



# FARM VIEW

43rd year of publication!

August 2020 VOLUME 43 #8

## See inside

A Churchill farmer discusses labour shortages, the winner of the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week award is announced, SCFA meeting updates, and the story of the infamous Otonabee steamship.

*The cool pasture is the place to be for this bovine during the dog days of summer*

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.

## August 3rd Civic Holiday

## August 14th News and Advertising deadline

The deadline for news and advertising in the September edition of Farm View is Friday August 14th, 2020.

## August 21st Virtual Crop Walk

Hosted by Grey Soil and Crop Improvement Association  
info@greyagservices.ca  
Open to all Georgian SCIA members.

## August 24th 1st SCFA Deadline

All nominations and notices of intent to run for a position must be submitted to the SCFA office by midnight on Monday, August 24, 2020. Details on pages 6 and 13.

## August 31st 2nd SCFA deadline

All registrations to join the Virtual Regional Meeting must be submitted to the SCFA office by midnight Monday, August 31, 2020. Details on pages 6 and 13.

## September 25th to October 4th

Virtual Hike for Hospice. See page 15 for details.

## Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

What do you call a twitchy cow? Beef jerky.

What do you call a happy cattleman? A jolly rancher.

What do you call a cow that doesn't produce milk?

A milk dud.

## 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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## The Silver Linings of Virtual 4-H

Story and photo by Tamara Fisher-Cullen



Picture this – a 4-H member sitting poolside with a computer and her dog close by. What could she possibly be doing? It was this scene that

gave me reason to reflect on the silver linings of a “virtual 4-H” season. When we hurriedly moved South Simcoe 4-H clubs online in March and April, we had no idea that we would still be meeting online well into July. Initially, online 4-H was a “quick-fix” to get the clubs started and underway with the expectation we would revert to “in-person” programming as soon as things returned to normal. Now 5 months in, it is time to take note of the benefits and opportunities an online 4-H season has afforded the leaders and members.

The first benefit is a big one – developing new delivery models and leader skills sets for 4-H programming. As we moved online, there were leaders that were nervous of the technology and unsure how to use it. There were fears that they wouldn't know what to do or that the meetings would not be interesting enough. As I think of some of the seasoned leaders that have taken the deep dive into the world of interactive technology, I am grateful; some of these people are the leaders that spurred my interest in becoming a 4-H leader as they were dedicated and invested in the 4-H members. Now, as we run 12 clubs from our kitchen table, I have been able to share my skills and knowledge with leaders that have shared their knowledge with me. And, I can share that those “nervous” leaders have come up with great ideas to share and showcase skills and knowledge with the members online and have mastered the technology with their fellow leaders. They continue to be great role models of the 4-H motto – Learn to do by doing.

Another benefit of leading virtual 4-H clubs has been the variety of farms and facilities we could not have otherwise visited due to distance or biosecurity concerns. In keeping with the 4-H pledge, our members are seeing the world and their country through their computers as they visit dairy farms in New Zealand, beef farms in the prairies and a meat rabbit operation in southern Ontario. 4-H leaders from different associations have tapped into their networks to bring the world to 4-H Ontario members. Seeing these facilities has been of great interest to leaders and members alike.

Lastly, the move to online 4-H has created a network of 4-H leaders across the province, the country and the world. As we were planning how to move the clubs for 2020 online, many leaders reached out to other 4-H leaders to learn how they were running their activities. It was through a chance internet conversation to a leader in Greenville County South Carolina that we decided we could easily move the Chess Club online. As well, the 4-H virtual meeting support group (an Ontario Facebook group) has provided leaders the opportunity to learn and work with other leaders in Ontario and Canada.

With any change, there are moments of stress and times when we fear we will not reach our objectives. Now, as we run twelve 4-H clubs from our kitchen table and a computer, we do so with confidence. With help from fellow leaders, supports from 4-H Ontario and input from our members, we are completing 4-H clubs and living up to the 4-H pledge as we lead by example. What are your 4-H silver linings for 2020?

Tamara Fisher-Cullen has been a 4-H leader for 5 years with the South Simcoe 4-H Association. Be sure to check out the South Simcoe Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/southsimcoe4h> and website <https://www.4-hontario.ca/4h-in-my-area/south-simcoe.aspx> to see what they are doing this 4-H season and to learn how you can get involved as a leader or member in 2021!

## Devotional Corner

**Kathleen's column will return  
next month.**

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# OFA welcomes new and returning directors to the provincial board

## OFA Ontario Federation of Agriculture REPORT

Following a three-week nomination period for directors in five zones across the province, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is proud to announce the return of a strong contingent of agricultural leaders as well as the addition of one new member to the organization's Board of Directors.

Four directors were re-elected and acclaimed in their respective zones, including Louis Roesch in Zone 1, Jackie Kelly-Pemberton in Zone 11, Bruce Buttar in Zone 12 and Mark Kunkel in Zone 15. Newly elected Jennifer Doelman will join the provincial board after being acclaimed as director in Zone 8. All elected nominees will serve for a three-year term, which begins immediately following OFA's 2020 Annual General Meeting in November.

"Strong leadership is very important for the future of Ontario's agriculture and food industry," said Peggy Brekveld, OFA Vice President. "These five elected members, both new and returning, have an incredible passion and dedication to growing our sector – locally, provincially and federally."

OFA's newest board member will be representing members in the eastern Ontario region of Arnprior, Lanark, Ottawa and Renfrew (Zone 8). Doelman, who will be replacing long-time board member and former OFA Vice President Debra Pretty-Straathof, is a third-generation farmer and seed producer in Douglas. Alongside her husband and parents, she grows a diverse crop rotation which includes grains and oilseeds such as corn, wheat and soybeans as well

as barley, canola, flax, oats, triticale, peas, forages and sunflowers. She is a graduate of the University of Guelph, an independent Ontario Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) and an alumna of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP).

Roesch will return to the board table for his third term representing members in the counties of Essex and Kent (Zone 1). He is a third-generation farmer from the Chatham-Kent area. Together with his wife, their business includes 150 acres of grains and oilseeds, a farrow to finish hog operation, 500 laying hens, an egg grading station and an on-farm retail outlet selling their own processed pork. Roesch is past president of the Kent Federation of Agriculture and a former member of the organization's Policy Advisory Council (PAC).

Kelly-Pemberton was re-elected as the provincial representative for members in Grenville, Frontenac, Dundas and Leeds (Zone 11). Along with her husband, they operate a small beef cow/calf operation in Dundas County and farm 200 acres of hay, corn and IP soybeans. She has had a varied career off-farm, from working as a veterinarian technician to Environmental Manager for the Parmalat plant in Winchester. She previously served as president of the Dundas Federation of Agriculture for 13 years and sat as a PAC member. Kelly-Pemberton is a Class 14 alumna of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program and will be entering her second term as a board member.

In the counties of Hastings, Lennox & Addington, Northumberland and Prince Edward (Zone 12), Buttar will serve in the role as director for a third term. From Gores Landing, Buttar is a former dairy farmer, who now grows grains, oilseeds and hay and raises a small herd of beef cattle with his wife and son. He is the past chair of the Northumberland Federation of Agriculture and continues to be involved on the local board.

Buttar is also a founding committee member of FARM 911: The Emily Project.

Members in northern Ontario, including Algoma, Cochrane, Dryden, Kenora, Manitoulin-North Shore, Muskoka, Nipissing East & West, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Sudbury East & West, Temiskaming & Thunder Bay, have re-elected Kunkel as their board representative. Kunkel, who will be entering his third term on the board, operates a family dairy farm outside of North Bay. He is a member on the local dairy producer committee, the chair of OFA's Northern Caucus and has recently been involved in the farm plastics recycling program.

"These are great leaders within their own communities and OFA is proud to have them on board our organization," stated Brekveld.

OFA is governed by an 18-member elected Board of Directors consisting of Ontario farmers from across the province.

The role of a provincial director involves advocacy work on behalf of grassroots members, conversations with policymakers and industry partners, and enhancing the agri-food industry for all Ontario farm businesses. It is an exciting opportunity to make an impact on Ontario agriculture and play an integral role in working towards our shared mission of Farms and Food Forever.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, representing 38,000 farm families across the province. As a dynamic farmer-led organization based in Guelph, the OFA works to represent and champion the interests of Ontario farmers through government relations, farm policy recommendations, research, lobby efforts, community representation, media relations and more. OFA is the leading advocate for Ontario's farmers and is Ontario's voice of the farmer. For more information, visit ofa.on.ca.



## On the Cover

Hot weather predicted to continue through August. Shady pastures is the place to be. Photo by Roslyn Watkins.

The creative team at Farm View can help you design and plan an effective advertising campaign that will sell your products and services **to grow your business.** Call Roslyn at **705-722-0138** or email [farmview@on.aibn.com](mailto:farmview@on.aibn.com)

**DEADLINE for September Farm View is August 15th**



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**JD S670 (E83205):** 2013, 4WD, 375HP, 2690ENG/2018SEP HRS, 6.9M AUG, STS, CONTOURMASTER, 2 SPD PRODRIVE, 7" TOUCHSCREEN, 650/85R38 R1W GY 75%, DUALS, 28Lx26FS R1 70% STEER  
**\$258,040.00**



**JD 9770 (E84693):** 2010, 4WD, 360HP, 2628 ENG/1863 SEP HRS, 6.9M AUG, CONTOURMASTER, PRODRIVE, 2-RANGE HYDRO, 520/85R42 R1W MI 75% FRT, DUALS, 28Lx26 R1 70% RR  
**\$213,480.00**

#### AGRICULTURE - HARVESTING - GRAIN HEADS

**JD 630FD AIR (E83673):** 2014, 30', FLEX DRAPER, AWS AIR BAR, JD KNIFE, HYDRAFLEX HEADER HEIGHT, POLY SKID SHOES, POLY DIVIDERS, REEL FORE & AFT, AUTO REEL SPD-DAS  
**\$79,990.00**

**JD 635F (E80467):** 2005, 35', FULL FINGER AUGER, JD KNIFE, CONTOURMASTER, SINGLE POINT HOOKUP, HYDRAFLEX HEADER HEIGHT, POLY DIVIDERS  
**\$32,640.00 Now \$24,900.00**

**JD 635F AIR (E82220):** 2013, 35', AWS AIR BAR, FULL FINGERED AUGER, JD KNIFE, HYDRAFLEX HEADER HEIGHT, RIGID HEIGHT SENSORS, POLY DIVIDERS, POLY SKID SHOES, CONTOURMASTER  
**\$17,370.00 Now \$14,950.00**

**JD 635F AIR (E82222):** 2011, 35', AWS AIR BAR, FULL FINGERED AUGER, JD KNIFE, CONTOURMASTER, HYDRAFLEX HEADER HEIGHT, RIGID HEIGHT SENSORS, POLY DIVIDERS, POLY SKID SHOES  
**\$17,790.00 Now \$14,950.00**

**JD 915 (E79745A):** 1989, 15', STANDARD AUGER, 3" KNIFE, LEVEL LAND, STEEL DIVIDERS, APPEARANCE - 6, SELL AS TRADED  
**\$3,270.00 Now \$1,990.00**

#### AGRICULTURE - HARVESTING - OTHER BRANDS



**CA 2388 (E81569):** 1999, 4WD, 265HP, 3560ENG/2594SEP HR, 208" AUGER, CONTOURMASTER, 3-RANGE HYDROSTATIC, 18.4Rx42FS FRONT, DUALS, 18.4x26 FS REAR  
**\$78,050.00 Now \$59,850.00**



**CA 7120 (E84247):** 2010, 4WD, 360HP, 2180 ENG/1565 SEP HRS, 21.5' AUG, CONTOURMASTER, 3-RANGE HYDRO, FIELD TRACKER, 620/70R42 FS 80%  
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## O P I N I O N

## LETTERS

## Angus farmer's market update 2020

After much consideration it is with regret that the Angus Farmers' Market committee has decided against hosting our market this year. The safety of our community is our top priority at this time. We continue to support our local growers and vendors by promoting them on our website and our social media platforms.

We wish you a safe and happy summer and look forward to seeing you in the 2021 growing season.

Jim Hunter, Chair  
(on behalf of the Angus Farmers' Market committee)  
www.angusfarmersmarket.ca



## Blended Learning - Same Quality First Aid Training You Know, Less Time in the Classroom

St. John Ambulance is happy to be back teaching First Aid training in person at our facilities across Ontario. However, we know that our customers still have some reservations about returning to a public setting. Rest assured we have taken great measures, guided by local Public Health authorities and WSIB, to ensure a safe and sanitized environment to welcome you back.

In addition, our Blended Learning option allows you to complete a portion of your training online and then return to our classrooms to complete the required hands-on elements. This model provides our customers with their much-needed training, while lessening the amount of time spent in the classroom, and still meets the WSIB standards for certification. Contact your local St. John Ambulance Branch to register and begin your Blended Learning today.

## Buying local, but the product isn't local

Out of curiosity, why are so many products in our local farm market shops not from any where local? I love shopping at the many farm markets (I don't mean the weekly Farmer's Markets in this case) but over the years have noticed a lot of products are from the U.S. Considering the slogan "Shop local, buy local" it can be frustrating to arrive at home and discover some of the dips, spreads, sauces, sometimes baked goods are not from Canada let alone Ontario.

Are they're not enough suppliers of these products to provide locally made inventory?

Debra M.

## North Simcoe Rail Trail

I really like this monthly paper, I pick it up at the Barrie Co-op. In reference to: Page 15 THE NORTH SIMCOE RAIL TRAIL, mention is made of the famous Minesing Swamp. I thought there will be some folk upset; since it became world famous - it is the Minesing Wetland. I guess, the word (swamp) has another meaning.

I also thought that the Brereton Field Naturalists of Barrie had changed names to: NATURE BARRIE, which is true - but the old name legally still exists as well.

Sorry to bother you. When one is locked up - he will do anything to disturb others. Keep up the good work.

Jim Laking

## FROM THE EDITOR



While recently hunting for a few specific pictures I came across many older camera cards. Since I don't label our camera cards, my family and I enjoyed a full weekend down memory lane. This photo of Brianna Robichaud and Lily Watkins (taken 10 yrs ago) brings such a huge smile to my face, I wanted to share it with all of you.

Email or mail your favourite farm photo to be featured here



Ag Snapshot

## 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

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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  |              |

## 2018 Executive – Dufferin County

|                 |                   |              |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| 1st Vice   | Tom Dolson                            | 416-727-7066 |
| PAC Member | Philip Armstrong                      | 905-838-4108 |
| Contact:   | peelfederationofagriculture@gmail.com |              |



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**JD 9570 2008 ... \$162,495**  
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**JD S670 2014 ... \$372,995**  
PRO DRIVE, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS, 26' AUGER, 1435 ENG / 1012 SEP HRS



**JD S670 2012 ... \$279,995**  
3 SPD ELECT SHIFT, PRWD, TRI STREAM ROTOR, 520/42 DLS, 2060 ENG / 1312 SEP HRS



**JD S670 2015 ... \$412,995**  
PRO DRIVE, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS, 26' AUGER, 580/42 DLS, 1295 ENG / 918 SEP HRS



**JD S680 2013 ... \$318,995**  
PRO DRIVE, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS, 26' AUGER, 650/38 DLS, 1853 ENG / 1316 SEP HRS



**JD S760 2018 ... \$561,995**  
PRO DRIVE, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS, 520/42 DLS, 22.5' AUGER, 35 ENG / 6 SEP HRS



**JD 9760 2005 ... \$114,995**  
HYDRO, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS, 22.5' AUGER, 520/42 DLS, 3879 ENG / 2629 SEP HRS



**JD S780 2018 ... \$629,900**  
PRO DRIVE, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS, 28.5' AUGER, 650/38 DLS, 483 ENG / 322 SEP HRS



**JD 9520RT 2015 ... \$436,995**  
STD CAB, 18F/6R PS, 36" TRACKS, 5 REMOTES, STD PUMP, 2338 HRS



**JD 7730 2007 ... \$123,995**  
DLX CAB, MFWD, IVT 40K, 380/50 DUALS, 4 REMOTES, 5702 HRS



**JD 9400 2000 ... \$124,900**  
DLX CAB, 24F/6R POWERSYNC, 650/38 DLS, 4 REMOTES, 5640 HRS



**JD 7230R 2014 ... \$199,995**  
STD CAB, E23 40K, MFWD, 480/46 DLS, 4 REMOTES, 2506 HRS



**NH T8.275 2011 ... \$155,995**  
CAB, 18F/6R PS, MFWD, FRNT & REAR DLS, 3 REMOTES, 2024 HRS



**NH T8.275 2012 ... \$155,995**  
CAB, MFWD, 18/6 PS, FRT & REAR DUALS, 3 REMOTES, GUIDANCE, 2386 HRS



**CIH MAG 260 2014 ... \$189,995**  
CAB SUSP, CVT 42K, MFWD W/ SUSP, FRNT & REAR DLS, 5 REMOTES, 2338 HRS



**CIH MAGNUM 2011 ... \$127,995**  
CAB, 16F/6R PS, MFWD, 480/46 DLS, 4 REMOTES, 2698 HRS



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## Twelfth Annual Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Prize Awarded



Grey Bruce Farmers' Week has been a main stay for the agricultural industry in Grey and Bruce Counties since 1966. The featured commodities have evolved as the area's agricultural focus has changed, but the mandate to provide information to producers and agribusiness has remained firm. Producers have supported our programming for 54 years, so the committee would like to give back to the community. With that mandate in mind, the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Committee has established an annual \$1000 Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Prize in conjunction with the University of Guelph, Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), to recognize new veterinarians entering food animal practices serving producers in Grey and Bruce Counties. This award recognizes the individual's past accomplishments, but also encourages their future contributions, and commitment to our rural communities.

On June 20, 2020, at the OVC Class of 2020 virtual Veterinary Oath Ceremony, it was announced that Dr. Jacques Van Zyl was the recipient of the GBFW award. Jacques was the recipient of a total of three awards. Jacques was born in South Africa. When he was quite young, his family moved to the small farming town of Canora Saskatchewan, where they backgrounded cattle and had a small chicken flock. He spent his childhood fishing and helping on the farm. On weekends, he enjoyed going to rodeos in the small communities across the prairies. Mutton busting was a crowd favourite! The Van Zyl family moved to Ontario when Jacques was in grade four. He was always very intrigued with the idea of being a veterinarian and working in a rural setting. His initial interest was wildlife, and he worked for a year in conservation. He also spent time working on a family member's farm in South Africa, where they farmed rare game. After spending time with a veterinarian in South Africa, and darting animals from helicopters, he decided to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. Jacques says that being a large animal veterinarian suits his personality. He



Dr. Jacques Van Zyl

likes the physical aspect of having to wrestle a steer when necessary. Jacques added that being out on the road in the countryside is a hard office to beat. Jacques finds it rewarding to help producers, as veterinarians are directly influencing the farmers' livelihoods. Jacques thought about moving back to South Africa and working there, but his wife is from Grey county, and they love this area too much to move away. He is currently working for both a large animal clinic and a small animal clinic. The large animal clinic that has hired him is Metzger Veterinary Services. He is based out of their Chesley clinic. Jacques is really looking forward to interacting with the producers that he knows from his childhood. Being able to help them now as a veterinarian will be very rewarding. He also looks forward to meeting new farmers and starting his career in the area. Please welcome Jacques when you see him, and congratulate him on being this year's recipient of our award.

—Story and photo provided by Grey Bruce Farmer's Week

## GTHS ANIMAL HOSPITAL OFFERING SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC

The Georgian Triangle Humane Society (GTHS) is an organization that works to meet the needs of our community through our work in animal welfare, education and compassion for pets and people. Over the past several years the need for accessible spay/neuter services for pets from financially limited families and animal rescues has been mounting. Spay/neuter and wellness veterinary services provide a long-term solution to pet overpopulation and remove barriers to pet wellness in vulnerable sectors of our community.

"As an organization, it brings us an insurmountable amount of joy knowing that we are fulfilling a long-standing need for financially-limited pet owners in our community", says Sonya Reichel, GTHS Executive Director.

Why should pets be spayed/neutered? One unaltered female cat can produce three litters per year with average litter sizes ranging from four to six kittens. One unspayed cat and her offspring can produce more than 400,000 cats in their lifetime. Not only will fixing your pet help control pet overpopulation, it will also prolong the life of your furry best friend. Study after study shows the direct positive correlation of spaying/neutering your pet and pet health.

The GTHS Animal Hospital will now open its doors to the public one day per week (Thursdays).

Clients will be provided resources on responsible pet ownership and the benefits of developing a strong relationship with a primary veterinarian in their area. Overtime, the GTHS will see fewer intakes due to fewer unwanted litters being born.

The following can be found at <https://www.gths.ca/gths-animal-hospital/>:

- Services/eligibility
- How to book an appointment
- Pre and post-surgery instructions
- Fee schedule

For questions about the GTHS Animal Hospital Spay/Neuter Service, contact [outreach@gths.ca](mailto:outreach@gths.ca) or (705) 606-8102.

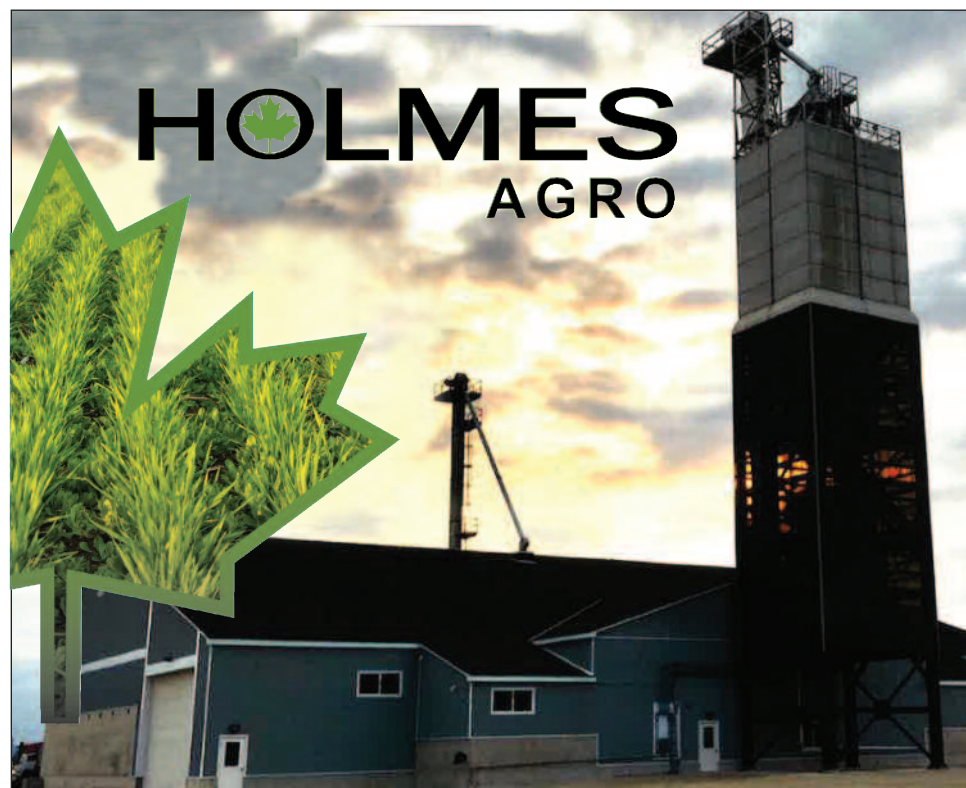
## Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture Notice of Regional Meeting Thursday, September 3, 2020 8:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting

To elect Policy Advisory Council (PAC) representatives as well as delegates from SCFA to attend the OFA Virtual Annual General Meeting and Convention in November 2020.

- OFA members in good standing residing in Simcoe County are eligible to join, vote and be elected to a position.
- All nominations and notices of intent to run for a position must be submitted to the SCFA office by midnight on Monday, August 24, 2020.
- All registrations to join the Virtual Regional Meeting must be submitted to the SCFA office by midnight Monday, August 31, 2020.
- Submit to the SCFA your intent to run and to register for the meeting by email to [office@simcecountyfa.org](mailto:office@simcecountyfa.org)



For full details please see the article on page 13.



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# Farms waiting for international workers

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Yamamoto Farm in Churchill is one of the many in Bradford's horticulture farm district still waiting for international workers to arrive for this year's growing season.

Sam Yamamoto says he is holding on by relying on the kindness of friends and neighbours for help to get through this season so far. He has also been out in the fields himself more than ever as there is no other choice.

"I understand this delay is no fault of anyone. COVID-19 has changed everything. It is sure hard though for us horticulture farmers right now," he explained adding that he has applied for three workers this year from Mexico which is the same request he was approved for last year. One of these workers has been coming to Yamamoto Farm for eighteen years consecutive.

"My 18 year worker is much more than a 'worker', he's a member of my family. We all enjoy having him here. We go shopping every Friday night," he said. Sam added that Bradford businesses

welcome the workers from Mexico with open arms by stocking some of their usual food so the workers can eat what is familiar for the time they are here.

Last year the final comment from one of the new workers at the farm was, "I would like to come back here to your farm next year," Sam said adding this was welcome news as this worker was also an excellent addition to his farm.

Now, though, getting the international workers here to work at the farms have been postponed several times. The workers were unable to get their paperwork in order in Mexico and have been working on this since April. Workers usually arrive in time for the planting season and stay for six months until harvesting is complete. This year, at best, the workers will be here for half of the normal time.

One worker is expected to arrive in July and Sam is hoping he will arrive soon as the busy season is now here. As per protocol the worker must go into a strict quarantine immediately on arrival

for 14 days. The worker will be paid by the farmer for those two weeks per normal with supplies provided. This isolation will take place, if the worker does arrive in July, in the height of the harvest season of the farm's labor intensive time of "bunch beets". This crop is done manually by pulling up a dozen beets and securing them with a twist tie so they can be sold fresh with the iron-rich tops left on.

The hope is that all the international workers will be here, finished with the mandatory 14 days isolation and in place for the busy carrot crop that will be harvested starting in August. Carrots are mechanically harvested meaning there need to be skilled workers on the harvester as grading takes place on the machine. Sam usually takes a place beside his Mexican workers as a grader and he hopes that this year will be no exception.

The biggest concern for horticulture farming in the future will be securing "land base", Sam predicts. The "land base" concern is increasing for everyone

in his area because of increased housing development that makes farm land prices soar along with property taxes. Property tax costs are set based on what nearby land is worth. If a farm sells very high, the next property tax update could triple or more in cost to the surrounding farms. He says he can now see "rooftops" of houses in the horizon at his farm whereas before it was all farm lands.

Sam is fully content to be a horticulture farmer growing beets, carrots and onions on 70 acres of land. In the winter when his land is at rest, he works in his home woodworking shop filling custom orders specializing in food displays for a well known chain of grocery stores.

"When that last row is harvested in late October, I am longing to get to my heated wood shop. In late winter, I'm just like the groundhog looking outside for spring because I can hardly wait to get back in the fields again. I love both my jobs, I'm just so lucky," Sam says.

## Support for Losses Due to Labour Shortages

By Paul Bootsma, Field Services Manager for the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario.

Last week, the federal and provincial government announced enhancements to AgriInsurance to cover losses due to labour shortages resulting from COVID-19.

CFFO is thankful and appreciative of this response and credits government for meeting the needs of our industry.

The federal ministry has been in discussions with its provincial and territorial counterparts for some time to establish these supports. We thank Ontario for being the first province to take steps in this direction.

Back in May, we wrote to federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau about this issue. We encouraged her to increase supports for business disruptions due to COVID-19, including revenue lost due to lack of access to labour. CFFO has also been working at the provincial level to urge government to recognize the fallout of this year's farm labour shortages.

At the time of writing, specifics are still forthcoming, but farmers already enrolled in production insurance plans are encouraged to contact Agricorp. Coverage will include losses due to an inability to attract enough labour or due to on-farm illness or quarantine.

This announcement couldn't come sooner. As we know, many farmers saw

losses this spring due to labour shortages. Now in July, we are still seeing crop losses for the same reason. Acres of vegetables are being returned to the soil because there aren't enough hands to harvest them.

Despite the help of insurance, we understand this situation is still unfortunate because there are areas around the world that are short of food. As farmers, it's our life's work to provide food for others, so times like these can be difficult emotionally for farmers. We encourage those working in commodities that are affected by labour shortages to pay attention to their mental health, and to check in with loved ones. There are many mental health resources available specifically for farmers.

We also focus on signs of hope. Most regions of Ontario are entering Stage Three of the reopening plan. We are encouraged to see signs that our economy is ready to rebuild, and we encourage government to continue the work they are doing to support recovery.



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## The many benefits of an OFA membership

COVID-19 has changed the world, there is no doubt about it! For farm organizations too. OFA and County federations have had to adapt and change how we communicate through this pandemic. Adapting is nothing new in the agricultural sector, we do it consistently and do it well.

OFA offers our membership a weekly newsletter updating members on emerging issues and those that have been advocated on recently. We want our members to be informed on current issues impacting the agricultural sector and how OFA is responding. I am encouraging you to contact me with your email address if you would like to receive our E-Weekly Newsletter. Another important vehicle we use to deliver valuable information to you our members, is through our website. Currently, the first information window that pops up is a webpage complete with all the COVID-19 financial, and Health & Safety resources offered by both the Federal and Provincial governments. While you are visiting our website, click on the tab labelled resources to discover the recent submissions and letters sent on your behalf to government ministries to address many current issues.

County federations are conducting monthly meetings virtually. Directors can join the meetings via the speakers and camera on their laptops or mobile phones. Which can be handy if you are busy in the field but are still interested in taking part in the meeting. Using the available technology has been a learning curve for everyone. Each time we use the technology our confidence in using it grows. As an OFA member, you are always welcome to attend monthly county federation meetings. Maybe now would be the perfect time to take part in a meeting from the comfort of your own home. Just contact the administrator for your local federation for the information on how to connect to the meeting.

OFA Regional Meetings are held each fall to elect delegates to attend the OFA Annual General Meeting. As well as, elect local representatives to sit on the OFA Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). Watch for advertising in the Ontario Farmer newspaper and the Farm View for the dates of these meetings held across the province. Members that would like to attend the Regional Meetings will need to pre-register with the County Federation two days prior to the meeting. Nominations for delegate and PAC positions are required to be submitted 7 days before the Regional Meeting to the County Federation administrator. Your OFA number

will be required to confirm your membership status before the meeting log in information will be shared. County Federations will likely be hosting their Annual General Meetings in the same

virtual method to respect the health protocols put in place by the province limiting the size of gatherings. Unless, the province greatly increases the limits or lifts the restrictions altogether most of our agricultural organizations will be making the difficult decision to forego the in-person meetings. AGM's are business meetings but also social events for the community. So, with this in mind we must continue to maintain social distancing for the safety of everyone and hold meetings virtually.

The OFA Annual General Meeting is not immune to COVID-19 either. For the health and safety of the delegates, board members and staff, the decision was made to conduct the OFA AGM virtually. Staff is working hard to ensure that the meeting will run as smoothly and effectively as possible.

As you can see, we are doing our very best to provide OFA members the opportunity to stay connected locally and provincially. Losing the ability to meet face to face at meetings or events has been difficult. Keeping the doors of communication open while protecting everyone's health is of the utmost importance.

OFA proudly launched a new resource tool last month in partnership with AgCareers.com and Careers in Food.com to assist employers and those seeking jobs in the Agri-Food sectors. Several virtual job fairs have successfully taken place already. The next province wide job fair is scheduled to take place on August 25th from 10am to 1pm. Registration is required to participate.

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By Leah Emms  
OFA Member Services Rep.  
705-722-5511  
[Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca](mailto:Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca)  
[www.ofa.on.ca](http://www.ofa.on.ca)

## Volunteer Corner



Dennis Gannon is shown here on Canada Day enjoying one of his favourite pastimes.

—Photo by Roslyn Watkins

Dennis and Joan Gannon have lived in the community of Anten Mills for 39 years. They have raised a family here and set the bar high for being wonderful community members. Before retirement Dennis was the Fire Chief of Vespra/Springwater Township for five years and held the position of the Deputy Chief prior to that. Dennis enjoys being an active community recreation association voting member of Anten Mills and has organized many events over the years such as the annual Christmas Parade. Dennis also has a regular column in the Springwater News reporting on events in Anten Mills. He enjoys volunteering at the Church in Phelpston that his family attends and has been an active volunteer with Joan at Minesing Elementary school. Dennis recently suggested and implemented save stations around the township organizing training sessions for community members. In Dennis' free time he enjoys biking, kayaking and fishing.

—Story provided by Becca Allan

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## The many enjoyments of retirement; from former publisher John Beischer

By Roslyn Watkins

John was recently asked how he has been enjoying retirement. He gave this for a reply.

"I've always loved the flow of water, so building gardens (around my home) that feature moving water has been especially enjoyable.

I enjoy the property that Jill and I landscaped for more than 40 years using child labour in the form of kids and grandkids. Watching a 'Bob Ray' maple tree seed grow to a 30 foot high tree.

I enjoy my cat, Lucy. We give each other 23 and a 1/2 hours of freedom each day. Her to pursue bug chasing in the yard and ignoring all the rodents that feast in my gardens; and me working extra jobs to put feed in her bowl.

Lucy says that is about right. The other 1/2 hour she tolerates my guitar tunes and I put up with her shedding in every corner of the house.

I also enjoy waving at the many dog walkers, bicycle riders, buggy pushers, marathon runners [where do you get the energy in this heat!] and [something new on our street], motorized scooters on our hard surface concession road. Sometimes you are my only contact with our former 'normal' society, so please stop and say hello.

I enjoy exercising every morning. This will wear off when the weather wears off. But for now it is a treat to do pushups on the back deck when no one is checking my poor math skills. Was that one? Or one up and one down?

So easy to lose count. And memory loss is good too; did I already do the crunches? Yes, of course I did!

Shower, swim, hot tub, done.

And finally, yes there is a 'finality' to my response to your question. I mostly enjoy that you [my beautiful daughter] is enjoying the publishing experience as much as I [and Mom] did for 40 plus years. Please ask me again next year and I'll be happy to add to my list of 'enjoyable' experiences the many things I couldn't remember today."



Former publisher photographed with his grandchildren on a recent camping trip to Nicolston Dam. From left to right Trenton and Lily Watkins, John Beischer and Brianna Robichaud.

—Photo by Diana Robichaud

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# The history behind Double JB feeds

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Double JB Feeds (DBLJB) is a local supplier of livestock feed and agricultural supplies.

DBLJB began with owner Jim Blow. Back in the 1970's Jim had an opportunity to work with Purina. Purina afforded him a chance to set up an 'on farm point of sale' for equine feeds. Jim found quality in the feed company Purina and started his business on the outskirts of the Orr Lake area and expanded from there.

With the foundation of "Treat your customer like you would like to be treated", Jim and his wife Joan rebranded the business in 1990 using their initials (JJB) to create Double JB Feeds which has grown into the successful feed and supply store it is today. "Our customers have been very loyal," Jim says, adding that he has some customers that have been with him since the 1970's.

DBLJB strives to meet the needs of local farmers and livestock owners. We encourage agricultural education and are happy to provide advice for beginner to advanced patrons. Most of the DBLJB team are deeply rooted in the agricultural community. Jane, the business manager, lives on a beef cattle farm and has a background of raising sheep, chickens, and rabbits. Jim also grew up on a mixed farm and spent his youth working on a dairy farm and later on a hog farm. Jim and Joan together owned and operated an Appaloosa breeding stable where they traveled across Ontario and Quebec showing

horses.

Jim is always available for his team if they have questions from customers.

They provide feed and supplies for equine, cattle, poultry, swine, goat, sheep, alpaca, rabbit, deer, mini pigs, dogs, and cats. There is also a selection of bird seed and wild bird supplies. Jim backs the quality of Purina and uses them as their base feed. He has also added the well established Jones Feed Mills Ltd and Sharpe Farm Supplies. "Livestock feed has improved so much over the years, there are many good lines out there now," Jim explains.

There are more options for livestock feed today and a growing demand for non-GMO feed. Organic feed is also growing in demand and DBLJB is now routinely stocking both choices. Organic feed is more costly and was typically only used by people with smaller flocks and herds; however, this is beginning to change as more farmers are going to organics.

Over the decades Jim has witnessed a new trend that has grown stronger with Covid-19. "People are becoming more conscious of where food comes from," Jim explains that a large portion of his customer base is younger farmers and residents that are growing food for their own families. "People want to know where things come from now and aren't interested in items from overseas. They want local first, and if not local, they want made and grown in Canada," he says.

"Covid-19 has sparked an interest in self-reliance, especially growing your

own food. People are laid off and they have extra time so they are trying new experiences," Jim said. There has been an increase in people driving from other communities including Sudbury, Parry Sound, and Tottenham due to the increased demand. Chick Days, where customers pick up their chicken orders, are extra busy. The chickens come from the well known Frey's Hatchery Ltd. in St. Jacobs. DBLJB has been a high volume seller for the popular hatchery for several years.

The store portion of the building does not have the space to accommodate social distancing so customers are required to use curb-side pickup. Double JB Feeds' new website [www.doublejbfeeds.ca](http://www.doublejbfeeds.ca) makes it easy as Jim says 90% of inventory is online for ordering. To place an order you can call 705-526-0563 during business hours, or email [dbljb2@gmail.com](mailto:dbljb2@gmail.com) the day before pickup. "When customers come to pick up orders, someone will either load the vehicle or we'll leave it out if they prefer," Jim explains, adding that curb-side pickup keeps everyone safe.

Double JB Feeds has long been an advertiser with Farm View. "We began advertising with John at Farm View many years ago and considered him a part of our team. He made changes to our ads to make them work better. This is the last ad we would ever cut because we believe in Farm View. Farm View is all about farming and the agricultural community and we support that," Jim said.

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# After the Chores: Pasture Time

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



There are few sights that make me happier than seeing a green field full of grazing livestock.

It has taken a lot of planning around here to get my happy pasture view.

Sheep have a bad reputation of being “stupid” but in truth, sheep can be educated though one must understand how sheep think first. I had no doubt that I could train my sheep to go to pasture. Here the path to pasture is: out the barn door, across the laneway, past the propane tank, across the lawn, along the field and then left into the pasture gate with no fences involved. My sheep can make the trip in 1.5 minutes flat now.

The first time though getting the sheep to pasture was a full out disaster. We had the shearing guy here in the morning. The day was cool, the sky was clear blue and the sun was out- it was a day forever etched in my memory, that maiden trip to the pasture. We had our two vehicles and the tractor lined up to make a corridor across the lane and some snow fence along both sides of the lawn to make a clear path. With my freshly shorn flock, I led the way to pasture calling my sheep friends and feeding the lead ewe mouthfuls of grain from the small bucket of grain I carried with me. Sweetie followed behind keeping the stragglers moving so we were one big unit. That pasture was designed and built by Sweetie so there was a lot of money and time invested here. This was such an important day for us.

We were about halfway to pasture when there were uncertain baas and the flock look startled. I talked more to the sheep- but they were not listening. Fear had overtaken them- and they were milling around now in uncertain steps instead of moving forward. Then, the whole flock, even the lead ewe, took off for the barn as fast as they could run! Sweetie dodged the flock, just in time, as they went speeding back to the barn like a white runaway train.

The only ones now in the pasture were me and Sweetie. We could see nothing wrong here. We looked for nasty coyotes but there was nothing out of place but the thick lush green pasture. I had no idea what to do. All this time and effort for NOTHING? I was desperate for help so called our sheep mentor. Between gales of laughter and apologies for laughing so hard, the mentor explained that the sheep became scared- of each other. Sheep that are freshly sheared sometimes don't recognize each other immediately and in a strange place like the walk to the pasture, they went into full out panic and ran for safety which was the barn. The mentor explained that tomorrow the sheep will go out fine- don't worry. There is nothing more important to have when raising animals than a mentor to call on those bad days when one needs rescuing.

The next challenge was getting the llamas to pasture. Hummer and Lizzie will not quickly follow the flock to pasture, they prefer instead to take a leisurely scenic trip. The first hurdle to get the llamas past is the laneway. Hummer is usually the first one down on his back, rolling back and forth in the dust. Lizzie will then go down too but she prefers a spot where it is muddy. It is so frustrating to be standing beside two rolling llamas when one is trying to hurry up to get to off-farm work like I often was before COVID-19 hit. After the llamas got up and had a long shake, they would stroll along behind me grabbing at leaves. By this long time, the sheep would have finished the grain in the pasture and would be spread out over the property. After a few long runs after sheep and llamas, I often had to pen up the llamas by the barn which really is no place for flock guardians when the sheep are not there.

I made my first trip to pasture to load up the pans with grain. Hummer was cut off his usual grain treats in the barn on the morning of pasture day and hummed his frustration at me. I opened the llama pen gate and as I had hoped, Hummer came right to me in the lane and got his grain

snack instead of going down to go rolling. I walked along ahead of Hummer, followed by Lizzie to the pasture but I feared that they wouldn't stay long enough for the sheep to arrive so I could close the gate.

This year Sweetie came up with a new and improved pasture plan for me. I now hold a full grain bucket with both hands because Hummer is reaching into it getting grain as I walk fast ahead of him for my first trip out. Hummer makes me a bit nervous slithering his big neck along my arm to reach into the grain bucket with his giant teeth but it's still better than chasing sheep and llamas all over the property. At the pasture, the llamas go in to eat the grain- and I pull across a rope Sweetie put there that is just over the eye level of the sheep to keep the llamas in. I then race back to the barn so the llamas won't eat all the grain to let out my well trained sheep. The sheep all run out to pasture like a train on invisible tracks. I puff along after them going as fast as I can to be sure I get the pasture gate closed.

My new way of getting sheep and llamas to pasture means a lot of walking- but the view is so worth it.

## Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

A man was driving down the road when a policeman stopped him. The officer looked in the back of the man's truck and said, “Why are these penguins in your truck?”

The man replied, “These are my penguins. They belong to me.”

“You need to take them to the zoo,” the policeman said.

The next day, the officer saw the same guy driving down the road. He pulled him over again. He saw the penguins were still in the truck, but they were wearing sunglasses this time. “I thought I told you to take these penguins to the zoo!” the officer said.

“I did,” the man replied. “And today I'm taking them to the beach.”

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# QUILTING

## Christmas in July 2020 Presentations

*Story and photos provided by Senora Baldry*

On June 29, 2020 Dianne, Cheryl and I made two presentations of almost 150 items to My Sister's Place and Matthews House Hospice. Given our current gathering restrictions and no July meeting, we took our presentation of quilts to them. Our members have been very, very busy and we were pleased to present an abundance of Quilts of Comfort and of various items to each group.



Senora, Fran and Dianne are shown here with donations for Matthews House Hospice. They received 11 QoC Daybed Size, 5 QoC Seasonal Daybed, 5 QoC Bed Size, 9 Seasonal Décor items for Summer/Fall and 12 Seasonal Décor items for Winter/Christmas.



Pictured above are Senora, Sheila and Dianne displaying the donations to My Sister's Place. Items included were 7 receiving blankets, 23 bibs, 36 QoC Kids, 28 QoC Adult/Youth, 1 QoC Bed Size, 5 seasonal décor items and 5 scarves.

Shown at the right is a barn quilt in Adjala-Tosorontio photographed by Mary Lucky. Visit [www.barnquilttrails.ca](http://www.barnquilttrails.ca) for information about barn quilts across Canada. Visit [www.experience.simcoe.ca/barn-quilt-trail](http://www.experience.simcoe.ca/barn-quilt-trail) for a map of Simcoe County barn quilts.



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## Quilting Fever by Beverly Page

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look

(it really is a fright).  
my knees they start to  
shaking,  
my nose begins to twitch.  
As I look at all the colours,  
my fingers start to itch.  
I picture Dresden Plate  
done up in yellows and blue  
oh, look at that lavender  
just right for Sun Bonnet  
Sue!

Across another aisle  
It's true I almost ran,  
For a shade of brown I had  
to have  
to make for Overall Dan.  
Drunkard's Path or Ohio  
star

pieced in that real bright red  
Would be absolutely  
beautiful  
covering my bed.

I gasp, I pant, I simply  
lose all sense of time,  
As I pick out all the colours  
that I have to have as mine!  
I hurry home, my purchases  
clutched tight beneath my  
arm,

Dreaming of the quilts I'll  
make  
and how they'll keep us  
warm.

Housework gets forgotten  
but

I have no pangs of guilt  
As I start cutting and a-  
piecing,  
cause I'm going to make a  
quilt!

*Submitted by Sally Ann Olley,  
a member of the Alliston  
Quilting Corners Guild*

## Pie sale in support of the Utopia Gristmill



*Photo by Mary Lucky*

Many happy shoppers gathered at the annual Utopia pie sale on Saturday June 20th. Volunteers were on hand to sell pies and help with physical distancing. The pie sale is a fundraiser for the Utopia Gristmill. The Friends of Utopia Park & Gristmill work to raise funds for the preservation and restoration of Bell's Gristmill. They host a number of events each year in support of their work. Learn more at [utopiahall.ca](http://utopiahall.ca).

## Cookstown 4-H Judging Club New Report

*By Jessica Faust*

The third meeting of the 4-H Cookstown Judging Club was held on June 30th at 7 pm. We opened with the 4-H pledge. In the meeting we first learned how to judge market lambs. Grant Cowan went over what to look for. Lauren Cowan supplied the class of market lambs. She showed them on camera and told us which lamb was the heaviest and widest etc. All the members placed them and a few gave their reasons. Grant Cowan gave the official placement and reasons. We judged a class of rhubarb muffins supplied by myself and Jackson Faust. We went over the scorecard and presented to the class. I



enjoyed taste testing and giving the feedback on flavor and taste. The members gave their placements. Jackson and I gave the official placement and reasons. The meeting was adjourned by the president. For the next meeting all the members are to create a class that would be fun to judge. It can be anything and we were encouraged to use our imagination when deciding on what to judge.

*More 4-H news on page 14*

**Do you have a quilting project or news  
you'd like to share? Email us at  
[farmview@on.aibn.com](mailto:farmview@on.aibn.com) or mail your  
contributions to 8 Luella Blvd., Minesing  
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A COVID-19 reminder, please be considerate of others. Remember your face covering, wash your hands frequently and respect the physical distancing rule.

## Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture Notice of Regional Meeting

### Thursday, September 3, 2020 8:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting

#### Purpose:

- To elect 2 Policy Advisory Council (PAC) representatives plus 1 alternate to represent Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture (SCFA) at Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) PAC meetings for the coming year.
- To elect 6 delegates from SCFA to attend the OFA Virtual Annual General Meeting and Convention in November 2020 (3 per PAC representative).
- To register to "attend" the SCFA Virtual Regional Meeting.

#### Who:

- OFA members in good standing residing in Simcoe County are eligible to attend, vote and be elected to a position.
- One vote per membership.

#### How:

- Submit to the SCFA your intent to run for one of the above positions by email to [office@simcoecountyfa.org](mailto:office@simcoecountyfa.org)
- You may nominate someone else.

- Delegates and PAC representatives need good reliable electronic connection to participate in the virtual OFA meeting.

- A phone-in option to participate in the Regional Meeting is available.

- Register to attend the Regional Meeting as outlined below.

#### When:

- All nominations and notices of intent to run for a position must be submitted to the SCFA office by email [office@simcoecountyfa.org](mailto:office@simcoecountyfa.org) by 12pm on Monday, August 24, 2020.
- All registrations to attend the Virtual Regional Meeting must be submitted to the SCFA office by email [office@simcoecountyfa.org](mailto:office@simcoecountyfa.org) by Monday, August 31, 2020.
- Once you have registered to attend the meeting, you will receive an email with an invitation to connect to the virtual meeting on September 3, 2020 and instructions on how to vote.



Elmvalle Fall Fair is pleased to announce the 2020 winners of their Flos Agricultural Society Bursary for those completing secondary school education and have shown commendable participation with the fair throughout their formative years. Shown here with the President Doug Ritchie are the recipients, Emily Lombard and Noah Parnell who are both entering the University life at Guelph this fall, in whatever form that may take. Congratulations and best wishes. *—Story and photo provided by Marlene Lambie*

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# Simcoe County 4-H clubs report on their activities

## South Simcoe 4-H Poultry and Rabbit Club

By Jessa Bray

Even though we have all had many challenges this year, the South Simcoe 4H Poultry and Rabbit Club members have been able to learn so much over the three meetings we have had so far. It sure was different getting to know each other and meeting our leaders over the internet thorough a ZOOM meeting, but our first meeting was great. We were able to see a virtual tour of a heritage poultry brooder house, guided by our leader Greg, at Maple Heights Farms. It sure was neat to see where the baby birds start their lives and to learn about what the chicks, ducklings, goslings and turkey poults need to survive and thrive! This year we have been so lucky to be able to connect with other 4H clubs all over Ontario. For our second meeting, we were invited, along with a few other clubs from around the province, to attend a ZOOM meeting hosted by the Middlesex Rabbit Club where we listened to and saw a presentation put on by a veterinary technician all about rabbit traits, their life cycle and how to care for a rabbit. It sure was nice of them to invite us to hear that amazing guest speaker, and we got along so great with their club that they invited us to another meeting. During our third meeting, the Middlesex Rabbit Club invited a guest speaker from a Rabbitry farm to speak to us about this interesting area of raising rabbits. We learned so much from her. So many of us had questions about her farm and she was very informative with her answers. We will have to invite these other clubs to one of our meetings very soon! Even during a pandemic, we have proven that we can all continue to learn to do by doing!

## Cookstown 4-H Living Well News Report

By Jessica Faust

The third meeting for the 4-H Cookstown Living Well Club was held on June 25th at 7 pm. We had a special guest named Diana Lee who is a registered dietitian. She talked about what we should eat as a tween or a teenager. She spoke about carbs, calories, fat etc. She showed a power point slide presentation. When she was done presenting the members asked her questions and she gave some interesting answers. We repeated the 4-H pledge and motto. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on July 13th at 7 pm.

## 4-H Cooking Club Final Press Report

By Isabella Cullen

On June 28th, we had our final cooking club meeting. For our roll call, we had to find a kitchen gadget and the members had to guess which gadget we were sharing. Some of the gadgets included a cookie scooper, meat tenderizer, and a cheese slicer. In this meeting, we presented our final cooking project. Our leaders gave us a choice of three final projects – a protein mystery box, a baking mystery box and planning a meal for our family. Each person prepared the mystery box or meal at home and then submitted photos of their dish. Some of the interesting meals our members made included beef stroganoff, Japanese style pancakes, maple glazed chicken with asparagus and a meal fully grilled on the BBQ. One of our members prepared a full meal for her family including rose petal ice cream! We enjoyed hearing about our members' cooking adventures as our achievement. Thanks to our President Nicole Kneeshaw and our leaders Mae Senick, Lisa van Kolfshoten, Donna Lange and Tamara Fisher-Cullen for making our online cooking club a lot of fun.



Julia Katirai's lamb and spinach yogurt squares, salad with homemade pomegranate molasses and rose petal ice cream.



Poultry and rabbit club members  
Maya, Alyssa and Jessa Bray

## Cookstown 4-H Miniature Horse Club

By Julia Katirai

At our last 4-H Cookstown Miniature Horse Club meeting Wednesday July 8th we played a game called Pick Your Poison Miniature Horse edition. Its a game where you have to pick the healthier foods to feed your horse and try to keep your horse alive as long as possible! Due to COVID 19 we also had to find alternate ways to show our new members what an obstacle course is and what it might look like generally. We had a Playmobil horse obstacle creation and a back yard demonstration using chairs and benches to show our members what running an obstacle course is like with your horse! Our club leaders and members have been very creative in figuring out ways to continue to meet on ZOOM and learn together and we are still having lots of fun. This meeting was a lot of fun and I am looking forward to the next meeting which is washing and showing your miniature horse.

## South Simcoe 4-H Gardening Club

By Sarah Dowdall

On June 19th the South Simcoe 4-H Garden Club had its third official ZOOM meeting. We had a special guest, Shelly Candel, who spoke about the importance of pollinators. She showed a power point presentation and answered members questions. After we had learned about pollinators, leader Amber had the members share their garden journal entries and bean teepees from the last meeting. Everyone had great entries in their journals, along with awesome bean

teepees. For movement we all grabbed our own hoola hoops and gave it our best to see who can hoola. A few of us didn't even have hoops and we just pretended. Our roll call was to show a pruning tool and tell about it. Amber showed us how to do pruning on one of her rose bushes. At the end of the meeting we played a garden knowledge game. The game was super fun and I really enjoyed it. I can't wait for our next meeting July 23rd when we learn about weeds and toxic plants. I know I can benefit from this topic.

## Cookstown and Everett 4-H Sheep Club

By Lauren Cowan

Our last Cookstown and Everett 4-H Sheep Club meeting was held on June 22nd and it was about bio security. We learned about what it is, how it affects farms and some diseases that are preventable by making sure your barn is bio secure. We learned that bio security is protecting the health of your flock. Some tips on how to ensure your barn is bio secure is if you own a flock and you visit another barn or an area that has come in contact with sheep that are not in your flock do not use the same equipment that you use with your flock. If you are showing sheep, don't share halters with other sheep that are not in your flock. The meeting was very informative and we learned a lot. Next meeting July 20th.



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# Canada Day celebrated in Simcoe County



To the right Lily and Trenton Watkins enjoyed the beautiful weather.



Springwater Fire stations competed for the best decorated truck this past Canada Day. Pictured above is Pump 31 from station 3 complete with antlers, a canoe and even a beaver tail at the back. Many neighbours enjoyed the fire truck parade from their homes.



Emma Guthrie of Anten Mills decorated her driveway with a message for the local fire fighters crew.



An incredible light show was put on by Dave Guthrie and Shawn Watkins for many of the neighbours to enjoy from their homes.

For a few days each year around Canada Day Donna and Ken O'Brien of Midhurst display a collection of antique farm equipment. They have many visitors stopping to admire the collection. The equipment range in date from 1940 to 1956. Included in the collection is this 1926 competition match plow. It is available for sale.



Pictured below on display is this 1962 Thunderbird. In beautiful condition and for sale for \$15,000 by Ken O'Brien.





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## SCFA meeting updates



**John Morrison**

At our SCFA meeting in July, the board approved a motion to hold our Regional Meeting, that we normally hold in October, to September 3. The boards year end is Sept.30, so moving it forward is more in compliance. The Regional meeting is where all current OFA members in Simcoe County elect their Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) members to take our concerns and issues to the OFA board. They usually have 3 meetings a year either in Guelph where all PAC members can attend or in Orangeville where only 5-6 counties meet with OFA board members. Being on this committee for the last few years, I found it very informative and interesting. You get to know what issues other counties have to deal with, and surprising enough, most of us have the same concerns. We also elect our delegates to represent us at the OFA annual general meeting held in November. Because of the pandemic, this will be a virtual meeting this year. We elect 2 PAC members and six delegates. OFA will send out the nomination papers to all County OFA members to be returned to the SCFA office. Nominations must be received at the board office 7 days prior to the regional meeting. To be eligible to vote, you must register with SCFA board 2 days prior to the regional meeting.

We are moving the SCFA annual general meeting to Oct. 22 from November. At this meeting, we elect the zone directors, receive the financial statements and the proposed budget is distributed.

These are two important dates to remember, Sept.3 and Oct.22. We encourage anybody that wants to get involved to submit their nomination papers to the board office.

We want to host an agriculture technology and commodity marketing seminar through the January-February time period. The technology session would be about the efficiency of using GPS in tillage, planting and other uses in your operation. How much would you save instead of overlapping as much as 2 feet per pass to narrowing that down to less than 6 inches, and about eliminating planter markers. Its all about being efficient. The marketing of commodities session would show you all the different tools made available to help be a better marketer. Most of us know about forward contracts, but there are other tools available, such as basis contracts, hedging, options etc to help us optimize our product sales. If you are interested in any of these programs, let our office know, and we can pursue it further.

We had a meeting with the environment minister, Minister Jeff Yurick, regarding source water and conservation authorities. It was agreed that a farmer sit on these boards which is a positive response from the Minister.

Please view the OFA and our web site for more information.

Happy harvest and stay safe  
John Morrison  
SCFA president

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## Ontario and Quebec Beekeepers Urge Caution

*A media release from the Ontario Bee Keeper's Association*

On June 5th, 2020 two Quebec beekeepers experienced a mass killing of their bees associated with the application of herbicides. 600+ hives were being prepared for travel to blueberry pollination sites when more than 50% of the colonies were destroyed. At the time of the kills herbicides were being sprayed on a nearby field in windy conditions. The beekeepers affected were present at the time of the incident. They were able to speak to the farmer and obtain the labels for the chemicals being sprayed - a mix of Vios G3 (Bayer) + Roundup (Glyphosate) + Engenia (BASF) with the active ingredient Dicamba.

"It literally rained bees and bumble bees" reported Quebec Beekeeper Joel Laberge.

In 2012, systemic neonicotinoid pesticides applied as corn and soy seed treatments were found to be responsible for acute and chronic bee mortality. Both Quebec and Ontario have taken steps to avoid the overuse of this pesticide. Until now, herbicides have not been implicated in bee kills in Ontario or Quebec.

Beekeepers urge PMRA and the provinces to immediately review the use of herbicide and herbicide mixes. While each of the herbicide chemicals may have been registered by PMRA individually, the mixture of these chemicals has not been confirmed to be safe for bees. In fact, the sale of Dicamba, the

active ingredient in Engenia has been partially banned in the U.S. and the synergistic toxic effects on insect pollinators when mixing these chemicals is unknown. Quebec and Ontario beekeepers urge government to issue a caution to farmers and to immediately initiate research on the effect of acute and chronic exposure to combinations of these chemicals.

To avoid more mass bee kills, Quebec and Ontario beekeepers ask farmers to follow and observe the cautions on the labels to avoid drift and not spray in hot and windy conditions. Farmers are asked to spray in the early morning and late evening to avoid spraying during the day when bees are active.

Beekeepers in both Quebec and Ontario produce honey and provide bees to pollinate our fresh fruit and vegetables. Honey production has been limited by the increase in cash crops of corn and soy and the use of herbicides that has reduced the amount of quality forage. Beekeepers cannot sustain heavy losses of colonies.

"Beekeepers need farmers' support" said Julie Fontaine, president of the AADQ Pesticides Committee. Good relations between beekeepers and farmers are essential if we are to sustain our beekeeping industry and enjoy a healthy population of honey bees, wild bees and bumble bees."

## Virtual Hike for Hospice Fundraiser

You are invited to virtually hike between September 25 and October 4th.

Last year's event broke a new record with over 700 participants and over \$110,000 raised. Thanks to all participants, this event has become the biggest annual fundraiser for Hospice Simcoe. Help is needed more than ever this year as Hospice Simcoe has continued to provide all programs and services throughout the pandemic. Costs to operate have not changed; in fact there has been an increase with the purchase of personal protective equipment, additional cleaning supplies, etc.

Walk, jog, bike, tread mill, climb stairs, skip rope, work out or whatever other activity you can think of. You can choose when and how you 'hike' during the 10 day period. Choose whatever distance and skill level is appropriate for you. Whatever you do, please adhere to public health guidelines regarding the number of people that can gather together.

On Hospice Simcoe's Facebook page (@HospiceSimcoe) you will find the Virtual Hike for Hospice Facebook event on the events tab or search "Virtual Hike for Hospice" on Facebook. You can also find the link to our Facebook event on our website: [https://hospicesimcoe.ca/fundraising-](https://hospicesimcoe.ca/fundraising-events/hike-for-hospice/)

[events/hike-for-hospice/](https://hospicesimcoe.ca/fundraising-events/hike-for-hospice/).

There is no registration fee for this event and all costs are covered by the generous sponsors, so all money raised by participants will go directly to Hospice Simcoe programs and services; which are provided at no cost to our residents, clients and their families.

Visit the website <https://www.hospicesimcoe.ca/hike-for-hospice/> for pledge information.

Many thanks to the 2020 Hike Sponsors:

Purehealth Pharmacy, Kiwanis Club of Barrie, Barrie Press, Abram's Service Centre, Allandale Veterinary Hospital, Auto Trim Design, Dalston General Store, Deluxe Taxi, Jeff White Group, Jeff's Junk, MediGas, Parker Coulter Realty Brokerage and Plumbtech.

The following had generously offered to provide goods and services for the on-site event. Although their services will not be required for a virtual event, many thanks to these businesses as well.

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# The hardship tale of The Otonabee Steamer

## Village stories

by Andrew Hind

Known as a floating palace, the Otonabee was one of the last and most luxurious of Lake Simcoe's steamers. Unfortunately, she was also infamous for repeated accidents, malfunctioning

equipment, and incompetent piloting that soiled her reputation for elegance and refinement.

Built in Peterborough (she was named for Otonabee Township and the Otonabee River), Otonabee was purchased by the Lake Simcoe Navigation Company for \$12,000 and brought to Lake Simcoe in 1910.

For the steamer's first cruise, someone had the unusual idea of sending her up the Holland River to Bradford. It had been decades since any steamer had made that trip, and for good reason. The Holland River is so shallow that steamships inevitably found themselves mired in the mud. In addition, Bradford at the time was about as unlikely a tourist destination as one could find on Lake Simcoe, with absolutely nothing to recommend it save for a few mills and dirt-streets. Nevertheless, the cruise went ahead as planned.

The anticipated arrival of Otonabee caused a wave of excitement. Throngs of eager spectators, some from as far away as Newmarket, lined the Bradford shores of the Holland River that day, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the vessel. For many, it would have been the first time they had seen a steamship up close.

As some naysayers had predicted, Otonabee was simply too large. She struggled through up the waterway, her bottom dragging against the bottom of the river and threatening to ground. Struggling propellers churned the water, turned it a frothing brown, and catapulted pike and muskellunge through the air.

Things got no better once the ship reached its destination. The town's rotting wharf made landing at Bradford difficult, silt in the river made it difficult to turn the vessel around again, and passengers had to walk into town along railway tracks. By all standards of measurement, the voyage was a humiliating failure, and yet passengers and onlookers alike enjoyed the spectacle immensely.

The Otonabee spent the first few years of her Lake Simcoe existence carrying passengers to ports around the lake, including a couple of return visits to Bradford.

After 1912, Otonabee spent most of her time sailing Kempenfelt Bay. The Toronto-based syndicate that owned the vessel built a new luxury resort at Big Bay Point called The Peninsular Park Hotel, a 60-room model of luxury and opulence. Thereafter, the Otonabee spent her days ferrying rich patrons to the hotel and her nights hosting moonlit cruises upon the lake.

Though an attractive vessel, Otonabee was plagued by misfortune. Failing engines often left the ship and her passengers stranded on the Bay. She once crashed into the docks at Big Bay Point while the captain and first mate were drunk. On another occasion she sank alongside Barrie's dock and had to be re-floated and refurbished. In 1915, the Otonabee hit the swing-bridge at Bolsover while ascending the Trent Canal, splintering the bow and damaging the main deck.

The worst mishap occurred in the predawn gloom of August 14, 1916, while the Otonabee lay moored at the docks of the Peninsular Hotel. A fire started below decks, and by the time Captain P. McLean Campbell and purser Harold Hughes were roused from their sleep it was already too late. The hold was already con-



STEAMER 'OTTANABEE' AT DE GRASSI WHARF 1904

sumed, and flames had spread to the main deck. With the fire so well established, the officers were powerless to save the ship and had to dive overboard to save themselves.

Soon, the flames leapt from the ship to the adjacent docks and began racing along the wharf. Onlookers were horrified when the fire reached a lighthouse at the end of the dock where cylinders of acetylene were stored. The lighthouse exploded, incinerating the structure, reducing the wharf to splinters, and shattered windows and dishes in nearby homes and businesses.

The sound and reverberations were heard and felt as far away as Barrie. With World War One raging, many people thought the somehow the Germans had decided to bomb Canada — unaware that Barrie was well beyond the range of any Europe-based aircraft of the era.

As for the ship itself, when the smoke cleared, she lay at the bottom of the lake with only her smokestack showing above the water's surface. Beyond salvage, the Otonabee was scuttled just offshore, her hull confined to the waters it had sailed for a few short, drama-filled years.

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*From the office of the Hon. Jim Wilson*

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario is inviting nominations for the province's first Poet Laureate.

The Poet Laureate of Ontario Act (In Memory of Gord Downie) was passed unanimously in the Legislature in December 2019. It honours the late former lead singer of popular Canadian rock band The Tragically Hip, whose poetic lyrics touched the hearts of Canadians from coast to coast.

Upon appointment by the Legislature, the Poet Laureate will report to the Speaker of the Legislature as an officer of the Assembly for a two-year term. Responsibilities will include writing poetry, promoting art and literacy in the province, celebrating Ontario and its people and raising the profile of Ontario poets.

"For the first time in our history, we will be celebrating our literary arts by selecting an Ontario Poet Laureate," said the

Legislature's Speaker Ted Arnott. "Poetry nourishes and inspires, and our poets speak to our hearts and souls. This initiative could not come at a better time."

Simcoe-Grey MPP Jim Wilson called poetry one of the greatest of the Arts. "It motivates and it sustains us," he said. "Poetry is also practical. It teaches us while it touches our deepest emotions and feelings," he added.

Ontario's Poet Laureate will join counterparts in other jurisdictions, such as Canada's Parliament as well as municipal-

ties across the province including Collingwood, Owen Sound, Barrie and Toronto.

The successful candidate must be a person whose primary residence is Ontario and who has published at least one volume of poetry within the last 10 years or must demonstrate that their body of work has brought honour to themselves and to Ontario.

For more information about nomination procedures and requirements, please visit the

Legislative Assembly of Ontario's Poet Laureate website: [www.ola.org/en/poet-laureate](http://www.ola.org/en/poet-laureate)

Applications for the position are being accepted through to September 15, 2020. Following the acceptance of nominations, a selection panel will prepare a short list of the nominees by December and announce a chosen nominee by February, 2021.

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