

FARM VIEW

44th year of publication!

A newspaper with something for everyone

May 2021 Volume 44 #05

Inside this issue:

Coverage from the Dairy XPO

Lactanet Dairy Production Awards

“Holland Marsh” Highway Debate

Working Alone and Grain Bin Safety

An interview with Dr. Nelson Lester author of “My First Ninety Years”



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.

May 7th: Deadline for Mental Health Survey

Help the ag community understand the impacts of your work on your mental health. Researchers at the University of Guelph invite Canadian farmers to take part in a new national survey of farmer mental health in Canada. You are invited to complete an online survey to help researchers at the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College understand the impacts of your work on your mental health. Findings from this study will provide further insight into data previously collected in the Farmer Stress and Resilience Study (2015/2016) and Farm Management Canada's recent Healthy Minds, Healthy Farms Study (2020). The survey will take about 20 minutes and will provide our agricultural community with important information on the mental health of our farmers. 5 lucky survey respondents will win \$200! The survey closes May 7, 2021.

https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dgmM-RnTsAYoChEN

May 15th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the June issue of Farm View is **Saturday, May 15th**

June 20th - 26th: GTHS Walkathon

#GTHSWalkYourWay2021

Come together and walk apart. Not a walker? No problem! Try a YOGathon, RUNathon, BIKEathon or SWIMathon – whatever activity brings you, your family or your pet the most joy. Events like Walkathon support essential programs and services that help thousands of pets and people in our community each year.

Full details on page 21.

A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help another up.

June 25th: SCFA Scholarship applications due

The Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture is offering scholarships for students enrolled in college or university level agricultural programs. Full details can be found on their website. <https://www.simcoecountyfa.org/scholarship>

June 30th: North Simcoe SCIA Scholarship applications due

The North Simcoe Soil and Crop Improvement Association has a scholarship available for agricultural students at the college or university level.

Please see page 20 for full details.

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

A German Shepherd, a Doberman, and a cat died... In heaven, all three faced God, who wanted to know what they believed in. The German Shepherd said, "I believe in discipline, training, and loyalty to my master."

"Good!" said God. "Sit at my right side." "Doberman, what do you believe in?" asked God.

The Doberman answered, "I believe in the love, care, and protection of my master." "Aha" said God. "You may sit at my left."

Then God looked at the cat and asked, "And what do you believe in?"

The cat replied, "I believe you are sitting in my seat."

In Memoriam



Jill Beischer

May 27th, 1953 - May 17th, 2019

In our heart your memory lingers,
Always tender, fond and true;
There's not a day,
We do not think of you.
We are sad within our memory.
Lonely are our hearts today;
For the one we loved so dearly
Has forever been called away.
We think of you in silence.
No eye may see us weep;
But many silent tears are shed
When others are asleep.
Loving and kind in all your ways,
Upright and just to the end of your days;
Sincere and true, in your heart and mind,
Beautiful memories, you left behind.
Two years have passed since that sad day,
When one we loved was called away.
God took you home. It was His will,
But in our hearts you liveth still.
There is a sad but sweet remembrance.
There is a memory fond and true;
There is a token of affection,
And a heartache still for you.
A wonderful woman, wife and mother
One who was better there is no other;
A wonderful sister and friend, so loyal and true,
One in a million, that woman was you.
Loved by your family and friends and all
whom you knew.

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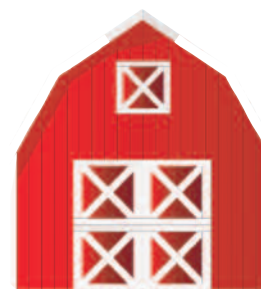
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Bradford Bypass: For Good or Ill?

By Andrew Hind

Controversy is brewing over the Ford government's plans to move ahead with the Bradford Bypass, also known as the Holland Marsh Highway. Opponents are diving in and preparing for a desperate fight.

The proposed 4-lane highway would be a 16.2 kilometre link between Highway 400 in Bradford-West Gwillimbury and Highway 404 in the Town of East Gwillimbury. The route would extend east from Highway 400 between Lines 8 and 9 in Bradford-West Gwillimbury, cross a small portion of the northern extremity, and connect with Highway 404 between Queensville Sideroad and Holborn Road in East Gwillimbury. Interchanges would exist at Bathurst Street, Leslie Street and Yonge Street.

Crucially to the debate, the highway would cross the Holland Marsh and Holland River which, opponents point out, are protected under the Greenbelt and represent its most sensitive ecosystems.

Is it an economic necessity, the foundation of growth and prosperity in the region in the coming decades, or an environmental disaster that will pave over precious wetlands and cause chemical runoff to flow into Lake Simcoe?

The answer depends on who you ask.

The Progressive Conservative government believes that the Bradford Bypass is crucial to the development of York Region and Simcoe County. The provincial Growth Plan forecasts population growth for York Region will grow from 1.1 million people in 2014 to 1.79 million in 2041 and in Simcoe County from 461,000 in 2011 to 796,000 in 2041. Employment will also grow in York Region from 565,000 in 2014 to 900,000 jobs in 2041 and in Simcoe County from 195,000 in 2011 to 304,000 in 2041. An east-west connection between Highway 400 and Highway 404 would

ease traffic congestion and reduce the demand on Regional, County and local roadways, proponents argue.

What's more, it's suggested that the route will enhance travel options, support employment opportunities in and around the surrounding communities, and improve the movement of goods.

With an eye on growth and economic prosperity, both York Region and Simcoe County, as well as the towns through which the route will pass, all broadly support the Bradford Bypass. In a statement, York Region Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson said the project "will ensure our communities continue to be places where people want to live and businesses want to invest. We welcome the process required to ensure the safety of travellers while also providing additional and enhanced opportunities for the movement of goods and people."

Those opposed to the new highway include 20 environmental and ratepayer organizations, including Ontario Nature. They argue that the highway threatens wildlife habitat – wetlands are the most threatened ecosystems in Ontario, with more than 90% of wetlands that existed prior to 1800 now paved over – and puts groundwater at risk. The coalition has requested that the highway project be designated for a federal environmental assessment.

Plans for an east-west thoroughfare

between Highway 400 and Highway 404 long pre-date the current government. The need for a provincial highway in the area was identified as far back as 1979 and the last environmental assessment was completed in 1997 - before the policies protecting the Greenbelt and Lake Simcoe existed, and before the climate crisis was a major consideration. But instead of updating the 24-year-old environmental assessment on the project, the Progressive Conservative government is seeking to exempt it from the Environmental Assessment Act in order to speed up development.

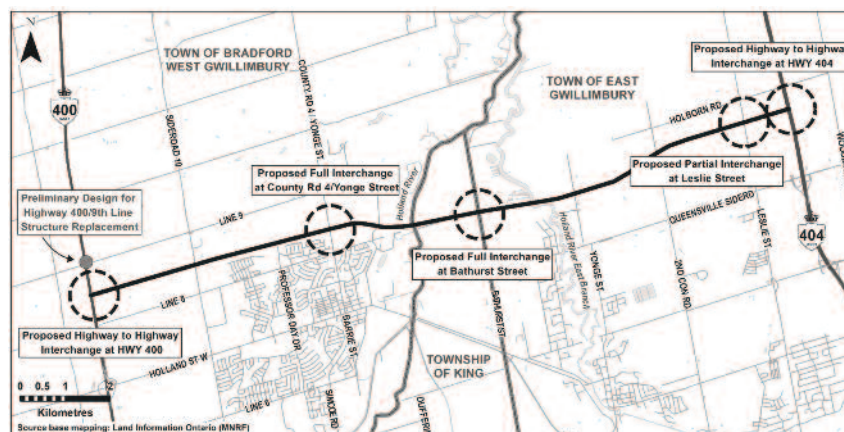
Opposition groups say the 1997 assessment is too dated to be relevant after 25 years, and didn't consider climate change, or the possible effects on natural heritage, migratory birds, and air pollution.

Work in the Bypass may begin as early as the Fall.

That's either good news or a cause for great concern. Perhaps even both.

Depending on who you ask.

Farm View invites letters to the editor on this subject. How will the Holland Marsh Highway affect you and your property?



On the Cover

These Holsteins anxiously await the Lactanet Dairy Production Award winners for Simcoe County. See the ad on page 15.

DEADLINE for the June Farm View is May 15th

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JM TF215-40 (E85625A) 2019, J&M, 40', ROLLING HARROW, 16"DIA, HYD X-FOLD, 3-SECTION 2-SINGS, TELESCOPIC TONGUE, CLEVIS HITCH, DUAL TRANSPORT WHEEL \$36,850.00



LL 6230-36 (E85872) 2014, LANDOLL 36', CONSIGN, ROCK-FLEX GANGS, TANDEM DISC, HYD ADJ FORE/AFT, REAR HITCH W/HYD, TRANSPORT LIGHTS, 8.75" REAR BLADE SPACING \$43,160.00

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Ag. - Hay and Forage - Mower Conditioners



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FROM THE EDITOR

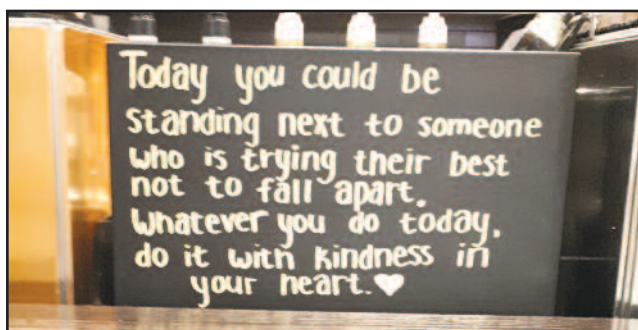
Farm Safety is a hot topic in this issue of the Farm View newspaper. The movie "Silo" is being released on May 7th, which inspired an article by Dennis Gannon on grain bin safety. Not many of us outside the farming community realize the dangers of day to day farming, such as a grain bin entrapment. In the late days of producing this issue I learned of a 76 year old woman from Henry County in Indiana who became trapped in 8 - 10 feet of corn and passed away. That incident occurred on April 16th and really hit home to me the importance of bringing awareness to all aspects of farm safety, not only for people working on the farm but members of the surrounding communities who may be relied on for help. Dennis provides a thought provoking article including procedures and protocols that Fire Rescue need to follow as well as covering many steps to help keep yourself safe while working on the farm.

Continuing on the topic of Farm Safety is Cathy Hamill-Hill's coverage of the Farm Safety: Working Alone workshop. Cathy's article also provides many simple steps to follow to help ensure a safe day working on the farm.

Andrew Hind's article provides us with information on the proposed Bradford Bypass. I would love to hear from the farming community on this topic. How will this new highway affect you and your farming operation? For most people using Highway 400 the bypass seems to be a terrific solution but perhaps more consideration needs to be given to the surrounding farms and wetlands? Write in and share your thoughts or concerns with the Farm View community.

Some of you may be aware that this month of May marks the two year anniversary of my mom's passing. The memory of my mom's smile and laughter and the mischievous look in her eye will always cheer me up. My sister, Diana, and I had fun trading photos back and forth trying to choose one for the In Memoriam on page 2. Sometimes though, her absence can hit like a ton of bricks and that feeling has given me greater understanding of the people surrounding me. Whether they are family, friends, neighbours or strangers. After my mom passed I saw this sign at a coffee shop and it has stuck with me ever since, because now I have been that person, trying not to fall apart. We never really know what another person is thinking, feeling or going through. Especially in our current world environment.

Take care of yourselves and one another,
Roslyn



LETTERS

Dear Roslyn,

What a bang-up recap of our dear colleague, Joyce Kelly. Although, I knew how sharp she was and a cut to the chase, no nonsense lady. There was this whole other side of her portrayed so eloquently in Cathy Hamill-Hill's newspaper article.

In hindsight, she would sometimes allude to an upcoming event she was involved in, but she didn't elaborate at our meetings. Some of the other members of WI were in closer contact with her through their local branches and districts. I only had the privilege to meet up with her Quarterly or at a District Annual meeting.

I knew her from a different angle. One of the Central Ontario Area Women's Institute, (COAWI) President and a proud, hard working member of her local Branch of the Women's Institute.

I would have been remiss if I had not let you know of this very important aspect of her life. The meetings will now seem to be missing something, without her to keep us in check and get us through the agenda as expeditiously as possible. The Gavel was her friend, and frequently needed to be banged, when we got off track in our meetings.

A great lady and member of our Women's Institute....
Gone But Not Forgotten!

Thank-you for the write-up!

Debbie Fawcett

President of Horning's Mills Women's Institute
AVD for COAWI

April contest winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Easter colouring contest and the Exploring Farm View's website contest.

Mark from Lovers Creek Farm in Grenfel correctly answered the website questions to win the messenger bag.

Emily and Jacob from Angus and Charlotte from Woodville are the winners of the colouring contest.



Wonderful colouring kids, the pictures are beautiful!
Prizes will be delivered by May 1st.

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KEVIN BARKER AUCTIONS in Lindsay

The Farm View is delivered to these business between the 24th and 27th 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.

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In memory of Jill Beischer

Farm View attempts to present a forum for varying points of view from the agricultural community. Editorial opinions are freely expressed by individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the executives or directors of the federations unless specifically noted.

**"Burn down your cities and leave our farms,
and your cities will spring up again as if by
magic, but destroy our farms and the grass
will grow in the streets."**

W.J. Bryan

OFA Members Service Representative:

Leah Emms 1-866-660-5511 email: Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:

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

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STIHL

Farm Safety: Working alone and being safe

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Fred Young said that his interest in farm safety began at a young age. His Dad had three passengers on the tractor while discing. A passenger fell off and it was only chance that the young passenger's head went between the discs and wasn't severely injured or worse. This incident prompted a lifelong interest in farm safety. He is a consultant for Workplace Safety & Prevention Services and was the speaker at the recent online presentation of "Farm Safety: Working Alone on the Farm" hosted by the Peterborough Agriculture Roundtable.

Fred Young understands farming. He realizes that farmers have the "do it myself" outlook often because that is the only option since many farmers work alone. Farmers are also people that are independent by nature meaning rather than call on someone they will do the job alone.

"Farming is a dangerous occupation, there were 642 fatalities on the farm between 1990 to 2012. Young reported adding the losses to each of those individual's families would "have been horrific." Of those fatalities, 13% involved tractor run overs.

He said farmers should control what they keep on the cab floor of the tractor. "I see paper cups, lunch bags, tools and chains on the cab floor, what happens if the tractor slips over?" He said the cab floor should be kept clean.

Many times he referred to having a charged cell phone accessible at all times as being the first rule in working alone safely. The cell phone should have the emergency numbers programmed into the phone so it can be used easily in an emergency. "Having a list of emergency numbers by the phone in the kitchen is not going to help out in the field," he said.

And keep the phone WITH you not in the cab of the tractor or on the shelf at the barn, he stressed. He told of a farmer getting his arm stuck in a round baler while working alone during hay season. The farmer was in a field with no road access. His fully charged working cell phone was in the tractor cab. He had to wait four hours until rescue after he was missed at home. He said another accident took place

when a farmer was moving a newborn calf in a pasture field and the calf's mother suddenly slammed the farmer against a fence leaving them unable to stand. The farmer was fortunate that someone was then driving along the road and cared enough to stop to help.

It is important to know exactly where one is working, he stressed that "not every location has a 911 number. Memorize the closest 911 number. How could rescue help get to you if you are "in the bush" he explained adding that planning ahead is a huge part of being safe.

He said that every farmer working alone should realize when it is past their personal limit to work without a proper rest period. For some people, they can work for 20 hours without a full rest while others can do half that long. "What is my time limit before I will fall asleep at the wheel of the tractor?" is a number everyone needs to know and accept. Farmers also need to know the signs they are about to fall asleep the eyes get heavy, the nodding of the head, etc. and be sure to react before that happens.

He said it is best to tell someone what the plans are for the day so that person can check on the farmer if they don't arrive back on time.

He stressed that "Stop. Think. Act" is about safety awareness. He said that "to farm safe, not lucky" starts with thinking about safety. Stop – What could go wrong? How bad could it be? Has anything changed? Think – Do I clearly understand the task? Am I physically and mentally ready? Do I have the right tools & equipment? Act – Make it safe. Use the right tools & equipment. Reduce risks.

He added that there are safety measures that can be put in place with little costs involved. "The PTO (power take off) guard should be in place and in good condition. It is about \$150 and it might save your life." He said, "First aid kits should be in tractors and in the barn adding that he knows a paramedic that also is a beef cattle farmer that keeps diapers in her first aid kit because they are absorbent and many farm accidents involve a lot of blood." He added that fire extinguishers are often on the farm "but haven't been checked for

10 years" meaning if they are needed, they likely would not work at all. Fire extinguishers need to be checked regularly. New farm tasks like the first trip out to a newly rented field should be done with the farm truck to take a good look around first and make a plan of how to safely get there. Rushing a job with no plan makes the job more dangerous before it even begins.

There is farm safety program training available at: www.wsps.ca/farmsafety



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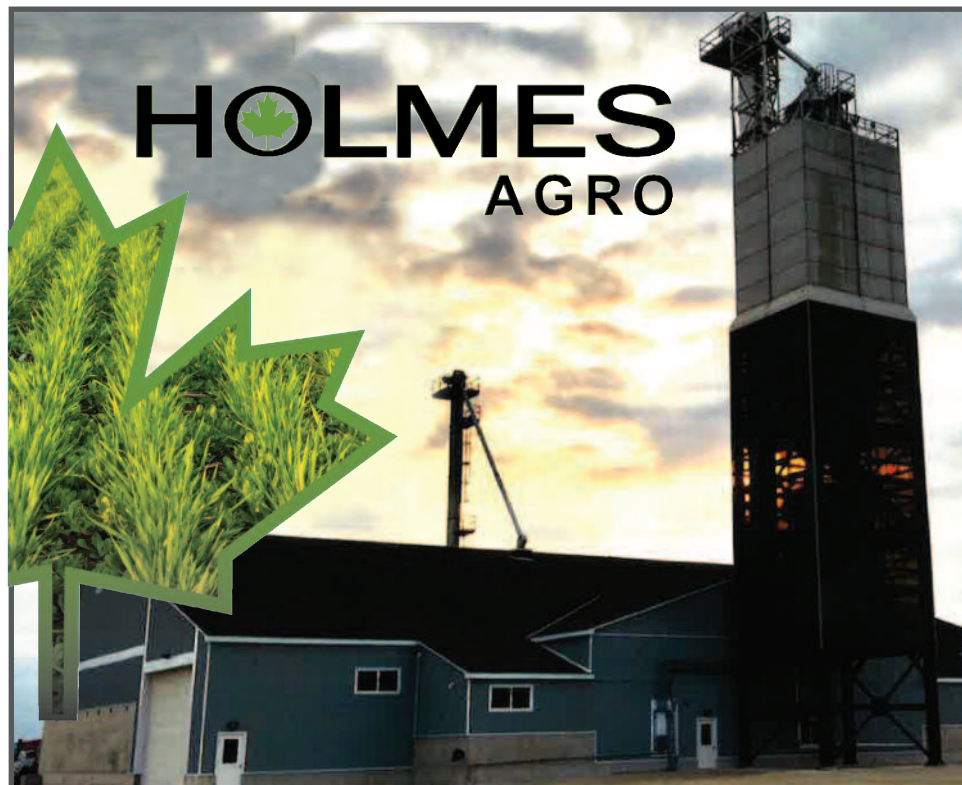
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2021 Agricultural Census: a valuable resource



By Leah Emms
OFA Member Services Rep.
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Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca
www.ofa.on.ca

You might be asking why should you even care about completing the agricultural census? The data collected in the agricultural census questionnaire, is especially important to government ministries like the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs. The data is used to form policies and programs for our sector. OMAFRA creates data profiles for each county, region, and township. Organizations like the Ontario Federation of Agriculture rely heavily on the data collected by the census to assist our lobbying activities. The census data is viewed as being credible by any government official. I have personally used the OMAFRA "County Profile" information to create documents relating the agricultural statistics of the township, to the councillors and staff that were on a bus tour for example. I get asked questions like what are the top three crops grown in the Region of Peel? Or how many farms gross more than \$100,000 in Simcoe County? How many maple syrup producers are there in York Region? I know with confidence

It's hard to believe that five years have passed since our last national census. But here we are, looking down the barrel at the 2021 census. May 11th has been deemed as Census Day in Canada. All residents of Canada are legally required to complete the census questionnaire. The personal information you provide to Statistics Canada is confidential and protected by The Statistics Act. Did you know that employees of Statistics Canada take an oath of secrecy?

that answers to questions such as these can be easily discovered under the statistics tab on the OMAFRA website. The wealth of information collected and tabulated is a valuable resource.

OFA receives many inquiries each year asking how the agricultural sector impacts the Gross Domestic Product in Ontario. You have likely read or hear OFA saying that agriculture contributes over \$47 billion to the provincial GDP and that there are 861,000 people employed in the agri-food sector, farmers grow over 200 different crops and the average farm size in Ontario is 249 acres. All this type of information is available only because of the census agricultural questionnaire.

The census questionnaire has been made available to Canadians on-line since 2001. In every census cycle since 2001, there has been a positive increase in on-line responses. If you have good internet service this might be an option to consider. Canadians will soon receive correspondence from the federal government in the mail with a secure access code to enable you to safely complete the census on-line.

The 2021 Agricultural Census has approximately 73 questions ranging from identifying the different crops grown on your farm, gross farm receipts, value of equipment, workable and non-workable land, market value of your farm property, tillage and seed practices, irrigation, manure and fertilizer use, technology used on the farm, renewable energy, succession planning, and direct to consumer sales.

I want to recognize that the census is being conducted at one of the busiest times on a farm and I understand that the timing is not the best. But for OFA, this census data is extremely valuable in our efforts to lobby government on your behalf. So, I thank you for taking the time out of your busy farm life to complete the agricultural census.

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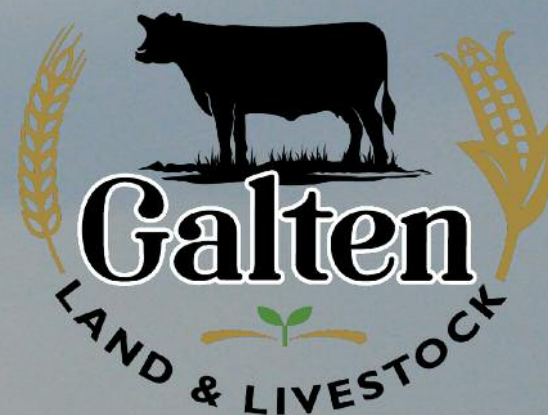
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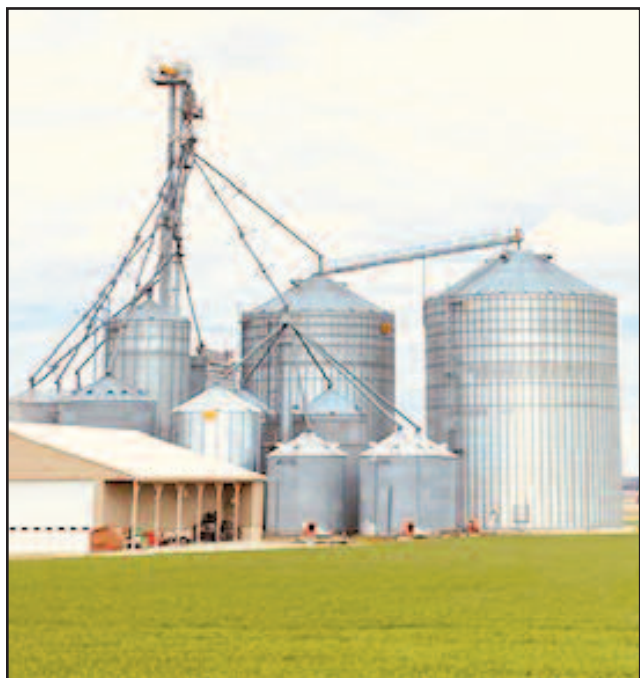
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Grain Bin Safety - Your Life Depends on It!

Story by Dennis Gannon, photo by Joan Gannon



Here is a thought provoking question. What is the difference between walking on quicksand or walking on grain stored in a grain bin? Not much. In both cases you can become entrapped or engulfed and the consequences unfortunately can be fatal.

Before we delve further into grain bin safety let's look at some other farm safety. Farming and agriculture has changed dramatically over the years. Larger farm properties, multiple grain bins of varying sizes replacing the singular concrete silo, modern equipment filled with technology and fewer people doing the work. Farm accidents still make headline news. A person killed in a rollover, an entrapment in a piece of machinery, someone missing for hours and later found deceased in a field or the bush. Community reaction is almost always filled with sympathy and offers to assist. But can these events be avoided? In almost most cases the answer is yes. Taking the time to think, plan ahead and let others know what is occurring are simple steps that can relieve the grief associated with injury or loss of life. Constantly we hear from police services that if you are going boating or hiking to have a plan and let others know. A simple but effective message that can be used daily in our lives.

Now back to the opening statement. One wouldn't knowingly walk on quicksand. The consequences are well known. You sink and become entrapped. And if help isn't there you can quickly become engulfed, suffocate and likely not be found for sometime. Entering a grain bin and walking on the grain could have similar results. Machinery running or voids under the grain can cause an individual to be drawn into the grain. When drawn in the consequences are similar. The grain will first entrap an individual resulting in significant pressure on their body. Self rescue will almost be impossible as the more an individual moves, the more they become entrapped until they can become totally engulfed. The pressure exerted on the body can cause difficulty in breathing. If the person becomes engulfed, suffocation may occur as the grain enters the airway. While individuals can be found alive after becoming engulfed, it is only due to any air pockets that possibly exist within voids of the grain. You think, but I have time to get out, I know what I am doing! The fact is that within four seconds an adult can sink knee-deep in flowing grain and not be able to free themselves without assistance. Then the thought, it can't happen that often? Fortunately no, it is not a leading fatality on the farm but it is one of the easiest to avoid. According to a 2020 report from the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA), between 2006 and 2015, 100 deaths occurred due to grain / silage asphyxiation. Of that total 86% were males and they were primarily in the age category between 50 and 59 years old. Regrettably in western Canada two young children lost their life while playing in a grain bin only a few years ago.

What about my local fire department, won't they be able to rescue me? Isn't that what they are trained for? Ontario is served primarily by volunteer firefighters who have full time jobs and respond when an emergency alarm is sounded. They respond to the fire station and then travel to the emer-

gency. All of that takes minutes, minutes that are slipping away from a rescue. Once on the scene the firefighters won't rush in. A grain bin entry is an entry into a confined space. While there are exemptions for firefighters in an emergency, a grain bin rescue is also considered a technical rescue. That means a plan will need to be formulated, additionally trained firefighters will need to enter the space and they will need special equipment. That equipment includes rigging, harnesses, walking mats, a grain rescue tube and a portable auger at minimum. All which will take time to assemble and may come from some distance. At this time there are only a few fire departments in Ontario that have the equipment and will be able to perform a rescue. In this area the Rosemont and District Fire Department and the Georgina Fire Department are reported to have received training from CASA and have the required equipment. CASA also reported that the Leamington Fire Department located in Essex County received training and equipment and not long after, responded to a near engulfment with a successful result.

There are some simple steps that can be taken to ensure that you don't become a statistic. First, and likely the easiest, is to ask the question is it necessary for someone to enter the grain bin. Have good grain management practices been undertaken resulting in the correct moisture content being obtained? Is there another way to resolve the issue? Almost always there is another way to resolve a problem without putting oneself in harm's way. Has the equipment other than the air circulation been locked out / tagged out? Never enter a grain bin without all electrical devices being secured. Inadvertent energizing of unloading equipment can quickly trap someone in a bin. Develop safety plans and procedures and make certain everyone working on the farm is familiar with them. A key to the success of a fire department is that they have standard operating procedures and that they can quickly size up a situation and develop a plan and procedure. Having a farm safety plan will also assist the fire department or other emergency services to be aware of the dangers associated with the equipment and storage on the farm and where to shut off machinery or look for hazardous materials. A farm policy noting that all grain storage structures, open piles of grain and vehicles that transport grain are off limits

to children, visitors and non-essential employees is another easy to implement strategy. Post warning signage at each access point communicating that there is potential engulfment. Signs should be clear written, kept clean and protected from the weather and if migrant workers are employed, posted in the language they can understand as well. Never work alone in a grain bin. Have another capable person who can communicate with you and emergency services watching and keeping in constant communication. Always wear a harness and a lifeline. As grain bins generally do not have anchoring points determine if one can be added. The action of grain draining from a structure is so significant that attaching a line to the stairs or ladder can result in them being compromised. A secondary means of anchoring is important. Do not walk down the grain. Stay on the edge as much as possible. If you become trapped in a bin of flowing grain but are still able to walk, stay near the outside wall. Keep walking until the bin is empty or the flow of grain stops then

immediately exit. If you do get covered in grain, cup your hand over your mouth and take short breaths. The less you move the better your chances of rescue are. If you see another person become submerged assume that they are still alive and call for emergency assistance immediately. Provide the emergency call taker with as much information as you can and if safe, remain where you can see the victim. When emergency personnel arrive on scene provide them with all the details that you can in a calm fashion. Let others know what you have planned for the day. A simple but effective method in communication to keep you safe.

Fire departments are always willing to learn new techniques and be of assistance to the community that they serve. They are limited in their resources and must work within the budgets that are set. Invite them to your farm to see how it is operated and look for and offer suggestions on how they could assist in the event of an emergency. Many firefighters have a limited agriculture background but have the desire to learn. CASA, www.casa-acsa.ca, is a valuable resource for more information on farm safety including developing a farm safety plan. They also provide training to fire departments through a partnership with industry which can include equipment to assist in grain bin rescues. If you belong to a local agriculture group or organization consider discussing sponsoring the training for the fire department so that regional resources would be available in the case of an incident. Take the time to think before you act. Is it really worth it?

Editor's note

At the beginning of 2021 Farm View news reporter, Cathy Hamill-Hill, had the opportunity to view the movie *Silo* ahead of the release date. After watching the movie Cathy approached me with the idea of an article educating the general public about grain entrapments.

I hope you have enjoyed Dennis Gannon's thought provoking article and take the time to watch the movie *Silo* once released. Although *Silo* takes place in rural America, the movie has a message that is applicable to every farming community across the world.

— Roslyn Watkins

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and **CHRIS ELLIS**

Run Time: 77 Minutes

Official Website: www.silothefilm.com

Inspired by true events, *SILO* follows a harrowing day in an American farm town. Disaster strikes when teenage Cody becomes the victim of a grain entrapment accident. Family, neighbors, and first responders must put aside their differences to rescue him from drowning in the 50-foot tall silo where corn quickly turns to quicksand. Shedding light on an issue plaguing rural America, *SILO* shows how dangerous modern farming can be, while also highlighting the ways in which communities band together to look after one another.

A portion of the proceeds from *SILO* support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Land Use Planning: Where Do We Draw the Line?

By Marie Versteeg, Communications Manager for the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario.

Ontario's land use planning policy frameworks encourage municipalities to designate far more land for development than we're actually going to need. That was the argument proposed by guest speaker, Victor Doyle, at last month's Farmland Forum.

Hosted by Ontario Farmland Trust, this year's Farmland Forum brought together municipal planners, farmers, NGO representatives and others to discuss the theme, "The Shifting Landscapes of Farmland Protection." CFFO was pleased to sponsor this informative event.

Doyle is a former manager in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing who played a role in developing the Greenbelt. During his presentation, he addressed key questions about the usefulness of Ontario's existing planning tools, particularly given the pandemic disruption.

He mapped out a brief history of recent land use policy in relation to farmland protection, using shifting density targets, among other data, to illustrate the problem we face today.

The Greenbelt Plan in 2005 prohibited the conversion of prime agricultural land within it, but abandoned important farmland surrounding it. In 2006, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe set greenfield density targets at 50 people and jobs per hectare (PJH). Eighty PJH is the number at which transit infrastructure becomes economically feasible, so this number is relatively low. The result was an increase in single housing units and a relaxation of urban

intensification efforts.

In 2017, a Provincial Plan Review found that farmland conversion within the Greenbelt was almost completely halted, but that it continued in the rest of the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The loss of farmland was troubling, and government increased greenfield intensification targets to 80 PJH and committed to developing Agricultural System mapping to better protect farmland in the region.

By 2019, the pendulum had swung back again: greenfield density targets were reduced through the Housing Supply Action Plan to 50 PJH in major cities and 40 PJH elsewhere. Municipalities were also encouraged to seek reduced targets and to forecast their land use needs up to the year 2051. Doyle noted the difficulty of projecting land use needs that far into the future. The disruptions of COVID-19 alone illustrate that difficulty. Nevertheless, the result of this policy has been that municipalities are slating far more land for development than is likely to be necessary.

Ontario has used land at half the rate anticipated in the Provincial Plan, which means there is already a glut of land approved for development. There is no need for more. Doyle concluded that, at this stage, protecting the land base should be our top priority.

He offered several recommendations for protecting farmland for the future. Firstly, he advocated for hard urban boundaries. Establishing hard boundaries puts the onus on municipalities to look within their borders for development areas, rather than placing the responsibility on farmers to



protect farmland from encroachment.

As Doyle pointed out, "We can't abandon farms at the edge of urban development, because there will always be another edge."

He also recommended a number of actionable changes government could make to reduce the threat to farmland, including stopping construction plans for Hwy 413 and the Bradford Bypass, as well as restricting farmland ownership by institutional investors, which has increased land speculation. Finally, he argued that Ontarians, including our politicians, need better information about the necessity of protecting our province's food security and environment.



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Electronic Environmental Farm Plan: online flexibility and efficiency for farmers

Joan and James McKinlay were keen to complete their first eEFP in 2020, more than two decades after completing their first plan.

Ontario's Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) can now be completed electronically online. That's good news, says Joan McKinlay, who completed her first electronic Environmental Farm Plan (eEFP) in 2020.

It's been almost three decades since McKinlay and her husband, James, attended their first EFP workshop to learn about the new farm stewardship program. Back then they were determined to discover how it could help them be better environmental stewards of their farm, a beef cow-calf and cash crop operation in Blue Mountains, Ontario.

"We've probably updated our plan five times since then," says Joan who notes that her son, Robert, is also now part of their Silver Springs farm management team. The McKinlays are proud of the work they've done. Over the years, the EFP process has identified environmental challenges on the farm, helped them find solutions and highlighted cost-share funding opportunities to get the job done.

Early EFP projects included fencing cattle out of wetlands and erecting alternate watering systems to route available water. "On our home farm, we had a quite a large wet area. When we fenced the cows out, we improved animal health by reducing leg problems. We also installed a trough to access spring water. It created good, clean water for the cattle throughout the year."

The McKinlays have become very familiar with the EFP. They believe the two-day workshop is a must for farmers who are new to the program. The in-class sessions deliver a thorough understanding of the EFP process, and the knowledge and know-how shared by other farmers is invaluable.

But the electronic version of the program offers other distinct advantages. "It's convenient and flexible, especially when you're updating your EFP," says McKinlay. "In our case, there was an opening for a grant program and we wanted to complete it quickly. The electronic version gave us that opportunity." Having been through the two-day workshop, McKinlay was able to jump into the electronic version to complete an updated plan.

McKinlay also appreciates having the ability to work on the plan at her own pace, rather than having to wait for the next scheduled workshop in her area. "It's helpful to be able to efficiently complete a plan for purchased land or a new farm that's been brought into the operation."

Both the in-person and online versions of the EFP are delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) through funding provided by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Robin Brown, an EFP workshop leader with OSCIA, notes that the content of the eEFP is exactly the same as the hard copy workbook farmers receive at the in-person workshop, but with all the benefits of electronic efficiency. "Once farmers log in to their eEFP, they also have quick and easy access to many helpful resources, often just a click away, to support them as they work through the worksheets," she says.

Brown notes several important success factors when completing the online version. "A critical first step is determining your soil type. You cannot complete the eEFP without knowledge of your farm's soil type." She recommends farmers have the most recent paper version of their plan handy for reference.

Sketches are another key component. Properly la-

belled sketches are essential to give context to the workshop leader reviewing the submission. The eEFP has a basic, built-in drawing tool to create sketches directly on the site. Farmers can also use their previous EFP sketches, satellite images, a saved AgMaps image or another mapping tool, and upload that sketch into their electronic EFP.

McKinlay notes that sketches were one of the hiccups they experienced when completing their eEFP. She recommends that before starting their online plan, farmers identify and reach out to their workshop leader.

"You need to know who to phone when you run into a stumbling block," says McKinlay. "We didn't know how to make a sketch on the computer. That stopped us, but we got some help and completed our plan the next night."

"It's important for farmers to reach out if they need any help. We're here to help," says Brown. She stresses that the eEFP is convenient, but it still requires your time commitment. Typically, it takes four to six hours to complete.

"You don't have to do it all in one sitting – make it fit your schedule," says Brown. "The program does save all changes automatically as you go so you won't lose any work." All electronic submissions are reviewed by a workshop leader—a finalized plan goes through the same process as when completed in the two-day workshop. The eEFP requires up to 30 business days for a workshop leader to review and complete the verification process.

To find the link to access the electronic EFP, visit OSCIA.org and look for Workshops & Webinars under the Programs menu. A how-to video is available on the OSCIA YouTube channel.

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a five-year investment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to encourage innovation, competitiveness and sustainability in Canada's agriculture industry.



Robin Brown, OSCIA Workshop Leader, shares tips in an eEFP how-to video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3aJXFd7WyU&t=6s>

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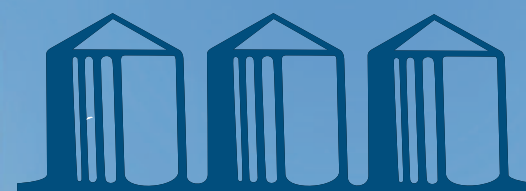
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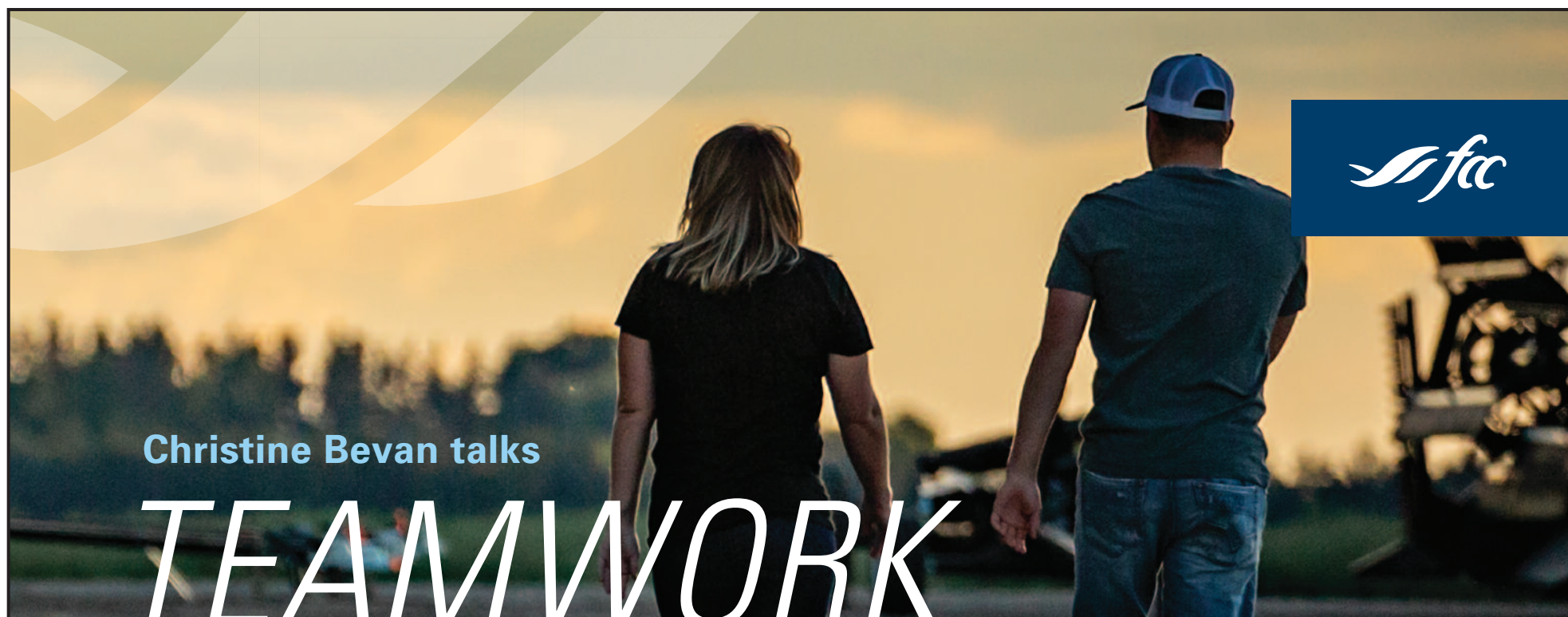
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Christine Bevan talks

TEAMWORK



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Tired of virtual meetings, calls and emails that don't quite capture your intended message? You're not alone. It's more important than ever to keep communicating with the family, the farm team and others you rely on to get business done.

This kind of teamwork is critical at FCC. In more than nine years working in the Thornton office, we've added new team members to the group and learned to lean on each other, act as sounding boards and backups, and especially how to communicate clearly.

There's a piece on the FCC website that I think sums it up well.

The article says filling your farm team's gaps in soft skills like communication, teamwork, etiquette and attitude can be more of a challenge than training in traditional farm work.

It quotes Michael J. Hughes, founder and CEO of NfR Consulting Group, explaining that interpersonal skills are the mechanics of interaction with others.

"It's a combination of intention, attitude and behaviour," Hughes says. "Because how you communicate and how you behave is an extension of what your intentions are and what your attitude is."

Various styles at play

We judge ourselves by our intentions and tend to judge others by how they act, Hughes says. But this fails to consider that people generally aren't acting out of maliciousness to cause harm or undermine productivity.

"We all have our own personality, communication style, strengths and weaknesses. And it's all about adapting your style as you evolve and grow to understand what works best," Hughes says.

I think we succeed when we believe our colleagues have the best interest of the business at heart – especially when those colleagues are also family members. That's when the lines

can get blurred, and it might be a good time to take a step back and check our own intentions – not just the other person's.

In the article, it says that to fill in gaps requires you to recognize there's an issue, according to Ken Keis, president and CEO of Consulting Resource Group. And there's no need to feel guilty about which skills are lacking. Just acknowledge the gap and work to fill it.

The importance of teamwork

The more a farm's leadership realizes the team must work as a cohesive unit, and the more its comments are positive and trust-building, the more team members will appreciate the values leadership have, Hughes says.

At the same time, they'll also be open to how they can contribute to achieving desired results. Hughes stresses the need to make clear the goals and objectives around the contributions, both collectively and individually.

In my own experience, I've found it's important to understand and accept that not everyone on your team is going to share the same personal values. Sometimes the best thing to do is recognize differences, acknowledge the validity of each opinion and work to align the team on the way forward.

Farm family transition coach Elaine Froese advocates written codes of conduct that spell out expected behaviour, daily check-ins to review the day's events, and even a series of meetings about communication strategy.

But change isn't always so straightforward, and people can get stuck in their ways, Froese says.

Bottom line

You can improve teamwork in your operation when you address gaps in interpersonal skills, recognize and acknowledge the strengths within the team, and make open, straightforward communication a priority.

South Simcoe 4-H clubs provide news reports

South Simcoe 4-H Leaders News Report

By Tamara Fisher-Cullen

4-H and Clover Buds in South Simcoe continue to be innovative during the pandemic. When we started online in 2020, we had no idea we would be continuing to meet fully online for the start-up of 2021. At this point, the leaders and members are meeting online for all meetings. Leaders and members are putting their new tech skills to good use by sharing "how to" videos, live-streaming cooking demonstrations, and using apps to play games online together during the meetings. "Low tech" is also a great way to connect online – our members like the opportunity to socialize and to be active even while meeting online. There are 20 South Simcoe 4-H clubs running 2021 season and one Clover Bud club. These clubs consist of 11 livestock clubs and 9 life skill clubs. You can go and check out more information about South Simcoe 4-H online at the 4-H Ontario web page. <https://4-hontario.ca/association/simcoe-south-4-h-association/>

South Simcoe 4-H Veterinary Medicine Club

By Milana Palmateer

We learned a lot of things in the South Simcoe 4-H Veterinary Club this year including how to give animals vaccinations. It was very fun to learn about lots of different animals. I would recommend this club to other teenagers who are interested in animals and how their body's work. We had a professional guest speaker at every meeting and toured different veterinary clinics via Zoom at our meetings. For our last meeting we had a tour of the Toronto Zoo via Zoom. We saw behind the scenes of what goes on daily at the Zoo. Lots of examinations, x-rays, vaccinations, check ups, dentistry etc. Things I did not realize happened everyday. There is a lot of health care going on to have all those animals looking beautiful and healthy.

Cookstown and Everett 4H Judging club

By Brooklyn Downey

The Cookstown and Everett 4H Judging club had their second meeting on Wednesday, March 17th via zoom. We had a guest speaker, Marianne Norton, teach us how to judge eggs. She talked about egg size, colour, cleanliness. After that we had leader Trish Downey discuss how to judge Holstein dairy cows, she pointed out different things to look for.

Lastly, we had another leader Grant Cowan teach us about judging sheep. We learned about market lambs and what to look for. We are very excited for the next meeting!

The Cookstown 4-H Beef Club

By Madeleine Cullen

The Cookstown 4-H Beef Club had their first meeting on Wednesday April 7th online via Zoom. We opened with the 4-H pledge and talked about what you would need to bring to a calf show. A calf was the number one answer. We talked about getting your calf ready, your gear packed and getting yourself ready to get to the show. We held election of officers and the results are President Emma Hulse, Vice President David Kirby and Secretary & News Reporter Madeleine Cullen. We talked about who had a calf ready to go and who was still looking for one. We adjourned the meeting and repeated the 4-H motto. It looks to be another great and promising year for the members of the 4-H Cookstown Beef Club.



Cookstown 4-H Beef Club member David Kirby is pictured above posing for a photo.

South Simcoe 4-H Maple Syrup Club

By Abby Patton

On Saturday April 10th, the South Simcoe 4-H Maple Syrup Club had their 5th meeting online via Zoom. We learned what we need to do to sell maple syrup. On the label that we put on the container we need to include this information: grade, phone number, size, date it was made, nutrition and pure. We also learned where we can sell the maple syrup we produced. It was a very interesting meeting. Next meeting will be our last meeting of the season and we will present our achievement project afterwards. A few members are cooking with maple syrup and most produced maple syrup. I'm excited about seeing everyone's presentations.

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South Simcoe 4-H news reports continued

South Simcoe 4-H Garden Club News Report

By Isabella Cullen

On April 14th we had our first 4-H South Simcoe Garden Club meeting online via Zoom. We are sad we can not meet in person, but our wonderful leaders have made our first meeting of online learning fun and interesting. We started the meeting with the 4-H pledge. We had the election of officers and the results were President Abby Patton, Vice President Milana Palmateer, Secretary Jessa Bray and News Reporter Isabella Cullen. We watched a slide show about plants, vegetables and garden planning. We made containers, filled them with potting soil and planted jumbo sunflower seeds that two members had grown, harvested and donated. The sunflowers they grew last year were almost 14 feet tall and the heads were 15 inches in diameter. It did not involve much supervision and if you don't mind a little bit of a mess, we had a lot of fun planting the containers and getting our hands dirty. We watched another video and learned about garden seeds and rotation. We wrapped up by playing a game "would you rather" eat hot peppers or brussels sprouts? We all got loud and had a good laugh. We adjourned the meeting and repeated the 4-H motto. 4-H South Simcoe has started an Instagram and you should view it. Next meeting is with the 4-H South Simcoe Farmers Market Club.



4-H member Jessa Bray is shown in the photo above planting sunflower seeds.

South Simcoe Cooking Club – Learning Together!

By Tamara Fisher-Cullen

The Cooking Club started their 2021 season in early April. This year, many of the members have their families joining them in the kitchen. With the move to online 4-H clubs, the cooking club looks a little like a cooking show with the audience fully participating! Picture this: a leader doing a step-by-step demonstration of a recipe in front of a video camera while other leaders add comments and answer member's questions in the chat box. On the "other side" of the Zoom screen, in their own kitchens, senior and junior members follow each step to complete the recipes. Our senior members follow along by chopping, slicing, dicing and mixing the ingredients like the experienced cooks they are. Our novice members benefit from the support of a family member following along with them to ensure their safety as they learn to use the stove and prepare the recipe. The results of virtual 4-H cooking club meetings - a great meal the whole family can enjoy served just in time for Saturday lunch! While the members and the leaders were truly hoping the 2021 4-H season would be in person, we have learned to make lemonade out of lemons. Stay tuned for some of our favourite recipes in upcoming columns!

South Simcoe Rabbit Club Newsletter

By Emily Vaughan

On Thursday March 25 2021 we opened our first rabbit club meeting of the year. We opened our meeting with the 4-H Pledge. We continued by introducing ourselves and our lovely rabbit companions. Then we had an election of officers. Our President is... Milana Palmateer, our Vice President is... Lolo Cowan, our Secretary is... Nicole Palmateer and the role of News Reporter is shared by... Abby Patton and Emily Vaughan! Afterwards we played a game where we looked at pictures of different rabbits and guessed each one's breed. Then we asked rabbit and club related questions, which club members and leaders answered. We concluded our meeting on a high note. Our next meeting is in April, it will be so much fun to learn about rabbit nutrition.

Pictured to the right is Ben Wienecke holding Tigger the rabbit. Ben is a South Simcoe 4-H Rabbit club member.



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Canadian Dairy XPO: "Hoof Signals"

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Going into a dairy barn and finding 90% or all of the cows peacefully lying down is a sign of a healthy herd, according to veterinarian Dr. Joep Driessen. Dr. Driessen is one of the founders and is the owner of "Cow Signals" that began about 22 years ago. In 2013 Cow Signals had 250 certified "Cow Signals" Trainers in 33 countries. The program is about helping dairy farmers understand more about dairy cows.

Dr. Driessen was a speaker at the recent Virtual Canadian Dairy Xpo.

"Hoof Signals" is considered a critical part of "Cow Signals" because hoof wellness is a huge concern on the world's dairy farms, according to this veterinarian. The topic for one of the discussions was hoof wellness.

"I feel sorry for the lame cow and the farmer (cow owner) lame cows are harder to get in calf, there is reduced milk production and they all need extra care which takes time and money," he said adding that lame cows cost about \$300 euros (approximately \$448 in Canadian dollars) of lost money on average excluding any costs for the extra work in care.

Having a lame cow is usually because of the two hoof enemies, laminitis and/or dermatitis. Laminitis is best known as "founder" though founder is actually the resulting condition from laminitis. Laminitis is infection of the laminae of the hoof. Dermatitis is a bacterial disease that affects the skin of the heels of cattle. Both issues cause pain and are not contagious. Both usually start slow meaning early treatment can reverse the problems.

With a slide of dairy cows, Dr. Driessen pointed out, using his vast experience, the condition of the cow's hooves. He said that "curved back" is a telltale sign as this is a cow stance of having sore feet. He said that seeing a whole herd of cows standing while resting is another sure sign. Standing cows are stressing their feet, a cow needs to be at rest to keep her hooves healthy. He said other clues are cows that have empty rumens meaning they haven't been inclined to walk over to eat and an obvious clue is any cow that is holding up a hoof.

In that dairy barn with the whole herd of resting cows, there is likely to be way less hoof problems. Dr. Driessen says that 14 hours rest is the goal though 10 hours is the usual. The more rest, the better for the hoof, he claimed adding that resting

cows are also much more productive.

The barn needs to be kept dry and clean. Manure build-up that causes slurry which is a mixture of urine and solid manure is not good for cow feet to be emerged in. Good ventilation to keep the humidity lowered is important too to control moisture. Scrapers that are automated go down the barn and scrape out any build-up every two hours is the optimum solution, according to Dr. Driessen.

Prevention for hoof problems begins with the heifer. Dr. Driessen advises that by the time the heifer is 22 months old, she is likely about two months from having her first calf. This is prime time to have the hooves examined looking for early problems. He said that each hoof should be cleaned and trimmed if needed.

A problem with heifers or dry cows sometimes is management. Dry cows need to each have a place to eat and not be eating in shifts because the race to eat first can cause injuries that can damage hooves. "Overstocking dry cows is the fault of the farmer," he said. He added that the dry cow is heaviest when she is in the last two months of her pregnancy and this is when she needs extra care at every stage of her day adding, "Don't give the dry cows too small of a bed either. This is a time when we really need to take care of them, they need lots of rest."

Milking cows should be spending a minimum of 10 hours a day resting, and this rest should either be in a field in good weather, or in a cow bed. Cow beds should be comfortable for the cow and be deep and dry. The beds could be full of sand or rubber mats so the cow will not slip in either getting into bed or out of her bed.

It's not just the cow's bed

that should be non-slip, the walk ways should be made safe too. He suggested the farmer does the "ballerina test" explaining that, during chores, the farmer should spin in a circle wearing his barn boots - if he slips, the cow could well slip too. He again suggested rubber be put down where possible or some other non-slip floor covering to protect the cows from injury.

Dr. Driessen said he believes that 60% of the solution to lowering hoof problems in any herd is ensuring cows have adequate rest in the day so they are off their hooves. He said that the remaining 40% of the solution is keeping the barn dry and clean.

He added that laminitis can also be triggered by feed intake however, he believes the biggest contributors to the condition is injury and the cow's environment which can be controlled with management.

Next month: Dr. Pol, Star of Nat Geo Wild's "The Incredible Dr. Pol at Canadian Dairy Xpo

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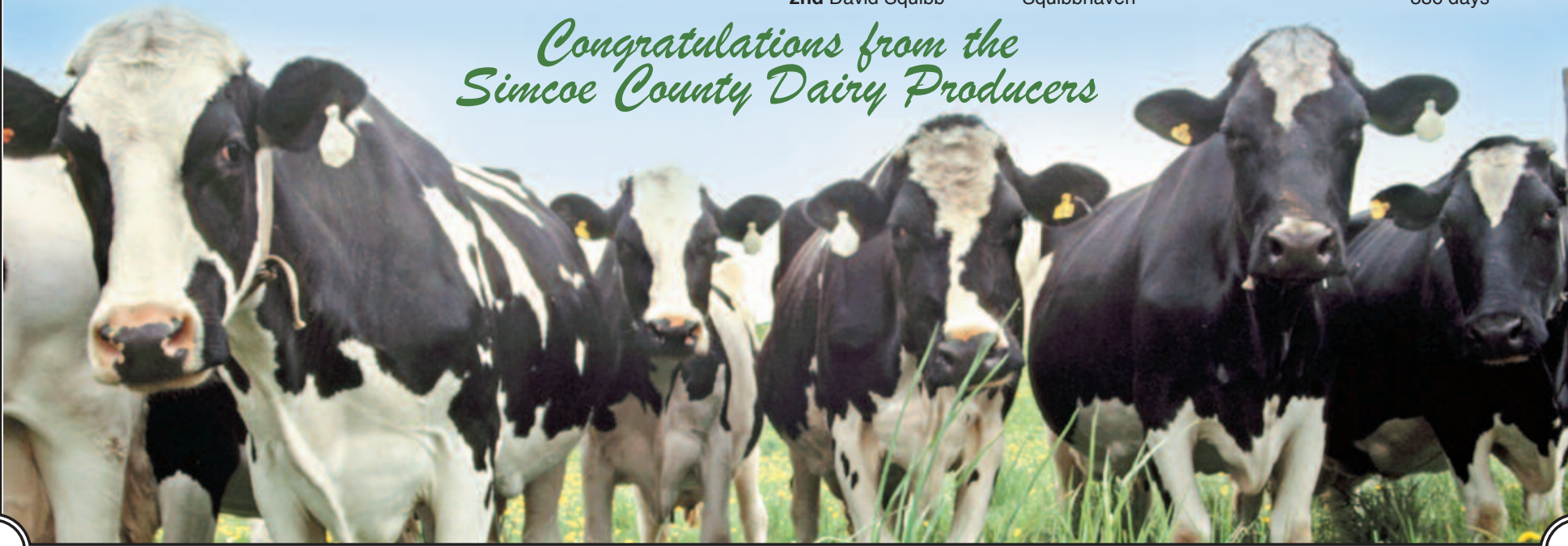
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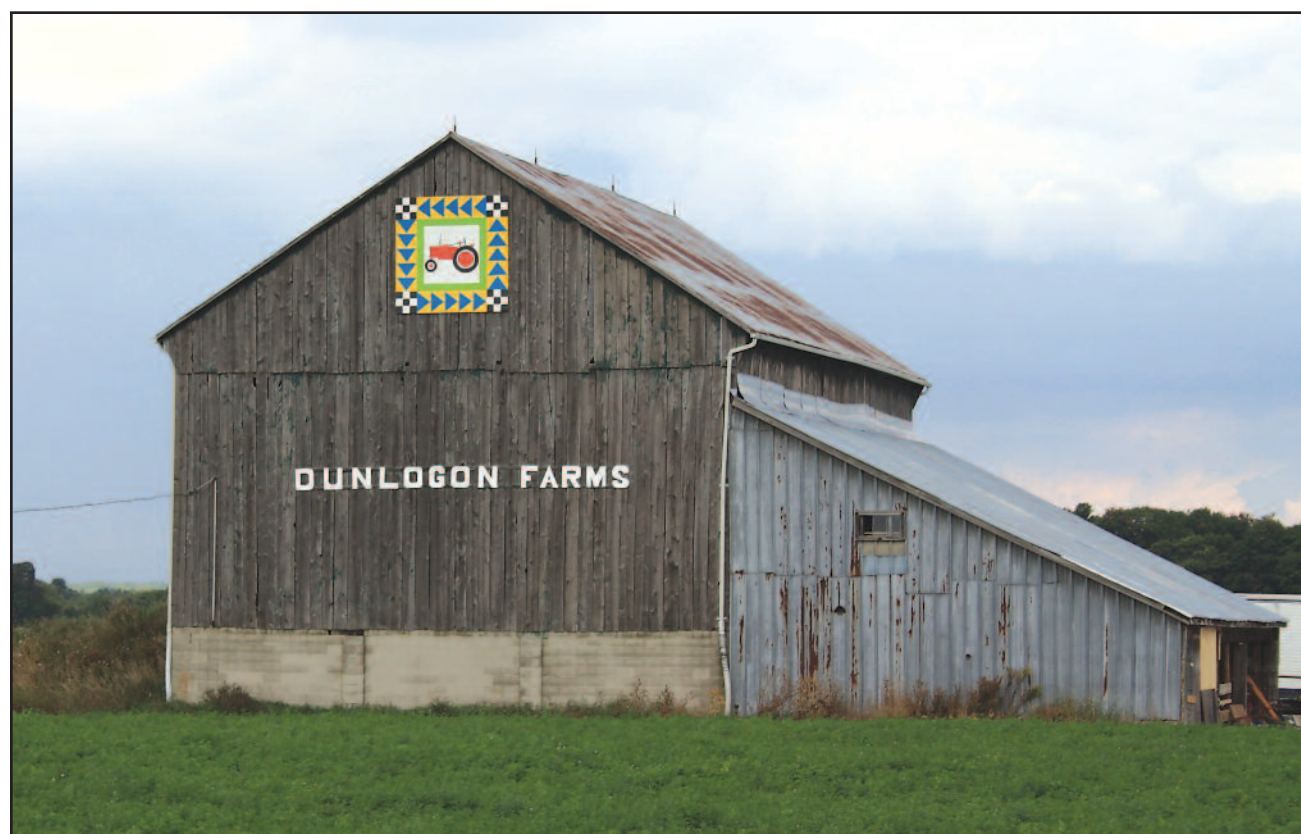
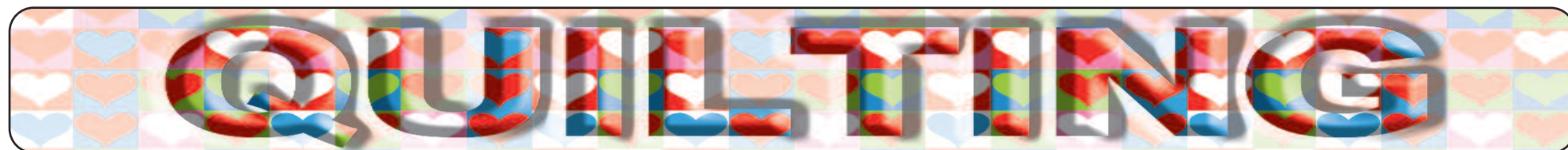
	Herd	Milk BCA	Fat BCA	Protein BCA	Average BCA
1st	<i>Sprucetone</i> Doug Lloyd	269	336	282	295.7
2nd	<i>Waynan</i> Wayne & Scott Somerville	282	313	288	294.3
3rd	<i>Nellridge</i> Mark & Julie Parnell	294	271	309	294
4th	<i>Shady Glen</i> Kevin & Steve Jones	298	271	306	291.7
5th	<i>Jalon</i> John & Marie Miller	289	288	290	289
Top Production cows					
		Average BCA	Top Overall Production Cows		
Yearlings		372.7	1st Kevin & Steve Jones	Shady Glen Marcin M-Raomi	430
1st K&S Jones	Shady Glen Marcin Bolt	368	2nd Doug Lloyd	Dandyland Vinigars Vanessa	409.7
2nd M&J Parnell	Nellridge Flash Bonbon	Average BCA	3rd Doug Lloyd	Sunny Maple Receive Teness	406.3
2 year olds		409.7	Biggest BCA Increase Herd		
1st D.Lloyd	Dandyland Vinigars Vanessa	392.7	1st John and Marie Miller	Jalon Farms	+32
2nd K&S Jones	Shady Glen Celebrity Loren 2	Average BCA	2nd Kevin & Steve Jones	Shady Glen	+26
3 year olds		430	Top Management Score Herd		
1st K&S Jones	Shady Glen Marcin M-Raomi	380.7	1st Kevin & Steve Jones	Shady Glen	854
2nd K&S Jones	Shady Glen David Brexit	Average BCA	2nd Mark and Julie Parnell	Nellridge	853
4 year olds		406.3	Lowest SCC Herd		
1st D. Lloyd	Sunny Maple Receive Teness	372	1st Vince and Cody Hummelink		
2nd J&M Miller	Jalon Carmela 8C	Average BCA	2nd Ritchdale Farms		
5 year olds		391.3	Top Lifetime Production Cow		
1st M&J Parnell	Nellridge Velocity Jan	348.3	1st Zeldenhurst Family	Brihill Outside Zorro	141,786kg
2nd D. Lloyd	Clearcrest Ferrari Nessa	Average BCA	2nd Spence Farms	Spencroft Bolton Irys	124,725kg
6 year old +		335.3	Top Calving Interval Herd		
1st K&S Jones	Chasena Gammon Lexon	333.7	1st Mark and Julie Parnell	Nellridge	372 days
2nd S&T Downey	Eclipse Windbrook Converse		2nd Kevin & Steve Jones	Shady Glen	387 days

2019

	Herd	Milk BCA	Fat BCA	Protein BCA	Average BCA
1st	<i>Sprucetone</i> Doug Lloyd	267	334	276	292.3
2nd	<i>Waynan</i> Wayne & Scott Somerville	271	300	270	280.3
3rd	<i>Robins</i> Andy & Jason Robinson	270	284	273	275.7
4th	<i>Meadowgold</i> Mervin & Jeremy Martin	273	281	271	275
5th	Vince & Cody Hummelink	270	272	277	273
Top Production cows					
		Average BCA	Top Overall Production Cows		
Yearlings		393.3	1st Kevin & Steve Jones	Shady Glen Celebrity Loren2	393.3
1st K&S Jones	Shady Glen Celebrity Loren2	352.3	2nd Doug Lloyd	Clearcrest Bigstone Levi	389.7
2nd M & J Parnell	Nellridge Topeka Amber	Average BCA	3rd Doug Lloyd	Clearcrest August Marigold	376.7
2 year olds		375.7	Biggest BCA Increase Herd		
1st Spence Farms	Spencroft Mescalese Latonya	364.3	1st Mervin & Jeremy Martin	Meadowgold Farms	+49
2nd K&S Jones	Shady Glen Marcin M-Raomi	Average BCA	2nd Crestwood Jerseys	Crestwood Jerseys	+47
3 year olds		358.3	Top Management Score Herd		
1st D. Lloyd	Clearcrest Seasidebloom Marily	350.7	1st Mark and Julie Parnell	Nellridge	875
2nd K&S Jones	Bluestone Impression Dennys	Average BCA	2nd Vince and Cody Hummelink		865
4 year olds		376.7	Lowest SCC Herd		
1st D. Lloyd	Clearcrest August Marigold	352.7	1st Vince and Cody Hummelink		
2nd W & S Somerville	Waynan Facebook Asia	Average BCA	2nd Ridgoro Farms		
5 year olds		389.7	Top Lifetime Production Cow		
1st D. Lloyd	Clearcrest Bigstone Levi	358.3	1st Haanview Holsteins	Haanview Outside Maya	129,550kg
2nd D. Lloyd	Clearcrest Mojo Delight	Average BCA	2nd Sunny Meadows Holsteins	Brihill Outside Zorro	126,155kg
6 year old +		333.7	Top Calving Interval Herd		
1st Harvdale Holsteins	Harvdale Royce Jordan	324	1st Mark and Julie Parnell	Nellridge	375 days
2nd R & D KleinGebbinck	Radomere Bank Harlow		2nd David Squibb	Squibbhaven	386 days

*Congratulations from the
Simcoe County Dairy Producers*





Pictured above is the Barn Quilt my mom, Jill Beischer, helped create. I remember many visits with my mom taking place in the carport of my parents home while she painted the border. This barn quilt can be viewed from Hwy 26 in the Stayner area. Visit <https://experience.simcoe.ca/barn-quilt-trail> for a map of the Simcoe County Barn Quilt Trail.

— Roslyn Watkins



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The Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program is back!

The Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP) is back for 2021! SARFIP supports Ontario producers who are enhancing on-farm habitats for species at risk across the province. The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), with support from the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, is pleased to continue to offer this impactful program. Farms in Ontario can access cost-share dollars for on-farm projects that implement a variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs). With streamlined funding levels, and up to \$20,000 available per farm business, it is easy to benefit more with SARFIP – not only for your farm, but for species at risk too!

“The OSCIA is excited to offer SARFIP again this year. SARFIP has a great legacy through its cost-share funding of supporting on the farm activities that benefit both farmers and species at risk,” said Chad Anderson, President of OSCIA. “We’re very proud of all of the farmers and OSCIA members who have participated over the years.”

With a diversity of project opportunities, eligible BMPs encompass activities around croplands, grasslands, shorelines, stream banks, wetlands and woodlands. Many opportunities are available to support critical habitat through SARFIP, including cross fencing for rotational grazing, watering systems for livestock, native tree planting, improved stream crossings, native grassland plantings and invasive species removal, among others.

SARFIP 2021 is open to all agricultural landowners in the province. Projects that provide indirect benefits to species at risk are eligible for 45% cost-share, and projects that directly benefit species at risk are eligible for 60%. An additional bonus of 15% cost-share is available for direct benefit projects to producers interested in enrolling in SAR-Watch, a monitoring program that measures the impact of SARFIP projects on the ground for species at risk.

“With over 230 species identified as at risk in Ontario, farmers have an opportunity to implement farm management practices that benefit these species while also addressing their farm’s stewardship needs,” expressed Angela Straathof, Program Director at OSCIA. “At OSCIA, we recognize the value that programs like SARFIP have in building a more sustainable and efficient farming environment and we’re thrilled that MECP recognizes this as well.”

To find out if SARFIP is a good fit with your farm, consult the program brochure (www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarfip/) for complete and detailed program information. All program materials, including the brochure and application forms can be found on the OSCIA website. To be eligible to participate in SARFIP, Ontario farms must have a completed 4th Edition Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) workbook and verified Action Plan.

Applications will be accepted beginning April 7, and funding will be allocated to eligible projects until fully allocated. Funding for this program is limited; if you have a project idea that fits, submit your application as soon as possible. Projects initiated on or after April 1, 2021 may be eligible.

For more information on eligibility criteria, the application process, and program deadlines, or to sign up to an upcoming EFP workshop in your area, visit the SARFIP page on the OSCIA website at

www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarfip/ or contact OSCIA directly at 519-826-3035 or SARFIP@ontariosoilcrop.org.

Fireworks Safety - Prevent Unwanted Injuries

By Dennis Gannon

It’s May, the month that across the country we have a long weekend and celebrate Queen Victoria’s birthday. Victoria Day is Canada’s oldest non-religious holiday and always observed on the Monday before May 25. Following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, the British Empire decreed that May 24 was to be celebrated as Empire Day in her honour. Canada is the only country who still has a federal statutory holiday that day.

For most, Victoria Day is the unofficial start of summer. BBQ’s, time at the cottage, camp or park gets everyone in the mood for the warm months ahead. Victoria Day is often celebrated with those awe inspiring fireworks everyone enjoys. In many communities in Ontario, fireworks sales and displays are often only permitted on Victoria and Canada Day. Many communities also have public fireworks displays on those weekends or days. This year that is not likely to happen as we continue to deal with worldwide health issues. Many families may turn to purchasing and lighting fireworks. Unfortunately misuse of fireworks and not following safety guidelines can result in unwanted injury. Hands and eyes are often the area injured and require hospital treatment. If you decide to purchase fireworks and display them with your family, following these safety tips will make for an enjoyable event.

Purchase fireworks from a reputable location or business. Only an adult over the age of 18 who is aware of the hazards and essential safety precautions should handle and discharge fireworks. Read and follow

the labelled directions on fireworks packaging. Always keep a water hose or pail of water close by when discharging fireworks. Onlookers should be a safe distance away, upwind from the area where fireworks are discharged and remember to discharge the fireworks well away from combustible materials like buildings, trees and dry grass. Be considerate of noise pollution. Set off fireworks in a spot that won’t be too loud for neighbors, or pets. A windy day is a recipe for disaster when lighting fireworks. If it’s windy, postpone your fireworks show until the weather conditions are better. Light only one firework at a time and only when they are on the ground. Consider using a bucket and bury the fireworks at least half of its length. Never try to light a firework in your hand or re-light dud fireworks. For those fireworks that don’t ignite, it is best to wait 30 minutes and soak them in a bucket of water. After that dispose of them in a metal container. Sparklers are often given to children but can be a source of serious injury. To avoid this closely supervise the use of the sparklers. Sparklers burn extremely hot and can ignite clothing, cause blindness and result in severe burns. As the sparkler wire remains hot for some minutes after burnout, it should be immediately soaked in water to avoid injury. Finally, consider splurging on a single larger firework for your grand finale instead of trying to light tons of smaller fireworks in a short time. Enjoy Victoria Day and be fire and fireworks safe.

Do you want more news from your farm community?

Send us your pictures and reports and they will be included in the next issue.

Be sure to include a contact name and number.

Email to farmview@on.aibn.com

Ninety years of memories from local veterinarian

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Anyone that raised livestock in the Lindsay area or showed horses at the Royal Winter Fair between 1955-2005 would know the name "Doc."

"Doc" is Dr. Nelson Lester, whom at 90 years old is spending time to learn to play the fiddle better, hoping for this year's show season. Doc is also the author of "My First Ninety Years."

Dr. Lester says that it is the "little things" that lead up to life changing opportunities. His advice in life is to grab on to those little things, he certainly did. Doc explains, in his book, that through Church his Mom met a close friend that united two families to the point they would vacation together at a cottage around Fenelon Falls. One of those friends, Marjorie, married Mervyn Moore and became farmers in the area. Young Nelson Lester grabbed the opportunity to work at the Moore farm in the summers and that set him on his life's path.

The second year of high school was literally a failure for the young Nelson Lester. In those times a failure meant a full repeat of the year. He says in the book "I lost my desire" for learning and he couldn't pass French. During the summer of the failed year Nelson worked on the Moore farm but stayed at a relative's farm and all would go out Saturday nights to local dances.

It was that summer on the Moore farm young Nelson had his world shift and give him direction. One morning, he came to the barn with the owner and found a dead pig. The other pigs were not hungry. A call was put to the vet office in Lindsay and out came Dr. Ron Lawrence who performed an on-farm post mortem and found the cause of the problem - erysipelas. With a diagnosis, proper medication was given and the pigs were much better the next morning. Impressed and imprinted for life, Nelson Lester declared, "I want to be a veterinarian."

Today, the smart 90 year old says, "I am glad I was failed that year in high school. It helped me. I had to get my interest sparked."

At the Saturday night dances, Nelson met "my Betty" whom he says is a huge part of his happiness in life. "I got a great girl," he said adding "my Betty and I went together for 7 years" before they got married. He made sure he became engaged before he went on his internship out to Alberta for the first summer after first year at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph. He had a final six week externship in summer of 1954 with Dr. Frank Codlin and the same inspirational Dr. Lawrence.

On May 17, 1955 Nelson Lester graduated with two degrees, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine D.V.M and Veterinary Surgeon V.S." A job was waiting for each graduate and Dr. Lester went back to work with Dr. Codlin who now had a solo practice. He says that it was Dr. Lawrence that inspired him to keep a work diary that he began on his first work day, Friday, May 6, 1955. He married Betty Barber that year on July 9.

In 1964, he was appointed chairman of the Lindsay's Fair's heavy horse committee and was elected Director of the Lindsay Fairboard. He followed the succession of Dr. Codlin

who said it was important because there were clients that showed horses here. In 1973, Dr. Lester grabbed the opportunity to step up even higher, becoming the President of the Lindsay Central Exhibition.

Dr. Lester always really liked horses. He says "I liked driving the horses when I worked on the farm. We got to know delivery horses in Toronto. A lot of my clients had horses." Dr. Lester was well respected, even early in his career, with horses as his name was put forward to Royal Agricultural Winter Fair to become the Horse Show Veterinarian in 1968. His boss, Dr. Codlin approved the request seeing how much his younger co-worker wanted to take on this new opportunity. The job lasted for 25 years and was described in the book with having lots of unique experiences. Dr. Nelson Lester was given the title of Honourary Director of the Royal for his work there.

The Royal was always a part of Dr. Lester's life, he says. At the first Royal, in 1922, Dr. Lester's father, Frank Lester showed poultry he raised in his Toronto's home backyard and was given a certificate as being an exhibitor that first year. Years later, he grew plants and would show his dahlia blooms in the big flower show at the Royal.

Dr. Lester said he never got weary of his busy life because he had "variety in my life." He had a cottage near Fenelon Falls that included a boat. Along with his son John, and other local friends the band Misty River Ramblers was formed. Later, liking horses so much led the decision to sell the family cottage and the boat and to move two miles to a property that would have space to build a horse barn.

Hackney Ponies became a big part of his life. In 1990, he became the Secretary of the Canadian Hackney Society. He adds, "Betty and John looked after the typing" parts. He kept this position until 2012.

In 1991, it was show time at the Lester farm. John was now a sought after announcer at Fairs so he and his parents, Doc with Betty and some Shetland and Hackney ponies would all go to the Fairs together. "We decided the trip home was a lot shorter with a red ribbon," Dr. Lester writes in his book about that first year that saw them travel to 12 Fairs. The first red ribbon was won at Lakefield Fair.

The career of Dr. Nelson



Dr. Nelson Lester known as "Doc" along with his longtime friend, Clare Hayes at the Royal Winter Fair. Doc won Grand Champion with this Shetland pony, "Michigan's Chief White Cloud" in 2011. Doc, 90 years young, is hoping to get back in the show ring this year.
— Photo provided by John Lester

Lester had 81,935 farm calls and he drove 1,365,315 miles. Thanks to his 50 work diaries, he knows he brought 3,742 calves into this world. He sprinkles his book with memories of those calls. He wrote the book by hand, his son John did the typing per usual.

He wrote this book because he wants people to know what life was like. "My Father came to Canada from Ireland when he was 13 but I don't know what we went through because he never wrote that stuff down. I decided at my little 90th family birthday party that I was going to write the stuff that happened to me down. I have had a lot of comments from my family and my (vet) clients about the book. I want people to know what life was like."

The forever young Doc is hoping that there will be a Fair season late in 2022. He has a promising show hackney show pony living at a friend's house, Clare Hayes' farm from Cambray. He met this friend, like many others, through clients over the years. Doc is not sure if the pandemic will allow for shows to happen in 2021 but if not, "there are years after that."

Anyone interested in purchasing "My First Ninety Years" autobiography by Dr. Nelson Lester please go to www.rocklandsentertainment.com or phone 1-800-465-7829.



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After The Chores: Working with the baas

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



The plan this year was for baby lambs to arrive the first week of April. About March 19th, I noticed something was going on with the sheep. I was carrying water then each morning and the sheep went from 6 gallons a day to triple that much. I couldn't understand where this sudden thirst was coming from. Puzzled, I gave the sheep a good look over- and was shocked to find udders. The extra water and the udders added up to one thing- lambing time was close.

I could hardly believe my eyes when I went over my email messages- the ram arrived here on March 25th. He was paid for in April. My memory had grabbed the payment day- and forgot the arrival day.

We had a wonderful vet I met at the goat shows, the late Dr. Neal that advised to go to Bridgenorth for healthy dorset sheep. The flock of Bridgenorth was like walking into my sheep dream, a big flock of all Dorset sheep owned by the nicest couple ever. The couple were both highly educated in genetics. For the next ten years, all I did was to make a phone call and ask for a new young ram- and one would be delivered in the early fall and always be exactly what I visioned. Sadly, one of the nice couple suddenly passed away- and the flock was sold to a carefully selected home in Manitoba.

My Father-in-law's advice to life is, "If you don't ask, the answer is always no. If you do ask, the worst that can happen is No." With his advice in mind, I contacted the original Bridgenorth flock owner and asked if she would choose me a ram to purchase- from Manitoba. That nice person said yes.

The next step in the plan was to get the ram from

Cookstown's Stockyards to here. I was not about to put this ram in the care of a stranger. We called our usual trucker, Kevin who manages a full-time day job through the week, an all day Saturday job, has a beef farm with his wife and trucks livestock between all that- and he is always cheerful. Kevin said yes to bringing the ram home. The Manitoba trucker called me about noon on the arrival day, Saturday to report he was on route at a gas station in St. Sault Marie, Ontario and he expected to be in Cookstown at 10:30 pending construction on route.

Kevin finally drove in here at 12:30 am. He looked real tired but he was still cheerful as always. Sweetie and Kevin brought the ram into the barn. The ram looked better then all of us.

The ram moved in with the flock the very next morning because his health status was excellent. He bounded out the barn door not showing any signs of being on a trailer for so long. The next few days he did look tired out and I was worried- and watched him carefully for shipping fever. Shipping fever is a form of pneumonia and its dangerous unless its caught early. I finally found out exactly why the ram was so tired when I had baby lambs born exactly five months later.

This ram's lambs are extra smart. They are standing up and getting their first meal by five minutes after birth. I thought the first few were exceptions but this is a dominant trait. I was thinking that this was going to be the easiest year ever with such smart lambs.

The smart lambs were not one bit smart though when it came time to learn how to go outside with the flock. They were to follow their mothers out the door, around the pen, through the aisle and then around the llama pen to outside. Every lamb has learned to make this trip in only a few days. These lambs were the exception.

The lambs would get to the pen's door- and then rush back in the pen. The only way to get them out was to literally chase them down so I could grab them and carry them outside one by one. Watching lambs bounce their happy dance loses its appeal when one is on the fifteenth trip around the pen behind them. I had to plan for an extra ½ hour of lamb

chasing every chore time if I had to get to the off-farm job on time. It took two full WEEKS to get these smart stupid lambs finally trained.

The newest lambs don't like going out the door either- but with these ones, I have professional help. Once the flock has their grain, the ewes realize the lambs are not beside them. These last two ewes are young and want instant gratification. Their lambs that I was chasing the first day were impossible to catch much less get them out that door, then the the lambs heard the ewes Baaing. These ewes have ear rattling loud Baas. I'm no Baa expert but I'm thinking the Baas sounds like, "Lambs! Out- NOW." The little lambs' heads shot up in the air, pointing in the direction of the Baas- and they zipped out that door and were outside by the outdoor pen's gate in an instant. I only had to gather them up from there and slip them through the gate. No more chasing, I let the Baas do the work for me.

Pandee the young llama is not impressed with his first lambing season.... and that is a story for next month.



A sign of spring is having baby lambs on the farm....

— Photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS



\$317,000 FOR RETIREMENT HOMES

To help cover the cost of PPE and other infection prevention measures at seven local retirement homes in the riding.

198 NEW BEDS AND 122 REFURBISHED BEDS

For long-term care facilities in the riding. Part of a \$933 million dollar provincial investment to create over 20,000 new beds, and refurbish over 15,000



\$7.1 MILLION FOR GEORGIAN COLLEGE

To assist the College with COVID related costs as they continue to provide high quality education and prepare students for the workforce.

2021-2022 BUDGET RELEASED

\$50 million in support grants for faith-based organizations, increase of the Support for Parents fund, 20% enhancement of the CARE Child Credit, \$2.8 billion for broadband expansion, increase to the Job Training Tax Credit, and \$3.7 million in funding for transportation of seniors and persons with disabilities to vaccination appointments.



SAFE RESTART FUDING

Provided \$2,487,486 in funding to the City of Barrie and \$38,205 to the County of Simcoe to address the financial impacts on the transit system from the COVID-19 pandemic.

OVER \$1 BILLION IN SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Helped businesses recover costs for personal protective equipment and providing extra support for businesses required to close or significantly restrict services as a result of provincial public health measures.



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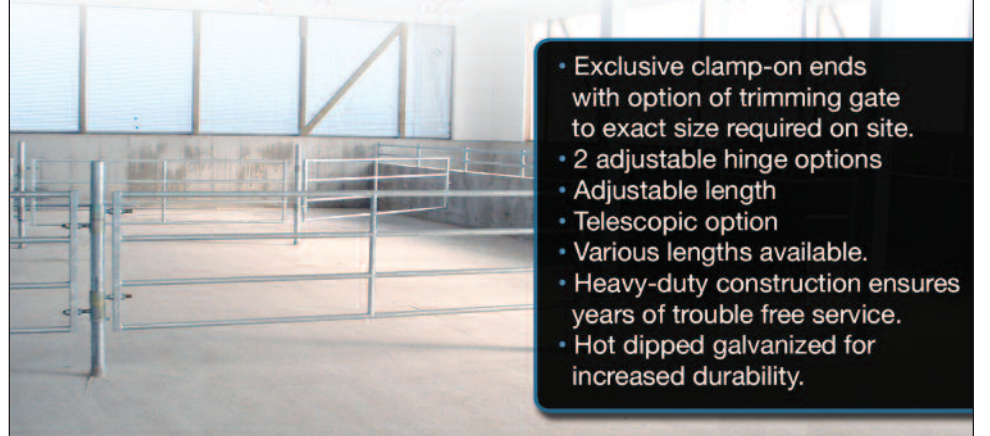
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April/May/June 2019

Captain Samuel Holland

Many people assume that the Holland River, Holland Marsh, and the community of Holland Landing were named in honor of the Dutch settlers who arrived in the Lake Simcoe region in the 1930s. In truth, all three locations were named for Captain Samuel Holland, a brilliant 18th century surveyor in the employ of the British army. In an ironic twist, he was indeed a Dutchman.

Few men as little remembered today had such a profound impact on the development of North America.

Samuel Johannes Holland was born in 1728 in the Netherlands. In 1754, then a young officer in the Dutch army, he turned his back on his nation and a young family to enter the employ of the British army. He never returned to his native land, nor did he ever see his family again. Within a few years, Holland was sent to North America where he served the balance of his career and created his legacy.

During the Seven Years War, Holland served as chief engineer of the British army commanded by General Wolfe, where he proved critical in the capture of both Louisbourg and Quebec. Holland was wounded during the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, the same battle where Wolfe perished. In 1764, Holland was named Surveyor-General of the province of Quebec, which at the time included not just the modern province of Quebec, but also Ontario and much of Atlantic Canada.

In this capacity, Holland's first assignment was to survey St. John's Island (Prince Edward Island), the Iles de la Madeleine (Madelaine Islands), and Cape Breton Island because of their importance to the fisheries. After completing these surveys, Holland moved on to the Gaspé Peninsula, and both shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and lower St. Lawrence River, work vital to opening up these vast territories for extensive settlement.

Though Holland continued to recognize an obligation to his previous wife by paying her an annual allowance, he married a French-Canadian woman and would raise ten children.

The 1770s saw him directing survey parties in the enormous task of mapping the Atlantic coast from New Brunswick to

New York City, produced the first accurate map of New Hampshire, advocated the separation of Maine from Massachusetts, delineating the borders of New York State, and recommending the Saint John River as the boundary with Nova Scotia,

After Britain's defeat in the American War of Independence, Holland supervised the extensive surveying work involved in re-settling thousands of American Loyalists in Canada, principally in Kingston and Niagara. At the same time, he also drew the boundaries between the new provinces of Upper and Lower Canada (Ontario and Quebec respectively).

After 1783, failing health largely confined Holland to his Quebec offices, where he supervised survey teams across the breadth of British North America. There was one notable exception. Holland must have recovered somewhat from his ailment in 1791 to conduct a survey of both branches of the slow-flowing Holland River (which flows into central Ontario's largest body of water, Lake Simcoe). He ventured out onto Lake Simcoe to chart that body of water as well. The map of "Lake LeClie" (as Lake Simcoe was then-known) that Holland produced is the earliest known to exist of the lake's southern extremities. During this survey, Holland had a several log cabins built on the east branch of the Holland River to serve as a base camp for his expedition. This small collection of buildings became the genesis for the community of Holland Landing.

Holland's surveying of the Holland River and Lake Simcoe would soon bear fruit: within a few short decades, these bodies of water became the highway for commerce and settlement that allowed central Ontario

Village stories

by Andrew Hind



But this was to be his last hurrah. In 1801 he officially resigned as Surveyor-General and died December 28 that same year. He was buried beside a son, Samuel Lester, who was killed at 19 in a duel in which he had used a pair of pistols given to Holland by his friend General Wolfe.

Holland is largely forgotten today despite the contributions he made to North American history. Though history recalls him as a skilled cartographer, the importance of the man lies in the implications of his mapping. His work shaped the political and demographic development of Canada.

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Check to see if you need permits from NVCA before you build

Spring is in the air, and many residents in the Nottawasaga Valley Watershed (NVCA) are looking to make improvements to their homes and properties. Some properties are in areas at risk from flooding and erosion, so it's best to check with NVCA if you're in a regulated area. Projects that may require an NVCA permit can include building or rebuilding a house, deck, garage, shed, dock, shorewall, or addition to your home. Depending on the extent and location, permits may also be required for grading, fill or topsoil importation and placement.

NVCA is tasked by the Province of Ontario to regulate activities in natural and hazardous areas in order to avoid the loss of life and damage to property from flooding and erosion. This is especially important in the face of climate change.

"Many property owners often tell us that their property has never flooded in the many years that they've lived there, but that is changing," advises Chris Hibberd, Director of Watershed Management Services. "Even today we are experiencing more intense rainstorms and other extreme weather events associated with climate change."

To check if you're in a NVCA regulated area, search for your property address in the Interactive Data Viewer. If you're still not sure, NVCA provides free consultations online or over the phone so residents can easily correspond with Regulations Technicians to confirm if their property is regulated, discuss projects and permit requirements.

"Although our Regulations Technicians are mainly working from home, we have very good turnaround times," continued Hibberd. "In 2020, we met the customer service timelines set by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry by 98.2%."

If your property is in one of the following municipalities, check to see if you're in an NVCA regulated area: Adjala-Tosorontio, Amaranth, Barrie, Blue Mountains, Bradford

West Gwillimbury, Clearview, Collingwood, Essa, Grey Highlands, Innisfil, Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur, Oro-Medonte, Shelburne, Springwater, New Tecumseth and Wasaga Beach.

Visit NVCA's website or email permits@nvca.on.ca for more information about NVCA permits, application process, timelines and more.

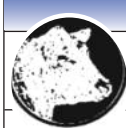
Scholarships in agriculture

The North Simcoe Soil and Crop Improvement Association has a scholarship for students enrolled in an agricultural program at a college or university. To be eligible, you must be in your second year or later of an agricultural program, reside in North Simcoe and attend an interview.

Applications are available from

**David Spring, 2451 County Rd 92
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Applications must be returned to David Spring no later than June 30th, 2021. The amount of the scholarship will be up to \$1000.00 per applicant, or \$2000 total per year.



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I hope you have the sweetest 16th, and so much fun on all of your future adventures!
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Register here <https://www.gths.ca/2021-walkathon-your-way/>

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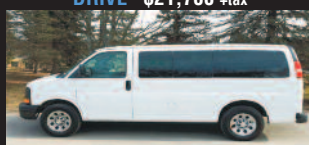
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Publishing industry loses a friend

By John Beischer

I am writing this article with sadness and regret.

I never met the beautiful person I am writing about, I know her only from communications with her husband.

When Jill and I came to Barrie in 1975 I joined the daily newspaper 'Barrie Examiner' and later joined the staff at the more popular weekly 'BANNER' newspaper. During my 44 years in the newspaper business I met many great publishers and suppliers to the industry. One such person was print salesman Leo Stephens.

In recent years Leo and wife Bonnie published Focus 50+, a monthly news magazine for boomers and seniors in Simcoe County. Bonnie passed away on March 30th, 2021. The following is taken from her obituary:

Bonnie Patricia Stephens [nee Gilbert] was born on May 2nd, 1966, and passed away peacefully at home and was carried away by sunset on March 30, 2021.

Her memory will be cherished by those who were fortunate enough to see her radiant smile as she grew playing in the river and fields of Elmvalle and later as she built a beautiful family alongside her beloved husband Leo Stephens. Leo and Bonnie were married May 23, 1987 at Saint Patrick's Church, Phelpston after 3 years of laughter and memories

already behind them. Their love and legacy will live on in their children James, Michael (Nicole), Kenny, Julia, and Adam as well as their grandchildren Brynn, Hailey, and Cameron. To her friends and family, she will be remembered as a kind, welcoming, generous second mother to many who could be counted on as the calm in any storm.

She will be deeply missed by her parents Patricia Lemieux (nee Lalonde) and James Gilbert, as well as her step parents Ruth Gilbert and Denis Lemieux. She will be forever remembered by her sisters Darlene (Mike) Pearson, Arlene (Mark) Elliott and Elizabeth Head as well as her step siblings April Bath, Sherri-Ann O'Leary, Gloria (Rino) Stornelli, and Shawn O'Leary. Bonnie will also remain in the hearts of her mother-in-law Rolande Stephens and brothers and sisters-in-law Marie (Les) Gillespie, Bill (Colleen) Stephens, Marg (Rob) Rance, Peter (Sheila) Stephens, Irene (Russ) Stacey, David (Cheryl) Stephens, and Ken (Lisa) Stephens as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Respecting Bonnie's wishes, cremation has taken place and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Details regarding the celebration of life and the charity for which memorial donations can be made in Bonnie's honour will be provided in the coming months.



STEPHENS, BONNIE PATRICIA
(nee GILBERT)

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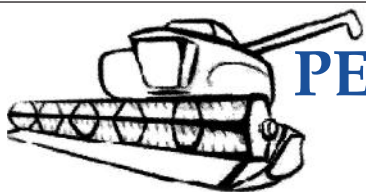
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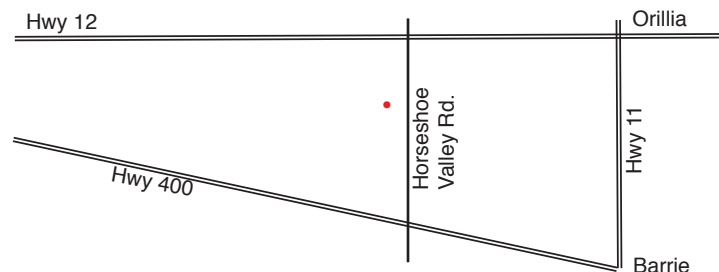
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