

Since 1977

FARM VIEW

A newspaper with something for everyone | February 2025 | Volume 48 #02

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Complimentary copy for the FARM household



This sheep enjoyed a new adventure after record snowfalls in the area.

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. Submission deadline is the 14th of the month for the following month's issue.

February 8th: South Simcoe 4-H Rally Night

South Simcoe 4-H invites you to the free rally night skate at the Angus Recreation Centre on Saturday February 8th. **More information in the ad on page 13.**

February 5th & 6th: The National Poultry Show

The National Poultry Show has grown to be one of North America's premier poultry trade shows, bringing together the best in the poultry industry with the latest in poultry technology, innovations, and education. It is being held at The Agriplex at Western Fair District, 845 Florence St. London ON. Visit www.nationalpoultryshow.com for more information.

February 10th to April 16th: Winter Webinars & Courses

Grey Ag Services schedule of winter webinars and courses for the month of February can be found on page 7. Full details can be found on their website www.grayagservices.ca or by calling 519-986-3756.

February 13th: CFFO, Simcoe County District AGM

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario - Central Ontario District, invites all members to attend the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, February 13th at the Utopia Community Hall, 8396 Line 6, Utopia (Essa Township). The program includes special guest speakers and a hot lunch will be served. **For further information and to RSVP, call (705) 424-0968.**

February 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the **March** issue of Farm View is **Wednesday, February 14th.**

February 19th & 20th: Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention

The Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention (OFVC) is an annual 2-day gathering of horticultural crop producers involved in the production of fruits and vegetables. The convention is being held at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre, Niagara Falls, ON. Visit www.ofvc.ca for complete details.

February 21st: Soil Health and Cover Crops Workshop

King Climate Resilient Agriculture Workshop, Soil Health and Cover Crops. Taking place at the Schomberg Hall on Friday February 21st. **Full details in the ad on page 6.**

February 24th: YESP intake closes

Youth Employment and Skills Program (YESP) intake opens January 27th until February 24th. **Full information in the article on page 6.**

February 28th: AgKnowledge Forum

Nottawasaga Futures presents the annual Agknowledge Forum taking place on Friday, February 28th at The Gibson Centre in Alliston. New this year, vendors market!

Full details and registration information can be found in the ad on page 18.

April 1st: Hall of Fame applications due

"Do you know a farmer in Simcoe County that deserves to be recognized by the Agricultural Hall of Fame? If so, please send an email to simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com to request a nomination application. All applications must be in by April 1st 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole at simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com"

More information in the article on page 8.

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London Ag App  

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Monday, February 17th

Swimming - YMCA Midland from 11:00am to 12:30pm

Skating - Orillia Rotary Place from 12:00pm to 12:50pm and 1:00pm to 1:50pm

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- Anniversary, Birthday & Special Event Scrolls
- Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates
- Family Responsibility Office Issues (FRO)
- GAINS (tax credits for disabled persons and seniors)
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- Health Cards/OHIP Issues
- Natural Resources & the Environment
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- Ontario Student Assistance (OSAP)
- Petition Insight
- Provincial Government Programs
- Seniors Issues
- Small Business Issues
- Transportation
- Trillium Drug Program (OTDP)
- Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB)



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SouthWest Agricultural Conference

The Mennonite Story

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



We have all seen the dark buggy being pulled by the horse on the side of the road. Mennonites are important members of our agricultural community and are caring neighbours, we learn through Session #4, The Mennonite Story, at the 2025 South West Agricultural Conference.

Presenter Dr. Marlene Epp is retired from teaching Mennonite studies at the University of Waterloo. She is a Mennonite. "Mennonites are firstly a religious group that originated in 16th Century Europe," Dr. Epp said adding that "radical reformation from both Catholic and Protestant religions" is a key point to remember. Mennonites stepped away from different religions which caused them to have "a long history of migration and settlement around the Globe to seek freedom from persecution and protection of religious beliefs," she explained.

Mennonites range from Conservative meaning Traditional to a Modern belief system. The range is wide but there are some major points that all Mennonites share strongly. Dr. Epp says that the core belief always begins with the close reading and interpretation of the Bible. Another belief is baptizing of adults that voluntarily choose to be baptized.

"Adult baptizing in the 16th Century was "controversial and was grounds for arrest and execution- it was considered a radical belief," Dr. Epp explained.

Another controversial belief, in the past, but still is a core point in the Mennonite life today is the "separation of Church

and State. It is controversial that Mennonites follow the ways of Jesus, not the way of the world," she said explaining this means "not going to War, not voting nor holding office in government".

Mennonite core values are not suggestions to the Mennonite community, they are considered rules that cannot be broken- or there is punishment. "There is a list of rules and practices that is enforced by the Church to keep purity," Dr. Epp explained. Punishments range including being shunned by the community.

Old Order Mennonites seem to be "frozen in time" but they are not, Dr. Epp clarified adding that the Mennonites are always changing. A division in the Older Order group has a new community now that allows the use of cars- but only black cars. They modified their dress code because Mennonite groups each have distinctly different dress styles making them instantly identified as to what group they are part of. Most Mennonite groups now allow for electricity and telephones in houses but "there are no computers used or internet".

Education is done in Mennonite managed schools- and this is allowed by the Ontario government. Students must stay in school until Grade 8 and "interactive education on the farm/home continues until age 16" she explained.

Mennonites do not believe in government assistance money at any level. "Mennonites pay their own costs. They do use modern technology to treat illnesses in the health care system- but they pay for it themselves. They believe the Church community needs to care for each other." The same applies to property insurances, they carry none and in a property disaster like a house fire, they will rebuild sharing the costs within the Church community.

Gerry Horst, also a speaker in this session, from Horst

Family Farm lives near Mennonites. He said that Mennonites are all about being good neighbours, "they are all about helping others" and they mean everyone, not just those in their community. He said that often Mennonites do Environmental Farm Plans but they do not accept any government grants available for doing all the work.

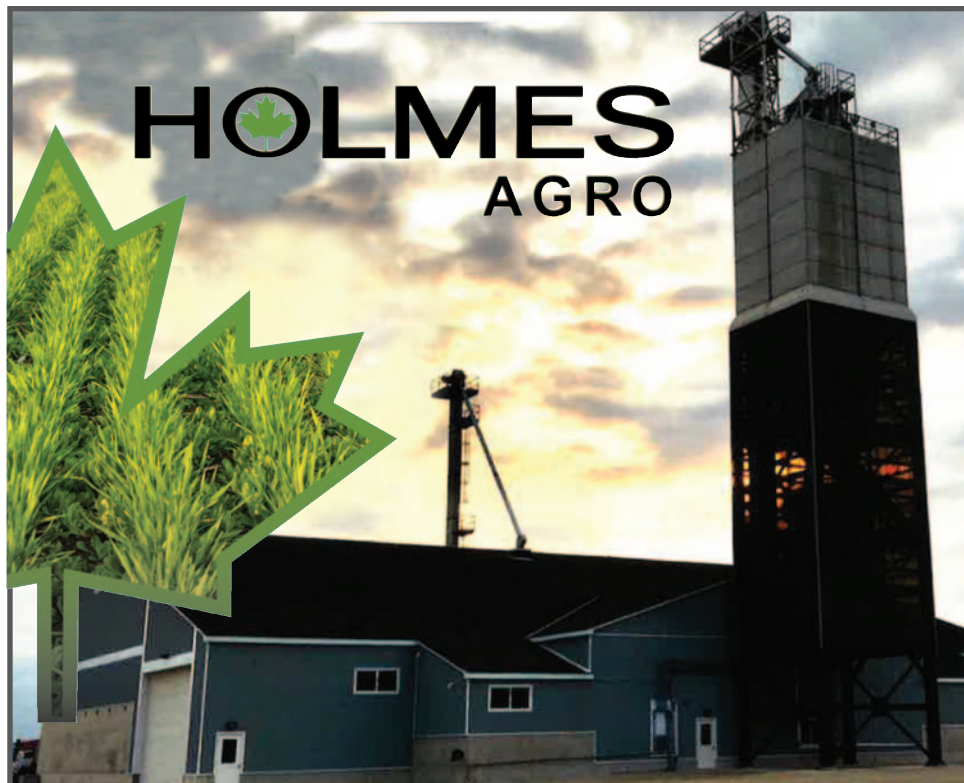
Gerry pointed out a shop that specializes in specific types of repairs for farm equipment in the online presentation. The owner is a Mennonite and all employees are Mennonites. "They are good welders and hard workers, they do work that is great quality. They are not instantly fast to finish a job because they are very busy as they provide such good quality work," he explained.

Elmira Produce Auction Cooperative Inc. shows how the Mennonite cares for people in thier community. In 2004, after the ravages of Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) which destroyed the beef cattle prices, a team of Old Order Mennonites came together to make a plan to help each other- and the farming community. They formed a Co-operative with the rules that locally grown produce would be brought in to sell by auction and it had to be re-sold at a farmer's market or a business. The market grew and now has upwards of 700 buyers including franchises like "Foodland".

A handwritten black and white sign summarizes the Auction's beliefs- "Artificially high prices damage the buyers. Artificially low prices damage the sellers. Let's strive for a healthy balance."

There are no "side deals" made and all sales go through the auction. This is "the highest quality of everything, the best comes here," Gerry explained.

There are about 30 different communities of Mennonites living in Ontario with a population of about 60,000.



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FROM THE EDITOR



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

Well since you are reading this it means you were able to shovel or plow your way to the mailbox. What an incredible amount of snow we've received this winter! It reminds me of my younger years and the Sundays my sister, Diana, and I would spend the day building snow forts and we could smell our mom's roast dinner cooking in the winter air. I know I've mentioned this before, but this kind of winter brings back very fond memories of snowmobile picnics with Diana and our parents. Skating parties on the pond followed by hot chili and hot chocolate. No wonder food is always at the forefront of my mind... Our parents made sure to make each of our outings, big or small, a very special occasion. Lately I've been making more of an effort in our home to really celebrate the times all of us are home together. I've reached the age of having three teenagers with busy schedules and I am really cherishing the moments we are all goofing off together, or enjoying a meal or a coffee on the sofa and catching up. Perhaps I am reminiscing be-

cause Family Day is coming up. I don't think my family will all be home for it this year but as we all know, any day (or morning, afternoon, evening) can be Family Day. Make the most of what you get and lock it into the memory vault.

To repeat a line from Dennis Gannon's column this month, February is the coldest month of the year. Please take a moment to read his article on frostbite and hypothermia. I found it especially fitting for those of you working in the barn and fields during the winter. Please take precautions and don't put off the warning signs. The article can be found on page 9.

This issue begins coverage of two very popular and informative annual conferences. Over the next few issues we will have coverage of Grey Bruce Farmers' Week as well as the SouthWest Agricultural Conference. Both are incredibly well organized and educational. If you can add them to your calendar for 2026, you won't be disappointed.

In the March issue I will be featuring your photos of baby farm animals 2025. Email me your cutest (or funniest) photo, your farm name, where you are and what you do by February 14th. Please make sure the photo is full resolution or original size and email to farmview@on.aibn.com

Keep warm and be safe in the outdoors.

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



Cover photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill.

Cathy's hometown has received more snow than usual. This sheep on the cover is seen peeking over a big snowbank seeming to be enjoying the new surroundings.

The calm after the storm. Pictured to the left is a farm field in Beaverton, Ontario. Photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill.

Ad/News DEADLINE for the March Farm View is February 14th.

New Advertisers Corner

Introducing the following new Farm View advertisers this month:

- The Andersons
- True North Mechanical

Keep an eye out for their ads and give them a call or visit!

Farm View is available at the following agricultural businesses.

- ALLIANCE AGRI-TURF in Ivy, Bolton, Fenelon, Baxter and Lindsay
- BARRIE KOA (Seasonally)
- BRADFORD GREENHOUSE Barrie
- CHARWEN FARMS
- COLLINGWOOD FUELS
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- PEAVEY MART in Alliston and Collingwood
- PREMIER EQUIPMENT, Alliston
- RICHARDS EQUIPMENT INC.
- SOBEY'S in Angus, Bradford and Alcona
- STEER ENTERPRISES
- STEWART'S EQUIPMENT in Cookstown and Stayner
- THE UPS STORE in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza

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 \$49.00. Contact Roslyn at 705-722-0138, by mail 8 Luella Blvd Minesing, ON L9X 0W7 or email farmview@on.aibn.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. Please no phone calls.

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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:

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Lisa Hern 1-877-343-5444 email: lisa.hern@ofa.on.ca

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Youth Employment and Skills Program

The Youth Employment and Skills Program (YESP) will contribute approximately \$13.5 million to projects that employ youth and youth facing barriers. Each project will be eligible to receive up to \$14,000 in matching funds to employ one (1) employee. **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is one of several Government of Canada departments participating in the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy.**

The next intake period will be open January 27, 2025 to February 24, 2025. The application form will be available beginning January 27, 2025.

Funding

The program offers support for 50% of wages to a maximum of \$14,000. If approved, the following employers are eligible to receive 80% of total eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$14,000:

- Indigenous individuals or organizations
- Employers who hire a youth facing barriers

The program can also provide up to \$5,000 in additional support to offset the employment barrier faced by the employee hired.

If a youth facing barriers must relocate within Canada, reasonable expenses directly related to the relocation may also be eligible under barrier expenses. Barrier-related expenses cannot exceed \$5,000 and will be supported at 80%. Non-barrier youth may also be eligible for pre-approved relocation costs at the 50% funding level to a maximum of \$5,000.

Cost sharing

Contributions towards eligible costs will

normally be shared between AAFC and you as follows:

Non-barrier applications

50% of Total salary to a maximum of \$14,000

If applicable, 50% of Total relocation costs to a maximum of \$5,000 (can be applied for at a later date, if conditional approval is received for initial application)

AAFC — maximum of 50%

You — minimum of 50%

Barrier applications

80% of Total salary to a maximum of \$14,000

If applicable, 80% of Total relocation costs and/or barrier-related costs to a maximum of \$5,000 (can be applied for at a later date, if conditional approval is received for initial application)

AAFC — maximum of 80%

You — minimum of 20%

Stacking of government funds is permitted but you may not profit from the project. You cannot receive more than 100% of the total project amount in total financing (municipal, provincial or federal). The onus is on you to make sure the 'other program' allows stacking.

Eligibility checklist — Employers

Employers must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible.

- You are an agricultural-related organization who can offer opportunities that will give youth agriculture career-related work experiences and skills in Canada
- You are a legal entity capable of entering into legal binding agreements
- You are responsible for hiring and veri-

fying the eligibility of participants for the Youth Employment and Skills Program activities

· You must pay wages and benefits in a timely manner and in accordance with labour laws and regulations of the province/territory of the work site

· Wages must be in line with industry standards in the region where the employee is working and commensurate with their training and work experience

· You must hire the employee under the organization's payroll and required source deductions must be deducted from the employee's pay (contracted employees are not eligible)

· You cannot hire yourself for a project (for example, sole proprietors cannot be the employer and employee)

Eligibility checklist — Project

· Projects must start no earlier than April 1, 2025 and must be completed by March 31, 2026.

· Projects must offer the employee agricultural work that is of a meaningful length (generally 2 months or more). Refer to the Overview of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector for guidance on what types of projects might fall under the AAFC mandate.

· You must assign only one employee to each project (the employee may be hired for all kinds of employment statuses [part-time, full-time, casual, seasonal, etc.]

· All projects must comply with the Impact Assessment Act (Justice Canada) (IAA 2019).

If an employee is not able to complete the

project for which they were hired, you may request to hire a second youth to complete the project. The eligibility of the second youth must be verified by the program. The employment periods for each employee must not overlap.

Eligibility checklist — Employees

Employees must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible.

- The employee is between the ages of 15 and 30 (inclusive) at the project start date
- The employee is unemployed or under-employed
- The employee is a Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada or a status refugee under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- The employee does not receive Employment Insurance (EI) during the project period

Considerations about employee eligibility

- Employees who have previously been hired under the Youth Employment and Skills Program are not eligible
- A new hire can be defined as someone hired within 3 months of the application date
- Employees in Canada under the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel measures are not eligible unless they have received refugee status or have become permanent residents.


For complete information on the Youth Employment and Skills Program please contact your MP or visit <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/youth-employment-and-skills>

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Estate, Succession, Transition

Presented by: Robert W. Scriven, Bennett Grant LLP, and Gerry Bowler, Bowler & Company CPA

Date & Time: Monday February 10th, 1:30 - 3:30 pm.

Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.

Course fee: \$20.00 per person.

Trendy Triticale

Presented by: Christine O'Reilly, OMAFA

Date & Time: Tuesday February 11th, 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

Location: Webinar, watch through Zoom.

Course fee: \$12.00 per person.

Regenerative Agriculture

Presented by: Christoph Wand, OMAFA

Date & Time: Thursday February 13th, 6:45 - 9:15 pm.

Location: Hybrid, attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

Course fee: \$20.00 per person.

In the Know Training

Presented by: Jackie Ralph, CMHA Grey Bruce

Date & Time: Tuesday February 25th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.

Course fee: Free - sponsored by CMHA Grey Bruce, lunch is included.

Interpreting Your Soil Test Results (5a)

Presented by: Craig Reid and Brandon Dietrich, both of Sprucedale Agromart.

Date & Time: Wednesday February 26th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.

Course fee: Course 5a alone - \$20.00. 5a & 5b combined with lunch included - \$40.00.

The Role of Lime for Optimal Crop Production (5b)

Presented by: Craig Reid and Taylor Knott, both of Sprucedale Agromart

Date & Time: Wednesday February 26th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Location: Hybrid - attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

Course fee: Course 5b alone - \$20.00. 5a & 5b combined with lunch included - \$40.00.

Economics of Feeding Beef Calves

Presented by: Steve Duff, James Byrne and John Molenhuis, all of OMAFA

Date & Time: Thursday February 27th, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.

Course fee: \$40.00 with lunch included.

Key Nutrients in the Equine Diet and their Function in the Horse's Body

Presented by: Jessica McCoag, Purina

Date & Time: Thursday February 27th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

Location: Hybrid - attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

Course fee: \$20.00.

Advanced Grazing Systems Paddock Design Workshop

Presented by: Dean Cober, Cobercow Hay and Cattle

Date & Time: Friday February 28th, 1:00 - 5:00 pm.

Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.

Course fee: \$20.00.



King Climate Resilient Agriculture Workshop Soil Health & Cover Crops

Resources, case stories and grant / funding opportunities for farmers

Friday Feb. 21
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CFFO Responds to Proposed U.S. Tariffs on Canadian Goods

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) has written this statement in response to the recent news and events leading up to the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump. His statement on November 25, 2024, threatening to impose a 25% tariff on Canadian goods entering the United States poses significant concerns for Ontario's agriculture sector, which relies heavily on stable and cooperative trade relations with the U.S.

Ontario farmers are integral to the province's economy and food security, and any disruption to cross-border trade threatens their livelihoods. We have heard from our members at grassroots meetings, through our district directors, and during Executive Board meetings that they are deeply concerned about the potential impact these proposed tariffs could have on their farms, livelihoods, and businesses. The CFFO recognizes that these proposed tariffs could have far-reaching implications for agricultural producers and the broader food supply chain in Ontario and Canada.

CFFO President Ed Scharringa expressed concern over the potential impact: "A 25%

tariff is alarming for Ontario farmers who depend on access to U.S. markets. We are their largest trading partner, and any disruption could be detrimental to our agricultural economy. The CFFO is committed to ensuring that our members' voices are heard. Once an official government statement is released, we will respond boldly and advocate for practical solutions to protect Ontario farmers."

The CFFO has actively engaged in discussions about this issue during executive board meetings and with members across the province. We are evaluating proactive strategies to mitigate the impact of potential tariffs and ensure the continued strength of Ontario's agriculture industry. We urge the federal government to prioritize agricultural trade discussions and seek exemptions for all Canadian agricultural products.

The CFFO remains steadfast in supporting Ontario farmers and advocating for fair and sustainable trade policies. We will continue to engage with policymakers and industry stakeholders to safeguard the future of our agriculture sector.

Would you like to know more about Farm View's Publisher?



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
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doug.downey@pc.ola.org



FARM VIEW NEWSPAPER
 with
 Roslyn Watkins
GOOD NEIGHBOUR PODCAST
 WITH JEFF & SEAN

This episode of The Good Neighbour podcast focuses on the Farm View newspaper, the ag community, and me! Last summer Jeff did a wonderful job drawing me out of my shell so that advertisers and readers can get to know the person behind the paper. Have a listen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtuacKHfTdl



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Simcoe County Agriculture Hall of Fame looking for Nominations

The Simcoe County Agriculture Hall of Fame is an organization dedicated to recognizing and honoring individuals who have made significant contributions to agriculture in Simcoe County, Ontario. This recognition highlights the achievements of farmers, agribusiness leaders, and community members who have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and dedication to the agricultural industry.

Inductees into the Hall of Fame are celebrated for their exceptional efforts in advancing farming practices, promoting sustainable agriculture, supporting agricultural education, and contributing to the community. The Hall of Fame also serves as a means of preserving and sharing the history of agriculture in the region. To date, 50 inductees have been celebrated by the Hall of Fame since it began in 1984. Cecil J Chappell, J.J.E McCague and Stewart L. Page were the first inductees in 1984 and Montcalm Roman Maurice and James A. McCague were the most recent inductees to be celebrated in 2022. The directors are looking to add to the list of inductees but they need to have nominations from the community to do so.

To nominate someone for the Simcoe County Agriculture Hall of Fame, there is a Nomination form that requires information about the person's education and training, chronological involvement in farm organizations, agriculture accomplishments in Simcoe County, community and other accomplishments in Simcoe County as well as any additional information that the applicant deems pertinent.

Letters of support or references from people who can attest to the nominee's impact on the agricultural community and Additional materials that demonstrate the nominee's legacy, such as news articles, photos, or project summaries can assist the nominations committee in making their decision.

For more information about the nomination process please contact Nicole at simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com for more information.

Recognize the signs and symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia

By Dennis Gannon

It's February, the shortest month of the year. But did you know it's also the coldest? Traditionally the days have more daylight but also the coldest temperatures. With the colder temperatures and either working or playing outside, we face the possibility of getting either frostbite or hypothermia. It is important that we recognize the signs and symptoms of these conditions and do our best to avoid them as well as how to treat them.

Hypothermia symptoms include shivering, numbness or weakness, glassy stare, apathy or impaired judgement, unconsciousness.

If you discover someone who is possibly suffering from hypothermia do the following steps. Call 911 immediately and provide them with the information you have. Move the person to a warm location and monitor their breathing and circulation. Provide CPR if needed. Remove any wet clothing and if possible, dry the person. Warm the person slowly by using blankets or dry clothing. Start with warming the core first, not the extremities.

Frostbite is the freezing of the body's extremities, face, hands, fingers, toes and feet. The skin can appear waxy, cold to touch or

discoloured, red, white, blue or even black.

To treat frostbite first move the person to a warm location. Seek medical care as soon as possible. Gently warm the area affected. Handle the area gently and do not rub the affected area. If the person's fingers or toes are frostbitten, place dry, sterile gauze between them to keep them separated. Avoid breaking any blisters.

To avoid hypothermia or frostbite, be aware of the wind chill. Dress appropriately and avoid staying in the cold too long. Wear a hat and gloves when appropriate with layers of clothing. Avoid unnecessary exposure of any part of the body to the cold. Drink plenty of warm fluids or warm water but avoid caffeine and alcohol. Stay active to maintain body heat. Take frequent breaks from the

cold and finally, get out of the cold immediately if the signals of hypothermia or frostbite appear.

Make the most out of the winter weather either through or other outdoor activities but

stay safe and warm. Remember that if there is any water involved, call 911 immediately and let the firefighters and police with proper equipment and training do the rescue. Don't become another victim.



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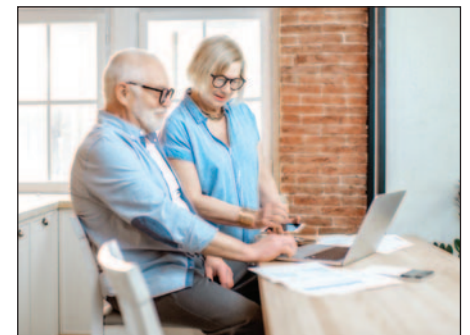
For many people the approval process with the banks can be grueling. Tracy Green Mortgage Broker (level 2 licenced to provide all mortgages including private funds) owner of Ontario-Wide Financial has been a mortgage provider in the industry for 37 years and has always had the "if there's a will there's a way" approach.

She says "for myself as a broker I kind of refer to what I do as assembling a jigsaw puzzle, you must work with the pieces until they all fit, sometimes this means being creative. Many of my clients feel defeated with the banks (sometimes) timely approval process and unwillingness to think outside of the box, whether the reason is bad credit, self employed, previous bankruptcy, consumer proposal, mortgage or tax (property or CRA) arrears, location, type (out of town, farm or hobby farm) or condition of property, age, clients on disability or clients looking for short term financing. Whatever the reason, the banks are unwilling to lend. Well, let me tell you that there are alternative lenders willing to work with open eyes to help these clients achieve their mortgage goals and work through the tough times.

Especially over the last few years many people have been affected by numerous issues with the pandemic, loss of income and interest rates soaring in a short period of time. People don't realize that there are alternative lenders willing to help. "NO" this does not mean you will be paying extortionist rates and unreasonable terms and conditions!

Tracy is the owner and broker at Ontario-Wide Financial, her objective and job are to find the best mortgage product (Mortgages, HELOC, credit lines) based on the client's situation at the best rates. Undoubtedly these clients are not going to get "A" bank pricing, but they will get a fair shake and in most cases the rates are not too far off from what they would get if they had qualified at a bank.

Tracy explains, "in my experience there are really 3 categories of lenders, "A" lenders (the banks/ credit unions) "B" lenders (still institutional with more flexible lending) and "Private lenders" (private individuals who invest in mortgages) As a broker I work down the ladder to see where the best fit is for my client. The second part of my process as owner and broker of Ontario-Wide Financial is to work with the client to establish what needs to be done to become bank qualified down the road if that's my client's goal. Here at Ontario-Wide Financial I work with my clients to create an exit plan to get them back on track. This may be simply helping to repair and clean up credit, settle overdue accounts and collections and guide the client to be "A" lender approved in the future. The process depending on the individual's situation usually doesn't take longer than a year and we can go as high as 80% of the value. Self employed and small business owners know how frustrating obtaining mortgages can be, having to provide endless paperwork, only to be turned down or offered much less than applied for. I can also help with this process and in most cases provide several opportunities and options without having to provide years and years of financial statements and paperwork for these clients. And in many cases these clients prefer to stay in the "B" lending category or private sector as it meets their needs better than a bank. The bottom line is that there are endless situations that can be overcome with the help of a professional. The best reason to call Ontario-Wide Financial is you will be working directly with myself, Tracy Green the owner and broker. We are not a huge conglomerate company, just a small brokerage that can do big things to improve our client's lives and finances! I prefer to work with my clients on a person-to-person basis with no judgement to make sure they know their options, understand the process and product and meet their goals. While in some instances I may not be successful I will do my best to offer advice to my client as to alternatives and other services that may be able to help with their individual situation. All in all, I will do my best to provide you with as many options for the best possible outcome with a fast and painless process as possible."



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Family Day memories to be made and cherished

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins

This year Family Day in Ontario is Monday February 17th. Even though it is called Family Day, it is also a nice opportunity to spend time with close friends and catch up with your favourite people. We are fortunate to live in an area where the world truly is our oyster when it comes to finding things to do. Whether you choose to enjoy the great outdoors, or plan a craft or game day inside where it is warm, the options are endless. Perhaps you have been inspired by Janis Hamilton's quilting column recently and are going to share a quilt lesson with family or friends. One of Janis' recent columns talked about the joy of gifting quilt projects. That really hit home with me as my mom made beautiful quilted gifts for all her friends and family. Before she passed away she was working on a graduation celebration quilt for my daughter, Lily, and my niece, Brianna. After my mom passed a few family members and friends offered to complete the quilts for the girls. I would like to thank Helen TeBokkel and Ginny Ellis for the time and love they put into completing Lily's quilt. This is a beautiful keepsake that Lily will always cherish.

And if crafting isn't your style but cooking is, give this sweet recipe of baked brioche french toast a try for brunch (recipe below). Jazz up the menu with bacon, sausages, eggs and fruit.

Our family was given a delicious gift this past Christmas of dark maple syrup from Red Mill Maple Syrup farm in Millbrook. I must say it really does hit the spot with the baked french toast.

If you are interested in seeing how the syrup is made visit www.redmillmaplesyrup.ca for information, bookings and the many products they make including maple sugar, coffee maple butter, and Bourbon barrel aged syrup. If you are looking for syrup more locally, visit www.ontariomaple.com to find producers near you. The winter is an exciting time for our maple producers as they kick off first tapping events and prepare for Maple Weekend, April 5th and 6th.

I hope all of you enjoy not just Family Day but any day you have the opportunity to spend time with the people who care about you.



Lily's celebration quilt from her grandmother, Jill Beischer. Completed by Helen TeBokkel and Ginny Ellis.

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Baked Brioche French Toast

Recipe and photo by Roslyn Watkins

Ingredients

- 1 loaf brioche bread
- 8 large eggs
- 2 cups milk
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- pinch of salt

Method

Cut your bread into 1 inch cubes, if you wind up with a lot of bread crumbs, that works too!
 In a large bowl whisk together the eggs, milk, cream, cinnamon, brown sugar, vanilla, and salt.
 Gently stir in the bread cubes/crumbs, don't leave any behind.
 Grease a 2 qt baking dish and pour the mixture into it. Can be made the night before and refrigerated.
 Preheat your oven to 350°F. (If made in advance remove the dish from the fridge and let sit for around 15 minutes while the oven preheats.)
 Cover the baking dish with foil and set on a rack in the center of the oven. Bake for 20 minutes. Remove the foil and bake for 30-35 minutes until the French toast has puffed up and is set. There may be a slight jiggle in the middle when you shake the dish.



Here to help!

My office is here to assist with any federal programs including CRA, Passports, Service Canada, and Immigration.



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Happy Valentine's Day

Who was Saint Valentine?

Valentine's Day presents an opportunity to express feelings of love. Greeting cards and heart-shaped chocolate boxes are traditional gifts, as are red roses. Most people know how and why Valentine's Day is celebrated, but few may know the person behind the holiday's name. The Catholic Church recognizes three different martyred individuals with the name Valentine, who each may hold ties to the Valentine's Day celebration. The name Valentine comes from the Latin "Valentinus," which means "worthy, strong or powerful." The name was a common moniker at the time. It is not known just how many Valentines were around in that era, but historians believe there were many. According to the Catholic Education Resource Center, the following three Valentines share February 14th as their feast days. The historical records are sparse, but here's what is known about these men.

1. One St. Valentine was a priest and physician in Rome. He comforted the martyrs during the persecution of Emperor Claudius II. This Valentine was arrested and condemned to death by beheading for his faith.

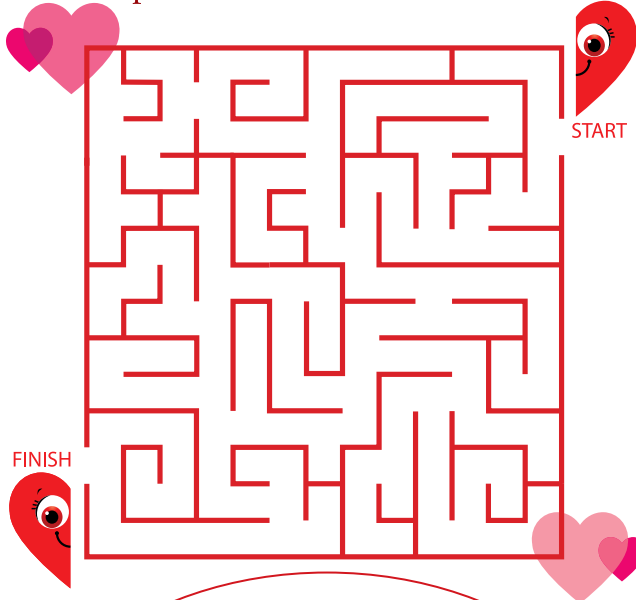
2. Another St. Valentine was the Bishop of what is now Terni, located 60 miles from Rome. He also was arrested and beheaded under Emperor Claudius II.

3. The third St. Valentine suffered martyrdom in Africa, but not much else is known about him.

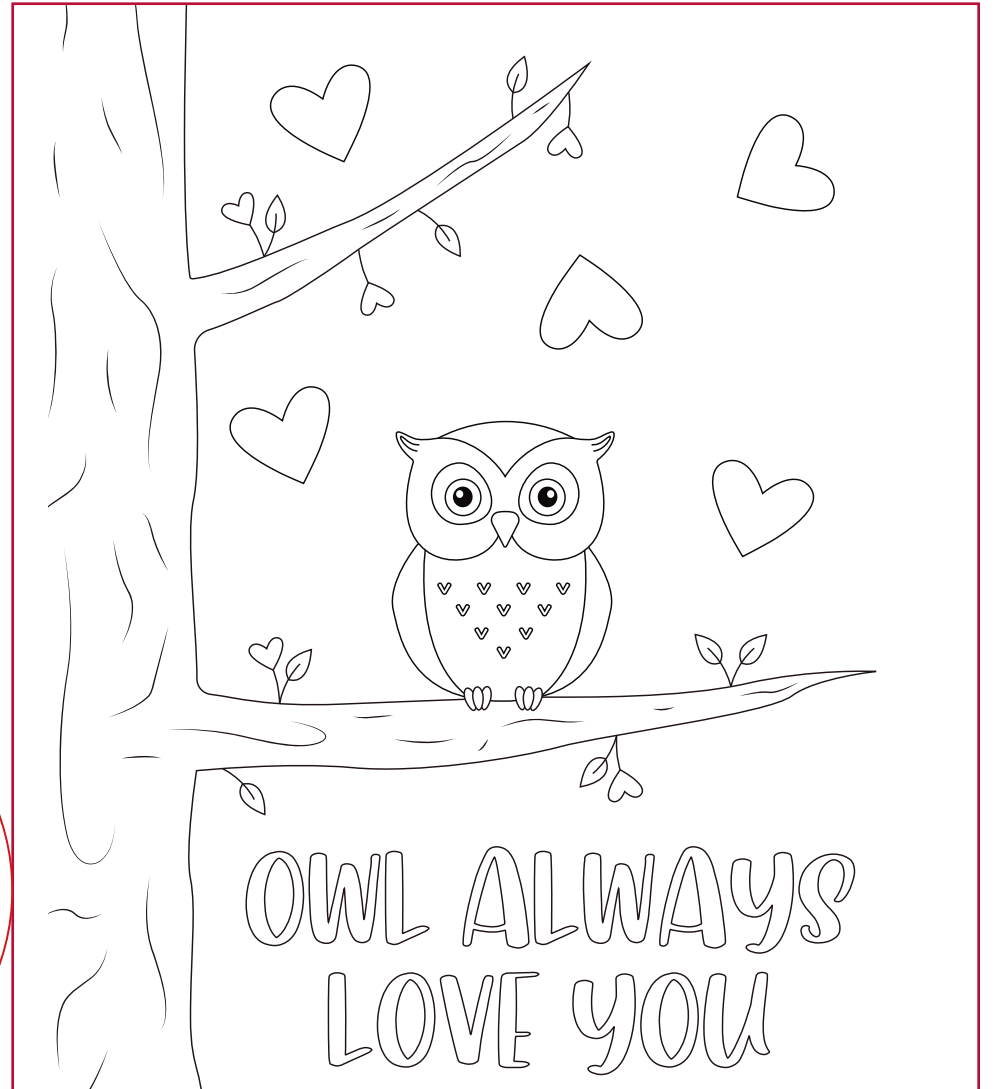
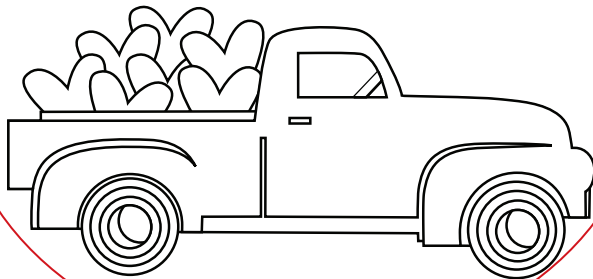
Historians are unsure which Valentine inspired Valentine's Day or if the day is meant to commemorate each of them. Stories about Valentine and his actions helping the faithful are used interchangeably.

According to Britannica, although the Roman Catholic Church continues to recognize St. Valentine, he was removed from the General Roman Calendar in 1969 because of the lack of reliable information about him. In addition to being the namesake behind Valentine's Day, he is the patron saint of lovers, epileptics and beekeepers.

Help this heart find its other half!



LOADS OF LOVE



VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

D	V	L	O	A	V	B	L	V	P	U	M	C	A	Y	V	O	Y	F	Y
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G	B	S	T	F	I	G	S	A	U	P	W	V	O	D	C	K	H	W	C

WORDS

- ADORE
- AFFECTION
- BELOVED
- BOYFRIEND
- CANDY
- CHAMPAGNE
- CHERUB
- CHOCOLATE
- CUPID
- DATE
- FLOWERS
- GIFTS
- GIRLFRIEND
- HEARTS
- HUG
- KISS
- LOVE
- MOVIE
- POEM
- RED
- ROMANCE
- ROSES
- SWEETHEART
- VALENTINE

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

Winter Wisdom

Welcoming the longer days of sunshine has been a blessing yet I am still holding onto winter and all of the magic that comes with it. Often the long nights, short days and cold brings out many people hoping that winter will speed up to welcome spring. With each season, Mother Earth brings with her lessons and wisdom that we can all embrace in spirituality. I have so many fond memories of winter activities on the farm that continue today. The joy of the diamond-like sparkle glistening across a calm field on a sunny day after a fresh white snow fall always brings a beaming smile to my face. For us to flourish spiritually we need to feel connected to each season and cycle. Each season brings with it special offerings and Winter is one for many to take the time to slow down, recharge and reconnect with themselves. Taking time to reconnect with yourself asking questions and reflections on what makes you happy can nourish your soul. I know that spring is just around the corner but finding joy in each season and reconnecting with how much our childhood loved Winter activities such as tobogganing with friends, catching snowflakes on our tongues and sipping hot chocolate by a fire after playing in the snow all day can remind our spiritual being about the balance of our seasons and that each plays a critical role.

For those of you that do not find as much joy in the Winter season as others, I thought I would share these 12 affirmations for Darker Days by Lara Ruddy to help brighten your days. She put these affirmations together for those missing the sun during the darker days of winter. These affirmations are intended to be used regularly to help illuminate your inner glow and spirit. Take some deep breaths in and out before you get started saying these affirmations.

My inner flame is bright and alive
 I ignite my soul by doing things that I love
 I choose to say yes to my passions
 My heart is luminous
 I move forward with purpose and brilliance
 My personality dazzles gleefully
 I feel gleamingly joyful
 My truest essence is vibrantly awake
 Sharing laughter keeps my heart bright
 My life is radiant with blessings
 I am abundant
 I celebrate the overflowing well of energy

Let these words settle into your bones and warm you from the inside out. Wishing you all a wonderful February.

In Gratitude,
 The Soul Sisters
 Reverend Erin Wilson and Reverend Kelly Blakely
 Soulsisterscelebrations@gmail.com



SOUL SISTERS CELEBRATIONS

OFA advocating on key issues

Happy February, everyone! Did you know February comes from the Latin word 'Februa,' meaning 'purity' or 'to cleanse'? It's also the shortest month of the year, celebrates a sleepy rodent, and hosts Valentine's Day! For us here in Ontario, we also get to enjoy Family Day on the third Monday of the month. And, as we move through the third month of winter, there's only one more to go—woohoo! Our next leap year? 2028. If you were born during a leap year, you're one of the lucky few—a 1 in 1461 chance!

Did you know that OFA produces an annual report to update our membership on yearly activities and events? This report outlines our priorities, which include land use planning, labour and workforce development, mental health and wellness, rural infrastructure, and food value chain security.

In 2024, we continued advocating for our members on key issues, including:

- Protecting agricultural lands through better land use planning
- Encouraging local food procurement in the public sector
- Boosting investments in rural infrastructure (roads, bridges, high-speed internet, and natural gas)

The tax burden continues to be the top issue for our members. Federally, the carbon and capital gains tax are front and center. Provincially, it is stormwater management and development fees.

Across the province additional issues require advocacy from all farm groups. These issues include shifting the costs of private railway crossing upgrades and maintenance on to farmers, along with railway companies downloading drainage costs to farmers. Hydro corridor expansion and battery storage sites are priorities for our provincial government, we are ensuring that farm businesses are considered, and that prime agricultural lands and specialty crop areas are protected. Advocacy Wins in 2024.

- The Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) was proposing to allow three additional residential lots per parcel of land. In the revised PPS, the government eliminated the three additional residential lots, and they permitted

on-farm housing without creating new lots.

• Under-used Housing Tax was another tax burden on our members. We asked for filing exemptions for all farmers and a reduction in non-filing penalties which we received starting for the 2023 tax year.

• OFA asked for an increase in the interest-free portion of the Advanced Payment Program as it was set to revert to \$100,000 after increases to \$250,000 in 2022 and \$350,000 in 2023. The government announced \$250,000 for 2024 but again only temporarily. We continue to advocate that the government permanently set a higher interest-free limit.

• OFA along with livestock commodity organizations advocated for improvements to veterinarians and veterinary services. The result was legislation that will provide Registered Veterinary Technicians with expanded roles and allow improvements to access for veterinary services.

Watch for your February edition of Better Farming magazine for a mini version of our annual report. If you would like to read more about OFA advocacy and outreach visit our website.

Don't miss the Agknowledge Forum on February 28th from 8:30am until 2:00pm at the Gibson Center in Alliston. There will be presentations from farmers on their journey into value-added products along with a vendor's market and lots of networking opportunities. I look forward to seeing you there.

Enjoy the shortest month of the year by celebrating whatever day puts a smile on your face and in your heart!



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

Happy Valentine's Day

TERRY 
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South Simcoe 4-H meet and greet February 8th

By youth leader Isabella Cullen

The volunteers and youth leaders are getting ready for the 2025 4-H season. The South Simcoe 4-H Association will be having a meet and greet with the volunteers on February 8th at the Angus Recreation Centre beginning at 7:30 pm. Come and see what South Simcoe 4-H will be offering this year. Age 9 to 21 for 4-H club projects, youth leaders 15-21 and age 6-8 for Cloverbuds. Don't forget your skates that night. Back by popular demand, the family ice skate will be held in the arena from 8:30 - 9:30 pm. We look forward to seeing returning members, and meeting new friends and families.








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Annual Christmas tractor parade 2024

Photos provided by the Essa and District Agricultural Society



I appreciate that for most of us Christmas 2024 is now a bit of a distant memory but due to the timing of press deadlines I wasn't able to include the Essa Tractor parade in the January issue of Farm View. So I thought I would share these photos now that were sent in from the Essa and District Agricultural Society.

Many communities host Christmas nighttime tractor parades. The crowds love seeing the tractors decorated and the lights filling the night sky. The work that the ag community puts into organizing these events is appreciated and enjoyed by all.

SOUTH SIMCOE 4-H INVITES YOU TO OUR

FREE RALLY NIGHT SKATE!

Saturday, February 8th
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Clubs information in the gym 7:30PM - 8:30PM
Skating 8:30PM - 9:30PM

Angus Recreation Centre
8529 County Road 10, Angus
Under 6 must have CSA approved helmet

Find out what clubs are running in 2025.
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Grey Bruce Farmers' Week

Prices looking strong for 2025

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Lamb and Beef prices are looking strong for 2025, predicts Chief Economist for Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Steve Duff.

"Lean protein demand is growing significantly," Duff said at both his Situation and Market Outlook presentations he did separately for the Beef and Sheep Ontario industry, as part of the Grey-Bruce Farmers' Week Agriculture Conference available online.

The United States (USA) is our biggest and closest trading partner so what happens there is a huge influence of what happens here for market pricing. The USA flock size of breeding ewes and rams was just over 4 million in 2000 and now is under 3 million. It is projected the flock size will decrease another 1% this year.

"Demand for lamb/mutton is increasing," he said adding that importing frozen product from New Zealand and Australia wholesale is being used to meet the demand. "Ontario imports to the end of October 2024 were up 13% over 2023," he added.

"People in the (food) industry need to think about where they are going to find and source (lamb/mutton) product as they clearly can see how demand is growing," he said. Data collected from retail chains showed, he said, "Ontario fresh lamb has averaged \$14 per kg higher than Australian frozen and \$21 per kg higher than New Zealand frozen over last year."

"Canadian and Ontario lamb replacement lambs declined 5% in number in 2024," he explained.

"For half of 2024, prices were below average but the last half prices strengthened significantly," he said. Duff expects this to continue into 2025 based on longtime declining size of the flock and increasing demand for Ontario grown lamb especially at the local level.

Cattle prices are a hot topic these days- and this Chief Economist admitted he never predicted- or has seen prices like it is today.

Again, it's the size of the beef cattle herd that sets the stage for pricing. The Canadian cow herd has declined and so has the Ontario herd numbers. The Canadian herd numbers are at the lowest level since 1989 and still in decline. The herd is smaller pushing the prices up higher.

"Fed cattle prices have risen 67%. Processed beef has risen 54%. Retail price of beef has risen 34%," he reported adding that "the combination of strong feeder steer prices and reducing feed costs have kept feeder cattle prices historically strong for all of 2023 and 2024," Duff stated.

After the full out crash of prices due to BSE that sent many out of the beef cattle business, prices did pick back up. "In 2015 I thought we would never see these prices again- and then to see 2023-2024 even higher was not predicted," he admitted adding that price lowering is likely not going to happen for at least two years.

"Without much expansion in the USA herd, we are not going to see any decreases in prices," he said adding that "feeder cattle pricing now upwards of \$3,000 a head mean prices do really stay high to make this work (to make profits)- and the stability is now there."

The future for lamb and beef production does look positive.



Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

"It isn't the farm that makes the farmer – its the love, hard work and character."

It's been 46 days since my dad passed. Time has made things easier, but the act of grieving is interrupted by the red tape and legal hassles that go along with death and family farms.

A week ago, my son came down with a nasty bug circulating in our community. I picked up all the extra chores I could while letting him rest a little longer in the mornings and afternoons. This week, it's my turn to be sick. It's been decades since I have felt this close to death myself. My head is pounding, and my back aches. I try to ward off body chills with my winter coat and snow boots while roasting in front of the fire. My nose is stuffy, and with each cough, my entire body feels like exploding.

As I write this, I'm sitting in the very chair that my dad spent some of his last days on. It is a fancy chair that reclines and lifts, heats and massages – the very things I need to help ease my man-cold. It is much harder to bounce back from sickness as you get older, and as I think back on my dad, I can't help but feel like a wimp.

On our small family farm, there was no extra help growing up. I distinctly remember my dad barfing behind the cows as he battled the stomach flu or

practically crawling back from the barn in the afternoon with a back injury to only rest up enough to get the bare minimum done again that evening. Once, I remembered a pitchfork puncturing his boot as we bedded a pen with straw. Even after I saw the blood start pouring out of the top of his boot, he brushed it off as nothing. Only as he got light-headed did he agree to go to the hospital. In his final weeks in long-term care, he contracted COVID, but at the age of 82, with congestive heart failure and an oxygen mask, he still managed to pull through. He was one tough cookie.

There are two ways you can look at my dad. Firstly, he was dedicated to his job, cattle, farm and family at his own demise. Secondly, he was proud, tough and too stubborn to reach out for help.

I think of myself as something in between. I'm proud and hard-working, but I also know my limits and when to reach out for help – most of the time. Help isn't always available when you manage a small family farm, but in challenging times, promise me that you will try to reach out so that, at the very least, you don't have to go it alone.

Dad, thanks for all the sacrifices you gave our family and farm.

We love you.

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!"

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After The Chores: Winter Misery

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Winter 2025 has not been fun due to some unwelcome snow squalls.

I wondered why Isaac pushed me out of the way to come in the house on a clear, warmer than usual night after chores. He rushed into the house, jumped on the couch and curled up in a ball in the blankets. Isaac was the first one to his crate that night and he said not a single bark as I turned off the light. Looking back, we should have known.

“There are significant snow squalls- but they will be only for select areas,” the only local weather reporter said on the late news. We are never a select area.

When I woke up that next morning the world was white. Isaac stretched and rolled around in the snow to wake himself up- and then he howled to go back in the house for the day. I had to work so Isaac was joyfully put back in his crate after I finished morning chores. I went to my workplace for that day, only a 6 minute drive from home and watched the Weather Network on breaks on my phone. I knew I was in real trouble when the Snow squall Warning came on. As I said, I’m 6 minutes from home so calling in my Boss to go home early was just past my pride. My pride is no friend of mine in snow squalls.

I watched the live radar on my phone and was sure there was a space between squalls to get me 6 minutes on the road. It has been a long time since I ever seen snow being blown around at the rate it was, there were little explosions of snow that were blinding amidst all the snow being slammed on to us from shrieking west winds. “Jesus Takes the Wheel” was the only reason I ever got home that night. I crept along the quiet road and was aware of my surroundings until I got to the road where there has been significant land clearing. This cleared land allowed for all those squalls to push that snow across into tall walls of moving white. I turned to the intersection and “Jesus Takes the Wheel” again so that I suddenly realized I was actually turning into a ditch before actually driving down into the ditch. Being stopped

across two lanes, in a snow squall, looking for a road that was not ever there could have been a lot worse than just getting real scared.

We had no idea how much snow had fallen until the stillness of the next morning when the massive snowfall was seen. Sweetie had to move the Kubota tractor to lift snow by its bucket to move the Escape I had parked just to get the David Brown tractor out with the snowblower attached to it. It took 3 hours to get Sweetie off to work that morning- and his last words were to just let Isaac run loose as “he will stay around with snow like this”. Isaac and I had our oatmeal breakfast, I got my milk formula made for the lambs and I got suited up for the great white outdoors. Isaac looked puzzled that he was let outside like he is at night time- and then I saw a red tail whoosh into the massive snow banks. With no more snow in the forecast this day, Isaac ran away.

After I fed the lambs and called Isaac a few dozen times, there was no other option but to go get the bad dog. I feared seeing red fur going through the neighbour’s snowblower. I was far from happy navigating the path Sweetie had made quickly with the snowblower down the lane, carrying Isaac’s leash knowing I had all the chores and shoveling in front of me. Isaac was joyful with his big run and was found totally safe. He cheerfully was led back to his tie out and he watched me with great interest shovel him a path to his doghouse.

The 24 inches or about 65 centimetres was joined by another 20 cm the following night which was followed by a week long- and counting- deep freeze. The barn is frozen meaning we have to manually carry water for everybody who lives in the barn which right now seems like a huge number. I did a step count with my phone- and it is a depressing high number for just doing everyday chores.

A delivery van came by to deliver a package that we were not expecting. The delivery driver came up the lane and decided to not get too close to our truck that was parked near the barn to unload livestock feed. The driver didn’t notice the approximate 85 cm snowbank and he drove right in to it and then couldn’t get back out. A tow driver was dispatched and that went well until the tow truck broke. This was night chore time and my sheep were ready to eat....and so were the goats...BAAA! MAAAA! BAA! There needed to be hay put in the feeder and the lane was blocked by a stuck delivery van and a broken tow truck. The delivery driver and the tow truck driver had to hear this off key mad, hungry animal chorus while they waited for another tow truck.

I’m so done with winter.

BRIAN SAUNDERSON

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QUILTING

Quilt squares used in the Underground Railway

By Janis Hamilton

Welcome to February and the month I need something refreshing and new to try. Last month I mentioned briefly the quilt squares sometimes used in the Underground Railway quilts that brought a harrowing journey and hopefully freedom to slaves. February is Black History Month and hopefully you take in some of the events in your area. "Hidden in Plain View" by Jacqueline L. Tobin, Raymond G. Dobard is a great read.

Just a quick search led me to a very thorough site on some of the blocks used in this clever source of effective communication. Imagine the days with no cell phones or even rotary phones. Use the link below for great tips and these patterns and all free!

<https://marygoroundquilts.com/underground-railroad-block-of-the-month/>

This site will lay out the blocks and is it laid out month by month so you can have all the patterns but do it at your pace. The 12 blocks will make a lap sized quilt. If you want to make it bigger just add borders of your choice.

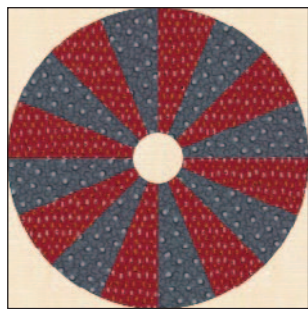
Quilts or just blocks were often hung outside to air out on porches or windows and were visible to those looking to escape, without alerting the master/mistress of the plantation.

The first quilt to be displayed was the **Monkey Wrench a/k/a Churn Dash**. This pattern signaled the slaves to begin their escape preparations by collecting the tools they would need on their journey north. These tools may have included items to construct a shelter, a compass, a knife, coins or food.

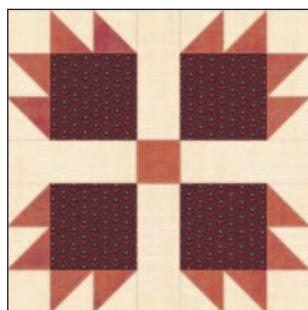


The second quilt block featured on this site is the

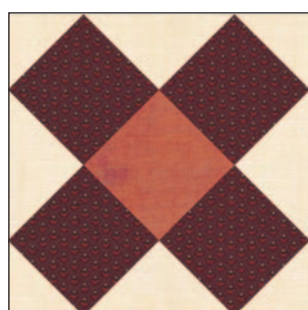
Wagon Wheel aka Grandmother's Fan. It could have meant "It is time to load the wagon," "Time to get provisions ready to leave on the wagon," "The wagon is ready to go." There were often many compartments in the wagons. Sometimes, the passengers were hidden in them.



The **Bear Paw** pattern instructed runaway slaves to navigate their way through the mountains by following the bears tracks. If fugitives followed the bear's trail, they would find a route through the mountains because bears knew where to find fresh water, fish and berries, following their tracks allowed the slaves to find food and water along the route.

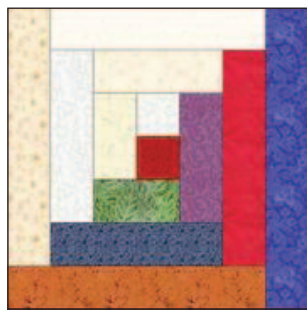


The **Crossroads** block was used after they had taken the bear paw trail and had to connect with the next route. The crossroads referred to Cleveland, Ohio. Following the opening of the Ohio & Erie Canal, Cleveland became a major player in the Underground Railroad. The city was codenamed "Hope." It was an important destination for escaped slaves and was teeming with abolitionists and underground railroad conductors

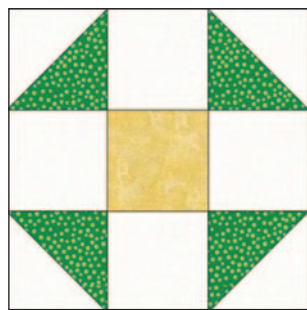


who helped guide the slaves toward Canada.

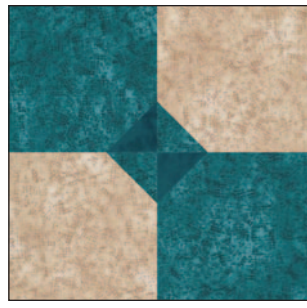
The **Log Cabin** pattern originally had a red centre block indicating the heart of the home and the fireplace to keep you warm. No one is sure if there was a cabin waiting on the trail or they were expected to make one, but for sure they would need shelter.



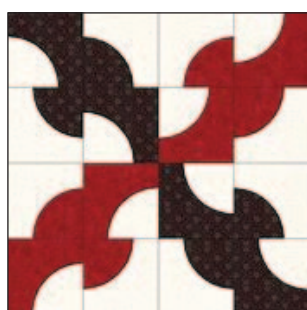
Shoofly Block represents an actual person who might have helped escaping slaves. His responsibility was to secretly aid and harbor fugitives.



The **Bow Tie or Hour-glass** pattern told slaves to look for a church where they would have their clothes changed to look like free slaves and most likely be housed with those freed slaves on their journey.

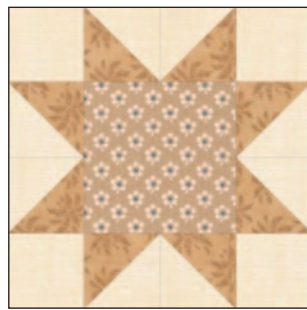


Drunkard's Path told the slaves to not walk in straight lines but a zigzag

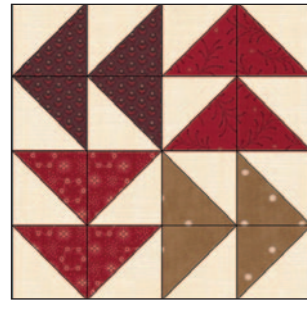


route to elude pursuing slave hunters and their hounds that are in the area. A slave spotted travelling south, for instance, would not be suspected of escaping.

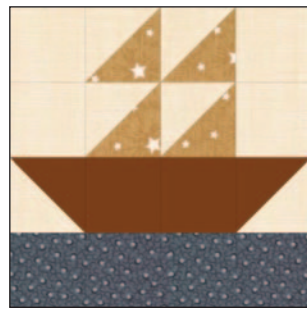
The **North Star** on a clear night would point the way to freedom.



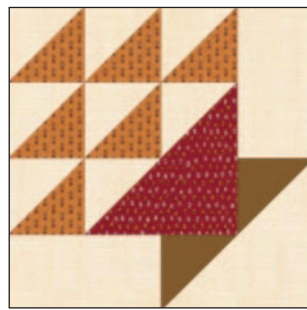
Flying Geese told them the direction to travel and when to go depending on the geese flying above.



The **Sailboat** pattern probably indicated water was nearby or there was a boat waiting for travel.



The final block on this site is **The Basket Block** and one can only guess it meant provisions were left for those travelling.



No one can say for sure that the quilts existed along the route that Harriet Tubman took as she made 13 trips to bring 70 slaves to freedom. But it gives us hope they were there and if you wish to look further into

other patterns the local city of Owen Sound has this site for learning more. This was the last leg of the slaves' journey. On their home page of this site are some great free driving tours with 32 stops, and information worth looking into. Maybe in the spring a road trip to Owen Sound. <https://www.osblack-history.com/quiltcodes.html>

I hope you will try some of the patterns and you don't have to make a quilt, try a mug rug, a laptop quilt to snuggle under or even a few placemats. Happy Quilting on the blustery days and enjoy the snow if the sun is out and the snowshoes or skis are ready.

Have a quilt show to share?

Send in the details of an upcoming quilt or craft show and they will be featured on this page.

Quilting stories and photographs always welcome!



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Wagons and Carriages

Village stories

by Andrew Hind

Wagons are ubiquitous with 19th century farms. Every farmer had one. If they had any means, most had a carriage (or buggy, as they often called) as well.

Wagons and buggies were the main mode of transportation. They were used for going to church on Sundays and for trips to town to shop and collect mail. They were used for harvesting crops and taking them to market. They were used by the milk man who collected cans of milk from the roadside where they had been placed for pickup.

In short, if it moved it went by wagon or carriage.

Wagons and carriages had very different purposes, and as a result they took very different forms.

Wagons (also called wains, thus the term wainwright) were designed for hauling goods and other items. They were functional, a work vehicle designed with sturdiness and carrying capacity front of mind. In most cases, aesthetics was not a priority. In rural communities like 19th century Bradford, the most common wagon would have been the humble farm wagon. They had large wheels for driving over non-macadamized roads, which might turn into a muddy quagmire after rainfall, and sturdy axles for supporting great weight. They would be used in haying, the harvesting of crops, and transporting crops to market.

Not all wagons had merely a front seat for one or two

passengers. Some had a second row for additional passengers, meaning they could be equally used to take the family to social functions as well as being put to work on the farm.

It's important to note that the Conestoga wagon, iconic to the wagon trains of America's westward expansion, were not a popular wagon style in Ontario.

In contrast to wagons, carriages were for riding in and therefore had comfort and appearance in mind. Like today's automobiles, they came in a wide array of styles and appearances, depending on the social status of the owner and the intended use. They also had a wide range of names, including phaeton, landau, and gig (a lightweight two-wheeled carriage), and Victorian. Some had two seats and were designed for couples, while others were much larger and intended for families or larger parties. Purchasing a carriage was a symbol of prosperity. As soon as they were able, farm families would purchase a carriage to supplement their wagon so that they could arrive at church or go shopping in style and comfort.

Many carriages (and some wagons) could have wheels swapped out for runners to serve as sleighs in winter.

Even after automobiles began to supplant them in the early 20th century, wagons and carriages hung on. Some people stubbornly clung to their traditional mode of transportation; others couldn't afford the change. It wasn't unusual to see wagons still in use on farms into the 1940s because of the Depression, when purses were lighter and gas was considered a luxury, and World War Two due to gasoline rationing.



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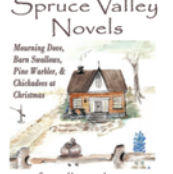
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70 dairy processing businesses will receive funding to increase productivity and modernize food safety capabilities

The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$7.18 million through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) in 70 projects across the province to enhance and modernize dairy processing capacity and food safety. The funding from this initiative, which is cost-shared by the dairy sector, is expected to generate approximately \$22 million in total capital investments, while reinforcing the supply of safe, high-quality Ontario milk on store shelves.

The Dairy Processing Modernization Initiative is over 90% subscribed and still accepting applications from cow, goat, sheep and water buffalo milk processors. Successful applicants can receive up to \$200,000 in cost-shared funding to enhance processing efficiency and food safety in their facilities. The funding can be used to help cover the costs of new or refurbished equipment, one-time training and more.

Examples of projects include:

- Four All Ice Cream in Waterloo receiving up to \$200,000 for a walk-in cooler with blast freezer/refrigeration capabilities, a pasteurizer with accessories, and a plate-heat exchanger to increase productivity and meet demand.

- Max and Lion Production in Peel Region receiving up to \$119,692 to increase production capacity, improve product quality, reduce waste, and improve monitoring and traceability with a liquid filler machine, a high-pressure homogenizer for kefir production,

and a new metal detector.

- Ontario Water Buffalo Co. in Hastings County receiving up to \$53,925 to increase production and improve food safety through the acquisition of a batch freezer, heat combination machine, and a pasteurizer.

- Sargent Family Dairy in Durham Region receiving up to \$40,609 to improve efficiency and reduce manual strain through the purchase and installation of a mechanical curd mill and a cream separator.

Sustainable CAP is a 5-year, \$3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5-billion commitment cost-shared 60% federally and 40% provincially/territorially for programs designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

"Ontario's dairy processors have shown remarkable growth over the last several years and continue to produce safe, high-quality dairy products for domestic and international consumers. The success of the Dairy Processing Modernization Initiative underscores the health and vitality of Ontario's growing dairy industry, and its ability to rapidly seize opportunities to modernize and increase processing capacity and food safety."

- The Honourable Rob Flack, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

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- **Connect:** Network with the local agricultural community.
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Harrington's Sauerkraut
- Lisa Peterson**
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Free classified word ads can be mailed, emailed or faxed by the 15th of the month for the next month's issue. Telephone orders are invoiced at \$15 for the first 25 words. Ad's run for one month only and must be re-submitted each month to be repeated. Mailing information is on page 4.

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READY FOR ADOPTION



Casper is a 2-year-old male Great Pyrenees at the Caledon Animal Shelter. He is very gentle and sweet, but typical to his breed, he is very cautious of new faces. He needs a rural setting with experience with LGDs. We don't know if he is ok with Livestock, but he would make a great pet in the right home.
 Animal.services@caledon.ca
 905 584 2272 ext. 4698

Free Classifieds

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

Email: farmview@on.aibn.com
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 Farm, Shop & Construction Materials, Equipment, Vehicles & Trailers, Etc.!

February Consignment Sale Runs February 10th to February 18th, 2025
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FOR SALE

Farm Equipment
 Corn grinder, McKee corn hog 3PH, 540 PTO, for making livestock feed, hopper, blower for filling silo \$2,200.00
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 Trigg ice chains, studded, good shape, size 18.4 x 34 \$975.00
 Grain Auger, 4 inch, 1HP motor, 29ft \$975.00
Call Dan Seifried, Harriston 519-338-2688

FREE ADS

For Sale GMC Sierra grill for a 2007's series pickup truck, black in colour. Asking \$150.00 Call 705-440-3567.
 Austrian shepherd pups for sale phone 705-458-9070.

OBITUARY

William "Bill" Gilpin

William "Bill" Gilpin passed away in his 79th year, Thursday, January 9th, 2025. Bill passed suddenly doing what he loved, farming! He will be sadly missed by his loving wife of 55 years, kids, grandkids, great-grand kids, family and friends.
 Bill was an active farmer in the Thornton area and a 4-H leader for many years. He also enjoyed providing wagon rides for many different groups, including the Georgian Bay Steam Show, Snow Valley, Base Borden, and Drysdale Tree Farm.
 A Celebration of Life will be held in the warmer weather at the family farm.

COMING EVENTS

Save the Date!
AgKnowledge Forum planning has begun...
Feb 28th, 2025
See the ad on page 18 for full details and registration information.

VAN FOR SALE

Used 2010 Chrysler Town and Country van. Clearwater Blue pearl in colour, one owner.



183,800 km [121,000 miles], 4.0 L 6 cyl gas engine, 2 wheel front drive, 6 speed auto transmission.
 This well maintained and well equipped vehicle runs great and includes: power seat and power sliding doors, power lift gate, back up camera, rear entertainment DVD system, stow and go bucket seats, seven passenger [3rd row seating], cruise control, front and rear climate control, electronic traction control, fog lights, heated side mirrors, satellite radio, CD player, 16 inch alloy wheels. No accidents, some rust on front fenders. VIN 2A4RR5DX1AR257025. **\$8,750.00**
 The vehicle is located at my home approx ten minutes west of Barrie. Please call John at 705-726-5308 to schedule a visit.



Sales - Parts - Service - Rentals

Stewart's Equipment Stayner Location:

6837 ON-26, Stayner, Corner of 26 & center line rd
ON, LOM 1S0 **705-428-3132**

Erin Location:

9410 Wellington Rd 124, Erin,
Corner of 124 & 24 ON,
NOB1T0 **519-833-9616**

Cookstown Location:

4321 Line 13, Cookstown,
Corner of 27 & line 13 ON,
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Kubota's range of attachments will make the choice for snow removal an easy one. Choose from blades and blowers that go on easily - so you can spend less time out in the cold and more time in the heated, comfort-driven cabs. Additional attachments like spreaders, allow for anti-slip sand and salt treatments, so you can keep your property clear long after you've done your job.

Used Equipment



Kubota M6-101
hours ua: 1767, 340/85r24 fronts, 520/70r34 rears, front fenders, 540rpm, 2 remotes, cab/heat, air ride seat, buddy seat, m41 ldr with q/a bucket, Unit is Located in Erin
\$30,900



Kubota SVL75-2
hours ua: 2637, cab/heat, rubber tracks, hydraulic quick attach, low profile bucket, aux hydraulics, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. (Financing available @ 4.99%* O.A.C.)
\$53,500



Kubota B2650
hours ua: 1116.3, 4wd, diesel, cab/heat/air, 23x8.50-14 front tires, 12.4x16 rear tires, 2 remotes, 540 rpm, la534 loader, front grill guard, Unit is located at Stewart & Equipment in Erin.
\$23,900



New Holland 460
net wrap / twine, silage special, 540 rpm, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.
Stock number: U4814
Serial number: YFN187897
\$29,300




Kubota DMC8536R
pivot tongue mower conditioner, 1000 rpm, 2 pth, excellent condition, Unit is Located at Stewart's equipment in Erin.
Stock Number : U27673
\$34,300



Kubota RTV-X900W
hours showing: 772.4, diesel, rops with canopy, front windsheild, front bumper, hydraulic dump box, worksite tires, Unit is Located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.
\$14,600



Case IH 5120
hours ua: 5783, 2wd, cab heat air 11.00x16 front tires, 18.4x38 rear tires, 540 rpm, two sets of remotes, 16x16 semo power shift, bar axle, Unit is located in Erin
\$33,900



John Deere 2155
hours showing : 3757.6, open station tractor with foldable rops, 4wd, 1 set of remotes, 540 rpm, loader, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin
\$22,800



Kubota M6-141
hours ua: 1331.3 hours ua: 2160, 4wd, diesel, cab/heat/air, 540/1000 rpm, 2 remotes, 420/70r24 fronts, 520/70r38 rears, hla lasb4203wef1016 blade, live edge, in Erin.
\$107,700



New Holland 460
4x6 bales, netwrap, wide pick-up, hydraulic pick-up, 181-16.5l rubber, crop cutter, rear kicker, bale count 14100, Unit is located at Stewart's equipment in Erin
\$33,900



New Holland C232
hours ua: 725, rubber track machine, cab with heat and air, aux hydraulics, 2 spd, iso/h pattern, hydraulic q/a, 72" low profile bucket w/ bolt on cutting edge, unit located in Erin.
\$71,900



Kubota M62RC
hours ua: 526, diesel, 4wd, four post rops with canopy, third function hydraulic loader, 540 pto, 10-16.5 fronts, 17.5-24 rears, hydrostatic, t1800 loader with skid steer q/a
\$67,900

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