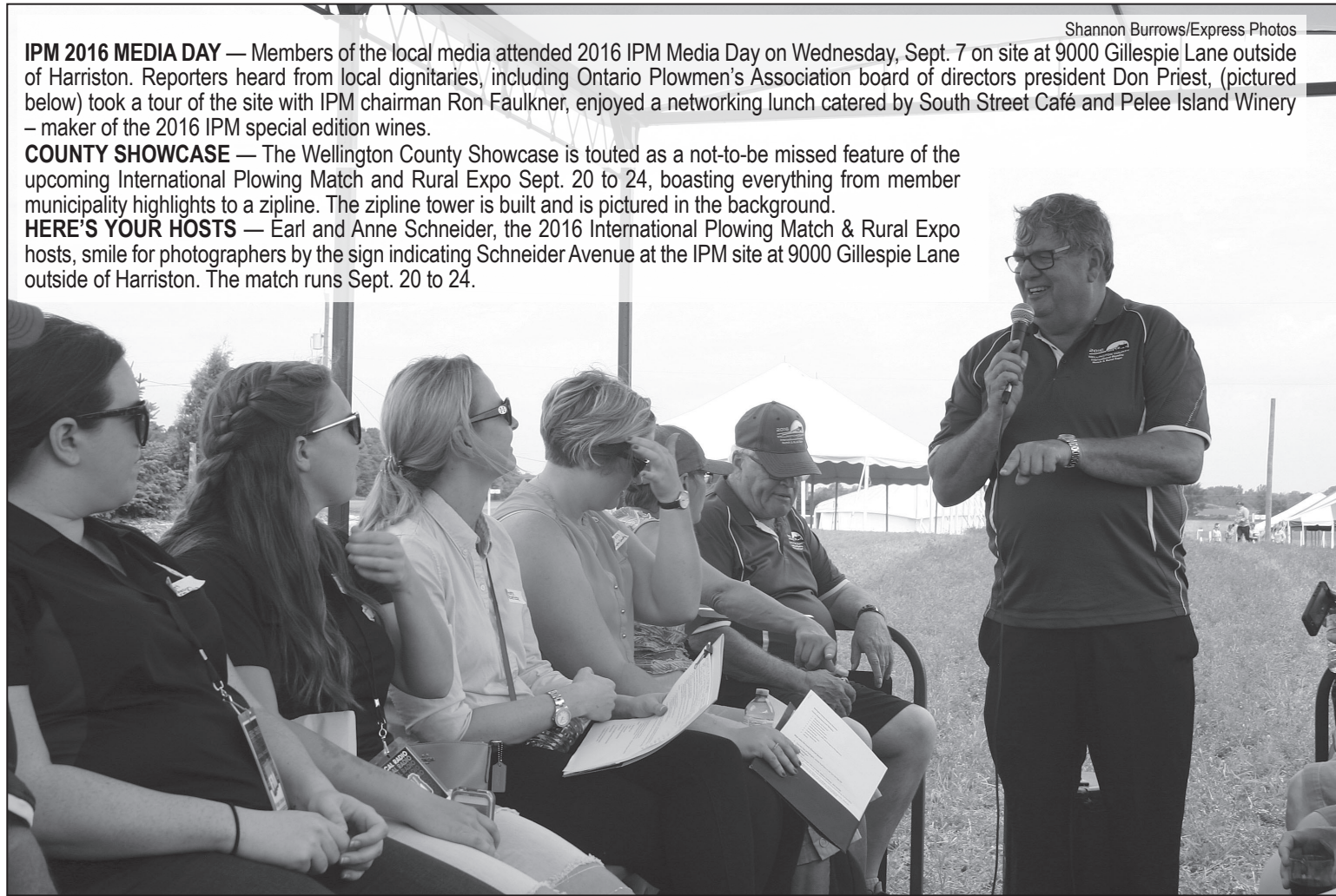
Attendees enjoyed a networking lunch catered by South Street Café, a sample of IPM 2016 red and white wines by Pelee Island Winery, and a tractor-drawn wagon tour of the IPM site.

Shannon Burrows/Express Photos

IPM 2016 MEDIA DAY — Members of the local media attended 2016 IPM Media Day on Wednesday, Sept. 7 on site at 9000 Gillespie Lane outside of Harriston. Reporters heard from local dignitaries, including Ontario Plowmen's Association board of directors president Don Priest, (pictured below) took a tour of the site with IPM chairman Ron Faulkner, enjoyed a networking lunch catered by South Street Café and Pelee Island Winery — maker of the 2016 IPM special edition wines.

COUNTY SHOWCASE — The Wellington County Showcase is touted as a not-to-be missed feature of the upcoming International Plowing Match and Rural Expo Sept. 20 to 24, boasting everything from member municipality highlights to a zipline. The zipline tower is built and is pictured in the background.

HERE'S YOUR HOSTS — Earl and Anne Schneider, the 2016 International Plowing Match & Rural Expo hosts, smile for photographers by the sign indicating Schneider Avenue at the IPM site at 9000 Gillespie Lane outside of Harriston. The match runs Sept. 20 to 24.



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IPM 2016 — A Fresh Taste of Farming

IPM success: 'Give yourself a slap on the back'

BY ANDREW SMITH
EXPRESS STAFF

TOWN OF MINTO — The 2016 IPM wrapped up a busy week on Saturday, Sept. 24, paying tribute to the countless hours worked by volunteers to make everything possible.

Shannon South, emcee for the closing ceremonies on Saturday, opened her speech by saying the IPM shows what community is all about, as a group of friends, families and neighbours come together to accomplish the impossible, all through the dedication of volunteers.

"I'm the happiest man on earth right now to see this success, and it all comes back to the people of Wellington that put this on."

- Ontario Plowmen's Association
President Don Priest

"The volunteers are the ones that leave here with the biggest gift from IPM 2016," she said. "We are the ones leaving here with the very best stories, the greatest memories, and we've shared an adventure that has given us enough conversation for 32 years."

Ontario Plowmen's Association president Don Priest also thanked the approximately 1,200 volunteers for the 2016 IPM, which he said was one of the best matches he's ever seen.

"Wellington, give yourself a slap on the back, what a week," Priest said. "I'm the happiest man on earth right now to see this success, and it all comes back to the people of Wellington that put this on."

Ron Faulkner, 2016 IPM chair, thanked all of the thousands of vis-

itors to pass through the gates for the event, and presented a plaque to Wellington County Warden and Town of Minto Mayor George Bridge to commemorate the site of the match. IPM hosts Earl and Anne Schneider thanked the entire community, as Anne admitted how many times she was overwhelmed by the experience.

"It's so emotional how a community can do this for their community," she said. "As far as I'm concerned, it's been one of the biggest parties we've ever had."

The closing ceremonies also looked ahead to next year's 2017 IPM in Huron County, with the passing of the IPM flag to 2017 chair Jacquie Bishop and Huron Warden Paul Gowing. Gowing said he was excited to be hosting the event on the farm of Jack Ryan near Walton on Sept. 19-23, 2017, which will be the IPM's centennial anniversary.

"We'll be hosting the 100th Plowing Match at the same time that all Canadians will be celebrating Canada's 150th birthday," Gowing said. "Your great success you've experienced here at Wellington has only added to our enthusiasm."

The grandchildren of the Schneider family took turns digging soil as part of the closing ceremony, which will be transplanted to the Huron site, which Bishop said is the start of a new tradition for the IPM.

"With the Olympics just closing, we were thinking what you should move Plowing Match to Plowing Match," she said. "We thought it was great to strip it down to what this match was started as, the soil, and it's appreciating that soil that provides for all of us."



Dan Browning Photo

GO BIG OR GO HOME — (TOP) Competitive plower Robert MacRobbie of Mount Forest digs into the earth with his team of Belgians in the class 1 horse plowing at the 2016 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo Sept. 20 to 24 in the Town of Minto.

RIDING WITH A SMILE — (LEFT) The RCMP Musical Ride, held in the CKNX Event Centre during the 2016 IPM was a fan favourite, attracting standing-room-only crowds.

WALK THE LINE — (ABOVE) Week-long live entertainment included Legends of Memphis where tribute performers delighted fans with their classic favourites — including Johnny Cash. Please see additional 2016 IPM coverage inside.

IPM 2016 — A Fresh Taste of Farming



FIVE DAYS OF FUN – The RCMP Musical Ride and Knights of Valour full contact jousting proved to be fan favourites, drawing full crowds to the CKNX Event Centre for each performance; ‘Jerry Lee Lewis’ gets the audience rocking during the Legends of Memphis live performance; Taylor Pridham, Belinda Wick-Graham and Cally Mann welcome visitors to the Town of Minto booth inside the Wellington County Showcase; Ontario Queen of the Furrow contestants were all smiles during the opening day parade — the title and crown went to Anita Rastapkevicius from Elgin County at the Harriston arena on Sept. 22.



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