

Since 1977

# FARMVIEW

A newspaper with something for everyone | April 2024 | Volume 47 #04

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**Grey Ag Services and OMAFRA explain AgMaps**



**Getting ready to celebrate Maple Weekend, Christopher Hoher, Chairperson for the 2023 Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival gets to work tapping a tree.**

# 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. Submission deadline is the 14th of the month for the following month's issue.

## April 6th: SCFA hosts Keep Kids Safe Workshop

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture is pleased to once again present the Keep Kids Safe Workshop to be held at Huron Tractor at Cashtown Corners on Saturday, April 6th. To register please contact Nicole at simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com

## April 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

## April 24th: Program announcement for E.D.G.E

April 24th at 7 p.m. E.D.G.E. (Elmvalle District Garden Enthusiasts) will feature Lexi Dearborne of Dearborn Design on "Hardscaping". Lexi will take us through the process of placing the non-vegetation items (rocks, lighting, ponds & large trees) into the garden design in the right order, so no money or time is wasted. The meeting will take place at the Elmvalle Legion, 7 John Street, Elmvalle at 7 p.m. and there is lots of parking. Guests are free, but lug your mug and bring a friend if you wish.

## April 25th: Addis Grain Annual Marketing Meeting

Addis Grain hosts their annual Spring Marketing Meeting on April 25th. The event takes place from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Speakers begin at 10 a.m. and lunch is provided. Call 705-720-0431 to RSVP by April 15th. Addis Grain is located at 274 Third Line South in Oro-Medonte, ON. **Information in the ad on page 21.**

## May 4th: Sunshine Fibre Fest

Fabulous fleece and fibre festival featuring diverse vendors, demonstrations, live animals and more! Taking place on May 4th at the ODAS Park 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More details in the ad on page 16.

## AGM results in New Name for Local CFFO District

By Sandy Kursis

The members of the Simcoe County District of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario held their annual general meeting at the Pinewoods Chapel in Angus on February 8, 2024.

The business part of the meeting included the election of the 2024 Board. Retiring from the board were Laura Currie and long-serving executive and president Ted van den Hurk; both were acknowledged for their commitment and service. Continuing as Directors are: Daniel Van Adrichmen, Wayne Benjamins, Sandy Kursis and Ted Woods. Shelly Van Heyningen was newly elected to complete the board.

Suzanne Armstrong, CFFO Director of Policy and Research, discussed issues members had brought forward and that the CFFO is tracking. She spoke at length about proposed battery energy storage facilities that are being planned on land currently zoned for agriculture. While acknowledging the need and benefit of alternative energy sources, the CFFO's position is that energy projects like these should be sited in more suitable locations, away from productive farmland.

A recommendation arose from the members' discussion to amend the name of the district in order to better reflect the actual area it represents. The Board was asked to formalize the name change from "Simcoe County" to "Central Ontario District".

Member Relations Manager Paul Bootsma provided an update on provincial level activities including the recent purchase of a building for offices in Zorra, Ontario. An open-house and picnic is being planned for all members some time in the summer.

The special guest presenter was Ian Cubitt, a business transition coach. Having grown up on a farm near Stayner, Ian had relatable experience and provided compelling insight into farm succession planning and how to do that without losing family harmony. Members were actively engaged through exercises, discussion and were provided with practical tools and "next steps".

The meeting closed with prayer.



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# 27th annual Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival displays sense of community

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival (SMSF) is now in its 27th year and thousands of people will be coming from Toronto, Durham Region and beyond, to visit the annual event held at the small community of Sunderland. The SMSF is getting bigger and more exciting every year as it celebrates the Canadian spring tradition of making maple syrup.

This year, SMSF Chairperson, Christopher Hocher, says there will be about 150 vendors. All the vendor spaces have been sold out. A large portion of the main street is actually shut down all weekend blocking all road traffic because the road is turned into a shopping market while the local Sunderland stores stay open to serve the massive amounts of visitors. Visiting vendors alone make the no-admission charged trip to the SMSF worthwhile.

The SMSF began 27 years ago as an idea by Sunderland resident Susan Wright and a few of her local friends, one being a Maple Syrup producer. Today, the founder can be found at every part of the huge Festival at least once behind a professional camera taking pictures with the Susan Wright Photography prefix. The Maple Syrup producer, Harlaine Maple Products of Sunderland, owned by Paul Harder and family will again be offering "sugar bush tours." Paul will be explaining the whole process of making maple syrup that he first learned with his Dad in the 1970's. The much sought after Harlaine maple syrup candy will be for sale at the farm.

Chair Hocher says the Festival has a sec-

ond farm tour this year, "One event that is back this year (from before COVID-19) is a tour bus to Salem Alpacas. We are very happy to have them back as a big part of the Festival."

One change this year, according to the Chair, is "our main stage will be moving to the front lawn of the (Sunderland) Royal Canadian Legion where we have many performers and talent to keep the atmosphere lively, happy and our visitors engaged."

Chair Hocher joined the SMSF planning committee six years ago as a representative of the King Edward Masonic Lodge in Sunderland. He took on the role as Chairperson because, "It is a sense of commitment to help out and feeling lucky enough to be here, in Sunderland where there is this amazing group of dedicated people who give up their free time to help organize this incredible community event."

Everyone has a reason to come to the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival, "This Festival is for everyone. Our small town of Sunderland puts a lot of time and effort into this yearly event and it really does show off our sense of community," he said.

There are also Historical Bus Tours, Pancake Breakfasts, Air Bounce Adventures, Blacksmith demonstrations, a Draft Horse display, a Petting Zoo and more coming to the 2024 Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival that takes place on Saturday, April 6th and Sunday, April 7th. To find out more about the Festival and see the schedule of events, see [www.maplesyrupfestival.ca](http://www.maplesyrupfestival.ca)

# The First Tapping for the 2024 Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The First Tapping for the 2024 Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival took place at Pinedale Maples, a maple syrup operation owned by Scott and Lori Baptie. Guests had the opportunity to tap trees.

Christopher Hocher, the Chairperson for the 2023 Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival said, "I feel lucky to have a hand in such a great event like the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival where the whole community comes together to put on the Festival each year."

Pictured to the right is locally well known Johnny Thompson, a long-time star of the stage for performances in musicals and performing classic country music. Going by the stage name "Johnny Johnny," this accomplished 19 year old specializes in Johnny Cash music including the song, "Folsom Prison Blues." Johnny says it is the influence of his grandparents, Ronald and Kelly Thompson, for his choice in music and for his place on the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival planning committee. "I have been going to the Sunderland Maple Syrup with my grandparents since I was 5 years old. I decided to see a few years ago if I could help out with the Festival and now I'm Co-Chair for the Student Volunteers. We need about 40 students for the Festival. I am happy to be on the Festival committee to give back to Sunderland." Johnny traded his guitar for a jug of maple syrup for this picture at the First Tapping held at Pinedale Maples near Sunderland on February 25th.



Pictured to the right is 6 year old Brody Corbett from Sunderland and his Dad, Nick, at the First Tapping held at Pinedale Maples owned by Scott and Lori Baptie. The First Tapping is for the 27th Annual 2024 Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival that happens in early April. Brody said he enjoyed the day, "I tapped a tree here at the (Sunderland Maple Syrup) Festival and that makes me feel happy because it was me and my Dad here."



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### IT IS THAT TIME!!!

#### Agriculture - Tillage

- UN 1225 (E90430) 2013, UNVERFERTH, CONSIGN, 39', ROLLING HARROW,, SPIKE TOOTH LEVELER, HYD X-FOLD, CLEVIS HITCH ..... **\$20,000.00**
- ZZ 42' (E91324A) KILLBROS, 42', ROLLING HARROW, 14" DIA, RD BAR,, HYD X-FOLD, 3-SECTION 2 WINGS, CLEVIS HITCH ..... **\$13,160.00**

#### Agriculture - Tractors - John Deere Row Crop & 4WD Tractors

- JD 8R 310 (E89784) 2022, MFWD W/SUSP, 310ENG HP, 488HR, 40K PST, 16F/5R SPD, PWR-SHIFT, RH REV ..... **\$529,990.00**
- JD 8RT 410 (E91644) 2021, MFWD, 410ENG HP, 1255HR, PREM CAB, 40KPH,, E23 SPD, E23 TRAN, RH REV ..... **\$605,130.00**

#### Agriculture - Planting Equipment

JD 1890/1910 (E89627) 2016, 40', 7.5/15" SPACING, JD 1910 350BU TOW, BETWEEN - 2 TANKS, NO DISPLAY, METERING ROLLS  
**\$230,060.00**

JD 1780 (E89925) 2001, 6R, 30" SPACING, DRY FERT, GROUND DRIVE,, MARKERS, VACUUM METERS, CORN DISCS, CT250 MONITOR  
**\$44,220.00**

JD 1780 (E90038) 2001, 8/15R, 30/15" SPACING, SPLIT ROW, MARKERS,, GROUND DRIVE, 3BU HOPPER, VACUUM METERS  
**\$46,320.00**

JD 1890/1910 (E90595A) 2015 DRILL-42', 7.5"SPACING, 1910-350BU TOW BEHIND-, 2 TANKS, METERING ROLLS INCL.GREEN-HIGH RATE  
**\$217,620.00**

### SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!!!

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**Celebrating 4th year of publishing!**



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

Happy anniversary to me! Four years ago I purchased the Farm View from my father (former publisher, John Beischer) and went from Stay at Home Mom Extraordinaire to newspaper publisher. At the time I had no prior experience of how to sell advertising, use the computer programs to design the ads, how to build or layout the pages, etc. I was a clean slate and began learning with the April 2020 issue. With help from Lizz Smekal and

Don Beaulieu on the production side and ad advise from my father I became more knowledgeable and confident in my new role.

I certainly would not be able to provide the content in the Farm View without Cathy Hamill-Hill and Don Beaulieu. They both make an effort to bring new topics to my attention and are always agreeable to anything I suggest. I've also been blessed with an amazing set of contributors, Dennis Gannon, Soul Sisters, Andrew Hind, Farmer Tim, Senora Baldry, Leah Emms, many 4-H contributors and John Beischer. This month I am very pleased to introduce Janis Hamilton. Janis will be providing news and articles from the quilting world, please see her first article on page 16 as well as quilting news from Marg Parke on page 17.

As you can see I feel I have much to celebrate this month. A solid job I enjoy, support and encouragement not just from my family and friends, but from you as well. I must admit I think it is neat to picture the Farm View on a coffee table of a farm house (Or in the boot tray during the muddy season, Theo) as I drive by. It is encouraging to me to hear from you that what I have learned in four years is being enjoyed by many.

On that note, there are many articles to enjoy in this issue. Don Beaulieu's coverage of the Next Level Ag Discussion hosted by Collwest Grains and Holmes Agro is on page 19. If you haven't been able to make it to a grains seminar yet, Addis Grain will be hosting their Spring Marketing meeting on April 25th. More details can be found in the ag calendar and on page 21.

Best wishes to all to be safe and productive as you prepare for your spring planting season.

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

Cover photos for the March and April issues of Farm View were taken by Cathy Hamill-Hill.

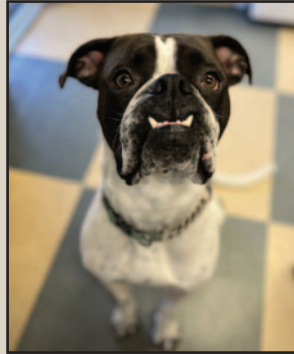
**Agricultural Hall of Fame Nominations**

Do you know a farmer in Simcoe County that deserves to be recognized by the Agricultural Hall of Fame? If so, please send an email to [monpiero@bell.net](mailto:monpiero@bell.net) to request a nomination application. All applications must be in by April 31st 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Paul at [monpiero@bell.net](mailto:monpiero@bell.net).

**Ready for adoption!**

Waffles is a 4 year old Boxer Bulldog mix.

He is a typical active high energy Boxer mix. Loves people but too active for young children. Waffles has been ok with some female dogs but NO Males. He would do best in a fenced yard.



Annie and Oakley are a bonded pair of 1 year old Huskies. These 2 are the sweetest huskies, quiet and clean in their kennel. Oakley is a little timid and is dependent on Annie. They would need a fenced yard. It's a joy to watch them romp around together.



Randy is a 6 year old Shepherd/Cattle dog mix. Very sweet boy who needs a loving gentle handler. He is used to living on a farm but loves the comfort of indoors too.

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- STEER ENTERPRISES
- STEWART'S EQUIPMENT in Cookstown and Stayner
- THE UPS STORE in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza

**The Farm View is delivered to these business between the 25th and 29th 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](mailto: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*

**OFA Members Service Representative:**

Leah Emms 1-866-660-5511 email: [leah.emms@ofa.on.ca](mailto:leah.emms@ofa.on.ca)  
 Lisa Hern 1-877-343-5444 email: [lisa.hern@ofa.on.ca](mailto:lisa.hern@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)

OFA Zone Director for Dufferin County:  
 Mark Reusser: email: [mark.reusser@ofa.on.ca](mailto:mark.reusser@ofa.on.ca)

**2023-2024 Executive – Simcoe County**

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 SCFA Phone: 705-726-9300 ext 1224  
[simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com](mailto:simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com)

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 Contact YRFA: [york@ofa.on.ca](mailto:york@ofa.on.ca)

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**JD 5125M 2022 ... \$135,995**  
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STK#132337

**JD 5125R 2017 ... \$92,995**  
32/16, PREM CAB, 3 REMOTES, 3 FUNC LOADER VALVE, MFWD, 2350 HRS



STK#137223

**JD 6140M 2022 ... \$192,995**  
MFWD, CAB, PQ PLUS 24/24 40K, 480/70R38, LOADER PREP, 216 HRS



STK#134499

**JD 6145M 2018 ... \$132,995**  
24/24 PQ, ECO CAB & SEAT, 3 REMOTES, MFWD, 2 FUNCTION LOADER, 1895 HRS



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24/24 (40K), PREM CAB, 4 REMOTES, MFWD, AXLE DUALS, AT READY, 948 HRS



STK#137403

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MFWD, POWRQUAD PLUS LHR 20/20 40KM, STD CAB, 480/80R42, 172 HRS



STK#137155

**JD 6155R 2019 ... \$297,995**  
IVT (50K), PREM CAB WITH SUSPENSION, PREM RADIO, 1086 HRS

# Meet the Farmer: Heartfelt Hooves and Healing

## Holly Thompson called to healing

Story by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Gentle, friendly Holly Thompson believes that she has been called to offer healing for people at her Elmvale farm.

Holly has been a Registered Nurse since 1999, and is specialized in Mental Health. She currently works part time as a Nurse Psychotherapist at Words of Hope in Barrie. Holly is certified as an Equine Assisted Learning Facilitator, also performs Reiki and is a trained Trauma Yoga Instructor.

In February 2011, Holly had her own personal traumatic experience, giving birth to a stillborn son named Isaiah. "When you come home from the hospital with empty arms it is a grief like no other," she says. Instead of sharing pictures of the baby on Facebook and visiting with the new Grandparents- there is nothing. Holly specializes in Pregnancy and Infant Loss believing she was given her experience to help others. She also worked as a nurse in a hospital setting for many years including Maternal/ Newborn health. In this job she guided and supported families that experienced the loss of a child. Grief for Pregnancy and Infant Loss is a grief that is often misunderstood by society as "people just don't know how to respond- but I do," Holly says explaining that giving the lost one a name and speaking that name out loud is important to start; adding "it is okay to be really sad and to really miss someone that nobody knows but you as a mother. We might have a ceremony with prayers or whatever is needed to accept and acknowledge the baby. It is okay to feel this way and it is okay to feel this way for a very long time. "We need to honour that beautiful life in our own way."

Heartfelt Hooves and Healing is an environment that is far from the white room with a table and two chairs concept. Holly believes that Trauma and Grief is aided by the supportive environment of her family's 10.5 acre farm. This setting of peace and animals are an ideal space for healing. You will fall in love with their four miniature horses, their chickens and her three dogs, she says.

Trauma and Grief are journeys that many people will

take in this life. Holly says, "I believe I can help people, along with my horses, in their journey and find coping and eventually a version of healing."

Holly's education, work experience and her own personal story combined together with the fact that she and her husband and their two children live on a small farm with miniature horses, and wooded spaces. She created a new enterprise called: Heartfelt Hooves and Healing.

Heartfelt Hooves and Healing centers around 4 quiet people, living on their new Farmstead with their loving miniature horses named: Indy, Loco, King Levi and the two year old mini horse named Mary Elizabeth. "Horses are natural teachers and healers," she says, adding that there are exercises for people to do alongside horses that can have huge benefits. She says she has raised Mary Elizabeth with the purpose of working with people from the day she was born.

Grief is a personal, often lonely journey. Grief can be from missing a loved one, loss of sense of self, Trauma related grief, or many other situations in life that are challenging.

"There is no quick fix for grief, it has to be understood, discussed and processed to have the healing even begin. We will have holding spaces," she says. At the farm, she has a quiet trail and sitting spaces where she and clients can talk about the lost one or the painful memory while watching the horses in the paddock.

She explains, "I will Hold Space" in a healing environment with loving intention, and connected energy for each individual. I want this to be a space for people to speak of and be with what troubles them- talk it out, release with a caring professional who knows how to help them start a path forward into healing."

PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) is very real and it is different for each person. "Front line responders like paramedics and firefighters and nurses and doctors and military

often deal with PTSD; it is also important to note that trauma can and IS experienced through many other experiences in life. It is important to address and support all in their Journey," she says.

An understanding of our trauma experience can take a long time, but healing can start with the right supports in place. Holly explains, "Trauma is complex and requires multiple levels of care to be effective and healing the nervous system from its effects is essential. A farm space with horses, nature and a trained professional, offers the peaceful space to do this. Grounding to nature safely and with support."

Photography has "become a beautiful creative outlook for me," Holly says and she plans to incorporate this talent into her new enterprise. Photography gives the opportunity to capture moments and connect and feel with those moments for years to come.

Offering photography sessions on the farm with her horses and the scenery on the trail that winds through the property is in the near future. She has spent a few years building a portfolio and skill and is currently working on her website Grace Holly Photography and will soon offer booking opportunities. She also plans to offer photography to her clients as an outlet for healing as she says photography is really all about capturing life as it is today so we can see it again tomorrow and forever on.

Holly is now accepting clients.

She will be at Zen Market via Soul Alive Barrie/Vanessa Dewsbury - April 6, 2024 from 11-4pm @ 59 Maple Avenue, Barrie, ON.

Holly can be reached via:


gracehollyphotography1111@gmail.com  
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# Make this a Spring and Summer free from unnecessary fires

By Dennis Gannon

There has been much said about the weather that we have experienced over the past several years. There is no question that the temperature is getting warmer and that there was a considerable lack of snow this past season. Weather forecasts are suggesting that this will be a warmer than usual Spring and Summer and precipitation may be either limited or come in heavy downpours that won't help saturate the land.

Last summer our Western provinces, especially British Columbia had the worst wild-fire season in history. While not as prominent in the news cycle, fires are still burning out there. Reports indicate that there are over 100 fires still not totally extinguished. What occurs is that the layer on top of the ground is called duff. Fire can burn under the duff and not be visible until it breaks out, sometimes several hundred metres away from what was the original fire. This is not an uncommon occurrence with any type of vegetation fire and happens frequently.

Living in southern Ontario we may feel complacent that we will never experience what occurs in the northern part of our province or out west. But many readers of this publication reside in rural areas. The publisher of this paper, as well as myself, live adjacent to one of the largest tracts of forests in southern Ontario. While fortunately there has never been a large fire in the forest, it could happen as many fires are as a result of human causes. Forest operations of cutting and clearing leave slash, which in the first

year after cutting doesn't generally cause any issues. In subsequent years as it dries up it can become very volatile. Many recreational activities occur in our forests from hiking, to bicycling to riding off road vehicles. The exhaust from off road vehicles and forest machinery can lead to sparks which can start fires.

In the Spring and even Fall it is not that uncommon for our fire departments to respond to large vegetation fires in fields where the stubble left has dried up and is a source of fuel for an inadvertent fire.

What can you do to protect your property and those of your neighbours? If it is absolutely necessary to burn yard waste, obtain a permit from your local fire department and follow the rules. All municipalities in southern Ontario have Open Air Burning bylaws of some form. They regulate what can be burned and the size, time and location of the fire. Accompanying the bylaw is the set fine for failing to follow the rules. A fine of \$125 may not seem too great for the convenience of cleaning up your property but on top of the fine, the municipality can add the charges for each piece of fire equipment that attends. Those fees could add up to several thousand

dollars as not only your local fire department but assistance from other fire departments and heavy equipment can be charged as well. This Spring, consider the yard waste options provided locally and use that instead.

All year round keep your yard clean from fallen debris and clutter. In the event of a fire keeping a clear radius of at least 10 metres around the buildings will lessen the chance of a structure fire. Gravel or crushed

rock are decorative and remove the spread of fire. Check your gutters and keep them clean. A roof fire from embers can quickly ignite if the gutters are full of needles or leaves. The area

under decks should also be clear of flammables. If doing some landscaping or gardening, think about moving the vegetation away from the walls and use other nonflammable materials closer to the building. Trim back the branches from any trees that overhang close to your home or buildings. If you have a fence line, keep the grass short. Dry grass can ignite quickly. If you have a wood pile, keep it a minimum of 10 metres away from your home. A stack of wood piled against the wall of your home can be a major fire hazard. Burn barrels can be handy and in some municipalities they are not permitted.

If your municipality does allow one, follow the guidelines provided. At minimum it should have proper ventilation and at maximum a 6 mm or smaller wire mesh screen. Keep an area of 3 metres around it clear. For those who enjoy a fire pit, don't allow your fire to be more than 1 metre in size and flames no more than 1 metre in height. Keep the area around the fire pit clear as well. There are many propane and natural gas fire pits now available in many decorative styles. The hassle of starting the fire and extinguishing it are much easier and the fire can be controlled.

If you have a long laneway, keep it clear of overhead tree branches and the roadway in good shape. Fire trucks are large and require lots of space to operate effectively. Your municipal address should be clearly visible from the road in both directions. Most municipalities have a property identification number system that have signs out at the driveway entrance. If your property, occupied or vacant, could benefit from this signage, inquire and see if you can acquire one.

All families should have their own emergency plan for all types of emergencies. The plan should have an external contact where they can go to or be reached.

Your local fire department is a great resource for more information and they would be happy to assist you. You can also get more information from [firesmartcanada.ca](http://firesmartcanada.ca)

Let's make this a Spring and Summer free from unnecessary fires.



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## Simcoe County Family Receives 2024 Ontario Mapleseed Pasture Award

The Beef Farmers of Ontario, Mapleseed and the Ontario Forage Council, sponsors of the Ontario Mapleseed Pasture Award, are pleased to announce that the Chalmers family of JPD Angus of Oro-Medonte in Simcoe County are the recipients of the 2024 Mapleseed Pasture Award. The award was presented at the Beef Farmers of Ontario Annual General Meeting Banquet in Toronto. For their environmental improvements and exceptional pasture management, JPD Angus received a cash award of \$500 and a bag of forage seed, courtesy of Mapleseed.

At JPD Angus, the Chalmers family currently raise 60 cow-calf pairs, 20 yearling heifers and 20 yearling bulls on 120 acres of rotationally managed acres. They utilize rotational grazing as a method to both minimize damage to root systems on dry soil, and to maximize the number of cow-calf pairs per acre. While their well-drained soil has adequate moisture in the spring and fall, special attention is given to rest periods to preserve root structures and ensure pasture health and regrowth.

On the main farm, Lori and her husband Darryl manage the maternity pens, a handling barn, and 50 of the total pastured acres. Their sons Evan, Owen and Nolan all reside at

home and serve in various roles on the farm - Evan manages the day-to-day operations, Owen is the lead mechanic and repair specialist, and Nolan helps with whatever needs to get done.

"We've been farming here since 2008. It's a true family effort," says Lori Chalmers.

Lori and Darryl's daughter Michaela and her husband Chris Stoneman manage the larger group of cattle at a nearby property, which consists of 70 acres of pastureland. Michaela and Chris also take the lead with promoting their herd genetics by showing cattle at local fall fairs and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

"It is a wonderful example of a beautifully manicured well-cared for farm, where the cattle get to live their best life," shared Scott Fisher, Western Ontario Sales Manager with Mapleseed.

"It is an exciting time for rotational grazing. We are seeing an increased interest in best management practices that help bolster the bottom line while keeping environmental responsibility top of mind," explained Patricia Ellingwood, General Manager of the Ontario Forage Council. "JPD Angus is a wonderful example of this. Congratulations on a job well done!"

## AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the farm structures in the puzzle?

Words in the may be found forward, backward, up or down or any diagonal. Circle the words in the puzzle when you find them and cross them off the list as you go.

U	M	I	L	K	I	N	G	P	A	R	L	O	U	R	I
A	D	E	T	A	C	I	R	B	A	F	E	R	P	M	G
B	A	N	K	B	A	R	N	E	P	G	I	P	Q	R	M
A	C	H	I	A	D	S	H	E	D	R	O	W	A	A	A
N	G	A	H	T	E	B	I	N	L	O	P	N	B	F	E
R	N	Y	F	T	H	N	I	T	C	E	A	Q	R	F	B
A	I	R	O	O	S	L	O	N	G	R	G	U	O	A	D
B	R	A	O	I	W	I	E	A	I	P	A	O	O	R	N
E	G	C	R	R	O	K	R	E	D	S	R	N	D	M	A
L	N	K	P	G	C	O	S	R	E	L	A	S	E	H	T
O	I	S	I	I	T	B	I	V	E	I	G	E	R	O	S
P	D	E	H	S	E	V	I	R	D	S	E	T	H	U	O
G	I	C	D	I	D	R	B	I	N	S	S	H	O	S	P
A	R	L	P	L	D	M	R	O	T	S	T	U	U	E	N
M	O	S	T	O	A	D	C	E	L	B	A	T	S	R	I
C	R	A	F	G	R	E	E	N	H	O	U	S	E	G	B

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- BANK BARN
- BINS
- BROODER HOUSE
- CHICKEN COOP
- COLD STORAGE
- COWSHED
- DRIVESHED
- FARMHOUSE
- GAMBREL ROOF
- GARAGE
- GRANARIES
- GREENHOUSE
- HAYRACKS
- HIP ROOF
- KILN
- MILKING PARLOUR
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## After The Chores: The Diet

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Isaac our red Labrador Retriever has not been looking so good lately. Isaac was looking less like a 2 year old lab and more like a chubby meat chicken.

Isaac got his pet only surgery in October meaning some weight gain was to be expected so he got the first months of his new look in with no consequences. When he lost any sign of ever having a waistline, I decided this had to be figured out before bad things happened. I was asked to take a cherished dog to the vet to go over the Rainbow Bridge last year- and all the dog's health conditions were due to obesity caused by being fed wrong. Once you see someone say good-bye to a much loved pet from something preventable, that sorrowful image is locked in the brain- no way was I going to put myself or Sweetie through that. Whatever was going on with Isaac was our fault as his owners and we needed to take responsibility, but what were we doing wrong?

Isaac gets 20 kilometres minimum a week of exercise because Sweetie and I walk this dog along the quiet concession road. Isaac is a runner so we have to keep him on leash or we have to take the truck to find him after his run around the area to give him a ride home. This red dog watches here so while he is on a tie-out, between walks, he is often actively barking at everything from seeing a truck come up the laneway, coyotes howling in the bush and stray cats. So lack of exercise was crossed off the list of possible wrongs we were doing.

It had to be food. We feed Isaac dog food, not people food. He does not share snacks after the experience of the chocolate raisins he got into that took a trip to the vet and \$260 when he was a pup. The only thing he gets past his dog food is his dog biscuits.

Isaac loves dog biscuits. I did an account of Isaac's biscuit intake. "Cute sit" was Isaac's secret to getting extra dog biscuits. He plunks his behind down, tilts his head slightly to wrinkle up his face and stares with big brown eyes looking adorably cute. He cute sits in front of the biscuit jar and waits. Cute sits can happen before each meal time.

He cannot be left alone in the house so he gets a dog biscuit as a reward to go out on his tie-out also. He further was getting two biscuits to go to his crate at night for bedtime. Sweetie has often commented on the fact he needed to order another box of dog biscuits and the fact there is

only one dog here. Our pockets were often full of forgotten dog biscuits- and those were extras for Isaac whenever we found them.

I have a friend that raises dogs at an expert level- and she is not a "grey" person. She is a black OR white person; don't ask a question if you don't want a DIRECT answer. If someone, for example, showed me a goat kid that had an obvious structural defect being a grey person, I would say something like this: "You might like to consider the possibility of placing that kid in a sale as it might really not be so suitable for your breeding program- but that is only my opinion" while my friend would say, "That belongs in a stewpot!" With Isaac's problem, I needed a direct answer so this friend's advice is exactly what I needed.

I told my friend about Isaac's problem and said that we fed him dog food from a place she knew- and we gave him about 10 dog biscuits a day. I did not admit to the "cute sits" or the "lost" biscuits we found in pockets, thankfully. The reaction was: "TEN BISCUITS A DAY?" I then learned- in CLEAR words and many of those words I cannot print here about how many dog biscuits fed daily will pack on the pounds- at an alarming rate.

It has been the second week of a two per day at the most dog biscuit diet for Isaac and already he is looking a bit more like a two year old dog than a chubby chicken. He's not impressed. It seemed like an act of revenge that Isaac decided to not race into the house from his tie-out for bedtime per usual, and instead he decided to race out into the dark night. We heard him barking but he refused to come. Sweetie had to get the truck and go find the wayward dog and this time he was just down the lane. Sweetie opened the truck door- and Isaac sped away again. It was fifteen minutes later of driving to find the red dog that was now exhausted from his run, standing on our quiet sideroad waiting for his truck ride home.

It is good that Isaac does not buy me food.

## Equipment Ontario and Advance Construction Equipment Build for the Future

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With this partnership, they are able to expand the JCB Agriculture line across the full servicing area and offer the JCB Construction line at Harriston, Port Perry, and Waterloo. However, not all dealerships will carry JCB equipment. The agriculture and construction

landscape is changing, and with this partnership they are building a stronger entity to provide stability for their Staff, Customers, and Suppliers.

"Our employees and customers are like family. We wanted to partner with a company with the same morals and values." – Ric Thompson, Advance Construction Equipment General Manager

Equipment Ontario and Advance will continue to represent all existing brands, and current team members will remain in their roles. New Equipment Ontario and Advance career opportunities will be posted on the Equipment Ontario Website - [www.equipmentontario.com](http://www.equipmentontario.com) when available.

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# Something of interest for all at the East Central Farm Show

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Megan Prouse, the reigning Ambassador of the Lindsay Exhibition, is pictured above beside one of the East Central Farm Show's (also called the Lindsay Farm Show) highlights. The crowd enjoyed the opportunity to see the new tractors inside and up close. Megan is from Janetville and has a huge interest in agriculture. She began as a Cloverbud in the 4-H program and is still strongly involved. She specializes in showing Simmental beef cattle including at Louisville, Kentucky USA. In 2023 Megan was elected to the Ontario Young Canadian Simmental Association Board of Directors as the Secretary and Ontario Director.



There was a great selection of interesting booths at the East Central Farm Show including the one in the above photo. "Growers Mineral Solutions" which is described as a "high-quality non-toxic liquid fertilizer" that is kind to the environment, used for crops and landscape and nutritional supplement to livestock. At left is Jason Keating, District Manager for Growers Mineral Solutions. Beside him is Joe Banbury from Brighton, a retired Ag Researcher who currently raises polled shorthorn beef cattle near Brighton.

Pictured to the right is little farmer, Tommy Creighton of Brechin. Tommy was at the most colourful booth of the Lindsay Farm Show, Mother Goose Creations owned by Anne Marie Warner. Young Tommy came to the Show with his Dad, John. Tommy is already helping out during chore times on his family's beef farm. Tommy's favourite part of the Lindsay Farm Show were all the tractors, his Daddy reported.



Nathan Tamlin of Cambray took a break in front of the "Pioneer" display at the East Central Farm Show. Nathan, pictured at left, is a young entrepreneur who owns his own business, Tamlin Lawn Care and Landscaping Services. He says the best part of the Show is "talking to people I know. And I really like to see all the tractors."



Pictured above is Abby Staples of Janetville. Abby works at Victoria Feeds Horse and Hound and she was happy to be part of the Lindsay Farm Show this year. Victoria Feeds Horse and Hound farm business is located in Lindsay and sells pet food and supplies, and supplies and feed for livestock, small animals and poultry. Abby says she has come to the Farm Show for years to "cheer on and see my Aunt Alecia at the Masterfeeds booth at the Show."



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## Soul Sisters Celebrations

### Spring Renewal and Rhythm can Nourish our Soul

As the days grow longer and the temperatures rise, there is a palpable sense of anticipation in the air. Both people and nature emerge from winter hibernation, eager to embrace the opportunities that spring brings. Around the farm, everything seems to have come alive as the streams begin running faster, the geese honk upon their return and the maple tree sap begins to flow. The maple tree, a symbol of abundance and vitality serves as a powerful reminder of our interconnectedness with all living beings, fostering a sense of gratitude and reverence for the world around us.

I have benefited this year around the farm from my sister, Rev. Kelly and her husband as they focus on managing our maple bush. Grateful for my brilliant brother-in-law, who prepared in the fall, anticipating the spring sap beginning to flow, allowing us to benefit from the early awakening of the trees from winter slumber and the promise of golden abundance from nature. The process of collecting sap and boiling it down to create syrup is not just a means of sustenance but as we have discovered these past few years, can feel like a deeply spiritual practice, rooted

in a profound connection to the land and its rhythms. The act of tapping maple trees and collecting their sap requires patience, skill, and a deep respect for the natural world, working in harmony with the land, carefully extracting the sap without causing harm to the trees, and honoring the symbiotic relationship between humans and nature is a central tenet of many spiritual traditions, reflecting the interconnectedness of all living beings.

As the sap is collected and boiled down into syrup, it undergoes a transformation reminiscent of the inner journey of spiritual renewal experienced during the spring season. Just as the sap is purified through the process of boiling, individuals are invited to purify their own hearts and minds, shedding the weight of the past and embracing the potential for growth and transformation.

As I stand amidst the awakening forest, the gentle breeze carries the promise of spring, stirring something deep within my soul. It is of no surprise to our readers that in sacred forest space, surrounded by the towering maple trees, that I find solace and inspiration. As I look at the old

run-down maple shack my ancestors used to embrace the tradition I am reminded of the delicate balance between human endeavor and the gifts of nature.

I feel a sense of reverence for the maple trees that graciously offer their sap, a precious nectar that will soon be transformed into liquid gold. I am reminded of the importance of patience and mindfulness, as well as the profound gratitude for all living beings. As we tend to the fires that fuel the process of boiling down the sap, I am reminded of the transformative power of purification and renewal. Just as the sap is cleansed and purified through the process of boiling, so too are we all invited to release that which no longer serves and embrace the potential for growth and transformation. As we share this gift of time with others during the boils, I am reminded of the power of community and the joy that comes from coming together.

In the making of maple syrup, the soul sisters have found not only sustenance for the body but nourishment for the soul. I hope that you find some nourishment for your soul this month.

Rev. Erin

In Gratitude, The Soul Sisters  
Reverend Erin Wilson and Reverend Kelly Blakely  
Soulsisterscelebrations@gmail.com



### Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

### The new high school teacher

After retiring, a former Canadian Forces Major took a new job as a high school teacher.

Just before the school year started, he injured his back. He was required to wear a light plaster cast around the upper part of his body.

Fortunately, the cast fit under his shirt and wasn't noticeable when he wore his suit coat.

On the first day of class, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in the school.

The smart-aleck kids, having already heard the new teacher was a former Forces officer, were leery of him and he knew they would be testing his discipline in the classroom.

Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, the new teacher opened the window wide and sat down at his desk.

With a strong breeze blowing, it made his tie flap around. He picked up a stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Dead silence.

*The rest of the year went smoothly.*

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Dr. Zoey graduated with an animal science degree from the University of Guelph in 2018 and then completed her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Melbourne, Australia, graduating in 2022.

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# North & South Simcoe 4-H Clubs Kick off a new Season!

## North Simcoe 4-H Sewing Club

By Isabelle Strachan

"Over the past March Break, North Simcoe 4-H held a Sewing Club. The meetings were held at the Edgar Hall from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; along with a previous meeting that was held on March 2nd. We were able to have 7 members join us for the meetings. We were lucky enough to receive a grant from Farm Credit Canada which paid for the fabric, the hall rental, and our lunch!



Our first meeting was held at Fabricland in Barrie on March 2nd. The meeting started at 10 a.m. and we were introduced to Donna, the Fabricland team member who took us on a tour of the store. She took us all around the store showing us all of the different sections and types of material they had, along with what you could potentially make with them. After our tour was over, Donna took us back over to the flannel section to pick out our material for pajama pants. Once we all picked out our fabric the employees cut it for us while some of us picked out appliques to put on our pajama pants.

out the patterns for us in the sizes needed. We were able to pin our material to the pattern and cut it out. Afterwards, we sewed the inseam and both of the pant legs together. We then folded and pinned a channel for our waistband. We finished off the day by threading the elastic waistband in!

On the first day of sewing, after all of the members set up their sewing machines, our club began! We started by making scrunchies, by the time we were done, we had made many different sizes and patterns! After we were all done our scrunchies, we held our elections. Olivia Livingston was elected as President, Kelsey Parnell was elected as Vice President, and Isabelle Strachan was elected as Secretary and Press Reporter. After the elections, we worked on sewing drawstring bags. After lunch, we started on making tissue holders. These tissue holders were very helpful for us to practice our sewing!

On our third and final day of sewing, we wasted no time in getting started after the meeting was called to order. We kicked off the day by sewing in the elastic waistband we had threaded into the pajama pants the day before. After we were finished that, we all took our turns being measured so we could hem our pants. We cut off the extra material, folded and pinned where we needed to hem and started sewing. Just like that, our pants were done! Since we were done our pants it meant we were able to work on another project of our choice. Some members made pillows, some made bookmarks and others made more scrunchies! It was such a fun and informative club!

On the second day, after our meeting was called to order, we got started right away! Everyone was able to quickly finish their tissue holders which meant that we could get started on our pajama pants. We all started by measuring our waists and our inseams to see what size we would need. One of our leaders, Donna, was generous enough to cut

On behalf of all of the members and leaders I would like to thank the Farm Credit Canada for their generous grant! Our club is also very grateful for some of our community members who donated fabric for our scrunchies, drawstring bags, pillows and etc. We would also like to thank all of the leaders and parents who made this club possible! "

## South Simcoe 4-H Heritage Club

By Maggie Suffern

The Back to the Future Heritage Club had its first meeting where we got to meet some new members and reconnect with old friends!

For our first meeting, we made Depression Cake, one in chocolate and one in vanilla. We learned how to make science work for us by making cakes that had no eggs or butter but still rose! We discussed what else we could add to change the flavours based on what we had available. We discussed rationing and extending our food with different recipes to make it last so we didn't waste anything (just like our grandparents did during the Great Depression or World War II).

We are looking forward to having a field trip and trying different things to see how our ancestors lived to make life better and enjoyable without spending too much money or wasting anything.

We will be learning more by making sure we "Use It Up, Wear It Out, Make it Do, or Do Without."



### Stewart L. Page Scholarships

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## South Simcoe 4-H Members Compete at the CIJC!

By Clara Brooks, Olivia Livingston and Abby Patton



Three Simcoe County 4-H members: Clara Brooks, Olivia Livingston and Abby Patton competed at the Canadian Intercollegiate Judging Competition at the University of Guelph on March 14, 2024. This was the first year that 4-H members were invited to compete at this event as it is for University Students across Canada. We were the only 4-H members that signed up!

The competition had 10 classes that we judged. Five Homecraft, and five livestock with four quizzes in between.

We started our morning with Homecraft judging which included: sewing machines, clippers, soybeans, and a mystery class which ended up being leather jackets. We had to

give our reasons for each class and then the official judges gave their official reasons for those classes. Next we completed four quizzes followed by lunch with Senator Rob Black. We ate pizza and chocolate milk while he talked to us about how he became a senator and what they do. After a small break we judged livestock, which included: beef, dairy, dairy showmanship, Sheep and a mystery class which was alpacas. We again gave our reasons for each class to the judge. After that the official judges gave their official reasons and cuts. We are looking forward to going again next year and we encourage more 4-H members to sign up!

## South Simcoe 4-H Community Involvement Club

By Sierra Steuernol

Kicking off the 2024 South Simcoe 4-H season, we started with a brand new club, the community involvement club. This club hits a major 4-H pillar for leadership development, community engagement. The club's objective is to help and give back to the community through a wide range of activities. On February 22nd, we travelled to Living Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Baxter. There, we had a special guest teach us how to make milk bag mattresses. Not only are these mattresses providing a bed for people around the world in need, but they also help the environment by keeping plastic milk bags out of landfill sites. That night we finished 2 mattresses and look forward to making more. With plenty more meetings and activities to come, the community involvement club is looking forward to a successful year!



## 4-H Everette Horse Club

By Anika Mortelliti

The 4-H Everette horse club held its first meeting Monday March 4th 2024. The meeting kicked off with members choosing the club's president, vice president, news reporter and secretary. After, the president of the club led members in stating the 4-H pledge and motto. Once the meeting had officially started members took place in a grooming competition with the horses. Then horses were brought into the arena where guest Maud Reval guided the group through their first equine assisted learning (EAL). Members learned how to work in a team with the horses and their groups. In the end many had learned not only how to work in a team but more about ourselves as people and how we put rules on ourselves. The meeting ended off by saying the 4-H motto.

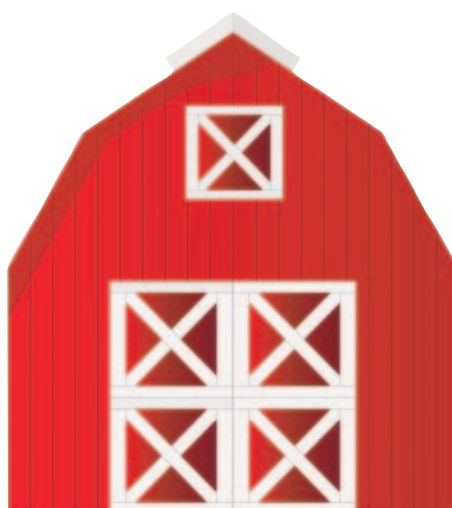
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# Celebration honouring Mel Karpenko planned

*Agriculture industry to honour reigning Ontario Queen of the Furrow*

An afternoon to honour Mel Karpenko, the reigning Ontario Queen of the Furrow is being organized by the Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association. "Our local association has quite an amazing history and we are thrilled that Mel and her success has added a new chapter to our organization's legacy," says Colin French, president of the Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association.

The first Ontario Queen of the Furrow was crowned in 1960 and Karpenko is the eighth local representative to win the provincial honours. She was crowned Ontario Queen of the Furrow in a celebratory evening finale as part of the 2023 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo (IPM) held last September in Bowling Green, Dufferin County where the top-plowmen from across the five-day event were also named. That same night Karpenko was named Miss Friendship by her fellow competitors and placed second in the plowing competition.

Karpenko is a graduate of the University of Guelph with a Human Kinetics degree, she has worked with Corteva Agriscience and BASF Canada and is currently in her final year at Western University in the nursing program. She plans to work locally as a Registered Nurse upon graduation. Raised in Caledon, Karpenko currently lives on a dairy goat farm in Dufferin County. Since her crowning Karpenko has been travelling across the province acting as an ambassador for the Ontario Plowmen's Association (OPA)—the parent host of the IPM—and Ontario agriculture, attending events to promote the next IPM which is being held this fall in Lindsay, Kawartha Lakes from Tuesday, October 1 through Saturday, October 5.

It is customary for the local association of the reigning Ontario Queen of the Furrow to hold a celebration event and French says local organizers are looking forward to welcoming Karpenko's family, friends and industry supporters for the afternoon in her honour.

The event is being held Sunday, April 14, 2024 at the Orangeville Fairgrounds, 247090 Side Road 5, Mono from 1 pm to 4 pm. Light refreshments will be served and presentations will begin at 2 pm. Pre-registration is encouraged, either by scanning the QR code or visiting the online portal: <https://tinyurl.com/4bf7t5n9>.

For more information: [pdplowmens@gmail.com](mailto:pdplowmens@gmail.com).

### About the Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association

The Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association is the local association within the Ontario Plowmen's Association (OPA). This year they will host their 97th Annual Plowing Match. They are the only association in Canada to produce two World Plowing Champions, James Eccles in 1953 and William Dixon in 1961. The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo (IPM) has been held within the association borders on three separate occasions: twice in Peel (1924 in Brampton and 1963 in Caledon) and most recently in Bowling Green, Dufferin County in 2023.



Mel Karpenko, Ontario Queen of the Furrow.  
 —Photo by Stephanie Lee Photography




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# Ontario Agricultural Conference

## Plan for the forage emergency at seeding time not at harvest time

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Session #49 at the Ontario Agricultural Conference was Quality Growing Forages.

Ashley Knapton of Pioneer Canada has strong advice for today's crop farmers, "prepare now for the emergency."

Knapton admits she is a planner. A season ahead planner. She said that forages are all part of a plan for the farm providing either needed quantity of feed, specific nutrition additions like protein to the diet of livestock or as a crop to be sold. Those forages are needed. "Have the discussion now so that in mid-April when it is discovered that the alfalfa is not coming up, we are not scrambling on what to do," she advised.

According to Knapton, "Ontario has really bad winterkill." Winterkill usually happens when new or young planted crops, like alfalfa and grains, are killed by cold temperatures when snow cover is not in place that is adequate to protect the young plants.

"Take the emergency out of your emergency plan to plan in advance if forages don't work out," she advised adding that keeping inventory of what is needed in the farm program is important at all times.

There are some parts of growing forages that is entirely controllable by the farmer. One of these is getting it right at the very start, "get the right product into the right acres." Knapton said that this goes back to making that inventory list to know exactly what is needed at harvest time so it can be planted at seeding time.

The second speaker at this session was Hilary Prinzen from Trouw Nutrition. She said that harvest timing is one of the controls by the farmer. She said that choosing the harvest time is critical, "harvest in the high quality time- or when is it time?" There is a window of time when crops are at their nutritional best but some crops, if left longer in the field, could be harvested at higher quantities.

"Maturity for corn silage can be found with the "milk line." If the corn is cut with the milk line on the kernel, it has the most starch," she explained. The milk line is the visible line on the corn kernel that separates the liquid and the solid of the mature kernel.

"For alfalfa, if you cut the plant in the morning you can make hay in a day if you dry it down- and that makes very good quality forage. If you cut the plant in the afternoon, sugar content is high but as the plants lie out overnight, the plant loses sugar."

Cutting height is "super important" according to Prinzen. "Ash content and/or dirt contamination usually is high in

low-cut forages and that has an impact on fermentation. If cut higher, forage quality goes up but you don't get as much of the forage," she said.

"Increasing cut height means leaving some of that less digestible product in the field. This is an option for wet years as long as you got the yield," Knapton added. Prinzen agreed and said that "last year we had insanely tall corn plants and cutting higher meant we still had all that volume of yield in the bunk."

Choosing "when" to cut is as important as choosing "how" to cut the right length. Prinzen said it is understood the farmer is "racing against the clock in harvest time" with one eye on the weather and the other eye watching quality changing in the field. But, she stressed, it is essential that harvest must be timed correctly because there are consequences for both too wet and too dry harvested forages.

"Too wet can mean improper fermentation. Too wet also means loss of nutrients as nutrients seep out with the excess water," she advised. "Too dry, and we see this often, is less good fibre and protein because it falls away with the leaves. Too dry causes poor packing in the bunk and improper fermentation and is prone to spoilage."

Ensiled means plant materials that are preserved by anaerobic (does not need oxygen) fermentation and usually stored in a bag, bunker or silo. Keeping oxygen out is the key to make this work. Some of the ways that can ruin good ensiled feed, Prinzen said, is "holes in the plastic caused by wild birds and other wildlife damage. Slow feed out and having the bags/piles and bales of forages sitting in water" are all ways to ruin good feed. She stressed that "crazy windstorms that blow off the covers need rescuing as soon as possible and get it taped and placed back up. Watch those bags and bunks and keep them covered," she advised.

The moderator for this session was Dr. Ray Reynen of Merek Animal Health. He commented that in his former career as a dairy veterinarian, "Dairy herds that did the best are the ones with the good forage quality, those higher end herds fared better for production, reproductively and health."

Farm View was pleased once again to be a sponsor of this great event. Over 2,000 participants registered for #OAgC24. This included virtual registrants as well as In-Person registrants at Ridgetown (SWAC), Kemptville (EOCC), and Waterloo (MWAC). More information about the Ontario Agricultural Conference and sessions can be found at [www.ontarioagconference.ca](http://www.ontarioagconference.ca)



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## Quilt shows are a wonderful start to your journey of quilting

Article and photo by Janis Hamilton

This is my first time writing for a paper. I've written a gardening monthly newsletter for a horticultural group since 2004 and loved doing the research, so hopefully my quilting experience can add to this column.

At the bottom left on this page there is a very comprehensive list of quilt shows, quilt shop hops and events you would certainly like to enjoy. If you are new to quilting, or even have some fabric you've been wanting to use not knowing just how to make a quilt, these shows are a wonderful start to your journey of quilting.

If you have a sewing room and a stash of material that is usually well hidden (well it is not super cheap to quilt) then you already know about these shows and how they can show you that it is possible to come out of your comfort zone and try new and exciting things to do in the quilting world. These shows generally have a reasonable admission fee and not too far to travel. What a great way to fill the car with like-minded quilters and head off for the day. You will usually see demonstrations, see different techniques or even stitching patterns that you never dreamed of using in your work. Sometimes there is a luncheon, tearoom so you don't have to leave early and most often a boutique shop that the guild members have made unique items for sale. These are almost always very reasonably priced and great gifts if you are short of time. As for the shop hops, they offer a unique way to visit shops and see that each store has a different focus buying their fabric. Some stock children themed fabrics, others traditional styles, some floral and each shop has a kit you can purchase that will go with the other stores so you can complete a finished quilt and that will be on display at each shop. Sometimes there are prizes, and your name goes into a draw and they are very generous prizes.

If this has given you some thought about quilting, there is the Canadian Quilters' Association and they have over 278 quilt guilds that have registered with them. There are 114 guilds just in Ontario alone, so you are bound to find one near you. Through their website you can find a guild that is near you and offer you much more than a visit to a show in one day. Guilds offer workshops, guest speakers, learn through their block of the month programs, many do charity quilts that are offered to local hospitals for their neonatal intensive care units (NICU), emergency services where they give victims quilts of comfort or to newly arrived Ukrainians to Canada. Many guilds offer fabric exchanges or fat quarter draws and even "free tables." The guilds have reasonable membership fees and are well worth that for the learning and fellowship they can provide. Check out their website to find a guild near you [www.Canadianquilter.com](http://www.Canadianquilter.com)



Not driven by a crazy quilter, but done for a quilt show.

## Quilt Guilds you may want to check out

By Janis Hamilton

• Georgian Bay Quilt Guild meets September - June on the 4th Wednesday at the Penetang Arena. 61 Maria St., Penetanguishene. Guests \$5

• [Kempfenfeltquiltersguild.com](http://Kempfenfeltquiltersguild.com) meets on the 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. all year long at the Barrie Lion's Gate Banquet Centre at 386 Blake Street, Barrie. Guests are \$5. Lug your mug. April will feature Vendors' night where they set up shop and we have fun. Then a workshop is scheduled on beading on quilts with Linda Gilmer on Saturday, April 20th. Contact [linda@pierce.com](mailto:linda@pierce.com) \$40 or \$45 non-members.

• Pine Tree Quilters Guild of Muskoka meets the 2nd Thursday from 1-3 at the Bracebridge Arena, 2nd floor.

• [Simcoecountyquiltersguild.com](http://Simcoecountyquiltersguild.com) meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Simcoe County Museum located at 1151 Highway 26 Minesing from 1-3 except July, August, and December. Guests are \$5. Lug your mug. This April will feature Marlies Kinnell from the Modern Quilt Guild doing a trunk show.

• Slope to Shore Quilt Guild meets September - June at the Rec Plex 1724 Mosley St. Wasaga Beach. First Thursday of each month. Guests \$7

• [Themodernquiltguild.com](http://Themodernquiltguild.com) is the Barrie Modern Quilt Guild and they can be contacted at [bmqginfo@gmail.com](mailto:bmqginfo@gmail.com) for more information.

### UPCOMING QUILT SHOWS

"Quilted Expressions Quilt Show"  
 The Oakville Quilters' Guild  
 April 19 & 20  
 10:00am - 4:00pm  
 OE Banquet & Conference Centre  
 2245 Speers Rd  
 Oakville, ON \$10

Rayside Balfour Quilting and Sticherly Guild  
 April 27 10am-5pm  
 April 28 10am-4pm  
 Dr Edgar Leclair Community Centre  
 158 St. Agnes Street  
 Azilda, ON \$8

Hills and Valleys Quilt Shop Tour  
 May 2 - 4  
 Cookstown, Creemore, Maxwell, Mount Forest

Quilts from the Valley  
 By Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild  
 May 3 & 4  
 10:00am - 5:00pm  
 Forest Brook Community Church  
 60 Kearney Drive  
 Ajax, ON \$7

2024 Harvest of Quilts  
 May 3 & 4  
 10:00am - 4:00pm  
 Bobcaygeon Curling Club  
 49 Mansfield Street  
 Bobcaygeon, ON \$8

"Still Stitching Together Quilt Show 2024"  
 Port Perry Patchers Quilt Guild  
 May 10 & 11  
[www.portperrypatchers.com/quilt-show](http://www.portperrypatchers.com/quilt-show)

Seeds and Stitches  
 May 25 10 am  
 Christ Church-St.Jude's  
 Ivy, ON

"It's a Charming Quilt World"  
 Grey County Charmer's Quilt Club & Thread That Bind  
 May 31 - June 1  
 10:00am - 4:00pm  
 Osprey Community Arena  
 494196 Grey Road 2  
 Feversham, ON \$7

Quilt Show 2024  
 "Quilting for the Holidays"  
 Sept. 7 & 8  
 10:00am - 4:00pm  
 Quinte Curling Club  
 246 Bridge Street West  
 Belleville, ON \$8

Have a quilt show to share?

Send in the details of an upcoming quilt or craft show and they will be featured on this page.

Quilting stories and photographs always welcome!



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# Simcoe County Quilters' Guild celebrates their 40-year anniversary

Story and photos by Marg Parke

On January 19, 1984, twenty-five enthusiastic women with quilting on their minds met at the Simcoe County Museum and thus began our guild that still meets today and is celebrating 40 years in 2024!

Many of those women are no longer with us, but they shared their skills and their legacy carries on.

Over those 40 years membership has ebbed and waned at one time growing to about 180 members with a waiting list for new members to join.

As membership increased it outgrew the space at the Museum and moved to the ANAF building off Anne Street in Barrie. When that building was sold the Guild moved back to the Simcoe County Museum. Not quite 180 members now but many enthusiastic quilters still meet monthly, except for June and July, to share and enjoy their passion of quilting.

Special guests present their trunk shows, "show and share" by Guild members, refreshments and camaraderie are enjoyed at meetings. Retreats were held in the past, and workshops, held usually the Friday after a meeting, are still enjoyed by members.

Over the years many quilts, made by members, have been donated to various community organizations within Simcoe County including the cancer centre, dialysis, hospice, grieving children and seniors wish to name a few

This anniversary year the program includes: April 25th modern quilts with Marlies Kinnell, April 26th Studio 180 quilt with Leeanne Munro McCallum, June 27th anniversary celebrations, Sept 26th members' fabric etc sale, and on Oct 17th The Quilt Jeannie with Jean & Neil Cloes.

There is a website for Simcoe County Quilter's Guild, check it out for updates on activities [www.scqg.info](http://www.scqg.info)



Three Simcoe County Guild members showcase their vests.



Donna Thompson with her hand embroidered barn quilt.

## Celebrate maple season at a sugarbush April 6 and 7 during Maple Weekend

Maple syrup season is well underway for 2024 and producers are excited to welcome visitors and showcase the 2024 crop of maple syrup during the 8th annual Maple Weekend, April 6 and 7, 2024.

Hosted by the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association (OMSPA), Maple Weekend is a fun, free, two-day, family-friendly event that celebrates Ontario's maple heritage and invites visitors to head out to visit the sugarbush and savour the flavours of spring.

"Spring is the most exciting time of the year for maple syrup producers, especially when we get an early run as we did this year," said Randal Goodfellow, OMSPA President. "Maple syrup producers across the province are looking forward to opening up their sugarbush for visitors and inviting them to join in the celebration of the sweetest time of the year."

This year marks the 8th annual Maple Weekend, and visitors can expect to experience the best of maple season at a sugarbush on April 6 and 7, 2024. Maple Weekend features two full days of activities and specials at participating sugarbushes across the province. Running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, at participating sugarbushes visitors can expect to sample maple syrup, get out on the trails in a working sugarbush, eat maple taffy, get an inside peek into how maple syrup is produced, and stock up on this year's crop of maple syrup.

Officially launched in 2015, Maple Weekend has been a tremendous success for both producers and visitors. Maple Weekend is a past nominee for Destination Ontario's Tourism Event of the Year, and draws roughly 20,000 visitors to rural sugarbushes across the province each year.

In 2024, there will be 75 producers taking part in Maple Weekend, with participants from the following OMSPA districts: Algoma, Algonquin & District, Eastern, Grey-Bruce & District, Haliburton-Kawartha, Lanark & District, Ottawa Valley, Quinte & District, Simcoe & District, Southwestern, and Waterloo-Wellington. A list of participating Maple Weekend maple syrup producers is available on the Maple Weekend website, along with further details about specials and activities for visitors at the 75 locations across the province. Visitors are invited to visit the Maple Weekend website at [www.mapleweekend.ca](http://www.mapleweekend.ca) for more details.

### About OMSPA

As the official voice of sugar makers in the province, OMSPA represents approximately 600 maple syrup producers from across the province, who are committed to producing a high-quality product for consumers to enjoy. Members are involved with a wide range of activities organized at the provincial level or through one of the 11 local chapters located across the maple producing areas of Ontario. For more information, contact: John Williams Executive Director [admin@ontariomaple.com](mailto:admin@ontariomaple.com) 613-258-2294

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*Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins*

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While wandering through a recent home and garden show I was delighted to find two of Farm View's advertisers and stopped to say hello. Weaver Exterior Remodeling and Lewis Motor Sales Inc. were on hand answering customers questions and introducing them to the merits of their products.

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Julius, at far left, was representing Chameleon Masonry, a sister company to Weaver Exterior Remodeling. Jesse, centre, and Paul were busy showing attendees the benefits of their products.



Jim Anderson greeted prospective customers on behalf of Lewis Motor Sales Inc. at the recent Bradford Greenhouse Home and Garden Show.

Chris Bell Contracting, Klein Electric, Rundle's Painting, Essa Painting, Murcott Design Build, D.L.G. Farm Drainage, and D.M.D. Farm Drainage, as well as the previously mentioned seasonal advertisers.

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# Next Level Ag Conference held in Stayner

Synopsis and photographs by Don Beaulieu

The annual Next Level Ag Conference presented by Collwest Grain Ltd. and Holmes Agro took place at St. Patrick's Church Hall in Stayner, Ontario. Renovations at their usual location in Creemore prompted this venue change.

Scott Caughill welcomed everyone and provided an update on things at Holmes Agro, touching on some market situations.

## Phosphates and new facilities

He talked about phosphates saying that China is not exporting any right now on the global market. "They were responsible for about a third of it" Caughill noted. Production in the United States has also been curtailed to a degree. Fortunately, there are more phosphates coming out of Morocco this year, which is where the majority has been coming from.

He addressed other market and availability issues around the globe before highlighting changes at the Holmes Agro fertilizer facility at Orangeville.

The old plant was built in 1957 and was due for an update. Construction on new facilities started in April of 2023 and this April 4th, 2024, will see an open house to show off the new digs. We're all invited to drop in between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (473088 County Road 11, Amaranth)

## Managing for Success panel

Following Caughill's segment, Dennis Coffey, crop advisor, hosted a grower panel consisting of Alexa Hambly, the business operations manager at Gwillimdale Farms Ltd. and Aaron Tupling of Tupling Farms Ltd. Each of these panelists spoke of their role in their business and how they prepare for the future, including succession.

Their remarks were followed by a question and answer session. Their insights allowed attendees of the conference to consider how their methods compare to these successful agricultural and family businesses.

## A yen for YEN

Following the grower panel, the topic changed to the Great Lakes Yield Enhancement Network. This segment was a tag-team effort with Alexandra Dacey and Blair Freeman.

Dacey started off the segment as a member of the leadership team for YEN. She is also the project co-ordinator for Grain Farmers of Ontario. She began by explaining this is a bench-marking programme. "We're going to take a lot of data from your field and we're going to compare it to everyone else in the programme, so that over time you'll be able to make tweaks to your programme and see what factors are effecting your overall yield" explained Dacey. Many aspects of the programme were explained in detail.

Blair Freeman, full-time farmer from Chatsworth, Ontario, talked about his involvement with YEN as a participant in the programme. He runs a dairy operation with his family. He talked about his experience and involvement with the YEN programme and how it provided him with insight to his farm compared to similar operations.

## Enlist herbicide

From Pioneer, Phil Emmett addressed the group of 100 or so in the room. His main topic was the use of Enlist herbicide by Corteva. He was supported by Kate Mercer of Corteva, Holly Lucas and Rebecca Vestergaard from Pioneer.

The weight of this herbicide allows it to "get where you want it and stay where you want". It was noted that despite the low drift, it is not good to spray during a temperature inversion.

Mercer spoke to some of the technical aspects of Enlist. She re-inforced the reduced risk to neighbours' fields. There is a larger window of application time and no temperature restrictions. She repeated that Enlist is NOT Extend; some misconceptions have been had about that.



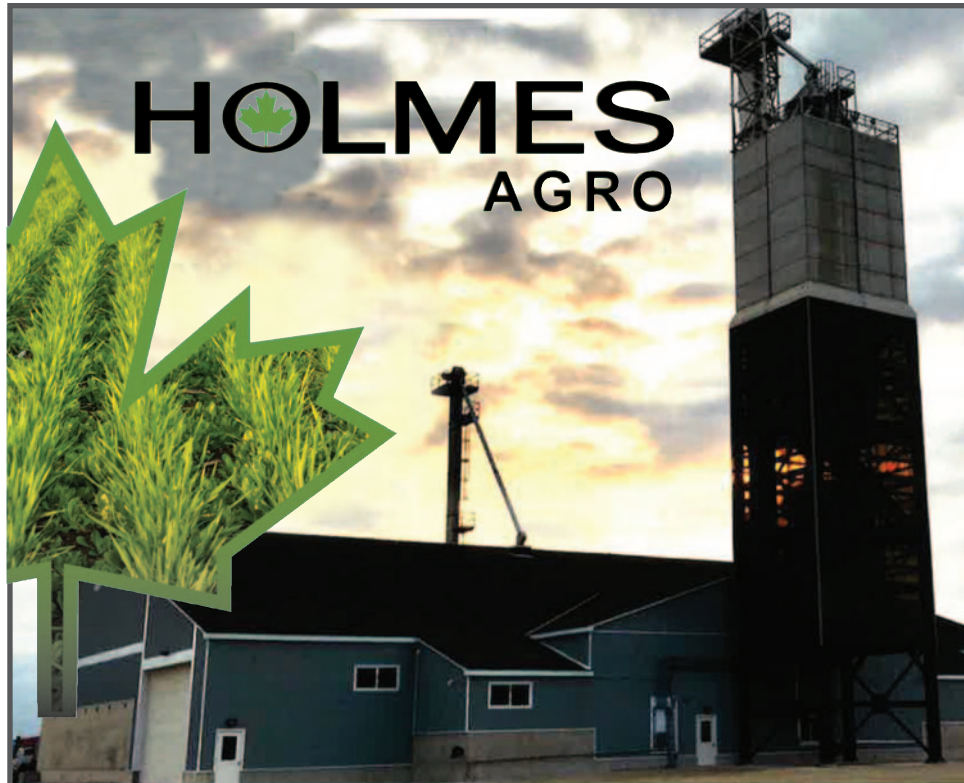
Jill Heinerth, professional cave diver, used her adventures not only to enthrall the audience with stories and pictures, but to instill the qualities of perseverance and safety running a safe operation.

## Grain market update

Following lunch, John Taylor provided the much-anticipated grain market updates. He noted that Ukraine and Russia are still exporting. He spoke of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) attempting to "...create a payment system backed by gold... not as reliant on U.S. dollars for payment". He feels this is "concerning for the western world".

The final speaker of the day was very entertaining, as she provided a look into the depths of our world's waters including those close to home in Georgian Bay. Underwater cave diver Jill Heinerth brought stories of diving in Mexico, the Bahamas and beyond, as well as in Fathom Five National Marine Park, off the northern tip of the Bruce Peninsula. Her website can be found at [www.intotheplanet.com](http://www.intotheplanet.com).

Collwest Grain Ltd. and Holmes Agro once again provided an informative and interesting conference. Keep your eyes peeled for the next one in 2025.



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# AgMaps tutorial amazed attendees

Synopsis by Don Beaulieu

Grey Agricultural Services, centred in Markdale, Ontario, hosted an insightful explanation and demonstration of AgMaps. In short, AgMaps is an interactive online application that allows you to create custom maps and find agricultural information for Ontario.

Designed for agriculture the application allows one to view aerial photographs of their land, create maps including labelling and other tools. Presentations can be made to aid in applying to government programmes. It also allows one to research soil information on their land, drainage and more.

Lorie Smith, Vice-president and office manager (and technical support on this day) welcomed the group of interested participants in attendance and on Zoom. She introduced facilitator Bob Steiss, Senior Geographic Information Specialist with Ontario Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs to explain what AgMaps can do for farmers.

Bob Steiss has been the project lead on development of AgMaps for 14 years. Originally it was referred to as the Rural Drainage Mapping System. It became apparent there was a wider use for the technology and it expanded into other areas of interest. He and two others look after managing AgMaps and the data behind it, establishing links with other groups who have pertinent data to share. It began as a tool to support ministry programmes as so many needed mapping components.

Some of the main areas driving AgMaps in the beginning, and still important are, The Tile Drainage Act, nutrient management, emergency management and soil mapping. There are a number of soil pedologists working to continually update the system. A soil pedologist is a scientist who specializes in a branch of soil science that is concerned with identification, formation, and distribution of soils, which covers soil classification, soil genesis and survey as well as land evaluation. "They need to utilize the newer technology, new data and new techniques for updating the maps".

"The days of hiring 30 pedologists to go around the province and do soil sampling and make new maps... long gone," said Steiss.

Steiss explained that AgMaps is marketed as a "portal for information". AgMaps uses information from other ministries and other agencies, federal departments and so on.

The application is available to the public, a "common tool for everyone to use, with lots of good base data". The target audience has traditionally been the agricultural rural communities. AgMaps leverages information from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Those ministries have been in the GIS business since the 1960s working

on extensive mapping. "They were the fore-runners of GIS in the Ontario Government" says Steiss.

With more automated equipment in farming and the use of global positioning systems, AgMaps makes a connection between that "background" technology and the technology available on the farm, online.

Updates to AgMaps is usually timed just ahead of the International Plowing Match. A smaller update has usually been offered just before the Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario Conference in January. "They were the initial drivers for AgMaps, so we try to tie-in with that one" explained Steiss. The plan is to release smaller updates, more frequently.

It is possible to upload one's own data to one's browser. Text and graphics can be added and edited, complete with building and animal icons.

The base imagery of the land is updated every five years, in staggered blocks. This is provided at 15 centimetre resolution (6 inches). Contour intervals can be as fine as 50 centimetres (about 20 inches).

If you are looking for a specific property, Premise Identification can be used, GPS co-ordinates or the address can be used. Steiss noted that the application uses old township names, the original names when they were surveyed out, not the modern names.

The group got a look at using layers of map data and the extensive, nested topics available. The drain layer was used as an example. Tile drainage includes the names of the drainage paths. One can enter a Query. All these aspects and more were dealt with in a hands-one portion of Steiss' presentation after a short break. Those attending live and at home on Zoom had their laptops open and followed along to get a feel for how the application worked. There is a lot to learn on one hand, but it all makes sense and is largely intuitive with a little guidance at the beginning.

The programme can be advantageous for school projects and research. With the exception of the parcel layer and the imagery layer "... all data is open for downloading" according to Steiss.

Distances can be measured and lot acreage can be calculated. 911 addresses can be auto-populated, lot and concession numbers are available.

This just touches the surface, so to speak, of what AgMaps can do. The second portion of the programme went into more detail. One participant found out why no one could find their house, including emergency responders; the 911 number was incorrect. This offered an opportunity to make a potentially life-saving correction to the 911 system as well as a higher guest-count at parties.



Lorie Smith of Grey Agricultural Services and Bob Steiss of OMAFRA

# Spring Safety: Be careful near waterways

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority reminds everyone to stay well back from waterways, ditches, ponds and lakes this time of year.

With spring-like temperatures arriving early, unsafe ice and slippery banks already exist.

The onset of spring will bring rain and melting snow, which will cause the breakup of remaining ice along watercourses and lakes as well as high stream flows. These hazardous conditions can cause life-threatening injury if a person falls into the extremely cold water.

Conservation Authorities across the region remind residents to keep family and pets away from all waterbodies, including streams, rivers, ponds and lakes. Especially during this transitional season, it is important to supervise children and help them understand the dangers of playing near creeks and streams. Anglers, canoeists, hikers, hunters and other recreational users need to be aware of the dangerous conditions that could pose a risk to personal safety.

Play it safe and stay well back from waterways as the snow and ice melts. Help make this a safe and enjoyable spring.

- ◆ Keep family and pets away from the edges of all bodies of water.

- ◆ Avoid all recreational activities in or around water, especially near ice jams or icecovered watercourses and waterbodies—including municipally managed stormwater ponds.

- ◆ Do not attempt to walk on ice-covered waterbodies or drive through flooded roads or fast-moving water.

- ◆ If you live close to the water, move objects such as chairs or benches away from the water's edge to avoid losing them during potential spring high water.

- ◆ Avoid walking close to and across riverbanks and ice-covered water to prevent falling through.

The NVCA continues to monitor waterways and will issue flood messages as conditions warrant.

## For more information, call your local Conservation Authority:

- ◆ Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (705) 424-1479
- ◆ Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (905) 895-1281
- ◆ Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (416) 661-6514
- ◆ Conservation Halton (905) 336-1158
- ◆ Credit Valley Conservation (905) 670-1615
- ◆ Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (905) 579-0411
- ◆ Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (905) 885-8173
- ◆ Kawartha Conservation (705) 328-2271

This Spring Safety Reminder is a general notice issued during spring runoff to remind residents that potential conditions exist that could pose a risk to personal safety or which have the potential to lead to flooding. High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected at this time.

# Healthy Waters Program

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The CFFO awards up to \$10,000 in scholarships annually to youth studying agriculture and agri-business. Children and grandchildren of CFFO Members can apply to receive one of four \$2,500 scholarships.

**Deadline to Apply:**

May 31, 2024

**Applicant Qualifications:**

The scholarship is open to qualifying applicants who (1) are secondary school graduates, (2) have parents or grandparents who are CFFO members, and (3) are registered for full-time studies in an agriculture-related program in Ontario\* for the upcoming academic year during which they apply.

\*Some out-of-province exceptions may be considered.

**Application Procedure:**

Applicants must provide the following documentation to the CFFO head office by May 31, 2024, to be eligible for this scholarship:

- A completed CFFO Federation Scholarship Application Form available on the website.
- An official transcript.
- Proof of full-time registration in an agriculture-related post-secondary course of study for the 2024/2025 academic year.
- A 500-word essay OR a 3-5 minute video\* detailing why they are pursuing education in an agriculture-related career and how their faith informs their understanding of farming (or the agri-food related profession they plan to enter).

\*Video must be posted publicly on YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, and the link must be included in the CFFO Federation Scholarship Application Form. Please do not email video as an attachment.

These documents may be submitted via email to [info@christianfarmers.org](mailto:info@christianfarmers.org) with the subject heading "CFFO Federation Scholarship Application" or via mail, postmarked no later than May 31, 2024 to Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, 231 Shearson Crescent, Unit 101, Box 2, Cambridge, ON, N1T 1J5.

Applications will be assessed by a select committee of CFFO Staff. Scholarship recipients will be notified in June 2024, and awarded at their local District Summer Picnic. Part or all of each recipient's essay or video may be shared on CFFO's social media, and recipients will be featured in the Fall/Winter edition of The Steward.

**For more information**

Please call Mackenna 519-831-1866 or email [mackenna@christianfarmers.org](mailto:mackenna@christianfarmers.org)

## Steele's Corners; a once thriving hamlet in Bradford-West Gwillimbury

Ontario's roadways were once littered with blink-and-you'll-miss-it crossroads hamlets. In the 19th century tiny settlements popped up like trilliums in a springtime forest, dotting the landscape. And like trilliums, most of these hamlets bloomed only briefly.

One such vanished community is Steele's Corners in Bradford-West Gwillimbury.

The popular story goes that in 1850 John Steele, a young Irish immigrant, found himself in Toronto (then known as York) and at a crossroads in his life. He decided to take his blacksmith skills north and opened a blacksmith shop along Yonge Street, north of Bradford. Soon, the shop became a hive of activity and a hamlet, named Steele's Corners in his honor, grew up around it.

It's a wonderful story, an example of how immigrants to the country could literally etch their name into history. But it's not true.

Instead, John Steele was born in Bradford in 1830 to James Steele and Margaret McAfee. The Steele farm soon had 85 bountiful acres under cultivation, so John was raised in comfortable, though not affluent, circumstances. John elected not to follow in his father's footsteps, but rather apprenticed himself to a blacksmith. By the time he was around 20 years of age, he had mastered his trade and looked to strike out on his own. He opened a blacksmith shop on the south-west corner of Yonge and the 14th concession.

As the oft-told tale suggested, Steele's shop thrived and became a hive of activity. Farmers would come to get their horses shod or tools mended. Stages rattling along the busy road might stop to get wheels re-rimmed or to water their teams. Locals began referring to the crossroads as Steele's Corners.

But even as Steele became busy, he suffered a string of misfortune. In 1867 the smithy burned down. It was then the height of the Fenian Scare when Irish American radicals launched raids into Canada to force Britain's hand in granting Ireland its independence. There were wild rumors that the shop was the victim of Fenian arson. It almost certainly wasn't. Steele rebuilt. This second shop burned as well, so once again the frustrated blacksmith had to start fresh.

Despite these temporary personal setbacks, Steele's Corners grew. A school was built nearby to educate the children of the farms that stretched out across the rolling landscape. The first school was of frame construction. By 1888, the

now nearly four-decade old school was weary and too small to serve the growing student body. A replacement was needed, so a fine brick building was built in its stead.

Religion was important to settlers, so every community of any size boasted a church. Steele's Corners was no exception. A Methodist church with an adjacent graveyard was built a kilometer north of the crossroads. Opposite stood a hall where members of the Orange Order met and where dances and other community functions were held.

Steele's Corners began to fade with the dawning of the new century, but it tenaciously clung to life. John Steel died in 1911 but his smithy was assumed by his son William and operated for two decades further. The Orange Hall closed in 1933 when membership dipped to a mere handful. It was moved to Cookstown. It took a lightning strike and subsequent fire to end the days of the church. And the school, well it endured until 1960.

Remnants of Steele's Corners remains. Zion Cemetery, a graveyard without its church, still stands. Many members of the community are buried within. The one-time school is still with us as well, now a private residence. The man who started it all, John Steele, lies in the graveyard of another lost crossroads hamlet, Coulson's Hill, just to the south.



Steele's Corner 1922, image courtesy of Bradford-West Gwillimbury Public Library.

**AUCTIONS?**  
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See page 23.

Columns by Leah Emms, OFA Representative and Farmer Tim will return next month...

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# 2024 International Plowing Match gearing up for a great event

Story and photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (IPM) will be held in Kawartha Lakes this year.

The IPM is an event like no other and requires about 800 acres of space. 70,000 visitors are expected to attend the five day IPM. The economic benefit to the community averages about 25 million dollars. Further, profits from the event are donated to volunteer groups and charities in the host area.

Cathy Lasby, Executive Director of the Ontario Plowman's Association (OPA) was at the recent Lindsay Farm Show staffing the 2024 IPM booth along with a few other IPM volunteers.

Traditionally, this event is held in September but the Kawartha Lakes IPM has been moved to October because the Lindsay Exhibition takes place in September at the Fairgrounds and the Fairgrounds are required for the IPM Tented City. Lasby explains adding, "We had to postpone the Match (IPM) in 2020 because of the pandemic. We are just delighted to be coming back to Kawartha Lakes this year in October."

"The IPM is a celebration of agriculture and rural living. It is an opportunity for us to tell the story of agriculture to all ages." Lasby says explaining there is also a huge education factor with the IPM. "There is a solid educational program where students can learn the story of farming. We are expecting 6,000 students to come through." Adding, "We are educating the next generation that often have not any access to farming."

Lasby herself is passionate about farming. She lives in Halton County on a purebred Hereford cattle farm. She has been a part of the IPM experience ranging from being a volunteer to working at a booth for the IPM. She feels that "been there/done that" gives her strong experience and an understanding of what it takes to host such a huge event. "When I first started helping out at the Match (IPM) our Church catered full course meals at the Match. I've been

coming to the Matches for a long time," she said adding that no two IPM's are ever the same.

While the Tented City will be held using the buildings at the Lindsay Fairgrounds, there will still be the traditional "wagon rides" to the Match as the public parking will be on leased lands across the highway from the Fairgrounds. The popular official IPM RV Park will be "within walking distance of Tented City" she said adding that the 500 sites in the RV Park are selling fast now. "We sold a lot of RV sites here today (Wednesday, March 6th) at the (Lindsay Farm Show)."

"The heart of the IPM has always been the plowing competitions. Visitors will be shuttled, via bus, to the plowing lands," Lasby said. "We have leased about 300 acres on Highway 36 north of highway 7 and we will run shuttle busses out to and from there," she clarified adding that it is expected there will be close to 175 plowing competitors from across Ontario, Quebec and the United States. "The youngest plower will be 10 and the oldest will be in their 80's," she explained.

The IPM needs volunteers to make it happen. Lasby said some volunteer jobs last for 1/2 a day while other volunteers have been working for over two years already on this Kawartha Lakes edition. "We need all our volunteers and we still need more for this year's IPM," she said. It takes a



Pictured above are a few of the local committee volunteers hard at work getting ready for the huge International Plowing Match coming to Kawartha Lakes this October. These volunteers were at the recent Lindsay Farm Show answering questions, selling souvenirs and collectibles as well as official IPM RV camping sites for the onsite RV park. From left to right in the back row are Bob Porter and Bernita Blair. Front row from left to right are Carolyn LaPorte, Gladys Masters, Gord Masters and Marilyn LaPorte.

total of about 800 volunteers to make this five day event happen.

The Kawartha Lakes IPM will be held Tuesday, October 1st to Saturday, October 5th. All inquiries can be sent to: [ipm2024@plowingmatch.org](mailto:ipm2024@plowingmatch.org)

The IPM is a collaboration between the OPA and a local committee. It is moved around Ontario every year. The 2025 IPM will be held in the Niagara Region and the 2026 IPM will be held in Bruce County.

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

**AUCTION SALE**

**Farm Sold Online Farm Auction  
 Property of Larry & Kay Maw**  
 3472 Hwy 26, Minesing, Ontario  
 Complete Liquidation of Farm Machinery and  
 Miscellaneous Items  
**Sale Runs Mon. April 15 to Mon. April 22, 2024**  
 2096 Case Cab 2x4 tractor, 2090 Case Cab tractor,  
 No-Till drill, 13' hydraulic sprocket land packer, shank  
 soil saver, 16' set of discs, Salford 18' S tine cultivator,  
 5100 CIH 21 run seed drill, Unverferth 35' rolling har-  
 rows, 13' land packer, Yetter 15' rotary hoe, Hardi 300  
 gal field sprayer, Bruns 400, Unverferth 300 and  
 Turnco 225 gravity wagons, 851 Farm King auger,  
 Weberway 6"x24' hydraulic auger, 40'x70' Coverall  
 double truss building, 16' flat hay wagons plus much  
 more!  
 Please Note: This is a partial listing only!

**For more info and pictures visit:  
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**Timed Online  
 Consignment Auction**  
 Farm, Shop & Construction Materials and  
 Equipment, Vehicles & Trailers, Etc!  
**April Consignment Sale Runs  
 April 22nd to April 29th, 2024**

For more information visit the website!

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[www.kevinbarkerauctions.com](http://www.kevinbarkerauctions.com)**  
**Kevin: 705-878-2947 or  
 Office: 705-328-1478**  
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**FREE ADS**  
**Red Angus, Simmental and  
 Red Angus-Simmental  
 yearling bulls.** Google  
 "Ontario Bull Evaluation" for  
 the test results on calving  
 ease and growth. Silver  
 Springs Farms 519-599-  
 6236 or 226-668-0775,  
 jmckinlay@bmts.com

**Wanted black angus bull.**  
 Willing to trade my 6yr old,  
 easy calving, quiet black  
 angus polled bull. Call 705-  
 529-4295.

**For sale 2 forage wagons**  
 and NH 718. Forage  
 harvester ready to go.  
 \$1500.00 for the package  
 call 905-806-5111.

**For Sale 10 issues of early**  
 1960's Family Herald  
 magazines. Would like  
 \$20.00. Please call or text  
 cell 705-440-3567.

**FREE ADS**  
**For Sale Kawasaki Invader**  
 440 Snowmobile, needs  
 work. Best offer, please call  
 905-939-7449.

**For sale 8' silage grapple**  
 bucket with tines. Never  
 been used. Call 705-441-  
 3637.

**20' Hay elevator** for small  
 square bales. New  
 condition. Midland Area.  
 Call 705-835-5440.

**Alfalfa/Timothy Hay For  
 Sale (Top Quality)**  
 1st and 2nd cut, 4'x5' twine  
 Call 705-795-6977.

**Equipment for sale** 1951  
 8N tractor PTO, runs,  
 steering issue. Rear blade,  
 snow blade, tire chains.  
 McCormack ground driven  
 spreader, working, set of  
 chain harrows. Call Laurie  
 705-786-2254.

**AUCTION SALE**

**Online Farm Auction For  
 Ploeg Farms Inc.**  
 3405 Hwy 26, Minesing, Ontario  
 Transition Sale from Dairy to Cash Crop  
**Sale Runs Mon. April 29 to Mon. May 6, 2024**  
 T5050 New Holland 4x4 tractor with loader, TS100  
 New Holland 4x4 a/c cab tractor, H7450 New Holland  
 13' centre pivot discbine, New Holland Roll-Belt 450  
 round baler, 316 New Holland square baler, 7500 T  
 Agway 7' accelerator, Kuhn twin rotary rake, Case IH  
 FHX 300 forage harvester with Horning Krop proces-  
 sor, CIH HDX20P 8' haylage head, HDX3R 3 row corn  
 silage head, Field Line FL 440 forage blower, Dion  
 1016 SE forage wagons, Husky liquid manure tanker  
 (6000 gals), Husky 8" liquid manure pump, 1995  
 Featherlite gooseneck aluminum livestock trailer, 2 -  
 18' diameter Envira North Har-minus dc drive ceiling  
 fans, Boumatic Dari milk tank, cooling units plus 2  
 cooling units, DeLaval Parallel Blue Diamond double  
 six (12 unit milking parlour) plus much more!

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**Live Auction Sale  
 Equipment Consignment  
 Saturday May 11th, 9:30am**

554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON Go west  
 through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans  
 Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm  
 on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2  
 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles  
 to farm on East side.

**Now Accepting: Tractors, Machinery,  
 Equipment, Farm Rel/Shop**

Note: Please contact auctioneer if you are wanting to  
 consign any equipment/items

**\*\*Watch the website as items will be added regularly\*\***

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**[www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur](http://www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur)**  
 - full listing & photos


**FREE ADS**  
**For sale John Deere small**  
 sq baler, eight bale  
 Accumulator, two Martin hay  
 wagons 18 ft wood flat racks,  
 two vibrashank cultivators- 1  
 pull type 12 ft - 1 mounted  
 9ft, one kongskilde 3pt 12 ft,  
 one 11 ft packer.  
 Email busib4u@gmail.com  
 for pictures and info.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Wishing  
 Aaron  
 Robichaud  
 the happiest of  
 birthdays!  
 Love from all of  
 your family!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Happy 60th Anniversary!*  
*Joe & Elaine Gray*  
*March 28, 1964*



*With much love,  
 Danette, Geof, Glen, Denise & Families*

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 Glen Huron requires help for the following:**

- 1) Local Building Supply firm in the heart of the Blue Mountains requires person for inside counter sales and contractor sales. Knowledge and experience extremely helpful for our Timbermart building supply division. Being fit, energetic & getting along with others a must.
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**Farm Equipment**

MF 33 Seed drill, 17 run, double disc, rope trip lift grain only \$1,650.00.  
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 International cultivator, vibre shank, 18 ft, some new shank ensembles with harrows on back, manual wings \$2,200.00.

**Call Dan Seifried,  
 Harriston  
 519-338-2688**

**Free Classifieds**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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



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## Stewart's Equipment Stayner Location:

6837 ON-26, Stayner, Corner of 26 & center line rd  
ON, LOM 1S0 **705-428-3132**

### Erin Location:

9410 Wellington Rd 124, Erin,  
Corner of 124 & 24 ON,  
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### Cookstown Location:

4321 Line 13, Cookstown,  
Corner of 27 & line 13 ON,  
L0L1L0 705-458-0871



## Stewart's Open Houses 2024

Stayner April 13<sup>th</sup>

Erin April 20<sup>th</sup>

Cookstown April 27<sup>th</sup>



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## Used Equipment



**Kubota M6S-111SDSCC**

hours ua: 1385, 4wd, diesel, cab/heat/air, 340/85r24 fronts, 460 / 85r34 rears, cast centers, 2 remotes, 540 rpm, swing shift plus with dual speed f32/r32, kubota m41 loader (Stayner)

**\$33,900**



**Kubota B2301**

hours ua: 335.3, diesel, 4wd, 3 spd hydrostatic transmission, foldable rops, 540 pto, no remotes, 23x8.50x15 fronts, 33x12.50-15 rears, kubota RCK54-32 mid mount mower, Erin.

**\$17,300**



**Kubota RA2071TVARIO**

dual rotor rake, 7.1m working width, side delivery, hydraulic offset, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. Stock number: U28355

**\$22,900**



**Kubota M9540DT**

hours ua: 1850.8, 4wd, cab/heat/air, 12.4r24 fronts, 18.4r30 rears, 540 rpm, 2 remotes, front grill guard, m36 loader, self leveling, manual q/a 82" bucket, Unit is located in Erin.

**\$72,000**



**Kubota DMC8536R**

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

**\$34,300**



**Kubota M7060**

hours ua: 531.1, 4wd, diesel, cab/heat/air, 540 rpm, 2 sets of remotes, 360/70r20 front tires, front fenders, 440/80r30 rear tires, radio, metal pless agh830-13 blade, unit is located in Erin

**\$63,900**



**Case IH5120**

hours ua: 5783, 2wd, cab heat air 11.00x16 front tires, 18.4x38 rear tires, 540 rpm, two sets of remotes, 16x16 semo power shift, bar axle, Unit is located in Erin

**\$33,900**



**Kverneland 6716**

4x5' bales, variable chamber, net wrap, 14 knives, monitor- unit is located t Stewart's equipment in Stayner Formerly Earth Power.

**\$22,900**



**New Holland BC5070**

540 rpm, hydraformatic tension, hydraulic pick up lift, hydraulic swing tongue bundle, wagon hitch, Unit is located at Stewart's equipment in Erin

**\$27,900**



**New Holland 460**

4x6 bales, netwrap, wide pick-up, hydraulic pick-up, 18l-16.5l rubber, crop cutter, rear kicker, bale count 14100, Unit is located at Stewart's equipment in Erin

**\$33,900**



**New Holland C232**

hours ua: 725, rubber track machine, cab with heat and air, aux hydraulics, 2 spd, iso/h pattern, hydraulic q/a, 72" low profile bucket w/ bolt on cutting edge, unit located in Erin.

**\$71,900**



**Kubota L3350DT**

hours ua: 1023, diesel, 4wd, open station, no rops, 540 rpm, ag tires, hydraulic shuttle - forward & reverse, loader with 64" bucket, Located at Stewart's Equipment in Stayner,

**\$21,200**

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