

46th year of publication **FARM VIEW**

February 2023
Volume 46 #02

A newspaper with something for everyone

Inside this issue:

**Bill 23 passed,
what does that
mean to us?**

**Bringing
awareness: 133
lives lost to fire
in 2022**

**Coverage of the
Ontario
Agricultural
Conference**

**Transporting
livestock has
new rules**

**Loaves and
Fishes Growing
Project
summary 2022**

**Stories from
John Beischer
and Dr. Tim
Henshaw**

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lisa Thompson, made a special guest appearance at the recent 57th Grey Bruce Farmers' Week conference.



Complimentary copy for
the FARM household

■ AGcalendar

Farm View's Ag Calendar is free to non-profit agricultural groups, up to a maximum of 40 words. All others are invoiced at \$25 per month. Please note the format of the listings below and submit your item by mail or email, in a similar fashion.

February 4th: South Simcoe 4-H Rally Night

South Simcoe 4-H information Rally Night and ice skate Saturday February 4th at the Angus Recreation Centre 9529 County Road 10. 6-8 pm speak to the leaders and sign up. 7-8 pm skate. **More details in the ad on page 15.**

February 6th: NVCA Artwork Deadline

Win the opportunity to have your artwork displayed and used on NVCA conservation area merchandise. Artists are welcome to submit their artwork to events@nvca.on.ca until February 6, 2023. The winning artwork will be chosen on/by February 13, 2023. For full submission rules, visit <https://www.nvca.on.ca/about/careers-volunteers>.

February 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the March issue of Farm View is **Tuesday, February 14th.**

February 15th: OFA Financial Road Show

February 15th 9am to Noon. Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston
OFA Financial Literacy & Succession Planning Road Show **More details in Leah Emms column on page 6.**

April, May, June: Spring Auctions

Thinking of a spring or on-line auction? Turn to page 19 to see some upcoming sale dates or to book an auctioneer for your sale.


NEXT MEETING...

Of the Essa

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Saturday March 25




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Life is a gift

Author unknown

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was young and embarking on my new life. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went.

I know that I lived them all.

I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

However, here it is the last quarter of my life and it catches me by surprise.

How did I get here so fast?

Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first quarter and that the fourth quarter was so far off that I could not visualize it or imagine fully what it would be like.

Yet, here it is my friends are retired and getting grey - they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me but I see the great change. They're not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant but like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day and taking a nap is not a treat anymore. It's mandatory because if I don't of my own free will, I fall asleep where I sit.

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did. But at least I know that, though I'm on the last quarter and I'm not sure how long it will last, that when it's over on this earth, it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done; things I should have done but truly there are many things I'm happy to have been done.
It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not on the last quarter yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life do it quickly. Don't put things off too long. Life goes by so quickly.
So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the last quarter or not.

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of life. So, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember - and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the past years.

'Life' is a gift to you.
Be Happy!
Have a great day!

Ontario Federation of Canada hosts meeting to voice Bill 23 concerns

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Over 160 people joined together online for Ontario Federation of Agriculture’s “Bill 23 Passed: What’s Next?” webinar held recently. The chat box was in constant use.

Bill 23 is the More Houses Built Faster Act 2022. According to the Ontario government, Ontario needs 1.5 million new homes quickly built by 2031, to offset the housing crisis in Ontario. OFA’s Farm Policy Analyst Emily Sousa explains, “For context, the City of Toronto has 1.3 million homes, Bill 23 is for 1.5 million homes.”

Before Bill 23, Ontario farmland has been reduced at an alarming rate. The 2011-2016 Census showed that Ontario lost 175 acres per day. The 2016-2021 Census had even more troubling numbers of 319 acres of farmland lost per day. Sousa said that there is evidence that farmland is being switched out from farmland adding, “in 2000-2017 there were 545 Official Plan amendments that led to the loss of 72,196 acres of prime farmland in Ontario.”

“Prime farmland is not a renewable resource. Farmland is an exceptional resource needed to feed our province, our country, across the world. Over half- 52% of Canada’s prime farmland is in Ontario and farmland makes up less than 5% of that land today,” she stated.

Bill 23 looks like it might make taking farmland out of farming easier than ever before by easing the powers of the 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. Anyone who has built near even a tiny crick, understands the strong authority of the local Conservation Authority for protecting environmentally sensitive areas. Now, under Bill 23, they can no longer run tests for either “conservation of land” or “pollution” reasons. They also have to identify what land they own that can be turned into possible housing spaces.

This controversial Bill has some significant changes that could impact the farmer’s already high property tax bills. OFA’s Senior Farm Policy Analyst Ben LeFort explained Bill 23 is about freezing, reducing and exempting fees levied by the Municipality and other authorities.

“Municipalities have only two sources of controlled income, development fees and property taxes. Bill 23 changes

development fees offering a discount for the purpose of building rental units and some development fees can be paid over 5 years now. This will not cover the cost of the new growth- and the taxpayer will have to make that up,” he said adding, “The extra costs should be billed to the province not the municipal tax base is our (OFA) stand on this.” It is feared that these changes could add another 10% to property tax bills which now, according to Lefort, are already often seeing significant increases.

Building up not more is slightly addressed in the new “Adding in the Missing Middle plan” that is part of Bill 23 that will see up to 3 households living on one lot, one in the main house, one in the home’s basement and in a separate building called the “garden house.” This idea adds density to the already developed space however, Sousa says, “This would build 50,000 new homes as planned here, which is only about 3% of the 1.5 million required. OFA considers this a good move but they could up the density by adding walk-up apartments or townhouses.”

Another piece of Bill 23 is moving away from Upper Tier levels of government regulations for building and down-loading it to the lower tier as in the Township level. “It’s a step back in time. Some of the smaller Townships do not even have planning departments,” Lefort commented.

Bill 23 has many levels- and those levels include having 7400 acres of Greenbelt released for development. This is land that has been, since 2005, strongly protected against all development. After being educated that Greenbelt lands are permanently essential and incredibly important to Ontario, people have reacted to Bill 23. Bill 23 throws off the protection of these rules and now declares the land fit to be considered for building housing developments. The reaction of the Ontario people has been through rallies of opposition in many different areas. The Ontario government is adding more acres to Greenbelt “permanently protected” areas but the question is, do these new areas consist of previous Greenbelt high quality soil suitable to grow food for those that live locally in cities, across Canada and around the world?

On the Cover



Lisa Thompson, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs happened to be in her hometown at the time of the Grey Bruce Farmers’ Week conference. Minister Thompson stopped in to say hello and address the crowd.

—Photo credit Lorie Smith, GBFW Co-ordinator

DEADLINE for the March Farm View is February 14th.

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JD 8345RT (E89457) 2010, MFWD, 345ENG HP, 7318 HR, DLX CAB, 40KPH,, AUTOPWR IVT, BAR AXLE, 18" TRACKS, AUTOTRAC READY,, COMMAND CENTER, 5 REMOTES, 1000RPM-1 3/4 PTO, **\$170,530.00**

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JD 5083E/LDR (E88854) 2013, MFWD, CONSIGN, 83ENG HP, 285HR, CAB,, 12F/12R SPD, PWR REV, QUICKE X36 LDR, HLA 78"BKT,, 11.2-24 50%, 16.9-30 70%, FLANGE AXLE, 2 REMOTES, **\$79,480.00**



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Agriculture - Harvesting - John Deere

FROM THE EDITOR

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

February has become known as the month to focus on mental health. Either for yourself or taking the time to try to understand what someone else is experiencing or going through. One of the sessions of the Ontario Agricultural Conference held in January focused on the stress farmers and their families feel. Cathy Hamill-Hill provides a wealth of information from that session in her article "Stress is real" on page 11. I must admit I have a ter-

rrible habit of worrying about things that may or may not happen. In Cathy's article Dr. Lauren Van Ewyk recommends a grounding exercise that will help keep our thoughts on the present and what we are facing in the moment, not fretting over the future. I've already tried it a few times and am finding it quite helpful. I hope you do as well.

In the January issue Cathy covered the topic of Dealing with Deadstock, in this issue I'd like to welcome new advertiser Barn Angels Composting. Barn Angels Composting offer a kind and compassionate way of disposing of your pet or farm animal. Please have a look at their ad on page 12. When you turn to the ag business directory on page 17 you will see BrokerLink as a new advertiser. Please give Stuart or Anna-Maria a call, they specialize in farm insurance but I'm certain they can provide direction for any insurance needs you have.

By now probably everyone has heard that Bill 23 has been passed in spite of strong opposition from many Ontarians. Cathy Hamill-Hill gives us a brief overview of changes to come on page 3.

This issue of Farm View offers personal stories from former Farm View publisher John Beischer, Dr. Tim Henshaw and Farmer Tim. Some humorous moments and definitely worth the read!

Shawn, my better half, and I had the pleasure of attending Crops Day at the recent Grey Bruce Farmers' Week conference. You will find a few photos from that day throughout this issue and Cathy will provide us with coverage of a few of the sessions in the March and April issues of Farm View.

February is also of course the month to celebrate Valentine's Day and Family Day. We are blessed to live in a province with so many fun outdoor activities literally at our doorstep. Turn to page 18 for some interesting ways to spend time with family and friends this Valentine's Day and Family Day. Enjoy!

*Take care of yourselves and one another,
Roslyn Watkins*

LETTERS**133 lives lost to fire in Ontario in 2022**

When will it stop? When will owners, landlords and tenants take it seriously? When will fire departments stop codding the public? When will municipal councils start supporting the actions of their fire departments? When will the police services work with the fire departments in laying charges that are appropriate in the case? The when should be now and what that is being referred to is the lack of working smoke alarms in residential homes in Ontario. Ontario lost 133 lives to fires in 2022. That is a number that hasn't occurred in nearly 25 years. In comparison across all of Canada in 2021 there were approximately 150 deaths lost to impaired driving. There is outrage and deservedly so any time there is a death caused by impaired driving. Much has been done to increase awareness about the consequences of driving impaired by alcohol or drugs. Jail terms are common and many are for long periods of time. What about when someone dies as a result of a fire. Have you heard of anyone being charged criminally for not having working smoke alarms and a death has resulted? The answer is no. Losing someone has a devastating effect on those who survive. If the driver of an automobile has a passenger or a pedestrian die as a result of their actions they are charged. It doesn't matter if it's a family member or a complete stranger. The court holds them accountable for their actions. Shouldn't this be the same when there are no working smoke alarms? Fire departments hand out free smoke alarms on a regular basis. They have wonderful campaigns and are on social media reminding people regularly to have working smoke alarms and to check them. But what happens when they at-

tend a fire when a death has occurred? Fire officials are reluctant to bring charges forward. It is thought that the loss of life has brought sufficient consequences. Oftentimes with many smaller and rural departments they require permission from the municipal Council to proceed with any prosecution. Firefighters don't want to be seen as heavy handed or the bad guys. They feel that their job is to help people, not be enforcement officers. That thinking needs to change and now is the time. Fines for not having working smoke alarms in Ontario range from \$360 to \$50,000 for individuals. A ticket can be given for the lower fine anytime a fire official comes across the lack of working smoke alarms in a residential building. In some municipalities that is a common event. In many, a smoke alarm is handed out or even installed. There are criminal code charges that could be examined and laid when a fire results in a death. Unfortunately that rarely occurs. It's time we take the lack of working smoke alarms seriously as impaired driving and start taking action. Ask your fire department what they are doing about smoke alarms and discuss it with your local council member. Tell them you want them to take smoke alarm enforcement seriously and start it now. Think about it. 133 people, some of them family members, died because of fire. 133 a number totally unacceptable. Do something about it now and while you are at it, check your smoke alarms now and make certain that they are working.

Dennis Gannon,
Anten Mills

**Ag Snapshot**

What kind of flowers should you *not* give on Valentine's Day?
Cauliflowers!

What did the paper clip say to the magnet?
I find you very attractive.

Who always has a date on Valentine's Day?
A calendar.

In the photo to the right Farm View Publisher Roslyn Watkins at left and Lisa Thompson, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, have a read of the Simcoe County Ag Hall of Fame Inductees at the recent GBFW Crops Day. For more on the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week, please see page 7.

—Photo by Leo Losereit

**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. Please no phone calls.

FARM VIEW is published monthly by:
Roslyn Watkins
The 5 N's Publishing House

8 Luella Blvd, Minesing ON L9X 0W7
Phone (705) 722-0138
e-mail farmview@on.aibn.com

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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:

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OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:

Paul Maurice: 705-427-3126 email: paul.maurice@ofa.on.ca

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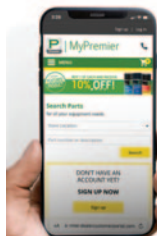
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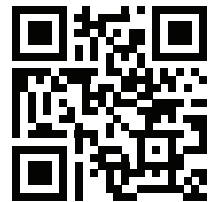
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Ontario Agricultural Conference

How much insurance is enough?

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

An insurance broker is as important to the farm business as the banker, the accountant and the vet. That was the point made several times in the eye opening segment, #27 of "How much is enough?"

Two insurance industry experts, Kevin Varley of Josslin Insurance and Mike Brine of Trillium Mutual Insurance explained that the insurance needs for today's farms are changing- and it's important that the farmer recognizes this- before it is too late.

In the past, fire was the #1 reason for structure loss- but not now. "Water and wind are leading causes of damages- and this is caused by climate change," Varley explained.

It is important that the insurance broker is aware of what the farm production is. "We need to know if you do custom work down the road or if you store grain for another farmer. We need to know what is happening. We like to meet with farm operators once a year- and for big operations, I meet twice a year," he explains.

Brine said the fear that any visits or discussions with an insurance broker will always lead to more money being paid out for insurance is just not reality. "A risk inspector will inspect the farm operation to look for fire and slip and fall risks. I always remember my aunt and uncle standing in their lane watching their home burn. Nobody wins in a fire or a loss- and our risk inspectors can help stop this from happening."

There also now electrical inspectors that can come to a farm operation and with special equipment, can literally see "hot spots" in wiring that could cause a fire one day, Kevin adds. Also stating sometimes tightening a breaker is all that is needed but "you cannot see anything wrong" by just looking.

It is important to realize building costs have gone up significantly and insurance needs to be kept up to date because if a structure is insured for \$350,000 for example and it now costs \$600,000 to build, the \$350,000 insurance cost is not enough to rebuild. It is projected that building costs will be up another 12% in 2023.

"Someone with a 20 year old barn accepts costs have gone up but the person that just built something a year ago, is hard to convince that it costs more to replace," Brine says that it is important to check the insurance policy for replacement cost values.

Business interruption is a part of the insurance policy that needs to be up to date. Business interruption is the time of transition when the farm income goes away but the expenses go on. "There can be a loss of income for a year or more while the building is being replaced," Varley said. He explained that a loss means clearing away the site of debris- and then making plans with a general contractor. "It can now take six months from the first plans to getting the new building permit in place," he said adding that, "it can take six more months to build when it is not scheduled in."

Expenses still have to be paid on the farm operation and these include mortgages and interest payments, feed, vet, barn rental, hydro, vehicle payments and equipment payments. These expenses must be covered- and there are now insurance policies available for this.

Participation in Farmland Value & Rental Values Survey key



By Leah Emms
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firmly in the land of averages.

Since 2016 Dr. Brady Deaton of the University of Guelph has conducted a survey called Farmland Value & Rental Values. This survey collects data on in several categories. But, of most interest is rental rates and farmland value. The survey data from 2106 -2021 can be viewed at www.onfarmland-survey.com

Some regions of the province do not have any representation in the survey at all. 2017 had the most responses at 2367. The year 2019 only had 1509 responses. Locally, response rate averages over the six years look like this. Peel 5.6 respondents, Simcoe 38.8 respondents and York 10.6.

AND, the survey says.....average rental rates in 2021 in Peel were zero due to no responses. Simcoe & York \$100/acre.

Really interesting data is the average farmland value per acre. It ranges from \$7200 to \$40000 an acre across the province.

OFA assists the University of Guelph by circulating the survey to our members via email. This year that email was sent on Tuesday January 10th.

We are fortunate that the University of Guelph has developed this survey, analyzes, and distributes it for our consumption. I rely on this information as a resource to share with those who inquire. On average, only 1888 people complete this survey each year. I think we can do better than that! Whether you agree or disagree with these numbers I encourage you to participate in this valuable survey.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr.

Every year I receive many requests from members and landowners wondering what the rental rate is for farmland. My first response is always, "well... it's complicated."

The collection of data is a tricky task on two fronts. Sometimes individuals are reluctant to share details and others may provide information that is not always accurate. But, without the collection of that data we may wildly under or overestimate. This is how we arrive

Brady Deaton, Jr., a Professor at the University of Guelph. His email is bdeaton@uoguelph.ca and his telephone number is 519-824-4120 x52765.

Remember!

If you are renewing or starting a new rental arrangements, it is always a good idea to have the terms of the agreement in writing to prevent confusion or conflict.

Mark your calendars!

February 15th 9am to Noon. Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston
OFA Financial Literacy & Succession Planning Road Show

Presented by Farm Life Financial

The OFA Financial Literacy & Succession Planning Road Show, presented by Farm Life Financial, will provide education on financial strategies for farms and farmers, as well as succession planning tools to keep the farm in the family.

Join Darrell Wade and Andrew Leach for this education session, OFA resources and along with continental breakfast. Focusing on family harmony, tax advantages and reaching goals of both generations, this seminar will leave attendees with a deeper understanding of how to transition the family farm and being fair to all family members.

Be sure to register for this event through the OFA website or contact Leah Emms.

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— Bruce Lee**

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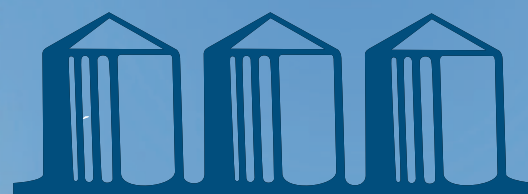


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Each winter, Grey Ag Services offers courses of interest to producers and rural residents of Grey and Bruce Counties and beyond. Please find the January and February courses listed below. The March and April courses, along with course details and registration information can be found on the Grey Ag website – www.greyagservices.ca. Certified Crop Advisors will be able to obtain CEU credits for some of these courses.

• “If You Can’t See It, You Can’t Hit It – Directed Spraying In Corn”

Presented by: Dr Jason Deveau, OMAFRA. Wednesday January 25th 12:00 - 1:00 pm, on Zoom.

• Beekeeping Part Two

Presented by: Janine McGowan, owner of Our Bee Lab. Tuesday January 31st, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Hybrid course: Attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

• What’s New in Agronomy?

Presented by: Deb Campbell from Agronomy Advantage and Carrie Davenport from Georgian View Ag Services Ltd. Wednesday February 1st, 1:30 - 4:30 pm. Hybrid course: Attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

• Soil Fertility Workshop

Presented by: Colin Elgie, OMAFRA. Thursday February 2nd 1:00 - 3:00 pm, at Grey Ag Services.

• Improving Biosecurity Concepts for Swine and Poultry

Presented by: Al Dam and Steve Beadle, OMAFRA. Monday February 6th 1:00 - 2:30 pm, on Zoom.

• Social Media Tips for your Farm Marketing

Presented by: Kelly Ward, OMAFRA & panelists: Amy Kitchen, Sideroad Farm; Julie Higginson, Higginson Farms; RJ Taylor, Springhills Fish Farm. Wednesday February 15th 1:00 - 3:30 pm. Hybrid course: Attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

• Family Farm Continuity: New Opportunities to Help You Start Today!

Presented by: Bryan Huck, BDO; and BDO A&A/Tax Partner TBD. Thursday February 16th 9:45 - 2:00 pm at Grey Ag Services.

• Weed ID Workshop

Presented by: Kris McNaughton, U of G, Ridgetown College. Tuesday February 21st 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Grey Ag Services.

• Advanced Grazing Systems - Paddock Design Workshop

Presented by: Dean Cober, Cobercow Hay and Cattle. Monday February 27th 1:00 - 5:00 pm at Grey Ag Services.

For full course descriptions, please see our website: www.greyagservices.ca

Or contact Grey Ag Services at: 519-986-3756, info@greyagservices.ca



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The 57th Grey Bruce Farmers’ Week an incredible event!

By Roslyn Watkins

The 57th Grey Bruce Farmers’ Week (GBFW) was held at the Elmwood Community Centre in Elmwood, Ontario from January 4th to January 10th. Each day featured a singular topic and a multitude of speakers on that topic. Topics included Beef Day, Dairy Day, Goat Day, Sheep Day, Horse Day, Ecological Day and Crops Day.

The event saw over 1100 participants throughout the week in Elmwood, approximately 200 livestream viewers, and close to 150 businesses who sponsored, exhibited, and donated door prizes.

Farm View attended on Crops Day, which turned out to be a completely packed house by mid morning.

A delicious lunch was catered each day by Gloria Falkiner and her team. Offerings included a full roast beef dinner as well as a goat and a lamb stew. I know the majority of us had a hard time choosing which type of pie to end our lunch with, there were so many tempting choices.

My husband, Shawn, and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting other exhibitors and listening to the very knowledgeable speakers.

Keep your eyes peeled for coverage of the GBFW topics by Cathy Hamill-Hill in the March and April issues of Farm View.

Congratulations to Lorie Smith, Emily McKague and all the incredible people involved in putting this successful event together.



Pictured above enjoying the day are Shawn Watkins and Farm View publisher, Roslyn Watkins. —Photo by Leo Losereit



It was a packed house on Crops Day at the 57th Grey Bruce Farmers’ Week.

—Photo by Shawn Watkins

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Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

A Farmer's Hands

As I scrubbed the day's dirt off of my tired hands I couldn't help but notice how rough, cracked and calloused they have become

When I was born, the doctor commented on how massive my hands were. He told my mom that I would become a famous football player someday. Well, I never was good at sports and I'm not famous but I've put these big mitts to good use over the years feeding the world. In my books, that's something to be proud of.

A farmer's hands have felt the first heartbeats of a newborn calf as it was carried to the safety of a warm, cozy barn in the dead of winter.

A farmer's hands have been cracked and calloused by long days and nights of dedication to a job that requires a work ethic second to none.

A farmer's hands have shielded eyes from the harsh sun as they longingly scanned the horizon for the rains to quench the parched soil.

A firm shake of a farmer's hand will close a deal in a world where a person's word means more than any binding legal agreement ever will.

A farmer's hands have sown seeds of love and harvested the rewards from long days of patiently nurturing the land.

A farmer's hands have hugged children at the death of a beloved pet and comforted them as it was buried in the back 40.

A farmer's hands have wiped away tears shed at the loss of livestock after knowing that they did their very best, but still wished they had done more.

A farmer's hands have bled from skinned knuckles during the hurried repairs of a rushed harvest season.

A farmer's hands have wiped away the sweat from many a brow as bales of hay are stacked on the hottest day of the year so that livestock can feed for the long, cold winter.

A farmer's hands have been frostbitten by the cruel winter winds as they broke the ice on a frozen water trough so that their livestock could drink.

A farmer's hands have been folded in prayer to give thanks for a bountiful crop.

The unforgiving sun has turned a farmer's hands into leather from long days of picking stones and digging post holes.

Caked in grease, a farmer's hands ache from tightly gripping the steering wheel of an old tractor while making countless trips up and down a field.

A farmer's hands may not be soft and manicured, but they tell a story. It's a story of pride, hard work and dedication. Their hands can be strong when challenged yet gentle when needed. They're something to be proud of. You can tell a lot about a person from their hands. What story do your hands tell?



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!"



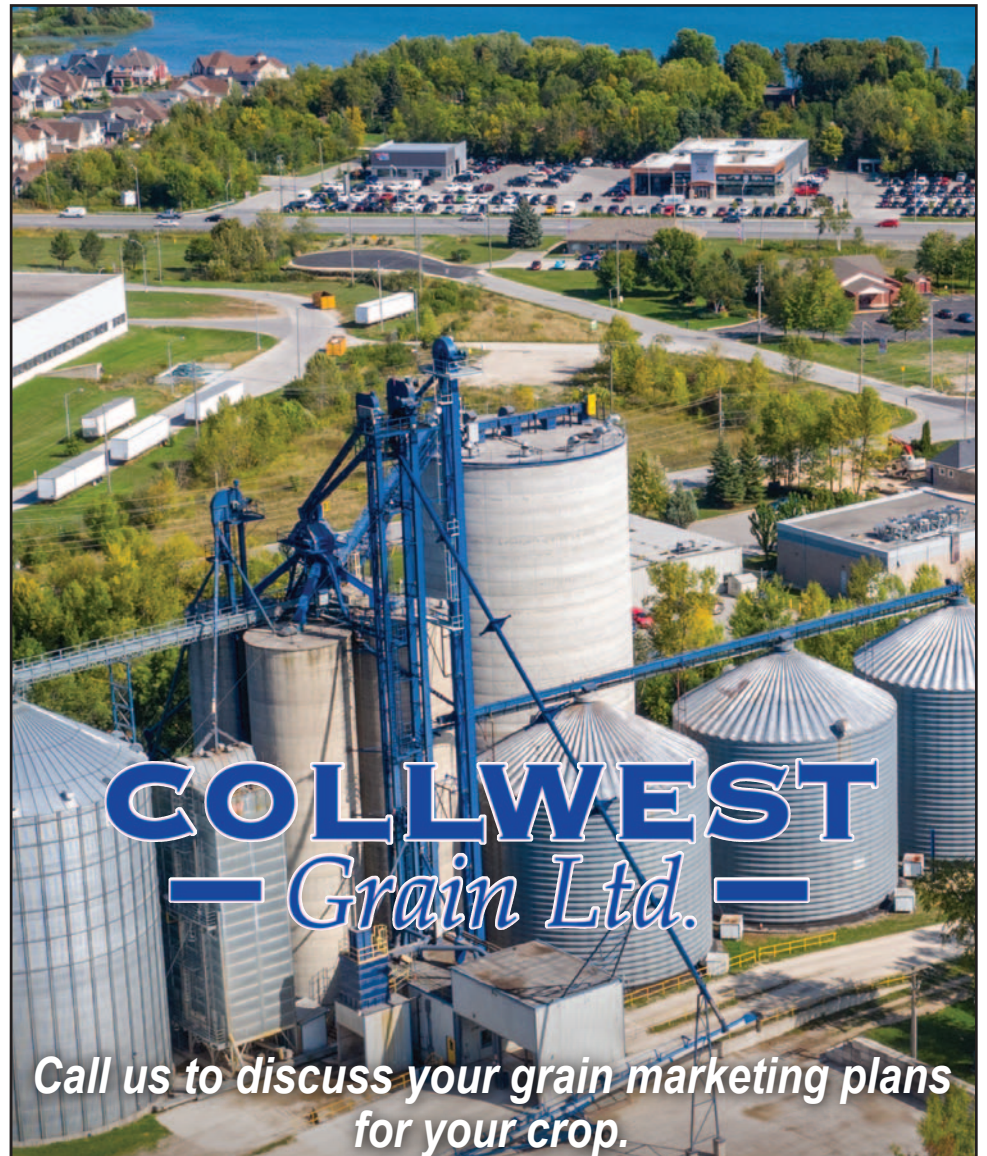
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Congratulations given in South Simcoe 4-H

Story and photos by South Simcoe 4-H

Congratulations to Trish Downey, shown at right, who was the 2022 recipient of the 4-H Ontario Outstanding New Volunteer Award for Region 4 sponsored by Gay Lea. Trish is a leader for Cloverbuds, life skill and livestock clubs. She also is a director on the South Simcoe 4-H Association's Board of Directors and is active on many committees.



Congratulations to Madeleine Cullen, pictured above, who was the 2022 recipient of the Scott Van Kampen and Don McCutcheon Memorial Award. This \$1000.00 scholarship is awarded to an individual interested in agriculture who is currently enrolled in either College or University and is involved in 4-H currently or previously. Madeleine is a member of the 4-H South Simcoe Association.

South Simcoe 4-H information Rally Night and ice skate Saturday February 4th at the Angus Recreation Centre 9529 County Road 10. 6-8 pm speak to the leaders and sign up. 7-8 pm skate. Bring a friend or meet a friend.

Merry & Bright Festival quickly becoming a Christmas tradition

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The 2022 Merry & Bright Festival is becoming a Christmas tradition. It features over one kilometre of drive-through experiences with incredible brightly lit-up displays placed by community organizations and businesses. The event is a fundraiser for the Lindsay Agricultural Society, the Kawartha Food Source, Lindsay Lions Club, Heritage Christian School, the United Way for the City of Kawartha Lakes and the Boys and Girls Club of the Kawarthas. The display pictured to the right was provided by Alliance Agri-Turf.



This bright display shown to the left was from the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton branch of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture that was part of the incredible Merry & Bright event.



Pictured at left is the display from the Kawartha Lakes Dairy Producers. There was a strong representation of agriculture at this event.



Shown above is the display from The Bobcaygeon Fall Fair. The Bobcaygeon Fall Fair, held in October each year, joined the Merry and Bright Display this year held for Christmas at the LEX Grounds in Lindsay.



Pictured to the left is the homey cheerful display presented by Appleseed Quiltworks.

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Livestock transportation has new rules, now enforced

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Livestock transportation in Canada has new laws in place that will affect all farmers- and it will now be enforced.

For livestock leaving home to a new location, there must be official paperwork indicating the move. The paperwork, officially called a manifest, includes this information:

- 1. The names of the transporting company and driver
- 2. The receiving company and representative
- 3. The condition of the animal(s) on arrival
- 4. The date, time and place of the last feed, water and rest
- 5. The date, time and place of arrival
- 6. Notes regarding animal welfare concerns, dead animals found and resulting actions
- 7. Acknowledgment from the receiver indicating receipt of the animal(s) and acceptance of the responsibility for care.

The manifest “transfers the care” from one person to another. This means that the welfare of the animal is the responsibility of the person at the time listed on the manifest.

The new amendments to the transportation of livestock requirements part XII of the Health of Animals Act has been done to improve the well being of animals during the entire transportation process.

The Victoria County Beef Farmers discussed this important topic at a recent meeting held at the Cambray Community Centre. Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Manager of Producer Relations and beef farmer, Dan Ferguson explained the new regulations to a crowd with a lot of questions.

It was in spring of 2016 when the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) decided that changes needed to happen to livestock transportation rules. The CFIA reached out to industry experts to get input and this included the BFO.

One of the suggestions that did not get approval from the BFO was reducing the maximum number of hours that cattle could go without food, water and rest (FWR) from 48 hours to 36 hours and further, the FWR time increased for 5 hours to 8 hours. These changes met resistance as beef cattle producers depend on transportation to make their operations work and there is a large network of cattle moving in/out from Western Canada. The original proposal also wanted to lock in times with no grace periods which the BFO argued against with the logic that there unexpected delays due to weather, traffic and mechanical failures on long transportation routes

Ferguson said that BFO was pleased that the CFIA agreed to listen and amended their

proposal with cattle being allowed 40 hours without FWR. He explained, “studies have shown its easier on the cattle to stay in transportation then the stress of having them offloaded to a new, temporary rest spot.”

Record keeping is part of this, too. “We (beef cattle producers) need to keep the paperwork for two years. We can do this on paper forms or be done online”, Ferguson explained. He said that if a drop-off point has no one there to accept the paperwork, it can be sent to them online as a second option. “It’s the transporter’s responsibility to submit that paperwork,” he stressed.

In response to a question from the crowd about moving cattle from one owned/rented location to the next personally owned/rented location needing paperwork completed, Ferguson explained, “It you are moving your own animals from one farm to another as you are not transferring their care as you own them at each point so paperwork is not needed.”

Some people have refused, repeatedly, to follow these new rules. Ferguson said that compliance to these rules will happen- and fines could be significant.

He stressed that this new law recognizes that young animals 8 days old and less should have special care. “Eight days of age or less, its been amended they cannot be in transport no more then 12 hours maximum,” he said.

The two year transition period ends on February 20th. Up until now, there have been no fines handed over- and only warnings of non-compliance given out. Some drop-off points like salebarns have not bothered in the entire two years of transition- but expect that to change, Ferguson warned the beef cattle producers.



Dan Ferguson, pictured above, from Beef Farmers of Ontario was a guest speaker at a recent Victoria County Beef Farmers meeting to discuss livestock transportation.

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Ontario Agricultural Conference

Stress is Real

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

1 in 4 farmers last year thought about suicide, wishing they were dead or felt like their life was not worth living. This is a fact, according to therapist Lauren Van Ewyk, National Farmer Mental Health Alliance whom is also a sheep farmer.

The same survey reported that 76% of farmers in Canada experience moderate to high stress.

The therapist said that stress is a REAL problem and that farmers should recognize they are not alone feeling stress. "Farmers are twice as likely to experience stress then those in the general population," she said adding this is because there are so many factors in the farming world that nobody has any control over.

Family expectations and relationships can be stress in anyone's lives. Commodity prices, weather, input costs and debt are stress causing issues on top of the usual in the farmer's life. "Today's young farmer owes, on average, 1.2 million dollars. Older farmers tell me that it can't be as bad now as it was in high interest rates in the 1980's but at today's land prices, debts can be really high now," she said adding that with input costs like fertilizers being double the cost, the stress level is high over finances alone.

There are three types of stress, one is "acute" which is event specific and an example of this is a car accident. The next type is "episodic acute stress" an example is not being able to pay the bills this month. This leads to people taking on many projects, more they can handle. The characteristics of this are constantly in a rush, arriving late and being disorganized. The third type is "chronic stress" which is when one feels in a constant state of feeling pressured and overwhelmed over a long period of time. The characteristics of this are feelings of hopelessness and helplessness.

"What I see in farmers is the chronic stress. Farmers function for a long period of time with this stress- and then they just cannot do it any longer. This stress impacts the brain and makes it harder for people to make decisions which impacts family and relationships," she said.

Van Ewyk explained that the "body keeps score of stress." The body reacts to stress. Many farmers have anxiety that is linked to stress. "Depression walks behind stress," she said adding that "anxiety also can cause digestive issues and muscle aching which leads to more stress worrying over what is happening to the body."

When confronted by stress, it is time to "change the view." Instead of fearing the stress reaction of an accelerated heart rate, instead consider the fact the body is now reacting to the stress which is a good thing. Plant the idea of "I have done this before- and I can do it again" direction to get through a stressful time, she said adding that asking the questions, "Am I mad, sad, glad or scared? I need to know how I feel. When we identify our emotion, it settles the brain."

Van Ewyk has gotten many calls at her job with the National Farmer Mental Health Alliance from farmers standing in the field or the side of the road, unable to climb back in the combine or the truck. The farmer, in this state of overwhelming anxiety, can no longer function. To overcome this feeling, she has a grounding exercise which means saying 5 things you can see, 4 things you can feel/touch, 3 things you can hear, 3 things you can smell and 1 thing you can taste. "Anxiety always is about the future. Grounding forces the mind on the present," she said explaining that she goes through the exercise again as the farmer gets back into the combine or the truck.

Pay attention on purpose is mindfulness. She suggested that farmers need to be mindful of where they live, surrounded by nature. She said one farmer goes out on his ATV to a hill and looks over his grazing cattle. By being mindful, it creates a grounding- at present- feeling.

To cope with stress, she suggested a three point strategy. The first is to do physical exercise and make time for that, she suggested to include this as part of chores. The second is to spend time with people as "we need people and community." The third is to "ugly cry" and let all those feelings out.

Be kind to yourself. "We want to be the first to get the beans in and the beans off....let go of that perfection. Let go of the unrealistically high expectations. Be aware of negative self-dialogue, treat yourself like you would someone you loved," Van Ewyk said.

Don't take on too "much junk" in your life, she said explaining "Junk" can be media, constantly complaining people or bad foods. Get in the habit of telling good stories about people around you. Expect setbacks in life, they do happen but don't re-live them over and over.

"Farmers are fixers, we want to fix our own problems. For stress, we need to protect our own mental health so we can help others and our farm," she concluded.



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58% of food produced in Canada is either lost or wasted

Story and photos by Dr. Tim Henshaw

For a number of years, I have been concerned about a number of issues, but this is not an exhaustive list. Food sovereignty is important. The ability of a country to feed ourselves. Food security is important, the ability to access safe, healthy and nutritious foods. Local food production. I believe that we should be producing as much food domestically as possible and that food producers need to be adequately compensated. I am also concerned about food waste. In 2022, the National Zero Waste Council suggests that 58% produced in Canada is either lost or wasted and 1/3 of that could have been rescued and sent to communities in need across the country. Everyone should try to minimize food waste. My buddy Fred tells his wife to cut the pie in 4 pieces because he doesn't think he can eat 6.

Recently, I heard an Inuit expression. "The best place to store extra food is in someone else's stomach." This is a great idea.

A few years ago, I was involved with a group of marginalized individuals facing food insecurity. I have served the agricultural community for more than 40 years and through my contacts, I was able to source fruits and vegetables, breads and treats, milk and eggs. I also

started delivering a bag of these rescued items to a widow that I knew living in subsidized housing. After a few months, my friend said that many of the ladies living in this residence were living on OAS. Some did not even receive CPP as they had not worked but had raised families and could make use of any extra healthy foods. About a year ago, I stopped involvement with the downtown group thinking that the resources entrusted to me would be a greater use to this group of senior ladies.

Every week, the generous folk at Nicholyn Farms, Phelpston, Kawartha Dairy in Barrie and often A & D Birdseed in Stayner give me surplus or short dated products to share with this group. Last summer, the Phillips family in Midland and The Richardson's near Barrie gave me vegetables to share and every month, I am gifted several Good Food Boxes which is run by Barrie Families United through the Barrie Free Methodist Church.

Recipients that need and appreciate the donations are waiting for me every Thursday afternoon. Up to 20 senior ladies and sometimes a few men make use of the nutritious items. I am thankful to the individuals and organizations that help me in this.



Dr. Tim Henshaw at far right in the above photo with Sammy and Kelsie from Kawartha Dairy Barrie. Every week, Kawartha Dairy donates short dated dairy products.



Pictured above are milk, fruits and vegetables and baked goods donated at the beginning of January.



The wonderful staff at Nicholyn Farms freeze baked goods the day before they expire. They also often have fruits, vegetables and meats to share.





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After The Chores: Winter Storm

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



The first winter storm of the season gave me an education in storm preparedness.

The warning flashed at the top of the Weather Network for two full days. The manager at my off-farm job advised us to print out a sign for the door anticipating closure for this winter storm. And there were two days of frosty trees in the morning.

This storm involved strong west winds- and those are the mean ones here. West winds freeze up and block up.

The first check was the propane tank as the supplier had not arrived yet. I had my first freak out when I finally found the gauge way down at 5%. "A ticket has been issued for today" is propane company talk for coming today for sure/don't worry... I learned that this storm.

My biggest worry for weather events is the barn. Animals have to be fed and watered, regardless. Doors were all locked tight and we had weeks of feed for all of us here. We even had a newly found flashlight. Sweetie put a bale out early so I had hay about 20 steps from the front door of the barn. Davey was plugged in, hooked up and fuelled up. All ready.

On Saturday morning, the world was a white mess. The lane was packed full of snow and the west winds were shrieking. And I was to leave in 2 hours for my off-farm job.

With his bad reputation for running away, Isaac is put on his tie-out. I go to the barn and that horrible west wind had froze the entire water system. I told myself off for forgetting to fill up the tea kettle to get hot water to unthaw the water tank tap. Trip 1 was back to the house, a long 42 steps west in that shrieking west wind to get water. Sweetie told me that the hot water is not going to work when I get back to the barn, the water tank was fully empty. All those warm days and I had forgotten to turn the tap on. So we had to haul out the water hose from the basement window and fill up the tank. Sweetie was not impressed. We got half a tank and decided this was enough for this time. Next, Sweetie had the David Brown known as Davey started up to snow blow the lane out. At near 60 years old, Davey has seen a

lot. Isaac was sitting in the snow with all this going on looking totally miserable.

Sweetie had to do some fancy driving with Davey to get a path blown out, the snow was drifted in like chunks of wood. No cab meant that Sweetie was near frozen by the time he finally tucked Davey back inside.

I found, to my shock, that every single water bottle for my cages of rabbits had frozen up solid. I packed up water bottles and got back in the house through that wind again to get them thawed out. I made two trips before Sweetie reminded me of the "hot box" that he had made for me based on a longtime friend's advice. The "hot box" is an insulated box with a heat lamp so it's a box of close to 80F. He made the box to stop all this heavy carrying.

I asked Sweetie about me going out today- and because he is a sweet guy, he offered to drive me there. Cheered up by having a chauffeur, I go back to the barn. I go to get hay by walking those easy 20 steps and a gust of wind along with high snow drifts left me just about stuck. I finally got close enough to grab on to the feeder and get out of the wind so I could pull myself together. My cataract-infested eyes in swirling snow are not a good seeing combination. The goats still need hay. With an armful of hay gathered in my arms, I go back to the barn. The wind snatched some hay away and blasted me nearly off my feet a few times but I told myself I had only 20 stupid steps to do not a mile here. I was sure glad to get back in the barn with my load of hay and was met with Pandee who decided he was eating indoors this day. Isaac started to howl, he hates snow. I felt like howling too as I needed more hay.

I pull off my glasses that are now fogged up along with being covered with bits of hay and clean them off so I can see somewhat. I notice the snow that is piling up in the barn, it is being pushed through cracks we didn't even know existed by the doors. I go back to the house finally and on route, look at the lane... it is completely full again.

Sweetie is just looking normal again when I tell him that the lane is fully blocked- and he eagerly agrees that I should stay home today. Isaac is curled up into the corner of the couch.

It took two more trips out to the barn late that day to get the water bottles back in order.

I was ready with a full water tank and hot box ready to be plugged in for the next storm. The next storm turned out to be my favourite kind- it went out of the area. The best winter storm is on the tv.

Loaves and Fishes Growing Project Summary 2022 Working together to end Global Hunger for 25 years

The Loaves and Fishes Growing Project has just completed its 25th year raising funds for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) to end world hunger. The CFGB collaborates with over 30 denominations providing emergency food assistance and long-term responses to many countries all over the world. Projects ranged from promoting conservation agriculture and creating self-help groups to providing unconditional food assistance. The war in Ukraine has caused drastic food inflation which is being felt especially hard by the poor.

In South Simcoe County, crops were raised in different fields growing a total of 96 acres of oats, soybeans and corn for the growing project. Farmers and agri-businesses donated their labour, equipment, crop inputs, and time to grow and harvest the crops. Churches and individuals donated cash. Over \$70,000 was generously donated from individuals and churches from cities like Toronto, Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Bradford, Tottenham, Alliston and Cookstown, Innisfil, Barrie and others. This past year, we had above average crop yields and with strong commodity prices, \$135,300 was donated to the CFGB! After almost doubling the donations through the growing project, the Canadian government matches by 4:1. Just like the 5 loaves and 2 fishes fed crowds, our efforts are multiplied as well to feed our neighbours in need all around the world.

This past September, we celebrated our 25th anniversary! It was a wonderful fellowship seeing many of the pioneers and early leaders of the project come together with the present active supporters to share memories and food together! After 25 years, Loaves and Fishes has amounted to a total of \$3,192,947 in donations the CFGB. Our work has been truly blessed.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Plans are underway for our 26th year in 2023. Our project is always looking for more individuals to contribute to this worthy cause, in any way possible. Thinking Globally and acting locally.

Kevin Eisses

Project Co-Ordinator

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Customer Service 101

Story and photos by Dr. Tim Henshaw

Cats are an important part of the farm ecosystem. Rodents, such as rats and mice can damage and contaminate stored feeds. They can damage insulation. Rodents can be vectors of disease for both animals and humans. Barn cats are useful for the control of rodents. Most farms with livestock will have an assortment of cats. Some cats are what I refer to as “M & M” cats, surviving on milk and mice. Some barn cats get kibble. Sometime barn cats fight. It is common for barn cats to have a few scars and maybe a torn ear. One farmer told me his nickname for another farmer was “Barn Cat” because he looked like he had been in a few fights and was missing a few teeth.

Some farms access cats from a TNR program (trap, neuter and release). Often stray cats just show up on farms. Friendly ones may have been pets. At most times, the cat population on farms is fairly stable. Through natural increase, 2 – 3 litters of kittens can arrive every year. Sometimes, cat populations can be reduced by disease or predators or accidents. Cats often lay close to cows for warmth in the winter and sometimes get laid on. FCD, also known as Flat Cat Disease. Newly arrived strays and traveling tomcats provide genetic diversity in the farm cat population. Some years, I would joke that the month of May was International Feline Genetic Exchange month. Each farm would have some cats in a bag for my visit. I would take that bag to the next farm and so on and so on and so on. From the last farm of the day, I would return a bag of cats to the first farm.

At most farm visits, after dealing with business at hand, the farmer and I would often discuss plans for the rest of the day. At one farm visit, a few years back, I asked Farmer Peter what his plans were for the day. He told me that he was going to the humane society to get some cats. I told him that I knew of lots of cats looking to be rehomed and I could get

him some. Farmer Peter declined my offer saying he wanted to start over with really healthy cats. A few days later Farmer Peter telephoned me to see if I could still find him some cats. He had visited the humane society, but being of Dutch heritage, balked at the \$85 per cat adoption fee. I told Farmer Peter that I knew of 2 lots of kittens looking for homes and I would bring one lot on Saturday.

The next Saturday, I had time for Operation Kitty Relocation. I often take my bride with me on fun outings like this. A half hour drive and we arrived at Farmer Don’s.

He had 4 nice kittens that were superfluous to his needs. Sometimes I use cat carriers or live traps or grain sacks for kitty relocation. Barn cats have varying degrees of friendliness. Today’s kittens weren’t particularly co-operative. However, after a bit of effort and my bride getting scratched, 3 kittens were safely loaded for transport. The kittens were excited to be going to a new home and quite vocal, particularly when we were going through the Drive Thru for coffee.

Upon arriving at Farmer Peter’s, I explained that the kittens weren’t quite as quiet as I expected, and I was only able to bring 3 rather than the expected 4. Farmer Peter said he planned to put the kittens upstairs in the barn. It was self contained and they would be safe. He said that his children would feed them and pet them and tame them. I told Farmer Peter that in a month or two, I would bring kittens from another farm, and he would get a nice mix of outcross genetics. A couple months later, I asked Farmer Peter about bringing the second shipment of kittens. Farmer Peter replied that he was ok for kittens now. 2 of the 3 cats that I had brought had delivered litters of kittens and he now had 11 cats. Customer Service 101, “Always Give People More Than They Expect.”

(One of a collection of unpublished short stories from an upcoming book “Pastor vet – stories of front-line farmers, feral cats and faith”



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Farmland preservation, strong rural communities top OFA priority list for 2023

By Peggy Brekveld, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The start of a new year is often a time for resolution and goal setting. Whether that goal is to walk more steps each day, grow a better tomato or win first place at the 4-H club show, each one requires us to look at what we want to achieve and find ways to get there.

As we start 2023, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is doing that too – as we're reflecting on the year that was and some of our achievements, we're also looking to the year ahead and what we'll be focusing on.

For me personally, the most important accomplishment for OFA over the past year has been the development and launch of the Farmer Wellness Initiative. Research has shown that farmers suffer from stress and mental health issues more than average Canadians, and we now have support available specific to the agriculture sector.

This includes a free bilingual helpline counselling service 24/7/365 by professional counsellors with agricultural backgrounds and training, available at 1-866-267-6255, thanks to a partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association – Ontario Division and financial support from the provincial and federal governments.

In 2022, OFA was also very active in raising the profile of farmland preservation in Ontario. The newest census numbers paint a stark picture of the speed at which we're losing prime farmland in Ontario – 319 acres a day – to development and urbanization.

That statistic has been quoted hundreds of times this past year, and combined with our Home Grown campaign, has helped raise awareness of how important farming is to our province in terms of our communities, our economy, and the food that we eat.

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of many people and organizations, including the OFA, the provincial government has decided to proceed with its plan to rezone thousands of acres of prime farmland in the Greenbelt to build new houses.

We will, however, continue to advocate for the protection of farmland and the importance of maintaining our ability to grow food, fuel, and fibre here at home. At the same time, we recognize the importance of addressing Ontario's housing crisis, and we will continue to work with government to propose workable alternative solutions to that issue.

We will also continue to focus on addressing the labour needs of agriculture and rural Ontario and attracting people to an industry that has room to grow. Together, we can help create a more sustainable workforce by prioritizing skill development and training and promoting jobs in the sector.

At the same time, Ontario needs continued investments in critical infrastructure like energy, broadband internet, roads, bridges, schools, and healthcare for rural communities so they can attract and keep new businesses and residents.

As the federal and provincial governments roll out the next agricultural policy framework this year, the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, OFA will be looking to see how Ontario agriculture can continue to build on the environmental sustainability gains we've already made and help farmers more widely adopt the best management practices that have helped us achieve those gains.

It's a reality that the start of 2023 is very different from the start of 2022. Costs for fertilizer, packaging, fuel, energy and more have all risen as our economy grapples with inflation levels we haven't seen in years. Interest rates are up, and I believe all farmers are feeling the pinch. OFA will continue to support the industry as we have in past economic tough times.

We are looking forward to connecting again with you, our members. Winter is meeting season in Ontario, which means we'll be attending many annual general meetings in our own sector, and also attending conferences and events hosted by other organizations, such as the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and the Good Roads Association. Each of these will present an opportunity to make new friends and engage with politicians and other stakeholders in more informal settings about the issues that matter to farmers and rural Ontario.

So, as we start into 2023, I'd like to raise a glass and offer you our best wishes as you aim for your goals – and OFA will continue to work hard to help you reach them. To Farms and Food Forever.

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On Un-Frozen Pond

Story and photo by John Beischer

It was our first Christmas in Utopia. Jill and I had just moved here from Scarborough in March of 1974. We purchased our first home, a small bungalow on a large rural property, and spent the first summer mowing field grass, building flower gardens and trying to grade a large circular driveway at the front of our house. In addition, a long, rough, laneway led past the house into the rear acreage where two spring fed ponds graced the property.

It wasn't until early September that it dawned on me that these two driveways would need to be cleared of snow in the coming months, as Jill and I would need to get our respective vehicles out to the highway in order to attend at our new jobs in Barrie. Having both grown up in Keswick on the east shore of Cook bay, we were very familiar with how lake affect snow storms could dump a foot or more of snow in your driveway overnight. This was all I needed to convince Jill that we would need something larger than a snow shovel to insure our driveway remained plowed of snow in the coming winter months. The search was on!

As I was an ad salesman for the local daily newspaper, I had access to the classified ads a day or two before they went to press. This one caught my attention:

FOR SALE: 1948 Ford 8N tractor, front mounted grader blade suitable for snowplowing. \$600.

I met the gentleman at his home on Anne Street North in Barrie where the Letitia Heights community now exists. After an hour of solid negotiations I was able to convince the seller to let me have this vintage piece of farm equipment for his asking price of \$600. I bought it and took it home. Having come straight from work, I was dressed in my three piece suit.

I climbed up onto the steel tractor seat and proceeded west along Sunnidale Road with Jill following in my truck with the 4-way flashers announcing to everyone on the route that 'Green Acres' was filming in our neighbourhood. Eventually we reached Colwell [a suburb of Utopia].

Once home I contacted a new acquaintance, the unofficial and self described Mayor of Utopia, Mr. Denny Walton. He came over and showed me how to operate my new purchase. Throughout the fall months I learned a great deal about this popular tractor and its' history in the agricultural community.

As Christmas approached, I waited anxiously in antici-

tion of a large snow fall that would help me determine just how much snow I could push with this amazing piece of equipment. The weather turned cold but the snow never came. Days past, still no snow. Finally, a few days before the New year, several inches of snow fell overnight. After a hurried breakfast, I began to plow the light snowfall from both driveways. Then I parked the tractor and went inside to tell my wife of my snow clearing success.

Before I could begin bragging about my accomplishment, Jill informed me that she needed to visit her Mom in Keswick for a few days and I should plan to look after myself for a day or so. I wished her well and suggested I might plow the snow from the ponds so we could have a skating party for New Years Eve when she returned. She said "don't be stupid, the ice couldn't possibly be frozen sufficiently to support the weight of that tractor." She was right. Shortly after her car left the driveway, I started the tractor and drove to the



round pond, dropped the blade and proceeded to push the snow across the width of the ice. [I'll admit here that a few beverages might have affected my decision making capabilities]. Within seconds I found myself sitting on the tractor seat in four feet of extremely cold water, having plunged to the depths of the pond. When I reclaimed my composure I made my way 25 feet to the edge of the pond and dragged my water soaked boots and attire

back to the house in order to dry out and invent a story that would satisfy all queries in the days to come.

The next day an expensive tow from the young lads at Utopia Towing pulled my beloved tractor up onto dry land and I put it in my garage for an assessment. It took all winter to dry out the engine and drain all the crevices, but eventually this tractor took care of all of my snowplowing needs for many years to come.

I think about that first rural Christmas often, and the nearly 50 Christmases that followed, noting that each one is very special and memorable. This past Christmas, on the heels of several years of Covid interruptions, was special in its own right. My two kids and four grand children attended at my home on Christmas Eve where we enjoyed a fabulous dinner and exchanged wonderful gifts before going to St George's Church in the village for a wonderful Christmas Eve Service.

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Pioneering Surveyor George Lount overshadowed by his Rebel Brother

Village stories

by Andrew Hind

George Lount was an important figure in the early development of Simcoe County and northern York Region. And yet, history largely forgets him. The name Lount, when remembered at all, is usually associated with George's ill-fated younger brother, who is famed for his role in the doomed 1837 Rebellion.

George, born Feb. 25, 1799, in Catawissa, Pennsylvania, was the second son (of three) born to Gabriel Lount, a land surveyor. The senior Lount was a Loyalist and who (like many who had remained true to the Crown) found life in the United States after the American Revolution. In 1811, he brought his family to Canada.

George Lount had a bright mind and after apprenticing under his father became a skilled surveyor while still a teenager. Somehow, he also found the time to become a skilled tinsmith.

Together, George and his brother Samuel acquired land in Holland Landing where they carved a prosperous farm

from the wilderness. It was on this farm that Samuel built the blacksmith that would later play a role in the ill-fated 1837 Rebellion.

While Samuel was hammering away on the forge, George put his skills as a surveyor to good use; in 1819 and 1820, he was contracted to survey West Gwillimbury, Innisfil, and Tecumseth townships, a necessary precursor to settlement. It was only after Lount's work was completed that land-hungry settlers began crossing the Holland River to take up lots and begin the process of establishing farms and communities.

In 1826, Lount was appointed the first Registrar of Land Deeds for the new County of Simcoe, a position he was to hold for four decades (1826-1872) and in which capacity he helped to shape the developed of the County.

Older brother Samuel Lount was a bit of a rabble-rouser and an ardent supporter of fiery reformer William Lyon Mackenzie. Lount not only came to agree with Mackenzie that armed rebellion was necessary to overthrow the government, but also became a supplier of weaponry for the rebels. Hundreds of pikes were secreted built in his smithy and distributed to supporters.

In early December 1837, Lount led an army of farmers

down Yonge Street to topple the government. It was an utter disaster and as a ringleader Lount was killed. As one of the ringleaders, Samuel was hanged.

George lacked his brother's zeal and played no part in the rebellion. Nor did his familial connection to a rebel leader seem to hurt his career trajectory. George Lount would go on to become Holland Landing's first postmaster, a Justice of the Peace for Simcoe County, and a member of the school board of trustees in Newmarket.

In 1842, he proposed that a road be constructed from Barrie to Nottawasaga Bay (Wasaga Beach). He was turned down flat in 1843. Lount was so convinced of the necessity of such a road that he surveyed it at his own expense. The County of Simcoe reversed their decision the following year construction of the road began. It was initially named Lount's Road in his honour.

George Lount died on May 8, 1874, having led a life of enterprise and service. Sadly, his name soon faded from history, despite the prominent role he played in opening the region to settlement and development. Instead, it is the rebel Lount that we remember today – if the Lount name is recalled at all.

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Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

Customer Service

A customer walked into the post office wanting to mail a package. "Two-day shipping will cost \$12.95 to get it there by Friday," The cashier told her. The customer, clearly looking to save a few bucks, said, "The package doesn't have to get there till Saturday. Is there any way to make that happen?" The cashier nodded. "Sure. You can bring it back tomorrow."

Teeth Impression

As the dentist labored over my teeth, he tried to make small talk. "What do you do?" he asked. "I'm a comedian," I answered. "Interesting." After a pause, he said, "Let's get an impression—" "It's more observational humor, actually," I interrupted. "I don't do impressions." The dentist continued, "—of your teeth."

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Happy Valentine's Day



Soul Sisters Celebrations

These past weeks while out and about, it has been observed how full the shelves are with hearts and chocolates ready for people to offer as a demonstration of their love and admiration. February is represented as the month of love. Both spirituality and love are about creating connections. Spirituality teaches us to love and help our communities, neighbours and your family. It teaches us to believe in something greater than ourselves. Love is an experience that enhances our lives and many often look for true love, seeking a partner to spend their lives with. Some have great success; others may seem unlucky in love and relationships. Spirituality is a resource and focus for developing ourselves. It is through love that we can express those developments. It is through love, all types not just romantic that we can experience close and intimate connections with others. Spirituality allows us to experi-

ence that same connection with ourselves. Teaches us that there is much to be grateful for and teaches us to be selfless. Spirituality and love depend on each other to be enhanced. All the love relationships in our lives can be improved upon by having a spiritual understanding.

Spirituality and religious doctrines teach mercy, dedication, compassion and gratitude. Love is a combination of all of them. Everyone has a different relationship with love and spirituality. Regardless of the type of love you feel, whether it be for your family, friends and pets and community, all are different kinds of love. Love for your hobbies, interests and passions for life are also important. Take some time this month to remember what you love to do and rediscover what feeds your soul. Carve out some time for you to restore your spirit and shower yourself and others with love.

In Gratitude,
The Soul Sisters
Reverend Erin Wilson and Reverend Kelly Blakely
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This Valentine's Day head out to the great outdoors to enjoy some physical activity and fresh air with your loved ones!

- Ski shoe the backcountry
- Take a fat bike out on the winter trails
- Winter horseback riding
- Drive your own dog sled
- Try winter camping
- Ice skating
- Go to a winter festival
- Hit the hills for skiing or snowboarding
- Take the snowmobile out for a winter picnic

For more fun adventures and to see where these activities are available have a look at www.northernontario.travel

What did the chef give to his wife on Valentine's Day?
A hug and a quiche.

What do farmers give for Valentine's Day?
Lots of hogs and kisses.

Valentine's Day

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R	S	E	S	Y	A	I	E	T	E	E	L	A	S
I	N	L	T	O	S	H	E	N	R	S	E	N	G
L	S	R	E	N	N	I	D	E	P	S	S	C	H
F	A	H	E	A	R	T	S	L	C	R	S	E	R
P	S	G	N	E	H	R	N	A	O	D	A	T	E
E	S	C	O	U	P	L	E	V	S	H	A	D	H

LOVE
LONELINESS
VALENTINE
DINNER
HOLD HANDS
PARTY
DANCING
LETTERS
SWEETS
CARD
ROMANCE
ROSES
WHISPER
FLOWERS
DATE
COUPLE
HEARTS
MOVIES
KISS
FLIRT

Farm VIEW CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

email: farmview@on.aibn.com

Free classified word ad's can be mailed, emailed or faxed by the 15th of the month for the next month's issue. Telephone orders are invoiced at \$15 for the first 25 words. Ad's run for one month only and must be re-submitted each month to be repeated. Mailing information is on page 4.

AUCTION SALE

Timed Online Consignment Auction

Farm, Shop & Construction Materials and Equipment, Vehicles & Trailers, Etc.!

**Runs Mon. February 13th to
Tues. February 21st, 2023**

**Items Being Accepted the First of February
For Better Exposure Consign Early!**

For more information visit the website!

Sale Managed & Sold By:

**Kevin Barker
Auctions Ltd.
3484 Hwy. 35,
Lindsay, Ontario**

For more info visit:

www.kevinbarkerauctions.com

Kevin: 705-878-2947 or

Office: 705-328-1478

"Auctions with Action"

ONLINE

EQUIPMENT AUCTION SALE

TRACTORS, LOADERS, SKID STEERS,
TRUCKS & EQUIP.

**HELD AT 15 FRENCH DR. MONO TWP.
THURSDAY MARCH 9TH @ 6:30 P.M.
FOR INFO CALL BRIAN 519-216-9702**

Tractors John Deere 7420 - 4WD - 6223 hrs; John Deere 6420 - 4 WD, 5783 hrs; John Deere 6415 - 4 WD, 6469 hrs; New Holland TN55D - 4 WD- 3669 hrs; Ford 4630 - 4 WD - 1117 hrs; Kubota M5700 - 4 WD, w/lldr, 1281 hrs; Kubota L2074 - 4WD w/lldr;
Skid Steer Case 95 XT; New Holland LS 150 Super boom; Gehl 4835 SXT;

Loader John Deere 344J wheel loader;

Dozers John Deere 700 HXLT; John Deere 550H; John Deere 450 LGP;

Trucks 2000 Peterbuilt model 379 w/cat 14.6L diesel, dble bunk; 2006 GMC C 8500, SA dump truck; 1983 Int/600 C model 1954 Easy Rider w/Frink box; 1998 Ford SA w/Jerr-Dan - 24' roll off deck; 2014 Dodge 1500 w/Eco diesel (engine problems);

Trailers, Golf Course Equip. & Misc 2000 Hi-moinsa diesel generator on TA trailer; 2016 N&N Remorgues TA galvanized trailer; VGM TA hyd dump trailer; Weberlane Supertilt TA dump trailer; SA hyd dump trailer; Barber Turf Rake model 600 HD; Finn straw crimper; broadcasters; power top dresser; Ditch Witches; land levellers; box scrapers; 4 snowblowers; Stout grapple forks & Brush grapple;

VIEWING DATES Wed. March 1st & Thurs. March 9th 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Pick up date are Sat. March 11 & Mon. March 13th 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. or call Bob (auctioneer) 519-938-0815. **Note** 10% Buyers Premium maxed at \$1,500.00 per item. For full list, pictures, terms and conditions go to severnauctions.hibid.com

Bob Severn Auctioneer

Shelburne 519-925-2091

theauctionadvertiser.com/Rsevern
severnauctions.wixsite.com/severn

SPRING & SUMMER AUCTIONS

Book your 2023 Spring/Summer sale NOW!

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Scott

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WANTED

**Wanted car or SUV
for a new driver**

**Preferably certified
and smoke free**

**Max budget
\$6,000.00**

**Preferably less
than 175,000 kms**

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farmview@on.aibn.com
705-722-0138

FREE ADS

UNWANTED GUNS???
Properly Licensed (PAL)
Guns, Cabinets, Militaria
Ammo & handgun parts.
Call 705-795-7516

For Sale - Hay bales,
Alfalfa plus firewood
small/medium cuts and
oil fuel efficient furnace &
oil tank plus John Deere
tractor and field for rent
with shelter.
Uxbridge
Call 905-852-7634

**Wanted parts for IH 56
Corn Planter,** one
complete row unit would
be ideal.
Call 905-775-2887

Classified ads work!

COMING EVENTS

The Dufferin Soil and Crop Improvement Association Annual Seed and Feed Show & Annual Meeting

AMARANTH TOWNSHIP HALL
COUNTY ROAD 10 AND LINE 6 LAUREL
374028 6TH LINE AMARANTH
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2023

AGENDA

- 9:15 AM CALL TO ORDER
- 9:30 AM LOIS SINCLAIR, REGIONAL PRO
GRAM LEAD, ONTARIO SOIL AND CROP
- 9:45 AM ANDREW BARRIE OMAFRA NITRO
GEN/REDUCTION
- 10:15 AM MELISSA MCKEOWN, PRESIDENT,
1847 STONE MILLING
- 11:30 AM ADRIAN OP'THOOG INTEGRATED
GRAIN PROCESSORS CO-OP (IGPC)
- 11:45 PM SUPPLIER SHOWCASE
- 12:00 PM LUNCH PROVIDED BY
TRACEY OF TP FRIES
- 12:45 PM SEED SHOW WINNERS—JUDGE
JOHN DRUMOND FLORADALE FEEDS
- 1:00 PM STEVE KELL, KELL FARMS,
GRAIN MARKET UPDATE
- 1:45 PM PANEL DISCUSSION, DEB CAMPBELL
Crop Management Specialist, Agronomy
Advantage "Looking after your Winter Wheat Crop"
- 2:45 PM ANNUAL MEETING
- 3:15 PM CLOSING REMARKS
KRISTEN CARBERRY PRESIDENT
- 3:30 PM ADJOURNMENT

\$40.00 ADMISSION INCLUDES
LUNCH AND MEMBERSHIP
· EXHIBITOR SPACE AVAILABLE ·
SPONSORED BY DUFFERIN FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE AND
ONTARIO SOIL AND CROP IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JIM IRVINE
AT 1-519-835-9929

COMING EVENTS

The 2023 March Classic will be held on March 21, 2023, at RBC Place in London, Ontario. The event will be held in person this year, with opportunities to hear speakers discuss how people can be ready to take on the new opportunities that arise, to network with agricultural leaders, and engage with more than 65 exhibitors.

The 2023 March Classic keynote speakers include:

The U.S. Farm Report with host Tyne Morgan – this fun and engaging live panel will discuss the markets, hot topics and more

Timothy Caulfield, Professor of Health Law and Science and Bestselling Author of Relax: A Guide to Everyday Health Decisions with More Facts and Less Worry

Sarah Kaplan, professor and director of the Institute for Gender and Economy at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management and author of The 360° Corporation

Dr. Samatha Yammine, aka ScienceSam, neuroscientist and science communicator

"We are excited to be back in London for another entertaining and knowledgeable lineup after the success of last year's in-person March Classic," said Victoria Berry, manager of communications, Grain Farmers of Ontario. "Agriculture shifts and changes so dynamically, and we look forward to discussing how motivation, clearing up misinformation and understanding the ethical consumer will help our farmer-members cultivate their tomorrows."

"The March Classic has been Grain Farmers of Ontario's premier event since 2010. Each season, year after year, farmers are cultivating new tomorrows for the future of agriculture, and Grain Farmers of Ontario looks forward to engaging with everyone again this year," said Crosby Devitt, CEO, Grain Farmers of Ontario.

Registration is now open! Please visit www.gfo.ca/March-Classic to register for the 2023 March Classic and to view the agenda, speaker lineup, and hotel details.

Those who register early will be entered to win an all-Canadian Chilly Moose Cooler prize pack.

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.

**Email: farmview@on.aibn.com
Mail: 8 Luella Blvd., Minesing ON L9X 0W7**



Sales - Parts - Service - Rentals

Stewart's Equipment Stayner Location: *New*
6837 ON-26, Stayner, Corner of 26 & center line rd
ON, LOM 1S0 **705-428-3132**

Erin Location:
9410 Wellington Rd 124, Erin,
Corner of 124 & 24 ON,
NOB1T0 519-833-9616

Cookstown Location:
4321 Line 13, Cookstown,
Corner of 27 & line 13 ON,
LOL1L0 705-458-0871



A complete range to meet your needs.
Kubota's cultivators, disc harrows, and spreaders are designed to incorporate residues and prepare a perfect seedbed with optimal efficiency, so that you're getting the most out of your equipment. Once the harvest is in the bin, start preparing for the next season with our ploughs, chisels or subsoilers. Their rugged builds and dependable quality will save you time in the field, without compromising on the quality of crop.

Used Equipment



Kubota BX25D
201 hours ua , turf tires , 3pth kit, front mount snowblower bx2750d s/n 21011429 , 12" backhoe bucket, Unit is located at Stewart's Simcoe in Cookstown.
\$24,900



Kuhn FC352G
540rpm , 11'6" wide , flail type conditioner, side pull , 2 point girodine hitch, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. Stock number: U27623
\$14,800



Kubota SVL75-2
hours ua: 3836.2, cab with heat and air ,rubber tracks , front auxiliary hydraulic, 72" low profile bucket , iso controls , hydraulic quick attach, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin
\$41,900



Kubota BX24D
hours ua : 570 , 4wd , open station , foldable rops, industrial tires , loader and backhoe, Unit is Located at Stewart's Equipment In Erin. Stock Number : U27619
\$21,200



Kubota DMC8536R
pivot tongue mower conditioner , 1000 rpm , 2 pth , excellent condition, Unit is Located at Stewart's equipment in Erin. Stock Number : U27673
\$34,800



Kubota SVL95-2SHFC
hours ua: 2806, cab/heat/air, rubber tracks, front aux, high flow, hydraulic q/a, 80" low profile bucket with replaceable cutting edge, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.
\$31,900



Case TR320
hours ua 1078.0 , cab with heat and air, 2 speed e-h controls , air ride seat , hydraulic coupler , block heater , front electrics - will include bucket when sold,
\$61,900



New Holland 650
540rpm , auto wrap , twine , very nice condition, Unit is Located at Stewarts Equipment in Erin. Stock number: U27611 Serial number: 916517
\$11,200



New Holland H7230
10'4" cut, 540rpm, drawbar hitch , steel rolls, hydraulic header tilt, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. Stock number: U27718 Serial number: YFN254823
\$26,900



New Holland 460
net wrap / twine , silage special ,540 rpm, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. Stock number: U4814 Serial number: YFN187897
\$29,800



Case SV300
hours ua: , year:2011 , ride control , cab with heat , front auxilliary hydraulics , manual coupler , 12x16.5 nhs tires, Unit is Located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin
\$26,900



Kubota DMC8028R
S/N: KT471218, Horsepower (min.): 70.0 HP Cutting Width: 9'2" Type: Rubber / Tine, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Stayner (Formerly Earth Power)
\$27,900

JUST ADD DIRT

It's a nearly-scientific fact that you can solve most any problem by putting dirt on it. Scraped knee? Dirt. Embarrassing bald spot? Dirt. Nagging mother-in-law? Dirt. Lots of it. Juuust kidding. The point is, when people need a little more excitement in life, they probably just need to add a little dirt. And that's where KIOTI tractors come in. Intuitively designed to dominate the dirt, these machines make it an easy decision for anyone also inclined to favor the filthy.



WE DIG DIRT



Kioti.com

DK10SE Model shown

0% UP TO 48 MONTHS **OR** **UP TO \$8050 CASH BACK* (T-L-B)**
FINANCING* ON SELECT MODELS ON SELECT MODELS

*Offer available December 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022. Rebates and/or financing based on the purchase of eligible equipment defined in promotional program. Pricing and rebates in CAD dollars. Additional fees including, but not limited to, taxes, freight, setup and delivery charges may apply. Financing must be through DLL using one of the available financing options. Financing is subject to credit approval. Customers must take delivery prior to the end of the program period. Some customers will not qualify. Some restrictions apply. Offer available on new equipment only. Prior purchases are not eligible. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. Offer subject to change without notice. See your dealer for details. 6 Year Warranty for Non-Commercial, residential use only. 6 Year Warranty applies to CS, CX, CK10, DK10, NS and NX model KIOTI tractors and must be purchased and registered between September 1, 2016 – June 30, 2023. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. Offer subject to change without notice. See your dealer for details. © 2022 Kioti Tractor Company a Division of Daedong-USA, Inc.

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