

FARM VIEW

43rd year of publication!

December 2020
Volume 43 #12

A newspaper with something for everyone



Merry Christmas!

from the 5 n's

Complimentary copy for
the FARM household

AGcalendar

Farm View's Ag Calendar is free to non-profit agricultural groups, up to a maximum of 40 words. All others are invoiced at \$25 per month. Please note the format of the listings below and submit your item by mail or email, in a similar fashion.

December 1: Giving Tuesday 8th annual

GivingTuesday is a global movement for giving and volunteering, taking place each year after Black Friday. The "Opening day of the giving season," it's a time when charities, companies and individuals join together and rally for favourite causes. In the same way that retailers take part in Black Friday, the giving community comes together for GivingTuesday.

December 1-3: Ontario Forage Council's Forage Focus

Forage Focus: Wrap It Up - Harvest, Storage, and Recycling

December 1, 2 & 3 Free webinars

Registration: <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/forage-focus-2020-2138790787?resp=on&dateid=2138536457>

1:00 - 2:00 pm EST (noon - 1 pm CST)

More details at: <http://ontarioforagecouncil.com/programs/forage-focus>

December 15: News and Advertising Deadline

Advertising and news deadline for the January issue of Farm View.

January 5-12: Farmers' Week 2021

Grey Bruce Farmers' Week (#GBFW21), in its 55th year, will run from **Tuesday, January 5th to Tuesday, January 12th**, starting with Trade Show Day, and ending with Crops Day. *See the advertisement on page 6.*

January 6 & 7: Ontario Agricultural Conference

The Southwest Agricultural Conference, Guelph and Eastern Ontario Crop Conferences have assembled an incredible line up of speakers, presenting over 30 agricultural topics to provide attendees with the knowledge and experience they have come to expect and enjoy from all three conferences. A virtual exhibit hall will allow attendees to engage with conference sponsors.

See the article on page 23.

Vanishing Barns



Remembering The Gentle Giants Through Photographs, Stories, Diaries and Genealogy

by Cathy Johnston Walton

**I'M SO OLD THAT
I HAVE DIALED A ROTARY PHONE,
RECORDED A SONG THAT I LOVE OFF A
TRANSISTOR RADIO ONTO A TAPE
RECORDER, WATCHED A BLACK AND WHITE
TV (WITH LESS THAN 10 CHANNELS) THAT
HAD FOIL ON THE RABBIT EAR ANTENNAS,
TAKEN A LONG WALK WITHOUT COUNTING
THE STEPS, AND EATEN FOOD THAT I DIDN'T
TAKE PICTURES OF.**

Devotional Corner

A simpler Christmas of times past

By Kathleen Greidanus
Retired Priest



If we have been fortunate we have survived a year not to be forgotten. Now people's fears have turned to the possibility of a lockdown over Christmas but what about family get togethers, traditions and all we look forward to? It may not make me very popular to suggest this but no two Christmases are ever the same. We will manage this one even if it is different from before.

I recall Christmas in Ireland when I was a child. Just children received gifts and only from Santa. There were no outdoor light displays or parades or big parties. It is not that the population were in Scrooge or Grinch mode. Credit cards had not been invented. People just lived within their means and celebrated with a nice meal on Christmas Day with their immediate family.

When I arrived in Canada, in December of 1967, I was awestruck by the decorations and endless gift exchanges. Each year since then Christmas has grown in decorations, expectations, debt, stress and family discontent. I admit that when our daughters were small and relatives and friends, (sometimes more than forty), came to the farm for Christmas I really tried to create the perfect Martha Stewart Christmas. I also have to admit that every year I failed in some area and usually ended the day hiding my tears. You can't please everybody all the time. When I was in active ministry I couldn't help but note how requests for counselling increased exponentially in the Christmas season.

This past week I spent a day with our grandson, Nathan. I held him as he slept and fed him. It occurred to me that Christmas was embodied in a little child like Nathan snuggled against his mother. If there were no more extravagant Christmas parties or parades it really wouldn't matter. The peace I felt with that little child flew in the face of all the economically driven expectations of what Christmas has become.

This year we have reassessed what Christmas means to our family. There will be no adult gifts, we will have a good meal and enjoy each other's company provided they are in our bubble. We will share what we have with those less fortunate. It will be different from other years but I am certain it will still be blessed.

I wish you and your family a blessed and peace filled Christmas.

Shalom,
Kathleen

If you have a question for Kathleen or would like to comment on something you read, send it to farmview@on.aibn.com, or directly to her at kathleengreidanus@yahoo.ca.

**MERRY
Christmas**

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Christmas
reside in your heart and
home this holiday season
and beyond.

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Remembering Samuel Thomas Langman



Sam Langman is shown in the above photo enjoying a day at the beach and pictured below by the forage box. — Photos provided by the Langman family



*By John Beischer, Former Publisher,
Farm View newspaper*

I first met Sam on the main street of Elmvale in the mid 1980's, shortly after I, and 3 partners, purchased the Telemedia newspaper chain of local community weeklies including the Elmvale Lance. My wife and I and two sales persons shared a small office just off Main St.

Sam came in one summer morning to deliver an article for the next issue of The Lance. Knowing that he farmed in the area, I asked him if he had any news to share with our readers in our monthly newspaper Farm Review [now Farm View]. It was at this point that we walked outside, found a municipal bench to park our bums, and Sam made me aware of the North Simcoe Grain Project. From that day forward he always kept our readers informed about the success of each year's harvest through an annual report that we dutifully published every fall, always accompanied with a photo of a combine bringing in the harvest.

It was at this same casual meeting that Sam gave me some insight into the newspaper business as it related to farmers. He pointed out that on occasion we had a

cover photograph that did not relate to a story on the inside. I explained that although it was easy to match a photo to a story when the fairs and plowing matches and livestock shows were being covered by our staff photographers, it was not so easy to get a cover picture from a farm meeting [no guest speaker] in the dead of winter! At this time of year we often relied on 'stock' photos that represented the various seasons within our coverage area. I often thought about that important advice and made every effort to match the cover with an inside story.

I was saddened to hear of Sam's passing; if it had not been for this COVID summer that has kept us all house bound, I'm sure I would have met him one last time at the Barrie fair or perhaps any number of other fairs in the province. That is when we most often shared a greeting and a few comments about family and mutual acquaintances.

Sam and Wendy sent me a lovely Christian tribute when my wife passed away last year. I am grateful for having known Sam and his family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



On the Cover

Merry Christmas from the 5 n's! Left to right are Lillian, Trenton, Harrison, Shawn and Roslyn.

— Photo by Stephanie Tavitian-Guthrie

**DEADLINE for the
January Farm View
is December 15th**

The creative team at Farm View can help you design and plan an effective advertising campaign that will sell your products and services to **grow your business.**

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Friday, December 25th - CLOSED

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Monday, December 28th - CLOSED

Thursday December 31st - AM to NOON

Friday, January 1st - CLOSED

Merry Christmas

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FROM THE EDITOR

I have been looking forward to creating this issue for quite some time. A complete issue dedicated to my favourite holiday, Christmas. It also doesn't hurt that I am a December baby, and start the birthday countdown in September. I am explaining this so you can understand my initial reaction when Cathy Hamill-Hill presented the topic of farm related stress and suicide for the December issue. I hesitated. I thought, that isn't going to be very cheery for the Christmas edition. The more I thought about it, I realized the timing couldn't be better. Not only for those in the agricultural industry, but as a reminder to all of us to reach out and call or visit someone who may be alone this Christmas season. Sometimes that is all it takes.

Sam Langman, an important member of the farming community, passed away recently and I would like to extend my sincere condolences to his family and many friends. I didn't have the pleasure of meeting Mr. Langman but I have learned of his tireless commitment to agriculture. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Sam's family over the Christmas season.

This issue of Farm View includes part one to Selling food in Ontario, a focus on character education provided by Minesing Public School, news and updates from the OFA, CFFO and SCFA as well as fire safety tips provided by retired fire chief Dennis Gannon. The paper is also full of Christmas greetings, good news stories and some military history provided by former publisher, John Beischer.

I have recently been receiving requests for information on how to purchase a subscription to the paper. If you would like the convenience of having the Farm View delivered to your mailbox each month, just send me an email, or note in the mail, or a phone call letting me know your name and address. A twelve month subscription is \$49.00 plus hst. On the topic of paper delivery please note the January issue will be delivered to businesses a little later than usual. The January issue will be available the week of January 4th.

On the cover of this issue is my beautiful family, some of you may remember my parents, John and Jill, staging a Christmas photo beginning when Lily and her cousin Brianna were born. I know a lot of you watched the kids grow up on the December cover every year. I remember how much fun my mom had making her four grandkids matching outfits for the photo shoot and how much fun my Dad had playing the role of Santa.

In closing, thank you to everyone, readers, contributors and advertisers for a wonderful welcome since April.

Merry Christmas to you and your families. I hope this Christmas season is a joyous one. Even if you are celebrating without a loved one, know they are in your hearts forever.

— *Roslyn Watkins*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Farm View invites letters to the editor. They should be fewer than 300 words and deal with a single topic affecting farmers. All letters must be signed, including your full name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to editing for brevity.

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LETTERS



Dear friends,

Congratulations to all those who so generously donated to the food bank drive in memory of Val Bell. The goal was 900 pounds and together, as a parish, we collected 1083 pounds of food for those in need. Together, we have honoured Val's memory and built on her successful food drive last year. We have also brought much joy to Val's family while meeting the food needs of local residents.

A special thanks to Ron Parker and Jim Beck for delivering the food and to Sandi Schneider and Joan Truax for assisting on the day of food pick up.

Congratulations! Well done!

And for all this we say,

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

The Reverend Connie Phillipson

Incumbent

The Parish of North Essa

Diocese of Toronto



Shown below are Joan Truax on the left and Sandi Schneider on the right at St. George's Anglican Church in Utopia.

In the photo to the left are Ron Parker (on left) and Jim Beck (to the right) from Christ Church-St. Jude's Anglican Church in Ivy.

Ready to deliver 1083 pounds of food to the food bank.

UPDATE: Farm View would like to hear from readers who may be affected by the new railroad crossing regulations that will come into effect on November 28, 2021. In the October issue, Farm View ran a story about how these impending changes could cost landowners a substantial amount of money to upgrade crossings on their property simply so that they can continue to access their property.

Pictured to the right is a farm property owned by Ross and Noreen Higginson of Utopia, located 7 miles west of Barrie. This photo perfectly illustrates a rail line crossing the entrance to their farm property. Farm View suspects there are many similar examples of CN and other private railroads crossing farm properties within our coverage area. We invite you to send your stories and photos to farmview@on.aibn.com and we will follow up this story in the new year. Also, if you have received any recent correspondents from OFA, Transport Canada or The Canadian Transportation Agency, please share the content with our readers.



OFA Members Service Representative:

Leah Emms 1-866-660-5511 email: Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:

Keith Currie: 705-444-1398 email: keith.currie@ofa.on.ca

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Contact YRFA:	york@ofa.on.ca	

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Contact:	peelfederationofagriculture@gmail.com	



**In memory of
Jill Beischer**

Farm View attempts to present a forum for varying points of view from the agricultural community. Editorial opinions are freely expressed by individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the executives or directors of the federations unless specifically noted.

**“Burn down your cities and leave our farms,
and your cities will spring up again as if by
magic, but destroy our farms and the grass
will grow in the streets.”**

W.J. Bryan



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Helping farmers cope in high stress, five key steps

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

There is only one farm stress line in Canada that employs only counsellors with farming backgrounds. Kim Hyndman-Moffat worked at that line located in Manitoba for 20 years. She has also facilitated a Suicide Bereavement Support Group for 10 years and now she works for the Canadian Suicide Prevention Support Services. Recently Kim, via an online webinar, led a discussion about Recognizing and Responding to People at Risk as part of the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture's Sustainable Farming series. The webinar was about the important and sensitive topic of Suicide in the agriculture community.

Kim explained that farming in Manitoba this past year has kept the stress line busy as the crop season was beyond difficult. "We had an early snowfall last fall and some farmers had crop to take off this spring and seeding to be done," she said adding that she is part of the farming community with "roots deep in rural Manitoba".

Where one works in the business of farming is not important, she said explaining that farming is stressful everywhere. She said that in France, a farmer dies by suicide every second day. In India, 260,000 farmers died by suicide since 1993. The number of suicides in Canada for farmers is unknown as occupation is not recorded however, "all of us in farming know at least one farmer that died by suicide if not more."

Suicide is "about emotional pain" that is overwhelming with no hope being seen. It's losing the sense of control in one's life and nothing can bring joy, Ms. Moffat explained.

There are myths surrounding suicide that are not true such as having suicidal thoughts is a permanent state of mind and that people cannot ever get past those feelings. Another untruth is that suicide is the easy way out. The old "committed suicide" is no longer proper language nor is the description of "failed attempts" used as a reference. The old terminology and old myths need to be forgotten as times have changed and people are becoming more educated about mental health.

There are a lot of factors that contribute to the risk of mental health struggles for the farmer. Working long hours in isolation is a main factor now because many farmers' spouses and families have off-farm jobs which is a direct result of another troubling factor in farming today which is financial stress. The biggest category for risk factors in farming are those that no farmer has any control over which include weather, disease in animals and/or crops, market prices and political decisions.

With so much stress on the farm, farmers have, according to Ms. Moffat, come up with

protective factors. These factors have included exercise, pets, fishing and family interaction. "A sense of purpose and meaning in your life, problem solving skills and having good physical health" are also factors protecting the farmer in a job that has so much stress involved.

When the protective factors fail to bring happiness and people can see no way out of a problem, then anxiety overwhelms. Ms. Moffat explained adding that building a connection with someone in this state is especially important. "You don't need to be an expert, you have just to care," she said adding that listening without judgement needs to happen. The key is to make the person realize they are not alone and that you care.

There are some "don'ts" regarding talking to someone in distress. Such as not saying, "At least only 50% of your crop is a write-off". Avoid minimizing the concerns and instead tell them you are happy they are talking to you about the concerns. Telling people how to fix their problems is not helpful either since the person needs to feel in control again. It is better instead to ask questions about the problem as it can be a big relief to really talk things over in full confidence with no judgement.

Statistics prove that 85% of people with an intent on death by suicide will talk about it first. Indirect comments could be "they will miss me when I'm gone" or direct threats are "I will kill myself if this loan doesn't go through". Behavioural changes to watch out as signs include: increase in alcohol use, giving away valuables, crying often, low energy, change in sleep patterns and withdrawing from family and friends.

The 5 steps in suicide prevention are, to ask directly, "are you thinking about suicide?". The next step is keep the person safe. Keeping someone safe may mean removing guns from the home. Spending time with the person is the third step to assure them they are not alone. Helping the person connect to get help is the next step. Connecting can be going to a family doctor or calling a crisis line. "Have a warm hand off," Ms. Moffat said explaining, sitting beside a spouse while they make the call is not the same as pointing to a paper with a list of numbers on it and then leaving them alone. The fifth step is to follow up to see how the person is coping.

Anyone needing support can call the Canadian Suicide Prevention Support Services 1-833-456-4566.

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OFA supports efforts to enhance Business Risk Management for agriculture

By Mark Reusser, Vice President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The agri-food sector is a powerhouse for the economy and has been one of the vital industries helping to keep our province and food chain afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic. Adequate Business Risk Management (BRM) programs for farm businesses need to remain a priority in order for farmers to continue producing food, fibre and fuel for the province and for Canada.

Currently, we exist in a world where our competitors have access to support programs that we lack. If we want to prosper as an industry and supply food for both Canadians and the world, we need a simple, fully funded and predictable risk management program.

For the last four years, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), along with support from provincial organizations and commodity groups have been advocating for improvements to the AgriStability program. AgriStability is a whole farm protection program designed to protect producers from large declines in their farming income caused by production loss, increased costs, and/or market conditions.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) fully supports these efforts and is actively endorsing CFA's message in improving the AgriStability program. Representatives from the OFA board of directors have been involved in these discussions at the federal level and understand the value of these programs to the sustainability of Ontario farm businesses.

The program is funded on a 60/40 basis between the federal and provincial governments. Due to the cuts to the program under the Growing Forward 2 policy framework, only farmers who have experienced a very significant decline in income are likely to receive a payment through AgriStability.

Currently, AgriStability is the only tool available to farmers to help manage both production and market risks. The pandemic has increased potential risks for farm businesses across the province. Many external, unpredictable challenges such as weather, disease, transportation issues,

trade, and geopolitical considerations can all impact farm business.

We need the assurance that this program will protect us during unforeseeable circumstances. We need to be confident that our businesses will be protected in the event that borders are closed to export, prices fall or weather reduces yields.

The request from CFA is for the federal government to follow through on its campaign commitment to enhance the AgriStability program. They are asking to restore the payment trigger to 85% (currently, if producer margins fall below 70% AgriStability will pay 70% of the difference), as well as removing the Reference Margin Limit (RML).

These changes would increase the size of producer payments and the probability of receiving a payment at all. This would go a long way in restoring producer confidence in the program. A suite of fully funded BRM programs is necessary to instill greater confidence for on-farm investment, assist farmers in managing the risks presented by the pandemic and provide a safety net for farm businesses during these unprecedented times, and onward.

CFA has been working hard, advocating to get the federal and provincial governments to commit to improving the AgriStability program at the upcoming Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers meeting. CFA representatives have hosted multiple meetings with federal policymakers leading up to the FPT meetings, engaging them on the critical importance of making amendments to the AgriStability program. On October 27, a letter was sent to Honourable Minister Jean-Yves Duclos on behalf of the AgGrowth Coalition, which is made up of national commodity organizations supporting BRM enhancements. The letter was endorsed by OFA, as well as many other agriculture organizations across Canada.

We have seen great collaboration and movement on this issue over the last month with many farm and producer organizations actively supporting the CFA in their efforts to enhance BRM programs. We will continue to support their message to government to make these changes for the betterment of the agriculture industry and our food value chain.

Agriculture is a high-risk business that continues to fuel

the economic growth of our country every day. BRM programs can help farmers ensure confidence and stability and provide farmers with more financial security as they continue to work to feed our country.

As we approach the FPT meetings, we look forward to following the conversations and supporting our national counterparts in advocating for BRM programs that meet the needs of Ontario and Canadian farmers. Together, we are many voices, with one message.



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Selling Food to Ontario

Part 1: Better to ask Questions then be Questioned About Food Safety

By Cathy Hamill-Hill
York Region Economic Strategy Division presented a webinar titled Selling Food to Ontario.

Renata McGuire of NSF discussed food safety and regulation basics. NSF International is a global non-profit public health organization that specializes in food safety.

According to Public Health Canada, one in eight people or 4 million Canadians on average will get sick each year from eating contaminated food meaning it is not common. The five “culprits” that can cause food to make people sick are in five broad categories, norovirus, listeria, salmonella, ecoli and campylobacter.

There is a difference between food quality and food safety, Ms. McGuire said explaining that food quality is having food that tastes just like the last time we had it and it meets our expectations. Food safety in North America she said, “is something we take for granted.” The assumption that food is safe in Canada is “why we have food regulations in place,” she said.

One of the worst things to happen to any food company is having a “recall”. A recall is when food is deemed not safe and has to be publicly announced to not consume or use that product. “A recall is a huge business risk,” she said adding, “smaller companies may not survive a recall especially now with social media.” In a survey of businesses, 81% considered a recall to be equivalent of a significant to catastrophic event. There is insurance available to purchase for recall events.

In Ontario all food premises must, by law, follow specific requirements to operate. The Ontario Food Premises Regulation has standards for food temperatures, food handling, sanitation, dishwashing and personal hygiene practices. There are three types of haz-

ards when it comes to food handling. They fall into three broad categories. The first category is biological which are the “culprits” like ecoli and salmonella. The second hazard is chemical which would include pesticides applied at the wrong time. The third category is physical meaning things people can see in food like pieces of wood or metal which can happen when food production includes mechanized processing. Health Canada has standards to protect food from these hazards and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency enforces those standards.

“There needs to be a written plan in place for prevention of these hazards,” Renata explained adding that if one ships food out of one’s home province there must also be traceability involved. Lot numbers must be documented for out of province shipping and ingredients of the products must be traced. If the food is sold to other businesses, regardless of location, there must be traceability in place.

“Traceability helps if there is a recall, it can be all traced back quickly,” she stressed adding that anyone working with food needs to start with the local Public Health Unit for guidance. She said, “it is always better to ask a question about food safety then be

questioned about your food’s safety.”

Erin Taraborrelli from NSF led a discussion on Food Labeling. “There are a lot of labeling regulations,” she said adding that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has an online tool for the food industry to use that factors in regulations.

It can be found at: <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/food-label-requirements/labelling/industry/eng/1383607266489/1383607344939>

There are new labeling regulations that will be enforced soon. These labeling rules start with the list of ingredients being “easier to read and have all added specific food colourings,” she said. Another big change is the listing of sugars. “Sugars must be listed in detail of types of sugar,” she explained. Each sugar must be pulled out of the ingredients and listed.

Another new point on the label is having the vitamin content not listed. “Canadians are not sick from lack of vitamins these days, instead consumers want to know the nutrients in food to keep us healthy like calcium, potassium and iron,” she explained.

Part 2 continues in the next edition of Farm View. Going local with a well known grocery store chain and new trends in the food industry.

Settlement reached in freedom-of-information request

Ontario’s three general farm organizations the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) and the National Farmers Union – Ontario (NFU-O) are very pleased to share with their membership that a settlement has been reached with respect to the Freedom of Information (FOI) request for a list of names of all Farm Business Registrants.

The request was initiated in June and after a lengthy period of mediation, led by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and supported by their legal counsel, the request for the list of names has been withdrawn.

“Together, our farm organizations strongly opposed the release of this information as it has the potential to greatly impact the health, safety and security of our farm operations,” stated Keith Currie, OFA President. “We are very pleased to report that the matter has been resolved, the FOI has been dropped and we can move forward with the significant priorities of the Ontario agriculture sector.”




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Hats off to the agricultural industry



By Leah Emms
OFA Member Services Rep.
1-866-660-5511
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www.ofa.on.ca

What a year it's been and it's not over yet! As we round the corner from November into December many of us start thinking about the new year ahead and evaluate the one just about to end.

Thank you to all our farmers for continuing to do what you do best, all while living through a pandemic. The agricultural sector in my humble opinion is fabulous. When the cards are down you manage to show society how innovative and resilient

you truly are. Farmers are accustomed to dealing with challenges. And this year there have been many. From labour challenges, to lack of PPE, and transportation issues you have managed it all.

Recent surveys have indicated that consumers are more aware than ever that the Agri-Food sector is important in their everyday life. Pre-COVID 19, farmers were taken for granted most of the time. COVID-19 shutdowns highlighted how delicate the balance is, between supply and demand. Whoever imagined a sudden rush on baking supplies? How refreshing is it to see the general public taking an interest in preparing their own meals and gaining knowledge about the how those ingredients arrive at their local stores? For many years farm organizations have worked to try and improve food literacy in the classroom. Well, the classroom of life has now provided that to more than just students. People are baking, preserving and growing vegetable gardens, all positive activities that enhance consumers understanding of the challenges facing farmers every year, not just during a pandemic.

As horrible as COVID-19 has been, there are some small positives that I hope continue in our greater society. Such as, a willingness to understand the challenges that come with not only growing our food but the entire value chain processes. Every link in that chain relies on the next link for stability. We witnessed just how much our horticultural sectors depend on our temporary foreign workers. Labour has been and will continue to be a challenge for farmers. My hope is that the general public might now understand the critical role that these workers have in our food systems

and respect them for the work they do. Transportation is another key industry in that chain, both to and from the farm. We saw how quickly the rail blockage affected the transportation of propane and other important goods that the agricultural sector either uses or produces. It seems to me that through this pandemic agriculture has finally achieved some positive recognition. We are an economic powerhouse that will assist this country getting back on its feet when the pandemic has finally concluded.

Another interesting trend I have noticed this summer and fall, is the volume of calls I have received from new farm property owners. These are families that I believe, have made the decision to acquire property in order to grow their own food and have space to roam. Many of these families are urban based and thus have a huge learning curve ahead of them. Not only learning about the functions of a very

complex agricultural sector but about rural life. Be prepared to introduce yourself to new neighbours this coming year.

As we forge ahead during the winter months please be kind to one another. I see how stressed people are due to COVID 19. We are all doing our best to cope with an ever changing world. Please continue to exhibit the "Christmas Spirit" beyond the month of December.

Merry Christmas! I wish you all a happy and healthy 2021.

What do sheep say to shepherds at Christmastime? "Season's bleatings!"

Why did Scrooge keep a pet lamb? Because it would say, "Baaaaahh humbug!"

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Best wishes to our watershed friends & neighbours.

Have a happy & healthy holiday season!

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Prince Edward County Farmer Receives Ontario Sheep Pasture Award

Matthew Fleguel and Liz Johnston of Waupoos Island Sheep Farm in the Picton area of Prince Edward County are the recipient of the 2020 Ontario Sheep Pasture Award. The award sponsored by MAPLESEED, the Ontario Forage Council and the Ontario Sheep Farmers, was presented virtually at the Ontario Sheep Convention. For their environmental and pasture improvements and management, the recipients will receive \$250 and a bag of forage seed.

The sheep operation consists of 1800 ewes that go to grass around May 1st and lamb on pasture. The ewes are loaded on the barge at the local pier and taken across the lake to Waupoos Island. They are rotationally grazed with pasture providing all their feed through the lactation. At weaning in late July, the lambs are moved to hay regrowth and the ewes are moved to graze brush, which allows time to stockpile grass on the permanent pastures. Matthew states, "On many years, we are able to graze our lambs into October and our ewes until late November on hay regrowth and stockpile, respectively. Our grazing season continues in the

form of feeding corn stover, using portable electric fence. In ideal conditions, this has been known to continue until the end of January."

As Matthew comments, "The primary pasture management tool is rotational grazing. All 1800+ ewes are moved as one group, so that grazing periods can be short and rest periods long. Pastures are all scouted on a regular basis to assure rotation speed is matched to growth.

The pastures have a lot of fescue, which is both a strength and a weakness. It grows well in cool conditions, which can make summer grazing limiting, but is great for fall stockpiling. The permanent pastures are all on Waupoos Island, which provides advantages in sourcing stock water, combatting coyote damage and keeping sheep on the pasture instead of in someone else's crops."

Scott Fisher, Sales Manager (Western Ontario) with MAPLESEED said, "The Waupoos Island Sheep Farm is a unique operation and a worthy recipient for this year's MAPLESEED Pasture Award."

Ray Robertson, Manager of the Ontario Forage Council says, "This year's Ontario Sheep Pasture Award recipient has demonstrated their ability to utilize forages on their farm and utilized the concept of rotational grazing to its maximum."

The deadline for applications for the 2021 Ontario Sheep Pasture Award is October 1, 2021. For details, call the Ontario Forage Council at 1-877-892-8663 or visit either the Ontario Forage Council's website at www.ontarioforagecouncil.com or Ontario Sheep Farmers' website at www.OntarioSheep.org.

Looking for a particular service?
Check out the Ag Business directory on page 23.

SCFA update from President John Morrison

At the time of writing this (Nov.9) I realized that the next edition of Farm View is the Christmas edition. This year went quickly.

To bring you up to date on the SCFA:

- We held our Regional Meeting at which we elected our PAC representatives and our delegates to the OFA Annual General meeting held November 23rd,
- At our Annual General Meeting, held virtually October 22, we elected your Zone Directors and presented the financial statements,
- At our November meeting we held our elections for the SCFA executive. (A lot of elections).

I am again President of this organization for the 2020-2021 year; Dave Ritchie is 1st Vice President and Paul Maurice will serve as 2nd Vice President. Our executive members are Colin Elliott from Phelpston, John Elder from Glen Cairn, Dorothy Lange from Thornton and Josephine Martensson-Hemsted from Oro-Medonte. Please visit our web site for a list of your Zone Directors.

Our Simcoe County Ag-Liaison Committee met with County Representatives to bring our concerns and issues to the county. Some of the issues discussed were:

- 911 signs on vacant farmland,
- agriculture signage explaining what we do to post on hiking trails through the county,
- conservation issues including tree cutting,
- how to better explain to the public what we do and the procedures we must follow to produce nutritious, flavourful, and affordable food.


We are now forming our committees, trying to determine which will be used during this on-going pandemic. A vaccine is on the horizon but when it will be available is still up in the air.

A few of the issues to be discussed at the OFA Annual General Meeting are:

- wild boar sightings and control
- CVOR for farm trucks
- bylaw changes concerning electing the OFA executive.

If you have any issues you want to discuss, contact your zone director - that's why we have them. Stay in contact with them.

From our house to your house,
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
John Morrison,
President SCFA



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Merry and Bright: A Nostalgic Look at Christmas' Past

Village stories

by Andrew Hind

This Christmas will be like no other. Many of our beloved traditions – dinner with extended families, visits with Santa, holiday parades – have been curtailed. But

Christmas is a feeling, and no virus can suppress it.

Let's tap into that feeling a bit, shall we? Grab a cup of cocoa, light the fire, and wrap yourself in the nostalgia of a Christmas of years past.

The centerpiece of any modern Christmas is a tree hung with glittery ornaments. It took many centuries for the tree as we know it to develop, however. The Christmas tree has its origins in 16th century Germany, when candles were placed on an evergreen tree to recreate the appearance of the heavens over Bethlehem (indeed, some legends suggest it was Martin Luther himself who began the tradition). Such early trees were bedecked with such decorations as paper roses (a symbol of the Virgin Mary), apples, wafers (representing the host), candies, and sugar lumps.

Many early settlers were too busy with day-to-day survival in a harsh and rugged setting to bother much with Christmas decorations, but as soon as they were established the Christmas tree began to find their way into their homes. In Victorian-era Ontario, most trees were small and would be

placed on a tabletop in the parlor. They would be trimmed with fruit, nuts and paper ornaments, and gifts and sweets were placed under them. Candles on trees were obviously quite dangerous, so most families only lit them on Christmas Eve when the tree was revealed to the children for the first time. In wealthier homes, each family member had his or her own little table-sized tree. By the early 1900s the tradition had evolved to a single, large tree in the home.

The modern Christmas tree bauble – glass decorations – began in 1847 in the German town of Lauscha, when Hans Greiner, a glassmaker, started to create the ornaments in the shapes of nuts and fruit. By the 1870s Greiner's ornaments had appeared in Britain, and by 1879 Woolworth began importing them into North America where they were an overnight success. By the end of the century Woolworth's North American stores were selling over 200,000 German hand-blown baubles each year.

Women would spend weeks preparing for the holiday, hoarding various dried fruits, sugar and other items to make fruitcake, mincemeat tarts, and the all-important plum pudding, one of the most popular Christmas dishes throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. Winter was difficult in Muskoka and food was carefully hoarded to ensure it stretched until spring, but even so every family splurged at Christmas, putting out an impressive spread of meat (a rarity for many early Muskoka settlers in winter), fruit and

vegetables, bread, and sweets. Mulled wine and mulled cider—made by adding sugar and spices to wine and cider, then heating them—created warm drinks that are especially welcome in chilly December.

Settlers were nothing if not practical. Because food was never particularly plentiful and taking days away from farm work was difficult to justify, many weddings were held on Christmas, essentially merging two celebrations into one.

Music is a part of most festivities, and Christmas is no exception. After dinner, people would retire to the parlor where a harp or fiddle was brought forth and carols would be sung until the wee hours of the morning. In a period before radio and film, live entertainment was all people had and settlers looked forward to such opportunities to escape the drudgery of their everyday existences through revelry.

For the same reason, school concerts were a much-anticipated part of the holiday festivities. Indeed, in small rural communities, in the absence of other entertainments, the school Christmas concert was one of the social highlights of the year. Staging a good Christmas concert took a lot of hard work, one that brought the whole community together in making props and costumes and baking goods for the inevitable after-concert gathering. It was taken so seriously that there was very real pressure on the schoolmistress to put on a great show, and she had to do so while delicately managing the pressures of parents demanding higher-profile roles for their children.

Nothing brings out the inner elf in us more than a Santa Claus parade. The first Santa Claus parade was held in 1905, when Eaton's Department Store in Toronto launched a procession leading down to the store on Front Street. It was a marketing tool, designed to lure people to a store decked out with festive flourishes and with a jolly St. Nick waiting to take children's requests, but people loved it and the Santa Claus Parade became a Toronto institution. Soon enough, it spread to other cities and towns across Ontario and then North America.

Christmas traditions have evolved over the past two centuries, but the holiday spirit has remained unchanged. Whatever form our celebrations take, however much we are able to indulge, the seasonal sentiments have always made it our favorite time of the year.



Electric lights began to appear around the turn of the 20th century.



A typical dinner table of early settlers.

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A focus on character education

Minesing Central Public School is committed to teaching and modeling the Simcoe County District School Board's 10 Character Traits on a daily basis. Minesing staff believe that Character Education plays a vital role in creating responsible and kind students. Throughout the school year, Minesing students and staff work hard to imbue these character attributes in all classroom, school and community activities, teaching and learning. Staff are thankful for the many Minesing families and community members who support and encourage their students.

"Character Education plays a major role in our planning and our goal setting at Minesing Central. As a staff we intentionally model these Character Traits. Ensuring that our students grow up to be positive citizens in their community is a top priority for us at Minesing. We are very proud of our commitment to developing well rounded students who demonstrate all Character Traits." (Angela Pino, Principal)

Every year, Minesing students take part in various activities that foster caring, empathy, cooperation and inclusiveness. Students and teachers have many conversations about how important it is to be giving and how every act of kindness can make a big difference.

In the winter, Minesing Central holds its annual Christmas Cheer food drive and as a school, they work very hard to contribute. Each year, as a school we raise the bar and challenge the school community to donate even more than the previous year. It's really great that we can get our whole community along with families and friends getting involved in giving back! The school always sends a group of intermediate student leaders to spend the afternoon in the Christmas Cheer warehouse where they help to pack food hampers for the many families in need. Mustangs always feel so good seeing that their efforts are making a difference.

"What I enjoy most about teaching at Minesing Central is working with student leaders to implement a number of leadership initiatives throughout the school year. These school-wide initiatives build character, community and awareness in our school and create a caring and welcoming

environment where student character can really shine!" (Danielle Naccarato, Teacher)

Throughout the year, students also take part in many school-wide activities with the goal of raising awareness for a variety of important initiatives and days of awareness such as Autism, Anti-bullying, Mental Health, Terry Fox, Orange Shirt Day and many more. Having regular conversations with students about these days of awareness fosters respect, understanding and compassion.

Minesing Central students participate in a number of spirit days which create a sense of community, belonging and a fun and positive environment.

"Spirit days at Minesing are the best because they bring out the best in everyone. It shows that our school is not hundreds of individuals but one big family." (Ashley O. - student)

"In my opinion, Minesing spirit days are the thing that bring our school so close together. They teach us the meaning of strength and unity and everyone always goes full out and has a great time." (Jorja M. - student)

Each month students are celebrated with achievements of Character recognition. Teachers award students with certificates for their hard work towards the Character trait of the month. Not only do some students receive a certificate, but all students are given an opportunity to show the Character traits on a daily basis and then are given a "Gotcha" which we call a "Golden Horseshoe" to place in a draw for a monthly reward. The students simply love this idea and work hard every day to showcase their good character.

Working hard, be kind and showing integrity are all traits that Mustangs strive to exhibit!

Go MUSTANGS!

Farm View welcomes letters or articles describing what your school is doing to encourage positive character education.

Contact information can be found on page 4.



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After the Chores: Covid-19 turkeys

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



We will never forget about the turkeys of 2020.

The ten turkeys grew as normal turkeys so I phoned to book what we call a "vacation" date to get them processed. I made the call in August for a date in October. The owner of the business actually laughed at the request, the last dates were taken by May, most were booked in April. I took the next opening date for turkey vacationers- in early November.

These turkeys lived in a "turkey house" which meant an outdoor run and an inside sleeping area with food. The turkeys enjoyed their summer and long fall immensely.

One morning I started my day being told "I have a problem" by Sweetie. He said his first trip out of the house that day was caused by hearing loud gobbling. He found the source of the gobbles, his 10 white turkeys had escaped through the night- and now were resting in the barn.

I told Sweetie these turkeys were "awful big" as we made them head back to their turkey house. They moved at their own pace, slow, as the toms would not put down their feathers nor would they stop gobbling. We ended up literally pushing them along. Larry was in the procession too so we looked quite a sight, two adults pushing 10 fat waddling turkeys followed by a yellow dog through the barn and across the yard.

I knew something was up when Sweetie said that he thought it best we load the turkeys for vacation ON the vacation day- and not the night before per usual. I'm only the "helper" for anything with feathers so I don't ask questions, I just do as I'm told. He said we would load at 4:30am.

When I opened the turkey house door that vacation morning, I could not believe my barely awake eyes. These turkeys were way past "awful big", they were huge. I went to load up the first tom. The fastest, gentlest way to move poultry is to slide them using their back legs to a tip then carry them quickly to their destination. I grabbed the first tom's legs and pulled back to get the

tipping motion- but nothing happened. He would not tip. He gave me a "AND, what are you doing with my legs?" sleepy look instead. I went to the next tom, same thing. I told Sweetie, "I can't lift these!" I can lift 40 pounds.

After much groaning and pushing, we got the toms loaded in the big dog crates in the truck. The hen turkeys were within my size for lifting.

The vacation "resort" as we like to call the processing place has opinions on sizes of turkeys. The modernized equipment can only fit birds to a certain size. The way to control this is to set price ranges- anything over 30 pounds is a lot of money making it clear that size is not the preferred to work with. Sweetie and I both were thinking the same thing on the hour trip to the resort, what if these HUGE turkeys get turned away?

At the resort, the girl receiving the turkeys just stared at our load. I apologized that they were "big." She said they were "mini dinosaurs." We had used Larry's two dog crates so those crates had to be unloaded first before we could leave. The owner, who one has to admire for being on site at 6 a.m. to work alongside his crew, was clearly not impressed with these turkeys. He couldn't tip them over to move them either. One of his employees had to help meaning it took two men to move one tom turkey. I was hoping to sneak away- but the owner handed us back the crates and asked what we were doing with turkeys that big. We told him the truth but I don't think he believed that we could be, in this COVID-19 year, be that stupid to not book turkeys in the spring for Thanksgiving.

When we picked up the turkeys, that same sweet senior lady I remembered from our last time here was taking the payments. I had done a worst case scenario money add up at home so we had our "oh NOT that much!" moments then. I had a lot of cash with me so I was ready. With great sympathy, she gave us the amount owed- we had a bill of \$414.00. The biggest was 46 pounds and his brother was 45.6 pounds. The smallest sister hen was 21 pounds, the biggest was 28 pounds.

We certainly have our turkey now for this Christmas- and maybe next one too.

I would like to thank all of you that take the time each month to read this column. It is such a heartwarming feeling to hear comments from readers in Sunderland, Picton and Minesing and to be stopped in Woodville by a reader commenting about something shared here. It's been an odd year, this 2020, but coming here to Farm View was certainly a huge blessing to me and I'm sincerely grateful for Farm View owner Roslyn for giving me this opportunity. I would like to say a sincere Thank You to all of you- and to wish you all a beautiful Merry Christmas. May God keep you safe and richly bless you. Sincerely, Cathy

**Do you have a wonderful volunteer in your life?
Email us your favourite volunteer's name and a paragraph or two describing their work and we will feature them on this page.**



Best wishes for a joyful holiday season

Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

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A crafter's perfect getaway: Retreat at the Farm

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

It's any craft person's dream, to work uninterrupted in a beautiful bright location with like minded friends for a few fun days. This is exactly what Diane Griffith offers with her business "Retreat at the Farm." Diane is an expert on craft making, she owns her own craft store in Shelburne called Wool & Silk Co..

The Retreat is a farm house on a working 100 acre farm nestled amongst big trees in Mulmar Township which is close to Shelburne. The rental is not just for one room but instead is the entire two stories of the house. There is sleeping capacity for 11 people along with a couch on the main level that can be utilized as well. There are four bedrooms in gorgeous colours, rose, soft blue, mauve and sage. The rooms each have extra soft comfortable beds all made up with cozy linens.

The beautiful century farmhouse has a main level area that is all ready to go for a sewing, scrapbooking, spinning or quilting group with a spacious workroom complete with 8 padded high back chairs on wheels, heavy work tables and big windows providing lots of natural light. There are many plug-ins plus overhead lighting available in the workroom. Shades are available to be pulled down for late afternoon sun. This room, like the rest of the house, has central air so work is always done in comfort. The owner has another room in the downstairs all set up for "Cutting/Ironing". This room has two extra wide ironing boards, two irons, a supply of demineralized water for irons and a large table with two rotary cutting mats. When needing a break, there is a large bright living room to relax in.

The only thing required at The Retreat is food as the house has a fully stocked kitchen including pots, pans, frying pans, salt & pepper, dish towels, wine glasses and a dishwasher. There is a large dining room that can seat up to 10 people.

In line with the retreat experience, there is no telephone landline or television at the house. There is limited internet meaning no streaming is available. If there is an issue, a guest is expected to have a cell phone and will text/call the owner Diane who is not on site but is close by.

The idea of having a retreat for the crafting community came from enjoying time at other retreats, Diane says, "I loved going to the retreats. It's nice to compare ideas with others in your craft and to enjoy the fun of being together."

In the 2.5 years of business, Diane reports having success. "I have had groups book several times here which is a compliment," she says adding that COVID-19 stopped 2020 from being the busiest year ever as most of the year was booked. She said that in the time of the First Wave lockdown, the business was closed but every group, except one, changed their booking dates to another open time.

Bookings can be made through the business website at:
www.getawaytothefarm.com

Diane chooses to advertise with Farm View because of the monthly "Quilting" page in the newspaper. She says her business clients are in the crafting community and many are quilters. Diane said she appreciates Farm View for supporting quilting each month.

Please see Diane's ad on page 12.

South Simcoe 4-H club reports 4-H South Simcoe Poultry and Rabbit Club

By Jessa Bray

I can't believe we have come to the end of our 4H season. The Poultry and Rabbit Club had an absolutely amazing year! Even though it was very different doing things online, we learned so much and made new friends! Each member received a special package from South Simcoe 4H and our leaders. Some of our members got medallions, first year plaques, and a lot of cool 4H items. One of our members, Alyssa Bray, received a trophy to recognize her five years of dedication to our club. Congratulations to Alyssa and to all of our members! Thank you so much to our leaders; Scott, Marianne, Greg and Nadina. As well as a special thanks to Bardon Poultry Farm and The Beeton Agricultural Society for their donations to our club. I can't wait to join the Poultry and Rabbit Club again next year!



Shown above are, from left to right, Jessa Bray, Alyssa Bray and Maya Bray.

— Photo provided by Scott Cullen

Cookstown and Everett Sheep Club report

By Lauren Cowen

The sheep club has officially wrapped up for the year. The award winners are Abby Patton high novice member, Lauren Cowan high junior member, Madeleine Cullen high intermediate member and Reagan van Kolschoten high senior member. A huge thanks to Leah Emms and the OFA for donating some year end gifts. Thank you also to the Cookstown Agricultural Society for their sponsorship towards the sheep club achievement day program. The leaders would like to say congratulations on completing the club this year, sticking with it and we hope to see everyone again next year!



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Results from the virtual Royal Agricultural Winter Fair 2020

By Diana Robichaud

Like everything else in 2020, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair had to pivot from their 97 year tradition of providing the largest indoor agricultural and equestrian event in the world to a Covid friendly option. This is only the 2nd time that the Royal wasn't done in person, the first being interrupted during WW2. This year the Royal was a virtual event through social media platforms like Facebook and at an online virtual experience page. The full Royal Fair will return November 5-14th in 2021 with the Horse Show and all the other in-person favourites.

This year's Virtual Experience had an Auditorium sponsored by OLG where you could watch experts discuss topics in the Food and Nutrition Forums and a great culinary series from Burnbrae Farms with many great recipes featuring local chefs, farms and food. From the Virtual Lobby, you could attend all the exhibitors and even win prizes based on how many you visited, how many videos you watched, and documents you read.

While this year was vastly different, and many people missed seeing their friends and the natural competition they're used to, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair will return next year. You can visit their website to see a selection of videos and all the results. Some of the Grand Champions from our distribution area are listed here. Congratulations everyone!

Results: 2020 Royal Champions Showcase Plain Buttermarts - Homemade

Tied for 11th Place

11. Heavenly Homemade Butter Tarts
Gary Sim, Schomberg, ON

11. Shelley Barfoot-O'Neill, Kleinburg, ON
Special Ingredient Buttermarts - Homemade
Skor

11. Brenda Bebbington, Caledon, ON
Plain Butter Tarts - Professional

7. Carla's Cookie Box, Woodbridge, ON

9. Sweet and Buttery Like Grandma Used to Make
Krumbs Breadery & Stuff, Newcastle, ON

Traditional Butter Tarts - Professional

6. Raisin Butter Tarts

Carla's Cookie Box, Woodbridge, ON

6. Pecan Butter Tarts

Carla's Cookie Box, Woodbridge, ON

13. Plenty of Plumb Thompson Raisins

Krumbs Breadery & Stuff, Newcastle, ON

13. Buttery Filling Loaded with Toasted Pecans

Krumbs Breadery & Stuff, Newcastle, ON

Special Ingredient Butter Tarts -Professional

6. Salted Caramel

Carla's Cookie Box, Woodbridge, ON

8. Peanut Butter & Chocolate Chip

Carla's Cookie Box, Woodbridge, ON

8. Peanut Butter Cup Butter Tart

Krumbs Breadery & Stuff, Newcastle, ON

10. Dark Robust Maple Syrup Locally Sourced

Krumbs Breadery & Stuff, Newcastle, ON

10. Dark Maple Syrup and Roasted Pecans

Krumbs Breadery & Stuff, Newcastle, ON

12. Pumpkin Pie Butter Tart

Carla's Cookie Box, Woodbridge, ON

13. Saskatoon Berry Butter Tarts

Krumbs Breadery & Stuff, Newcastle, ON

14. Apple Pie Butter Tart

Carla's Cookie Box, Woodbridge, ON

15. Naniamo Butter Tarts- Truly Canadian
Krumbs Breadery & Stuff, Newcastle, ON
Fresh Unripened Cheese - Natural

1. Cheese Name: Bella Casara Ricotta
Quality Cheese Inc., Vaughan, ON

Fresh Pasta Filata

2. Cheese Name: Bella Casara Burrata
Quality Cheese Inc., Vaughan, ON

3. Cheese Name: Ferrante Cheese Bocconcini

Ferrante Cheese, Woodbridge, ON

Ice Cream

Vanilla

1. Burnt River Marzipan.

Belly Ice Cream Company, Huntsville, ON

3. Vanilla Bean

Belly Ice Cream Company, Huntsville, ON

Any Other Flavour

1. Buttermart

Ingredients: Cream, brown butter,

buttermarts...no raisins!

Flavour: Buttermart

Professional: Pro

Facility: Licenced

Judges' Choice Ice Cream Award

Belly Ice Cream Company, Huntsville, ON

2. Maple Creemee

Ingredients: Milk, Maple Syrup, Cream

Flavour: Maple Creemee

Professional: No

Facility: Yes

Sugarbush Hill Maple Farm, Huntsville, ON

3. Chocolate Dipped Strawberry

Ingredients: Strawberry, sour cream,

orange zest, dark chocolate

Flavour: Chocolate dipped Strawberry

Professional: Pro

Facility: Omafra licensed

Belly Ice Cream Company, Huntsville, ON

Liquid Honey - Amateur

17. Flights of Fancy Honey Bee Company,
Loretto, ON

Liquid Honey Golden - Professional

3. Northern Comfort Designs Ltd.,
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Golden/Delicate Taste (Youth)

One bottle

1. Carson Breedon, Alliston, ON

Champion Youth Maple Syrup

Maple Syrup, Canada Grade A, Amber/Rich
Taste (Youth)

One bottle

1. Madeline McRae, Whitney, ON

Champion Youth Maple Syrup - Reserve

2. Calvin Campitelli, Coldwater, ON

3. Cassidy Emes, Dorset, ON

4. Sam McRae, Whitney, ON

5. Cole Campitelli, Coldwater, ON

Maple Syrup, Canada Grade A, Dark/Robust
taste (Youth)

One bottle

1. Calvin Campitelli, Coldwater, ON

2. Cole Campitelli, Coldwater, ON

3. Colton Rodger, Auburn, ON

4. Madeline McRae, Whitney, ON

5. Sam McRae, Whitney, ON

Maple Syrup, Canada Grade A, Very
Dark/Strong Taste (Youth)

One bottle

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2. Calvin Campitelli, Coldwater, ON

3. Colton Rodger, Auburn, ON



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Happy Holiday and Let's make it Fire Safe!

By Dennis Gannon

The Holiday Season is upon us and while it may be a little different this year, it still is a time when we need to make sure it is a safe one for our families.

Unintentional fires can start at any time of the year but during the Holiday Season, there are more opportunities and unfortunately with serious consequences. Food is always a mainstay during the holidays. Who doesn't like turkey and all the fixings that go with it. During the Holiday Season, cooking is one of the leading causes of fires. When cooking always stay in the kitchen and if you must leave, turn off the stove. It is also important that we don't let consuming alcohol or the recreational use of cannabis interfere with our cooking. Keeping the two activities separate will ensure that you and your family can enjoy the best the Holiday Season will bring this year.

Here are some additional safety tips to help you this Holiday Season.

Develop and practice a home fire escape plan so that everyone in your home knows what to do when the smoke or carbon monoxide alarm sounds.

Place lit candles away from anything that can burn and out of the reach of children and pets where they can't be knocked over. Remember to snuff out candles before leaving the room or going to bed. Consider using battery-operated or electric flameless candles.

Indoors or outside, always use CSA approved lights. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.

For added electric-shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house.

Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Don't hang Christmas stockings from the mantel when the fireplace is in use.

Always use a screen in front of the fireplace to protect against flying sparks.

Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.

Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.

Never use your oven to heat your home.

And finally,

Ensure all entry/exits in your home are cleared from snow to ensure you can get out in case of a fire. Make sure all windows are not frozen in case you need to use these as an escape mechanism. If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.

Your local fire department is always available and willing to assist you with any fire safety questions. Contact them if you require more information.

Happy Holidays!

IT'S EASY TO GET DISTRACTED WHEN YOU ARE COOKING!




Cooking is the leading cause of fires during the holidays. This holiday season, **always stay in the kitchen** while cooking. If you must leave, **turn off the stove.**

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Museum, Peacekeepers Park, Fort Willow open to the public

Story and photos by John Beischer

Last month the Essa Historical Society met at the Thornton arena where social distancing was easily attainable.

Following regular business conducted by President Richard Blanchard and Secretary Olive Lee, a treasure's report was presented by Donna McQuay. Guest speaker David Thompson was introduced by Blanchard and members were treated to the following information; CFB Borden Museum is open to visitors who have an interest in the military history of our Country. Thompson's presentation was both interesting and informative. He is a full time volunteer whose main objective is to bring to the museum much of the weaponry that Farley Mowatt began collecting at the end of World War Two. Mowatt, a Canadian author from Port Hope Ontario, served in the Canadian Military and served primarily in the 'Italian Campaign' where Canadian troops helped liberate Italy from the fascist government of Mussolini. Thompson reported that Mowatt headed up a group who brought captured equipment back to Canada after the war, so we could see what evils communism, fascism and socialism can impart on a sleepy society. Much of this captured military hardware can be seen at the Borden Museum. Several other UN pieces can be seen at Peacekeepers Park located at the entrance to Angus, 12 kilometers west of Barrie Ontario [Hwy 90].

Thompson introduced Robin Robinson, volunteer collection manager and Don Ward a graphic designer who is presently creating memorial depictions of every Canadian who died in service in every conflict from the Boer war to the war in Afghanistan. These lifelike visuals can be seen at Peacekeepers Park in Angus. Robinson said the entire project is designed to 'TELL THE STORY' of Borden beginning at its inception in 1902. All three speakers wanted the general public to know that everyone is welcome to come to Base Borden to visit the museum or any other part of the base that may be of interest. Robinson suggested that interested persons could visit FLACK PANZER restoration project to see her contribution to the visual aspect of the museum.

The museum is open to the public 7 days a week. History buffs like myself may be interested to know that the Simcoe Grey Foresters originally cleared the pine tree forests in the early part of the last century, where CFB BORDEN now stands.

Editor's Note: Have you been to Fort Willow? This recreation of a supply depot is located only minutes west of Barrie along the 9 mile portage route used by Indians and military personnel during the war of 1812. Check it out.



From left, David Thompson, Robin Robinson and Don Ward



Entrance to Peacekeepers Park in Angus, Ontario



Digitized photos of war veterans on display at Peacekeepers Park



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Holiday Hours

December 23 - Limited Schedule

December 24 : CLOSED

December 25 : CLOSED

December 26 : CLOSED

December 28-30 : Regular Hours

December 31 : Limited Schedule

January 1 : CLOSED

January 2 : CLOSED



From our family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Kawartha Farmfest: O'Brienview Organic Farm

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Belgian Blue/Black Angus cattle herd at the O'Brienview Organic Family Farm were all lying down, half snoozing, chewing their cud in the sunshine while a crowd of people walked around them snapping pictures on their phones. The gate was wide open and the cattle could not care less.

"We spend a lot of time with them (the cattle), we spend at least an hour a day petting them or just being near them. We must have quiet cattle here, we have a big family and a lot of little people visiting," Grace O'Brien explains. Grace is one of the family's nine children. She works full-time on the farm working mostly with the livestock that also includes pigs.

The O'Brien Family farm was part of the Kawartha Farmfest celebrated in October 2020. Pauline O'Brien is the mom of the big O'Brien family and said she was just so glad that Farmfest could happen during COVID-19. She was pleasantly surprised that it was so popular this year with all the tickets sold out for farm visits at her location.

The O'Brien Farm is certified organic. Certified Organic means that it is certified through Pro-Cert which provides internationally recognized certifications for Canadian, USA, Japanese, Korean and European markets. It is accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. This means the farm goes under an annual inspection to qualify for certification each year. Organic means following a strict code of practice at every step. This means that for "organic beef" the beef animal must be fed, all its life, certified organic feed and not be treated with chemicals. Any animal that becomes sick and has to be treated with something that does not qualify as organic cannot be sold as an organic product. For organic farmers, sourcing feed can be a challenge.

"Organic grain is expensive and we seem to run out in mid-February when it's hard to get," Pauline said adding that her husband and sons are developing an innovation to feed the cattle during the winter. "We (the family) are developing a system to grow sprouted grain. We can take grain that has a 36% protein and move that up to 98% protein when it's sprouted," she said adding that the key to this innovation is eliminating all the manual work needed.

Christine, another one of the O'Brien children, also works here full-time. She specializes in vegetables and manages a greenhouse. It is not often one sees radishes growing in October but there were plenty along with green peppers and lettuce all flourishing in the warm greenhouse on the property. The produce grows in rich earth under the protective dome of the greenhouse. A woodstove in one end keeps the green-

house area safe from early frosts. "We took the old greenhouse we had on the farm and now we are using it to its full potential," she explains adding that she goes to the Fenelon Falls Farmers Market with her Mom each weekend seasonally. The vegetables this year that included squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions and potatoes fit in well with the organic meats that were sold at the O'Brien Organic Farm market stand.

There are lots of plans for the future at the O'Brien Organic farm. Christine is saving seeds from produce this year for growing next year in the greenhouse. Grace is excited to see what using the new breed Waygu cattle will do for the beef herd. The Waygu is a collective name for four breeds of cattle that are all from Japan that are world known for dining excellence. The O'Brienview Organic family farm is a busy, interesting place with a bright future.

For organic meat or produce orders contact O'Brienview Organic Farm at farming1011@outlook.com



Three year old Tristan McKinley from Dunsford is seen here with produce grown by his Mom, Christine, at her family's O'Brienview Organic Farm. Tristan loves going to spend time at his Grandpa and Grandma's farm.



This is Briar Rose, a cow that lives at O'Brienview Organic farm with one of her owners, Grace O'Brien. Briar Rose is a Belgian Blue that was chosen because they are a docile breed. Grace says she spends a lot of time with the cattle to keep them quiet to be safe around everyone in the large O'Brien family.

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AP17-DE17

Filling the Food Banks

By Clarence Nywenig, Interim General Manager for the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

As we approach the Christmas season, the latest news from many food banks in Ontario is that donations are down and demand is expected to be up.

Even before the pandemic hit, more than 40 per cent of food banks in rural Ontario reported an increase in use between 2018 and 2019. The truly appalling thing is that nearly a third of the people using food banks in rural Ontario in 2019 were children.

During the time of COVID-19, there are so many people out of work and in need that it's more important than ever to dig deep and find ways to give.

Donations were down as a result of businesses being shuttered by the pandemic. In Guelph, for example, the spring drive – during the first wave – was apparently a write-off and the Thanksgiving campaign came up short. While staff are hopeful that the community will come through, the need continues.

In Waterloo Region, the food banks had distributed 2.3 million pounds of food between the middle of March and November. They are expecting a 30 per cent increase in use for the upcoming holiday season.

Despite facing challenges in 2020, farmers did their part for the less fortunate.

Ontario pork producers stepped up with the Pork Industry Gratitude Project, started in Perth County. They raised \$85,000



between April and July to provide 200,000 servings of fresh ground pork to feed families in need. An additional \$15,000 was given to county associations to use in their own communities.

Feed Ontario's COVID-19 Emergency Food Box program was supported by Dairy Farmers of Ontario with an additional \$100,000 over and above their regular contributions, and the Grain Farmers of Ontario pitched in \$100,000 as well. With their efforts, hundreds of thousands of Ontarians were able to get access to wholesome, high-quality local food.

The Ontario Egg Program has been running since 2015. In it, an annual donation of \$250,000 means 144,000 dozen eggs get delivered to food banks across the province. Others can participate by donating \$50, which provides 25 dozen eggs from one hen every year.

We farmers have had our share of setbacks, challenges and heartache with the onslaught of the pandemic. But with winter coming on and the snow and cold weather about to test all of us even further, we need to count our blessings and give to those who are in need.

Covid Raffle for Furry Friends

Covid raffle to raise funds for Furry Friends. The prize is an 8 foot bench made of elm by Jim Brass. Tickets are \$5.00 each and may be purchased at Country Meat Cuts in Utopia or by sending an e-transfer to Michaelle Brass, along with a cell phone number or email address for contact information. Once the transfer is received, Michaelle will take a picture of your ticket(s) and send it to you. Your actual ticket(s) will then be placed in the bucket for the draw to be held on December 20th.

Good luck and thank you for your support!

michaellibrass@gmail.com

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MON. DEC. 7TH AT 10 AM AND 1 PM
EM # 4915 - 2ND LINE
NEW TECUMSETH (SCHOMBERG)

Directions West of Schomberg on Hwy 9 - 1/8 mile to the first set of lights, turn north on New Tecumseth Sdrd 20 approx. 1 mile to the 2nd Line of New Tecumseth turn west first farm on the left (long lane please drive in).

Covid Restrictions: Due to Covid restrictions we ask for serious buyers only. Max. 100 people. Masks must be worn. 6' social distancing. Hand sanitizer available.

10 AM EQUIP. 27 PC'S ONLY (NO MISC.)
Tillage Int. 4500 vibra shank 18 1/2" cult w/harrows; J.D. 220 - 18' centre fold disc; J.D. 110 - 11 1/2" disc; J.D. 8200 - 18 run drill; Krantz 32' wing packer; 2 J.D. F145 - 5 F plows; J.D. 5F - 16" plow; 6, 5 & 4 sec harrows; drag cult; Wilrich 12' TA offset disc w/23" notched blades;
Haying Equip. J.D. 820 Mo Co. - 9' haybine; J.D. 385 rd. baler; J.D. #5 - 7' mower; N.H. 55 rollobar rake; Rd. bale steel wagon 12 bale 21' hoist gear & implement tires; rd. bale steel wagon 14 bale - 24' Lang gear & implement tires; Allied 41' x 6' w/c grain auger; steel flat rack hay wagon; N.H. 717 forage harvester w/hay pickup;
Misc. Equip. N.H. 165 manure spreader (nice); J.D. 34 spreader; Meteor 8' SA snow blower hyd. shute (as new); 2 - N.H. 353 pto mixmills; Douglas 5 1/2' finishing mower; Winpower 83/60 - 15 kilowatt pto generator; hyd hoof trimming shute (new);
ATTENTION After equipment is sold, we ask that you leave the premises to make room for tractor buyers. (Due to Covid restriction numbers) We thank you for this inconvenience.

1 P.M. - 25 John Deere Tractors 12 noon Preview J.D. 7020 diesel 4 WD, cab, articulating, bareback, 3 remotes, 8 new 15.4.30 Goodrich tires; 146 pto; hp; **J.D. 4840** - 2 WD diesel turbo cab powershift, 180 pto hp; **J.D. 4630** 2 WD diesel cab w/20.8.38 duals, 150 pto hp; **J.D. 4430** - 2 WD diesel cab w/20.8.38 duals quad. 125 pto hp; **J.D. 4430** 2 WD diesel cab, remotes 3 ph. - 125 pto hp; **J.D. 4320** - 2 WD diesel cab remotes 3 ph Quad. - 116 pto hp.; **J.D. 4230** - 2 WD diesel cab, remotes 3 ph. - 100 pto. hp; **J.D. 4030** - 2 WD diesel cab remotes 3 ph. - 80 pto. hp; **J.D. 4020** - 2 WD diesel powershift 18.4.34 tires, 96 pto. hp; **J.D. 4020** 2 WD diesel syroco. - 96 pto hp.; **J.D. 4010** - 2 WD diesel, roll bar - 84 pto hp.; **J.D. 4000** 2 WD diesel, 3 ph. - 97 pto hp; **J.D. 1830** - 2 WD diesel rops new, 18.9R30 rears - 65 pto hp.; **J.D. 2130** 2 WD diesel new 18.4.34 rears - 45 pto hp.; **J.D. 2255** wldr. 50 pto hp; **J.D. 730** diesel remotes 3 ph WF. - 59 pto. hp; **J.D. 630** gas W.F. - 52 pto. hp; **J.D. 530** gas 3 ph P.S. row crop, - 41 pto. hp.; **J.D. 435** W diesel 3 ph. - 33 pto. hp.; **J.D. 70** diesel pup start P.S.,Wheaton fenders, high seat, - 50 pto. hp; **J.D. 60** gas P.S. high seat, 3 ph W.F. - 42 pto. hp; **J.D. 40** gas - 19 pto. hp; **J.D. B** General Purpose R.C. w/spoke rims; **J.D. A** row crop; 2 J.D. quick hitches; duals; Additions **J.D. 5055** D c/w 512 ldr., 14.9.28 tires, 438 hrs., as new; Bob Cat S185 turbo skid steer w/cab;
Combine J.D. 45 SP combine 10' head;
Truck 1995 Ford model MHV - F series diesel w/16' grain box & hoist, 336,000 km., safetied June 2019;
Terms Cash or known cheque with proper ID only. M/C, Visa and Interac; Washroom. No Lunch booth. Neither the Estate nor Auctioneer will be responsible for accident or property loss.
Note Verbal announcements take precedence over written matter. Due to Covid restrictions and by-laws surrounding # of people in attendance, we are asking to please limit bystanding, serious buyers only. **Preview** Sat. Dec. 5th and Sun. Dec. 6th: 10 am - 3 pm only. Accepting absentee bids

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Thanks, Bob

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4 wheels and tires - 16" all season, lightly used on aluminum mags 215X65XR16 off a Ford Fusion...would fit some Mazda models \$25./wheel and tire 1 - 215X60XR16 non directional snow tire - used for approx 11,000 km's \$40. Wheel and tire.....or make an offer 1 - 600X16.5 Equipment tire and tube \$30. Or make an offer Call 705-794-2388 - 9 - 9pm (don't leave a message).

Pedal boat 2 person perfect for the farm pond.
12' & 14' aluminum boat with outboard motor for the farm fisherman Call 705-526-7481

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2013 EXPRESS ALLWHEEL DRIVE \$22,800 + tax

OBITUARY

Samuel Thomas Langman
June 6, 1947 - October 24, 2020



Passed away on the farm suddenly on Saturday October 24, 2020 at 73 years of age. Sam Langman of Elmvalle, devoted husband of 50 years of Wendy (nee Bell). Proud father of Robin (Dave) Roberts, Ginger (Derick) Tsang, Luke (Heidi) Langman and special parent to Kyle May (Cally). Energetic, fun-loving and playful grandfather of Nicole, Mark (Roberts), Skyler, Crystal (Aiden), Isabelle (Tsang), Abbie, Caleb, William, Annalee (Langman). Lovingly remembered by sister Gail (Garnet) Peacock, June (Bob) Faint, Ross (Debbie) Langman and in-laws Joan (survived by Ed Hammett), Jack (predeceased by Edith Bell). Sam will be greatly missed by his nieces, nephews, cousins, many friends and church family. The North Simcoe GRAIN Project brought together his faith, love of farming and his generosity and Christian values. Sam was a well-loved member of St John's United Church where he gladly served with his time, talents, energy and vision. A private family graveside service will be held at Allenwood Cemetery. If you wish to make a donation in Sam's memory please consider supporting The North Simcoe GRAIN Project and St John's United Church, Elmvalle. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.lynnstonefuneralhome.com

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Merry Christmas

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Ontario Agricultural Conference goes digital in 2021

By Mary Feldskov Heartland Regional Communication Coordinator

Farmers keep themselves busy in the winter months attending meetings, farm shows and industry events. It is their chance to learn about new products and services, new production techniques and the latest in research. It also provides them the opportunity to socialize with neighbours and friends, as well as engage in the development of farm policy.

This winter, life will be much different, with growers looking at a mostly blank calendar. As COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc across Ontario and Canada, the events that everyone looks forward to are cancelled, scaled back or moved online.

The SouthWest Agricultural Conference (SWAC), the Eastern Ontario Crop Conference (EOCC), and Golden Horseshoe and Heartland SCIA's have joined forces to present one centralized—but virtual—conference for 2021. The Ontario Agricultural Conference will have live sessions on January 6 and 7, and growers from across the province will be able to participate from wherever they have internet access.

While the new format will look a little different from other years, conference organizers are excited about the opportunity to bring high-quality, informative, and engaging speakers right to farm offices, kitchen tables and farms shops across Ontario.

The conference will feature both live and On Demand sessions, which gives participants an opportunity to engage in

the session on their own schedule and at their own pace. The sessions will also be available to view after the conference concludes until March 31, 2021.

Live session topics include:

IPM Mythbusters: Featuring top entomologists Dr. Jocelyn Smith, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus; Dr. Chris DiFonzo, Michigan State University; and Tracey Baute, OMAFRA.

A Farmer's Guide to Road Safety: Ministry of Transportation Ontario speakers Matthew Mitchell and Richard Currado will help growers understand the rules, regulations, and road safety guidelines that will help keep us all safe.

The Corn Whisperer: Dr. Bob Nielson, professor of agronomy at Purdue University and Greg Stewart, Agronomy Lead, Maize Seeds, come together to highlight key factors in producing high-yield corn.

Where the Rubber Hits the Field: Nick Dubuc, Soucy Intl; Mike Hryhorchuk, Michelin, NA; and Eric Brubacher, OK Tire will discuss how to choose the right tire or track solutions for your equipment.

Soybean Success: Dr. Dave Hooker, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus and Horst Bohner, OMAFRA discuss soybean management options that will help you get MASSIVE soybean yields.

Production Pundits: wrap up your conference experience with agronomists Deb Campbell, Agronomy Advantage; Chris Olbach, Corteva; and Ken Currah, BASF. They will answer your questions and help you apply what you've learned to Ontario conditions.

In total, the conference will offer forty sessions covering a wide variety of topics, from cover crops, no-till and organic production to farm succession and marketing. Up to 16 Continuing Education Units (CEU credits) will be available to registered Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs).

Organizers of the Ontario Agricultural Conference recognize that growers like to visit with sponsors and trade show exhibitors, and there will be plenty of opportunity to do so in the virtual Exhibition Hall. And for those who attend conferences for the chance to chat with friends, colleagues, and neighbours, the Coming Together Virtual Social, held at the conclusion of day one (January 6) of the conference, will give participants the opportunity to do just that in the Live Stage Area.

Looking ahead to 2022, conference organizers are hopeful that in-person, live events can be held once again, with plans for SWAC and EOCC to resume. Golden Horseshoe and Heartland SCIA's will be working towards a new conference offering for 2022.

For more information, including a full list of sessions, sponsors, schedule, and to register visit: www.ontarioagconference.ca.

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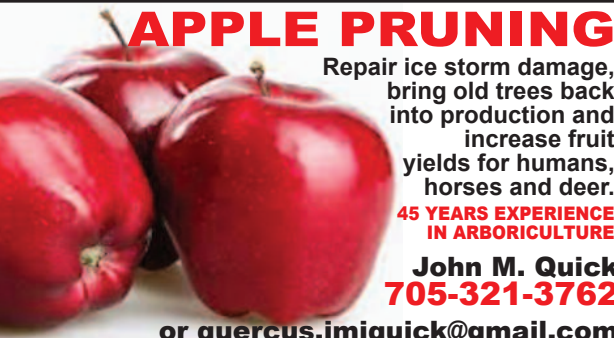
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