



## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Let's plan a school field trip! There's something for everyone at this year's *Hydro One Education Centre*

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*Classroom visit experiences and opportunities appeal to every grade level and align with current classroom curriculum*

DUFFERIN COUNTY, Ontario (August 21, 2023) - The summer is winding down but early registrations for the International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (IPM) always-popular *Hydro One Education Centre* are strong and encouraging.

The IPM typically hosts around 8,000 students over the course of the five-day event and local organizers report about 3,200 students have already registered by mid-August.

"We are very excited to showcase local agriculture to students in Dufferin County and surrounding areas (and) there will be lots of chances for hands-on learning and discovery about where our food comes from," says Brianne Curtis, chair of the education committee with this year's IPM.

Curtis farms with her family in Dufferin County and works full time in consumer outreach educating and raising awareness about farming to Ontario consumers. She says she enjoys being a part of education initiatives and programming to help students understand more about agriculture, where their food comes from and the people that grow our food.

The education team have worked hard to ensure the experiences and opportunities at the match appeal to every grade level and are in alignment with the current classroom curriculum, drawing the connections between food and agriculture with science, math, language, health, arts, environmental and social studies.

Organizers have prepared a comprehensive, 30-page Curriculum Connections document to assist educators with both their trip planning and post-visit classroom activities that covers all the grades from Junior Kindergarten through to Grade 12.

*more...*

Curtis says an IPM school field trip experience promises to be interactive, informative and will engage students of all ages throughout their day at the Match.

But in case anyone thinks the match is a visit exclusively for the younger students, organizers report a field trip for secondary school students can add an exciting and authentic dimension to any instructional approach and will support the framework for the culminating task for assessment.

Registrations for the Friday have proven quite popular and are filling up fast so Curtis says they are encouraging teachers, principals and educators to register for the Tuesday (September 19), Wednesday (September 20) or Thursday (September 21) of the match. Tickets for students are \$5.00 (children five and under are free) and registration is required.

Both the *Online School Registration Form* and the downloadable *Curriculum Connections* document are available at [www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/education/](http://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/education/). The deadline to register is Friday, September 8.

With an expected attendance of approximately 70,000 people this year's IPM will take place from September 19 to September 23 in Bowling Green, between Grand Valley and Laurel, in Dufferin County, Ontario. Advanced tickets are on sale now, available online until September 5. For more information: [www.plowingmatch.org/IPM2023](http://www.plowingmatch.org/IPM2023).

## SIDEBAR

Come to the *Hydro One Education Centre* to:

- See live plants and animals and learn how to take care of them. You will have the chance to ask questions of farmers who grow and take care of plants and animals. There will be opportunities for hands on learning;
- Discover local Dufferin County agriculture and the food grown in the areas surrounding the IPM 2023;
- See what plants we are growing on site and view our worms hard at work composting lunches into nutrient rich soil. The soil pits will give you a sneak peak at what things look like underground;
- See how a farm field can be transformed into a small city for a week; and
- Explore electrical circuits and create your own electrical pathways.

Be sure to follow us on Social Media:

- 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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## 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>

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## Upcoming IPM Deadlines

- Creatives interested in participating in the Lifestyle's Tent Creativity Wall need to apply before the Saturday, August 26 deadline. For more information: [www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/get-involved/call-for-creatives/](http://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/get-involved/call-for-creatives/).
- The Beautification Competition deadline is Monday, August 28, 2023. For more information: [www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/get-involved/beautification-competition/](http://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/get-involved/beautification-competition/).
- If you have antiques with a strong connection to Dufferin County the Antiques and Historical Committee invites you to display them at this year's match. Deadline to apply is Friday, September 1. For more information: [www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/get-involved/participate-antiques-and-historical-displays/](http://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/get-involved/participate-antiques-and-historical-displays/).
- Advance tickets for the International Plowing Match & Rural Expo are available online until Tuesday, September 5. To order online: [www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/visitor-info/tickets/](http://www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2023/visitor-info/tickets/).

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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).

### **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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