

# *Since 1977* **FARM** **VIEW**

A newspaper with something for everyone | June 2024 | Volume 47 #06

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Farmland.**

**Complimentary copy for  
the FARM household**

# AGcalendar

## June 7th: SCFA presents Farms Feed Families

Come out and learn about farming in Simcoe County! Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture will have exhibits, presentations, demonstrations and more! Beginning at **9:30 a.m. on Friday June 7th** located at Essa Agriplex - Home of the Barrie Fair, 7505 10th Line, Essa Township.

## June 15th: Program announcement for E.D.G.E

E.D.G.E. plant sale will take place on **June 15th**. Locally grown perennials, herbs, vegetables and native plants. Lots of handouts offering gardening tips. Location Heritage Park Hwy 92, Elmvale **9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Memberships sold that day. Membership fees \$15/year.

**Members' Off-Site Meeting: June 26th** leave Elmvale Legion at 6 p.m. but must be a member to attend due to insurance. Join at the plant sale and come.

## June 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

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.

## 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 ad on page 6.**

## July 11th: SCFA Annual Summer BBQ

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture annual summer BBQ will take place on Thursday July 11th at Langerest Farms. Ticket information and more **details in the ad on page 11.**

## July 18th: GFO District 11 Grain Producer Meeting

Grain Farmers of Ontario District 11 Grain Producer Information Meeting takes place on July 18th at the Living Faith Community Presbyterian Church, Egbert ON

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Program 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lunch included.

## E.D.G.E Garden Tour!

Become a member of the Elmvale District Garden Enthusiast Club at the plant sale on June 15th at Heritage Park in Elmvale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and enjoy this wonderful mystery garden tour taking place on Wednesday July 24th. Meet at the Elmvale Legion at 6 p.m. on July 24th for an evening of botanical enjoyment.

## Attention Farmers

Do you allow hunting on your land? Respectful hunter looking to hunt turkey. Willing to trade wild game, fish, morels or even yard work to hunt. Please contact Travis at 705-331-6387.

## Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

### TO ALL THE GREAT FRIENDSHIPS!

We grew up in the 40s – 50s – 60s:  
We studied in the 50s – 60s – 70s:  
We dated in the 50s – 60s 70s:  
We got married and discovered the world in the '60s – '70s – '80s:  
We ventured into the 70s – 80s:  
We stabilized in the 90s:  
We got wiser in the 2000s:  
And went firmly through the 2010s.  
It turns out we've lived through nine different decades, two different centuries, and two different millennia.

We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world. We have gone from black and white photos to colour slides to YouTube; from vinyl 12-inch records to cassettes to CDs to online music, from handwritten letters to email and to WhatsApp.

From listening to the cricket live on the radio to black and white TV, then colour TV, and then to HDTV.

We went from black and white movies at the cinema to colour films at the cinema to black and white TV, to colour TV, to VHS taped movies, to DVD movies, and now we watch Netflix. We got to know the first computers, punch cards, diskettes and now we have gigabytes and megabytes in hand on our cell phones or iPads.

We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long pants, oxfords, Bermuda shorts, etc. We dodged infantile paralysis, polio, meningitis, H1N1 flu and now COVID-19.

We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, invented cars, bicycles, mopeds, gasoline or diesel cars and now we ride hybrids or 100% electric.

Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had! They could describe us as "exennials," people who were born into the world of the forties and fifties, who had an analogue childhood and a digital adulthood. We're kind of Ya-seen-it-all.

Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life. It is our generation that has literally adapted to "CHANGE."

A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, of which are unique. Here is a precious and very true message:

**TIME DOES NOT STOP!** Life is a task that we do ourselves every day. When we look, it's already six in the afternoon; when we look, it's already Friday; when we look, the month is over; when we look, the year is over; when we look, 50, 60, 70 and 80 years have passed!

When we look – we no longer know where our friends are. When we look – we lost the love of our life and now, it's too late to go back.

Do not stop doing something you like due to lack of time. Do not stop having someone by your side, because your children will soon not be yours, and you will have to do something with that remaining time, where the only thing that we are going to miss will be the space that can only be enjoyed with the usual friends. This time that, unfortunately, never returns.

That day is today!

We are no longer at an age to postpone anything.

Hopefully, you have time to read and then share this message. Always together, always united, always brothers/sisters, always friends.

Pass it on to your best friends. Don't leave it for later.

—Authour unknown

# Utopia Farmland; now heading into its 4th growing season



The worm count has now crossed the 100-mark at The Utopia Farmland, an increase from 5 worms in the farmlands first study three years ago.

The Utopia Farmland, located in Utopia, Ontario, is undergoing a transition – all focused on supporting and increasing the life and health of its soil. And by doing this, the expectation is that this will see longer term increases in crop yields, profitability and the ability for the soil

Utopia Farmland is learning from these early leaders while also heavily monitoring the costs involved in the transition and the year-over-year changes. This information is critical to better understand how farmers need to be supported if this movement is to be fully adopted to achieve long-term soil ecosystem integrity and fight climate change.

“Each year, we are conducting a series of laboratory analyses on the farmland’s soil, monitoring microbial presence as well as other criteria such as pH and levels of soil nutrients. Using these soil tests, we can properly make decisions concerning optimum fertilizer application rates based on the 4Rs management tools – that is, Right Rate, Right Source, Right Placement and Right Timing.”

“We are also incorporating aerial photos in our tracking, allowing us to visibly observe the entire field during growth. This will help us better see any differences in crop growth and can help us adapt management practices and applications according to conditions specific to the location.”

In addition to the formality of lab tests, a series of do-it-yourself soil tests are being done at 21 sites set up across the farmland (all of which could equally be done in home gardens as tests for soil health). Involving community volunteers and local students, the team dig holes and count earthworms, records the length of time water takes to soak into the soil, collects soil samples to test how well the soil holds together and measures for any soil compaction.

The results of each of these tests are recorded year-over-year, with the changes being tracked and serving as indicators to changes in the soil’s working dynamics and environment.

This year, the DIY soil tests were done mid-May with shouts of joy being heard across the farmland when the earthworm count was totalled.

From the initial year’s results of finding 5 earthworms across all the sites to Year 2 recording a find of 55 wriggly beings, the worm count has now crossed the 100-mark with only a few of the sites still not seeing any.

A positive sign of welcoming changes to soil conditions and health. All of which bodes well for increases in crop yields as well as soil organic matter, the latter being extremely valuable as a means to store carbon and fight climate change.

## The 6 C’s of Soil Health

### Tackling Climate Change with Soil Management

How soils are managed is key to stabilizing and calming our climate. But that’s not the whole story. When you pay attention to the health of your soil, you will realize a rich harvest of other benefits: increased productivity, improved water quality, drought resistance, more nutritious crops, and a healthier bottom line. Below are six basic principles: the 6Cs of Soil Health. When applied correctly and consistently, the 6Cs will always result in healthy, productive soils.

1. Compaction Reduction
2. Cultivate Carefully
3. Continuous Living Plants
4. Cover Crops
5. Crop and Animal Diversity
6. Compost and Organic Amendments

Source: Laura Van Eerd, University of Guelph & Kate Congreves University of Saskatchewan

## On the Cover



Cover photo provided by the Compost Council of Canada.

Ad/News DEADLINE for the July Farm View is June 14th.

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## Great Selection...Call Us for your Hay Tools!

### Agriculture - Hay and Forage - Mower Conditioners

JD C350 (E90492) 2021, ROTARY DISC, 3.5M, IMPELLER COND., 2PT CTR PIVOT HITCH, 1000RPM 1-3/8 PTO., MANUAL CUTTERBAR TILT, 31Lx13.5 TIRES, AS NEW  
**\$50,530.00**

JD C400 (E92110) 2021, ROTARY DISC, 4M, IMPELLER CONDITION., 2PT CENTER PIVOT HITCH, 1000 RPM 1-3/8 PTO., HYD CUTTERBAR TILT, 31Lx13.5 TIRES  
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### Agriculture - Hay and Forage - Balers

JD 458 (E91894) 2012, 4x5 MAX BALE SIZE, SILAGE SPECIAL, NET WRAP., COVEREDGE NET WRAP, BALE EJECTION RAMPS., HYD PICKUP LIFT, 540 PTO, MEGA-TOOTH PICKUP **\$29,480.00**



JD 450M (E89392) 2018, 4x5 MAX BALE SIZE, SILAGE SPECIAL, COVEREDGE NET WRAP, BALE EJECTION  
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JD 457 (E90725) 2000, 4x5 MAX BALE SIZE, SILAGE SPECIAL, WIDE PICKUP, COVEREDGE NET WRAP,  
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JD 468 (E90937A) 2011, 4x6 MAX BALE SIZE, SILAGE SPECIAL, WIDE PICKUP, COVEREDGE NET WRAP,  
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JD 458 (E91325) 2011, 4x5 MAX BALE SIZE, COVEREDGE NET WRAP., BALE EJECTION RAMPS,  
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JD 854 (E91505) 2010, 4'x5' MAX BALE SIZE, SILAGE SPECIAL, BALE PRE-CUTTER, WIDE PICKUP,  
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FROM THE EDITOR



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

Last month Dennis Gannon brought to my attention an article from the OFA in regards to Ontario farmers working together with fire chiefs for fire prevention. That can be found on page 23 of the May 2024 issue of Farm View. Reading that article made me reflect on how fortunate we are to have a monthly fire prevention column written by retired fire chief, Dennis Gannon. Dennis' column has provided numerous safety tips to help keep our homes and properties fire safe. This month his column focuses on summer safety (page 10) in many aspects. A timely reminder for all of us, no one plans for an accident to happen. Have a read and share with your friends and neighbours.

This issue of Farm View definitely has a next generation theme. We have scholarship announcements, the recent Youth Forum Junior Beef Show, Junior Plowing Clinic information, quilting with our youth and of course 4-H updates. Encouraging the next generations to become involved in our agricultural community is imperative. Please pass this issue along to a young person you know who doesn't live on a farm so that they may take an interest in a new hobby or career.

On a personal note Shawn and I will be celebrating 20 years of marriage this June. I quite often think how lucky I am to have this man as my husband, best friend and father to our kids. Here's to another 20 years!

LETTERS

Depression of 1929 Revisited

In 1929 my father, on a family farm near Chatham, was 14 when the uncontrolled forces of a Capitalist economy destroyed much of the accumulated wealth of his world. As children listening to our parents tales we imagined shanty-towns of homeless and skeletal hoboes on backroads (respectfully) asking for "food for work", and the streets of Chatham where at every 3rd or 4th house bank-evicted families sat hopelessly at the end of their sidewalks. The response of the Capitalist system was to confiscate the properties of the working class 'debtors', pass laws against 'vagrancy', establish as 'fact' that handouts cause laziness, and to hire police and other gangs of thugs to run 'tramps' out of town and to beat up union organizers, among many other despicable practices.

Despite the grinding hardship of the "Dirty Thirties" and the deprivations of the War Years of the 'Forties the farm families were the lucky ones. Into the 'Fifties, farming mostly without oil, they raised animals and produce for fertilizer, food, and sale, trading cream for grocery money, or apples or pears for potatoes or chickens, etc. and root-cellars were full of vegetables and canned goods.

They vowed to build a social democ-

racy to forever prevent a repeat of the misery they had been subjected to. The backroads were populated with thousands of industrious families. And together these hard-scrabble, muscle and bone survivors built local schools, businesses, public healthcare, electricity and transportation services. The national rail systems and CBC radio and television allowed for cultural development and citizen inclusivity in a vast diverse country. Two decades of real social reforms resulted in a healthier more educated population where single income families and forty hour weeks were the norm.

But here we are again, 100 years later on the cusp of a another greed-induced seriously major crash. Only this time economic and environmental. Around the world vast numbers of indigenous, environmental, and local and international activist groups are desperately scrambling to establish viable local economies. Not so noticeable in Canada. We have a choice between a system that creates problems or a system that creates solutions. We can endure/suffer the consequences of another Capitalist-driven global disaster or we can immediately begin building green community based economics. Scale back farm size, get more people/labour

on the land, drastically reduce chemical and oil inputs, demand emission limits and healthy natural ecosystems, make water security a top priority, start developing local farm markets and seed, food, and equipment co-ops and elect a government willing to give you services for the tax money you 'lend' them, etc.

Covid provided a good taste of the fragility of supply chains but it also provided a snapshot of the value of a guaranteed income (child poverty was decreased by 40% during CERB) that would be immeasurably valuable in assisting the transitioning farm systems desperately required to survive the increasingly unpredictable climate crisis. Polls indicate that a minuscule 11% of people (mostly men, white, well-off, and with high confidence in their opinions) do not believe climate change will happen, that leaves 89% of us seriously worried for our future but available to get to work. We have clear examples of the perils of free market or benefits of social democracy. Positive stress-free activity leads to a healthier happier society and it's also much easier to vote than protest.

G Hart  
Sundridge On

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- THE UPS STORE in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza

The Farm View is delivered to these business between the 25th and 29th of each month and copies are available while supplies last. If you would like the Farm View mailed directly to your home, one year subscriptions can be purchased for \$49.00. Contact Roslyn at 705-722-0138, by mail 8 Luella Blvd Minesing, ON L9X 0W7 or email farmview@on.aibn.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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A forum for the Agricultural and Rural Community

The farm newspaper that covers Simcoe and Dufferin County, York, Peel and Muskoka Regions, keeping farmers and rural home owners informed about local and national news that affects their farm business, family and rural lifestyle.

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In memory of  
Jill Beischer

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

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

W.J. Bryan

OFA Members Service Representative:

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

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:  
Paul Maurice: 705-427-3126 email: paul.maurice@ofa.on.ca  
OFA Zone Director for Dufferin County:  
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Vice President: Colin Elliot 705-791-1006  
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SCFA Phone: 705-726-9300 ext 1224  
simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com

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Property owners must be aware of their responsibilities to destroy noxious weeds



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

So far the 2024 spring season has been unusually wet. But this has not deterred the growth of weeds. One dangerous and invasive weed that is rapidly spreading across the province is Wild Parsnip. It is a member of the carrot family and produces an edible root. The danger of Wild Parsnip is that the sap in the stock & leaves contains chemicals that can cause rashes, burns and blisters on human skin. The skin then becomes extremely sensitive to sunlight. If found in fields of hay and ingested by livestock it can impact fertility and cause weigh loss. Wild Parsnip has a yellowish-green umbrella shaped flower head on a single stem and can grow to 1.5 metres in height. Do not touch this noxious weed with your bare hands! There are several good weed identification apps available that you may want to consider using to protect your health before removing weeds from your property.

All property owners must be aware of their responsibilities to destroy noxious weeds. These noxious weeds have a negative affect on agricultural lands, host plant diseases and can

have serious impacts on the health of livestock. Did you know that European Buckthorn hosts soybeans aphids and Oat Crown rust disease?

The following is the current list of twenty-five noxious weeds as per the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs.

1. Black Dog-Strangling Vine

2. Bull Thistle

3. Canada Thistle

4. Coltsfoot

5. Common Barberry

6. Common Crupina

7. Cypress Spurge

8. Dodder

9. Dog-Strangling Vine

10. European Buckthorn

11. Giant Hogweed

12. Jointed Goatgrass

13. Knapweed
14. Kudzu

15. Leafy Spurge

16. Poison Hemlock

17. Poison Ivy

18. Ragweed

19. Serrated Tussock

20. Smooth Bedstraw

21. Sow Thistle

22. Tansy Ragwort

23. Wild Chervil

24. Wild Parsnip

25. Woolly Cupgrass

Please visit the OMAFRA webpage to see pictures and additional information on each weed. [http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/noxious\\_weeds.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/noxious_weeds.htm)

You will notice that Milkweed is no longer considered a noxious weed. As of February 2014, Milkweed was removed from the noxious weed schedule to support monarch butterfly populations. Several other species of noxious weeds were also removed from the schedule as they are considered a food source for pollinators.

The governing piece of provincial legislation is called the Weed Control Act. This act states “every person in possession of land shall destroy all noxious weeds on it.” All municipalities either upper or lower tier appoint area weed inspectors to enforce this act. Inspectors are empowered to search a property for noxious weeds anytime between sun rise and sun set. They also have the power to enter buildings except dwellings to inspect machinery, vehicles, crops, or other plants. If a property owner denies the inspector entry on to the property, the inspector can apply for a warrant to authorize entry. A warrant may be granted without notice to the owner or occupier of the buildings or land.

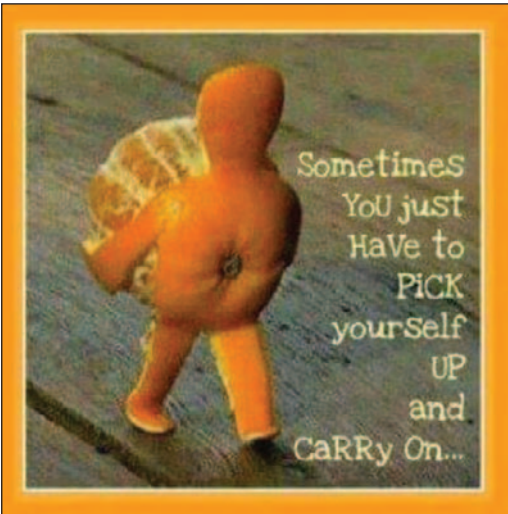
If the inspector finds noxious weeds or weed seeds, the property owner or occupier will receive an order to destroy the noxious weeds within seven days. If the owner or occupier fails to comply with the destroy order the inspector can order the weeds destroyed by another party and the expense will be applied to the owner’s property tax bill. There is also a fine component to this act upon a guilty conviction. First offence fines range from \$500 to \$2000. Subsequent offences can see the fines increase to between \$1000 and \$5000.

There are a several sections of the Weed Control Act that specifically speak to agricultural operators.

Section 20 – If the moving of a machine used for agricultural purposes is likely to cause noxious weeds or weed seeds to grow or spread, no person shall move the machine or cause it to be moved without first removing from it all seeds and other residue.

Section 21 – A person in charge of a grain elevator, seed-cleaning plant or other grain-cleaning or grain-grinding plant shall dispose of all refuse containing weed seeds in a manner that will prevent them from growing or spreading.

If you observe noxious weeds growing on properties or along roads contact your local municipal weed inspector as soon as possible.



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Visit us at [www.KawarthaAntiquePower.com](http://www.KawarthaAntiquePower.com)

PRESERVING OUR AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

**Planting trees in celebration of Compost Awareness Weeks’ 30th Anniversary**

*Story and photos by John Beischer*

Last month more than two dozen volunteers answered the call to help plant trees and spread compost around the perimeter of the soccer pitch and park at Utopia, an interesting and friendly hamlet in the north end of Essa Township in the heart of Simcoe County. To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Compost Awareness Week, Susan Antler organized this fabulous opportunity to plant nearly 200 tree saplings. Volunteers brought their own shovels and were turning soil by 8 a.m. that morning. Very shortly after, Tom Smith who farms in Utopia along with Scott Dobson, took on the task of drilling holes along the difficult to access northern perimeter of the soccer field. Their efforts were rewarded throughout the day as new saplings were planted in their wake.

A great many people, young and old, were responsible for the success of this annual project. As always, Susan provided wonderful refreshments throughout the day.

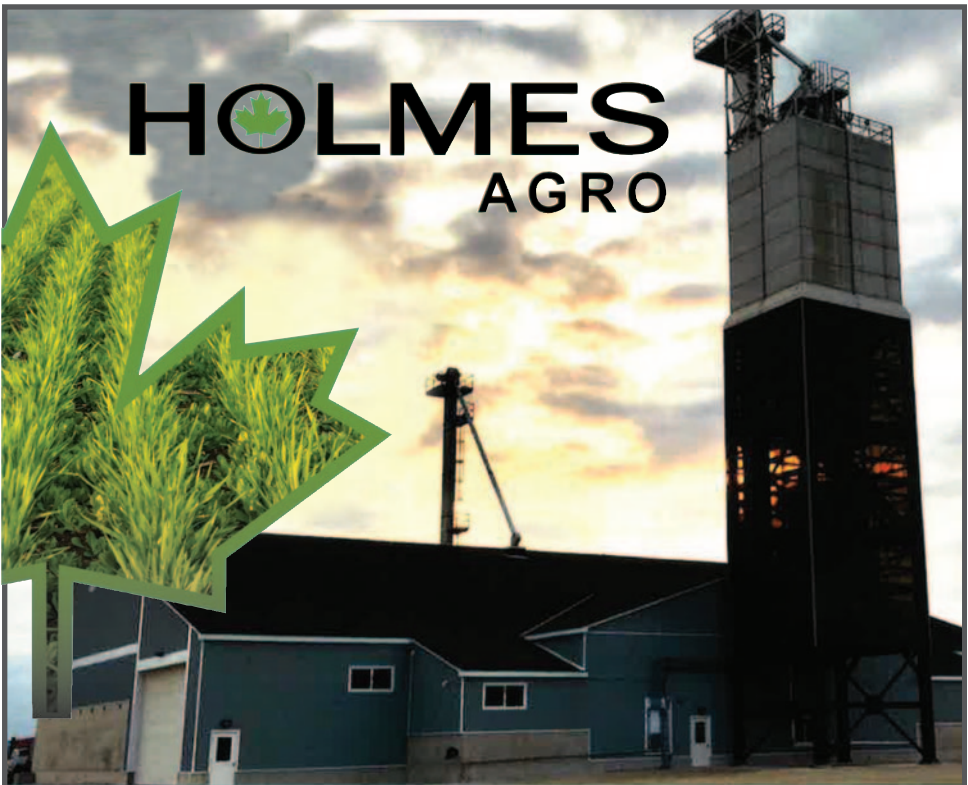
What are the benefits of planting trees? Trees and shrubs improve soil and water conservation, store carbon, moderate local climate by providing shade, regulate temperature extremes, increase wildlife habitat and improve the land’s capacity to adapt to climate change.

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Pictured to the right: many smiling volunteers were assisted by Essa Mayor Sandie Macdonald and Deputy Mayor Henry in the tree planting on May 4th in celebration of Compost Awareness Weeks’ 30th anniversary.



In the photo at left Tom Smith in the tractor cab operated the post hole digger on the back of his John Deere tractor and Scott Dobson [back to camera] identified the location of the plantings as they crept along the perimeter of the park. Other volunteers followed along with compost and tree saplings.



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# Youth Forum Beef Show 2024 drew crowds from near and far

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Pictured at left is 2024 Youth Forum Junior Beef Show judge Kelsey Evans from Campbellsburg, Kentucky, USA. She explained that showing cattle builds a community, and friendships made showing livestock can be life changing in a wonderful way. Evans speaks from experience, she met her husband Derek at a show. Evans with her husband and two children, Kennedy and Brooks, own and operate Evans Cattle Company. Kelsey and her family have 50 registered Chiangus and Angus cows and show and sell cattle.



Pictured above is Olivia Avery of Bethany working to ready for the show ring. Olivia shows with her family under the Lifford Hills Farm prefix and the Youth Forum Beef Show is the first show of the season as it is in April. This fall, Olivia will be attending the University of Guelph to study Animal Sciences.



In the above photo is Travis Angel from Newbury showing Hereford Stonewood Rose 24L. Travis has been showing for over 10 years starting off as a little boy in pre- 4-H. He likes the challenge of the competition at the shows. Herefords were one of the most popular breeds at this year's Youth Forum Junior Beef Show held at the Lindsay Fairgrounds and Travis won an impressive Champion Hereford the next day in the Conformation Show.



Watching the judges and watching one's animal at the same time is a key part of showing. Pictured above is Taylor Burke from Tweed in the Jackpot class at Youth Forum Junior Beef Show showing her Charolais named EVF Starstruck 314L. The next day, Taylor won Reserve Champion Charolais in the conformation show class.

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# Youth Forum Beef Show builds skills at an early age

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Pictured above is Paisley Dagg from Pembroke showing Hereford, Stone-Hedge Lexie 12L where she won Reserve Champion Novice Showperson. Young Paisley says she is a "Hereford girl" and has been to Bonanza, the huge national Hereford show held last year in Prince Edward Island.



Youth Forum Beef Show had showmanship classes including this one for Junior Showmanship. In the photo above is Tyler Smith from Princeton showing Shorthorn named Red Rose 8J Starlight 29L.

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# Don't let your safety guard down while enjoying summertime fun!

By Dennis Gannon

The summer season is upon us. It's time to shed the heavy winter clothing and get into the shorts, t-shirts and sandals. It's time to kick back, get together outside at the pool, cottage or campground and enjoy all that the summer can bring us. While we tend to be more carefree it is important that we don't let our safety guard down and we keep ourselves and family safe. Here are some tips for a few of the fun activities you may participate in this summer.

BBQ and grilling are always a part of summer fun. Keeping your equipment in top shape is essential. If using gas or propane equipment, check for worn lines. Do a soap test every time a propane tank is installed. Natural gas lines should be checked on a regular basis as well. The buildup of grease can result in a fire. Regularly clean your grill as well as the catch pan underneath. Never use a barbeque indoors as doing so causes a build-up of poisonous carbon monoxide gas. After BBQ-ing, make sure the BBQ is turned off and the burner flames are out. Also make sure the gas supply is turned off and the lid is closed.

Swimming is another great summer fun activity. Whether it's in a pool at home or at the lake there are important steps we can take to be safe. Think about keeping life saving equipment, such as a safety ring or throw rope at the edge of the pool or at the water's edge. Inexperienced swimmers and young children should be supervised at all times. Keep them within arms reach at all times. Consider having them wear an approved life jacket and enrolling them in swimming lessons.

Boating is a great way to enjoy the sun and warmth. A power boat, jet ski, canoe or kayak are all popular on the water. Wearing a properly sized life jacket when on the water is key to having safe fun. Alcohol and water don't mix. Remember, water on the water, beer on the pier.

What can be more fun after a day in the sun than a bonfire. A crackling fire with S'mores, or marshmallows is a great way to end the fun. Children are always attracted to fire which means you need to keep a careful eye on them. During the summer there are often restrictions put on outdoor fires by local fire departments. Most fire de-

partments have a permit system that outlines the size, location and when a bonfire can occur. Before lighting a fire make sure that you are in compliance.

Often summer fun occurs at a cottage or campground. In the event of an emergency it is essential that you can give the emergency personnel as much information as possible in order that they can get help to your location as quickly as possible. Know the address of where you are. Many emergency services now can get help to you using the what 3 words app. If you haven't installed this app do it now as it can be beneficial in any type of emergency.

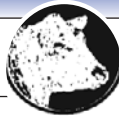
As always regardless if you are at your home, cottage, rental or RV, a working smoke alarm is an essential component of your fire safety. That along with an emergency safety plan that everyone is familiar with can make a huge difference in an emergency. Check out the smoke alarms and if you haven't already created a plan do it now.

Summer can be a fun time. Think safety and enjoy it to its fullest.




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# Lewis James Clement: A Faded Headstone Does Little to Relate a Remarkable Life

Dozens of people have been buried in Clement's Cemetery on the 2nd Line, just east of Yonge Street, in Innisfil. In the far southwest corner is a faded headstone, the inscription barely legible. This stone marks the resting place of Lewis James Clement, for whom the cemetery was named.

Clement's life and legacy is barely hinted at with this modest stone. The faded inscription does little to say who he was and how he lived. He deserves better.

Lewis James Clement was the son of James Clement, born in 1764 in the Mohawk Valley of New York State. James was part of a loyalist family and his father, Lewis Cobes, had fought on the British side in the American Revolution. No longer feeling welcome after the colonies won their independence, the Clement family moved to Upper Canada's Niagara Region where, in 1786, 22-year-old James wed 16-year-old Catharine Crysler. The newlyweds settled a farm on the Four Mile Creek and began to raise a family, including Lewis James, born March 15, 1798.

Young Lewis was no stranger to hardship. Military forces of the young United States crossed the Niagara River in 1812, kicking off the War of 1812 and three years fighting, much of it focused on the Niagara peninsula. The war turned the Clement family upside down. Crops and livestock were stolen as armies marched back and forth, and the fear of the home being taken over by hostile invaders always hung over them.

Ardently anti-American, James served as a lieutenant in the militia, serving much of the time as a dispatch rider between the garrisons at Fort

George and Fort Erie. It was a dangerous assignment and in early 1813 he was severely wounded in his hand, probably shot, or cut by saber in one of many numerous skirmishes that plagued the region. Infection set in and James died on March 13, leaving a heavily pregnant Catherine to care for their children and farm. Tragically, childbirth was difficult and both Catherine and the baby died on July 13.



Lewis James Clement was now an adult at age 15. He set out to make a life for himself; thankfully, with four older siblings, none of the younger Clement children went uncared for.

Lewis James Clement remained in Niagara for the next two decades, farming and marrying 22-

year-old Abigail Emmett on April 1, 1828. The couple would have 11 children, six sons and five daughters.

In the 1830s (some sources claim as early as 1829), Lewis and Abigail uprooted and headed north for new possibilities in Innisfil. They had little beyond a yoke of oxen and a determination to succeed, and they lived several months in a tent before moving into a log shanty. A year or two later the couple had the wherewithal to have a proper home – said to be Innisfil's first frame house – built for them by carpenter James Soules.

Thankfully, except for the uncertainty surrounding a move to an unknown region then still very much wilderness, Clement's life wasn't marred by the turmoil and tragedy that his parents had endured. He farmed successfully, raised his family, served as a respected voice in the community, and was even a local magistrate for a time. One of Lewis's most enduring contributions was the 1837 donation of a plot of land for communal burials. This is what became known as Clement's Cemetery.

Several of Lewis and Abigail's sons followed in their footsteps and farmed successfully in Innisfil and beyond. One son became a prominent Bradford physician.

Lewis died on April 9, 1873, and was laid to rest in the cemetery he founded.

## Village stories

by Andrew Hind

### Scholarship available

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:

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# Invasive forest species in Ontario

Synopsis by Don Beaulieu

In March of this year, Nottawasaga Futures held their annual AgKnowledge Forum. This event provides the agricultural community with a bevy of guest speakers on a wide range of pertinent, timely topics. This spring's event was held at the lovely Gibson Centre in Alliston.

Fred Somerville of Somerville Nurseries Inc. addressed the health of southern Ontario forests. In particular, invasive species are a concern he stressed. Somerville was able to enlighten his audience and offer an educated perspective.

Environmental changes are happening at a pace greater than nature can adapt. Climate change notwithstanding, our forests are under pressure from vehicles, including aircraft and ships bringing "unwanted hitch-hikers in the form of invasive species and diseases that our forests have never been exposed to, have no resistance to and therefore, in some cases, succumb to" Somerville warned. Trees need up to hundreds of thousands of years to build up a required resistance to ward off these "alien invaders".

## American chestnut

One hundred years ago, the majestic American chestnut tree dominated forests. They were the tallest trees in south-western Ontario forests; their population was estimated to be one of every four trees, in their preferred zone. This was before the arrival of the chestnut blight fungus disease. This disease destroyed the inner bark of the trees. The first case, historically, is believed to have begun in the Bronx Zoo in 1904 although some believe it made its way to the eastern United States in the 1800s on imported Japanese chestnut trees.

Because North American chestnut trees had not been previously exposed to the blight "...they were highly susceptible to it and were decimated (*sic*) by it". Billions of trees perished and the American chestnut has not returned.

## Dutch elm disease

Most readers will be more familiar with Dutch elm disease. Elms grew to majestic size and numbers throughout

our region with their distinctive umbrella shape. Natives used elms for building canoes and dwellings. The tree became an important part of furniture, flooring and construction material and veneer.

It is suspected that the fungus that killed them originated in the Himalaya Mountains. It made its way into Europe and the Dutch East Indies. The disease spread to North America in the 1930s via wooden crates made from infected elm wood. Being discovered by Dutch researchers, it became known as Dutch elm disease.

North America encountered two strains of the disease. It blocked the movement of water and therefore minerals in the tree. Younger trees seemed to resist the fungus but only for 15 to 20 years. Elm bark beetles moving about the forest spread the disease, transporting the fungal spores on their bodies. Efforts to control the disease failed as did attempts to breed a resistant elm. The species has been "basically lost to us" lamented Somerville.

## Butternut canker

A less common tree which has suffered loss is the butternut canker. This tree is also known as white walnuts. Although native to our forests, they are relatively scarce and are closely related to black walnuts.

Butternut canker is another fungal disease most likely introduced from outside North America. It penetrates the tree through buds, leaf scars and possibly via insects. Rain and wind move pathogenic spores around creating cankers which would eventually result in the tree's demise. "Here in our area, most butternuts are in severe decline" Somerville informed the attendees. Disease resistant trees are still in the works with the hope to re-populate forests, but success has been very limited thus far.

## Beech bark disease

Most of us are familiar with the American beech tree, often recognized by its elephant skin-like bark which is an excellent media for carving initials into.

Experts believe the disease arrived on Canada's east coast circa 1890, imported on ornamental birch trees from Europe. It has spread throughout eastern Canada including our local forests.

This is a unique disease, Somerville explained, "It has a two-part mechanism of spreading". He explained further: "First, an invasive species, the introduced beech scale, attaches to the bark of the tree and feeds by piercing the outer layers. This allows the introduced beech bark fungus (which is very prevalent now in our forest) to enter these tiny holes to infect the interior of the bark with fungal spores which in turn discolours and kills its host".

Not of a spectacular commercial value, the beech tree provides biodiversity, offering food for human and wildlife consumption. No ongoing programmes exist to help get beech populations to their historic levels.

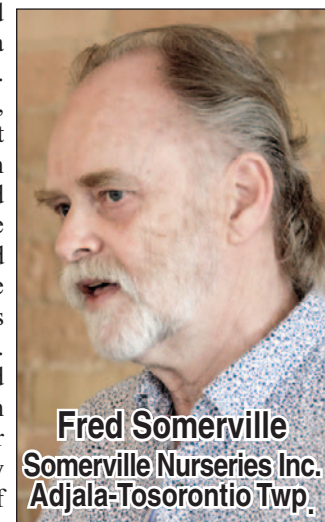
"Sadly, we are losing this species at an alarming rate".

## White pine blister rust

White pines were once a dominant forest specie in the northeast regions of North America. In the history of forest pathology "This is one of the most important diseases" stated Somerville. That is due to the value of white pine in the lumber industry. The disease is native to Asia. Blister rust came to North America in seedlings grown in Germany that were shipped to the United States in 1898 and into Vancouver, Canada in 1910.

These seedlings had been brought in to reforest areas

*Continued page 13, see Invasive forest pests*



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## Invasive forest pests Continued from page 12

that had been over-harvested in the two countries. The disease alternates between this tree and species including currents and gooseberries. These fruit species arrived via early settlers.

The fungus invades the pine's needles, working its way through the branches to the trunk where cankers are formed. Eventually, this knurls branches and causing the tree to die. We do not have a cure for this disease. Eradicating currents and gooseberries resulted in limited success and therefore that method was been abandoned.

The white pine is no longer a viable commercial species in many areas.

### Emerald ash borer

We enjoy many species of ash trees in Ontario. White, blue, black, red, pumpkin ash may be most familiar. The emerald ash borer is an invasive species first detected in the Windsor, Ontario area in 2002. It has now spread throughout most of the province and beyond, ravaging forests of ash trees.

Somerville shared the prognosis that five billion ash trees will be lost in North America from this alien insect introduced from Asia in wooden packaging materials dumped into our harbours.

As can be imagined by their name, these insects burrow into the host tree, feeding and "creating galleries eventually girdling the tree, causing its death. No known cure has been found at this point" he added.

### Oak wilt disease

This pathogen was introduced into Ontario very recently. It is not very widespread right now but we do not know what its effects may be. Oak wilt has a preference for the red oak family; those have pointed leaf tips.

Insects attracted to wounds in the trees are the major source of spread of this disease. It can also spread underground when roots of the infected trees reach non-infected trees. As with all the diseases mentioned, it appears to be difficult to eradicate. and "...there is no magic bullet to stop this invasion".

### Our future canopy cover

Somerville says there are many things we can do to protect and enhance the biodiversity remaining in our forests. Healthy forests will reduce heat, lower carbon dioxide levels, create addition oxygen, form new habitats, control erosion and otherwise build biodiversity in our local environments.

Educating ourselves on which tree species are doing well and which ones are under siege will help us navigate forest health in the future.

"Plant healthy seedlings on appropriate sites and look after them until they establish" suggested Somerville. He mentioned being active on the topic of system migration. This is the process of moving a species to beyond outer edges of its current range where it will then naturally continue to expand its range. Our moderating climate assists in propelling these changes faster than nature would allow in the past.

He mentioned some other best practices: Reforestation; planting trees where trees used to be.

Afforestation; planting trees where no trees have grown before.

Avoiding monoculture (growing only one type of specie in an area). This discourages intruders that thrive on mass plantings of one type.

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Plant riparian zones for watercourses we have flowing through our properties, which will enhance biodiversity.

Lobby government agencies to tighten-up inspections & overall monitoring for tree pathogens entering our country.

"Collectively we can rally to this cause" Somerville was eager to share, "Together we can all do our part to positively influence" our forest health. He finished with "I hope you're up to it. I am".

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# The South Simcoe 4-H club members enjoy learning new skills

Reports and photos submitted by South Simcoe 4-H

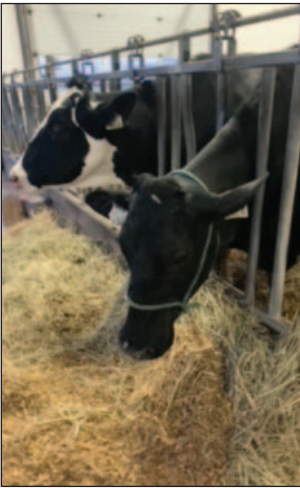
## South Simcoe Poultry 4-H Club *By Nolan Martin-Mills*

On May 4th the South Simcoe 4-H Poultry Club came together to have a meeting at French's farm. We started with very challenging icebreakers. We elected the roles and were taken through the French's large operation. We talked about researching and finding out what to look for in a show bird. We were walked through how to humanely handle the animals along with how to care for the birds.



## South Simcoe 4-H Vet Club *By Anika Mortelliti*

On April 29th the South Simcoe 4-H Vet Club held its first meeting at Crawfield farm. The meeting started by voting in the president, vice president, news reporter and secretary. The club started learning about what to look for in a physical exam. What to look for included body condition, gums, eyes, nose, teeth, skin coat, heart rate and pupil dilation. Members then learned about brachycephalic dogs and their shorter snouts. The club then also learned about vaccines and foreign bodies in dogs such as porcupine quills. Nearing the end of the meeting members took turns listening to dogs and cats heart rates, they also got to hold models of puppy and adult teeth. The veterinarian club held their second meeting at Trish Downeys farm. Leader Trish drew the anatomy of a cow on a cow using chalk. The club talked about organs first. Then illnesses and diseases were mentioned. The group also talked about dairy cows skin coat.



## 4-H Miniature Horse Club

*By Audrie Williams Lengyel*

The South Simcoe 4-H Miniature Horse Club had the amazing opportunity to learn how to care for their miniature horses. The group had an opportunity to learn what to feed miniature horses daily to maintain a healthy diet. We learned how to judge body conditioning and their physical routines to score in miniature competitions. We would like to thank Jessica McCoag for the amazing learning experience. We are very grateful for Jessica's time spent teaching us new skills in caring for our miniature horses.


Farm View welcomes 4-H reports from all clubs in its distribution area! Submit your report and photo to [farmview@on.aibn.com](mailto: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 Games Club


*By Sara Ford*

The South Simcoe 4-H Games Club met for their first meeting of the year on April 26, 2024! All members met at Senick farms at 7:00 p.m. and kicked off the night with roll call, asking what their name was and why they joined the games club this year. The first game of the night was a game that involved a parachute, a die, and lots of running around. The next game was a social one that involved guessing the names of board games stuck on the backs of club members. Then they finished off the outdoor games with a classic game of touch

football. Next the members made their way inside the Barn for the election of officers. The roles ended with Nicholas Senick as President, Quinn Martin-Mills as the Vice President, Nicole Palmeteer as Secretary, and Sara Ford as Press Reporter. Lastly, the games club adjourned the meeting with some board games and chocolate chip cookies! The date and time of the next meeting have not yet been determined.



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# South Simcoe 4-H revving up for a great season!

Reports and photos submitted by South Simcoe 4-H

## South Simcoe 4-H Cookies and Squares Club

By Brier Miller

On April 27th, the Cookies and Squares 4-H club had our first in person meeting at Georgian College Barrie campus. We had the pleasure of having Chef Phil, the Coordinator and Professor of the Culinary Program be our guide.

Georgian College offers a Culinary management and skills programs through its Barrie Campus, in their centre for Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation. Our first stop was looking around the campus restaurant called the Georgian Dining room. Here you can get meals for very reasonable prices, with this a three course meal, prepared by the students of the culinary program. As well giving the hospitality students a way to build their serving and restaurant management skills.

We learned there are custom menus daily, everything is prepared from scratch, including all their breads and buns. The other amazing fact is that Georgian College grows their own vegetables, fruit, maple syrup and even honey. This gives them the ability to keep costs down, when they cannot provide a product, they source it from a local farmer or business. In the restaurant they include many programs, such as the art hanging on the walls from their design and visual art students, and their table settings are designed by the Interior design students. Working together to give experience to everyone.

We then visited the kitchen attached to the dining room, where a student of Chef Phil's was preparing for his final culinary exam. He was showing his knife skills with different cuttings of vegetables, he was making a three course meal simultaneously, making sure his timing was perfect.

The culinary program works with the community to provide food to the homeless, elderly and even hosts a Christmas buffet at a Barrie church. Always looking to help within their local community.

Then we walked through another industrial kitchen, then went to their pastry/bakery lab. This is where they do all their desserts and breads. From doughnuts, ice cream, croissants to buns, this lab had all the gadgets to make the best of it all. From high temperature rotating ovens to a blast chiller. An ice

cream maker, to a marble slab for tempering chocolate, as well as a deep fryer that spits out doughnuts.

We went into the final kitchen on the tour, where we had the opportunity to make a treat to take home. Chef Phil showed us how to temper chocolate with a hack. This hack included double boiling the chocolate and then adding more chocolate to the mixture to cool it down. You knew it was the right temperature when you could touch it to your lip and felt nothing. When it was tempered, it was so shiny. The reason for tempering chocolate is it allows the chocolate to be crisp and snap easily.

We then placed popcorn on parchment paper. With another sheet of parchment we made Cornet (piping bag), once made it was filled with the tempered chocolate and we drizzled it on the popcorn. Some people added a pinch of salt on top, to take away some of the bitter notes. Once dried, we placed it into a bag to take home, to enjoy. Mine was so good, it didn't even make it home! It was a great day to see into the world of the culinary program.

We want to thank Chef Phil again for his time and all his amazing hacks, opening the doors on a Saturday and sharing just a piece of his knowledge with us.

Happy baking!

## South Simcoe 4-H Automotive & Mechanics Club

By Sierra Steuernol

Revving up the 2024 South Simcoe Automotive & Mechanics Club season, we have a brand new toy to work on! It's a 1970 Dodge Challenger RT kindly bought by McSenick Farms. Now I know what you're thinking, we have a bit of a fixer upper on our hands. However, we are up for the challenge! New ratchet sets were given to new members and returning members received a new set of pliers also provided by McSenick Farms. In groups, we rotated through two activities. The first station was learning about basic tire care, how to clean rims, know when you need new tires, checking tire pressure, and when

## South Simcoe 4-H Rabbit Club

By Amelia Hosick

The South Simcoe Rabbit Club had its second meeting on April 28th at the fur and feather BUY SELL TRADE from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. We called the meeting to order and said the 4-H pledge. Then we were divided into three groups and filled out a sheet about the rabbit breeds we found, how many, fun facts and prices. The most expensive rabbit we found was \$145! Then we went back as a group and shared our responses and ate cookies. Then we adjourned the meeting and found our parents.



## Arts & Crafts Club Report

By Chloe Bagshaw

Our second meeting for the Arts and Crafts Club took place on April 23rd, 2024. We met at Honey Hill Pottery and were hosted by owner Wendy. The meeting was opened by President Kelsey Cox and we all said the 4-H pledge. Members were guided through how to work with pottery both by hand and using a pottery wheel. Those that were new to working with clay had a lesson and those in the group that had pottery experience got right to work at a wheel. Wendy was joined by some of her friends that kindly assisted in helping and gave us tips. Members each made at minimum one animal figure and two

bowls. We left our creations there so that they could go into the kiln. The Club is to return again later in May to paint and finish our pieces. We thank Wendy for welcoming us into her studio and look forward to seeing our finished pottery.

Our third meeting for Arts and Crafts took place on May 7th, 2024. We met at the Downey Farm. Our vice president and youth leader Nicole Palmateer taught us some painting techniques. We all followed her instructions to create penguin pictures. We left our masterpieces to dry while we played some games and enjoyed refreshments.

## South Simcoe Sheep 4-H Club

By Tyler Lange

South Simcoe 4-H Sheep Club held their second meeting Wednesday at Cowan Acres. The Club learned about lambing and judging items. Thank you to the Cowan family for allowing our club to hold our meeting at their farm.

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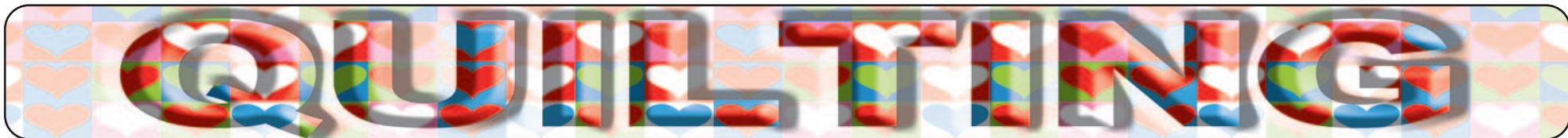
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## Quilting creates lifetime memories with our youth

Article and photos by Janis Hamilton

The world of quilting has no age limit or starting age. A friend of mine recently shared with me her 11 year old grandson expressed an interest in making a quilt. Off they went to the local quilt shop and chose something easy as it was his first attempt at sewing. If you haven't tried the latest books on "3-Yard Quilts" by Donna Robertson, they are a great place to start. There are many books and most quilt shops carry them. The patterns are very unique and are rated as "beginner." Each of her books show you how to make 8 different patterns for a lap quilt, a throw quilt or a 54" x 65" quilt. The patterns are created by Donna Robertson. The blocks are 11" so kids can choose their favourite themed fabric. Patterns can be downloaded for \$3 and some patterns are even free. There are lots of Youtube videos and even videos for kids using the patterns and of course, the rabbit hole we all seem to go down...Pinterest will keep



you busy by the hour.

Once this grandson's quilt was finished and off to the longarm, the grandmother asked the other grandson if he'd like to make one. "No" was his reply "but my brother could make it for me." Imagine my surprise when I walked into a local shop to find this young man choosing his own fabric. Kids have such a great sense of colour! He is so excited he's going to make one just like his big brother and so was his grandma.

This leads me to some fun ideas that no matter whether it's your neighbourhood kids, grandkids, or even your own kids, will want to sew. There is an outlet they can show their project so others can be inspired. Here are two upcoming events:

- The Barrie Fair is having a special Youth Category for any quilted item to be entered this year. It is compliments of Simcoe County Quilters' Guild for their 40th Anniversary. They want to encourage youth to sew and just have fun. It can be a mug rug, placemat, dog or cat mat, or for those with more ambition, a lap or even a full quilt. Of course there are prizes. First place is \$20, second place is \$15 and third place is \$10 and of course we hope there will also be someone receiving "honorable mention" as well. Any youth 17 or younger can enter once they get an application from the Fair Secretary and it is in the Homecraft Division. Hope to see some wonderful projects of our next quilters! Contact them at 705-726-1200 or admin@es-saagripex.ca for more information.

- Then after the fair is over you can then take your finished quilted item and enter it in the Simcoe County Quilt, Rug & Artisan Fair that is held September 20-22nd from 9:30-4 p.m. If the young person is a resident of Simcoe County, they are eligible to enter.

All they need to do is pick up an application before July at the front desk of the museum. It is located at 1151 Hwy ON 26, Minesing. The fair is enjoyed by hundreds of eager visitors and how wonderful to hear the compliments if you are visiting during the show. The show is filled with crafters from all over the county and various demonstrations going on all the time. Once again, the Quilt Guild is sponsoring this viewers' choice entry. If you do have someone do some quilting and they are 18 or younger, please consider helping them to enter.

I started sewing with my grandsons when they could sit on my knee. We put a few stitches on a Tea Towel for their Mom. We then graduated to making pajama bottoms and even entered a project at the International Ploughing Match in Essa and won 1st for their combined wall hanging of fish they'd created together for their Mom's birthday. They used every colour of thread I had and they stuffed the fish and twisted the sea weed. It was such fun to watch the process of choosing fabric, trim and taking turns sewing. Now young men, they still talk about the fun they had sewing. One Mother's Day I got a black rock from the oldest. He said, "Guess why you are getting this rock?" I didn't know so he suggested I run the water over it. The rock was full of tiny holes that

reminded him of all the pins and the pin holes we saw during our sewing adventures. I treasure that and keep it on my kitchen counter. One Christmas, I had both boys painting ornaments, and my daughter was using my sewing machine. She asked where some stitch was and the youngest excused himself and promptly showed her where it was and how to use it. He was only seven.

So, a lifetime of adventures can happen. It only takes an idea, a grandchild, a neighbour's child or an offer to teach a friend's grandchild. Some quilt shops offer kids' classes, so check out your local shop or ask if that is something they might consider. You

will have to ensure that safety is taught first, those rotary cutters can be dangerous if the rules are not spelled out, but after that kids love choosing threads, using an awl, scissors, and those amazing rulers. They might not be so thrilled with the seam ripper, but maybe you could help out there. Let them have fun and I know you will be beaming inside

knowing you are sharing your love of quilting with someone new to the experience.

Happy Stitching together.



Quilting stories and photographs always welcome!



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10:00am - 7:00pm  
Saturday, June 8  
10:00am - 4:00pm  
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## Lemon Pie

Recipe by John Beischer

Soon after arriving home from his winter road trip, my father, Former Farm View publisher John Beischer, thought he would try his hand at a little baking. The end result was delicious and I was very happy he shared. While enjoying my slice, I thought "this would be perfect for the Father's Day issue!" Dessert to celebrate all the Dad's, made by my Dad. Hope you enjoy it!

-Roslyn



### Ingredients

Frozen pie crust  
2 egg yolks  
1/3rd cup of cold water  
Jello lemon pie filling  
Two cups of hot water  
1 Tbsp butter

### Directions

Go to Walmart, spend \$7 and save yourself a lot of cleanup!

Or, bake a frozen pie crust first according to the instructions on the package.  
-beat 2 egg yolks in a saucepan  
-add 1/3rd cup of cold water  
-stir and then add the contents of your lemon pie filling  
-add in two cups of HOT water?? And mix well.  
-cook over medium high heat, stirring continuously. When bubbles break the surface continue to boil and stir for 30 seconds.  
-remove from stove top and stir in one table spoon of butter.  
-cool for 5 minutes, filling will thicken as it cools.  
-pour the filling into your cooled pie shell and bake at 425 degrees for 7 minutes.  
-cool on counter for 3 hours, unless you are hungry in which ten minutes and a burned mouth will suffice.  
Serve to your family and former friends with a can of cool whip and explain that the meringue wasn't worth the effort.

## Soul Sisters Celebrations

### The Comforting Power of Spiritual Symbols as Messages from Above

I've been receiving several signs recently such as feathers along my path, visiting cardinals, and even unexpected dimes that feel like messages from loved ones who have passed. These are not uncommon symbols, however, when recognized, I choose to cherish these symbols to honor the enduring bond between the living and the spirit world. I find comfort in the knowledge that love never dies and that our loved ones remain a part of our lives, whispering their guidance and blessings through the symbols they leave behind. Such a powerful thought that our departed loved ones are woven into the very fabric of our world, manifesting in nature and everyday occurrences to remind us of their eternal love and presence. Writing about these symbols allows me to share the comfort and connection they bring, a reminder that love transcends the boundaries of life and death.

Expressions of this idea are found in the poem "Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep" by Mary Elizabeth Frye. This timeless piece encapsulates the essence of how our departed loved ones continue to be present in our lives, manifesting in the natural world around us:

Do not stand at my grave and weep;  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft star-shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there. I did not die.

Frye's poem beautifully illustrates how symbols from heaven: winds, snow, sunlight, rain, birds, or stars serve as reminders of our loved ones'

enduring presence. These symbols provide comfort and assurance that their spirit lives on, communicating with us in moments both ordinary and extraordinary.

Consider the simple feather. In many cultures, finding a feather is seen as a sign from the angels or a message from a loved one who has passed. When we stumble upon a feather, it often feels like a gentle nudge from the heavens, reminding us that we are not alone. Feathers are delicate yet resilient, much like the presence of our loved ones in spirit always near, yet unseen, offering support and guidance.

Butterflies also carry significant spiritual weight, symbolizing transformation and the eternal cycle of life and death. When a butterfly flutters by, especially during a moment of reflection or grief, it is often perceived as a sign that a departed soul is near, offering a silent message of hope and renewal. The butterfly's journey from caterpillar to chrysalis to winged beauty mirrors our own journey through life's challenges and transitions, and its presence reassures us of the potential for rebirth and the continuation of the soul.

Another powerful symbol is the cardinal, a bird often associated with the visitation of loved ones. The striking red color of the cardinal makes it stand out, much like the unforgettable impact our loved ones have on our lives. Seeing a cardinal can feel like a comforting embrace from the spirit world, a vibrant reminder that those we cherish remain close, watching over us and sharing in our experiences.

Finding a dime in an unexpected place is another symbol often interpreted as a sign from the spirit world. These small, shiny coins appear mysteriously and remind us that even the smallest gestures from our loved ones can have a profound impact. They symbolize the ongoing presence and the subtle ways in which those who have passed continue to interact with us.

We all find meaning in different symbols that resonate deeply with our personal experiences and beliefs. These symbols offer comfort and a sense of connection to the spiritual realm. I encourage you to explore and embrace the signs that bring you solace, reminding you of the enduring presence and love of those who have passed.

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# After The Chores: Farmer Skills

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



We recently decided to visit Family, a few hours away which meant having someone to come here to do chores. People learn sets of skill sets needed for different jobs including farming. For those of us that do chores twice a day, we have what I call “farmer skills.”

We had to get somebody new for chores which made me nervous from a past experience. This guy we hired then had a kind heart and had the best of intentions- but he had no “farmer skills.” I came home to find my purebred white Sannen buck looking like he waded through chocolate- only this was NOT chocolate all over him. He was also feeling very sick. I questioned the guy we hired. He said “Your buck kept talking to me so I kept feeding him, he sure likes to eat.” “Farmer skills” means grain is fed carefully. Over-feeding grain is something we avoid to the point we have gated access only.

This chore time really needed “farmer skills” because I had a first time goat close to giving birth on top of having the usual feeding and watering that needs to be done. I also have a mature ram that will knock you over to land flat on your face upon entering his space- every time. The sheep move here when they hear chains rattle on the gate not by standing in front of them. “Farmer skills” knows that sheep cannot be left outside in the dark or they would be coyote dinners. Chore help needs to be here after sunrise and before sunset- even when the Stanley Cup play-offs are on.

Our new chore guy impressed me with his “farmer skills” questions. “How much do you get for a lamb that size?” and “Where do you feed grain outside?” We had a plan in place

for the doe close to giving birth- and because we had a plan she had her kid three days after we got home.

I always have a fear of what unknown people will do when they see the barn based on what happened, years ago.

Sweetie had a 1.22 acre property with a little house and two storey garage just outside a village when we met. The Township Planner said that we could build a barn on the property but would need a “minor variance” since we needed to build closer to the lot lines plus the neighbours needed to know a barn was going to be built. “It will be a walk in the park,” he said explaining I would just have to go in front of the minor variance committee to ask for this. I was working then as a municipal council reporter for the local newspaper and had been to all kinds of meetings so felt assured this was just a formality. I only went in person to meet Sweetie’s next door neighbors, Jennie who was so excited that she asked we build the barn as close to her lot as possible, she would tell us why later. The other next door neighbor had an operational farm and he kindly offered his hay field after it was harvested to store our new barn’s manure to spread it later on his fields.

The evening in February of the minor variance meeting was one of the worst times in my life. The council chamber was full of strangers. The new barn was the only subject on the agenda. I soon found out all those people lived further down the road in houses- and not one of them had any “farmer skills.” Jennie’s next door neighbor was the leader of the group. She had them all rallied against “THE BARN.” She spat out the word “barn” like it was some kind of toxic chemical and then she explained why to the committee in clear emotional filled words. She said, in all sincerity, that the goats would attract rats to the point that she and her husband could not sit in their swing ever again in their backyard in their retirement. The rats were going to be even worse than the barn smells. The rest of the neighbours naturally were terrified of the predicated rat invasion by the leader. I then had to listen to a lecture from one of the committee members about how barns should not be built near housing

before they voted me down- and out.

After that horrible night, the apologetic Planner told me that he had somehow given over the wrong numbers for the lot line setbacks which made the horrible night not valid. Keith Shier was the Mayor at that time and he has “farmer skills” as he is a dairy farmer plus he cares about people. He could see the reality, a barn with 20 goats living in it would not even be noticed by the neighbours and vast population of rodents would never be part of this. “You get a second chance,” he said taking the time to sit beside me in the council gallery before one of the meetings I was covering. The thought of doing all that again never crossed my mind until this dairy farmer/Mayor explained it in his caring way. My Father-in-law was visiting Sweetie when I went to his place with this new thought. My Father-in-law’s life advice is always: “If you don’t ask, the answer will always be No, if you do ask, you might get a Yes.” My Father-in-law also was on council at the time for his cottage township and he kindly said he would coach me through all this. It also was so helpful that he had no “farmer skills” so his questions were nothing I would ever think of with my lifelong farm background.

My Father-in-law had me so prepared that one would think I was fighting for a multimillion dollar development not a barn for 20 goats by the time we got to the second meeting in June. This time we got a Yes and no lectures.

Jennie, who is gone from this side of the sky now, explained why she wanted the barn close as we came to say a tearful goodbye to her on the eve of our moving to this place with trees as closest neighbours. She explained she was a little girl when her family was put under Nazi Occupation in her homeland. Her family hid productive rabbits in the house and she credited eating rabbits as the reason her family managed to stay alive from starvation when so many other did not. Having a barn next to her had brought her comfort because she never needed to ever fear being hungry as farmers will feed people. Jennie appreciated those with “farmer skills”.



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# Young, aspiring plow people mark your calendars!

By Anne Howden Thompson

Young, aspiring plow people will want to mark their calendars and be sure to attend the Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association "Junior Plowing Clinic" offered for participants to learn and/or fine tune the skills needed to be a successful competition plow person.

At the local Association level the Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association has a deep history of successful competitive plowmen, including Daryl Hostrowser, the Ontario Champion in the Reversible Plow division at last fall's International Plowing Match and Rural Expo (IPM) in Bowling Green, Dufferin County. Part of a second-generation plowing family Hostrowser has been named the Ontario Champion nine times in two separate divisions (both conventional and reversible), the Canadian Champion once, Reserve Canadian Champion three times, he has competed at the World Plowing Championships four times and travelled as part of the Canadian coaching contingent on six separate occasions. This August he will once again fly the Canadian flag when he competes in Estonia.

On this global stage the Association is the only organization in Canada who can boast two World plowmen--James Eccles in 1953 and William Dixon in 1961, although several top-ranked local plowmen in addition to Hostrowser have made the global trek to compete in the World Plowing Championships, including his father William in 1964; Doug Reid in 1969 and 1972; and Keith Leslie in 1975.

But despite a strong competitive history organizations also need the next generation coming on to ensure sustainability and this event is annually part of the local Association's commitment to youth.

That's because at the local level the Association is deliberate in their efforts to attract and support young plow people.

"We are really fortunate to have many keen young people both competing at our local match and serving on our local board," says Colin French, president of the Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association.

This year will mark the 97th edition of the Peel Dufferin Plowing Match and among the cash prizes are awards unique to first-time and junior plow people, including the Bern-Bry Farms Special for the best plowed lands by an amateur boy or girl who has never plowed at an organized Match; and

the J. Doane Supply Special and the Connect Equipment Farm Equipment Special, both for the youngest plowman competing from Peel Region or Dufferin County.

At the provincial level the Ontario Plowmen's Association offers scholarships and the local Association is able to sponsor up to two junior competitors to compete in the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo (IPM) held annually in the fall. They also offer two scholarships for local post-secondary participants at their local match-- the Alliance Agri-Turf Scholarship Award and the High Country Antique Plow Club Sponsorship.

But to make sure participants have the skills to qualify and benefit from these incentives and scholarships it's important to make sure there is the opportunity to learn and develop the necessary skills.

The Junior Plow Clinic is being held Sunday, August 11 at 14495 The Gore Road, Caledon at 12 noon.

Participants must be a minimum of ten years of age by January 1, 2024 and confident enough to operate equipment. They do not need to be a resident of Peel Region or Dufferin County to participate.

Lunch is included and equipment and coaching is provided, although participants are welcome to bring their own.

A minimum of five registered participants is required for the event to proceed. Pre-registration is both easy and mandatory—simply scan the QR code or use this link (<https://tinyurl.com/JuniorPlowClinic>) by the Sunday, August 4, 2024 registration deadline.

In the event of inclement weather the clinic will be postponed until Sunday, August 18, 2024 and registrants will be notified.

For more information contact Jessica Stevens at [pdplowmens@gmail.com](mailto:pdplowmens@gmail.com) or 519-400-3160.

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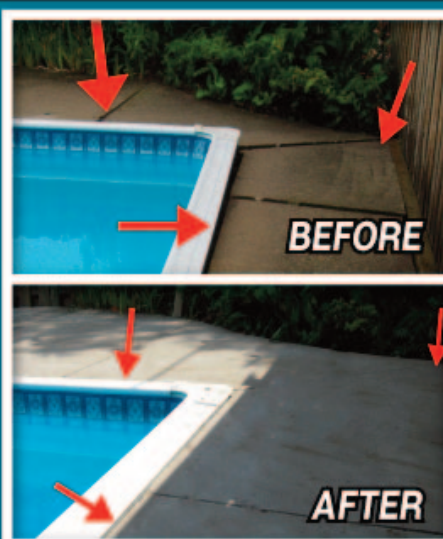
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## Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

### The "Sandwich Generation"

There is a reason why you haven't heard much from me lately. It's not because of a lack of content - farming has been busier than ever and my phone is full of great photos with amazing stories that I want to share. It's not because I've lost my zest for advocacy - I educate with every chance I have. It's simply that life has gotten in the way.

The sandwich generation is those of us who are stuck in the middle of caring for our aging parents and still trying to give support to our children while attempting to balance our own lives.

I feel like I've been pulled in every direction. After losing my mother last summer my main focus has been with my aging dad and older sister who has exceptionalities. It's been a time of paperwork, meetings and phone calls with social workers, lawyers, financial advisers and health professionals. Not only do I have my own business to run, I have other lives that I need to manage.

With the focus on my dad and sister, other people have been left out. My kids are pretty self-sufficient and they have their social supports but I still need to be a dad to them and I feel like I've shirked my responsibility lately. My daughter is looking for guidance while she finishes her last year of university and my son still needs my mentorship. It feels like all work and no play lately and that adds to my guilt. My amazing wife enjoys time on her own and is super supportive but this is also a time in our lives when we need to connect and slow down a little

- a task that is easier said than done. Most of all, my mental health has suffered. How do you care for yourself when you have so many others relying on you?

Along with the human side of agriculture are the constant stressors of the farm. Last year has been one to remember - frequent rains made work challenging. Crops were a struggle to harvest and the pastures were muddy.

I only pray that this year is better.

Facebook keeps sending me notifications about the recent loss of visibility on my page. Part of me wants to apologize for my lack of posting but I know that you understand. There is more to life than social media and a family farm is just that - animals, crops, machinery and people with busy lives.

So, rest assured that I'm still here and I'm still farming. It's been an emotional struggle but it has also been a blessing. I revel at the support my family, friends and neighbours have given us. My eyes have been opened to the multitude of social and health services that are available when we need them most. As much as the frequent rains dampened the joy of farming last summer, they also nourished the much-needed bumper crops in the fall. We were luckier than many with timely harvests of hay, wheat and barley.

So do me a favour. Take a bit of time away from social media to work on those real-life connections that tend to fall to the wayside when things get busy. You will be glad you did. Something has to give - don't let it be yourself or the ones you love.



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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# Addis Grain annual spring marketing seminar

By Don Beaulieu

Kevin Eisses welcomed 70 attendees to this year's Spring Marketing Seminar Meeting at Addis Grain in Oro-Medonte Township. Three keynote speakers were on the docket to provide informed updates and historical views on grain markets. The event began with an informal social hour and ended with a pulled pork sandwich lunch catered by Julie Eisses of Sarge's Pit Crew.

Before the first speaker, Eisses went over the current market prices and explained that basis points is what grain traders use; they trade basis. Basis is calculated as Canadian cash price minus United States futures price. He explained how the exchange rate on currency, specifically between Canadian and U.S. can affect prices.

## Economic outlook

The first speaker of the morning was Matthew Wong, vice-president of Commercial Foreign Exchange Solutions Group at TD Securities. He's been with TD for over two decades and provided an economic outlook.

He began by explaining that foreign exchange trades 24 hours a day from Sunday afternoon until Friday at 5 p.m. It is the only asset class that is highly liquid. An asset class is a grouping of investments that exhibit similar characteristics and are subject to the same laws and regulations. Equities (e.g., stocks), fixed income (e.g., bonds), cash and cash equivalents, real estate, commodities, and currencies are common examples of asset classes. His company works from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time, therefore does not have 24 hour guidance available to clients.

Wong explained how his business can help people understand what foreign exchange exposure is and how to mitigate risk. He took a look at interest rates, past, present and future. Wong had many supporting charts to reference and did his best to explain the content to the audience. He gave his presentation with enthusiasm, clearly showing his enjoyment of his job.

The Bank of Canada and mortgage rates were given an overview. He explained that although the Bank of Canada and the banks in general know how difficult high interest rates are for homeowners, they want to "Make sure all our corporations and companies have the ability to maintain what the day-to-day operations and expenses are, first of all" said Wong. He then compared U.S. interest rates to Canadian interest rates. He suspects the drop of Canadian interest rates by year end will put the "U.S. dollar at a much higher premium."



## Appraisals: What is land worth?

The second speaker of the morning was partner appraiser for Valco Consultants in London, Ontario, Ryan Parker. Parker is a professional agrologist and is the chairman on the national board of Canadian Association of Family Farm Advisors (CAFA).

Some folk may be new to the term agrologist. To explain: Agrologists provide advice and services related to agricultural and environmental science and technology. They apply scientific principles and practices to the cultivation, production, utilization and improvement of plants and animals, and the management of associated resources.

Parker explained that he has done land value studies across southwestern Ontario since 2010. He admitted to not having Simcoe County included in his set of statistics; he explained it simply has to do with time constraints. He also cited that Simcoe County has "... so much urban influence that it's really, really hard to get enough straight-up farm sales to really make a study out of it."

Historical land values were presented, values relating to the corn belt (11 counties in western Ontario, although extreme eastern Ontario also plants significant acreage), and a guess at where land values are heading. His examples included only land sales and farming to farming sales; not developer investments or those lands bordering development. All workable acres, in short.

"When we have a change in commodity prices, it has a direct impact of their profitability" Parker informed his audience.

## Capturing opportunities

Returning guest speaker Dwayne Wilson was a much anticipated draw. He is a certified grain merchant specialist with White Commercial Corporation. Speaking to farmers about marketing is one of Wilson's favourite things to do. His firm works with about 250 commercial elevators across North America with about 30 of those in Ontario. His talk attempted to bring some clarity to what is going on across the corn belt.

Wilson also had many supporting charts to reference and did his best to explain the content to the audience, with the hope that he could point out the principle each one was meant to represent. \$US data was discussed, and Wilson incorporated some Ontario specific numbers into his presentation.

He stressed that "A percentage of our cash price that we get for our crops, even up here, is what Chicago's doin', right?" It is where we see the greatest volatility in prices.

All the speakers were available for questions after the talks, over lunch.



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# BIG ORANGE EVENT in Cookstown

Story and photo by Roslyn Watkins



From left to right: Shawn Clancy, Darcey Stewart, Lars Marshall and Randy Stewart welcomed visitors with open arms at Stewart's Kubota (Cookstown location) Open House last month. Despite the rain many area farmers came out to the annual open house at Stewart's of Cookstown to see this year's latest equipment. The event ran from 8 am to 2 pm and demo areas were set up to test drive new equipment. Coffee and soft drinks, great burgers and much more were provided.

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I S A A O I R R Y G S M L Z Z U P U L U  
V K U D E M S O W T F D Z S N I U L U D  
I I O F L S G E I D O S Z E P T K C T O  
R S B H O G D M Z H B K U R U I M H I K  
T U S N I I U R T A N S P B T A Z O O U  
E E L I K L B E O S M Y R O M E M D N D  
B F B O A S M J N W E L B M A R C S G E  
F N Y T R Y D S E C N E R E F F I D T H  
S B I B I L R P L T C J C Z P V T N F S  
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G G C N W P W S V C J M E G O M Y S B L  
C B S R U V S D Y Z A V S M Y S T G J P  
L K R L V O S R D S M Y S O I H S L A M  
J S A A H V O A Y G U I J B F T I F L O  
Y R P B I V R O F U S N Y E S R S T P C  
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CHECKERS  
CHESS  
CLUE  
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## COMING EVENTS

**Sunday, August 11 - Junior Plowing Clinic** hosted by the Peel-Dufferin Plowmen's Association at 14495 The Gore Road, Caledon, 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. Please click the link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/JuniorPlowClinic>. Rain Date: Sunday, August 18, 2024.

**Thursday, August 29 - 97th Peel Dufferin Plowing Match** hosted by the French family at 14685 Highway 50, Caledon. Competitor registration begins at 8:30 am. Includes tractor plowing, horse plowing and the Queen of the Furrow competition. Public is welcome. Lunch included.

**For more information on either of these events** Follow on social media—Facebook: Peel-Dufferin Plowing Match and X (formerly Twitter): @PDPlowmen. For more information: 519-400-3160 or email: [pdplowmens@gmail.com](mailto:pdplowmens@gmail.com).

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\$30,900



Kubota B2301

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

\$17,300



Kubota M6800DT

hours ua:4652.7, 4wd, open station with foldable rops, 360/70r20 front tires, 16.9r30 rear tires, 1 set of remotes, 540 rpm, kubota m720 loader S/N 7122544, Unit is located in Erin.

\$23,400



Kubota M9540DT

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

\$72,000



Kubota DMC8536R

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

\$34,300



Kubota M7060

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

\$63,900



Case 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

\$33,900



Kverneland 6716

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

\$22,900



New Holland TD80D

hours us: 1411.3, 4wd, open station with rops, 12.4r24 front tires, 18.4r30 rear tires, nh 820tl loader, and woods bx90x backhoe, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin

\$23,900



New Holland 460

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

\$33,900



New Holland C232

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

\$71,900



Kubota L3350DT

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

\$21,200

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