

46th year of publication **FARM VIEW**

July 2023
Volume 46 #07

A newspaper with something for everyone

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Gardens**

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**Best Rabbit of the show at
the 2023 Schomberg Fair's
Dominion Rabbit and Cavy
Breeders Association Show.**



**Complimentary copy for
the FARM household**



Jill Dunlop MPP SIMCOE NORTH

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

- Ontario food processors now have even more options to increase their energy efficiency through funding from a new \$10M initiative.

FIND OUT MORE:

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002871/governments-helping-agri-food-processing-businesses-lower-costs>

Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance

- Ontario is investing more than \$343 million over five years to support agri-food research and innovation through this new agreement.

Jill.Dunlopco@pc.ola.org
705-326-3246

JillDunlopMPP.ca



Springwater's Cultural & Heritage Advisory Committee is hosting a Doors Open Simcoe County Event and are looking for vendors to participate in a farmer's market.

Event Details

**Where: Anten Mills Community Centre
3985 Horseshoe Valley Road W**

**When: Saturday, August 26 &
Sunday, August 27, 2023
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
(Including set up and take down)**

Details: No fee for vendors to participate, but does require a commitment for at least one full day

**If you would like to participate or would like more information, please contact
clerks@springwater.ca**



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.

July 6th: Ontario Forage Expo 2023

Forage Expo 2023 - Forage Equipment Demonstrations and Trade Show will be hosted by: The farm of Barry Ribey and family, 857 Concession 12 Paisley, Bruce County on **July 6, 2023, 10 am – 3pm**. More details available in the article on page 23.

July 13th: North Simcoe SCIA Crop Walk

Annual Crop Walk hosted by the North Simcoe SCIA will take place on **July 13th from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.** Visit <https://www.greyagservices.ca/georgian-scia> for more information.

July 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the August issue of Farm View is **Friday, July 14th**.

July 15th: SSFA Golf Tournament

South Springwater Firefighters Association presents the annual golf tournament taking place on **July 15th at the Springwater Golf Course**.

Golf, lunch, dinner and prizes! *More details in the ad on page 13* or email south.springwater.firefighters@gmail.com

July 18th: Grey County SCIA Crop Walk

Technology will meet the dirt on **Tuesday July 18th, 2023**, when the Grey County Soil and Crop Improvement Association (SCIA) hosts its annual summer crop walk. The crop walk is free for members of Grey County SCIA, and \$10.00 for all others who would like to attend. They do ask for pre-registration in order to have accurate lunch numbers, so if readers are interested in joining in, please email: lorie@greyagservices.ca or call 519-986-3756 or visit <https://www.greyagservices.ca/georgian-scia>.

August 4th - 7th: Georgian Bay Steam Show

The very popular Georgian Bay Steam Show returns taking place **August 4th to the 7th**. Featuring John Deere equipment, a fun filled family event! *See the ad on page 21 for details.*

August 5th: Essa National Draft Horse Show

The 8th Annual Essa National Draft Horse Show takes place **August 5th & 6th at 7505 10th line, Thornton, ON**. This promises to be an exciting event not to be missed! *More details in the ad on page 6.*

August 24th - 27th: Barrie Fair

The Annual Barrie Fair takes place at **7505 10th line, Thornton, ON August 24th to the 27th**. Many exciting activities, shows and vendors! *See the ad on page 14 for more details and visit www.essaagriplex.ca.*

August 26th & 27th: Doors Open Simcoe County

The Township of Springwater's Cultural and Heritage Advisory Committee is hosting a special Doors Open event! The event will include a farmers market showcasing local farms! *For more details see the ad to the left on this page.*

September 22nd - 24th: Albion & Bolton Fall Fair

The Albion & Bolton Fall Fair takes place **Sept. 22nd to the 24th, 2023**. Visit boltontractorpull.ca for more details.

September 30th: Anten Mills Artisan Fair

Annual Artisan Fair takes place at the Anten Mills Community Centre and Park on **Saturday September 30th**. This years event will also include a Farmers' Market. Shop for unique items! Door prizes from each vendor! *See the ad on page 9 for full details or contact farmview@on.aibn.com*

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Fridges Help Feed Innisfil

Story Credit: Gurneet Dhani, Health Associate at the Town of Innisfil, Photo Credit: Town of Innisfil's Health and Wellness Team

Since June 2021, the Troy Scott Community Fridges have been increasing access to nutritious food for all Innisfil residents. The fridges provide a barrier-free approach to food security that allows people to access food when they need it with autonomy, anonymity, and dignity. Everyone is welcome to take food from the fridges and pantries at any time, in any quantity, as often as they need. People can access fresh and non-perishable donated food and personal care items at three Troy Scott Community Fridges. This includes locations outside the Innisfil Recreational Complex (7315 Yonge Street) and the Innisfil ideaLAB & Library's Cookstown Branch (20 Church Street) and inside the Innisfil ideaLAB & Library's Lakeshore Branch (967 Innisfil Beach Road), which is accessible during the operating hours.



Troy Scott Community Fridge, located outside the Innisfil Recreational Complex (7315 Yonge Street)

In 2021, the Town of Innisfil launched the Troy Scott Community Fridges to help address rising community food insecurity, which is when people or households do not have enough money to buy food. This project demonstrates the Town's commitment to enabling community health, wellness, and resilience, and developing a unified town identity through this shared opportunity to support our neighbours. In October 2021, the community fridge project was re-named in loving

memory of resident, business owner, and community builder Troy Scott. The Troy Scott Community Fridges aim to carry on Troy's legacy of generosity and kindness, which reached every corner of Innisfil.

Individuals, businesses, and organizations can support the Troy Scott Community Fridges by making one-time or recurring food or financial donations, or using the Fill the Fridge Donation Drive Guide to plan and execute a food or fundraising drive. Please follow the food donation guidelines when donating. Acceptable items include pasteurized dairy and dairy products, Grade A eggs, produce, prepackaged breads and pastries, non-perishable dry goods, and new personal care items. If you are interested in discussing opportunities to regularly donate farm products to the fridges, please contact communityfridge@innisfil.ca.

Learn more about the Troy Scott Community Fridges and how you can support this neighbours helping neighbours project at innisfil.ca/communityfridges.



Mayor Dollin at the Innisfil ideaLAB & Library's Cookstown Branch (20 Church Street) location.

On the Cover



Inside this issue:
Meet the Farmer: Maric Gardens
OFAN Province-wide Bursary Program
CFPO discusses concerns over the future of Food
Fridges Help Feed Innisfil with the Troy Scott Community Fridge Program
Photos of the Schomberg Fair & Kawartha Antique Power 43rd Annual Heritage Show
Best Rabbit of the show at the 2023 Schomberg Fair's Dominion Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association Show.

This Rabbit is a French Angora and was exhibited by Julie Martin of Erin at the 173rd Schomberg Fair. For more photos of the recent Schomberg Fair, please see pages 18 & 19.

—Photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

DEADLINE for the August Farm View is July 14th.

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JD 468S (E89092) 2011, 4x6 MAX BALE SIZE, SILAGE SPECIAL, 1000 PTO, COVEREDGE NET WRAP, HYD PICKUP LIFT, BALE EJECT PUSH BAR, VARIABLE CORE VALVE, \$38,950.00

JD 450M (E89392) 2018, 4x5 MAX BALE SIZE, SILAGE SPECIAL, 540 PTO, COVEREDGE NET WRAP, BALE EJECTION RAMPS, HYD PICKUP LIFT, VARIABLE CORE VALVE, BALE MONITOR, \$57,900.00

JD S680 (E89077) 2014, 4WD, 473HP, 1500 ENG HR, 26'AUG., CONTOUR-MASTER, AUTOTRAC READY, PRODRIVE, 650/85R38 75% FS FRT, DUALS, 750/65R26 70% FS RR, \$304,130.00 • 2.99% for 60 Months Fixed

JD 640FD (E89214) 2015, 40', FLEX DRAPER, CWS AIR REEL, STANDARD AUG., JD-DBL KNIFE DRIVE, HYDRAFLEX HEADER HEIGHT, RIGID HEIGHT SENSORS, SPARE KNIFE, POLY DIVIDERS, \$82,900.00

JD 640FD (E89990) 2017, 40', CONTOURMASTER, AWS AIR BAR, JD KNIFE, STANDARD AUGER, HYDRAFLEX HEADER HEIGHT, RIGID HEIGHT SENSORS, POLY SKID SHOES, \$94,740.00

Hay Tools / Miscellaneous

TL TLR5000ECV (E90177) 2021, TUBELINE, AUTO CONTINUOUS ROUND BALE WRAPPER, UP TO 5', REMOTE STEER/SHUT DOWN/START, WORK LIGHTS, BALE DISPATCH SPRING ASSIST- \$32,900.00

ZZ RB-200 (E90123) 2016, ANDERSON, INDIVIDUAL BALE WRAPPER, 3PTH., MANUAL, COUNTER, WILL WRAP A 5'x6' ROUND BALE, MONITOR \$7,370.00

HO CHCF45 (E89369) 2018, HORST CHCF45 COMBINE HEADER WAGON, 4 WHEEL STEER, 11Lx15 HI-WAY SERVICE TIRES, 45' TOP RAIL, 30' WHEEL BASE, HD BOTTOM RAIL, \$8,950.00

UN 7200 CART (E89376) 2002, UN-VERFERTH, GRAIN CART, 740BU CAP, SINGLE TANG HITCH, CORNER AUG UNLOAD, 17" AUG DIA., 30.5x32 70% FS, FIXED AXLE, 540 PTO, ROLL TARP, \$30,000.00

HO CHCF40 (E89376A) 2010, HORST, HEADER WAGON, 4WS, 36' TOP RAIL, 30' WHEEL BASE, 11Lx15 HIGHWAY SERVICE TIRES, DOUBLE SPRING BALANCER TONGUE, LIGHTS, GREEN, \$6,950.00



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Future of Food

By Ed Scharringa, President of the Board of Directors for the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

"And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be left.'"
John 6:12 ESV

We have the capacity in Canada to grow food, good food, sustainable food, and yes, lots of it! Does that mean we tolerate food waste, measures to limit production by restrictions of do's and don'ts, and elites in positions of power dictating unsustainable practices?

And then there is the issue of food security. Our most vulnerable and financially insecure citizens are feeling the biggest burden of ever-increasing food costs. For many, it's going as far as meaning hunger. All signs point to this trend continuing and even worsening.

"Why is it happening?" one asks. Some sobering facts one can find... up to 40% of food in the U.S. goes to waste... 40 percent! Unbelievable, and Canada can't be far behind. That's 130 billion meals or \$400 billion a year.

The many elite and government officials are powerful and rich in the world. They have no fear of want or taking the food economy seriously. If they did, you would not see what we see today. Taking farms out of production, saddling carbon taxes on everything, and forcing reductions in fertilizers and plant protectants, even though the high costs already make one stewardly of its uses. We could go on. The livestock industry, the rules of inspections; the abattoir industry, the use of carbon producing fuels; lack of enough veterinarians - all contribute to higher costs.

Especially interesting is the difference in condemnation rules between our federal and provincial meat inspection rules. During our most recent CFFO Abattoir Committee Meeting, we learned that the federal inspection allows defects spotted in a carcass to be cut out and the process to continue, whereas the provincial inspection takes a defect as total condemnation of the carcass, to the complete loss for the farmer and abattoir, which ultimately adds to the increase of food costs, especially in proteins. The CFFO is taking abattoirs seriously and striving to address their issues.

With these pressures on our food systems, we can only expect costs to continue to rise. As farmers and producers, we like to champion that we are stewardly in production methods and are continually improving where possible. We have setbacks in weather, diseases, or out of control input expenses, of course, but overall, our food industry is one remarkable machine. From field to plate, we still have abundances. Thank you to all who are a part of this industry.

The other side of influence to food security is the movement against agriculture, against livestock husbandry, against modern productive methods developed in agriculture for the common good of all. One wonders "What are they thinking? That food grows on shelves? That we can cut back our farm

industries and production but still maintain a viable food security?"

If this trend is allowed to continue, one will only see more food shortages, higher pricing, and ultimately will lead to even more poverty and inability for many to feed themselves or their household. It makes one wonder how we have gotten to this point in a modern society. God created what we see and has made all things good for us to live from. Do we do right by tampering or even eliminating what was meant for good; our food supply?

This subject of food waste, production cuts, restrictive measures on inputs, our inspection methodology, and possibly more unknowns coming in the future has only just begun. One thing is already sure: we are victims to higher costs, shortages, and ultimate food insecurity is expected to continue, especially for many who lack the means of affordability, and that's all in a land of abundance...

Hands off the Greenbelt

By Roslyn Watkins



The community I live in is surrounded by farmland, forests and wetlands. A lot of that is being gutted on a regular basis in the name of 'affordable housing.' There isn't a thing that is affordable about the homes being built here, and I think the same thing is happening elsewhere. These homes are being built for the already established and well off, so they can move to the countryside and enjoy a different pace of life. I certainly don't blame anyone for wanting that, I love it here, but these homes are meant to help solve the housing crisis. How can that be when the lowest price is over a million dollars? We don't need more luxury estate lots and homes. C'mon Doug Ford, we all know the solution is build up, not out. For that you don't need the greenbelt.
—Photo by Roslyn Watkins

The Farm View is available at the following fine establishments

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EDWARDS FARM STORE
KEVIN BARKER AUCTIONS in Lindsay
DEREK'S DIESEL SERVICE INC.
STEWART'S EQUIPMENT in Cookstown and Stayner

The Farm View is delivered to these business between the 25th and 28th of each month and copies are available while supplies last. If you would like the Farm View mailed directly to your home, one year subscriptions can be purchased for \$49.00. Contact Roslyn at 705-722-0138, by mail 8 Luella Blvd Minesing, ON L9X 0W7 or email farmview@on.aibn.com.

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.

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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

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Lisa Hern 1-877-343-5444 email: lisa.hern@ofa.on.ca

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:

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SCFA Phone: 705-726-9300 ext 1224
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Contact YRFA: york@ofa.on.ca

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TRACTORS John Deere 2140 diesel c/w JD 240 ldr. Material bucket, 18-4-30 tires, 2300 hrs showing; Farmall A; Int. Cub 184 low boy; J.D AR serial #283052 (last month of production); Econoline Jim Dandy JD14 serial #41138 made 1977; Wheel Horse 14 hp modified; Gibson w/1F plow; Ford 600 gas tractor;

DOZERS Celtrac dozer with 7' Anderson blade, gas power 52" track; Oliver OC3 Celtrac 80" tracks, new motor & rear pto pulley;

GOLF CART Club Car gas powered; boat with trailer & Evenrude outboard motor (as is);

TRUCK 1969 International D2000 Cab truck tandem axle w/250 Cummins, 13 speed Fuller Roadranger RT0903 w/new Goodyear tires approx 3,000 miles new engine (subject to owners approval). (As is)

CAR 1952 Pontiac Stratochief 4 door 350 engine (as is);

BACKHOE Red Rock YTL-140-046 tow behind backhoe w/Ducar 270 cc engine (brand new never used).

EQUIP. container 20'; Martin 30' rd bale wagon dble reach, Tandem walker axle (neighbours). New Idea miniature single beater manure spreader; New Gorilla cart; miniature hay wagon; Homemade 13' SA trailer; Landpride 64" finishing mower; 3 ph buzz; 2-5' 3 ph bush hogs; 2 engine hoists (new); JD 7' SA snowblower; Ant. 3 wheel grader; small shop fork lift (not running); 1F Fleury plow; dump trailer;

RIDING MOWERS John Deere LA120; Kubota T1400; Ariens 5-14; Murray 15 hp; J.D. STX 46; Bolens, OS16; Ransom Bob Cat; 3 wheel 8 hp; MTD 13 hp; JD 111; 10 plus various other mowers not working;

MISC Yard Works snowblower; Yard Man SC-5 chipper; Troy Built CSV206 3 in One 6.5 hp vacuum chipper; Earthquake rototiller; plus approx 60 push mowers (some run some don't); 25 sheets chip board 4x8

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Emergencies, are you prepared?*By Dennis Gannon*

This year we have seen a significant number of forest fires in Canada. Not only in areas where we expect them but in others as well. Many families have been forced to evacuate from their homes. Ontario is seeing an increase in fires and extremely large ones. Canada this Spring has had fires consume almost more hectares of forest than the worst year in Canadian forest fire history. Forest fires may not be that common in southern Ontario but they could occur as many areas have large tracts of forest managed by the municipal government. Many allow recreational activities such as dirt bikes and ATVs. Tornadoes are by far more frequent in this area and many people can recall the devastating tornado that went through Barrie and surrounding areas in 1985. Technology has changed greatly since that time and now we can have almost instant alerts that severe weather is coming or happening. But are you prepared? Have you prepared a kit and plan in case you must leave your home quickly? What should we have in our kit? A simple kit consists of bottled water, canned food, manual can opener, energy bars and dried food. Remember your pets and have food and water for them as well. Consider medications that are required. You should also have a flashlight with extra batteries or a windup model and portable radio. Communications are critical during an emergency and a spare charger and portable battery pack for

your cellphone is recommended as well. Cell towers often have backup power but can become overloaded quickly with people trying to get a message out. Consider only using text messaging, emails or social media to keep the lines open. If you must speak directly and can't get through on the first try, wait 30 seconds or more before trying again. If you have a designated safe meeting place, keep it on your mapping app. Keep your contact list updated including your insurance company, work, schools, family and friends. Always keep some cash or checks and change as bank machines may become unavailable. Spare car keys and important documents should be kept with your kit. Consider having a digital file with you at all times. Lastly, have a first aid kit and if you have never taken a first aid course, consider doing so. Emergency responders will be overwhelmed initially and you may be able to help those in need. Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility, make it yours as well. For additional information check out the Government of Canada website, getprepared.gc.ca.

Emergency Preparedness

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Meet the Farmer: Eric and Margret Jelinski of Marric Gardens

“Marric Gardens: No to Sprays and Yes to Innovation”

Story by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Marric Gardens consists of 50 acres owned by Eric and Margret Jelinski. Together they operate a flower and vegetable garden through innovation. The farm employs no outside labor and has a strict “no spray” policy.

Eric grew up on his family’s farm near Durham. When Eric completed high school he decided to leave the farm to take on a career in engineering while his brother chose to stay with the family farm. After graduating from university in engineering, Eric began a career with Ontario Hydro working at Nuclear Generation Stations in Bruce, Darlington and Pickering. During this time, he met Margret. Margret grew up on an approximate 1 acre strawberry and vegetable farm near Tara, Ontario. The two married and purchased a 10 acre property near Ripley, and started vegetable farming. Eric decided to move in his career and accepted a job at the Darlington Station, however the long term plan was to retire and therefore purchased a 50 acre property and built a house that is their home now near Stayner.

Marric Garden is not the neat scripted patches of open soil and typical monoculture of plants. This Farm is not about being pretty, it is a working farm that strives to produce flowers and food, and be helpful to the environment at the same time.

In the off-season of gardening, Eric works for the University of Toronto teaching Nuclear Engineering. This job entitles him to the “worldwide library of research” which allows him to view early farming research before chemicals were invented. He says he is most grateful to have this access for research on early farming done with “no sprays.”

In the beginning there were no pollinator plants on this property. Pollinators were invited to live at Marric Gardens as a result of reviewing all that gardening research. Eric found the value of pollinators, especially for squash and flowers. One example of a pollinator plant is buckwheat. Buckwheat harbors beneficial insects that eat the larvae of the Colorado potato beetles. “We have no damage due to Colorado Potato Beetles here and we do not spray or need to put anything on the potatoes to not have the beetles,” Eric reports.

“I read that buckwheat is naturally home to beneficial insects to the garden. I planted three rows of potatoes and initially one seed drill width of buckwheat beside the potatoes. Turns out, the buckwheat was full of insects. Some of those insects eat Colorado Potato Beetle larvae. Without larvae, the beetle population will never get started. I don’t have to dust the potatoes with anything or deal with the residue after,” he explains. The buckwheat also works against other harmful insects.

Weeds are a major concern to gardeners. Weed control is a constant job and Eric had no interest in hiring workers or using chemicals to combat weeds. Instead, he looked at innovative ways to combat weeds. He says he learned, “If the soil is not covered, Mother Nature will cover the soil for you with seeds of her own.” He did some in field experimenting with cover crops and found there were some that would do natural weed control, be home to beneficial pollinators and not damage crops.

“Dutch White Clover will only grow to about 12 inches high. Clovers also add nitrogen to the soil. Clover’s roots are beneficial for bacteria and fungi to help other crops grow,” he explains, adding that he has tried a squash garden experiment.

“I planted clover in a one acre section and when it was high enough at about a month old, I planted squash right in the clover. The clover worked as weed control, and also attracts pollinators” he reported.

The plan this year is to do more planting in root systems of cover crops to combat weeds and to enrich the soil, naturally.

Eric specializes in fingerling potatoes which are smaller than the average potato at maturity and are considered to be a healthy and delicatessen option for restaurants. He also grows beets, garlic, squash, onions and carrots.

Anyone who has a garden realizes the huge amount of manual work involved in gardening. A 50 acre property of “no spray” garden could not normally be done with two people- but the equipment here is not anything close to “normal.” Eric uses his engineering expertise to

literally invent equipment that replaces manual labour. Eric has a machine shop and that is where he comes up with the innovative equipment. He has built his own 3 row potato planter and a potato harvester that can plow up fingerling potatoes, place them on a conveyor and drop them into containers. One of his newer ideas is to come up with a planter for cover crops and tiny vegetable seeds at the same time.

Margret has a thriving flower business specializing in hostas and daylilies. She sells seedlings and fans off full grown plants. One of the types of daylilies is “Perfectly Happy X Exotic Starfish” that is noted for keeping its color and form and does not bleach in the sun. To date she has introduced nearly 100 native plants with more to come. She says, “Spring is alive with the sounds of bees and other pollinators on the Crabapple trees and Lilacs that we have. We are in the process of adding native plants to the garden, both flowers and shrubs. A favorite of the bees, butterflies and birds is anise hyssop which I leave up year round so the birds can eat the seeds all winter. We also planted trees that are best for the birds. The oak tree has the most types of caterpillars so we plant many of them. Did you know that a chickadee needs 400 caterpillars to raise one brood?” she says.

There are many birdhouses at Marric Gardens, “We get yearly bluebirds, kestrels and brown thrashers nesting here. In early summer we get the tree swallows using several of the houses. We have to watch when we get to close to a swallow nest, or we will be dive bombed!” Margaret says. Marric Gardens is designated as a Monarch Way Station and a Wildlife Friendly Habitat.

There is a beekeeper with about 2 dozen hives on the property who collects honey for local markets. The bees also act as pollinators that are required for growing flowering crops such as squash.

Marric Gardens built a customer base first by attending weekly Farmer’s Markets in Stayner, Angus and Barrie. Both Eric’s vegetables and Margret’s flowers were well received but the workload was immense. “First we had to pack up everything for the Markets, then we had to unload it all at the Market, then pack up all the containers and any leftover products again to go home. It seemed we were always packing up or unpacking- and that got tiresome. We live on a busy road on route to Wasaga Beach that brings our customers to us, with a sign at the road now,” Eric says and adds, “We are grateful for our customers that come to us.”

The biggest challenge, according to Eric, for today’s small farmers are “the high costs that are passed down to the farmers from the government.” He says, “The carbon tax is added on to every part of the whole supply chain to bring food to the table, i.e.. energy transportation process from the refrigeration and fuel costs, that includes fertilizer, seeds, tractor fuel, trucking fuel, energy for refrigeration and processing, eg. to turn corn into cornflakes into boxes at the grocery store, that whole supply chain greatly creates the higher food prices. He adds, “Farmers are not the reason for higher food prices.”

The best part of farming at Marric Garden for these Farmers is to “see the same customers come back to purchase from us. We know when we see return customers, we are doing something right here.”

Marric Gardens is located at 11450 County Road 10 in Clearview Township, 12 km north of Angus or 5 km south of Sunnidale Corners. Marric Gardens have a facebook page.

They can be reached at marric.acres@sympatico.ca or 705-351-0295.

Leah Emms column will return next month...



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Fleurish Botanical Goodness; business with a heart for helping others

Story by Cathy Hamill-Hill, photo provided by Emily Day

Fleurish Botanical Goodness is no ordinary florist studio. Fleurish Botanical Goodness is a Minesing based small business studio that has two goals, to sell beautiful flowers to brighten people's lives and to help vulnerable women to get a better life.

The Founder and Executive Director of this business is Emily Day, a woman that has a heart for helping others. Emily began volunteering in her community for causes such as the Pregnancy Resource Centre in Barrie. She saw first hand, the effects of trauma and abuse on women and teens. Emily says her husband was also a big influence, working on projects with Habitat for Community in his construction trade. The two offered their home at one point to provide safe apartments for people in crisis. From all this, an idea was born "The Fresh Start Program."

The Fresh Start Program provides women with paid work to gain employment skills in the form of internship placement. The program is about giving women a chance that they might otherwise never get to start to rebuild their broken lives. The paid work internship takes place at Fleurish Botanical Goodness. Work placements can last for sixteen weeks or a year. Emily says "Each intern has a program that works best for her, no two interns have the same situation."

There have been 15 women complete the Fresh Start Program since its beginning in 2019. Some identify as special needs, some are high school drop-outs, and some were dealing with mental health challenges. Ages have ranged from 20 to 60 years old.

Graduates from the Fresh Start Program are sometimes barely recognizable at the finish. "One woman was dealing with so much anxiety; she hadn't been to a restaurant in 10 years. She came to our program and gained so much self confidence. At the end, she joined in at our Christmas party, held at a restaurant and she was so happy," Emily reports. She adds that "women that know they are learning employable skills have huge increases in their confidence. We see self confidence gains as one of our main positives of this

program." Others have gone into college programs and others found employment.

"We teach about how to build a resume- and we are happy to be listed as references on that resume," Emily adds.

The Fresh Start Program is a program that teaches employable skills. Participants learn the basics of managing a small business including how to manage the finances. They also learn the day-to-day work of a busy floral shop. There are 27 weddings booked for the wedding season at this point, Emily reports. Weddings are just one part of this floral shop; they offer a full range of flowers from funerals to birthdays to graduations.

"Renew Hope Society- Monthly Floral Subscription" is a monthly floral subscription program that is highly important to the Fresh Start program. For a fee, Fleurish Botanical will deliver a fresh floral arrangement each month and align this arrangement with any holidays during that month. This monthly plan must be pre-paid. This pre-paid subscription gives the chance for interns to work with planning out using seasonal flowers and designing unique ideas guaranteed each month.

For people interested in purchasing flowers, monthly subscriptions for flower delivery and for anyone interested in being considered for a future internship, please visit the website www.fleurishbarrie.com

Emily Day displays one of the many beautiful flower options.





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Funding supports young people choosing careers in farming, food production

By Tracey Arts, Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

We're nearing the end of another school year and for Ontario students who are graduating from high school this year, a brand-new chapter awaits them in the fall. Whether they're going directly into the workforce, pursuing a trade, or starting college or university, they're all making decisions about their futures.

As farmers, encouraging the next generation to choose a career in the agriculture industry is important. Canadian farmers are getting older – the average age is 56 – but our sector has long dealt with an ongoing struggle to attract enough workers to fill the various positions available throughout the industry.

Research has estimated the job shortage in agriculture to grow to 123,000 people by 2030 as the sector both continues to grow and older workers retire, whether from the farm or other positions in the industry.

Pursuing a career in agriculture offers a wide range of fascinating and fulfilling opportunities. The job offerings are broad, from traditional on-farm careers working with livestock or growing crops to research, equipment maintenance, quality control, food safety, construction, transportation, processing, product development, marketing, sales and beyond.

And there are emerging fields, too, that play increasingly important roles on the modern farm, like robotics, automation and artificial intelligence, to name just a few.

At the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), we believe strongly in supporting young people who wish to work in the agriculture sector.

We have a province-wide bursary program that provides three winners with \$2,000 to support their post-secondary education in agriculture. Applicants are judged based on demonstrated leadership skills, involvement in the community, and varied accomplishments in both school and the agriculture industry.

Last year, the program was expanded to also provide support to someone completing an apprenticeship and an individual completing a post-graduate or leadership development program. This was a terrific enhancement – agriculture, for example, needs skilled tradespeople as much or more than any other sector of the economy.

As our industry evolves, barns get bigger and automation



and technology become more widely used, the need for skilled tradespeople with an understanding of the unique needs of the agriculture industry will only continue to grow.

What I personally like about the program expansion is that it now also supports continuing education and personal growth opportunities for those of us in the industry who are a little further in our careers and are looking for new ways to learn and grow. For example, I just recently graduated from the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program, which is an executive-style development program for leaders – and potential leaders – in the Ontario agriculture sector.

Many of the OFA's county and regional federations also offer substantial scholarships and bursaries that can help ease the financial burden of pursuing higher education. Post-secondary education of any kind is expensive, so we're pleased to be able to help offset those costs by providing financial assistance for things like tuition, textbooks, and other educational expenses.

From my perspective, it's a win-win. I farm with my family in Oxford County and the local federations in my region are among those who are supporting the next generation with bursaries and scholarships. If we can encourage young people to pursue a fulfilling career in agriculture, no matter what direction they take, that's positive for our sector.

And it's not just OFA or the local federations that support young people with scholarships and bursaries.

A wide range of provincial and national businesses, organizations, and industry stakeholders as well as agricultural and commodity groups offer funding opportunities. The deadlines vary, but OFA has compiled a detailed list of available awards on its website that students can consult for more information.

It's an opportunity not to be missed for students, whether they're returning to school in the fall, starting into post-secondary education for the first time, or contemplating returning to the classroom for a continuing education opportunity.

Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

Forever a Kid at Heart

We were cleaning up our shed this week and I stumbled across this reminder of my childhood buried in the dirt floor under some scrap metal.

Close your eyes and picture a young Farmer Timmy, 40 years ago. He was a stealthy Ninja warrior wielding his homemade nun chucks, keeping the farm free from imaginary intruders. The hay mow was his battleground and square bales formed his fortress.

When he wasn't saving the farm from evil, he was inventing. An old wooden chair made the base of the helicopter. A heavy motor strapped to the back of the chair formed the engine and two 2x4s that formed the propeller sat dangerously close to the operator's head. Needless to say that I never got off the ground and I thankfully escaped with my head intact.

Some empty fly spray containers made a great jet pack and with several of them strapped to my back I could run faster than anyone.

Our old willow had branches that made the best bows and arrows. Baler twine served as the string for the bow but don't worry, it wasn't dangerous - if my arrows travelled more than a foot it was a success.

Armed with my imagination, the farm was my playground and I wouldn't have changed that for the world.

What are some of your fondest childhood memories?

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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Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum looking to the future

Photographs and story by Don Beaulieu

Local museums preserve bits of the past, largely from the pioneer era into the 20th century. Artifacts of early farming and main streets are preserved and displayed, showing us how towns grew, changed and prospered. Coldwater's Canadian Heritage Museum is an excellent example of a local museum, complete with a strong volunteer base to keep it viable, current and attractive to visitors. Not to mention making sure the original buildings and artifacts are safe and secure for generations to come.

Curator of the Museum is Patricia Turnour. Her and the board of directors take great pride in the museum and enjoy the support and enthusiasm from the town and sometimes beyond Oro-Medonte Township. Volunteers invite visitors to "awaken your senses and experience voices from the past".

The main attraction at the Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum is the Woodrow homestead. The original log house built in the 1830s remains in its original location, with the front portion, also built of logs, which was added in 1865. The original section had a dirt floor and this floor remained as dirt even after the addition was built, with wooden floors. The current wooden floor was installed; thanks to the local Lions Club. There was no indoor plumbing, as one may guess.

As it is currently, the original house presents an era of life circa 1840.

This is a big year for the Woodrow house. It is being cleaned (sandblasted) and a sealant will be applied. The chinking (the part between the logs) has been partially repaired so far, with the exterior being tended to in July and August. The area immediately surrounding the building will be fenced-off for a time, but access will remain to the interior, but for a day or two as work around the main entrance is done. The out-buildings will be accessible as usual. There will still be much to see and in fact, the preservation process may be something to see in itself; a brief moment in time to keep the old homestead around for years to come.

June was a busy month for the museum, hosting a variety of events including a recent vintage vehicle display and a host for the Coldwater and Area Studio Tour.

July will see the annual Woodrow Family Farm Day



Left to right: Avery Tofts is a historical interpreter, Patricia Turnour (curator) and Gord Smith (President, board of directors) posed for the camera in the Woodrow house. Each brings their own expertise to the museum. Tofts supplies youthful enthusiasm as she enjoys learning and sharing the history of the Coldwater area and early European settlement in Ontario.

happening on Saturday, July 15th. This event will feature live music, craft demonstrations, vintage steam equipment, a variety of vendors from the community, local heritage groups, a barbecue put on by the Lion's club, local authors, and more.

In addition to this one day event, there will be Community Days on Thursday mornings. This is a time to gather with fellow crafters. Bring your own fibre craft, lawn chair and a lunch to enjoy along the river. The museum's talented volunteers will have advice and instruction for those who need it. No experience needed in this supportive atmosphere.

A grand re-opening of the Woodrow house is anticipated for Saturday, September 2nd, and will include a re-dedication.

There is an outdoor pizza/bread oven at the museum.

This oven was recently built by volunteers in memory of Kelly Jolliffe, daughter of Past President Richard Jolliffe and resident black smith.

A recent display inside the main building, upstairs, is a large-animal veterinary display put together by Ian Webb. Tools of the trade and specimens in jars can be seen.

Something to delight the younger crowd is a new playhouse for children. Volunteers put in many hours in the construction of it. If you are not a child, you'll need to duck on the way in. And out.

Although self-guided tours are interesting, it is much more informative to have the insight of one of the museum volunteers point out the finer points and some inside stories of the artifacts. There is a large wood barrel that Wedgwood China was shipped in; a buggy made by the McLaughlin Carriage Company in Oshawa, before they became the McLaughlin Automobile Manufacturing Company circa 1905. The stories of how these items have ended up in Coldwater are very interesting.

Admission to the Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum is by donation. It's address is 1474 Woodrow Road, Coldwater and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Coldwater is located just off Highway 12, north of Orillia and a little south of Waubaushene in the township of Oro-Medonte. Close by is Highway 400 allowing easy access.



This view from 2005 shows the original log house (to the right) and the 1865 story-and-a-half addition.

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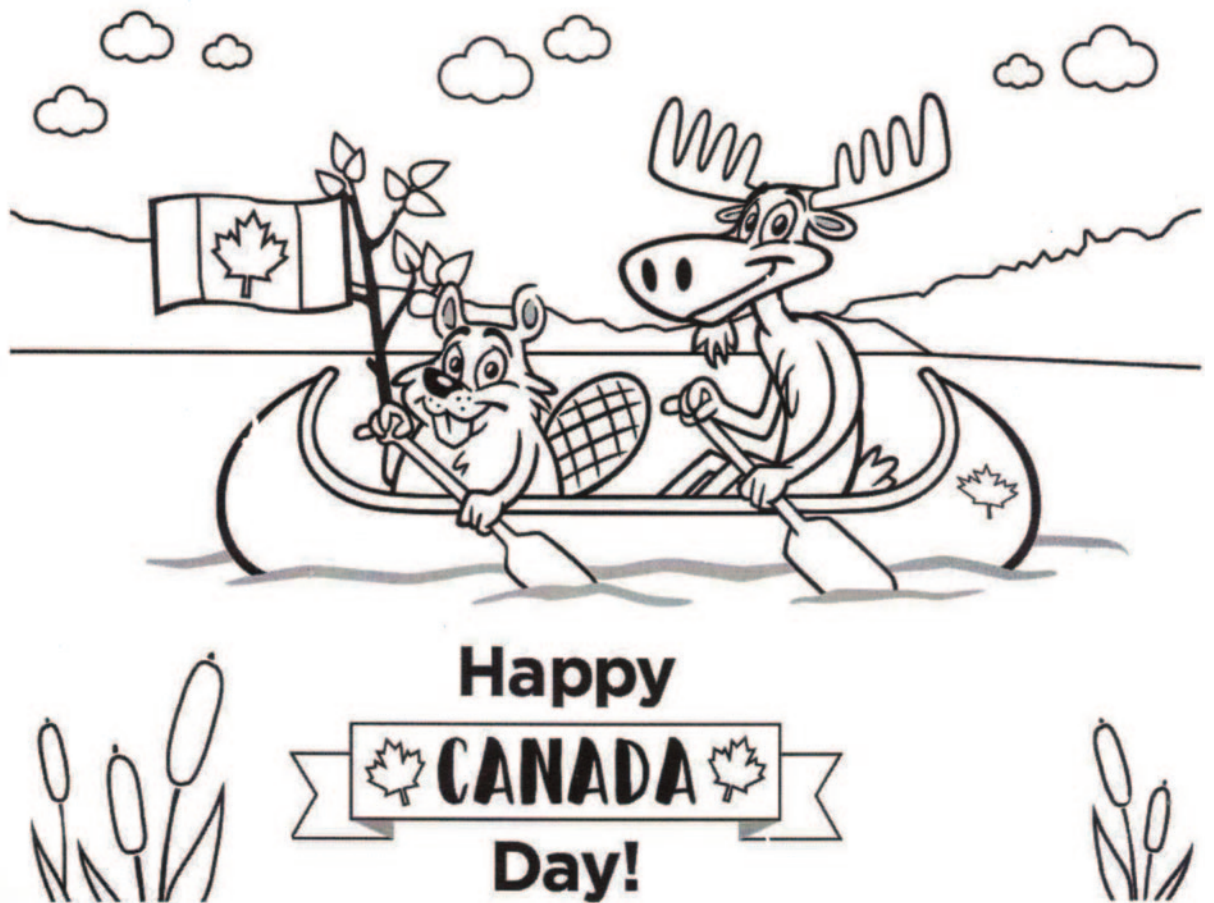



CANADA DAY WORD SEARCH

Below are our province and territory names plus their capital city names. A few have been somewhat split due to puzzle parameters. Names can be backwards, up or down, diagonal including diagonal AND backwards. Some letters may be used more than once.

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FREDERICTON	NUNAVUT	VICTORIA
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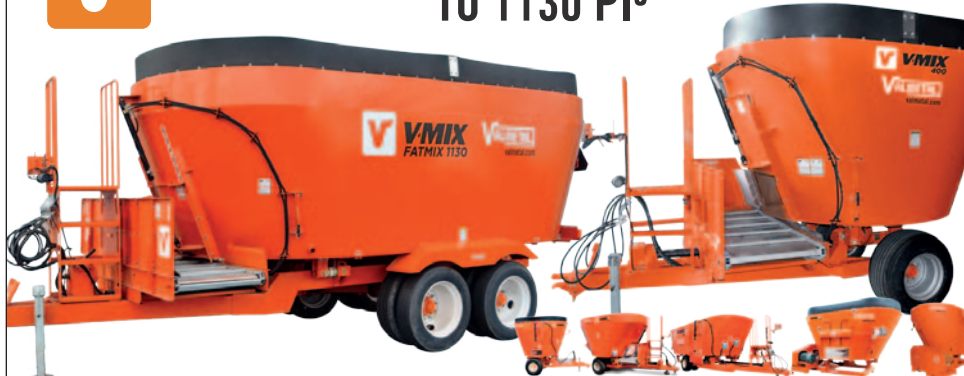
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Simcoe County 4-H is in full swing!

South Simcoe 4-H Cooking Club Pie Edition

By Brier Miller

Since my last article, we have taken part in three zoom meetings, making a different pie each time.

On May 13th the pies we made were key lime and lemon meringue. You had a choice of making either one, but I opted to make both.

To start the meeting, we started with the key lime pie. This recipe was a little different, as we used two cans of condensed milk and full fat yogurt. We also used regular limes as key limes are smaller and would take too many to get the amount of juice that we were looking for. This pie had a graham cracker crust, topped with a whipped cream border. This was the easier one out of both the pies. With the lemon meringue, we started with a thickened base, warming it over the stove adding in eggs slowly so they don't scramble and eventually adding the lemon juice and the zest to make that mouth puckering flavour. Topping it off with a whipped meringue and baked until golden brown. As much as I loved it, I took it to our cabin party, where my relatives sampled both pies and requested another round to be made.

The key lime pie was my favorite as it was scrumptious, and contained that citrusy flavour I love.

Our next zoom meeting was held on May 27th focusing on our local rhubarb season. Strawberry/rhubarb pie was on the menu. We were asked to have all our strawberries and rhubarb cut up ahead of time. There was also an option for making just a strawberry pie, if you were not a fan of rhubarb. Although I am a fan of ALL pies in general, Strawberry/Rhubarb is not high on my list of favourites. But my Grandpa was a huge fan! To prepare and soften the strawberries, we were instructed to soak them in a mix of sugar, water and strawberry gelatin. Once softened they were placed in the pie shell and baked to be enjoyed.

The 3rd meeting was on June 10th, APPLE PIE. Who doesn't love an apple pie?! Especially with a slice of cheese or a huge scoop of ice cream, AL LA MODE! We had our pie shells ready, and ready to be stuffed. Peeling, coring and slicing our apples was the first action item. We used granny smith apples, to get the flavour. The best part is we live in a community with the best apples, with so many varieties for baking, sauces and eating. We spiced it up, with nutmeg, cinnamon and sugar. My cousin Molly was over at our house and wanted to help, but I think she ate more than her weight in apples. Eventually, I had to kick her out of the kitchen so I could have enough for the pie. Once finished and in the oven, it was by far the best smelling pie to date, and had everyone asking for a slice once cooled. We sliced it up as a family and enjoyed for dessert, of course with ice cream and cheese! And Molly finally got a slice of the apples she didn't eat! Everyone raved about the pie, and I will keep this recipe for future baking!

Thanks again to all the leaders and participants for these great meetings and I look forward to the next few to follow. Until the next time we bake....

North Simcoe 4-H Judging Competition

Story and photos provided by North Simcoe 4-H

The North Simcoe 4-H Judging Competition was held Monday June 12th at the Elmvale Curling Club in Elmvale. 4-H members judged Pies, Strawberries, Holstein cows, Beef cows, Breeding Sheep and had a Weed ID Quiz. Special thanks to our sponsors; Elmvale Curling Club, North Simcoe Jr Farmers; Simcoe County Dairy Producers. We would also like to thank the Leaders and volunteers for organizing this event. It is a great learning opportunity to learn about animals and present themselves to a judge when giving reasons.

This years winners:

Senior:	1st Gary Arthur McIntyre 2nd Chad Bell 3rd Lucy McNiven & Jacob Ball	Junior:	1st Olivia Livingston 2nd Carina Jones 3rd Maeve Giffen
Intermediate:	1st Ben Livingston 2nd Luke Jones 3rd Kaleigh MacNaughton	Novice:	1st Katelin Young 2nd Kelsey Parnell 3rd Brynn Ormsby



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South Simcoe 4-H shares their recent activities

4-H Beeton and Bradford Dairy Club *By Isabella Cullen*

The 4-H Beeton and Bradford Dairy Club held its second meeting on May 23rd. Our meeting topic was how to judge a class and prepare a set of reasons to support our placement of the class. We judged dairy cattle, butter tarts and a few other classes. We had a great time and learned a lot of proper terms to use when giving reasons. Tasty refreshments were served and enjoyed by all. A thank you to the Downey family for hosting the meeting.

South Simcoe 4-H Games Club

By Madeleine Cullen

The South Simcoe 4-H Games club had its first meeting at McSenick Farms on May 26, 2023 at 7:00 pm. We started the meeting with some fun ice breaker games and elected our executive for the 2023 season. The members enjoyed playing a classic game of S.P.U.D, however we replaced SPUD with the 4 H's in order to keep the game on theme. After a fun game of SPUD members moved onto learning how to play euchre, which was taught by the leaders as well as the older members. The hope in learning how to play euchre is that members will be able to go play euchre with residents of a local nursing home. Overall, it was an awesome meeting with a good mix of fun active games and strategic games. We are excited to see what other games we will play this year!



Members of the South Simcoe Pie Club pose for a photo before digging in to their delicious treats! Read Brier Miller's club report on page 12. —Photo provided by South Simcoe 4-H

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The Kawartha Antique Power 43rd Annual Heritage Show

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



In the photo above is Harold Longhurst from Newmarket. Harold is a Kawartha Antique Power member and was a guest announcer for the Antique Open Stock Tractor Pull on Saturday. He said the Kawartha Antique Power Show was a highlight in his year because "it is such a fun time."



Pictured above is Val Hall of Lindsay, member of Kawartha Antique Power (KAP) operating a 1950 Cockshutt 30 tractor owned by KAP President Michael Bruce of Woodville. Val is a Past President of KAP. He says, "These old ways of farming are never going to come back so it is good to show people our farming heritage in Shows like this."



Pictured above is young Betty Garbutt enjoying Father's Day weekend with her Grandpa, Kawartha Antique Power member Jeff Garbutt, both from Keene. Jeff brought a tractor to display at the Show. Betty said the "best" part of this year's event was the new Candy vendor and her second favourite were the rows and rows of tractors on display.



Shown at left is Sam Arnott driving this 1952 Cockshutt 30. This 1952 Cockshutt 30 was part of the Antique Open Stock Tractor Pull which certainly was a crowd favourite at the 43rd annual Heritage Show.

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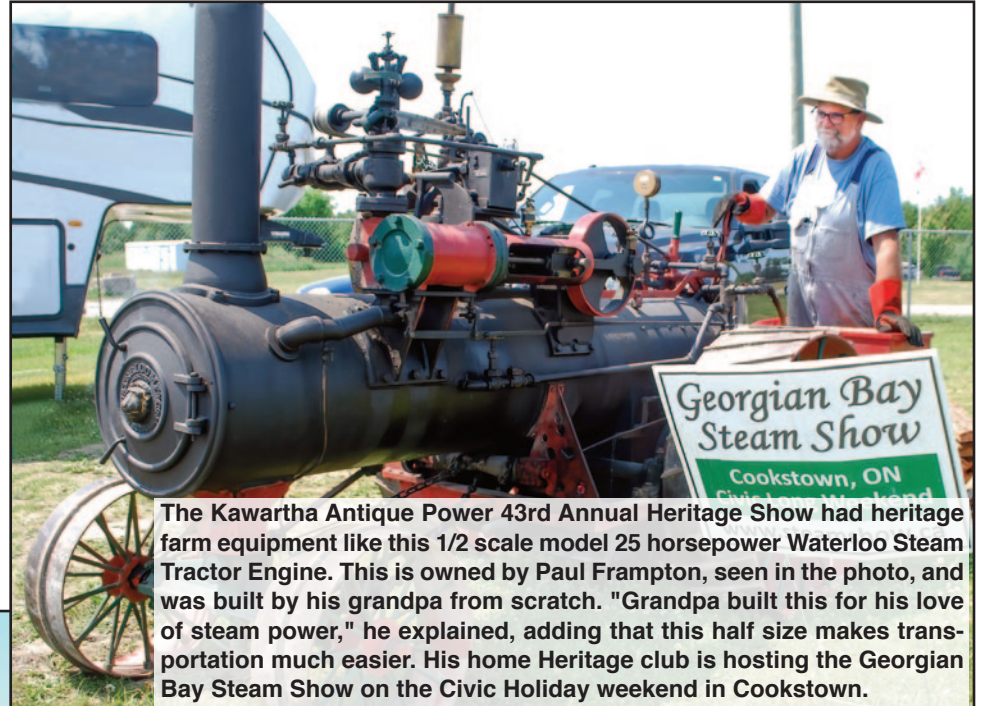
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The Kawartha Antique Power Show showcases 'The old ways of farming'

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Shown at left is Kawartha Antique Power member Harold Foster from Sutton. Harold is beside an Aeromotor that he owns that was originally made in 1910. A carpenter by trade, Harold likes to "buy old rusty stuff and then fix it all up like it was new again," he says, adding that he has several other motors at home. He explained that this motor would be used to pump water to the barn for the livestock and poultry.



The Kawartha Antique Power 43rd Annual Heritage Show had heritage farm equipment like this 1/2 scale model 25 horsepower Waterloo Steam Tractor Engine. This is owned by Paul Frampton, seen in the photo, and was built by his grandpa from scratch. "Grandpa built this for his love of steam power," he explained, adding that this half size makes transportation much easier. His home Heritage club is hosting the Georgian Bay Steam Show on the Civic Holiday weekend in Cookstown.



This George Brown Threshing Machine, pictured to the left, was built between 1935 to 1940 and has the special feature of windows to allow for the public to see how the threshing machine actually works. This Thresher is now owned by Kawartha Antique Power and it was included in the Guinness World Records for the most number of threshing machines running at the same time for 5 minutes set at St. Albert, Ontario in 2019. It takes a year of planning ahead for the threshing demonstrations held at the Heritage Show in Lindsay as the sheaves of grain needed for this Thresher must be harvested by a heritage binder the previous summer.

If you missed visiting the Kawartha Antique Power 43rd Annual Heritage Show, be sure to attend the 2023 Georgian Bay Steam Show! Full details in the ad on page 21.



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Hockley; an isolated village folded into a green valley

Time seems to have passed Hockley Village by. An isolated village folded into a green valley and located in the predominantly rural townships of Mono and Adjala, it seems apart from modernity, little removed from its heyday in the late 19th century when it was a thriving hamlet.

One of the first settlers to arrive was John McFarlane, who built a sawmill on the Nottawasaga River around 1837. The mill thrived, and soon other people began to put down roots in the vicinity. Soon, a tiny hamlet emerged in the shallow valley. Blessed with an entrepreneurial spirit, McFarlane built a general store.

In 1860, McFarlane sold his holdings – the mill, the store, even his home – to Thomas Hockley. Hockley pressed the government to grant the village a post office, and in 1863 his efforts finally bore fruit. As postmaster, it was his privilege to name the post office, and by extension the community, as he wished. With a lack of modesty typical of period postmasters, he elected to call it Hockley Village. Hockley didn't operate the store very long. By the late 1860s, he had sold the business to Thomas Martin to concentrate on his mill.

Martin was cut from the same entrepreneurial cloth as McFarlane and Hockley. In addition to running the store and post office, he also kept an inn and tavern called the Ram's Horn. He seemed unconcerned by the fact he didn't have a license to operate an inn.

Hockley Village developed rapidly to include a shoemaker, blacksmith shop, a school, and more than 100 residents. As the community grew so too did traffic through it, and soon a second hotel emerged catering to travelers. Located atop Gully's Hill, the fully licensed Fleming House was a frequent stop for stage-coaches and even played host to Adjala Township council meetings. Owner Samuel Fleming was known for his hospitality, and ensured his inn was among the finest around.

St. James Anglican Church, built in 1892, was involved in one of the most curious tales in village history. It seems there was something of a rivalry between the Anglican congregations of Hockley Village and nearby Mono Mills, and when St. James was built it put noses out of joint in Mono Mills. Not only was the church new and majestic, humbling their own, but it even boasted a baptismal font! This couldn't stand! Under the cover of darkness, several men from Mono Mills slipped into St. James, stole the baptismal font, and added insult to injury by nailing the door shut after they left. When they discovered their church had been despoiled, the congregation was enraged. Thankfully, cooler heads prevailed on both sides, the stolen font was returned, and the feud quieted down.

Hockley Village began to quiet down around the turn of the century. Bypassed by the railroads and with stage traffic drying up, businesses began to close one by one. The mill was the first to go, followed in due course by the others, leaving only the general store by the mid-20th century. Today, that too is gone.

The old-time businesses have long since disappeared into the mists of time, but Hockley remains a vibrant and impossibly quaint hamlet to this day.

Village stories

by Andrew Hind



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After The Chores: Missing

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



One constantly positive thing about farming- it is never calm long enough to get boring.

We have coyotes here, lots of them. The trail cam reports are all full of coyotes wandering around at night. In the winter, there are coyote tracks all over. Sweetie has given up deer hunting here, all he sees are coyotes

from his tree perch. As soon as it is dusk, the woods here often are full of yips and howls of the thriving coyote population.

Because of this coyote population, we make sure everyone is in the barn at night. Once, we went to a gathering of people that only lived in the city. We told them we “had to be home before dark.” The hosts agreed when we accepted the invitation. We got there to the hosts home early- and it was clear when we arrived there was no intention of following any timeline. The hosts had just started to warm up the barbeque- when we had to leave for home. We came home, did our chores and then went out after to a local drive through for supper. We never got a second invite but honestly no regrets, we choose to keep livestock so we must care for livestock.

There was no one to blame this spring. Sweetie and I are involved in one volunteer board and the night before was a meeting night. Meeting nights mean rushed chores.

The next morning, I go to do chores and meet a barn of extra hungry animals and a feeling of “something is wrong here” which often follows a set of rushed chores. This morning there was something REALLY wrong. A doe was yelling from the back pen, her udder was full. She was missing her twin buck kids. I looked around the barn and found nothing. These are little black and white LaMancha buck twins. I think back to the previous night and my heart dropped. I realized I forgot to do the official count of kids. I did a property search around the barn for the kids fearing I would likely see two little goat stomachs as coyotes often leave that part behind after a kill: I found nothing.

Farmers CARE about their animals at a level those that don't own animals will just not understand. The emotion farmers feel for dead or sick livestock is a soul wrenching feeling of despair and overwhelming guilt. “If only I...” and “I should have” are the two worst for me. Those bad feelings come with each bad incident in the barn which is normal I realize from social media with other farmers. I was going through all that “if only I/I should have” guilt and being alone, it was bad. Sweetie has got the “deadstock means you own livestock some days” truth memorized after all these years of living with me so he is a huge comforter on those horrible days that I try not to remember.

I was about as low as possible when I trudged to the house after chores. I had personally killed two BABY buck kids because of a stupid, preventable mistake of not being sure they were in the barn looped through my mind over and over and over. I was startled this day, out of my self hate, when I got to the house and saw the time. I tossed some stuff in my lunch box watching the clock and rushed to get washed up and into some respectable clothes.

My last step before leaving was to get Isaac off his outside tie-out to put him in his crate in the house. I was unclipping Isaac when my ears picked up a sound. I was sure I was hearing baby goats. I dropped Isaac's cable and just stared when the long grass moved in the space between the hay shed and the barn. NO WAY. IT JUST COULD NOT BE. I just caught Isaac in time before he got away and got him clipped back to the cable as I saw to my wondering eyes, the two little black LaMancha kids come out of the long grass! The kids were yawning and stretching, they just had obviously woken up from a long sleep.

The kids were yelling back to their crying mother by the time I got myself recovered enough to get them in the barn. There was not a scratch on either one of them. Sweetie said the kids must have tucked themselves in between the rows of big bales of hay in the hay shed. It must have been a tough night for the coyotes to smell goat dinner and not be able to get to them. I thank God for letting those kids stay safe and forgiveness of my mistake.

Now I count kids before I shut the door of the barn at night, every single time.



Meet Bessie

Bessie is a female Caucasian Shepherd who is approximately one year old.

Bessie is looking for her new home.

She is good with most dogs, other animals unknown.

Bessie's sister, Athena, is also available for adoption. Very sweet and friendly XL girls needing a home with some space.

Athena's photo is on page 20.

Both are at the Caledon Animal Shelter in Bolton
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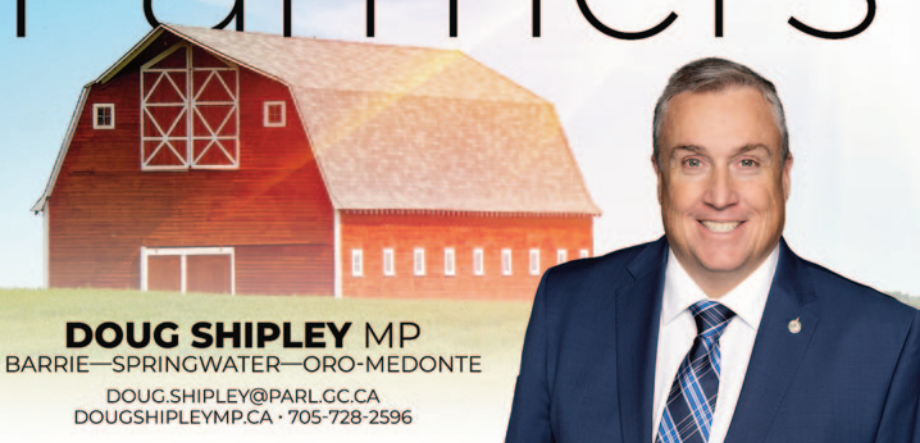
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Huge community support for the 173rd Schomberg Agricultural Fair

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Shown in the photo above is the Beef cattle judge for the 2023 Schomberg Fair, Brad Height from Arthur. Brad has been judging for four years. He is the owner of Height Land & Livestock Co. specializing in Shorthorns. He has shown his Shorthorn cattle across North America, including to Colorado, USA and to Western Canada for Agribition.



These adorable dogs, pictured to the right, owned by Darlene Baxter of Newmarket visited the Schomberg Fair in style and comfort. Darlene found this secondhand dog stroller for sale and decided it was the perfect way for her two rescue dogs, Katie and Reba, to see the sights at the Fair.



This is young Kaitlyn Cox from Alliston shown in the photo above to the right, getting some hands-on experience on how to get a dairy calf ready to show at the Schomberg Fair. Helping Kaitlyn is Rebecca Lange from Egbert. Showing livestock is a great way to meet new people and build friendships.



Maple syrup producers gather for OMSPA's annual Summer Tour

Large and small maple syrup producers and industry stakeholders are gathering in Perth, Ontario on July 19 to 23 for the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association's (OMSPA) annual Summer Tour, an educational conference focused on supporting the maple syrup industry in Ontario.

The event will consist of two days of tours to a range of sugar camps in the area, and one day of technical presentations at Algonquin College campus in Perth. The theme for this year's event is "From Here Forward.." and will feature topics relating to improving woodlots, production operations, marketing, and continuing education in a changing industry.

"We invite maple syrup producers of all sizes – from backyard to large sugarbushes – to attend and gain more knowledge about maple syrup production in Ontario while networking with other producers and industry leaders," said Dave Branson, Chair of the event.

The summer tour is open to both OMSPA members and non-members, and the program includes banquet guest speaker, Robert Hocking, a business and brand strategic specializing in consumer behaviour and innovation. Conference sessions will include topics such as woodlot management, operations, forest stewardship, and ways to optimize yields and sustainability. Exhibits from industry manufacturers will be on display throughout the conference.

Stops on the sugar camp tours will be spread across the region and will include Adam's Maple, Wheelers Pancake House, Sugar Camp & Museum, Canis Valley Maple, Century Maple, McEwen Acres, Golden Moment Farm, Gunnebrooke Farms, and Blair's Maple.

This event is sponsored by a range of industry leaders, including CDL, Dominion & Grimm, Lapierre, Hartington Equipment, Farm Credit Canada, among others.

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173rd Schomberg Agricultural Fair Theme: Through the Farm Gates

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



The 173rd Schomberg Agricultural Fair came together because of volunteers. Pictured above is Linda Jessop, a 40 year volunteer with the Schomberg Agricultural Society. Linda began helping with homecraft classes and is now part of the Executive. She reported that the Fair had huge community support with an incredible 6,000 wristbands purchased for the Saturday night demolition derby. The Schomberg Fair "is the first Fair held every year in Ontario," she said adding the 173 year old tradition is still going strong.



Pictured to the left is Alexander Ciavoliello from Milton. Alexander was showing a Shorthorn in the Schomberg Fair's Junior and Open Beef Show. The Schomberg Fair is the first in the Fair season in Ontario.

As seen on the front cover of this issue, pictured to the right, the Best Rabbit of the show at the 2023 Schomberg Fair's Dominion Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association Show. This Rabbit is a French Angora and was exhibited by Julie Martin of Erin. Julie purchased this rabbit from Sue Needle of Barrie, owner of Exquisite E Yarns and Rovings. Sue has been breeding Angora rabbits for over 40 years.



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Meet Athena

Athena is a female Caucasian Shepherd who is approximately one year old. Athena is looking for her new home. She is good with most dogs, other animals unknown. Athena's sister, Bessie, is also available for adoption. Very sweet and friendly XL girls needing a home with some space. Bessie's photo is on page 17. Both are at the Caledon Animal Shelter in Bolton animal.services@caledon.ca

Soul Sisters Celebrations

Happy July! Hard to believe we are in the second half of 2023 already. The sunsets are as stunning as ever and the hummingbirds are visiting throughout the day. Not a day goes by that I don't count my blessings. It's a good time to talk about even those positive moments that come from recognizing the blessings hidden within life's many disguises.

In a world often filled with challenges and uncertainties, it is vital for us to shift our perspective and uncover the transformative power of these hidden blessings that shape our spiritual journey. Throughout years of service and spiritual exploration, we have come to understand that every setback, disappointment, or adversity carries within it a sacred blessing, patiently waiting to be revealed. It is through our willingness to see beyond the surface that we embark on a path of personal growth, spiritual awakening, and a deeper understanding of our soul's purpose. One crucial teaching that resonates deeply with my heart is the concept that the Universe operates in ways that surpass our understanding. It orchestrates events and experiences with the purpose of supporting our soul's evolution. What may initially seem like a curse is often a blessing in disguise, designed to redirect us toward a more authentic and fulfilling path. So what do we know about hardships, you might ask. Well, we've had our fair share of disappointments, failures and losses. Just like you undoubtedly have; it's simply part of the human condition. From this experience, I have come to understand that blessings in disguise often require us to shift our perspective and trust in the inherent wisdom of the Universe. It is through this trust that we find solace in challenging times and discover the hidden blessings that lie within. When faced with adversity, I encourage you to take a step back and contemplate the situation from a broader perspective. Ask yourself questions such as, "What can I learn from this experience?" or "How can I grow from this setback?" By doing so, we open ourselves to the possibility of uncovering the hidden blessings that await us.

Additionally, let us embrace the power of gratitude. Expressing gratitude for both the blessings and the challenges in our lives creates a sacred space for healing and transformation. Gratitude shifts our focus from what is lacking to what is abundant, allowing us to attract more positive experiences into our lives. I urge you to embrace the concept of blessings in disguise. Through a mindset of trust, a shift in perspective, and the cultivation of gratitude, we unveil the hidden gifts within life's challenges. Within these blessings, we discover our inner strength, deepen our connection with the Divine, and embark on a transformative journey of personal and spiritual growth. As we traverse the intricacies of life, may we always remember that blessings in disguise are the Universe's gentle reminders that we are constantly supported and guided toward our highest good. Let us open our hearts to embrace these gifts, for within them lie the profound wisdom that will illuminate our path and fill our lives with grace. If you do happen to find out how a particular problem gifted you with a blessing, share it with everyone you know so they can benefit too. The more we openly recognize how we're fortunate, the happier and more content we will be. Let's change how we think about inconveniences, missed opportunities, and problems, because oftentimes, it is for the best; we might just not know it.

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Banana Split Roll Cake

Intro and photo by Roslyn Watkins

With Canada Day in mind I chose this family favourite from The Complete Canadian Living Cookbook. My mom gave me this cookbook when Shawn and I purchased our first home 20 years ago. It is filled with an incredible variety of recipes but this one in particular is made for special occasions. This cake is perfect for a potluck or BBQ as it can feed a crowd or you can freeze the leftovers. The only change I make to the original recipe is to 'marinate' the mashed bananas in the buttermilk and baking soda. This is a trick I use for any banana loaf or muffin recipe.

Enjoy!

(10 to 12 servings)

Ingredients

1/3 softened butter
3/4 cup granulated sugar
4 eggs
2/3 cup mashed ripe bananas (about 2 bananas)
1/2 cup buttermilk
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1- 2 cups whipped cream
1/2 cup of strawberry jam
Chocolate syrup (optional)
Maraschino cherries (optional)

Directions

Line a 17 x 11 inch rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper; set aside. Preheat oven to 350°F.
Whisk together flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon; set aside.
Stir together bananas, buttermilk and baking soda. Let stand for 5 minutes or so.
In a large mixing bowl beat butter with sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time. Stir in banana/milk mixture.
Fold flour mixture into banana mixture. Spread batter evenly in prepared pan.
Bake about 20 minutes or until top springs back when lightly touched.
Loosen edges with knife and let cool in pan on rack for 5 mins.
Invert onto a clean tea towel and peel off paper. Starting from a long side, roll up towel and cake into a spiral. Cool on a wire rack for 1 hour.
Unroll cake; remove towel. Spread Strawberry jam and whipped cream over cake to within 1 inch of edges. Roll up cake and filling into a spiral. Trim ends. Cover and chill for 2 to 48 hours before serving. If desired, just before serving, drizzle cake roll with chocolate syrup and/or garnish whole cake with whipped topping. If desired, serve with maraschino cherries.



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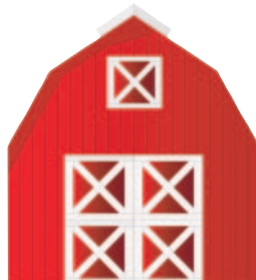
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Ontario Forage Expo 2023 “Hay Making in Motion”

The Ontario Forage Council (OFC), in conjunction with the Bruce County and Eastern Valley Soil and Crop Improvement Associations, are proud to announce the dates for Forage Expo 2023 - Forage Equipment Demonstrations and Trade Show.

This year we are fortunate to be hosted by:

The farm of Barry Ribey and family, 857 Concession 12 Paisley, Bruce County on July 6, 2023, 10 am – 3pm

This year's demonstrations will include equipment from the leaders in forage production equipment. Attendees will not only have the chance to see what's new for 2023 but will also have the unique opportunity to witness this equipment in head-to-head field trials! Equipment will include various mowers, conditioners, rakes, tedders, windrow inverters, mergers, harvesters, dump wagons, large round balers, large square balers, and a small square bale bundler. This event will provide the opportunity for farmers to view the latest technology available to harvest forage quickly with minimal loss and maximum quality. Ian McDonald and Christine O'Reilly, OMAFRA will

be in the field, working with the equipment companies to provide information to farmers and answer questions. This is important in making decisions on investments which ultimately enhance their farm operations in capacity, minimizing harvest losses, product quality and profitability.

This is a FREE event! Lunch will be available on-site at a nominal fee, and no pre-registration is required.

Trade show, demonstration and sponsorship opportunities are still available for this event. Spaces are limited and will fill quickly, so don't hesitate. Ontario Forage Expo is an excellent opportunity to advertise to a forage focused audience compiled of producers from counties across the province!

For interviews, more information on sponsorship/tradeshow/demonstration opportunities, or general information, contact:

Ontario Forage Council
Patricia Ellingwood
Phone: (519) 986-1484, or 1-877-892-8663
E-mail: support@ontarioforagecouncil.com

NVCA launches online store to help raise funds for conservation areas

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has launched an online store offering apparel and maple syrup for sale. The apparel includes t-shirts, hoodies, baseball caps and toques and features Tiffin Conservation Area and Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area emblems designed by local artists.

Earlier this year, 13 artists submitted 28 emblem designs of the two conservation areas through an open submission call. Watershed residents voted for their favourite emblems to be featured on merchandise.

“NVCA's conservation areas are loved by many watershed residents, and our new online store gives them an opportunity to support these gems,” said Kyra Howes, Director of Conservation Services at NVCA. “Every day, we strive to provide safe and enjoyable experiences for our visitors through maintaining trails, bridges, boardwalks and other infrastructure.”

Some of these maintenance items include removing hazardous trees, ensuring trails are accessible and clearing snow off of parking lots so visitors have access to our conservation areas.

“To celebrate the launch of our store, we will be offering all apparel at a discount for the first three weeks,” continued Howes. “In addition to contributing to a good cause, we hope our clothing will accompany wearers on their everyday adventures!”

Tiffin and Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area apparel and maple syrup can be purchased on NVCA's website at nvca.on.ca.

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