

# *46th year of publication* **FARM VIEW**

March 2023

Volume 46 #03

*A newspaper with something for everyone*

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**Beef Farmers  
of Ontario  
deliver to  
food banks**

Complimentary copy for  
the FARM household



## Dale Giffen receives Citizen of the Year honour at 51st Minesing Minifest

Story and photos by Dr. Tim Henshaw

Beautiful blue skies and moderate temperatures made for a wonderful Saturday for this 51st annual Minesing Minifest. A progressive euchre and bowling on Friday night, lead into the Saturday Morning Pancake Breakfast and presentations for Citizen of the Year and Youth of the Year.

The annual parade had the theme of Retro TV shows from the 60s, 70s and 80s and featured floats depicting the shows MASH, the Golden Girls and the Beverly Hillbillies.

Dale Giffen, a now retired valued township employee of many years, an area beef farmer, volunteer and all round great guy was selected as Citizen of the Year. Congratulations to Nate Vieira for being selected as Youth of the Year. Congratulations to all the organizers for putting together such a successful event!



Citizen of the Year Dale Giffen, enjoyed the beautiful weather while handing out treats during the 51st Minesing Minifest parade.



Barrie Springwater MP Doug Shipley, pictured at right in the above photo, presents the award for Citizen of the Year to Dale Giffen, at left. MP Shipley and Brad Thompson, Ward 3 Councillor, were also on hand helping with the pancake breakfast.

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## AGcalendar

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

### March 3rd: AgKnowledge Forum

Harvesting Opportunities: Exploring the Potential of Agri-tourism. Friday, March 3rd at Windrush Estate Winery. **More details on page 6.**

### March 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

### April 15th: Keep Kids Safe Workshop

Keep Kids Safe Workshop presented by the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture. **More details in the ad on page 18.**

### April, May, June: Spring Auctions

Thinking of a spring or on-line auction? Turn to page 23 to see some upcoming sale dates or to book an auctioneer for your sale.

### April & June: Quilt Shows!

See the listing on page 16 of upcoming Quilt Shows in surrounding areas.

## ESSA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Next meeting: Saturday February 25  
TOPIC: From Africa to Angus  
March topic history Ivy Hall

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# Simcoe County Federation of Ag. at Simcoe County Council

Dave Ritchie made a presentation promoting local agriculture to Simcoe County Council. Ritchie is the president of the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture. He also chairs the agriculture liaison for the County. In the gallery were Colin Elliot, first vice president of the Federation. Paul Maurice, Ontario Federation of Agriculture zone director for York, Simcoe & Peel. Leah Emms, member representative for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture was also in attendance.

Ritchie explained the SCFA is an advocacy group with 1,560 members, representing every part of Simcoe County.

"The Federation has 10 directors and sponsors or mentors 4-H clubs north and south" he said. Food banks are supported, "In fact we have the second round of cheques coming out as we speak". The Federation's support focuses on rural food banks.

Ritchie explained that in recent years some annual programmes were put on hold due to COVID. A couple of the most popular events are Keep Kids Safe and Farm Comes to Town. This situation inspired the production of a video presentation showing the wide range of agriculture, the extent and importance of the business of agriculture across Simcoe County. There are 1,846 registered farms in the County.

"We cultivate, manage, mentor, stewardship some half-a-million acres" cited Ritchie. He continued; "We grow it all. Whether it's vegetables in the south, whether it's fruits and vegetables, corn, beans, wheat, livestock. We have it".

He pointed out that agriculture generates 1.1 billion dollars of gross domestic product in Simcoe County. "One in eight jobs" Ritchie said, "rolls back to agriculture".

After bringing to light the value of local agriculture, Ritchie introduced the approximately 3 minute video segment which featured local farmers discussing and describing their operations. Many aspects are touched on in the video, providing insight to the non-agricultur-



Left to right are: Paul Maurice (OFA zone director for York, Simcoe and Peel), Dave Ritchie (President of SCFA), Leah Emms (OFA) and Colin Elliot (SCFA). In wrapping up his presentation, Ritchie informed council that the Earl Elliot room at the county administrative building was named for Colin's father. Maurice' father Montcalm was warden in 1962-63 and was inducted into the Agricultural Hall of fame last year, as was Earl Elliot.

ally aware audience in particular, as it applies locally.

Following the video, Ritchie mentioned the bursaries offered by the SCFA for students to learn agriculture. Showing the Associations community connection he told council of the \$10,000 donated to nursing homes, during the height of COVID, which provided them with outdoor furniture.

Singling out three families as examples of those who are leading entrepreneurs in local agricultural business, Ritchie affirmed "These are people in your community. These are the people that populate our committees". He continued by saying they're part of our local service clubs as well.

Not everything goes well on the farm; For that the SCFA has a Farmer Wellness Programme and a farm family help line.

Wrapping up his presentation, Ritchie addressed council regarding the Build 2023 initiative. "We agree, that we have to, as a municipality or a group, come together and form a position, a 'made in Simcoe' plan to go forward to the province so that we can work, live and farm in years to come in Simcoe County.

## On the Cover



Pictured on the cover are David Millsap and Myrna Whitley, key organizers of the recent beef donations to area food banks.

Read the story on page 7.

—Photo credit Don Beaulieu

DEADLINE for the April Farm View is March 14th.

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JD 6130R/LDR (E88354) 2021, MFWD, 130ENG HP, 660HR, 640R SL LDR, 85"BKT, CAB, 40KPH, 24F/24R SPD, AUTOQUAD+ECO, LH REV, 90" R&P AXLE W/CAST CENTER, NO DUALS, \$193,690.00



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

### Agriculture - Tillage - Secondary



LL 6230-36 (E85872) 2014, LAN-DOLL 36", ROCK-FLEX GANGS, TANDEM DISC, HYD ADJ FORE/AFT, REAR HITCH W/HYD, TRANS LIGHTS, 8.75" REAR BLADE SPACE, 23" FRT BLADE DIA \$38,950.00 NO TRADE CASH PRICE: \$33,000.00



LL 7431-33 (E88764) 2012, 33', ROCK-FLEX GANGS, VERTICAL TILLAGE, HYD ADJ FORE/AFT, SGL POINT DEPTH CONTROL, WING STABILIZER WHEELS, REAR HITCH W/HYD \$50,000.00

SF 4233 (E89541) 2010, SUNFLOWER, 23.5', DISC CHISEL, 15"SHANK SPACE, 19 SHANKS, HYD ADJ FRT GANG, 20" FRT BLADE DIA, 3 SECTION 2 WINGS, 255/70R22.5, 4"TWISTED SHOVELS \$40,000.00

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**FROM THE EDITOR**

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

While working on the March issue of Farm View I was conversing with the talented web designer Mary Sullivan. Mary explained to me why this type of weather is called "folly February", because we are lulled into the idea that winter is over. While that may not be true it is certainly hard not to be hopeful that spring gardening and planting are right around the corner. Leah Emms has helpful reminders in her column on page 6 relating to the changes of our road uses and allowances in the springtime.

Page 6 also hosts new advertiser Primo Paving. Yvette in the Primo Paving office has been lovely to communicate with and owner Joe is very personable and knowledgeable. You will be seeing their ad for the next 6 months during paving season.

On the topic of spring planting, I met with Dalia and Jason, owners of the Organic Garlic Farm located on Hwy 89 in Cookstown. I purchased a few bundles of garlic and Dalia generously gave me samples of their garlic seasoning (delicious!) as well as their black garlic. Dalia explained the black garlic is made by roasting garlic bulbs in a special oven at a very low temperature for 21 days. The final product has a flavour that is distinctive to each individual's palette. To me it tasted like balsamic vinegar, to our daughter it tasted like maple syrup, to my husband it was soy sauce. Our oldest son remarked "if vinegar and molasses had a baby this would be it." Truly incredible and delicious. For details on how to purchase garlic from Dalia, either for planting or consuming, please see their ad on page 2.

Spring also brings Bull sales. There are advertisements on page 10 and 16 with your options if you are in the market.

This March issue is full of short stories of events and activities that have been happening throughout Farm View territory. I have really enjoyed meeting more readers and advertisers and am looking forward to attending more seminars, open houses and special events through the spring and summer. If you are hosting an event that you'd like Farm View to attend, please let me know! SpringValley Farms in Elmvale are hosting an open house on March 27th, for details please see the ad on page 18.

And remember the first weekend in April is Maple Weekend! A wonderful time to enjoy the first crop of the season!

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

## Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture presents Alliston's Good Shepherd Food Bank with generous donation

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins

The Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture (SCFA) celebrated Canadian Ag Day, February 15th, by presenting The Good Shepherd Food Bank with a generous donation of \$500.00 dollars.

The SCFA donates \$4,000 annually, dividing the \$500.00 cheques between the food banks throughout Simcoe County.

"People in rural Simcoe feel it's fitting to supply our local food banks," Ritchie said.

Good Shepherd volunteer, Michael Vear, gave a knowledgeable and enjoyable tour of the Good Shepherd Food Bank explaining the various roles volunteers play. Volunteers are responsible for checking every item that is donated for expiry dates, sorting items, stocking shelves, filling the dairy cooler and the freezers. There are also volunteers who provide client services and a greeter/floater on shopping days.

Volunteer, Dave Bradbury, shared that in January of 2022 they were seeing 40-42 clients per shopping day. This year that number has doubled. The client number also doesn't reflect the number of mouths that are being fed, one client might be shopping for a large family. Clients have the ability to shop for their groceries twice each week using a points system instead of a dollar value. Points are given by the client services volunteer based on the size of the family in need. Groceries are labeled with numbers reflecting how many points that item 'costs.' Some items have a number reflecting how many a client can take on that shopping day, produce is 'free' but might be limited in quantity. As an example bunches of bananas are limited to one per client, sweet potatoes are two per client etc. There are many areas that are labeled 'free' to let clients know to take as much or as little as they would like.

Dave Bradbury notes that you no longer have to prove income level to use the food banks' services but they do ask what your income source is. They can pass this information along to government supports to reflect what financial supports/programs are working and which ones are not providing enough funds for people to live on. The Good Shepherd Food Bank volunteers recognize that some clients are the 'working poor.' These clients are making the difficult decision each month choosing which bill they can pay with their paycheck.

The food bank not only relies on product and monetary donations from the community but they also receive incredible donations from local grocery stores who partake in the Food Rescue Program. This program enables the grocery stores to freeze products such as meat before the expiry date and donate those frozen products to the food bank. Michael Vear joked, "we welcome all volunteers, but if you have a truck you're our new best friend!" Michael said sometimes he recruits a small gang to help him transport the goods donated by grocery stores such as Foodland Beeton, Tottenham No Frills and Zehrs Alliston amongst others.

Local farmers are also a big contributor to food banks. Sheldon Creek donates all kinds of dairy products on a weekly basis, Baxter Industries donated 150 turkeys, Dorsey Farms has donated produce, and Maple Leaf Farms makes regular donations as well. Even people who do not have farms but have vegetable gardens will donate from their bounty.

The volunteers keep The Good Shepherd Food Bank in immaculate condition. Everything is very well organized and incredibly clean.

Area food banks also communicate with one another and will share surplus products to avoid spoilage and waste. To find out how you can volunteer or donate please visit your local food bank.



Good Shepherd volunteers pictured above from left to right, Michael Vear, Jaime Karsch and Dave Bradbury happily receive a generous cheque from SCFA president, Dave Ritchie, pictured at far right. The cheque was donated on behalf of the SCFA members.



Volunteer Dave Bradbury is pictured above showing some of the fresh produce that is available to clients.

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**In memory of  
Jill Beischer**

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

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

*W.J. Bryan*

### OFA Members Service Representative:

Leah Emms 1-866-660-5511 email: [Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca](mailto:Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca)

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

Paul Maurice: 705-427-3126 email: [paul.maurice@ofa.on.ca](mailto:paul.maurice@ofa.on.ca)

### 2022-2023 Executive – Simcoe County

President:	Dave Ritchie	705-534-4017
Vice President:	Colin Elliot	705-791-1006
PAC Member:	Dave Ritchie	
SCFA Phone:	705-726-9300 ext 1224	
	<a href="mailto:simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com">simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com</a>	

### 2022-2023 Executive – York Region

President:	Darryl Hamilton	416-788-1415
Contact YRFA:	<a href="mailto:york@ofa.on.ca">york@ofa.on.ca</a>	

### 2022-2023 Executive – Dufferin County

President:	Bill McCutcheon	519-766-7905
1st Vice	Gail Little	519-925-2983
2nd Vice/Treas.	George Van Kampen	519-940-2202

### 2022-2023 Executive – Peel County

Vice President	Gary Mountain	647-225-3410
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## Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

"Through winter's chill or summer's heat,  
a farmer works so the world can eat."

~ Unknown

There is a popular bumper sticker out there, "If you ate today, thank a farmer." Everyone appreciates a few accolades now and then - even me. Yes, farming is a tough job but there are lots of hard jobs out there. To be honest, I could have pursued almost any career that my heart desired. I could be doing a job that makes more money or one that allows for more flexibility but I picked farming because of its challenges and unique perks. There is no need to thank me for a job that I love and chose.

Instead, I choose to make my own slogan to thank YOU the consumer. Of course we all have to eat so I don't need to thank you for buying food but I do need to thank you for your support. You see, farmers are a minority. In fact, less than 2% of us feed our country. Often we feel misunderstood, attacked and forgotten as more and more people get further removed from their rural roots.

If we must make a slogan about farmers, how about making it about "trusting a farmer" or "supporting a farmer" or "getting to know a farmer"? We appreciate your thanks but what we really need is for you to stand together with us as we feed the world. After all, only a few of us farm but all of us need to eat.



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!"

## Contact local council to increase awareness of how restrictions affect agriculture



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

As I write this column in February, it looks and feels like March outside. Daylight is increasing in a noticeable fashion and about to "spring ahead" shortly. I believe this triggers spring fever

in all of us.

I recently came across some positive news from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). The Farm Forestry Exemption for woodlots on farms has increased from twenty acres to thirty. Before 2023, the calculation for this exemption was, one acre of forested land for every ten acres of farmland but was capped at twenty acres. MPAC will be sending out Special Amended Notices this spring to property owners. Later in 2023 all properties with the Farm Forestry Exemption will be sent a Property Assessment Notice for showing the value and your exemption for the 2024 tax year. For additional information contact MPAC at 1-866-296-6722 and have your roll number ready.

March 1st is also an important date which marks the beginning of reduced load season. Check your municipality's dates as some end earlier than others. Currently, there is a 5,000 kg limit on all axles. The Highway Traffic

Act allows partial exemptions for two axle trucks delivering fuel, livestock feed and live poultry of 7,500kg per axle. Two axle truck means a steering axle and drive axle. Full weight exemptions are applied to road maintenance vehicles, fire trucks, emergency vehicles, waste transport vehicles and trucks used exclusively for milk transportation.

Farmers and farm organizations have been frustrated for years with the current legislation. Municipalities are not willing to provide any further exemptions to the agricultural sector due to rising costs to repair and then maintain their road network. It is important to note that some County roads are exempt from the load restrictions. Municipal staff will be attending the annual Ontario Good Roads Association meeting April 16-19, and there are many new councillors that may not fully understand the economic impact current reduced axle weights places on the agricultural sector. This could be an opportunity to reach out to your local council to discuss raising the restricted axle weights to acknowledge the modern configuration changes of trucks and their tires since the legislation was written.

Another consideration could be centered around the environmental impacts of additional trips and how that contributes to CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions.

Spring is a season that is highly anticipated but full of worry too. If stress and anxiety are robbing you of sleep or your health please reach out to the Farmer Wellness Initiative and speak with a counsellor. It is confidential and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. Also available in both official languages. 1-866-267-6255

## Annual AgKnowledge Forum Explores the Potential of Agri-tourism

The "Harvesting Opportunities: Exploring the Potential of Agri-tourism" event will bring together experts to discuss the many benefits and challenges of combining agriculture and tourism. Attendees will learn about the latest trends and best practices in agri-tourism, and hear from successful operators and stakeholders in the industry.

The event will also provide a unique opportunity to network and connect with others interested in this growing sector. Following the

event, attendees will enjoy a tour of Windrush Winery Estate, a beautiful and well-established agri-tourism destination that showcases the best of the region's winemaking heritage and local food culture.

This will be a chance to see firsthand how agri-tourism can provide memorable experiences for visitors and support local communities.

Contact Robin Brown by email at robin@notawasaga.com or by phone: 705-435-1540.





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# Beef Farmers of Ontario deliver to food banks

—report/photographs by Don Beaulieu

Farm View joined other local media last month to witness a significant donation of beef to a couple of Simcoe County area food banks. Beef Farmers of Ontario donated 550 pounds of frozen ground beef, the most versatile form of meat, in one pound packages. Processed by Stayner Meat Packers, half of the beef was received by the Creemore food bank; the other half was received by the Angus food bank. The beef was raised by Jim Whitley, a member of the Simcoe County Beef Farmers who lives just outside of Creemore.

Needless to say, the food bank operators were delighted to accept such a valuable donation which will in turn be appreciated by food bank users.

Local beef farmer, feedlot director of the Ontario Beef Farmers and director with the Simcoe County Beef Farmers, David Millsap was on hand making the deliveries with Whitley and new mom (!) Katherine Giffen, president of the Simcoe County Association of Beef Farmers.

Millsap explained that beef farmers recognized "...a need in the local community... We wanted to supply some nutritious meat to our local people in need."

## Creemore food bank

The Creemore food bank is open one day a week and serves 26 families. This is not a large food bank, but it is a vital part of the community despite having been in operation only since May of 2022. The food bank also supplies items for the snack programme at the local school. To help clients experiencing transportation issues, food will be delivered to them.

Miller's Dairy is a regular contributor to the Creemore food bank as is the local Foodland store. The Hundred Mile Store also helps keep the food bank supplied with fruits and vegetables. Lowe said the food bank had an abundance of apples and pears this past season as people donated their extra bounty. Tarts, cakes and similar items are donated by YF Patisserie, also in Creemore. This is not a comprehensive list, but it shows the community support and the variety of healthy food and decent treats users of the food bank are able to enjoy.

This day's donation of locally raised beef will last a few months or so. Lowe attests to the quality of Jim Whitley's beef and Ontario beef farmers in general. This particular beef was a Charolais cow raised on grass.

## Angus food bank

The Angus food bank was also delighted to receive their portion of the ground beef. Food bank volunteers Elizabeth and Stephen Kenney say this food bank serves about 125 to 130 families each month. Elizabeth suspects this donation of 250 pounds will last them 3 months. Stephen praised the generosity of the Angus community. This food bank has been in operation, starting small of course, for four years. At Christmas time (2022) donations were so strong that there was hardly room to move. Those supplies of non-perishables are still being organized and handed out.

Perishables generally need to be purchased, "Which is why" Elizabeth says, "it is great to have this donation of meat". Stephen adds "We get a lot of donations from local farmers of fruits and vegetables".

With local food stores helping out and various food drives during the year, clients of the Angus food bank tend to have a good supply of a healthy food throughout the year. "Base Borden helps out and so do the churches".

## Beef Farmers of Ontario

With Ontarians struggling more than ever with the costs of necessary goods and services, the Beef Farmers of Ontario is committed to supplying food banks with ground beef



Reverend Lorna May Lowe is impressed with how well the food bank has been supported in Creemore:

*"The community has been wonderful, our partners and with private donations".*



Elizabeth and Stephen Kenney at the Angus food bank:

*"The farmers are always helping out".*

and finding ways to address food insecurity. Despite feedlot costs, processing backlogs, supply chain and market disruptions and all the uncertainty COVID has thrown our way, beef farmers, through the provincial and local organizations work to ensure families facing hunger have fresh, nutritious food on their table.

Since 2014 when the BFO began its partnership with Feed Ontario to supply Ontario food banks with fresh ground beef, their support has totaled \$270,000. In 2022, they provided Feed Ontario with \$40,000.

In November of 2022 the BFO was honoured to receive the Paul Mistele Memorial Award at Farm and Food Care Ontario's Harvest Gala. That organization recognizes agricultural partners who have shown a significant and enduring commitment to ending hunger in Ontario.

The Creemore food bank is located at St. Lukes Anglican Church at 22 Caroline Street.

The Angus food bank is located behind the arena at 8527 County Road 10.



Pictured at the Creemore food bank are: Left, Jim Whitley who raised the beef for these deliveries. Middle is food bank co-ordinator Reverend Lorna May Lowe. Right is David Millsap of Ontario Beef Farmers.

# SPRING LUBE SALE

**FEBRUARY 15TH 2023  
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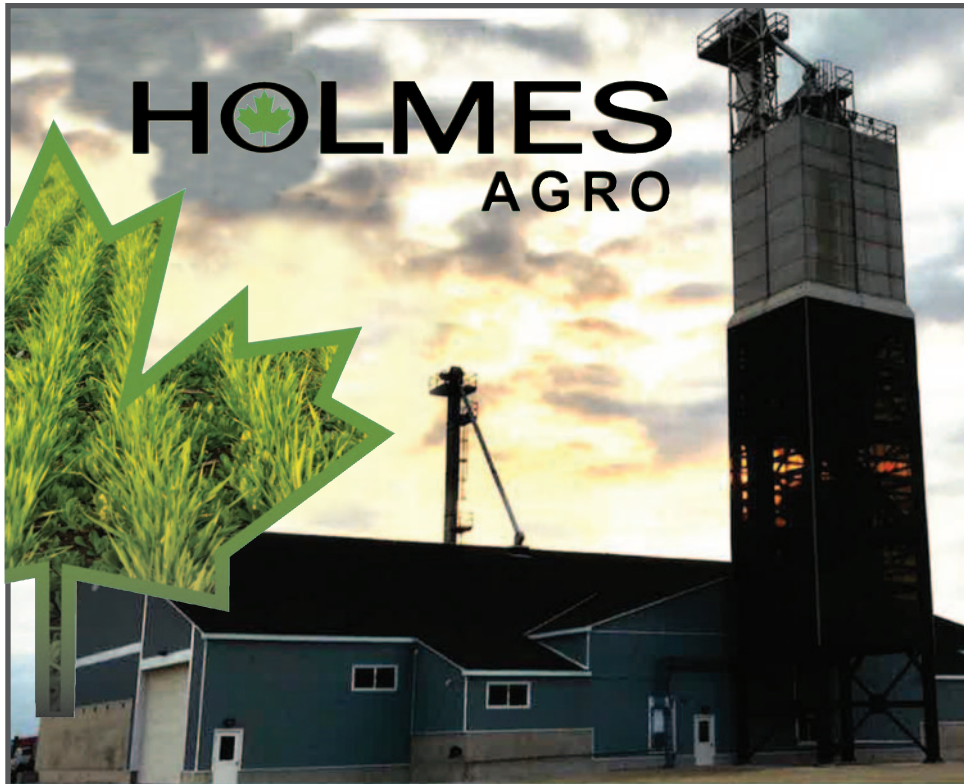


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# Eleven leaders to be inducted into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame

In 2023, the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame (OAHF) will induct 11 individuals who have made significant impacts on Ontario agriculture and beyond.

Their influences range from agronomy and crop consulting, soil health and water quality advancements, pesticide and crop research, the development of farm shows and farm co-operatives and leadership in the sectors of horticulture, dairy, forages, eggs and pullets.

The successful nominees for induction include:

- David Biesenthal
- Dale Cowan
- Mack Emiry
- Richard Frank
- Brian Gilroy
- Peter Gould
- Carolynne Griffith
- Ray Robertson
- Robert James Scott
- Tarlok Singh Sahota
- Doug Wagner

All have been selected by the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Association as worthy candidates based on their life-long commitments to Ontario agriculture.

The inductees will be recognized in a ceremony on June 11, bringing the total number of inductees recognized since 1980 to 256. To qualify for this prestigious recognition, inductees must have shown visionary leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

“Our Board of Directors was overwhelmed by the number of nomination packages received for consideration last year,” said Nick Whyte, president of the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Association. “This level of interest really shows the importance that the agricultural industry places on recognizing its leaders – both past and present.”

## Inductees for 2023 and their nominators include:

**David Biesenthal (1943 - )** is a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College. He is a veterinarian and progressive beef and crop farmer. During the 2001 Walkerton water crisis, David’s family was the focus of much unwanted media attention and intense scrutiny due to accusations against him and his cattle.

His record keeping and early adoption of the Environmental Farm Plan and the Nutrient Management Plan programs eventually exonerated him. This resulted in him being recognized as a leader and often requested public speaker, committed to advocating and doing what is right. He has had a profound impact on the future of agriculture due to his work in advocating agriculture’s role in water quality.

David Biesenthal was nominated by inductee Stan Eby, Colin Reesor, Joe Dietrich, Trillium Mutual Insurance Company, and Bruce County Beef Farmers

**Dale Cowan (1953 - )** is a widely respected leader in Ontario agriculture with a career of over 40 years. A Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) since 1997, he has advised growers of numerous crops, has mentored many new CCAs and has reviewed crop recommendations spanning 275,000 acres.

Through his extensive volunteer activities, Dale has become the “go to” person when it comes to associations and government looking for an agronomist to provide balanced, science-based and practical input. He is known for his exploration of the newest technology and has also been instrumental in the development and promotion of sustainable agronomy and precision farming practices through Ontario.

Dale Cowan was nominated by the Ontario Certified Crop Advisor Association

**Carleton Mackinnon (Mack) Emiry (1940 - )** is a dairy farmer who has dedicated his life to the advancement of agriculture in Ontario and his contributions are far reaching. His greatest passion in agriculture is soil health and his objective has always been to leave the soil in an improved condition for following generations. His work as chair of the Land Stewardship Committee evolved into work that led to the development of the Environmental Farm Plan. He has also provided a much-needed voice, to many agricultural discussions on behalf of Northern Ontario. Organizations

benefiting from his commitment include the Manitoulin West Sudbury Milk Producers’ Association, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the provincial Nutrient Management Advisory Committee.

Mack Emiry was nominated by the Manitoulin North Shore Federation of Agriculture

**Dr. Richard Frank (1928 – 2021)** will be forever associated with sound pesticide use. He co-created and was director of the first pesticide testing lab in Ontario. Beginning in the mid-1960s and until his retirement from government, Dr. Frank authored more than 100 scientific papers, providing valuable scientific data and understanding on the occurrence, fate and risks of pesticide residues in Ontario agriculture. He worked to both study and improve access to pesticides while ensuring that his priorities related to protecting the environment as well as producer and crop safety were considered before any recommendations were made. In the 1970s, when Ontario’s horticultural producers were faced with pest control problems, Dr. Frank’s lab provided critical pesticide residue data that allowed federal authorities to grant uses. The Minor Use Program later grew into the world-recognized entity that it is today.

Dr. Frank was nominated by the Frank family.

**Brian Gilroy (1956 – )** Brian Gilroy, an apple grower near Georgian Bay, has a career marked by a lifelong passion for the apple sector and a love of agriculture, people and learning. Brian’s years of determined consensus building are a fundamental cornerstone of today’s Ontario and Canadian apple industries. His work has left long-lasting impacts on the edible horticulture sector nationwide, as well as public trust and outreach efforts in Ontario that benefit not just fruit and vegetable growers but farmers from all sectors. He has been an active and involved member and leader of many organizations including the Georgian Bay Fruit Growers’ Association, Ontario Apple Growers, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers’ Association, Farm & Food Care Ontario, the Fruit & Vegetable Growers of Canada and the Royal Agriculture Winter Fair, among others.

Brian Gilroy was nominated by the Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Growers’ Association

**Peter Gould (1951 –)** had a 36-year career with the Ontario Milk Marketing Board (now Dairy Farmers of Ontario). Peter’s name was synonymous with ensuring high standards for milk quality and food safety. Known as a visionary, Peter always recognized the milk industry’s need to continue to evolve to remain relevant. He was instrumental in the establishment of a single quota system, implementing a raw milk quality program and taking responsibility for the administration and enforcement of Ontario raw milk quality regulations. A strong supporter of supply management, Peter played an active role in numerous international trade negotiations and was also a leader in raising funds to build the worldclass dairy research barn at the University of Guelph.

Peter Gould was nominated by Murray Sherk and Albert Fledderus, Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO)

**Carolynne Griffith (1942 –)** has a long history of making significant contributions to improve Ontario’s egg and pullet farming sectors. She has dedicated years to advancing the interest of Ontario’s egg and pullet farmers locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally. As chair of Egg Farmers of Ontario, Carolynne was an effective advocate in defending the interest of Canadian egg farmers, the broader industry, and supply management during historic trade negotiations. In this capacity, Carolynne ensured the perspective of Canadian egg farmers was heard by international trade negotiators, government representatives, and other stakeholders. These efforts will have an impact for generations.

A strong supporter for building meaningful connections with consumers, she has answered thousands of questions about eggs and egg farming at the Canadian National Exhibition, Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Western Fair, local events and schools.

Carolynne Griffith was nominated by Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO)

**Ray Robertson (1943 –)** has demonstrated great leader-

ship within the agricultural community to help it adapt to changing economic, environmental, and political realities and needs. He has helped to grow an appreciation for the role of forage crops on farms to promote soil health and conservation, was instrumental in forming the Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association and served with the Ontario Forage Council and the Ontario Hay and Forage Cooperative. His contributions have left a permanent impression on the industry. He is committed to working on behalf of farmers and the industry, to maintain and build upon programs that are essential for their adoption and continuing success. He has served in leadership roles in programs such as Land Stewardship and the Environmental Farm Plan and even developed and sourced funding for programs in Grey County to help farmers adopt conservation methods.

Ray Robertson was nominated by the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)

**Robert James Scott (1900 – 1946)** was one of Ontario’s greatest and most influential farm activists and was one of the most prominent men in Canadian agriculture during the 1930s and 1940s. He passionately worked to organize farmers into cooperatives where farmers would pool their resources.

By organizing farmers, they were then able to be more competitive, were no longer taken advantage of and had a strong, united voice to influence change. He led the United Farmers’ Co-operative of Ontario, advocated for many farm-related matters such as for fixed prices of commodities during the Second World War to guarantee an adequate food supply. He spoke up for fair railway freight rates for crops and was called upon for advice by Ontario Premiers and Prime Minister MacKenzie King. At the time of his premature death, he was a director for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Ontario Stockyards Board and the Ontario Beef Cattle Producers’ Association.

Robert James Scott was nominated by the Huron County Federation of Agriculture

**Tarlok Singh Sahota (1953 –)** has made great contributions in his work managing and sustaining the privately-run Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station and its successful transition to Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station. The research station, under the leadership of Dr. Sahota, has always focussed on development-oriented agricultural research which found an easy application on farms, due to vigorous extension efforts of Dr. Sahota and receptive farmers. Until 2004, Thunder Bay producers grew only a few crops that were needed for cattle. Dr. Sahota’s research and extension helped area growers to diversify their cropping systems by adding numerous crops to their mix. He has authored hundreds of publications, extension articles and participated in media reports. Thunder Bay farmers rely on research conducted by Dr. Sahota to make their businesses more profitable and environmentally sustainable.

Tarlok Singh Sahota was nominated by the Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture

**Doug Wagner (1953 –)** has contributed to Ontario’s agriculture and food industry through his work with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ontario Seed Growers’ Association, the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show. These organizations have endured for many years and continue to grow in strength. Through a number of organizations, he has developed numerous young agricultural leaders, established new programs for educational and networking venues for farmers, and advanced opportunities to showcase innovative technologies to producers, businesspeople and government decision makers. Described as an “effective people person”, his successful leadership is grounded in his ability to work with staff, volunteers, government bureaucrats, politicians, and clients.

Doug Wagner was nominated by inductee Kenneth Knox

The 2023 induction ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at the Grand Way Event Centre, Elora. Tickets are available at a cost of \$40 (for in person attendance) or \$20 (virtual attendance) on the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame’s website at [www.oahf.on.ca](http://www.oahf.on.ca).





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## Grey Bruce Farmers' Week HORSE Day: Advise from horse industry professionals

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Three horse operation owners gave valuable advice as to what are “must haves” in horse care.

Dahna Lachance owns, with her husband, Hurricane Hill Farm. She has worked in the horse industry for over 30 years as a horse trainer and coach. She has worked at eventing and operates a boarding facility. She considers her farm as a “small operation” with 10 stalls in the barn.

Lachance considers the skid steer as one of the “must haves.” She says this machine eliminates the need for a lot of physical work for moving small square bales. The bales are bound together in a block and with the skid steer, they are slid in over the stalls of the barn working as insulation. The blocks are slid out as needed.

The paddocks are set up so that Dahna can see all the paddocks at once. “The paddocks are an acre to 2.5 acres in size,” she said.

The feed room is close to the parking area beside the barn. “The feed room is fully lockable and everything is contained within the feed room. There is a white board in the feed room and it is expected that everyone will write down what meds are needed and are given to each horse. I want everything written down and checked off when it is done, every time,” she stressed. She added that with a boarding facility, the barn is worked in by several people and communication is critical.

Another “must have” in Dahna’s opinion is having “water buckets in the barn.” She said she has the barn set up in a way that anyone can do chores “even if they are not a horsey person.” She has water buckets set up to be accessible from outside the pens. “Anyone can put a water hose in a water bucket to water horses,” she says adding that finding people with horse expertise is just too hard in an unplanned situation.

There are, right now, eight horses boarded in the barn. “I put everything in writing. Communication is with everyone. I explain what I offer- and what I don’t offer. Every horse here must follow “my” vet protocols, if someone doesn’t like “my” vet protocols they know this is not the place for them,” she said adding that she has had the same vet clinic for a long time.

Jason Irwin works with his brother and his parents and his wife in the horse industry. He is the trainer at the family business Northstar Livestock Quarter Horses situated in Bruce County. He has started colts and given demonstrations at the largest horse expos in both Canada and the USA. He is a professional clinician and trainer.

Jason says with a training barn facility the emphasis is on safety and time management. “Our pens have to be made even stronger than most horse pens. A big, young horse can kick walls down” he said adding he prefers wooden pens as they have some give of movement in them.

He added that his pasture areas are made small because “we often can’t catch the horses (in training) in a big pasture” and there is not the time to spend trying to catch them either. He also prefers small pastures for 2 horses to eliminate the need to “re-establish a pecking order” in bigger groups of horses. He says pasture is important to a training operation, “A horse in a stall 23 hours a day and ridden (in training) for one hour is not good for the horse. Exercise time makes life a lot easier for humans and the horses by letting the horses run off steam. I let the colt out an hour or so before each training session.”

He said one of his “must haves” in the barn is to have all the tack in one place. He said that insisting that all the tack be left in one specific place saves a lot of time. In a training barn, time management is of huge importance since there is so much to do with different horses in a day.

Dr. John McKnight is the owner of Northfields Farm. Northfields is a family run Standardbred operation located in the Meaford/Thornbury area. He showed his farm in a slide presentation explaining his farm has been working for over 100 years and he purchased it in the 1970’s. He has 17 stalls in the barn and added in a fabric building.

One of the stalls was fitted with a loading ramp in the stall. “It is best to teach the foals how to be loaded when they are a week old. We can handle the foals at a week old a lot easier versus a 1,000 pound yearling,” he advised adding that a “must haves” in the barn is that loading ramp.

He said that the horses are fed large square bales that are moved with a skid steer loader. He said that he had to have feeders designed to hold these bales and the barn floor reinforced to withstand their weight.

“Privacy stalls” are another one Dr. McKnight’s “must haves.” He has stalls with sides that are open in the back for feeding. The horses go into the stalls, one at a time, to get grain. “We feed grain from above, the horses go in side by side- and there are no arguments (between horses).”

He said that another “must have” for him is having feed containers and gates that are portable. “The best grain storage is an old freezer with wheels put on it so it can be moved. I have gates with wheels on them so I can move them around.”

All the horse professionals agreed that mechanization for hay is a key part of their farming operations.





## Grey Bruce Farmers' Week BEEF Day: The "Silent Killer" of profit in Beef Cattle revealed

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Dr. Jordan Thomas has a Ph.D. in Animal Science. He is an assistant professor and is a cow-calf specialist at the University of Missouri. He says there is one reason that cow/calf operations are not as profitable as they could be and the reason is not feed costs.

"The biggest cost imbedded in every calf is obviously feed costs and all its related segments like pasture and forage. That is the #1 cost of production. The #2 is cow replacement cost," Dr. Thomas stated adding that reducing feed costs has consequences with poor gains and thin animals so that is not advised.



He says he uses the example of a beef cow herd made up of fall calving and spring calving cows. The average loss is about \$206 per calf. He then asks how many producing cows a "full time" operation would need and the answer is about 500 cows. He explains that losing \$206 x 500 is not going to be any more profitable than having 10 cows as it still means no profit.

"Beef cattle producers are all business people, every producer meeting is a business meeting. Cattle are Live space stock. Cattle are kept to make profit. Cattle are stocks that are alive," he advised.

"Why is the cow replacement cost the #2 cost? It's the person in the mirror causing this," he said.

There are, according to Dr. Thomas, two different ways of thinking. One way is fast based on emotional reaction and the other is slow based more on logic.

An example of "thinking" he uses in his university classes. He splits the class in thirds and one third is given a mug that is valued at \$9.99 from the store, the other third is handed \$10 and other third can either have the mug or the \$10. The mug owners are asked to price the mug "they now own" and offer it for sale, they choose to sell it for \$7.12. The \$10 owners say they will buy the mug for \$2.87. The other group choose to buy the mug for \$2.87. The exercise proves, according to Dr. Thomas, that the people that had ownership of the mug had a bias of ownership causing them to think it was more valuable than others in the class.

The "mug exercise" links to farmers because the farmer is both the owner AND the seller of replacement cows in their own herd.

He says the key to having productive profitable cows is the cow's time that she produces her first calf in her life. "The cows that calve on the first day of calving season conceived on the first day of breeding season. That cow has a 60 day start on the cow that will calve on the last day (of a 60 day breeding season). The first cow's calf is 60 days of growth ahead of the cow that produced her calf on the last day of calving season," he said.

From a chart of a cattle herd statistics, the heifers that calved in the first of the calving season had calves again in the first of the calving season the 2nd year 80% of the time. In Year 3 the same cows produced another early calf and it continued until about year 6. He added that 37% of the cows that calved on the final day of calving season will not calve next year. Only 7% of cows that calve in the first 20 to 40 days of calving season will not calve next year. The study he was referring too was from 1958, he added, "this is not new." The cows that calved at the end of calving season had only one chance left of getting pregnant-and if it did not happen for whatever reason, then the chance was gone for the year was the basic conclusion.

The non-pregnant beef cow does not hold value at market.

Dr. Thomas explained the cost value for beef cows. The 1st time heifer that passes her pregnancy check being in calf again is valuable. She keeps this value until she is about 6 or 7 years old when she keeps in production. Not until 9-10 years old is there any significant drop in value. On the other side, a 1st calf heifer that fails her pregnancy check with has a low value. "In Year 4, a bred (pregnant) 4 year old cow is far more valuable than an open (not pregnant) 4 year old," he explained.

The two year old open cow that fails her pregnancy check is too old to go in the prime beef chain. "Her value is low," he said compared to the two year old that is found to be pregnant.

"On the revenue side, the cow that weaned an older calf that was born early in the calving season has a 60 day start which, on average, is about a 120 pound gain as a calf gains about 2 pounds per day. The value of 120 pounds per calf is significant," he stressed.

"Until a heifer is confirmed pregnant to calve in the earliest portion of your calving season, she is only a replacement CANDIDATE," Dr. Thomas advised. He added "Don't sell yourself poorly, profitable late conceiving replacement heifers just because you happen to be both the seller and the buyer."

Heifers that calved in their first 23 days of their first calving season wean a heavier calf, Dr. Thomas pointed out. He says this same heifer is now "set up" to breed back early in the second calving season and this often will continue into her full life of production.

"We actually buy back every cow at every pregnancy check. Pregnancy diagnosis allows us to strategically cull cows and marketing the cows "a year ahead of time" means selling them when they are pregnant and younger instead of open and older" Dr. Thomas advised.

He said that going into the pen of weaned heifer calves and choosing replacements on sight is often what is done- and that practice does not usually make for the most profit causing the cost of replacement cows to be high.

Stay tuned for Grey Bruce Farmers' Week 2024!

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## First Tapping event a deliciously fun way to celebrate Sweet Ontario

*Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins*

There was definitely an element of excitement in the air, or perhaps even giddiness, at the First Tapping event that took place February 10th. I could not help but to liken the mood to those of kids in a candy shop, no surprise really as there isn't anything more deliciously sweet than maple syrup. A large crowd had gathered at Williams Farm in Wyebridge to celebrate the special occasion and significance of Ontario's first seasonal agricultural crop. The morning began with coffee, baked goods, casual conversation and delicious syrup samples. Jack McFadden, owner of Maple Ridge Enterprises along with his wife Janet, gave the Official opening remarks and introduced each guest and the township they represent. Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and councillors all had the opportunity to say a few words and the consensus was a great appreciation for being invited and appreciation for the work involved in producing maple syrup.



Pictured above after a successful attempt to tap the tree are, from left to right, George Cabral, Deputy Mayor of Springwater Township, Sean Miskimins, Deputy Mayor for the Township of Tiny and Judith Cox, Deputy Mayor of Severn Township.

McFadden explained the First Tapping Event is to highlight the season ahead and promote local maple syrup farms and products. Maple syrup is the first agricultural crop of the year and is felt to be the bridge between winter and spring. Many syrup producers agree commenting that they begin the season walking through the forests on snowshoes and end in flip flops and t-shirts.

John Williams, owner of Williams Farm along with his wife Suzanne, described their production before leading guests outside to begin the tapping. Williams explained that the barn we were gathered in was built in 1874 and was a dairy barn. The Williams converted it to be used for maple syrup production. They have 3,400 taps.



The Township of Tiny and surrounding townships were well represented at the recent First Tapping event held at Williams Farm in Wyebridge.

20 acres and 1,300 taps on their property and they rent a bush from a neighbouring property for the remaining taps. Williams Farm produces over 11,000 gallons in a year. Williams and Peter Lorrman, owner of Windlee Farms Maple Syrup along with spouse Anne, took turns showing guests the alternate tools used for tapping a tree. Williams explained that only new wood is tapped, old wood heals and seals over.

After the presentation we were invited to try our hands at tapping the trees and placing the buckets for collection. There was much laughter and teasing between the guests. We were all encouraged to get out on the first weekend in April to enjoy the official Maple Weekend.

For a maple syrup producer in your area please refer to [www.mapleweekend.ca](http://www.mapleweekend.ca).



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## Tiny Dunkerron Has Deep Roots



Located at what is now the intersection of the 3rd Line and County Road 27 on the Townline between Tecumseth and Bradford-West Gwillimbury, Dunkerron is one of South Simcoe's oldest communities.

Its history began in 1832 when Peter Doyle arrived in the area and built a two-story brick house. Doyle's friend, wagon-maker Henry Nolan, joined him and set up shop

as the area's first craftsman. Both men were Quakers. More Quakers followed.

Peter Doyle was a vocal voice among the settlers and tireless promoter of its future. He donated a portion of his land so his fellow Quakers could build a meeting house where religious services could be held. A small graveyard developed behind the meeting house.

Dunkerron wasn't composed solely of Quakers for long. By the late 1830s, immigrants from Northern Ireland began to join them and soon these newcomers outnumbered the initial settlers. The Irish immigrants, Wesleyan Methodists predominantly, decided to build a church of their own in 1837 on land donated by Christopher Corbett.

Corbett was a prominent member of the congregation. Considering his leadership and the land donation, locals began to refer to the church as Corbett's Church. As with many churches in the pioneer era, Corbett's Church served as a house of worship on Sundays and a schoolhouse during the week.

This primitive log structure was later replaced by a wood-frame church. By the 1880s the congregation had outgrown this second church as well, so an attractive brick church was built as a replacement. The first service for this new church was held in February 1884.

By 1853, a decision to build a dedicated school had been reached. John Davis donated a portion of his land, and a wood-frame school was built and ready for class that autumn. It was replaced in 1891 by a brick school, but this new school lasted only seven years before it was razed by. A third and final school opened in 1898.



Dunkerron was at the height of its fortunes at the time, consisting of a blacksmith shop, two churches, a school, and a post office. Up until the post office opened, the hamlet was known as Corbett's Corners, after the church that sat prominently at the corners and the man who owned much of the nearby land. When the post office opened someone suggested it, and therefore the community, should be named Lansdowne after the Governor General

of the day. However, it was discovered that there was already a post office by that name, so Dunkerron, the name of Lord Lansdowne's estate in Ireland. It seemed appropriate, considering the community's Irish populace.

During the early 20th century, the already fly-speck sized community began to diminish. The Quaker meeting house closed in 1912, the blacksmith ceased operating about a decade after, and in 1960 the school graduated its final class. The sole remaining community building from Dunkerron's heyday is the United (formerly Methodist) Church, which still stands proud at the heart of the hamlet.

Not far away, the old Quaker cemetery remains as well. Here, a handful of weathered stones lean wearily, their inscriptions serving as faded chronicles of the lives of the men and women who founded this hamlet two centuries ago.

**Village stories**  
by Andrew Hind



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## After The Chores: In Jail

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



I'm in jail.

My version of jail is being stuck in the house, based on surgeon's orders.

This all began back in late summer of 2021 when I suddenly had blurry vision and could not see clearly in the distance. I could read texts on my cell phone easily but

could not read a single sign on the road past the hood of the Jeep. I was scared because something suddenly was very wrong.

The usual optometrist was off work so I booked an appointment with a box store's vision place. I could not see where this optometrist was pointing when he said "read the top line." I saw nothing to read, it was all a dark blur. I was diagnosed quickly with "big cataracts" on both eyes. I was told to not drive until I got my new glasses. I did not share the fact that this was show season and I had made promises.

Wearing glasses in the barn was unlike anything I ever experienced before. On a cold day, I was hit with instant eyefuls of fog. When I thawed the water tap, the steam from the kettle fogged me up. At the end of Pandee the llama's bottle season, his breath would fog up my glasses every time. After clearing off my glasses, they were left damp and that made the hay particles stick to the glasses. I carry hay from the hay feeder outside to the goats inside, it was an easy job most days, but now with glasses I often saw a green speckled world.

I had quite the private colour show in the barn. Every single light in the barn was surrounded by a bright double halo. The first was a bright aqua blue, the colour of a clear sky, the next was a green the colour of a maple leaf in the spring. The third ring that was just beginning last year was a sunshine yellow. The further back I stepped, the bigger the halo was- and so bright. I finally asked Sweetie if he ever saw halos- and he said I needed to get my eyes checked again.

One morning I woke up and could only see gray in both eyes. It was dark gray. I closed my eyes and opened them again- this time I could see gray with distinct lines in it. Can blindness have distinct lines in it? I had cataracts so bad in just 11 months I could barely see, I was far from normal so why could I not suddenly lose my vision to this gray? My Great Grandmother went blind at a young age and it is thought it was all from cataracts. Did my cataract genetics suddenly take my vision? All these terrors flashed through my mind. I heard something. I heard a rumbling. The rumbling sounded familiar. I realized, with a grateful heart, I was looking directly into the fur of the purring gray tabby house cat Daisy.

My eyes failed another test less than a year from my first glasses. This time, our local optometrist did the exam and he put me through a round of testing like never before. Peering at my right eye for the fifth time, he finally concluded that "all that is wrong" was a poorly placed cataract. I could only see the "E" on the eye chart no matter what he did with his machines. I told him about the halos and how the yellow one was just starting. He said I was now a candidate for surgery. He gave me a prescription for much stronger glasses to keep me somewhat in life.

At the surgeon's office, with my strong glasses about six weeks later, I could barely see the second line in the eye test. We all knew that I had to have surgery immediately. I had to confess that I normally did chores as in barn work twice a day because this surgery had to be successful. I was asked what I had in the barn to care for. I listed "only some" llamas, goats, sheep and rabbits hoping that I could keep doing at least some chores. I was sent back to the waiting room- and called in later and was told NO chores for a week after surgery for each eye. I didn't really listen to the "why" as I was so shook up with the jail sentence.

So here I am- in day 9 of my jail sentence. I have not put my barn boots on for 9 days. No Pandee hugs. No talks with Hummer. No inhaling of the sweet smell of rabbit pellets. No greetings of BAAAA in the morning. No feeling of peaceful accomplishment in the evening after I shut the barn door at night. I walk the front deck of the house and now with my new clear vision, I can see my sheep and llamas eating outside at the hay that suddenly turned green after my surgeries. To see animals from afar is not the same.

Our next door neighbor put up his dairy farm for sale for a shocking 1 million about 15 years ago. The price was off the charts crazy high for that time. Five years before this, one could buy 65 acres of vacant land for \$69,000 just down the road from this farm. It was a surprise to everyone that the farm quickly sold at the listing price or higher. The dairy farmer sold off his gorgeous herd, the quota and was all set for retirement decades ahead of the senior pension time. I heard the story twice so expect it was true that the retired farmer was so bored and miserable that he bought another farm and set himself back up with chores within the year. I can relate to that farmer's story, I would not be happy living like I am right now for a year either.

I am very very very grateful to Sweetie for doing all my chores without a single complaint. His life is now all centered around me and my barn chores. He goes to his off-farm job late and comes home late to fit it all in. I am blessed to have Sweetie, and I knew that long ago. I'm grateful- but this is not the life for me, having someone else do my work. And I really miss Pandee hugs and Hummer chats and BAAS and....

I can hardly wait to get back to the barn- 5 more days left or 10 chore times remaining.



**AUCTIONS?**  
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See page 23.



## Clothes Dryers Fires, What You Need to Know

By Dennis Gannon

Did you know that one of the most devastating and quick spreading fires comes from an appliance almost everyone has in their home and hardly gives it a second thought? That appliance is your clothes dryer. Whether it's powered by electricity or gas, it is an appliance that most take for granted, dries our clothes quickly, usually requires little maintenance but if proper care isn't taken, can cause massive destruction. In fact, the National Fire Protection Agency indicates that annually there are thousands of fires caused by residential clothes dryers. The primary cause, lint. Lint, which is highly combustible, must be cleaned from the lint filter after each load to allow air to circulate freely through the dryer. When

the airflow is restricted, clothes take longer to dry which is the first indication that there is a problem. Clothes dryers have at least one operational thermostat, a high-limit thermostat, and a thermal fuse. The operational thermostat is designed to measure the temperature of the air flowing through the dryer, the temperature of the air that is drying the clothes. If it malfunctions because of no airflow, the heater box will continue to rise in temperature resulting in a dangerous situation. Dryer fires typically originate from two places, dryer venting and the lint trap. Here are some tips on how to avoid an avoidable fire. Use rigid or semi-rigid sheet metal venting material, never plastic. For best dryer performance, use the shortest, straightest vent length possible, and use a louvered or box hood style to cap your vent outside. All dryers should be vented to the outside and be sure you can feel air flowing out of the vent to the outdoors when the dryer is on. Inspect the venting system behind the dryer and replace any pieces that are damaged or crushed. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for installing the dryer and vent system. Keep the area around and on top of the dryer clean and free of clutter. Thoroughly clean the vent system if you notice your drying times have increased. Clean the back of the dryer where lint can be trapped in the venting system

as well as around the electrical outlet twice a year. Use the dryer as it is meant to be used, not abused. Look at the product labels and instructions for washing and drying. There are certain plastics, rubbers, and synthetic foam materials that should not be dried in the dryer. No matter where your laundry room is located, place a smoke detector on the ceiling above the dryer. Never leave your dryer running when you leave the house nor when you go to bed for the night. Many duct cleaning companies are equipped to clean dryer ducts and kits for dryer duct cleaning can also be purchased at major home improvement stores. For more information on dryer safety contact your local fire department who will be able to assist you.





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# QUILTING

## Celebrate 30 years of quilting with The Georgian Bay Quilters Guild

By Sue Hopkinson

It seemed like a good idea 30 years ago, when a group of women in the Midland/Penetang area decided to start a quilt guild. Quilting had always been a prominent part of the rural community and was once again gaining great popularity with new sewers. The Georgian Bay Quilters Guild held its first meeting the 4th Wednesday night of March 1993, and we have been meeting ever since. There was a large gathering of women from young to senior, and skills from beginner to masters, and we shared our knowledge and learned from one another.

Just like the world has changed, so has quilting. In 1993 most quilters finished their quilts with hours of hand quilting. Now the superb quilting machines available have totally changed the world of quilts. It is rare now to see a hand quilted quilt, but the many machine quilters in our community do stunning work. It certainly allows us to make more quilts than we will ever need, but like any other crafter, we need to keep making quilts because we can't stop buying fabric and supplies.

In 1993 nobody made quilts with flannels or batiks, which are so popular now. Quilts were geometrically built in blocks, or delicately appliqued. Now we see abstract quilts with frayed edges, embellishments, free form stitching, bright and bold colours. Somewhere along the

line, the quilts jumped off the bed, onto the wall, and became Art Quilts, amazing landscapes, 3D flowers, memory quilts with photos and so much more. It is hard to keep up with all the

new ideas. There are tools for everything, much of our fabric now comes in a pre-cut form, and the choice of books and patterns seems endless.

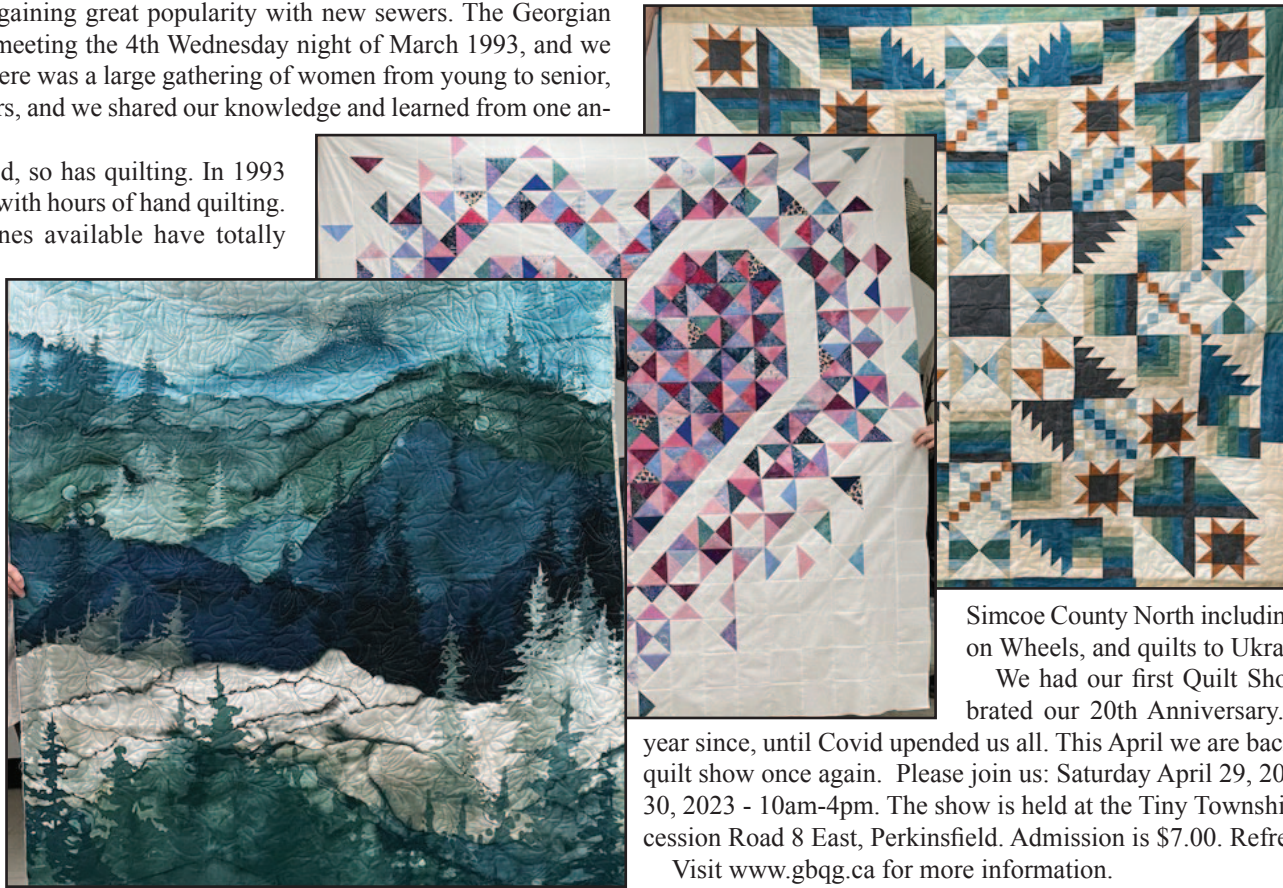
The guild has done so many things over the years. We have brought well over a hundred speakers from Canada to be our guests at our meetings and present a trunk show of their quilts. We like to have a workshop with quilters to learn new techniques.

We have provided quilted items to various community agencies in

Simcoe County North including seasonal placemats for Meals on Wheels, and quilts to Ukraine Newcomers.

We had our first Quilt Show April 2013, when we celebrated our 20th Anniversary. We have had one every 2nd year since, until Covid upended us all. This April we are back, and very excited to have our quilt show once again. Please join us: Saturday April 29, 2023 10am-5pm & Sunday April 30, 2023 - 10am-4pm. The show is held at the Tiny Township Community Centre, 91 Concession Road 8 East, Perkinsfield. Admission is \$7.00. Refreshments \$5.00.

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Piecemakers Quilt Show • Pyramid Recreation Centre  
St. Marys • April 20th, 21st & 22nd  
[www.huronperthquiltersguild.com](http://www.huronperthquiltersguild.com) or  
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## Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

### Humour to age by

When I was young, I was a poor golfer. But after years of play and practice, I am no longer young.

I've come to the conclusion that I have a memory like an Etch-A-Sketch... I shake my head and forget everything.

Used to be Rock around the Clock, now it's limp around the block!

My new SUV has a button that says 'rear wiper.' I'm afraid to push it.

Getting older is hard. I used to wake up feeling like a million bucks. Now I feel like a bounced check.

Remember when you could refer to your knees as right and left? Instead of good and bad!

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years (just getting over the hill).

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

## Winter Wisdom

Welcoming the longer days of sunshine has been a blessing yet I am still holding onto winter and all of the magic that comes with it. Often the long nights, short days and cold brings out many people hoping that winter will speed up to welcome spring. With each season, Mother Earth brings with her lessons and wisdom that we can all embrace in spirituality. I have so many fond memories of winter activities on the farm that continue today. The joy of the diamond-like sparkle glistening across a calm field on a sunny day after a fresh white snow fall always brings a beaming smile to my face. For us to flourish spiritually we need to feel connected to each season and cycle. Each season brings with it special offerings and Winter is one for many to take the time to slow down, recharge and reconnect with themselves. Taking time to reconnect with yourself asking questions and reflections on what makes you happy can nourish your soul. I know that spring is just around the corner but finding joy in each season and reconnecting with how much our childhood loved Winter activities such as tobogganing with friends, catching snowflakes on our tongues and sipping hot chocolate by a fire after playing in the snow all day can remind our spiritual being about the balance of our seasons and that each plays a critical role.

For those of you that do not find as much joy in the Winter season as others, I thought I would share these 12 affirmations for Darker Days by Lara Ruddy to help brighten your days. She put these affirmations together for those missing the sun during the darker days of winter. These affirmations are intended to be used regularly to help illuminate your inner glow and spirit. Take some deep breaths in and out before you get started saying these affirmations.

My inner flame is bright and alive  
I ignite my soul by doing things that I love  
I choose to say yes to my passions  
My heart is luminous  
I move forward with purpose and brilliance  
My personality dazzles gleefully  
I feel gleamingly joyful  
My truest essence is vibrantly awake  
Sharing laughter keeps my heart bright  
My life is radiant with blessings  
I am abundant  
I celebrate the overflowing well of energy

Let these words settle into your bones and warm you from the inside out. Wishing you all a wonderful March.

In Gratitude,  
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## The South Simcoe 4-H Association had a fun and successful Rally Night



Photo and story provided by South Simcoe 4-H

The 4-H South Simcoe Association hosted their Rally Night February 4th at the Angus Recreation Centre. Members, friends, volunteers and parents came and met leaders and learned about the 4-H and Cloverbud projects being offered in South Simcoe this year. We also went ice skating and had a great time. If you are between 6 years old to 21 years old you might want to check out the Ontario 4-H website at [4-hontario.ca](http://4-hontario.ca) to see all the youth opportunities available and how you become a member. Most 4-H South Simcoe clubs are getting organized now and start in March and April.

## Peterborough County Farmer Receives Sheep Pasture Award

Todd & Jennifer Payne of Asphodel Sheep Company in the Norwood area of Peterborough County are the recipient of the 2022 Ontario Sheep Pasture Award. The award sponsored by MAPLESEED, the Ontario Forage Council and the Ontario Sheep Association, was presented today. For their environmental and pasture improvements and management, the recipients will receive \$250 and a bag of forage seed.

The Asphodel Sheep Company operation includes a breeding flock of 800 and basically depend on nearly year-round pasture. The pasture utilization includes rough land pasture for the dry mature ewes which includes mostly orchard grass and the improved tillable pastureland for grazing replacement lambs contains a mix of orchard, perennial ryegrass, and alfalfa on the seeded acres.

As Todd comments, "We really pasture year around." They strip graze corn and graze sorghum after last cut until frost and have also grazed crop residue. Use of a bale-unroller with the ewes on corn stocks also works well. The Payne's are strong promoters of rotational grazing and using portable net fencing with a solar energizer.

Todd emphasized, "It is very important to

supply fresh water to the animals and he has a 1500-gallon portable water tank on a 10-ton trailer, which allows us to put sheep on land that would otherwise be unused."

Environmental stewardship has always been top of mind for Todd and Jennifer, and they have participated in the Environmental Farm Plan Program. They are trying to incorporate grazing cover crops, that are planted after wheat harvest.

Ray Robertson, Manager of the Ontario Forage Council commented that

The deadline for applications for the 2023 MAPLESEED Beef Pasture Award is November 30, 2023. For details, call the Ontario Forage Council at 1-877-892-8663 or visit either the Ontario Forage Council website at [www.ontarioforagecouncil.com](http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com) or Ontario Sheep website at [www.ontariosheep.org](http://www.ontariosheep.org)

The Ontario Forage Council presents Profitable Pastures in webinar format again for 2023! Three live webinars airing daily from 8 - 9 pm from March 7-9, 2023. Visit <https://onforagenetwork.ca/event/profitable-pastures-2023/> for information and to register for this free event.

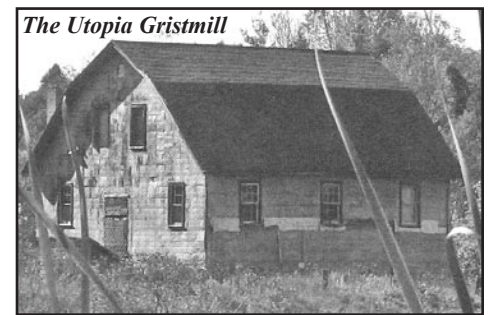
## Soupalicious in support of Utopia Gristmill project

Story by Roslyn Watkins

This past February, just in time for the Super Bowl, the Happy Hens of Utopia hosted a teaser Soupalicious event to raise funds for a new roof at the Utopia Grist Mill. The Soupalicious fundraiser is typically held each fall at the Utopia Hall but the group thought it would be fun to host one in February and also provide Super Bowl snacks for sale. The event took place on February 11th from 11 am to 1 pm and was so successful that the soups were sold out by noon. When asked about the Utopia Gristmill, volunteer Joe Pantalone explained that not only are funds required to repair the roof, but it is a specialty roof and finding a roofer with that type of experience and expertise is a bit of a challenge.

Friends of the Utopia Gristmill are currently fundraising to restore the mill to its' original glory.

Stay tuned for the date of the fall Soupalicious fundraiser. A tasty event you don't want to miss!



The Utopia Gristmill



Pictured to the right in the above photo is Michael Smith, Deputy Mayor of Essa Township. Deputy Mayor Smith stopped in at the Soupalicious fundraiser to pick up homemade hummus, pretzels and a few jams and jellies. To the left is volunteer Joe Pantalone.

—photo by Roslyn Watkins

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# Ontario Agricultural Conference

## Corn prices set to increase

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Steve Kell of Kell Grain Elevators at the Ontario Agricultural Conference linked his expertise as a Grain Merchandiser and crop farmer in Simcoe County to present a highly informative and interesting discussion on Maximum Returns in 2023.

"Drought has been the dominant crop production story in many parts of the world in 2022, but has created the higher prices we have enjoyed," he said in his opening remarks. The USA crops were not good, South America weather was not good and the War in Eastern Europe between Russia and Ukraine were the next three big contributing factors.

According to Kell, the #1 important crop in North America is corn. He says that the USA 2022 crop of corn is the third smallest corn crop in the last decade.

The corn crop "sets the stage" for the crop year. The North American corn crop is used, on average, for 1/3 ethanol production, 1/3 for livestock feed and 1/3 for export and industrial corn users. There is now, Kell says, "less than 10% of the North American corn crop left over from the old crop and that corn could be in transfer in transit." He says this small amount means that, "the average price of corn will be 8% higher this crop." The price of corn is now about \$7.00 a bushel and the prediction is, it will be about \$8.40 a bushel for new crop.

"If the opportunity for selling comes for LESS than last year then do not take it," Kell advised.

Ethanol production has returned to pre-pandemic levels meaning "ethanol production has recovered, restoring the 1/3 of corn demand in North America," he said adding that the increasing use of electric vehicles may change this one day, for now it does not have an impact.

Wheat crop prices may not be so good in Ontario this year, due to the fact that there is a huge increase in wheat production.

"A really nice fall meant we (crop farmers) went crazy planting wheat this fall," Kell says adding that in fall 2021 there was 535,000 acres of wheat planted and in fall 2022 there was 1.4 million acres of wheat planted which is 2x the normal amount.

Unless there is a lot of snow and ice causing damage to the crops in March/April, Ontario is looking at a huge wheat crop this year. "We need to seriously think about how it (our wheat crop) gets used up. Ontario's 2023 soft red winter wheat crop could turn out to be as much as 5x the domestic milling demand," he said adding this new crop will have to go into other markets.

According to Kell, nearly every year in Ontario at wheat harvest of late August and early September, the cash price of soft red wheat and corn comes to the same price. He predicts in 2023, to expect this to happen earlier and last longer

than usual. "The key for wheat producers is going to be to avoid having to make sales in the harvest time," he said.

He said, on average, the wheat crop got in early and it looks good. "For farmers in Ontario, we have the advantage of being a short truck ride to a boat for exporting. I am coaching people to not be lazy and have a plan for the wheat crop this year and get in front of the collision coming at harvest time," the crop merchandising expert advised.

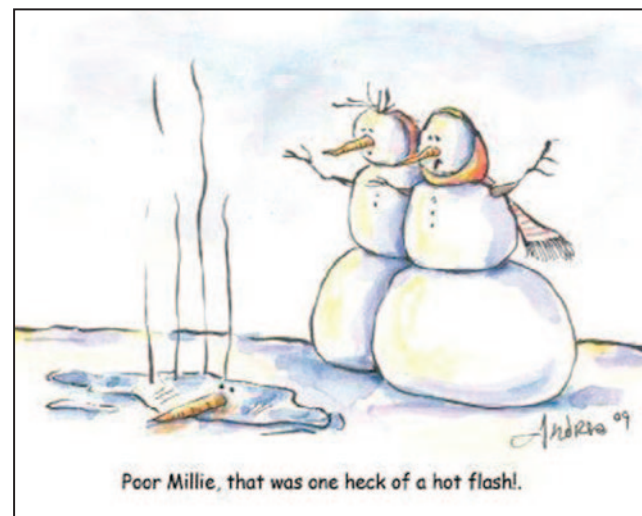
Soybean markets will depend on South American weather in January as "that is our August, our harvest time" he said adding that South America is on track for a huge soybean crop. Last year's soybean crop in Brazil was impacted by LaNina which brought drought.

"Even dumb people get good prices (for soybeans) when (South America) is in a drought," he said adding that with two small crops in a row from South America prices are high now for soybeans and "old crop prices are higher than ever." He predicts more soybeans will be planted than normal in North America in light of the current good prices.

According to Kell, Brazil and Argentina, both in South America, produce 48% of the world's soybean crop. Canada grows 2% of the crop.

The top Wheat producing country is China, followed by India, followed by Russia. Ukraine is the 7th largest wheat producing country in the world. The War between Ukraine and Russia means, Kell explained, that Russia at 16% and Ukraine at 10% equals 26% of the global wheat production is on the line which "is how wheat prices got so high. Russia wheat imports are down and Ukraine is producing half of its wheat crop due to the War."

The War between Russia and Ukraine continue to have an effect on crop prices around the world.



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# Ontario Agricultural Conference

## Positives in agriculture in climate change

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

"Corn Fields Work as Giant Air Conditioners."

Dr. Jeffrey Schussler of Schussler Ag Research Solutions is a research scientist. He has a Ph.D from the University of Minnesota in Plant Physiology. Dr. Schussler has a very different opinion on climate change- there is nothing to fear as only gains will be seen for those of us living in North America. He does not agree with the fear that is being spread out from reports that there is a bleak future of drought and little opportunity to grow high yielding crops.

Those of us fortunate to live in North America have the responsibility to give food security to the world, the unique thinking Dr. Schussler told the audience at the Ontario Agricultural Conference.

According to Dr. Schussler, the source of greenhouse gases in the world is transportation at 29%, Electricity at 25% and Agriculture is 10%.

"The heat wave index (maximum temperatures and duration) has not increased over the last century in the USA," he claimed clarifying that rainfalls and winds are what that has increased in this time of climate change.

"Higher intense rainfall events are bad, increasing the risk of later planting... and for delayed harvests," he said adding that "we are getting a lot of rainfall events with 4 inches or higher at once."

The heavy rain events have caused corn researchers to develop a different style of corn that will not be as damaged in storms. "Reduced plant height by 25-30%, from 10 feet to 6 feet in height reduces the impact of damage," he explained adding that this new concept proves how serious research is in North America.

He said the positive in that "annual rainfall has increased in the last 20 years" on average in North America. He claims, "The frequency of severity of drought in the USA has not increased and we see no obvious trend of drought over the last 100 years."

What has changed is the higher solar radiation. This means, in basic terms, the energy emitted from the sun has increased. And, according to Dr. Schussler, this is good news for agriculture.

"High solar radiation is good for corn. Western corn belt

(has seen) high yields due to light intensity vs. earlier corn yield. Corn fields are large scale solar panels. More sunlight energy- more yield," he said. He said there is clear evidence of this. "Solar brightening (radiation) contributed to approximately 27% of the US Corn Belt yield trend from 1998 to 2013."

Another positive from climate change is the increased time of the sun radiation meaning more growing days in North America. "There is an opportunity to increase the growing season for another 30 days, one more month to grow crops," he said adding this could be significant for cover crop growth. He predicts the possibility of another 70 bushels per acre with another month of growing season in the corn crop.

"Corn (fields) work like a giant air conditioner," the scientist stated. He explained, "High productive intensive agriculture regions can actually reduce maximum daily temperatures in the summer via transpiration of water through extensive crop canopies."

The "air conditioners" though have side effects- and this is the reason for the increased number of night storms, according to this unique thinking scientist. He claims, "The bad news is that the crops pump much water into the atmosphere and that causes the intense rain storms at night we get now."

"Has climate change hurt our crop yield in North America? NO," said Dr. Schussler adding that "crop water deficits likely will decrease in the future. I predict yields to go up here in North America."

The world impact of global climate change is a much different picture then here in North America, he stressed. There will be increased heat and increased drought in other areas especially those close to the Equator.

"Production of agricultural products will increase in North America- and it is our responsibility to feed those that are not here," he said adding, "we are blessed to farm in the best region of the world for corn production in the 21st century. We are responsible to utilize our environmental advantages, as well as our access to superior technology to help counter more negative impacts of global climate change in other regions of the world."



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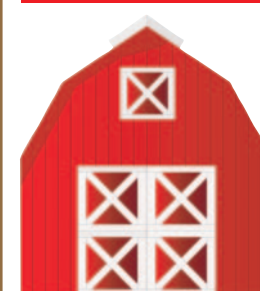
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## Guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner at the Flos Agricultural Society Annual General Meeting



Pictured above is Al Beardsall. Al received a special recognition for his many years of support of the Elmvale Fall Fair.

Over 80 members, volunteers and guests enjoyed a wonderful roast beef dinner, catered by the ladies of St. John's United Church in Elmvale, on January 24th. After the dinner, which included a wonderful selection of homemade pies, President Doug Ritchie started his presentation talking about the challenges of the pandemic years and all the community building activities that the Ag Society provided in those years. Everyone joined in celebrating the successes of the 160th Elmvale Fall Fair that was held last Thanksgiving weekend. Over 11,000 guests came over the two days in spite of some inclement weather. Special tribute and presentation was made to Al Beardsall in recognition of the valuable help Al and his band "North of 60" have made for many years. Plans are already underway for the 161st edition of the Elmvale Fall Fair, this Thanksgiving weekend.

After the annual election, this is the executive for this year:

Brenda Munshaw, President

Tanya King, 1st Vice President

Pat Leonard, Secretary

Doug Ritchie, Past President

Lori Townes, Treasurer

Matt Garwood, 2nd Vice President

Congratulations to all involved and all the best for the road ahead.



Story and photos by Dr. Tim Henshaw

Pictured above from left to right are Brenda Munshaw, President, Tanya King, 1st Vice President, Pat Leonard, Secretary, Doug Ritchie, Past President, Lori Townes, Treasurer, and Matt Garwood, 2nd Vice President.

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