

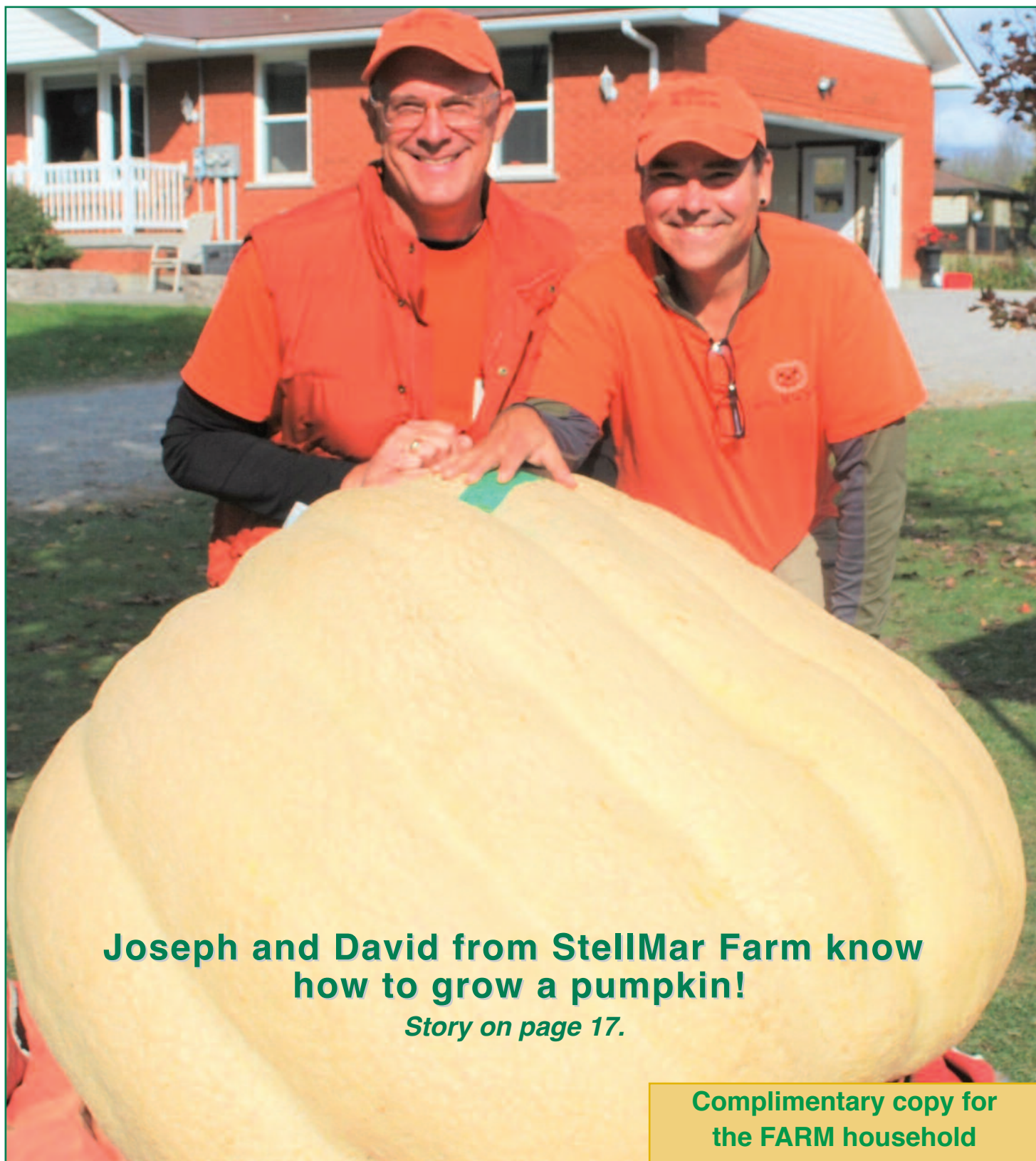
FARM VIEW

43rd year of publication!

November 2020

Volume 43 #11

A newspaper with something for everyone



**Joseph and David from StellMar Farm know
how to grow a pumpkin!**

Story on page 17.

**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.

November 1st-7th Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week

Carbon Monoxide safety article on page 10.

November 4th, 10th, 17th OSCIA Webinars

Producers are invited to attend FREE (fourth edition) Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) two-day workshops to assess your farm business learn more about on-farm environmental best management practices develop Action Plans and learn more about cost-sharing opportunities.

November 5th Virtual Workshop

Selling Food to Ontario. See the ad on page 7 for details.

November 10th & 12th Feeding Your Future

Virtual career fair. See Leah Emms column on page 9 for details.

November 10th-14th The Royal Winter Fair

Agricultural Virtual Experience. Free registration <https://www.royalfair.org/>

November 11th Remembrance Day

November 16th News and Advertising deadline

The deadline for news and advertising in the December edition of Farm View is Monday November 16th, 2020.

November 23rd OFA General Meeting

The meeting will take place virtually from 9am to 12:30pm. OFA members are welcome to join.



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Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel (written by kids)

•Deciding Who To Marry:

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. —Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. —Kristen, age 10

•What Is The Right Age To Get Married?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. —Camille, age 10

•How Can A Stranger Tell If Two People Are Married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

—Derrick, age 8

•What Do You Think Your Mom And Dad Have In Common?

Both don't want any more kids. —Lori, age 8

•What Do Most People Do On A Date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

—Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. —Martin, age 10

•When Is It Okay To Kiss Someone?

When they're rich. —Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. —Curt, age 7

•Is It Better To Be Single Or Married?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them.

—Anita, age 9

•How Would You Make A Marriage Work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck. —Ricky, age 9

Devotional Corner

The Hope God Brings

By Kathleen Greidanus
Retired Priest



The month of November has always presented as being very dour to me. Physical darkness and poor weather seem to match or help create the general mood. In the Church calendar we begin the month with All Saints' Day (commemoration of all who showed the love of Christ despite oppression), followed by All Souls' Day (commemoration of all the faithful departed) and topped off by Remembrance Day on November 11 in the secular calendar. I wonder how Remembrance Day will be observed this year with Covid-19 still very much in play?

I am fortunate to have not experienced outright war but because my parents were both involved in WW 2 I feel it is part of my heritage. I have heard the stories from my mother of what it was like to be issued a gas mask at school or to see school chums killed or maimed during air raids. Without any doubt WW 2 was the defining event of that generation.

In contrast to these sombre emotions I have joy in my heart at the birth of our first grandson, Nathan. When I hold that beautiful little baby I think of people who have lost or sacrificed their lives in various causes and they all started out like this peacefilled little child. I also think of Jesus, God incarnate, who entered a world of war and disease, no different than ours, as a little baby. I think of the reason Jesus came into the world – not to teach us, or be an example of good behaviour, but to die on the cross for our sins.

Without the hope that God offers us this would indeed be a very dark world. However, there is good news. Jesus said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and is committed to me in faith shall not die for ever." John 11:25-26 Therein I place my life and hope, and not just for me but us all.

Shalom,
Kathlene

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.



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News from the pews...



• St. George's
Anglican Church
Utopia,
8360 6th Line
9:00 a.m. Service

• Christ Church
St. Jude's
Anglican Church
Ivy, 7330 9th Line
11:00 a.m. Service



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OFA recognizes vital contributions along the value chain during Small Business Month



By **Steve Brackenridge**,
Director, Ontario Federation
of Agriculture

October was Small Business Month in Canada. It is a time dedicated to recognizing the contributions that entrepreneurs and small businesses have to our communities and their passion which drives our economy forward.

We know that many small businesses in our rural communities were affected by COVID-19. Whether they are local restaurants, abattoirs, grain elevators, farm markets, downtown retail shops, or rural agritourism operators – our agri-food community is made up of small businesses.

Many small businesses continue to suffer from challenges around marketing their products during the pandemic. Ongoing broadband reliability issues pose challenges for many farm businesses to create an online presence for their products and encourage visitors to purchase their goods. This has the potential to result in revenue loss and declining sales, affecting many small businesses across Ontario.

From personal experience, we operate a maple syrup business and a large portion of marketing and sales stems directly from local festivals and agri-tourism. With increasing COVID-19 restrictions and seasonal event cancellations, our customer base has declined. The lack of agri-tourism is problematic for farmers who rely on local festivals and seasonal events to bring consumers to their business.

In an effort to stimulate regional economic growth, the Ontario government announced Ontario's Main Street Recovery Plan on October 7 to help businesses reopen safer, rehire faster and

recover from the financial impacts of COVID-19.

If passed, the Main Street Recovery Act would see \$60 million contributed to the program and would result in a number of benefits for rural communities. The proposed act includes: a one-time grant up to \$1,000 for eligible main street small businesses, a Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Network for access to tailored advice and information, Digital Main Street Squads to help small businesses grow online, mental health supports for families, employees and communities, and a Small Business Recovery Webpage to provide single-window access to small business supports.

Main streets of rural communities are social and economic community hubs. Ontario farmers rely on these businesses to ensure that their agri-food products get to market and they can access the tools and services to continue to produce high-quality, affordable food.

In addition to the agri-food supply chain, 96% of Ontario farm families are operating their farm businesses with under 10 employees. Most farmers are small business owners too, and need support to keep their workers and families safe during COVID-19.

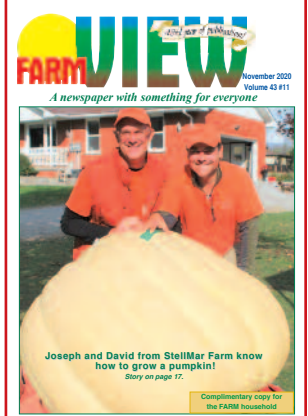
As a small business owner with five employees, we have directly felt the impact of COVID-19 on our workforce. It has required our business to be flexible and make alternative arrangements in order to allow our employees to be able to care for their families and children.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada announced on October 13, that they will invest an additional \$11.6 million to help support efforts by Ontario producers to protect against the spread of COVID-19 on their farms. This investment will top-up the Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program to \$26.6 million, a program

delivered through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Protecting our farm families' health and well-being ensures we can keep producing safe, high-quality food while protecting our vital agri-food workers and farm families. The Ontario agri-food community supports each other – now more than ever. These financial investments in small businesses and rural communities enable our agri-food sector to drive the economy forward and rebound as we navigate our road to recovery in the wake of a pandemic.

OFA would like to encourage everyone to buy local, visit local and support local. Small businesses are at the heart of our strong and vibrant communities. We need to ensure these vital operations are still standing long after this pandemic is over.

For more information contact:
Steve Brackenridge Director, OFA
705-872-7629



On the Cover

"The Pumpkin Guys"
Read the story about
StellMar Farm and
Kawartha Farmfest on
page 17.

— Photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Remembrance Day
Remember all our fallen Heroes.
Today, tomorrow and always.

On the 11th hour, on the 11th
day, on the 11th month
when the guns fell silent,
we will remember.



A message from
**The Simcoe County
Federation of Agriculture**



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JD 2623 33' (E80998)
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90%, SGL POINT DEPTH
CNTRL, WING STABILIZER
WHEELS
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ZZ 20' (E83454)
2013, MANDAKO TWISTER
VT DISK, 20'WORKING
WIDTH, CAST RING HITCH,
HYD ADJUST DISK GANGS,
12.Lx15 TIRES, WALKING
TANDEM MAIN & WING
FRAMES
\$29,480.00



JD 637 (E85084B)
2010, 32', ROCK-FLEX
GANGS, TANDEM DISC,
MANUAL ADJUST
FORE/AFT, SINGLE PT
DEPTH CONTROL, REAR
HITCH W/HYD, TRANS-
PORT LIGHTS
\$33,690.00

KO SBC (E82452): KONGSKILDE SBC, 40', 4"SPACING, HD S-TINE, 4.5" SWEEPS, BOLT-ON SWEEPS, 50% REMAINING, 5 SECTION DOUBLE FOLD, CLEVIS HITCH \$18,430.00

JD 200 (E83473): 2010, 45', SOIL CONDITIONER, 14"DIA, HYDRAULIC LIFT, SINGLE ROUND BAR BASKET, 5-SECTION DOUBLE FOLD, TELESCOPIC TONGUE, SINGLE TRANSPORT WHEELS \$23,060.00

SA 450 (E84615A): 2006, Salford, 26', IND MTD BLADES, VERTICAL TILL, MAN ADJ FORE/AFT, 17.5" FRONT BLADE DIA, 17.5" REAR BLADE DIA, 3-SECTION - 2 WINGS \$24,220.00

SF 5054-43 (E84665): 2001, SUNFLOWER, 43.5', 6"SPACING, C-SHANK,, 5-BAR SPIKE HARROW, SELF LEVELING HITCH,, SINGLE POINT DEPTH CONTROL, REAR HITCH W/HYD, \$32,640.00

UN 1225 (E84665B): 2012, UNVERFERTH 1225 ROLLING HARROW, X-FOLD, 45' WORKING WIDTH, BUSTER LEVELING BAR, GREEN, 2-DBL ROLLING HARROWS, WING HYD GAUGE WHEEL \$16,850.00

SW 4540SDX (E84694): 2017, SOIL WARRIOR, 16 ROW STRIP TILL, 10 TON CAP, COMPLETE W/STEERING KIT/ACTIVE IMPL GUIDANCE, ROW CLEANERS, STAINLESS STEEL METER BODIES \$327,430.00

ZZ 9' (E84975A): INDUSTRIAS AMERICA 2424 9' RIGID GANG OFFSET DISC, MAN. ADJU FORE/AFT, 9" REAR BLADE SPACING, 22" FRONT BLADE DIA, 22" REAR BLADE DIA \$7,900.00

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FROM THE EDITOR

My sister, Diana, sent me the following while I was in 'production' mode for this issue. It made me laugh because it is so incredibly true. Also it reminded me of how much fun we had growing up with music always playing in the house.

ME AT 18: THIS RADIO STATION IS PLAYING MY JAMS.

ME AT 25: THIS BAR IS PLAYING MY JAMS.

ME NOW: THIS GROCERY STORE IS PLAYING MY JAMS.

Some of you may not know this but my Dad, John Beischer, was a very skilled DJ when I was younger. John DJ'd dances, weddings, parties almost always with my mom by his side. Diana and I have many memories of the turn tables hanging from the ceiling in the sunroom of our first childhood home. There was a perfect sized dance floor and everything. We were very fortunate to receive quite a good music education at a very young age.

Speaking of the former Farm View publisher, many of you have asked what John has been up to since retiring. Here is an excerpt of John's recent travels;

"Hi all.

My campfire has died out and I am back into this 'vintage' motorhome for the night. I am in Mallorytown on the shore

of the ST. Lawrence River, just west of Brockville. After a wonderful visit with friends in Prescott.

I left home last weekend, Roslyn promised to look after LUCY the cat, so I had no worries.

On Tuesday of last week I visited my Brother-in-law Don in Lindsay and he arranged with his wonderful building superintendent to let me park in the visitor parking lot and plug my camper into the 110 volt outlet which kept my fridge and Catsup chilled as necessary. Thanks, Don. And thanks for the 'around town' tour that got my holiday off to a nice start.

On Wednesday morning I headed east on Hwy 7 and enjoyed the fall colours all the way to Havelock where I turned South and headed to Brighton. From here I proceeded to Presqu'ile Provincial Park on the shore of Lake Ontario. Never in my life have I been more proud of our Park system. This park had nothing to offer EXCEPT miles of hiking and biking trails which I enjoyed immensely. My camp site was 15 feet from the Lake Ontario shoreline. My campfire burned bright until the gale force winds moved in about midnight and rocked the camper to and fro, for several troubling hours.

Followed by heavy rains, the morning was cold, wet and uncomfortable. This Provincial Park [like most], had no

electric or water hook ups. When the rain stopped, I jumped on my bike and headed for the opposite end of the park [6 kilometers] to visit the Lighthouse which is the main feature of this park. Good trip. Well worth the visit to see another Ontario landmark.

On the next day I headed east on Hwy 33 [historical route, through Prince Edward County] through some of the most beautiful countryside I have ever seen. Lots of wineries and orchards. Just after dark the road came to an end!!! Not to worry the Federal Government built a ferry crossing [15 minutes] and I was on my way to Kingston. Later that night I arrived in the nations 'prison' capitol and tried to find a campsite. Couldn't find Walmart. Found Loblaws. Uninterrupted until the next morning when the parking lot turned into a '1/4 mile challenge track'. Time to head east. But first I must visit the Kingston Pen. I wanted to see where all of Jill's relatives got their early training. The graffiti on the wall confirmed my suspicions; Barry, Kenny and Jimmy all spent time in residence here.

The 'pen' has lots of stories, ask me about them when we get together next time.

Til then,
John"

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I really enjoy your farm Newspaper. Glad it is continuing in good hands.

Regards,
Jim Armstrong



Princess Odena photographed above is a Canadian horse, our National Breed. She is a descendent from a shipload of horses sent to Canada in the 1660's by King Louis XIV to his subjects in New France. Only the hardiest survived those first tough pioneering decades, leading to the breed's nickname "little iron horse."

Princess Odena was born 15 years ago on the Ivy farm. She has a beautiful spirit and loves people.

— Photo by Mary Lucky

Dear Constituents,

Although I have been discussing my intentions with family, friends and constituents for months, I have formally informed the Simcoe-Grey Progressive Conservative Riding Association that I will not be seeking the party nomination to run as their candidate in the next Ontario provincial election; nor will I run as an independent candidate. I have asked the Association to establish a Candidate Search Committee and begin the process of reviewing potential candidates for the next election.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to have represented the riding for more than 30 years. I am grateful for the support shown me since I was first elected in 1990, and returned to the legislature with healthy pluralities in seven subsequent General Elections. In that time, our region has experienced significant growth, and I have done my best in government, in opposition and independently to ensure that the province delivered the services and infrastructure our families, businesses and communities need to succeed and

prosper into the future.

In the coming months I will continue to fight in the Legislature for the priorities constituents have told me are most important. Topping the list are advancing the proposed redevelopments of the Collingwood and Alliston hospitals, improved and more health care options for our senior citizens, and fair access to the drugs and services needed by vulnerable citizens, in particular young people living with Cystic Fibrosis. I will continue to advocate on behalf of the businesses that employ our residents and contribute to our community's prosperity. As always, the well-being of individuals and families will guide my actions.

I want to congratulate Premier Ford, and my colleagues in his government, for the exceptional work they are doing leading Ontario's response to the most challenging health crisis the world has seen in generations. Together we can defeat COVID-19.

I do not know what is in store for me personally in the years to come. Be assured that I will always have the best interests of Simcoe-Grey in mind and will continue to contribute in any way that I can.

Thank-you everyone for your help and support. I am honoured and humbled.

Please accept my best wishes.
Hon. Jim Wilson

A letter from South Simcoe 4-H

In addition to the sponsors of South Simcoe 4-H listed in the October issue of Farm View. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the following sponsors.

Schomberg Ag. Society and
Ontario Dairy Youth Trust Fund
Sincerely,
The South Simcoe 4-H Association

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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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:

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

2019 Executive – Simcoe County

President:	John Morrison:	705-435-7598
Vice President:	Dave Ritchie	705-534-4017
PAC Members:	John Morrison and Dave Ritchie	
SCFA Phone:	726-9300 ext 1224	
	(from Beeton & area dial 729-2294)	

2018 Executive – York Region

President:	Jakab Schneider	905-859-1104
Contact YRFA:	york@ofa.on.ca	

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President:	Bill McCutcheon	519-928-9626
1st Vice	Gail Little	519-925-2983
2nd Vice/Treas.	George Van Kampen	519-940-2202

2018 Executive – Peel County

President:	Ryan Wright	416-559-3276
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JD 7210R 2015 ... \$278,900
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PTO, 650/38 SGL, 5 REMOTES, 2668 HRS



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JD 7230R 2014 ... \$192,495
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REMOTES, 2508 HRS



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JD 7280R 2013 ... \$195,900
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REMOTES, 3830 HRS



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CIH 190 2011 ... \$119,900
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JD 9230 2011 ... \$215,995
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JD 9400 2000 ... \$115,900
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Duty to Serve, Duty to Remember: Remembrance Day

— Story and photos provided by Andrew Hind

"If I had to do it all over again, would I? You bet. I was happy to serve our country and wouldn't have missed it for anything," Penetanguishene-native Larry Desjardin told me a few years before his passing on June 19, 2009. "War is terrible, there's no way around it. Funny thing is, I could have left the service any time I wanted because I was so underage (Larry lied about his age to enlist) and under regulation weight, but I wouldn't even think about it. It was my duty to serve."

Larry Desjardins enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1940 and served throughout the Second World War. His post-war recollections were hardly unique. I've had the privilege of speaking with several dozen veterans over the years. One would expect them to talk painfully and reluctantly about their war-time experiences, but I've found just the opposite to be the case. Our veterans are, to a man, generous with their memories and more than willing to discuss their experiences.

To these men, virtues such as duty and honor are not outmoded or fanciful virtues, but a creed they unswervingly hold to. They are the product of a different generation, one when devotion to country came before devotion to one's own ambitions. But most impressively, they are a modest breed of man, not given to boasting of their deeds or judging the generations that followed.

Twice in the past centuries, Canadians were asked to make sacrifices almost unimaginable today. During both World Wars, for years on end, Canadians faced rationing, shortages, bad news from abroad, and the absence of thousands of young men – and many women – serving in uniform.

When World War One, the so-called Great War, erupted in Europe in 1914, Canada had no real military tradition save for the 75,000-strong militia. Yet, the nation stepped forward to defend King and Country.

With a population of only 8 million in 1914, Canada's 600,000 troops—of whom more than 66,000 died and nearly 150,000 were wounded—represented an extraordinary contribution to the British Empire's struggle during the First World War. Incredibly, the army was almost entirely volunteer based.

Canada's soldiers proved themselves to be a remarkable army in their own right; over the course of four years of fighting, the Canadian Corps earned for itself an elite reputation on the Western Front and, in the process, founded a national tradition.

When the guns fell silent on November 11, 1918, Canada's soldiers imagined their sacrifice had ensured enduring peace. Sadly, that wasn't to be the case. Only 20 years later, another World War broke out.

Once again, Canada was unprepared for war, with a tiny navy and army and no real air force to speak of. By the end of the war, Canada had the world's fourth largest air force, and fifth largest navy, with 400 vessels, including two aircraft carriers. The army had grown to 730,000, seeing service in Italy and Northwest Europe where elements participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy, then liberated the French Channel ports and helped free the Netherlands from Nazi subjugation. In all, 1.1 million Canadians served in the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Navy, and Royal Canadian Air Force, with some 42,000 killed in combat.

Canada's contribution to the war extended beyond the uniformed services. The Canadian Merchant Marine completed over 25,000 voyages across the Atlantic, sustaining not only Canada's armed forces but indeed the entire nation of Britain which was dependant in imports for most of its foodstuffs and resources. 130,000 Allied pilots were trained in Canada in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. And Canada's industry churned out thousands of tanks, aircraft, and other armaments; Britain's official

History of the Second World War described Canada's large-scale production of military trucks, more than a half-million in all, was our nation's greatest contribution to the Allied victory.

"I'll admit that I was scared a lot during the war, but I reasoned that if everyone else could perform despite their fears, then so could I," said Spitfire pilot Charles Darrow. "It also helped that I flew with some very intrepid guys, men whose heroism inspired me. Their professionalism and fearlessness made me want to live up to their standards, to do the squadron proud. That motivation allowed me



Larry Desjardins as a young soldier

to get past most of the fear. Still, there were moments of sheer terror that proved impossible to forget and which remain vivid to this day."

Barrie-born Bob Graham enlisted as a 16-year old in 1942 shortly after the disastrous Dieppe raid, that 1000 Canadians killed and another 2000 made prisoner out of a force of 5000 men involved. "The defeat made us realize it was going to be a long, hard war and only made our desire to serve stronger." Graham served at D-Day, when he nearly drowned in heavy surf due to the amount of gear soldiers carried, and was later wounded twice in combat, once while clearing a minefield and the other – a significant chest wound – while clearing the French port of Boulogne.

"There's no doubt it felt good for the war to end. No one likes war, after all," Graham told me. "But serving in the army was a positive experience for me. It certainly made memories that lasted a lifetime, both good and bad. It was my duty to serve."

Our duty is to remember the service and sacrifice of men like Bob Graham, Charles Darrow, Larry Desjardins, and millions of others like them who served in uniform during the two World Wars, as well as the many smaller military actions since.



Larry Desjardins, second from right, pictured with his unit in Holland.

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AP17-DE17

Kawartha Farmfest: Crow Hill Farm

— Story and photo
by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Crow Hill Corriedales Farm participated in this year's Farmfest with a display booth at a host farm. For many years, Crow Hill Farm located in Cameron was on the Farmfest tour but due to COVID-19 regulations that could not happen due to space restrictions.

Leslie Dymont said "I am grateful to be invited to the O'Brien Family farm to be part of this year's event. I like the new way of advance sale tickets and having guests come at a set time instead of all at once. This year has been great!"

Leslie and her husband Craig are owners of the biggest registered Corriedale flock in Canada. The Corriedale are a dual purpose breed which means they are used equally for wool and meat production. The Corriedale is a cross of the Merino and the Lincoln sheep that started in Australia and New Zealand. The cross was made to fit the need for a sheep that could live in low rainfall areas and supply long wool. The fleece is dense and is medium-fine with appealing length and softness for spinners to use. The first Corriedale came to the United States in 1914.

Corriedale wool is highly sought after. Crow Hill takes raw fleece to the local Mariposa Woolen Mill in Oakwood to have it custom processed. Rovings in natural colours of white, cream, grays, brown and black are available. There is now "Corriedale Yarn" for sale at the Mariposa Woolen Mill Shoppe from Crow Hill farm.

Shepherds from across Canada especially interested in improving wool quality are turning to Crow Hill for breeding stock. Crow Hill has imported, through AI, genetics from Tasmania, Australia. There is a waiting list kept to keep up with demand as people are recognizing the Corriedale for its dual purpose quality.

Shepherds from across Canada especially interested in improving wool quality are turning to Crow Hill for breeding stock. Crow Hill has imported, through AI, genetics from Tasmania, Australia. There is a waiting list kept to keep up with demand as people are recognizing the Corriedale for its dual purpose quality.



This is Leslie Dymont of Crow Hill Farm beside her display booth as part of Kawartha Farmfest held in early October. Leslie is holding up a gorgeous tanned hide and beside her are bins of beautiful yarn, both grown at the farm she shares with her husband Craig. Crow Hill Farm has the biggest Corriedale sheep flock in Canada.

"We waste nothing from our dual purpose breed," Leslie explains adding that there is freezer lamb available for sale and there are also tanned hides available.

The goal at Crow Hill Farm is to farm sustainably and be kind to the land. For drainage, Leslie and Craig chose to build a pond in the area that was a former wetland of years ago. It was reconstructed back to a wetland to give habitat back to many creatures including frogs, turtles and birds. The area is now used by both ducks for pairing and birds for nesting. The farm includes a tall grass prairie and meadow which is a habitat for bees and adds to Leslie's beekeeping side business. As an apprentice of one of the area's most respected beekeepers, the late Eric Found, many would say Leslie learned from one of the best. She currently has two bee yards of hives. She is passing on her bee education to two apprentices.

Crow Hill can be reached at www.crowhillcorriedales.ca

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Vanishing Barns: local history captured through photos and stories

— *Story and photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill*

There isn't anyone that has an interest in farming today or from the past that won't want to read "Vanishing Barns." A book lovingly researched by local farmer's daughter, Cathy Johnston Walton.

The book itself is a giant, it is over 300 pages, and overflowing in history like never told before. It is one thing to identify and have pictures of barns along the local Township roads of Vespra and Flos; it's the extra of having a personal farm story with each barn location that sets this book apart from all others. It is summarized best by Margaret Davenport of Hillsdale, "You're not writing this book for the people you interview. You are writing it for the generations to come."

For a farmer, there are few sights sadder than seeing a barn become empty, then abandoned and then fall in from weather damage. That old barn was once the center of a farm family's existence. This is where the majority of the income would be made and this held the horses, the transporters of years ago. Most barns also had milking cows, sheep, laying hens, and pigs which supplied the family in milk, beef, wool, eggs and pork. Generations worked together in the barn, children went to the barn as soon as they could toddle out there, and chores were an integral part of the farmer's life. "He's choring" never needed to be explained. And the author knows all this - and this was key to making this book happen. The stories collected here are from farmers talking to farmers.

The author herself grew up on a farm in the area. Her parents were farmers in Minesing and today her nephews work the same farms. Cathy left the farm for university, and it was her first job at the Simcoe County Museum that summer that was to change her outlook on life. "I wasn't interested in history until I worked at that Museum. The history at the Museum is local and I found I loved local history. It's all about people and I'm a people person." The young graduate was a fully licensed elementary school teacher but there were no jobs to be found in her home area. Finally, she got accepted for a job at Baxter Central PS which she was shocked to be given since she knew competition was strong. "The reason I got the job was because of my 4-H history. I had completed over 20 4-H clubs," she says adding that first teaching job led to a 34 year career that involved teaching at Baxter, Barrie, Stayner and Minesing public schools.

Cathy Johnston met her husband when she was 2 and he was 4 years old. The two lived with their families on neighbouring farms. "I married the boy next door." The married couple live on the Walton family farm that Cathy says is "only" 130 years old, and their 50 acre farm is right next to where Cathy grew up.

With roots deep in Springwater Township, Cathy watched the farming landscape change. While small farms could sustain a family years ago, today it takes an off-farm job also. Many farms are therefore sold and become part of large farming operations that don't need barns on each property. These unwanted barns often simply fall down.

It was at a 50th birthday party that the author talked to her cousin about the barns vanishing and how all that history should be documented before it was lost forever. On her way home from the party, Cathy was deep in thought. She realized that she was the person for the job. She had the camera, the time now that she was retired and the interest. The plan at first was to photo document the barns in

Springwater Township which is the amalgamated townships of Flos and Vespra and the town of Elmvale- but the idea started to grow.

"I was talking to someone about the book idea and realized that each farm had a story. I decided to add a story for each farm," she explains. She began her massive project by dropping 300 self-addressed envelopes into mailboxes containing a letter asking for the farm history for her book. She was delighted to have many replies come back.

"I have met so many wonderful people in the seven years researching and writing this book," she says adding she found a huge resource in her Dad and says the book could not have happened without him.

Cathy's Dad, Alan G. Johnston is 95 years old with a sharp mind especially for recalling dates and names. "Dad can give me the history of several generations for each farm he remembers. He is the fourth generation of our family living in the area. He retired from farming in his 80's and after retiring continued being fit by walking two miles every day. Now he continues to walk using his walker. He is enjoying his "fame" as an author's Dad."

Fred Priest from Barrie is one of the many interesting people that came into Cathy's life because of this book. He had helped with the improvement of many barns in the area. One of the barns he helped to raise up is on page 116 of the book. The original barn was built on mud sills. The "single boarded stable was very cold, allowing in wind, rain and snow." The barn was jacked up using manual labour and railway ties, and a cement foundation put under it. It was built into the side of the hill with access to the threshing floors at ground level.

The author took seven years to gather information to formulate her book. She never kept track of the time. "This book is not about making money, it's about keeping history," she says. She was always warmly greeted by people she had never met before. They often wished they had asked their relatives more questions.

"I learned more about my Grandfather, George G. Johnston who was an MPP in this area. I was seven when he died so I didn't know him well. People who knew him spoke highly of him." She says adding George Johnston Road in Minesing was named for him.

Cathy says she's not the only person that is interested in preserving barn history. She credits the Ontario Barn Preservation Association and the Simcoe County Historical Society as sources to learn more about barns.

Vanishing Barns: Remembering the Gentle Giants Through Photographs, Stories, Diaries and Genealogy by Cathy Johnson Walton costs \$40.00. Orders can be sent by email to snowflake53@mail.com or by calling 705-728-1388.



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Feeding Your Future virtual career fairs



By Leah Emms
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Did you know that the OFA website is your best resource for COVID-19 updates? There is an extensive list of all the government programs and a direct link to the program details.

When COVID-19 shutdown was taking place this spring, the horticultural sector was under extreme pressure due to the travel restrictions imposed on migrant seasonal workers. OFA started to receive calls from unemployed Ontario residents wanting to help farmers. OFA partnered with Ag Careers to develop a project that would assist farmers to find skilled workers. The project was named Feeding your Future. It features a job matching service in which farmers can receive professional guidance on creating and posting agricultural jobs. An added bonus is that farmers can post their job for free on AgCareers.com

Feeding Your Future also offers virtual career fairs across the province. Employers have a virtual booth that job seekers visit to learn more about the job and the company. To date,

there have been nine of these career fairs. Plans are well on the way for the next one to take place during the virtual Royal Winter Fair on November 10th & 12th. Agri-Businesses and Ontario farmers can easily take advantage of this resource tool created just for our sector. Nine webinars have also been held for employers and job seekers on industry topics such as Agri-Food Workplace Safety, Agri-Food 101, Retaining talent in a competitive labour market, How industry has adapted to COVID 19, Supporting Mental Health in Your Workplace just to name a few. These webinars are still available to view on the Feed Your Future website. Also available are training videos for farm markets, livestock, berry, apple and grain operators. In development are a series of worker safety training courses in partnership with Ridgetown Ag College that are directly related to farm safety awareness. You can connect with Feeding Your Future on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or by visiting the website. www.feedingyourfuture.ca

The OFA Annual General Meeting is quickly approaching. It will be held virtually from 9am -12:30pm on Monday November 23rd. We invite OFA members to view the AGM proceedings on our website as per usual in previous years. Regional OFA meetings in my zone have been completed and delegates for the OFA AGM were elected to represent local membership. Two of my local federations have held their own Annual General Meetings recently. Congratulations to the new President of York Region Federation, Jordan Coates. Tom Dolson continues to serve as President of the Peel Federation for another year. I want to thank all our County Federation directors for their commitment to remaining engaged even in these challenging times of virtual meetings during COVID-19. Advocating for agriculture never takes a rest.

Remember to visit www.ofa.on.ca for all your COVID-19 resource information and to watch the OFA Annual General Meeting with special guest speaker, Canadian Comedian Brent Butt.

How Does the Public Perceive Farmers?

By Ed Scharringa

In this pandemic world, there have been numerous online articles, webinars and panel discussions about how the public perceives farmers and the way food is produced.

As farmers, we're very proud of what we do. We are diligent in producing the highest quality food and other products.

By and large, the public appreciates our efforts. But they generally don't know much about how we do it. A 2019 survey by the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity found that more than 90 per cent of this country's consumers indicated they know little to nothing about modern farming methods. The same report also said that 60 per cent wanted to know more.

John Jamieson, the head of the CCFI had some interesting things to say about building public trust during a webinar at Canada's Digital Farm Show, held last month. He said that, while getting the facts right is important, people also want to connect emotionally to where their food comes from.

That's why the CCFI has embarked on a campaign called "It's Good, Canada," which highlights to urban and suburban audiences the real stories of farmers, truck drivers, food processors and everyone else involved in the food supply. It attaches names and faces to the people who get food on tables. It also provides the facts and a bit of education



around how we are environmentally responsible, support all our workers and care for our animals.

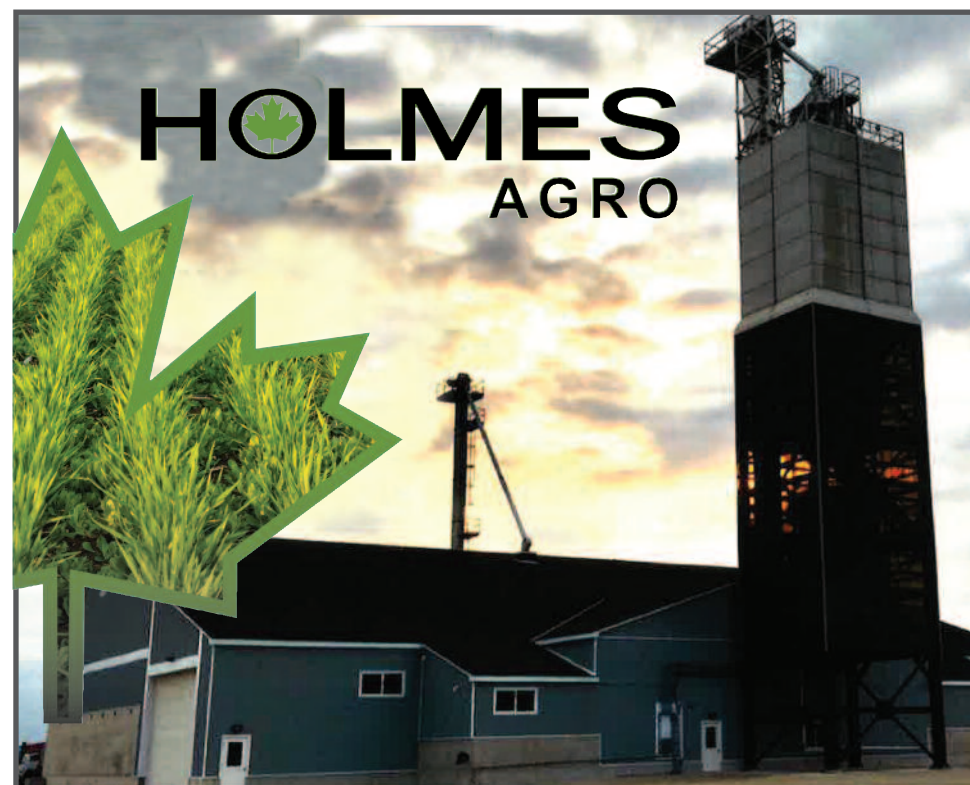
While the pandemic has been extremely trying, it has also opened up opportunities.

It has made people sit up and take notice of their food supply, with many looking to local sources for their groceries. Our innovative industry is and will continue to be well-positioned to help lead the way out of the troubling times in which we live.

We do, however, need the support of our government, and the fact that the recent Throne Speech was positive about farmers and our critical roles in producing food and fighting climate change is encouraging.

It's important for us to be able to tell our real story in ways that consumers can understand. We have done and are doing an incredible job through some of the toughest times the world has ever known.

As we approach the end of the 2020 season, let's be grateful for our built-in resilience, innovative spark and compassion for others. And let's spread the word.



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Carbon Monoxide - Silent Killer

By Dennis Gannon

Carbon Monoxide is the Silent Killer. Because it is a colourless, tasteless and odourless gas you won't know that it is affecting you unless you have a Carbon Monoxide alarm. In Ontario, the week of November 1 - 7 has been declared annually as Carbon Monoxide Awareness week. The week coincides when clocks are turned back, smoke alarm batteries require annual changing and more heating units are working.

Why and how did Ontario decide to make this a week that required recognition? Carbon Monoxide awareness was promoted in the Ontario Legislature by MPP Ernie Hardeman following the deaths of OPP community relations officer Laurie Hawkins, her husband Richard and children Cassandra, 14 and Jordan 12, all who died in their Woodstock Ontario home in 2008 from carbon monoxide due to a blocked chimney. Their home did not have a CO alarm. Hawkins' uncle, John Gignac, a retired Brantford firefighter started the Hawkins-Gignac Foundation for CO Education in the hope that another family would never suffer such a devastating loss. Hardeman, who is currently the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, introduced a Private Members Bill which after many delays and years resulted with the passing of the Hawkins Gignac Act (Carbon Monoxide Safety), 2013, S.O.2013,c.144-Bill 77. The Act, which is now part of the Fire Protection and Protection Act, enforced by the fire department, requires every home in Ontario that has a fuel-burning device, a fireplace or an attached garage to have a CO alarm adjacent to each sleeping area. Fuel burning devices include gas or propane furnaces, hot water heaters, gas or wood fireplaces, portable fuel-burning heaters and generators, barbecues, stoves and vehicles.

The Hawkins family are not the only ones to die as a result of carbon monoxide. On average more than 50 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning in Canada with approximately 11 of them coming from Ontario. In 2018 a 10 month old baby from Barrie died from carbon monoxide while two others in the home required hospitalization. Regrettably there were no working carbon monoxide detectors in the home at the time. A 75 year old

Ottawa man died and his wife was hospitalized in November 2019 when carbon monoxide leaked into their home.

What is Carbon Monoxide?

CO is an invisible, tasteless and odourless gas that can be deadly when high concentrations enter the body.

CO is produced when fuels such as propane, gasoline, natural gas, heating oil or wood do not burn completely in fuel-burning devices and appliances such as furnaces, fireplaces including wood burning, propane and natural gas, hot water heaters, gas stoves and barbecues, portable fuel-burning devices such as kerosene heaters along with fuel fired vehicles and generators.

How to protect yourself in your home for CO:

Ensure all fuel-burning appliances, chimneys and vents are cleaned and inspected annually. Visit COSafety.ca to find a registered contractor near you.

Check that all outside appliance vents are not blocked.

Gas and charcoal barbecues should only be used outside, away from all doors, windows and vents. Never use any type of barbecue inside a garage, even if the doors are open.

Portable generators should only be used outdoors in well ventilated areas away from windows, doors, vents and other building openings.

Never use the stove or oven to heat your home.

Make certain the flue of a wood burning fireplace is open to allow for adequate ventilation.

A car, vehicle or other fueled engine or motor should never be run inside a garage even if the doors are open. Always remove a vehicle from the garage immediately after it starts.

What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?

Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause flu-like symptoms such as headaches, nausea, dizziness, along with confusion,

drowsiness, loss of consciousness and death.

If your CO alarm sounds, and you or other occupants suffer from any of the symptoms listed above, get everyone out of the building immediately. Call 9-1-1 from outside the building.

If your CO alarm sounds and no one is suffering from any symptoms of CO poisoning, check if the unit is battery operated, to see if the battery requires replacing, or if the alarm has reached its "end of life". Call 9-1-1 if those checks prove negative.

Your CO alarm sounds different from your Smoke Alarm:

Test both alarms monthly and make certain everyone in the household knows the difference between the two alarm sounds.

Most battery operated and hydro / battery operated CO alarms have a built in low battery warning sound. Know the difference and refer to the manufacturer's instructions on how often to replace the battery and what the "end of life" warning alert sounds.

Your local fire department is willing to assist you:

If you have questions about your CO alarm contact your local fire department. They have additional information and resources and are always available to assist you.

Be safe, check your alarms:

A simple push of a button can save a life. Check your CO and Smoke alarms monthly.

For more CO and Smoke Alarm safety tips, visit the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management website and COSafety.ca

Beat the Silent Killer

Make sure YOUR household is safe from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Ensure all fuel-burning appliances and vents in your home are inspected annually. Find a registered contractor at COSafety.ca



Install and regularly test carbon monoxide alarms



of all carbon monoxide deaths and injuries in Ontario occur in homes



Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu without the fever



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It is often referred to as The Silent Killer

Many Ontario homes have on average 4-6 fuel-burning appliances that produce carbon monoxide



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April/May/June 2019



Dufferin County Farm Tour a virtual hit

— By Don Beaulieu

For 20 years, the Dufferin County Farm Tour has allowed non-farmers (and curious neighbours!) to see a variety of agricultural businesses up close.

This reporter has seen people intrigued by everything from bee keeping, to fleece, vegetables and all sorts of farm animals and their care. There are always smiles and squeals of delight from children. This year saw the event go virtual; quite a change to make for the organizers and participants.

Farm participants were presented in professionally produced videos. The family aspect remained prevalent as did care for high quality product and animal care. As farmer hosts explained their stories, subtitles made sure every word was understood. Organizers estimate the video has been viewed 2,000 times, at press time. The official tour video runs 23 minutes and can still be viewed at <http://dufferin-farmtour.com/watch/>.

Money and food donations were collected for three local food banks; Orangeville Food Bank, Grand Valley Food Bank and Shepherd's Cupboard in Orangeville. Specifically, the amounts shared include 3,680 pounds of food and \$3,439.50 in cash and grocery gift cards. Once again, organizers of the tour are pleased with the public's support and generosity.

Landman Farms

The three family businesses that are run out of Landman Farms as explained by Rebecca Landman, who is in charge of the gardens and bakery. She came to this through an interest and education in culinary arts. Her brother Josh milks 300 goats and Elaine has Grand River Gardens. The farm is also home to pigs, chickens and turkeys.

Fiddle Foot Farm

This farm in Mulmur township was born through an interest in biodynamic agriculture, a "farm organism that is self sustaining" as Graham Corbett explains it. "Farming for

the Future" is their slogan. Moving fertility around the farm, keeping it closed system is demonstrated in the video.

Bennington Hills Farm

The goal of this farm is to revert back to a "...traditional way of farming where a family can earn a respectable living on 100 acres..." says Jeff Roney. This video, as many of them do, show the family involvement on the farm and the children's understanding of diversity and interconnection.

This regenerative farm features grass fed beef and lamb, heritage pork, pastured poultry, legumes and small grains.

Lennox Farm

Usually, Brian Lennox grows about 55 acres of peas. This year he planted about half of that amount due to the ramifications of Covid. He enjoys that each year is always a little different from the one before. Lennox farm is the largest rhubarb grower in the country.

Fruits and vegetables have been grown on this farm in Melancthon since the 1880s.

Armstrong Family Farm

Online orders "skyrocketed" when Covid hit as people wanted locally sourced beef, said Steve Martin. His wife is the 6th generation on this property. The family has worked this same land since 1853. Again, we see sustainable farming practices used and promoted alongside the family aspect on this Melancthon farm.

Vanderveen Farms

Peter and Elly van der Veen began with a 215 acre farm, a little house and a bank barn in Grand Valley in 2002. There have been a series of changes/expansions over the years.

There are about a thousand sheep on this farm, with about 400 currently providing milk. They supply Saputo in St. Mary's, Ontario.

Sevenhills Holsteins

One of the items which most amazes non-farmers is the au-

tomatic, robot milking machine such as the one at Seven Hills Holstein. The Overgaauf family began in farming here in 1963 with 40 cows. Now, over two farms, they have 240 cows.

Mulmur Vista Farm

Bill McCutcheon is well known in the sheep industry. He is also chairman of the Dufferin Federation of Agriculture. "Agriculture in Dufferin is the biggest economic driver in the county..." he states in the video

Besley Country Market

Besley Country Market is a cash crop and market garden farm located on the southwest edge of Shelburne.

One of the more intriguing aspects for visitors, are the hydroponically grown tomatoes. Although not certified organic, their product is pesticide-free. They grow a wide variety of vegetables but tomatoes remain their specialty.

By the time this edition of Farm View hits the streets, the market will be closed for the season, but will have pumpkins, squash, straw bales and corn stalks for purchase on the honour system. Weather permitting, there may be tomatoes, potatoes and apples available.

Reid's Potatoes & Farm Market

Reid's offers seasonal produce grown on site, at a self-service market. They offer farm-related products; from eggs to jams, quilts and pickles; literally from soup to nuts. The market is open year round.

Gerry Reid is quick to point out that we do not produce enough potatoes in Ontario "to feed ourselves... They come from Florida early and come from PEI and Quebec and Manitoba a bit, the last few years".

Am Braigh Farms

Am Braigh is a Gaelic phrase meaning higher ground or upland. The phrase is apt given their location in the headwaters of the Dufferin County. Year round vegetable production is the claim to fame on this farm.

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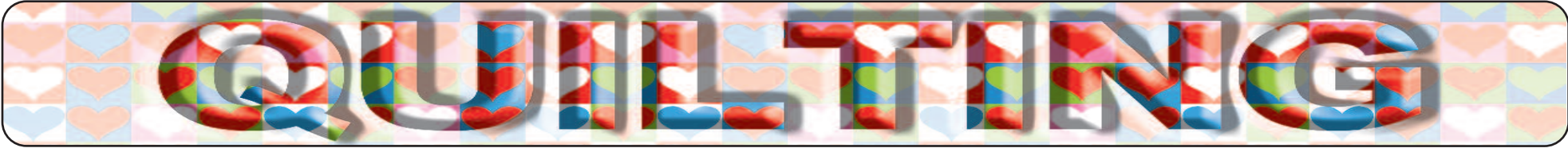
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On September 29th Quilting Corners Guild made a presentation of 30 Quilts of Comfort to Simcoe Manor in Beeton, our first donation for their residents. Guild members have been very busy over the last few months creating many quilts for our Community Outreach projects. The quilts are created from donated fabric and through the work of many hands... cutting, piecing, quilting and binding... and the delivery to our community partners. Since 2006 QCG has donated 965 quilts, plus numerous quilted Christmas stockings, smaller quilted items like table runners and seasonal décor and fleece blankets. We are now preparing for our Christmas donations in December.

— Story and photo by Senora Baldry



This spectacular barn quilt caught my eye on the way to visit Farm 2 Door. Located on Balm Beach Road in Tiny.

— Photo by Roslyn Watkins



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After the Chores: COLD “new” TRUCK

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



the farm. When Sweetie added in meat chickens and I added rabbits, the loads got heavier. Our passengers all had four legs.

We are so blessed to have the Woodville Salebarn exactly a 6 minute drive from the barn door here to the receiving dock there. I have it fully timed because of the way we transported the single market animals was with the Jeep, Sweetie and my lap. Usually all we do is lift the animal to my lap and it settles in. I talk to the animal, we have the radio on and we are all quite cozy for the 6 minute trip.

The single lamb that was born late was beginning to make the ram angry so it was time the young ram lamb left. I told Sweetie that we could do this with the Jeep. The lamb seemed to be a lot bigger here than in the lamb pen. Sweetie said “are you sure?” I told him to drive, its only six minutes. He said, “I can't find the gear shift because it's covered in lamb.” I told him to push the lamb towards me- and that seemed to set the lamb's mood to mad. Instead of settling in, the lamb started to push itself up- and used my leg as leverage. By the time we were nearly there, I was nearly doubled over from holding this angry ram lamb down. The lamb weighed 86 pounds.

Sweetie said that it was time we get a second truck instead of using a small Jeep for a farm truck all the time. I visualized a small shiny Red truck. I love red. Used truck hunting was a trying time. When a truck sells fast that has 440,000 kilometres on it there is the proof the market is incredibly busy. Trucks with lower mileage just could not be found. One low mileage red truck had been through two costly accidents the car report said- and it was advertised to be in “excellent condition.”

It was a beautiful clear fall day when I made the trip to Simcoe County that finally got our problem solved. The Jeep was shaky but it never once let us down- and it didn't this day either. On route home, in Elmvalle I was meeting a friend- and made a wrong turn, right next to a used car lot. The gorgeous red little truck that I rushed over to see was a disappointment because it had an ugly sold sign on the dash. It was with great reluctance that I looked at the F-150 that was milk chocolate brown.

I have not owned a vehicle with options, the most we have here with options is the old farm truck that still has working air conditioning. This “new” 10 year old F-150, that honestly is in excellent shape, has some options but I don't read manuals, they are boring. I could learn as I needed the options.

My maiden solo trip with the new-to-us truck was on a cool day. I took my heavier coat as I would be outside. Arriving at my destination, I had to open the power windows to get my instructions for the day. The window glided down after I pushed the button down.

I parked the truck and pushed the power button again. This time all the windows slid down. I pushed the button again- and nothing happened. In my logical mind, the truck just needed to cool down. I returned back to the truck close to two hours later. I started the truck and pushed the power window button- nothing happened. I was about 30 minutes from home. Outside the temperature was about 10C. I pushed the button again, nothing. I decided that the “power window button motor” was suddenly broken- and decided to head for home.

The truck has two full size doors and two half doors with windows to match so the cool air flowing into that truck was considerable even at the start. I am a cold person so burrowed in blankets and clothes is how I live most of the year. I put on the heat to full and hoped the heat would offset the cold air. By the time I was 20 minutes into my journey, I had pulled up the hood on my coat and still was just about trembling with cold. I was nearly frozen solid when I finally got home- and was sure mad at the auto dealership for selling such a truck.

Sweetie was alarmed that I was home hours early and came rushing over to the truck. He asked me what was wrong and I said, snarling “what do you think?” pointing at the windows that were all open. Sweetie calmly opened the door and lifted the power window button UP. The windows instantly glided up and shut tightly.

I am grateful that the truck hunt is finally over. The truck and I are becoming friends, I cannot blame it for not being red and having complicated window buttons.

Red Jeep was our faithful transporter here not just of us but other passengers- and farm stuff. The seats folded down so there was a covered flatbed. We loaded the Jeep up in her younger days every single week hauling home feed for the poultry and the livestock on

Ontario Petting Farm Rehoming All

A letter from Wild Things Petting Farm

"We are heartbroken to share with everyone that on Wednesday October 14th, Norman Collier, owner of Wild Things Petting Farm, passed away peacefully at the farm.

As many of you know, last year Norman was diagnosed with colon cancer which later spread to his liver. He fought it by undergoing radiation and chemotherapy, but sadly his doctors couldn't do anything more for him.

With Norman's passing the petting farm which, with the support of volunteers and donors, he operated for almost 30 years, will be permanently closing.

All the animals on the farm are being rehomed. If you are interested in adopting any of them please contact our volunteer Breanne by e-mail at wildthingspettingfarm@gmail.com.

We are especially looking for homes for our ducks, geese, and roosters. Please note that there will be a small adoption

fee for each animal to ensure that they get loving, lifelong homes and home inspections may be required. They will only be going to pet-friendly homes or to sanctuaries.

If you are unable to adopt but are looking for a way to help, cash donations are appreciated and e-transfers can be sent to wildthingspettingfarm@gmail.com. These donations will help to pay farm expenses until our animals are rehomed.

We want to thank you all for your support over these many years. Norman loved sharing the experience of contact with the animals and they brought joy to so many people. His farm was a haven for many, visitors and volunteers alike.

We encourage everyone to share their pictures and memories of Norman and his farm for others to enjoy, both on social media and by sending them to wildthingspettingfarm@gmail.com.

Wild Things Petting Farm
<http://www.wildthingspettingfarm.com/untitled.html>



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South Simcoe 4-H 2020 wrap up



Pictured above is Nicholas Senick, a judging club member. Nick was 2nd in the novice class at the Virtual Region 5 Judging Competition.



We had a great end of year hike with the Water Works Environment Club at Earl Rowe Park on August 30th. We learned about phragmites (an invasive species) and saw a fish ladder in action while we practiced the art of socially distanced hiking with our fellow club members.

By Tamara Fisher-Cullen



The Cookstown Beef Club

By Tamara Fisher-Cullen

The Cookstown Beef Club had a great end of season achievement day on September 26th. Members met early afternoon to prepare their animals for the show. The show consisted of a showmanship class for each age group followed by a short awards ceremony for the members that participated in the Zoom meetings and the achievement day. Many thanks to the Gilpin family for learning how to use "Zoom" for the online meetings and opening up their farm for achievement day.

Pictured at left is Morgan Gilpin and Scott Gilpin (Leader) with calf "Cara".

Garden club report

We had a great socially distanced show with 81 entries from 13 members. Members dropped off their entries in Everett on Friday, Sept. 18th and the judge came by Saturday morning to judge all entries.

Congratulations to all the members! It was a very impressive show.

Winners of the Best in Show class:

Cut Flower: Isabella Cullen

Vegetables: Jaiden van Kolschoten

Potted Plants and Arrangement: Natasha Dronzek

Garden Journal: Madeleine Cullen and Natasha Dronzek

Show Special: Julia Katirai

Crafts and Artwork: Madeleine Cullen
Congratulations to all our members for a wonderful show of your successful year in the garden. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

Sincerely,

Leaders

Amber Katirai, Marianne Norton and Scott Cullen



The 4-H Cookstown Adventure, Hiking and Living Well clubs

By Isabella Cullen

The 4-H Cookstown Adventure, Hiking and Living Well clubs had their last meeting of 2020 at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area on September 20. We all wore face masks and went for a hike. We opened the meeting with the 4-H motto. We built shelters off the trail. We identified toxic plants. We looked for phragmites. We used our compass skills. We tried to get earth worms to come up from out of the ground by using sticks. We had a lot of fun getting together outdoors for this meeting. Special thanks to all the parents, members and leaders for making these three clubs a success. See you next year for the 2021 season.



The South Simcoe 4H Poultry and Rabbit Club

By Jessa Bray

The South Simcoe 4H Poultry and Rabbit Club had our achievement day on the afternoon of Saturday, September 19th. We had a combination of entries in the form of a video submission or a live presentation on ZOOM. Our members had entries from several classes including Rabbits, Poults, Cockerels and Other Poultry. Our judge, Donna Jebb, was excellent. She asked us many questions and watched us carefully as we showed her our exhibits. She made us all feel very relaxed and I hope she enjoyed taking part in our achievement day. I would like to thank Donna Jebb and Bardon Farms Ltd. on behalf of all of the members of the Poultry and Rabbit Club. Even though we faced challenges this year, our club was a lot of fun and we learned so much. I can't wait to be a member of this club again next year!



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Thanksgiving celebrated throughout Simcoe County

The Great Turkey Giveaway

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins

Chris Dopp began giving away Christmas dinner packages 20 years ago in Collingwood. This year Chris added a dinner package at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and introduced the first Thanksgiving Turkey dinner as well.

On Oct 8th at The Mortgage Centre in Collingwood 100 people stood in the rain. Smiling and talking, waiting patiently for their turn to receive one of the 100 available turkey dinners for Thanksgiving.

The event began at 11a.m., by 11:23 all the dinner packages had been handed out. While I was speaking to Chris afterwards a young woman approached who was unable to line up at 11am. Chris asked his friend, Cam, to please take down the young woman's name and they would see what they could do to put together another dinner for her. I heard from Chris shortly after and they were able to provide the woman's young family with a Thanksgiving dinner.



Barry (left) and Leslie (right) were among the eight volunteers helping to package and hand out the turkey dinners.

When Chris began this project he recognized that Collingwood was mostly known for the arts and entertainment. Not many saw that there is a population of people in Collingwood who need a little help from time to time. The turkey dinner packages are funded by Chris with donations from a few of his close friends. Some of whom were on hand volunteering their time handing out the 4 cloth grocery bags containing a turkey, potatoes, two types of vegetables, a loaf of bread, a bag of apples and a pie. Chris said "it is very satisfying to help" to provide food for families who may not otherwise enjoy the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals that most of us are fortunate to have.

The 250 Christmas dinner packages will be available On Wednesday Dec 23rd at The Mortgage Centre in Collingwood.



Cam Uvell (left) and Chris Dopp (right) pose for a photo after handing out 100 Thanksgiving dinners at The Mortgage Centre in Collingwood.



A very creative Thanksgiving tractor. Photographed on County Road 6 S, just outside of Elmvale.

— Photo by Roslyn Watkins



The community of Anten Mills in Springwater Township arranged a unique 'Pumpkin for a donation' food drive event to help support the Elmvale Food Bank. 100 Pumpkins from Harris Farms were loaded up with the help of Becky Houter (left), Laina Harris and daughter Josie Harris (right). Each pumpkin was to be exchanged for a bag of groceries. The Springwater Fire Service ran the "Stuff the Truck Campaign" as well to help fill the shelves at the Elmvale Food bank. Both food drives were a great success. Thank you to all who participated! To make a donation visit <https://elmvaledistrictfoodbank.net/>

— Photo by Roslyn Watkins

Elmvale celebrated with a Thanksgiving tractor parade



— Photos by Shawn Watkins





Peeling back the story of the Apple Harvest

Apple orchards were once a common sight on every homestead. The apple harvest was a necessity—a vital job that provided food stores for the coming winter. Almost every settler would have quickly established an apple orchard as soon as their land had been cleared. The reason is simple: apple trees provided a host of valuable food items.

In those days, relatively few apples were eaten fresh; that was a luxury that most couldn't afford. Many apples were shipped in large quantities to market, especially in cases when railroads were located nearby. Others were stored for use during the long winter months when fruit was otherwise unavailable – either

kept in the cellar or pared, cored, and dried. As a result, varieties that were hardy and stored well were preferred over those with sweet flavours or which looked pleasing to the eye.

Paring, coring, and cutting enough apples for winter was difficult and time consuming. To speed up the process, women and children gathered in the autumn for paring bees. Everyone competed good-naturedly to see who could peel the most apples or who could get the peel off in one single strand. A young woman who peeled an apple in a single piece would twirl the peel over her head and drop it on the floor. The letter that it resembled as it lay before her was said to be the initial of her future husband.

The process was speeded significantly with the invention of the apple peeler, the first patent for which was said to be issued in 1803. Kitchen appliances were among the first mass-produced items of the industrial era. The apple peeler most of us are familiar with is lathe-type peelers, in which the apple is skewered on prongs and spins as a stationary blade removes the peel and a corer removes the core. Back then, however, there were countless variations of the theme; between 1860 and 1890 over 100 apple-peeler patents were granted. Regardless of the form they took, women loved them because of how much time they saved in peeling and coring apples. Every kitchen would have at least one, and perhaps several.

A portion of the harvest - generally sour apples - was set aside for making cider and apple butter. Many farmers built small cider mills on their properties. Since cider-making could be time-consuming, at harvest time cider-making bees would often-times be held. As orchards grew larger in size and the yield greater, commercial cider mills became more common.

The process of cider-making was simple. Apples were washed and then dumped into a hopper to be crushed. Some mills employed large wooden wheels driven by horsepower, while others used smaller hand-operated crushers or, later, steam-driven crushers. The pulp remaining was then placed in a press between layers of long rye or wheat straw that acted as a filter to strain out impurities. A huge iron screw press then squeezed out the juice, which dripped through the straw into a trough. Some screws were hand-operated, while others were driven by several men walking on a

raised platform that rotated the screw downward. Later, the machinery became steam operated. Even before mechanization, many cider mills could produce 50 gallons of cider per day. At one cent per gallon of cider produced, its clear that milling became a profitable enterprise, handsomely supplementing the owner's income for several months each year.

Cider was stored in wooden casks, and after a few months of fermentation was a refreshing drink. Some of the stored cider was allowed to heat up above 55-degrees to sour and provide vinegar for cooking, another ingenious use for the apple orchard. Another portion of the cider supply was reserved for the manufacture of apple butter.

Making apple butter was considered woman's work, though it was by no means easy. The woman would boil the cider down in a large cauldron over a roaring fire, stirring it constantly with a paddle. Sweet apples, pared, cored, and sliced, were added periodically during the procedure to thicken the mixture. By the end of the day, a syrupy consistency was reached. At this stage, cinnamon, nutmeg, or other spice was added to taste, and the finished apple-butter stored in stone crocks for future use.

With varied uses, apples were a vital crop on every 19th century farm in Ontario.

Village stories

by Andrew Hind



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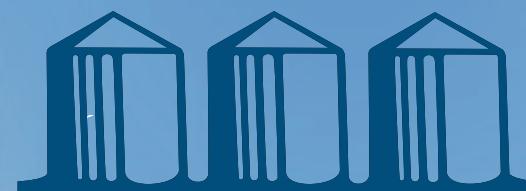


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Kawartha Farmfest: StellMar Farm

— Story and photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Spouses David Martin and Joseph Stellpflug are the owners of StellMar Farm and are known locally as the "Pumpkin Guys".

Kawartha Farmfest is an annual family event of a self-guided tour of selected local host farms and attractions in the City of Kawartha Lakes. This year, to meet COVID-19 protocol, all the tickets were pre-sold and everyone had to arrive within the time slots chosen. The entire event takes place on one day in October for the autumn harvest. Guests are encouraged to experience farming and to ask questions directly to the host farmer and are invited to purchase farm produce directly from the farmers. This year's ticket sales to most host farms were completely sold out.

StellMar Farm is the only founding host farm that has been part of Kawartha Farmfest since its beginning, "We have been with Farmfest since its beginning which was 18 years ago. Farmfest is the perfect time for us being in October." Joseph says. StellMar Farm has been in business for 20 years located near Little Britain.

Joseph grew up with pumpkins because his Dad, the late Leonard Stellpflug was a world champion pumpkin grower. The proud son points out the plaque given by the World Pumpkin Confederation. The biggest grown was a world champion "Giant Grey Mammoth" which had a circumference of about 12 feet. The pumpkin landed the grower an appearance on the David Letterman Show. The champion pumpkin grower's advice is taken by his son and there are giant pumpkins at StellMar Farm grown in a specific patch.

The large front yard at the farm was filled with a farm market. Different sizes of pumpkins were set out and grouped according to price. A wagon of small straw bales was set out along with a covered area that was filled with different kinds of squash. Sales were busy because StellMar Farm

offers a deal that appeals to everyone - \$20.00 for 1 large pumpkin, 1 medium pumpkin, 2 small pumpkins, 1 bundle of dried cornstalks and 5 mixed gourds. If guests could not find the pumpkins they liked, another area was filled with extra pumpkins picked from the 5 acres of pumpkin patch grown at the farm.

The Craft Barn was closed for FarmFest due to COVID-19 regulations of social distancing. However, the Barn contents were arranged under a tent outside. Stellmar Farm have 9 hives of bees and these bees are essential for the success in growing pumpkins as they are pollinators. The bees were inspiration for "StellMar Farm Naturally" products which include salve, lip balm and body butter. StellMar Farm also has a line of soap.

Another big draw to StellMar Farm are the crafts. Gourd crafts are a specialty and begin with drying naturally on the farm for one year. Joseph credits David for being so creative and skilled using a combination of silk plus dried flowers grown on the farm for incredible

wreaths and flower arrangements. Pine cone wreaths are a StellMar Farm tradition.

A new addition this year is the two acre Corn Maze. Admission was priced at \$10.00 per family as an activity that can be enjoyed by everyone.

Stellmar Farms is open weekends in mid-September and October. There are plans for a Christmas Craft sale at the farm on Saturday December 5th.

Stellmar Farm can be reached at: www.stellmar-farm.com

See next month's Farm View newspaper for more Farmfest articles.



These are the "Pumpkin Guys", (left) Joseph Stellpflug and spouse David Martin. Showcasing a giant pumpkin they grew on their farm. Anyone wanting advice about growing giant pumpkins are invited to ask the "Pumpkin Guys".

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Ontario Corn Key to Medical-Grade Alcohol for Hand Sanitizer

Grain Farmers of Ontario, the province's largest commodity organization, representing Ontario's 28,000 barley, corn, oat, soybean and wheat farmers congratulates Greenfield Global and the Ontario government on today's announcement of a

\$75 million project at Greenfield's Johnstown, ON facility to produce medical-grade alcohol, with an additional provincial government investment from the Ontario Together

Fund of \$2.5 million.

Ontario's corn farmers play a critical role in supplying the feedstock necessary to produce alcohol-based hand sanitizers and Grain Farmers of Ontario is pleased to see this investment being made. Greenfield Global's new Ontario-based project will update the Johnstown distillation process to allow it to more than 114 million litres specialty medical-grade alcohol annually.

"Ontario grain farmers grow the bulk of our nation's corn and we are proud to grow the corn that is used to make hand sanitizer, and to know that farmers are not only here to supply food, but in this small way to help Canadians as

they protect themselves from COVID," said Markus Haerle, Chair, Grain Farmers of Ontario. "The commitment from the distiller industry and our provincial government to find ways to innovate and use Ontario corn to help others is great to see."

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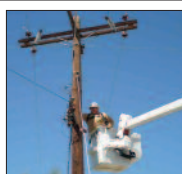
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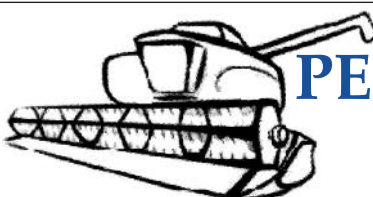
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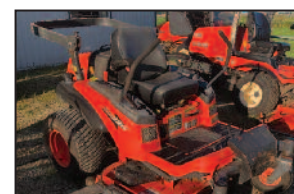
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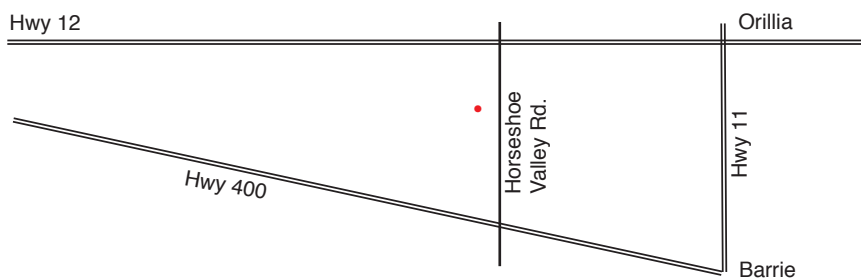
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