

FARMVIEW

45th year of publication!

A newspaper with something for everyone

June 2022 Volume 45 #06

**Inside this
issue:**

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of the Russian
invasion of Ukraine
on Canada's
agriculture**

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candidates urged to
save Tree Seed Plant**

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provides comfort for
Ukrainian family**

**Top concerns this
election; food
security, supply
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**Photos from
this years
Youth Forum Beef
Show**



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.



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Cookstown, Ontario

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www.ontariostockyards.on.ca

June 15th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the July issue of Farm View is **Wednesday, June 15th.**

July 10th: Bursary Applications Due

Every Year the Cookstown Agricultural Society offers a Bursary for students continuing in post secondary education. Students must be a resident in South Simcoe County at the time of application, enroll in a Degree, Diploma or Apprenticeship Program, and are members of the South Simcoe 4-H Clubs sponsored by the Society, or have family who are current or past members of the Cookstown Agricultural Society.

Applications are available from Secondary School Guidance Departments or the Cookstown Agricultural Society Secretary 705-718-0362 or petrahewson999@gmail.com

Fairs and Farm Shows 2022

June 2nd - June 5th: Brooklin Spring Fair

The 2022 Fair theme is: Together Again. We offer agricultural events, homecraft competition, midway, youth events, market, track events, & much more! In 2022 we are excited to be back in person. We will be running in-person events, hybrid events, and virtual events - something for everyone!

67 Winchester Rd E, Whitby, ON
www.brooklinspringfair.com

June 3rd - June 5th: Niagara Regional Exhibition

Agricultural Produce, Home crafts, Junior and Senior divisions, Horticulture and Education, Poultry and Animal exhibits, Baby Show, Monster Trucks and Impact Motorsports, Concessions and Vendors, and Beer Garden and Midway!

1100 Niagara St, Welland, ON
www.niagaraex.com

June 9th - June 12th: Millbrook Fair

Variety of events including, a parade, midway, truck/tractor pulls, demo derby, 4 x 4 mud bog, homecrafts, educational kids day, antique tractor, beef and rabbit shows. Friday and Saturday evenings feature local entertainment in the Beer Barn.

13 Frederick St, Millbrook, ON
www.Millbrookfair.ca

June 10th - 12th: Caledon Fair

Caledon Fair (Caledon Agricultural Society)

Theme-remember when, truck & tractor pulls, entertainment, vendors, car show, demo derby, welsh show, cattle show, slowest tractor race, heavy horse pull.

18297 Hurontario St, Caledon Village, ON

June 10th - June 12th: Leamington Fair

Leamington District Agricultural Society
172nd Annual Leamington Fair
194 Erie St N, Leamington, ON
www.ldasfair.weebly.com

July 15th - July 17th: Fenelon Agricultural Society

Agricultural Event, cattle show, sheep show, goats, feather 'n fur. Tractor & truck pull, lawn tractor & Atv pull, horse, show, demolition derby, Midway and many other activities.

27 Veterans Way, Fenelon Falls, ON
www.fenelonfair.ca

July 22nd - July 24th: Lakefield Fair

A weekend of fun and excitement featuring various livestock and 4-H shows, truck and tractor pulls, mud bogs, homecraft exhibits and a beer tent. We will be following all Covid-19 health protocols.

25 William St, Lakefield, ON
www.lakefieldfair.com

Aug 25th - 28th: Barrie Fair

Essa Agriplex - Home of the Barrie Fair
7505 10th Line, Thornton, ON L0L 2N0
www.essaagriplex.ca

Sept 23rd, 24th and 25th: GNE Collingwood

The Great Northern Exhibition Barns on the Farm will run September 23rd, 24th and 25th.

2220 Fairgrounds Rd. N, (1 km south of Hwy 26)
Clearview Twp, Simcoe County
www.greatnorthernex.com/f-a-contact.htm

Sept 29th - Oct 1st: Bobcaygeon Fair

Bobcaygeon Agricultural Society plans the 164th Daddy of Em All. Promises to be an event to remember!

47 Mansfield St, Bobcaygeon, ON
www.bobcaygeonfair.com

Happy Father's Day!



TERRY DOWDALL MP
SIMCOE-GREY

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

What vitamins do fish take?
Vitamins 'SEA'

Did you hear about the guy who invented Lifesavers? They say he made a mint.

How do you make a Kleenex dance? Put a little boogie in it!

Two guys walk into a bar, the third one ducks.

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Invasion of Ukraine by Russia has far reaching Impacts

Second part in the series from the May 2022 issue of Farm View

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Invasion of Ukraine by Russia started on February 24th and is sadly not showing any signs of ending yet. The invasion has caused the largest refugee crisis since World War II. Both Russia and Ukraine are considered the “breadbaskets” of Europe and both are key players in the global markets. This Invasion has impacted the world. The invasion continues.

The Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI) presented a webinar with experts to explain the effect from the Russian invasion of Ukraine to Canada's agriculture.

Russian farmers have concerns they might not have any market open this year for their crops. The Black Sea which is the export route for 90% of the crops remains closed due to military traffic. Because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, many countries have set up sanctions and rules about dealing with Russia. There could be one big market, China for Russian exports but Ted Bilyea, Distinguished Fellow, CAPI does not think this will happen. Ted Bilyea had a 34 year career with Maple Leaf Foods and with his leadership it became Canada's largest food exporter. In 2019 he was inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Bilyea predicts, “China will not want to be seen as helping an aggressor to the world,” he said explaining he does not predict that China will want to do much trade with Russia. He said though, that China is not in a good place this year for wheat supplies, again due to weather conditions, “China has the worst wheat crop in modern history because it was planted too late because of all the rains in the fall.”

The impact of higher grain prices globally is not good news for livestock producers, according to Sébastien Pouliot, Principal Agricultural Economist, Farm Credit Canada. “This is devastating news to the livestock producer. The drought last year has already meant a lot of corn has been imported from the USA. The market for beef is going to be negative for the rest of 2022. We can see profit margins for pork about July. We are predicting livestock producers will reduce the size of the herds while the demand for Canadian beef and pork is strong.” The beef prices will go down but “in one year it will go up again, for now its going to be tough but it (beef markets) will see a come back.”

For crop farmers, this Invasion has caused the cost of fertilizer to rise. Pouliot explains, “Ten days ago, the price of urea (a common fertilizer) was up by 2x its usual cost. Ammonia and nitrogen fertilizers are up by 65%.” And time is not helping any, it's feared that costs will just increase as more trading laws are handed down to Russia.

With soaring crop prices, there will be a reaction by those in the crop growing business worldwide. Bilyea predicted that marginal lands will be turned into crop growing spaces but says there is a definite limit on what lands should stay as grasslands.

“To take cattle off of grasslands is insane,” he said, “We need grasslands and we need cattle on those grasslands. It's not a good idea to make cropland out of grasslands everywhere in the world- it's not sustainable as every cattle producer knows.”

Shane Knutson, President, Polywest Ltd. Reports there is land in South America specifically in Argentina and Brazil that “could be converted to crops. I can see more investment being put into crops now.”

He added, “The global population needs to be fed, farmers are going to do what it takes globally to be sure everyone gets fed.”

Bilyea suggested that Canada looks to its own resources more. “We need to be less dependent on imported fertilizers. We have fertilizers here in Canada, we have options for the future.”

On the Cover



The 2nd Annual Mariposa Tulip Festival opened on Friday, May 13th at the Mariposa Woolen Mill & Farm Market in Oakwood. The Tulip Festival was an idea from business owner, Ellen Edney, who has a Dutch heritage. There are 35,000 bulbs planted- and these red ones were the first colour out in full bloom.

Photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

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		 <p>JD 459 (E88031) 2016, 4x5 MAX BALE SIZE, SILAGE SPECIAL., WIDE PICKUP, COVEREDGE NET WRAP, 540 PTO., BALE EJECTION RAMPS, HYD PICKUP LIFT \$38,950.00</p>	 <p>CA 3950 (E87646) 27', ROCK-FLEX GANGS, TANDEM DISC, REAR TOW HITCH., HYD ADJ FORE/AFT, WING STABILIZER WHEELS., TRANSPORT \$22,110.00</p>



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FROM THE EDITOR

Roslyn Watkins
Publisher/Editor
Farm View Newspaper
farmview@on.aibn.com

It has been a very enjoyable spring so far. My husband, Shawn, and I attended our first Youth Forum Beef Show at the end of April. Congratulations to all the participants. We greatly admire the hard work and dedication that goes into preparing for such an event. Cathy Hamill-Hill was on hand as well and got some great photos to share, such as the one below of Alyssa Haywood.

This month I'm excited to introduce another new columnist. A lot of you have heard of Farmer Tim I'm sure. He has been posting on social media for many years and has agreed to write a monthly column for Farm View! Please turn to page 13 for Farmer Tim's Agricultural Anecdotes. I also have the opportunity to introduce new advertiser Marieke Patton, Territory Sales Manager for Bayer Crop Science.

On page 9 there is an article highlighting the importance of saving the Ontario Tree Seed Plant. Please ask your election candidates their plans for this very important almost 100 year old ecotourism and community development asset.

I wish you all the very best for a successful start to the summer season!

*Take care of yourselves and one another,
Roslyn Watkins*

Easter colouring contest results!

Thank you to all the children who entered the Easter colouring contest we ran in the April issue. We received so many fabulous entries that we decided to put all the names into a draw to choose the winners. Congratulations to Brock and Troy in Alma, Hailey in Stayner, Kailey and Heidi in Linwood and Dorothy and Lillian in Woodville!



Photographed above is Alyssa Haywood of Brigden with her yearling show heifer, Jolene. Jolene is a Charloais. Alyssa and her family own Ancar Livestock. For more Youth Forum Beef Show photos turn to page 11.
— Photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

LETTERS**Sincere Gratitude and Appreciation to John Beischer**

In February of 2021, you may recall an ad and short story in the Farm View Newspaper written by John Beischer (former Editor), asking your help in generating a "new home" possibility for a retired couple given only a few months notice to vacate after 30 plus years living and maintaining their rental property.

We are that couple, and express our sincere thanks to John for his continued support, and to Roslyn, Johns daughter (now Editor), for her part in placing the ad a number of times. Through their dedication and Gods Favour, we were able to meet a trustworthy Landlord and secure a beautiful rental home and ample storage for our collection of vehicles and antiques! We consider John our earth angel.

Over the last year, especially during the move transition, we can't praise John enough for being there to lend a helping hand. From being a neighbour down the street who also loves collectibles, he has now become and always will be our true and valued friend.

John, we are truly grateful and share our thanks!
God Bless and protect you!
Cap and Cora Devitt

Digging In: Black's Soil Health Study Approved

Last month the Honourable Rob Black, Senator for Ontario, moved the Order of Reference that will see the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry undertake a new study on soil health. The Committee is uniquely placed to speak with soil experts, researchers, and advocates in Canada.

The Senate last completed a study on soil health in 1984. In the 38 years that have passed since "Soil at Risk: Canada's Eroding Future" was published, the Canadian landscape has changed and grown. Black, with the support of industry, believes it is high time that data is updated, as soil is one of Canada's most precious resources.

"Improving soil health is not a one-size-fits-all endeavour across Canada's varied soil landscape," said Black. "But it is clear that ensuring the health and conservation of Canadian soils is a shared responsibility and will require collective leadership and sustained commitment and action by those responsible for managing soil across the country."

Black hopes the study will connect with Canadians from all walks of life by introducing soil health through a variety of lenses, including that of food security, environmental conservation, the link between air, water quality and soil health, and the role of soil in carbon markets and climate change.

Black is the Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and a lifelong agricultural advocate.

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The Farm View is delivered to these business between the 25th and 29th of each month and copies are available while supplies last. If you would like the Farm View mailed directly to your home, one year subscriptions can be purchased for \$49.95. Contact Roslyn at 705-722-0138, by mail 8 Luella Blvd Minesing, ON L9X 0W7 or email farmview@on.aibn.com.

The Farm View is also available online at
www.farmviewonline.com

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.

FARM VIEW is published monthly by:
Roslyn Watkins
The 5 N's Publishing House

8 Luella Blvd, Minesing ON L9X 0W7
Phone (705) 722-0138
e-mail farmview@on.aibn.com

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A forum for the Agricultural and Rural Community

The farm newspaper that covers Simcoe and Dufferin County, York, Peel and Muskoka Regions, keeping farmers and rural home owners informed about local and national news that affects their farm business, family and rural lifestyle.

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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:

Paul Maurice: 705-444-1398 email: paul.maurice@ofa.on.ca

2021-2022 Executive – Simcoe County

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SCFA Phone:	705-726-9300 ext 1224	
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Contact YRFA:	york@ofa.on.ca	

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HONDA

Ontario under animal control health order to prevent the spread of Avian Influenza



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

Avian Influenza is a highly transmittable virus that is affecting wild birds such as Canadian Geese, Crows, Ravens, Hawks, and Turkey Vultures. The migratory nature of most of these species means they are the predominant source of infection in domestic flocks. Domestic birds that are at risk include chickens, turkeys, ducks, pheasants, quails, geese, pigeons, and guinea fowl.

Currently, the entire province is under an animal health control area order that was issued by the Minister of Agriculture, under the advice of the Chief Veterinarian for Ontario. It states, "the purpose of this order is to prevent, detect, control, suppress, and mitigate the highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N1 by requiring the prohibition of certain commingling events in Ontario."

As of May 10th, 25 premises in Ontario are reporting infections. These premises are both commercial operations and small flocks. Avian Influenza first appeared in late

March in Ontario and has spread exponentially. Once avian influenza has been suspected or confirmed in any size of flock, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) takes the responsibility for enforcement measures in the Primary Control Zone. CFIA's efforts are intended to contain the spread of the virus to other farms but, also to protect the wild bird population too. In the control zones that are established around an infected premise, the CFIA requires other farms with birds or fowl to acquire a permit for any movement of birds, their products and by-products and equipment or other things exposed to the birds cannot be moved into, out of, within or through a primary control zone except by CFIA permission.

Signs of Avian Influenza include trouble walking, bloody diarrhea, lack of appetite, nasal discharge, swollen head, combs, wattles, legs, and sudden death. If you observe any of these signs in domesticated birds including pets such as parrots or wild birds call the Canadian Food Inspection Agency immediately at 226-217-8022.

How can you help limit the spread?

One word. Biosecurity. Biosecurity measures to help protect all birds include:

- Keep your birds indoors
- limit or tightly restrict visitors
- keep a record of who visited your property
- wear separate clothing and footwear in areas where birds are kept
- keep that clothing at the barn
- disinfect boots, all equipment

- wash your hands or wear gloves
- Do not allow your birds or pets to mingle at or in ponds and streams.

Are you a hunter?

Before hunting check the Poultry Industry Council website to determine if an outbreak has been reported in the area in which you are hunting. Restrictions could apply to you. When handling birds wear gloves, keep hunting clothing including boots in a separate bag or tote. Wash and disinfect any clothing or footwear that comes into contact with blood, feces, or other bodily fluids after cleaning your kill. Do not leave intestines or other pieces of birds for scavengers. This is another way Avian Influenza can be spread. There is now evidence that fox kits have become infected with Avian Influenza simply by eating an infected dead bird.

Are you a golfer?

How many geese reside at your favourite golf course?

Best sources of information:

- Poultry Industry Council - under the resources tab www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency - 226-217-8022
- Ont. Ministry of Food & Rural Affairs Contact Center - 1-877-424-1300

We can all do our part to put biosecurity measures in place at work and play. It will assist in protecting all species of birds, wild and domesticated from this highly transmittable virus.

Clean your golf shoes well before your next game and store them in a bag. Sanitize hands often during your game, especially after retrieving balls from water hazards or where geese frequent.



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Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

BBQ Rules

Routine...

- (1) The woman buys the food.
- (2) The woman makes the salad, prepares the vegetables and makes dessert.
- (3) The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils and sauces, and takes it to the man who is lounging beside the grill - drink in hand.
- (4) The woman remains outside the compulsory three meter exclusion zone where the exuberance of testosterone and other manly bonding activities can take place without the interference of the woman.

Here comes the important part:

- (5) THE MAN PLACES THE MEAT ON THE GRILL.

More routine...

- (6) The woman goes inside to organize the plates and cutlery.
- (7) The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is looking great. He thanks her and asks if she will bring another drink while he flips the meat.

Important again:

- (8) THE MAN TAKES THE MEAT OFF THE GRILL AND HANDS IT TO THE WOMAN.

More routine...

- (9) The woman prepares the plates, salad, bread, utensils, napkins, sauce and brings them to the table.
- (10) After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.

And most important of all:

- (11) Everyone PRAISES the MAN and THANKS HIM for his cooking efforts.
- (12) The man asks the woman how she enjoyed her 'night off,' and, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women.

Addis Grain hosts Spring Market Meeting

By Roslyn Watkins

Addis Grain hosted their first annual Spring Market Meeting on a snowy day in late April. The meeting was very well attended despite the weather conditions. Plans were in place in the spring of 2019 for the Market Meeting but that was delayed due to the pandemic.

Kevin Eisses of Addis Grain gave a warm welcome and introduced the first speaker, Tammy White. White is a grain merchandising consultant with White Commercial. Along with her husband, White also owns and operates a 2.5 million bushel grain facility in Bruce County and has a 2nd 1 million bushel location. They have been doing this for 27 years together and Tammy says she has learned a lot from fellow farmers in regards to how to help you do better at farm marketing. White was quoted saying "We want our customers to be successful. If you aren't successful, we aren't successful."

White provided many helpful ideas such as calculating how much it costs to grow your crop and know the dollar value you need to sell at to make a profit, work hard to control costs and plant when the soil is ready.

White said "Grain marketing is like an emotional roller coaster. Farmers get attached to their grain and want the best price for it." The volatility in grain prices doesn't make it easy to make a decision when to sell, or to regret having already sold when prices go up. "The volatility is going to happen but we are able to make choices to capture some of the increase in profit, the ability to cover your costs and capture opportunities to put money in your pocket." White says the key to this is having discipline.

White continued on to explain that by being proactive and selling your crop before you grow it, you can earn more money. White showed the group charts with statistics over the last 15 years that prove farmers who sell ahead vs selling at harvest make more profit. Using corn as an example, the charts showed a farmer will earn .30 cents more per bushel by selling 6 months ahead of harvest.

Steve Kell, who works at Kellhaven Farms in Innisfil, was the second speaker and shared with the audience information relating to the effects on supply and demand due to the war between Rus-

sia and China and the effects of weather such as drought. Kell gave a fantastic presentation opening with "If you want to figure out what the market is apt to do, forecasting the marketing is exactly the same as forecasting the weather. You just figure out what happened the last time we were in this situation."

Kell concluded his presentation with key elements of what is going to drive the 2022 grain markets: Russia and Ukraine, 2022 North American planting intentions, inflation and the weather for the growing season.

The third speaker, John Lanthier from Market Smart Inc., provided the group with information on corn relating to ethanol. Lanthier stated "Ontario will use about 25% of corn into the ethanol plants." There has been criticism about using food as a source of fuel but after ethanol production 2/3 comes back as feedstock.

The floor was opened to questions from the audience, the main concern being unpredictable costs of inputs. Lanthier highly recommends a letter to the government and a form can be found on the OFA website <https://ofa.on.ca>.

All three speakers agreed that the best thing a farmer can do is plan ahead, know your costs and set a target price for your crop.

Kevin and Andrew at Addis Grain are always available to answer your call and help you earn the best price for your hard work.

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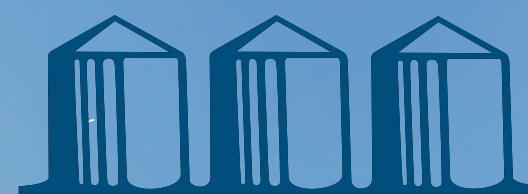
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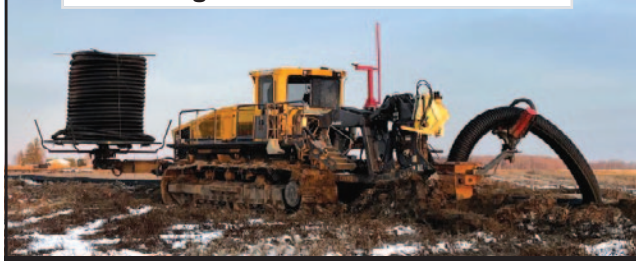
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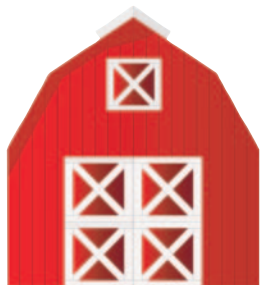
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Our Changing Environment

Story by William Kell and provided by Sharlene Dinsmore and The Innisfil Historical Society

When the European settlers started arriving in Innisfil in 1820, there was a vast, mostly undisturbed forest cover, a mix of hardwoods, predominately sugar maple, oak, beech, and (in the sandier soils) white pine. The wet land had white cedar with a sprinkling of birch, poplar hemlock and spruce.

In this environment, the forest floor was a thick mat of rotting leaves and wood and acted as a giant blotter to hold water which gradually soaked into the soil or ran downhill fairly slowly. There was little grassland to support grazing animals or provide nesting areas for many species of birds. With forest cover, the snow melted more slowly and heavy rains took longer to drain off, so the small streams ran more reliably in summer. Likewise, there was very little soil erosion in this situation.

The Indigenous people had great respect for nature, and, where possible, avoided damaging their surroundings.

The early settlers in Innisfil had one priority: to cut down the forest so that they could erect their buildings, grow crops, and raise livestock to sustain their families.

This led to major changes in the environment. More water rushed down the natural waterways, leaving less to sustain the water tables. More open space meant more ground level winds and blowing snow. More grassland led to more animals and birds (deer, rabbits, raccoons, wild turkeys, passenger pigeons, pheasants, and grouse) that live at the forest edge and feed on the grass.

The faster moving water also carried more soil downstream, resulting in washouts and flooding. In modern times, this has escalated enormously. When rain hits a roof or paved area, it bounces from the ground and rushes to the lake or river. The journey downhill is abetted by dug ditches and spillways. Two things happen: (1) erosion of the soil or anything that the water can carry, and (2) a reduced amount of water reaching the water table or aquifer.

Another result is that the small streams run for a shorter season and thereby lose their ability to provide the necessities of life to the fish that formerly used them as spawning grounds. Also, they can no longer host reptiles and water insects.

In recent years, we have seen great changes in the plant and animal populations, all part of an enormous evolution as the environment around us shifts.

The number of white-tailed deer continues to increase, with odd sightings of red deer and mule deer. This is the result of a better food supply and forest shelter. The raccoon population has snowballed, and is periodically reduced by outbreaks of distemper. Black squirrels are also more populous as food supplies increase. Coyotes were first seen in Innisfil in the early 1950s and spread quickly, feeding on groundhogs, rabbits, and field mice, thereby reducing the food supply of red foxes, whose population is greatly diminished. Now the population of jack rabbits is depleted, and cottontails and voles are causing less harm to the small trees and shrubs they eat the bark off in winter. The coyote population is controlled by outbreaks of mange (tiny spiders that live in the fur of the coyote and cause their host to scratch repeatedly until the flesh becomes raw and the ensuing infection kills the host coyote). Nature was never kind!

A few opossums have arrived in Innisfil in the past 15 years. There are still normal numbers of skunks, mink, weasels, muskrats, otters, chipmunks, porcupines, and red squirrels.

The bird population is also evolving. I have not seen in Innisfil in 20 years, the Eastern Bluebird, a favourite of my childhood. Barn swallows make their nests in man-made buildings, usually a barn with an adjacent manure pile. The swallows catch insects in flight to feed themselves and their young. Their population has been decimated by the loss of livestock barns. Likewise with pigeons, whose diet is mostly spilled grain. Pigeons lived in barns and also graced the main street of every town that had a grain elevator or feed mill. The passenger pigeon which was a major food source for the early settlers became extinct a century ago.

Wild turkeys lived in this area when the first settlers came and even were a major source of food. Their range moved south until 1985, when the Ontario Government reintroduced them to the Niagara Escarpment and the eastern part of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Their population expanded rapidly and is now stabilizing. The turkey vulture (buzzard) arrived

here about 1990, as its range moved north. This scavenger is very useful in cleaning up carrion. In my youth, we saw Canada geese twice a year--- going north to their breeding grounds and south to their wintering areas. Now they use this area for breeding grounds, and the population has expanded greatly. It may at present be levelling off. The duck population, mostly mallard, may also be levelling off. Geese, ducks, and wild turkeys feed uninvited in farmers' fields.

As farming has evolved, there are fewer hay and pasture fields, and the birds that nest there—bobolinks, field sparrows, and meadowlarks—are declining in number, but are probably more plentiful than before the settlers came. Many other bird species that live in semi-urban situations are thriving.

The fish population in the Nottawasaga and Lake Simcoe watersheds is evolving, partly from the changing land use in the headwaters of the streams and partly from conditions in the lakes. Some species have had their spawning areas compromised with altered runoff. Some fish that dwell in shallow, plant-infested parts of the lake have seen the vegetation change with human interference. Warming water in the streams and lakes also affects populations.

There have been several changes resulting from the human introduction of creatures into Lake Simcoe: smelt, zebra mussels, quagga mussels. With no natural enemies, new species reproduce rapidly and interfere with the existing balance.

Recreational fishing in Lake Simcoe is now based on species that started life in fish hatcheries and were released in the lake as fingerlings.

As with other life forms, the populations of insects and other small animals vary with the changing availability of food and habitat.

In the early 1950s, the praying mantis was introduced to Ontario to lessen the grasshopper population. Both are still here.

In the 1990s, the Japanese ladybug, a remote cousin of our native ladybug, was introduced to control aphids. They build up rapidly where aphids are present.

Monarch butterflies, which feed solely on members of the milkweed family, are in steep decline here. They winter in northern Mexico and move north in the spring (usually three to five generations annually) before flying south in the fall. A break in habitat at any location leaves them at risk. We still have milkweed in Innisfil, perhaps as much as 100 years ago.

The problems of natural pollinators are increasing with the use of man-made insecticides.

It is sad to see some of our tree species falling to natural diseases. The chestnuts in Ontario became almost extinct in the first decade of the 1900s. There were few in Innisfil, but some in Simcoe County. In the 1960s, most of our elm trees died from a virus, introduced by lumber from Europe and spread by the elm bark beetle. Most of the elms died in a five-year period, but a few survived, and the disease is still active. At present, the emerald ash borer is causing major losses of all species of ash: white ash, black ash, green ash. A fungus is attacking the bark of beech trees and threatens the whole species. Butternuts are now on the endangered species list. Spruce bud worm, a moth, has killed many spruce trees in eastern Canada, and threatens the spruce here. There is also a sudden death syndrome attacking the bark of oaks. And our sugar maples are facing a not-well-defined dieback.

There are, of course, many other species of value: bass-wood, birch, poplar, hickory, walnut, cedar, hemlock, and tamarack.

The one redeeming fact is that nature abhors a vacuum, and the empty spaces in the forest will soon be covered by other species, and the fittest will survive.

When we look at the changes around us caused by human intervention, we have to wonder if the net benefit justifies the damage. We all need to tread softly for the benefit of those who will follow.—William M. Kell, January 2019

This is a 'think' piece written by William 'Bill' Kell for the 2020 Review. Bill is a farmer, a long time resident of Innisfil and former President of the Innisfil Historical Society.

Soul Sisters Celebration

Reverend Erin Wilson here with a reminder that summer is just around the corner. Although evident to me by all the summer weddings fast approaching, it has also been a joy to see the transitions of seasons. The birds chirping and actively nesting. (I am lucky to have a few nests visible from the house), the forest filling with greenery, trilliums on all the trails and watching all the fields get planted. June 21, 2022 at 5:14am we enter into the Summer Solstice; the longest day and the shortest night of the year. Also marking the first official day of the summer. Throughout history, Summer Solstice has been known as one of the most powerful days of the year for spiritual growth and healing. Many believe that our consciousness is at it's peak, allowing us to be the most present in our own lives. It is a time of renewal, abundance, love and expansion. A time when seeds are not only planted in the soil by farmers but also in our souls and a time when the Earth is at the fullness of her strength, fertility, and abundance.

Many traditions throughout time have celebrated the Solstices. Creating a ceremony or celebration is a way for humans to acknowledge the life force energy within us and give back to Creation some of the energy and blessings that we are always receiving. The Sun's warmth provides the light necessary for all living beings to thrive and prosper and the Earth provides for all of us with her incredible bounty. We can celebrate our strength in joining together and offering gratitude for the abundances we experience daily.

Fire is used symbolically throughout summer Solstice celebrations in praise of the sun, to bring luck and to ward off the darkness. Many of the ancient traditions continue, bonfires are still lit to celebrate the Sun at its height of power and to ask the Sun not to withdraw into winter darkness. Some hold ritual dances to honor the sun. To this day, revellers still gather at Stonehenge to see the sun rise. The Heel Stone and Slaughter Stone, set outside the main circle, align with the rising sun.

Summer is a time to engage our Earth connection; and cultivate and deepen our connection to the divine energies all around us. In living with gratitude and understanding that reciprocity and respect for all that is given to us is the way to live as if all life is ceremony. In taking only what we need and doing what we can to live in balance and harmony with the cycles of the planet, we strengthen and nourish the bond we were given with Mother Earth who sustains us all.

As we observe the blossoming of life all around us, particularly in the planted fields, we can receive the energy of vitality and experience awe for the generosity. As we approach the longest day of sunlight for the year and we watch the fields grow abundant, take some time to embrace, be proud and celebrate all of your hard work in your fields, properties and all relationships including one with the God of your understanding.

People celebrate the solstice in many ways. I hope that you do something that brings you joy. The Solstice calls on you to follow your spirit into what brings you happiness whether that be adventure or low key close to home moments. However you choose to mark this meaningful day, I encourage you to set some time aside and connect with yourself, with your Divine and soak in the powerful energy. You could get out in nature, meditate, gather with friends and family, have a fire or watch the sunset like I try to do every night, especially on Solstice. Whatever it is you choose, spend time reflecting on what has reached its peak in your life. What have you accomplished that you feel proud of? We don't spend nearly enough time feeling proud of ourselves, acknowledging our accomplishments; big or small.

As you enjoy the glorious longest day of sun, be proud of yourself. Remind yourself spirituality is a journey, just as Earth journeys around the sun. As it completes its cycle of growth, is also a great time to renew any spiritual practice to strengthen connection, which begins from within.

In Gratitude,
The Soul Sisters

Reverend Erin Wilson and Reverend Kelly Blakely
Soulsisterscelebrations@gmail.com

New Book Tells Unfinished Story of the Ontario Tree Seed Plant

Ontario's Political Candidates Urged to Save Important Community Asset for EcoTourism, Local Job Creation & Community Development

Submitted by:

Friends of the Utopia Grist Mill and Park

In Essa Township, Ontario a new book has been released with an ending that still needs to be written.

It will be Ontario's political candidates who will decide on the ending for the Tree Seed Plant: Will this important ecotourism and community development asset be saved – as proposed by the community? Or, will the "For Sale" sign be posted after the Ontario election on June 2nd?

THE TREE SEED PLANT tells the story of the near 100-year-old Ontario Tree Seed Plant, a provincial property. It shares the efforts of the community, environmental groups and forest industry stakeholders to save this valuable community asset.

Located in Simcoe County, Ontario, the Ontario Tree Seed Plant has been long recognized as a world leader in:

- tree seed collection, processing and distribution;
- biodiversity preservation; and
- reforestation.

The property is ideal as a viable centre for ecotourism, featuring both state-of-the-art as well as heritage infrastructure. It can serve as a showcase for many local natural resources, such as the Minesing Wetlands and Nottawasaga River. But the Ontario Tree Seed Plant's purpose and history can tell us so much more. The site has been responsible for billions of tree seeds which have grown into Ontario's current tree population – both rural and urban.

The beautifully illustrated story builds on the actions taken by the community to stop the sale of the property. And, it shares the local dream of turning it into a centre for ecotourism, community development and local job creation.

The story's conclusion will be determined at the polls on June 2, and so a happy ending is not out of reach.

To learn more and to get a copy of THE TREE SEED PLANT, contact Stephanie McCann @ 705-737-9821, Susan Antler @ 416-670-0510 or by email: plant@utopia.ca.

About the Ontario Tree Seed Facility

Located in Angus, Ontario, the Ontario Tree Seed Plant and its public seed bank provided genetically appropriate seed for reforestation on Ontario's Crown land, afforestation planting programs such as the 50 Million Tree Program and Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program on private land, and an open service available to all Ontarians, from landowners to school groups to growers, to purchase a variety of native species' seeds at a reasonable cost for any project. Since 1923 and until the Ontario government made the surprise announcement to permanently shut down operations in 2018, this unique facility and its staff provided expertise and best practices to ensure high quality, source-identified seed and translated this into successful planting projects that helped preserve Ontario's biodiversity, protected our water, air and soils, and supported jobs in the nursery, forestry and wood manufacturing sectors. Next year will be the 100th anniversary of the Ontario Tree Seed Plant.

Updated from www.fgca.net



The Tree Seed Plant is a beautifully written story raising awareness of the need to save the Ontario Tree Seed Plant.



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Election Issues: Protecting Farmland in the Face of a Housing Crisis

By Bethanee Jensen, Board Director for the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

The affordable housing crisis is a major concern this election. It's vital that in the face of a crisis, long-term thinking isn't thrown out the window. With an increasing population forecasted for the province, it will be more important than ever to protect our precious food-growing land while still building more homes.

That's why CFFO encourages Ontarians to consider the housing policies proposed by political parties this election season. Are they committed to solutions that prevent urban sprawl or promote it?

Why does it matter? Land that can produce food is limited. We must ensure food security now – both for us at home and for the vulnerable around the world.

Last winter, CFFO canvassed members about the issues that are important to them in advance of the Ontario election, and farmland protection was a major concern. In the face of the housing crisis and population growth, we must ensure the long-term protection of our best farmland for farming.

Increasing Ontario's housing supply can be achieved without eating into our precious farmland. Even an expert panel convened by the current government agrees. The Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force has urged government to avoid development onto farmland and natural heritage areas. CFFO is urging the same.

What else does CFFO want to see from government?

We recommend Greenbelt-type protections across Ontario for all prime agricultural land. This would prevent settlement area boundaries from expanding onto our best farmland.

We also support brownfield redevelopment and high-density targets within existing cities and towns. Policy changes can ensure that necessary housing is built within urban boundaries while still protecting our agricultural land.

Finally, we're also seeking policy proposals that support the businesses and communities that are a vital part of the farm-to-fork chain. Right now, we are seeing an influx of people moving from cities into rural areas. This creates new opportunities, but we also need to be aware of the risks this poses for farmland and farming. Government programs and policy can protect and support agricultural communities in the midst of these changes.

Politicians are facing enormous pressure to solve the housing crisis. It will be up to voters to support those who can take a clear-eyed view of the situation and offer wise solutions to house people now while protecting foodland for their future.

For more information on Keeping Agriculture on the Agenda, please visit www.christianfarmers.org/Election2022.



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Stone Horse Farm

Provided by Sharlene Dinsmore and The Innisfil Historical Society

Stone Horse Farm is located at 3869 Seventh Line, Innisfil, and is owned by Lisa Peterson, who contributed the following story.

Everything old is new again at Stone Horse Farm, a century farm at the western edge of Innisfil, near the village of Thornton.

Owner and operator Lisa Peterson purchased the farm in 2003, with the hope of raising her family in the country and being able to keep a few chickens and horses. The grand old brick house was built in 1880 by Irish settler William Allen. Allen raised his family there, and while doing so, gained a reputation for being good at healing animals, thanks in part to a surgeon's manual he had received from a sea-faring uncle. His descendants have long left the area, but an old approach to farming has returned a century later.

An original post-and-beam barn, most likely used for pigs or sheep 100 years ago, now provides a year-round shelter for Peterson's herd of some 100 free-range, pastured pigs as they migrate across the pastures to forage for natural feed.

A second original building has become a farm store, where the naturally raised pork, as well as pasture-raised chicken, is sold by Peterson's family.

In this setting, Peterson has been able to make a living by raising the heritage breed pigs from birth to full-grown, and selling the resulting high-end meat directly from the farm's shop and at local farmers markets in Innisfil, Barrie, and Thornton. Numerous customers make monthly pilgrimages from the GTA to purchase the farm meats as well.

At day's end, the spacious old farmhouse is a perfect retreat, and while renovated many times under previous owners, it retains its solid old bones, with high ceilings and many original highlights, such as pane glass windows and oak woodwork.

And as often as not, a young piglet, goat, or chicken can be found by the massive fireplace hearth, staying warm while it "mends up," just as it would have 140 years ago.

—Submitted by Lisa Peterson, January 2019



Lisa Peterson (centre) with her children Mason (left) and Samantha Zizovski

Youth Forum Beef Show at the Lindsay Fairground

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



TEAM WORK.....This is the team that made the Youth Forum Beef Show happen. There were an incredible 95 entries with 130 head of cattle shown over the two days. Pictured above from left to right are Sue Giffen, Chair, Brandy Thaxter, Entry Co-ordinator, Erin Doran, Ring Announcer and Entry Clerk and Martha Henshaw, Barn Boss.



In the photo above is the "Over the Hill" Showmanship Grand Champion, Robert French from Lisle. He is a lifetime cattleman raising Simmental and Angus. Seen here are longtime family friends, Hailey Hammell from Tara and Hayden Chantler from Elmwood. The heifer is owned by the Chantler Girls Cattle Company. Also in this picture is the Youth Forum Beef Show judge Justin Lastby.



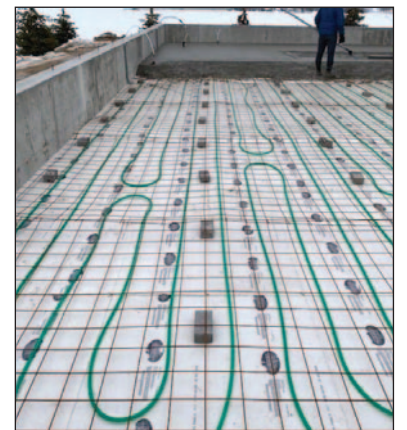
SMALL AND DETERMINED.....In the photo to the left is young Kinsley Driscoll from Bristol, Quebec. This is her second year showing at Youth Forum. She is 4 years old. She gets help in the ring from her Dad, Curtis to keep her safe but she does the very best she can at her small size. She loves doing chores and spending time in the barn at home.

Pictured to the right is Jack O'Reilly from Little Britain showing Blenview J-Lo. Jack is 11 years old and began showing this year. The Youth Forum Beef Show was his third show. He was encouraged to start showing by family friend, Blair McGlashan.



The Grand Champion Pee Wee Showmanship winner is pictured to the left, Emily Honey with her Angus heifer. Also in the photo are judge Justin Lastby and presenting the banner is Farm View publisher Roslyn Watkins.

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After The Chores: Worst Summer Ever

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Seven years ago I had the worst summer ever. Every spring I count my blessings. Spring is my “Thank you God for Getting me Through The Milk Crate Experience” anniversary.

It was seven years ago on the May 24th weekend. Our life here was all mixed up. Sweetie's job of 14 years had officially ended. His job in the auto industry was moving to Mexico. The company was kind giving him a generous severance package. I made Sweetie a deal, if he found a new job then he could invest the severance package money- and I would budget in payments for a brand new tractor.

Sweetie found the job. The new job was kind enough to let him finish the final days at the old job- and give him two weeks off as a reset. After a lot of research, he decided that a Kubota tractor is what he wanted. We had made the deal and the tractor was ready to be delivered on the next truck coming our way.

On the Friday of the May 24th weekend Sweetie said he “just had to get the Kubota.” He said he just “had to” but he wasn't sure why, but he was getting the tractor. There was no truck coming our way so Sweetie decided he could drive the tractor home. I was sure relieved to see Sweetie driving that orange Kubota off the busy highway on to a sideroad on the trip home. He had so much fun waving to everyone

along the route- it's a big, happy event in the country to be driving a new shiny orange Kubota home.

After arriving home, Sweetie dropped down the mower on the Kubota and he cut the grass, he was smiling ear to ear. He knew now he could put his ancient, falling apart lawn tractor out of its misery as he now could cut grass with something that actually worked for more then 20 minutes at a time. Sweetie had one more day of Kubota fun- and then life as we knew it fell apart in the worst summer ever.

It was Sunday and I was anxious to get chores finished to get to Church. That year the barn was not cleaned out in the fall per usual so the pens were high and jammed full. It was a big scheduling operation to get the barn cleaned out and winter came in earlier then we expected. So, I decided instead of forking out the pen door this morning per usual, I would just clamber over it using a milk crate as a step. A milk crate is unfortunately built to look sturdy enough to hold a person. The milk crate held my first foot- but the second foot's weight caused it to snap and twist hurdling me to the ground with a crunch.

I got up to my feet however, only one foot would work. The other foot, the left one, would not hold my weight and I was left hopping stuck in a small pen with a broken milk crate and a jammed in gate. Sweetie came out wondering what I was doing hopping around when I was suppose to be doing chores. He quickly assessed the situation- and in true Sweetie style, he came up with a rescue plan.

Ripping apart the small pen, he told me to just “hang on.” He opened the big tractor door and I heard the Kubota start up and he came into the barn. I had no idea what he was thinking of, when he said, “Get IN the bucket.” And since I was now down to one leg, I had no choice but to follow or-

ders. For the last time in the next 48 hours, I had no pain as I was lifted off my feet and deposited, gently in front of the Jeep's front door.

The first diagnosis at the Emergency department was a sprained ligament leaving me couched for the first two days in incredible pain. In that blur of pain, I got a phone call telling me that the first xray has now shown a “small fracture” which is another way of saying “broken leg.” It was a series of waiting in the Emergency department of another hospital, to being sent home with a ticket to get to a fracture clinic in four more days. The fracture clinic in a big city hospital was with a specialist who was one of the most nasty human beings I have ever seen in real life or even on a screen. He put my leg in a full brace, ordered me not to put any weight on it- and threatened surgery for my future.

I got so desperate for the barn over the next 12 weeks living on the couch in the worst summer ever that Sweetie brought in baby kids and the barn cat for me to see and sniff desperately needing the barn scents. I missed the barn the most of everything and I felt so bad for Sweetie. Sweetie was having to do all my chores, plus work full-time at a new job on straight night shifts and take me to weekly xray appointments that lasted hours because the nasty doctor tripled booked his time. Once I got to a nice, encouraging physiotherapist I was taken out of the wheelchair and within, ten minutes I was shown how to walk again using a cane. My first walk that evening was to the barn.

I have, thank God, no lasting medical reminders of those dark days of those 12 weeks. The barn is now cleaned out, faithfully, once a year in the fall with the Kubota and Sweetie considers this essential. I remain grateful I can walk to the barn for chores.



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Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

A friend asked me why I had someone else's farm sign hung on my wall. It was a fair question.

I never knew Paul-Ern or at least I don't remember him or his family. When my family moved our farm here many years ago (before I was even born), Paul was milking cows directly across the road. They were great neighbours by all accounts and he gave my dad his sign when they left the business. I grew up only knowing an abandoned barn and a rented house. A few years ago, the house and all the buildings were levelled and all that remains is this sign.

I hang it as a reminder of the hundreds of small farms that used to dot our rural landscape. Many are now gone and forgotten, but I don't want to forget the farm families that paved the path for future generations of farmers. They were farmers who built rural Ontario and helped to make Canada what it is today. Signs like this still hang with pride in the laneways of a few heritage farms but they are becoming rare. In fact, I see them occasionally in antique stores fetching many dollars. Small farms like ours are still the backbone of Ontario but we are dwindling. Farms will continue to disappear but that doesn't mean that their memory has to.

Thanks, Paul-Ern and family.

I won't forget.



REMINDERS.....

Everywhere I look I am reminded of those who came before me.

An arrowhead unearthed by a plow.

A moss-covered pile of rocks cleared by a pioneer family.

Cedar rail fences where cattle no longer roam.

A horseshoe caught by a modern cultivator.

Rusty steel grown into an ancient tree.

The crumbling foundation of an old barn built by a close-knit community long ago.

Gnarled old fruit trees scattered amongst the fence rows.

This old worn ring that once tethered cattle for hand milking.

These are remnants of lived lives, but they are so much more to me. They speak of family and hardship. They tell a tale of perseverance and pride. They signify that nothing is forever and change is inevitable.

What reminders do you see? What reminders will you leave behind? What mark are you going to make in the world? Whatever it is, I hope it's a good one.

Farmer Tim farms in Southern Ontario and has been sharing his stories through social media for many years.

Tim is quoted saying "All farmers need to get their stories out there and have fun while they do it!"

Pioneer Bee Keeping



In the 19th century, many farmers in Ontario kept beehives. Beekeeping is making a comeback, but in centuries past it was a far-more widely practice.

People have been keeping bees since the time of the Egyptian pharaohs, and settlers brought honeybees to Canada from their native Europe. Early settlers used artificial hives such as the skep, a large bell-shaped basket made of coils of grass or straw. Though light and easy to move, skeps had one major drawback: you couldn't clean them, so disease spread rapidly in colonies.

The 19th century saw a revolution in beekeeping practices when Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth perfected the movable comb hive in 1852. These hives, which most of us are familiar with today, include a series of wooden frames within a rectangular hive box upon which bees built their honeycombs. This enables the beekeeper to slide any frame out of the hive for inspection. The frame would be gingerly lifted out – remember, pioneers didn't have access to modern beekeeping suits – and the beekeeper looking to see if the bees had capped over the cells with wax. If they had, the frame was ready for harvesting – bees only wax over the cells once they are full.

Now the farmer reaches for a new tool that was only invented after the Langstroth frame became popularized: the honeycomb knife. At first blush, the knife looked like a normal wooden-handled knife. But the blade hinted at something more unique. Symmetrical, flat, and pointed at the end, the blade bends at a 45-degree angle where it enters the handle.

The knife would cut down across the faces of the frame, slicing off the wax capping to free the honey. It was important to cut the comb rather than squash it, of course – you want to damage as few of the cells as possible so the knife would be heated before use. The emptied honeycombs could then be returned intact to the bees for refilling.

Langstroth's frame fostered the growth of honey produc-

tion across North America.

For numerous reasons, settlers prized the honey harvested. In that era, white sugar – cane sugar – was expensive as it had to be imported

at considerable expense from distant locations. It was an item reserved for the wealthy or as a treat. Honey, however, a natural sweetener, could be made at no expense on one's farm. Honey was also used as a natural medicine. Leaving nothing to waste, the capping wax was often used to make candles.

Settlers also knew that bees were invaluable for propagating their fruit trees and the flowers in their gardens (flowers, we must remember, were kept for practical purposes in the 19th century - marigolds for warding off insects, coreopsis for dyeing wool, dill helped Colicky children, and cone flowers treated colds, and so on).

Ontario isn't as temperate as most bee-rearing in Europe. With our cold winters, it might at first blush seem unlikely that Ontario and honeybees should go hand-in-hand. The opposite is true; snow acts an insulator, so heavy snow fall helps protect bees during our cold winters (only if the winter lasts unusually long is the cold and snowfall an issue). Additionally, Ontario has plenty of natural food for bees. Honeybees will feed off anything with nectar, from goldenrod to wild aster to dandelion. Fields cleared for grazing horses and cows represented another food source, as they would be filled with clover and alfalfa.

Bees provided early settlers with some much return on very little investment. Little wonder most farmers had an apiary on their land.

Village stories

by Andrew Hind

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Simcoe County 4-H is in full swing!

Elmvale 4-H Dairy Club

By Carina Jones

The Elmvale 4-H Dairy Club had its first meeting on Sunday April 24, 2022. It was held at Robins Holsteins (The Robinson Family Farm). We have 15 members. We are excited to start our club and we are really looking forward to showing at Fairs again. Melanie Giffen led us in ice breaker games to get to know one another. Sydney Robinson was elected President; Andrew Jones was elected as Vice President and Carina Jones was elected as Secretary and Press Reporter. Owen Wright taught club members the attributes of how to pick your calf for our 4-H projects. Kevin Jones taught us how to measure a calf. Carolyn Jones taught the club members how to judge and the judging format. At the end of the meeting, we enjoyed snacks and chats. We are looking forward to our next on May 29th at Gerald Stone's for more judging practice.

South Simcoe 4-H Gardening club

By Brier Miller

For the South Simcoe 4-H Gardening club, re-potting was the theme of our meeting on May 4th, which was held in Everett at one of our leaders' homes. We repotted all sorts of plants for the perennial sale, which will be held Saturday May 28th, at the Living Faith Church in Baxter 206 Murphy Road, Egbert from 8:00am to 1:00pm. This is a club fundraiser and community event.

Everyone had a blast, lots of laughing, learning about re-potting, and identifying the plant by names. We even named a few of the plants just for fun, we dug up about 66-68 plants for the sale, all different varieties and sizes. They would look amazing in any flower bed or garden!

After all the repotting, we made a grass head craft. We were asked to bring a plastic bottle, so I brought a pop bottle. We cut the bottle in half, added dirt to the top and planted grass seed in the soil. Hot glued some googly eyes and the cap as a nose. The grass will be their hair when it grows. I am looking forward to giving my grass head a haircut, when it grows long enough! I loved how all our members grass heads turned out.

I enjoyed the meeting very much and I cannot wait for our next one. Getting your hands and clothes dirty in a garden, on a beautiful day seems like loads of fun. Looking forward to seeing all the beautiful flowers and plants at the sale, and of course you too! Learn to do by doing, was certainly achieved at this amazing meeting.

Until next month.

South Simcoe 4-H Sheep Club

By Isabella Cullen



The South Simcoe 4-H Sheep club met on April 25th at a leader's farm. We elected Lolo Cowan as the president of the club. We introduced ourselves and disinfected our footwear. We toured Jackie's lambing set up. Her flock had just started to give birth to the lambs that day, so we got to see lambs taking their first steps. The leaders went over the club requirements and members asked questions. For fun the members played a ball game and had a great time in person.



Learn To Do By Doing

South Simcoe 4-H Mini Horse Club

By Madeleine Cullen

The South Simcoe 4-H Mini Horse club is off, trotting and over the jump for another fun filled year. We met online for our first meeting. We had an election of officers and this year's president is Jaiden van Kolschoten. We talked about the club requirements and what the members were hoping to learn this year.

Our leaders informed us of the dates for the county coaching night and judging night. Leader Scott went over judging and reasons with a class of carrots. The leaders reminded us to register our mini horse information in the Assist Expo link.

Our next meeting will be four hours with a special guest speaker. Stay tuned to July's edition to find out what we learned and discussed.

South Simcoe 4-H Cooking Club News Report

By Harry Suffern

Our Cooking Club meetings for week 3 and 4 got more challenging and more delicious!

We honoured our Canadian Indigenous roots and made a simple bannock to eat with a mixed berry compote (dessert first!) and hearty, juicy bison burgers! We rounded out the meal with a filling three sisters salad that includes squash, beans and corn.

For our fourth meeting, we headed south! Corn bread, meatloaf muffins, and a refreshing salad! We were encouraged to add various flavours to make each of our dishes unique to our tastes (warning: chilli powder goes A LONG way!)

As we expand our knowledge and get more adventurous in the kitchen, we will continue to learn food safety and kitchen etiquette to keep us and our guests safe and satisfied!

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Honey from the Woods has new ownership

Story by Cathy Hamill-Hill, photos provided by Mark Wall

"Honey from the Woods" has a new owner.

"Honey from the Woods" had its beginnings in 1954 as Woods Apiaries by a 23 year old named Edward Woods. The young man had been living and working with longtime, highly respected beekeeper, the late Ken Mitchell, and his wife. In 1954, Edward purchased 60 hives of his own, "I worked Monday to Friday with Ken. Ken was kind. On Saturday I worked with my own hives- and on Sunday I went to Church. I never did any work with bees on Sundays, that is the Lord's Day," he said.

In 1955 Edward purchased more hives bringing his total up to 250. Around this time, he married saying, "I always called my wife Honey. Honey (Gweneth Mertz-Woods) was a wonderful girl, we were married for 67 ½ years. We went to school and Church together. We worked in our honey business together and we often did deliveries together," he says adding with great sadness that he lost his Honey in March.

Edward and "Honey" built up a huge business under the new Honey from the Woods name. By 1960, they had 850 hives. By 1972, they had 1,100 hives. At the height of their career, they reached 1,800 hives in the local area around their Hillsdale home. The two had six children and "we made a good living from our honey. We would often go away for a couple of weeks in the winter. We worked hard but we did good," he says.

Selling the honey was done through local stores. Edward remembers, "We had over 100 stores we delivered to. We sold in the Orillia, Gravenhurst, Elmvalle, Sudbury, North Bay and Sutton areas."

It was a mutual decision to put the business up for sale in 2021. "Honey said it was actually a bit past time to sell. When she said it was time to sell, I put the business up for

sale." At this point, the couple were both 90 years old. Edward was still caring for 400 of his own hives and one of his sons had 200 hives.

The entire 600 hives and that well known "Honey from the Woods" name were purchased by "Honey Fields," a small honey production company owned by two best friends since high school, Mark Wall and Brian Rowaan. Mark says he is the "honey (production) man" and "Brian is the beekeeper." The honey is processed at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Edward is pleased to see the two friends purchase the business he built. "Brian is a fine Christian man. He is a beekeeper with 9,000 hives. I talk to Mark often, he's more of the business guy," he explained.

Honey Fields began much like Honey from the Woods did, they started small. Honey fields began with a few hives in the backyard and now, 15 years later, have 9,000 hives across Ontario from Niagara-on-the-Lake to the French River which is near Sudbury. Honey Fields, according to Mark, "sell only 100% Ontario honey and it comes from our own hives that we own."



Edward says that his bees are coming back to their home bee yards exactly where they were before they were sold. Currently, they are in the Niagara-on-the-Lake area getting their hives readied for the season under the careful care of beekeeper Brian.

"Bee health comes first," Mark explains adding, "Ed felt the same about the bees that we

do at his Honey from the Woods. Ed has made a great relationship to the consumer and the stores he sells to and we plan to continue that on. Often Ed comes with me to deliver honey and he knows so many people- Ed is a great guy and we call each other 5 times a day or more. He has so much knowledge."



Pictured above from left to right are Edward Woods and Mark Wall.

Edward says that he "only" sold to 25 stores the last years of his career. Many local "Foodland" stores carry "Honey from the Woods" products including locations at Midland, Stayner, Elmvalle, Craighurst, Coldwater, Creemore, Victoria Harbour and Penetanguishene. The products are also sold at other grocery stores and health food stores. Edward reports one of the biggest sale locations is United Lumber Home Hardware Building Centre in Barrie.

Edward is 91 years "young" and says he "feels pretty good." He credits his good health to starting every day eating "bee pollen from my own bees" and he also has some royal jelly. Royal jelly is a secretion produced by worker honeybees to feed to queen bees.

For any business looking to sell honey, they can contact info@honeyfields.com

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QUILTING

Quilting Corners Guild provides Comfort to a Ukrainian Family

Story and photos provided by Senora Baldry

On Tuesday, May 3rd Quilting Corners Guild had the honour of presenting 3 Quilts of Comfort to Natalia (below far left photo), Dana (below, center photo) & Tim (below far right photo), who have just arrived in the Alliston area from Ukraine. They are a Ukrainian family who left everything behind, including their father. Cathy and Ian True and their family have generously welcomed them to Canada and are providing shelter and support.

The family is adjusting to their new surroundings and the children have started school. They are a lovely family and so appreciative of all the kindness shown to them. The quilts were created by the many talented hands of guild members and presented by our president, Cheryl.



The Mariposa Tulip Festival at the Mariposa Woolen Mill & Farm Market

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



The Mariposa Tulip Festival is an affordable place to entertain young families in the area. One of the highlights is having the option, for a nominal cost, of picking one's own tulips and taking them home. The site is home to a lot of fibre and fleece producing animals- and visitors are encouraged to come and meet this alpaca couple (pictured above) that are penned right beside the big tulip patch. The white face belongs to "Betty White" and the brown face belongs to "Charlie Brown."



How tall are you this May? Find out by standing next to this bright sign (pictured at left) at the Mariposa Tulip Festival held Wednesdays through weekends for the month of May at the Mariposa Woolen Mill & Farm Market in Oakwood. The business Manager, Karen Boyd, explains the tulip patch at sunset is beyond beautiful, "we have special Golden Hour tickets available for photographers" she says.

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OFA engages election candidates on food security and supply chain resilience

By Sara Wood, Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario's provincial election campaign is now in full swing, and across the province, candidates are engaging with voters in hopes of capturing their support at the ballot box. In turn, voters want to know where candidates stand on the issues that matter most to them.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) has been meeting candidates from all major parties for the last several months now in both urban and rural ridings to help build awareness of food, farming and how supporting economic investments in agri-food and our rural communities will provide benefit to the entire province.

As a farmer who lives in a mostly rural riding, I welcomed the opportunity to sit down and meet with candidates from urban ridings in the Greater Toronto Area. It was a chance to share the election priorities of farmers and rural communities with them, but it was also interesting to learn about what matters to their constituents – and how what we need to thrive and support economic growth will provide benefit for all Ontarians.

Agriculture is one of Ontario's main economic drivers, contributing more than \$47 billion a year to the provincial economy and supporting close to one million jobs across the province. There's no doubt the industry will also have a vital role in our post-pandemic economic recovery, contributing to employment and growth – and government is a key partner in helping to make that happen through policy, legislation and investment.

Supply chain resilience

Ontario farmers grow and produce more than 200 different food products, supporting a wide array of food manufacturing and processing activity across the province. So, it's important that Ontario's farm policies and regulations ensure stability and prosperity in all aspects of the agri-food supply chain, from field-to-fork.

Food processing is essential to food security – ensuring we are able to feed ourselves – so we need to make sure we have enough food processing facilities to meet market demands. When the pandemic first hit, a leading concern of many Ontarians was that our food supply chain would collapse. That didn't happen as Ontario's agri-food sector rose to the challenge, persevered and showed how strong and resilient it can be. During the uncertainty of the pandemic, many commodity organizations and local federations stepped up by donating food products and contributing funds to help food banks and other groups support those in need. We applaud the efforts made by our industry to keep our supply chain strong as we navigated through these unprecedented times.

Our job now is to ensure that strength and resilience continues. That means we must address the labour shortages in the agri-food sector. The gap between the demand for workers and available labour in Ontario currently sits at 29,000 workers and growing – and it's estimated that job vacancies cost farmers \$1.5 billion in lost sales every year.

We need focused promotion of agricultural and agri-food programs and careers to Canadian youth to attract job seekers to the sector. We also need to prioritize skills development

and training throughout the value chain to make it easier for employers to find, train and keep the workforce they need.

Protecting food production by preserving farmland

As resilient as our supply chain has proven to be throughout the pandemic, its success all begins with farmland. As farmers, we work hard to maintain the supply and meet the demand for locally grown produce, meat, eggs and dairy products – and without farmland, none of that can happen. We have to contain urban sprawl and preserve the valuable farmland that we have; if we don't, who will we have to depend on in the future to grow our food when we can no longer do so ourselves?

Our province loses an average of five farms per week to development to keep pace with Ontario's growing population. Even though farmers are continually adopting new technologies and innovations to grow more food with less resources, that kind of farmland loss is not sustainable. We need to ensure we are protecting the land that feeds our families, cities, country and the world – not just for us, but for future generations to come. The decisions we make now will directly impact the future generation's ability to grow and produce high-quality food, fibre and fuel for our growing population.

Long-term land-use planning needs to be responsible and focused on a balance of enabling urban growth while also protecting agricultural land. We can do this by intensifying residential development in our existing urban footprint to create complete and liveable communities and by distributing economic development province-wide.

Distribution of economic development province-wide will make rural communities more attractive for families and businesses. Yes, it will require investment in high-speed internet, energy and social infrastructure like schools and hospitals, but encouraging growth and development beyond the Greater Golden Horseshoe will benefit all Ontarians.

We would like all candidates to understand the tremendous value and opportunities the agri-food sector and our rural communities have to offer. OFA encourages all voters to get involved in the election by engaging with candidates and asking about their positions on issues that matter most to Ontario's farming and food sector.

"Making Better Bales" event hosted by Grey County Agricultural Services

Grey County Agricultural Services will be running a "Making Better Bales" event at Valleykirk Farms, Owen Sound, on Monday June 20th from 1-3 pm. The event will include two presentations focused on producing better quality bales and avoiding machine troubles at baling time.

Nathan Ficzer and Alain Gratton of Tama Canada will speak about understanding which factors manipulate how netwrap or twine is applied to the bale and what they mean in terms of affecting feed quality and storage.

A representative from Earthpower Equipment and Kubota will demonstrate baler adjustments, and how to optimize settings for trouble-free baling.

Grey Ag Services would like to thank Valleykirk Farms for hosting the demos, allowing presenters to demonstrate live with equipment on hand.

Pre-registration for the course is required by Friday June 17th. Please reach out to Grey County Agricultural Services by emailing info@greyagservices.ca, or calling 519-986-3756.



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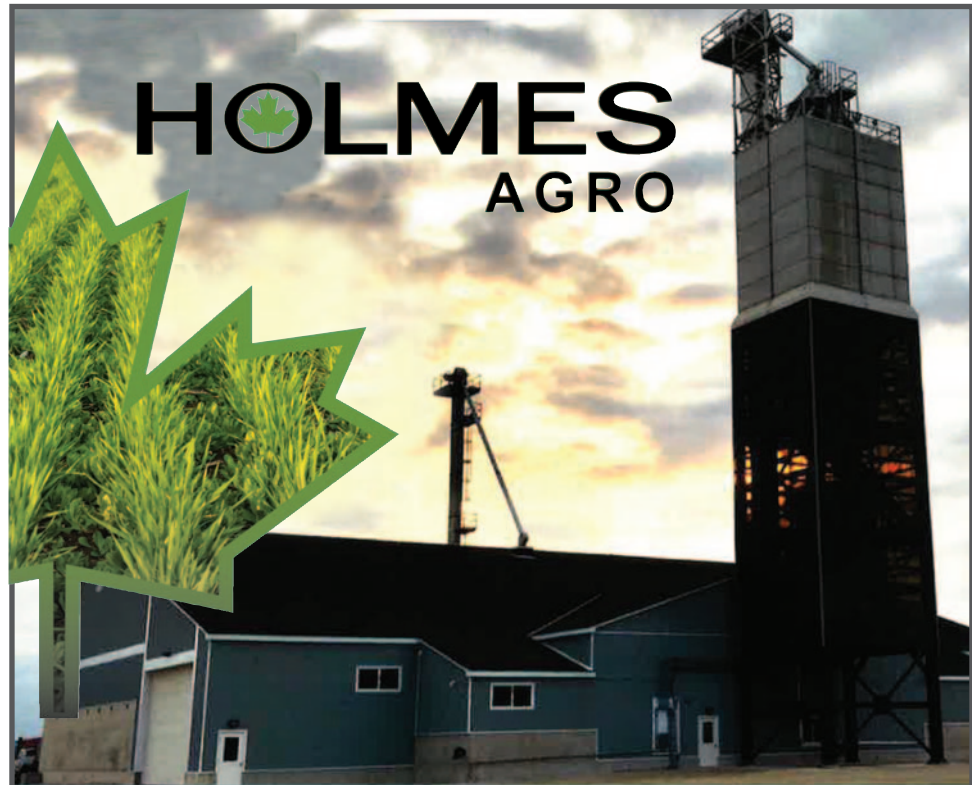
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Private Member Bill Seeks to Exempt Carbon Tax for On-Farm Fuel

Grain Farmers of Ontario, the province's largest commodity organization, representing Ontario's 28,000 barley, corn, oat, soybean and wheat farmers, recognizes and thanks four Members of Parliament who stood and spoke in support of Bill C-234, An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act.

The MPs spoke to the role that farmers play as environmentalists in protecting the land for the future, while also ensuring that food can be grown for the future. Government was reminded by these MPs that grain farmers do not set their own prices, and that farmers have been burdened with volatile prices, inclement weather, outdated cost-shared federal risk support programs, and rising operational costs and farm debt.

Grain Farmers of Ontario asks all MPs across all parties to show their support for farmers by supporting Bill C-234 and amending the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act.

"Farming is the riskiest of businesses. There are so many variables out of a farmer's control and we are looking at the need to grow more food on less land – and there are fewer farmers every day. The uphill battle we fight daily to grow food is magnified and multiplied by our own government through the Carbon Tax in its current form. Farmers are anti-pollution – we rely on healthy soil, clean water and clean air for our pay cheques. Farmers can't pay mortgages, or feed their families, if they can't earn a living, just like everyone else," said Brendan Byrne, Chair,

Grain Farmers of Ontario.

Grain Farmers of Ontario has calculated that the carbon tax, which is increasing every year, will cost an average farm an additional \$46 per acre in direct drying costs by 2030. On an average 800-acre farm, that's an increased cost of operations of \$36,800.

The Carbon Tax is a burden that farmers are being asked to bear in a unique way. "There is no recognition for any of the actually astounding land and water practices that farmers adopt and adapt every year, and there is absolutely no consideration given to any sequestration that happens as part of the carbon cycle through growing crops. Using a science-based approach to decision making around this issue would benefit everyone. Fundamentally though, we should not tax the necessary parts of food production – and grain drying is necessary," Byrne continues.

Recent Census data shows that the number of farms has decreased in Canada by almost two per cent in the last five years, and that total farm area has decreased by more than three per cent in the same timeframe. Grain farmers in Ontario have advanced in cover cropping for soil and water health, environmental tilling practices for soil and water health and precision agriculture practices for minimized environmental impact.

The current Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act does not recognize any of this and adds a tax burden to food that farmers cannot recoup.

Stewart's Equipment will acquire the Earth Power, Stayner Dealership location

Stewart's Equipment announced late May that it has acquired Earth Power Tractors & Equipment, Stayner Dealership location. This acquisition is expected to be completed by July 1, 2022.

Stewart's Equipment has been serving South Central Ontario since 1955 and is one of the largest family-owned dealerships in Eastern Canada. They offer a complete line of Kubota products for farmers, landscapers, contractors, and homeowners. With their main corporate facility in Erin and their recent opening of a new Kubota dealership location on Hwy 27, just south of Cookstown, Stewart's Equipment is now looking forward to serving and supporting the Earth Power customers from the current location in Stayner as well.

"We have been in business with Kubota since the beginning of their operations here in Canada and we are excited to continue to grow with them," said Jeff Stewart, President of Stewart's Equipment. "Our growth has been supported by Kubota and driven by our customers – the customers remain the core focus of our business and we always strive to understand their needs and give the customers the best-in-class support and service."

The Stayner Dealership location, team members and operations will remain the same. "We look forward to meeting and working with everyone in Stayner and the surrounding area," adds Stewart. "Kubota is a great brand, and together we are looking forward to continued support of their products within the local community."

When you are ready to invest in new agricultural, turf or construction equipment, Stewart's friendly and knowledgeable sales, financing, service and parts departments are prepared to make sure your experience is outstanding.

About Stewart's Equipment

Serving South Central Ontario since 1955, Stewart's Equipment is an authorized Kubota Dealer with locations in the Erin and Cookstown areas. They carry a large selection of agricultural, turf and construction products as well as new and pre-owned inventory. For more information on Stewart's Equipment please visit www.stewartsequip.com.

About Kubota Canada

Kubota Canada Ltd. (KCL) is a subsidiary of Kubota Corporation, a tractor and heavy equipment manufacturer based in Osaka, Japan. KCL markets and distributes Kubota-engineered and manufactured equipment, which includes a complete line of tractors (up to 210-horsepower), performance-matched implements, compact and utility tractors, compact construction, landscaping and public work equipment, residential lawn and garden equipment, commercial turf products and utility vehicles. Contact Kubota Canada Ltd. at 1155 Kubota Drive, Pickering, Ontario L1X 0H4, Canada or visit: kubota.ca.



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Sept. issue - August 15th
October issue - Sept. 15th

www.farmviewonline.com

Ontario Dairy is the star of this Father’s Day dessert

Photo and recipe variation by Roslyn Watkins

A beautiful light and lemony dessert to cap off any summer meal, but a special treat for a Father’s Day BBQ. This Italian dessert takes 30 mins at the most to make and is ready after 8 hours or longer in the freezer. Simple but stunning and delicious! Replace the raspberries with strawberries or blueberries for a nice variation. Be sure to keep it in the freezer right up until the very last moment to serve. It does begin to melt quickly!

Lemon and Raspberry Semifreddo

INGREDIENTS


- 8 large egg yolks
- 2/3 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoons lemon zest
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups whipping cream
- 1 cup frozen or fresh raspberries

Line a 9x5-inch loaf pan with plastic wrap, leaving some extra hanging off the sides. Fill a large bowl with 10 to 12 ice cubes, place a smaller bowl on the ice and position a fine mesh strainer over the smaller bowl. Set this beside the stove top. In a small saucepan over low heat, whisk the egg yolks, lemon juice, sugar, lemon zest, and salt. Stir constantly until the mixture begins to thicken and coat the back of a spoon. Immediately pour the curd through the prepared strainer to stop the cooking. Stir in the vanilla extract and let the curd cool completely, stirring occasionally to speed the cooling. Once the curd is cold, whip the cream to soft peaks in a large bowl. Gently fold the curd into the whipped cream until evenly mixed. Pour a layer of the cream mixture into the loaf pan, add a few of the berries, add another layer of the cream mixture and continue alternating. Cover the semifreddo with the extra plastic wrap and freeze for at least 8 hours (or overnight). When ready to serve, remove from the pan, unwrap and serve slices with some fresh berries. Store any leftovers well wrapped in the freezer for up to 2 weeks.




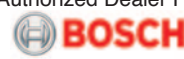



AUCTIONS?
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See pages 22 & 23



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- CHEESE
- CHURNING
- CLARIFY
- CLOTTING
- COW
- CREAMERY
- DAIRY
- ENZYME
- FAT
- GOAT
- GRADE
- ICE CREAM
- LACTATION
- MILK
- ORGANIC
- PASTEURIZE
- PROTEIN
- SHEEP
- SOFT
- UDDER
- YOGURT

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Essa Council dedicates park to local volunteer



Olive May Lee
1943 - 2021

Olive was born in Barrie and lived in Essa Township until November

2020 when she moved to Gravenhurst with her husband Ross Lee.

Olive enjoyed a 40 year career with the Simcoe County Board of Education. She was a member of the Essa Historical Society since 1997 where she served as secretary for 23 years. For her service Olive was elected to the Wall of Honour at the Museum on the Boyne [Alliston] in 2012.



Story and photo by John Beischer

At an outdoor ceremony last month Essa Council's Mayor Sandie MacDonald was joined by Deputy Mayor Mike Smith, the family of Olive Lee and members of the Essa Historical Society to unveil and dedicate the 'Olive Lee Park' in Thornton, in memory of long-time member of Essa Historical Society, Olive Lee. EHS President Richard Blanchard reflected on Olive's many years of service as well as her involvement [with husband Ross Lee] in the production of numerous history books and calendars, as well as the dedication of numerous historical plaques throughout Essa Township.

NEWS from EHS

A proposal is before the members of EHS to produce a historical book commemorating the Barns of Essa Township. Farmers in Essa are encouraged to contact the president of EHS and indicate your interest in this project and the possibility of sending photos [or having us take photos] of your barn. Your response will help determine if this project moves forward.

EHS meets on the 4th Saturday of every month except July and August. June's meeting features a members barbecue, details to be announced.

EHS is actively seeking new members. If you have an interest in preserving the History of Essa Township please consider joining us.

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Owner(s), Auctioneer & Staff are not responsible for any injury, accident or any loss in connection with the Auction Sale. All verbal announcements take precedence over any prior print advertising.

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2km East 2 km South of Chesley

Saturday, June 11th, 2022 at 9:00 am

SALE CONSISTS OF:

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AUCTION SALE

Online Farm Auction of farm machinery equipment, cattle handling pieces, livestock trailers, etc. The Properties of Jamie Healy (4254 Con. 12, Ramara Township) and John Gilchrist (6857 Benson Road, Ramara Township) Runs Mon., June 20th - Mon., June 27th, 2022

Jamie Healy sale items include a 2018 EBY 16' aluminum tandem bumper hitch livestock trailer with centre divider, 5200 lb. torsion axles, sells certified. 468 John Deere Silage Special round baler with mega wide pickup, auto oiler & central greasing, net wrap, kicker, bale monitor with 11,000 bale count. 1431 New Holland centre pivot discbine with new pto shaft, 13' cut. 1225 Procart New Holland 13 wheel V-rake (like new), 30' Martin round bale wagon with new 14 ton Horst running gear with 425 tires, 24' Martin round bale wagon with new Horst 12 ton running gear with 305 tires, Teagle Tomahawk 5050 Silage/straw round bale shredder with 3 pth Teagle quick attach, Stockman's Choice cattle squeeze with palpation cage with rolling door, variety of steel gates, 20' silage bunk feeder, Mar-Well calf creep feeder, 6' walk through gate, 6 section self locking gate, 2 - 24' straight western panels, plus 2 panels with swing gate, round bale feeders, portable calf cart, 220 John Deere 21' folding disc, Trail Master tandem 1000 gal field sprayer with 60' boom, Vicon 360 gal field sprayer with 35' boom (Needs pto shaft), 3800 John Deere forage harvester with 2 row corn head with extra parts plus a 5' haylage head (needs minor repairs), 970 Gehl 16' forage wagon with Horst 12 ton running gear (left hand unload), 1016 DION SE forage wagon with Horst 12 ton running gear (left hand unload), 1163 Massey Ferguson 6 row corn head, 9115 Massey Ferguson 15' flex head, 2 - #28 New Holland forage blowers, 5' Woods 3 pth rotary mower, rubber style skid steer style alley scraper, 3 pth hydraulic round bale unroller, assortment of steel fence stakes.

John Gilchrist sale items include a 1994 EBY 7 1/2' x 20' gooseneck aluminum tandem livestock trailer with centre divide, sells certified. Hi-Qual cattle squeeze with palpation cage, 6 piece 3 section curved cattle alley, 10' radius cattle crowding tub, large variety of steel gates, 3 round bale feeders, cattle loading chute, calf creep feeder, palpation cage, Ritchie & energy free water bowls, slanted feeder panels, 920 John Deere diesel tractor o/s, 2 x 4, with #37 front end loader, 2 wagon running gears with good floatation tires, Anderson 6' pto driven rock picker, Overum 4 furrow semi-mount plow with auto reset, 35 John Deere forage harvester with 2 row corn head and 5' haylage head, Turnco 225 bu gravity wagon with hydraulic auger, 6" x 40' pto driven grain auger on wheels, variety of 7' pressure treated fence posts, assortment of plastic culverts 18" & 24" diameter various lengths, some household items as well!

Visit the website for more information and to read the terms and conditions.

Sale Managed & Sold by:

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AUCTION SALE

Consign Now! Timed Online Consignment Auction Farm, Shop & Construction Materials and Equipment, Vehicles & Trailers, Etc.! Runs Mon., June 27th - Mon., July 4th, 2022 For Better Exposure Consign Early!

Visit the website for pictures and information of items being sold in the June Consignment Sale!

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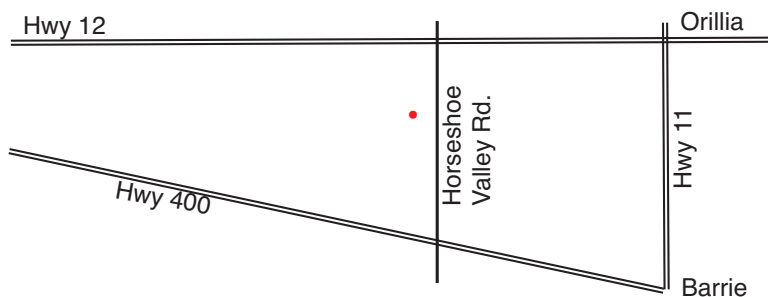
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