

Since 1977

FARM VIEW

A newspaper with something for everyone | November 2024 | Volume 47 #11

Inside this issue:

East Gwillimbury Farm To Fork Tour

Farmer Tim reminds us to speak up against expropriation

It's a wrap on County Fairs!

Highlights from the IPM 2024

Preparing for Severe Weather

It's happening, certified compostable produce stickers!

170th Lindsay Draft Horse Show

The Canadian Cowgirls Precision Drill Team were on the scene at the recent International Plowing Match held in Lindsay, Ontario.



Complimentary copy for the FARM household

Heirloom quilt made of livestock show ribbons

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Mark family based in Little Britain have an heirloom quilt like no other. The quilt is made of show ribbons.

The Mark Family was clearing out an estate home when they discovered a quilt they had heard about- but seldom saw. The quilt was very carefully stored from one generation to the next. It was made in the early 1900's and all was carefully stitched by hand. It is in extremely good condition considering it is over 100 years old.

The ribbons are from the sheep that the Mark family owned. A tradition that continues as the fifth generation raise sheep and are involved with sheep shows.

"I didn't think Fairs would be giving out ribbons in the (First World) War years, but here they are," Gordon points

to a ribbon that states clearly it was from the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair in Guelph in 1914. He explains this was the Fair that is now known as the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Another ribbon in the quilt is from the Western Fair in London, Ontario in 1913. There wasn't truck and trailer transportation in those days so these wins came at a lot of effort, especially with a War happening that would have made transportation plans even more challenging. Those prize winning sheep would have had to be transported by the Mark family by horse and wagon to a train station for them to get on a train to get

to the shows that were a distance from Little Britain to win those ribbons.

"This quilt was made by our Great Grandma Mark," Gordon explains, adding he has taken it to some sheep shows he has judged and shows he has helped with this season to show people this piece of farming history.



AGcalendar

Farm View's Ag Calendar is free to non-profit agricultural groups, up to a maximum of 40 words. All others are invoiced at \$25 per month. Please note the format of the listings below and submit your item by mail or email, in a similar fashion. Submission deadline is the 14th of the month for the following month's issue.

November 2nd & 3rd: Jarratt Christmas Craft Sale

Jarratt Christmas Craft Sale takes place Nov. 2nd & 3rd from 10am-4pm. Free Admission. Location 837 Horseshoe Valley Road (corner of Horseshoe Valley Road and 10th Line North). A delicious luncheon is available.

November 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the December issue of Farm View is **Thursday, November 14th.**

November 16th: Georgian College Open House

Come visit us at the Georgian Dining Room on the Barrie campus during Georgian College's Open House on November 16th from 9am to 2pm to explore our Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation programs. Visit <https://www.georgiancollege.ca/news-events/all-events/open-house/>

November 16th: Soupalicious!

The bounty of this year's harvests will be celebrated at SOUPALICIOUS Utopia on Saturday, November 16th from 11am – 2pm at the Utopia Hall (8396 6th Line, Utopia, Essa Township). This year's proceeds will go towards further work to restore Bell's Gristmill within the beautiful Utopia Conservation Area. More details in the ad on page 15.

November 27th: Program announcement for E.D.G.E

E.D.G.E. (Elmvale and District Garden Enthusiasts) Nov. 27th at the Legion 7 John Street at 7 p.m. Our annual meeting will take place and there will be a "pot luck dessert" night as well as a mystery activity. Guests are always welcome.



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Loss of heritage barn hurts the most

By Andrew Hind

Veterinarian Dr. Joel Rumney is philosophical about the fire that claimed the two barns on his property. "At least no animals were hurt," he says.

The barns were adjacent to his North Simcoe Veterinary Service Clinic. That no animals were boarding that weekend was a blessing.

Still, there is no denying he feels the loss deeply. "One of the barns had been on the property for over a century. You can't just replace it," he says sadly.

Almost two months has passed since the fire and Dr. Rumney still remembers every moment with the acute clarity that only comes when one suffers a tragedy.

"Thursday Aug. 15 was a normal day," Dr. Rumney says. "We were expecting inclement weather Friday through the weekend, so I spent all day in the fields bringing in the last of the hay. I was in the barn at a quarter after ten and there was absolutely nothing unusual."

Dr. Rumney went into the house to eat a meal, his first since breakfast. About forty-five minutes later the barns were completely engulfed.

It was Dr. Rumney's son Matt, aged 20, who alerted him to the blaze.

"I was sitting at the table, by back to the window. My son came into the kitchen and saw the glow of the fire reflecting on the trees," Dr. Rumney says. "We raced outside and saw both barns on fire. The horses had escaped to a nearby field as they are free to come and go as they please, but we had to hurry to get an automobile and the veterinary truck away from the fire."

The Tay Fire Department arrived promptly and fought the inferno, but there was no saving the barns. There was simply too much fuel – freshly cut hay and stacks of lumber and off-cuts in Dr. Rumney's woodworking shop. The barns burned so hot that the fire department remained until 8am.

While two barns were destroyed that night, their loss was not equal.

"I built the newer barn myself in 1975. It was of pole construction and had a limited lifespan, so its loss doesn't hurt so much. The old barn, however, is another matter..." His voice wavers and you can hear the emotion in it. "This barn meant a lot. It was built by my ancestors in 1884, two years after they came here and two years even before they built the home (which still stands and in which Dr. Rumney and family, which includes wife and fellow vet Dr. Edie Haberfellner, reside). There was a sense of history walking into the old barn. You could literally see my ancestors' handiwork in the woodwork."

Dr. Rumney is certain he knows where the fire began. A loft links the two barns together. When he first saw the blaze, he noted that the barns were equally engulfed rather than the flames beginning in one and spreading to another. He's therefore certain the fire began in the adjoining loft and, while no fire report has yet come back, he believes it may have been started by mice eating through power lines.

Despite the emotional fatigue from the fire, Dr. Rumney ensured the clinic was up and running again the next day, noting that clients and their animals relied on him and his staff. Since founding North Simcoe Veterinary Services in 1983, Dr. Rumney and his wife have always put clients and their animals first.

In the aftermath of the fire, the community has rallied around them and returned the favor.

"We've been overwhelmed by the support," Dr. Rumney says, "and so many people have already volunteered their services at a building bee next spring to raise a new barn. It means a lot."

North Simcoe Veterinary Services continues as before, a new barn will rise, but Dr. Rumney allows himself to mourn the loss.

"That old barn was part of who I am, part of the heritage I inherited from those before me. It hurts."



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Cover photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill
 The Canadian Cowgirls have been selected to be an Honour Guard for His Majesty King Charles as one of their many public appearances. They were part of the RAM Rodeo and also did a ride through Tented City to the delight of 2024 Plowing Match visitors.



THE TRADE BARN

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Agriculture - Tractors - John Deere Utility Tractors

 JD 5075M/LDR (E90813) 2016, MFWD, 75ENG HP, 1330HR, Q36 QUIKIE LDR, OOS,, 30KPH, 16x16 SPD, PWR REV, LH REV \$62,950.00	 JD 5425 (E91238) 2008, MFWD, 81ENG HP, 3229HR, CAB, 40KPH,, 24x24 SPD, PWR REV W/HI-LO, LH REV FLANGE AXLE \$52,640.00	 JD 5105M (E91476) 2008, MFWD, 105ENG HP, 4788HR, 563MSL LDR, 84"BKT,, CAB, 40KPH, 16x32 SPD, PWR REV W/HI-LO, LH REV \$65,270.00	 JD 6230/LDR (E92272) 2010, MFWD, 94ENG HP, 10600HRS, 673 MSL LDR,, PREM CAB, 32KPH, 16x16 SPD, POWERQUAD+, LH REV \$71,580.00	 JD 5115M/LDR (E92507) 2013, CONSIGN, MFWD, 115ENG HP, 1079HRS, DLX CAB,, H260 MSL LDR, 73" MATERIAL BKT, 40KPH \$98,430.00	 JD 6125R (E92554) 2013, MFWD, 125ENG HP, 5034HRS, CAB, 40KPH,, AUTOQUAD+ECO, LH REV, FLANGE AXLE \$94,640.00
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FROM THE EDITOR



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

Due to thoughtful friends and advertisers the Farm View newspaper has really gotten around this past summer and fall. I'm still working out the kinks for the work/family/life balance and there were a few events I wasn't able to attend. Sandy from the CFFO made sure to take copies of the newspaper to Canada's Outdoor Farm Show held in Woodstock and Carolyn Morris of Railfence Books had copies available at her table during the International Plowing Match that was recently held at the Lindsay Fairgrounds. This extra exposure is beneficial to myself and the advertisers in the paper, thank you to Sandy and Carolyn on behalf of all of us. Carolyn will also have copies at The Royal Winter Fair. If you are attending stop by her booth and say hi.

This past Thanksgiving my husband, Shawn, and I experienced the joy of co-cook-

ing. (And yes, I mean that, it was a joy.) Typically I prep and cook and Shawn will clean. This year we shared all the duties which began Sunday afternoon with the peeling of the vegetables. I'd like to mention the other factor that made the task so enjoyable was a visit from Simon and Eli, new friends to our family. Simon and Eli brought us gifts of honey and garlic from their families farm, Sandhill Crane Farm. If you are day tripping through Brechin reach out to them on Facebook to see if you can stop in. The garlic is amazing and obviously the honey is too!

Before the snow flies I hope you get out touring our beautiful countryside a few more times. My sister and I enjoyed the East Gwillimbury Farm to Fork Tour, what a pleasure it was to meet new people and see and hear the passion you, the farmers, have for your work. You can read about our adventure on page 8. And on the topic of appreciating our food, please give Farmer Tim's column a read. He address the expropriation occurring in Wilmot Township. Farmer Tim reinforces the point that one voice is small, but when we join together we are a strong force to be heard. I know we are all well too aware of the constant battle to retain the Farmland that remains.

Take care of yourselves and one another,
 Roslyn Watkins

LETTERS

Good day:

I thoroughly enjoy your paper. Thank you for such a well-rounded perspective.

I would additionally like to thank you for your coverage of Ivy Days (October 2024 Farm View). There are a lot of "guys" volunteering their time and talent happily to keep creating a great little community get together.

Regards,
 Heather Snyder

New Advertisers Corner

Introducing three new Farm View advertisers this month:

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

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

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.



Community celebrates the Harvest

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Little Britain Harvest Moon Festival took place on Saturday, September 7th. The Parade and Festival celebrates the harvest season and gives appreciation for farmers for the harvest. This was the big meet 'n greet at the Little Britain Park where the 2024 Harvest Moon Tractor Parade ended to meet with members of the community. In the photo to the left is well known Little Britain farmer, Cliff Archer, also a very proud Grandpa. Cliff is standing beside his 1968 1100 Massey Ferguson tractor.



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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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Embrace the challenges and victories of seasons past to prepare for the future



By Leah Emms
OFA Member Services Rep.
1-866-660-5511
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As the crisp air of November settles over the fields, farmers reflect on the year's harvest and the challenges overcome. This month marks not only the culmination of a season's hard work but also a time to prepare for the months ahead. It's a perfect moment to

assess both the successes and lessons of the past year. Whether it's planning for winter maintenance or mapping out next year's strategy, November serves as a bridge between the harvest season and the quieter introspection of winter.

Have you heard about the upcoming Cultivating Local Workshops? OFA is excited to offer these free online sessions for anyone interested in selling local agricultural products in Ontario. This workshop series is designed to help both new and experienced farmers seize opportunities to connect with consumers.

The workshops will take place on Thursdays from November 2024 to February 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Here's the schedule:

✓ **November 14** - Market Trends and In-Demand Local Products in Ontario

✓ **November 21** - Getting Started in Value-Added Agriculture, Food and Beverage

✓ **December 5** - Selling at Farmers' Markets

✓ **December 12** - Selling to Restaurants and Institutions

✓ **January 9** - Selling Online and Leveraging Social Media Platforms

✓ **January 16** - Labelling and Attributes: Organic, Free Range, Gluten-Free, and More

✓ **January 30** - Exploring Agritourism Opportunities

✓ **February 13** - Selling Local in Rural and Remote Ontario

✓ **February 27** - Beyond Food: Textiles, Ornamental Horticulture & More

This series is open to all experienced, new, and prospective farmers. Explore the topics and register today. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your skills and grow your business! <https://ofa.on.ca/cultivating-local/>

Have you ever considered being a Director on the OFA Board? This opportunity allows you to take on a leadership role in your community and the agricultural industry. The position is for a three-year term, beginning immediately following the Annual General Meeting. An election for this position will be held during the AGM on Wednesday, November 27. Candidates will have the chance to present their vision in brief presentations (2-3 minutes) followed by a moderated Q&A session, allowing members to engage and ask questions.

Nominations for the OFA Director-at-Large position are open from October 15 to 28. To nominate yourself, simply complete a nomina-

tion form, which requires the signatures of two nominators who are also OFA members. Submit the form to the OFA General Manager by the end of the day on October 28. For more information and to download the nomination form, please visit our website: <https://ofa.on.ca/nominations-for-director-at-large-open-october-15/> This is a great chance to make a meaningful impact in the agricultural community!

As we approach Remembrance Day, let's take a moment to honor and reflect on the sacrifices made by those who served in the armed forces. This is a time to remember the bravery and dedication of our veterans, as well as the profound impact of war on individuals and communities. On November 11, at 11:00 a.m., pause for a moment of silence to pay your respects. Consider attending a local memorial service, wearing a poppy, or simply reflecting on the importance of peace and freedom in our lives. Let's come together to remember, honor, and express our gratitude to those who fought for our country. Their legacy inspires us to work towards a more peaceful world.

Wrapping up November and approaching the end of the year brings an important opportunity to reflect on our journey. The lessons learned and the resilience demonstrated throughout the growing season lay the foundation for future successes. Embracing both the challenges and victories of this past season will help us prepare for the next cycle of growth, ensuring we nurture not only our fields but also our community and our passion for farming.

An exceptional day on the Dufferin Farm Tour!

Holy cow!.... horse, sheep and chicken!

We couldn't have asked for better weather for the 25th anniversary of the Dufferin Farm Tour. If you were able to attend we hope you had an amazing day. Please pass along any feedback you have. If you missed it this year we hope to see you next year!

We had over 1500 people visit the five Dufferin Farms. The cash value of food and cash donations to local food banks was over \$13,000!

A massive thank you to our host farms:

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And to our sponsors, we are very grateful for your support. Have a look at our sponsor list and where possible consider using their business for your needs, <https://dufferinfarmtour.com/sponsors/>

Many, many thanks to all those behind the scenes that make it all happen: our dedicated volunteers and our tireless tour committee.

And to all of you, our farm tour supporters...thank you! See you next year.

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Sunderland Fair 2024 Ambassador



This is Abbi Shier, Ambassador for the Sunderland Fair. The Sunderland Fair is a family tradition for Abbi. Her grandma, Dorothy Shier, was the Co-Chair for the Plants and Flowers section of the Fair and both her grandma and her grandpa, Keith Shier, have been Presidents of the Fair. Abbi's Mom, Tracy, was the Chair of the Garden Vegetables section of the Fair and her Dad, Chris, is on the committee. Abbi is the third generation of Shiers that were helping at the 2024 Sunderland Fair. —Photo by Tracy Shier

Preparing for severe weather

By Dennis Gannon

The season of Fall is well underway and soon the Winter season will be here. As the seasons change we have also observed that severe weather can come at any time. In October major hurricanes along with tornadoes struck Florida causing significant damage and unfortunately the loss of life. While we generally escape hurricanes, we do risk the possibility that tornadoes can occur from Spring to Fall. Moving into the colder weather that we have seen be a yo-yo with temperatures rising and falling, we are subjected to the risk of freezing rain and major snowstorms. In preparation for these events many homes are preparing by having either a portable generator or a fixed unit. A fixed generator powered by either propane or natural gas is required to be installed by a professional with permits and inspections completed by the utility company and is generally the safest option. If a portable generator is being considered, then here are some safety tips to avoid problems that could be disastrous.

Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as “back feeding”. This is extremely dangerous and presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer. It also bypasses some of the built-in household circuit protection devices. If you are connecting a generator into your home electrical system, have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch. There are now hydro meter transfer switches that go directly onto the hydro meter. They need to be installed by an electrician and are the safest way to provide hydro using a portable generator. The switch will prioritize generator power while connected ensuring no risk that when hydro is restored there is no back feed.

Generators should only be used outdoors. As they have a gasoline engine, they produce carbon monoxide which is an odourless, colourless gas which can render people unconscious and potentially cause death. Generators should also be a minimum of 5 feet away from any doors, vents or windows.

Purchase only a generator that is certified to be used in Canada. Proper certification ensures that all safety measures have been carried out and that the equipment is safe. Gasoline

and its vapors are extremely flammable. Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool down for several minutes before removing the fuel cap. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite. Never add gasoline to a hot or running portable generator. If gasoline spills, wait until it evaporates before attempting to start the engine. Always use fresh gas in your generator. If you do not plan to use your generator in 30 days, stabilize the gas with fuel stabilizer. Generators pose a risk of shock and electrocution, especially if they are operated in wet conditions. If possible, wait for the rain or snow to pass before using a generator. If you must use a generator when it is wet outside, protect the generator from moisture to help avoid the shock/electrocution hazard. Operate the generator under an open, canopy-like structure like an awning or open tent and on a dry surface where water cannot reach it or puddle or drain under it. Dry your hands, if wet, before touching the generator to avoid receiving a shock. Always connect any appliances to the generator using heavy-duty extension cords that are specifically designed for outdoor use. Make certain that the wattage rating for each cord exceeds the total wattage of all appliances connected to it. Use extension cords that are long enough to reach the generator. Check that the entire length of each cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs. Ungrounded plugs are dangerous and can cause electrocution. Protect the cord from getting pinched or crushed. Coiled cords can get hot, always uncoil cords and lay them in flat open locations. Maintain your generator according to the maintenance schedule for peak performance and safety. A proper system will help keep you and your family safe.

As a reminder, when the power goes out, turn off any stoves, ovens or heating sources. Should you not be around when the power is restored, disastrous results could occur.

Finally make certain that all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are installed and in the required locations and in proper condition. Should you need more assistance, your local fire department will be able to assist you. Stay safe and hopefully there are no conditions that will require you to use a generator.

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East Gwillimbury Farm to Fork Tour 2024

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins



Tina Rodgers, from Central York Chamber of Commerce and Cortney Cassidy, event manager, welcomed guests with warm smiles to the 2024 East Gwillimbury Farm to Fork Tour. Visitors were given a map and an insulated tote bag to carry purchases from the day.



A very popular spot on the tour was Holburne Mushroom Farms' sampling station. After grower Tim Blommesteyn gave a thorough presentation on how the mushrooms are grown, guests were invited to try a cooked sample from the many varieties that are available here. In the above photo are Tonia Hebert and Steven Rotiroti, two of the three owners of Holburne Farms. To learn more about this family farm business, look for the Meet the Farmer article in the December issue of Farm View.

Eight Farms participated in the 2024 East Gwillimbury Farm to Fork Tour. Guests and hosts alike were blessed with a beautiful fall day to enjoy the self drive tour. The self drive tour is a nice option (verus a bus group) as it allows attendees to participate even if they only have a few hours. Which was the case for my sister, Diana, and I. Once we received our tour map we set about highlighting the farms that we were headed to. After only a few u turns, too much laughing and not enough co-piloting, we hit the destinations featured in these photos. As well as a stop at Rose Family Farm for honestly the best poutine I have ever experienced.

Each farm had knowledgeable staff on hand and gave thorough presentations of what they excel in. The joy and delight from these farm families who give up so much of their time and hard work to ensure that we have food on our tables was apparent at every stop.

Each year many Farm Tours are offered. It is a wonderful way to meet the farmers working to feed you and learn where your food comes from. Gather your friends, fill a car and plan to attend next season!



Diana Robichaud, at left, is caught in action purchasing these sweet treats from Cathy Hope of Sharon Orchards. Cathy and her husband Paul, co-owners of the apple orchard, offer six different kinds of apples, and a variety of fresh organic produce. Staff helping on the tour day offered sampled slices of the apples so that customers could buy their favourites. With every purchase guests were invited to cut six sunflowers from the field, a lovely souvenir of the day! For more information about Sharon Orchards visit www.sharonorchards.com



The Railfence Books reading station at Queensville Country Store made for a homey break during the Farm To Fork Tour. Author Carolyn Morris was reading to children at the 2024 IPM so lovely daughter, Georgia Binder, lead the Storytime & Craft, entertaining the younger and older crowd alike. Even the ducklings were present!



Tracy McLachlan, at left, and Marjo Niemi, owner of Niemi Family Farm, were kept busy selling a wide variety of delicious baked goods. Sourdough, Sourdough Rye, Potato Bread, Potato Buns, Pulla, Cardamom sweet bread, Donuts, Cinnamon Buns, Caramel Buns... so many choices it was hard to make a decision! Be sure to visit the famous Niemi Christmas Market that is taking place Fridays and Saturdays November 15th to December 21st.



One of the many vendors enjoying the Farm to Fork Tour was Sha Sha Pure promoting a natural skin care line. Sharon has all your beauty care needs covered, naturally. For product information please visit the website www.shashapure.com.



Bill Havercroft and son, Benson, of Five Star Garlic were a hit at their location at the Sharon Temple. Knowledgeable and friendly, they were happy to help customers with their purchases of local, organic garlic that is cured to last the winter. Find more information about Five Star Garlic on Facebook.



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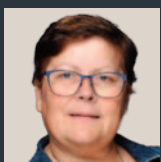
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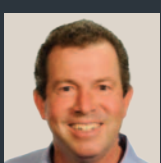
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**Wealth Management
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170th Lindsay Exhibition Draft Horse Show

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

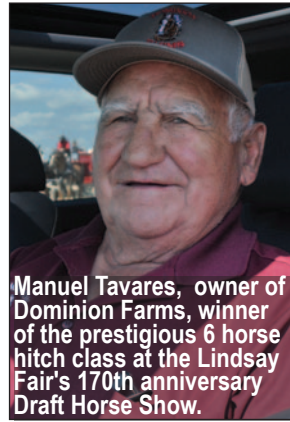
The 170th Lindsay Exhibition's Draft Horse Show is one of the most attended shows in the province. There were over 200 horses in competition over the two day event at the Lindsay Exhibition in 2024.

The Lindsay show is a "very very good show," says Manuel Tavares of Erin, a highly respected draft horseman and the owner of horses shown under the "Dominion Farms" prefix. He employs a husband/wife team, James and Sarah Kuepfer that get the horses show ready and drive the horses now, but he has been in the ring many times himself in his 30 plus years experience with draft horses. Tavares is involved with showing draft horses across Ontario including at the Royal Winter Fair. "The Lindsay show has lots of good competition," he says from his ringside seat at the Lindsay show in his car.

The "lots of good competition" this year meant that the six horse hitch class had an incredible eight entries. The class was split in two classes of four entries. Hitches were sent to a large waiting area after the first competition that

was near the ring- and the horses patiently waited to go back in the ring for the final judging to take place. John Lester, known for his excellent announcing skills with a special interest in horses, helped to make the show move along quickly making this an incredible show to watch from the comfort of being in a covered grandstand.

When the final selection was made among the eight entries in the six horse hitch class, it was the "Dominion Farms" hitch from Erin that won the prestigious six horse hitch class and was awarded the Keith Hobden Memorial All Breed Six Horse Hitch award. The late Keith Hobden was considered by many as the "greatest draft horseman of all times."



Manuel Tavares, owner of Dominion Farms, winner of the prestigious 6 horse hitch class at the Lindsay Fair's 170th anniversary Draft Horse Show.



This is Commercial Four Horse Hitch owned by Harold Ingram from Ingholm Farm that is seated on the wagon. Jim Whittaker is driving.



This is the Lindsay Show's Ontario Four Horse Hitch Series class. This entry is from Pana-Len Percherons owned by Paul and Greg Bourbonnais from Edwards, ON. The driver is Greg Bourbonnais.



This is an entry in the prestigious Keith Hobden Memorial All Breed Six Horse Hitch owned by Kim Smith of Westwin Farm. The driver of this hitch is Don Lowes.

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Global Meeting Advances Transition to Certified Compostable Produce Stickers

Worldwide Leaders of Fresh Produce & Compost Industries Propose a Global Roadmap towards a Certified Compostable PLU Sticker

An unprecedented agreement has been reached between the fresh produce industry and composting organizations to accelerate the transition to certified compostable Price Look Up (PLU) stickers. This intent was reached at a first-ever worldwide meeting in Niagara Falls, Canada, on October 1st, with the discussions leading to the agreement to develop a multi-phase framework to support this transition through the development and adoption of a global standard for compostable PLUs. The planned transition to certified compostable PLUs in the European Union (EU) by 2028 provides the added momentum to accelerate a worldwide adoption to this collective goal. Additional meetings within the fresh produce and composting sectors are planned in the coming months to expand engagement and finalize the action plan by the end of 2024.

“Moving to a certified compostable format for PLUs is a priority for organics recycling facilities,” said Susan Antler, Executive Director, Compost Council of Canada and member of the International Compost Alliance (ICA). “The current plasticized format is not compatible with producing quality compost nor can the stickers be easily removed during the organics recycling process and can result in the collected organics being sent to landfill or incineration, contributing to climate change and diminishing an important resource to build soil health. Because of the global sourcing network for produce, the members of the International Compost Alliance applaud the produce industry in recognizing the importance of this transition and its timeliness to ensure both our industries can positively contribute to food production and supply as well as take care of the health and well-being of our soils.

“CPMA is delighted to see the fresh produce and composting industries work together towards a global standard for compostable PLU stickers. Given PLUs are an integral part of global fresh produce supply chains, this global dialogue is a must”, said CPMA President Ron Lemaire. “Accelerating the adoption of compostable PLUs is a global priority given the risk that compostable PLU requirements will increasingly diverge from country to country. The coming together of fresh produce and composting industries will help reduce the burden on complex fresh produce supply chains, while also ensuring that food waste is increasingly recycled into value-added products.”

The meeting was jointly organized by the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) and the Compost Council of Canada, with the support of the Government of Canada. In-person and virtual attendance included representatives of the fresh produce industry, including members of the International Federation of Produce Standards – IFPS (the International Fresh Produce Association, United Fresh New Zealand, CPMA, Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada), Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (OFVGA),

as well as technical experts from leading global PLU manufacturers. The global compost industry was represented through the International Compost Alliance (ICA) with in-person representation from Australia, the United States, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Italy, the European Union and Canada. Government representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) were also in attendance.

The meeting provided a unique opportunity for the fresh produce industry and composting industry to better understand their respective positions on PLU stickers. This included the fresh produce industry outlining the critical role PLUs play in helping accurately and effectively identify fresh produce for enhanced traceability, inventory control and pricing at retail. The composting industry outlined the impacts of discarded PLU stickers accompanying fresh produce waste sent to organics recycling, including consumer-sourced, commercial and business organic waste sources. Given most PLU stickers are currently non-compostable and difficult to remove, physically contaminating the organics recycling process and adversely impacting the finished compost quality and value, the meeting provided a strategic opportunity to identify a way forward which recognizes each industry’s respective priorities.

Through open and collaborative dialogue, industry representatives acknowledged the need to accelerate the development and adoption of certified compostable PLUs. Given the global nature of fresh produce supply chains, and the potential regional variability of industrial composting processing requirements, industry representatives acknowledged the benefit of working together to develop and adopt a single global standard for compostable PLU stickers that is compatible with compost standards around the world. It was also recognized that these efforts could help promote the increased recycling of organic materials, helping contribute to the reduction of food loss and waste.

Outcomes of the meeting included identifying a draft framework to move forward, including the draft elements of a global compostable PLU standard, comprised of compositional as well as in-field testing requirements. A draft multi-phased roadmap towards timely and global adoption of a standard that reflects the evolving global regulatory landscape was also identified.

Next steps include broader engagement of industry representatives with their respective regional and global counterparts to disseminate the meeting’s key findings. This will include broader engagement with fresh produce stakeholders in the EU and other key markets where PLU requirements are rapidly evolving. A Compostable PLU Standard Action Plan will be developed and launched by industry stakeholders before the end of 2024, leading to actions to promote and accelerate the development and adoption of certified com-

postable PLUs starting in 2025.

For more information, please contact:

Susan Antler, Executive Director, Compost Council of Canada, Cell: 416-670-0510; Email: santler@compost.org
Daniel Duguay, Sustainability Specialist, CPMA. Tel: 613-769-5670; Email: dduguay@cpma.ca

About Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA)

Based in Ottawa, Ontario, CPMA is a not-for-profit organization that has been supporting a diverse membership made up of every segment of the fresh produce supply chain for 100 years. CPMA represents nearly 900 member companies responsible for 90% of the fresh fruits and vegetable sales in Canada and an industry that contributes nearly \$15 billion to Canada’s GDP annually, supports over 185,000 jobs, and improves the health and productivity of Canadians.

About the International Compost Alliance (ICA)

The International Compost Alliance is comprised of:

The Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology (REA);

The Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA);

The Compost Council of Canada (CCC);

European Compost Network (ECN);

International Solid Waste Association (ISWA);

CRÉ - Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland;

WasteMINZ (Waste Management Institute of New Zealand);

The United States Composting Council (USCC); and

The Compost Research & Education Foundation (CREF)

The purpose of the alliance is for organics recycling organizations around the world to work collaboratively to maximize the recycling of organic wastes and advance the manufacturing of certified, high-quality compost to benefit the environment, society and our members.

Currently, over 83 million tonnes of biowaste are recycled every year around the world. Not only does this recycle over 1 million tonnes of plant macro-nutrients, but, through storing carbon in soil and offsetting fertilizer use, it reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents – an equivalent of driving an average car for 36 billion kilometres (23 billion miles); almost 95 thousand times the distance between the earth and the moon!

Despite our current success globally, our annual potential could be increased over 12-fold if all of the world’s unavoidable organic residuals were collected separately and composted.

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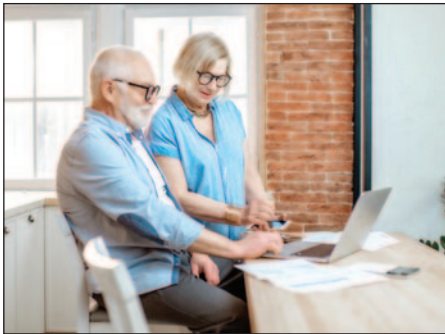
For many people the approval process with the banks can be grueling. Tracy Green Mortgage Broker (level 2 licenced to provide all mortgages including private funds) owner of Ontario-Wide Financial has been a mortgage provider in the industry for 37 years and has always had the "if there's a will there's a way" approach.

She says "for myself as a broker I kind of refer to what I do as assembling a jigsaw puzzle, you must work with the pieces until they all fit, sometimes this means being creative. Many of my clients feel defeated with the banks (sometimes) timely approval process and unwillingness to think outside of the box, whether the reason is bad credit, self employed, previous bankruptcy, consumer proposal, mortgage or tax (property or CRA) arrears, location, type (out of town, farm or hobby farm) or condition of property, age, clients on disability or clients looking for short term financing. Whatever the reason, the banks are unwilling to lend. Well, let me tell you that there are alternative lenders willing to work with open eyes to help these clients achieve their mortgage goals and work through the tough times.

Especially over the last few years many people have been affected by numerous issues with the pandemic, loss of income and interest rates soaring in a short period of time. People don't realize that there are alternative lenders willing to help. "NO" this does not mean you will be paying extortionist rates and unreasonable terms and conditions!

Tracy is the owner and broker at Ontario-Wide Financial, her objective and job are to find the best mortgage product (Mortgages, HELOC, credit lines) based on the client's situation at the best rates. Undoubtedly these clients are not going to get "A" bank pricing, but they will get a fair shake and in most cases the rates are not too far off from what they would get if they had qualified at a bank.

Tracy explains, "in my experience there are really 3 categories of lenders, "A" lenders (the banks/ credit unions) "B" lenders (still institutional with more flexible lending) and "Private lenders" (private individuals who invest in mortgages) As a broker I work down the ladder to see where the best fit is for my client. The second part of my process as owner and broker of Ontario-Wide Financial is to work with the client to establish what needs to be done to become bank qualified down the road if that's my client's goal. Here at Ontario-Wide Financial I work with my clients to create an exit plan to get them back on track. This may be simply helping to repair and clean up credit, settle overdue accounts and collections and guide the client to be "A" lender approved in the future. The process depending on the individual's situation usually doesn't take longer than a year and we can go as high as 80% of the value. Self employed and small business owners know how frustrating obtaining mortgages can be, having to provide endless paperwork, only to be turned down or offered much less than applied for. I can also help with this process and in most cases provide several opportunities and options without having to provide years and years of financial statements and paperwork for these clients. And in many cases these clients prefer to stay in the "B" lending category or private sector as it meets their needs better than a bank. The bottom line is that there are endless situations that can be overcome with the help of a professional. The best reason to call Ontario-Wide Financial is you will be working directly with myself, Tracy Green the owner and broker. We are not a huge conglomerate company, just a small brokerage that can do big things to improve our client's lives and finances! I prefer to work with my clients on a person-to-person basis with no judgement to make sure they know their options, understand the process and product and meet their goals. While in some instances I may not be successful I will do my best to offer advice to my client as to alternatives and other services that may be able to help with their individual situation. All in all, I will do my best to provide you with as many options for the best possible outcome with a fast and painless process as possible."



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Soul Sisters Celebrations

The Spiritual Child

Dr. Lisa Miller's *The Spiritual Child: The New Science on Parenting for Health and Lifelong Thriving* delves into spirituality, often overlooked aspect of childhood development. In an age where the pressures of modern life weigh heavily on young people, it emerges as a call to prioritize the soul alongside the body and mind. I appreciate her approach, while also noting some areas that could benefit from a more expansive view on the nature of spiritual growth and parenting.

Miller's central theme is that children are born with an innate capacity for spiritual connection, a natural attunement to the transcendent that she describes as "hardwired." Drawing from her work as a clinical psychologist, she posits that this spiritual sensitivity manifests in early childhood through awe, reverence, and a deep curiosity about the world.

Children often exhibit a natural sense of the sacred that transcends language and doctrine. They are, in many ways, closer to the divine, perceiving the world with an openness that adults often lose. I have seen this in the way children exhibit compassion toward others, actions that reveal a spiritual orientation as intrinsic. Emphasis on nurturing this innate spirituality recognizes and supports children's spiritual lives can deepen their sense of meaning and connection.

I found myself pushing back to her claim that spirituality is "the single most protective factor" in adolescent development. While compelling, overlooks the complexity of human growth. According to her research, teens with a genuine spiritual life are significantly less likely to experience severe depression or substance abuse compared to their non-spiritual peers. While this underscores the importance of spiritual support, it also raises questions about the interplay between spirituality and other protective factors, such as secure attachments, supportive parenting practices, and social environment. Spirituality can indeed enhance resilience, but it is not the only path to thriving; it works alongside other elements of holistic well-being.

The book highlights a "spiritual surge" that occurs during adolescence, when teens seek deeper meaning and purpose. This resonates with the experiences of many young people, who naturally enter a phase of self-discovery and spiritual individuation. This is a time when the soul is especially receptive, and guiding teens through

this phase with spiritual practices, open dialogue, and opportunities for spiritual connection can be profoundly healing.

I believe Miller's focus on spirituality could benefit from a broader perspective that accounts for diverse spiritual expressions and the role of community. Spirituality is not a one-size-fits-all solution, and while Miller distinguishes between personal spirituality and religiosity, her approach sometimes leans heavily on the notion of a higher power in traditional terms. Many young people may not connect with a conventional understanding of the divine but may find their spiritual identity through art, nature, service, or even activism. Spiritual growth is not confined to a relationship with a higher power; it can be fostered through a sense of interconnection, wonder, and a commitment to living with purpose.

Miller critiques the "severing" of spiritual development by modern parenting practices, her book tends to place the responsibility for spiritual nurturing squarely on the shoulders of parents. This view devalues the broader societal influences that impact youth development, such as rising inequality, social media pressures, and a competitive academic culture. Spirituality should not be isolated from these contexts; a holistic approach to nurturing children's spiritual lives would also address the need for cultural shifts that support healthy individuation, leisure, and community belonging.

The book shines in its practical insights and suggestions for parents. The sections on recognizing signs of spiritual inclination and engaging teens in conversations about spirituality are valuable tools that can help parents navigate the spiritual landscape with their children. Her passion for the subject is evident and the book serves as a call to reclaim the sacred dimension of childhood, a dimension that modern life too often neglects. I found it a welcome invitation to reawaken to the spiritual essence of parenting. It reminds us that raising a child is not merely a matter of fostering academic success or physical well-being but also of tending to the soul. I see this work as a conversation starter, a stepping stone toward a deeper understanding of supporting children and teens in cultivating a lifelong spiritual practice. Miller's message is clear: spirituality matters, and when we honor it, we offer young people a path to not only survive but to truly thrive.

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


SOUL SISTERS CELEBRATIONS

South Simcoe 4-H Achievement Day celebrations continued at the Great Northern Exhibition

Reports and photos submitted by South Simcoe 4-H

South Simcoe 4-H Sheep Club

By Tyler Lange

The South Simcoe 4-H Sheep Club had their achievement day at The Great Northern Exhibition in Collingwood on Sunday September 22nd. 4-H members showed off their 4-H lambs against a big competition. 4-H Members then treated themselves to some yummy treats around the GNE and ended the day with South Simcoe placing some of the top in their classes. Thank you to all leaders and people who volunteered to help out the 4-H Club this year. We hope to see you next in Toronto for the Royal Winter Fair.



South Simcoe 4-H Games Club

By Sara Ford

On October 1st, the South Simcoe 4-H games club held their last meeting of 2024. For our last meeting, we went bowling at Bowlerama. We started the night off by chatting while we checked in and everyone got their shoes. Then we began the games. It was lots of fun, with quite a few strikes thrown into the mix! It was a great night filled with fun and a bit of competitiveness. We had just enough time for 2 rounds before we had to leave. We had our president close the meeting with the 4-H motto, and we all were dismissed.

Cookstown Dairy Club Achievement Day

Cookstown Dairy Club held their achievement day at the Barrie Fair! Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Cookstown Dairy Club results:

Showmanship:

Novice

- 1st Brooke Fieldhouse
- 2nd Brianna Blanchette

Junior

- 1st Peyton Nicholls-Barton
- 2nd Katelyn Mann

Intermediate

- 1st Rachael Lange

Senior

- 1st Rebecca Lange

Champion show person for Cookstown Dairy Club is Peyton Nicholls-Barton.

Conformation

Spring Calf Class

- 1st Rebecca Lange
- 2nd Brianna Blanchette

Winter Calf Class

- 1st Peyton Nicholls-Barton
- 2nd Rachael Lange

Champion Calf for Cookstown Dairy Club is Rebecca Lange.

Cookstown Dairy Club won the Herdsman competition! Thank you to the leaders, judge, volunteers and sponsors!



South Simcoe 4-H Biking Club

By Isabella Cullen

The South Simcoe 4-H Biking club went biking Sunday October 6th in the township of Essa. At our previous meeting we had gone to a forest north of Mansfield and found the trails there challenging. We decided to try the Essa trails and had a great time riding on the sandy and dirt packed trails. We then tried the bush trails on the other side of County Road 56. We had great weather and an enjoyable meeting. We would like to thank our leaders Trish Downey and Scott Cullen for another great biking club.

South Simcoe 4-H Hiking Club

By Isabella Cullen

On October 5th we had our last hiking meeting of the season. We hiked just west of Creemore on the Creemore Nature Preserve which is a beautiful wooded marked trail. We enjoyed crossing the bridges, looking for signs of wildlife and the autumn weather. We are blessed to have an abundance of trails so close for us to enjoy hiking on. We would like to thank our leaders Trish Downey, Naomi Saunders and Scott Cullen for a wonderful hiking club season.



The South Simcoe 4-H Line Dancing Club members were performing on stage and teaching others the dance steps at the Great Northern Exhibition on Sunday September 22nd.



The Great Northern Exhibition selected their 2024/2025 Ambassadors on Friday September 20th. Isabella Cullen is the Senior Ambassador and Nolan Martin-Mills is the Junior Ambassador. Both are current South Simcoe 4-H members. In the photo above are last year's ambassadors and this year's. Left to right in photo are Brier Miller, Nolan Martin-Mills, Isabella Cullen and Jocelyn Young.

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Elmvale Fall Fair coming home tradition continues!



Jacob Veenstra was a challenger at the Elmvale Fall Fair tractor pull.

What an incredible weekend to celebrate our Thanksgiving tradition of coming home for the Elmvale Fall Fair. Friday's parade boasted almost 2000 students from local schools marching through Town, and Saturday's parade was very popular as well. The fairgrounds were bustling with 4-H livestock shows, Sheep, Dairy, Beef & Horse Shows. The ever popular Tractor & Truck Pulls, a superb Midway and free events like a Kids' Zone, paint ball activity, stage entertainment by Ty Baynton, local artists, and both of our school music students programs performed as well. Our Community is so supportive of this event - and we couldn't do it without the help of so many volunteers. See you in 2025 !!

Brady McLaren took a turn trying to beat the top score in the tractor pull.

Lucy and Bridget of Springwater Township are Fair Friends Forever!

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Lest We Forget

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Bracebridge Fair celebrating the farming season!

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



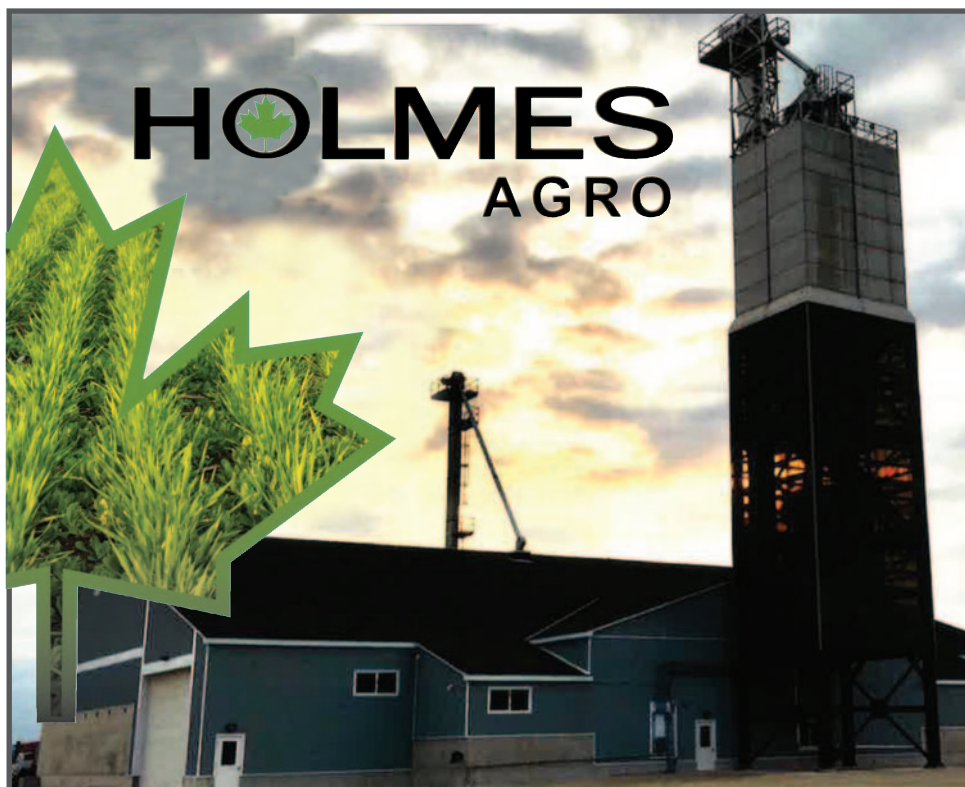
Pictured above is Peet Ricker from Huntsville who has been a vendor at Bracebridge Fair for close to ten years. Peet's business, Lake Vernon, sells natural furs and moccasins.

This is John Aikins with two baby pygmy goat twins, Gizmo and Oreo that were part of a display at the Bracebridge Fair. John is in partnership with Tammy Steele operating "Crazy Goat Lady Farm" where Gizmo and Oreo were born. Everyone is from Bala.

CREATING WITH A CHAINSAW: The young man pictured above is Seth Huggins, Seth has found his God given gift and has his own business called Precision Carvings. Seth was in school during the pandemic and with everything locked down, he bought a chainsaw and tried to create something. He surprised himself with having the natural ability to carve, using a chainsaw, wooden creations. His grandfather is a carpenter and Seth spent time cutting firewood in the bush starting as a very young child with his Dad so he says, "I was always drawn to wood". His first chainsaw carved creation was immediately purchased- and he soon found he had a list of people wanting to buy his carvings. He became a full-time wood carver from his home in Port Sydney and here he is working on a commissioned piece, a rooster. He can be reached at precisioncarvings@gmail.com



BUNNY GIRLS... Pictured at right are: (from left), Zorianna with rabbit Bean, Julianna with rabbit Daisy, Lux with rabbit Fluffybutt, Arianna with rabbit Oliver and London with rabbit Liam. These girls and their rabbits were waiting on this bench for the youth class to be called at the Fair's Rabbit Show that has been managed for over 30 years by volunteer, Kim Mandley of Muskoka.



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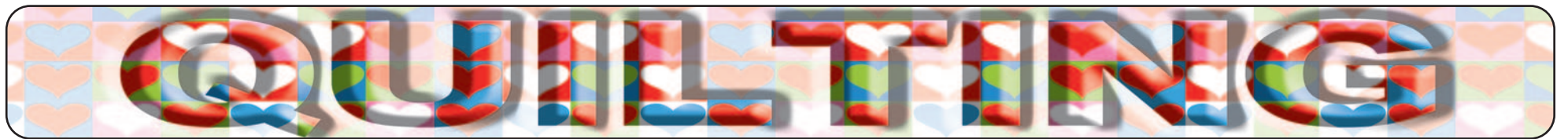
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Quilted projects are gifts from the heart

Article by Janis Hamilton

I hope you had a chance to read Roslyn's Editorial last month. She was reminded through my article of how this quilting page got started and as she remembers her Mom's love of quilting, fabric and sharing her gifts with others even as Roslyn looks around each room of her home. It is certainly a way to show your love to others and warm their homes with quilts or wall hangings that will then be loved by those who are lucky enough to receive them. We as quilters often start a project with someone in mind and as we are finding the perfect pattern, doing the math to adjust the pattern if adding a border, shopping for fabric-my favourite "sport", cutting fabric and yes finally sewing. We think of all the fun we are having (minus the time spent with the seam ripper) as the project progresses and we anticipate how the person will react when they receive our gift. Yes, the person is hopefully pleased, but we've also had such joy as the project progressed. Try it as we start to think about gift giving closer to Christmas.

By the time you read this article, most Christmas (November) craft shows and bazaars are well on their way but I hope you were able to get out to a few. Quilting is a craft but certainly not always appreciated by those that don't do the craft. The fabric is now in the range of \$20-\$30/meter and most shops are really struggling to justify passing those increases on to their loyal customers. The average quilt can cost hundreds of dollars especially if you have someone long arm the finished quilt. So, if you feel as you walk by

the vendors stalls, wow that quilt seems expensive - please keep the cost of materials in mind and know the creator of those is getting nothing for their time. Quilts are a labour of love and as most of us feel, it's nice to share with someone who doesn't have the time or skill to make one.

So, the push is on for the big day on December 25! Gifts from the heart certainly get away from the "commercialism" and pushing through the crowds in the malls. If the malls depended on my shopping habits they'd have closed years ago. I like to support local when possible. Consider starting small for your next sewing project. Could you make some Christmas placemats for a new neighbour or a family with a new home? What about a wall hanging or

consider an advent calendar for those with children? Advent calendars used to be fiddly to make cutting out pockets, edging them and then placing them hopefully in the right outlined rectangle on the panel. Northcott fabrics have changed all that! The panel is there, but with a simple fold, the pockets are already on the panel, and you simply fold one line to the line on panel and sew across the panel. Piece of cake and you'll still have time for a cup of tea. I like to add a ribbon with a bell or star so the children can put the ribbon in the right pocket for the next day. On the back I always make a

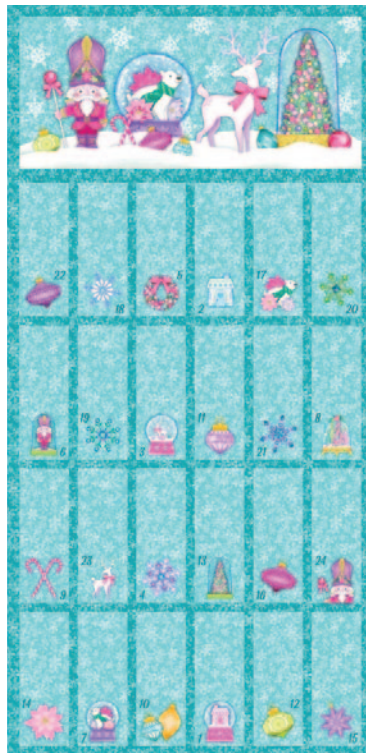
sleeve and insert a dowel for hanging. Two eye screws will hold the line so the calendar can be hung. My preference is fishing line then it won't be seen. Twenty-four days of total anticipation in one panel. Does life get any better for kids?

Christmas stockings are easy. New puppies, new arrivals in the family all need their own. Simple patterns will be successful projects. This link will give you 4 sizes and is free to download. <https://www.mygoldenthimble.com>. If you are not sure just how then search for free Christmas stocking patterns and lots of free youtube videos come up. There are other sites as well. <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com> <https://www.applegreencottage.com> and this one has 15 patterns to choose from skating stockings, hiking boot stockings, advent stockings to baby stockings it opens all kinds of possibilities... <https://sewcanshe.com>

Christmas placemats don't have to be challenging. How festive a table will be with new placemats and maybe matching napkins. The shops have wonderful festive fabric and are only too happy to help you choose fabrics that will take your project to the next level. This site seems (seams) to be endless as it has gnomes to make, Christmas trees on sticks but made of fabric, advent ideas and it's all free. <https://sewcanshe.com>. <https://nanasewing.com> has many patterns and even table runners. Worth a look for sure. We all get busy going to functions late November so if you can get your sewing projects off in good time the pressure is off. No one wants to be sewing and trying to decorate the tree at the same time or finishing the last batch of cookies for the cookie exchange at the same time.

Now in reverse, family often ask what would you like? Well don't hesitate to refill your sewing room...thread, new cutting blades, that new ruler to make the next project, a ruler holder made by someone with a router would just be perfect, needles get broken and need to be replaced, a new pattern you didn't buy and if all else fails a gift card from your local quilt shop. We all have enough "stuff" in our homes, so why not restock your favourite hobby, oh the possibilities!

Have fun creating and giving those you love a reason to smile once you wrap your gifts for them.





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Campania nestled among the farm fields

Village stories

by Andrew Hind

The name Campania recalls sultry summer days, sun-kissed Mediterranean beaches, and delicious Italian cuisine. But there's a Campania right here in Ontario. Or at least there was. A blink-and-you'll miss it hamlet at the best of times, Campania was nestled among the farm fields and wooded valleys of Dufferin County.

Sadly, a bucolic setting didn't guarantee success.

The village faded in the span of a few short generations.

Dufferin County's Amaranth Township began to be settled by eager homesteaders in the 1840s. The region is fertile, so farms flourished. Up until the 1890s the area around the 10th line and 20th sideroad was home to farms spread out along the rural roads, a school, and little else. There was certainly no identifiable community. That changed because of John Davis.

Davis was born in Ireland in 1858 and was brought to Canada as a child by his parents. As an adult Davis seems to have had itchy feet, moving around fairly regularly. The year 1891 saw him farming in Amaranth near the intersection of the 10th line and 20th sideroad. Tired of travelling to get his mail, in 1893 he petitioned the government to be granted a post office. In February, his request was granted.

Serving as postmaster brought welcome additional income for the 36-year-old. It also gave one the privilege of naming the post office, and by extension the community it served. Davis demurred to his wife, Allie Eliza. Local lore says that she was reading *The Last Days of Pompeii* at the time and was so immersed in the history that she recommended the name Campania, after the Italian region where Pompeii is located. And so, Campania it was.



Campania was never more than a blink-and-you'll miss it farming hamlet where scenes such as this played out every day.

In 1901, a pair of Methodist ministers, E.J. Adams and John Coulter, called a meeting to encourage locals to raise a church. The idea was greeted with enthusiasm. Land and material were donated, and men gathered in bee to raise the building. It was humbled, but it was theirs and the people of Campania were proud. The following year an Orange Lodge, Chapter 433, was established 1902. Orangemen held their meetings in the village schoolhouse, paying \$6 annually for evening use of the premises.

By this date Campania was at its peak. In addition to the post office, school and church, there was a sawmill and blacksmith – both of likely predated the hamlet's official birth – and a collection of modest farm homes inhabited by about fifty people. The Davis' weren't there to see the community they named reach its apogee. They left in 1900 – John's feet must have itched again – leaving the post office in the hands of James Wheeler, who in turn passed the torch to John Lang in 1901.

Anyone who thought that Campania was fated for good things was quickly disillusioned. The village never really found a firm footing, never grew or prospered. The post office closed on April 20, 1912. The blacksmith and mill closed around the same time. The Orange Order merged with the Shelburn Lodge in 1940 due to lack of members. And finally, the church closed, drawing a curtain on Campania.

Dufferin boomed in the 20th century, but tiny Campania faded into the recesses of history.

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International Plowing Match 2024 Comes To Lindsay Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The 105th 2024 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo (IPM) was held in Lindsay, Kawartha Lakes. This was a collaboration between the Ontario Plowmen's Association (OPA) and a Local Organizing Committee. The IPM moves each year to a different community in Ontario and has close to 70,000 visitors every year. The IPM is a five day celebration of agriculture and rural life. It is the largest event of its kind in North America and many farmers, or past farmers, plan to attend this event every single year. This was the first time, in its 105 year history, that Tented City was held on existing Fairgrounds. The Lindsay Exhibition ended and the Plowing Match started in the same space, with only eight days in between. Visitors came from across Ontario to Lindsay to see what the OPA and 400 local volunteers worked so hard to present and it was an absolutely incredible 5 day event from Tuesday, October 1st to Saturday, October 5th.

Tucked into the Commonwealth Building, was one of the Match's traditions, the Lifestyles section. The Plowing Match has always recognized the many skills that the homemaker on the farm must have to do thier job. This year, the Quilt Show had an incredible 130 quilts on display. Quilt Show Co-Chair Gordon Schmidt explained, "We (Co-Chair, my wife Beverly) reached out to eight local Quilt Guilds and asked for their best quilts for our display- and we sure got some great quilts." Along with displaying quilts, the art of quilt making was displayed in action with members of the Lorneville-Argyle Womens' Institute on hand working all day Thursday on a gorgeous farm scene quilt donated by Sandra Falconer, owner of Applesseed Quiltworks from Lindsay. "School children coming through all week on tours were given the chance to try quilting- and some really liked it. We also gave away quilting kits to people that might want to start 4-H quilting clubs. We feel we have introduced quilting to many from our time here at the Plowing Match," Co-Chair Beverly explained.

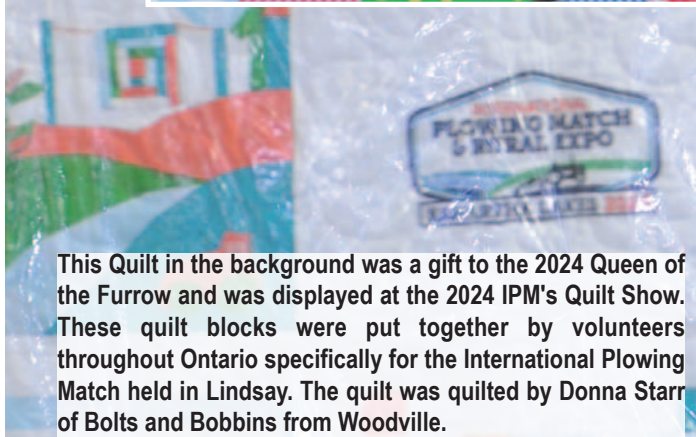
Accessibility is important- at all events including the International Plowing Match. An accessibility advocate and the Chair of Accessibility for the 2024 Match, Elizabeth Peeters, explained that making the Match as accessible as possible was the goal. "We must remember that 10% of our (Ontario) population is physically disabled. Sometimes it is only a temporary disability like a broken leg but that time still means that person needs to have accessibility." She explained the Match had mobility scooters on site to rent plus people were encouraged to bring scooters or walkers from home. Further, there were special tractor pulled shuttle wagons fitted especially to accommodate those with disabilities.

One of the busiest places in Tented City was the Fellowship of Christian Farmers Canada (CCF). Here, people heard a quick message from the Christian gospel- and were given a free gift. Volunteer John said, "We usually give out about 1,000 walking sticks each day." There were also other gifts including bracelets and small hockey sticks for people to choose. CCF started in 1985 in Texas when a group of soybean farmers realized they had an occupation burdened with stress and they needed to pray for one other. CCF walking sticks were seen throughout each day with visitors at the 2024 Match.

One of the highlights of the Match was the RAM Rodeo which is free with admission. Under the covered grandstand, visitors took a break from walking and enjoyed a show like no other. Opening many of the Rodeo days were the highly popular group, the Canadian Cowgirls Precision Drill Team from Chatham-Kent, Ontario. This group, pictured on the cover, work as a team on horseback and have been invited for events worldwide including having acted as Honour Guard for King Charles III.



The Commonwealth Building held the popular Lifestyles section which included the Quilt Show. Quilting is becoming a lost art- but these four members of the Lorneville-Argyle Womens' Institute, from right Ruth Kelsey, Marilyn Graves, Ann Boyd and Beth St. Peter were showing the public how much fun quilting can be.



This Quilt in the background was a gift to the 2024 Queen of the Furrow and was displayed at the 2024 IPM's Quilt Show. These quilt blocks were put together by volunteers throughout Ontario specifically for the International Plowing Match held in Lindsay. The quilt was quilted by Donna Starr of Bolts and Bobbins from Woodville.



Tented City (above right) is a highlight of every IPM and the Lindsay IPM was no exception. Tented City offers so much for sale from home baking to slushies to outdoor furnaces, buildings and decorative items. There were also tents that featured live music- and speciality tents with Ontario services including law enforcement and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Farm equipment displays also were featured in Tented City.

Veteran plowmen Daryl Hostrawser (middle right) from Dufferin County had a trifecta evening at this year's Celebration of Excellence awards banquet. He was named the Ontario Champion in the Reversible Class competition earning the opportunity to compete in the Canadian Plowing Championships next August; he won the International Plowing Match Champion Tractor Plowmen for the highest points earned at the match; and for the second year in a row he won the Brian Fried Memorial Trophy.

Allison French of Caledon (photo below) competed in the Ontario Queen of the Furrow competition at this year's International Plowing Match and Rural Expo in Lindsay in early October. Here she is shown with her plowing coach, Barry Degeer of Simcoe County. At the Celebration of Excellence awards banquet Allison was named first runner up.



Photo by Anne Howden Thompson



Photo by Anne Howden Thompson

Give women "a lift"!

Again, for the month of October the Tec-We-Gwill W.I. will be receiving new and gently used bras for their bra bank and Breast Cancer Awareness campaign.

Each year receptacles are placed in the Bradford, Alliston and Tottenham Recreation Centres. These bras are then weighed and a cash donation equivalent to the weight goes to Stevenson Memorial Hospital and Southlake hospital towards their mammo-gram department or their Women's Wellness

Program. (Last year 400 pounds were collected)

The bras then go to Contact's Clothesline store in Alliston and Bradford. Bras are expensive and if we can give women "a lift" we should!

Help us and give us your support by donating to our campaign. We will be gathering until the first week of November. If you need to get in touch with us please email tecwegwillwi@gmail.com.

Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim



I did a thing. It's a simple but powerful thing - I put up a sign.

Imagine that you have a farm. Perhaps it's been in your family for generations or maybe you are a first-generation farmer. You invest all your hard work and money to keep your farm going. You clear the rocks, fence in your cattle, and till the land. Your soil grows crops to feed your livestock, family, and neighbours. You have an environmental farm plan and a strategy to help the wildlife and forests thrive on your land. You are one of the few who feed the many and you are proud of what you have accomplished. Less than 2% are willing to invest the work into what you do.

Then one day you get a letter in the mail or a visit from an official. The nearby city wants your farm for development - you have no choice but to take their offer.

You are in shock and disbelief. Why me? Why my farm? After all, it's been here much longer than that city. I can remember when all this area was farmland.

Your questions go unanswered. You are crying, your kids are crying and your spouse is crying. What of all your hard work and tradition? This can't be right - 319 acres of farmland are lost in Ontario every day to development. Urban areas should be protecting prime agricultural land not stealing it. What can we do? You are just one family farm - your voice is so small.

This is where you come in. One farm family's voice is weak but together we can make it resonate across the province and country. There are times when land unfortunately needs to be developed for the greater good but that's only after all other options are exhausted. Once you pave paradise you will NEVER get it back.



I avoid politics and confrontation but I can't stand by and see farmers bullied and land taken out of farming. If we want food sovereignty we need to fight for it. If we want family farms we need to go to battle for them. Please let your local farmers know that you care and help protect farmland. This very plight is happening now to my peers in Wilmot Township.

*OFA members in Wellington County can contact the WFA for a sign
<https://www.fightforfarmland.com/>
<https://ontariofarmlandtrust.ca/.../ontario-losing-319.../>

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!"

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

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Lest we forget.

As we pause to reflect on Remembrance Day, and Indigenous Veterans Day, we honour the extraordinary bravery and sacrifice of our veterans and active service members. Their dedication has shaped the freedoms we enjoy today, and it is our duty to ensure their legacy is never forgotten.

The governments of Canada and Ontario have awarded over \$12.2 million in support to projects designed to help farmers make their agricultural lands healthier and more resilient. Farmers are encouraged to apply through the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association website.



JILL DUNLOP
 MPP – Simcoe North/Nord

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After The Chores: Match Memories

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



The International Plowing Match, known as the Match, is like candy to a farmer, we all love them. Every farmer has Match memories.

My Dad always knew where the next Match was being held and categorized them into two groups: we are going or far away.

The big pull for the Match for my Dad was to see all the newest in farm machinery. He spent his day going from row to row, my brothers happily beside him gathering up all the free stuff, there would be thick colour catalogues, brochures, pens, flyers, magnets and sometimes even flyswatters, all with the equipment brand's advertising on it. Mom went with him to Matches before we did and declared never again as she could not pry him from the farm equipment. Mom and I went to the Match together as soon as I could walk and never saw my Dad and brothers at the Match. We had a time agreed on to get back to the car- and that was the only communication back then for the day.

There was a relative my Mom did not like very much. She kept her real feelings to herself- except on one Plowing Match day. We were in Tented City and she said, "Look! There is xxxx (relative)!" I felt so bad because no day was going to be great if we were stuck with this relative all day. I looked around- and saw nobody I knew. She said to look "up, over there" and on top of a shelter, was the biggest, ugliest replica of an oversized buzzard. It took a while for my young brain to catch on, but when I did, we laughed until we had tears on our faces.

I remember one Match, not for laughter but for mud and my pride. I was, that year, very fond of a particular pair of white pants. I don't remember anything except they were white- and I just loved wearing them. On Match morning, both my parents argued that I was to wear jeans and rubber boots. It was on the Channel 9 news that this Match was the "mud Match" as weatherman Dave Devall said, adding sadly there was even more rain coming. There were four pairs of rubber boots put in the car, I had made a stand. I was proud that I was going to wear my much prized white pants and shoes leaving the "farming clothes" home on the farm.

We get to the Match and there was minimum mud in the

parking field which was on higher ground than what we would find out later. I got out in my stylish white pants and shoes thinking I was mighty smart. Tented City, except for the 2024 Lindsay Match, was held in a field. This Tented City was in a low field and it had rained exceptionally heavy for days as Dave Devall had said. The first few rows were not great but my shoes could be cleaned off so I was still feeling stylish. There was an unwritten law that everyone needs a free bag and a wooden yard/metre stick used for measuring stuff as part of going to the Match so that was our destination which was many rows away. My Dad had a place in the kitchen, on a shelf, for the collection of Match sticks so adding to this was considered very important.

I remember so clearly the sight in front of me after I proudly got the stick and the bag, there was no way forward except in thick, soupy mud. Crowds prevented me going back so I had to navigate through this mud that just got deeper every step. Mom happily trotted along in her rubber boots as I tried to pick my way avoiding the really deep mud- and it was a complete failure. I was just covered in thick, oozy mud within the first hour- and it just got worse from there. The fact I was wet, muddy and miserable did not mean anything, there was a Match to see and this no-boot decision was entirely my choice. It was a long ride home with my two brothers in the backseat that were dry and comfortable gloating over all the "loot" they picked up from going everywhere it seemed this year at the Match. I had little but mud to show for my experience- and a new appreciation for rubber boots.

One of the Match's traditions is the wagon ride to and from the Match. One year, an executive organizer told me, a bus was used and everybody complained so much wanting the tractor and wagons back as that was "plowing match tradition". There was a Lindsay transit bus doing shuttles to the plowing fields at the 2024 Lindsay Match- and from that pleasant warm ride, I have no idea why anyone would prefer a tractor and wagon ride but nobody asked me. On the bus ride, a friendly senior sat beside me and unloaded his guilt feelings of disappointing his family, he had sold the family farm many decades ago breaking the succession of farmers. I assured him that not everyone can be a farmer and the fact his farm is still into farming is something to be very grateful for. The Plowing Match being a real farm event makes everyone feel positive about farming and feel closer to farming, even decades later which proves what a magnificent, heart stirring event it really is was what I learned on that bus.

Behind every Match are hundreds of local volunteers. We need to remember and appreciate all the volunteers as their work is the reason we have our Match memories.

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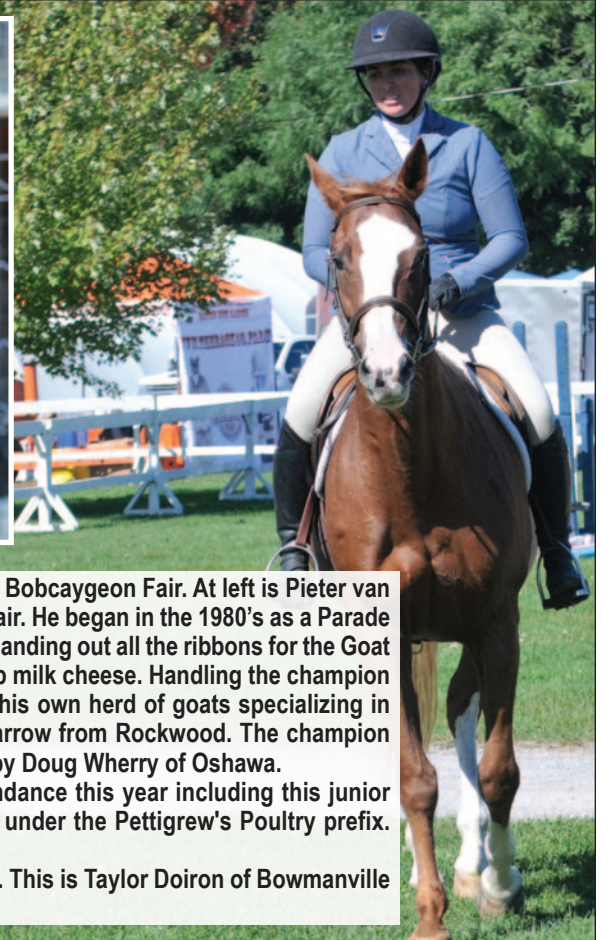
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Fun at the Bobcaygeon Fair!

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Pictured top left: Best Goat in the Sanctioned Goat Show held at the Bobcaygeon Fair. At left is Pieter van Oudenaren of Bobcaygeon, 2nd Vice President of the Bobcaygeon Fair. He began in the 1980's as a Parade announcer and now he helps out in many parts of the Fair including handing out all the ribbons for the Goat Show. Pieter is a master cheesemaker specializing in goat and sheep milk cheese. Handling the champion Sannen goat is young William Mitchell of Woodville. William owns his own herd of goats specializing in LaManchas under the "Smiley's" prefix. Next is the Judge, Irene Farrow from Rockwood. The champion Sannen goat pictured here is Kampfire PTR's Audrey and is owned by Doug Wherry of Oshawa. Photo above: The Bobcaygeon Fair's Poultry Show had huge attendance this year including this junior exhibitor, Killian Harlow of Cameron. Killian shows with his family under the Pettigrew's Poultry prefix. Killian is seen here with Milkshake, a buff Orpington chicken. Top far right: First place winner in the English Hunter Pleasure class. This is Taylor Doiron of Bowmanville riding Eclipse CD.



Carrying an egg around carefully while on horseback was part of the Games section at the Bobcaygeon Fair. Here in competition, is young Howard Junkin from Bobcaygeon. Howard is riding a miniature horse name Crispy Creme.

Great times had at the Coldwater Fair!

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



This is Barrel racing with a miniature horse. Tracey Bishop from Innisfil is pictured racing to the finish line with her miniature horse, Freckles, at the Coldwater Fair. Tracy won Reserve High Point exhibitor.



This is 2024 Coldwater Fair Ambassador, Avery Lovering, helping out in the Rooster Contest. Avery says she is pleased to be Coldwater Fair's Ambassador "I love Coldwater and I love the Coldwater Fair. I have lived in Coldwater my whole life. Coldwater Fair is all about people being happy."



The Coldwater Fair has a big antique display. Throughout the day, volunteers drove antiques throughout the Fair. Kevin Forstner is driving a 1951 Allis Chalmers CA 17 hp tractor. Kevin works with the Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum.

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Equipment Ontario Grand Opening Celebration in Alliston

Story and photos by Andrej Baca

Equipment Ontario opened their latest location near Alliston, servicing a total of 16+ Counties from the shores of Lake Huron in the west to the edges of Peterborough County in the east. From the fringes of Cambridge in the south to as far north as Cochrane, Ontario.

Equipment Ontario has full service dealership locations in Alliston, Elmira, Lindsay, Listowel, Mildmay, Port Perry and service teams based in New Liskeard.

They deal in New and Used Farm Machinery Equipment and Attachments, Lawn tractors, Lawn mowers, Compact tractors, and Recreational Side by Side and Utility Vehicles. Among the Brands they carry are Case IH, Mahindra, Kuhn, Penta, Cub Cadet, Columbia, Grasshopper, Macdon, Hegedorn, and HLA.

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Cutting the ribbon to kick off the day's celebrations from left to right are Marlyn Stoltz, Carson Brown, Greg and Michelle Snoddon, and Veronique Frechette from Case IH.



Pictured here is Andrew Winchester from Stayner with 20+ years of at your site service experience. Other members of the team include Andrew Robinson with 5 years in house service tech experience, Jamie VanRyswyk as the application equipment specialist, Darren Butt is the go to guy for New, Used, Trade in and Lease Sales, and Greg and Michelle Snoddon are the Port Perry/Lindsay Inventory and sales management team.



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