



## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Interdenominational Worship Service will lead off the International Plowing Match & Rural Expo in Dufferin

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#### *Large community participation for this annual plowing match tradition*

DUFFERIN COUNTY, Ontario (August 14, 2023) - An interdenominational Worship Service on the Sunday before the International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (IPM) officially opens will lead off the weeklong event.

"We know the Worship Service is a very special part of the IPM tradition and our community is very much looking forward to welcoming everyone to hear from our faith leaders and share in some fabulous music that afternoon," says Charlie and Liz Bryan, of the local organizing committee.

Organization of the worship service has been very much a collaborative effort, says Joanne Everson of the worship service planning team and they are impressed with the strong response from the faith community across Dufferin County. "With about 80 to 90 people participating—including the choirs—I'm so very happy we can include that many people from our community," she says.

Several faith leaders from across the Dufferin County area will participate in the afternoon service with a special message delivered by Wayne Townsend, the retired and longtime curator of the Dufferin County Museum and Archives.

Music is an integral component of worship and this service will be no different, featuring several local musical artists and groups, including a mass community choir led by Julia Breen, choir director with the Tweedsmuir Presbyterian Church in Orangeville, that has assembled specifically for this worship service.

Breen says the call-out for participants drew a strong response from not only across the Dufferin County area, but beyond, with members participating from each of the neighbouring Town of Caledon and Wellington County.

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“Everybody is very enthusiastic and we are certainly looking forward to sharing the joy of music at the service,” says Breen.

The service will also feature local artists Alex Burnett, a country gospel singer; The Bells of Westminster Orangeville; Trista Belder; the Someday Quartet; and the band from the Compass Community Church.

A free-will offering will be taken with proceeds shared amongst three local charities including Youth Unlimited, of Dufferin County, which offers support for teenagers to encourage healthy lifestyles; Active Lives Canada, a not-for-profit organization that provides adults 18 years of age and older living with special needs access to a broad range of services in Ontario; and the food banks serving the Grand Valley, Shelburne and Orangeville communities.

Very much a part of the IPM weeklong traditions the Interdenominational service is always well attended. Limited seating will be available using the commemorative, specially-crafted IPM 2023 wooden benches that will be later used throughout Tented City for the duration of the match so guests are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs.

The service will be held on Sunday, September 17 in the Entertainment Tent of the RV Park, 333569 7 Line, Laurel at 2 pm. Entrance to the service will be through the RV Park and directional wayfinding signs will be prominently posted.

With an expected attendance of approximately 70,000 people this year’s IPM will take place from September 19 to September 23. For more information: [www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023](http://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023).

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## Additional Resources

- Visitor Information & Tickets: <https://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/visitor-info/tickets>
- Map and Directions: <https://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/visitor-info/directions-maps>
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/IPM2023](http://www.facebook.com/IPM2023)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/ipm2023](http://www.instagram.com/ipm2023)
- Twitter: [www.Twitter.com/IPM2023official](http://www.Twitter.com/IPM2023official)

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## About

### **The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo (IPM)**

The International Plowing Match will take place from September 19 to September 23 in Bowling Green (between Grand Valley and Laurel) in Dufferin County, Ontario. The IPM is a five-day celebration of agriculture and rural living. There will be plowing competitions, a range of activities for people of all ages, numerous opportunities to learn about agriculture, daily live entertainment in multiple match venues, hundreds of vendors and exhibits, a wide variety of food, an RV park and more. The event has an expected attendance of approximately 70,000 people. For more information: [www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023](http://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023).

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### **The Ontario Plowmen's Association (OPA)**

The Ontario Plowmen's Association is the parent host of the International Plowing Match. Each year the OPA partners with a community to organize and host the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo. For more information please visit [www.plowingmatch.org](http://www.plowingmatch.org).

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