

FARMVIEW

44th year of publication!

December 2021
Volume 44 #12

A newspaper with something for everyone

Merry Christmas



Complimentary copy for
the FARM household

from the 5 n's

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 27th: SSFA Christmas Tree sales party

South Springwater Firefighters Association is holding their annual Christmas Tree Sales party. All funds raised support local community charities.
Saturday November 27th, 12pm to 4pm.
Located at 14 Finlay Mill Road.
More details in the ad on page 10.

Dec 15th: Deadline for York Region Federation of Agriculture Scholarship Applications

Supporting the development of future farmers is important to the York Region Federation of Agriculture. Each year the York Region Federation of Agriculture offers two scholarships that are offered to students that are pursuing post secondary education in Agriculture. The \$2,000 scholarships are awarded in two annual payments. Applicants must be residents of York Region and registered in a minimum 2 year program at a recognized Agricultural University or College. Selection will be based on academic achievement, citizenship qualities demonstrated by extracurricular activities in school, in the community and in Agricultural organizations.
Contact the York Region Federation of Agriculture for application forms. (905)-888-1235 or york@ofa.on.ca The application deadline is December 15, 2021.

Dec 15th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

Jan 4th - 11th: 2002 GBFW Conference and Trade Show

Registration is open for the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week virtual Conference and Trade Show. The conference will be held January 4th to the 11th, 2022.
Full details in the ad on page 10.

Jan 5th and 6th: Ontario Agricultural Conference

Registration is open for the virtual Ontario Agricultural Conference, Building Resilience, taking place January 5th and 6th, 2022.
Full details on page 7.

The Christmas Story By Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was His mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing.

To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth.
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
Is our Saviour here on earth!

Volunteer recognition: Holland Landing Food Pantry wins award

On November 4th many gathered for the East Gwillimbury Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Success Business Awards Gala.
The Holland Landing Food Pantry won the 2021 Not For Profit Business of the Year Award. Also nominated in this category were the East Gwillimbury Minor Hockey association and the East Gwillimbury Soccer Club.
Congratulations to the Food Pantry Volunteers, Library Staff, and the Library Board for this success. Your hard work in the community is very much appreciated, and makes a difference every month. For more information on how to access or support the Food Pantry, visit <https://www.egpl.ca/services/egpl-food-pantry/>
Please see page 14 for the winner of the Agriculture Business of the Year award.



Diana Robichaud is pictured above displaying the 2021 Not For Profit Business of the Year Award and certificate on behalf of the volunteers of the Holland Landing Food Pantry.
— Photo by Heather Alblas from the EG library



Joy is knowing folks like you

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Thanks for your generous support and faith in us.
We appreciate you, and we wish you a wonderful holiday.

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This is Agriculture – new video highlights how farm products touch our daily lives

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is building a connection between the city and the country with the launch of a new video illustrating the importance of agriculture on urban life in the province.

Titled This is Agriculture, the concept behind the project highlights that there is so much more to agriculture than just the idyllic farm and rolling countryside. It puts a spotlight on products used and enjoyed by urban residents every day, while also giving a bit of peek behind the curtain on the logistics and science that gets food, fuel and fibre from the farm to our homes.

The video can be viewed on the revamped website for the OFA's Home Grown campaign, putting a spotlight on the importance of choosing local food and preserving farmland in Ontario.

"Agriculture touches our lives every day in the most important way, but we live in an increasingly modern world driven by digital technology, it can be easy to take that for granted," says Peggy Brekveld, OFA President. "We want to illustrate to the consumer that there is more to agriculture than hay bales and livestock in a field. This video demonstrates the diversity and broadness of Ontario's farming communities."

The video showcases a wide breadth of agricultural products.

Agriculture is the logistics at the Ontario Food Terminal and the research and innovation at the Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph. It's Reid's Distillery making an artisanal gin with Ontario winter wheat. West Avenue Cider House crafting hundreds of cider flavours using local apples. Neighbourhood butcher shops like Sanagan's Meat Locker where you buy your steaks. An apiary like Backed by Bees harvesting honey and making mead. The flowers you buy for special



occasions that originate in indoor farming operations like Kuyvenhoven Greenhouses. The family memories made experiences at Chickadee Christmas Trees.

"It can be easy to take farmland for granted and assume that the fruits and vegetables we grow there, the animals raised there, the fuel and fibre that originates from the land and the agri-tourism experiences we enjoy will just be there forever," explains Brekveld. "But the reality is Ontario farmland is a finite resource, and it is disappearing quickly because of urban expansions. We believe we can still facilitate urban growth while protecting this valuable natural resource, and we challenge governments of all levels to take a leadership role and work with us to find those solutions."

Join the conversation on Twitter @OntarioFarms and Facebook /ontariofarms. For more information, please visit homegrown.ofa.on.ca.

About Home Grown

A public awareness initiative of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Home Grown is a campaign to advocate for the importance of Ontario farms as a source of food, fuel and fibre. Arable farmland is the most important natural resource, but Ontario is losing an average of 175 acres of farmland to urban development every day; that is the equivalent of five family farms paved over every week. It is the objective of Home Grown to help develop a workable plan to guide responsible development in Ontario, ensuring growth to provide housing and support local tax bases while also protecting productive farmland.

On the Cover



Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

Pictured from left to right are the 5 n's: Trenton, Lillian, Harrison, Roslyn and Shawn.

—Photo by Evan Honke

DEADLINE for the January Farm View is December 15th

FARM VIEW can help you achieve increased sales and product/brand awareness with a regular advertising program that is delivered monthly to your target audience, farmers.

Contact us today to grow your business.



Call Roslyn at 705-722-0138 or email farmview@on.aibn.com

Merry Christmas

Best wishes for a safe & happy holiday!

HOLIDAY HOURS:

Friday, December 24th - Closed
 Saturday, December 25th - Closed
 Sunday, December 26th - Closed
 Monday, December 27th - Closed
 Tuesday, December 28th - 8AM to 5PM
 Wednesday, December 29th - 8AM to 5PM
 Thursday, December 30th - 8AM to 5PM
 Friday, December 31st - Closed
 Saturday, January 1st - Closed

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FROM THE EDITOR

Christmas Traditions; old and new

At time of press we are learning of farmers being forced to leave their livestock behind during mandatory evacuations, land lost in landslides and farms lost to floods. After watching and reading many news reports I put my head down and cried. The pain and struggle that the BC farmers and residents are going through is unbelievable. I cannot say with enough conviction how much I admire their strength and determination. Our thoughts are with the families and farmers in BC.

I'd like to apologize for the typos regarding Remembrance day in the last issue. Please accept my sincerest apologies for those errors.

After printing the November issue of Farm View it came to my attention that some of you may not know that the Farm View is almost a 'one woman show.' I'm responsible for the ad sales, the production of the paper (layout & design), editing, photo editing, proofreading, delivery, billing, accounting etc. The writing is thankfully left to the contributors whom I appreciate very much. If you know me well, you know I don't like making mistakes. When an issue of the paper has a typo, or two, I literally want to throw all 8,000 copies away and print again. It takes everything in my being to sit down and tell myself 'there is a lot of good in this paper, don't focus on the mistakes.' And then I try harder on the next issue.

In this issue we are celebrating everything wonderful about Christmas. We have many beautiful Christmas greetings from the advertisers, please let them know you saw their ad in the paper. It makes a real difference to let businesses know their advertising

dollars are working. We also have lovely Christmas tradition stories from Andrew Hind and Tom Glover. To kick that off I'd like to share what was my absolute favourite Christmas tradition as an adult. When my mom was alive my favourite thing to do was to prepare and cook our Christmas Eve dinner for the 10 of us. (With sous chef help from Diana, my sister, and my mom.)

I loved planning the menu and would meet my mom at Loblaws to do the shopping. She would save her PC points all year to use on this special dinner.

The Christmas Eve dinner I remember the most was a Seafood Salmon Roulade with a beurre blanc sauce. On Christmas Eve day I sat waiting on the bench at Loblaws in disbelief that I had arrived before my mom. I wasn't first to arrive at anything we did. When she arrived we started picking up ingredients as we walked towards the seafood counter. Once there, we chose the salmon and the shrimp but then could not believe the price of scallops! We decided to omit the scallops and we were certain it would be just fine without. We took our time and had a visit while wandering through the store. I loved cooking for my Mom more than anyone else. Nothing gave me greater pleasure than spending that time with her and creating an elegant meal I knew she would love.

This year my Dad has asked Diana or I to shop with him, still using the PC points I believe, and I'm really looking forward to it.

I hope that all of you have family, friends and neighbours to share a special Christmas memory or tradition with.

Merry Christmas,
Roslyn Watkins

Seafood Salmon Roulade

From the Canadian Living
'Complete Christmas Cookbook'

- 2 lbs centre cut salmon fillets
- 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper
- Lemon Tarragon Beurre Blanc:**
- 2 shallots minced
- 1/3 cup white wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup dry vermouth
- 3/4 cups unsalted butter cubed
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 pinch salt
- Seafood Stuffing:**
- 1 egg whites
- 8 oz raw black tiger shrimp peeled and deveined
- 8 oz bay scallops
- 3/4 cups fresh bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh chives
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh tarragon (or 1/4 tsp/1 ml dried)
- 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper



Seafood stuffing: In bowl, whisk egg white until frothy; set aside. Finely chop shrimp; cut scallops into 1/2-inch (1 cm) cubes. Add seafood to egg white. Add bread crumbs, chives, parsley, lemon rind, tarragon, salt and pepper; toss to combine. Refrigerate.

Place salmon fillet, skin side down, on cutting board. At one end corner, cut between flesh and skin just enough to grip skin. Holding skin with paper towel and angling knife slightly toward skin but without moving, slowly pull skin back and forth to remove. Discard skin. Trim any silver skin remaining.

At thinnest long side and starting where salmon starts to thicken, cut in half horizontally almost but not all the way through; open like book. Sprinkle with half each of the salt

and pepper. Leaving 1-inch (2.5 cm) border on both long and 1 short side, spread stuffing over salmon.

Starting at side with stuffing, roll up. With kitchen string, tie at 1-inch (2.5 cm) intervals. Place, what was skin side down, on parchment paper-lined rimmed baking sheet. Sprinkle with remaining salt and pepper. (Make-ahead: Cover and refrigerate for up to 2 hours.)

Roast in 375°F (190°C) oven until thermometer inserted into stuffing through end of roll registers 160°F (70°C), about 50 minutes. Transfer to cutting board; tent with foil and let stand for 10 minutes.

Lemon Tarragon Beurre Blanc: Meanwhile, in small saucepan, boil shallots, vinegar and vermouth until reduced to 2 tbsp (25 mL), about 3 minutes. Reduce heat to low; whisk in butter, piece by piece, whisking until smooth. Add tarragon, lemon juice and salt.

Using chef's knife and gentle sawing motion, cut salmon crosswise into 1-inch (2.5 cm) thick portions, removing string. Serve with beurre blanc sauce.

LETTERS

Dear Roslyn,

The article about the Poppy makes me think about my late Dad who was a vet and other relatives that have passed away and the freedoms we have. Also the article of 30's 40's and 50's, I was born in the late 50's and did some of things in the 1960's in rural Cooksville.

Regards,
Bob Janozeski

Hi Roslyn,

I was honoured to be included in the article (Keith Currie retiring from the OFA, Nov issue Farm View). You and your Dad have been great to me over the years. I commend you both for doing such a good job with Farm View.

Jim Wilson, MPP
Simcoe-Grey

Please note the January issue will be delivered by mail as usual to farm households but delivery to local businesses will be delayed to the first week of January.

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.

E-mail: farmview@on.aibn.com

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

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**In memory of
Jill Beischer**

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

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

OFA Members Service Representative:
Leah Emms 1-866-660-5511 email: Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:
Paul Maurice: 705-444-1398 email: paul.maurice@ofa.on.ca

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Vice President:	Colin Elliot	705-791-1006
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SCFA Phone:	705-726-9300 ext 1224	
	office@simcoecountyfa.org	

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Contact YRFA:	york@ofa.on.ca	

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Funding Opportunities for Agri-Food Businesses

By Doug Downey, MPP

The government of Ontario is providing more funding opportunities to agri-food businesses in Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte. Through two funding streams, releasing later this week, the government is committing more funding to support agri-food businesses as they navigate COVID-19 and continue to provide produce to all Ontarians.

Ontario is making important changes to the Enhanced Agri-Food Workplace Protection Program (EAWPP), effective November 17, 2021. EAWPP provides support to help agri-food businesses guard against the spread of COVID-19 in agri-food workplaces so that worker and employee health and safety is protected, and the sector is supported. Funding is available through two different categories:

1. The Workplace COVID-19 Prevention category, which supports the adoption of prevention and mitigation measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among agri-food workers/employees.

2. The Responsive COVID-19 Outbreak Management category, which reimburses eligible applicants who have been impacted by outbreaks of COVID-19 and faced extraordinary costs related to employee wage supports and worker/employee isolation.

Effective November 17, the EAWPP programs application deadline will be extended to February 1, 2022, or until funding is fully allocated.

Under the Workplace COVID-19 Prevention category, an increased amount of cost-share funding will be available, for eligible expenses up to a total of \$50,000 from the current \$15,000 maximum. The cost-share will continue to be 60% of the eligible expenses.

Additionally, the Workplace COVID-19 Prevention category will expand to include food and beverage processors with three or more employees, agri-food industry organizations and associations, and poultry catchers, vaccinators and professional barn cleaners.

Under the Responsive COVID-19 Outbreak Management category, eligibility will be expanded to include poultry catchers and vaccinators, as well as professional barn cleaners. Eligible expenses will also be expanded to include extraordinary costs resulting from extended COVID-19 quarantine periods beyond fourteen days.

Businesses that have already applied to EAWPP will be contacted directly with instructions on how to amend their application under the expanded eligibility.

Through a joint partnership with the federal government, the provincial government is also providing more supports for agri-food businesses through The Canadian Agricultural Partnership's (CAP) Meat Processor Capacity Improvement Initiative. The governments of Canada and Ontario are providing up to \$7 million to rapidly increase processing capacity at meat processing plants across the province. This initiative builds on the \$7.2 million invested last year through the first intake of the program, and is part of the governments' continued investments to support this sector's growth and strengthen the food supply chain.

Through this \$7 million investment for provincially licensed meat processing plants, the government will provide up to \$150,000 per project for equipment to increase productivity and food safety. Consulting and engineering costs are also eligible. Applications for the CAP Meat Processor Capacity Improvement Initiative will open on November 19.

For more information, or information on how to apply, please visit www.ontario.ca.

Kawartha Farmfest: Mariposa Woolen Mill and Farm Store

Photo and story by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Mariposa Woolen Mill, located outside of Oakwood along Highway 7 was an exciting stop at this year's Kawartha Farmfest held on a beautiful, warm October Saturday.

This farm was the beginning site of one of the City of Kawartha Lakes' biggest employers today, Mariposa Dairy producing goat and sheep milk cheese that is sold nationally. This farm was owned by Bruce and Sharon Vandenburg and was home to a herd of dairy goats. Sharon began making goat milk cheese as a home based job so she could be near her young family. There was a goat cheese plant built right on the farm and it was hugely successful. Expansion was needed to meet the market and the cheese plant operation moved to a new location in Lindsay. The goat herd was sold in 2017- and then, the next generation, Ellen (Vandenberg) and her husband, Dave Edney began their business here developing their own innovative farm plan that included raising heritage livestock and the creation of a Woolen Mill and a Farm Market store.

Wearing a natural fibre was the only option in early Canada. A report posted on a sign at Kawartha Farmfest Saturday at the Woolen Mill says that in 1914 the Horn Bros Woolen Mill had 200 employees. The wool business was booming at this time. However this mill went bankrupt in 1955. The mill's assets were purchased but it did not make it long in the new world of synthetics as it was closed in 1963 and was then sold with the land used for housing.

Not all types of wool are prime for specific uses but all wool of a certain length can still be used for a purpose. As long as the staple length is between 2 inches to 5 inches, the fibre can be spun into yarn or it could be used for batts or rovings as well. There are many uses for the natural fibre and people have realized this. With so many uses for wool, the first step is to get to a



Pictured above is Cherie Reynolds, an employee at the Mariposa Woolen Mill & Farm Market. Cherie has been part of the team here for three years. She is the resident needle felter and does all the hand-dyeing of the yarn for the Farm Market.

Mill.

The time of COVID-19 has seen even more business than usual at the Mariposa Woolen Mill. There isn't any storage space left for orders waiting to be processed at this time. Ellen, the owner has placed a notice on the website explaining that Mariposa Woolen Mill is currently booked until March 2022. Anyone interested in getting on the waiting list for the next available space to get fibre or fleece processed at the Mill are asked to call 705-928-5670.

At this Mill, there is an expected turnaround time of about 24 weeks if not sooner. The Mill owners ask that everyone calls ahead before arriving with fibre. It will save money to properly remove all visible debris from the fibre before submission. There is a minimum order amount of 6 pounds per fibre type that will be processed together.

Heritage breeds are breeds raised by forefathers but today do not meet with the production needs of modern agriculture. Most of these breeds don't grow fast enough or produce enough to make

keeping them at high numbers profitable. Heritage breeds have low populations today however, these are the breeds that helped to make Canadian farming what it is now. Mariposa Woolen Mill recognizes the value of heritage breeds and has a Heritage Livestock Conservation Project for fibre breeds for the Angora goat plus six breeds of sheep including the Rambouillet, Jacob and Icelandic sheep.

There are innovative items in the Farm Store that include the "FibreBreed Sample Box." This box contains 1 oz each of fibre from an Angora rabbit, alpaca, mohair from the Angora goat, Rambouillet Sheep and Icelandic Sheep. Also in the store are craft kits such as a "bouquet shawl kit" and "cardinal needle felting kit." There are also Mariposa Jams and Jellies. The store also sells boxes of goat and sheep cheese from Mariposa Dairy. Further, the store supports local and features local creations such as "B.O.B.S. Spices" which are unique spice blends from Chef Bob Gourlie from Kawartha Lakes. The online store can be found at www.mariposafarmmarket.ca

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Ontario Agricultural Conference 2022 open for registration

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Crop Farmers have an opportunity to learn more about their business with the Second annual Ontario Agricultural Conference 2022 (OAgC22) with the theme of "Building Resilience."

The OAgC22 was created out of necessity because of COVID-19. While meeting in large groups was forbidden due to COVID-19 restrictions, the teams that created and hosted the Southwest Agriculture Conference, the Eastern Ontario Crop Conference and the Golden Horseshoe and Heartland Soil and Crop Improvement Associations all came together, online, for a brainstorming session. The idea that eventually came forward was to form the 2021 Ontario Agricultural Conference. The first session had an incredible number of over 1,500 people attending.

The OAgC22 is a virtual event which has advantages, says co-chair Albert Tenuta, Field Crop Pathologist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs. "We can bring in speakers from all over the world. This year we have speakers from Australia and Europe. We can eliminate travel times with virtual," he explained.

The downside of virtual is not having the face to face meeting however, this year's event has added opportunities to meet with others. For the full conference cost of \$125.00 plus taxes, attendees are invited to come online to talk directly to this year's lineup of experts on TEC Talk Tuesdays. "TEC Talk Tuesdays happen post conference and start on January 11th and they continue after the conference until February 22nd. These are set up specifically for farmers to ask questions personally of the experts," he says. TEC Tuesdays take place from 7:27 pm to 8:57 pm every Tuesday night.

This conference is recognized by the Ontario Certified Crop Advisor Association. By attending this conference, Certified Crop Advisors can earn up to 16 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Sponsors are an essential part of why the OAgC22 can happen. In between live sessions, registrants are invited to

attend the Exhibition Hall where sponsors are featured with their most current announcements. Farm View is proud to be one of many sponsors this year.

The line-up of speakers cover the breaking news on all aspects of crop farming. The line-up this year consists of over 40 sessions including: Defeating Diseases with Dr. Darcy Telenko, Purdue University, Dr. Damon Smith, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Albert Tenuta, OMAFRA. Supreme Soybeans with Dr. Fred Below, University of Illinois and Lessons From 2021 explaining the year of extremes from three agronomists, Patrick O'Neill of TCO Agromart Ltd., Carrie Davenport of Pioneer Seeds Canada and Hanna Petrovsky of County Ag Services.

Attendees that register early by December 12th are automatically entered into a draw for a Traeger Smoker, a Chilly Moose Cooler (55 L) and a Peavey Mart Gift Card. Early registrants also get to participate in post-conference TEC Tuesdays. Further, the cost for an early registry is only \$100.00 plus taxes. Also, each registrant receives a free subscription to the Country Guide.

The live event is Wednesday, January 5th and Thursday, January 6th. The more than 40 sessions can be viewed, online, at any time until March 31.

"Paying it Forward" is a new session this year, Albert explains adding "Farmers are the backbone of any rural community and many of these farmers are also volunteers. These farming volunteers are critical to our local communities and we want to know who they are. We want to highlight these farming volunteers and bring them forward for others to know what they are doing for their communities. We are looking for nominations to put together this session."

For anyone knowing a farmer that is also a community volunteer, please consider sending the farmer's name and contact information plus a short description of volunteerism in your community to: andrew.barrie@ontario.ca

Registration opened on November 1st.

To register online visit www.OntarioAgConference.ca, by phone call 1-866-222-9682 or register by mail with

payment to:

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Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

Humour from children

A 6-year-old was asked where her grandma lived. "Oh," she said, "Grandma lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back."

A grandson asked his grandfather how old he was. The grandpa teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised. "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."

A grandfather and his grandson, Billy, entered their vacation cabin, they kept the lights off until they were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed them in. Noticing them Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's computer. She told him she was writing a story.

"What's it about?" he asked.

"I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

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Year End Reflections from the SCFA President Dave Ritchie

Another year has once again come and gone and we once again find ourselves reflecting on the past year. Although we continue to navigate the ups and downs of the current pandemic the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture has continued to support its members and conduct regular business as much as possible. Again, this year we had to postpone a number of our yearly events due to the pandemic but that left room for new and exciting projects to be created.

- The SCFA has partnered with Nate LaCroix to create some videos highlighting the various sectors of agriculture in Simcoe County.

- Many of the videos are in their final stages of production with a few that still need material filmed in 2022.

- We also have been working closely with Tiny Township to have some signs erected on their trails that feature the agricultural uses of the land by our members.

- We had the opportunity to donate a total of \$8000 to eight of the local food banks to assist the residents of Simcoe County in obtaining food security during the trying times of the pandemic.

- We also donated \$2000 to the Beef Farmers of Ontario for transportation costs to send feed to farmers in Northern Ontario that have struggled with providing their cattle with feed this past season.

- Additionally, we held two seminars in early 2021 for Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture members, one that focused on Grain Marketing and a second that focused on Precision Agriculture. Although they were held virtually, the seminars were well attended by members and a wealth of information was shared.

- As many groups and organizations that the SCFA often associates with adapted and held their meetings in a virtual platform our board members continued to attend those meetings to bring the concerns and voices of those in the agricultural sector to those tables.

- We once again held the annual general meeting via Zoom with a great number of members in attendance. Congratulations to the following executive member of the board for the 2021-2022 year: President Dave Ritchie, first Vice-President Colin Elliot, second Vice-President Shawn MacDonald and executive officers Josephine Martensson-Hemsted, Dorothy Lange, Dave Lucas, and Ty Jelinski.

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank our outgoing OFA Zone 13 Director, Keith Currie for all of his dedication and support over his time as our director. We wish to congratulate Keith on his new position with the CFA and wish him all the best in his new endeavor. Taking Keith's place at OFA as our new zone 13 director is Paul Maurice. We send our congratulations to Paul and we look forward to working with him in his new role.

From our families to yours, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dave Ritchie, SCFA President




**With Our
Thanks at
Christmas**

**We wish you a day of joy,
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*From everyone at the
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Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs



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

In the news near the end of November was a reported sighting of wild pigs in the Pickering area. According to iNaturalist.ca, multiple sightings have already been recorded in Dufferin County, Kawartha Lakes Area, Simcoe County and York Region. Invasive Wild Pigs are not a native species in Ontario. They damage natural areas, crops & pastures and host many significant diseases which can spread to other wildlife, livestock, pets, and people. Wild pigs can become quite aggressive towards people and other animals. They have large tusks that are used to root through the ground for food sources, but these same tusks can be used to defend themselves. Typically, wild pigs are coloured black, grey, brown, red, and sometimes even white. They have long snouts and very coarse hair.

Communications released by the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry warning of the possibility of wild pig populations increasing in Ontario for several years now. In an effort to acknowledge the potential of increasing populations the Ministry included wild pigs in the Invasive Species Act 2015. Also, a strategy document was developed and released to the public called, Ontario's Strategy to Address the Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs. It has four main objectives. Prevention, Addressing the Risk, Effective Response to

remove Wild Pigs and Management.

As of January 1, 2022, the possession of Eurasian Wild Boars or hybrids are prohibited from lease, trade, buy, sell, transported, imported, or propagated. Current owners of Wild Boar have an exemption until December 31, 2023, if they notify the MNRF by March 1, 2022. Also, effective January 1, 2022, hunting of wild pigs will be illegal. Research in other jurisdictions on the hunting of wild pigs to control their population, has determined that hunting only contributes to their distribution and increasing populations.

Landowners & farmers will still be able to protect their property and livestock from wild pigs. If you capture or kill a wild pig in the protection of your property you MUST immediately notify the Ministry. Please be sure that you follow all legislation regarding gun ownership, licensing, and discharge.

If you observe wild pigs please report the sighting to wildpigs@ontario.ca or call 1-833-933-2355. Be sure to include time and date, location of sighting, approximately how many pigs including adults and piglets, and any pictures or video along with all your contact information. Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry staff will complete an investigation which may include site visits and interviews of nearby residents.

As we close out 2021, I want to thank you for being members of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. It has been my pleasure to work on your behalf to advocate for the continuation and protection of the agri-food sector in which we all live, work and play.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I wish you and your families good health and happiness in 2022.

Do you want more news from your farm community?
Send us your pictures and reports and we'll include them in the next issue.
Be sure to include a contact name & number.
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Eco Day - Monday, January 10th
Crops Day - Tuesday, January 11th

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South Simcoe 4-H members and their families celebrate!

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins



It was a beautiful day at the Great Northern Exhibition Fairgrounds in early November to celebrate the end of the 2021 year of 4-H. My family and I were fortunate to be invited to join in the activities and watch each 4-H group receive their awards and trophies for all their hard work.

The day began with welcoming remarks from Tamara Fisher-Cullen followed by a group photo. During this time guests were invited to enjoy the many activity stations that were set up in and around the pavillion. Scott Cullen handed out draw tickets for a chance to win one of the many generously donated prizes. A lot of thought, time and planning went into this

event and it was enjoyed by everyone. The activities included a dress up selfie station, thank you card station, photo gallery, a guess the grain contest and a refreshment station with cookies and hot chocolate provided at cost by Coffee Culture in Stayner. For a cooler drink, Sheldon Creek Dairy donated their special pumpkin spice milk and chocolate milk.

The Presentation of clubs and club awards began shortly after 1 pm, it was wonderful to see so many young people achieving great accomplishments.

Registration for the 2022 4-H season is now open. Have a look and see what will interest you! <https://4-hontario.ca/association/simcoe-south-4-h-association/>



Pictured to the left enjoying the 'guessing the grain' station are, from left to right, Thys, Elly, Cassandra and Annika Blank.

Pictured at the right is the Maple Syrup Club with their swag bags. One of the many clubs that 4-H has to offer.



Shown to the left choosing her draw prize is Isabella Cullen. Nadina and 4-H member Jessa Bray were running the prize table.

June Fisher was very popular at the refreshments table. Mrs. Fisher is shown to the right serving cookies provided by Coffee Culture in Stayner along with milk generously donated by Sheldon Creek Dairy.



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Protecting Black Ash

By Suzanne Armstrong, Director of Policy & Research for the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario.

As many are aware, Emerald Ash Borer, (EAB) an invasive species, has been devastating ash tree populations since its arrival in Ontario early in the 2000s. Because of this threat, Black Ash trees are now set to be listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) list as “endangered.” With this designation, the Endangered Species Act requires protection both of the trees and their habitat, as well as prohibitions on buying and selling the trees, in an effort to protect the species.

Although these trees are still found in many places in the province, once the Ash Borer reaches an area, devastation is significant, with anywhere from 5% to none of the trees expected to survive. Efforts will be needed to protect these trees and ensure their ongoing future survival in Ontario. Cooperation from farmer landowners to help protect and promote the species and protect the health of woodlots overall will be vital.

In the face of the devastation caused by this insect, simply protecting habitat and trees, as required under Endangered Species Act rules, will not be enough. Leaving healthy stands of trees untouched will just provide feed for the Ash Borer and leave affected woodlots weakened or lost altogether.

Ontario hosts more than 25% of the global range for Black Ash. Many areas of the province are still unaffected by the borer, but, as the “Ontario Species at Risk Evaluation Report for Black Ash” points out, future infestation is possible in most of the province over the next 100 years, or the next two gen-

erations for Black Ash trees.

Because of the environmental and economic challenges this issue is posing, government is proposing to delay protections under the ESA for two years.

In our response, the CFFO emphasized the importance of using this delay as an opportunity to promote voluntary stewardship on farms. This should include information for landowners on risks to Black Ash and effective solutions to protect the species. We asked that funding be put in place for landowners to protect individual trees from borer attack, to get assessments on their property for resistant trees and to consult with forestry professionals on woodlot management plans, including the ability to remove trees as necessary.

We also requested that the nursery trade in Black Ash trees should be allowed to continue. We recommended support for research and breeding based on resistant genetics. Hopefully, newly planted resistant trees can replace those lost to the Borer.

Many farmers will be interested in playing their part to help protect the future of these trees in Ontario. Farmers also want to be able to maintain the integrity of their woodlots through good management practices, including the ability to cut down and replace trees as necessary. The CFFO wants to see government support for voluntary farmer stewardship of Black Ash. Society should support farmers in their stewardship efforts on behalf of all Ontarians.

Grain Farmers of Ontario Welcomes Vision for New Policy Framework from Ministers of Agriculture

Grain Farmers of Ontario, the province’s largest commodity organization, representing Ontario’s 28,000 barley, corn, oat, soybean and wheat farmers, is pleased to see the progressive and insightful shared vision of the next policy framework for the future of Canadian agriculture released by the Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture in the “Guelph Statement.”

The statement acknowledges the continuous work done by farmers to produce food while maintaining Canada’s natural resources: “Canadian farmers have always been good stewards of the land and have a solid track record of sustainable agriculture, with sound management practices, innovation, and new technologies. Over the past two decades, farmers have doubled the value of production while stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions. In that time, the amount of agricultural emissions per dollar of GDP generated by the sector has dropped by half.”

The policy framework highlights five priority areas:

- Climate change and the environment
- Science, research and innovation
- Market development and trade
- Building sector capacity and growth
- Resiliency and public trust

“The priority areas in the new policy framework shared by the FPT align with grain farming and our own priority areas at Grain Farmers of Ontario. We look forward to working with all levels of government to ensure the future of grain farming,” said Brendan Byrne, Chair, Grain Farmers of Ontario. “Grain farmers in Ontario are part of the solution when it comes to protecting the environment, with the wide number of practices they have adopted to promote good land stewardship, and their willingness to be early adopters of innovation that will help protect the land.”

“The FPT Ministers commitment to business risk management programs and acknowledgment of the diverse Canadian landscape will be vitally important to maintaining the economic and social benefits that farming brings to our province and our country,” said Crosby Devitt, CEO, Grain Farmers of Ontario.

“As these programs are evaluated, we urge our governments to ensure that they maintain the purpose of these programs, which are meant to support farmers when faced with risks outside their control. For changes that use the lens of climate change, additional programs or changes need to be resourced properly, especially as more weight is given to innovative practices that increase environmental stewardship and ask the farmers to bear the responsibility of implementation,” Devitt says.

Ontario’s grain farmers are up for the challenges of farming for a growing population, with an eye to keeping natural resources sustainable for the future and Grain Farmers of Ontario looks forward to working with governments to partner in these initiatives.

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Christmas in the One Room School

By Tom Glover, Georgina Historical Society

In the little one room school the Christmas concert was the highlight of the year. Each December, as well as preparing lessons, making up and marking tests and preparing report cards for forty plus students, the teacher was expected to organize a Christmas concert, consisting of songs, recitations, drills and plays. Every pupil had to be in some part of the concert and their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles all came out to see their little Jane or Johnnie perform. The concert was expected to be about two hours in length and it had to be good. The teacher's reputation was judged by the quality of his or her Christmas concert. A collection would be taken and used to purchase a new baseball, bat or maybe a glove. At SS#5, North Gwillimbury, we started practicing for the Christmas concert in early November. Our teacher and Mrs. Cowieson, our itinerant music teacher, would select the carols that we would sing and we would begin to practice the songs. Usually, there would be a junior choir, a senior choir and of course a combined choir of all the students for the big wind up finale. We would practice the selections during the week and we were expected to show improvement when she returned for the next lesson. Our teacher would select recitations and a couple of plays for the concert. You felt pretty important if you were selected to be in a play or to give a recitation. We rehearsed at noon hour and recess as well as during regular class time. On Monday, the week before the concert we would arrive at school to find a stage had been erected at the front of the classroom and a tree stood in the corner for us to decorate. That week was a frenzy of final preparations for the big event.

The Giving Place receives Spirit of Success Business Excellence Award

Story and photos provided by Diana Robichaud

On November 4th, East Gwillimbury Chamber of Commerce celebrated their annual Spirit of Success Business Excellence Awards at the Silver Lakes Golf & Conference Centre. There were 10 awards this year with one category being the Agriculture Business of the Year. This award is given to a business that specializes in farming, food processing, or agriculture technology that has distinguished itself and shown leadership by promoting the betterment of agriculture and food production in East Gwillimbury. This year, The Giving Place was awarded the honour. The Giving Place is located on 8 ½ acres in Mount Albert and is run as a small, all natural and pesticide free family farm. In 2018 they planted over 2000 Lavender plants and added 5 bee hives. Along the way they have grown to include several varieties of Lavender and Sunflowers. They make and sell many products onsite that include honey, essential oils, facial products and balms that are made from their own lavender. The farm itself is a lovely place to book for a special event such as weddings, photo shoots, retreats, picnics and more. They host many events such as wreath making workshops and the popular Christmas Lavender Market that takes place December 4th and 5th. Looking for something else fun to do this winter? You could book your very own private outdoor fondue.

The Giving Place is also home to a community garden and shares the produce with local food pantries as they are able. To learn more or plan a day trip to The Giving Place, visit www.thegivingplace.ca and enjoy visiting other businesses and farms in East Gwillimbury. If you would like to join the Chamber of Commerce, please visit www.egcoc.org for more information.



The evening of the concert we dressed in our Sunday best, and sang and recited to a packed house. All our songs and recitations brought great rounds of applause. Silent Night and Away in a Manger, and of course a Nativity Scene were always crowd favourites. Half way through the concert, senior students would keep glancing to the back of the room, to see whose father might have left to get dressed as Santa. With the jingle of bells, Santa always arrived to the much pleasure of all in attendance. He would call out our names and with a chuckle and a hug give us all a little brown paper bag of candy. If we recognized Santa we would not let on, so as not to spoil it for the younger kids. The last gift was a special present (a large box of chocolates) for our teacher and then with a "Ho! Ho! Ho!", Santa left the building. One of the school trustees rose and thanked the students and the teacher for a wonderful evening of entertainment. Every year he said, "It was the best concert he had ever attended." Our teacher, (wow, she looked pretty all dressed up for the occasion) would thank the students for their participation, all the audience for coming and wish everyone a Merry Christmas. The evening ended with much well wishing for the Christmas season, and then we all bundled up for the cold drive home. The Christmas concert might of been over but the memories of the evening would last for a long time.

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Edwards Farm Store 1574 Ninth Line of Innisfil

Story and photo provided by Sharlene Dinsmore

From its beginnings in 2004 when it was primarily known for its quality freezer beef and bird feed, Edwards Farm Store has evolved to include a diverse array of products for its growing multi-cultural clientele.

In addition to a supply of local favourites (honey, maple syrup, eggs, milk) there is also a large variety of frozen local meats (lamb, goat, chicken, pork, turkey). Specialty items such as homemade pies, sauces, jams, pickles and dinner options have become popular, along with unique gifts such as bird houses and kitchen novelties. Drop in on a Friday and take advantage of a food sampling opportunity. This could be tasty lasagna samples or special coffees.

As the store has expanded, so has the number of employees. Experienced staff—Barb, Melissa, and Kathy—know their products and even source out new supplies. Tom Bradbury, a valued employee for six years, runs the warehouse.

Edwards Farm Store is a dealer for both Jones Feeds and Master Feed products, and lawn grass seed and fertilizer are sold.

David plants over 900 acres in corn, soybeans, oats, barley, and wheat, as well as some sunflowers. The sunflower field is kept close to our home farm to better manage the crowds of visitors attracted to them. A maze allows guests to wander through the patch, and there is even a pile of bales from which to get a special photo. For safety reasons, off-road parking is provided.

John and Rosemary are gradually moving out of the daily business aspects, John to focus more on his antique cars, and Rosemary has returned to bowling and more visits with their daughter Diane in Calgary.

David and his wife Jani are the proud parents of two daughters, Maia and Hannah. Jani is a busy occupational

therapist at Barrie's RVH. Maia has shown quite an interest in helping with the gardening and the chickens.

The store stocks 38 different cultured grains for birds, ready to be mixed for individual customers, who travel from Sudbury, Scarborough, and Orangeville to buy their custom-mixed bird food.

The traffic flow heading to and from Innisfil Beach Road has increased steadily. Edwards Farm Store has grown with the community, adapting and responding to the needs of the many nationalities who have become regular customers. We pride ourselves on providing personal service and freely sharing information about our products. — From an interview with Rosemary Edwards – Innisfil Historical Review, Bicentennial Edition 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:



Edwards Farm Store

- 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.
- New members are very welcome - Contact through our Facebook Page - Innisfil Historical Society.

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Christmas crackers

It's a familiar Christmas scene: families seated around the dinner table, children and adults alike wearing brightly colored tissue-paper crowns as they brandish plastic knick-knacks and roll their eyes at corny jokes read off a tiny coil of paper.

The Christmas Cracker may seem like a tradition born of modern commercialism, but it's been with us for a long time.

We're all familiar with a Christmas cracker. They are a small cardboard tube covered in decorative wrap. When opened, there's a snap. Inside one finds a paper hat, a sliver of paper inscribed with a motto or joke, and a small novelty of some sort. But crackers haven't always taken this form. There was an evolution as the concept was perfected and refined.

One man is responsible for giving us the Christmas cracker and ensuring it has been central to our holiday celebrations since the mid-19th century. That man is Tom Smith.

Innovative and forward-thinking, Tom Smith (1823-1869) was a British confectioner and baker by trade with a shop in East London. The inspiration for the Christmas cracker in its original form came during a buying trip to Paris in 1840, when he discovered the Parisian bon bon, a sugared almond wrapped in patterned paper with a twist at each end. Smith thought the idea was so innovative that he decided to package and present his candies at home in a similar way. Sadly, the trend didn't catch on, even when he decided to include a romantic note in the tissue paper wrapping.

Smith wasn't one to be put off with his initial lack of success, however. Looking for ways to stimulate sales, he decided to try again, this time swapping the candy for a small trinket. But the most innovative new wrinkle came to him one night during the Christmas season while basking in the glow of an open fire. The sounds of a burning log inspired him to incorporate a whimsical 'bang' to his crackers, de-

signed to shock and amuse. After trial and error, Smith eventually found the means of making his vision a reality in the form of a strip of chemically impregnated paper which, when pulled, gave a sharp 'pop.' Naturally, because of the size of the cracking mechanism, the cracker grew much larger into something approaching those of today. The reception was overwhelming. People loved them and sales boomed. The Christmas cracker was born.

Village stories

by Andrew Hind



the English-speaking world and had evolved into the form we are familiar with today.

The Tom Smith Company began producing crackers not only for the Christmas season but also to celebrate important occasions, such as The Paris Exhibition in 1900 and the World Tour of Edward, The Prince of Wales, in 1926.

A century later, the Tom Smith Company, now a subsidiary of Napier Industries, continues to make crackers and the Christmas cracker remains a cherished part of the yuletide dinner in millions of homes around the world.

From that moment on, Smith's crackers moved to the forefront of the Christmas market even as he continued to refine his product. He dropped the candy, employed popular artists to create playful sketches to decorate the boxes, and sought out freelance writers to create love poems, harmless jokes, and inspirational mottos to be placed inside.

Sadly, as Tom died in 1869, he never lived to see the ultimate success of his ground-breaking crackers. However, the legacy of his 'Bangs of Expectations' lived on through his sons, Thomas, Henry, and in particular, Walter, who travelled the world in search of new cracker gifts and introduced the paper hat. By the last decades of the 20th century the Christmas crackers had become rooted in yuletide festivities across



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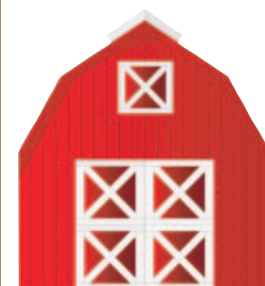
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Cinderella story: Local horse wins at Woodbine

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Ricoh Woodbine Mile held at the Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto is one of the biggest races for thoroughbred racing in Canada and was held this year on Saturday, September 18. The winner of this race was Town Cruise.

Town Cruise is a chestnut gelding that lives on a farm in Oro-Medonte. He is a “Cinderella story” says Dr. Joel Rumney, the founder and owner along with Dr. Edie Haberfellner (Rumney) of North Simcoe Veterinary Services. Town Cruise and his mother, Candy Cruise are both patients of this practice. Dr. Rumney was present when Town Cruise was born, six years ago.

This horse does not live the typical life of a champion race horse today- but he proved on September 18 at the Woodbine Racetrack that his co-owners, Terrance (Terry) and his son, Brandon Greer know exactly what they are doing. Brandon is also the horse's lifetime trainer. Town Cruise has raced 15 times in his whole life and all the races were at Woodbine.

“The owners (and trainer) are old school for how they keep horses. The horses are not pushed to do anything. This small stable is not about the money, it's all about the horses. The horses here get long breaks between races.” Dr. Rumney explains adding that to see horses running together in fields is a sight that is not uncommon at this stable.

A group including the owners and interested support people including Dr. Rumney and his son went to watch the race. This was a huge race as it was Grade 1 with a purse of one million dollars for the winner. Horses here were from some big named stables and are worth millions of dollars because of past racing wins and proven genetics. Town Cruise was given a 10 to 1 chance he could win. Nobody told Town Cruise he was not favoured to win this race. The horse that was born and raised from Simcoe County from a small stable blasted out of the starting gate. He got to the front fast and he never once slowed down. No other horse came close to Town Cruise for the mile long race. He won by an incredible margin at such a prestigious race.

“If I had expected Town Cruise to win, I would have dressed better- and my son would not be wearing shorts. We just didn't think about winning a race like this, we just were going to be there. Terry (Town Cruise's co-owner) was commenting on clothes people were wearing before the race. And then, we are the ones in the pictures with Town Cruise when he wins it all, it just was so unreal,” Dr. Rumney explains.

“The horses in this family's care are so happy living there- it is so nice to see local people have all this happen to them. It doesn't happen that often that a race horse wins this kind of purse from a smaller stable with a horse that is home bred and raised. We (all of us in this community) are just so happy for the owners and Town Cruise.” Dr. Rumney stated.



In the photo above, winning horse Town Cruise is surrounded by supporters. In the photo below are Town Cruise and Jockey Daisuke Fukumoto.

—Photos provided by Dr. Joel Rumney



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After The Chores: Llama worry

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



It was barn clean out day meaning that Sweetie was going to be going in and out of the paddock through an open gate to the manure pile. This paddock is where Hummer spends his days.

We always have flashbacks of the Bad Barn Clean Out Day of years ago. That day I had a funeral visitation of a dear man that started me in sheep. I figured it would be 20 minutes at most there so with an hour travel time to and from, I would be home easily in 2.5 hours. Sweetie had an appointment to get the new snow tires on the jeep so he figured his job would take 2 hours if that. The barn clean-out was started then we both left. The sheep, llamas and goats were outside on this cool early winter day and 2 hours was not very long to be away. At my destination, I found a line of dark clothed people that stretched down the sidewalk for entry into the funeral home. I debated to leave but this dear man always had time for me. He would have waited for me, my conscience said for the two HOURS I waited in that line. When the man's widow said "I knew you would come!" I knew my conscience was right. Then I decided to take a shortcut home to make up some time- and that ended up getting me only lost so I was now an hour extra on top of the hours in line waiting, late. This was before Sweetie and I were linked with cell phones so I imagine him wondering what happened to me with the farm truck. When I got home, Sweetie was just leaving the house. He said he didn't know what to do now- he just got back home. The tire people had forgot to record his appointment and he had to wait 4 hours to get his turn which he had to since the tires were not at all safe. That night ended up with upset llamas, sheep and goats all sleeping together in a half cleaned out barn with no pens between them but thankfully everybody was okay.

Sweetie directly asked if Hummer would get out of the open gate for this barn clean-out. I told him that I knew Hummer and there was no chance Hummer would leave the paddock. Hummer hasn't been to the pasture since he was widowed over a year ago. The last time I tried to take Hummer to pasture, he loped around the property nibbling on leaves and assorted vegetation refusing to go anywhere near the pasture entrance. I spent an hour walking behind him. I know all about Hummer.

Isaac (the young labrador retriever pup) and I were given a list of shopping to do at the Sunderland Co-op. I was so upset to see Hummer out in the front lawn. Pandee, Hummer's young son was frantically humming leaning his head through the fence staring at Hummer. I loaded Isaac into the truck- and started to worry about the wayward llama.

My mind was full of worry as to how was I going to get Hummer back in either the barn or his paddock? He is not trained to lead, he wears no collar or halter, he is a free range kind of llama. And he can run, within two minutes of fast llama loping, Hummer could be in another Township. The fun trip with the pup to the friendly Co-op was overshadowed by llama worrying.

When Isaac and I returned home, Hummer was peacefully lying down about a 60 second lope or less for a llama, from the road. There could even be lady llamas within Hummer's running distance. Hummer hasn't seen a lady llama since September 2020 I was even more worried when I thought about that. I had to think this out- how was I going to get Hummer back in the barn? With a grain bucket and me calling his name to urge him back- or should we use the truck's horn to try and scare him back? Think, think, think...

About 45 minutes of intense worry later, I had two plans ready for action in my mind. I was praying hard this was going to work. I had about 30 minutes of light left only and Hummer being afraid of the dark would not be helpful because a scared llama might run even further.

I went back to the barn wondering why Pandee was no longer upset humming. I looked around to find the young llama and he was content. I found out why- there was Hummer. Hummer was lying in the paddock chewing his cud

staring at me with drowsy half-closed eyes. Hummer, on his own, had walked past the three sheep pastures, past the apple trees, around the corner and through the open gate to his home paddock while I was so busy worrying.

No more telling anyone what Hummer will do next from me.

Columnist note: I would like to personally thank all of you that follow this column- and especially those that reached out to me through this past year with comments. It always amazes me that people take the time out to actually read this. Writing and farming are both joys in my life and to get to combine both is a continued gift to me from Roslyn, Publisher/owner of Farm View- and I'm so grateful. From all of us here on our little farm in Beaverton, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy 2022 with hopefully lots of happy events in it.

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Merry and Bright
Coloring Page



Guess Who?

1. I am a country singer born in Kansas on July 29, 1966. My father introduced me to country music, and I eventually performed in his band. Over time I developed my unique pop country sound. I have been called the Celine Dion of country music.
2. I am a singer born in Georgia on May 28, 1944. I won a small tv contest as a child, giving my family the confidence to start a music group. I have had many hits through my long career, and won a grammy in 1986.
3. I am an actor born in Toronto, Canada, on May 5, 1970. I gained fame on an arresting television series and a popular Tina Fey-driven series, and later I appeared in many films both in-person and as a voice actor. My deep voice lent itself well to a lego movie hero.
4. I am an athlete born in New York on February 17, 1963. Due to my moderate height, I didn't make the varsity squad in high school. But that didn't stop me from going on to be one of the greatest basketball players of all time.
5. I am a singer and actress born in Canada on August 13, 1999. I started singing at age 5 and learned to play several instruments. I became known for my role alongside my sister on a popular television series taking place in the heart of Tennessee.

1. Martina McBride 2. Gladys Knight 3. Will Arnett
4. Michael Jordan 5. Lennon Stella

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BOTANICAL
BRACTS
CARE
CENTRAL AMERICA
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DECEMBER
DECORATION
FESTIVE
FOLKLORE
HOLIDAY
LANDSCAPING
LEAVES
LEGEND
MEXICO
PLANT
POTTED
RED
TRADITION
UNIQUE

Tis the Season for Holiday Cooking and Decorating....The Fire Safe Way

By Dennis Gannon

It's December, the time of the year when families and friends get together for seasonal festivities. Homes are decorated and filled with joy and laughter as people gather to enjoy scrumptious food and there are lights and decorations everywhere. Unfortunately, it is also a period of time when good times can turn to tragedy and loss occur very quickly. On average in Ontario regrettably 9 people lose their lives and more than 45 are injured in December. The primary reason comes from cooking and heating. Following these safety tips will help you and your family stay safe this holiday season.

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are critical to keep you and your family safe. Check the expiration date and replace the units as necessary. Install fresh batteries and test them monthly. Smoke alarms are required on every level of your home and consider placing one in the bedroom if you haven't already.

Alcohol and fire are a dangerous mix. If someone in your household cooks or smokes under the influence of alcohol, you must be aware of the risk. Keep a watchful eye on drinkers. Remember, there's more to responsible drinking than calling a cab.

Careless cooking is the number one cause of home fires in Ontario. Most of these fires start because pots and pans are left unattended on the stove. If you must leave the kitchen when you are cooking, turn off the stove. While cooking, always keep a large lid nearby. If a pot does catch fire, slide the lid over the pot, then turn off the stove.

There's nothing more appealing on a cold winter's night than a blazing fireplace and the warm glow of candles. But an open flame can be an invitation to disaster. Please treat fire with respect this holiday season. Never leave your fireplace unattended and always use a fireplace screen. Don't burn wrapping paper or ribbons in your fireplace. Make sure candles are in a secure holder and place them out of the reach of children.

If you enjoy a real Christmas tree, buy a freshly cut tree and keep the stand full of water at all times. Check all decorative lights before placing them on the tree and discard any frayed or damaged lights or cords. Never place lit candles on or near the Christmas tree. When large amounts of needles begin to fall off, it's time to get rid of the tree.

Heating equipment is another leading cause of home fires. Ensure woodstoves, fireplaces and fireplace inserts are installed by a qualified technician according to manufacturer's instructions. Allow ashes from your woodstove or fireplace to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight fitting lid and keep it outside, not in the garage or shed. Have your heating system, vents and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually by a qualified service technician. Ensure all outside heating vents are not blocked.

Finally, test your family escape plan. Everyone must know how to safely get out in the event of a fire and where the meeting place is. Call 9-1-1 from outside and know your address.

Enjoy this holiday season festivities and may you and your family have a fire safe and happy holiday.



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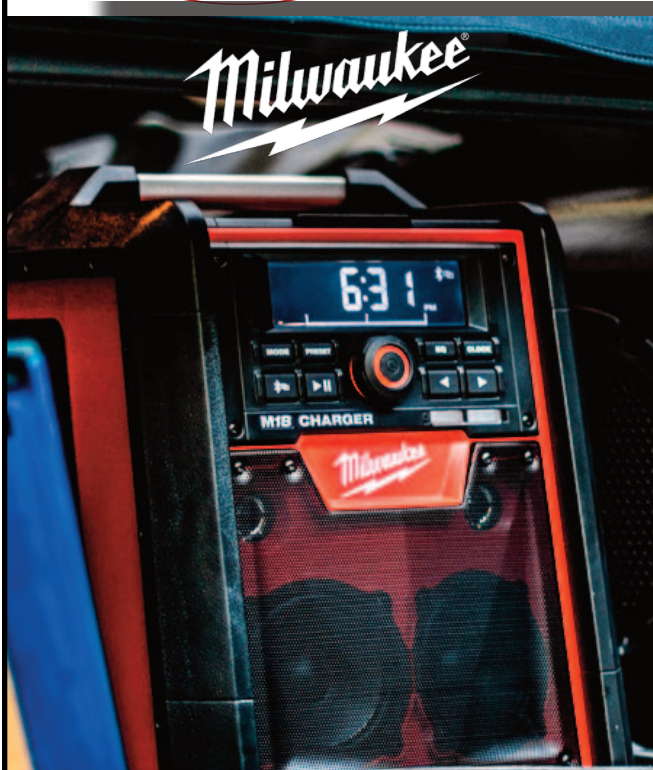
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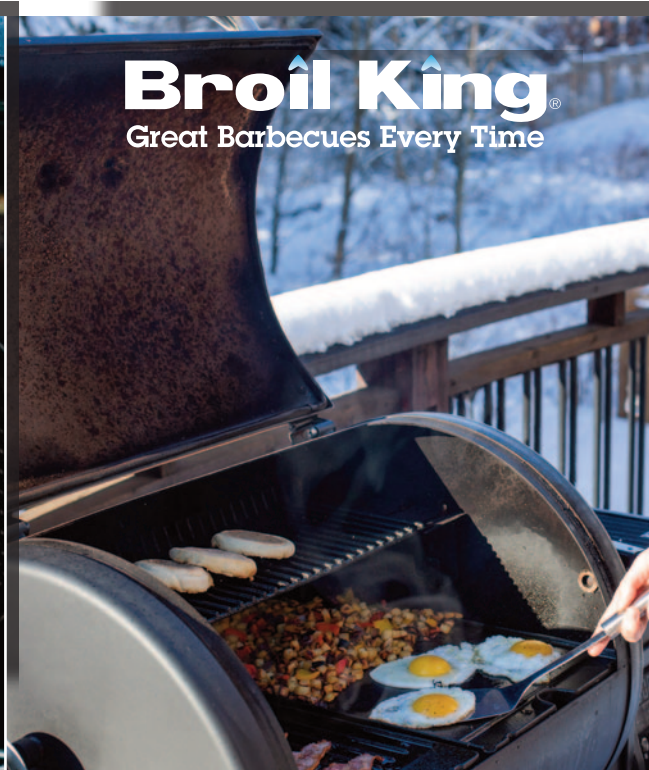


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Simcoe-Grey Grocers Among Ontario's Best; "Congratulations," says MPP Wilson

News release from MPP Jim Wilson's office

Sobeys Collingwood and Sobeys Angus are among 60 grocery stores in the province recognized this year for their innovative promotion of fresh Ontario food. Simcoe-Grey MPP Jim Wilson was pleased to visit both outlets to offer congratulations, and present them with Gold Foodland Ontario Retailer Award plaques.

The Foodland Ontario Awards program is the province's premier competition recognizing excellence in the display

and promotion of Ontario foods. It is co-sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in partnership with a number of industry organizations.

"Grocers are key to ensuring that customers are aware of locally grown food in their stores and that they choose to purchase it," said Mr. Wilson. "Buying local food supports a strong agri-food sector that sustains us, boosts our economy, and helps create good jobs across our region," he added.

The Gold category – awarded to the Angus and Collingwood stores – is based on the number of non-produce items

cross-merchandised with Ontario agricultural commodities, compatibility of the products, and appropriate signage.

Presenting the awards, MPP Wilson said to the store employees, "Thank you for taking pride in building creative and innovative displays that encourage shoppers to take home the good things that grow in Ontario."

Ontario is home to almost 46,900 farms that grow more than 200 agricultural products. The sector contributes \$47.7 billion to the province's GDP and employs over 837,000 people – about one in every 10 jobs in Ontario.



Shown in the photo above from left to right are Shirley Van Dusen, Christine Wodchis and Paul Jutras from Sobeys Angus and MPP Jim Wilson.



Photographed at Sobeys Collingwood and shown above are Pauline Mussleman, Darlene Ferguson, Tammy Austin, MPP Jim Wilson, Anna Miller and Kevin Major.

Leeds County Farmer Receives Ontario Sheep Pasture Award

Brad and Karen Davis of Black Kreek Ranch in the Lansdowne area of Thousand Islands Township in Leeds County are the recipient of the 2021 Ontario Sheep Pasture Award. The award sponsored by MAPLESEED, the Ontario Forage Council and the Ontario Sheep Farmers, was presented virtually at the Ontario Sheep Convention. For their environmental and pasture improvements and management, the recipients will receive \$250 and a bag of forage seed.

The sheep operation includes 950 ewes and are rotationally grazed, which is the main source of feed for 6 to 7 months of the year. The flock is moved every 7 to 21 days, depending on the time of year and growing conditions. The Davis's aim for a 30 – 40-day rest period between grazing's, and paddocks are grazed anywhere from 3 – 5 times per year. The entire farm is hard fenced into 15-20 acre paddocks, and Brad & Karen use portable electric net fencing to split them during certain times of the year.

Fresh water is considered an essential to a healthy flock, so an above ground water pipe (approx. 5000 ft) is provided throughout the entire farm to get water to each paddock.

Grass seed species vary across the entire farm. Species include timothy, reed canary, brome, fescue, red clover, alfalfa, trefoil and ladino clover. All paddocks are clipped off following the 1st grazing and sometime the 2nd grazing to chop down any headed-out or mature grass stalks.

As Brad comments, "Most years, we feed hay for 2-3 weeks in the fall to let pastures rest and then graze a final time before breeding to flush the ewes."

Most pastures on Black Kreek Ranch have trees for shade, however this is becoming a bigger issue with our elm and ash trees dying off. Karen comments, "They are planning to transplant a couple hundred trees over the next 2 years to try and provide more shade for hot summer conditions."

Scott Fisher, Sales Manager (Western Ontario) with MAPLESEED says, "The Davis's run a wonderful, progressive operation, with good attention to detail."

Ray Robertson, Manager of the Ontario Forage Council says, "This year's Ontario Sheep Pasture Award recipient has demonstrated their ability to utilize forages on their farm and utilized the concept of rotational grazing to its maximum."

The deadline for applications for the 2022 Ontario Sheep Pasture Award is October 1, 2022. For details, call the Ontario Forage Council at 1-877-892-8663 or visit either the Ontario Forage Council's website at www.ontarioforagecouncil.com or Ontario Sheep Farmers' website at www.OntarioSheep.org.

For further information contact:

Brad or Karen Davis, 1-613-659--3347

Ray Robertson, Ontario Forage Council, 1-877-892-8663

Scott Fisher, Sales Manager, Western Ontario, Mapleseed: 519-281-0032

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Vanishing Barns highlight of Essa Historical meeting

By John Beischer

The Essa Historical Society was pleased to welcome author Cathy Walton to speak at their regular business meeting last month.

Her book, *Vanishing Barns*, is an attractive coffee table publication that chronicles the history of hundreds of barns in Flos Township, Vespra Township and the village of Elmvale. These three communities were amalgamated in 1994 and became Springwater Township.

While Cathy's book focuses on the stories and photographs of the barns "gentle giants" in her words in Springwater, Cathy's presentation was general in nature and especially helpful to the executive of the EHS, as they are considering publishing a book about the barns in Essa Township. The EHS book would be dedicated to Olive Lee, a long time member of EHS who passed away suddenly last Spring while serving in her 23rd year as secretary and greatly missed by members and family alike.

Cathy's very entertaining slide show of barns from the last two centuries and barn related equipment and fixtures that most of us could recognize as members of the farm and rural community of this farming area. But it would have been equally informative to families moving into the area as well. The Q and A at the completion of her topic was fun and interesting for all in attendance. A learning experience for people like me [this writer] who is fascinated by these huge structures that dot our landscape, but who never had the experience of working in or around them. That is why I would heartily recommend this book as a possible Christmas gift for someone on your list who might enjoy the stories and photos of our recent and vanishing past.

If interested in purchasing a copy of her book, you can contact Cathy at 705-728-1388 or send an email to snowflake53@mail.com.

At the conclusion of Cathy Johnston Walton's presentation she made a significant donation to EHS which was greatly appreciated by the executive as COVID has restricted our fundraising projects these past two years. Thanks Cathy from the members of the Essa Historical Society.

This barn is located at 3438 Horseshoe Valley Road in Springwater Township.
The history of this barn can be read on page 220 of *Vanishing Barns*,
written by Cathy Walton.



The ESSA HISTORICAL SOCIETY invites everyone in ESSA township, to send President Richard Blanchard a short email about your willingness to participate in our potential book about the barns of Essa Township. We need pictures and stories to document the history of your barn and property. It isn't just remembering our past that is important, it is preserving our past for future generations.

Please email your photos and stories to es-sabarns@rogers.com. They should be shot in a larger format and include the location by lot and concession numbers. A brief description of present ownership and any historical details about the barns age or other history would be appreciated.

Vanishing Barns



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Stoltz Sales & Service and Hub International Merge To Form Equipment Ontario

Case IH Equipment Dealers Stoltz Sales & Service and Hub International will be merging their two organizations to form Equipment Ontario effective December 1, 2021. Together they will service a total of 16+ Counties with dealership locations in Elmira, Lindsay, Listowel, Mildmay, Port Perry, and a future location in Simcoe County to be Determined.

Both Hub & Stoltz have been leaders in their respective markets, and by merging they are creating a new Stronger, Progressive Organization that will follow the Hub & Stoltz philosophy of "We are Small Enough to Care, but Large Enough to Service."

"We are excited to officially make this announcement. Our two families each have over 40 years of dealership experience in the Agricultural Industry. With the need for new representation for the Case IH brand in Simcoe County, it seemed like a natural fit for our two organizations to merge and service this important Agricultural Community between us." Stated Greg Snoddon - Hub International Owner.

"We are very proud and grateful for the Equipment Ontario team as we lay out our plan for the future. We are extremely excited with the merger of our two great organizations. Our team will be part of History in the making" Marlin Stoltz owner of Stoltz Sales & Service stated.

Hub & Stoltz will continue to represent all existing brands, and current team members will remain in their roles. New additional Equipment Ontario career opportunities will be posted on the Equipment Ontario Website - www.equipmentontario.com when available.

Merger will take effect December 1, 2021.

Watch the announcement here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWsy4hO16Fo>.



Excited to announce the merger are, from left to right, Michelle Snoddon, Greg Snoddon, Marlin Stoltz and Carson Brown.

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