



# FARM VIEW

43rd year of publication!

July 2020 VOLUME 43 #7

## See inside

OFA updates,  
how farms  
and markets  
are operating  
with new  
procedures in  
place and a  
pioneer  
cemetery  
dedication.

Picture perfect  
view from the  
North Simcoe  
Rail Trail

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.

## July 1st Canada Day 153 years



## July 15th Wild Parsnip Webinar

See ad on page 12 for all the details

## July 15th News and Advertising deadline

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

## July 17th Virtual Crop Walk

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

## July 31st OFA photo contest

Ontario Federation of Agriculture farm safety photo contest. See details on page 15.

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Be sure to include a contact name & number. Email us at [farmview.on.aibn.com](mailto:farmview.on.aibn.com) or mail your submissions to 8 Luella Blvd Minesing, ON L9X0W7

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## Devotional Corner

### Don't worry about tomorrow

By Kathleen Greidanus  
Retired Priest



I really am a news junkie. I listen to the CBC news last thing before going to sleep and then again before getting out of bed in the morning. I'm not sure why this is necessary. It certainly doesn't bring me sweet dreams or give me a joyful reason to jump out of bed in the morning. I suppose I just like to know what is going on in the world and how I should direct my prayers.

For many weeks in recent months the news was exclusively about Covid-19 with the hard facts of numbers of deaths and new cases in each province. Recently, that news headline has been overtaken by the riots around the Black Lives protests around the world.

From all my news reading on the ipad and listening to the radio I have come to the conclusion that there are two lines of news – hard and soft. The hard news deals with items such as shootings or unnecessary deaths in long term care facilities. This is the kind of news that causes genuine concern for our fellow citizens of the world. The soft news deals with items such as which celebrity is pregnant or if the Duchess of Cambridge wore a certain dress more than once. I find myself wondering who is this drivel written for?

Perhaps the “soft” news is written to give us a distraction from the horrors of the world that can leave us feeling overwhelmed. With record unemployment, a rampant virus and so many personal concerns there is no shortage of things to cause us worry. But we are neither the first nor the last generation to have things to cause us worry. In Matthew 6:34, Jesus tells the crowd “Don't worry about tomorrow – tomorrow will worry about itself! Today has enough troubles already!” If only we could put that into practice.

Shalom,  
Kathleen

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

### Happy Canada Day!

We hope you enjoy a day of fun filled celebrations!

From our family to yours,  
The Watkins

### 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

# Bill 156 protects the safety of Ontario's farm and food supply

By Keith Currie, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture



Ontario farm families depend on the safety and security of their farms to raise livestock and grow and produce food to maintain a strong, reliable food supply for

all Ontarians. Farms are not only our places of business, they're our homes where we welcome family and friends and play with our children. The risk of unwanted visitors, trespassers and activists can have devastating impacts on the health and safety of our farms, families and their livestock.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and our 38,000 family farm businesses are firmly in support of Bill 156, the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019. Earlier this week, OFA presented our submission to the Standing Committee on General Government regarding Bill 156 highlighting the importance of this legislation for farm businesses, food processing facilities and agri-food workers throughout the value chain. Support for OFA's position on the positive direction of Bill 156 has been received and echoed by Ontario's livestock and poultry commodity organizations and the food processing sector.

Ontario farms have come under increasing threat from trespassers and activists who illegally enter property, barns and buildings, breaching biosecurity protocols and causing significant disruptions to the entire agri-food

sector. Once peaceful protests have now escalated to trespassing, invasions, barn break-ins, theft and harassment. Activists have stolen private property and threatened the health and welfare of farms, families, employees, livestock and crops, effectively putting the entire food system at risk.

A breach in biosecurity has the potential to pose a much larger risk than just to a single operation. The inclusion of designated animal protection zones will help to eliminate and reduce the risk of distress for farm animals and exposing livestock to disease and stress, as well as introducing contaminants to the food supply.

OFA applauds the Ontario government for introducing this act and taking action against illegal trespassers and activists through Bill 156. This important legislation adequately responds to threats to animal safety, food safety and to the personal safety of our farmers and their families. It enhances trespass protection and provides significant penalties for violations with fines up to \$15,000 for a first offence, and up to \$25,000 for subsequent offences.

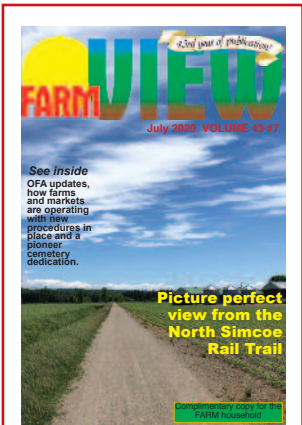
However, there have been comments and statements from those opposing Bill 156 that it stifles free speech, impedes one's right to protest and prevents exposing the abuse of farm animals. OFA believes it provides a balanced approach to protecting farms while recognizing a citizen's right to protest.

Concerns around the issue of animal abuse and the ability and obligation to report such actions are entrenched within the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 (commonly referred to as PAWS). OFA

believes in exposing animal cruelty by utilizing our existing enforcement services who have the proper authority and training to fulfill these responsibilities. Suspicion of animal abuse or neglect can be reported directly to the Ontario Animal Protection Call Centre, available 24 hours a day.

OFA firmly believes in and advocates for the humane treatment of all animals, including farmed livestock and poultry. Livestock farmers in Ontario are required to satisfy standards of care requirements as outlined under the PAWS Act, and follow the National Farm Animal Care Council's Codes of Practice, which ensure that animal health, safety, and welfare are prioritized and maintained. These codes of practice are species and industry-specific, and are developed with broad-based input from diverse stakeholders, including farmers, welfare groups, academia, government, and veterinary professionals. They are reviewed every five years to ensure they remain scientifically informed, practical, and reflect societal expectations for responsible farm animal care.

The Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019 does a commendable job at accomplishing the needs of the agri-food sector to keep our farm and food supply safe across the province. It provides the necessary protection of our farms, families, employees, their animals and the safety of the entire food system.



## On the Cover

Lillian Watkins photographed this section of the North Simcoe Rail Trail while cycling through the Minesing Wetlands. For more information about the Rail Trail please see page 15.

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





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**JD 9500 (E83853):** 1995, 4WD, 235HP, 4800ENG, 20' AUGER, 3-RANGE HYDRO, LEVEL LAND, FINE CUT CHOPPER, 30.5x32 GY 50%FRT, SINGLES, 18.4x26 30% TITAN REAR . . . . . **\$39,480.00**



**JD S670 (E83131):** 2014, 4WD, 391HP, 1150ENG/750SEP HRS, 26' AUGER, CONTOURMASTER, 3-RANGE HYDRO-STATIC, AUTOTRAC READY, 650/85R38 80% MI FRONT, DUALS, 750/65R26 70% MI REAR . . . . . **\$382,060.00**

**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**

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 . . . . . **\$78,950.00**

**CA 7120 (E84247):** 2010, 4WD, 360HP, 2180 ENG/1565 SEP HRS, 21.5' AUG, CONTOURMASTER, 3-RANGE HYDRO, FIELD TRACKER, 620/70R42 FS 80% . . . . . **\$189,480.00**

AGRICULTURE - HARVESTING - GRAIN HEADS

**CA 1015 (E81569D):** 1990, 2WS, 12', 6 BELT PICK-UP HEAD, HYDRAULIC DRIVE, STANDARD AUGER, APPEARANCE - 6 . . . . . **\$3,690.00**

**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**

**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**

**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**

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

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LETTERS

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

The Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture held its second virtual meeting in June, and received positive comments on our May meeting. Going forward after this pandemic, we will probably hold some meetings virtually.

As of writing, area farmers have most, if not all, the crop planted under close to ideal conditions. We could do with more moisture as the ground is dry (just when some of us want dry weather for the hay crop.)

John Brassard, MP Barrie South, contacted us wanting to meet with area farmers and MP's on how COVID-19 has affected agriculture in Simcoe County. Colin Elliott along with our MSR Leah Emms arranged for 10 farmers to give their thoughts on how it has affected them. MP's from the west, John Barlow, shadow Minister of Agriculture and Food, and Randy Hobart, shadow Minister of International Trade gave insight on the record of the present government. Terry Dowdell, Bruce Stanton, and Scott Davidson, Doug Shipley were the other area MP's involved. The Free Trade Agreement between the U.S, Mexico and Canada seemed to have a greater effect on us than COVID-19. However, there were issues regarding livestock slaughter, migrant workers, the equine industry as well as horticulture crops still having problems. This pandemic really exposed the frailty of the processing industry, not only here in Ontario, but across Canada.

Keith Currie, O.F.A. President, informed us of a by-law change regarding voting procedures for the O.F.A. President and Executive Committee. To be in compliance with the Corporations Act, they felt it was in the best interest of the organization to change this by-law. You can find more information regarding this on the O.F.A. website. The O.F.A. is working hard for its members in consultation with both levels of government to help us steer through this troubling time. You can also get more information regarding this on the website <https://ofa.on.ca/>

We were involved, along with other stake holders, in a virtual meeting with the County of Simcoe on how to establish a food hub to help distribute food to area food banks later in the year. The feeling is that in the fall, the area food banks will be under a great deal of pressure in regard to their food supply.

We asked the County of Simcoe if there was any way the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture could help during this pandemic. At their suggestion, we are donating funds to purchase patio furniture for the four Long Term Care Homes that Simcoe County operates. This will enable the residents to visit with their loved ones outside the residence. The whole board was in full agreement with this decision.

Speaking for the whole board, we hope you have a safe and happy summer.  
John Morrison  
President

**The Great Northern Exhibition cancelled**

The Collingwood Agricultural Society considers first and foremost the health and safety of their volunteers, members of the community, their loyal sponsors, vendors and exhibitors who are of the greatest importance to the Society.

Therefore, as a result of lengthy discussions and input from their board of directors, associate directors and volunteers, The Great Northern Exhibition has been cancelled for 2020.

The decision was made on May 28th based on the direction from the Public Health Department, Government directives regarding Covid-19 and the projected reopening schedule.

The decision to cancel our event is the right decision during this critical time. We are thinking of all our families and friends that have attended in the past. We look forward to safely gathering in 2021.

Thank you all who have supported us in our decision to cancel the 2020 Great Northern Exhibition. Stay tuned for possible virtual competitions and demonstrations being considered for this year on our website.

Thank you and stay safe!  
Joanne Gregson  
President,  
Collingwood Agricultural Society

**Cancellation of Elmvale Fall Fair 2020**

After careful consideration, the Directors of the Flos Agricultural Society regretfully announce the cancellation of the Elmvale Fall Fair, scheduled for Oct 9-10, 2020. Using all current information regarding this pandemic, the Directors agree that we must be socially responsible, so as to avoid spreading COVID-19.

This unanimous decision was made with the health & safety of our Volunteers, Vendors, Exhibitors, Visitors and the Community at large as our primary concern.

We gratefully acknowledge all of the volunteers, businesses, sponsors, and in-kind donors who have supported our Fair in the past. Without you, our annual Thanksgiving week-end Fair would not have been possible. Your support, going forward, will be just as important.

We hope you & your loved ones remain safe and well.  
Oct 8 -9 2021 will see an even bigger and better Fair!  
Hope to see you all there.

Respectfully,  
Flos Agricultural Society  
Board of Directors

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

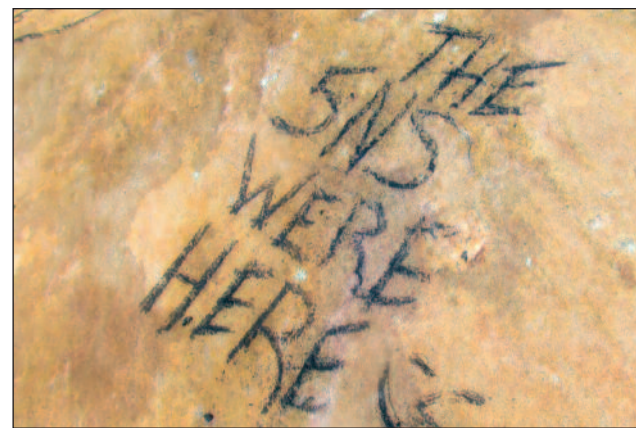
Farm View invites letters to the editor. They should be fewer than 300 words and deal with a single topic affecting farmers. All letters must be signed, including your full name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to editing for brevity.  
E-mail: [farmview@on.aibn.com](mailto:farmview@on.aibn.com)

**FROM THE EDITOR**

At this time I'm sure you are noticing that the Farm View newspaper is providing more human interest pieces along with a few articles on how businesses are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past the pages of Farm View have been filled with reports and updates from meetings, seminars, conferences as well as wonderful coverage of events, workshops and fall fairs. While we patiently wait until it is safe to resume those types of activities, I sincerely hope you enjoy the topics we are covering.

Take care of yourself and one another,  
Roslyn Watkins, Publisher

**The 5 N's Explained...**



Many years ago while camping at Killbear provincial park my husband, Shawn, wrote this in charcoal on a rock during a family hike. Shawn explained "all our names end in n" and we have been the 5 N's ever since. Roslyn, Shawn, Lillian, Trenton and Harrison if you go by our given names.

When it came time for me to choose a name for my new publishing business, I thought this would be the best way to showcase the support I receive from my family on a daily basis. Alas, The 5 N's Publishing House.

The camping trip when we all earned our mob nicknames is a story for another time...  
Roslyn

Email or mail your favourite farm photo to be featured here



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The 5 N's Publishing House

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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](mailto:Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca)

**OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:**

Keith Currie: 705-444-1398 email: [keith.currie@ofa.on.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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  
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**JD 9760 2005 ... \$114,995**  
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**NH T8.275 2012 ... \$155,995**  
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# Farmer's Markets: a positive response

A follow up to the article "Creemore and Mulmar farmer's markets prepare for season with COVID-19" that ran in the June 2020 issue of Farm View

Story and photographs by Cathy Hamill-Hill



The Lindsay Farmer's Market, and all other Farmer's Markets in our area, must follow guidelines set in place by the province to be open.

The biggest change at the Market is the empty space. Each vendor must be a minimum six feet apart which is considered the safe physical distance during COVID-19. Vendors are to be spaced apart from one another but this social distancing also applies to customers coming to the market. At Lindsay, some vendors set up a roped off area and stood behind that area in their vendor space. Other vendors chose to "double table" meaning they put two three foot tables in front of them to ensure distance of six feet apart.

Traffic flow has to be controlled to ensure there are not crowds of people that would break the social distancing guideline. "Lanes" are set up with arrows indicating the direction of that lane. A specific entrance and exit mean that all visitors start at the same place. Visitors were instructed through signage to keep the social distance between them and others at all times.

Payment for goods meant some interesting looking transactions. Buyers at some vendor's spaces would drop cash into a bucket with an opening in the lid much like a piggy bank. Vendor's gave change with only money brought by them to the market, not change from other visitors transactions that day. Card transactions were done at one vendor space with a long pole attached to the debit machine. Other vendors had buyers drop money in an open bucket that they held out.

The biggest change, Lynn Hasson says, is the quietness of the market now. She says the social aspect

of the Market is gone as people understand they cannot bring their friends and family in respect of the social distance guidelines. She said that it was common before to see people meet at the Market and then go sit in the nearby park for the morning visiting. She says "people are just happy to have the Market back - and are not complaining. We (vendors) are so glad to be back. We all missed the Market. It is just so nice to be out of the house with people again- even at a social distance,"



Vendor Andy Potter is a wine consultant for Pillitteri Estate Winery, a family owned winery that is located in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Pillitteri Winery supports a lot of local Farmer's Markets in our area.



Angie Cameron displays the South Mountain Reproductions maple syrup she and her husband make at their Kawartha Lakes property. Angie's husband, Steve made these beautiful cutting boards crafted from their own trees. South Mountain Reproductions' motto is "If you can dream it, I can build it". The business produces one-of-a-kind bedroom suites, log furniture, coffee tables, wine racks, tables and so much more.



Dominique Le Beau, owner of Le Beau Bees and Lynn Hasson, owner of Lanes End Farm and Fiber. Dominique came to Canada on a farm work program from his home in the city of Paris, France to Reaboro. He liked Canada so much he decided to move here permanently. He began an apiary and now sells honey including interesting types like ginger turmeric creamed honey. Lanes End Farm specialize in sheep with frozen lamb available as well as wool products for spinning, felting, knitting and crochet. They also provide home baking including several types of homemade meat pies. Lanes End Farm and Le Beau bees were a vendor at the recent Lindsay Farmers Market and are glad to be back at the Market on Saturdays. Lanes End Farm has been a vendor here for 19 years.



Usually this young entrepreneur Ben Corder is working with his big kettle making his well known Ben's Kettle Corn right at the Lindsay Farmer's Market. The current rules forbid any food to be produced on site so the kettle stayed in the van. Business was still good though as Ben's Kettle Corn is well known. Ben says the key for quality kettle corn is to have excellent quality popcorn to start with. "All the corn I use is grown in Ontario and it has been dried for a minimum of 3 years, often as many as 5 years," he said. Before COVID-19, Ben's year was set to be crazy busy as he was to be the main vendor at the Peterborough Musicfest.



Shirley Lee pictured above is the owner of Save-on-Seed, a home based company that sells Bird seed, dog treats and honey products. Shirley is here with her husband of over 50 years, Gord. Shirley says she likes birds, "I saw a cardinal this morning in a tree at our place and it was so nice to see it. Seeing birds makes me happy." She said that providing quality birdseed is an important first step to encourage birds to become regular visitors. Her vendor space was a busy spot here at the Lindsay Farmer's Market with many items sold out early in the day.



# MB

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# Local Food Webs: The Solution to Food Insecurity?

By Marie Versteeg



The government of Ontario has promoted local food for many years, and Local Food Week is one of the initiatives legislated under the Local Food Act, 2013.

Food systems in general have been in the spotlight recently, due to the COVID-19 crisis. Many are weighing the comparative benefits of the global long-chain food system with those of more localized short-chain systems.

For example, Food Secure Canada (FSC) has recently issued a new report examining food insecurity in the context of COVID-19. The report suggests that strengthening our local food system is one solution to a looming problem: the number of Canadians who experience food insecurity (4.4 million) is estimated to double by the end of this year as a result of the pandemic.

FSC recommends a sweeping shift in food policy in order to move away from globalized food chains toward local food webs. Food webs offer “economic renewal of rural and remote communities, greater access to healthy and fresh foods, lower-emission food systems, greater resiliency to shocks and reduced food waste.”

A shift like this would require initiatives that support young farmers and sustainable farming practices, as well as diversified and regionalized food processing systems.

FSC sees the potential for big returns on investment: for example, Ontario could add 3400 jobs and \$250 million in provincial GDP just by replacing ten percent of our top fruit and vegetable imports with Ontario-grown produce. Still, even with numbers like these, it’s unlikely that Ontarians would give up bananas that easily.

While the FSC report calls for sweeping change to the agricultural system, CFFO sees opportunities for a balanced approach.

Government has a chance here to balance support for global trade opportunities for farmers with strengthened food security for Ontarians. We see many

paths toward improving food security for the long term, from protecting our specialty crop land, where most of our local fruit production takes place, to supporting local abattoirs, to supporting further development of alternative points of sale, such as farmers markets and online sales, beyond the pandemic.

We are already seeing promising trends, both in terms of public interest in local foods and in terms of

government support to help Ontario farmers meet new demand.

One of the commitments of the Local Food Act is to increase access to local food. It’s strange to consider that this goal has gotten a boost from a pandemic. Time will tell whether post-pandemic recovery efforts continue to prioritize provincial food security.

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# South Simcoe 4-H activities during COVID-19

## 4-H Garden Club 4-H Water Works Report

Story and photo by Sarah Dowdall

This meeting, like all others right now, was held using the video conference program, Zoom. We all logged in to meet with each other face to face due to the

on-going Covid-19 pandemic which has prevented all in-person 4-H meetings so far this year. Our Leaders, Marianne Norton, Scott Cullen and Amber Katirai, all helped to ensure that everyone was able to participate. During the roll call, we discussed our rain gauges that we made at the first meeting and showed our garden plans. We learned about the "Spring Plant" and how seeds and seedlings need extra care after being planted in the first few weeks. We talked about garden structures to provide support for plants like tomatoes. We were taught to build a homemade structure using sticks and string by Marianne – we all did this at home while on the Zoom meeting. We also learned about containers, recycled containers, planters and raised beds made using wood or bricks. Guest Speaker for the evening was Pat Cook who is a Master Gardner of Simcoe County, and she showed us an informative PowerPoint presentation on growing vegetables and explained some of her own gardening tips. Ms Cook spoke about mint and how it can easily spread through your garden and take over. Good idea to keep it in a pot. She also spoke about vegetables, herbs and pumpkins which are fast growing. It is a good idea to try different types of peppers and squash... Personally, I won't be planting spicy ones.

By Jaiden van Kolschoten

On Tuesday May 26th we had a 4-H Water Works meeting. We started the meeting off with the 4-H pledge which was followed by roll call. We then had our guest speaker Naomi Saunders from Nottawasaga Conservation Authority speak. We continued the meeting with information about water sheds. The guest speaker spoke about a model she had created, we then talked about our homework assignment to do with pollution. Together we created a new version of her model trying to reduce the points of where the pollution is. Members thought the exhibit was "cool" and appreciated seeing how the chemicals we use in our day-to-day lives affect our rivers, lakes and overall watershed. (Quote from Madeleine Cullen) We then asked our questions and ended the meeting with the 4-H moto and had our president close the meeting.

## 4-H Sheep Club press report

Story by Lauren Cowan

Photo by Abby Patton

The 4-H Cookstown/Everett sheep club have started their online meetings. At our first meeting we introduced each other, talked about what we



want to learn throughout the year and talked about different sheep breeds and their purpose for our research project. During the second meeting we shared the information we researched about our sheep breed, we talked about registering our sheep and made our own halters out of rope.

## 4-H Living Well press report

By Jessica Faust

The second meeting for the Cookstown 4-H Living Well club was held on May 20th at 7:00 pm by ZOOM. We opened by saying the 4-H pledge and talked about physical and other types of exercise routines. We talked about an exercise routine where you could use items or furniture in your house as your workout equipment. One of our Leaders Andrew Morrison led us in a home routine exercise program. We climbed our staircase. We did squats using a kitchen chair etc., We had two of our club members do a presentation on preparing a healthy snack. Isabella Cullen made a cucumber salad and Madeleine Cullen made a watermelon pizza live on the ZOOM meeting. The meeting was than adjourned. The next meeting will be in June with a guest speaker who will lead us in another style of exercise by ZOOM.

## Judging chocolate chip cookies



Nicholas Senick

By Jessica Faust

The second meeting of the Cookstown 4-H Judging Club was held on May 19th at 7:00 pm by ZOOM meeting. We said the 4-H pledge. We than read the judging criteria score card for the chocolate chip cookies. Nick Senick supplied the cookies and gave the demonstration. The members judged the cookies. We than read the rabbit judging criteria score card. Isabella Cullen went over the parts of a rabbit to use when giving reasons. Madeleine Cullen supplied the class of rabbits and gave the demonstration. The members judged the rabbits. Our homework is to judge seed kernel corn and give reasons either written or by video. We than said the 4-H motto. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on June 30th at 7:00 pm on a ZOOM meeting.

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By Leah Emms  
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Leah Emms column will return for the August issue. In the meantime please refer to the OFA website [www.ofa.on.ca](http://www.ofa.on.ca)

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# Charwen Farms, a family business

Story by Cathy Hamill-Hill  
Family photo by Roslyn Watkins



Pictured above from left to right are Mark, Scott, Wendy, Bob, Warren, Tanya, Nolan and Nelson

Everyone that drives through Ivy can see from far away the silver bins. These bins are what make Charwen Farms what it is today, but it didn't start out that way...

It was in 1961 when Robert (Bob) and Wendy Kerr, just a couple of young kids, decided to get married. They settled in Ivy shortly after and had their first son; Scott in 1964. It wasn't long after they had moved to Ivy, that they decided they wanted to make Ivy their permanent home and in 1966 purchased the house and land that Charwen sits on today. They decided to raise Charolais cattle and

farm the land. They continued growing their family, having 3 more children in the next 8 years; Heather, Mark and Warren. Bob continued farming, while Wendy raised the kids and helped with the farm. Bob started drying corn for his own needs and soon realized there was an interest from neighbors for custom drying and so it began.

Bob and Wendy started drying corn for neighbors with a small grain dryer and a 3,300 bushel bin. They worked hard, raised the kids and soon realized they had a growing business. The Charwen name came from the love of Charolais cattle and Wendy. Although there were many challenging years, they kept expanding and growing.

Today, Charwen has a drying capacity of 4,400 bushel per hour, can store 1.4 million bushel of grain and employes 15 people. Bob and Wendy continue to be a part of the business while Scott, Mark and Warren all work at the elevator and Warren's wife Tanya works in the office. Warren and Tanya's boys, Nelson (named after his great grandfather) works full time, and Nolan (16) works part time. Charwen Farms has included 4 generations of Kerrs. When Bob began his business, his dad; Nelson, was a big help and lended a hand quite often.

Charwen Farms' success may be the fact that the business is all about family. It was quoted the business is "not really a job, it's a lifestyle for us. It's an extension of our home life."

Charwen acknowledges they wouldn't be where they are today if it wasn't for their loyal customers that are like family to them.

Farm View is grateful for long-time advertisers like Charwen Farms Inc. Warren explains his choice of Farm View, "We advertise with the paper (Farm View) because the paper reaches out to our customers. We also want to support a family owned business because that is what we are. We appreciate what Farm View does for us each month."



Photos of Charwen Farms Inc history provided by Tanya Kerr

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# Picking-your-own strawberries

Story by Cathy Hamill-Hill



It will soon be strawberry season and local pick your own farm operations will be ready.

Strawberry Pick Your Own Operations were never classed as social events by the Province of Ontario but instead as a harvest meaning farmers have been planning for weeks to meet the new protocol needed to operate in COVID-19.

At Fernwood Farms and Market in Stayner, owners Krista Ward & Kevin Ward explain that COVID-19 protocol is being put in place to allow now for a safe experience for both the farm staff and the guests coming to pick strawberries at the end of this month.

"We have guidelines in place because of COVID-19 and those guidelines are going to be without exceptions," she said. Krista added some of these guidelines are new like having no pets allowed in the berry field at the farm and no sampling of berries while in the patch. Another new process addresses pre-payment and containers.

For this year, customers will pre-pay with either card or cash for the provided containers which are 4 litre baskets for \$20 and quarts for \$6. Customers must go to the booth outside the picking area and pre-pay how many containers they will use. There will be no returns on baskets, this is a necessary safety measure as containers cannot be re-used due to COVID-19.

"Customers can always come and buy more baskets if they need extras," Krista adds.

Customers are asked to bring along hand sanitizer from home and use it just prior to going to the patch and upon leaving the patch. Families are welcome but "we ask that one family member only line up at the booth at the patch, we are discouraging line-ups because of social distancing," Krista explained.

At the patch, pickers are to go directly to their assigned row beside the flag. All pickers from the same family must pick at the same assigned row.

"We ask that people stay in their own assigned rows and pick clean," she adds that when the picking is finished, the flag should be put in place and pickers are free to pick more or

stop in at the farm store.

This year's strawberry crop "looks amazing, the picking is going to be fantastic!" Krista says adding she's excited about this year when she looks at her bountiful patch.

There is no need to set up an appointment to come pick. Daily updates as to current conditions will be on Fernwoods Farm's

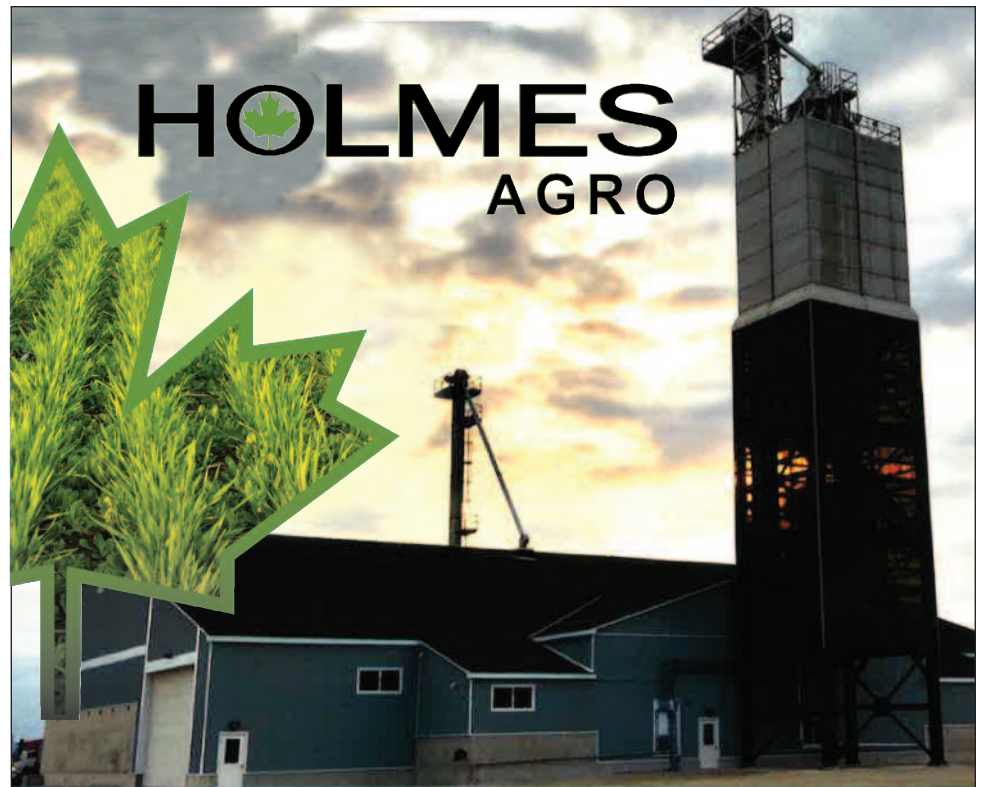
facebook page. "We just want everyone to come out, have fun and be safe. And this new process could actually be a better experience for the customer!"

Barrie Hill Farms will also be open for pick your own strawberries. Here also provincial guidelines are being followed because of COVID-19. A member of the Barrie Hill team directed inquiries to their website that is kept updated.

Visitors to the berry patch this year have to walk to the patch instead of enjoying the usual wagon rides. The wagon rides are cancelled due to social distancing guidelines.

Everyone coming to the berry patch are asked to wear a mask. All staff will also be wearing a mask. Guests are asked to not wear gloves. There is a pick-your-own Entrance Hut set at the berry patch that will be operated by Barrie Hill Farms staff. Each visitor will be asked to complete a Covid-19 Assessment first. Next each visitor must sanitize their hand with provided hand sanitizer.

Containers will be provided for picking as of this time to meet COVID-19 guidelines. There will be pre-payment of either debit or credit cards. The cost is as follows: 1L is \$6, 2L is \$11 and 4L is \$20. Groups of people from one household are asked to be 5 or less and there can be no more than two children aged 12 and under per adult.



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# After the chores: llama drama



By Cathy Hamill-Hill

It was one of those days.

I got up late to start with. Larry, our labrador retriever dog, and I are getting use to sleeping in later now that I am home full-time due to COVID-19. By the time Larry got his breakfast, I was very late.

The sheep always know what time it is. They knew I was late too and were wide awake- and all in the wrong place. When I go to the barn and see sheep faces in the barn door's window it's a bad feeling. I knew as soon as I opened that door, a stampede of sheep were going to run me over screaming for grain. I really pay the price for being late.

I decided this time to try and outsmart the sheep. Larry and I went in the back of the barn and thankfully, the door was not locked. We tried to sneak in as the sheep tried to baaaa down the front door as they had heard me out there. Sheep have excellent hearing. I had the grain bucket full and was in the pen before my tiptoe steps were traced...I had the door slammed shut behind me just before the sheep realized I was now in their pen. The baaing was intense but I soon had sheep in the pen and crisis avoided- or so I thought.

During all this baaing, my two llamas, Hummer and his llama wife, Lizzie were still in their pen. The two llamas have jobs as guardians of the flock. Hummer is proven at his job and has been found like a solder pacing back and forth in front of the flock huddled behind him with a big coyote slithering around the pen. Lizzie is not much of a guardian, she actually gets behind Hummer too. Our hope with Lizzie each year that she will give us a baby llama so both llamas have jobs.

This morning with me being late and the sheep so mad, the llamas were mad too. Hummer was thoroughly upset because his flock were upset and the reasons did not matter a bit. Hummer loves his sheep and the sheep need to be happy all the time in his devoted mind. Hummer was put in a bad mood.

When I had the rabbits and guinea pigs fed and the sheep were calmed down and quiet. I thought I had been forgiven for being so late for chores.

I put the grain out per usual and the llamas out per

usual. Instead of going to the grain, Hummer went right out to the front lawn. Lizzie followed, per usual. Hummer got a whiff of spring greenery and he started off across the lawn. I went and got Larry thinking he might be of some help. The plan was to get the llamas back in to the grain and shut them in the paddock with the sheep.

The sun was shining in a bright cloud-free sky and the llamas were ready to explore. Hummer threw up his head and with his excellent vision, he realized this was a good time to check this place out. His first stop was to Sweetie's row of fruit trees. He only took about five big bites of the new leaves when me and Larry shooed him out of there realizing there will be no trees left if Hummer is left long here.

Hummer did leave the trees, then went in the lane and had a long roll in the dust. I had thought for sure he would be content now and go in the paddock- but instead he said a low hum and took off down the lane at a fast llama lope.

We have no fences along the road so Larry and I were doing our best to keep close to the loose llamas. Being natural browsers, the llamas grabbed a mouthful of anything they were near, a bit of pasture, a mouthful of trees and bushes, they were having a great time at their mobile buffet.

We never did get the llamas back to the barn that day.

After 1 hour of following behind them, Hummer thoughtfully went to the pasture area and went inside that fence. I think he was just getting tired and was tired of this game. Lizzie followed behind. I slammed the pasture fence gate gratefully. Hummer took the day off from working as a guardian teaching me a lesson about being on time to feed his flock.

I set two alarms every morning now to prevent another repeat of llama drama.

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## The unveiling and dedication of a historical plaque

Story and photos by John Beischer



Mayor Sandie MacDonald and Olive Lee admire the plaque after it was unveiled. The sign has now been mounted on a pedestal inside the cemetery enclosure.

Last month on a warm sunny Saturday, the Essa Historical Society commemorated the founding in 1859 of Nicholston Pioneer Cemetery. The event took place at the Nicholston Dam RV park located next to the cemetery on the eastern edge of the town of Alliston. Society executive members, Nicol family members, township officials and government leaders attended, respecting strict COVID-19 physical distancing protocol.

The Nichol family came to Canada from Scotland in c1835-1836. In 1853 John Nichol purchased 100 acres on concession 5, lot 1 in Essa township. Several years later he deeded property for a cemetery. The first dam and gristmill were built in 1865. The Village of Nicholston was founded in 1875. John Nichol died in 1893 and John Nichol junior and sons took over operation of the gristmill. In 1972 the Township of Essa assumed ownership of the cemetery and began restoration.

Society president Richard Blanchard chaired the unveiling ceremony and called on Franklin D Nicol and Franklin Mark Nicol to assist. The plaque was accepted by Olive Lee, Secretary Essa Historical Society, and Sandie MacDonald, Mayor of Essa Township.

Greetings from all levels of government were delivered by Hon. Terry Dowdall, MP Simcoe Grey, Hon. Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe Grey and Sandie MacDonald. Additional remarks were offered by RV Park proprietor Franklin Nicol. A closing prayer was delivered by Vice President John Beischer.



Speakers such as MPP Jim Wilson made their presentations from the platform of the gristmill so as to maintain physical distancing protocol.



The Nicholston Pioneer cemetery is located at 6248 Highway 89. There is no parking at the site but a paved foot path runs from the highway up the hill to the gate of the cemetery.

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Edward Charles Vaughan in full service uniform

76 years have passed since D-Day began the liberation of Europe in World War Two and our understanding of the events has become detached and bereft of emotion. Sadly, it will only get worse in the years to come as the final few remaining veterans pass, removing our last living connection to this defining moment in world history.

Edward Charles Vaughan, a resident of Toronto, Canada, is long dead but his letters sent home from the warfront carry an emotional weight. His thoughts, worries, dreams and fears are preserved forever on paper. Reading of the war's progress through his letters to his best friend back in Canada reveals the emotional roller-coaster our soldiers had to endure for many years.

Edward Vaughan was born June 26, 1918 and was a paint maker by trade. He enlisted in the Canadian Army (Toronto Scottish Regiment) on September 10, 1939 only a month after the outbreak of World War Two. When sent overseas in 1940 he was full of enthusiasm and confidence. That soon changed as the Canadian army languished in Britain for years, doing little more than training for weeks and months on end. It seemed as if the war was passing them by, and despondency began to set in.

"I guess you have heard about our recent defeats, haven't you," he wrote on February 18, 1942, referring to reversals of the British army in North Africa. "It has made the morale of every person over here drop. We don't blame Churchill but we do say that (Secretary of State for War and future Prime Minister) Anthony Eden would make a better prime minister during war time. Churchill has stepped up production but that won't win the war. We have got to have sufficient men and equipment in every war zone before we can turn Hitler's army. When we do start to get the enemy on the run like in Libya they try to finish the battle with the glory of what they have already done instead of keeping the supplies pouring in. We were turned back in Libya because they started skimping on the supplies and sending them elsewhere (such as the ill-fated intervention in Greece)."

It wasn't just the lack of Allied success that had Edward downcast. "I am writing this letter in a camp that isn't fit to put German prisoners in so don't let your wife read this letter in case there are some very unpleasant words in it," he wrote on May 3, 1942. "We are billeted in tents that do little to ward off the chill of spring nights, and the ground is a morass of mud because of constant rain. When it doesn't rain, the dust is three inches deep. We practically have to dig our way into our beds at night."

Edward also noted with sadness how the war was affecting the local population. "We get a ration of chocolate bars twice a week, while the civilians get only about a bar a week. Their gas is severely rationed, and tires are almost impossible to come by," he writes on April 1, 1942. "Most of the pictures (movies) we see haven't even been shown to the public over here when we get them. They have it pretty rough."

# Letters home from the warfront

In the same letter, he also observes how tight censorship was: "I've had dozens of pictures taken since I came to this camp but not one of them has come back. We get our negatives and they are blank. The only thing I can think of that will account for it is we may have had a little bit of our camp in them and the censures have stopped them from being printed."

Interestingly, in a later letter written on July 12, 1942, Edward suggests that censorship hardly let to secrecy: "You know it's funny how the civilian population knows of our moves long before they happen. I told Gladys (the English cousin of his best friend's wife and a woman he was corresponding with) in my first letter that I would come up to see her when I went to Wales. I meant when I got my leave, but she must not have understood me and she gave me the location of our next camp and said it was quite a way away from there. The spot she mentioned was right but I didn't know where our new camp would be until three days ago."

1942 passed and still the Canadian army (with the exception of those units involved in the abortive Dieppe raid) had seen no active campaigning. By year's end, the continued inaction was wearing on Edward. Clearly, his initial enthusiasm for the war had waned.

"We haven't seen action yet and I don't give a damn if I never see it now. I value my neck a little more than I used to," he wrote on December 9, 1942. "I've been over here three years doing nothing and I'm fed up with it. I'm trying to get a transfer into the RCAF as an air gunner. I have all the qualifications for it. All I have to do is get a release from the Regt and it's pretty hard to get. You see, the machine guns are one of the senior units in the army."

A few months later, Edward began to resign himself that his future lay in the army, not the air force. "I'm afraid my chances of joining the R.C.A.F. don't amount to much. They can still be a little choosy and my education isn't quite as high as they want," Edward wrote on April 1, 1943. "Things may start popping soon now so I'll still be able to get myself the odd German. The boys are sure going to town in North Africa now aren't they? I always did say the English could fight once they woke up, but man they sleep sound."

He then answered a question posed by his friend, Arthur 'Red' Hind. "No, Red, it isn't cowardly to crawl into a hole when the lead starts whistling around. A dead man is worth less in the army. All I hope is that there are lots of big deep holes around when I go into action."

Edward never did get his release to join the R.C.A.F. Instead, he was trained as a truck driver and posted to the Support Battalion of the 2nd Canadian Division. Most of the driving was done at night without the aid of headlights so as to avoid being targeted by German aircraft.

"Driving at night comes pretty easy. All we have to follow on a convoy is a little white light about an eighth of an inch diameter and some convoys travel as fast as fifty miles an hour," Edward wrote on December 28, 1943. "Instinct seems to tell us where the corners are and there's also a solid white line at all corners. Our eyes are getting used to the dark but its probably doing a lot of damage. My eyes ache even if I drive a mile. Just the other night I took my truck out and it was black as hell. I could have gone faster walking. We have very little foot space in these cabs so we can't rely on quick movements if we get into a tight spot like we do back home."

By the spring of 1944, Edward's dark mood had been lifted.

"It looks like the war in Europe is almost over," he penned on January 3. "I don't think the landing in France is going to be so hard now. The air force is pounding the hell out of Germany and the French coast day and night. They are sending over fifteen hundred bombers at a time now so just imagine the amount of planes that will be used for the landing. The bombers pay Jerry a call nearly every day and night. They are very chummy now."

Of course, his elation probably had a lot to do with his recent engagement to

Gladys Stephenson, an English girl and the cousin of his best friend's wife. He had been wooing Gladys for a number of years, and clearly was thrilled when she finally agreed to his proposals. "I don't give a damn if I never see Canada again as long as I have her," he wrote. "I love her an awful lot".

The army frowned on relationships between servicemen and English girls. It was believed that fraternization distracted the men from their duties and added administrative burdens. Nevertheless, Edward and Gladys were married.

His buoyant mood was sobered somewhat when on June 18th he learned that his younger sister's husband had been killed fighting in Italy. Despite this personal loss, Edward remained optimistic about the war's progress: "I'll be very disappointed if we haven't got the Jerries beat before September."

As it turned out, Edward's prediction was off by seven months. When the war did end, Edward brought his new bride Gladys home to Canada. Together, they started a farm in East Luther on land set aside for returning veterans and were blessed with the birth of three children. Tragically, their time together was short; Edward was killed by a mule kick to the head in 1948. Gladys returned to England with her children.

After having given up five years of his life in the defense of his nation, Edward Vaughan deserved a long and happy life with his beloved wife and children. That should have been every returning veteran's due.

I wish I could have met him. Edward Vaughan was my grandfather.



Edward Vaughan home on his farm

## Village stories

by Andrew Hind

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**OBITUARY**

**Jim Campsall**  
 1941 - 2020

It is with broken hearts we announce the peaceful passing of Jim Campsall aged 78, at his home Sunday June 14, surrounded by his loving family.

Jim was a loving husband, and best friend to Roberta, loving father of Jean (Toby) Nash, Karen (Dan) Bavdek, Jason (Terrine) Campsall, proud grandfather of Ryan, Chelsea, Sadie, Grace and Caleb, and great grandfather to Lane, Dean and Elinor.

The family would like to personally thank Colleen and all at Bayshore Home Care, and Dr Steffens for providing the best of care.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the RVH Cancer Centre.  
 "It is hard to forget someone who gave us so much to remember"

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# OFA Farm Safety Photo Contest The North Simcoe Rail Trail

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

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

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

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

Limit of two photo entries per eligible participant.

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

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

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

The North Simcoe Rail Trail is a 30 km long rail-trail, which from south to north skirts the famous Minesing Swamp, passes by historic Fort Willow, then through the Mayer's Marsh, farm land and forests.

It goes through the communities of Phelpston and Elmvale, and links up with the Tiny Trail to the north, which continues for another 22 km to Penetanguishene.

Hikers, cyclists, horseback riders, cross country skiers and snowmobilers are allowed on the trail. The rail-trail is a favourite destination for the Brereton Field Naturalists of Barrie. The Ganaraska Hiking Trail also follows the North Simcoe Railtrail for a few kilometers.

Every September, the Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival at Fort Willow includes several organized walks along the North Simcoe Rail-trail.



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