

FARMVIEW

45th year of publication!

A newspaper with something for everyone

July 2022 Volume 45 #07

Inside this issue:

Ontario farmland under intense pressure, OFA and CFFO have serious concerns

Nuclear Waste Storage in South Bruce?

New series 'Meet the Farmer'

The Georgian Bay steam show returns!
July 29th to August 1st

Photos from the Schomberg Fair and the Ontario Dairy Buck Show

Meet the van Kolschoten family!





A farmer works so the world can eat.

THANK YOU, Farmers

DOUG SHIPLEY MP
BARRIE—SPRINGWATER—ORO-MEDONTE
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Bursaries available

Every Year the Cookstown Agricultural Society offers a Bursary for students continuing in post secondary education. Students must be a resident in South Simcoe County at the time of application, enroll in a Degree, Diploma or Apprenticeship Program, and are members of the South Simcoe 4-H Clubs sponsored by the Society, or have family who are current or past members of the Cookstown Agricultural Society.

Applications are available from Secondary School Guidance Departments or the Cookstown Agricultural Society Secretary 705-718-0362 or petrahewson999@gmail.com

Fairs and Farm Shows 2022

July 14th to 17th: Listowel Fair

Listowel Agricultural Society
166th Listowel Agricultural Fair where we will celebrate our 2022 Fair Theme: From Wagon Wheels to Ferris Wheels!
July 14 to July 17, Thurs. evening, all day Fri. Sat. & Sun.
5699 Perth County Line 86, Listowel, ON
www.listowelfair.com

July 15th - July 17th: Fenelon Agricultural Society

Agricultural Event, cattle show, sheep show, goats, feather 'n fur. Tractor & truck pull, lawn tractor & Atv pull, horse, show, demolition derby, Midway and many other activities.
27 Veterans Way, Fenelon Falls, ON
www.fenelonfair.ca

July 22nd - July 24th: Lakefield Fair

A weekend of fun and excitement featuring various live-stock and 4-H shows, truck and tractor pulls, mud bogs, homecraft exhibits and a beer tent. We will be following all Covid-19 health protocols.
25 William St, Lakefield, ON
www.lakefieldfair.com

July 29th to Aug 1st: Georgian Bay Steam Show

The 56th annual Georgian Bay Steam and Gas Association show will be held Civic Long Weekend in August from July 29-August 1, 2022.
Light up night! Proud to be a part of the Cookstown "light up night" parade!
For details see the ad on page 13.

Aug 25th - 28th: Barrie Fair

Essa Agriplex - Home of the Barrie Fair
7505 10th Line, Thornton, ON L0L 2N0
www.essaagriplex.ca

Sept. 13th & 14th: Sunderland Fall Fair

Sunderland Agricultural Society
Originating in 1851, Sunderland Fall Fair is the oldest fair in Durham Region.
September 13 to September 14, Fair opens at 5 p.m. on Tuesday.
20 Park St, Sunderland, ON L0C 1H0
www.agfair.ca

Sept 23rd, 24th and 25th: GNE Collingwood

The Great Northern Exhibition Barns on the Farm will run September 23rd, 24th and 25th.
2220 Fairgrounds Rd. N, (1 km south of Hwy 26)
Clearview Twp, Simcoe County
www.greatnorthernex.com/f-a-contact.htm

Sept 29th - Oct 1st: Bobcaygeon Fair

Bobcaygeon Agricultural Society plans the 164th Daddy of Em All. Promises to be an event to remember!
See the ad on page 8 for full details!

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Ontario farmland under intense pressure

OFA REPORT

Ontario is losing 319 acres of farmland every day. That is the average daily loss of farmland, according to data from the latest Census of Agriculture that was released last month. It is a steep climb from the 175 daily average loss that was recorded in the 2016 Census of Agriculture.

“To see a daily loss of 319 acres of farmland is a shocking jolt of reality that is simply not sustainable if we hope to have any kind of food sovereignty or independence in Ontario,” says Peggy Brekveld, President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. “While urban growth isn’t the only cause of farmland loss, it can’t be denied that development is putting intense pressure on Ontario farmland. Urban development is leap-frogging the Greenbelt and straining against urban-rural boundaries.”

Farmland is a finite, but diminishing resource, and the availability of prime agricultural land is fundamental to Ontario’s future. A country’s ability to feed its own population is an important pillar of a well-functioning and sustainable society.

But to do that, we need to ensure that we have land where we can grow our food, and in Ontario that space is limited. While the province is geographically large, much of the northern reaches cannot be farmed because of the Canadian Shield and climate. In the South, cities and towns cover much of the landscape. All told, only about five per cent of the province’s land is suitable for growing food or raising livestock.

Losing 319 acres of this land daily is the equivalent of losing nine family farms each week.

“What will that look like in 10, 50 or 100 years if left unchecked?” asks Brekveld. “Once this farmland is gone, it’s gone forever. We are not saying don’t build. We get the province has to accommodate growth. What we are saying

is to build in the right places through long-term strategic land-use planning.”

The 319 acres per day figure was calculated based on a comparison of the total farm area in the province in the 2016 Census of Agriculture (12.4 million acres) versus the 2021 Census of Agriculture (11.7 million acres). The difference of 582,392 acres is divided by five to reach an average annual loss of 116,478.4 acres per year. Divide that by 365 days to 319.12 acres per day.

About the Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, representing 38,000 farm families across the province. As a dynamic farmer-led organization based in Guelph, the OFA works to represent and champion the interests of Ontario farmers through government relations, farm policy recommendations, research, lobby efforts, community representation, media relations and more. OFA is the leading advocate for Ontario’s farmers and is Ontario’s voice of the farmer. For more information, visit www.ofa.on.ca.

About Home Grown

A public awareness initiative of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Home Grown is a campaign to advocate for the importance of Ontario farms as a source of food, fuel and fibre. Arable farmland is the most important natural resource, but Ontario is losing an average of 319 acres of farmland to urban development every day; that is the equivalent of nine family farms paved over every week. It is the objective of Home Grown to help develop a workable plan to guide responsible development in Ontario, ensuring growth to provide housing and support local tax bases while also protecting productive farmland.

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

On the Cover



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Photos from the Schomberg Fair and the Ontario Dairy Book Show

Meet the van Kolschoten family!

Complimentary copy for the Farm View subscribers

Introducing our first farm family in the new series ‘Meet the Farmer.’ From left to right are Reagan, Ashton, Jaiden, Jason and Lisa van Kolschoten. Read their story on page 13. At Kolschoten Farms you can find lamb, roasting chickens, eggs and square bales of hay.

— Photo by Roslyn Watkins

FARM VIEW

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 <p>JD 612C (E86003) 2009, 12R, 30" ROW WIDTH, POLY DIVIDERS, CONTOURMASTER, OILBATH CHAIN DRIVE, KNIFE ROLLS, HYD ADJ DECK PLATE, SINGLE POINT HOOKUP \$67,370.00</p>	 <p>JD 635F (E87001B) 2013, 30', AWS AIR BAR, FULL FINGERED AUGER., JD KNIFE, HYDRAFLX HEADER HEIGHT, POLY DIVIDERS., POLY SKID SHOES, REEL FORE&AFT, AUTO REEL SPD-DAS, \$36,850.00</p>	 <p>JD 459 (E88031) 2016, 4x5 MAX BAILE SIZE, SILAGE SPECIAL., WIDE PICKUP, COVEREDGE NET WRAP, 540 PTO., BAILE EJECTION RAMPS, HYD PICKUP LIFT \$38,950.00</p>
 <p>JD 612C (E86003) 2009, 12R, 30" ROW WIDTH, POLY DIVIDERS, CONTOURMASTER, OILBATH CHAIN DRIVE, KNIFE ROLLS, HYD ADJ DECK PLATE, SINGLE POINT HOOKUP \$67,370.00</p>	 <p>JD 635F (E87696) 2012, 35', CONTOURMASTER, FULL FINGER AUGER., STANDARD KNIFE, AUTO HEADER HEIGHT., RIGID HEIGHT SENSORS, POLY DIVIDERS \$20,690.00</p>	 <p>JD 946 (E88055) 2010, ROTARY DISC, 13', IMPELLER COND., 2PT CTR PIVOT HITCH, 1000 RPM 1-3/8 PTO., HYD CUTTERBAR TILT, 31Lx13.5 TIRES, FIELD READY \$25,270.00</p>



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FROM THE EDITOR

Roslyn Watkins
Publisher/Editor
Farm View Newspaper
farmview@on.aibn.com

Through this past election it became more and more clear to me that the notion of preserving farmland is something the majority of the population views as 'doesn't affect me.'

There are many topics and problems in today's society that we could say "not my business." Preserving farmland isn't one of them. I know for the most part I'm preaching to the choir, but I also know a lot of Farm

View readers are non-farmers. Farmland preservation affects each and every single person who wants to eat. The saying is literally "If you ate today, thank a farmer." I know it can be difficult to set aside the time to research this important topic, but have a quick look while you are enjoying your breakfast, lunch or dinner. The OFA has released a report with horrifying new numbers on how much productive farmland we are losing every day. Their report is on page 3 of this issue. It updates the figures from the report that was in the May 2022 issue. Home Grown Ontario is an initiative to educate the population on the importance of preserving farmland. Have a look at their website and make this a conversation you have with your family and friends www.homegrown.ofa.on.ca.

A month ago I received a nice card from a reader saying he enjoys the paper. In that note Mr Brinkman brought to my attention the concerns surrounding the possibility of a Nuclear waste storage facility being located in South Bruce. Cathy Hamill-Hill did an excellent job researching this topic for us. Her article can be found on page 11.

On a cheerier note, I had the great pleasure of meeting the van Kolschoten family to take photos for our new series 'Meet the Farmer.'

All family members are involved in the farm and all of them have full time jobs, and/or school, off farm as well. The passion this family feels for their flocks is very evident as is the love and humour they share with one another. Not only did I learn a ton but I'm certain I was laughing almost the entire time. It was a wonderful experience to spend an hour with this incredible family. Please turn to page 13 to enjoy the article.

This issue also introduces the wonderful Dr. Tim Henshaw as an occasional feature writer. Please turn to page 8 for his re-cap and photos of the 172nd Schomberg Fair that was held in late May.

Take care of yourselves and one another,
Roslyn Watkins

LETTERS**Retirement party enjoyed by all**

Last month a belated retirement party for John Beischer, the former owner/publisher of Farm View was hosted by his daughters at the Utopia Hall. It was a gathering of friends and family to wish John well as he enjoys his newfound freedom.

Many people know John through his work with this paper; I thought this would be a good place to recognize publicly what a good friend and boss he has been, for decades. I met John when I was hired at the Barrie Banner newspaper as darkroom technician, back in the early 1980s. John was the sales manager. He and I got on well, both had interests in music and disc-jockeying. We quickly became friends, as did our wives. I moved into sales at the newspaper and John was my boss. Couldn't ask for a better boss. John taught me that when pointing out a perceived fault or need for improvement, one should also have an alternate idea or solution to present. This was the

same guy who wore a tie with the word "Bull****" hidden in its pattern.

Perhaps a decade or so ago, I began reporting regularly for Farm View, which by that time, he owned. It had begun as a special publication by the Barrie Banner, way way back, with the moniker Farm Review.

The opportunities afforded me through working with Farm View have been phenomenal. I have enjoyed many wonderful experiences and the opportunity to meet hundreds of exceptional people.

John has always been the most fair person, making a true effort to see all sides of a story. In fact, John has been more than fair to me over the years with his appreciation, support and friendship. The world would be better if we had more folk like John Beischer. Even if we disagree on something, his sarcastic defense of his view is so witty, I gotta give him credit. I swear he could be an excellent comedic writer for some of

the best.

One of the positive aspects of working with John and in particular, Farm View, were the accolades I would receive from advertisers and readers alike, when I was on assignment. At each assignment I was approached with compliments on the paper and on John himself, for how good he had been to someone or how their ad helped them out. I am very proud to be a part of the Farm View family.

I look forward to many more fun times with John as we jam our way through some tunes, or listen to folk who truly know a song from start to end. There may be a backyard bonfire in our future too.

Thank you John for being so kind, thoughtful and caring the past four decades! I hope your retirement brings many many good times and that I am in on some of them.

—Don Beaulieu

Nuclear waste under Farmland?

Dear Roslyn Watkins,

I enjoy your paper.

We all care about the environment and agriculture with lots of farmers working. In Ontario they want to dump Nuclear waste under a river and Farmland. The waste is safe above the ground where it can be watched. Not 500' down under the dirt.

Plus the 413 highway is not good for anyone. Paving over good soil. Farmers Feed Cities.

G. Brinkman

Note from the Editor:
Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Updates on this subject are most welcome.

Ag Snapshot

Pictured above is the South Simcoe 4-H club, fundraising at a perennial and bulb sale. The South Simcoe 4-H Garden Club would like to thank all those who supported their perennial and bulb sale. Thank you for all those donating plants and all the buyers. It was a great event that earned the club enough money to go on a flower tour in July. Front left to right are Lisa Morgan, Brier Miller, Madeleine Cullen, Troy McDermid, Isabella Cullen and Tamara Fisher-Cullen.

—Photo provided by the South Simcoe 4-H Club

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Phone (705) 722-0138
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Visit us on the web: www.farmviewonline.com

A forum for the Agricultural and Rural Community

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

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OFA Members \$45.00 + 13% HST

The publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement or for omitting to publish an advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issues or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisements.

**In memory of Jill Beischer**

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

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

W.J. Bryan

OFA Members Service Representative:

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

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:

Paul Maurice: 705-444-1398 email: paul.maurice@ofa.on.ca

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	
	simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com	

2021-2022 Executive – York Region

President:	Jordan Coates	905-252-9071
Contact YRFA:	york@ofa.on.ca	

2021-2022 Executive – Dufferin County

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1st Vice	Gail Little	519-925-2983
2nd Vice/Treas.	George Van Kampen	519-940-2202

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NH 330 2013 ... \$87,995
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JD 946 2009 ... \$18,995
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FHX300, TANDEM WHEELS, CROP PROCESSOR, 3 ROW CORN HEAD, HDX1, HAY PICK-UP, SPOUT EXTENSION



HESSTON 7155 1993 ... \$5,995
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JD 8300 2020 ... \$569,995
SP HARVESTER, PRODRIVE, PRWD, KP, ACTIVE FILL, 216 ENG HRS



JD 7300 2006 ... \$109,995
PRWD, IVT, KERNEL PROCESSOR, 800/32, 4257 ENG HRS/3215 CUT HRS



JD 5100MH 2017 ... \$59,995
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JD 5125R 2018 ... \$113,995
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JD 6125R 2015 ... \$102,995
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JD S670 2014 ... \$234,995
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JD S780 2018 ... \$465,995
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\$199⁹⁹

Unit price without battery and charger \$159.99

The impact of fireworks on agriculture



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

As we are approaching the summer months of events and activities, I wanted to take the opportunity to remind everyone about the downside of fireworks. During the pandemic, we have noticed an increase in incidences of fireworks being discharged outside of the normal allowances on certain statutory holidays and hours.

Specific concerns from the agricultural perspective include fire hazards to crops and buildings from sparks and hot embers, frightened

animals from domestic pets to livestock. Sudden loud noises and accompanying flashes of light can and have ended in tragedy for livestock due to trampling, crowding and piling which can cause suffocation to occur in species like sheep. Larger livestock like cattle and horses can become frightened and gather along fence lines and gates potentially causing collapse of either one or both. This creates a potentially dangerous situation at night with livestock at large on roadways or entering other nearby properties. Along with the obvious danger of, injury or entanglement with the fencing and or gates.

In response to complaints from all types of property owners, municipal staff are researching, drafting and recommending more restrictive fireworks discharge by-laws or updating existing ones. Municipalities are now imposing limits on the number of days and time of day when family type consumer fireworks can be discharged. Some municipalities are now requiring a permit be obtained to discharge fireworks to enforce safety restrictions. Safety restrictions may prohibit fireworks during a fire ban or when fire ratings are set at high to extreme to protect lives and property but to also protect the availability of local fire department resources. Municipalities are setting fines high to discourage those who fail to comply with a notice or order. All property owners must become aware of not only the nuisance impacts of fireworks but the real distress these seamlessly harmless activities pose on the agricultural community.

Canada Day is only a few weeks away. If you are planning fireworks as part of your family celebration, please be a good neighbour and consider how your actions may directly impact others in a potentially devastating manor. If your municipality does not have a robust fireworks by-law in place, contact your local Councillor, Mayor and Fire Chief and voice your concerns.

As always, I am available as a resource for OFA members to assist with your issues or concerns that impact your farm business.

Enjoy the summer months safely on and off the farm. Make safety job #1.



Introducing Soil For Life

We all know soil health is important. We are bombarded daily with messages about improving soil health, and sustainable soil management. Soil For Life is an initiative to provide a framework for these discussions, help make sense of best management practices, and make a lasting impact on the health of our soil.

Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association is part of a diverse group leading Soil For Life. The group includes:

Beef Farmers of Ontario
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
Conservation Ontario
Co-op Regional (Thornloe/New Liskeard)
Farm and Food Care Ontario
Grain Farmers of Ontario
Grand River Conservation Authority
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Assoc.
Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Assoc.
Ontario Soil Network

Representatives from Ontario Certified Crop Advisors (CCA-ON) Soils at Guelph Initiative

Soil For Life focuses on five major principles to break down and simplify the complex concept of soil health and sustainability. These same principles appear in New Horizons – Ontario's Soil Health and Conservation Strategy that was released in 2019 and will provide a framework for the conversation. They are:

- Build soil organic matter
- Diversify crops
- Minimize soil disturbance
- Keep living roots throughout the year
- Keep the soil covered

Soil For Life will help to focus conversations on soil health and amplify a unified voice in agriculture.

"Promoting soil health has always been central to our activities at OSCIA and we are proud to collaborate on the Soil For Life initiative," says Andrew Graham, Executive Director of OSCIA. "The environmental farm plan workshops and associated incentive program delivery, applied research initiatives such as ONFARM and Living Lab, and the new Mobile Soil Technology Suite all demonstrate our commitment to promote practices that increase soil resiliency and sustainable production."

Farmers know that properly managed soil provides long-term economic and environmental benefits; benefits such as high yields, increased resiliency in soils, reduction in fertilizer inputs, and increased organic matter. Building on the great work farmers are doing, Soil For Life is designed to be a framework for sharing best management practices (BMPs) based on the five principles. Through sharing and discussion, the goal is to work towards increasing soil health knowledge in Ontario.

For more information on Soil For Life and soil BMPs, visit www.ontariosoilhealth.ca and follow #SoilForLife on Twitter.

Future Community Leaders



Photo and caption provided by The Flos Agricultural Society

Over 20 enthusiastic young men & women attended the second meeting of the Youth Involvement Program, hosted by the Flos Agricultural Society. Mentors Linda Murray and Adrianna McGinnis led them in ice-breaker games, a presentation about how an organization works, & how to elect an Executive. They have brainstormed some wonderful ideas about events that they would like to see at Elmvale Fair – and will be developing budgets, business plans and eventually learning how to run their chosen event(s) at the 2022 Fair. Developing leadership skills that will help them throughout their lives, is one of the main goals of this program. Volunteer hours, required for graduation, are also awarded to those who participate.





DOUG DOWNEY
Member of Provincial Parliament
Barrie - Springwater - Oro-Medonte

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1st OF JULY

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Check out the ag directory on page 21

A Good Time Was Had By All

By John Beischer

When I first entered the newspaper business in 1975 at the daily Barrie Examiner, I was hired to design and sell advertising and marketing opportunities to local retailers in the young city of Barrie and the surrounding County of Simcoe. This was accomplished by way of a strict discipline laid out by the powerful Thompson Newspaper chain.

Six months later I 'crossed the street' to join the staff of the Barrie Banner a young upstart 'weekly' that was printed offset as opposed to hot lead typography; a wonderful and interesting story for another issue of Farm View.

Although my primary job was to direct advertising dollars to the newspaper owner to pay for staff, printing and distribution costs, sometimes I was asked by an over-worked Editor to cover a weekend event because her staff was spread too thin to report on every unfolding story. Having been taught the basics of a Canon SLR [single lens reflex] digital camera, I was always eager to expand my knowledge of every aspect of the newspaper business. And quite often it would get my wife and young kids into an event that otherwise may have cost me money out of pocket. I remember numerous fairs, steam shows and of course the most popular event of every summer festival, Kempenfest at Barrie's waterfront which featured the best show band in the country, the Martels. But I digress!

Sunday evenings were therefore spent learning to digest the highlights of the event in order to turn in a reasonable story to the editor on Monday morning. Most often I think I accomplished the goal, periodically I was stuck for an opening sentence, or a closing sentence. When all else fails, use "a good time was had by all", suggested the editor.



Among the guests was one of Farm View's longest running advertisers, Dave Beard of Beard's Farm Supply on Horseshoe Valley Road in Coldwater. Dave Beard began advertising when Farm View was in its infancy. In the photo above Dave Beard is sitting on the right and his sales manager Etienne Davignon is on the left in the photo. At centre left in the photo is former Farm View graphic designer Lizz Smekal seated next to her husband Roland.

My daughters Roslyn and Diana did an excellent job of planning and carrying out this special day on my behalf. It was greatly appreciated by me and more than 75 in attendance that afternoon.

Guests came from as far away as Burlington and Ajax to bestow best wishes upon me, and I was very grateful.

Several months ago Roslyn approached Susan Antler, owner of the Utopia Hall and engaged the team of 'Happy Hens' catering group to host the event and provide a variety of food for our guests. The Happy Hens did an outstanding job. No one left hungry by my count. The flower arrangements [Roslyn] and the flower giveaways [Susan] were well received by all in attendance. Everything was handled professionally and most satisfactorily. My thanks to everyone involved for this outstanding achievement. I was very pleased to see a wonderful mix of family and friends as well as numerous business acquaintances. Many guests delivered 'exaggerated' speeches about my career accomplishments; and I loved every minute of it! My Church family was in attendance and our recently retired minister [Utopia Anglican Church meets at 9am every Sunday, all welcome!] and she told some interesting stories about me sleeping in Church! I can't deny her allegations because I was probably sleeping at the time!

My special thanks to everyone who came out to share my special day. And to all those who sent congratulatory messages by phone, mail and email.

To my two beautiful daughters and my grandchildren, thank you for making this happen. I wish your Mom could have been there to share this special day.



Essa Township Mayor, Sandi MacDonald is shown at the left making a presentation to former publisher, John Beischer.

After 45 years this phrase seems to be the best way to describe my recent retirement party at the Utopia Hall. By all accounts, a good time was had by all. I actually retired in 2020 when my talented daughter, Roslyn Watkins, 5 N's Publishing, purchased Farm View. But it wasn't until this Spring, post Covid, that we all felt comfortable enough to gather and celebrate this milestone with family and friends. And business acquaintances. All of whom came out to extend to me best wishes with my retirement plans.

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A wonderful day at the 172nd Schomberg Fair

Story and photos by Dr. Tim Henshaw



Jack Lange and Emi Lange take a turn showing the beef calves in the Showmanship Championship.



Dairy judge Jamie Laidlaw placing a class.

After a two year hiatus, visitors to the 172nd Schomberg Fair enjoyed a day of sunshine and warm temperatures. Almost 90 head of beef and dairy cattle were paraded before Beef judge Brady Hasson and Dairy judge Jamie Laidlaw. A ring-side crowd of all ages enjoyed the show and connecting with the community at large. In the beef division, Layne Chantler showed the winning confirmation entry and Blair McGlashan

was the champion Beef showman. In the dairy division, the winning calf was the exhibit of Emi Lange. Emi was also the champion in dairy showmanship. The champion and reserve champion showmanship competitors from the beef and dairy division competed for champion showman of the show. The dairy competitors showed the beef calves and the beef competitors took a turn with the dairy calves. Judges Hasson and Laidlaw worked together to decide that the Champion Showman overall was Jack Lange, the reserve champion dairy

showman. Congratulations to all involved. Under the direction of Emma Hulse, the beef committee comprised of Margaret Hulse, Nat Grylls, Emily Makey and Martha Henshaw all worked together, assisted by Kate Redner and Madison Webster on cleanup.

The Dairy Committee was chaired by Dennis and Sandy O'Hara who were so confident in their team they were able to be away. Under the capable leadership of Larry Sheardown, the committee of Dan O'Hara, Devin O'Hara, Cindy Phillips and Sue Sheardown ran the day. A wonderful day.



Blair McGlashan, champion beef showman with dairy calf in Showmanship final.



Emi Lange with Champion calf.



Larry Sheardown, at left, presses Dr. Tim Henshaw, at right, into duty to present champion ribbons in the dairy ring.

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Soul Sisters Celebrations Community and Belonging

When we talk about love, we often hear it in a term of romantic love. It is so much more than that. It is about receiving and giving love to all our communities. Our community of spiritual gathering place, friends, family, neighbours, sport teams, work, and school. We were talking about this after the amazing set of volunteers from the Anten Mills community recreation association invited us all together for a fun filled movie night. It was full of love; welcoming, comfortable, and provided a sense of belonging. After a great conversation with a colleague this past week, realization that it was really about a sense of belonging. Belonging is a key element in spirituality and the absence of such can result in a spiritual crisis. Although spiritual gathering places offer us space to do this, they are not a requirement to focus on leading with love or finding a place we belong. We all have a desire to give and receive support, we long for being known and we all crave to be a part of some community. We all deserve this, in its wholeness. There has been disconnection, often because of judgement sometimes by no fault of the other person, they have been taught that value of a person is based on their own beliefs and perceptions, regardless of if they are correct. It is time to deconstruct those ideas and relearn that we all have equal value regardless of our spiritual beliefs or practices. The thought that one person's ideas and beliefs and value is superior to others is messaging that others who think or are different don't belong. Belonging is about bringing your whole self to a space without thinking that you need to leave any part of you behind to fit.

Communities are what support us being true to ourselves, who we are, what gifts and lessons we bring with us. All our pieces are accepted. We must honour ourselves by leading with love in all our relationships, including self love. We can all relate to the feeling of belonging and what it feels like to belong, or the opposite of not feeling like you are part of a community. At the root of belonging is you. It starts with you. Getting to know yourself is part of the practice. Get to know what you don't know and commit to learning. We are all learning and teaching everyday. We can learn from each other as every single person is showing up with special gifts and talents. Be prepared to make mistakes and develop strategies around the experience of failing. Love all your pieces whole

heartedly. Before we can have a sense of belonging elsewhere, we need to truly belong to ourselves. There is a quote in *Braving the Wilderness* by Brene Brown that I think speaks to this. "True belonging is the spiritual practice of believing in and belonging to yourself so deeply that you can share your most authentic self with the world and find sacredness in both being a part of something and standing alone in the wilderness."

Navigating the complexities of life seems easier when we have a sense of community. We all have wins and losses, we all have some brilliant ideas and some failures. These communities allow us to hang on during the hard parts and stand as steady as we can when they arise. How we show up for others and how we show up for ourselves takes a personal strength that can be found spiritually. Engaging people in your communities of friends, families, church, neighbours, sports, school, and work emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually are all key elements to whole heartedly belonging.

Reminder that you are so unique and wonderful. All of us have communities of people out there waiting to be found.

A poem below called Find Your People from Donna Ashworth's book, *I Wish I knew: Poems to Soothe your Soul & Strengthen Your Spirit*.

FIND YOUR PEOPLE

They are out there you know....
waiting to be found
or even just to be seen
perhaps they are hiding in plain sight?
When you do find them
They will like you, on impact
Just as you are
Because they are your people

How will you know when you come across them?

It's a little fizz
a tiny little spark of something
that zips unseen
between you...

One soul recognizing another.
Stop trying to be liked
by those who don't see your worth
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Lakeview Gardens - 1979

Story and photo provided by Sharlene Dinsmore and The Innisfil Historical Society

Lakeview Gardens began its life as a business in Innisfil in 1979 when Stephen Radcliffe and his partners purchased the property known as Lot 19, Concession 4. First known as Sunnyside Nurseries, it operated as an extension to the business the partners had in the Holland Marsh, growing bedding plants as a spring crop and English cucumbers as a summer crop along with some landscape projects and property maintenance. In 1986, son Rob Radcliffe and Steve's wife Gaynor became his business partners and the family moved into the home on the property.

The main focus of the business has always been the wholesale production of bedding plants, baskets, perennials, and herbs. The landscaping and property maintenance division of the business was phased out as more time was dedicated to producing high quality cucumbers and expanding the retail outlet and to developing the impressive gardens to showcase the perennials and herbs. For 18 years, our family opened up the property to tours with our annual Herbal Open House. The retail outlet that started out as a few flats for sale on a picnic table has grown to a state-of-the-art greenhouse where plants and other gardening needs are offered for sale from spring until Thanksgiving.

Another major shift is happening in the life of Lakeview Gardens. Andrew, the oldest of our four children, joined the business eight years ago and is helping to expand the focus on the relatively new venture of market gardening, producing a wide range of garden and greenhouse vegetables to sell at local farmers' markets. While the spring crops of flowers and baskets are making their way out to neighbourhood gardens, we are busy refilling the 28,000 square feet of greenhouses with everything from tomatoes, cucumbers, and sweet peppers to hot peppers, including the five hottest in the world. Other local businesses are finding ways to incorporate these hot peppers into their own products, from hot sauces to jerk chicken to flavoured honey. The grounds around the greenhouses are also used for production, growing everything

from leeks and shallots to beans and radishes and zucchini and even currants, raspberries, and gooseberries.

Besides interactions with the community through the garden centre and farmers' markets, we have sought to promote gardening through the support of local horticultural societies. For many years, Lakeview sponsored an onion-growing contest and awarded prizes for the biggest and best-looking onion. As members of a local business association called S.I.B.C.A., we have promoted fund-raising activities (dances, Monte Carlo nights, Perch Derby) to support local beautification projects such as the planting and placing of barrels. This progressed to the support of the Communities in Bloom initiative, being involved in the planning and work of planting gardens all around the Town of Innisfil. Some of these gardens continue to be maintained by the Town, and Lakeview's flowers can still be enjoyed every summer.

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Covid restrictions seemed to bring out the amateur gardener in a lot of folks and our business boomed. We added more tents to accommodate more products and the tents also provided the huge groups of shoppers with shelter from the weather. It was not unusual to have line ups waiting for us before we opened for the day. — Gaynor Radcliffe.

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1700 acre site in South Bruce being considered for nuclear waste storage

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

There are five operating Nuclear Power Plants in Canada, one in Quebec, one in New Brunswick and three in Ontario. The three in Ontario are located in Pickering, Darlington and in the Municipality of Bruce.

Used nuclear fuel, also known as Nuclear Waste is a by-product of nuclear production. In 2002, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) was established by Canada's nuclear electricity producers. This organization was given the mission of designing and establishing a plan for the safe management of used nuclear fuel. The mandate determined was to have the used fuel contained and isolated in a "deep geological repository" which means, in simplest terms, housed under ground surrounded by rock. The NWMO must find a location for the deep geological repository that would become the final resting place for the Nuclear waste.

The task to find a place for nuclear waste storage began with a long list of potential sites. Extensive public consultations and equally extensive environmental studies and explorations of the sites have taken many years to complete. There are two final sites left on the list- one of these is in the Municipality of South Bruce.

Michelle Stein and her family began to hear rumours in September 2019 that their area was being considered for a nuclear waste storage site. They attended several meetings but nobody seemed to be able to answer any of their questions. After taking part in a Thursday afternoon workshop in January 2020, it was an absolute shock when they learned the next morning that the proposed site, if chosen, would be next door to their farm.

Stein and her family have a flock of 180 milking sheep and beef cattle. Already, the impact of the proposed site is being felt. "We (family) sell our lamb in the city. We have already been told that if this site is chosen, the sales are finished. We understand that nobody wants to source food next door to a toxic waste site. Our milk buyer could well do the same- and then what do we do if we cannot sell our products?"

Stein is the Chair for the local group, "Protect our Waters- No Nuclear Waste." This group has eight directors and most meetings, according to Stein, attract over 100 people. She says the cause of the fear for this location is the close proximity to Teeswater River. The Teeswater River flows into the Saugeen River, which, feeds into Lake Huron.

It's not only the storage that Stein objects to. It is the brand new concept of the "Repackaging Plant" that hasn't been done before that is part of the site project. This means that the waste will be moved from the containers it is transported

in, in to different containers. "What if an accident happens during this?" she asks adding that moving radioactive, dangerous waste should not be happening on prime farmland next to essential waterways.

The local group presented a petition, that according to Stein, represented 36% of the voters in South Bruce to the local South Bruce Council to call a referendum for the October 22 election on this issue to let the local taxpayers choose if they support this or not. It was decided by the current South Bruce Council to defer the referendum to the next Council after the October 2022 election. The final deadline for deciding the waste site location is in 2023.

"As farmers we are planning ahead for the next five years. I just do not know if we can farm next door to a toxic waste site. We had family with young children planning to move here but they decided against it now. We have the stigma here now. We need to stop this site from coming here," Stein says.

Rita Groen lives 3 kilometres from the proposed site. She has been an aggressive letter writer to editors of local newspapers expressing her concerns against South Bruce being chosen for the final resting place of nuclear waste. She and her family came to South Bruce 25 years ago from Europe. Today, her son has taken over the family's dairy cattle operation.

"Our community is now divided, for and against bringing this nuclear waste to this area. We are no longer a community that gets along- and it was never like this before," she says. She adds that she is entirely on the "against side."

"At this (proposed) site, the Teeswater River runs right through the property. There are 4 aquifers. This "will" get into the water eventually, and after it goes into the Saugeen (River) it flows to Lake Huron. Lake Huron is part of the Great Lakes and 40 million people depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water," she says.

She, like Stein, is afraid of the future of farmers in the area if this goes through. The milk from the Groen farm is purchased by the Dairy Farmers of Ontario and much of the farm's milk goes to Chapman's Ice Cream which is located in Markdale. Chapman's is Canada's largest independent ice cream company. Groen reports, "They (Chapman's Ice Cream) are against milk coming from a nuclear waste dump area because the consumer can have second thoughts if the ice cream and desserts are safe to eat. This is the stigma that comes with this deep underground waste facility and repackaging plant."

Jonathan Zettel, Regional Communications Manager-

South Bruce understands there are strong opinions in South Bruce over the area being considered as a potential final resting place for Nuclear waste. He offered clarification and explanation of the process. He confirmed there "are two potential siting areas... one site is near the Township of Ignace (in northern Ontario)... and the other site is in the Municipality of South Bruce which is in the traditional territory of Saugeen Ojibway Nation in southern Ontario. We are on schedule to select a preferred location in 2023."

He clarified that the site process is well aware of the proximity to water at the South Bruce potential site. He says, "The entire purpose of the deep geological repository is to protect people, the environment and our precious water resources, essentially indefinitely." Further, he adds, that the waste would be "moved much further inland from major bodies of water than where it is stored on the surface today. It would be moved at least 500m (1,640 feet) underground in suitable rock formation."

The final resting site for Nuclear waste is a considerable size however, much of the area will not be changed from what is today- on the surface. Zettel explains, "The NWMO currently has about 1,700 acres of land owned or optioned in South Bruce. The footprint for this project above ground is about 250 acres. The remaining land on the site, would be open to current operations."

The local advantage to the site chosen would be a lot of local jobs. There would be hundreds of "high-value jobs and over several generations" he stated adding that the construction of the site alone will mean more than 600 "high-value" jobs that will last about 10 years to build the deep geological repository and the surface Repackaging facility.

Monitoring the site will take place. "The transport, handling and placement of the used nuclear fuel (waste) in the deep geological repository is expected to take place over a period of about 45 years.... The repository will be monitored throughout all these activities." He adds, "Nuclear fuel in Canada is a stable solid, non-explosive and non-flammable material. It cannot "meltdown."

Working alongside farming operations is not new for nuclear facilities, Zettel says, "Nuclear facilities have a long history of working safely near agricultural operations in Canada and around the world."

For more information, there are two Facebook pages that each represent the different opinions on this subject. They can be found at Willing to Listen- South Bruce Proud and Protect South Bruce- no DGR.

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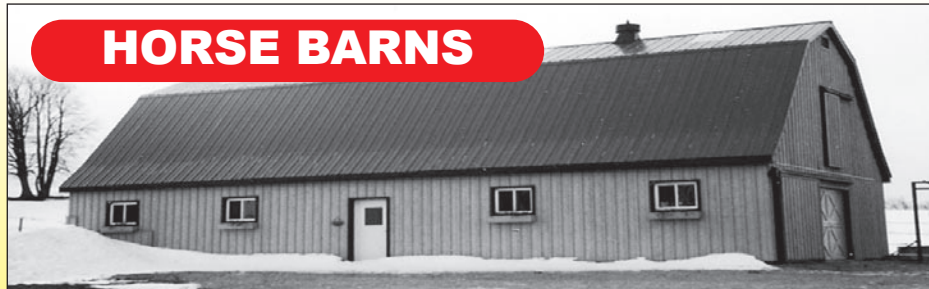
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After The Chores: Brave Kid and Sneaky Llama

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Spring time has different effects on different animals here...

This was the first year for kidding with Isaac the wild red pup. Isaac had zero compassion for the baby kids and instead viewed them as his toys. He got his education versus his red furred behind in how to be kind- or so I thought.

The one little black kid born this year was the smaller of the twins. She had a white twin sister. I was very excited to get TWIN does.

It was a cold, snowy day when the kid was born. Sweetie was looking out the window wondering what Isaac was doing to "something black." The snow was deep but I spotted a small LaMancha face. Immediately, I put the pieces together and went slightly crazy in my anger. Sweetie rushed out to pull the kid out of the snow.

The kid was traumatized. Isaac hid in the house that night after I screamed him out in the barn. I thought for sure the kid would be dead in the morning.

Sweetie was sure happy to report the kid was up getting her breakfast that morning. Isaac was being threatened with being the subject of a 'for sale' ad.

When Isaac was a little pup, we put a small dog crate in the barn to store him in to keep him safe. The crate is still in the barn today- and it has a new purpose.

I purchased two market Sannen buck kids to take up extra milk. The kids were bottle babies and they came here to work as milking machines. These kids are destined for sale so were allowed to keep their horns. Today's purchaser for market goats often prefer the "all natural" version. The horns on these kids grew as fast as they did... The doe kids are here to stay to become part of the herd and they had their horns disbudded by a professional which sure is not me. The little black kid remained the smallest kid in the barn and was not doing very well.

I inspected the black kid and found nothing wrong. I realized she just needed grain.

Goat and Sheep producers invited to free event in Orono

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Goat and sheep farmers are invited to a Producer's Day specifically for goat and sheep producers on Saturday, July 16th at the Durham Farmer's County Co-op located in Orono.

This Day is a continuation of the Durham Farmer's County Co-op's Producer days that were held specifically for beef, crop and dairy farmers. According to their Feed and Agronomy Sales Manager, Dale Phillips, "Our two new hires this spring are the masterminds behind this Day. One person is a goat producer, the other is a sheep producer," he said.

The event is free and includes a free lunch. This event is about showing support for the sheep and goat producers. "We see it (sheep and goats) as a growing market and there have been very few events of this nature specifically for small ruminant producers, so we thought it would be a great opportunity to provide a Day for them," he explains.

The Day features three people that know- and work, every day, in the barn in the industry. Not many sheep producers don't know Dale Darroch, he's had 40 years of nutrition experience specializing in small ruminants plus he has his own flock of sheep. He is the Dairy Sales Consultant with Jones Feed Mills Ltd. Todd Payne, owner of Asphodel Sheep Co. is another speaker, he has a flock of about 700 and has been accepted into the Master Shepherd's Course. The third speaker is Tracey Werry of Gimlet Hill Farms that is a new sheep producer with new facilities.

There will be industry vendors on site for the Day. There will also be feed specials. Anyone interested in attending, please RSVP by July 9th to cecilia.dfcc@gmail.com

The bigger doe kids and the "armed with horns" buck kids were pushing her out. With her traumatized kid hood, this kid got scared easily. I pushed her into the dog crate- along with a bucket of grain and locked the crate's door. It did not take long for her to hop in the crate because she was now getting grain all by herself.

The little kid can get in the crate now at record speed. She races in there and waits for her grain. The horned bucks are not one bit impressed.

The black kid is getting aggressive this spring. She has learned she is easily the fastest kid in the barn. She dances around the buck kids with no fear as she can dodge their aggression with her speed. I am considering naming her "Ukraine" because of her bravery.

Spring has changed Hummer the llama. Hummer usually plods outside to the paddock beside the barn- but not in the spring. In the spring, when the tasty green grass is here, Hummer turns into a sneak... The first time he pushed open the gates with his considerable size, Pandee got out too. I had two joyful llamas on the front lawn and one very excited red pup.

The first time Isaac helped me get Hummer back in. I can always lead Pandee. Pandee will stop anywhere when he sees me coming, he always is ready for his hug. Pandee won't move until he gets a hug but once the hug is over, he can be led with an arm around his shoulders.

The next time Hummer got out, he smashed open the gate hitting it with his chest. He made a lot of racket so I was soon behind him. This time, no red pup was going to convince the runaway llama to come back. Hummer gave Isaac a nasty look and I had the red pup quickly standing behind me. I had a llama on the loose for the full day. Hummer thankfully was not happy having "Hummer's flock" left with Pandee so he kept watch on his flock and Pandee while trying to browse around the property at the same time. Hummer needed two days to recover from his wild day.

Now, I securely tie the gates shut before I let out the llamas in the morning.

Things are calm here at the moment....but pasture time is close and that will be another story...

Meet the farmer: The van Kolfshoten Family

Story by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Kolfshoten Farms is a 40-acre operation located in Essa on the Townline. Kolfshoten Farms was started in 2015 with the production of roasting chickens. The farm expanded to include lamb, free-range omega-three brown eggs, and small square bales of hay. In the spring and fall, there are sales of high-quality sheep manure for the garden industry.

This farm is family operated. Lisa and Jason, better known as Mom and Dad, mostly work in hay production and are sales coordinators of the operation. Sons, Reagan and Ashton, are responsible for the flock of Rideau cross sheep and roasting chickens. Daughter Jaiden handles the free-range omega-three brown eggs side of the business.

Reagan says the biggest challenge of farming today is “the price fluctuations for input costs.” The three biggest costs for this farm are fuel, seed and corn, and other supplements for the livestock. While input costs soar, the final sale prices hold “no guarantee to go up to meet our input costs,” he said. He explained that his family’s farm has built a small square bale business. He estimates that “to make our hay this year, we will be close to double in fuel costs. We paid nearly double to seed down a field this year.” The average cost for one bale of hay will need to increase by at least 10-15% this year just to cover those added expenses.

Kolfshoten Farms began a hay business exclusively with only square bales. “No one around us sold small square bales so we decided to try it. We found a niche market of people like horse owners and hobby farms that have animals but don’t have the land to grow their own hay. Big (round or square) bales mean having a tractor- and the expertise to move those big bales around. Many farmers still need the small square bales,” he explains adding that “all our square bales are dry hay and they must be all of premium quality. One bad (moldy) bale and we will never see that customer again. We need four days of no rain to cut and dry hay so it can be a real gamble.” There are small square bales of hay available now. This family works together to get all this work done. Reagan and his Dad, Jason, take on the challenge of getting the right day to cut the day. This is a critical first step because the next three days must be rain-free with low humidity for the natural drying process to work. Next, the

two get the hay raked on “Baling Day.” On Baling Day the whole family goes to work as a team. One son, (Ashton) operates the baler and bale basket in the field. Mom (Lisa) and sister (Jaiden) load the bales on the elevator. Dad (Jason) and Reagan, mow (stack) the hay in the barn. The whole family keep at this job until all the raked hay is safely baled,

moved and stored in the hay mow. “Last year we also called on my girlfriend and my Grandpa to help us out. A common saying is to make hay while the sun shines, this means all hands are on deck,” Reagan explains.

Reagan hesitates before answering what his favourite part of farming is. He is not sure if he likes the challenge of choosing

what day to get the hay cut and getting it right or to see and smell a field of rich, green hay freshly raked in the sunshine all ready for Baling Day. He also likes “seeing the day’s accomplishment of a full mow after a long day.” And there is also the “peaceful sheep.” Watching the sheep peacefully chewing their cud is a feeling of contentment. “I like being around the sheep as much as out in the hay field,” he says adding he expects he will always have some version of farming in his life.

The farming community, Reagan says, is helpful. “Farmers have the mentality ‘if I know, you should know’ concept about farming. Markets are competitive but farmers are not. Farmers like to share experiences. Farmers have an ‘all for one, one for all’ sharing concept.” The very first person to mentor him and his brother Ashton, was their Grandpa Fisher. Whether it was being together while driving around in the tractor doing field-work, or tending to Grandpa’s dairy herd, both brothers enjoyed all the time

involved and learning about the farming life with their Grandpa. He says that the one person that has mentored him greatly in raising sheep is a neighbour, Grant Cowan. “When I have any questions about sheep, I just call Grant. He is always happy to help me out and he’s taught me a lot.”

Lisa is an active volunteer with South Simcoe 4-H as a Director on the Board of Directors and 4-H leader in many clubs including Mini Horse, Adventure Club, Hiking Club, and Cooking Club.

To purchase hay, lamb, eggs and roasting chickens from KOLFSHOTEN FARMS, please contact: Reagan at reag-vank@gmail.com or text/call 705-818-0964.



Brothers Reagan (left) and Ashton (right) take a moment with a few younger members of the flock.
—Photo by Roslyn Watkins



Cocoa the Chicken poses with Jaiden for a quick photo.
—Photo by Roslyn Watkins



In the photo above Ashton is pictured to the left baling and Reagan is to the right bringing the full load back to the barn.

The whole family put in a full day ensuring the bales were stacked away in the barn before the next rainfall. —Photo by Lisa van Kolfshoten



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South Simcoe 4-H Press Reports

South Simcoe 4-H Cooking Club News Report

By Harry Suffern

Our Cooking Club meeting for week 5, we started off with making a nice and delicious chimichurri sauce that goes great with the second dish we made, a couscous salad. (Recipe to the right.) The salad is perfect for this hot and humid weather now and it is a good recipe to revisit. For dessert, we made an amazing tasting chocolate lava cake that would make anybody hungry! Overall it was all delicious.

Hi everyone, this is the news report for the Cooking Club achievement day, meeting 6 - the final meeting of this year. First we chatted for a bit, and then we went on to the presentations. We presented meals we made for our families and we saw some amazing dishes. What seemed to be the most made food was a Shepherd's/Cottage pie which we all made with different ingredients such as chicken, gravy, swiss chalet sauce and beef. There were some beautiful pies, along with a lot of savory dishes.

See you all next year. Have a good year.

Couscous Salad Adapted from howsweeteats.com

Ingredients:

2 cups cooked couscous (cook according to package directions)
1/4 cup chimichurri
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved (possible substitutions peppers, cucumbers)
1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
3 tablespoons chopped chives (or 3 teaspoons dried chives)
Salt (to taste)
Pepper (to taste)

Method:

1. Toss cooked couscous with 1/4 chimichurri.
2. Add tomatoes, feta and chives along with salt & pepper.
3. Place in the fridge until ready to eat.

South Simcoe 4-H Financial Fitness Club

By Abigail Patton

The South Simcoe 4-H Financial Fitness Club had their 3rd meeting on Monday June 13 on zoom. The topic was entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship is when you start your own business and get to be your own boss. We welcomed our guest speaker who started their own roofing company called "Trevor's roofing." She shared her advice to take the leap and give it your all. Their success was from being available when customers needed them even if that meant repairing a roof in the winter. That is how they made their name known. When you are an entrepreneur, you are in charge of your own promotion and marketing so you need to get creative. We talked about the importance of having a strong resume. We talked about format and what to include. It is important to make your resume eye catching. We ended our meeting with some questions and answers about what bit coin is!



South Simcoe 4-H Poultry Club

By Isabella Cullen

The South Simcoe 4-H Poultry club met on May 24th. We had a guest speaker who had just purchased a small flock of chicks with a variety of breeds. She had bought mostly unique coloured egg layer chicks. She showed us her brooder operation which was very inventive. She also showed us all the different chicks and pointed out their different breed markings. We had a quiz about what we learned from the guest speaker. Our next meeting will be a tour of a broiler and egg laying operations.

South Simcoe 4-H Wheels in Motion Biking Club

By Krysta Downey



We had our first meeting of the South Simcoe 4-H Biking Club on Sunday June 12th. We talked about bike safety and practiced hand signs for turns. We practiced going through pylons. Rode to a school and biked around the racetrack. We rode between 12 and 15 km. We enjoyed water and snacks. It was a great time. Pictured in the photo above are members of the 4-H Wheels in Motion Biking Club.

— Photo provided by South Simcoe 4-H

Cookstown 4-H Beef Club Report

By Morgan Gilpin

The Cookstown 4-H Beef club has had a great start to the 2022 4-H season! We had our 1st meeting on zoom April 13 at 7:15 PM where we had our election of officers- President is Ben Gilpin, Vice president is Tyse Blank and secretary is Paige Moore. We discussed things we may want to learn this year and items we will need to pack in our show box to take to the show.

The 2nd meeting was held in person on May 4 at 7:15 PM at the Gilpin farm where the members were able to choose their 4-H project for the year and get all the written info for the members to be able to do the online paper work for the 4-H year.

Our 3rd meeting was held May 18 at 7:15 PM at the Gilpin farm.

At this meeting, we judged a class of breeding heifers. To get us prepared for the judging competition, which was on June the 10th at Harvdale Holsteins, and then we practiced showmanship with our own 4-H projects (heifers) to get us ready for the shows that we have to attend. We finished the meeting off with the 4-H pledge and motto. We adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

The 4th meeting was held June 1 at 7:15 PM at the Gilpin farm. This night we had a guest speaker Dr. Ryan from Central Ontario Vet. Dr. Ryan talked to the club about herd health. She demonstrated how to give injections and how to use the tube feeding device. She told us how quickly a calf with scours can go downhill. She gave us some great advice on what to watch out for among our livestock. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

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South Simcoe 4-H Press Reports Continued

4-H Plowing Club on the move

By Wesley Knierim

The first meeting of the Cookstown Plowing Club took place on April 27th on zoom. The leaders for the club are: Elizabeth, Bill and Scott Gilpin. At this meeting there were members from both South Simcoe County and Wellington County. The members learned about the different types of plows, the parts of a plow and types of attachments. They also learned about the qualities of a plowed field. On May 18th the Cookstown Plowing Club held their second meeting. At this meeting Matt Sterling talked about his plowing at the Canadian Plowing match in Manitoba in the spring of 2022. Matt was crowned the junior plowing champion. Matt told us that it is important to get to know your tractor and plow. He also recommended asking experienced plowers for help when you need help. We also learned about judging and judged a class of hiking lunches. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15th on Zoom.

South Simcoe 4-H Gardening Club

By Brier Miller

We met June 1st, at the Cul-lens home. With the up coming county wide judging competition, we practiced delivering our reasons, and our public speaking skills.

We played a game of plant recall, using the first letter of our name, if the ball dropped close to you. I used buttercup and bee balm.

We also did a blindfold taste game. We were blindfolded and

the leader placed a small piece of veggie in a container. We then ate it and tried to guess what veggie we were eating.

My guess was broccoli, but it was actually cauliflower!

Another highlight is getting to take home some hens and chicks, including some bulbs to be planted in our flower beds.

We will meet in July for our next meeting.

County wide judging was held on June 10th at a farm outside of Stayner.

4-H South Simcoe Rabbit Club report

By Abby Patton

The Rabbit Club had their May and June meetings on Zoom. In our May meeting we had a guest speaker to talk about the benefits of rabbit manure and composting it. Did you know that you can apply rabbit manure fresh to your

garden and it won't burn your plants? We talked about nutrition and labelled all the parts of the rabbit. Can you label where the dewlap is?

In June we talked about health and husbandry. We played a game of Jeopardy where Andrew had the most points with Lolo and Gwenyth right on his

heels. We learned that the best medicine is prevention. We read the stock keepers creed. Sierra gave us a live demonstration of how to show rabbits with her award winning, rabbit Juno. We will all be practicing our showmanship as we prepare for the Beeton Fair. We are all looking forward to our next meeting.

Cloverbud Scavenger Hunt Meeting

By Maggie Suffern

We loved being outside at our last Cloverbud meeting where we did a scavenger hunt.

We looked for Gnomey the 4-H gnome, and we had to look for flowers, and acorns, and spiderwebs (but we didn't find any. Or bird nests.)

We also planted little plants in little plant containers (I don't know what they're called.) We got to bring our plants home and we also got to paint rocks for our gardens!

We also did a lunch packing activity for a healthy lunch for hiking. And we also had snacks and juice boxes.

It was very fun and we all liked it.

South Simcoe 4-H Mini Horse Club

By Isabella Cullen



— Photo provided by South Simcoe 4-H

Our second meeting was on May 29th. All the members attended and received their certificate of completion for Equine First Aid Fundamentals. We worked with mini horses and large horses taking their vital signs. We bandaged and did various horse injury scenarios. If you don't already know when it comes to your horse health the general rule of thumb is if in doubt call the vet.

Our third meeting was on June 8th. We judged a couple of classes to get ready for the South Simcoe County Judging Competition. We practiced training and showmanship with our mini horses at the meeting for most of the meeting. The members had a great time working with their 4-H project mini horses.

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Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

So, I got this question the other day...

"Farmer Tim, you say to not trust everything that you read on the internet so why should we trust you?"

Fair question!

I guess when it comes down to it you can't really trust anyone but at some point, you need to try. Everyone has been duped by someone at some point in their life. It could have been your spouse, a shady mechanic, a bad cop or a co-worker. Every sector of life has its share of bad eggs. That doesn't mean that everyone can't be trusted. Sure I have a vested interest in the dairy industry but here are a few reasons why you can trust me and other farmers on social media:

1) I'm not trying to sell you ANYTHING! Food choices are up to the individual and not once have I said that you need to consume dairy. It's the misinformation that I am battling.

2) I've let you into my personal life. I've shared my dreams and my heartaches. I am an open book.

3) I don't get paid a cent to blog.

4) I show you the good AND the bad of farming. There is no sugar coating. It's a good life but also a hard life.

5) I write detailed posts that explain not only what I am doing but WHY I do it.

6) I feed my family the same food that I produce. We shop at the same grocery stores and farmers' markets. My family is a part of your community.

7) I am pro-farmer. I don't bash anyone. I support all sectors of farming as long as they farm with passion and integrity.

8) Taking care of the land and livestock for future generations is not only the right thing to do it is mandated by law and codes of practice. The amount of paperwork, inspections and audits we do is mind-boggling.

9) I could have chosen to do almost any job but I work 7 days a week and 365 days a year because I believe in what I do.

10) I make mistakes. I'm human just like you. I take the time to educate but also to listen and learn. We learn from each other.

Trust takes years to build,
seconds to break and
forever to repair.

Anonymous

Farmer Tim

Farmer Tim farms in Southern Ontario and has been sharing his stories through social media for many years.

Tim is quoted saying "All farmers need to get their stories out there and have fun while they do it!"

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

A man was driving for hours through desolate country when he passed a farmhouse, and before he could react, a cat ran out in front of him and *splat* — he flattened the cat.

Out of kindness and consideration, he stopped, turned around and drove back to the farmhouse to notify the occupants. When the housewife came to the door, he said, "Pardon me ma'am, but I just ran over a cat in front of your house, and assumed that it must belong to you. I know this might be hard to hear, but I wanted to let you know instead of just driving off."

"Not so fast," she says. "How do you know it was our cat? Could you describe him? What does he look like?"

The man promptly flopped down on the ground, and said, "He looks like this" as he gave his best shot at a dead cat impression.

"Oh no, you horrible man," she replied. "I meant, what did he look like before you hit him?"

At that, the man got up, covered his eyes with both hands and screamed, "Agggghhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!"



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Prepare for a fun family day at the fair

County fairs, state fairs and country fairs dot the landscape in late spring, summer and fall, offering fairgoers plenty of attractions and rides to fill warm days and evenings. Families who plan ahead for the festivities may be able to improve their experiences.

- Purchase passes in advance. Some fairs enable visitors to purchase entry tickets, parking passes and even game vouchers online. There are advantages to doing so, such as bundling discounts. Buying tickets in advance also cuts down on time spent waiting in line.

- Devise a basic plan. Look over the list of attractions and activities to gauge what you want to get out of the fair. Some fairs post their calendars online. With kids in tow, you'll likely want to check out any children's rides or animal exhibits and interactions. Create a generalized plan, but be flexible, especially when going with other families.

- Think about safety. Fairs attract thousands of people and that can lead to confusion if children become separated from their parents. Write your mobile phone number down and put it in your child's pocket or bag, so he or she doesn't have to memorize it. Consider finding the tallest attraction at the fair (perhaps the ferris wheel), and make

that the meeting point if anyone becomes lost. Snap a photo of youngsters when you arrive so that you'll have a recent image and know exactly what they are wearing if you need to engage law enforcement. Some parents tell their children to find another parent and ask them to help them contact security.

- Time your visit. If the fair runs during the week and into the weekend, weekdays are likely to be much less crowded. Also, while not ideal, a cool day or one with a slight drizzle will cut down on crowds and improve the ability to see more things and get on more rides.

- Factor in food. Fair food is an indulgence to enjoy when fairs come around. Rather than go overboard, pick one meal or item that the family will enjoy. Bring a backpack, if permitted, and fill it with bottled water and other light snacks so that you can tame hunger pangs and not bust the budget at the food court.

- Understand game odds. Fair games are largely designed to earn the event money and not to cash out prizes to all participants. The chances of winning the grand prize, which may be a giant stuffed giraffe, usually are low, so it's best if children do not become overly



concerned with winning a prize. Play the games for fun and memories and not to walk away with the biggest prizes.

In addition to these suggestions, parents can make sure they bring insect repellent and sunscreen to the fair. Dress for comfort and not fashion.

These strategies can help families make the most of the county fair this year.

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Ontario Dairy Buck Show held at the Lindsay Fairgrounds

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Pictured to the left is "Capricorn View Arthur's Flash" owned by Mike Vervoot of Erin. This buck was bred by Sonja Iannuzzi of Uxbridge. This buck's sire is "Kampire PTR's Arthur" that was bred and owned by the late Keith VanCamp, known as the "Livestock Man" from Blackstock. This buck was shown in the three shows at the recent Ontario Dairy Buck Show, under three different Canadian Goat Society licensed judges. He won his class, his breed and was awarded BEST in show for all three shows. The sponsorship

for the breed classes was purchased exclusively to remember a late mentor in the dairy goat industry and was titled "In Memory of Keith VanCamp."



These young bucks are the Nigerian Dwarf breed that are very popular for homesteaders and also pet homes. These three girls are watching the judge which is critical for showing livestock. From the

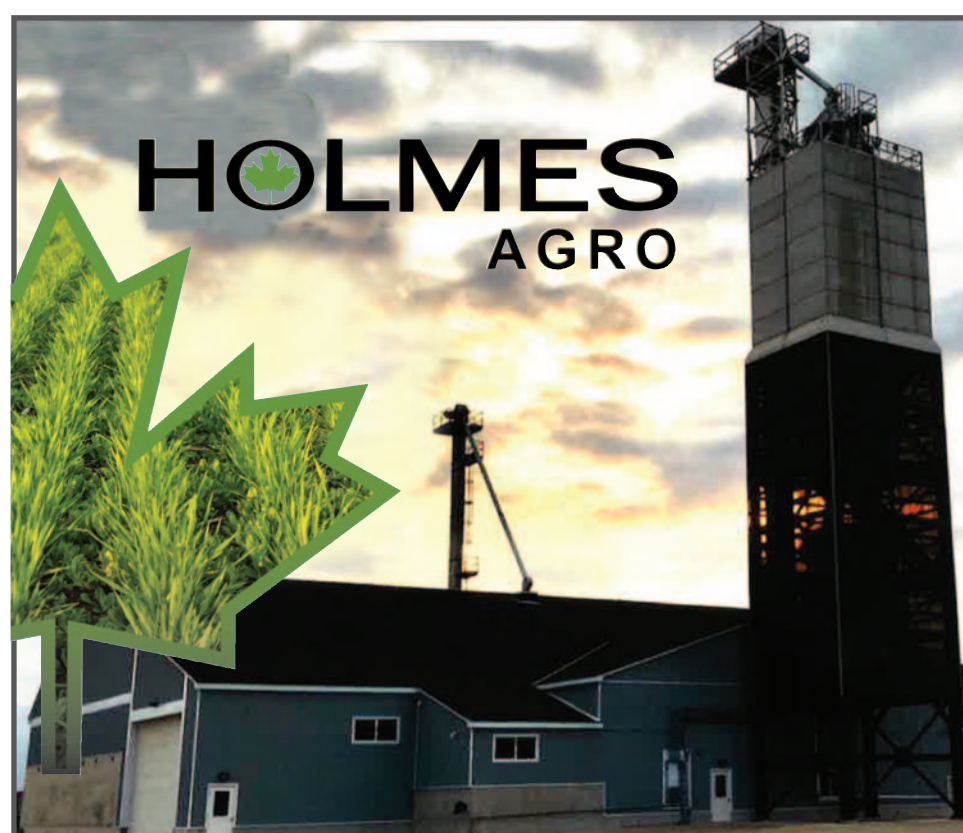
left is Lillith Terpstra from Inglehart showing "Peacock Meadows Tom" and to the right is Josie Vervoot of Erin helping out here by showing "Peacock Meadows Jeri" both of these bucks are owned/bred

by Luella Cail of Pontypool. In the middle is Samantha Mitchell of Woodville showing "Fowlers Dream Blair Witch" that was owned/bred by Jordyn Fowler from Noelville.

Shown in the photo to the right is Karin McDougall from Fenelon Falls with "Silver Hoof," a purebred Nubian buck bred by Carol Clayson of Pontypool and owned by Karin's friends, Kirk and Natalie Michell and family from Woodville. The buck was part of the Ontario Dairy Buck Show held at the Lindsay Fairgrounds. Natalie had the idea of a buck show and presented it to her three goat farming friends, Alice Stewart and Tracy Tindall, both of Uxbridge and Luella Cail of Pontypool. The four formed a team. An online fund-raising auction was held and Karin was a contributor to the auction. Karin said she believes that goat shows are important, "I showed my dairy goats for years and my goal was a productive doe that could produce milk, have twins every year- and had the conformation to do well in the show ring. I also met a lot of friends when I was showing goats. It takes a lot of work to put on a show and it's good of Natalie (and the team) to do this."



This is Vereen McDonald pictured to the right with her family's buck, "Garden Gate YD Dinero" who was imported from western Canada. Xavier and Vereen McDonald own Alpha Fore Nubians in Beaverton. This buck was part of the Ontario Dairy Buck Show held at the Lindsay Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 11th.



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The Hamlet of Randwick was once a thriving community

Village stories

by Andrew Hind

revenant of a past age.

Randwick dates to the later 1860s when the lumber company of Parkhill & Smith purchased timber rights along the sandy shores of Lisle Creek. This license gave them exclusive rights to harvest the trees located within the broad valley that bounded the waterway. They were mostly interested in the lucrative white pine.

It wasn't long before the sound of axes biting into trees and the high-pitched buzz of the mill's saw began to echo through the once tranquil forest. Parkhill & Smith employed dozens of men full-time, making it necessary to build cottages for their accommodation.

The cottages were soon joined by a small hotel that did a thriving business. True, only a handful of travelers ventured into the forested valley, and therefore there was little call for its half-dozen guestrooms. On the other hand, the alcohol served in the bar was always in great demand by the lumbermen, and consequently the hotel experienced more than its share of raucous booze-soaked revelry.

Throughout the 1870s, the future seemed rosy indeed for the little community. Randwick was granted a post office in January of 1874, a sure sign that a community had 'come of age.' The post office was located partway up the valley's

Located in the north-east corner of Dufferin County's Mulmur Township, the hamlet of Randwick was once a thriving logging community. It is gone now, little more than a

side, at the intersection of the Sixth Line and 25th Concession of Mulmur, to ensure its services were as accessible to area farmers as to the employees of Parkhill & Smith. For the same reason, Randwick's school was located just across the road from the post office. It was a tiny, one-room affair, but despite a humble appearance the school managed to bring a degree of education to the wild youth of the area.

While Randwick grew significantly over its first decade, it never acquired many of the trappings typical of a 19th century village. There was no store, for example, and no blacksmith or other artisans. For such services residents of Randwick had to travel two miles north to the village of Banda.

By the turn of the century the forest was gone, and the mill had closed. Now farms dotted the valley floor. The once rambunctious logging village had been replaced by a slow-paced, tranquil farming community. But any farming here was destined to fail as the voracious logging had removed the forest cover, making the already thin soil vulnerable to erosion. During dry summer months sand would blow off the fields and collect in dunes on nearby roads.

As the topsoil was literally swept-away, so too were the dreams of area farmers. Farming was unsustainable in this desert-like environment. Most of the settlers had moved away by the 1920s, leaving the valley eerily silent.

The Township of Mulmur stepped in to purchase much of the land around Randwick and began reforestation efforts in the 1930s. In time, desert gave way to forest.

Today, very little remains of Randwick. The only readily visible reminder is the schoolhouse, now a private residence. Within the aged walls of this building reside the memories of this once thriving mill community.



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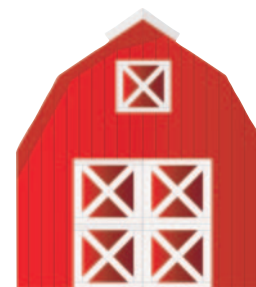
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Celebrating Colourful in season Tomatos

Photo and recipe by Roslyn Watkins

Back to my Italian roots. (That's a 100% fabrication. I don't have any Italian roots but swear with my love of Italian cuisine I should!) Last week I was having a craving for arancini balls, which is a lengthier, hands-on recipe and wanted something quick and tasty to serve alongside. This tomato salad didn't disappoint.

It is simple but bursting with flavour. Very quick to put together it makes the perfect accompaniment to a more time consuming main dish. Toss with a handful of fresh spinach as well to boost your veggie intake.

The leftover dressing (if you have any) is delicious with a strawberry and spinach salad.

Tomato Salad with Fried Halloumi Cheese and Honey Balsamic dressing



INGREDIENTS

Your choice of tomatoes sliced or try cherry or grape tomatoes*

Halloumi cheese, cut into bite size squares*

1 egg beaten in a bowl
2 tbsps each flour and bread crumbs in separate bowls, more if required.

Fresh basil
*Enough for number of people you are serving

Dressing
1/4 cup light olive oil
2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
2 tbsp honey
salt and pepper to taste
Mix well in mason jar or bowl and set aside.

Dip the cheese in the egg wash, then roll in the flour followed by the bread crumbs. Once all cheese cubes are ready, heat a small frying pan to medium and add in your choice of oil. Just enough to cover the bottom of the pan. Fry your breaded cheese cubes until golden on all sides. Top the tomatoes with the cheese cubes, garnish with fresh basil and generously drizzle the dressing over the salad.

What's in Season for July

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New Land Use Planning Tool Needs Restraints

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

April was a busy month, with government moving to make final changes before the election got under way early in May. One of the bills passed before parliament was dissolved was Bill 109, More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022. It was introduced on March 30 and received royal assent on April 14, only half way through the 30-day consultation period on the changes proposed in the Bill.

The Act introduced a number of changes, including several aimed at speeding up the approval process for new development. One such example is a new tool called the Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator tool.

This allows the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to issue Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator orders. Municipalities need to request the Minister to issue this type of order. The orders will be subject to guidelines (still to be finalized) that will direct when and how they can be used. The new tool offers the possibility to circumvent the requirements of provincial plans, the Provincial Policy Statement and municipal official plans.

First and foremost, the CFFO is not in favour of this type of "workaround" tool. Undermining the current land use planning process will result in patchy development that does not fit within existing land use plans, creating potential for long-term conflict where competing adjacent land uses are not carefully considered.

Instead, the CFFO emphasizes the value of our current land use planning process, which establishes rules to protect public and provincial interests, including farmland protection. The current planning process combines public consultation, local knowledge and long-term planning. This is a much better

way to fairly consider competing needs and to balance adjacent land uses on the single finite landscape of Ontario.

Approvals made at a Ministry level through a process designed to circumvent existing long-term land use plans and speed up approval is unlikely to result in carefully considered development. Where an existing planning process is already in place, the CFFO does not see the use of Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator orders as necessary or appropriate. The current process for public input and long-term planning does take time, but this is the best way to suitably protect provincial interests and balance the many competing demands for land use in our diverse communities in Ontario.

The CFFO is concerned about the use of the Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator tool because of the potential impact it may have in overriding protections and accelerating development on productive farmland. The CFFO is supportive of the current restriction that these orders cannot be issued within the Greenbelt boundary, but calls on the government to extend protection from this tool to all farmland in Ontario. We have requested that, under the proposed guidelines, a community infrastructure and housing accelerator order may not be made on specialty crop land, prime agricultural land or actively or recently farmed rural lands.

If development needs to be accelerated, it should be done within existing settlement boundary areas, not by permanently destroying productive farmland.



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