

Ontario Queen of the Furrow and Top Plowmen at International Plowing Match

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo will finish with a bang when it hosts a celebratory evening on Friday, September 22.

The Celebration of Excellence is an always well-attended, ticketed evening event where the top plowmen are announced after an exciting week of competition.

“There is so much for visitors to see and do at an IPM, but for the competitive plow-

men this is serious business,” said Floyd Wills, president of the Ontario Plowmen’s Association – the parent host of the IMP.

At stake is the chance to compete at the nationals next year in Wolfe Island, Kingston. The top points plowmen from each of the senior plowing championship with conventional plows, the senior plowing championship with reversible plows, and the junior plowing championship with conventional plows will advance to the 2024 Canadian Plowing Championships.

For Maranda Klaver, the current Ontario Queen of the Furrow, the night is going to be bittersweet as she passes on the crown to her successor. The successor will be chosen that evening from among 13 competitors.

“It brings an end what has been a fabulous year representing the OPA and working with the IPM 2023 local committee,” Maranda said.

“I’m definitely going to miss the people – but I know whomever is crowned the next

Ontario Queen of the Furrow is going to enjoy her year every bit as much as I did.”

The Celebration of Excellence will be held on Friday, September 22, at the Orangeville Fairgrounds.

A limited number of tickets will be available on-site during the week of the IPM, however anyone interested in attending this evening finale are encouraged to order their tickets on-line in advance to avoid disappointment, at <http://ipm2023celebration.rsvpify.com>.

National Fire Prevention Week returns next month, helping keep people safe

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

National Fire Prevention Week is being held from Oct. 8-14, with a focus on informing people how to be safe in their homes.

As the weather gets cooler, many people in Ontario will fire up their wood and gas fireplaces to help heat their homes.

Using these devices requires diligence by the homeowner to prevent household fires from occurring.

“There are three important steps you can’t take when using a wood or gas fireplace or stove to help prevent fires in the home,” said Robert Cook, owner of The Heating Source in Alliston. “Use an experienced installer, have a licenced inspection, and perform regular cleanings and maintenance.”

Robert has over 17 years of experience in the hearth industry and has worked with a large range of gas and wood-burning units.

“For gas units, safety starts with proper

installation by a licenced technician,” Robert said. “In Ontario, this means a technician with an appropriate Gas Technician Licence, which is overseen by the Technical Standards & Safety Authority (TSSA). Licenced technicians have up-to-date knowledge of standards and unit-specific requirements necessary for a safe installation.”

When having a wood unit installed or moving to a new home, homeowners are required to obtain a Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) report by a WETT Certified inspector to submit to their insurance provider. A WETT Certified inspector performs an inspection of the wood unit, ensuring safe distances from combustible materials, proper venting, and good overall condition.

Once installed, proper maintenance of a wood appliance can be just as important as correct installation. Soot build-up can prevent the chimney from drafting properly, leading to inefficient and sometimes dangerous results.

“It is important to have your chimney swept at least once a year, depending on usage and wood quality,” Robert explained.

Gas fireplaces and stoves also require regular cleaning, according to manufacturer specifications. This includes cleaning glass viewing windows, orifices, and burners, as well as ensuring proper ignition and log placement.

Keeping your gas and wood appliances maintained and in good condition will reduce your risk of having a home fire.



LEGION FLAG RAISING – Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 171 in Alliston and local dignitaries raise the Legion flag at the Town of New Tecumseth administration centre on Monday, Sept. 18. This is the start of Legion week. At the flag raising is New Tecumseth Sergeant at Arms Rick Preston; District E Commander Chuck Arrand; Zone 3 Commander Russ Nesbitt; Alliston Legion Branch 171 president Gary Brown; president of the Tottenham Legion Branch 329 Tim Dougherty; Raymond Dupuis, vice president of Branch 171; New Tecumseth Mayor Richard, Norcross; Deputy Mayor Stephani MacLellan, and Councillor Alan Masters. **BRIAN LOCKHART PHOTO**

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