



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.

June 15 News and Advertising deadline

The deadline for news and advertising in the July edition of Farm View is Monday June 15th, 2020.

June 21 Father's Day





June 26 The Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture's Scholarship

Apply to Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture Administrative Centre

1110 Hwy. 26, Midhurst, ON

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Email: office@simcoecountyfa.org

Student Application and Principal's Report at: https://ofa.on.ca/federations/simcoe/

June 30 The North Simcoe Soil and Crop Improvement Association scholarships

Scholarships are available from The North Simcoe Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Applications available from: Sam Langman 2477 Flos Rd. 10 WEST

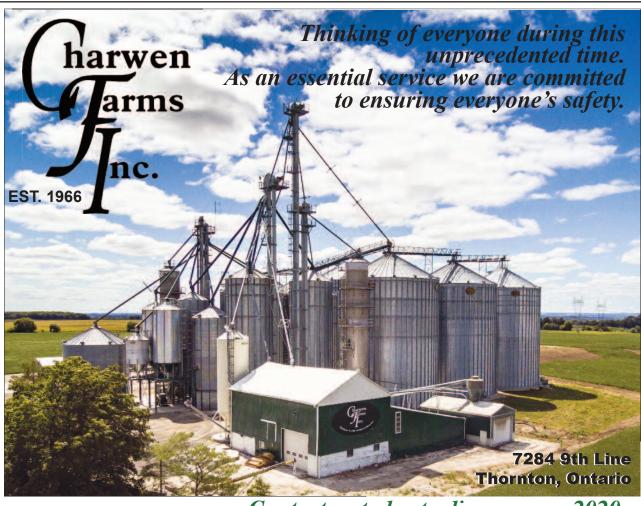
July 31 OFA photo contest

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Ontario Federation of Agriculture farm safety photo contest. See details on page 14.

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Devotional Corner

Is there anything in life that doesn't change?

By Kathleen Greidanus Retired Priest

As with most big news upheavals the Covid 19 pandemic has given us a host of new words and phrases. Some of the additions to our lexicons are physical/social isolation and the new normal. The latter phrase

has a wistfulness to it that hearkens back to the good old days when you didn't have to add an hour to a trip to the store to take the outside line up into account.

I think that most of us are creatures of habit and find comfort and security in certain aspects of society that we don't expect to change. Part of the thrill in travelling to foreign lands is to experience a whole new way of doing things yet there is the safety net of knowing that when you return home you can expect things to be as before. Benjamin Franklin is attributed with the quote, "Change is the only constant in life." I think that even Ben would be amazed at the enormity and speed of change that is happening around us.

We are still journeying through a time in which nothing is constant – people have become ill or died; others have lost long term jobs and places of business that were part of our social landscape have closed their doors forever. It leaves one with the question is there anything in life that doesn't change? The answer to that question may surprise you. Yes, there is an entity that never changes. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews states: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews

The character and promises of Jesus Christ are eternal and are in no way modified by past, present, or future changes in our world. In days when I am frustrated by new restrictions or limits placed upon me and those I love I pray on that verse and somehow everything resumes its place in the big picture. I hope it offers some comfort for you, too.

Shalom,

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.





Creemore Farmer's Market prior to COVID-19

Managing a Farmer's Market has never been like this before, says Helen Martin, manager of both the Creemore Farmer's Market that usually runs on Saturdays from May to October from 8:00am to 12:30pm and the Mulmar Farmer's Market that happens on Sundays from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

With COVID-19, the province of Ontario has put in place guidelines that are enforced by the local Public Health Unit. In the past, there were some rules - but this year there are many more.

Martin says she fully understands the need for the guidelines but "it puts a new challenge into doing business"

The first challenge is the biggest. The usual locations are not available because they are Municipality owned and are therefore closed to the public. It is expected there will be locations announced soon.

There are going to be strict protocols around "social distancing" which means people need to stay six feet

CREEMORE AND MULMAR FARMER'S MARKETS PREPARE FOR SEASON WITH COVID-19

by Cathy Hamill-Hill

apart, this is considered mandatory for COVID-19 prevention. This eliminates any "long conversations between the vendors and the customers, enjoying a coffee while casually walking around browsing and no visiting with friends at the Market," Martin says. The new format will be a pick up and leave concept. Vendors will have to be "educated" to simply hand over goods quickly as there can only be one customer per vendor at a time at the table. Further, the market will be set up with vendors six feet apart and have "lanes" for people to walk in with "event fencing" between the lanes so nobody can crisscross between the lanes.

"It's not even close going to be business as usual," says Martin. However, she is hearing that the public wants the Farmer's Markets to open and is ready to work within protocols.

Martin says she's thinking that maybe mid-June will see the Markets opening and in the meantime, there is an online idea coming soon. When the newly revised Market websites are ready, the public will find an "online store" that lists each vendor and will allow each vendor to have their very own "online market". The plan is to use the Farmer's Market at first for a place to pick up pre-ordered items that were purchased online.

One of the favourites at the Creemore Farmer's Market for the last four years has been 4M Farms of Feversham. 4M Farms are owned by the Miller family, Mike and Miranda and their two children, McKai and Maddison.

Miranda says "we miss the Creemore Market. Mike usually was the one to go there and he can hardly wait to get back."

4M Farms raises their own meats as in beef, pork, lamb and chicken. 4M Farms is part of the the Artisanal Chicken Program. This Program allows farmers to raise between 600 and 3,000 chickens without owning quota.

There is a specific application process and then protocols to be followed to be part of this. The program was put in place because Chicken Farmers of Ontario recognized the growth potential of the local chicken industry. The local chicken demand is higher then ever this year, reports Miranda. She says, "we have our first batch pre-sold before they were even ready." Adding there is now a waiting list starting for the next batch.

Miranda credits local processors, J-Mar Custom Meats in Mount Forest and Schefter Poultry Processing in Gorrie for helping her family's business during COVID-19. "J-Mar and Schefter have been so good, they always find time for us and they realize we have deadlines to meet. We know they are so busy too right now- but we can count on them," Miranda explains.

4M Meats products are available at the farm for pick up. Miranda asks that people go to the farm website to order and to etransfer payment. Pick-up is arranged and the purchase will be placed right in the customer's vehicle meaning zero contact.

4M Meats can be found at: www.4mfarms.ca

Innisfil's Farmer's Market is not open yet due to COVID-19. The plans though are coming into place and vendors are preparing.

Scott Brown of Brown's Farm in Dalston is getting ready for coming back to the Innisfil Farmer's Market. He is now busy getting the land ready for planting the farm's #1 product, sweet corn. There will be fifty acres planted for this year's crop, he says adding, "My Dad sold sweet corn too so this is our family's 58th year selling sweet corn." The farm is also getting ready to plant its pick-your-own pumpkin patch for fall fun.

"I expect the Market will be different then last year but we will be there once the corn is ready per usual," Scott says adding, "the Market has been good to us. We sell a lot of sweet corn there and have a lot of regular customers now that support us each week."



On the Cover

Charlotte enjoys providing bird seed for all the 'birdies' around her home.

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O PINION

GUEST EDITORIAL

By Keith Currie, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The time is now to support Ontario's agri-food system with workable solutions There's no denying Ontario's agri-food sector has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Dairy farmers received a 2 excess milk Access to a creen agriculture of the covid-sector has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

There's no denying Ontario's agri-food sector has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Farmers across all commodities have been greatly impacted by this crisis and have experienced loss of market access, increased production costs, supply disruptions, processing challenges and revenue loss

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) understands commodities are facing urgent situations and without immediate government support, these farm businesses may face financial jeopardy.

Moving products through the food value chain onto the shelves of grocery stores and into the homes of Ontarians is the priority of the agri-food system. Without the infrastructure and

resources available to our farm businesses to grow food for the province and the world, we are jeopardizing the reliability of access to safe, healthy and affordable food products for all Ontarians.

Ontario has an intensely robust and diverse agri-food sector as farmers grow and produce more than 200 different products. Significant labour shortages have impacted the growing season for many Ontario fruit and vegetable growers, including apple and tender fruit growers. Growers are still facing major labour gaps as many do not have a full contingent of employees available, including seasonal and temporary workers.

The uncertainty and concern of the feasibility of the retail marketplace could greatly affect the sale of products. Social distancing guidelines and restrictions could prevent pick your own operations from opening and conducting business, leaving many growers without financial stability.

Ontario beef farmers are losing approximately \$2 million per week during this crisis. Beef and pork producers were promised funding by the federal government to assist with reduced processing capacity, market volatility and surplus products, but details of that investment have not been confirmed. OFA will continue to monitor the situation and looks forward to hearing more about how and when these funds will be accessible.

Farmers in the grains and oilseeds sector are facing uncertainty in the months ahead as seed begins to go into the ground. Large crop planting intentions in the US combined with uncertain requirements for livestock feed, and reduced ethanol requirements as all of Canada travels less, are likely to have even further downward pressure on already stressed markets.

As a result of the rapidly changing marketplace and consumer demands caused by COVID-19, egg farmers have seen a 15% reduction in sales. Hatcheries are dealing with reduced demand for their chicks and limited export opportunities.

Beekeepers across the province are dealing with financial instability resulting from reduced revenue due to lost pollination contracts as growers have been forced to adjust their crop plans, loss of farmers' market access and decline in commercial sales.

The veal sector has dealt with declining market demand with approximately 70% of veal produced for the food service and hospitality industry and the remaining 30% for retail and specialty butcher shops. Mushroom growers are facing a 30% loss of production and the floriculture industry is expecting to endure a 40% reduction in sales.

The Ontario lamb market has been unpredictable with prices dropping in early April to approximately \$100 per hundredweight (cwt). Markets have since increased over the past two weeks, however. While the sheep industry has not had to deal with the same financial impact as other sectors, Ontario sheep farmers continue to work alongside industry partners to manage issues and plan for future disruptions.

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.

E-mail: farmview@on.aibn.com

Dairy farmers received a 2% cut in their quota and producers will share the cost of dumping excess milk. Access to a credit line to help adjust to changing market demands through this pandemic was announced earlier this week by the federal government.

Many in the equine industry have lost income sources due to operations being forced to close their doors after being deemed a non-essential service. Ontario equine farms and facilities don't have the necessary resources to feed their animals as most purchase on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. This is creating dangerous circumstances for the equine sector that could potentially lead to serious animal welfare issues and the financial demise of many businesses. In order to avoid significant livestock welfare problems, an influx of government support is necessary.

Grape growers have been assessing and preparing for increased labour and production costs related to worker housing, sanitation, and personal protective equipment in order to meet social distancing requirements. According to a recent Grape Growers of Ontario survey, 15% of growers indicated that grape contracts have been cancelled and 36% report that contracts have been reduced

There is 10,000 acres of ginseng to cover in a short time frame with a limited workforce. If gardens are not properly covered it could impact not only this year's harvest, but the next four years' worth of harvests. With 10,000 acres under production, it amounts to more than \$700 million dollars of lost farm gate sales, leading to an economic impact of \$441 million annually or \$1.8 billion over the next four years.

OFA will continue to advocate for Ontario's agri-food system, working alongside industry stakeholders and government policymakers to safeguard production, processing and distribution of the food supply chain. We need our federal government to provide workable solutions through financial support to keep our farm businesses viable.

4-H Cooking club Zoom meeting Ag Snapshot

Can you name a recipe that uses whipped egg whites? My name is Isabella and I am the Press Reporter for the Cooking Club. As you know, we can't meet in person because of Covid 19, so we are doing Zoom kitchen meetings. On May 15th, we started our first club meeting with the 4-H pledge. We learned how to separate egg yolks and whites. We all got to watch each other try this on the cameras. Once we had our egg whites separated, we started whisking. It took 2-5 minutes of whisking to get a stiff peak. It took a lot of energy! We then learned how to make brownies using whipped egg whites instead of baking soda. Our goal for this club is to make a meal for our families and then share it with the club through a Google slide show or doc. Don't you wish

you were part of a 4-H Cooking Club family?

For more 4-H content

For more 4-H content please see page 11



Madeleine and Isabella demonstrate Cooking Club activities

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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

OFA Members Service Representative:

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

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:

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Quintuplet lambs born at Lindsay farm

Story and photo by: Cathy Hamill-Hill

Leona Clarke of Lindsay credits her Dad for the reason she had live quintuplet lambs born on her "Mayflower Acres" farm that she shares with her husband, Tony Irving. She owns 50 quiet, extremely well fed mostly North Country Cheviot ewes that each have names.

"Dad taught me how to be a livestock farmer. He always told us kids that anybody can throw in feed to animals but a farmer observes the animals to make sure they are doing okay. When you need to get to your job (off farm), you get up in enough time to observe, animals come first because you wanted them in the first place," she explained.

Leona's Dad, Gord Clarke sure is qualified to give advice in farming. He and his wife, Viola had 260 pigs in the barn at one time when they started full time farming in the 1960's at their current beautiful farm property overlooking Lake Scugog. "Viola helped me a lot and we raised 3 kids here and put 2 through college. Pigs made good money then- when they were cared for right. We grew all our own grain for the pigs and didn't buy any in," he recalls. Viola remembers the pigs well, she grins and snorts imitating a pig adding, "I loved my pigs. I liked cleaning them out every morning."

Leona remembers as a child hearing her Mom come in from her early chores in the pig barn. Viola would get to the barn at 5:00 am with her husband to get a start on her job of having the sows' pens all scraped down for the day. The busy farm wife would get herself back in the house and changed in time to get her family breakfast and children ready for the school bus.

As a full-time education assistant for special needs children, Leona starts her mornings early in the barn just like her COVID-19 pandemic, she gets there later the size of them at approximately 35lbs each. at 5:00 am. She takes her time through chores, always observing her flock like her Dad

taught her. This observation led her to realize early in the gestation that one of her biggest ewes named "Big Mama" needed extra care.

The ewe got so large that her husband was asked to literally measure the ewes width to make sure she would not hurt herself going through the barn's door. With over 25 years experience in sheep, Leona took

the ewe aside at chore time and gave her extra grain daily in preparation of what was looking to be an unusual lambing ahead.

Leona was extra watchful of her huge ewe and was right in the barn when lambing day came on March 31st. The first two lambs were born unassisted but were abnormally small. The longtime shepherd knew there was more then twins coming this year and did an internal check of the ewe. "I found two lambs ready to be born at once and they were both breech. They were so tiny it wasn't a big problem to get sorted out," she says adding that she observed the size of the lambs and had a feeling there was more to come yet. Another internal check resulted in having to deliver the fifth lamb being born meaning live quintuplets.



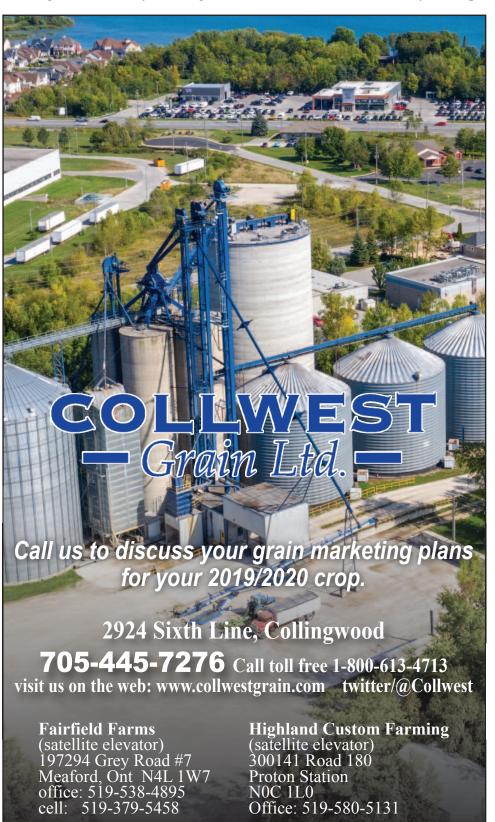
parents. She starts the day with her sheep Standing each holding a lamb are Shepherd Leona Clarke and at 4:30 am when she is working off-farm husband Tony Irving. Sitting are Leona's parents, Gord and Viola but now being home because of the Clarke. The quints are doing extremely well as shown here by

The quintuplets were tiny and therefore fragile. Leona decided to keep the new family with the ewe and she bottle fed each lamb to make sure everybody was well fed, many times especially in the first 24 hours. The shepherd nearly lived in the barn as the lambs were between 2.5 and 3 pounds each. A normal sized lamb is about six to eight pounds at birth.

Leona didn't always like sheep. She was 15 years old when she joined the local 4H Kawartha Lakes Haliburton sheep club that today is still led by longtime and very kind shepherd Muriel Burnett of Fenelon Falls. Her 4H project ewe lamb, lambed the next year and Leona admits she fell in love that day with sheep when she saw those baby lambs. Inspired by Muriel, she became a sheep club 4H leader and was recognized for 20 years of volunteering with 4H recently. She co-leads the York 4H Sheep club with shepherd, Kevin Hutchings. Leona is also a popular Ontario sheep judge and has judged shows throughout southern Ontario including locally at Coldwater Fall Fair. She and her husband attend about 15 shows in a normal show season that will not include 2020. Tony says with pride, "My wife won the best new crop market lamb last year at the Royal. The lamb sold there for \$13.50 a pound."

When asked for advice on how to be a successful and happy shepherd, Leona offers three points. She says every shepherd needs a good veterinarian and Leona is grateful to have found Dr. Jenn Megens of Cannington Veterinary Services. Second, a mentor that has experience in sheep and farming is essential and she will always be grateful to Muriel Burnett and her Dad. A third point is having a good feed provider and she says for her flock that is Agrico in Lindsay.

Leona Clarke chose her farming operation's name to be "Mayflower Acres". She explains, "I was born in May and Dad always said I was his May flower. With the "Mayflower" name, I have a bit of my Dad with me at every show we go to."



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Farmer, community leader, history advocate passes



Rowe on June 24, 1931.

Arnold Frederick BANTING

June 1931 -April 2020

One of Essa Township's best known community leaders and advocates for township history passed away in Barrie last month.

Arnold Frederick Banting born to Albert Lee Banting & Edna

He attended Ivy Public School, Thornton Continuation School then Barrie Central Collegiate.

As a young man, Arnold was very active in South Simcoe Junior Farmers and in the local Anglican Young People's Association. He always had a keen interest in history, both of Essa Township and particularly of his own Banting Family.

Long time friend, Rhod Price recalls Arnold describing the dinner with Sir Frederick Grant Banting just before he was killed in an airplane disaster in Newfoundland in 1941. Arnold was a 2nd cousin of Sir Frederick (DNA proven). Sir Frederick was the co-discoverer of insulin for diabetes.

Arnold was an early supporter of the local Banting Foundation, which honours Sir Frederick and his work and was very proud when the birthplace became the Banting Homestead.

Arnold helped his Father, Lee on their farm located on the 9th Line of Essa south of Ivy. He married Florence Alberta Pratt in October 1959 and in 1963 their only son Ian was born.

His father, Lee moved from the farm to a house in Thornton. Arnold, Florence and Ian stayed on the farm until Lee passed away in 1980. They moved into the father's house in Thornton in 1987.

Arnold worked for some years in the hotel industry. He was a Lay Minister with the Anglican Church for several years and then he was appointed as the Lay Minister at the United Church in Angus. After he retired he regularly officiated at funeral services throughout Simcoe County. Arnold took this obligation very seriously and sometimes visited with the bereaved families several times so he would know the family before a funeral service. He was very faithful to these duties until his retirement in 2016.

When Arnold and Florence moved to Thornton they led a very active life.

Florence was a member of Thornton Women's Institute and helped in making of quilts and preserves. As a couple they always supported each other's activities.

Arnold & Florence joined Essa Historical Society in 2000. He held several positions with Essa Historical Society as Historical Sites Chairperson for 3 years; Director for 4 years; Vice-President for 2 years and President for 6 years.

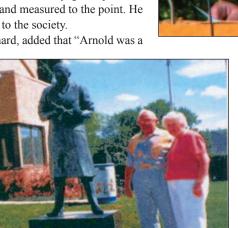
Secretary, Olive Lee, remembers him as "my go to person". Arnold's advice was always precise and measured to the point. He was always a tremendous assistance to the society.

Current President Richard Blanchard, added that "Arnold was a

great source of historical knowledge about the township. With roots back to the settlement of the township, he always seemed to be able to provide answers to us. Essa Historical Society will deeply miss him."

Arnold is survived by his son Ian Banting and wife Alecia who live in Oro Medonte and his grandchildren, Katelin and Ryan Banting.

A family graveside service was held on Monday, May 4 at Ivy Anglican Cemetery. About 30 friends gathered in their cars outside the cemetery to acknowledge Arnold's life and work





Arnold and Florence Banting with Sir Frederick Banting statue in London, ON 2008 (left). Florence and Arnold in 2015.

Story and Photos provided by: Olive Lee, Secretary on behalf of Essa Historical Society

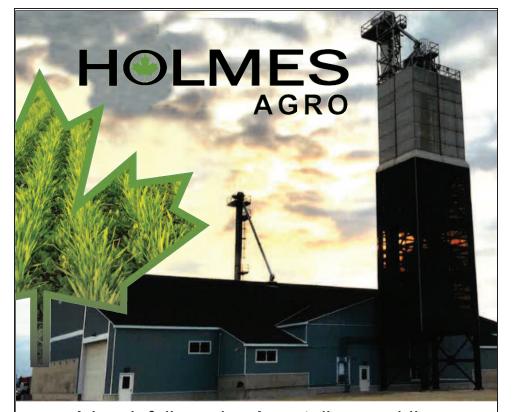


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Programs available for the agricultural sector

As I write this article in the middle of May, snow and cold overnight temperatures are plaguing plant 2020 efforts on top of the already stressful COVID-19 situation. Please do not internalize your worries. Talk to someone you trust for support. I recently shared with my co-workers the anxiety I was feeling. The response was overwhelming. Many concurred, that they were feeling the same. The compassion and empathy displayed to me that afternoon lifted my spirits and helped me realize that others were experiencing the same roller coaster of emotions. It was difficult to open up and share that information with my colleagues but, I am so glad I did. If you or someone you know, needs confidential mental health support please call 1-866-531-2600.



By Leah Emms OFA Member Services Rep. 705-722-5511 Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca www.ofa.on.ca

On May 5th, the federal government announced

\$252 million in aid for the agricultural sector. Food producers have been allocated \$77.5 million for health and safety equipment and modifications to their processing plants to ensure employee safety. Cattle and Hog producers have been allocated \$125 million to assist them. The government announcement indicated that the funds would likely flow through the Agri-Recovery Framework. But, as of this writing there have been no details released on the criteria for applying let alone receiving aid funds. As soon as details are available, they will be posted on the OFA COVID-19 webpage.

The OFA website is a valuable resource for all your COVID-19 information on government support programs. We are encouraging members to re-register or apply if new, to the Business Risk Management Programs as the government is signaling that additional funding could flow through these programs. Please visit agricorp.com to download the application form for AgriStability. The deadline to enroll is July 3rd.

Urgent requests (those in financial distress will be prioritized): 1-888-247-4999, Non-urgent requests: contact@agricorp.com

Another government program you may want to consider at this time is Agri-Invest. It is delivered by Agri-Food Canada. It is basically a savings account that allows farmers to deposit 100% of their allowable net sales. The government then makes a deposit calculated on 1% of your allowable net sales. Again, the program information is available through Agricorp. As always, I would highly recommend having a discussion with your accountant to determine if any of these programs are appropriate for your farming business.

Keeping informed during these times of crisis is very important. Your time is valuable. OFA offers members the option of subscribing to our weekly E-newsletter to receive the latest information and news impacting your farm business. Due to the Privacy Act, OFA needs your consent to communicate electronically with you. We have a five-line form for you to complete and return. It's that simple. Please contact me if you are interested.

I no longer have a local phone number. Please use this number to contact me directly. 1-866-660-5511 or email, leah.emms@ofa.on.ca

Canadian weather report Sat., May 9th, 2020





9:00am

2:00pm

Photos by: Lily and Harry Watkins

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More Access for Local Markets

By Suzanne Armstrong

It is not news these days that COVID-19 has dramatically shifted consumer behaviour, especially as concerns food.

Before this dramatic shift, around 30% of household food spending was on meals out of the house. While the new numbers are not currently available, it is clear that there is increasing demand and pressure on grocery stores as the main conduit between producers, processors and customers. But grocery stores don't need to be the only way to get food to customers.

With this consumer interest and increased demand, the CFFO has written to government to encourage more opportunities for farmers and small processors to connect directly with customers. We have asked government to support reopening farmers' markets. We've also asked government to make sure their recently announced support for online sales is available quickly and to the greatest number of qualifying businesses as possible. The more points of sale available, the more resilient our local food security will be. This will reduce pressure on grocery stores as the main outlet for getting food to people.

The CFFO has also written to the provincial government to encourage them to offer more support and to reduce red tape for provincially inspected abattoirs and meat



processors. These are small to medium businesses focused only on selling within the province, usually for local clientele.

Burdensome regulations in the past resulted in many small processing plants closing down or new businesses unable to get going. Some recent processing plant closures in late 2019 had already reduced Ontario's meat processing capacity before COVID-19 became an issue. Now, with large plant closures in both Canada and the US, the significant risks of closure, especially of larger federally inspected plants, even for a few days, are evident. This causes huge problems for livestock producers and can also cause problems for meat supply to consumers as well.

It is clear that Ontario needs more processing capacity. Small abattoirs are able to provide processing for a wider variety of animals and culinary tastes. They can provide processing in more remote areas, and ensure that as a whole, Ontario has more processing capacity, and that our processing eggs, so to speak, are not all in one basket.

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Barrie Fair Ambassador will stay on



With the cancellation of the C.N.E. our Barrie Fair Ambassador representing Essa and District Agriculture Society, Taya Dronzek (pictured at left) will stay on for the next year as the Barrie Fair Ambassador and will compete in the 2021 C.N.E. Organizers of the C.N.E. Ambassador program held a round table province-wide discussion May 14th at 7:30 pm for further discussion for the future of each ambassadors representing the town and city of their agricultural society.

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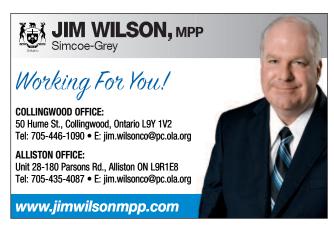


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AP17-DE17

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Earth Power's story began in the early 1960's when George South began George C. South Equipment in Heathcote as a Massey Ferguson dealer. The business flourished as it was known for quality products and service. George C. South Equipment was moved in 1970 to Meaford and in 1975, became one of the first Kubota dealers in Canada. The successful business was bought by Jim Kelly and business partner, Manfred Dietrich who went on to also purchase Somerville Farm Equipment located in Stayner. Somerville Farm Equipment was owned by Lloyd and Wallace Somerville and had established itself as a long standing family business with a strong reputation for customer service and was mostly a Case dealer. Somerville Farm Equipment expanded to include Kubota in 1976.

In the early 2000's Somerville Farm Equipment and George C. South Equipment both opted out of past lines to focus on Kubota as the main product line. In 2002, the two companies came together to work as one. There was a contest by the employees to name the new amalgamated business. The result was naming the company, "Earth Power Tractors and Equipment Inc." and the inspiration for the motto of "Helping Shape our World".

Jeff Cook, today's manager at the Meaford branch of Earth Power came in as a business partner in January 2005. He is the sales manager with overall sales and marketing responsibility for the company. In 2012, Manfred Deitrich retired to work in his family business located in Ancaster.

Earth Power Tractors & Equipment expanded again in January 2008 when an opportunity came up in Owen Sound. At the time of purchase Boyd Farm Supply specialized in Kioti tractors and equipment. The owner, Jim Boyd stayed as manager of the store until his retirement in April 2015. This store became a Kubota dealer in 2012

to be consistent with the other two branches of Earth

Today, Earth Power is a three location business with operations in Owen Sound, Meaford and Stayner serving customers in Grey, Bruce and Simcoe Counties. Earth Power calls itself a "Kubota only" dealer. Each location is a full service tractor and construction equipment dealer. There is also service and parts provided for other lines of equipment. The head office is located in Meaford.

Peter Weel, manager of Earth Power in Stayner says that in his career of 12 years with Earth Power, he has seen some changes. "We are getting more business now with estate tractors, landscaping and construction contractors. We still work with many farmers but not as many farmers as it used to be," he said adding he likes working with all people and that is his favourite part of the job.

COVID-19 has meant big

changes at Earth Power. The popular May 8th Open House had to be cancelled. "We are taking full protocols to keep everyone safe," Weel explained. One of the big changes is that the doors to each location have been closed to walk in traffic. Visiters to the business must call the number that is on the door for service. Peter explained that the business is reached by phone or email. Anything needed can be purchased via a

credit card and it will be placed outside for

pick-up by the customer.

"Equipment needing repair is asked to be brought in early so it can sit for 24-48 hours before we work on it. Once it has been worked on, it will be sanitized and we ask that it sits 24-48 hours before it is picked up outside," he explained adding that equipment sales are handled the same way. "We allow people to take out equipment for a test run, but when it comes back it will be sanitized and sit for 24-48 hours. We have areas sectioned off for this purpose. We are being careful," Peter explained.

Customers have been both understanding and in compliance of COVID-19 prevention guidelines, he reported. He said that Earth Power's business is busy and there have been no slowdowns reported yet. Peter says he sure feels bad about not "shaking hands". He reported he sold a \$100,000 piece of equipment and "couldn't shake the customer's hand after the deal- it seemed so wrong but we both knew this is life in COVID-19."

Peter Weel said "Farm View has been very good for us (Earth Power). We do very well with our advertisements. Hardly a week goes by when someone doesn't come and say "I seen your ad in Farm View newspaper..." We make a sale nearly every month directly from that (back page) ad we have. John (former publisher) has been very good to us for many years."

Earth Power, almost business as usual Update from John Morrison, President S.C.F.A.



John Morrison

The pandemic gives rise to a lot of firsts; it's the first time that the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture has held a virtual meeting. There were a few kinks, but it went over well. We'll be holding more meetings like this until this pandemic is

We have been busy on your behalf, attending a virtual Simcoe County Planning Advisory Committee meeting and a Simcoe County Agri-Tourism Committee meeting; making the agricultural concerns heard. We received word from Simcoe County that our request for a Farm Class Tax Ratio reduction was turned down; however, they are giving a tax break to multi

residential housing and industrial units. They said that reducing taxes on industrial land and buildings would attract more industry to Simcoe County.

I have been contacted by the local media wanting to know how COVID-19 has affected farmers in Simcoe County. All farmers in the county have been affected in some way - from nurseries and crops to the horse industry. Livestock farmers are greatly impacted by decreased processing capacity and are dealing with a huge backlog of cattle, hogs, chickens, and sheep waiting to be processed. This will have a ripple effect in the future, as their numbers will be

The grain industry will also be affected as there will be less demand for grains, resulting in a

buyers' market. On a positive note, most farmers have commented on the early spring and how well the ground is working up, resulting in a good seed bed. It has been unseasonably cold and dry, a lot different than last year. Travelling around the county, due to the cold weather, growth is slow especially in the winter wheat crop. The OFA has been working hard on our behalf, to inform both levels of government of the impact of COVID-19 on the farm community. Refer to ofa.on.ca for further information on the impact of and the response to COVID-19 on the farm community.

Stay safe. John Morrison President S.C.F.A.







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South Simcoe 4H club reports

"What would you bring on a hike?"

Adventure Club Report by Isabella Cullen

Hello everyone. My name is Isabella and I'm doing the adventure club report for May. Because of Covid-19, our 4-H clubs are not allowed to meet in person. Our brilliant leaders said members still need activities, so we started Zoom meetings for our clubs, which are like Skype and Facetime - except you can invite a whole classroom or club! We started our meeting just like we do all meetings - by saying the 4-H pledge, taking attendance and doing roll call. The question this time was "what would you bring on a hike?" I would bring a water bottle. We also

shared this meeting with the Hiking Club. After that, one of our leaders got their backpack out and asked the kids to name one thing they thought was in the backpack like toilet paper, sun screen and snacks. Our leaders asked us if we lived on a farm or had a forest to go on a spring hike. Since we can't do hikes as a club right now, my sister and I went for a hike and named 15 things we found. We saw flowers blooming, birds and we found a rusty old bike, which was super cool. Thanks for reading.

4-H Gardening Club press report

By Sarah Dowdall

On Friday April 17th, the South Simcoe 4-H - Garden Club leaders Scott Cullen, Marrianne Norton and our new leader Amber Katirai hosted a Zoom Garden Club meeting. At the meeting there were some technological difficulties with some member's internet but we managed to get past that. We had our election of officers as a usual 4-H club does, except this year it was a little different due to the online meeting format. Instead of each person running for something leaving the room, we had follow up emails where we got to vote. We have Jayme Orr as our President, our Vice President is Isabella Cullen, our Secretary is Lauren Cowan, and myself, Sarah Dowdall, as the Press Reporter. At the meeting, we learned about keeping a garden journal, and how it is good for ourselves and mental health (especially in this time of social isolation due to the Covid-19 crisis). We were encouraged to sketch a lot in our journal, even if we are not artistic. Later, we learned how to make a homemade rain gauge using an empty plastic pop container, some rocks, a ruler and marker - mine is sitting outside collecting rain right now. At the end of the meeting we picked a number between 1-20 and the two closest people got their own rain gauge. Finally, for our homework, we all made a list of fifteen signs of spring. So far I think that the Garden Club is off to a great start and it sure was nice to see everyone again, even if only virtually.

Sporting Chance Living Wellness Club

By Jessica Faust

The first Cookstown Well Living club meeting was held on April 22nd 2020 7:45pm. The meeting was on zoom. We said the 4-H pledge and then had the election of officers. Then we talked about how to stay healthy, what we needed to exercise, and our snack for after our work out. We then exercised. Afterwards we talked about when the next meeting would be and getting the votes in for the election of officers. The meeting was then adjourned. The next meeting is to be held on May 20th 2020 7 pm.

Chess Club: learning so much more

By Nicole Palmateer

We had a great 4-H Cookstown chess season. Our club learned so much about chess including learning what the pieces are, values of pieces, castling, and how each piece moves. Different defenses and what check and checkmate are. We didn't only learn about chess pieces but we also learned stuff about each other like our favourite board game, snack, holiday and chess piece. For each meeting we were asked to dress up or research something, like dressing up as your favourite chess piece or research a famous chess player. Clubs recently had to start doing online meetings because of Covid-19. It's very different doing online meetings but we all work hard and push through this hard time. I had so much fun in this chess club it was so much fun researching stuff and dressing up. I'm definitely coming back next year and you should too.

Thank you Mae and Scott for making this club what it is.



Jayme and Danya Orr using their science experiment kit

Water works 4-H club

By Jayme Orr

On May 3rd we had our water works 4-H club meeting. We started the meeting with the 4-H pledge and that was followed by roll call. We did a very entertaining and exciting experiment to do with cabbage water and testing the PHD of a variety of different liquids. Such as:lemon juice, milk, hydrogen peroxide, and of course many more. We then proceeded to enjoy another experiment with cabbage water and baking soda and calcium chloride. The experiment was very much entertaining and it was very satisfying watching it rise.

Judging eggs in Cookstown

By Jessica Faust

The first Cookstown Judging Club meeting was on April 29th 2020. The meeting was held on Zoom and was about judging eggs. First we said the 4-H pledge and had our election of officers. We then read a paper on how to judge an egg while examining the egg. When we were done we had to judge four dozen eggs in groups of one dozen. We placed the eggs and gave our reasoning. The meeting was then adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 26th 2020 at 7pm.



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THE BIRD HOUSE Contest! The Value of Birds

Growing up close to my grandparents in Bobcaygeon, Ontario, I learned a lot about birds from them. My grandparents spent many days and nights in their backyard with binoculars and books on birds. I didn't have much interest in this during my teenage years but spending time with them was important to me so I went through the motions. One of my fondest memories was the day we spotted a unique bird. Neither of them had seen it in the yard before so they encouraged me to look through pictures in the bird books to see if I could determine what it was. It was an Indigo Bunting. I will never forget the name or the look of that bird because it was what made me realize how exciting the activity could really be. Now that my grandparents are no longer in their own home with the beautiful yard full of feeders and birdbaths, I miss doing this activity with them. When I'm out for a walk, I always notice the different birds around me and hope to see an Indigo Bunting somewhere again. I know this doesn't even begin to cover the true value of birds, but this small activity has really been valuable for me and my great relationship with my lovely grandparents.

Hillary Newman

Childhood memories passed along

I will always remember as a young girl going out to visit my grandparents. Every morning my granddad and I would go out to feed the birds. It brought such joy to see them and hear them chirping. They are beautiful and peaceful creatures. My grandparents would still feed them everyday and tell us how the birds were doing. Now, I have a young daughter who will get to experience this. She loves to feed the "Birdies", especially now that she has a little bird feeder of her own. The amount of excitement she has feeding and watching them is priceless and it is why we take such value in the birds.

Michelle MacDonald

Dufferin Piecemakers Quilting Guild celebrated Nurses week



Dufferin Piecemakers Quilting Guild made donations to Headwaters Health Care Centre and local Seniors Residents as they celebrated Nurses Week May 12th 2020.

To date the Guild and community members have made 838 scrub caps and 503 headbands, (with 2,682 buttons sewn on to them) 539 scrub bags and 165 ear savers. Over 500

facemasks have been distributed to the health care providers, businesses and individuals in the community. As well, \$1,600.00 has been raised for the local Food Banks.

Each kit contained a scrub cap, a scrub bag and either a headband or an ear saver. Special thanks to everyone who contributed to this life saving effort.





Pictured above nine boxes with 300 kits for Headwaters HCC. Seniors receive gowns donated by the Guild (left)

Story and photos provided by: Leah Mitchell, Historian for the Dufferin Piecemakers Quilting Guild

Soothing mental therapy

I am writing in regards to the bird contest. In our backyard we have two bird feeders and during this stay at home period due to the virus, we are able to watch the birds go back and forth form the feeders to the trees. Even on the cold days we dress warmly and sit on the deck or lawn chairs and watch the Chickadees and Gold Finches. What great mental therapy they provide as we watch them come and go, free as a bird. The cost of bird feed is little compared to the value we get from watching the birds. A chickadee house would be a great addition. Thank you.

James Vidal

Valuable family time

For the last three or more years we have had the pleasure of watching a pair of Robins nest in a cedar tree just outside our front door. Our young granddaughter wanted to see the eggs and then the babies each time she came to visit. The pair just set up housekeeping in the last couple days so we can once again enjoy their company. In the past they've sat on the porch railing close by us while we enjoy a morning coffee. They seem to know that we will respect their parenting and not interfere. The enjoyment of watching these Robins and our granddaughters excitement each time she looks in the nest is why birds are valuable to us.

Linda McKague



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REMINDER to our readers; if you have won a nesting box in our contest, please try to send us a picture when your new tenants move in to start their family. We'll include it in an upcoming issue of Farm View. Be sure to include your name and location.

Roslyn Watkins, Publisher



The ghost town of Desaulniers



Desaulnier is a one-time farming community in Nipissing District, near Sudbury, whose rail-side buildings, fields dotted with hay crofts, and bustling Main Street have virtually vanished with the passage of time. Hushed now, the village was once bustling with activity.

The community began with a single man and a vision. In the late 19th century, a number of Francophone

communities were established in the relatively fertile soils north of Lake Nipissing. Settlement had been encouraged by Catholic priests, who saw increasing the French-Canadian population in the region as a means to boost the fortunes of the Catholic Church there.

One of these priests was Father A.L. Desaulniers who, in 1895, decided to start a settlement farther north in Gibson Township. A first wave of eager settlers arrived that year, hoping to cash in on a promise of personal self-sufficiency the priest was promoting. They cleared land for farms, and opened a store with an attached post office. The young community, desperately fighting to establish roots in the northern Ontario soil, was named Desaulniers. But not for the visionary Father; instead, the new village was named after Sainte-Anne-de-Desaulniers.

It was a difficult life at first, and many must have wondered if the village did indeed have God's blessing. Homesteaders struggled throughout the summer to clear their land and cultivate enough crops to feed their families, then sought employment in lumber camps during the winter. In the best of years families found it difficult to break even.

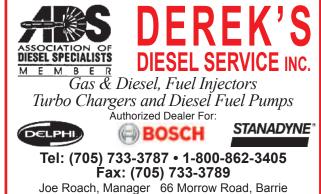
But things changed with the arrival of the Canadian Northern Railway in 1913. The railway built a station and siding at Desaulniers, allowing farming goods to be shipped to distant markets and encouraging the construction of a trackside sawmill. Lionel Vallieres opened a cheese factory, providing a ready-market for locally produced milk. Suddenly, virtually overnight, Desaulniers fortunes were reversed and worn-down homesteaders began to bask in relative prosperity.

Desaulniers continued to grow. A boarding house sprung up beside the railway station, offering modest but welcome-nonetheless overnight accommodation. There were two schools, a public school and French Separate School, and a second store. The railway



Andrew Hind has been writing full-time for approximately 18 years. He has written for dozens of publications, ranging from Muskoka Life and Lakeland Boating to Wild West to Canada's History, and is the author of 25 books. The most recent books are Silver and Ghosts: Creepy Cobalt and Region (available now at Amazon) and Exploring Hidden Muskoka, which has been postponed until next summer due to the effects of the pandemic. Andrew is currently conducting research for a sequel to his book Muskoka Resorts: Then and Now and a book on ghost towns of the Nipissing Road.







facilities grew to include a residence for the stationmaster, homes for section workers, and a water tower.

Incredibly, especially in light of the religious auspices under which the community was founded, it wasn't until 1915 that a church was built in Desaulniers. And even then, it wasn't without controversy. The bishop of Sault Sainte Marie Diocese, which encompassed Nipissing District, was an Irish-Canadian priest named Monseigneur Scollard. Resentful of French-Canadian inroads in the area, and angry over French-Canadian resistance to World War One (voluntary enlistment in Quebec lagged far, far behind the rest of Canada), Scollard refused to consecrate the new church. Indeed, the bishop's opposition to Francophone colonization of his diocese was so entrenched that it put a halt to any new settlement schemes.

Residents of Desaulniers repeatedly petitioned Scollard to consecrate the church, but he stubbornly refused, claiming that since he wasn't personally consulted on the church's construction it had no official sanction. The people of Desaulniers wouldn't take no for an answer, however, and continued to pester the bishop. Finally, Scollard relented—in a fashion. On September 16, 1916, Bishop Scollard officially 'opened' the church, but he would not go so far as consecrate it. In fact, the Desaulniers house of worship was never consecrated and therefore technically was never officially a Catholic church.

Desaulniers thrived as a small farming community until the 1940s, but by then times were changing. The sawmill was long gone, for example, and businesses were moving to larger nearby communities. Perhaps worse, the farms that were the foundation of the community never quite thrived as Father Desaulniers had promised. The village was floundering. Farm fields were soon reverting to pasture and town lots weeding over. The post office closed in 1960, and the store sign was turned to 'closed' not long after. By that time fewer than 50 people called it home.

Desaulniers is pretty silent now and virtually unrecognizable as a one-time community. Road realignment paved over some of the village. Of those buildings that weren't torn down for road construction, most have succumbed to the weight of ages, often slowly, reluctantly, as if unwilling to accept the village is no more.

The village's one-time main street looks like nothing more than a country laneway, with the store, railway station, water tower and mill having long vanished. A few period homes remain occupied, but the weathered boarding house stands silent and almost mournful. Even the railway tracks have been lifted, the former rail-bed now a multi-use recreational trail that extends off into the distance as if reaching to the distant past when Desaulniers was a thriving community.



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Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

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I'm reading a book on the history of glue. I just can't seem to put it down.

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OFA Farm Safety Photo Contest

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) has launched a new photo contest for farm families in Ontario. The Farm Safety Photo Contest is open to all OFA members, their immediate families, and employees of OFA members.

OFA encourages members to submit photos that demonstrate safe farm practices and operations on their farm and on the road. We want to see farm and road safety at work on your farm.

Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 winning photographs with the grand prize winner receiving a farm safety kit valued at \$200.

The contest includes one general category featuring farm and road safety photos. Photographs can include, but are not limited to: members demonstrating proper livestock handling, equipment showcasing their slow moving vehicle signs, showcasing loads that are properly secured and abiding by weight regulations, etc. Showcase how your farm stays safe every day on the farm and on the road.

Limit of two photo entries per eligible participant.

All contest winners will be announced at OFA's 2020 Annual General Meeting held in November at the RBC Place, London, Ontario. Winning photographs will be featured on the OFA website and in the 2021 edition of OFA Today magazine.

The deadline to submit photo entries is Friday, July 31, 2020.

To enter visit https://ofa.on.ca/photocontest

Free classified word ads (maximum of 40 words) are for non-profit individuals and farm groups. Ads can be mailed or emailed. They must reach us by the 15th of the month before the next month's issue. Telephone orders are invoiced at \$15 for the first 25 words. Word ads run in one issue only and must be re-submitted each month to repeat. For mail-in ads, use the space below to neatly print out your FREE classifiedword advertisement.

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Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) reopened May 15, 2020

After weeks of closure, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) reopened conservation areas for public use on Friday, May 15, 2020. To ensure the safety of the community, only walking trails are open at this time. Buildings and bathrooms are closed for the time being.

"We are very pleased to be able to reopen our conservation areas" said Byron Wesson, Director of Conservation Services at the NVCA. "Our staff started to check and maintain the trails this past Monday. We understand everyone's frustration about wanting to get back to our conservation areas as soon as possible, but the safety of our visitors and staff are our highest priority.'

The NVCA asks visitors to respect physical distancing rules and not to gather in groups of larger than five people, and staying at least 2 metres (or 6 feet) away from other groups.

Visitors to NVCA's conservation areas are required to purchase a daily parking pass (\$6.50/day) or an annual parking pass (\$45/year). Daily parking passes are available for purchase at the conservation area or at home. To purchase an annual parking pass, please email admin@nvca.on.ca. Here is more

Please note that conservation areas are managed by Conservation Authorities while Parks and Conservation Reserves are managed by the Province of Ontario. If you're interested in visiting other conservation areas around the province, contact the please appropriate Conservation Authority.

information about parking fees.



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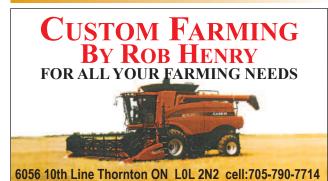
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