

# FARM VIEW

*A newspaper with something for everyone*

January 2022 Volume 45 #01

## Inside this issue:

Farm View  
celebrates  
45 years of  
publication!

Chatting with Town  
Cruise's trainer

Reports from  
OFA's  
Annual  
General  
Meeting

Nutrition  
for Goats

Results from  
the Ontario cover  
crop feedback  
survey

Fire Safety  
for  
Alzheimer's  
Families



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the FARM household



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from all of us at Farm View - your agricultural community newspaper



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## 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.

### Jan 4th - 11th: 2022 GBFW Conference and Trade Show

The 56th annual event features trade show exhibits and an excellent line up of guest speakers. **More info, turn to page 23 or check the website [www.greybrucefarmersweek.ca](http://www.greybrucefarmersweek.ca).** The conference will be held January 4th to the 11th, 2022.

### 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.

**For more information, check the website [www.ontarioagconference.ca](http://www.ontarioagconference.ca) or call 519-674-1500 x 63596**

### Jan 15th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

### Jan 19th: Feeding Your Future Webinar

**Feeding Your Future Webinar** How to train a new employee without an agriculture background

January 19th, 2022 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am  
Virtual Ontario Agricultural Conference (OAGC) OFVC 2022  
Are you considering hiring employees that are new to agriculture? Is it important to your organization for them to have a stronger knowledge of the agri-food industry? What should you do to help them to develop the knowledge of the industry so that they can understand the customers and clients they will be serving?

[www.feedingyourfuture.ca/webinars/](http://www.feedingyourfuture.ca/webinars/)

### April, May, June: Spring Auctions

Thinking of a spring or on-line auction?

Turn to page 23 to see some upcoming sale dates or to book an auctioneer for your sale.

### New calendar feature for 2022



A long time advertiser of Farm View's, Bob Buurman of Gold Seal Alternator & Starter Service, recently made the suggestion to have a calendar of upcoming farm shows and fairs taking place. Mr. Buurman stated that it would be great to know about the fairs in advance to be able to plan ahead, attending either as a guest or to book trade space.

If you are planning a farm show or fair, please write in and share the details with Farm View readers and advertisers.

### March 9th - 11th, 2022 London Farm Show

The London Farm Show is returning to an in-person event for 2022.

Western Fair District, 316 Rectory Street, London  
[www.westernfairdistrict.com/london-farm-show](http://www.westernfairdistrict.com/london-farm-show)

### March 15 - 17, 2022 The Ottawa Valley Farm Show

The Ottawa Valley Farm Show returns to in person for 2022.

EY Centre 4899 Uplands Drive, Ottawa  
[www.ottawafarmshow.com](http://www.ottawafarmshow.com)

### April 6th - 7th Canadian Dairy XPO

The Canadian Dairy XPO returns to in-person for 2022.

Stratford Rotary Complex  
353 McCarthy Road  
Stratford, Ontario N5A 7S7  
[www.dairyxpo.ca/](http://www.dairyxpo.ca/)

### April 6th - 7th: National Poultry Show

The National Poultry show returns to in-person for 2022.

Western Fair District, 316 Rectory Street, London  
[www.westernfairdistrict.com/national-poultry-show](http://www.westernfairdistrict.com/national-poultry-show)

### April 6th - 7th: East Central Farm Show

Lindsay Fairgrounds  
354 Angeline St S, Lindsay  
[www.regionalscia.org/east-central-farm-show-html](http://www.regionalscia.org/east-central-farm-show-html)

### Aug 25th - 28th: Barrie Fair

Essa Agriplex - Home of the Barrie Fair  
7505 10th Line, Thornton, ON L0L 2N0  
[www.essaagriplex.ca](http://www.essaagriplex.ca)

### Sept 13th - 15th: Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show will return as a full-scale outdoor farm show on September 13, 14 & 15, 2022 with interactive content from the field that gives participants a unique vantage point to once again experience agricultural equipment and technology up close and in-person.

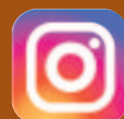
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## More Investment Needed for Cover Crop Innovation in Ontario

Researchers at the University of Manitoba (UM), working in collaboration with the Ontario Cover Crop Steering Committee, have shared the results from the 2020 Ontario Cover Crop Feedback Survey, the largest survey of its kind in Canada based on the number of responses received. The survey captured a snapshot of grower observations from incorporating cover crops into their practice.

Cover crop use in Ontario has a long history. The practice has increased in recent years. The Ontario Cover Crop Action Strategy, created in partnership with the Ontario Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy, has set new goals to facilitate widespread adoption of cover crops in Ontario.

Of the 520 respondents that grew cover crops in 2020, 91 per cent observed benefits from growing cover crops. The observations include:

- 68 per cent of farms saw improved soil health
- 59 per cent observed less soil erosion
- 57 per cent reported seeing increased soil organic matter

More than three quarters of farms reported benefits within three years of adopting cover crops.

“Ontario continues to innovate in farming practices that benefit the environment and adopt cover cropping as one strategy. We know that to continue to build on these successes and continue to help Ontario and Canada meet climate change goals, farmers will need support for these practices to help overcome the barriers that farmers face in their implementation,” said Marty Vermey, senior agronomist at Grain Farmers of Ontario and Chair of the Ontario Cover Crop Working Group.

The study showed some challenges in adopting cover crops. The most common challenges included poor cover crop establishment, the late harvest of a cash crop preventing cover crop plant-

ing, and the additional costs associated with growing a cover crop.

Although the expansion of cover crop adoption in the province is an indication of the benefits that some farms experience with this practice, barriers that hinder widespread cover crop adoption still exist. This makes it an important time to hear from Ontario farms about the benefits and challenges they experience, their needs for research and knowledge transfer, and to get feedback on what could enable wider adoption of cover crops in Ontario.

“It is an important time to hear from farmers about their needs for research and knowledge transfer,” said Callum Morrison, Graduate Student and Report Author, University of Manitoba.

The 2020 Ontario Cover Crop Feedback project was developed to provide information to farmers, agronomists, researchers, policy makers, and government organizations that will play an important role in the future of cover crops in Ontario.

The project was a voluntary online survey of Ontario farms, targeting both farms that did and did not grow cover crops during the 2020 growing season. Farms of all types and sizes in Ontario were invited to take part. A variety of questions were asked to farmers who grew and did not grow cover crops. Both groups were asked about farm characteristics, motivations, what would enable cover crop use, and where farms source information.

“Ontario’s Certified Crop Advisors are pleased to have participated in the survey recruitment and review processes of the Cover Crop Report,” said Ken Currah, Certified Crop Advisor and Ontario Cover Crop Working Group member. “We look forward to working with our farmer customers to transfer this knowledge and providing our advisory services in support of their farm management

decisions around soil health improvement, environmental stewardship, and continued cover crop adoption.”

In total, the survey collected responses from 731 farmers, 520 of which grew a cover crop in 2020 and 211 did not grow a cover crop in 2020.

“This survey was made possible by the great support of Ontario farmers. They were asked to provide their feedback about what was occurring with cover crops and the response was tremendous,” said Paul Hoekstra, Vice-President of Strategic Development, Grain Farmers of Ontario. “We thank the farmers, researchers, and the Ontario Cover Crop Steering Committee for the incredible work they have done to represent the needs and voices of Ontario’s grain farmers to highlight the areas where we can continue to provide the best support.”

The report can be accessed at the Grain Farmers of Ontario website, [www.gfo.ca](http://www.gfo.ca).

For more detailed information on cover crops, please see page 18.

### On the Cover



Celebrating 45 years of publication Farm View Publisher, Roslyn Watkins, poses with copies of the Farm Review from 1989.

— Photo by Anna MacLeod

**DEADLINE for the February Farm View is January 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.**  
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**FROM THE EDITOR****Actions to be inspired by**

Happy New Year everyone! 2022 is already off to a very exciting start in the office of the Farm View newspaper. This year marks 45 years of publication for the Farm View. For any new readers there is an article on page 6 detailing a bit of the history of the paper, along with a few memories from the previous publisher, John Beischer.

I'd like to give a very warm welcome to Paul Maurice, the new OFA director for Simcoe, York and Peel. Cathy Hamill-Hill had the opportunity to interview Mr. Maurice. The article can be found on page 11 along with a very informative report on the OFA's 2021 Annual General Meeting. A common thread from the OFA AGM was the encouragement to farmers to tell their stories. I would love to print your stories in the upcoming issues of Farm View. If you would like to share a story of your life on a farm please mail or email it in. Contact information is at the bottom of this page.

Cathy also gives us the incredible story of Town Cruise from the trainer himself, Brandon Greer. I was fascinated watching this horse run in the Ricoh Woodbine mile. The race can be found on Youtube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOWd8cHZ\\_OQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOWd8cHZ_OQ).

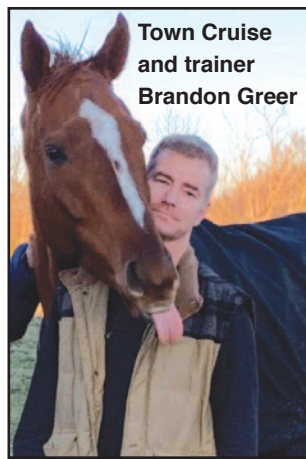
My favourite part of the article on Town Cruise was Brandon Greer explaining why they couldn't go on to the 2021 Breeders' Cup World Championships. He stated that due to labour shortages there isn't enough labour to care for the horses at his family's stable or for the horses at Woodbine that he is responsible for. I find that truly commendable, and so rare for someone to put the needs and responsibilities of their job ahead of their own personal gain. Most definitely actions to be inspired by. I hope you enjoy the article as much as I did.

Also to be inspired by are the South Simcoe 4-H leaders and members featured on pages 14 and 15. Congratulations ladies on a job very well done.

In this issue we are introducing two new advertisers, Georgian Waste Services and Recycling Specialties Inc. Please take a moment to review their ads and services along with our other advertisers. As always if you require a service from one of Farm View's wonderful advertisers, please let them know you saw their ad here.

I hope everyone enjoys this issue and has a wonderful start to 2022!

*Happy New Year!*  
*Roslyn Watkins*

**Mental health program for farmers expands to Durham****Durham Region Federation of Agriculture administers the Farmer Wellness Program**

The Durham Region Federation of Agriculture (DRFA) believes in prioritizing the mental health of farmers in our region. As of December 2021, DRFA has partnered with two mental health professionals who are established practitioners and specialize in providing service to the rural and agricultural community. Through these partnerships, OFA members in Durham Region have access to mental health counselling with professionals who are uniquely qualified due to their understanding of the stressors inherent to the agricultural industry.

Durham Region joins six other counties in offering this service to their membership. The Farmer Wellness Program operates in Northumberland, Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox & Addington, Frontenac and Lanark counties. OFA members in Durham Region join their counterparts in being able to access four counseling sessions at no charge.

The services of the Durham Farmer Wellness Program will:

- Be provided by skilled and experienced counsellors in mental health treatment
- Be strictly confidential
- Accommodate farmers' unique schedule and workload, by offering services during the day, evening & weekend

- Have flexible service delivery options: office or home appointments, telephone or video chat
- Provide up to 4 sessions at no cost to OFA members in Durham Region

The agricultural industry is inherently stressful. Farmers have a very demanding lifestyle that includes long and irregular hours, social isolation, physically demanding work, and constant pressures such as weather, market fluctuations, and economic uncertainties.

Respondents to a national survey in 2015 by the University of Guelph indicated that:

- 58% of farmers experience symptoms of anxiety,
- Almost half have high levels of stress
- 35% have signs of depression
- and 40% of producers said they'd be reluctant to get help because of fear about what others would think.

To access the service, farmers can call one of the following service providers or visit [farmerwellnessprogram.ca](http://farmerwellnessprogram.ca) for more information.

Candice Beach, RP  
[www.candicebeach.com](http://www.candicebeach.com)  
[cbeach@gestaltmail.ca](mailto:cbeach@gestaltmail.ca)  
(416) 655-4285

Marnie Wood, RP  
[www.agtalk.ca](http://www.agtalk.ca)  
[marnie@marniewood.ca](mailto:marnie@marniewood.ca)  
(705) 331-9076

**EFAO's Small Grains Program aims to help farmers diversify their rotation by growing a spring small grain followed by a legume cover crop**

As many farmers already know, small grains offer big gains. Adding small grains to a corn and soybean-based rotation has both ecological and economic benefits. But, trying something new on the farm comes with some uncertainty and risk. EFAO's Small Grains Program aims to address that risk by offsetting some of the initial cost of growing small grains and recognizing the ecosystem services that diversified rotations provide.

For the 2022 growing season — the second iteration of this pilot program — the Small Grains Program is a regionally targeted, auction-based bid and payment program that is focused on spring small grains. Eligible participants include farmers in the Grey-Bruce area and eastern Ontario who haven't grown a spring small grain in the last three years.

Intake opens: January 4, 2022 and Intake closes: January 11, 2022 at 11:59PM EST.

**To participate in this year's Small Grains Program, farmers must:**

- Be a current or previous member of EFAO, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), or both.
- Have not grown a spring small grain anywhere on your farm in the last three years (2019, 2020, 2021). For the purposes of this program, small grains include wheat, spelt, barley, rye, oats, triticale, buckwheat, amaranth and quinoa.
- Plan to grow a small grain on land within an eligible county/region.

**What do I have to do as part of this program?**

In order to receive your payment you must:

- Plant and harvest a small grain in 2022. For the purposes of this intake, small grains include wheat, spelt, barley, rye, oats, triticale, buckwheat, amaranth and quinoa. The grain crop can be seeded as preferred (i.e. frost-seeded, spring planted.)
- Plant a legume cover crop, cover crop mix with legume species that is inter-, under-, broadcast or direct seeded with the small grain in the same field; or planted in the same field after the small grain is harvested.

Visit <https://efao.ca/small-grains> or call 519-760-5606 to learn about eligible regions, and for more information on who can apply and how to apply.

**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](mailto:farmview@on.aibn.com)

Mail: 8 Luella Blvd. Minesing ON L9X 0W7

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**A forum for the Agricultural and Rural Community**

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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](mailto:Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca)

**OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:**

Paul Maurice: 705-444-1398 email: [paul.maurice@ofa.on.ca](mailto:paul.maurice@ofa.on.ca)

**2021-2022 Executive – Simcoe County**

President:	Dave Ritchie	705-534-4017
Vice President:	Colin Elliot	705-791-1006
PAC Member:	Dave Ritchie	
SCFA Phone:	705-726-9300 ext 1224	
	<a href="mailto:office@simcoecountyfa.org">office@simcoecountyfa.org</a>	

**2021-2022 Executive – York Region**

President:	Jordan Coates	905-252-9071
Contact YRFA:	<a href="mailto:york@ofa.on.ca">york@ofa.on.ca</a>	

**2020-2021 Executive – Dufferin County**

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

**2020-2021 Executive – Peel County**

President	Tom Dolson	416-727-7066
1st Vice	Kristen Carberry	226-343-1344
2nd Vice	Gary Mountain	647-225-3410
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# Farm View celebrates 45 years in publication

45 years ago, in the spring of 1977, John Beischer brought to the agricultural community an innovative publication called Simcoe County Farm Review. Today, 45 years later, a few things have changed. The paper, now called Farm View, serves the Counties of Simcoe and Dufferin and the Regions of York, Peel and Muskoka. As well as farm communities in Grey, Bruce, Victoria, Durham, Wellington and Haliburton Counties.

The evolution of Farm View began in February 1977 when John Beischer, general manager of the Barrie Banner (now the Barrie Advance) met with Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture president Tom Smith of Utopia, to discuss the viability of producing an annual farm publication that would serve as a report to federation members as well as an advertising vehicle for Simcoe County area farm businesses.

In April of that year, Farm Review and Forecast began as a 12 page broadsheet newspaper containing advertisements, news stories and agricultural reports from various groups and organizations in the County. This newspaper was distributed by mail to approximately 2700 members.

The local federation provided the mailing list and the Barrie Banner supplied the sales and publishing expertise. This simple yet beneficial arrangement continued for more than a decade until the Barrie Banner was sold. The new owners chose not to continue the association with the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture.

A year later in 1989, SCFA directors struck a committee to meet with John Beischer to again discuss the viability of a farm newspaper to serve the needs of the Simcoe County farmer. Shortly thereafter, Farm Review began publishing on a monthly basis. In 1994 John and Jill Beischer acquired full ownership of Farm Review.

In the Spring of 2020, Roslyn Watkins purchased the Farm View Newspaper from her father, John, and continues to provide a family run, locally owned platform for the agricultural community. The Farm View website has a fresh, modern look and Farm View is now on Facebook!

## Farm View memories, people and places

By John Beischer



Former Farm View publisher, John Beischer

When asked by the current publisher "what constitutes my favourite memories while publishing Farm View up until my retirement last year," my answer was the people I met and the places I have visited. During a 46 year career publishing newspapers, I met hundreds of wonderful people, many of whom are still good friends today. Colleagues in the business included advertising sales professionals, talented production staff, graphic artists, and news writers; all of whom contributed greatly to the success of the publications and made my work enjoyable.

In addition to workmates, many customers also became long term friends and acquaintances. I can name a half dozen advertising clients that have been with me since my days in daily and weekly newspaper endeavours, and then discovered the advantages of advertising their products and services to the farm community as well. These friends contributed greatly to the success and profitability

of Farm View and I am grateful for their support.

One might wonder why 'places' would be memorable to me. Firstly it should be pointed out that deadlines, whether daily, weekly or monthly, put severe restrictions on holiday travel, both domestic and abroad. Most of our [family] vacations consisted of great camping trips with the kids and grandkids.

We are very privileged to have wonderful vistas in every corner of this Province.

However, the wonderful sites that are memorable to me are contained within the half dozen regions served by Farm View's distribution.

I have probably driven the circumference of Lake Simcoe [one of the world's largest fresh water lakes] more than two hundred times, servicing customers in Simcoe County, Muskoka, York Region, Victoria County, Dufferin County, and the regions of Peel and Durham.

It has allowed me the wonderful opportunity to drive thru some of the most beautiful and diverse agricultural land in the world.

Being 'self employed' allowed me the extra time to stop and admire the black soil of the Holland marsh, picnic next to clear sparklingly waters, spend hours reading gravestones in pioneer cemeteries, visit farms and farmers at their place of business, view fields of wheat or corn while marvelling at the risk and reward that went into their production.

Then there were the countless corner stores, general stores, barns and outbuildings, rolling hills and forested valleys, rural route schools and Churches, single lane bridges and gravel country roads. Frozen ponds and warm beaches. Every turn on a county concession road illustrated our interesting farming history and the incredible advances in agriculture that our farmers have achieved.

Now, let's talk about tractors and heavy farm machinery. WAIT!

That will have to be the subject of my next article.

## We love our advertisers

By Roslyn Watkins

We can't celebrate 45 years of being in business without celebrating the advertisers who have been with us from the start.

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## Farm View front covers from the past



Left to right January 2017, July 2010, February 1998, January 1996 and October 1989



# Reflect on the past to set future goals



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

This is the time of year that many people begin to set new goals for the coming year. In setting goals, we often need to evaluate what transpired in the previous 12 months. This can be a sobering process if you had a difficult year in your personal or business life. And let's face it, the past two years have been brutal. The financial, emotional and health stressors we have encountered were unimaginable just three short years ago.

I know that our members have seen OFA communications on mental health during the past year. Sometimes we can become numb to these types of messages, and I can understand that. But just imagine if that message helped a person that you love get the help they need. Then all the effort and money going into these types of communications have paid off in spades!

But what does that help actually look like? It does not always have to be scheduled appointments with a counselor or therapist. There are self help on-line services available to privately access at your convenience. For example, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) offers on-line videos and coaching to assist anyone experiencing mild to moderate anxiety or depression. The videos offer tips for coping and are offered in a number of different languages. If you need motivation and encouragement the Bounce Back Program offers that as well. You design your own program to meet your specific needs and choose workbooks on various mental health topics. Your coach is trained in all the Bounce Back materials and will assist you to gain the skills to improve your mental health. The coaching sessions can include up to six telephone calls.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, please call Canada Suicide Prevention Service at 1-833-456-4566.

Recently, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs announced that they will be funding two important mental health services specifically for our agricultural sector. Building off the successful Farmer Wellness Program launched in Eastern Ontario and supported by the local County Federations of Agriculture, the provincial program will offer mental health services to farmers across the province. Stay tuned for additional details this spring as the program rolls out. This further supports the initiative launched last year called In The Know, Mental Health Literacy Program. The In The Know program is a mental health awareness program built specifically for the farming community. The Canadian Mental Health Association's local branches are equipped to deliver the program to our local

communities. Some of our OFA County Federations have already received an introduction to the program details. If groups or individuals are interested in gaining knowledge on how to start conversations with those that are exhibiting signs of stress, anxiety, depression or are turning to substance abuse to cope, the In The Know Program offers a half day training session. This session can be for those employed in the agricultural service industry who see and talk to farmers everyday.

If you, your organization, or employer would like to explore what the In The Know Program has to offer please contact me. I would be happy to make the connections to the CMHA staff and get the ball rolling towards better mental health awareness and assistance for our farming communities.

Set a goal for 2022 that you take care of yourself and be kind to others.

Wishing all our readers a Happy, Healthy, and Successful harvest in 2022!

<https://bouncebackontario.ca/adults-19/>

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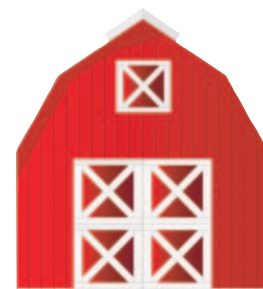
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# Trainer shares about Town Cruises big race day

By Cathy Hamill-Hill, photos provided by Brandon Greer

"Uncle Town" is now spending his days with free spirited weanlings in the barn in Oro-Medonte he calls home with about ten other horses.

Uncle Town is known to the world as Town Cruise, the Thoroughbred winner of this year's highly prestigious "Ricoh Woodbine Mile" that had a purse of 1 million dollars.

Farm View was given the honour of talking personally to his trainer, Brandon Greer, about the famous horse from Simcoe County.

Brandon grew up in a "horse family." His grandfather and father were both highly accomplished in the horse industry with hunters and jumpers in the 1960's and 1970's. Brandon's Dad, Terrance Greer, always wanted to get into Thoroughbreds and finally, opportunity came his way.

Terrance could see the interest in his young son and he arranged for Brandon to work the Woodbine Track in Toronto to get on-track education at the age of 19. Young Brandon's first job was a "hotwalker" which is the hired person that walks the horses off the training track and cares for them. After a few years of hotwalking, the young horseman moved on to being a groom and eventually he had enough knowledge to begin work as a trainer.

"Woodbine is a community- while it is competitive, it is the place to learn. If someone is willing to ask, someone is willing to answer the questions," Brandon said.

"Dad is a pedigree man, he studies pedigrees all the time and he knows them. Dad knows what works." There was no second option for the choice to match up Candy Cruise with Town Prize that resulted in Town Cruise.

Town Cruise "grew up to be a big, big horse. I talked to him and he said he wanted to race." So the two moved to Woodbine and went to work, training.

"At Woodbine, you have to be the horse's buddy because there are no other buddies there for the horse. There are no open fields to run in like at home," Brandon said adding there is a significant employee shortage right now because of COVID-19. There are excellent off-shore workers that used to come to Woodbine each year that "are wonderful with horses" but they cannot get here now because of travel restrictions. This left Brandon with no help this year at any level in getting the big horse race ready.

Brandon had Town Cruise in top form and decided, after doing good at a few other races, to enter the highly prestigious "Ricoh Woodbine Mile" that was an entry to the 2021 Breeders' Cup World Championships that took place this year in California, USA. The first place winner of the "Woodbine Mile" is given a "free pass" including a flight for horse and its people to the race site plus the big entry fee paid and automatic entry bypassing the tough selection process, Brandon explains.

There were horses from all over the world worth millions of dollars- with hopes of winning to get to the 2021 Breeders' Cup World Championships via a win at the Ricoh Woodbine Mile. Forty minutes before race time, every horse and its trainer are put into a "Retention Barn" under strict watch. This is standard protocol for a race at this Grade 1 level, Brandon says, "I've never been so intimidated by horses in my life as those horses for that time in the barn. Those horses knew how good they really were- and they were there to win this," he said adding, "My job in that barn

was not to show how nervous I was and instead be calm so Town would be calm too. My brain was far from calm though because I was thinking that I just had 'my little critter' here with me."

At the starting gate, the work was handed over to the jockey, Daisuke Fukumoto. "The jockey is in a race with such a big horse, he could never have controlled Town if Town didn't want to be controlled. The jockey is a young guy, he's only 23 and he's never been in a Grade 1 race like this before. He was so calm and cool." Brandon says at this point, all he could do is lean over the rail and watch. All that work, all that time- it was all out of his control now. Town Cruise was given a 10 to 1 chance to win this race.

That young jockey got the big horse out front-fast. "Town loves to be out front because then he relaxes with nobody too close. Once the jockey got him out front, I thought 'maybe.'" Brandon says admitting he still hasn't fully grasped that his self-trained horse that he and his Dad bred actually won this highly prestigious race.

Brandon says he has apologized to Town Cruise that "I couldn't let him go the next step that he earned." The labour shortage at Woodbine meant there was no one to care for horses during that time there or at home. It was decided by the Dad/son team to cancel plans for going to the 2021 Breeders' Cup World Championships since there weren't any safe options for the horses. The new plan was for Brandon's Dad to go to Kentucky, USA for a week to buy a bred mare and a weanling that caught the eye of the "pedigree man."

Right now, Town Cruise is helping out caring for the younger horses because "that makes Uncle Town happy," Brandon says from his Simcoe County home. In the spring "Town and I will have a talk, if he is wanting to race, that is what we will do."

"What I want people to know is that Town (Cruise) is here because of my Dad- and this win is because of my Dad. I'm just so lucky to have my Dad," Brandon concluded.



Pictured above is Town Cruise at 3 weeks of age.



Shown above from left to right are father and son team. Terrance Greer, Town Cruise and Brandon Greer.

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# Fire Safety for Alzheimer's Families

By Dennis Gannon

Regrettably, Alzheimer Disease is a progressive, degenerative brain disease that destroys vital brain cells. With the changes to the brain, it no longer works as it used to. People with this disease unfortunately overtime have a diminished ability to make sense of information from the outside world. They become unable to think, remember, understand, and make decisions as before. If a fire were to occur in their home, people with Alzheimer Disease or other forms of dementia would be extremely vulnerable to serious injury, or even death. Taking the time to make the family home fire safe, develop a home fire safety plan and to review and im-

plement the safety recommendations will assist in keeping the loved ones safe.

Careless smoking is one of the leading causes of fire deaths in Ontario. For people with Alzheimer Disease, this risk is even greater. As the disease progresses, it is less likely that they will follow safe smoking procedures, such as extinguishing cigarettes. Caregivers may be able to discourage smoking by removing visible reminders, such as cigarettes, matches, lighters and ashtrays. Out of sight, the person with Alzheimer Disease may forget about smoking. If allowed to smoke it is important to supervise the individual while they are smoking. Purchase large, deep ashtrays and consider putting water in the bottom for added safety. Cigarette butts

and ashes should be submerged in water before being dumped in the garbage. Placing a cookie sheet under the ashtray can prevent the cigarette and its hot ashes from falling onto furniture or clothing. Smoking outside, or while seated at a table, is a safer alternative. No one should ever smoke in bed, nor in a home where oxygen is in use.

Cooking may still be a task that those suffering with Alzheimer's like to perform. It is important to provide supervision and assist where necessary. Make sure he or she wears tight-fitting sleeves that cannot come in contact with a hot burner. Keep all combustible materials a safe distance from the stove, including paper towels, utensils, recipes or tea towels. Consider the installation of a remote disconnect switch for the stove which will prevent its use during unsupervised times. Other appliances, such as toasters and electric kettles, should be unplugged and stored out of sight when not in use. While microwave ovens present less hazards than stovetops, they can still cause fires and burn injuries. The use of microwave ovens

should be supervised at all times.

Scalds are painful injuries that can be prevented by adjusting the temperature of water heaters to no more than 54C (130F). If a burn injury does occur, run cool water over the affected area for three to five minutes then seek medical attention as necessary.

If a fire occurs in the home, caregivers need as much time as possible to assist the person with Alzheimer Disease to safety. By law, all Ontario homes are required to have a working smoke alarm on every storey as well as outside all sleeping areas. Installing a smoke alarm in the bedroom will provide extra protection. Having working smoke alarms helps to ensure the earliest detection and warning of fire. Test smoke alarms once a month following the manufacturers instructions and replace batteries once a year. If alarms are more than 10 years old, replace them with new ones.

In a fire situation, it is critical that everyone in the household knows what to do and where to go. Develop a home escape plan, indicating two ways out of every room, if possible, and review the plan with every member of the household - including the person with Alzheimer Disease. The plan should identify who will assist the person with Alzheimer Disease and any other vulnerable occupant to safely get out of the home.

A good safety plan includes a meeting place outside the home, such as a tree, mailbox or a neighbours house, where everyone can meet and be accounted for. Calling 9-1-1 must be done from outside of the home.

If appropriate, it is a good idea to inform neighbours that someone with Alzheimer Disease is living next door and that if they observe an emergency they should call 9-1-1 immediately. Develop a buddy system with your neighbours to assist in case of emergency or when you are away from the home.

Tripping could be fatal in a fire situation. Check to see that all tripping hazards, such as scatter rugs, cords, shoes and general clutter, are removed from floors and stairways. Outdoor repairs of patios or walkways where there are uneven surfaces should be completed as soon as possible. Mark the edges of steps with reflective or a contrasting colour of tape, so they stand out and can be seen from a distance. Ensure the home is adequately lit. Dimly lit areas may produce confusing shadows or create difficulty in recognizing everyday objects. Use night-lights to light the way from the bathroom to the bedroom.

Finally, remember when the smoke alarm sounds and there is smoke or fire, everyone must get out right away. Call the fire department from a cell phone or neighbours house, know the address of the location and ensure that the address is clearly visible at all times. For additional assistance or a home fire inspection contact your local fire department.



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## Water is an important nutrient, goat producers learn

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) hosted a Basics of Goat Nutrition Webinar Series. There were over 50 producers attending on Day 2 of the series.

Dr. Paul Luimes, from the University of Guelph, Ridgetown College was a presenter. He said “the most important nutrient” is water.

One of the keys to good production is having the access to water. “Studies have shown sheep will walk 4 kilometres for water. Animals will not die of thirst, but they will lose production without water that is close by.” He added, “A 50% reduction in water decreases feed intake by 25% which in turn, reduces production.”

After eating, goats will drink water if they have that opportunity. “The easier access and the less steps to get water after eating is a huge factor in reaching top production,” he said. Keeping the water clean from manure and algae is important.

Mineral nutrition is “completely complex,” Dr. Luimes said explaining that one mineral can interact with another mineral causing a lack of both. Some times minerals can interact with each other causing too many minerals, which is “wasteful” he said. A factor in determining the amount of minerals in forages is often “the amount of minerals in the soil that the forages were grown in,” he said adding that in all of Ontario it is known for certain there is a selenium deficiency in the soil. Selenium needs to be added to the goat's diet.

An animal nutritionist can build the recipe for grain ration that is needed on individual farms. However, the nutritionist will need to know what type- and the content of the forages being fed. At the seminar, Anita Heeg, Feed Ingredient and By-Products Specialist for OMAFRA explained how to take forage samples. “It is best for hay that 15 to 20 bales are used to take a forage sample. Best way is to use a cord drill. Drill into a square bale in the centre of the bale. For big



bales, make sure you get each layer. The idea is to get the leaf and the stems. Pulling a sample (by hand) means you will lose the leaves and a lot of protein is in the leaves. If hay is stored in a bunk then take samples from bales not too close to the top or the sides because rains could have added moisture,” she advised.

Points to remember when taking a forage sample is to keep the sample clean and properly label it as to what it contains. “Don't stuff too much hay in the sample bag so its poking out the sides and instead “fill the bag  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way and squeeze the extra air out,” she said.

“Do not send a hay sample out on a Friday,” Ms. Heeg stressed explaining that producers don't want their samples sitting around in transit.

A goat producer asked Dr. Luimes why there is so little research information specifically done for goats. Dr. Luimes replied that “The goat industry need to consider what other livestock industries have done, like cattle. There is one voice for beef cattle and one voice for dairy cattle. The cattle industry is organized. They take a check-off (a small fee per animal taken at market time) that can go towards research. Money on the table means research.”

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# Ontario Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting: three part article

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

## INTRODUCING: PAUL MAURICE, OFA Director for Simcoe, York and Peel

“Farmers need to tell their story.”

Paul Maurice is a farmer first. He is also a past Councillor and Deputy Mayor for Tiny Township and he is now the newly elected Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Provincial Director representing Simcoe, York and Peel counties.

Paul was approached by members of the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture when the news was received that longtime Director and Past President of the OFA, Keith Currie was retiring. At this County level, Paul was a Zone Director and a Vice President.

“I was honoured to be considered in the first place to replace Keith Currie. I was even more honoured and surprised when I was acclaimed to the position,” he said.

Paul Maurice is the fourth generation of his family farm. His Great Grandfather cleared the land of the farm located in the area of Lafontaine in Tiny Township. He grew up on this farm and spent about 30 years of his life here as a dairy farmer. Paul was pleased when his son announced he planned to come home to work as the fifth generation in 2011. The father and son had long discussions spending a lot of time in research as to how to proceed into the future. The decision was made to stay in supply managed sector but move from dairy farming to working with the Chicken Farmers of Ontario with a broiler chicken operation. The new chicken barn was built in the summer of 2014.

Paul and his son, Alex, cash crop about 900 acres, growing corn, soybeans, cereal grains and some hay.

“We (farmers) need to tell our story,” Paul said explaining that there are huge challenges coming at Ontario farmers based on people not understanding farming. He said farmers will be represented at government level by the OFA, that will be at the table fully prepared to stand up for the agriculture industry in Ontario. He said he is willing and ready to take his part in all this with his passion for agriculture.

One of the current challenges will be dealing with the “A Healthy Environment

and a Healthy Economy” plan proposal from the Canadian government which is about carbon emissions.

Farmers and food businesses have their own section in the government document and recommendations are a direct hit to the farming industry. One of these is “Set a national emission reduction target of 30% below 2020 levels from fertilizers...” This means that, if this plan was enforced, farmers will be required to use less fertilizers with no consideration for the final output and viability of the crop.

“The Carbon Emissions and Tax is a risk to our industry. Some of those recommendations would be very hard to implement in our operations. Alternatives are not available or feasible to address these recommendations. Farmers are not being understood here. Crop inputs, such as seed, fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides and the technology associated are tools that we need to use in order to meet the demands of feeding the people of the world,” he said.

The cost of heating barns and drying crops is going to greatly increase under the proposed carbon tax. Paul says “Farmers are price takers not price setters. We cannot pass on these increased costs. Many of the best management practices that we have implemented in our operations are innovative and help reduce any negative impact on the environment.”

“Our country is fed by 1.5% of our population that are farmers. Farmers grow food that they also eat and feed to their families. Farmers are good stewards of the land and always will be. Most of us want to be able to pass on a safe and healthy farmstead to the next generation,” he adds.

“The farmers need to have their story told and that is my #1 goal in my new role with OFA. I plan to tell as many farm stories as I can and create interactive conversations in order to make people better understand what we do and why we do it. Farmers are doing an important job and they are doing that job well,” he said from his farm in Tiny Township.

## ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE WANTS TO SAVE FARMLAND

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) held an online Annual General Meeting. Over 200 OFA delegates attended the organized, fast paced meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included a live message from the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson. She was the the General Manager of the Ontario Dairy Goat Cooperative prior to her entry into politics. Her political career began in October 2011 and she was re-elected twice more. Minister Thompson lives on a farm near Teeswater, Ontario and says her government is a strong supporter of Ontario farmers. "Never before as right now we need a strong Ontario agriculture sector. We need to take care of our front line farmers that work 365 days a year to produce food for Ontario," she said adding, "mental health is as important as physical health."

The "added pressures of interruptions in supply chains" added to the weather extremes and the increasing cost of production can be too much for today's farmer to handle, she said. Understanding the stress of farming has never been at this accelerated level before, the Ontario government has joined with the Canadian government to invest more than 7 million dollars to help farmers and farm families deal with mental health.

The OFA and the Canadian Mental Health Association

(CMHA) are both consultants in getting two new programs in place for next year, Minister Thompson explained.

Later in the meeting, the OFA executive commented on an awareness program that seems to be unifying urban and rural people. The program titled "Home Grown-Protect our Farmland" is all about keeping farmland as land for farming. OFA Vice President Mark Reusser commented, "Farmland is the raw material for farming, we cannot have farms without farmland. We can't be losing 175 acres of farmland every day in Ontario. We need to let the public know of this loss that affects all of us."

Executor Director of OFA Crispin Colvin, commented, "OFA is 38,000 farm households that are building trust at all levels for what we put on tables, for what we do every day. We are connecting with Ontarians with shared values that farmlands need to be preserved."

According to the Home Grown website, only 5% of Ontario land can produce food. The Ontario government has the final say as to the use of land and whether it can be taken

## STORIES ARE POWERFUL TOOLS, SAYS TERRY O'REILLY AT OFA MEETING

Terry O'Reilly is the CBC Radio host of “Under the Influence” and was the guest speaker at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's Annual General Meeting.

“I'm a story hunter,” O'Reilly says adding that stories are the most powerful tool any farmer has to get its products or services sold to the public. People love stories- and react to stories.

“Facts only rarely make people take action- stories do. Storytelling is a critical skill for marketing a product or an industry. A great story is aimed at the heart not the head- and 80% of buying is done from the heart,” he says.

He presented a story from the United Kingdom about British Rail. British Rail was looking to hire a new advertising agency. British Rail was invited to come to an advertising agency to discuss this opportunity. Three well dressed people from British Rail went to the advertising agency for this meeting. The door opened up to a dirty lobby littered with used coffee cups and old newspapers. It was 9:00 a.m when they walked to the reception desk asking where the meeting was. The three were hardly given a glance and were waved over to a couch to wait. After 50 minutes of waiting, the three stood up and were ready to leave when someone well dressed came to them and said, “You were just given an example of what hundreds of British Rail customers are exposed to every day.” O'Reilly explained that the advertising agency got the contract because British Rail “felt the problem, not just were told about it.”

People will tune out information, even if it is critical information because “information is a sedative,” he said. People get so much information in a day, they are just overwhelmed with so much of it. People though, do remember “feelings.” One day a man came in to buy a Steinway Piano and the sales clerk asked what had prompted him to come after this specific piano. “It was the advertising,” said the man and the sales clerk was pleased and asked him if he remembered “what ad?” The man replied, “the ad was from 28 years ago, I have been saving ever since to pay for one.”

“The powerful story has an increased shelf life,” O'Reilly says adding that without a story it doesn't matter that much. He gave the example of needing to learn about a forensic coroner for a project. He was given permission to go to a morgue and experience life as a forensic coroner. He said the case that day was deciding how the death occurred. The autopsy took place and O'Reilly felt nothing until he was given “the story” that the deceased was a certain age, he had a wife and the fact he died at his work site. When the “story” was known, the deceased became real and he was seriously bothered.

Another example O'Reilly gave was the sale of a wooden mallet. The old wooden mallet was bought at a garage sale for .35 cents. The buyer wrote 25 words creating a story for this item placing it online for sale. A bidding war took place and the worthless mallet sold for \$71.00. He admitted he did this himself too, on a vacation. He bought a rug that was said to be linked with an Indian Princess and the royalty connection was the reason for the sale.

Using stories in advertising works. O'Reilly explained that a well known USA airline, “Southwest Airlines” looks for stories and thus, has created customer appreciation. One example was a grandfather on route to see his 3 year old grandson for the last time. The grandfather arrived at the boarding gate a full 12 minutes late and found the plane waiting with the pilot himself standing at the gate saying to the shocked grandfather, “I knew the plane would not leave without me.” The grandfather had shared his story to a Southwest Airline worker who relayed it on realizing this was a story in the making. “We care” was shown here and that is a powerful message, O'Reilly says.

“New doors are not opened by old keys,” he said giving his personal example of how a creative ad can change people's minds about a product. He was approached by Pink Insulation to make an ad campaign. Insulation is usually a one time purchase- and it's not exciting. O'Reilly came up with a different approach, tell the story of what the purchaser would do with all the money saved by the insulation. This insulation was pink so the ad featured the couple saving enough money “to buy 240 pink flamingos” for example. The idea caught on, and it was a cab driver in Vancouver that proved this point to O'Reilly. The driver was chatty so asked what O'Reilly was flying in for and was told he worked in advertising including the latest one about pink insulation. The cab driver was starstruck, he and his wife dressed up as the couple that bought pink flamingos from the ad at a recent costume party. Pink insulation now commands a huge share of the insulation market.

“On your farms, you all have stories that are more exciting than any insulation. Tell your stories,” he concluded.

out of farmland and used for urban development. It is normally a long process to change zoning from farmland to any other use however, there is a provision called “Minister's Zoning Orders (MZO)” that can make the change from farmland to be used for urban development quickly. According to the website, “Since the beginning of the pandemic (March 2020), an MZO has been used six times to rezone farmland for urban use.”

Ontario farmland is used to make cider to growing Christmas trees to beekeeping for honey production to growing flowers- and all the other food that comes to the tables in Ontario. OFA has an online petition with over 18,000 signatures supporting keeping Ontario farmland as Ontario farmland, so far. The online petition can be viewed at: <http://homegrown.ofa.on.ca>



## After The Chores: Trials of Puppyhood

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



We are trying to get through puppyhood with Isaac. It feels like its been years, though we've only had the little red Labrador Retriever since Thanksgiving Monday.

Isaac's energy is so high that one has to see it to believe how wild one little red pup can really be. I expect it will be a long time and we might need to submit a progress report card on Isaac before we ever get invited away for another weekend to town. In this town home, there is also an elderly small dog. The first thing Isaac did off leash was suddenly run full-out to topple the elderly dog overcausing a big bark-out because Isaac didn't appreciate getting told off by the older dog.

The only way to deal with Isaac is with a firm hand- and a LOUD voice. In

that town home, the gentle lady living there is not experienced in dealing with strong willed pups and besides she likely hasn't said anything unkind to anyone including telemarketers in the last thirty years. "Please get down. Oh, what a cutie pie you are!" does not work with Isaac. He just continues doing bad while enjoying the compliments.

Going to the barn here is mandatory. Isaac cannot be left unsupervised for ten minutes much less an hour. Further, we expect our dog to be a "barn dog" since they are, as adults, an extra set of eyes and a super nose to tell me if anything is out of place. Larry, our last Lab was an expert in catching rabbits and he could find them out before I did. I thought I had a good pupsitter with the 10 month old doe kid called "Rotten Kid." She and Isaac would race in the barn, the goat in pursuit of the pup. Isaac would dash outside and then dash back in the barn, the goat right behind him. Isaac, per usual, pushed too hard at the game. Rotten Kid was just standing peacefully after a big run with the pup when Isaac rushed up to her and jumped on her, grazing her with his little sharp puppy teeth. Goats are smart. Isaac made the mistake of stopping for a sniff with his little red behind pointing upwards, right in the line of sight of a goat with revenge in her mind. "Aroooooo!" screamed the shocked Isaac as he got pushed red behind over his red head into the hay on the barn floor. Isaac had no injuries but he sure won't jump on any more goats after that.

The llamas now control Isaac. He started to nip and chase them too. Pandee had

enough. Pandee is the yearling llama and already his natural guardian feelings are kicking in. Having a 25 pound red canine bouncing around acting disrespectful was past Pandee's patience. Pandee waited quietly and when Isaac got too

close, he lifted his front leg up quickly- and bonked it down on Isaac's head. Thankfully, Pandee is petite in his build like his mother was so no damage done except to teach Isaac that llamas need respect.

Usually the first real snowfall is incredibly fun for a pup's first winter. The winter is not

as much for Isaac because he is not prepared. Isaac has a significant lack of fur on his lower half. He has thick fur on the top half- but the other half is all set right now for a hot humid summer. He loves the snow hopping around to make fresh tracks- but then his summer-ready area gets too cold.

Food is Isaac's first love. He learned, instantly, to sit in exchange for food. With his

big brown eyes, his white whiskers and his little red face staring intently, Isaac sits like a model puppy. He has this sit mastered- and he will go up to anyone, anywhere and sit, hoping for a treat. Isaac hops in the truck, super excited to go out to perform to get treats. We went to Canadian Tire and Isaac was in such a hurry to get in the store, he darted in front of me and my foot brushed his paw. "AROOOOOOOO" howled Isaac causing everyone in the front part of the store to stare at me as if I had stabbed him.

He is often a bad pup, however, not having him here would devastate us- and we now know this. About a month ago, I made the stupid mistake of having chocolate raisins in the house. Isaac has learned how to open drawers with his teeth. He stole the half package of chocolate raisins- and left me evidence of an empty package and a few on the floor. A call to my friend who has a purebred kennel for advice sent me racing with Isaac to the vet. The vet explained like my friend said that raisins are toxic to "some dogs" and those dogs will die if not immediately treated by a vet. Sweetie was texting "save Isaac!" from his work at lunch break. I was shaking and praying that Isaac was not going to leave us when I handed over the happy pup to the office staff. Loving attention and people, it took hours for Isaac to finally settle down and let the medication work. The vet office was so happy to report he spit up 27 raisins.

We are so happy Isaac is well and home with us. It will be nice though when this puppyhood is finished.



Isaac sitting proudly

## Tackling the Wild Pig Problem

By Tom Tavani, General Manager for the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario.

The discovery of a group of wild pigs north of Pickering in November garnered national news attention and put a stronger focus on how to deal with the invasive species in Ontario.

These pigs are not native to North America. They pose a threat to humans, domestic animals, crops and the environment. And they're extremely prolific. Sows can have two litters a year and, once established, populations are nearly impossible to eradicate. Ryan Brook, a University of Saskatchewan researcher who's been studying the species for years, calls them an "ecological train wreck."

If left unchecked, wild pigs could spread the dreaded African Swine Fever here. That highly communicable and fatal disease infected millions of Chinese pigs in 2018, causing a massive population cull and serious economic damage. Besides carrying disease, wild pigs root around fields, destroying crops. They damage natural habitats for many birds and mammals. They are a clear and present danger to farmers, our livelihoods and society at large.

Fortunately, the Ontario government has developed a comprehensive strategy to deal with the issue. There are four main objectives. The first is to prevent pigs from being introduced into the natural environment. Among the actions is help for farmers who keep pigs outdoors so that they can prevent escapes. Wild pig hunting has been prohibited because it's been proven in other jurisdictions that the remaining animals are wilier and, along with their ability to multiply quickly, populations actually increase.

A second objective is to address the risk posed by Eurasian wild boars. As of January 1, 2022, it will be illegal under the Invasive Species Act, to import, own, transport or sell Eurasian wild boar and their hybrids. There is a small number of Ontario farmers who, in the past, imported these animals to raise as an alternative meat. The province has set up a program, run by Agricorp, to help them transition to heritage pig breeds, other livestock or crops. Farmers who apply could be compensated up to \$200 per animal. Applications will be available until January 14, 2022.

A third objective is to remove the wild pigs that are already in the natural environment. In 2018, the government set up a program in which the public is encouraged to report wild pig sightings. In a recent report, the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry found that an average of nine sightings have been reported per month. Government staff followed up and found that most wild pigs had escaped captivity. Fortunately, there's no indication yet of a self-sustaining population.

Finally, Ontario is ensuring that knowledge and expertise about combatting the wild pig problem is shared across ministries, provincial governments, industry and academia.

As we move into 2022, it's good to know that everything possible is being done to prevent wild pigs – and their terrible consequences – from getting established here.



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## A slice of history Rob Henry's Custom Farming, an excerpt from Innisfil Historical Review 2020: Bicentennial Edition

Story provided by Sharlene Dinsmore

Rob Henry has been doing custom work in Innisfil since 1989. He began with a private loan from John Church to purchase a swather. It was used to cut hay for local farmers, as well as spring grain and canola. Every year, farmers would ask him to do more, so with the help of his father and grandfather, he purchased more equipment and hired Mason McCabe. They have been working together for 20 years now and have two more full-time and three part-time employees, as well as an office manager.

"It became very clear that if my wife Kim and I wanted to be owners of a larger piece of property, it would never be in Innisfil. So it was that in 2017 we bought our 110 acres in nearby Essa Township and moved with our children Kaitlyn

and Braeden to create our own Lynbrae Farms Inc.

This meant leaving behind the Henry heritage: the farm of my grandparents Allan and Margaret and my parents Angus and Linda, as well as my brother Dave, his wife Julie, and their daughters Samantha and Rachel.

The best part is that the majority of my contract work is located in nearby Innisfil, and I still feel that is where my heritage heart is. My business covers various aspects of farm life, including land clearing, trucking, planting and harvesting spring grain, hay, wheat, canola, soybeans, and corn. We also do snowplowing in the winter months.

Land clearing doesn't always go smoothly, as evidenced by a recent tractor rollover. And there are days when our equipment can't even travel along the roadway without in-

cident—as in the case of a recent stop by local police and when MTO wrongly challenged us. I have dealt with speeding motorists nearly hitting us or shooting past us on the ditch side of the road. There have also been noise bylaw issues. But even though my favourite tractor burned this year, I carry on!

Farm life is interesting, to say the least, and sometimes beyond regular challenges. But my heart and soul are in it, and when my son, Braeden, is alongside me, just as I was with my dad and grandfather, life falls into place. I would like to thank Mom and Dad for making me pick rocks, fork manure, all the while learning the value of a hard day's work. We will never get rich farming, but we can sure have a lot of fun trying." —Rob Henry, November 2019

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.

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

Editor's note: The articles from The Innisfil Historical Society are excerpt's from the Innisfil Historical Review 2020: Bicentennial Edition. They are not providing current facts and are meant as 'human interest' pieces about the history of farms, farm businesses and their families in our distribution area.

## Carbon Tax Refund For Grain Drying Is Needed Urgently for Ontario Grain Farmers

Grain Farmers of Ontario, the province's largest commodity organization, representing Ontario's 28,000 barley, corn, oat, soybean and wheat farmers, urges the Canadian government to create an exemption on the Carbon Tax that they currently are levying on Ontario grain producers immediately, and to issue a rebate of taxes paid to date.

Recently a tax credit was announced in the Federal Government's Fall Economic Statement that still does not provide Ontario grain farmers with relief from carbon tax paid on fuel to dry grain. The Federal Carbon Tax levied on farmers is an expense that cannot be borne by farmers growing food. In Ontario grain drying is a necessary part of producing high quality, healthy, viable grains – you can't make bread from spoiled grain. Additionally, farmers cannot compete with US farmers who don't have to pay the carbon tax to grow their grain.

The proposed tax credit in no way makes up for the costs to farmers or replaces the much-needed exemption. Before the federal election cancelled it, a Bill to exempt the carbon tax for on-farm grain drying had passed through parliament with support from each party.

"It is inconceivable that the government is not providing relief to grain farmers by putting into place an exemption for the carbon tax on drying grain. All food production should be exempt from this tax," said Brendan Byrne, Chair, Grain Farmers of Ontario

"Farmers do not have alternatives to dry our grain, we cannot grow food and be penalized with an ever-increasing carbon tax that will be increased year over year."

The carbon tax paid by grain farmers in Ontario is a significant cost. For example, grain farmers pay tens of thousands of dollars in carbon tax directly and indirectly and the tax credit being proposed would return less than 20 per cent of the costs incurred to corn farmers. This tax is set to increase to \$170 per tonne of carbon in the next few years – more than eight times the initial cost, meaning in the next decade some farmer could pay \$50,000 – \$70,000 just in carbon tax.

"Grain Farmers of Ontario has repeatedly shared data showing the negative impacts of the cost of the carbon tax with government, along with the fact that alternatives don't exist," added Byrne. "The government has created an exemption for greenhouse growers and others who don't have alternatives for 80 percent of use, while grain farmers in Ontario are covered for less than 20 per cent. I would ask the government to explain this discrepancy."

To understand more about the benefits of Ontario grain farming for the environment and the strides that farmers are making to support Canada's climate change goals, please visit [www.grainforgood.ca](http://www.grainforgood.ca).



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# Celebrations in South Simcoe 4-H continue

Story and photos provided by South Simcoe 4-H



**Learn To Do By Doing**

## 4-H Graduating Members Seal



Clairina Paquette

Clairina Paquette received the Graduation Members Seal from the 4-H Ontario Members Program. Clairina Paquette started her 4-H career at the age of 18 in South Simcoe. Clairina was raised in Northern Ontario on a beef farm and she moved to South Simcoe to work at Everdale Holsteins near Schomberg, Ontario while she attended school in Toronto.

The O'Hara family encouraged her to join the Beeton & Bradford Dairy club where she participated in the 2018 and 2019 East Gen Challenge. This season in her final year of 4-H, Clairina was a member of the

Cookstown Beef Club. She enjoyed her years as a 4-H member and encourages other youth 9 to 21 to join a 4-H club. Her future plans include a career in the dairy industry and she is hoping to grow her blog about agriculture. Clairina has been hired at Holstein Canada. Congratulations and best of luck on future endeavors.

## 4-H Ontario Youth Leader Award Recipient Madeleine Cullen



Madeleine Cullen

Madeleine Cullen was a youth leader for the South Simcoe Cookstown and Everett 4-H Sheep Club and the South Simcoe 4-H Cooking Club. Madeleine was a fantastic addition to our leadership teams. Her technical skills were much appreciated, especially when she created Kahoot quizzes and taught us how to use the Zoom features for our meetings. She mentored new and returning members during in-person sheep club meetings and at achievement day. As well, she provided support for the cooking club by setting up the ingredients and tools for our live cooking demos and helping with clean-up. Lastly, Madeleine pitched starting a 4-H Instagram account to the Board of Directors, and started the account which now has over 140 followers! Madeleine has proven that "learning to do by doing" is a fitting motto as she helped her fellow leaders and club members to achieve their goals during the 2021 4-H year. Thank you Madeleine from the South Simcoe Cookstown and Everett 4-H Sheep

Club and the South Simcoe 4-H Cooking Club Leaders and members.

The 4-H Youth Leader program is open to members 15 to 21 years of age who are actively engaged in the project for which they are a youth leader. All youth leaders must attend a youth leader webinar. For more information, go to <https://4-hontario.ca/youth/youth-positions/>. Thank you to Kubota Canada Ltd. for sponsoring the youth leader webinars and providing funding for youth leader awards.

## 4-H South Simcoe News

By Madeleine Cullen

4-H South Simcoe members and families had a lot of fun in 2021! There were 20 4-H clubs to choose from and a Cloverbuds club. We had two rally nights to learn about the livestock and life skill clubs and meet the leaders. New clubs were Canine, Maple Syrup, Go for the Gold, Animal Friends, Veterinary Medicine and Farmers Market. Clubs started on Zoom and most were able to move to in person meetings by July. We had a Zoom judging event which was a great learning experience. Achievement day programs were mostly held in August and September for livestock and produce clubs. We had a year end celebration for members on the sunniest day in November. We had a 4-H float entered in the Lisle Winter Parade which was a festive event. If you are six as of December 31, 2021 you can join Cloverbuds in January 2022. If you are nine as of December 31, 2021 you can join 4-H in January 2022. 4-H is a great program to develop critical thinking, public speaking skills, meet youth and have fun. The South Simcoe 4-H Annual General Meeting will be held January 27th 7:30 via Zoom. Email [southsimcoe4h@hotmail.com](mailto:southsimcoe4h@hotmail.com) for link or information about 4-H South Simcoe. You can also check 4-H out at [4-hontario.ca](https://4-hontario.ca)



Shown above is the float the Clearview Beef Club organized and decorated for the Lisle Winter parade.

## South Simcoe 4-H Beef Club Youth Leader

By Stephanie French and the Clearview 4-H Beef Club

Thank you Clearview 4-H Beef Club Youth Leader, Layne Chantler. Layne took on her role as youth leader like she does everything else – with commitment, heart and passion. She was instrumental in the organization of our 4H year. She planned and organized meetings, sent out reminders, made agendas and ensured we always had some type of fun game to wrap up our meetings. Layne is one in a million, like finding a needle in a haystack. Layne currently attends Lakeland College in Vermillion, Alberta studying Agriculture Business.

We wish Layne well in her future endeavors and look forward to following her journey in the years ahead.



Layne Chantler

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# 4-H South Simcoe project Achievement Awards

*Story and photos provided by South Simcoe 4-H*

4-H South Simcoe had three members receive 24 project Award of Achievement and five years in 4-H sponsored by Gay Lea Foods Co-operative Ltd. Donna Lange, President of South Simcoe 4-H Association, presented awards to Isabella Cullen, Rebecca Lange and Jaiden van Kolschoten.



Isabella Cullen and Donna Lange



Jaiden van Kolschoten and Donna Lange



Rebecca Lange and Donna Lange

## NVCA's education programs help children protect their future

Hosted at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) provides nature programming for children ages 2.5 – 12.

In these programs, children develop a sense of wonder, appreciation and respect for the natural world. They will learn that a healthy environment helps plants and animals thrive, how humans are connected with nature and rely on the environment to survive.

“Children who come to Tiffin are encouraged to activate their knowledge base to make their own observations about nature. As nature changes everyday, there is always something new to notice, and reflect upon,” said Naomi Saunders, Manager of Education at NVCA. “At NVCA, we believe that the more time children spend in nature, the more beneficial it is for our environment and subsequently for all human health.”

Through regular and repeated exposure, children will learn about how things in nature work. Tiffin’s Outdoor Educators ask children questions to highlight what they already know, for example how plants and animals interact with each other, or what qualifies as important habitat.

“As we have an increasingly technological and media driven world, sometimes it’s hard to pull children away from screens,” continued Saunders. “In our programs, children become comfortable with nature without their devices. Often times, they bring their curiosity home and discover nature, even in their own backyards.”

Registration is now open for many Tiffin Education programs, including the new Tiffin Nature Program, Winter Camp Tiffin, PA Day Camps. For more information or to register, please visit NVCA’s website.

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# QUILTING

## Quilting Corners Guild Christmas Presentations 2021



Story and photos provided by Senora Baldry

On December 7, 2021 Quilting Corners Guild, Alliston made our annual Christmas presentations to our community partners: My Sister’s Place, Matthews House Hospice, Quilts of Valour – Canada and Simcoe Manor. We were delighted to once again be able to meet indoors at Shilton Hall to safely present 91 Quilts of Comfort and 103 quilted stockings between the four groups. As always our members have been very, very busy and very community minded. There was also a collection for the Good Shepherd Food Bank and donations to the Red Cross flood relief. We look forward to more stitching and community support in 2022.



Shown in the photos clockwise from top to bottom are presentations to Matthews House Hospice, Quilts of Valour - Canada, Simcoe Manor and My Sister’s Place.

The Beautiful quilts and stockings are displayed in the photo above to the left.





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# Cover Crops; what they are, the benefits, and why they are important

## Backgrounder information from the 2020 Ontario Cover Crop Feedback Survey

### What are Cover Crops?

Cover crops are defined by the Ontario Cover Crop Strategy (<https://gfo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Ontario-Cover-Crop-Strategy.pdf>) as plants seeded into agricultural fields, either within or outside of the regular growing season, with the primary purpose of improving or maintaining soil quality. They are non-commodity crops either inter-seeded into living crops or planted onto bare fields or crop stubble during fallow periods. They have been used for centuries to cover and protect the soil from water and wind erosion, add organic matter, reduce nutrient losses, improve soil fertility, reduce pest populations, reduce compaction, improve soil structure, and protect crops from rapid changes in temperature and moisture.

For this research project, we defined a cover crop as a crop that is planted primarily to provide soil health and other agronomic benefits that is not harvested as a major cash crop. Cover crops which are grazed as annual forage were counted as a cover crop in our definition.

### Why Are Cover Crops Important?

Maintaining groundcover year-round provides greater protection for soil from water and wind erosion and provides food for soil microbes during periods when they may otherwise have been left 'hungry'. Plants capture solar energy and fix carbon from the atmosphere that can be returned to the soil, building soil organic matter. This increase in soil organic matter alongside the presence of cover crop roots can assist in the building of stable soil aggregates and increase soil structure and water infiltration.

It is hypothesized that cover crops could play a role in increasing the profitability and resiliency of Ontario's farms by increasing yield, nutrient cycling, and water use efficiency. Cover crops may also play a role in nutrient management by reducing fertilizer costs when using legumes that fix nitrogen, or by growing cover crops that can scavenge excess nitrogen left in the soil after cash crop harvest which may otherwise be lost. Cover crops may also provide another management tool for weeds, insects, and diseases especially at a time of increasing resistance to current crop control products.

### Who Responded and Where Were They From?

For this project, it was important to hear from farms that are currently growing cover crops as well as those that are not. A total of

520 farms that grew cover crops in 2020 took part in the project and reported growing 107, 900 acres of cover crops across almost every county and district in Ontario.

This project also heard from 211 farms from across Ontario that did not grow a cover crop in 2020 to better understand their reluctance and curiosity about cover crops. Of the farms that did not grow a cover crop in 2020, 52% had not grown a cover crop before but wanted to try in the future, 9% had never grown but did not want to try, and 39% had grown a cover crop in a previous year, but not in 2020.

### What Benefits Have Farms Seen Growing Cover Crops?

Of the farms that responded and grew cover crops in 2020, the majority (91%) have observed benefits from growing cover crops with 68% of farms identifying that they have seen improved soil health, 59% observing less erosion, and 57% seeing increased soil organic matter. More than three quarters of farms (77%) that responded and grew cover crops in 2020 reported observing benefits within three years of adopting cover crops.

### What Challenges Have Farms Seen Growing Cover Crops?

Farms that grew cover crops in 2020 also identified common challenges that they faced while adopting cover crops. The most commonly observed challenges among farms that responded were related to poor cover crop establishment (30%), the late harvest of a cash crop preventing cover crop planting (27%), and the additional costs associated with growing a cover crop (25%).

### What Are The Barriers to Adoption?

These farms identified that additional costs (41%), lack of equipment (36%), late harvests of cash crops preventing cover crop planting (29%), not knowing where to start (24%), and the shortness of the growing season (23%) as the most common challenges limiting cover crop adoption in Ontario.

### What would enable cover crop use?

Farms that did not grow a cover crop in 2020 identified financial incentives as a potential method for enabling continued use of cover crops on their farm, with 53% identifying tax credits for planting cover crops, payments for storing carbon (43%), and payments from conservation programs (36%) would increase the likelihood for growing a

cover crop in the future. Technical assistance (40%), greater access to information on cover crop agronomy (29%), more research specific to local areas (26%) and to soil types (20%), as well as local farm tours (16%) and the creation of local networks of cover croppers (11%) were identified as common methods to enable cover crop adoption among farms that did not grow a cover crop in 2020.

### How to reference this report

Morrison, C.L., and Y. Lawley. 2021. 2020 Ontario Cover Crop Feedback Report, Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba. <https://gfo.ca/agronomy/soil-leadership/>

### About the Researchers

This project was designed, conducted and written by two researchers from the University of Manitoba who had previous expertise conducting a cover crop survey and creating a report for the Canadian Prairies. This 2020 Prairie Cover Crop Survey Report can be viewed here: <https://umanitoba.ca/agricultural-food-sciences/sites/agricultural-food-sciences/files/2021-10/2020-prairie-cover-crop-survey-report.pdf>

Callum Morrison is a graduate student at the University of Manitoba specializing in cover cropping on the Canadian Prairies and in Ontario through the Ontario Cover Crop Feedback. Callum has enjoyed connecting with farmers across 4 Canadian provinces for his research and learning about information dissemination and extension in agriculture. Callum holds a BSc in Agricultural Science from Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) and a MSc in Sustainable Plant Health from the University of Edinburgh.

Dr. Yvonne Lawley is an assistant professor at the University of Manitoba. Her area of research is agronomy and cropping systems. Dr. Lawley's research has focused on several crops including soybeans, corn, and wheat and a range of management practices from residue management, strip tillage, to cover crops. Her research involves both small plot and on-farm field scale agronomy research. Dr. Lawley enjoys communicating the results of her research to a wide range of audiences including farmers, agronomists, scientist in a range of disciplines, and especially in the classrooms where she teaches at the University of Manitoba.

### What Organizations are in the Ontario Cover Crop Steering Committee?

University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus,

the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), and the Ontario Cover Crop Steering Committee organizations: Certified Crop Advisor Association (CCA), Conservation Ontario, Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO), Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO), Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario (IFAO), Ontario Agri-Business Association (OABA), Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (OFVGA), Ontario Soil Network, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), Soils@Guelph.

## Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

### Family Riddles

1. Who is this person? It is not my sister, nor my brother, but it is a child of my father and mother.

2. If your aunt's brother is not your uncle than who is he?

3. Who is your father's sister's sister in law?

4. I have eyes but cannot see. I have ears but cannot hear. I have lips but cannot speak. I will always look the same. Nothing will ever change me. What am I?

5. David's father has three sons: Snap, Crackle and \_\_\_\_\_?

Answers  
1. You. 2. Your father.  
3. Your mother. 4. A  
portrait. 5. David

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# Light displays are a favourite Christmas tradition!

## Merry and Bright Festival at the Lindsay Fair

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



For a low flat rate per car, the Merry & Bright Festival promotes safe, Christmas fun with a drive-through event of lights. Shown above shining bright is the entry from Jason MacIntosh, Auctioneer and Appraiser. Recently, Jason MacIntosh Auctions won the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce's Macro Business Award for businesses employing up to 5 people. Jason has found huge success in the pandemic with online auctions.



Stewart Morrison Insurance stayed with the theme with this "Frosty the Snowman" display pictured above. All proceeds from this Merry & Bright event go to local charities in the local area. Proceeds go to: Lindsay Agricultural Society, Kawartha Food Source, The United Way of Kawartha Lakes, The Lindsay Lions Club, The Lindsay Curling Club, and the Heritage Christian School.



The Merry and Bright Festival is sure to make one feel happy inside. Local businesses such as the one shown above, Jamie Marquis Trucking Inc. from Little Britain, put a lot of effort into creating bright displays that show the Christmas spirit. These trucks look like they could be going straight to the North Pole.



## Hewitts Fun Farm Festival of Lights

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins

Hewitts Fun Farm second annual Festival of Lights was a huge success! Beautiful light displays lit up the route for the drive thru event. Unique displays from favourite Christmas movies were combined with traditional Christmas stories. So much to enjoy for the young at heart! Hewitts was excited to announce at the end of their 2nd annual Festival of Lights that they had collected as a team and with donations, over 2200 lbs of food and with the company helping, they were able to donate \$1200.00 to The Salvation Army Orillia. The event was very well organized and enjoyed by all.





## Beautiful weather for Santa to visit in the Anten Mills Parade!

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins

The quaint community of Anten Mills held their Santa Claus parade on Sunday December 13th. The parade was very well attended with floats wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, such as the tractor float entered by the Vanderwielens. MPP Doug Downey and MP Doug Shipley were in attendance with Christmas greetings and a wonderful float was entered by McLaughlin Street thanking all the essential workers. Participants and residents enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies outside the hall afterwards.



## Roasted Squash and Lentil Soup

Recipe and photo by Roslyn Watkins

In the December issue I mentioned how much I love cooking and baking. Baking in more of the savory sense anyway. Muffins, loaves, bread, that type of thing. Cooking is what I enjoy doing in my free time, especially now that I'm not the only one doing it. I recently celebrated a birthday and started my day by folding the napkins into waterfalls and double stars and setting the table with china from my Aunt Beverly and goldware that was my Grandmother's. Even though I love to cook, we did order in from my favourite Italian restaurant for that meal.

For this month's recipe I'd like to share a winter warm up. You can make the stove top variation or make it in the morning and leave it in the slow cooker until the evening. Ready to enjoy after a cold day working in the barn!

### Ingredients

One butternut squash, sliced in half, roasted then roughly chopped  
One head of garlic roasted

2 tablespoons olive oil  
4 large roasted garlic cloves, roughly chopped  
1/2 teaspoon sea salt  
3 cups vegetable broth  
1 (398 ml) can diced tomatoes with their juices  
1 (398 ml) can coconut milk  
1 can lentils, rinsed and drained  
3 tablespoons tomato paste  
1 1/2 teaspoons ground turmeric  
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1/2 teaspoon chili powder  
Freshly ground black pepper to taste



To prepare the roasted squash and garlic. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

- Place butternut squash halves on a large baking sheet flesh side up. Brush 1 teaspoon olive oil over each squash. Season with salt and black pepper.
- Using a sharp knife, cut 1/4 to a 1/2 inch from the top of the garlic bulb. Peel and discard the papery outer layers of the whole garlic bulb. Leave intact the skins of the individual cloves of garlic. Place the garlic bulb in a square of tin foil large enough to wrap over the garlic. Drizzle a teaspoon of olive oil over the exposed head, cover the bulb with aluminum foil. Place on the pan with the butternut squash halves.
- Roast squash and garlic bulb 40 to 50 minutes, until flesh is fork-tender.
- Once cooled scoop squash from skins and roughly chop. Set squash aside and gently squeeze each garlic head from their skin. The leftover garlic can be stored in the fridge for a few days or frozen. The squash and garlic can be prepared a day ahead and stored in the fridge.
- In a large pot heat the oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and saute for 1 to 2 mins, add the squash and a pinch of salt and saute for another 2 to 3 minutes. Add the broth, diced tomatoes with their juices, coconut milk, lentils, tomato paste, turmeric, cumin, chili powder, salt and black pepper to taste. Stir well to combine.
- Bring the heat up to high and bring to a boil, immediately reduce the heat to simmer and stir. Simmer over low heat 15 to 20 mins stirring occasional and enjoy.
- If using the slow cooker, combine all ingredients in the slow cooker, instead of the large pot, and stir. Heat on low 6 to 8 hours and enjoy.
- Serve with crusty bread for dipping!



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# Remembering the Heroism of the De Grassi Girls

## Village stories

by Andrew Hind

2022 marks the 185th anniversary of the Upper Canada rebellion led by William Lyon Mackenzie. What better time to remind ourselves of the actions of two young girls, which were every bit as heroic as that performed by Laura Secord a generation earlier during the War of 1812 and yet virtually unknown today?

Charlotte and Cornelia De Grassi were the daughters of Filippo "Philip" De Grassi, an Italian born soldier who served many years in the British army and eventually settled on a homestead on the northern outskirts of Toronto. De Grassi was firmly opposed to William Lyon Mackenzie and his followers. He wrote his thoughts on the rebellion in his journal: "I managed amidst great trials and difficulties to struggle on until that unfortunate rebellion broke out in 1837, when Mr. W.L. Mackenzie thought to take upon himself more than legal functions and declared that my property and that of many other loyal men should be parceled out among his followers."

When rebellion erupted, De Grassi threw his support behind the government. One night, he mounted his horse and rode to the city to offer his services. Accompanying him were his two eldest daughters, Cornelia, aged 15, and Charlotte, aged 13. Perhaps he thought having two children alongside would make him appear to be an innocent traveller should he happen upon a mob of armed rebels.

At one point during their journey, the trio stumbled upon a checkpoint manned by Mackenzie supporters. Thankfully, Charlotte's quick thinking saved them from being captured. She rode ahead to attract the rebel's attention and was predictably stopped and questioned. Taking advantage of the distraction, Philip and Cornelia guided their horses through nearby woods to bypass the checkpoint.

Though initially suspicious, the rebels didn't deem Charlotte a threat (what danger could a 13-year-old girl pose?) and let her pass. She eventually rejoined her father and sister.

The trio arrived in Toronto to find the city in a panic. There was a great deal of confusion about the size and location of the rebel army, and many people were convinced York was about to fall. Indeed, the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Francis Bond Head, was so certain of defeat that he had already put his family aboard a Britain-bound steamer. To gain a better picture of the threat, Cornelia volunteered to ride north along Yonge Street and gather information on behalf

of the government.

A plan was formed. Cornelia would ride to Montgomery's Tavern where the rebels were encamped on the pretence of wanting to know the price of a sleigh from a wheelwright whose shop was located beside the inn. While there, she would estimate the strength and preparedness of the rebel army.

All didn't go as planned. After chatting with the wheelwright, Cornelia politely said goodbye and mounted her horse. Just when she was about to breathe a sigh of relief, her mission done, a firm hand grabbed hold of the horse's reins and ordered her to dismount. Cornelia looked down into the harsh face of a rebel. Suspicion was now in the air.

Cornelia was interrogated but maintained her composure and stuck to her cover story. Still, nothing she could say would convince the men to let her go. They were convinced she was a spy. Just as she was beginning to fear she would be held prisoner indefinitely, Mackenzie arrived on the scene and proudly announced to the gathered rebel's that a stagecoach with government had been captured. This was victory of sorts and the men erupted with cheers, and many flocked to see the captured prize for themselves.

This was the opportunity that Cornelia was looking for. With the men suddenly distracted, she quickly hopped on her horse and kicked it into a full gallop. Behind her, rebels shouted cries of alarm and muskets were raised. A thunder of bullets flew past her, one hitting her saddle, and another grazed her ear.

Safely back in Toronto, she was taken before Bond Head and shared that the rebel army was far smaller than anticipated, that it had poor morale and even poorer discipline, and that the men were hungry and ill-armed.

With this information, the government realized they had extremely overestimated the size and strength of the opposition. Any thoughts of giving in to the rebels were abandoned. Now confident, Bond Head decided to attack the rebels. The resulting Battle of Montgomery's Tavern was a decisive victory, and it owes much thanks to Cornelia De Grassi.

But the adventures of the De Grassi girls were not yet over. Cornelia was on her way home when discovered rebel Peter Matthews setting fire to the Don Bridge. She returned to Toronto to raise the alarm. Charlotte, meanwhile, carried important dispatches. She was fired at by rebels, and both her and her horse wounded.

With the defeat of the rebellion, Charlotte and Cornelia De Grassi returned to quiet, unadventurous lives. They were soon forgotten, even though De Grassi Street in Toronto is name for their heroism.



Filippo "Philip" De Grassi



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## Province Making It Easier to Buy Made-in-Ontario Food Helping Producers Promote Local Foods to Drive Consumer Demand

By Doug Downey

The Ontario government is investing \$1 million annually to promote locally grown food and support the economic growth and success of the province's agri-food sector. Up to \$100,000 is available for marketing projects that encourages Ontarians to buy fresh, locally grown and made agri-food products.

"Ontario farmers and food processors grow and make healthy fruits, vegetables, flowers, meat, honey, eggs, dairy, maple syrup, and other processed foods throughout the year. This funding will help boost awareness of all the good things that are grown and made in Ontario," said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "Making it easier for consumers to recognize and buy local not only helps our farmers, food processors, families and communities, but it also helps to keep Ontario's food supply chain strong."

For almost 45 years Foodland Ontario has partnered with agri-food organizations to help Ontario families recognize, prepare and enjoy locally grown foods. This targeted, cost-share funding through the Grassroots Growth Initiative com-

plements and builds on the successful Foodland Ontario program by offering project funding directly to provincial agri-food producer organizations to develop and expand their own local marketing opportunities.

Examples of projects that could be eligible for funding include:

Branded display bins that make it easier for consumers to identify local grown fruit at grocery stores.

A local print or digital marketing campaigns to boost awareness in target markets.

A consumer awareness campaign and launch of a new table grape variety to Ontario consumers.

"Ontario's fruit and vegetable sector appreciates this new annual investment into local agri-food marketing," says Bill George, Chair of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association. "The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of strengthening the production of Ontario grown fruits and vegetables, which will be reinforced with a strong market for locally grown product."

"The provincial government continues to step up and support the agriculture sector," said George Gilvesy, Chairman



of Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers. "The Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers would like to thank Minister Thompson for access to funding that will support local greenhouse vegetable products hitting the shelves and homes of more Ontarians. This initiative furthers the Ontario advantage, supporting provincial producers and strengthening nutritious and affordable food for Ontarians."

Ontario's local agri-food sector is vital to the sustainability of the province's food system. The cost-share funding that supports agri-food marketing projects for provincial agri-food producer organizations demonstrates the government's commitment to support the sector's growth and to strengthen the food supply chain.

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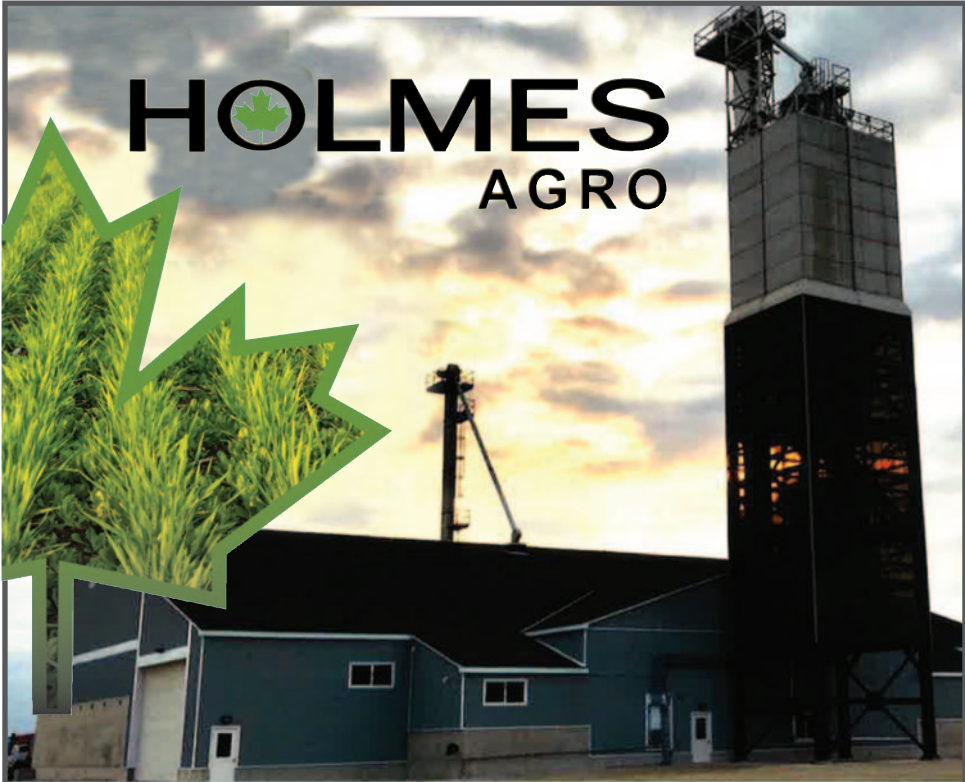
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*Happy New Year from our family to yours!*

GEORGETOWN

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Grey Bruce Farmers' Week January 4th to 11th daily events

Check Your Tech Tuesday will feature speakers on the Future of Agriculture in Canada, Safety with Farm Implements on the Roadway, and a Mental Health Fireside Chat. It is free with the purchase of any other commodity day's ticket and is an opportunity to log on and get comfortable with the conference platform while listening to some great speakers!

Beef Day will feature speakers on industry updates, market trends, ways to reduce feed costs, farm bench marking, research updates from the University of Guelph, treating pneumonia in calves, and a historical review of the beef industries in Grey and Bruce counties.

Dairy Day will feature speakers with a DFO update, a panel on the sustainability of the dairy industry, farm transition planning, a health topic, genomics, and research on free fatty acids in milk.

Goat Day will feature speakers on genetic improvement in goats, getting more out of your feeding programs, understanding the market, year-round breeding, an update on the new code of practice, the financial side of the goat industry, and using genomics to improve goat genetics.

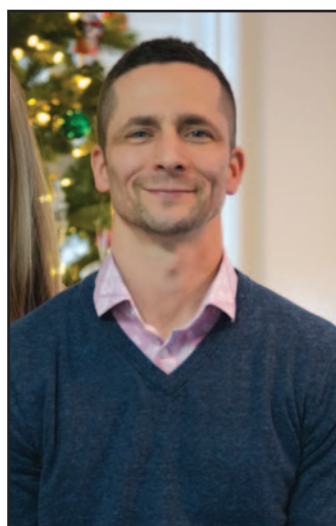
Sheep Day will feature a UK veterinarian, Don Hoglund will be back to speak about handling sheep, we will have a panel on reducing feed costs, a speaker with a market outlook, an update each from Ontario Sheep Farmers and the Ontario Lamb Producers Caucus, and a short presentation on minerals in sheep rations.

Ecological Day will feature presentations on growing ecosystem services, carbon offset and capture programs, aquaculture, seed saving and origination, no-till strategies for organic vegetables, optimizing yield on organic farms, and more!

Crops Day will feature speakers on technology in agriculture, crop marketing for 2022, carbon sequestration, a panel on cover crops, a panel on soil health, climate smart soil strategies, and ag myth-busting with Peter Johnson!

Grey Bruce Farmers' Week is in its 56th year of running! Check out [www.gbfiw.ca](http://www.gbfiw.ca) for more details.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Happy Birthday to my number one ally, my best friend, the love of my life and the greatest dad!**

**Hope your birthday proves to be as amazing as you Shawn!**

**Love the 10 of us.**

## FREE ADS

### Wanted

Would any Hallmark Christmas collector have the 2013 ornament they would like to sell. It is a little pink plastic kitchenette ornament. Call 705-440-3567

### 20-KW Winpower PTO

generator on a 2 wheel trailer with power cord. Call 519-638-2150

### UNWANTED GUNS???

Properly Licensed (PAL) Guns, Cabinets, Militaria Handguns, 705-795-7516

### For Sale

Historical horse magazines- Standardbred and Thoroughbred: Blood Horse - around 1980. Standardbred - about 100 yrs old. Years books 1980.

Chain rake, 7 ft large \$100 - to discuss. Call 519-856-1324

### Classified ads work!

Are you looking for something?

Have something to sell?

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## Free Classifieds

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

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