

FARM VIEW

44th year of publication!

A newspaper with something for everyone
November 2021 Volume 44 #11

Inside this issue:

Keith Currie
retires from
OFA President
position

A photo story
of the
Lindsay Fair

Coverage of two
farms from the
Dufferin County
Crop Walk

More 4-H
celebrations for
Achievement Day

Grain farmers
of Ontario
accepting
proposals for new
projects



Ron MacLean was a guest judge for the best dressed calf competition at the Lindsay Exhibition. More photos on page 14.

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.

Nov 5th: Applications due

Grain Farmers of Ontario is now accepting applications for the 2022 Grains Innovation Fund. Full details on page 12.

November 11th: Remembrance Day

A day of Remembrance and reflection. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilization of over 70 million people and left between nine million and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their fallen soldiers.

November 15th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the December issue of Farm View is **Monday, November 15th.**

Nov 30th - Dec 2nd: Forage Focus Webinars

Ontario Forage Council is pleased to bring back the Forage Focus conference! This year we will be hosting one webinar per day for three days during the first week of December. Forage Focus: Field to Feed

November 1 - December 2, 2021 Free webinars

Registration: <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/forage-focus-2021-2138832593>

More details on page 21.

Email farmview@on.aibn.com for advertising information and to submit news stories. Visit www.farmviewonline.com

Remembrance Day
We wear a poppy
On Remembrance Day,
And at eleven
We stand and pray.
Wreaths are put upon a grave.
As we remember
Our soldiers brave.



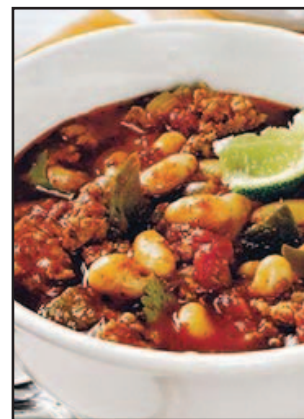
Vanishing Barns



Remembering The Gentle Giants

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Ontario Turkey and Bean Chili



Turkey and Bean Chili is a family favourite in our home at this time of year. You don't necessarily notice the flavour of the pumpkin but it provides a great hit of vitamin C and beta carotene. This recipe freezes well, double it and heat up for school lunches or enjoy after an afternoon of raking leaves... — Roslyn

- 1 cup chopped red onion
- 1/3 cup chopped seeded poblano pepper
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 1/4 pounds ground turkey
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 19-ounce can each pinto beans and black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup pure pumpkin
- 1 14.5-ounce can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 14-ounce can low-sodium chicken broth

Heat a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the first four ingredients; cook 6 minutes or until the turkey is done, stirring frequently to crumble. Stir in the chili powder and the remaining ingredients; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Serve with your favourite toppings. Shredded lettuce, grated cheese, diced tomato, chopped jalapenos, lime wedges and sour cream are a few of our favourites.

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OFA sees value in incentive programs to recognize farmers for ecological goods and services

By Mark Reusser, Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The natural environment supports diverse ecosystems and thrives on biodiversity. As farmers, we must continue to prioritize enhancing our farmland to support prosperous growth of food and commodities for all current and future generations. We depend on ecological goods and services to maintain a healthy environment.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) acknowledges the important role that Ontario farmers serve in protecting and enhancing the natural environment and our most vital resources. Beyond the land that is used to grow crops or pasture animals, preserving forests, wetlands and water ways on the farm property is in the hands of farmers. Best management practices can achieve greater biodiversity, enhancing the entire rural landscape including woodlots, wetlands, riparian zones and more.

We tend to think of biodiversity in the general context of landscape although it is much more than that. Especially in southwestern Ontario, most of the land is used to produce food and fibre which is dependent on ecological goods and services. Ecological goods include healthy soil and clean water, and this environment allows marketable agricultural products to be grown. Farmers also have an opportunity to manage ecological services including water cycling (purification, retention, flood mitigation), air quality (oxygen production, carbon sequestration, climate regulation), nutrient cycling, pollination services, including habitat for endangered and threatened species, protection of wildlife and habitat and biodiversity, soil erosion control, and aesthetic and recreational spaces and scenic views. Using nutrients, water, space, and energy more efficiently, using more effective measures for soil and water conservation, and

using biological resources better to raise and maintain yields of crops and livestock are all good investments to preserving diversity within our agricultural ecosystem.

Woodlots and wetlands are an invaluable part of Ontario's landscape and a key to sustainability. Practices such as crop rotation, buffer strips, manure management and integrated pest management can all contribute to a healthier ecosystem on and off the farm. Farmers are responsible stewards of these lands, which also includes a variety of habitats within them. Animals and plants work in a virtuous cycle that benefits from biodiversity. Protecting endangered and threatened species is a part of this role farmers play in serving the environment.

These services to enhance ecosystems do not command an explicit price for maintenance and delivery. Ecological goods are commonly thought of as providing private benefit through market returns, while services are provided for the benefit of society. While producers make the effort to implement beneficial management practices, it is typically not encouraged through incentives. In a way, incentives can be an investment in the environment made by society.

In the Region of Waterloo, we have experienced success with the Waterloo Region Water Quality Program. This program incentivizes farmers in this area to reduce phosphorus runoff in nearby waterways by implementing practices such as fencing off streams to livestock and planting native species as a buffer along waterways, improving overall water quality and biomass.

Managing agricultural systems and their associated landscapes in a sustainable manner that preserves and promotes biodiversity will produce



Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture



Mark Reusser

lasting economic and social benefits for future generations. OFA believes farmers should be recognized and valued for their efforts to manage, maintain and enhance the many elements of our environment. The organization continues to advocate for the development and implementation of a fair system of incentive-based policies and programs that properly acknowledge the significant environmental contributions that result from the adoption of beneficial management practices.



On the Cover

On the cover is legend, Ron MacLean. He is well known from his career with CBC Hockey Night in Canada. Ron was a guest judge at the recent Lindsay Fair.

Photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

DEADLINE for the December Farm View is November 15th

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JD 9300 (E85504) 2000, 4WD, 360ENG HP, 6750HR, 32KPH, 24/6SPD, SYNCHRO W/HL-LO, CAB, BAR AXLE, AXLE DUALS, 710x38 50%, 710x38 50%, 4 REMOTES, NO PTO \$94,740.00



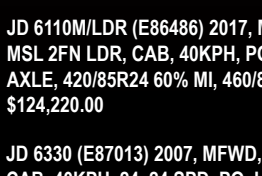
JD 6155R/LDR (E86577) 2016, MFWD, 155ENG HP, 4035HR, DELUXE CAB, 40KPH, 20F/20R SPD, AQ+ECO, LH REV, R&P AXLE W/CAST CNTR, 380/85R30 MI 40%, 480/80R42 MI 65%, NO DUALS \$146,320.00

JD 8245R (E87001) 2010, MFWD, 245ENG HP, 7330HR, CAB, 40KPH, AUTOPOWER IVT, LH REV, R&P AXLE W/CAST CENTER, 420/85R34 95% MI, 480/80R50 95% MI, AXLE DUALS \$131,580.00

Agriculture - Tractors - John Deere Utility Tractors



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



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

JD 6330 (E87013) 2007, MFWD, 105ENG HP, 6803HR, PREM CAB, 40KPH, 24x24 SPD, PQ, LH REV, FLANGE AXLE, COMMAND CNTR, 340/85R28 50%, 460/85R38 90%, 2 REMOTES \$66,320.00

Agriculture - Harvesting - John Deere



JD S670 (E85069) 2014, 4WD, 391HP, 1275 ENG/812 SEP HRS, 26' AUGER, CONTOURMASTER, 3-RANGE HYDRO, AUTOTRAC READY, 650/85R38 MI 80% FRT, DUALS, 750/65R26 MI 70% REAR \$334,580.00



JD 9770 (E86670) 2011, 4WD, 360HP, 2900 ENG/2200 SEP HR, 6.9M AUG, 2SPD, PRO DR LEVEL LAND, EXT WEAR GRAIN HANDLING, 650/65R38 85% FRONT, DUALS, 28Lx26 R2 70% REAR \$194,740.00

JD 9570 (E86902) 2010, 4WD, 265HP, 1526 ENG/1074 SEP HR, 17' AUGER, CONTOURMASTER, 3-RANGE HYDRO, AUTOTRAC READY, 520/85R38 FS 75% FRONT, DUALS, 18.4R26 85% REAR \$178,320.00

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FROM THE EDITOR

I hope all of you enjoy this issue of Farm View. There is a great article by Cathy Hamill-Hill detailing the career of OFA President Keith Currie. From my Dad, John, and myself Keith, we wish you the very best in your new role as 1st Vice President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Cathy also provided us with coverage of the last two crop walks for this year. Very interesting reading learning about how crop farms are operated.

I also enjoyed seeing all the photos from the Lindsay Fair and the 4-H achievement days. The creativity of the kids and their costumes really made me laugh. And I hope they do for you as well.

If you have a story idea or topic you would like covered, please write in or call. I am always interested in hearing from you, the readers.

The month of November brings us Remembrance Day. My Aunt Lori recently shared the following about the significance of the poppy, much of this I did not know and thought I'd share it with all of you.

The poppy should be worn on the right side; the red represents the blood of all those who gave their lives, the black

represents the mourning of those who didn't have a loved one return home, and the green leaf represents the grass and crops growing and future prosperity after the war destroyed so much. The leaf should be positioned at 11 o'clock to represent the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the time that World War 1 formally ended.

In my opinion the last three months of each year have very specific themes. October is the month of thankfulness, November the month for remembrance and December the month of giving (of our time). That gives us 92 days to reflect on what we did right, how we can better ourselves for the new year and how we can better serve our families, friends, neighbours and strangers. While gearing up for the busy holiday season ahead take some time to think how you can offer a little bit of your time to someone else. Every few minutes makes a difference whether it is to a person or a community. We are all busy, but there is nothing better than the feeling of knowing you made a positive difference to another person.

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

Annual Agricultural Education Award winners announced

Story and photos provided by Joanne Gregson, President Collingwood Agricultural Society (CAS)

The Collingwood Agricultural Society is proud to announce the first three recipients of its annual Agricultural Education Award, shown below from left to right Riley Hendersen of Creemore, Maeve Marling of Stayner and Olivia Walker of Stayner.

Riley recently completed her Bachelors of Science in Biochemistry at the University of Waterloo. She will begin her Ph.D. in Plant Biology at Cornell University, this fall, where she will be working to design more photosynthetically capable crops.

Maeve recently graduated from Stayner Collegiate Institute and will be beginning the Agriculture Management program at Olds College this fall.

Olivia is entering her third year at Dalhousie University where she is currently completing her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture majoring in Animal Sciences.

The Collingwood Agricultural Society would like to thank all those who applied for this award.



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EDWARDS FARM STORE
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.

FARM VIEW is published monthly by:
Roslyn Watkins
The 5 N's Publishing House
8 Luella Blvd, Anten Mills ON L9X 0W7
Phone (705) 722-0138
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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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JD 6145M 2015 ... \$141,995
CAB SUSP, PWR QUAD 24F/24R, MFWD, 3 REMOTES, 640M LDR, 480/42, 3089 HRS



STK#125150

JD 6145M 2016 ... \$125,995
STANDARD CAB, MFWD, 24 SPEED POWERQUAD, 640R LOADER 3 FUNCTION, 4574 HRS



STK#120294

JD 6155R 2018 ... \$209,995
PREM CAB, AQ 20F/20R, MFWD, 3 REMOTES, 640R LDR, 480/42 SGL, 817 HRS



STK#124094

JD 7230R 2014 ... \$209,995
PREM CAB, TLS, 50K IVT, FRT 3PH/PTO, IF650 SINGLES, 3866 HRS



STK#118386

CIH 375 2018 ... \$61,995
25' DISC, 9" SPAC, 3 SEC FOLD, 3 BAR COIL TINE W/ SGL BASKET, 2500 ACRES



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JD 2210 2013 ... \$85,995
55' 6" 5 SECT FLD, 6" SPACING, 4 BAR COIL TINE HARROW, 13000 ACRES



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JD 9400 1998 ... \$85,995
4WD, 12/2 PS, 710/70R38 GY DUAL TIRES, DIFF LOCK, 8475 HRS



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JD 9420R 2015 ... \$439,995
PREM CAB, e18 18F/6R, 5 REMOTES, BIG PUMP, PTO, 710/42 DLS, 1340 HRS



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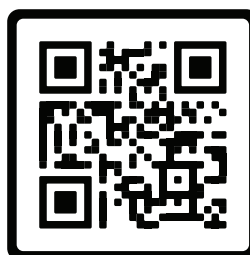
JD 9520RT 2015 ... \$376,995
STD CAB, 18F/ 6R PS, 36" TRACKS, 5 REMOTES, STD PUMP, 2407 HRS



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Ag Snapshot

Photographed at the left is Cookstown and Everett 4-H sheep club Champion showperson Lauren Cowan and her Southdown ewe lamb named Jax.

Please turn to pages 10 and 11 for more great pictures celebrating the South Simcoe Achievement Day.

4- H Ontario welcomes new members for the 2022 season. Find more information here <https://4-hontario.ca>

Food Production Must Remain Essential

By Paul Bootsma, Field Services Manager for the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario



Food Production Must Remain Essential

More and more, there is hope that we are coming out of the pandemic of the last 18 months. But as the dust settles, we are reminded that for every action there is a reaction, whether anticipated or not.

The actions of the federal and provincial governments were intended to protect all Canadians and prevent tragic consequences from the covid-19 virus. This commentary is not meant to prove those actions right or wrong. We'll let history determine that. Since March 2020, public funds have been distributed to assist people, families, businesses and industries to get through this pandemic. Now in October 2021, we are feeling some of the consequences of these government assistance programs.

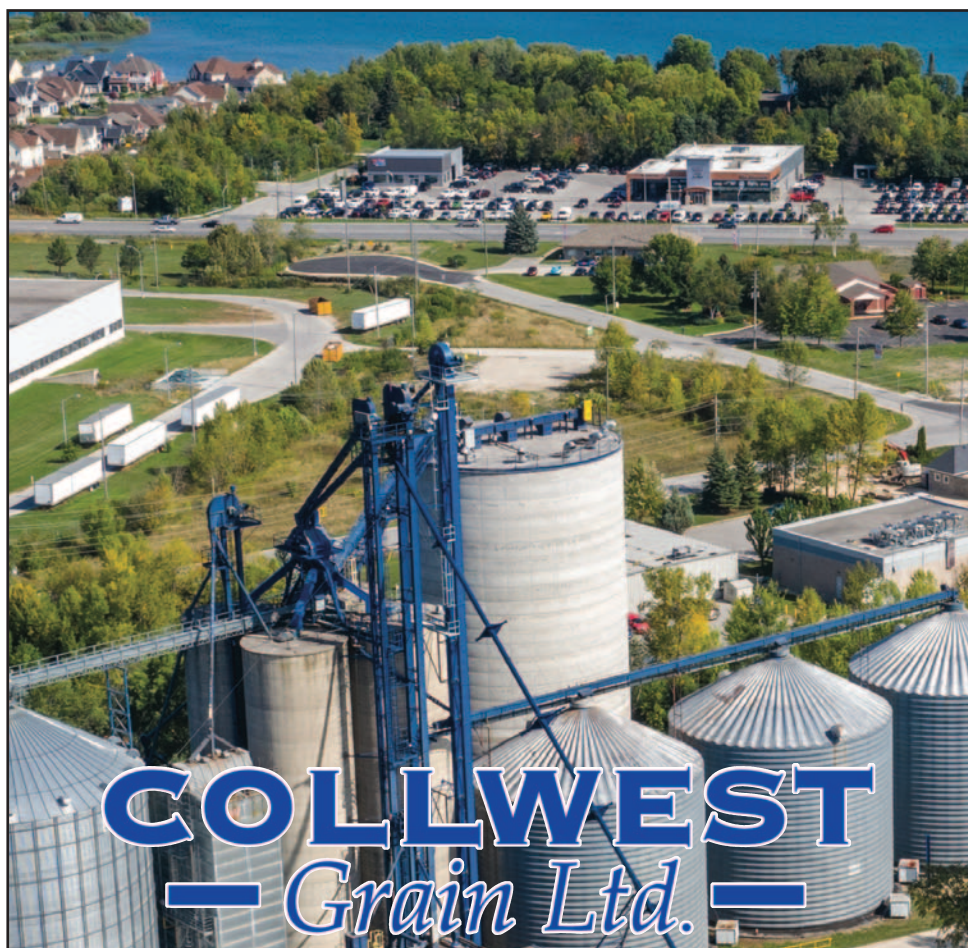
Governments determined what was essential for the survival of society through the looming pandemic, and food production was included on this list. Toilet paper wasn't but consumers sure thought it was. As a result, processing plants and the agricultural support industry kept going; however, they needed to adjust to the safety protocols that were required for worker safety. Months later, we began to realize how far into the economy food production reaches.

Today we read articles written about container shortages, parts shortages, elec-

tronics shortages and more. Stores hide the fact of these missing products by spreading items across the shelves. The labour shortage is a top concern list: a recent news report indicated that half of Canadian businesses are having trouble finding employees.

There is more and more concern about food shortages across the globe, as COVID-19 has exacerbated an already upward trend in food insecurity. There are many reasons for the increase, including processing closures, labour and supply shortages, reduced income and more. Many are expressing concern for our economy and the supply of needed items.

Obviously, we need a structured plan to assist businesses and industries out of the current challenges from the pandemic. What is also needed is assurance from the governments that essential needs, such as food and food production, remain essential and will receive the support and funding needed to get back into full production. The agriculture industry has weathered the pandemic, but past the farm gate is where things got out of sync. It will take a coordinated effort to get the system moving again and functioning without support.



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This special edition of Farm View is the perfect place to thank your loyal Customers and wish the agricultural community a Merry Christmas.

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Keith Currie retiring from the OFA

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Keith Currie will be retired from his career with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) at the OFA's annual meeting in November.

According to MPP for Simcoe-Grey, Jim Wilson, Keith Currie is "knowledgeable, focused and caring."

MPP Wilson got an education in farming from Currie. He says, "Farming is a complex business and it's hard to understand with no experience. Keith could explain farming and brought the concerns to a local level using real life examples that we could understand. All politicians listened to Keith because he knew how to reach us. He gets along with everyone. We worked through some big programs together like the complex Risk Management and Income Stabilization."

Keith Currie's OFA career began at the Simcoe branch of the OFA. At this level, he was elected to the Board of Directors. This was in the late 1980's. At this time, the OFA had 104 Directors. Currie explains that the OFA had a director for 800 members so his local area had 3 Directors and he got elected in 2003 for this position. In 2007, the OFA restructured into 15 geographical zones having a director for each zone and three directors at large. He was elected, again, and that area now served Simcoe, York and Peel in a three year term. The career ladder was climbed when he was elected to be on the Executive. Now, his sights were on the ultimate top rung of the career. He was re-elected twice more serving as Vice President. In these years, he worked hard to "network" to meet and get to know municipal, provincial and federal politicians.

In 2016, the top spot was reached. Keith Currie was elected the President of the OFA. The OFA represents about 38,000 farm households in Ontario.

As President, he worked especially hard to get everyone, from politicians to commodity groups to members of the OFA, united. "We needed to get past personality conflicts. We needed to keep in our own lane. We needed, at the same time, to work together."

While President, Keith travelled to each of the 52 zones in Ontario and attended many meetings in those zones. Keith wanted to talk to people "on the ground level." Adding that being united to one cause is key to getting things done.

Two big pieces of Ontario legislation came together to better life for Ontario farmers that had huge input from the OFA during the years served by Currie. One of these was "PAWS," the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act. PAWS is a more modern animal husbandry act, he explains.

The second piece of legislature is Bill 156, the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act. This was put in place to "protect the farmer, the farm workers, the processing plant workers, the livestock truck drivers and the farm animals," he said adding, "the animal activist has no idea about the farm animals, they live in a downtown somewhere. Their only goal is to stop everyone from eating meat." Bill 156 is all about "safety" of agriculture at all levels, he said. Keith had daily talks with the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ernie Hardeman during this time to get this finally put in place as it was essential to have protection for today's farmer and those in the farming industry.

Now, as MPP for Oxford, Ernie Hardeman remembers those days working alongside Currie. MPP Hardeman says, "It was always nice to work with Keith. He was always very helpful and a great believer in working together for the common result. Whenever we needed people to volunteer for committees, he was the first to step forward. Keith served on many committees over the years, and you could be sure that any time he gave the government advice, it was always in the best interest of all those he was representing in agriculture."

Most agricultural organizations need more volunteers and the constant answer given to any recruiter is, "I'm too busy." Currie said, early in his OFA career, he approached one young person he could see huge potential in to join an organization. He was brushed off with the same old "too busy." At this point in his life, Currie was milking cows, had four children at home and two of those children were on provincial sports teams and he was a coach for both those teams, his wife worked off-farm and he also raised crops at home. He explained "the I'm just too busy is just an excuse." He added, "If its important to you, you will find a way to make it work."

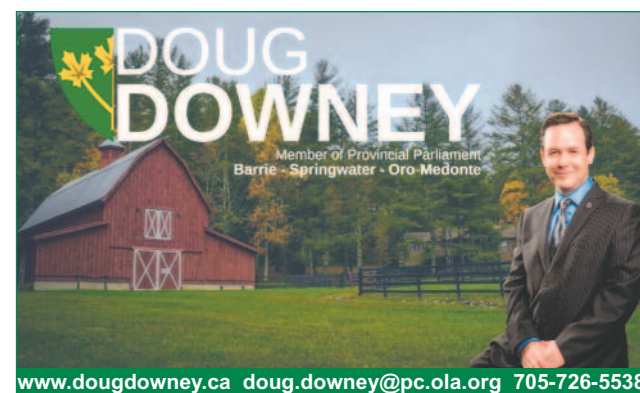
Keith added that people need to understand that ANY contribution is important to the cause of advocating for agriculture to the majority of the population that has no clue about farming. Showing his signature style of communication, he explained using local examples. Keith explained "Farm Comes to Town" is a Simcoe County based education program for about 1,500 students per year to learn about local farming. "Why not give us those two days, share that farming knowledge you have with kids (students) that have never even been on a farm? That time given could make a huge difference in a student's life as to understanding how food gets on the table. Everyone does not have to be a President or a Vice-President one day - just get involved, start with coming to a meeting," he said.

According to Currie, "the agriculture-food industry in Ontario is the #1 employer. The sector employs about 860,000 people in Ontario. Ontario is the second largest food hub in North America. Before a product goes on to the dinner table, it has usually crossed over the border five times," he said adding that processing farm products creates a huge number of jobs.

"We are blessed here in Ontario- we have a natural supplied area with the Great Lakes protecting us from extreme cold creating a type of micro-climate. We have clean air, good water and good soil here," he said with obvious pride in his voice.

There is no question that Keith Currie still has that strong passion for Ontario agriculture however, he believes it is time for a change- for everyone. "I had no intention of staying any longer at the OFA table past this time," he says adding he believes it's best for all to have someone new in his place. Keith isn't close to retiring though. He is now 1st Vice President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. His wife has now retired from her off-farm job so she is going to be with him as he travels across the nation in this new role which he says is exciting.

"It's important always to ask the family at home before one takes on anything off the farm. Our home life is the most important of all," he advises.



Ontario is dedicated to helping farmers

By Doug Downey, MPP

Ontario is dedicated to helping farmers and food and beverage processors improve and adapt their businesses during the pandemic. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ontario government has remained dedicated to helping farmers and food and beverage processors adapt their businesses to meet the new needs of the market. This includes helping businesses transfer to an online sales model, and creating smarter, faster and better systems for food processing.

Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the government of Ontario and federal government have dedicated \$3 billion to strengthen and secure the agriculture and agri-food sector, ensuring continued innovation, growth and prosperity. This commitment includes \$2 billion for programs that are cost-shared by the federal and provincial and territorial governments, with the program being delivered and designed by the provinces and territories.

In continuing this program, the governments of Ontario and Canada are investing \$6 million in projects to help Ontario food and beverage processors improve their operations, increase their competitive edge and adapt to challenges as we move through and beyond the pandemic.

Applications for this program will be accepted in two phases. Phase one of the program started on August 5, 2021, and focused on the new intake under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support projects that will enhance economic development and food safety in the sector will be accepted.

The second phase of the intake opened in September, and focuses on targeted projects to improve labour productivity, efficiency and reduce waste.

Some examples of projects eligible for support under the first phase of the applications for food and beverage processors include:

- ♦ Implementing new technology to improve food safety
- ♦ Developing new projects to increase sales
- ♦ Improving animal health through preventing the introduction and spread of disease throughout an operation.

This new intake builds on other supports extended to the province's food processing and agri-food sector during COVID-19. Examples of such recent initiatives include:

- ♦ A more than \$7 million investment to boost production and capacity in the meat processing sector under the Meat Processors Capacity Improvement Initiative
- ♦ A \$2.25 million investment in provincially licensed meat processing plants to better protect employees and Ontario's food supply under the Agri-food Workplace Protection Program
- ♦ A \$22 million provincial investment to increase the adoption of technological innovations within the agri-food sector to enhance the health and safety of workers and improve the sector's efficiency and productivity through the Agri-Tech Innovation Program.

Since June 2018, both the federal and provincial governments have committed over \$100 million in cost-share support for more than 5,000 projects through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to help eligible Ontario farmers, processors, businesses and sector organizations innovate and grow.

Program materials, including the application form and program guide, are available through OMAFRA: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/cap/index.htm.



Pictured above at left is Simcoe-Grey MPP Jim Wilson and OFA President Keith Currie at the right.
— Photo provided by MPP Wilson's office

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

TO ALL THE KIDS WHO SURVIVED THE 1930's, 40's and 50's !!

Riding in the back of a pick-up truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this.

We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter and bacon. We drank Kool-Aid made with real white sugar. And we weren't overweight. WHY? Because we were always outside playing...that's why!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day and, we were OKAY.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride them down the hill, only to find out that we forgot about brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not Have Play Stations, Nintendo and X-boxes. There were no video games, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies or DVDs, no surround-sound or CDs, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet and no chat rooms. WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and lost teeth, and there were no lawsuits from those accidents.

We ate worms, and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, 22 rifles for our 12th, rode horses, made up games with sticks and tennis balls, and although we were told it would happen - we did not put out very many eyes.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.

These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers, and inventors ever.

The past 60 to 85 years have seen an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all. If you are one of those born between 1925 & 1955, CONGRATULATIONS! Share this with your kids so they will know how brave and lucky their parents were.

Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?

End of an era and the start of the next



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

At OFA we have come to the end of an era, that being the Keith Currie era. I have had the pleasure of knowing Keith, well before starting in my role as the OFA Member Services Representative. Keith has always been approachable, knowledgeable, and a strong advocate for agriculture locally, provincially, and federally. His knowledge base never ceases to amaze me! I want to thank Keith for his unwavering commitment to the agricultural sector in Ontario. We will miss your detailed Provincial Director reports at County Federation meetings on the many issues that OFA is engaged in. Many members likely do not know the countless miles you have driven across this province to attend meetings and functions. All in an effort to put agricultural issues in front of the politicians and their staff. Lobbying is an art form, kinda like a dance. And not just anyone is willing to get up on that dance floor for a spin. As this OFA dance winds up for Keith, please join me in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors in agriculture and thanking him for his years of service to not only the members in our zone but across the province.

As one era ends, another begins!

I am pleased to welcome Paul Maurice of Lafontaine near Midland, as our new Provincial Director to the OFA Board of Directors representing Peel, Simcoe & York. Paul currently serves his local community as a board member on the North Simcoe Community Futures Development Corporation as well as his local parish board. Having a passion for farming, Paul has held numerous positions on other commodity organization boards. When you meet Paul in person you will likely recognize him as the Chairman of the Central Ontario Agricultural Conference. A skill set that Paul brings to the board table is his knowledge of municipal politics. He is a former councillor in Tiny Township. I am confident that you will be well served at the OFA Board of Directors table by the more than capable hands of Paul Maurice.



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Richard "Rick" Green has been behind the parts counter at Richards Equipment Inc for over 43 years.

On November 13th 2021, Rick will sit in his seat for the last time, as he has announced his retirement. This next phase of his life will include travelling and spending quality time with his family including his wife Mary.

Rick has seen many things change from behind the counter. When he began his career, a computer was a distant thought, something we could not imagine today. Parts inventories were recorded using individual cards and there were no buttons to push, but many pencils to sharpen.

Machine complexity has also changed leaps and bounds in over 4 decades. Rick has managed to adapt and change with the time, as a sign of a true professional. As Richards Equipment Inc.'s longest serving employee, he has personally seen many changes within our own dealership.

Whether it was general housekeeping, answering telephones, sorting overnight parts deliveries, chasing down a missing shipment, and assisting customers, Rick has done it all.

We will all miss Rick as he enjoys his retirement. He was the one who unlocked the door in the morning, and shut the lights off at night. After 43 years, this will be something we will all have to adjust to.

It has been our pleasure to have had Rick as a valued employee and co-worker. We will miss his positive attitude and stability in our workplace.

Rick, we thank you for your service and dedication to our community. Congratulations on your retirement.

The Richards Family and Staff at Richards Equipment Inc.

Crop Walk in Dufferin County: Tupling Farms

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

A virtual tour of Tupling Farms was part of the final Crop Walk, held in Dufferin County.

Tupling Farms began with Bert Tupling's parents in Honeywood with 4 acres of potatoes and potato storage was in the home's basement. Now, Tupling Farms is an operation of 4,000 acres. The farm specializes in potatoes. It has a crop rotation of potatoes, wheat, barley, corn and hay. In May 2017, a fire caused significant damage to the farm's storage area. The entire storage area had to be rebuilt and it was built into a state-of-the-art storage facility.

At the time of the Crop Walk it was harvest time at the farm. Videos showed the harvest with an automated potato digger pulled by a tractor that dug up to 20 rows of potatoes at a time moving down the field. The potatoes are then picked up by a potato harvester. The harvester has the ability to convey the potatoes right into trucks that follow the harvester down the field.

"We load the trucks in the field. A truck is loaded with about 35,000 to 40,000 pounds of potatoes. We expect this truck loaded in under six minutes. If the truck isn't loaded in six minutes, we start asking questions. We expect to move the next truck in, not have to stop," Bert says.

The loaded trucks are driven to the potato storage. They are emptied using a conveyor that loads them directly into the storage bins passing first through a sorter that puts the potatoes into the correct storage bins.

"The bins are 'three inches of concrete, three inches of insulation and then five inches of concrete,'" he explained adding that in 2017 the bins were built to be 100 feet wide and 200 feet long. There are culverts running through the bins blowing air through the piles of potatoes.

There is a side business at Tupling Farms. Each year about 2,500 head of cattle are finished here. "I like to think of it as a circle. We use most of our own crops of wheat, barley alfalfa and corn to feed the cattle. Then the potatoes benefit from the nutrients in the form of cattle manure," he explained.

The potatoes are washed in a washer unit. "The potatoes are washed just like washing your hands," Bert says. After washing, the potatoes are "sponge dried." Next, the potatoes are graded in a grading unit that is staffed. "The grader is about

80% accurate but we have people at the grader to be sure the grading is done correct to meet our markets," he said.

The next step is for "each potato to go in a lane sizer." For any potato that does not reach the set size, lights flash and the potato is taken out, he explained. To fill the markets, the size needs to be precisely known.

The food service industry needs a potato to weigh between 7-14 ounces. Bert says, "Swiss Chalet (Restaurants) is one of the biggest markets for this size of potato," adding "you must know your markets and then reach that market to get the best prices."

One of the challenges of serving the food industry today is being able to deal with the "just in time" needs. This means that the buyer needs product at 6:00 am and the call will come in at 2:00 pm the day before for the purchase. "You have to be prepared to send out the 10 tractor trailer loads when they are wanted and it can include weekends and evenings. The trucks here can be parked inside when loaded so we can get our drivers started in nice warm trucks at 2 a.m. Some of those loads will include 50 pound bags, 10 pound bags, 20 pound bags and boxes of 70 potatoes in one box. We have 1,800 acres of potatoes and we need to sell them and about 30% go to the chip market. We put potatoes in the bags that the market wants."

COVID-19 did change the market, Bert says explaining that Loblaw's asked for 50 pound bags of potatoes. "Loblaw's does not usually want 50 pound bags because people cannot store that many. The bag is too big to put them under the sink. We sold about 5 tractor trailer loads of about 1,200 bags each."

He offered appreciation to the Dufferin Health Unit for all their help in getting through the regulations to allow for offshore workers to get to the farm during COVID-19. "We so appreciate getting those people to work for us," he said.

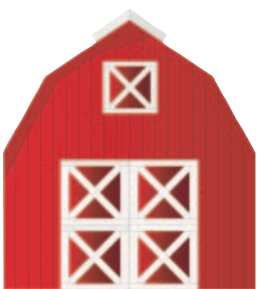
Bert Tupling's proudest accomplishment is seeing his grandchildren choose to have a career at Tupling Farms.

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Achievement Day celebrations continue for South Simcoe 4-H

South Simcoe 4-H Rabbit Club news report

By Abby Patton

The South Simcoe 4-H Rabbit club had their achievement day at leader Marieke's farm on Sunday September 19, 2021. There was a tent and table set up with a carpet for showing our 4-H rabbits to the judge. Our official judge was Warren Baguley who was a 4-H rabbit club leader in South Simcoe a few years ago. While he was judging he shared tips for taking care of the rabbits and brought a photo album of his rabbit breeding days for the members to view and he answered questions.

First off was the showmanship classes by age. We had a couple of ties so 4 people had to switch rabbits for the final showmanship class. Sierra Steuernol was named Grand Champion Show person. Abby Patton was Reserve Champion. Next class was Utility Doe Class and Sara Ford's rabbit Cumin took the top spot. Next was the fancy doe class and Lauren Cowan's rabbit Latte came in first place. After that we had the fancy buck class and Ben Wienecke's rabbit Tigger received the red ribbon. It was great to have the club all together in person and be able to take a group picture.

Special thanks to Glenn Brethet of the Beeton Agricultural Fair Society for providing the ribbons and a donation! Thank you to Warren Baguley for judging the classes and sharing his knowledge and time with us.

Thank you to our leaders Scott, Marianne and Marieke for a great Rabbit Club! This club will be offered next year so I hope you will think about joining it in March.

South Simcoe 4-H Rabbit Club awards



Shown above are the Rabbit club members gathered for the achievement day. Pictured below from left to right are 4-H member Ben Wienecke with Champion Buck Tigger, Champion Doe Latte Exhibited by Lauren Cowan and Champion showperson Sierra Steuernol and rabbit Juno.



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Beautiful weather for the South Simcoe 4-H clubs Achievement Days

South Simcoe Garden Club 4-H News Report

By Isabella Cullen

The South Simcoe 4-H Garden Club held its achievement day program on Sunday September 19th at Marieke Patton's. What a beautiful day it was with 14 club members showing a variety of exhibits of herbs, vegetables, fruits, flowers, plants, arts and crafts. It sure filled the exhibit barn with lots of different colours. Lisa Craig and Amber Katirai assisted the judge Debbie McKnight with the exhibits.

Thank you to Debbie McKnight who was the official certified judge of the day. Thank you to Glenn Brethet of the Beeton Agricultural Fair Society who supplied the ribbons and a cash donation. Thank you to Kubota who supplied awards for speciality class winners. We had a fantastic achievement day.

Thank you to our leaders Amber Katirai, Lisa Craig, Marieke Patton and Scott Cullen. We had a wonderful club year and learned lots of new gardening tips and trends. The meetings were educational and fun.

News Report from the South Simcoe 4-H Association

By Scott Cullen

Thank you to the Essa and District Agricultural Society, the Cookstown Agricultural Society, the Beeton and District Agricultural Society and the Collingwood Agricultural Society. With everyone's support and effort we were able to get all the South Simcoe 4-H achievement days done in person. The South Simcoe 4-H Association would like to thank the many volunteers, leaders, sponsors and supporters that have made 2021 4-H achievement days amazing.



4-H Garden Club member Nathan Dykstra is shown above displaying his award winning pumpkin.



Pictured above is Garden Club member Jessa Bray showing her exhibit of three vegetables on a plate.

Cookstown & Everett 4-H Sheep Club photos from the Achievement day at the Collingwood Fairgrounds



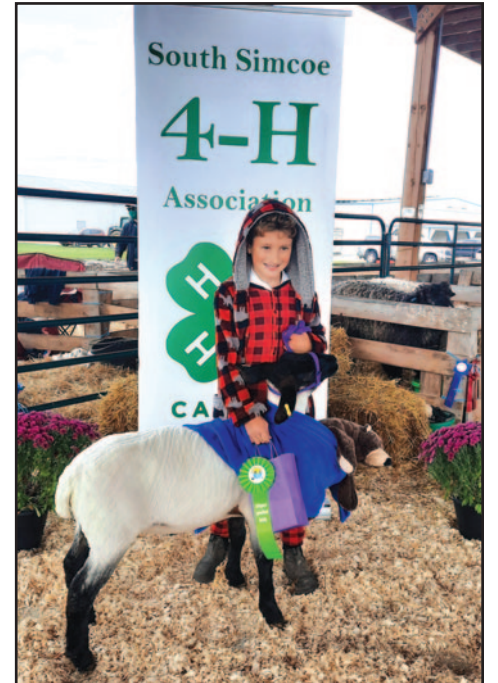
Cookstown and Everett 4-H Sheep club champion Southdown ewe lamb named Jaida exhibited by Isabella Cullen.



Nicole Palmateer and ewe lamb Joy as Garden gnome and flower garden.



Milana Palmateer and Jupiter as Horse and rider.



Keagan McCallum Pinho and his ewe lamb Crowfield Willow as pajama party.



Morgan Gilpin and his ewe lamb Buttercup as cowboy and mustang.



Thomas Edwards and ewe lamb Cassie as Little Bo Peep and holstein cow.

Cookstown & Everett 4-H Sheep Club Report

By Morgan Gilpin

The Cookstown and Everett 4-H sheep club had their achievement day this year at the Collingwood Agricultural Society (Collingwood fairgrounds) on September 26, 2021. We had to be on the fair grounds by 9 am. We started showing after the open show, and after a pizza lunch provided by the fairgrounds. Thank you for the pizza which was hot and delicious.

We started the show with the showmanship classes. The results are as follows; Novice 1st- Morgan Gilpin, Junior- 1st- Lauren Cowan, 2nd- Milana Palmateer, Intermediate- 1st- Isabella Cullen, 2nd- Wiggy Tibbitts and Senior 1st- Madeleine Cullen. Champion show person was Lauren Cowan and Reserve show person was Isabella Cullen.

We continued with confirmation classes for Ewe lambs. The results are as follows; February ewe lamb 1st Isabella Cullen 2nd- Thys Blank. March ewe lamb 1st- Morgan

Gilpin, 2nd- Scarlett McCallum Pinho. Champion ewe lamb was exhibited by Isabella Cullen and Reserve Champion ewe lamb was exhibited by Thys Blank.

Five of us participated in the costume class which always is a great time for all to view.

Thank you to the Collingwood Agricultural Society for allowing us to use their venue and for providing the judge Jonathan Parkinson for the day. Thank you to Gary Milne and Joanne Gregson who organized an amazing event and all those involved in getting the approvals required to make the day happen.

Thank you to the Cookstown Agricultural Society and Petra Hewson for ordering and providing the ribbons for our 4-H achievement day program.

I would like to thank our club leaders, Grant Cowan, Scott Cullen and Jackie McCallum. Thank you to all the parents for their support this year in these uncertain times.

Grain Farmers of Ontario Now Accepting Proposals for Grains Innovation Projects

Grain Farmers of Ontario, the province's largest commodity organization representing Ontario's 28,000 barley, corn, oat, soybean, and wheat farmers, is now accepting applications for the 2022 Grains Innovation Fund. The Grains Innovation Fund supports Ontario grain utilization projects that develop novel value-added uses or support market expansion for Ontario grains. It encourages innovation from Ontario companies and organizations that offer agri-food or other grains-based products.

"The evolution of grain farming in Ontario has built an incredible and resourceful community that the world has come to rely upon," said Paul Hoekstra, Vice-President of Strategic Development for Grain Farmers of Ontario. "We have seen the work of farmers and organizations come together with the shared motivation to create and provide the best products globally and we want to continue to help nurture these important collaborations."

The Grains Innovation Fund provides eligible companies and organizations up to 60 per cent of the cost of a project to a maximum of \$50,000.

"We are continuously amazed by the innovation and creativity Ontario companies and organizations display in the project concepts they bring to the Grains Innovation Fund," said Dana Dickerson, Grain Farmers of Ontario's Manager of Market Development. "The Fund highlights the ingenuity of our grains industry leaders and how their contributions have a magnanimous impact on how we connect Ontario grains to every part of better living. The fund helps our supply chain to enrich the farm to retail story and highlights unique selling points around the provenance, sustainability, and versatility of Ontario grain-based products – value propositions that are highly appealing to the modern consumer."

Applications for the 2022 Grains Innovation Fund must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Friday, November 5, 2021.

Eligibility

Companies and organizations must demonstrate their proj-

ect meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Open new markets for Ontario grains.
- Expand the use and demand for Ontario grains.
- Promote Ontario grains as the best choice for consumers and/or the food value chain domestically or abroad.
- Increase the value for Ontario grains through the development of new, value-added uses.

How to Apply

- Please visit: <https://gfo.ca/market-development/>
- Select Program Overview for a detailed description of the Grains Innovation Fund program
- Select Application to fill out your submission
- Completed applications must be sent, via email, to ddickerson@gfo.ca

Examples of Successful Past Projects

The Ontario Cattle Feeders' Association (OCFA) used the fund to promote their Ontario Corn Fed Beef program in international export markets. The promotion campaign highlighted the positive contribution Ontario corn provides to product quality, including its rich, full flavour and robust marbling.

The Straw Boss, a premium straw processor company, was supported by the fund to advance their use of Ontario straw in their pelletized straw production providing an alternative to traditional bedding options for livestock.

Ontario wheat millers, 1847 Stone Mill, used the fund to harness the unused portion of wheat from the milling process to create an absorbent, clumping, dust-free, smell-free pet litter called reLitthat is 100% compostable.

Canada's largest manufacturer of tofu, Sunrise Soya, and partners at the Provision Coalition worked together on a project to explore new uses for soy by-products created in production of tofu. The result was an upcycled ramen noodle which formed part of a food kit featured in Canada's first up-cycled food festival and launched in Sobeys stores across Ontario.

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Crop Walk in Dufferin County: Lennox Farm

By Cathy Hamill Hill

Lennox Farm was featured along with Tupples Farms at the final 2021 Soil and Crop Improvement Association Virtual Crop Walk. Lennox Farm is located in Melancthon, Dufferin County.

Lennox Farm Rhubarb Ice Cream is just one of the products that husband and wife team, Brian and Jeannette, have come up with during their "what should we try next?" creative discussions.

The farm is known as the only forced rhubarb producer left in Ontario. Forced rhubarb should not be confused with the spring version. Forced rhubarb "is not tart, it's almost sweet" Brian explains. And Brian should know all there is to know about rhubarb growing, he's the fifth generation in this rhubarb business that began about 130 years ago.

Forced rhubarb is exactly that- it's forced to grow. This was a common business when Brian's family began this 110 years ago. The big clumps of rhubarb roots, weighing about 100 pounds each, are manually lifted, to be hauled to the "forcing sheds" where it is hand planted. In the shed, the rhubarb is placed in darkness. When the time is right, usually around Christmas, lights are turned on and the rhubarb will start to grow. This rhubarb does not have its signature big green leaves or its tart flavour either. This version, "has short yellow leaves, almost no strings in it and it's not tart," Brian says adding that the market goes on for this right until the spring version is ready in the field.

There are 90 acres of rhubarb grown at Lennox Farm and that equals sales of about 35,000 pounds of rhubarb per year. Three acres of that is brought into the forcing sheds. About 25 acres is harvested for the fresh market- and the remainder is left in the field to "get even stronger" and will be next



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year's harvested acres.

Lennox Farm is a 500 acre operation. Another crop at the farm is brussel sprouts, that began about 23 years ago. The climate in the area is perfect for this crop as "we get rains here that other places in Ontario don't get." The brussel sprouts are started in the on site greenhouse. "We plant brussel sprouts on May 10th and we harvest it mid-August," he explained. Using their innovative minds, the couple came up with a harvester that was built locally. First, a weedeater type of equipment is used to chop down the stalks in the field. The harvester is hand fed the stalks and takes the sprouts off the stalks.

Being innovative, there was found to be a market for the entire stalk. "At farmer's markets and high end stores we can sell the stalks whole. This lets people see how brussel sprouts grow," Brian said explaining that the most common marketing is packing the brussel sprouts, minus the stalk, into 20 pound boxes for sale.

Another 50 acres of the farm is dedicated to English Peas. "These peas are the old variety of pea, they are very sweet with big pods. We pick about 150 bushels a day from July to the end of September. All the peas are handpicked," he explains adding the farm has been growing peas since about the mid 1990's.

Brian says that he is working with cover crops to help the soils on his farm. He has planted hay working with a local farmer, the farmer takes the first cut and the second cut is plowed into the soil. He also rents out land to a local farmer for corn production. "The corn really cleans up the weeds in the soil so it makes a good crop for rotation," Brian says adding that he is noticing the soil is rejuvenating from the use of cover crops.

Meeting the markets is key to Lennox Farm's success. One of the important parts is attending the Ontario Food Terminal which is a key player in the Ontario food supply chain. Brian sets his alarm on his phone for 12:50 a.m. He returns home by 8 a.m and works that day as usual on the farm. There is also a market right on the farm that is open to

the public from May to October. And they also offer an online store.

"Because doing new things on the farm is fun and we like to try a new adventure, this year's adventure was growing heirloom tomatoes and sweet peppers. We put them in our produce box so that was good but we have some more to learn yet because the tomato plants grew up to 10 feet tall," he said.

"The profit is in the waste," he said adding that using up the "non-first grade but very much edible" leftovers is what prompts the creative ideas he and his wife come up with. Some of the ideas have been rhubarb juice that has been sold to make ciders and the signature invention, the rhubarb ice cream.

Brian said his children are too little to know if they will become the sixth generation of farmers- but he is hopeful.

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Memories made at the 2021 Lindsay Fair

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Pictured above is the 2021 Lindsay Agricultural Society President Dr. Lois Batty beside the Lindsay Exhibition's champion market steer consigned by Brett and Madison Webster. President Batty pointed out that it is the community support that allows Lindsay Fairs to happen. She expressed her sincere appreciation to the market steer's purchaser, Ron Hall Meats, owned by husband/wife Ron and Brenda Hall of Cresswell. The Cresswells are also a sponsor of the Lindsay Fair. Ron Hall Meats not only paid \$11.00 a pound for this market steer, the local business also purchased a market lamb consigned by Elysha and Jessica Bryans weighing 67 pounds and purchased for \$9.00 a pound.



Shown in the photo above is Wendy Dunham of Donaleen Blondes of Campbellford in the Blonde d'Aquitaine Show. She is showing the bull calf she owns with her husband, Don. The bull calf named Jackpot placed first in his class and went on to become the Bull Calf Champion.



Pictured above is John Fennell from Bradford who is 95 years old. He was showing sheep with the help of his son at the Lindsay Fair. John has been showing sheep for over 65 years and only COVID-19 stopped him last year. John's grandfather was one of the first importers of the Border Leicester longwool sheep to Canada.

In the photo to the left is 5 year old Evelyn McMorow from Oakwood. She is seen here showing her calf named Jasmine. Evelyn enjoyed the fair and is looking forward to attending again.

Severn Bridge served as a gateway to the newly opened Muskoka

Village stories

by Andrew Hind

community as they drive past.

As its name suggests, Severn Bridge developed around a narrow bridge that spanned the Severn River and dates back more than 150 years. The first, unstable wooden bridge was built in 1857-58. Replaced five times since, this bridge served as a gateway to the newly opened Muskoka and over the years thousands of eager settlers traveled over the planks on their way to take possession of their wilderness land claims.

Among the first of those to arrive in Severn Bridge were James H. Jackson, William Johnston, and John Young, who arrived in 1858 to take up land near the river and begin the process of developing a village. It was a rapid growth. By 1861, Severn Bridge was reported as a thriving village, with a tavern and inn owned by W.H. Dillon and a store operated by a man name O'Brian, who had earlier been contracted to build the bridge.

In 1861, James H. Jackson was appointed as postmaster and in April 1864 built a fine building combining a residence, store, and post office. In that same year, Moses Davis and Andrew Boyd built the local school, SS#1, Morrison Township.

In 1867, Charles McKenzie built a large hotel with a driving shed and stable large enough to accommodate teams of horses – illustrative of the amount of traffic then travelling to and from Muskoka. Above the shed was a concert hall which housed dances, church services, political meetings, and agricultural gatherings.

Not far from the McKenzie hotel were the saw and shingle mills built and operated by W.P. Christie in 1876. These mills were later swallowed by the massive Mickle

– Dymont lumber empire. Modernized and expanded, these mills could produce more than 99,000 board feet of lumber and 17,000 shingles in a single day. Logs waiting to be cut would clog the Severn River for miles, leaving just a narrow channel for navigation.

Much of Severn Bridge's prosperity was based upon the traffic that passed through town – the hotels and taverns, stores and craftsmen all catered to the settlers and stagecoaches that travelled by in a never-ending flow. Unfortunately, the village began to see some loss in this trade when the Northern Railway (later known as the Canadian National Railway) pushed its tracks into Muskoka and provided a faster and more comfortable alternative to road travel. When a railway station and store were built in nearby Kilworthy rather than Severn Bridge, the merchants at Severn Bridge lost even more.

While the lumber and shingle mill continued to operate and provide jobs for the next 60 years, Severn Bridge was now forced to reinvent itself. Ironically, it was the railway, which had undermined the village's fortunes in the first place, which later provided the means of renewed prosperity. Trains began to bring tourists north, and locals throughout the region began to open summer inns to accommodate them. Severn Bridge was no different. Charles McKenzie turned his attention to this new trade and James H. Jackson added a fleet of rowboats and canoes to his

store, becoming the first marina operator on the Severn.

Disaster struck the tiny hamlet on Sept. 26, 1906, when a spark from the mill started a fire that soon engulfed most of Severn Bridge. Before the flames died out, more than a dozen buildings were destroyed, including homes, the hotel, the Orange Hall and Jackson's store and post office. James Jackson Jr., son of the now-deceased James H. Jackson, was one of the few to rebuild.

Further troubles followed the fire. In the early 1930s, Mickle-Dymont closed its mill and cost the community what little prosperity remained. Soon, the few final shops had closed as well, and Severn Bridge lost what remained of its commercial heart.

The village never recovered and is today a blink-and-you'll-miss-it community.



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Cronan Farm: an honour and a privilege

Joseph Michael Cronan (1896-1958) purchased a 100-acre farm (L 18, C 14) on the 14th line of what was then West Gwillimbury (now Innisfil) in 1918. Joseph married Mary Gertrude Gibbons (1895-1975) in 1919, and they had four sons. Their 3rd son, John Vincent Cronan (1926-2006), took over the family farm. He married Gladys Bell (1923-2016) in 1959. They had one daughter, Julie Anne, who is the 3rd generation to farm the land. She, along with her husband Armenio Neto, operates a dairy farm, comprised of purebred Jerseys and Holsteins.

The Cronans have been shipping fresh milk from their farm since 1931, first by using an ice house to keep milk cool with huge blocks of ice delivered to the farm, and then transitioning to a bulk tank in the 1950s, until today with all of the equipment required in this age of technology.

On December 23, 1932, the barn burned to the ground and all was lost, but Joseph and Gertie rebuilt in the summer of 1933. This was a beautiful hip roof barn with a double threshing floor. A new milk house was added in 1958, and then in 1973 a stable cleaner was installed, along with a pipeline milking system soon after. This barn continued to function and be updated as needed until another fire on November 3, 2007. The complete herd was destroyed, along with the barn and two concrete silos that John and Gladys had built in 1963 and 1966.

In 2008, Armenio and I built a new barn (photo) complete with room for a 40-tie stall operation on the same site, and today we continue to use this barn for our herd.

As we are a century farm, there have been many changes over the years. My grandfather and my father started working with horses before transitioning to gas tractors, and now we have the latest technology available in our tractors and farm equipment.

Regardless of machinery, none of this would be possible without an inherent love of both livestock and the land. We have always been a traditional family farm, working our own land to support our requirements for family and livestock. Unfortunately, this way of life is in danger, as economics require larger machinery to cover larger land bases. Farm sizes are increasing in order to accommodate bigger machinery, and as such the love of the land is being replaced by the need to turn a profit.

I returned to the family farm after graduating with a BSc in agriculture in 1986. I came home to farm with my dad, as it was what I loved, and to this day I love what I do.

Although we consider this way of life to be the best in this world, it isn't without its downside. It has, for example, become bound with many rules and regulations. Accountability is at an all-time record, as we must deal with environmental farm

plans and nutrient management plans. Also, the dairy industry must cope with the Canadian Milk Quality Program, which is designed to make Canada one of the best quality dairy producers in the world.

In order to be successful today, we must go above and beyond due diligence and at the same time combine the love of farming with all the present-day restraints and complications. We must deal with urban sprawl that is eating away at the land available to cultivate and the influx of urban dwellers who are trying to pressure us to accommodate their lifestyle, while they seem blind to the fact that they are the intruders in our lives.

However, in spite of the difficulties, I consider myself to be one of the luckiest people in the world because every day I get to do what I love. For me, it is an honour and a privilege to be able to continue to farm.—Julie Cronan Neto, May 2018

From Innisfil Historical Review 2020

The Innisfil Historical Society is a non-profit, volunteer community group concerned with the preservation of the Town of Innisfil's history. The group's objectives include:

- Creating a better understanding of our past and its value to life today and in the future.

- Preserving information about the Town's history and increasing access to this history.

- Assisting anyone seeking information about Innisfil and its people.



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After The Chores: Farm Dogs

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Farm dogs can have lots of meanings but for us, a farm dog is a loyal companion both in the house and the barn.

Our first "farm" dog was a Labrador Retriever officially named Caesar- and we called him Monster which at least wasn't profanity. Monster was a super charged energetic bundle that did not like sleep but did like chewing and running. The vet diagnosed Monster as having a dog version of ADHD however, he would outgrow it in about 7 years. He was an expert thief, anything put down was gone- and he didn't care if it was a power tool or a boot or a grain bucket. If it could fit in his mouth, it was likely found way off somewhere. In his ninth year, Monster finally settled down and we cried when he was put to sleep just shy of his 14th birthday.

Our next dog was another Lab we named Larry. Larry came to us as a 7 week puppy and he was calm. He was a challenge to get past potty training as he would lift his little leg outside- and then come inside to the living room carpet for the rest. Once we got potty explained, Larry was a dream dog. His coat was deep yellow, the colour of a wheat field at harvest. Larry never stole anything because he was too loving- and it was clear his loving personality was made to go into the dog therapy field when the pandemic left. He went to the sheep pasture, he did chores twice a day, he caught escaped baby bunnies, he went to the garden and he was the first to the barn when a new baby lamb or kid was born. Larry and I had grand plans for seeking out farmers in longterm care for visiting each week- but this world is not controlled by me and my plans. After only 6 years and 2

weeks of living with us, I found our precious Larry deceased on our living room floor early one morning. We don't know the "how" or the "why" of his death.

That night of the death at chores, after Sweetie went to the house, the loss threatened to sweep me under again. I felt a nudge on my shoulder. I, without thought, turned around- and the young llama, Pandee walked himself into my arms. Pandee lined himself up for a long hug. Pandee lost his mother when he was a month old. That night it was like his llama brain remembered this- and he gave me a hug like I did when he was sad a year ago. I debated about taking Pandee in the house, thinking he could keep me company until bedtime, but I feared his reaction to the stairs.

When I told Sweetie I was considering having a house llama, he said for me to order a puppy, fast. We spent way too much money, drove way too far but moving forward is far better then sitting still looking at an empty space, fighting back tears. His name is Isaac. Isaac is another Labrador Retriever and he is another yellow though he is officially known as "Fox Red."

I am now followed to the sheep pasture again, this time by a 12 pound puppy. Today, on this third day here, he raced back, twice, to try and steal sheep grain. Dogs cannot eat sheep grain so he got his little mouth pried open and held upside down.

Isaac wakes up more then ready to go in the morning. He explodes out of his crate like a rocket. He bounces up and down, high on life ready to go outside. He fights me carrying him down the stairs, he's so ready for action. I wake up feeling like a miserable old sloth and now I have a joyful super charged red puppy to start my days with- it's not pleasant. I do admit though the sight of this 12 pounds of puppy bouncing through the grass behind me is mighty cute.

Being a farm dog here means going to the barn twice a day. Isaac can't be trusted yet so he has to spend some time in a crate to be safe in the barn. I cannot water rabbits balancing a pup in my arms. Being in the crate makes Isaac

mad. He throws back his head and howls as loud as he possibly can. Chores are far from the peaceful time they used to be.

I didn't think it could be possible, but Isaac, pictured below, makes us happy again.



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The Season of Giving Thanks!

Story and photos by Jason Allan



Thank you to all the fire-fighters that were able to get out to the "Stuff the Trucks" event. The weather was great and made for a enjoyable night collecting the donations.

Deb McLean from the Elmvalle Food Bank extends her gratitude to everyone from the SSFA.

This year the donations exceeded what was donated last year and filled both Car 3 and Utility 2 including the back seats.

Thanksgiving creativity in Elmvalle

Photo by Roslyn Watkins



North Simcoe Junior Farmers made a creative display to honor the hardwork of our farming communities. NS Jr. Farmers are a nonprofit organization, look them up on Facebook to check out their fundraisers and community events.

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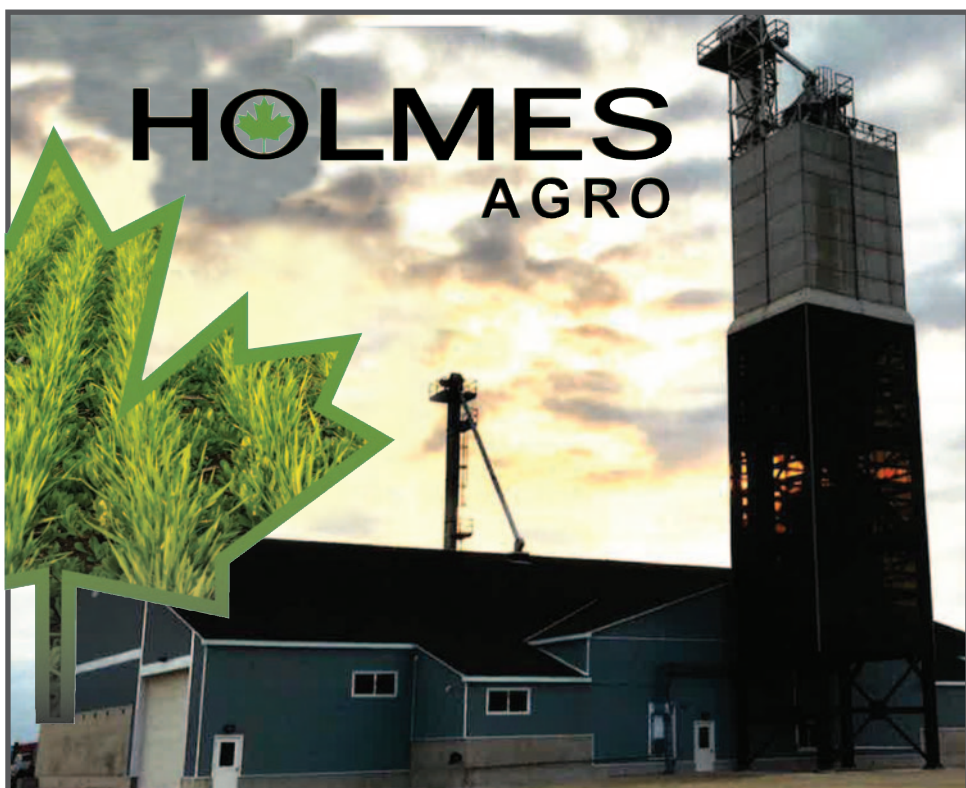


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Home Heating Fire Safety

By Dennis Gannon

It is November and by now there has been at least one or two nights when we thought of turning the furnace on or lighting the fireplace. Before you do that there are a number of steps that you should take so that your heating season is a safe one.

Check to make certain that your smoke alarms are properly working. If they are battery operated, change the battery. All smoke alarms, hardwired or battery operated have a 10 year life span so check the date on the unit and replace as necessary. Is there one on each floor and outside sleeping areas? The Fire Code requires that there is a smoke alarm on each level of a home and to ensure the best coverage it is a wise investment to put one in each sleeping area if at all possible. Every home that has a fuel burning appliance, natural or propane gas, wood, oil, kerosene or an attached garage requires a carbon monoxide alarm. If you have a gas furnace, hot water tank, gas or wood fire burning fireplace or regularly use a generator you require a carbon monoxide alarm. Most CO alarms have an expiry date of 7 years so check yours and see when it needs to be replaced.

The week of November 1 to 7 is Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week in Ontario which usually coincides with when it's time to change your clocks and change your batteries. This year we return to Eastern Standard Time on November 7. Annually approximately 11 people in Ontario die from carbon monoxide

poisoning. Check your alarms so that you or your family don't succumb to the silent killer that is colourless and odourless.

Here are some other safety tips to keep you safe this heating season.

- Have all fuel-burning appliances inspected annually by a registered fuel contractor. Go to COSafety.ca to find a contractor near you.

- Keep chimneys and intake/exhaust vents for furnaces and heating appliances free of debris, ice and snow accumulations to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) build-up from inefficient combustion.

- Burn dry, well-seasoned wood in fireplaces and woodstoves to reduce the risk of excessive creosote build-up in chimneys.

- Allow ashes from your fireplace or woodstove to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outside.

- Keep space heaters at least one metre (3 feet) away from anything that can burn, including curtains, upholstery and

clothing.

- Replace worn or damaged electrical wires and connections on vehicles and extension cords and use the proper gauge extension cord for vehicle block heaters.

- Consider using approved timers for vehicle block heaters rather than leaving heaters on all night.

- Do not allow vehicles to be left running inside any garage or building.

Your local fire department is always willing to assist you. If you have questions or concerns about your smoke or carbon monoxide alarms they can help you. Remember, if your smoke alarm or carbon monoxide alarm sounds, the first thing to do is get everyone out of the house and call 9-1-1 from outside. Your family fire safety plan should identify a meeting place where the call can be made from. The fire department has the tools required to determine if there is an issue and they would sooner come to a non-emergency instead of one requiring rescue. Let's have a safe heating season this year.

Look for the mark!

When purchasing and installing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms **look for one of these marks** on your alarms, to ensure it meets the **appropriate Canadian standard**.



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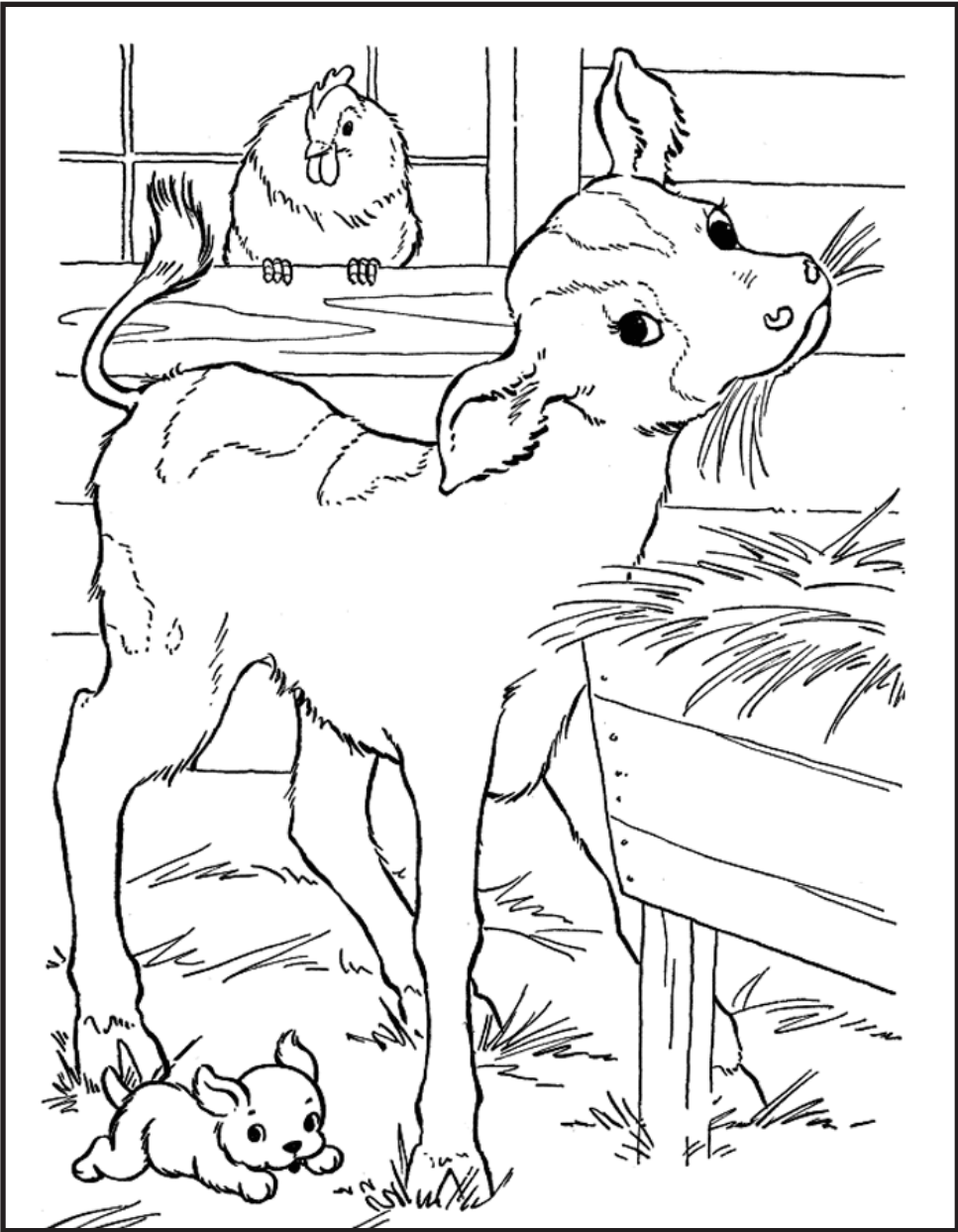
Test Your Knowledge
Cow Trivia

1. What is the average age of a female cow when she is able to have her first calf?
2. What two body parts can determine the age of a cow?
3. What colour is a Holstein cow?
4. How many stomach chambers does a cow have?
5. What must a cow do before she can produce her first milk?
6. How much milk does it take to make one pound of cheese?
7. What is a young female cow called?
8. What family do cows belong to?



Answers

1. About two years old.
2. Examination of the teeth, and less perfectly by the horn rings.
3. They have colour markings of black and white or red and white.
4. Cows technically only have one stomach, but it has four distinct compartments made up of Rumen, Reticulum, Omasum and Abomasum.
5. Before cows can make milk, they must give birth to a calf.
6. About 10 pounds (1.25 gallons) of milk are required to make one pound of cheese.
7. A female calf is sometimes called a heifer calf and a male a bull calf. A heifer is a female that has not had any offspring.
8. Cows belong to the family Bovidae (hollow-horned ruminants, which also includes antelope, sheep, and goats), subfamily Bovinae (which includes buffaloes and spiral-horned antelope), tribe Bovini (which includes cattle, bison, and yak), and genus Bos—the names of which are all derived from bos, the Latin word for cow.



FALL HARVEST WORD SEARCH

U	Y	B	D	E	Z	I	L	I	T	R	E	F	L	Z	H	H	E	L	D
R	L	S	I	N	S	E	C	T	I	C	I	D	E	L	E	H	S	F	P
B	A	E	T	A	V	I	T	L	U	C	A	V	D	I	R	P	T	E	N
T	C	I	M	A	N	Y	D	O	I	B	N	H	E	A	I	A	S	E	L
E	R	U	T	S	A	P	E	O	E	P	T	O	K	L	T	S	E	D	F
T	D	F	T	E	R	O	S	I	O	N	I	R	M	F	A	T	P	I	N
A	B	C	R	O	P	S	H	E	K	F	B	M	A	X	G	N	D	N	R
C	G	S	A	C	A	T	T	L	E	R	I	O	G	E	E	E	A	G	S
I	D	R	D	E	X	T	E	N	S	I	O	N	R	M	R	I	E	E	H
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

- AGRIBUSINESS
- AGRICULTURE
- ANTIBIOTICS
- BIODYNAMIC
- CAGE-FREE
- CATTLE
- CERTIFIED
- CROPS
- CULTIVATE
- DOMESTICATE
- ENVIRONMENT
- EROSION
- EXTENSION
- FEEDING
- FERTILIZE
- FLAIL
- GENETICS
- GRASSFED
- GRAZING
- GRIT
- HEIRLOOM
- HERITAGE
- HOMESTEAD
- HORMONES
- HYBRID
- HYDROPONIC
- INSECTICIDE
- LIVESTOCK
- NATURAL
- NO-TILL
- NUTRIENTS
- ORGANIC
- PASTEURIZED
- PASTURE
- PESTS
- TRADITIONAL

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Forage Focus 2021 FREE Webinar Series

Ontario Forage Council is pleased to bring back the Forage Focus conference! This year we will be hosting one webinar per day for three days during the first week of December. We would greatly appreciate it if you could share the following information via your communications channels.

Forage Focus: Field to Feed

November 1 - December 2, 2021

Free webinars

Registration: <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/forage-focus-2021-2138832593>

12:00 - 1:00 pm EST (11am - 12 pm CST)

More details at: <https://onforagenetwork.ca/ontario-forage-council/forage-focus/>

Tuesday, November 30: Dr. Renato Schmidt (Lallemand) – Minimize losses to get the most out of your silage

Wednesday, December 1: Anita Heeg (OMAFRA) – How to use your forage analysis on-farm

Thursday December 2: Dr. Kim Cassida (Michigan State University) – Alfalfa quality and lessons from forage trials

Thank you sponsors: Dairy Farmers of Ontario, A&L Canada Laboratories, SGS Canada Inc., SteelHead Ag, CleanFix, Semican, Nuhn Forage Inc., Trillium Mutual Insurance, and Minto Ag.

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See contact information
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AUCTION SALE

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M6800 Kubota tractor, 2013 Ford Edge, farm machinery, horse equipment, tools, household, collectible items, plus much more!

Opens - Mon., November 1, 2021 9:00 a.m.

Close Starts - Mon., November 8, 2021 6:00 p.m.

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Estate of Percy Robertson

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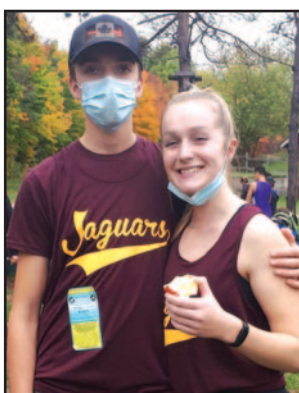
UPCOMING AUCTIONS

Uxbridge Estate - Canadiana Auction Nov 11-18th
7pm soft close

Xmas Estate & Antique Auction Late Nov TBA



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations Trenton and Lily for successfully completing another X country running season! With strength and determination you beat your personal best with every race. Your team spirit and strong encouragement for all the runners makes us proud every day! Thank you Mrs. Driedger and Ms. Ferreira for your time and positive coaching!

AUCTION SALE

KIDD FAMILY AUCTIONS'

END OF SEASON FARM AUCTION.

FRIDAY NOV 12TH - ONLINE - FARM AUCTION -
JUST NORTH OF DUNDALK. 772654 HWY 10, SOUTHGATE.
VISIT WWW.KIDDFAMILYAUCTIONS.COM TO REGISTER
AND BID. LOTS START TO CLOSE AT 5PM, FRI. NOV 12TH.

Preview and pickup will be at the farm. Preview: Nov 11th & 12th. Or by appointment. Pickup: Nov 13th or by appointment. We'll aim to be flexible, within reason.

Farm: IH 1086 tractor, 2 wd, shows 9569 hrs, new clutch brake, rear tires, 2 x batteries, hyd pump; JD 1830 tractor w/loader, 2 wd, new injectors, approx 6000 hrs, w/chains; Case 8455 rd baler; New Idea 5209 discbine; IH 510 seed drill w/ grass box; JD 800 swather, 12' head, slant 6 gas; 18' & 30' bale wagons; MF 510 combine w/ 2 pickups, 14' straight cut head, new screens & LH tire; NH 488 9' haybine; Int 12' disc, new bearings; NH 55 5 bar rake; Int 18' Vibra shank cultivator; Kongskilde 20' cultivator; NH 791 tandem manure spreader w/ hyd gate; MF manure spreader (for wood); Gehl flail mower; 2 x older Turnco gravity wagons; Int 510 4F plow 16" w/auto reset; 3 pth bale spear; 2 x skid steer buckets; Allied pto 8"x40" auger; 10' chain harrows; 5 sec diamond harrows w/ bar; Danuser post auger; 4" grain augers; water troughs; gates; feeders; 2 x squeeze chutes; cattle oilers; barn jacks; 3 pth cement mixer w/ hyd dump; 24' flat rack wagon; cattle dehorners; 3x elec fences;

Shop: 80 gal 220 v compressor; Coats tire changer; torch set; engine lift; HD 220 5 hp drill press; Makita chop saw; misc hand tools; bearing pullers; 1" imp gun; qty hardware; fuel tank w/ contents;

Garden: 40' sea can; '98 Yamaha Grizzly 4x4 600 ATV, 7635 kms; Stihl MS250 chainsaw; ATV grass seeder & fertilizer; 10 hp wood splitter;

Other: 5th wheel hitch; 3x small bags of mixed grain seed; approx 4 tonne grain & corn; approx 380 rd 4x5 hay bales, 2021; Weber horse shelter;

NOTE: PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT KIDD FAMILY AUCTIONS NEEDS TO BE CONTACTED IF YOU WANT TO VIEW EQUIPMENT OUTSIDE OF THE PREVIEW DAYS.

Terms: cash, cheque, debit, e-transfer, visa. 3% credit card fee. 5% online fee (with a \$500 per item cap).

Call, Text or Email Anytime. We're happy to take absentee bids.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

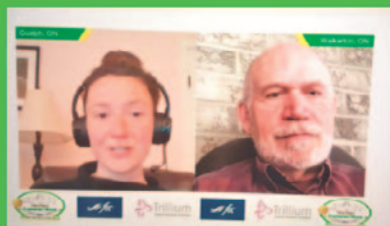
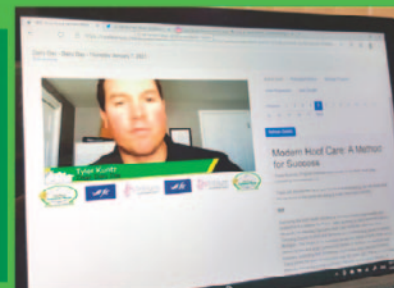


Announcement

Virtual
#GBFW22



SAVE THE DATES
Please



Check Your Tech Tuesday - Jan 4
Beef Day - Wed Jan 5
Dairy Day - Thurs Jan 6
Goat Day - Fri Jan 7
Sheep Day - Sat Jan 8
Eco Day - Mon Jan 10
Crops Day - Tues Jan 11

Brought to you by the GBFW Committee

AUCTION SALE**LIVE AUCTION SALE
FOR THE ESTATE OF THE LATE
JOHN SMITH****EM. #938198 DUFFERIN CTY. RD 18 (AIRPORT RD.)****Location** 2 km north of Terra Nova (Mulmur 20 Side Road) or 1 km south of Dufferin Cty Rd 21 (Honeywood Rd.) on Airport Rd sale on west side Em # 938198 -NOTE Stay OFF Airport Rd. and park in the field.**SAT. NOV. 13th AT 11 A.M.****Tractors** John Deere 2130 ser. # 160121 diesel tractor w/ldr & 6' bucket, bale spear, 3 ph, 18.4.30 tires, shows 420 hrs.; chains to match; David Brown 880 diesel just rear pulley & pto (red); D.B. 880 diesel ldr for parts (red); Troy Built riding mower 46" deck, hydro 191 hrs; MasterCraft LTX1000 – 20 hp 42" deck hydro;**Equip.** N.H. S 55-5 bar rake; N.H. 268 sq baler; NI 7' sickle mower; wagon gear; Bush Hog 5' Squealer 3 ph; 4 sec. H.D. harrows; McKee 520 – 6' 3ph snow blower; 7' – 3ph cult; 8' steel land packer; M.F. 82 3F – 3 ph plow; Int 350 A – 12' wheel carrying disc; Glenco 13' w/c cult; 15 run seed drill steel wheels; M.F. 160 manure spreader & one for parts; Gehl 95 pto mixmill (21"); 30' pipe elevator w/c needs work; continental post hole auger; grain auger**Wood** Timber King #1220 sawmill powered with Kohler Command Pro 15 engine w/19' floor frame; Hyd, gas driven wood splitter on trailer; Buzz saw; 10" wood planner; belt drive planer (antique)**Trailer** 2013 Evolution Power Sports enclosed trailer, 20' 3" lg. – 8'5" W – 7' H. inside w/ramp door & man door, ST225-75R15 tires, 2722 kg;**Misc.** plastic water tanks; fuel tank & oil barrels; cement mixer; elec fence stakes; car hoist as is; old sleighs, bikes & tricycles; some tools & household items;**Terms** Cash or cheque with proper ID only. Visa, M/C, Interac and e-transfer. 10% Buyers Premium. Neither the Estate nor Auctioneer will be responsible for accident or property loss. Washroom available. No Lunch Booth. Please abide with Covid guidelines.**Bob Severn Auctioneer**
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theauctionadvertiser.com/Rsevern**FOR SALE****Farm Equipment****Tractor cab**, year round good glass, fold out doors and windows, mounting brackets, model 210, 211 **\$975.00****Front blade**, 90 inch, for 4x4 etc., hyd lift and angles **\$750.00****Snowblower new Idea**, 7 Feet 516A, single Auger, 3 PH, 540 PTO **\$1,250.00****McKee 620 snowblower**, single auger 3PH, manual hood **\$850.00****Call Dan Seifried, Harriston 519-338-2688****AUCTION SALE****Auction Sale
of
60 - 70 Bred Cows/Heifers
Saturday November 13th, 11:00 am
to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine,
Mono, ON**

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Cattle:**12 Angus Cows:** due in Dec/Jan; 8 cows – mixed: due in Dec; **14 Charolais X heifers:** bred to Black Angus bull; **24 Charolais & X-bred heifers:** exposed to Red Angus bull; **1 Highland cow/calf pair; 1 Angus Lowline bull****10 X-bred Cows:** bred**Cows will be preg checked by Cheltenham Vet Clinic prior to sale****Cattle sale to be held inside****Lunch Booth****Washroom Available****Terms & Conditions:** Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.**Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264
Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083**www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur**KIDD FAMILY AUCTIONS presents
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WWW.KIDDFAMILYAUCTIONS.COM****FEATURING:** A LARGE QTY OF ANTIQUE, NEW AND USED FIREARMS BY MAKERS LIKE WINCHESTER; SAVAGE; COOEY; RUGER; ITHACA; SMITH & WESSON; REMINGTON; MARLIN; WEATHERBY; COLT; MOSSBERG; STEVENS; ENFIELD; BAIKAL; HENRY; KIMBER; HIGH STANDARD; WEBLEY; HATSAN; GLOCK; BROWNING AND MORE.

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NOTE: LOW 5% BUYERS PREMIUM.**"Cash in a Day the Auction Way"**Dennis@kiddfamilyauctions.com 519-938-7499Lyn@kiddfamilyauctions.com 519-938-1315**Call, Text or Email Anytime!!**WWW.KIDDFAMILYAUCTIONS.COM**Great rates on Auction Sales ads. Call today! 705-722-0138****ANNOUNCEMENTS****AgNition to merge
with Synthesis**

After 10 years of successfully building leading edge mobile apps and software for the agricultural industry, AgNition will transition to become part of Synthesis Agrifood Network. A Guelph-based development shop, AgNition is known for its creation of innovative mobile resources for government, agribusiness and farm organizations.

"This move represents a natural evolution for AgNition, away from developing native apps that serve a very specific purpose, to a broader approach, to building B2B platforms for digital record keeping and content creation for extension," explains Rob Hannam, AgNition founder and president of Synthesis. "We are excited about this new direction for AgNition and look forward to working with clients to meet their digital development needs."

Both companies have similar principles and ambitions – to provide a much-needed service to the agri-food sector, building digital solutions. Hannam says, that given the similarity in clients and services provided by both companies, he expects the transition to the Synthesis team to be seamless. "Synthesis will continue to serve and support all projects, while offering additional services like strategic planning, marketing and communications support and consulting."

AgNition was one of the first mobile development players to focus on agriculture. ScoutDoc was a ground breaking, iPad supported scouting app and it led to the proprietary VeriField record keeping software platform that is used today by seed development companies in Canada and the U.S. The company was a pioneer in the field of application development and design to meet specific needs and resources for Canadian farmers. The long list of custom-built apps includes two of the most downloaded and visited apps in Ontario agriculture, the Pest Manager app and SellSmart, an Ontario focused grain pricing app.

"I would like to thank Peter Gredig, an AgNition co-founder who was a driving force in working with clients to take projects from an idea to a finished product. He knew farmers would embrace mobile technology and his passion for building intuitive, high value mobile tools was instrumental in making AgNition successful," says Hannam. Gredig will be stepping back from AgNition as it transitions to Synthesis to focus on other industry opportunities.

Hannam explains AgNition's transition comes at a time when technology needs are changing saying, "we knew that a native mobile app development company like AgNition would have a lifespan when we created the company." He notes that, while demand for mobile friendly tools and resources is still strong, the process has shifted to web-based development and more comprehensive software platforms for use across multiple devices.

**A Victorian Christmas
Supporting the Midland SPCA**<https://ontariospca.ca/who-we-are/events/a-victorian-christmas-midland/>

We are so excited to be hosting our Annual Victorian Christmas event again this year!

Please join us from November 14th to the 21st to get into the festive spirit! We will once again be hosting a Virtual Silent Auction filled with amazing items for you to bid on. We have everything from brand new electronics, experiences, gift certificates to local businesses and services, and some really interesting hand made arts and crafts!

You will definitely find something for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list.

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