

FARM VIEW

44th year of publication!

A newspaper with something for everyone

August 2021 Volume 44 #08

Inside this issue:

**How you can
help the family
who survived
this tornado
disaster**

**Remembering
Max Wagg**

**Inside the
Nicholyn
Farms
Geodome**

**Photos from
the 22nd Youth
Forum Beef
Show**

**Elmvale
Fall Fair
bursary
winners**



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.

For the Month of August: Donate to 4-H Ontario

Peavey Mart hosts 4-H Days in August! Customers can donate at the till to 4-H Ontario during the month of August.

July 31st: Food Day Canada

Food Day Canada encourages consumers across the country to shop local and celebrate the abundance of fresh and delicious Canadian food and beverages we enjoy every day.

August 8th: Harlaine Heritage Show

Harlaine Heritage Day will feature on site demonstrations using historical farm equipment in the field. Harlaine Heritage Day can be found at 1005 Concession 1, Brock, Sunderland. More details on page 17.

August 16th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the September issue of Farm View is **Monday, August 16th.**

Worth a Chuckle...

and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

- How did the organic vegetable die?
From natural causes.
- What did the mommy cow say to the baby cow?
It's pasture bedtime!
- Where does a farmer get his medicine from?
The farm-acist.
- Why do cows like being told jokes?
Because they like being amoused.

August 31st - September 2nd: 2021 Canadian Beef Industry Conference

Over the past 5 years CBIC has created a "meeting place" for the Canadian beef industry. This event focuses on every facet of the beef value chain through education, networking, tours, demonstrations and so much more.

CBIC will be hosting our second virtual conference in 2021 from August 31 – September 2, 2021.

Details can be found at <https://canadianbeefindustryconference.com/wordpress/>

January 4th - 11th: Grey Bruce Farmers' Week

Celebrating 56 years of Continuous Producer Education in 2021! Dates for Virtual GBFW 2022:

Jan 4 – Check Your Tech, Jan 5 – Beef Day

Jan 6 – Dairy Day, Jan 7 – Goat Day

Jan 8 – Sheep Day, Jan 9 Check Out On-Demand & Recorded Content

Jan 10 – Ecological Day, Jan 11 – Crops Day

A firm decision as to the delivery of this conference will be made by Sept. 1st 2021.

Join the Conversation on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram
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#GBFW22

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Blueberry Spinach Salad with Grilled Chicken and Goat Cheese



This recipe showcases in season blueberries, fresh spinach, local chicken, honey and cheese. You'll be enjoying a delicious summer meal while supporting Ontarian farmers.

Makes 4 servings

Blueberry-Thyme Dressing

- 1 cup blueberries
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Place all ingredients in a blender; process for 30 seconds or until smooth.

Blueberry Spinach Salad with Grilled Chicken and Goat Cheese

- 3 6-ounce skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 1 6-ounce package fresh baby spinach
- 1 cup crumbled goat cheese
- 1 cup blueberries

Place chicken breasts in a medium bowl. Add 1/3 cup dressing, toss to coat. Heat a nonstick grill pan over medium-high heat. Coat pan with cooking spray. Add chicken mixture to pan; cook 5-7 minutes on each side, or until desired degree of doneness. Let chicken stand 3 minutes before cutting crosswise into 1/2-inch slices. Cover and keep warm. While chicken cooks, place 1 1/2 cups spinach on each of four plates. Top salads evenly with chicken slices; sprinkle evenly with goat cheese and blueberries. Drizzle evenly with remaining dressing.

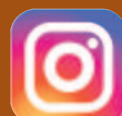
Recipe from "Cooking Light: Fresh Food Superfast"



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Tornado smashes through Little Britain farm

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

These pictures are of the result of a confirmed tornado with estimated wind speeds of 195 km/h that went through on July 15th at the Stacey Family farm. The Stacey Family is well known for their "Double L Spaniels" kennel.

At 3:20 pm, Mrs. Carey Stacey and her son, Owen, were in the basement with a Spaniel dog in labour when the tornado struck. The roof of the house collapsed and caused debris to fall onto Mrs. Stacey and quickly bury her in rubble. Her quick thinking son dug her out and likely saved his Mom's life by being there that day. Mrs. Stacey sustained significant but non-life-threatening injuries and was later airlifted to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. All the dogs, new puppies included, were fine.

Rev. Denise Boyd says that the Little Britain community is helping the Stacey Family deal with this sudden loss as both the house and barn are heavily damaged to the point of not being in habitable condition. "When one person in our Little Britain community is hurting, everyone is there. The Stacey farm has been full of people helping to clean up. Little Britain business are open to collect financial donations and people are giving to help out and we are all so grateful," she says.

"We don't know the 'why' these weather events happen where they do. If this tornado came within a few kilometres east, it would have taken the whole town out. As it is, we have the Stacey Family farm and another farm with damages

that include their corn crop," Rev. Boyd explains.

It is going to be a long road of recovery ahead on all levels for the Stacey Family, Rev Boyd says adding, "We ask everyone to keep the Stacey family in your prayers."

Financial donations to help out can be dropped off at any Little Britain business.



On the Cover

This family farm in Little Britain suffered major damage in the tornado that took place on July 15th.
—Photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

**DEADLINE for the
Semptember Farm View
is August 16th**

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<p>Agriculture - Tractors - John Deere Utility Tractors</p>  <p>JD 6125R/LDR (E86530) 2014, MFWD, 125ENG HP, 3351HR, PREM CAB, 40KPH., 24x24 SPD, AQ, LH REV, R&P AXLE W/CAST CTR., 420/70R24 60% MI, 480/70R38 90%, H340 MSL LDR, \$110,530.00</p>  <p>JD 6115R (E84557) 2014, MFWD, 115ENG HP, 1550HR, 40KPH, AUTOQUAD+ECO, PREMIUM CAB, LH REVERSE, FLANGE AXLE, ALLIANCE MULTI-USE 550-400/80R24-75% \$105,270.00</p> <p>JD 6110M/LDR (E86486) 2017, MFWD, 110ENG HP, 1470HR, 620R MSL 2FN LDR., CAB, 40KPH, PQ, 24/24 SPD, LH REV, FLANGE AXLE., 420/85R24 60% MI, 460/85R38 70% MI, 3 REMOTES, \$124,220.00</p> <p>Agriculture - Tillage - Secondary 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 WHEELS \$36,850.00</p>	<p>Agriculture - Tractors - John Deere Row Crop & 4WD Tractors</p>  <p>JD 8270R (E84383) 2017, MFWD 1500 SER, 270ENG HP, 1320 HRS, 40KPH, 16SPD, POWERSHIFT, RH REV, 118"R&P AXLE W/CAST CTR, SINGLE 420/85R34 FS - 40% \$289,900.00</p>  <p>JD 9300 (E85504) 2000, 4WD, 360ENG HP, 6750HR, 32KPH, 24/6SPD, SYNCHRO W/HI-LO, CAB, BAR AXLE, AXLE DUALS, 710x38 50%, 710x38 50%, 4 REMOTES, NO PTO \$88,430.00</p>  <p>JD 8770 (E86480) 1996, 4WD, 360ENG HP, 7735HR, CAB, 32KPH, 24/6 SPD, SYNCHRO W/HI-LO, R&P AXLE W/STEEL CENTER., 520x42 50% MI, 520x42 40% FS, AXLE DUALS, \$73,690.00</p>	<p>Agriculture - Tractors - John Deere Row Crop & 4WD Tractors</p>  <p>JD 6155R/LDR (E86577) 2016, MFWD, 155ENG HP, 4035HR, DELUXE CAB, 40KPH., 20F/20R SPD, AQ+ECO, LH REV, R&P AXLE W/CAST CNTR., 380/85R30 MI 40%, 480/80R42 MI 65%, NO DUALS, \$146,320.00</p> <p>Agriculture - Tractors - Compact Utility Tractors</p>  <p>JD 2032R/LDR (E86556) 2016, 4WD, 32ENG HP, 260HR, OOS, HYDROSTATIC., MID LDR VALV, H130 QUICK-TACH LDR, QUICK-TACH BKT., W/MID PTO, 54 SNOWBLOWER, QUICK HITCH & PTO. \$29,270.00</p> <p>Agriculture - Hay and Forage - Balers</p>  <p>NH 316 (E84547) SQUARE BALER, #70 THROWER, 540 PTO, 11Lx14, MANUAL BALE TENSION, REBUILT KNOTTERS, APPEARANCE 7 \$8,430.00</p>
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FROM THE EDITOR

What a different few weeks the end of July has been! Due to some Covid restrictions lifting, members of the Farm View team were able to attend a few small in person events. We had the opportunity to meet with advertisers and readers and snap a few photos to share in this August edition of the paper. Cathy Hamill-Hill was thrilled to attend the Youth Forum Show at the Lindsay Fairgrounds and two of my children and I attended the unveiling of the new fully automated system at Dunkerron Elevators in Tottenham. These are the types of events I remember attending as a child and then later with my own children, trailing alongside my Dad, John. Sometimes my sister and I invited a friend to attend the fairs and shows with us. We felt pretty special with our press passes and access to VIP rooms! Not to mention seeing the farm animals and experiencing the excitement of those competing. I'm very happy that these events are beginning to open up again so more kids can experience that same excitement and wonder. That being said, there are a few cancellations announced in the paper of larger events that just aren't able to be planned for 2021. Those events are striving for a successful 2022 show year. Something to look forward to, that's for sure.

This past month we had a few story suggestions sent in to share. Thank you, Mike Elines, for bringing Innisfil's 200th Anniversary Tree of Life Labyrinth to our attention. Please see page 16 for the full story on this remarkable living art installation located at what was formerly the Cookstown Fairgrounds.

Please continue to send us events or news topics you as the readers would like to see in the paper.

I would also like to say Happy Anniversary to Diana and Aaron Robichaud of Holland Landing. I couldn't be more proud of my sister and brother in law for a successful 22 years of marriage.

I hope all of you find some time to relax in the second half of our summer. Perhaps visit the beach, read a good book under a shady tree, go for a long walk or hike, simply to be outdoors to enjoy our beautiful scenic countryside.

As always, take care of yourselves and one another.
Roslyn



Photo provided by Cathy Hamill-Hill

ANNOUNCEMENTS**COVID-19 uncertainty forces cancellation of International Plowing Match 2021**

For the second year in a row, the Directors of the Ontario Plowmen's Association have been forced to make the heart-wrenching decision to cancel the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo (IPM). Having been postponed until October 2021, plans were well underway to hold the IPM at the Lindsay Exhibition Grounds and neighbouring farms.

In spite of the current decline in the number of Covid-19 cases, the Ontario Government has yet to provide large provincial events with the details concerning capacity limits and additional restrictions. While the IPM plans have been progressing, these uncertainties make it impossible to proceed with an in-person event.

"The health and safety of our visitors, exhibitors, sponsors, competitors, volunteers and staff has always been our number one priority", said Sheila Marshall, President of the Ontario Plowmen's Association. "While we fully support the health restrictions required to conquer the Covid-19 pandemic, the unknown stipulations for large events has made it impossible to proceed with the traditional in-person IPM".

However, the Directors and Staff are currently developing events and options that will bring the IPM experience to our many dedicated and faithful volunteers, participants and visitors later in the year. Once government regulations for large gatherings are made available, the Ontario Plowmen's Association will be making further announcements. Stay tuned.

The Board of Directors has confirmed that the 103rd International Plowing Match will be held in the Municipality of North Grenville (United Counties of Leeds Grenville) at Kemptville, Ontario. Scheduled for September 20th to 24th, 2022, the IPM will be centered around the former Kemptville Agricultural College Campus and the former Kemptville Agricultural College Farm.

Plans are progressing well for IPM 2023 which will be held in Dufferin County. The IPM will return to Kawartha Lakes (Lindsay) in 2024.

For further information, please contact:
ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION
Sheila Marshall, president, Ontario Plowmen's Association
519-276-0174, Email: marshals@quadro.net
Don Priest, vice-president, Ontario Plowmen's Association
705-721-7080, donviewclydes@gmail.com
Cathy Lasby, Executive Director, 519-767-2928 ext. 224
cathy@plowingmatch.org

In the photograph to the left is Paul Harder, who is hosting along with his family, Harlaine Heritage Day. Paul is seen here with a binder from the 1940's that was originally used at a farm of 300 acres that was considered then a large farm in the Gormley area. The oat sheaves being made here were put through the thrashing machines. The binder and the thrashing machine are replaced today by the self-propelled combine. For more details on Harlaine Heritage day, please see the article on page 17.

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BARRIE KOA (Seasonally)
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KEVIN BARKER AUCTIONS in Lindsay

The Farm View is delivered to these business between the 25th and 28th 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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A forum for the Agricultural and Rural Community

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

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**In memory of
Jill Beischer**

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

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

W.J. Bryan

OFA Members Service Representative:

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

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:

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

2020-2021 Executive – Simcoe County

Chairman:	Dave Ritchie	705-534-4017
Vice President:	Paul Maurice	705-427-3126
PAC Members:	Dave Ritchie	
SCFA Phone:	705-726-9300 ext 1224	
	office@simcoecountyfa.org	

2020-2021 Executive – York Region

President:	Jakab Schneider	905-859-1104
Contact YRFA:	york@ofa.on.ca	

2020-2021 Executive – Dufferin County

President:	Bill McCutcheon	519-928-9626
1st Vice	Gail Little	519-925-2983
2nd Vice/Treas.	George Van Kampen	519-940-2202

2020-2021 Executive – Peel County

President	Tom Dolson	416-727-7066
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JD 9450 1999 ... ~~\$64,995~~
HYDRO, 2WD, LEVEL LAND, 14' AUGER,
1050/32 SG, 3776 ENG / 2637 SEP HRS



STK#116067
JD 9570 STS 2008 ... ~~\$141,995~~
PRWD, REG DUTY CONCVS, DEEP TOOTH
CHAFF, 21.5' AUGER, SGL, 2926 ENG /
2000 SEP HRS



STK#107529
JD 9570 STS 2010 ... ~~\$186,500~~
HYDRO, PRWD, EXT WEAR CONCAVES,
21.5' AUGER, 520/38 DLS, 1844 ENG /
1150 SEP HRS



STK#109072
JD 9660 STS 2003 ... ~~\$96,500~~
PRWD, CONTOUR, 21.5' AUGER, 600/38
DLS, CHOPPER, 3862 ENG / 2252 SEP HRS



STK#113099
JD 9670 2009 ... ~~\$125,000~~
PREM CAB, HYDRO, PRWD, CUSTOM CUT-
TERS, 520/42 DLS 22.5' AUGER, 4244 ENG
/ 2833 SEP HRS



STK#115846
JD 9670 2010 ... ~~\$154,995~~
PREM CAB, PRWD, CONTOUR, 520/42 DLS,
EXT WEAR, 22.5FT AUGER, 2829 ENG /
1954 SEP HRS



STK#103909
JD 9670 2009 ... \$163,250
HYDRO, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS, 22.5'
AUGER, 520/42 DLS, 2946 ENG / 2132
SEP HRS



STK#111697
JD 9670 2010 ... ~~\$228,900~~
PRWD, CONTOUR, EXT WEAR RND BAR,
26' AUGER, 520/42 DLS, 2794 ENG / 1990
SEP HRS



STK#115936
JD 9750 STS 2001 ... ~~\$69,995~~
PRWD, CONTOUR, CM WELDING PR CONC-
VAES, 20' AUGER, 620/42 DLS, 5270 ENG /
3695 SEP HRS



STK#115927
JD 9760 2007 ... \$103,995
PRWD, HYDRO, EXT WEAR CONCAVES/
SEP/GRAIN HANDLING, 520/42 DLS, 4537
ENG / 3228 SEP HRS



STK#113844
JD 9770 2010 ... \$159,995
PREM CAB, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS PKG,
26' AUGER, 520/42 DLS, 3183 ENG / 2197
SEP HRS



STK#110279
JD 9870 STS 2009 ... \$208,995
PRWD, CONTOUR MASTER, PREMIER CAB,
EXTENDED WEAR, 22.5FT UNL, 3134 ENG
/ 2169 SEP HRS



STK#103705
JD S670 2012 ... ~~\$181,250~~
ELECTRIC SHIFT, PRWD, TRI STREAM, 22.5'
AUGER, 520/85R4 DLS, 3147 ENG / 2083
SEP HRS



STK#105266
JD S670 2012 ... ~~\$223,995~~
ELECT SHIFT, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS,
22.5' AUGER, 520/42 DLS, 2582 ENG /
1675 SEP HRS



STK#102397
JD S670 2012 ... ~~\$258,995~~
3 SPD ELECT SHIFT, PRWD, TRI STREAM
ROTOR, 520/42 DLS, 2060 ENG / 1312
SEP HRS



STK#116014
JD S670 2014 ... ~~\$379,995~~
ELECTRIC SHIFT, TRI STREAM ROTOR,
PRWD, 26' AUGER, 520/42 DL, 1981 ENG /
891 SEP HRS



STK#115740
JD S670 2015 ... \$306,995
PRWD, PRODRIVE, CUSTOM CUTTERS PKG,
AUGER, 520/42 DLS, 2137 ENG / 1438
SEP HRS



STK#116013
JD S670 2015 ... ~~\$373,995~~
PRO DRIVE, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS,
26' AUGER, 800/38 SGL, 1999 ENG / 1281
SEP HRS



STK#104531
JD S670 2016 ... ~~\$337,900~~
ELECT SHIFT, PRWD, TRISTREAM ROTOR,
22.5' AUGER, 580/42 DLS, 1152 ENG / 885
SEP HRS



STK#108763
JD S680 2013 ... ~~\$275,500~~
PRO DRIVE, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS,
650/38 DLS, 26' AUGER, 1944 ENG / 1250
SEP HRS



STK#103069
JD S680 2013 ... ~~\$281,500~~
PRO DRIVE, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS,
26' AUGER, 650/38 DLS, 1890 ENG / 1316
SEP HRS



STK#112081
JD S680 2014 ... ~~\$309,995~~
4WD, PREM CAB, PRO DRIVE, CUSTOM
CUTTER 650/38DLS, 26' AUGER, 2198 ENG
/ 1532 SEP HRS



STK#108853
JD S680 2014 ... ~~\$362,900~~
PRO DRIVE, CUSTOM CUTTERS, PRWD,
520/42 DLS, 26' AUGER, 1209 ENG / 698
SEP HRS



STK#112394
JD S780 2018 ... ~~\$581,995~~
PRO DRIVE, PRWD, TRI STREAM EXT WEAR,
650/38 DLS, 26' AUGER, 1047 ENG / 686
SEP HRS



STK#112395
JD S780 2018 ... ~~\$581,995~~
PRO DRIVE, PRWD, CUSTOM CUTTERS,
580/42 DLS, 28.5" AUGER, 759 ENG / 491
SEP HRS



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Opportunity to advocate for agriculture



By Leah Emms
OFA Member Services Rep.
1-866-660-5511
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With the dog days of summer quickly approaching, we at OFA want to remind our members to continue to put safety first. So often we are rushing around to get some type of work completed before a change in the weather that we put off smaller equipment repair jobs. I get it. Time is at a premium. But how often has that piece of equipment that needs additional attention been operated by someone other than you? Do they know the little nuances that are required to keep it functioning? Make certain that you have fully explained to new and experienced operators the operating conditions of that equipment. Communication is a key element to safety on the farm.

I would like to remind our members that in the next few months, your local county federations will be conducting their annual general meetings. This is your opportunity to get involved with your peers to advocate for agriculture with local government and other non-profit organizations. Do you have a passion for local politics but do not want to be a politician? Do you have a high degree of knowledge about a particular sector of agriculture that you feel is underrepresented locally? If you answered yes, please consider standing for a director position on your local federation board. Volunteering is a rewarding experience for most. Building positive relationships with your peers, those who work in the municipal world, networking with the politicians locally and provincially is all part of the advocacy work done at the local level. Yes, it can be challenging at times when we struggle to be heard and understood. But when we accom-

plish a goal or task that results in a positive change for the greater agricultural community...wow! It feels great. Even the small wins need to be celebrated.

The areas I cover, The Regions of Peel & York and Simcoe County are under continual urban growth pressure. All the municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe are currently engaged in a provincially directed Municipal Comprehensive Review process to essentially decide where the growth will occur in the next 30 years. It is more important than ever that the agricultural community continues to be engaged in this process. Agriculture is a top economic driver in the province. I cannot stress enough the importance of the agricultural voice at the table. Delivering the message that we understand that growth is inevitable but, it must be managed in a way that ensures a viable, thriving agricultural community to feed the growing population.

As I mentioned earlier, communication and relationship building are key. If we want to continue to have our sector of the economy heard, we need additional agricultural advocates around those local federation board tables. A small group of dedicated individuals have and continue to work hard on your behalf, and the behalf of the entire agricultural community. If you are considering becoming a volunteer on your local federation board, contact me for additional information.

Hoping that everyone has a safe harvest with bumper yields and high quality.



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Tour of new fully automated handling system at Dunkerron Elevators Inc.

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins

Dunkerron elevators recently invited a small gathering to tour the latest additions to their grain elevator. My kids and I were fortunate to be able to attend and see first hand the differences between their manual system and the new automated system. Upon our arrival Leo, a very knowledgeable member of the staff, greeted us and gave us a full explanation of the new automated system. Soon after Peter, one of the owners, gave us an in depth tour beginning with the probe that will remove a sample of the grain from the trucks for grading, then over to one of two pits for dumping. The new pits are 16' and can receive a truckload of grain in approximately 10 mins. half the time that it has taken on the manual side. There are also now two lanes, one for receiving grain and one for dumping, ensuring drivers are on their way quickly and efficiently. The new central control room and grading facility is state of the art with touch control panels to enable staff to operate every step of the process from the one room. Not only making the jobs of the staff a little easier

but also providing the staff with a cleaner working environment where they are breathing in less dust.

After our tour, Peter and Anna Lisa's two children, Ben and Maya, were hustling and helping to ensure everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch provided. It was a great event and very educational.

A few highlights of the recent upgrades are:

- 155' bucket grain elevator
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- 43,000 bu wet bin
- Top dryer (batch drying system including 18,000 bu storage capacity)
- Additional receiving pit and loading system
- Grain probe
- New central control room and grading facility



Leanne on the left and Margaret gave every visitor a warm welcome!



Several of Dunkerron Elevators' team members from left to right Ernie, Daina, Rick, Karen, Jordan, Matt, Peter, Maya, Ben, Brandon, Leo and Scott.



A family affair from left to right Ben, Peter, Maya and Ernie Wienecke.

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Remembering Max Wagg: Everyone's Friend

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Max Wagg lived a life of helping people.

Maxwell Lloyd Wagg was born on Manitoulin Island to a farm family. He travelled to Guelph to receive his post-secondary education. In the summers, Max worked in fruit orchards in the Niagara area. Upon graduation, Max found a job teaching the shop program at the high school where he had spent his summers.

The new high school shop teacher met the new home economics teacher at their first jobs in Niagara. Max soon married Jean Shatford and they began a life together that would last over six decades.

Down the road Max accepted the position of Head of the Science department at the Penetanguishene Secondary School. After a few years enrollment had dropped at the high school, and while Max's job was safe, another teacher was going to be let go. Max lived a life of helping people so he stepped in and volunteered to take a full year off without pay to save that other teacher's job. Prior to this, he had just bought a 153 acre farm property for his growing family.

With no income for the next year, Max decided that he needed another job to help out his family. He received his coach bus license at Penetang-Midland Coach Lines and started his second career.

Max did return to his job as Head of the Science department- but he kept his job driving the coach too. He also added "maple syrup producer" to his resume in life. Max had a natural ability to fix and build so he incorporated all his skills into designing a maple syrup operation on his farm.

It was at a Huronia Woodland Owners Association meeting, which is the Simcoe County chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association, where Max met Jack McFadden of Port McNicholl. Jack's property had a maple bush and he said "maybe in a few years" he would consider maple syrup production. Max never missed a chance for helping people so offered to have a "wander over to see this bush one day," Jack remembers. Max soon came over and he offered to help Jack set up his own maple syrup production. "Max

gave me countless hours of his time. He built the system using a lot of old stuff from his own farm. He refused money for his time or any of his stuff," Jack says adding, "Max was my mentor as he was an expert and when I needed help he would always say "I will have a wander over for a look" and then fix the problem, every single time. He was a good friend." Max taught Jack well and the business, "Maple Ridge Enterprises" continues as a successful 340 tap operation.

John Williams and his family now work the sugarbush that Max originally owned. John is the Executive Director of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers. He says that Max made maple syrup for over 40 years and "loved to educate" others about the business. Max was the bus driver and tour guide in 2017 for a convention in the area for maple syrup producers. "Everyone had a great time with Max leading our way."

Educating about maple syrup production prompted Max to lead a group to develop the "Maple Program" at the nearby Wye Marsh. The Wye Marsh is 3,000 acres of Provincially Significant Wetlands and woodlands in Tay, Ontario. With Max at the lead, a traditional maple syrup making system was set up that led into the well known event of "Sweetwater Harvest Festival at Wye Marsh." Jamie Hunter, an archaeologist, a retired museum curator and maple syrup producer says, "Max designed and built the sugar bush demonstration at Wye Marsh. He was a technical genius, he could design, create and make anything. He was always so generous with his time and he loved to teach."

Roger Flint is part of the Wye Marsh team for educating about maple syrup production. He says, prior to Covid-19, the program reached thousands in a season. Students were taken to the Wye Marsh from local schools and the spring Festival was hugely popular.

Robert Ego of Ego's Berry Farm near Coldwater was the Secretary/Treasurer of the North Simcoe branch of the Soil & Crop Improvement Association for twenty years. Max often planned trips for the group using his vast knowledge of Ontario. To help the most people possible, Max would source local Church groups to cater the group's meals whenever possible. Max drove the coach bus and was the tour guide in trips that took the group all over Ontario. "Max was such a friendly person. He knew all the history and was knowledgeable in about everything. He was humble and kind and so easy to work with, he was open to other's ideas. He was such a loved person." Robert states.

Nobody really knew how busy Max was in his life helping others. Max was not a person that listed all he was doing- he just kept on doing.

Max moved from the farm into Penetanguishene. Now, retired from teaching high school, he became involved in Probus which is a worldwide club for people aged 55 and over to keep active and social in their communities. Max was a founding member of the local branch of Probus that developed two more branches in the area. One of his colleagues in Probus was Roger Flint.



Shown above at the far right is Max lending a hand to Roger and Roger's son, Brian.

—Photo provided by Roger Flint

"Max would set up our bus trips and be our tour guide. He would do all the planning and everyone would look forward to his trips. His "mystery trips" always had a full bus immediately with none of us knowing where we were going but we knew with Max involved it would be amazing," Roger says adding that "Max was full of energy. He drove coach to the USA to Nashville and New York and all around Ontario. He never talked about all he did, nobody knew all the service awards and thank yous he got over the years because he didn't share that, he just helped everyone he possibly could. He was everyone's friend."

Max's cherished wife became ill with dementia and Max decided it best for her to move to Georgian Village in Penetanguishene which is a community especially for seniors and offers longterm care options. Max moved to a Garden Home within the Village that he proceeded to use his building skills to fix up like no other while he quietly took on the position of full-time caregiver to his wife. He also took on projects to help his local Church. During these last years, Max would help his friends with building projects. One of these was supposed to be a small shed for Roger, but Max had bigger, better ideas. So, in his 80's, there was Max standing on a ladder working on what would become a stylish much bigger shed created from the older one, all done in Max's unique way.

It was only a short time of declining health before the man that will be forever known as being so kind, humble and everyone's friend passed away in his 87th year. Max was married 62 years to Jean Wagg. They had four children: Larry Wagg (wife Carrie Wyse), Brian Wagg (wife Ursula Aust) and Kevin Wagg (wife Cheryl McMurray) and Nancy Marion (husband Dean Marion) and Max had several grandchildren.

To remember Max, the family has asked for donations to be sent to the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre or the Saint Paul's United Church in Midland.

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Shane from Nicholyn Farms invites us into the Geodome

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins

Over the years driving past Nicholyn Farms I have often wondered what the geometrically shaped building is that can be seen from Horseshoe Valley Road. As an employee



Shane from Nicholyn Farms stands beside the tropical Mandevilla plant in the center of the dome. The mandevilla flowers all year long in the warmth of the geodome.

at the farm store our daughter recently found out. When Lily came home from work explaining what is inside the geodome, I knew I needed to see for myself. I contacted Shane, one of the four owners of Nicholyn Farms, and he was happy to give me a tour. What is a geodome you might ask? It offers a similar function as a greenhouse but whereas a greenhouse only extends the growing season a geodome provides the warmth and protection to grow produce all year long.

Shane explained to me that the geodome is completely self sufficient. The geodome shape is the most sound structure, it is the shape chosen for building on Mars. The geodome is built with 5 layer plastic rated at R55 insulation. This insulation helps to keep the inside temperature of the geodome 30 degrees warmer than the outside. The geodome has two solar panels, one that turns the pump on for the fish pond and one that operates a small fan that will either help cool the soil in the summer or warm the soil in the winter. Since the fish pond contains a natural source of fertilizer, it is the perfect choice for watering the plants. The natural fertilizer has a very light scent that also deters insect pests from the geodome.

In the Nicholyn family's geodome the peach tree is a



To the left is an outside view of the Geodome and pictured above are the peaches waiting to be picked at the end of June. Not a typical sight for our climate in Simcoe County.

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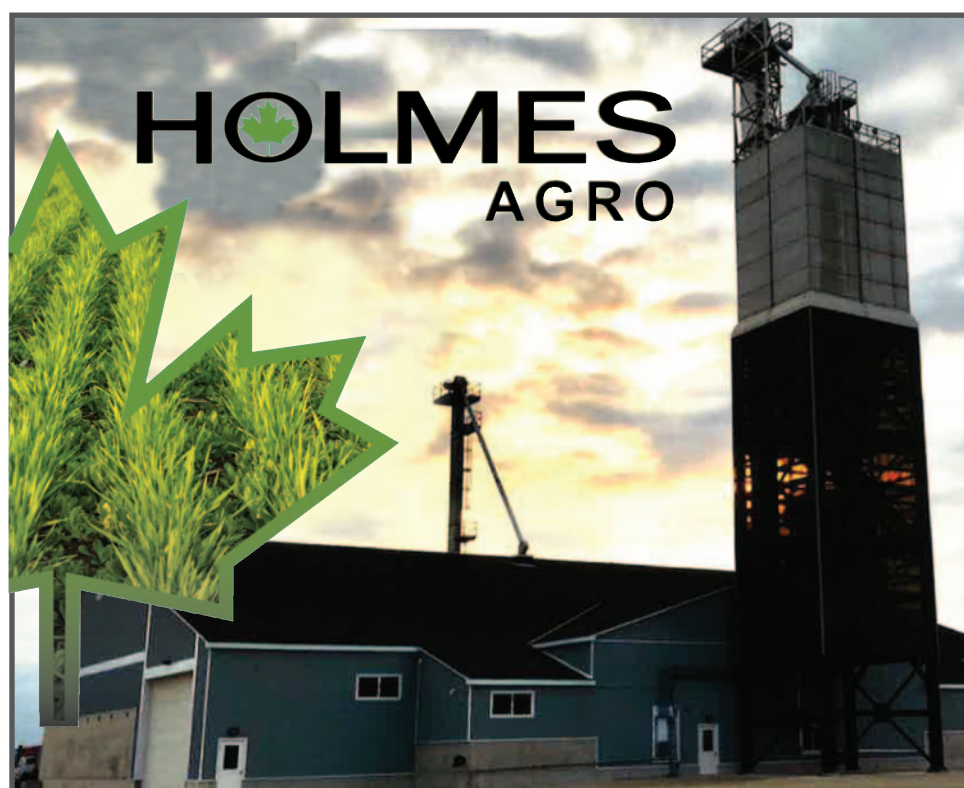
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prized possession, along with the beautiful grape vines that help to provide a bit of natural shade to the other plants. Typically you can find the family growing kale, swiss chard, squash and herbs along with the peaches and grapes. Tomatoes are grown right up until Christmastime.

Not only does this beautiful geodome provide an extra long growing season but it provides a lovely serene getaway. Shane has enjoyed a few breaks inside the dome in the middle of the howling wind of winter and it is said Linda, another owner at the farm, has been spotted reading a book in a camp chair inside the dome in years past.



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News from the South Simcoe 4-H clubs



Cookstown & Everett 4-H Sheep Club Report

By Morgan Gilpin

The Cookstown & Everett 4-H Sheep Club had their 4th meeting Monday July 12 online using zoom. The president opened the meeting at 7:30pm. It started off with the members who had not already given their oral reasons for the 2 reason classes which were market lambs and maple syrup from the virtual judging competition. The meeting then moved to the roll call which was to tell fellow members how much and what you have been working on with your lamb so far.

We then watched a couple short videos: 1st on sheep behaviour: work smarter not harder. The first video talked about intelligence and flock movement. The video reminded us that sheep are a prey species. It

also stressed to remember when working with sheep to keep everything low stress.

Video #2 was on showmanship, how to catch your lamb, set up the lamb and how to lead it in the show ring. We learned to set the back legs up first, when walking in the ring leave at least 1 lamb length between you and the next exhibitor. If the judge is on the same side as you are on switch to the other side so the judge has an open view of the whole lamb.

We then discussed the next meeting. We hope to be in person in August for shearing lambs and an achievement day sometime end of August early September and doing so safely keeping all covid protocols in place.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

South Simcoe Garden Club 4-H News Report

By Isabella Cullen

The Garden 4-H South Simcoe club met July 7th. We opened with the 4-H pledge. Members gave reasons for the virtual competition in break out rooms. The rest of us watched a video on how to work with moss to create living masterpieces of art. Our leaders had dropped off supplies earlier in the week and we created moss signs and moss pots. We all had a lot of fun learning to do by doing working with the different mosses. Our leaders admitted that this was their first time working with moss creations as well. We all encouraged each other and had a great time. We talked about our achievement day which will be held in September and how everyone's garden is growing. The meeting was adjourned with us repeating the 4-H pledge "learn to do by doing."

South Simcoe 4-H Farmers Market Club News Report

By Isabella Cullen

The Farmer's Market club met on June 23rd to try their hand at soap making! Our leaders dropped off the supplies to our doorstep and then we got on zoom to meet with Anita Giffin. She taught us how to make soap with a glycerin base. We experimented with a variety of colours and shapes for our soaps. We talked about the cost of the inputs to make soap and how to price homemade products so you can attract customers and still make a profit. All 4-H club members are excited about meeting in person in July to practice our customer service skills. Stay tuned - we are hoping to sell our microgreens and homegrown produce at the Creemore Farmer's Market in August and September. On behalf of the members of the Farmer's Market club, I would like to thank Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) for the FCC Club Fund 2021 that helps make this club run.

Cookstown and Everett Judging 4-H Club

By Brooklyn Downey

We had our fifth meeting on June 21st via zoom. We started with the pledge and roll call. Then we talked about giving our reasons. After that we had some fun competitions on kahoots where we answered questions about giving reasons. We then had a club member Lauren Cowan show us what to look for in garlic scrapes. We judged the garlic scrapes and then took turns giving our reasons. We ended our meeting with the 4-H motto. We are excited for our next meeting.

4-H Cookstown Mini Horse Club



Madeleine and Isabella relaxing with their mini-horses Fergie and Caitlyn after a long walk.
— Photo provided by Tamara Fisher-Cullen

By Isabella Cullen

On July 6th we had our second Cookstown Mini Horse club meeting. We opened the meeting with the 4-H pledge. Members went into break out rooms to give their reasons for the virtual judging competition.

We usually would have been able to see our 4-H project and start bonding with them by now. However just like last year we are not able to visit our mini horse if you are borrowing one. Hopefully stage 3 will arrive sooner than later and we will

be able to work with our assigned mini horse and meet in person as a club.

When we meet in person and train the mini horses together, we can give suggestions and help our fellow members. This meeting was all about understanding animals and how you can bond with your mini horse.

We learned how to deal with certain situations and their mood swings. Yes, even mini horses have a temper that may be worse than a large horse. We shared stories that we have learned

from, for example how to teach them to jump, back up, halt and the proper commands to give. Our next meeting hopefully will be in person.

Cookstown 4-H Beef Club News Report

By Madeleine Cullen

On July 7th we had another 4-H Cookstown Beef Club meeting. We gave reasons at this meeting for the virtual judging classes. We played a kahoot which was about beef showmanship and a lot of fun. A few of the questions were just silly that created lots of laughter. We talked about our options for the achievement day. We also talked about training our heifers and what to expect. With covid restrictions loosening we are excited to start working with our animals.

4-H Go For The Gold Club Report

By Abby Patton

The final meeting for Go For The Gold club was on the 8th of July. We studied the manuals: beef, Ontario tasty fruits and vegetables and sew easy. Did you know there are 30 parts of a beef animal. At 7:30 pm the last year's champions from Stormont county came and we asked some questions about their experience. After that the leaders told us to prepare questions for the big Kahoot! If you don't know what Kahoot is, it is an online quiz game. Finally the meeting was adjourned.

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Bursary winners from the Elmvale Fall Fair participants

Story and photos provided by the Flos Agricultural Society

For the last several years, the Flos Agricultural Society has awarded a bursary to students who have contributed/participated in the Elmvale Fall Fair and who are heading off to further education following their secondary schooling.

We are proud to announce the winners for 2021 who learned of their winning in their respective commencement exercises held in June. In keeping with the social distancing requirements this year, the foursome met on a Zoom platform with our President, Doug Ritchie. Congratulations to Ashley, Matthew, Grace and Laura! Good luck in your future endeavours.



Ashley Miller



Matthew Buchanan



Grace Hunter



Laura Bateman

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New pilot project to support your soil health activities

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

There are funding opportunities for farmers in Simcoe County. "Healthy Soils in Simcoe County" was a recent online presentation.

Tracy Ryan, Applied Research Coordinator of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association explained a new program titled "Accelerate your Soil Health Game Pilot Project (ASHG)." This project is only for farmers that manage cropland in Lambton, Renfrew and Simcoe Counties because this is a pilot project for these geographical areas. ASHG has the goal of making better use of soil sampling and cover crops to improve soil quality.

The ASHG was set in place to overcome the barriers to getting more crop farmers involved in soil testing. Ms. Ryan explains, "the barriers discussed were the unawareness that soil testing programs are out there and when they were found, there was just too much paperwork involved."

Each applicant in this program works with an "Expert Coach." The expert is either a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or a Professional Agrologist (P.Ag).

To qualify for funding, Ms. Ryan said "up your game planting a new type of cover crop such as interseeding into corn or soybeans or growing a winter cereal like rye, triticale, barley or canola." She added that winter wheat and alfalfa are not eligible for funding. Also to qualify for funding your fields must be new to soil sampling, to get in the game by using any method that includes bulk, grid, zone or other smart technologies. For those farmers already practicing soil sampling, "up your game by creating management zones or enhanced mapping."

Funding is cost-sharing up to \$2,500 or 60% of the costs.

For full information contact: www.ontariosoilcrop.org/accelerate-your-soil-health/accelerate-your-soil-health-game/

Another speaker was Shannon Stephens, Watershed Stewardship of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA). She explained this area includes the World's Longest Freshwater Beach, Wasaga Beach. Tourism in Simcoe and Grey Counties contribute one billion dollars to the local economy. She said that everyone in this area must work together to manage lands together.

One of the issues of concern in the Nottawasaga Watershed is having too much phosphorous in the water. She explained, "One kilogram of phosphorous can grow up to 1/2 a ton of algae. She said one of the leading causes of phosphorous is having soil run-off go into waters. Shannon added, "every year 37,000 tonnes of good topsoil erodes and washes into our rivers."

Keeping the topsoil on the farm and out of the rivers is good for all, Shannon stated. She said we can look at the past to see how bad erosion can get if not controlled. Also saying, "in the 1930's, soil fertility was gone in the wind. There was massive erosion in the drought of the 1930's. Snowplows were used to clear eroded sand from the highways in roads in some places."

Ms. Stephens explained there were programs in place to help with erosion through the NVCA. She explained the Forestry program has been in place since 1964. This program includes funding for more than 2.5 acres of trees for windbreaks or fence rows. Managed forest plans which include professional

forestry advice is now being used to help with the current gypsy moth break-outs. There is also a streamwide and wetland volunteer plants program for spaces under 2.5 acres along streams and wetlands.

For more information about watershed stewardship, contact NVCA Watershed Stewardship, Shannon Stephens at 705-424-1479 ext 239.

There are several funding opportunities for those living in the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's (LSCA) area. Peter Shuttleworth, Restoration Project Specialist for LSCA explained there were many funding categories. He said one of the most popular categories was "cover crops" which is about increasing crop yields, preventing soil erosion and improving soil health.

Other categories in this funding are managing manure, controlling cropland erosion and enhancing wildlife habitat.

Information can be found at: www.lsrca.on.ca/funding/apply-for-a-grant.

What is it?

A regular reader of Farm View phoned in requesting help to identify the following described item and hopefully also determine the value.

The item is believed to be used for cleaning the hooves of cattle or livestock. It is made of brass and is 18" in length. This specific tool shows no wear.

It is in two pieces, has a flat spot that may go under the hoof, then you bring the handle down.

If anyone has seen something similar or has knowledge of this tool, please write in or email. Contact info can be found on page 4.

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Grey Ag Services Launches New Website

Grey Ag Services was created as a grass-roots farmer driven initiative in 2000 in response to the demand for services formerly provided by the OMAFRA extension offices. Today, Grey Ag has grown, and is a widely recognized not-for-profit, working with organizations from Grey County and beyond to serve the needs of farmers and the rural community.

Grey Ag Services has launched a new website, <https://www.greyagservices.ca/>. The site is targeted to farmers and rural residents of Grey County and surrounding area.

Grey Ag staff who created the site comment that it is easier to navigate than the previous version. Content was carefully considered and reflects the information most requested by callers to the office. It is also more interactive, allowing visitors to submit comments, and suggestions for future courses and events.

This updated website will facilitate Grey



Ag's mandate to educate and inform. The concise and clear site highlights all of Grey Ag's educational offerings, shares important agricultural links, details province wide events, lists contact information for Grey County rural organizations to facilitate networking amongst rural groups/me-

dia/political leaders, and much more. Grey Ag Boardroom bookings will also be posted once re-opening begins. This will allow boardroom users to determine availability prior to contacting Grey Ag staff.

This new website is an amazing collection of valuable information, and Grey Ag is pleased to make it available. Remember that Grey Ag is your Resource Centre. They are happy to take your calls or emails and will exhaust all avenues as they seek the answers to your questions. You can reach them at 519-986-3756 or info@greyagservices.ca. The office is open from 8:30 to 4:30, Monday to Friday. Grey Ag staff have missed you and look forward to your next visit.

2021 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in-person event cancelled

For nearly a century, becoming a champion at The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair has served as an inspirational and aspirational goal for Canadians in food, agriculture and equestrian sport. Due to the ongoing international impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and after considerable research and consultation, The Royal's Board of Directors made the disheartening decision to cancel the in-person 2021 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, in favour of returning to an education focused online experience this year. However, in November 2022, The Royal will mark its 100th Anniversary. We are working hard to make it bigger and stronger than ever and are looking forward to celebrating with you in person.

"Initially, we were optimistic that we would be able to gather at Exhibition Place this year to celebrate Canadian excellence in food, agriculture and equestrian sport. But as the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 continues to create havoc around the world, it became clear that we weren't going to be able to host The Royal in a traditional way," stated Charlie Johnstone, Chief Executive Officer at The Royal. "Our exhibitors and competitors put everything they've got into the pursuit of a championship, and we owe them a world-class showcase for their efforts. We're simply not in a place to guarantee the stability and assurances necessary to plan their paths forward to compete at an elite level."

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is the



largest combined indoor agricultural fair and international equestrian competition in the world. It is a truly unique event comprised of many components, including sporting

events, livestock shows, trade shows, family attractions, and top-ranked international equestrian competitions. In a typical year, The Royal brings together thousands of competitors and animals and nearly 300,000 guests to celebrate the best in agriculture, local food, and equestrian competition. We do not take this responsibility lightly. The Royal's Board of Directors, staff and management remain committed to creating a safe and healthy space for everyone to gather, compete and celebrate when the time is right.

"We're excited to be setting our sights on 2022, which will mark The Royal's 100th Anniversary," concluded Johnstone. "As we approach our second century, The Royal is more relevant than ever, and it is our privilege to be Canada's home for local food, agricultural and equestrian excellence."

About The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair:

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is the world's largest combined indoor agricultural and equestrian show. Now in its 99th year, The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair normally runs every November at Exhibition Place, Toronto but will deliver an education focused online experience in 2021 and proudly celebrate a century of champions in 2022. For more information, please visit <http://www.royalfair.org/>

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After The Chores: Speedy Sheep

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



When the grass turns green, there is just no holding back the sheep from pasture.

I came home one day from the off-farm job- and found sheep on pasture. My goats were running through the barn. The llamas, who are supposed to be watchful guardians, were the only livestock in the right place beside the barn.

The sheep had somehow got the gate opened. Once the gate was opened, they went into the barn and pushed open the door to the goat pen. I could follow the flock's path of destruction as everything was pushed or knocked over. Once the sheep realized there was no grain to be found, they headed for pasture with the older ones remembering the way. I found the new ram from Manitoba along with the ewe lambs in the front lawn.

I got the goats back in their pen. I closed the gate on a contented Hummer and Pandee. We waited until night chores thinking for sure everyone would head for the barn for grain time. At chore time, there was the expected trail of sheep heading to the barn. The sheep were all so full they practically rolled into the pen that night.

The sheep were sure mad and swore at me in angry baaas the next day when they were securely locked back in the pen by the barn. Sweetie was going to walk the pasture fence and make sure the electricity was working on the next weekend.

The weekend came and Sweetie declared the pasture was now sheep-safe and the sheep were sure ready. The older ewes dashed out the barn in full sheep gallop knowing exactly where they were going. The path is over the lane, through the lawn, down the corridor into the field and a left turn into the fenced paddock. There are no fences or gates involved, each generation gets trained by their parents where to go. The new Manitoba ram was only a few steps behind at first out of the barn- and then missed the part about going over the lane. He didn't have a clue where his ladies were going- and he got terribly lost. With crying baaas, he raced back to the barn. He was put into the pen by the barn with the llamas. Hummer, since he was widowed, does not go to pasture. When let outside, instead of following the sheep, Hummer plants himself beside Sweetie's apple trees and that is not a good place for apple loving Hummer to ever be. The ram had to spend his day with the llamas. It was a mad ram day.

The next day I took a long time to get the sheep out of the barn. I made lots of noise so the sheep knew exactly where I was. They were baaing in anxiousness to get out of the barn milling around in angry little circles by the pen's gate. I gave the ram enough time to get his sheep mind around the fact he needed to follow that flock carefully- or its another boring llama day for him. Sheep are not one bit stupid if given a chance to learn at their sheep level. The sheep then blasted out of the pen- and this time the ram was right beside those fast ewes. The ram was last but he made it to pasture and followed his flock without hesitation. Now, the ram moves out at his own speed, he knows the way to pasture all by himself so we just wait for him to arrive.

There was a section in front of the pasture that Sweetie was using for a garden however, a garden this close to animals does not work (a story for another time.) The garden was moved out and this piece of lawn was out of control. Sweetie did his best to keep it cut but it was risking the Kubota on wet summers in one corner. It was just a matter of staking out the new pasture with a roll of electric fence and putting on a new gate Sweetie said happily. Sweetie got the new pasture all ready for the flock of wool bearing lawn-mowers.

I told Sweetie that it was going to be easy to get the sheep to the new pasture. All one of us had to do was call

“Lambies!” and shake a grain bucket. This paddock was first in line so all we had to do was slow the sheep down and they would automatically turn left to the new pasture. Sweetie listened and said, “you think this is going to work?” I reminded him how smart the sheep are going to pasture- I know my sheep. I volunteered to take the field position. I never knew my sheep moved THAT fast. I had my grain bucket and I was calling out “Lambies!” loud when the flock came racing my way. With the shaking grain bucket and me calling to them, the sheep raced by me to the point that I had to run OUT of their way or get fully trampled.

With sheep eyes only focused on the goal of pasture- and all four legs pumping out the most speed possible, I watched the whole flock whoosh past me reminding me of the Range-land Derby of chuckwagon racing I watch on tv from the Calgary Stampede. My sheep sure are speedy. When the sheep arrived in the old pasture, with no grain in sight set off the call of “Ripped Off!” angry baaas. The sheep barrelled down to see me. Sweetie had zero trust in my “great pasture plan” so he had followed the sheep out. Between cries of “Lambie”, shaking grain buckets and chasing, we finally got the sheep to new pasture. The next day Sweetie found an old gate and he built he a blockade that make the sheep stop so they learned to make the left hand turn into the new pasture.

Sheep here sure enjoy that race to pasture.

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22nd Youth Forum Beef Show at the Lindsay Fairgrounds

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



In the photo above Katie Elmhirst of Indian River is showing her homebred IRC Fantasis 85H. Katie won reserve Champion Angus with this entry plus she also won Champion Senior Showperson, Champion Simmental and Champion and Reserve Champion Hereford. Katie's parents, Billy and Juanita Elmhirst are hosting a cattle show on their Indian River Cattle Company's farm at Indian River. Plans are still being finalized for the show titled "IRCC Cattle Battle" that happens on August 14th.



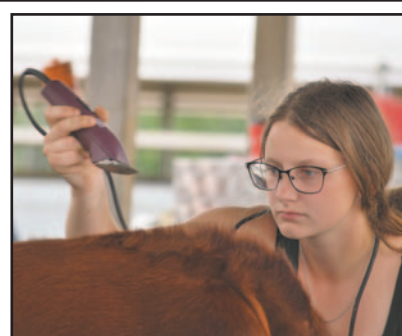
Pictured above are siblings Brodie and Jordan of the Phillips family, showing off all their wins. The family drove 4 hours from the London, Ontario area to come to the Youth Forum that was held in Lindsay at the Fairgrounds. Both had successful days with Brodie winning many awards including Champion PeeWee Showperson. Jordan started showing when she was 3 years old and now, with 7 years experience, she says, "I LOVE showing cattle." Jordan won Champion Market animal with her entry named Bob. Jordan has shown cattle with her family's herd of Phillips Cattle Company including at Louisville, Kentucky, USA. Jordan says one of her life's goals is to "show at the Calgary Stampede" one day.

Pictured at the right is Jack Oates from Cobden, the judge for the 2021 Youth Forum. In a normal year, the judge and his wife are showing cattle the Oates Cattle Company banner throughout Canada and the USA.



The 22nd Youth Forum volunteer committee never gave up on holding a 2021 show. For most of the 65 exhibitors that attended, this was their first show since the Royal Winter Fair in November 2019. There were 70 head of cattle at the show. The show became possible with the dedication and hard work from its planning committee, Committee Chair Sue Giffen, Martha Henshaw, Brandy Thaxter and pictured above, Eric Doran. Eric was the announcer for the two day show and raises beef cattle near Tweed, Ontario.

To the right is Joline Quinn of Cedar Back Farm from Cannington getting her Short-horn heifer ready for the show. Joline is in Durham West 4-H. She also shows horses. Her Dad says, "We were never home on weekends before COVID happened. Joline just never stops. I am "only" the truck driver," he said with a smile. He says that Joline attends all the local cattle shows including Sunderland and finishes off her long show year at the Royal Winter Fair. He added that it's great to see "kids so busy" in life.



6 year old Emily Honey from Warkworth is pictured in the photo above getting her family's Angus ready for the show.

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Crop walk of strip tillage in Bruce County

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Bruce County Soil and Crop Improvement Association (BCSCIA) presented a virtual Crop Walk that showed the effects of the practice of what is known as “zone tillage” or “strip tilling.” There were videos and discussions from three different crop farm operations.

Dairy and Crop farmer, Thomas Farrell, hosted the event. Thomas and his family farm near Kincardine, Ontario. He showed the viewers an example of strip tillage in a hay field. Once the first cut was taken off the field and the remainder terminated, he strip tilled and planted corn. “Within 24 hours, on May 25th there was germination. We had ½ inch of rain—and then the rain stopped. We need more rain now (prior to July 6th) but I’m looking here (in the video) of a crop that is only about a week behind from the other corn. This corn is for silage feed.”

Strip tilling is often known better as “zone tilling.” Paul Legge and his family farm near Chesley, Ontario and he raises crops and custom farms. He explains, “In a way the zone tillage is a better way to explain it. We are ultimately creating a zone- 6 to 10 inches wide- to plant the corn into without disturbing the rest of the soil surface. Generally this is done on 30 inch centres so for simple math, a 10 inch zone leaves 2/3 of the soil surface undisturbed.”

Adam Devisser and his family raise turkeys and crops near Chesley, Ontario. He said that strip tilling is most helpful for heavier lands that take longer to dry out. Heavier lands are soil types like clay. Adam adds, “strip tilling is done at our farm vs. no tilling. We plant the cover crops and then strip till the cover crop to a two inch height so the corn then can compete.”

All three crop farmers explained they use cover crops to improve soil structure and reduce erosion. When the whole field is covered by crops it takes a long time to dry out. In

Ontario, there is just not enough time between early fall frosts and spring rains to wait to get that heavy land dried out. Strip tilling leaves a big portion of the field untouched while the tilled portion can warm up and dry out faster allowing earlier planting. Both Adam and Thomas have left cover crops in the field over the winter though Paul chooses not to do this because, “we find that the growing cover crops competes with the growing corn in the spring.”

It is key to work within the zones set for planting. Paul explains, “on our farm when we install strips after wheat then in the spring we are blending fertilizer in the same strips. The GPS is a huge part in making that work. Our upgraded GPS is accurate to less than 1 inch year after year.”

Strip tilling's priority, Paul explains is, “protecting the soil.” He explains, “On our farm we have found out when we did spring tillage preparing for corn that generally 80-85 percent of the field was actually “ready to be tilled.” With strip tillage we are getting more like 90 percent or more (of the tilled area) that is ready for tillage. Having the farm “ready” is a make or break on heavy clay lands.”

Adam warns though that strip/zone tillage means precision work in the field. That undisturbed zone of the field should not be touched by equipment to make this practice work and that might not always happen. “If you are expecting perfection, this may not be for you. You don’t just get another pass around the field to make this right.”

All three farmers are Directors of the Bruce County Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

This Bruce County Virtual Soil and Crop Improvement Association Walk was second in a summer series coordinated by Georgian Soil and Crop Improvement Association. North Simcoe is next, Aug 19th, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, and Dufferin last, Sept 14th, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. To register, please email lorie@greyagservices.ca.



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Labyrinth art installation at the old Cookstown Fairgrounds

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

There is an incredible new natural attraction in the field beside the Cookstown Community Centre and Library called the Town of Innisfil's 200th Anniversary Tree of Life Bicentennial Labyrinth.

This area is rich in history. This land was owned by the Cookstown Agricultural Society (CAS) and was passed through the generations as a green place for the community to gather. Here, the early Georgian Bay Steam Show was held. However it has moved to its own site in another part of Cookstown on the Civic holiday weekend. The CAS decided, after a great amount of discussion, to sell the property to the Town of Innisfil for the Library and the Community Centre. The CAS remains committed to its community. The CAS hosted, pre-COVID-19, the Cookstown 4-H Club Banquet. The CAS also hosts the Cookstown 4-H Achievement Show at the Barrie Fair each year. Further, the CAS offers a Cookstown Agricultural Society Bursary for graduating second school students in South Simcoe County and that is part of or is related to someone involved with the CAS or the South Simcoe 4-H Clubs.

“We feel we did what is best for the community by selling the property to the Town of Innisfil for the Community Centre and Library. We are guaranteed this space will be used for the community like our forefathers planned before us. We are happy that this space now has the Labyrinth which is a perfect fit for this space, it celebrates history and the green space,” says Mike Elines, President of the CAS said.

In 2020, the Town of Innisfil celebrated its Bicentennial (200th) anniversary. It was clear that the best place to host something to celebrate this was in the field beside the Cookstown Library. Cookstown is home to artist Denis Bolohan, who specializes in natural art like “fire sculptures.” Susan Baues, Deputy CEO, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, says these

are incredible sights that are made to be set on fire. This local artist is also known for his great ice and snow sculptures. The decision was made to contact Denis and wait for his input. It was not long before Denis came back with the idea of having a Labyrinth made in the field.

The Town of Innisfil was settled by the Irish. To honour this history, the idea was to have a Celtic design which

artist has to cut out the pattern. The artist also maintains the artwork, he is there carefully cutting the grass while not changing the pattern. This pattern can be followed as a foot path from start to finish giving the walkers 1.3 km of exercise. There are two benches if walkers want a rest or to admire the big, open sky above especially at sunrise. The Labyrinth's cost was covered by a federal grant for Community Anniversaries.

It is quiet at the Labyrinth, and weaving through the pattern gives time for careful thought and reflection on what is important in life. Ms. Bauer says this place makes her think of Indigenous stewardship in that this space is kind and gentle to the land. She said it is pleasant to see all the bees and other pollinators enjoying the natural flowers here. She adds, “The Labyrinth will go back to nature when it ends, it will revert back to the field.”

The Labyrinth is open 24/7 however, it will only be around until the end of September.

Artist's Bio Denis Bolohan

I have been creating sculptures, installations and site-specific land works for over 30 years. Much of my work has been ephemeral in nature—snow sculptures, fire sculptures, crop and grass labyrinths that are allowed to grow out and return to the landscape. I grew up, and still live, in a rural community: the land and our natural surroundings are never far from my thoughts and are major influences in both my daily life and my artwork.

I have been interested in labyrinths as outdoor, shared experiences in and of the landscape since 1999. At that time, I executed the first crop labyrinth on my Essex County farm. The purpose in creating this initial labyrinth was to recreate the experience of my interior art installations within the local farming environment. Labyrinths within the landscape became, for me, a form of exterior installation: those walking the labyrinth were moving through an ever-changing, living work of art, and the work was completed only with the participation of those traveling through it.



evolved into a “Celtic Tree of Life Labyrinth.” The roots go far down into the earth while the branches reach up to the sky and the tree's trunk is the connector of both of these. The tree begins with the season of spring when the leaves come out, then the autumn when the leaves fall away, the winter when the tree goes to sleep and then the tree does it all over again with celebrating rebirth all its life.

A Labyrinth is a highly detailed pattern. In the one in Cookstown, the pattern is cut out of natural grasses. The pattern was carefully planned and then, with great care, the

Home Medical Oxygen Safety, Do Your Part to Remain Safe

By Dennis Gannon

Do you or anyone you know use home medical oxygen? Do you know why there are warning labels on the tanks? Did you know that unfortunately people who use home medical oxygen and smoke can be seriously injured when combining their use?

Many people are required to use home medical oxygen due to a number of medical conditions. Some use oxygen concentrators which are very safe to use as mechanically they take in air, remove nitrogen and provide an oxygen rich gas which assists the individual. They are also very portable and no special labeling is required for these units. But many people require higher concentration or flow of medical oxygen and therefore use small steel cylinders that contain pressurized oxygen. These smaller cylinders always have warning labels on them. One is white with a green cylinder on it indicating that it is a pressure vessel with a compressed gas in it. The other is a white label with a yellow flame and the number 2 on it. These labels indicate that the cylinder is under pressure and can explode when high heat is applied and that the contents, oxygen will support combustion and that it is not a flammable gas. That's a lot to take in for most people who don't understand the safety labels applied to items.

What does this mean to those who need home medical oxygen? Safety should always be the first thing on our minds and here are some safety tips for those who use home medical oxygen. As with all homes you must ensure that there are working smoke alarms on all levels. It is important as well that if possible there is a smoke alarm in the bedroom where the oxygen cylinder is used when asleep. Also extremely critical is that smoking is not permitted by the user of the home medical oxygen or anyone in the building. Post No Smoking signs at the entrance to the home and one where the home medical oxygen is being used. There is not a safe way to smoke in the home when medical oxygen is in use.

This includes all types of tobacco and non-tobacco smoking products including electronic cigarettes. A home where medical oxygen is used must take extra precautions as anything that can burn such as clothing, carpets, drapes and furniture can burn much faster and at a higher temperature if a spark or flame is present. Oxygen saturates hair, clothing and fabrics making it easier to start on fire and spread quicker. Keep medical oxygen canisters at least 5-10 feet away from any heat source, including gas stoves, lit fireplaces, wood burning stoves, candles, lighters or other types of open flame. Oxygen tank safety relies on keeping your oxygen away from flames. Spark or friction-generating equipment such as friction toys, grinding tools, electric shavers, hair dryers, should not be used while using home medical oxygen or in the presence of the oxygen equipment. Body oil, hand lotion and items containing oil and grease can easily burn. Keep oil and grease away where home medical oxygen is in use. Petroleum jelly, oily lotions, face creams, or hair products should also not be used when using home medical oxygen. Keep hands oil-free when handling oxygen equipment. Aerosol sprays containing combustible materials should not be used near oxygen equipment or while using home medical oxygen. Support home medical oxygen safety and reduce the risk of home fires by turning your oxygen supply valve to the off position when home medical oxygen is not in use. Familiarize yourself with your oxygen equipment and the safety checks established by your home medical oxygen supply company. If you do not understand how something works, ask for more information and a demonstration. Store medical oxygen canisters safely and securely in the upright position, in an approved oxygen storage cart or other device designed to store home oxygen with oxygen tank safety in mind.

Finally, smoking materials are the leading heat source resulting in home medical oxygen related fires, injuries or deaths in Ontario. Do your part if you have or live with a person who uses home medical oxygen to ensure they and you remain safe by following these safety tips.

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Spectators invited to see historical farm equipment working

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Harlaine Heritage Day has teamed up for this edition with The International Harvester Chapter 20 Fun Day to experience farm equipment history on Saturday, August 8.

Paul Harder of Harlaine Farms from outside of Sunderland is a dairy farmer and a maple syrup producer with a strong interest in historical farm equipment. He says "We need to remember and appreciate our forefathers for all their hard physical work that involved great amounts of dust, heat and sweat. We got to where we are today with

the air conditioned combines from what those before us went through with that grueling hard work."

Heritage Day will feature on site demonstrations using historical farm equipment in the field, working as they were built to do, so long ago. The wheat has been planted in preparation for this event. Once cut by the binder or the reaper, the wheat will be harvested using the thrashing machine, just like it was done decades ago. One has to see a thrashing machine in action to understand the work that is involved as each sheaf

of grain has to be manually pitched from the wagon into the machine.

This year there will be a focus on the pull-type combine. This type of combine has to be pulled by the tractor. There will also be a selection of Farmall tractors on display.

The Harder Family welcomes spectators and ask that everyone be mindful of current COVID-19 protocols. There will be no food for sale on site.

Harlaine Heritage Day can be found at 1005 Concession 1, Brock, Sunderland.



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Port Perry, ON**Runs Monday, August 9 -**
Monday, August 16, 2021
Details to Follow!

Dairy Farm Auction!

The Property of The Sheardown's
o/o Rexlea Jerseys15480 8th Concession Rd.,
Schomberg, ON**Runs Monday, August 16 -**
Monday, August 23, 2021Tractors, Full Line of Farm & Dairy
Machinery & Equipment,
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Plus Much More!

Retiring - Farm Auction!

The Property of
Brian & Carol Gray227 Gray Rd., Janetville, ON
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Monday, August 30, 2021Tractors, Farm Machinery &
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Kevin Barker Auctions Ltd.
3484 Hwy. 35, N., Lindsay, ON
Runs Monday, August 30 -
Monday, September 6, 2021
Details to Follow!**For complete details & pictures of**
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B: 705-328-1478 C: 705-878-2947**AUCTION SALE****ONLINE
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Directions Come west of Alliston on Hwy #89
approx 5 miles to Conc. Rd. 3 Adjala-Tosorontio
turn north for 8 km to sale on east side.**Thurs. Aug 19th at 6 PM****(Preview Wed. Aug 18th 10 am - 4 pm)****PICK UP FRI. AUG 20TH & SAT AUG 21ST 10AM - 4PM**
OR BY CALLING AUCTIONEER for available p.u. Time
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

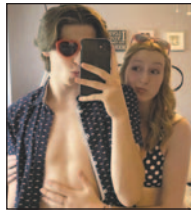
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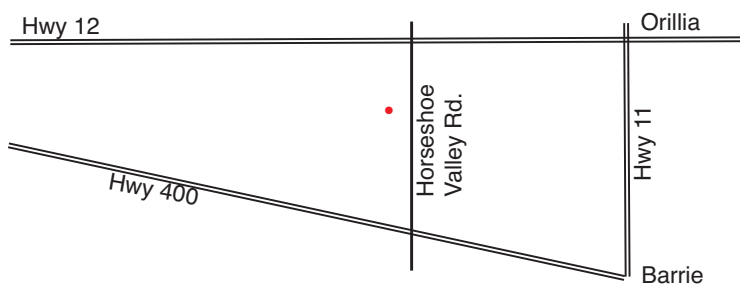
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