

Since 1977

FARM VIEW

A newspaper with something for everyone | May 2024 | Volume 47 #05

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Agricultural Equipment Experience for County and Township Staff

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Celebrating the Queen of the Furrow

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Several More Seminar Topics Covered!

Jim Phoenix sends a clear message during the Uxbridge rally protesting the recent carbon tax hike.



Complimentary copy for the FARM household

AG calendar

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.

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.**

May 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

May 22nd: Program announcement for E.D.G.E

Elmvalle District Garden Enthusiast invites you to join: **May 22nd at 7 pm** Dusana Bondy from Abell Pest Control will speak on Ticks-Lyme Disease. Meet at 7 John Street, Elmvalle Legion. Lug your mug and bring a friend. Guests are free and most welcome.

E.D.G.E. plant sale will take place on **June 15th.** Locally grown perennials, herbs, vegetables and native plants.

Location Heritage Park Hwy 92, Elmvalle 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 25th: Essa Historical Society's 45th Anniversary

Join us in celebrating EHS' 45th anniversary. **Saturday, May 25th at the Utopia Hall 8396 6th Line, Utopia.** Social at 11:30 a.m., Luncheon at 12 p.m., Program at 1 p.m. Please RSVP to John Beischer at 705-726-5308 by May 15th, 2024.

May 30th: Farm Business Reg. Refund deadline

Please submit all refund requests to memberrelations@ofa.on.ca or by mailing to: 200 Hanlon Creek Blvd, Guelph ON N1C 0A1. **Requests must be received or postmarked by May 30th.** Visit the OFA website for more details <https://ofa.on.ca>

June 22nd & 23rd: Kawartha Antique Power Show

The Kawartha Antique Power Show is the biggest, annual event of the Kawartha Antique Power Club. An event not to be missed, **full details in the article on page 6.**

Apply for NVCA's 2025 tree planting grants

Landowners are invited to apply for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's (NVCA) 2025 tree planting grants before next winter.

"As Spring is approaching, many landowners are looking to plant their forests this year," said Rick Grillmayer, Manager of Forestry at NVCA. "However, planting forests takes a lot of planning. We look at soil conditions, the tree species that are suitable for the property, and most importantly, we need to let the nurseries know what species of trees we need so they can start growing the trees."

There are two requirements to qualify for tree planting grants from NVCA: the property must be in the Nottawasaga Watershed, and there is a minimum of 1 hectare of planting space. Depending on the location of the site, NVCA may be able to cover 25% - 95% of tree planting projects. Properties over 4.45 hectares in size may be eligible for the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program.

"Interested landowners can contact me to schedule a free site visit," continued Grillmayer. "We will discuss the tree planting process, funding structure and feasibility of planting on the site. If everything goes well, I will develop a tree planting plan for the site and schedule the property into the 2025 spring tree plant!"

Landowners who do not meet the minimum requirements for NVCA's tree planting program can purchase seedlings at NVCA's Arbor Day Tree Sale. There will be a variety of bareroot tree and shrub seedlings for sale. Trees and shrubs are sold in bundles of 10 for \$35 each.

Planting trees helps to provide wildlife habitat, shade rivers and streams, produces oxygen, among many other benefits. Well managed forests also contribute to the economy by providing wood for construction and wood fiber for products such as paper.

For more information about NVCA's tree planting program or Arbor Day Tree Sale, visit nvca.on.ca.

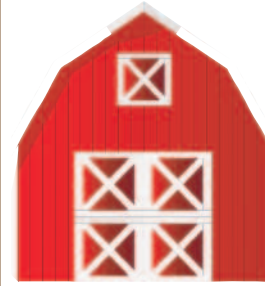
To schedule your site assessment, contact Rick Grillmayer at 705-424-1479 x 230 or email rgrillmayer@nvca.on.ca.

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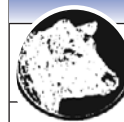


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Economics of Choosing When to Market Lambs

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Know your production numbers was the main message at the recent “Economics of Choosing When to Market Lambs” course. Hosted by Grey Agriculture Services, this course was well attended in-person as well as online. The presenter was OMAFRA Sheep Specialist, Delma Kennedy.

Kennedy opened the two hour long course explaining that the Sheep Inventory in Canada does not meet today’s demand for lamb. In 2020, 43.5% of the sheep and lamb consumed were made up of Canadian product. In 2022, it was even lower at 34.2%. “We import more (lamb and sheep meat) than we produce in Canada,” she explained. Kennedy added “It doesn’t look like it is going to change any time soon.” This translates into a continuous marketing opportunity for today’s Ontario sheep farmers.

All sheep farmers know there are peak markets in a year. There is the well known Christmas and Easter markets. Kennedy pointed out there are two often unknown- and strong ethnic feast markets for lamb and sheep. The two markets are “Ramadan” and the Eid al-Adha holiday—often referred to as “Big Eid” or “the Greater Eid”. The 2024 Ramadan took place March 10th to April 9th and Big Eid is June 16th to 19th. “The dates of these events change every year,” Kennedy advised.

A “good price” to one sheep producer is the price that lets you meet your financial goals and cover all the expenses per lamb and per ewe and leaves a profit.

Choosing when to market lambs is much more than looking at the calendar. Kennedy says there are many factors to consider. The production system of either accelerated or annual lambing needs to be considered. “There needs to be enough room in the barn for lambing and growing out lambs,” she said adding, “accelerated lambing means there are a lot more lambing times to plan around also.” Feed resources available and the breed of the lamb are also factors as some breeds grow at a faster rate than others.

Production cost numbers must be tallied for the cost of feed and bedding used and how much weight gain a lamb will put on each day. All these numbers will spell out the cost of feeding that lamb in the barn for one day. These

numbers will give the Sheep farmer a clear picture of what the costs are. Knowing the costs enables the farmer to know what the “profit making” price must be at sale time. This, Kennedy says, “is simple math.”

Lambs are sold by weight, not gender in the auction markets. Lambs are sold in different weight categories and there are different prices for each category. Kennedy showed a list of the lamb auction sales in 2023 that listed a 43 pound lamb in the under 50 pounds category selling for \$127.51 per pound and a 59 pound lamb at 50-64 pounds selling for \$185.66. “I need an extra 16 pounds to get to the next category to get an extra \$58.15 that I’m leaving on the table by not going to that next level,” she explained. She added, “at first look, I should not sell lambs at under 50 pounds is what I see here with these numbers,” Kennedy said.

Keeping the lamb until it reaches 100 pounds can mean more dollars gained but it also means leaving the lamb in the barn more days. Raising larger lambs can push the mortality rate up much higher “barns that have poor ventilation have the possibility of a big run in with pneumonia which would also impact growth rates- and possibly cause losses of lambs,” Kennedy warned.

Every lamb cannot become a “heavy lamb.” Keeping a lamb that is a slow grower to the point it is now at a heavy weight will not convince a lamb buyer that this old lamb is equal in quality to a young lamb at the same weight. Buyers are educated and know the “GR tissue” depth just by one look as the lambs pass in the auction ring. Kennedy said, “buyers are good judges, they know what they want and what will dress out best.”

“GR tissue depth” is the current Greville fat scoring systems often used in Australian abattoirs to indicate on lamb and sheep carcass composition and meat yield. For example Fat Score 1 has 0-5mm fat. “We want to feel some fat over the ribs,” Kennedy explains adding that 12 mm is ideal and having a huge amount like 20 mm is not ideal at all. “Buyers do not want too much fat,” she said.

Kennedy introduced a pilot project at the course titled “My Market Summary” which is basically a spreadsheet in

Excel that works with the Sheep farmer’s auction receipts being added in. This program is made specifically for sheep production by Kennedy recognizing that sheep farmers have little time left in a day to study numbers. The spreadsheet would show, with a stroke of a key, the entire year’s lamb and sheep sales with dates of being sold with prices and weights when sold listed. This is very much a work in progress and Kennedy is hoping to have this ready later this year to help Sheep farmers track the all important numbers and she will be offering education on this new system. Watch for an announcement at: <http://www.ontariosheep.org/events>

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FROM THE EDITOR



Roslyn Watkins
 Publisher/Editor
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My husband has always said "Don't just bring a problem to the table, try to bring a solution." In reference to the Agricultural Equipment Experience event that is covered on page 12, I feel that the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture is doing a fantastic job educating, and hopefully influencing, the decision makers who plan our roadways. On that topic I would like to add I firmly believe the general public doesn't understand why farm

equipment is on the road in the first place. I think that education in this regard, beginning at the elementary school level and carrying on through high school, should be mandatory. Not just in rural areas, but across Ontario, in cities where understanding is needed most. Let's start with the kids and explain that for a farm to expand, to be able to produce more food to meet the growing demands of the population, farmers need to acquire more property from wherever it is available. And that there are also many custom farming businesses that travel for hours to farm property for another landowner. I think this education would help families commuting to work, school, the weekend getaway, understand and appreciate why navigating rural roads might take a little longer. An education truly instructing the younger generation on all components of farm life would be far more beneficial than just the odd outing to a local market because it is the trendy thing to do. Farm equipment on the road needs to be given the same respect as our emergency responders, farmers are after all, literally saving our lives.

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



In the photo to the left we see Thomas Kneeshaw, in the tractor seat, and Abby Deboer enjoying the tractor safety demo put on during the 2024 Keep Kids Safe workshop held at Huron Tractor in Stayner. For more photos of this event, turn to page 9.

—Photo by Roslyn Watkins

Cover photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill.

In Memoriam



Jill Beischer
 May 27th, 1953 - May 17th, 2019

I Am Always With You

I am always with you
 When I am gone, release me, let me go.
 I have so many things to see and do,
 You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many tears,
 But be thankful we had so many good years.
 I gave you my love, and you can only guess
 How much you've given me in happiness.
 I thank you for the love that you have shown,
 But now it is time I traveled on alone.
 So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must
 Then let your grief be comforted by trust
 That it is only for a while that we must part,
 So treasure the memories within your heart.
 I won't be far away for life goes on.
 And if you need me, call and I will come.
 Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near
 And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
 All my love around you soft and clear
 And then, when you come this way alone,
 I'll greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home".

Author Unknown

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Farm View invites letters to the editor. They should be fewer than 300 words and deal with a single topic affecting farmers. All letters must be signed, including your full name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to editing for brevity. Please no phone calls.

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In memory of Jill Beischer

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

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

W.J. Bryan

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

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By Leah Emms
OFA Member Services Rep.
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Our mission statement at OFA is Farms & Food Forever. No explanation needed. Our main role as the largest general farm organization in Ontario is advocating for agriculture. OFA represents over 38,000 farm families. For 88 years, OFA has been responding to the needs of our members and the broader agricultural community through representation at the provincial and county level by farmers. A slogan we use to illustrate that point is “Farmers Working for Farmers.”

Your OFA provincial Board of Directors are all active farmers in their communities and dedicated to advancing the needs of agriculture in Ontario. The OFA Board is comprised of eighteen directors representing fifteen geographic zones and three director-at-large positions. The Board of Directors is supported by a compliment of highly professional staff at our head office in Guelph and across the province. Currently consisting of forty-four staff members. Out in the field, members are supported by twenty-one Member Services Repre-

sentatives who interact with not only members and the volunteers on your County Federation of Agriculture, but government staff and staff from other organizations on a daily basis to network and build relationships.

OFA policy positions are developed through real on farm member situations, member survey inputs, our Policy Advisory Committee with viable research from our farm policy analyst team. The OFA Board of Directors approve all policies. OFA works hard to stay on top of all the relevant issues that impact our farm businesses by participating on government stakeholder working groups and continually submitting comments to various government consultations. Please visit our website to view our submissions. You will be amazed at the variety of topics we are engaged in.

The volunteers that represent you at the county or regional level are farmers from your local area with a vast level of knowledge and experience in agriculture. Across the province, there are fifty-two county or regional federations of agriculture. All members of OFA are automatically members of their local federation too!

My role as your Member Services Representative has been an amazing opportunity to see the diversity of agriculture across my zone. And, to also see the innovation and tenacity of farmers who want to continue to provide the citizens of not only Ontario but, Canada and the world with food, fiber, flowers, and fuel in an ever changing regulatory environment. Hats off to every one of our farm family members and county volunteers.

Keep up the splendid work!

44th Kawartha Antique Power Show has new Saturday night addition

The Kawartha Antique Power Show has two major new changes this year. The first change is a new date, Saturday, June 22nd and Sunday, June 23rd. The second change is a new addition for Saturday night.

The Kawartha Antique Power Show is the biggest, annual event of the Kawartha Antique Power Club (KAPC) which has about 250 members. Kawartha Antique Power Show 2024 will have the addition of a Saturday Night Stock Tractor Pull that will start at 5:00 pm. The 2024 President of the KAPC is Bill Windsor from Lindsay. He said, “this is not the vintage tractor pull, that still happens as usual at the Show on Saturday afternoon and that is for only the old tractors.” He explains, “This new Tractor Pull is for the Straight Frames and Articulates. This Pull is for the big Farm tractors.”

It was from requests from local tractor owners that the KAPC decided to add in this new feature. The big grandstand and the track are already in place as the event is held at the spacious Lindsay Fairgrounds. “We had local guys asking about having a Tractor Pull here. We had inquiries from Peterborough, Uxbridge and Sunderland so we decided there were enough people interested to see if we can make this happen.”

KAPC President Windsor, a longtime collector of both gas engines and tractors says, “I like the old stuff, the stuff made way back in the early 1900’s that I might find forgotten in a fence row. I bring it home and then see what I can do to make it work again. I have my own machine shop so I make parts as needed,” he said adding that he has about 12 vintage tractors and 3 old trucks and a lot of gas engines. He said that “we need to keep

the history of farming alive” and that is the purpose of the Kawartha Antique Power Show.

The Kawartha Antique Power Show showcases farming of years gone by. There are rows and rows of restored farm equipment, often with signs listing owners and the equipment’s age and model numbers. There are live demonstrations of an actual threshing machine showing how the farmer got straw and grain kernels from a sheaf before the combine was invented. There is nothing quite the same as the hiss of a working steam engine, the first mechanical workhorse of agriculture and they are part of this show too. There are also shingle mill, sawmill, drag saw and stone crusher demonstrations. All demonstrations are included in the admission price.

The public can spot KAPC members as they wear special ribbons and are encouraged to ask questions to learn more about farming of the past or specifically about the equipment they brought to display or demonstrate with at the Show.

“We are here to educate people, to let people know about how things were done on the farm in the past. I grew up with this so I know a lot but others never got that chance. I can hardly wait for this (Kawartha Antique Power Show) weekend to come, we are going to have a great time,” Windsor comments.

Camping is available on site and information is available on the website <http://kawarthaantiquepower.com>. There is lunch available for purchase. Admission is \$12.00 with children under 12 free.

This year’s Feature model is Minneapolis-Moline, Ford and David Brown.

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Ontario Agricultural Conference

Understanding Disruptive Weather

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Weather is so important to farmers that Nutrien Ag Solutions (NAS) has five atmospheric scientists working at the company which provides full-acre solutions with more than 1,700 global locations. Operational senior meteorologist, Andrew Pritchard from NAS was the speaker at Session #1 titled "Understanding Disruptive Weather" at the 2024 Ontario Agricultural Conference. He is based in Illinois, right in the middle of the corn belt of the United States.

"It is the impact of those big severe storms in the spring that we get here (in Illinois cornbelt) that got me into this weather business," he said in his opening statements.

The past year, he said, "has been an impactful year" and shows how weather is linked up with farming. "It was 2,000 miles away but the smoke (from this year's wildfires in Western Canada) was still giving us impacts in the cornbelt. The sun was shining on cloud free days but the sun could not shine on the ground because it could not get through the smoke."

He said that weather forecasting is not only done at the level seen on tv. The weather forecasting is a team effort with a lot of people involved with watching and recording weather patterns, low and high pressure systems and jet streams using computer models- and actual recording materials on the ground. Recordings are taken from ground sensors, radar, observation of wind speed, temperature and soil moisture. "We have also set up stations across Canada, United States and Europe to monitor the atmosphere," he said. Weather forecasting is getting more accurate all the time, using all this data for short term forecasting. "How far out (in the future) do you really go (in weather forecasting)?" Pritchard says is a common question that he answers with, "We can now go out with certainty for 10 days, after that it is about a 50/50 chance of accuracy."

Pritchard specializes in severe weather events with the ultimate goal of saving all human lives through early correct

warnings. One of the recent success stories was the weather event in Montana, USA last October that had an "impactful weather day." An area was invaded by a huge rush of tumbleweeds but the event was predicted and prepared for with no loss of human lives.

One of the hardest weather events to predict is the tornado. The May 21, 2022 windstorm that caused a tornado in some places that swept through Ontario was no exception. This storm, according to Pritchard, had a long, life damaging wind that lasted from 10:30 am to 9:00 pm before it was finished. The wind was, at peak, 82 miles per hour and "it left over 760 miles of wind damage" behind it. And, he adds, the worst of it is "there were fatalities from that storm."

Storm watching at the meteorologist level means watching "S.L.I.M" for severe weather. S stands for "shear" meaning the turning of the winds in the atmosphere, which he says, "helps maintain or organize storm activity." L stands for "lift" which is mechanism to force moist, unstable air upwards and generate thunderstorms. I is the "instability" which, he says, "is measured as potential energy available for thunderstorms as they rise." M means "moisture" which is needed to produce the clouds and potential thunderstorms.

El Nina is a climatic cold phase that is caused by a build-up of cooler-than-normal waters in the tropical Pacific, an area in the Pacific Ocean. We have just had three years of El Nina and that, according to Pritchard, "has been tied to the significant Prairie droughts." Now, we are starting in the counterpart, the El Nino which is the "warm" version of this with warmer-than-normal waters in the tropical Pacific.

Pritchard says that he is predicting El Nino will be better at providing moisture to Western Canada. "We can look at the oceans and see warmer water, which is El Nino coming in. In March, El Nino is coming in and it is going to be mild," he predicted in January. "In March-April in the Prairies the jet stream is in place for a "favourable growing season

for the Prairies this year" and not more of the drought conditions of the past three years of El Nina's influence.

"In the next six months (January-June) the models/forecasts struggle with the transition into El Nina and the truth is they all have their own flavor," he said adding that "there is probably not going to be a quick fix because it took three years to get here (in this drought)."

A question from the live audience asked what was meant with a forecasted "30% of rain." Pritchard explained that this means "expect rain in 30% of the forecasted area." He said for 80% chance of rain, "expect rain over 80% of the forecasted area meaning its widespread."

Andrew Pritchard produces a weekly weather forecast at http://info.nutrien.com/Pritchard_weather_ca that is available for free by signing up online.

Be Drift Aware

Spray season is here and there is a great new resource hub for farmers and spray operators with information and best practices to reduce spray drift. Visit www.BeDriftAware.ca for practical tips and test your spray smarts with the quick quiz.

Be Drift Aware was created by Grain Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and CropLife Canada.



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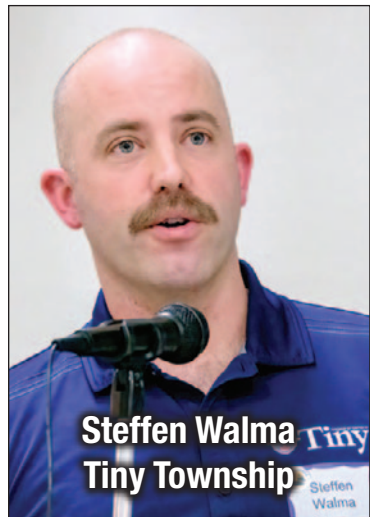


Rivers of knowledge: Open house delivers insights to Severn Sound's ecosystem

Report and images by Don Beaulieu

There was an incredible amount of hard data available at the Severn Sound Environmental Association's open house which was held in Elmvale early in April. One third of the hall resembled a science fair in that there were tables full of tri-fold presentations with lots of images, graphs and charts. The tables had copious printed copies of scientific information, concerns and solutions. Volunteers of the SSEA were on hand to handle any questions and to direct one to specific areas of interest.

Also on display were the scientific tools used for water testing, samples of invasive species and other paraphernalia used in the field, so to speak.



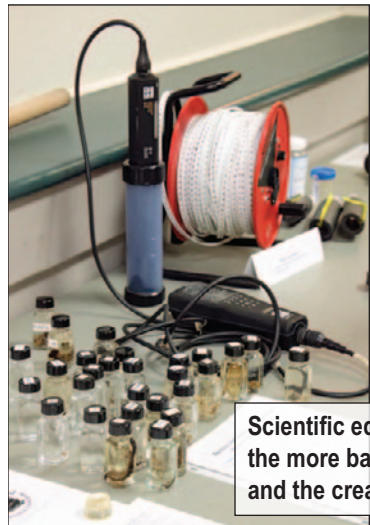
Steffen Walma
Tiny Township

Tiny Township Councillor Steffen Walma explained that the SSEA is not a conservation authority; "We're literally eight municipalities that got together one day, shook hands and said that the environment's important".

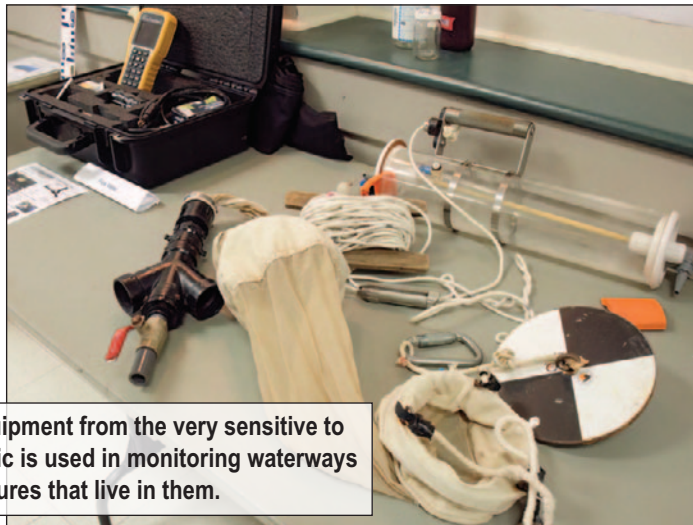
Invasive species are a large issue. Walma used the example of periwinkle. "They don't see borders. If you have it in Tiny Township, you have it in Tay Township and Penetanguishene and Midland and everywhere else". He says we have to work together to battle these problems and we need the grass roots organizations and their hard work to guide us to "...steward our environment".

The afternoon also saw an excellent presentation by Scott Parent, a long distance paddler, photographer, guide, historian... the list goes on. His focus is Georgian Bay, the waters and islands are the home of his ancestors. Parent told many stories, but the big one was stand-up paddle boarding across the waters from Drummond Island to Penetanguishene with his then nine year-old daughter Acadia. His appreciation for the waters soaked into his

was stand-up paddle boarding across the waters from Drummond Island to Penetanguishene with his then nine year-old daughter Acadia. His appreciation for the waters soaked into his



Scientific equipment from the very sensitive to the more basic is used in monitoring waterways and the creatures that live in them.



audiences while bringing to light issues of micro-plastics (yes, in Georgian Bay) and larger bits of human garbage in the most remote areas of the many islands of the bay.

The evening proceedings were more formal, with a number of dignitaries speaking and awards being presented. Again the beauty of Georgian Bay, its waters and islands was shared, this time by photographer John Hartman.



"Let us continue to nurture the environment, build sustainable communities and maintain lasting partnerships"

—Jennifer Coughlin
Springwater Township Mayor

Mayor of the Township of Springwater Jennifer Coughlin addressed the crowd near the beginning of the evening's SSEA awards programme. She recognized the work done to protect and preserve our natural resources. "We recognize the crucial role Springwater plays in the headwaters of the Wye River" she said. Coughlin had the opportunity recently to witness some of the methods the SSEA uses to

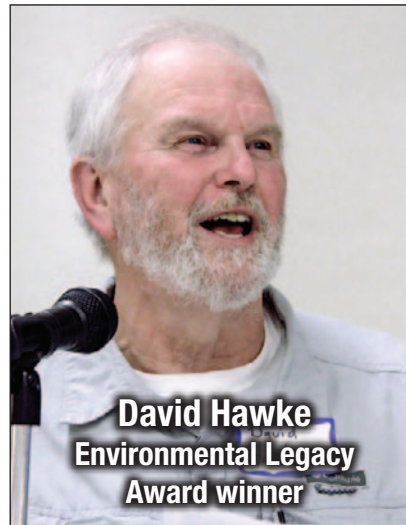
monitor water; "This was an eye opening experience, I learned about the skills and knowledge the dedicated SSEA brings to our township". She wrapped up her remarks by asking those in attendance to "...Reaffirm our commitment to building a sustainable future for the communities in which we serve and for generations to come".

Simcoe North Member of Parliament Adam Chambers also addressed the crowd. Chambers praised the work of the SSEA for their efforts. "They do wonderful work and we're very lucky that we have a strong collaboration and partnership in our region, between the municipalities and the SSEA"

he said.

Space allows us to mention just one award which was presented at the SSEA gathering. The 2023 Severn Sound Environmental Legacy Award. This award is inspired by the outstanding naturalists and environmentalists that dedicated much of their lives to supporting and improving the environment of Severn Sound and have inspired others to do the same... without looking for recognition themselves". This prestigious award was presented to David Hawke.

Farm View hopes to have a list of all the SSEA award winners in our next issue, to recognize their dedication to environmental issues.



David Hawke
Environmental Legacy Award winner

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Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

You think English is easy?

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out of his shoes.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.

“Keep Kids Safe” workshop

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins



More than 75 kids attended the Keep Kids Safe workshop that was held at Huron Tractor, Stayner in early April.

Vikas Vig and Holly Gushue-Tulk, top far left photo, taught the kids electrical safety. Warren Darling, Fire Prevention Officer, and Cody Hobbs from Clearview Fire and Emergency Services, bottom far left, demonstrated fire safety. Brothers Russell and Jack Pearson, with Bently Priest thought the fire truck was the best part of the day.

Li-Lian Lui, photo bottom right, represented Operation Life Saver and explained the importance of learning rail safety. Huron Tractor demonstrated tractor safety to the kids including the blind spots for drivers of the lawn equipment and where to stand so that they are seen as well as explaining how quickly the parts are moving with the ruler game.

To conclude the event the kids were treated to a pizza lunch with Miller's Dairy ice cream. This workshop is an annual event, keep it on your calendar for next spring.

The War Amps Champ Program was well represented by Hunter, far left, and Malcolm. Hunter and Malcolm explained to the kids that the number one cause of limb loss are lawn mower and farm equipment accidents. The boys demonstrated how their own prosthetic limbs work in combination with a variety of attachments. Hunter showed the kids his attachments that help him play baseball, ball hockey, and fish as well as the attachments for doing push ups and weight lifting. Malcolm shared his attachments that allow him to swim, bike and play the piano.



Thank you to our Keep Kids Safe Workshop Sponsors, Presenters & Volunteers:

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| Operation Lifesaver | Hydro One |
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Soul Sisters Celebrations Echoes of the Soul: Journalling

Our grandmother, one of the wisest and most spiritual people I've ever known was a record keeper. She valued having everyone sign the guest books and always took the time to write names and dates on photographs to navigate generations past and present for the future. She wrote notes daily, recording her actions, experiences, details of events and as a farmer, of course she recorded the weather. It was just a part of who Gramma Dot was. She had her kitchen journal on the counter for all to participate in if they visited, they could write a little note if she was home or not. Reading what others wrote and writing in her kitchen journal was part of my visit experience and a necessity for me prior to departing. One day, she mentioned how much she loved reading a little poem I wrote about our visit. This became the way I'd convey my love for visits with her and others that read the log. Writing these poems each visit was how I became a part of her house journal.

She had her personal journals that I often watched her write in as a child, imagining them as more than just a collection of words; it was a sacred vessel that held the secrets and echoes of her soul and the whispers of the universe. I envisioned she was recording the dreams that danced across the canvas of her mind, visions shimmered on the edges of reality, and her prayers that would rise to the heavens. To her, the act of journaling was not merely a practice; it was a sacred ritual, an offering of gratitude to the universe, a celebration of the divine within, and a reminder that in every moment, we are writing the story of our lives with the ink of our hearts and memories.

I share this with you all as journaling can hold a spiritual value for many as it serves as a sacred tool for self-discovery, introspection, and soulful expression. Within the boundless pages of a spiritual journal, one embarks on a journey of self-discovery and

the expanses of the soul. It is a sanctuary where thoughts take flight, emotions find solace, and spiritual truths are unearthed. In the act of journaling, we can find comfort in times of tribulation, clarity amidst confusion, and inspiration to fuel the fires of transformation. It serves as a mirror reflecting the intricacies of our inner landscape, inviting us to explore the depths of our being with unabashed honesty and unwavering courage.

Engaging in regular journaling can deepen one's connection to their spirituality. Whether through prayers, affirmations, or reflections, journaling can be a conduit for receiving and honoring divine guidance, intuition, and inspiration. Cultivating an attitude of appreciation for the abundance and blessings in their lives by consciously acknowledging and expressing gratitude can attune us to the present moment and the grace that surrounds them. This practice fosters a deeper sense of contentment, mindfulness, and spiritual fulfillment. A few spiritual reflection journaling prompts you may want to consider are Describe a moment of synchronicity or divine intervention that left a profound impact on you. How do you perceive the presence of the divine in your daily life? Reflect on a sacred text, spiritual teaching, or inspirational quote that resonates with you. What insights does it offer?

I like to imagine that Gramma Dot found the courage to face her fears, the strength to embrace her passions and the grace to forgive through her journaling and that within all the worn journal covers lay the essence of her soul, a testament to a life well lived and a spirit ablaze with the lightness of truth.

May your journal be where your soul whispers find expression, your spirit soars, and your journey unfolds in divine harmony.

In Gratitude, The Soul Sisters
 Reverend Erin Wilson and Reverend Kelly Blakely
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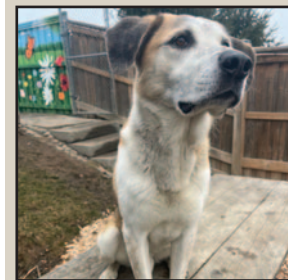


Waffles is a 4 year old Boxer Bulldog mix.

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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Nothing to See-ly Here: The Story of the Ghost Town of Seely

Village stories
by Andrew Hind

By the 1860s all the farmland in southern Ontario was spoken for. The land hungry began to cast their eyes to what was then considered northern Ontario –

the lands beyond the Severn River in Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts, and beyond – and the provincial government responded with the Free Grants and Homestead Act.

A flood of humanity headed northward, carving farms and then communities from the wilderness. Most would eventually fail, done in by the inarable soil, ever-present rock, and harsh elements. I describe thirteen of these failed communities in my book Ghost Towns of Ontario's Cottage Country. But for every faded hamlet that I documented, there were a dozen more whose stories remained hidden within the regenerated forest.

Seely was one such ghosted community.

In many ways, Seely was a family affair, the product of a father and son working together to create new lives for themselves in what was then wilderness.

Obadiah Seely, the father, was born in New Brunswick in 1802. In 1836, he married Eleanor Moore and together they raised eleven children, among them Thaddeus, born Oct 29, 1853. By the time Thaddeus was born the family had left the Maritimes for Ontario, where they settled for a time in Oxford Township.

Around 1868 Obadiah began to get itchy feet. His small farm wasn't big enough to leave anything to his children when he died and was barely big enough to provide for them. So, he headed for Brunel Township in Muskoka and staked a claim.

Seely was hardly alone; other families were settling in their neck of the woods, so to speak, and a sense of community began to emerge.

Obadiah petitioned for, and was granted, a post office contract in 1872. He named the post office, and by extension the developing hamlet, Seely.

Thaddeus would have a role to play in shaping the community as well. On Jan. 8, 1879, he married 21-year-old Margaret Brennan, and in quick order they would have four children. Their children, and others in the vicinity, had nowhere to go for schooling. Thaddeus helped create a local school board and opened his home to students. A real school was built in 1899.

Besides the school and post office, Seely also had a church and a store.

But Seely never prospered as its settlers had imagined. The land was too rugged, the soil too poor. Within decades dejected farmers began to

move away in search of new opportunities, many returning south to find jobs in growing urban centres.

Seely, blink-and-you'll-miss-it-tiny at the best of times, was largely gone by the 1930s. When the school was shuttered in 1955 it closed the book on Seely.

The experiment of turning the northern forests into farm and field had proven a failure.



Seely school SS #5 Brunel

Check out the ag business directory on page 25.

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Agricultural Equipment Experience event an eye opener for staffers

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins

Imagine this; you climb into your car, ready for a long drive to work. You have your lunch packed, your podcast all set to listen to, and off you go. As you are driving along you realize it is recycling day for the area you are driving through, but it has been very windy and most of the carts have blown into the roadway and some have spilled their contents of pop cans amongst other items. To avoid damage to your vehicle you have to constantly cross the yellow line into the oncoming traffic. You get through this area and breathe a sigh of relief and are happy no damage came to you, others, or your vehicle. You go back to appreciating what a beautiful summer day it is, until you find yourself on a stretch of roadway where the township hasn't trimmed the overhanging trees on yet. As you navigate this road you can hear, and feel, the brush and branches scrapping across the top of your vehicle. All you can hope is that it will only be surface damage and not something that will prevent you from getting to work. You get through this area and breathe a sigh of relief and are happy no damage came to you, others, or your vehicle. However, you aren't at work yet, to get there you need to go through the roundabout that was recently completed. You can see from a distance that the roadway is narrow through the roundabout, and you can see the line of commuters behind you growing impatient. You press on and navigate the narrow roundabout gritting your teeth and praying the damage done to the sides and under body of your vehicle won't be that bad. Once through the roundabout you can almost breathe that last sigh of relief. You put your left hand turn signal on to turn into the driveway of your work but the person behind you doesn't take the time to notice your signal and thinks you're slowing down for no reason. That person pulls around to pass you as you begin to navigate your left hand turn. You see them just in time and by some

miracle are able to stop the forward momentum of your vehicle weighing 21 tons and the passing car slips by unhurt. You have, however, elevated blood pressure and a racing heart and are thanking God you made it to work safely that day. Because you don't just drive any vehicle, you are driving a tractor, combine, or self-propelled sprayer, as an example.

These were only but a few of the concerns raised at the recent Agricultural Equipment Experience event for Simcoe County council & staff, as well as Springwater council & staff. The event was the second one to take place. The first was held last spring in Innisfil, for Innisfil area staff and councillors. It was such a success in increasing understanding and awareness on how farmers commute and the dangers they face, the event has become an annual presentation.

This years presentation began with welcoming remarks from Paul Maurice, OFA Director representing farmers in Peel, Simcoe and York, as we travelled by bus to John Kapteyn's farm in Springwater Township. Maurice discussed the difficulties of moving larger equipment on our roadways. He stated smaller equipment is simply not an option. There is no longer enough work force available to use smaller equipment, larger machines get the work done far more efficiently and that is necessary in the business of farming. After Maurice discussed the variety Ontario has to offer in the way of crops, meat and dairy farming he stated "We are so fortunate here in Ontario, we have the best of the best. Once Farmland is lost we cannot recapture it, we need to increase appreciation of that."

Upon our arrival at the Kapteyn Farm OFA member services representative, Leah Emms, welcomed our group stating the hands on presentation was to help influence decision makers to consider agricultural needs when planning our transportation infrastructure.



One problem farmers face when driving on roadways was demonstrated with a simple but effective 11.5 foot pipe. The pipe is the same length as the width of the road. With the pipe placed in front of the 12 foot wide combine everyone could clearly see the difficulties that will incur.

behind him pulled into oncoming traffic to pass. A small car was in the oncoming lane and by a miracle that driver managed to maneuver onto the shoulder without rolling her vehicle. Kapteyn said he could literally see the fear in her eyes as the pick up headed towards her. Kapteyn said farmers are going to be the first one on the scene of an accident, and no one wants to see that. Jeff and Mike Pearson, of Pearson Custom Farming, Roger Spence, of Spencroft Holsteins and David Spring, of Springvalley Farms Ltd., echoed Kapteyn's sentiments.

Concerns raised to county and township staff included the width of roundabouts, style of curbing, sign placement (a sign placed too close to the road can knock a side mirror right into the cab of a tractor), overhanging tree limbs and brush, garbage and recycling carts as well as mail boxes. If a mailbox or collections cart is placed too close to the road that will make it necessary for a farm equipment operator to go over the yellow line into the oncoming lane.

One of the largest concerns voiced by everyone is the lack of education for drivers outside of the agricultural community. Everyone is in a hurry to get where they are going and they take unbelievable risks to pass the heavy machinery navigating the roads. Educating the general public needs to be a top priority as well as improving infrastructure to help reduce the risks.



This combination of tractor, air seeder and tanks is about 86' in length.

John Kapteyn addressed the crowd beginning with a story of a recent close encounter on the road just outside his home. Kapteyn was driving his manure spreader when the pick up truck

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Beekeeping brings sweet rewards around the globe

Report by Don Beaulieu

Humans and honey go back in history at least 8,000 years when honey was taken from wild bee nests. The earliest evidence of beekeeping comes from Egypt, about 4,500 years ago. Generally, *hives* refer to man-made beekeeping devices; *nests* refer to structures made or used by wild bees.

Today's beekeepers have technology and other advantages over those early Egyptians, but also find themselves in difficult times in our changing, human-populated world.

Losses could not be ignored

A recent meeting of the Centre Grey Beekeepers Association, initial conversations could not ignore the unexpected bee losses this past fall and spring. Similar observations have been taking place across Ontario, including at the Honey Bee Research Centre in Guelph. Mites have been cited in many cases. Robber bees were suspected in some instances. There was no talk of agricultural pesticide use being a main culprit.

Advances in agricultural pesticides and applications have been significant in the past decades, indeed. Many readers of this paper are intimately aware of these changes for-the-better. Where genetically modified crops and pesticides are a bigger concern is with those attempting beekeeping in an organic manner.

Flow hives

The host of the Centre Grey Beekeepers Association meeting, Chris Crocker, kept the meeting on track, with a look at beekeeping in different countries and continents.

Crocker provided a promotional video of flow-hives, which were invented in Australia. The basic premise of a flow hive is to relieve the beekeeper of the labour and time used in preparation, smoking the bees, collecting the frames, extracting the honey and replacing the frames back into the hives and all the minutia involved in that process.

A flow hive uses a partially artificial honeycomb that allows the bees to complete the cell construction. The turn of an exterior spigot allows honey to flow out, into an external container. Voilà, honey on tap.

Discussion followed, allowing the attendees to express their interpretation of how successful they thought this method would be here in Ontario. Beekeepers on hand were concerned about temperature, honey viscosity and crystallization. One person simply could not imagine collecting honey being so easy, a "Too good to be true" scenario.



Crocker suggested that with less beeswax involved, there would be an affect on the flavour of the honey produced. He likened it to over-filtered Chinese honey which he said "ceases to be honey".

One online beekeeper cites a vast number of misconceptions permeating the conversation of flow hives from people inspired to get into beekeeping because of how easy this system is touted to be. Many new beekeeper complaints and their issues were due to their inexperience and not a result of the flow hive method. There is still much work to do to look after the hives which the promotional material is said to overlook.

The system has been used successfully; But do your research and rely on your experience to guide you in your consideration of flow hives.

The system has been used successfully; But do your research and rely on your experience to guide you in your consideration of flow hives.

English beekeeping

The next example of beekeeping took attendees, via recorded video, to Hartpury, England (north of Gloucester) to a Medieval bee shelter using step hives. Crocker had pictures of his trip with his son Digory to Buckfast Abbey in Devon, England.

Buckfast bees are a cross of many subspecies and their strains, developed by Brother Adam (born Karl Kehrle in 1898 in Germany), who was in charge of beekeeping from 1919 at Buckfast Abbey in Devon in the United Kingdom, a Catholic monastery. There is a one-acre, walled-off area where the hives are kept. There are about 7 hives in the traditional apiary.

For the most part, in England today, they use what is

called a national hive, which is square. They are usually made of Canadian cedar due to the wet English weather.

The British Beekeepers Association states that the average amount of honey produced by each hive there is 25 pounds. Ontario hive average is about 100 pounds and that increases as one goes west. Mites are an issue there as the winters are not cold. Crocker says he found the bees there had "...a propensity to swarm". There are fewer commercial beekeepers in England, than here, relatively speaking.



Chris Crocker took this picture of hives at Buckfast Abbey in Devon; we see the Abbey in the background.

California almond trees

The next area discussed was almond trees and bees in California's Central Valley. Bees are trucked-in each spring to pollinate the trees; about a million hives are brought in and distributed throughout the then-blooming almond orchards. There are two hives per acre of trees. Most of the bees work is done between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., the warmest part of the day.

This almond work is "The biggest money maker for more than half of the country's commercial beekeepers", according to the video presented. California grows 90% of the world supply of almonds. One can see there is a strong bond, a co-existence between the beekeepers and the almond growers. There are approximately 660,000 acres of almond orchards in California with 20,000,000 visiting bees to begin with. That bee population will double by the end of the season.

It takes as many as a dozen bee visits to properly pollinate one almond blossom. At \$150 or more per hive, the growers agree that it is worth the price. There are alternate methods but none as efficient as bringing in real bees to get the job done.

A downside to all this mono-culture of the bees feeding on only one food-source is colony collapse disorder, where 90% of the bees of a hive will die. This drives up the prices and with a dynamic increase world-wide for almonds, orchard acreage has doubled since 1981 to help keep up with demand. Droughts and other economic factors are always providing constant variables and corrective measures, as with any farming practice.

When the United States bees are done with the almond crop, they'll head north to Washington State to help with the apple crops. This moving around of bee hives causes a concern of moving pests around with them, from one geographic area to another.

It seems that for every amazing fact about commercial beekeeping, there is a caveat to be concerned with.

Honey around the world

Ahead of watching a video about different honeys, Crocker asked the group what different honeys they have tried. Hawaiian honey, heather honey and manuka honey were mentioned. Crocker has tried a number of different types of African honeys, Cuban honeys, Italian sunflower honey, Sourwood honey from the Smokey Mountains in the U.S. and some very tasty honey from the Golan Heights of Israel.

Several factors determine the flavour, viscosity and colour of honey. Most obviously, the specie of flower providing the nectar, the geographical region and the species of the bees.

Crocker presented a video highlighting a few honeys from around the world. The video poetically described the



Chris Crocker of Centre Grey Beekeepers Association with his soon-to-be-six year-old son Digory. Chris has travelled the world to teach bee-keeping on other continents, himself learning all the while and experiencing a variety of honey types. Digory has accompanied his dad on some of these adventures and is already well-versed in the profession.

flavour of each one. Many are known to have medicinal qualities. Other honeys in the video included Acacia honey, which is light coloured and flavoured, comes from the black locust tree. Lavender honey, orange blossom honey, clover honey, buckwheat honey, eucalyptus honey and Tupelo honey were described.

In 2011, Crocker was teaching beekeeping in rural areas of Kenya, Africa. The Kenyans were transitioning from their traditional hives to the Langstroth hive, which is the type of hive we are used to seeing in our area. The traditional Kenyan hives of hollowed-out logs, woven baskets, or clay pots were kept up high in trees because honey badgers are an issue. Harvesting the honey included climbing the tree naked, at night, in the smoke of a fire at the base of the tree. The naked part helped reduce stings from the killer bees involved as they would not get into clothing. The whole method was risky and inconvenient. We can be fairly sure the modern methods of beekeeping were welcomed.

Rain and sun are issues for the Kenyans to contend with as well as termites. Roofs over the hives helped with the first two; stands with legs sitting in cups of liquid deterrent dealt with the termites. Crocker explained a few methods of getting the killer bees to use the new hives.

Nepalese honey hunters

The Nepalese honey hunters, belonging to the Gurung ethnic group, gather honey from the cliffs in a traditional practice known as honey hunting. The honey itself is hallucinogenic.

Hunters perform rituals to appease the gods and ensure a safe and successful harvest. Using rickety ladders made from woven bamboo or ropes, the hunters climb up the steep cliffs to reach the hives, wearing minimal protective gear.

At the hive, the hunters use smoke from a smoldering fire to calm the bees. They carefully chip away at the honeycomb, collecting the honey in baskets or containers. After gathering the honey, they descend from the cliffs.

Upon returning to the village, the honey hunters celebrate their successful harvest with feasting and traditional dances, and the honey is shared among the community.

At a recent meeting of the Centre Grey Beekeepers Association a contest was held for beeswax candle making.



First place went to Digory Crocker for his bear on a beehive. Digory's dad made the centre candle (in this picture) & young beekeeper-to-be Bree made the creative end piece.

The South Simcoe 4-H club members get creative!

Reports and photos submitted by South Simcoe 4-H

South Simcoe 4-H Farm Safety Club

By Olivia Livingston

The South Simcoe 4-H Farm Safety Club had their first meeting on Thursday March 28th at 6:30 p.m. at the Patton farm. We started the meeting by going outside and playing some games to get to know each other. After each person said their favorite food, colour, sport, why they joined the club, and if they had any plans for the weekend, we went back inside. Once we were inside we started with elections. Our president is Isabella Cullen, our vice president is Annika Blank, our secretary is Elise Patton and our press reporter is myself, Olivia Livingston. After elections we watched a farm safety video about the hazards for children on a farm. Then we talked about PPE and judged classes of footwear, eye protection, hearing protection, work clothes, lung protection, hand protection and head protection. We then put on a few pieces of workwear and had a fashion show! Following that we passed around an iPad and played an interesting farm safety game. To end our meeting we had a snack and played a kahoot on various farm safety questions. Thank you to Marieke Patton for the snacks and hosting!

The South Simcoe 4-H Farm Safety Club had their second meeting in conjunction with the Keep Kids Safe Workshop on Saturday April 6th. When we got there we opened our meeting and read the minutes from the last meeting. After that they split everyone into smaller groups, with our 4-H group as one group. We then went to our first station of the day which was the railway safety station, while we

were there members had a turn spinning the wheel with questions about trains on it and we answered them as a group, then we got some prizes and headed onto our next station! Our next station was the Sargeant company talking about propane, gas, and oil heaters. We then transferred over



to the call before you dig station where we learned about what we do if there is a natural gas leak and what to look for, we also learned about a number you're supposed to call before you dig so you do not hit anything that could cause a major problem. After that we went into the building to the

Hydro One station where we went over the do's and don'ts of what to do in a scenario. We talked about how many watts of power are in our house and how that could be dangerous. Next we went to the War Amps table where there were two people who talked to us about how they were born with missing limbs and showed us their prosthetics and the different types, and how the number one cause of limb loss in children is from farm machinery and lawnmowers. After we learned a lot from the people, we were on our way to our next station at the police car! At the police car, the police talked about how they have a radar in the car and its cool features, such as reading license plates from a distance and catching speeds before the driver even sees the police car! They also brought a few people into the car and showed them how everything in there works for them to do their job more efficiently, we were even shown the taser after many people were interested and were shown a dry stun!! Our last station of the day was the firetruck, where they told us about their training before they were able to become a firefighter and the training they still do now. We then talked about how many firefighters join a volunteer fire department before they're officially a certified fire fighter. Many of us were able to climb up into the truck and sit down and look at the stuff! The stations were followed by lunch of pizza and a desert of ice cream!! Thank you very much to all the sponsors and speakers as well as Huron Tractor for hosting!

South Simcoe 4-H Go For The Gold Club

By Isabella Cullen

It's the time of year every South Simcoe kid has been waiting for since November - 4-H clubs have started up again for another great year! One of those clubs includes yours truly, the Go for the Gold Club and this year we are really pushing for gold!

If you don't know what this club is, it's about trivia related to our 4-H project manuals and having fun! We have a great group of kids this year like always and they have already started studying at our first meeting held on March 26th. We did a mock game consisting of questions like these: Who is the minister of agriculture for Ontario? What color is a John Deere tractor? What province do you think grows the most soybeans? (Answer at the end of the article).

In a game, there are 6 question types: multiple choice, who am I, short answer, pop-up, team discussion, and snapper (true or false) questions. After our game, some members got to make their own questions and each got to ask the group 2 of them.

We ended with the 4-H motto - Learn to do by doing, which comes in handy in this club and we ended the meeting. The answer is: Ontario!

Arts & Crafts Club Report

By Chloe Bagshaw

Our first meeting for the Arts and Crafts Club was April 2nd 2024. We gathered together at Trish Downey's house. The first thing we did was a roll call which asked us what our favorite arts and craft activity was. The next thing we did was the elections. We elected Kelsey Cox as President, Nicole Palmateer as Vice-President and Brooklynn Downey as Secretary. The meeting's main activity was a cake decorating competition. We were divided into teams and assigned several themes to decorate our cakes with. Once decorated, we judged the cakes to practice our judging skills. The decorating themes reflected other 4-H clubs, they included the mechanic club, games club, wildlife club, and last but not least, garden club. The garden club cake won first place, the mechanic club cake took second place, the games club cake got third place, and the wildlife club cake got fourth place. After we were done decorating and judging our cakes, we talked with friends and had a snack. We enjoyed tasting the cakes we decorated. After we were done with our snack, we played a name game and a game called 'squirt.' We look forward to our next meeting which is to take place at Honey Hill Pottery.



South Simcoe 4-H Heritage Club

By Anna Kamminga

On April 3rd, 2024 the South Simcoe 4-H Heritage Club met for its second meeting of the year. The club learned about making skin care products at home using natural ingredients.

The club made homemade deodorant, and perfume, which were scented with a variety of essential oils. A favourite among the group was vanilla. While making the perfume club members learned about using different carrier oils as the base of the perfume. When the club moved on to making the deodorant they learned about how each ingredient played a role in making the deodorant do its job; moisturizing, antibacterial properties, absorbing sweat, reducing wetness and just smelling nice.

Thank you to Leader Tamara for letting us use her kitchen again. We look forward to our next meeting on April 17th.

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South Simcoe 4-H really do have a club for everyone!

Reports and photos submitted by South Simcoe 4-H

South Simcoe 4-H Rabbit Club

By Abby Patton



The first South Simcoe Rabbit Club meeting was held on Monday March 18th 2024 at the Angus Branch Library at 6:30 p.m. Leader Marieke opened the meeting with the 4-H pledge then told us a bit about herself and Leader Alla did the same. For roll call everybody got a chance to tell us about their rabbit or if they didn't have one what they were looking for. After that we did elections here are the results:

- President: Nicole Palmateer
 - Vice President: Elise Patton
 - Secretary: Anna Kamminga
 - Press Reporter: Abby Patton and Amelia Hosick
- Congrats to them!

Next we did a rabbit breed quiz. We were stumped by the jersey woolly and it was amazing to see the differences between the smallest netherland dwarf to the largest flemish giant. Next we labelled the parts of a rabbit. We also practised judging rabbit photographs. Vice President Elise adjourned the meeting with the 4-H motto.

Our next meeting will be at the fur and feather buy, trade, sell on April 28th at 8 a.m.

South Simcoe Sheep 4-H Club

By Tyler Lange

The First South Simcoe 4-H Meeting of 2024 kicked off with a bang. Members met at Brooks Farms in Stayner for a Fun-filled first meeting. A big Thanks to our Youth leader Lauren Cowan for coming up with a fun Guess the Member game.

The 4-H Members chose their executives with their President being Sierra, Vice President Anika, Secretary Alexa, and News Reporter Tyler.

The South Simcoe 4-H Sheep Club would like to thank the Brooks Family for allowing us to have our meeting on their land, the sheep for demonstration, and for providing the delicious milk and cookies.

Farm View welcomes 4-H reports from all clubs in its distribution area! (York, Simcoe, Peel, Dufferin, Muskoka, Grey, Bruce, Victoria, Wellington and Haliburton)
Submit your report and photo to farmview@on.aibn.com by the 14th of the month. Don't be shy, share what your club has been up to!

South Simcoe 4-H Book Club

By Cade B.

In our second meeting, we focused our attention upon rabbits and bunnies in literature and in the 4-H manuals. The club separated into two groups to learn many facts. Then we had a fun, friendly trivia competition. After a nibble on some bunny-themed foods, there was a spirited ping pong competition. We also selected the book *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan as the book we will mainly focus on.

4-H Everett Horse Club

By Anika Mortelliti

This month the South Simcoe 4-H Everett Horse Club has continued with the EAL courses led by Brittney Harrison and Lisa Lee. The club begins the meetings by grooming the horses and then continues into the arena to work on an assortment of activities. Blind man adventure, and catch the horse are an example of just some of these activities. Every week the club builds on two new exercises. Team building, trust, leadership and self awareness are a big part of most exercises. The club works in teams with the horses and plays fun games to learn more about common sense and appropriate manners around said horses. The club has been learning how to do exercises while keeping the horses safe by using their common sense such as moving balls and objects out of the way of horses. Learning about barriers we put onto ourselves is also another big part of these exercises. Instructions were placed at stations and teams had to pick out important parts of information in order to perform the stations safely and efficiently for both horse and partner. Meetings have ended off by stating the 4-H pledge and enjoying a snack.

South Simcoe 4-H Crops Club

By Kaitlyn Dunlop

The South Simcoe Crops Club held their first meeting of 2024 at Alliance Agri Turf at their Ivy Branch on Thursday April 4th. The meeting began by meeting new members and reconnecting with some old friends. First on the agenda was to elect this clubs President – Abby Patton, Vice President – Troy McDermid, Secretary – Isabella Cullen, News Reporter – Kaitlyn Dunlop. We will be focusing on soybeans this year as our crop.



Adam Ross was introduced to us as the Production Manager of this Alliance Branch. Adam gave us a great tour of the facility. We saw and learned how soybeans get cleaned, polished, treated and bagged. A lot of technology gets used in this operation!

Concluding the tour, we were split into smaller groups of 3. Using 2024 soybean seed production booklets, we were asked to determine which soybean variety we would grow, and present why.

We would like to thank Adam Ross and Alliance Agri Turf for hosting us. The club members are all looking forward to our next meeting in May.

Committed to local producers because we understand that every kernel counts!



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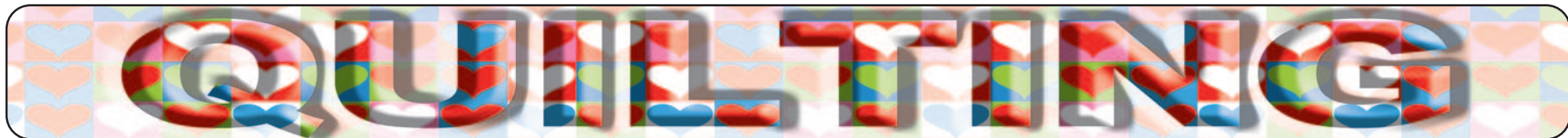
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UPCOMING QUILT SHOWS

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

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

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

"Still Stitching Together
Quilt Show 2024"
Port Perry Patchers
Quilt Guild
May 10 & 11
www.portperrypatchers.com/quilt-show

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

Quilts in Bloom 2024
Friday, May 31
10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday, June 1
10:00am - 4:00pm
Ancaster Fairgrounds
\$10 cash only

"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

Quilts on the Grand
Friday, June 7
10:00am - 7:00pm
Saturday, June 8
10:00am - 4:00pm
Centre Wellington
Community Sportsplex
550 Belsyde Avenue,
Fergus, ON \$10.00

Quilt Show 2024
"Quilting for the Holidays"
September 7
10:00am - 5:00pm
September 8
10:00am - 4:00pm
Quinte Curling Club
246 Bridge Street West
Belleville, ON \$8

Country Concessions Quilt Shop celebrates 30 years in business!

Article and photo by Janis Hamilton

With rainy days ahead and perhaps some free time, I hope you've had a chance to consider the world of quilting. It doesn't have to be a king-sized quilt to start, it can be as simple as a pet mat, a market bag, a table runner, a simple mug rug, making pillows, travel bags even from a panel of fabric. There are some supplies you will need, and they can be found at a quilt shop in your area. When you explain you are new, they will guide you to some basic needs: rotary cutter, cutting mat, thread, ruler, scissors (yes, just for material), pins and needles, seam ripper and of course your fabric. A sewing machine is a must unless you love hand sewing. While you are at your local shop you might enquire about beginner classes. They offer tips on every aspect of making a quilt from start to finish. These classes are usually small groups and are invaluable to start your quilting journey knowing about accurate 1/4" seam, how to mitre a corner, what is sashing, corner stones, and binding and even "on point" is taught at these classes. If you do buy a sewing machine, ask if you get lessons when you buy, do they service the machine and take your time to investigate the one that is right for you! Also, do your research, ask if the cheaper machines at Costco and Walmart can be repaired or can you add parts. Homework will save you money and frustration.

When a business becomes a landmark, it deserves credit. One Cookstown store is Country Concessions Quilt Shop. They are celebrating 30 years in business! What an accomplishment! Darlene Cooper opened the shop in her home in 1994. She moved to Queen Street and carried quilting and dressmaking fabric. In 2004, current owner of the shop, Cynthia Ramsay started sewing for Darlene and in 2007 Shannon Fullerton joined the team. Eventually a former schoolhouse became the next location on Dufferin St. and in 2011 Darlene sold the business to Shannon and Cynthia. The gardens out front welcomed you and the yellow shop with the tall spire quickly became known for holding hundreds of bolts of fabric. A "must go to place" in the quilting world.

After many discussions with relators, a new location was found in 2021 that met the needs of an ever-growing quilt shop. Although Cynthia and Shannon owned the older building, it was in need of repairs, so they were delighted when it sold and after 5 weeks of renovations, they moved into their present location. Husbands, hammers, new electrical, new plumbing, redesigned shelving and above all bright lighting created a new space that offered room to shop, find the right fabric for projects and eventually friendly classrooms were finished for quilters to learn and share the love of the craft.

COVID changed our world and those in business especially. Selling Pfaff and Brother machines had to go, no one in the store meant hard decisions were made. Cynthia and Shannon took turns manning the phones and store alone, taking turns on alternate days to keep up with the demands of mask making, elastic for them and then have packages ready for desperate shoppers outside the door. Eventually some staff came in to work, but at the time no website existed, so the phone calls kept them hopping! Their website

currently is about 20% of their business and they will be linking their inventory to a new program shortly and that will make business even better. Eventually, Shannon moved on and Cynthia became the sole owner in June of 2023.

Some of the best features in the shop are the Shop Hops that are featured with other quilt shops. In the spring, "Hills and Valleys" happens on May 2nd to the 4th featuring shops in Creemore, Maxwell and Conn. The fall shop hop is the "Lake Loop" so look for it as you will visit different shops around the lake. Country Concessions has wrapped up their spring retreat at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston. This is held twice a year and once announced sells out usually in 45 minutes. Watch for it in the fall and book your spot.

For their 30th anniversary they are offering 30% off on the 30th of each month. So far, they've offered scissors, cutting blades, 3-yard quilt patterns and now thread. Each month will be different, so you might consider signing up for their newsletter. August is the official date of their anniversary, so keep that date in mind.

The many staff members are diverse, friendly, offer you a smile and welcome you as you come in the store. Some staff work at home doing web pages, planning workshops, creating new patterns and everyone has such a positive attitude you leave knowing you were in good hands and got



So many beautiful fabrics, patterns and all the supplies you need available at Country Concessions Quilt Shop in Cookstown.

help or advise with your latest project.

New trends are worth looking at. There are bags, purses, new techniques, and new quilt designer patterns are found as you tour the store. Fabric designers are now offering animal, botanical fabrics, and colours change yearly. English Paper Piecing is making a come back and there are modern ways of even traditional paper piecing to try.

What sets this 30-year-old business apart from the rest? The caring, kind, and diverse staff and spacious store. Annually a 'give back to the community' project is well received. It can be as simple as buying a block pattern, making it, and returning it for a fundraising event in Cookstown. The store is completely accessible for all who visit. Classes span from beginner to expert and the Block of the Month may be offered again.

Price increases are out of all shop owners' control. When Covid hit acrylic prices went sky high as the acrylic was needed for face shields in hospitals and so many other items, but those prices have not come down yet, so rulers are more expensive. Fabric and thread prices are also going up, but for those of us who enjoy and share the love of quilting, we know it is cheap therapy and we are often gifting our quilts to Candlelighters (kids in Simcoe County with Cancer), the new Ukrainians in our towns, comfort quilts for local hospitals and so many other good causes, so it gives us comfort to share our hobby. We will find a way to keep quilting.

To be in any business for 30 years in today's world takes creativity, determination, and hard work. Congratulations Country Concessions! The love of what you are doing shines through!

If in Cookstown, drop in at 35 King Street North. They are also on Instagram and Facebook and will answer questions at info@countryconcessions.com.



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Friends and family gathered to celebrate the Queen of the Furrow

Story and photos by Anne Howden Thompson



Among the guests who gathered to honour Mel Karpenko (to the left) was newly-elected Ontario Plowmen's Association president Rochelle Deslippe from Essex County, pictured above to the right.

Friends and family of this year's Ontario Queen of the Furrow gathered in Orangeville recently to celebrate and honour Mel Karpenko.

The afternoon reception was held at the Orangeville Fairgrounds and hosted by the Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association.

"Mel did a fantastic job during her time as our local Queen of the Furrow and we couldn't have been happier to see her win the Ontario title (and it's a pleasure to honour her in this way today," said president Colin

French, of the Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association.

Karpenko 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. Karpenko was also named Miss Friendship by her fellow competitors and placed second in the plowing competition.

Since her crowning she 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.

Among the guests was newly-elected OPA President Rochelle Deslippe. "The Ontario Queen of the Furrow programme has been an important part of our IPM-family for many years and Mel's genuine enthusiasm has made her an excellent ambassador this year—I'm honoured to celebrate with her friends and family today," said Deslippe.

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. "I am tremendously grateful for the endless support I have received from the Peel-Dufferin Plowmen's Association, as well as the IPM 2023 local committee," Karpenko said. "I know this is certainly a period of my life that I will look back fondly upon for many years to come (and) I look forward to all that the remainder of this year has in store for me."

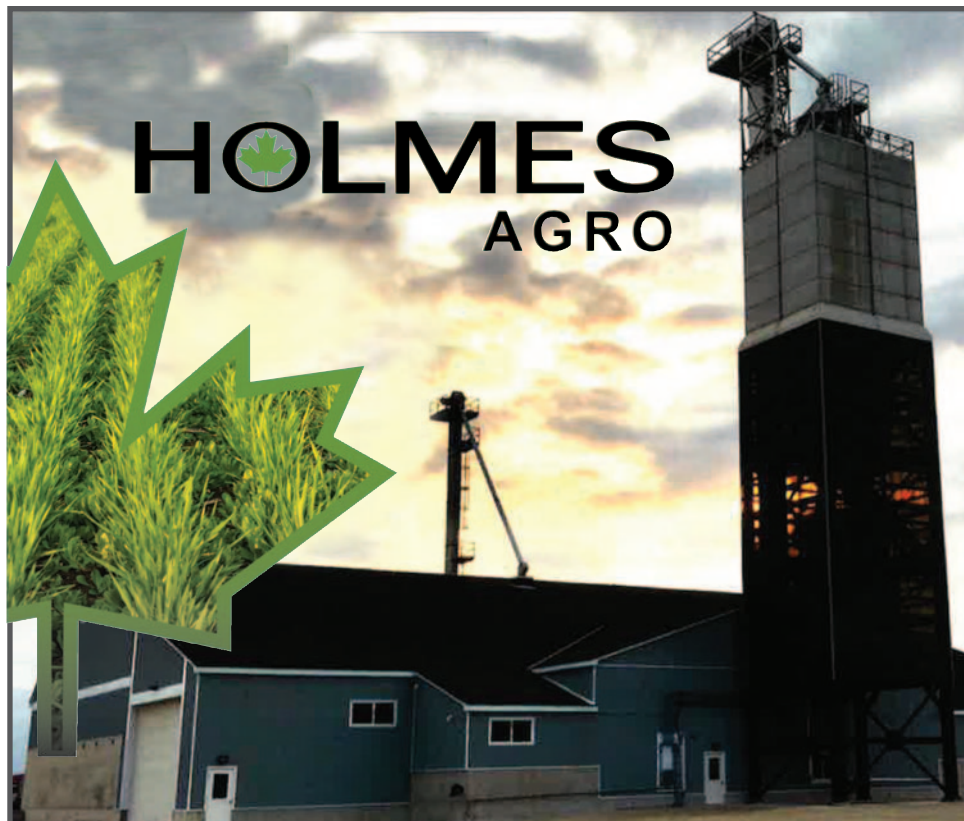
The first Ontario Queen of the Furrow was crowned in 1960 and Karpenko is the eighth local representative to win the provincial honours. Previous local winners include Barbara Cunnington (1962), Irene Lawrence (1967), Mary Dolson (1970), Arlene Wilson (1974), Barbara Taylor (1976), Darlene Downey (2004) and Abbie Brander (2005).



Mel Karpenko, the current Ontario Queen of the Furrow is joined by former Ontario Queen of the Furrows (left to right) Abbie Brander (2005), Darlene Downey (2004) and Irene Wilson (1967) at a reception in her honour. Each of the women won the provincial crown as a representative of the Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association or the former Peel Plowmen's Association. Karpenko is the eighth representative of the organization to bring home the provincial honours.

The Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association is the local association within the 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 IPM has been held within the association borders on three separate occasions: twice in Peel (1924 in Brampton and 1963 in Caledon) and last year in Bowling Green, Dufferin County.

The Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association are grateful for the support of the event sponsors, Thomas Carberry Insurance and Peel Mutual Insurance, Abbie Brander, Davis Feed and Farm Supply and Allan and Anne Thompson.



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Farmers rally to protest the second carbon tax hike

Intro by Roslyn Watkins, photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

It was on the Saturday of Easter weekend that Farm View publisher, Roslyn Watkins, received a phone call from Bruce McKeown of Woodville. McKeown gave the details of the quickly approaching Carbon Tax Protest Rally that was planned to take place over two days. The first day of the protest, Monday April 1st, a group of farmers planned to gather to share and discuss concerns of the upcoming carbon tax hike. Then on the following day, Tues April 2nd, another group from Uxbridge planned to drive their tractors to Ryan Turnbull's, Member of Parliament, office to protest the next hike. Both events were met with support from the attending farmers as well as the general public.

Jim Phoenix from Uxbridge, pictured on the front cover, showed his support to his farmers- and his disappointment with the federal government's decision to not exempt Farmers from paying out the Carbon Tax. He said that farmers feed families which means agriculture is important to everyone.

Ted Eng, an organics vegetable producer, stated he has already paid thousands of dollars in carbon tax and that was at last years rates. One cannot help wonder, why is our government punishing the very people who work to feed us?



Ted Eng, one of the main organizers of the recent Carbon Tax Protest Rally held in Uxbridge, addresses the crowd. Ted and his son operate a 150 acre organic vegetable operation called Zephr's Organics. He told the enthusiastic crowd, amidst all the horns from vehicles passing by, that the added Carbon Tax cost his business thousands of dollars- at last year's rates.

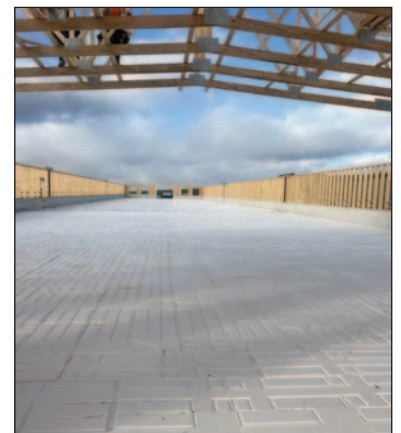


Bruce McKeown, is a dairy and crop farmer from Woodville who brought farmers together for two separate carbon tax rally protests. He is pictured above at the Uxbridge rally explaining that the carbon tax is unfair to farmers as there are no other energy alternatives for the necessary heating used for drying grains and heating barns. He had lots of calls out of agreement from the crowd for his statement "Farmers are good stewards of the land, why would we waste anything like fertilizer or diesel fuel, ever?"



These tractors were part of the second Carbon Tax Protest Rally that began in Manilla at Victoria County Grains Limited to travel to MP Ryan Turnbull's office in Whitby.

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Feeding the senior horse

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Horses can be almost like members of the family so there is a real interest in learning how to keep the senior horse healthy to live a long, good life. "Feeding Your Senior Horse" was a recent educational course held both in-person and on-line from Grey Agricultural Services. The speaker for this event was Jessica McCoag, Equine Nutrition Consultant for Purina.

"We want to keep our horse alive until they are in their 30's," said McCoag beginning the session adding correct feed is critical to make this happen.

The first step is to know the body condition of the senior horse. "Feel the horse, twice a month put your hands on the horse and feel its body condition," she advised adding that this is especially critical in the winter and the spring months because the horse's condition cannot be known just by looking. "Watch for hair coat in the winter months, don't confuse that winter coat for fitness and in the spring, don't worry if the horse looks skinny from afar, it is just losing that heavy winter coat." She added the same person needs to check the horse twice a month to find any changes.

There are five basic points to know before feed for the senior horse can be decided. The first point is the topline and body condition score. The horse's work level must be known, if he is retired it is not the same as if he's working. Forage needs to be analyzed and how well is the horse able to eat the given forages? Another point is knowing the horse has access all the time to fresh water. The fifth point to know is if the horse has any health concerns and specifically, any teeth problems.

Dental issues can happen with the senior horse making chewing painful and complicated. Some dental issues are not fixable so the diet has to change instead. McCoag advised, "When the horse has issues eating hay, the diet can be adjusted to 4 or 5 feedings of senior feed per day. Forage replacement products are available."

Senior Horse Dental Issues was a whole section in this session. "Tooth loss or having several molars so worn down that the senior horse cannot chew properly is not unusual," she said. Horses with dental issues will grab hay with their mouths but they cannot chew so the hay falls out of their mouth, partially chewed as the horse cannot chew the long stems properly. The horse will hold its head on an angle when it tries to chew. Checking teeth is one of the first checks when noticing a senior horse not thriving.

McCoag advised that there are products now available as hay replacement made specifically for horses that have inadequate teeth. "Super Fibra Nature" is a Purina product but other places like the Co-op will have similar products. This is a hay replacement pellet that is low starch," she suggested adding that Beet Pulp is not an adequate complete replacement, "beet pulp needs to be used in a combination with another hay replacement because it is not enough to put weight on a horse."

McCoag stressed many times that "the average horse needs to eat 1% to 2% of its body weight in hay per day." She said, "for a 500 kilogram horse this means 5-10 kilograms per day in hay." Forages need to be weighed as this intake must be met in weight not volume of forage.

Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS) is the inability to regulate blood insulin levels. The senior horse becomes "loaded in fat cells" and fat deposits can be seen around the tail head, shoulders and the neck. When this is seen, there needs to be immediate changes to the horse's lifestyle. "There can be no access to grazing or pastures," McCoag said adding, "test your hay to see the content of the hay."

EMS can be helped greatly through the correct feed. The hay must be low NSC meaning low in non-structural carbohydrates that are the simple sugars and starches present. "Feed a product specifically formulated for EMS or a ration balance," she suggested adding that "ration balancers add like no calories so they are a good, safe option."

Laminitis, also known as founder is a condition of the legs that can cause great pain to the horse and can lead to permanent damage. Laminitis is a sort of toxemia in the body. It causes inflammation of the sensitive layers of tissue (laminae) inside the hoof. She said that, "45% of laminitis is started by consuming lush, green pasture." Symptoms of laminitis include "when the horse's hoof feels hot" and it can lead to the horse refusing to move, or even stand. The horse becomes lethargic and depressed.

She stressed that any changes must be done very gradually to the senior horse.

Winter courses presented by Grey Ag Services are available from January - April each year. Check out www.greyagservices.ca next fall for the winter 2025 program.

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Holmes Agro cultivates better service with larger facility in Orangeville

Report by Don Beaulieu

It was a celebratory mood filling the new facilities at Holmes Agro's Orangeville location during their open house in April. Outside it was a cold, blowy wet day but the inside was warm with hundreds of friends and associates milling about and admiring the new digs.

Owner Jeff Holmes took to the stage to address the crowd, beginning by telling that it was the same time, last year, that they began tearing the back wall off the old fertilizer plant. "For me, that's hard to believe, standing here in this building". He said "If we'd had a meeting here last year, the building would be pretty leaky, pretty breezy and pretty dark".

He then took us on a verbal visit to the past, 1957 to start. That was when the current property became a fertilizer plant. Holme's was impressed someone had the vision to do such a thing back then. A lot of sweat and hard work went into producing blended fertilizer back then. There was an old steel barrow beside him on the stage that was used at that time.

Doug Tate had started working at this location when he was 16 years old, a year after the plant was built. Holmes was honoured that Tate had come to see the new facility.

Holmes took time to mention the business and key individuals who brought this facility in on time and efficiently. He declared "This fertilizer facility is the opportunity to show our commitment to this community, our farm

community. By 2040 we see the opportunity to continue to increase crop production by another 50%".

The new technology in the facility and in the products was something Holmes was excited about. "This building give us the ability to have the storage capacity and equipment to handle these products". Good agronomy and growing the best crops he said "...all starts with the soil".

Promoting agriculture, in particular stewardship, sustainability and soil health, was another topic Holme's touched on. He spoke of the initiatives Holmes Agro is taking. He strongly believes in the 4Rs stewardship programme as a tool, to be agronomically, economically and environmentally sound. "The principles of the right time, right place, right product, right rate, creates the measurability and procedures that many of us are already doing".

Those methods combined with nitrogen stabilizers to reduce green house gas emissions is something that needs to be promoted to the public, "We gotta tell our story".

As a souvenir for everyone who attended the open house, a piece of wood, part of the original building was given to each person, as a cutting board, finished and with the date and Holmes name burned into them. He figures some of that wood was already 50 to 100 years old when it became building material

back in 1957.

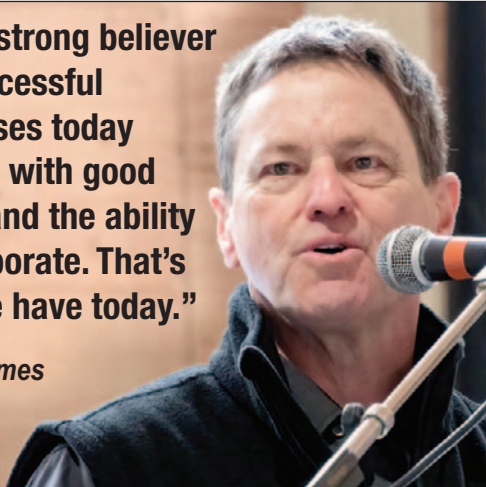
"It represents the past, the present and the future and I think it symbolizes longevity, we all have played in this community and in the agricultural industry." In thanking everyone for attending, Holmes wrapped up his talk with "Here is to more years of growth, innovation and collaboration and we look forward to enriching the life of agriculture today and for future generations and growing with you in 2024".

One of the interesting design aspects is the in-floor heating which keeps the fertilizer components dry. The floor includes Insta-Panels insulation. This keeps the floors from sweating and improves efficiency overall.

The new facility has 10 bulk bins, some 1,000 ton, some 300 to 400 tons each and 5 micro bins which hold about 100 tons of product. Storage capacity has tripled that of the old building. A forty-ton truck can be unloaded in 12 minutes. It used to take 45 minutes or more previously. Tours provided lots of insight into the efficiencies, benefits and safety of the new systems.

"I am a strong believer that successful businesses today are built with good people and the ability to collaborate. That's what we have today."

—Jeff Holmes



The new Holmes Agro Orangeville facility.



Photograph supplied by Holmes Agro.

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AgKnowledge Forum 2024: Emerging issues in the ag sector



Synopsis and photographs by Don Beaulieu

The lovely and historic Gibson Centre in Alliston was the location of this year's AgKnowledge forum hosted by Nottawasaga Futures. As always, the array of guest speakers was informative and interesting. Catering of beverages and snacks was exceptional and provided by Stephanie at The Cookhouse in Adjala-Tosoronto Township.



Nicole Cross
Master of Ceremonies

Following blessings and land acknowledgment, Master of Ceremonies Nicole Cross introduced Member of Provincial Parliament for Simcoe-Grey Brian Saunderson to the podium.

MPP Saunderson

Saunderson recognized the agricultural history of the Gibson Centre which was built in 1889 by the Mercer Manufacturing Company to house their farm implement factory. He brought greetings from Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Lisa Thompson.



MPP Saunderson
Simcoe-Grey

He also recognized that farmers represent one of Ontario's largest economic drivers, about 48 billion dollars a year in gross domestic product. "We supply huge demand across Canada as well as internationally". He added "Making sure that your sector is healthy and getting the attention you need is very much a priority for this government".

Warden Clarke

Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke brought greetings as well. He thanked Nottawasaga Futures, the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Economic Development Team of which Ruth Walker Scott would be speaking later, for helping put the day's programme together.



Warden Basil Clarke
Simcoe County

Clarke reminisced about learning how to drive a tractor and the old steel-wheeled seed drill that operated at 1.5 miles an hour, "That was the recommended seeding speed". He spoke of advances since then and how we are now very "Mindful of the environment, on how much fertilizer we're using and how much spray were using; We're also mindful of the cost."

Following Clarke, Cross introduced and welcomed dignitaries in the audience.

Storm water fees

Tina Schankula, Farm Policy Analyst with OFA was the first official guest speaker of the day. Schankula's main topic was storm water.

The legal definition of storm water is very broad. It is rain water from roofs, snow melt, surface run-off and storm management assets. Assets refer to collection, transmission, treatment, retention, infiltration control or disposal of storm water. Basically any drop of water which does not seep into the ground. "Any water that leaves your farm is now storm water that needs to be managed (in some areas)" she explained.

Some municipalities are implementing storm water management fees. There is no one method of applying these fees



Tina Schankula
O.F.A.

as municipalities act on their own volition. There are a handful of common approaches; flat fee to tiered rates, as examples. Some municipalities base fees on the impervious areas on a property. Those are hard surfaces, such as paved areas. Those municipalities charge a rate based on the impervious area, regardless of property size.

Run-off co-efficient is also applied in some cases. With agriculture that is generally in the 15% to 20% range. Industry would be closer to 95%.

Schankula did a good job of bringing this concept and all of its variables into perspective. A lengthy question and answer segment followed her presentation as she provided well-informed responses.

Keith Currie, CFA

President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and 8th generation on his Collingwood family farm spoke to the topic of cap and trade. Before he got into such political aspects, he had complimentary words for the previous speakers and the politicians in attendance, noting their dedication and experience in agriculture. He encouraged farmers to engage with their politicians because "...there is so much coming at you from so many different directions, you need to make sure that you have your voice heard".

He began his talk by addressing the question "Why do we need a price on carbon?"

"I didn't used to think about turning a wheel over in the field until the first day of May" he cited, and added "Now, if we're not done by the 10th of May we're freakin' out".

Our future trade agreements are going to require us to be engaged in climate concerns, including greenhouse gas emissions.

Currie explained the backstop federal programme in which farmers are charged a tax on fuels. Generally, the federal carbon pricing backstop returns most of the revenue generated back to households in the form of quarterly rebates. People in rural households get a bigger rebate. Meaning most households—especially low-income households—get more money back than they spend on carbon costs.

Cap and trade, carbon tax, industry, agriculture... It became obvious there is much to understand regarding the variables across the country and businesses. Currie did his best to leave his audience with an appreciation of the intricacies and changes coming along. He acknowledged there are incentives to working "cleaner".

Canada's weather is so diverse that there is no one-size-fits-all solution, be it cap and trade or carbon pricing. Giving credit to first initiators and innovators of carbon sequestration, going back to 2017, is being considered.

The CFA co-chairs, with the government, the Sustainable Ag Strategy. This was announced mid-April with a lot of sustainability initiatives included in the programme.

"Our biggest emissions in agriculture are not behind the farm gate; it's beyond the farm gate" said Currie. "In the transportation and the processing side". He continued "We do sustainability real well, we always have... It starts with good soil structure, good soil health... We need to make sure the government understands that".

Currie made it clear that he would rather see cap and trade, rather than carbon tax. A question and answer period

followed his presentation.

Ruth Walker Scott

Simcoe County Economic Development Officer Ruth Walker Scott addressed the attendees, providing the audience with the economic development strategy and a look at the 2022 labour market research study as it relates to agriculture. She also went over business supports and financial management supports available to farmers and producers in Simcoe County.

The first goal of the Simcoe County development strategy is that Simcoe County be recognized as a premier destination for investment in Ontario.

Secondly: Through an excellent quality of life, education and careers, Simcoe County attracts and retains talent to support the needs of its thriving business community.

Thirdly: Businesses will stay and grow in the region supported by a strong and innovative business environment.

Goal four: The county's economic development office is a leader in facilitating and building effective and collaborative relationships that create a strong ecosystem for regional economic development.

The fifth goal states: We will advocate for and support the delivery of infrastructure to meet the needs of a competitive business community.

The labour market research programme was developed to identify and provide recommendations, to resolve challenges that Simcoe County businesses encounter. There were six key factors with agriculture being one of them.

Challenges and recommendations were found which were pertinent to each sector. A general overview of across-sector recommendations which would support workforce development throughout the county.

The study found that in Simcoe County, agriculture and agri-food accounted for a workforce of approximately 14,000. Most of that workforce was concentrated in grocery stores, greenhouse, nursery and horticulture production and specialty food stores.

Walker Scott got into some specifics about programmes available through the county as her talk progressed.

Forest health

Fred Somerville provided a very interesting insight into "Impact of foreign intruders on our Forests". In fact, Farm View will have a more detailed report on his presentation in our June edition.

Entrepreneur support

From Nottawasaga Futures, Andie Coté, business loans officer, wrapped up the speakers' portion of the day.

Coté explained that Nottawasaga Futures was developed to identify, develop and co-ordinate initiatives to support economic needs of our community (south Simcoe County). Currently they are involved in 19 community projects and are providing support to ongoing community organizations.

They are part of the South Simcoe Streams Network; present business awards; youth entrepreneur programmes and youth awards and the South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards.

"Our mission is to provide choice and opportunity to our businesses and residents in our region while responding to the challenges of our local community" she explained.

Coté is involved with the Community Futures programme which is a community investment fund, "We lend money to businesses".

They have a film liaison to encourage filmmakers to shoot in South Simcoe County. There is a business coaching and consulting programme too. The opportunities don't seem to end with Nottawasaga Futures.



Ruth Walker Scott
ECD Officer

After The Chores: Big, Bright Sheep Eyes

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



I found a very sick young Sheep, heavy in lamb one morning at chores. I went through all the sheep problems I could think of- parasites, mastitis, pneumonia, hoof rot and intestinal issues and all seemed to be okay for this young Sheep. She refused to eat more than a handful of grain and her legs hurt so much she could barely walk. She stared at me with big, bright eyes.

Worrying what was going on with this sheep was rocketing up my anxiety to the point I was imagining full barn dispersal. I called the vet here, Cannington Veterinarian Services which has the wonderful Sherry Lynn answering the phone, she reminds me of a lighthouse in a storm, always so calm and hopeful. She said a vet could come see me and Sheep that day.

It seemed a full day but it was only a short time until Dr. Brent came here to see this sheep. Dr. Brent is super kind and longtime experienced with livestock making him so valuable that we don't question why he chooses to work here and instead thank God that he does. I'm no novice at this sheep business so when he asked "Do you think its pregnancy toxemia?" It was a question I fully understood. I told him that no, I saw the problem being extremely sore legs which made the pain so overwhelming the sheep could not function. The Sheep had pretty much the same inspection that I did, next. I asked what the Sheep had as Dr. Brent clearly knew, the answer was: "Pregnancy toxemia." Pregnancy toxemia is the new name for "ketosis" which is much like gestational diabetes and this can cause founder-like conditions meaning extremely sore feet/legs which was news to me. Basically this Sheep had ketosis with a side dose of founder, nothing contagious but I knew it was going to be a long road ahead- thankfully I did not know how bad it was going to get.

Dr. Brent prayed a prayer to God for this Sheep kneeling by her side, his hand on her head asking for His help in all this and for the Sheep's future. I was told the sheep was "very close" to giving birth and only after that happens would the founder-like issue subside.

Sweetie and I set up a "check Sheep" plan. We checked that sheep about every 2 hours through the day and 6 hours

from night chores to morning on average. Sheep perked up after the next 48 hour injection left here by Dr. Brent but there was still no sign of lambing as nothing was changing. The next morning the sheep was feeling worse, she was breathing heavy from fear as she could barely rise up on those hot, swollen painful legs. She would shudder from pain. She stared at me with those big bright eyes asking for help. I felt so bad and so guilty that an animal in my care was suffering this much. I gave the sheep some people medication which seemed to help her but that is not advisable for animals apparently, said a friend that has been raising animals a long time. I switched the sheep over to adult people aspirin which seemed to take the edge off the pain so she could at least eat the leafiest bits of hay I clawed out of the big bale in the feeder. Chores seem to take forever tempting this Sheep to eat.

I debated having her euthanized the next morning. This Sheep could not get up on her own so I had to hold her while she heaved herself to a position to get those sore legs in place. She looked at me with those big bright eyes and shuddered in pain. I just did not know what else to do when I had to go out. I came home and did my check to find Sheep had somehow gotten herself up, to the hay manger, to her water bucket in her little pen and back down again landing in a crumpled heap. I decided I had to get some medicine to her to give her more strength so I scrounged downstairs here and found some long forgotten energy drink for livestock. I used the old drink with some honey with it that she absolutely hated it so I felt bad fighting her when she was so stressed to begin with. I then worried all the night away that I had poisoned her with this old stuff. The livestock energy drink that would have likely helped her a lot is not currently available anywhere.

The next morning Sheep was alive and she was a bit more hungry than before so the old drink worked though I dreaded having to put her through that again- but we had to do it. The Sheep was breathing heavy being clearly scared when she tried her best to haul herself around the pen to get a drink of water. She could barely stand upright but she looked at me with those big bright eyes when I offered her some grain from my hand. It was painful to leave Sheep for our Easter plans that we had to cut short- we checked her just before we left and then raced back in the barn as soon as we got home- nothing changed.

On Easter Sunday evening, six long days and dozens of checks later, there was a change. Sheep felt a speck better, the extra large lamb was clearly now in the birthing position. Sheep was doing her best to eat but she was far from well. Her swollen legs hurt her so much and her getting up with my help nearly brought tears to my eyes, with her fighting

so hard to keep on living. Worry reached a whole new level as clearly she was going to be trying to birth a lamb within the next 12 hours. She looked at me with those big, bright eyes.

I was woken up by a startled Sweetie at 4:30 am on Easter Monday that said he easily pulled the huge lamb into the world- but it did not look... I never got the rest of his sentence as I was out the door to the barn. I found the extra large lamb shaking his head and Sheep trying her best to lick her baby clean when she was flat out on her side. She was too weak to get up this time, even with my help.

I had some frozen colostrum (first milk) in the freezer and got that quickly thawed out. My mind was racing through the plans to have a bottle lamb and how I was going to set up a feeding plan. I go back to the barn with my bottle of warm colostrum. I find Sheep standing up on her swollen legs with her big, bright eyes staring at me and then down at her lamb that was now getting his first meal, his tail wagging. I wouldn't believe this either if I didn't see it myself. There was nothing left to do but thank God for our personal Easter present.

I knew Sheep was going to be fine when she started BAAING at the top of her lungs for grain when she heard me coming at chore time. Rude sheep are healthy sheep here. Sheep is unrecognizable today from her experience. Her legs are now average size. She breathes normally. She has no pain unless she runs too fast. She talks to her rapidly growing lamb all the time. Sheep is back with the flock and gets extra handfuls of grain because she looks at me with those big, bright eyes.

Dr. Brent's prayer was fully answered.

"After the Chores" columnist, Cathy tells us "those big, bright eyes" were a haunting sight for a week while this Sheep was so sick. This picture shows that Sheep got



through her ordeal but still keeps her Sheep Eyes wide open when someone is in the barn, hoping for some more extra treats.
—Photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

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Crab Cake Eggs Benedict

Photo and recipe by Roslyn Watkins

This past December my sister, Diana Robichaud, and one of my closest friends, Anna MacLeod, began what we call our Breakfast Club. The name was inspired by another group of friends called The Supper Club. Very original, I'm certain.



At that time I realized how quickly time passes between our visits so we made it a monthly date to meet at Tatlows Broiler Bar in East Gwillimbury. The three of us have enjoyed the incredible variety of eggs benedict the chef there has to offer. This recipe was inspired by one of our visits. With Mother's Day right around the corner treat your special someone to a beautiful breakfast. I know this is a dish my mom would have loved.

The recipe comes together very quickly so make sure to measure out all the ingredients ahead of time and have the plates ready with the spinach. The only thing missing is a slice of tomato under the poached egg.

Ingredients makes 4

- 4 crab cakes, either your own recipe or available at the seafood counter of most grocery stores
- 1-2 tablespoons of olive oil
- A small handful of fresh spinach for each plate
- Fresh dill, finely chopped
- Pea Shoots or your preferred micro green
- 4 thick tomato slices
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon of vinegar

Hollandaise sauce ingredients

- 1/4 cup butter softened
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 pinch pepper

Directions

- Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F
- Heat a tablespoon or two of olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat.
- Pan fry crab cakes 3 - 4 minutes each side, transfer to a parchment lined baking sheet and place in the oven to keep warm.

Poached Eggs

In large saucepan or deep skillet, heat 2 to 3 inches water over medium heat until simmering. Add vinegar. One at a time, crack eggs into custard cup or small bowl; gently slide into simmering water. Reduce heat to low; cook until whites are set and yolks are still soft, about 3 minutes. With slotted spoon, transfer to paper towel-lined tray; keep warm.

Directions for Hollandaise Sauce

In a saucepan, before setting over heat, whisk egg yolks with 1 tbsp water. Set over low heat and continue to whisk until thickened, about 4 mins. or until pale and thick enough to coat the back of a spoon, being careful not to 'cook' the eggs. Remove from the heat and whisk in butter and lemon juice. Serve immediately.

Place a small handful of fresh spinach on each plate. Top with one crab cake, then a slice of tomato followed by a poached egg. Spoon hollandaise sauce over the egg, sprinkle on the fresh dill and top with your choice of micro green. Enjoy!

Ontario farmers, fire chiefs work together on fire prevention

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) are joining forces to share resources and promote fire safety and prevention on Ontario farms.

"Emergency preparedness and risk management are long-standing priorities for the OFA and our county and regional federations, and we are pleased to start working closely with Ontario's fire chiefs to help encourage awareness about how to reduce fire risks on Ontario farms," says Drew Spoelstra, farmer and President of the OFA. "Fire is an ever-present but preventable threat for Ontario farmers and we appreciate being able to promote and share resources about what can be done to minimize those risks to keep people, animals and buildings safe."

Barn fires are a serious concern at all times of the year, but colder winter temperatures heighten risks. Cold weather increases condensation on cold surfaces, and the corrosive mixture of barn gasses and moisture invades the electrical system. The increased use of heating equipment also poses risks of ignition with gas heaters, for example.

"Farm fires are tragic events, but better fire prevention starts with simple yet often overlooked basics that can min-

imize on-farm risks," says O AFC President Rob Grimwood, Deputy Chief, Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services. "We share many aligning interests with the OFA on fire safety and prevention, and we are pleased to be working together to help make people aware of fire risks and what they can do to protect their families, farms and businesses."

Some of the biggest fire risks in farm buildings come from dust and cobwebs, extension cords and heaters, and electrical plugs, receptacles and panels. Easy steps farmers can take to reduce the threat of fire include hardwiring or using waterproof plus or outlets, keeping buildings clean of dust and cobwebs, replacing extension cords, and identifying potential hotspots with a thermal imaging camera.

According to the latest statistics available from the Ontario Fire Marshal's office, Ontario saw 152 barn fires in 2021 with damages of just over \$54 million.

The OFA hopes to have O AFC or members from local fire departments join organizational representatives at key farm shows across the province to engage directly with farmers about how to protect their farm buildings and livestock.

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Celebrating all things maple at the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Pictured above is Carmela Hoher, one of the many volunteers that worked to put on the massive Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival this year. Carmela was busy handing out recipes for Maple Syrup, giving directions on the Festival happenings and explaining the big jug beside her was for donations to help with future Festivals.



Pictured above is Diedra Cruwys, daughter of the owner of Durham Honey from Port Perry. Durham Honey was a vendor at the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival and considers the event a kick-off to the season. Sales were busy and included "Honey Soda," a product with carbonated water and Canadian honey.



The business Everything Maple & More is owned by Rick Nadeau and his wife, Tracy. Rick is pictured to the left and said Tracy is also a chocolatier. "My wife was asked to come in and talk to some of the Junior Chefs at the White House," he says with pride. Everything Maple & More began as a hobby 22 years ago with maple syrup recipes. Now, the business has grown into products like balsamic salad dressings, hot sauces and jellies with Canadian maple syrup as the #1 ingredient. Everything Maple & More is based in Waubaushene, Ontario and has been featured on the hit tv show on CBC, Dragon's Den.

To the right is Robert Ashton at the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival. Robert operates the maple syrup business, Ashton Maple Products, with his brother, Richard near Port Perry, Ontario. Robert is pictured here during one of his few quiet times during the busy weekend that had huge crowds and sunny skies. Robert wore with pride the big rosette ribbon won for the prestigious Reserve Champion Maple Syrup at the recent Ontario Association of Agriculture Society's annual conference with Ashton Family made Maple Syrup. You can find them on Facebook.



Pictured above is the owner of Mikee's Gourmet Mushies from Greenbank. Mikee began his operation during the COVID-19 shutdown after a less than satisfactory online mushroom purchase. He decided to learn more about growing mushrooms and this small business was the result. Sales were strong on the first day of the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival with an amazing number of 20 starter kits for mushrooms sold- and this was only the first day of the two day event. Mikee says he likes the idea of working with such a healthy product for people that has so many health benefits. His products can be found at www.mikeesmushies.com.



TRADITIONAL: This is how maple taffy is made when there is no snow around. This specialized table was purchased just for the "tradition" of making maple taffy and had line-ups for much of the weekend at the Pefferlaw Creek Farms vendor space. Pefferlaw Creek Farms is owned by the Tomory Brothers and pictured above is Tony pouring maple syrup on the "snow" table.



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Recreational vehicle fire safety

By Dennis Gannon

Now that the temperature is getting warmer, thoughts of travel throughout Ontario and other places may be on your mind. For many, getting away means travelling with a Recreational Vehicle. RV's can be motor homes or travel trailers. Like your home it is important to take the precautions necessary to protect your property from devastation by fire. Fire is a leading cause of RV loss and incidents can occur when the unit is moving or parked. Following these safety tips can make your trips fun and stress free.

RV fires are often caused by wiring problems or electrical shortages and can often be attributed to bad batteries/poor battery shortage, wired/electrical appliances, refrigerators, generators, air conditioning, propane fittings and motor issues. Service (or have serviced) your camping vehicle annually. Check the propane fittings before every use and do a thorough RV inspection before each trip or leg of a trip. Be aware of dirt build-up and possible wire damage from rodents. It is important to understand that electrical RV fires can still occur when all systems have been powered down and the RV is stored.

There are fire risks while your RV is on the move which can include dry wheel bearings or low pressure tires causing friction, chains dragging and making sparks, or engine fires due to fuel line issues or leaking fluids such as antifreeze. If your RV is a trailer or a fifth wheel, check the lubrication of the axle hubs every season to prevent wheel lock up friction fires. Keep handy a portable fire extinguisher, preferably in a visible, easily accessible location near the exits.

Most fire extinguishers discharge in roughly 8-10 seconds with a range of only 2-3.5 metres resulting that they can only put out small, contained fires or to reduce a fire enough to permit escape from the RV. Install and maintain a smoke alarm near the sleeping area. As well, carbon monoxide and gas detectors are required and must be maintained. Test the alarms every time you use your RV and have everyone sleeping in the unit hear and know the difference in sounds. Test all escape windows, hatches and doors to make sure they open properly, and keep the escape routes clear of obstructions. Teach children how to open these in case of emergency when and if capable. Ensure that the power cord for connecting your RV to a campsite's 120v electricity supply is in good condition and can handle the electrical load placed upon it. Check for any damage and take the cord out of service immediately if any is noted. Shut the propane off at the tank and turn off all propane-powered appliances while in motion. It is important to confirm your cell phone coverage at each location that you are at including knowing the campground municipal address along with your site number. As you travel take note of road names, landmarks and addresses. Never re-enter a burning RV to retrieve anything, once you are out, GET OUT & STAY OUT!

Your local fire department is a great resource for additional fire information and they are always willing to help.

Remember, safety begins with you. Enjoy your travels this year.

Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

My Crops Are Like Children

I give my crops all that they need to reach their full potential - a good seed bed, fertile soil and lots of organic matter. Planting the seed is the easy part.

Crop farming is a lot like raising children. You give them all the tools they need for success but you still constantly worry about them surviving all the obstacles that might get in their way before they reach adulthood.

My crops are off to a good start with lots of sun, heat and moisture but I never stop fretting about them. What if there is too much rain and their young roots get saturated and rot? What if there is a drought and they become withered and stunted? Heaven forbids that they die! What about the bullying they will get from weeds, insects and fungi? Will an early fall frost bring them to an untimely end or will a late spring frost cut them down in their youth? What about hail, heavy rain and wind? It's enough to give any parent an ulcer.

As a farmer, I can only do so much. The rest is up to the mercy of Mother Nature. All I can do is hope and pray that they will stay strong and healthy until maturity. That's what farming is all about - taking chances and accepting the good with the bad. If my crops end up struggling too much - there is always next year.

Recipe for a good planting season:

- * a generous scoop of good weather
 - * a dash of warmth
 - * a pinch of rain
 - * mix gently to avoid breakdowns
 - * bake for a few days keeping the mixture covered until ready
- Poof! The crop is up!

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

Tim is quoted saying

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

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AUCTION SALE

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 Town-line, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Tractor: 1896 Case tractor, cab, 13,620hrs(engine rebuilt at 5700hrs), runs great-does not burn oil, R: 18.4-38, F: 11.00-16 , 105hp;

Trailer/Lawn Tractor: Canada trailer, 12'x6.5', folding ramps; John Deere 345 lawn tractor, 48" cut; power steering, power lift, 20hp, liquid cooled, new tires/hood/seat, fully serviced;

ATV/Golf cart: 2014 Arctic Cat 500, racks, winch, 1968kms; E-Z-Go golf cart, customized, folding rear seat, all new seats, lift kit, new rims & tires;

Machinery, Equip: Kongsild Vibrashank cultivator with 6 sect diamond harrows, 3ft wings; Hardi 500gal spray, 40ft manual boom, Desmopan 3 stage pump, elec controls, Flow Trak II monitor system, tank has hairline crack; Midwest Ind 3pth backhoe attachment, 21" bucket; New Holland bale stack cruiser; V-ditching plow; New Holland 278 square baler with thrower; New Holland 273 square baler with thrower; (4)steel thrower 18' wagons; Deutz Fahr KS 85 rotary hay rake; New Holland 273 9ft haybine with new belts; 45' skeleton bale elevator on wheels; New Holland hay rake; 20' skeleton bale elevator;

Farm Related: 300gal Rubbermaid water trough; (2)Marweld elevated round bale feeders; 6ft 3pth chain harrows; (2)feeder wagons; chute with crowding tub; (3)round bale feeders; (6)steel trough feeders; (2)mineral feeders with oilers; manual steel chute; skid steer bucket; dual auger snowblower-older; (4)hydro poles;

Shop/Horse Items/Misc: (3)plastic fence feeders; (6)rubber fence feeders; qty ground feeders (3 with lids); 4'x8' steel plates; conveyor rubber track; (10)chicken waterers(9 metal); (2)metal chicken feeders; John Deere grass bagger for lawn tractor; (2)car ramps; (4)tires-2 on rims; (2)Ryobi 4-cycle string trimmers;

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Note: Please contact auctioneer if you are wanting to consign any equipment/items
****Watch the website as items will be added regularly****

Preview: 1-6pm, Friday May 10th

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
 Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - full listing & photos

AUCTION SALE

Cow Herd Dispersal
 for **Gilbrea Farms**
Live Auction Sale
 of
 75 Bred Cows/Heifers
 Saturday June 15, 11:00am



to be held at 5473 Sixth Line, Hillsburgh, ON

Directions: From the south end of Hillsburgh go 3.1km on Trafalgar Rd to Sideroad 17. Turn West and go 1.2km to 6th Line. Then come South 2.3km to sale on East side of road.

Cattle:

(50) Leachman Stabilizer cows - reds & blacks: bred to Leachman Stabilizer bulls
(25) Leachman Stabilizer heifers - reds & blacks: bred to Leachman Stabilizer bulls

Cows/heifers are due to calve in August & September. All vaccinated annually with Bovi-Shield Gold FP5/L5.

Cows will be preg checked by Dufferin Veterinary Services prior to sale

Cattle Equipment: round bale feeders; mineral feeders; heated water bowls & parts; burdizzos; and more!

Lunch Booth

Washroom Available

Terms & Conditions: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

Owner: Bob Wilson (519) 831-0962 or (519) 855-4990. Call for herd details
Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264
Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The North Simcoe Soil and Crop Improvement Association offers a scholarship for students enrolled in an agricultural program at a college or university. To be eligible, you must be in your second year or later of an agricultural program, reside in North Simcoe and attend an interview. Applications are available from:

DAVID SPRING at 2451 COUNTY RD 92, ELMVALE, ON

Applications must be returned to David Spring no later than June 30th. The amount of the scholarship will be up to \$1,000 per applicant or \$2,000 total per year.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 11th, 2024 - Junior Plowing Clinic hosted by the Peel-Dufferin Plowmen's Association at 14495 The Gore Road, Celadon, 12 pm.
 To give all participants the best experience pre-registration is mandatory. Deadline for pre-registration is Sunday, August 4, 2024. Must be a minimum of ten years of age before January 1, 2024. Must be confident enough to operate equipment. Equipment provided, although you are welcome to bring your own. Minimum of five plowers required for the event to proceed. Lunch is included. To register please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ysppuemb>. Rain Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024.

Thursday, August 29 - 97th Peel Dufferin Plowing Match hosted by the French family at 14685 Highway 50, Celadon.

For more information on either of these events visit the Peel-Dufferin Plowmen's Association Facebook page or email: pdplowmens@gmail.com. Check us out on Facebook!

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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AUCTION SALE

ONLINE MAY CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Sale Runs Mon. May 13th to Tues. May 21st, 2024

Property of Ken & Donna O'Brien, Midhurst: Featured Items Include: 10 tractors – modern & antique including Kubota M5-111 4 wd. Cab tractor with loader, JD 4250 diesel tractor, JD 420 & 520 models, International Super M & H models, Massey Harris 30, 333 and 101 Jr. models, Massey Ferguson 165. All tractors are in running order, good paint & rubber. Other items include: 5100 CIH 18 run double disc seed drill with packer wheel, track eraser plus grain, grass & fertilizer boxes, 12' tandem offset disc (like new), Turnco 12' sprocket land packer, Wilrich 18' cultivator with hydraulic wings & finishing harrows, Kongskilde 300 variable with 5 furrow semi mount plow, 6 section diamond harrows, Turnco 150 bu gravity wagon with hydraulic unloading auger, Argo Trend 7' snowblower with hydraulic chute (like new), 202 bottom Match plow, 2 furrow mounted & drag plow plus large variety of quality antique plow parts.

Other Items: JD 468 Silage Special round baler, JD 835 centre pivot discbine, plus much more!

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ENVIRONMENT WORD SEARCH

With the environment being top of mind these days, our word search features words pertaining to the natural world. Words can be found forward, backward, up and down or on diagonals. Some letters may be used more than once.

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

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- Brand new sides for New Holland 679, 680 manure spreader, pair stored inside \$1,250.00
- JED 30 bale kicker fits JED 336 small square balers, with pump, lines, hitch etc \$1,850.00
- NH 256 hay rake \$2,600.00
- AC WED 45 antique tractor with front mount buzz saw, original \$3,600.00

Call Dan Seriffed, Harriston 519-338-2688

FREE ADS

Kubota orange mail box in the original box. Vintage rural galvanized mailbox from 1940's or 50's. Call 519-855-6813.

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.

Blue Faced Leicester Sheep for sale. Call 519-940-8897.

FREE ADS

Two 16' canoes for sale, a cedar strip and a Kevlar. Both in excellent condition \$1000.00 each. 12 conibear traps various sizes \$5.00 each. 7 Horseshoes for pitching \$10.00 In Oro-Medonte, call 705-728-2609.

Brother sewing machine set in wood cabinet. Just had it repaired. A 60's model Asking \$100.00 or best offer. Please call or text 705-440-3567.

Boer Goats %, Commercial and Registered females for sale. CAEN Negative Herd. Priced from \$800.00. Call 519-940-8897.

Classified ads work!

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

GOD to ST. FRANCIS: Frank, ...you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No!?! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a story about....

GOD: *Never mind, I know... Suburbanites!*



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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 IH 5120

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

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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,

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