

MEDIA RELEASE

July 27, 2010

**Re-Dedication of Cairn of Peace Commemorates
First Ever World Championship Ploughing Match**

COBOURG, Ontario – On Saturday, August 28, 2010, an event to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the dedication of the Cairn of Peace will be held in Cobourg, Ontario.

The Cairn of Peace, erected and dedicated in 1955, displays a replica of the Golden Plough, the top prize at the 1953 World Ploughing Match and the message: “This cairn of peace and The Golden Plough honors the First World Ploughing Match held here, October 8 and 9, 1953. Similar cairns are reaching across the world that man may use the plough to cultivate peace and plenty.”

Following World War II, seeking to celebrate peace and to share their hope that swords would someday be re-forged into ploughshares, farmers around the globe came together to host several friendly, informal, competitions in what would become the forerunner of the World Championship Ploughing Contests. The Ontario Plowmen’s Association, working with international counterparts, formalized the event, and in 1953 eleven countries participated in the first ever World Championship Ploughing Match, in Cobourg (at family farms located northwest of Elgin and Burnham Streets).

Since 1953, the World Ploughing Organization has flourished and fifty-seven world championships have been held in twenty different countries. The event maintains a focus on promoting excellence in ploughing, improved tillage practices, soil conservation and the safe and efficient use of all farm machinery. The popularity of the Ploughing Match has helped strengthen agriculture throughout the world and has provided leadership in good soil stewardship. Canada will host the 60th world championship plowing contests in Alberta in 2013.

“I am very pleased that this re-dedication event will be held and the cairn will receive the recognition it deserves. The cairn represents countries coming together in peace, in the name of good stewardship and farming practices, and recognizes the ultimate sacrifice of soldiers who have been lost to conflicts,” stated Northumberland County Councillor Hector Macmillan.

“I am thrilled to have been selected to host this event. It is certainly close to my heart; my family and I have a long tradition of farming in this area,” stated Northumberland County Councillor Mark Lovshin. “Farmers must not be taken for granted and we must do our best to instil the values and proud traditions of farming in our youth.”

The event will be held between 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 28th, at 555 Courthouse Road, which is the site of the Cairn of Peace and Northumberland County headquarters. Distinguished guests will preside over the re-dedication ceremony, and there will be a display of historical photos and documents in the County Council Chamber, along with on-site plough displays, and a locally-produced light luncheon. The public is invited to attend this historically significant event, and to learn more about an important piece of our community’s history.



Lester B. Pearson, J.D. Thomas (Director of the World Championship Plowing Organization) and Foster M. Russell, (publisher, of the Cobourg Sentinel-Star) stand before the Golden Plough and Cairn of Peace at the 1955 ceremony. Photo Credit: Historical Photo Collection Cobourg Public Library <http://images.ourontario.ca/Cobourg/22143/data>

- 30 -

Media Contacts:

Hector Macmillan
Northumberland County Councillor
and Mayor, Municipality of Trent Hills
705-632-9562

Mark Lovshin
Northumberland County Councillor
and Mayor, Hamilton Township
905-885-4048