

## Press Release

Spring is here, and practice has begun!

A unique development for Bruce County happened at the Ontario Plowing Championships held in Finch Ontario last September (part of the International Plowing Match). Tom Evans of Tiverton was awarded the Overall Championship Plowman for the highest points achieved (among a total of 140 competitors). This is a first for Bruce County, and with that win, Tom is now able to compete in the Senior Canadian Plowing Championships (Reversible Class) at Ottawa, in August 2016.

The Canadian Plowing Championship is hosted across Canada, and it is a real opportunity to be competing in our home province. If Tom wins at the Canadian Championship, he will represent Canada at the World Ploughing Championships in Kenya, December 2017.

The Bruce County Plowmen's Association has formed TEAM BRUCE and is seeking sponsors and support to fund the transportation and expenses of our competitor representing Bruce County, and Ontario at Ottawa.

The competitor's time, travel, and stay are all at their own expense. The estimated budget for the Canadian Championship is \$3,000 (budget available upon request). It the goal that the adhoc team is able to raise sufficient funds to allow our competitor to concentrate on the substantial preparation and effort that it takes to compete at this high level.

Bruce County has a very long and successful history in plowing. Bruce County has hosted several and among the most successful International Plowing Matches over the years. The annual county event is among the largest contests hosted in the province, and attracts competitors from across the province, and several hundred people to eat at its renowned beef barbeque. Bruce County Queens of the Furrow have been chosen to be Ontario Queen of the Furrow many years. For several years, Bruce County youth are introduced to the sport through a sodbusters club (that Tom helps to lead). All in all, Bruce County has a proud tradition and is excited to have a Senior Competitor at the Canadian Championships.

As mentioned before, the winner at the Canadian Championship will represent Canada at the World Ploughing Championship in December 2017. A separate and more robust fundraising program will be necessary to support our competitor in that undertaking should it occur.

Canada has a unique relationship with the World Ploughing Championship. Canada was the first country to host the 'Worlds' in 1953 in Colbourg, Ontario. It was part of the International Plowing match hosted there. 14 countries traveled to Canada from Europe to participate. Since then, every year, a competition has been held (last year it was in Denmark, York England in 2016 and of course Kenya in 2017, Germany in 2018, and USA - Ohio in 2019). At least 30 countries attend these contests from around the world. This started as a post World War 11 peace undertaking supported originally by The Salada Tea Company and Esso Oil and its affiliates.

To be clear, this is a not for profit organization, relying on the greater community to support ongoing efforts. At the Canadian Championship, the contestants are vying for the opportunity to represent Canada at the World Ploughing Competition. (The “Plowing Olympics”). The competition will also include Junior contestants (20 years of age and under) however; a World competition does not exist for them at this time.

For background,

**Objectives** of the Canadian Plowing Organization:

- To organize and conduct annual Canadian Championship Plowing Contests and declare a Senior Canadian Plowing Champion with conventional plows, a Senior Canadian Plowing Champion with reversible plows and a Junior Canadian Plowing Champion with conventional plows.
- To encourage provincial plowing organizations, to organize contests and preserve the art of match plowing.
- To represent the excellence of Canadian plowing annually at the World Championship Plowing Contest.
- To stimulate interest in and provide guidance for the efficient use of farm machinery.
- To demonstrate sound seedbed preparation and conservation practices through use of the plow.
- To promote interest in plowing and farm productivity in general amongst Government, Industry and the Public.
- To actively promote safety in all farm operations, particularly the safe use and operation of farm machinery
- To utilize the plow to symbolize Peace and goodwill throughout Canada and the world

You will be able to see Tom at the Upcoming Bruce County Plowing Match Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup> (location to be announced see the website below for details). At that time, Tom will be returning from the Canadian Championships in Ottawa, and we hope that he will have earned the right to represent Canada in Kenya.

Associated links for further reference:

Updates and information for Team Bruce and the Bruce County Plowing Match

Bruce County Plowmens Association  
[www.brucecountyploymen.ca](http://www.brucecountyploymen.ca)

Canadian Plowing Organization  
[www.canadianplowing.org](http://www.canadianplowing.org)

2016 Canadian Host site  
[www.cpc-16.org](http://www.cpc-16.org)

International Plowing Match (Ontario)  
[www.plowingmatch.org](http://www.plowingmatch.org)

World Ploughing Organization  
[www.worldploughing.org](http://www.worldploughing.org)

**Fundraising:**

If you wish to support in this endeavour, please make your cheque payable to Bruce County Plowmen's Association and mail it to the address below. There are Sponsor categories if you are interested and the

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We will be providing an update after the Canadian Championship if there are further developments.

This is a community undertaking, and we are pleased to support the many years of effort that Tom has made to achieve this.

Sincerely,

Brian Davenport  
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