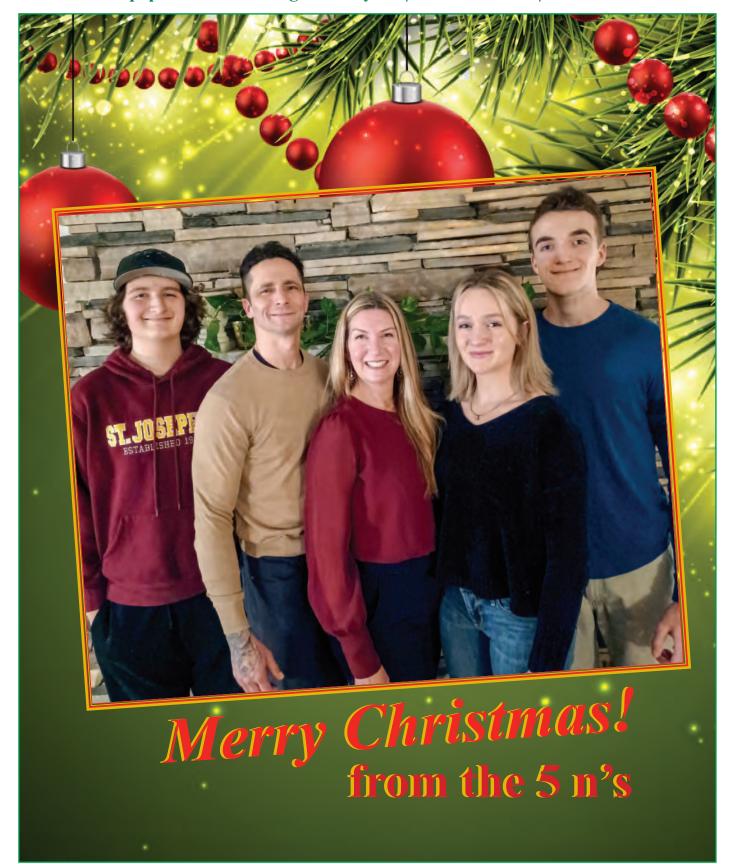


A newspaper with something for everyone | December 2024 | Volume 47 #12





AGcalendar

December 6th: Forage Focus Bus Tour

Ontario Forage Council is pleased to present 2024's Forage Focus: Hay As A Cash Crop. This year, Forage Focus is a day-long tour with stops at hay production hubs, where you'll learn more about the markets available to Ontario hay producers. **More details in the article on page 26.**

December 6th: North Simcoe SCIA AGM

North Simcoe Soil & Crop Improvement Association Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday, December 6th at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Elmvale. From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

December 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

Don't forget to book your Happy New Year greeting ad!

January 7th & 8th: SouthWest Agricultural Conference

Registration is open for the 2025 SouthWest Agricultural Conference! Pre-registration required by Dec. 9th. Topic Struggle Well presented by Colonel Mark Gasparotto, (Ret' d), Gasparotto Group. Topic 'What's it Worth?" presented by Greg Peterson.

Full details in the ad on page 10 and also available at https://southwestagconference.ca/swac1/swac-agenda/

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.

January 8th - 14th: 2025 Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Conference and Trade Show

Registration is open for the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Conference and Trade Show. The conference will be held January 8th to the 14th. Many fascinating speakers and presentations! Topics covered are beef, dairy, goat, sheep, horse, eco day and crops day! **Full details in the article on page 19 and in the ad on page 20.**

January 22nd - 25th: Guelph Organic Conference

Celebrating 44 Years of Growing Together 2025 Guelph Organic Conference!

Whether you're a farmer, producer, advocate, or just passionate about organic food, this event is your chance to be part of Canada's leading organic movement. Visit https://guelphorganicconf.ca/ for full details.

January 23rd: Essa & District Ag Society AGM

Essa & District Agricultural Society invite all voting members to attend the Annual General Meeting taking place on Thursday, January 23rd at Living Faith Community Presbyterian. **Please see the ad on page 27 for full details.**

April, May, June: Spring Auctions

Thinking of a spring or online auction? Have a look at the auctioneers ads in this issue and call to book ahead!

Ready for adoption!



Moose is a 2-year-old male Great Pyrenees He has been living indoors but also loves the outdoors. Unsure if he has met any livestock, very gentle and would prefer a home and not a barn. Has been good with female dogs, respectful kids and people. He is neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.

Contact Backstreet Paws info@backstreetpaws.com

Joy to the World!

With wishes for peace, joy and good fortune to you and yours at Christmastime, we'd like to say thanks for blessing our year with your friendship. Your support means so much to us, and we look forward to making new memories with all of you in the year to come.

From all of us at Charwen Farms, Merry Chrístmas & Happy New Year!

Feeding the Human Spirit – Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. Tim Henshaw

EastGen is pleased to continue celebrating the legacy of the late Dr. Tim Henshaw with this year's presentation of the Feeding the Human Spirit Leadership Award. The 2024 award was presented to Dr. Rob Swackhammer of Rockwood, Ont., by EastGen President Amanda Jeffs on November 5th during the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic show held at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, Ont. Dr. Swackhammer is a large animal veterinarian who owns and operates Upper Grand Veterinary Services with offices at Guelph and Arthur. Dr. Swackhammer is also known for his contributions to youth and 4-H such as performing calf health checks for EastGen youth shows and at the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic.

The award was created in 2023 to recognize a leader/men-

tor of agricultural youth who emulates the qualities of Dr. Henshaw. A skilled veterinarian, educator and communicator, Dr. Henshaw was highly respected for his integrity and widely known in the agricultural industry and beyond as a leader, mentor, and someone who inspired youth to challenge themselves. He was highly supportive of people throughout his community and recognized for his giving of self and generosity of spirit.

To quote one of his nominators for the 2024 award - "Rob's commitment to the future of the dairy industry is unparal-

EastGen is pleased to continue celebrating the legacy of e late Dr. Tim Henshaw with this year's presentation of e Feeding the Human Spirit Leadership Award. The 2024 vard was presented to Dr. Rob Swackhammer of Rockbod, Ont., by EastGen President Amanda Jeffs on Novemr 5th during the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic show

"Dr. Henshaw was highly respected for his integrity and widely known in the agricultural industry and beyond as a leader, mentor, and someone who inspired youth to challenge themselves. Tim used to say, 'Leaders help others not because it's their job, but because it's their purpose.' Dr. Rob Swackhammer embodies Dr. Tim's qualities and is a very deserving recipient of the award," said Brian O'Connor, EastGen General Manager.



From left: EastGen General Manager Brian O'Connor; EastGen President Amanda Jeffs who made the 2024 Feeding the Human Spirit Leadership Award presentation to Dr. Rob Swackhammer (centre); Jane Henshaw, wife of the late Dr. Henshaw; and their son Jarrett Henshaw.



Warmest Greetings! May this Christmas season warm your heart and home. Thank you for your patronage. Noordegraaf Construction

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On the Cover

Merry Christmas from the 5 n's! Left to right are Harrison, Shawn, Roslyn, Lillian and Trenton. — *Photo by Eli Noble*

Ad/News DEADLINE for the January Farm View is December 14th.

NERRY CHRISTMAS FROM HURON TRACTOR

From all of us at Huron Tractor, a sincere thank you for your valued support and our warmest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Check out our Kids Christmas Colouring Contest with Draw Prize! Submit by December 7.

Details at HuronTractor.com



FROM THE EDITOR

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! This December issue brings special Christmas stories, traditions explained,

achievements celebrated and warm greetings from many ad-

vertisers. Please take your time looking over the pages and

read the sentiments from the contributor's and advertisers.

a "Christmassy" frame of mind. One of my favourite mem-

ories of the December issue is the tradition that my parents

began as soon as they had grandchildren. Once Lily, my

daughter, and Brianna, my niece, were born my parents went

to great lengths to feature them on the cover of each Decem-

ber issue. I have been enjoying continuing that tradition with

my family as you can see from the cover of this paper. The

photo below, taken by my friend Anna MacLeod, in 2010

for the Farm View December cover, is certainly one of my

favorites. Looking at those precious smiles brings joy to my

I have enjoyed putting this issue together and getting into



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

heart and a smile to my own face.

My wish for all of you this Christmas is to celebrate with joy in your heart all the blessings this season brings!

Take care of yourselves and one another, Roslyn Watkins



Clockwise from left to right: Brianna, Santa (John Beischer), Mrs. Claus (Jill Beischer), Lillian, Trenton and Harrison.

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

8 Luella Blvd, Minesing ON L9X oW7 Phone (705) 722-0138 e-mail farmview@on.aibn.com

Visit us on the web: www.farmviewonline.com

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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$49.00 + 13% HST OFA Members \$45.00 + 13% HST

The publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement or for omitting to publish an advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issues or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisements.





January.

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

The Farm View is available at the following fine establishments

The meaning of

the candy cane

Turn upside down,

For Jesus who was

Turn it upright like

Who pleads to the

Father on your behalf.

At the top you'll see

The saving crook,

Used on lost sheep

He never forsook.

healed,"

The cane makes a "J"

Born on Christmas Day.

The Good Shepherd's staff

The stripes whisper softly

"By His stripes we are

His blood that was spilled.

And the red represents

The white gives us hope

White as snow they will be.

To become pure as He

By forsaking our sins

Now each time you see

Remember Dear One,

The striped candy cane...

That God knows your name.

New Advertisers

Corner

Introducing a new

Farm View advertiser this month:

Ducks Unlimited

Canada

Keep an eye out for

their ad and give

them a call or visit!

Please note the January

issue will be delivered by

mail as usual to farm

households but delivery to

local businesses will be

delayed to the first week of

ALLIANCE AGRI-TURF in Ivy, Bolton, Fenelon, Baxter and Lindsay BARRIE KOA (Seasonally) **BRADFORD GREENHOUSE Barrie** CHARWEN FARMS COLLINGWOOD FUELS COUNTRY CONCESSION QUILT STORE COUNTRY DEPOT DALSTON STORE DEREK'S DIESEL SERVICE INC. DOUBLE JB FEEDS FOODLAND in Cookstown and Elmvale FOUR CEDARS CAFE & CONVENIENCE **GIFFEN'S COUNTRY MARKET** HAMILTON BROS. HARRIS FARMS (Seasonally) HOLMES AGRO in Stayner and Orangeville HURON TRACTOR, Stayner KEVIN BARKER AUCTIONS in Lindsay McLAREN EQUIPMENT Phelpston NEIGHBOURS COUNTRY DEPOT NICHOLYN FARMS **ONTARIO STOCK YARDS** PEAVEY MART in Alliston and Collingwood PREMIER EQUIPMENT, Alliston RICHARDS EQUIPMENT INC. SOBEY'S in Angus, Bradford and Alcona 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.

OFA Members Service Representative: Leah Emms 1-800-668-3276 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: Mark Reusser: email: mark.reusser@ofa.on.ca

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Contact: peelfederationofagriculture@gmail.com		



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Celebrating Excellence in Agriculture



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

This month, I want to take a moment to celebrate the local agri-food businesses in the OFA territory that I cover (Peel, Simcoe, and York) that received the 2024 Ontario Excellence in Agriculture Award. These awards recognize outstanding achievements across eleven categories, with thirteen winners and sixteen honourable mentions this year.

A big congratulations to our friends at Farm & Food Care Ontario, who received the Minister's Award for their incredible work raising

awareness about food and farming. Their publication, The Real Dirt on Farming (now in its 6th edition), and events like Breakfast on the Farm twice a year have played a key role in connecting the public to the realities of agriculture.

Another notable winner is Operation Grow located in Midland, which took home the Workforce Excellence Award. This initiative helps women facing poverty, social isolation, and food insecurity by providing them with stable jobs in vertical farming. They grow fresh microgreens, lettuce, and herbs, and are making a real difference by improving the lives of these women through skill development, employment, and increased confidence.

Honourable mentions go to Sheldon Creek Dairy of Adjala-Tosorontio for Supply Chain Excellence, Remix Snacks Inc. in York for Youth Excellence, and Sunningdale Farms of Oro Medonte for Farm Family Excellence.

A big congratulations to all the winners for their hard work and dedication to making a positive impact in the agrifood sector!

I recently had the opportunity to learn about a great youth safety training program offered by the Ontario Federation of All-Terrain Vehicle Clubs (OFATV). This online program is designed for kids aged 12-15 and takes just two hours to complete, all for \$40. It covers everything young riders need to know to operate an ATV safely and is fully compliant with Ontario's regulations. As an added bonus, anyone who

registers by June 30, 2025, will be entered into a draw to win a new Can-Am Renegade EFI Youth ATV! To sign up, just visit their website at ofatv.org. It's a great opportunity for young riders to gain the skills they need while having fun and staying safe on the trails!

As we head into December and begin to celebrate the season, I'd like to take a moment to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas. May 2025 bring you health, happiness, and prosperity.

A special thank you to our members for choosing OFA as your general farm organization. It's been a pleasure working on your behalf this year, advocating for the agriculture and food sectors across the province. We look forward to continuing our work together in the year ahead!



KLH 4-H volunteer wins prestigious award

Article and photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Suzanne Barker is now amongst the select volunteers recognized by 4-H Ontario for the prestigious 4-H Ontario Arbor Award.

"I could hardly wait to be 12 years old to join 4-H. My friends were in 4-H and I heard all about the fun they were having," Suzanne remembers. She finally did reach 12 years old and found 4-H to be everything she heard about- and more. Suzanne was in 4-H until she aged out, at that point she signed up to be a 4-H leader in the homecraft clubs division. Suzanne continued in 4-H until she took a break while she began her career as a teacher, then wife and mother. Suzanne came right back as soon as she couldand stayed on as a Kawartha Lakes Haliburton 4-H leader for the next 35 years includLearn To Do By

Pictured above at left is Susanne Barker, holding a special handcrafted metal tree sculpture that was part of the prestigious 4-H Ontario Arbor Award. Suzanne has served for 35 years as a 4-H volunteer with Kawartha Lakes Haliburton 4-H Association (KLH). Also, pictured here is Edna White, KLH Secretary and Director of the Ontario 4-H Council.

ing co-leading with her late daughter, Melissa. She not only led Clubs, she has also been a local board director, committee volunteer and regional board representative within those 35 years of volunteering.

The best part of 4-H is the true motto, "Learn to do by Doing," Suzanne says, and she ought to know with 35 years of experience as a 4-H leader. "(4-H) Members learn so much- whether it be quilting or cattle or plowing. 4-H teaches skills for life," she says adding, "I love teaching kids new skills."

There was no other place to plant her tree than at the Lindsay Fairgrounds as this is almost Suzanne's second home as she is a volunteer with the Lindsay Agricultural Society (LAS). She began volunteering with the Fair in 1989 and worked at the 2024 Fair. She is part of the Agricultural Products, Ag Awareness, Homecraft and Ambassador Committees plus has been the President of the LAS twice. Suzanne is also the volunteer kitchen co-ordinator for the LAS. The LAS food booth is open for the Lindsay Farm Show and many of the other events that rent the facility throughout the year.

"Suzanne takes pride in everything she does and the (4-H) members smile when they hear she is leading a Club because they know they will have fun. She always makes youth feel positive by creating a warm and welcoming environment for youth and volunteers alike," said Edna White, Kawartha Lakes Haliburton 4-H Association Secretary, KLH alternate on the Regional Board and Director with the 4-H Ontario Council.

Edna adds, "I feel it is important to recognize Suzanne because she is a giver with a huge heart. Everything she does is for everyone else with no concern for herself."

There were over 100 people in attendance at the tree planting that happened at the Lindsay Fairgrounds



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 W W W . H O L M E S A G R O . C O M

Pollination biologist gives advice to protect bees

Article by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Dr. Susan Willis Chan is passionate about bees and agriculture.

Dr. Chan was the guest speaker at the October meeting of the Cannington Horticultural Society.

Dr. Chan is a pollination biologist with a background in agriculture and education. She is widely known for her work with wild pollinators and crops. Dr. Chan has a Ph.D. and M.Sc from the University of Guelph, a B.Ed. from Western University and a B.Sc in Agriculture from McGill University. She lives in Peterborough County on a property that is pollinator friendly. Dr. Chan is a strong protector of pollinator habitat.

"I love the bees," she confessed in her opening statements of her presentation, "Where Wild Meets Cultivation: How Wild Pollinators Feed You."

The movement of pollen is essential for fruits, seeds, vegetables, oils and animal fodder production. The common pollinating agents in North American Human Food Systems, according to Dr. Chan, are "wind and insects."

The #1 pollinator in Ontario is the bee. There are 3,500 species of wild bees in North America and about 450 of these species live in Ontario.

The wild bees fall into different categories. One category is sociality, some bees are solitary and some are social. Social bees are like honeybees, they live together in large colonies. One well known social wild bee is the bumble bee. Solitary bees live alone such as the "Carpenter Bee" that likes to live in wood.

According to Dr. Chan, most bees nest on the ground. She said, "70% of wild bees nest in the ground."

Farming is not the biggest negative impact to the bee population today. New housing that is being built on farmland is what is destroying so much natural bee habitat. Dr. Chan said, "When the (housing) development starts, all the trees are taken out. All the top soil is taken away so the building can begin- and that eliminates all the bee habitat there is," she says. She added "after the houses are built, people move in and put in trees and some put in pollinator gardens to bring back the bees."

The key point in taking land from farming into housing is that, she said, "farm land taken over by housing means we never get it back into farming".

Today's farming practices are actually better now than before, "less deep plowing and no-till really are beneficial to bee habitat," Dr. Chan said showing a slide of corn field full of flags. The corn field was last year, a pumpkin field that naturally attracts a big population of ground nesting Hoary Squash Bees. These Squash Bees nest in the ground and each flag represented where a nesting bee was. With today's farming practices, these underground nesters can thrive.

Squash bees are solitary nesters. The females produce one generation of about five offspring in one year. The females make small burrows in the ground making individual nest cells complete with food. These cells are safe homes for the offspring as each cell contains pollen that sustains the developing bee until they can emerge above ground.

A question from the enthusiastic audience that gathered in the Cannington Baptist Church meeting room, asked the pollinating bee expert about how to be kind to the bees in the spring. Dr. Chan explained on her 10 acre property, there are places she wants "neat and tidy" but she purposefully lets other places be natural. She explained that, for example, instead of clearing away all old raspberry canes off the property pile them up in a place that is not in the way- and let them sit to be natural bee habitat.

"Please do not dig into the ground deeper than 8 inches to protect the bees (in Ontario). If we stay above 8 inches, the bees can live. Nesting bees live 8-40 inches underground," she said.

Crop pesticides especially impact ground nesting bees

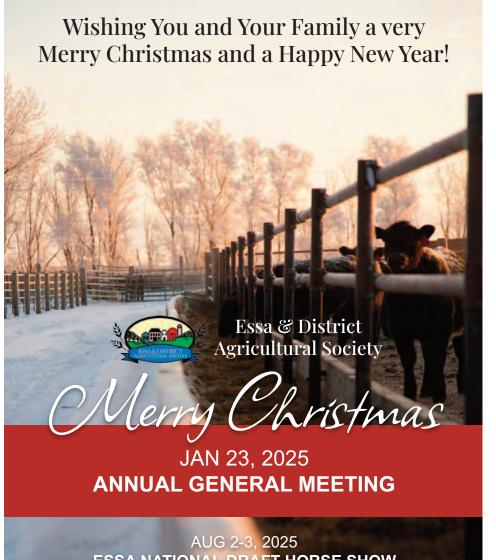
like the Hoary Squash Bee. An extensive, detailed field study that had funding from the Ontario government and Fresh Vegetable Grower's Association that took over three years to complete had the following results. Using the pesticide, imidacloprid, a team that included Dr. Chan, saw the effects to the wild bee population. In this study a crop was planted and manufacturer practices were followed, the crop was treated with the pesticide. It was found there were "85% fewer nests" and later, there were 89% less offspring than in fields that were not treated with imidacloprid.

No pesticide is put on to crop lands without a justified reason- and Dr. Chan said she understands this. There are however, some pesticides that are far more damaging to the bee population than others and these should be first choice as pollinators are critical for human food and animal fodder production.

The Common Eastern Bumblebee is a native of eastern North America. It lives in colonies of about 450 bees. The mated queens overwinter in the ground. It is among the top five species at risk from the effects of agricultural pesticides.

"If you see a bumblebee- rejoice," Dr. Chan advised.





AUG 2-3, 2025 ESSA NATIONAL DRAFT HORSE SHOW AUG 21-24, 2025 BARRIE FAIR As the season of giving draws near, we're grateful for the hardworking farmers who keep our fields and communities thriving. Just like you, we're here to dig deep, lay strong foundations, and prepare for the future.

HOLIDAY WISH FOR YOU

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D.L.G Excavation & Trucking Rob 705-331-5371 dlgexcavationandtrucking@gmail.com

Elmvale, Ontario

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) has a new office!

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario recently moved into a new head office in Ingersoll, Ontario. This milestone marks a pivotal moment in CFFO's 70-year history of representing Christian farmers across Ontario—both in advocating before government and in fostering the incredible fellowship that happens when Christians come together.

This new office will be a hub for advancing the Christian voice in agriculture—advocating for policies that impact members, providing support and strengthening shared faith.

The CFFO extends a warm invitation to members, as well as the agricultural community at large, to drop in for a visit, say, "hello," see the new space, enjoy a cup of coffee, or take a moment to learn more about CFFO's history. You will be warmly welcomed!

The office is located at 274620 27th Line, (Zorra Township), Ingersoll, Ontario.

Business Hours: Monday to Friday: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Visitor Hours:

Monday to Wednesday: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Thursday and Friday: By appointment

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is a professional organization dedicated to supporting family farm entrepreneurs across Ontario. As an Accredited Farm Organization, we advocate on behalf of our members, providing expert advice to the provincial government on policy solutions that address a wide range of agricultural and rural issues.



Pictured in front of the new CFFO office are the Executive Board and Staff, left to right: Mackenna Roth (staff), Suzanne Armstrong (staff), Sandy Kursis (Director), Tom Diemand (Director), Frank Hoftyzer (Vice-President), Ed Scharringa (President), Henk Vaarkamp (Vice-President), John Van Dyk (Director), Ian Greydanus – Director, Bethanee Jensen – Director & Treasurer, Tom Tavani (staff) and Paul Bootsma (staff).





In the whirlwind of life, with its relentless

pace, distractions and what seems to be a con-

tinuously faster pace of passing time each year,

I think it is a great time to write about the

practice of reflection as a beacon of under-

standing, appreciation, hope and gratitude as

we approach another year ending. I have wit-

nessed firsthand the transformative power of

this practice as I am sure many of the readers

have as well. It is common for us to reflect on

our businesses, yields and what our future

goals embody. I want to touch base on the

power of reflection from a spiritual perspec-

tive. It is more than a simple pause; it is a

journey inward, an intentional practice of con-

templating one's thoughts, actions, and experiences. This self-examination allows for per-

sonal growth, alignment with higher values,

Reflection holds intrinsic value as it invites

individuals to create space for mindfulness

and introspection. The 19th century philoso-

pher Soren Kierkegaard once said, "Life can

only be understood backwards; but it must be

lived forwards." This insight captures the spirit

of reflection, a process of looking back helps

guide future actions and decisions. No better

reflectors then the farming community think-

ing back on the growing season: the successes,

the struggles, and the lessons. Finding wisdom

and strength to sow better for the future. If we

take this concept internally to reflect on your

spiritual successes, struggles and lessons, it

helps us all find insight and depth to sow your

and the cultivation of inner harmony.

Soul Sisters Celebrations The Reflective Spiritual State

spiritual needs.

In a reflective state, individuals acknowledge their thoughts without judgment, fostering a sense of acceptance and reducing inner turmoil. Through honest introspection, individuals can identify patterns, strengths, and areas for growth, empowering them to make conscious and meaningful changes in their lives.

Spiritual reflection nurtures a deeper connection to oneself and, for many, a higher power. Whether it's through prayer, meditation, or contemplative practices, this inward journey creates a sacred space where one can seek guidance and listen to their inner voice. Rumi, the 13th-century Persian poet and mystic, beautifully expressed this notion: "The quieter you become, the more you are able to hear." Being aware of the many hours several of you put in connected to your land, often solo quiet hours, repetitive movements in chores or managing fields, I am sure you already have reflective practises, and you use the time to turn inward and connect with the God of your understanding.

Spiritual reflection can be especially grounding and enriching. For those that may need a bit of guidance on how you can incorporate spiritual reflection into your routines I will start by suggesting connecting with nature. Some of us are uniquely positioned to observe and interact with nature daily. If you are not in that position, take a few minutes at dawn or dusk to appreciate the beauty and cycles of the earth can foster gratitude and a sense of spiritual connection. This time spent quietly can be an opportunity for mindfulness and reflection on the interconnectedness of life.

The changes of the seasons are natural markers for reflection. As we approach winter, it is an ideal time to review the successes and challenges of the past year and set intentions for the new cycle ahead. This practice mirrors the pause and renewal seen in nature and allows everyone to draw lessons and inspirations for the future. Writing down experiences, thoughts, feelings, and lessons learned during each phase of your personal growth can elevate your progress.

Use guided meditation and prayer. Incorporating moments of silent prayer or guided meditation during work breaks or dedicated reflection time can help center yourselves and seek peace, especially during stressful times. This practice can renew a sense of purpose and align with your spiritual beliefs. There are several free guided mediations online and some that you can subscribe to. The Calm app is a great place to start if you are uncertain.

For those new to the practice of reflection, here are a few simple yet effective suggestions to start integrating it into daily life. Setting aside dedicated time, asking guiding questions and being patient and compassionate to yourself are great places to start. Begin by finding a quiet space and dedicating time for spiritual reflection. Early mornings or evenings work well, as they provide a natural pause in the day. Time is precious and seems to speed up the busier our lives are so the key is to just start. Start by dedicating one reflective time into your day or week and then build on that as you see the value in your spiritual health. Ask yourself some guiding questions to get started "What did I learn today?", "What brought me joy?", or "How could I have handled a situation differently?" These questions encourage thoughtful and honest responses. I also want to remind you to be patient and compassionate with yourself. Reflection can sometimes bring up discomfort or highlight shortcomings. Approach yourself with kindness, recognizing that growth is a continuous journey and often requires us to go through the discomfort. Recognize that some days it's ok not to push yourself and that eventually you become much more comfortable with your reflections

I will leave you with these last thoughts for 2024 as we navigate our way into the New Year. Incorporating the practice of reflection into one's spiritual routine can lead to a more balanced, thoughtful, and enriched life. As the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius once advised, "By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest." In embracing reflection, we choose the noble path to deeper wisdom and harmony with ourselves and the world around us.



JOIN US

N-PERSO



SouthWest - Agricultural - Conference

JANUARY 7 & 8, 2025

University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus

SWAC In-Person Registration closes December 9th, 2024 WORKSHOP: Fine Tuning Planters – Pre-Registration Required

Struggle Well - Jan 7th ONLY

Colonel Mark Gasparotto, (Ret' d), Gasparotto Group

syngenta

"What's it Worth?" - Jan 8th ONLY

Greg Peterson/Machinery Pete

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REGISTRATION OPENS: November 1st, 2024

Walkerton Family Receives 2024 Mapleseed Sheep Pasture Award

Steve and Lisa Ernewein and family of Meadowbook Family Farm in the Brockton/Walkerton area are the recipient of the 2024 Mapleseed Sheep Pasture Award. The award, sponsored by Mapleseed, the Ontario Forage Council, and Ontario Sheep Farmers, was presented at the Ontario Sheep Farmers Annual General Meeting in Cambridge. For their exceptional pasture management while running a highly involved multi-faceted enterprise, Meadowbrook Family Farm received a cash award of \$250 and a bag of forage seed, courtesy of Mapleseed.

The Erneweins' Meadow Brook Family Farm operation includes approximately 1100 ewes in total. More than 800 ewes make up the meat flock which are Dorset/Rideau cross. They also milk more than 300 British Milksheep/Lacaune cross ewes for their milk production. On the grazing cycles the dairy herd is always grazing the highest quality portions of pasture out of the approximately 240 acres of grazing area. They are not organic certified but use "organic practices." The meat flock is on a year-round accelerated lambing syllabus, lambing 100-150 per month. The dairy generated 50,000 liters of milk this year and the goal is to take that to 100,000 liters over the coming year. The Angus/Limo beef operation

is utilized as part of the dual species parasite control in conjunction with clean and safe grazing practices.

Steve says, "Never say never, and never say always!" In context this "mantra" is what drives progress at Meadowbrook Family Farm.

In reviewing this nomination, Scott Fisher, Western Ontario Sales Manager with Mapleseed said, "The crew at Meadowbrook have a lot going on, and that alone endorses the need for finite husbandry and care, which includes movable fencing, species diversity and intense pasture management."

"Meadowbrook Family Farm is an excellent example of a self-sustaining pasture ecosystem," said Patricia Ellingwood, General Manager of the Ontario Forage Council. "The Erneweins carefully manage each element to benefit the whole operation. They are truly stewards of land and flock!"

Nomination deadline for the 2025 Ontario Mapleseed Beef Pasture Award is November 30, 2024.

Decorative candles can result in fire

By Dennis Gannon



Do you enjoy candlelight? It can be soothing, peaceful and sometimes romantic. During the holiday season the use of candles increases as they are used for decorative purposes. They

also are the cause of numerous fires. There are many different types and colours to enhance the desired mood and affect. But are candles safe? Like any product that has a flame they can be if used properly but if not, there is the possibility of damage and injury.

So what steps should you take to protect yourself? Battery operated candles are the best option. They range in size from tea lights to pillar size. Flip a switch and they flicker and glow for hours. If you forget about them they won't burn down and eventually the battery may run out. This is the best option and the safest. If you decide to use a candle with a live flame then follow these tips. First, extinguish a candle if you leave the room or retire for the night. Use well ventilated candle holders that are sturdy and will not tip over. Avoid wooden or plastic holders, as these can catch fire. Always use caution with glass candle holders, which can break when they get too hot. Take the time to trim the candle wicks to a height of 5-7 mm before lighting the candle. Then trim them again every 2-3 hours to prevent high flames. If you are burning candles with more than one wick take extra care. Avoid buying candles with multiple wicks that are close together. Never drop objects, like matches, into candles. This can cause additional flame and possibly damage. Burning candles should be kept out of the reach of children and pets and away from other combustible objects like drapes or other decorative items especially those made of paper. Teach children that candles are not toys and that the flame can cause burns and injuries. If using decorative oil lamps with a flammable liquid fuel, keep the fuel locked away, out of sight and reach of children. If you think your child has swallowed liquid fuel, contact your nearest poison control centre immediately. While there are many inexpensive candles on the market, make certain that they do not have a wick with a metallic core which may contain lead. Lead can be harmful especially to children and pregnant women.

The holiday season is a wonderful time of the year and one that should be enjoyed by all. Take the opportunity to enjoy it with your family and friends but remember to keep fire safety at the forefront. Consider the many advantages of using a battery powered candle as your first choice.

Should you need more information contact your local fire department and they will be happy to assist you. Happy Holidays! Season's Greetings Wishing you & yours a safe & happy holiday season, as well as a prosperous and healthy new year! We would like to thank everyone for your continued patronage of Kevin Barker & Greg Snoddon Auctions. We all look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Thanks! Kevin, Greg & Staff

Kevin Barker & Greg Snoddon Auctions Ltd. 705-878-2947 Kevin 705-934-9611 Greg 705-328-1478 B

Meet the Farmer: Steven Rotiroti, Mushroom Farmer and **Co-owner of Holburne Mushrooms**

Growing gourmet mushrooms is recycling

There is a strong possibility that Shiitake (pronounced shh-talky) mushrooms bought recently from your local grocery store were actually grown at Holburne Mushrooms Inc that has its head operation farm located in Queensville.

Holburne Mushrooms is one Canada's biggest shiitake mushroom producers- and it all began with a hardworking new Canadian.

Moving from Italy in the 1960's, Paolo Furlano worked in Toronto during the week in the construction industry as a bricklayer and on weekends, at a mushroom farm to support his growing family. He continued working both jobs for close to 20 years- and then found and bought a small mushroom farm operation near Queensville. Neighbor Giovanni Collella joined in as a business partner and together they became independent mushroom farmers specializing in the common type of White Button Mushrooms.

In 2003, Paolo had sudden health concerns and had to slow down dissolving the business partnership. In 2005, he was feeling much better- and he decided to go back into full business again and this time in partnership with his son, Nick Furlano. Together, the father/son made the decision to move into gourmet mushroom farming specializing in shiitake and oyster mushrooms as these were highly sought by chefs in upscale food establishments.



In one of the five fruiting rooms at Holburne Mushroom Farms these mushrooms are grown on artificial logs that simulate nature. The logs are produced and incubated in Pickering, ON then moved to the farm in Queensville where they are placed in climate controlled fruiting rooms. The mushrooms are misted and watered by hand to simulate rainfall. The mushrooms double in size in 24 hours and are ready to be picked one week later. -Photo by Diana Robichaud

Holburne Mushroom Farm Ltd. found a huge market for gourmet mushrooms. The business began by shipping 300 pounds of fresh mushrooms per week in 2005. Today, the market has grown to an incredible 50,000 pounds a week sold coast to coast in Canada. The next two generations, Paolo's son, Nick and his daughter, Tonia Hebert are now owners along with their nephew, Steven Rotiroti. Grandfather Paolo is still active in the business- and is proudly watching the success of his family with Holburne Mushroom Farms that now also employs 31 people.

"When I was a kid, I remember hearing (at family gatherings) about needing more and more and more mushrooms to meet the market," Steven remembers, adding that in 2012 another farm had to be added to the operation- and several more have followed that.

Mushroom farming is actually "vertical farming," he explains. Vertical farming is the practice of growing crops in vertically or horizontally stacked layers. This practice often contains no soil and is climate-controlled and is now becoming a trend especially in urban settings. Mushroom farming has been vertical farming since it began in the 1950's, he says adding that all his family's mushrooms are grown indoors in climate-controlled buildings.

"We are the ultimate recyclers," Steven says explaining that Holburne mushrooms grow into compost that is 100% recycled. This compost is all made from unwanted leftovers. "We use sawdust from the lumber industry and leftover bran from the flour mills. We take these byproducts and make it into compost and then from that compost, produce mushrooms," he explained. After harvest, the leftover used compost is again recycled and sent to farmer's fields to be used for fertilizing crops.

The fact the family's organic mushroom business is so kind to the environment- and the fact mushrooms now are considered healthy superfoods to eat on a constant basis could well be factors in their success. There is though, another huge reason that there is a massive and still growing demand for gourmet mushrooms in Canada today. The growth for mushroom consumption can be linked directly to multiculturalism in Canada.

"Multiculturalism means that we have many cultures in Canada including people from Asia, India and eastern Europe that are accustomed to eating the kind of (gourmet) mushrooms we grow here. Many eat mushrooms every day,' Steven explains adding that Holburne mushrooms are now shipped across Canada, Nova Scotia to British Columbia, every week and often several shipments per week.

The biggest challenge for today's farming, is "adapting

to new technology for work on the farm," Steven says. He adds that those 50,000 pounds of harvested mushrooms sold weekly from his family's farm are "handpicked every single day" because there are no other options. As of now, there is little automation available that works specifically for mushroom production. There are technical advances working on options to mechanize but it is slow coming because "there are not enough young people in agriculture now to get the interest needed to make technical advances happen fast," he said.

Holburne Mushrooms Inc. is a name you might soon see on packages in the local grocery store. Currently, much of the fresh, organic mushrooms are sold wholesale, re-packaged and then sold to the consumer. The future plan is to do some re-branding and sell under the family banner that could well make Holburne Mushrooms a household name.

Holburne Mushrooms can be pre-ordered and picked up directly from the farm as explained at the website: www.holburnemushroom.ca



Tim Blommesteyn pictured above, is a grower at Holburne Mushrooms Inc. In this photo Tim was giving a thorough and knowledgable explanation of the fruiting rooms and the types of mushrooms grown at Holburne Mushroom Farm during this past East Gwillimbury -Photo by Roslyn Watkins Farm To Fork Tour.

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Story by Cathy Hamill-Hill

South Simcoe 4-H shows at the 102nd Royal Winter Fair

Reports and photos submitted by South Simcoe 4-H

South Simcoe 4-H Sheep Club

By Tyler Lange

On Saturday November 9th 2024 South Simcoe 4-H Sheep Club showed off their skills at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Our very own Youth Leader was the Royal Ambassador even. Great job Lauren.

Club members had a lot of fun and learned a lot this year in 4-H thanks to our amazing leaders, volunteers and parent's for their support throughout this year. Be sure to check the South Simcoe 4-H website for updates and more news about South Simcoe. See you all next year for another fun filled year.



In the photo above are South Simcoe 4-H members and lambs that showed on Saturday November 9th in the Junior Sheep Show at the Royal Winter Agricultural Fair. The members had a great time and would like to thank the organizers and sponsor Ontario Sheep Farmers for making this year fantastic.

4-H Ontario Provincial Go for the Gold Competition By Isabella Cullen

As some of you may know our South Simcoe Go For The Gold 4-H club won region 4 which South Simcoe 4-H hosted at the Alliston Christian Reformed Church in the summer. On Saturday November 2nd the team competed at the Royal Winter Agricultural Fair for the 4-H Ontario provincial competition! Our girls studied hard and kept studying till the first game, they even studied in the pool at the hotel the night before and did laps if they got a question wrong.

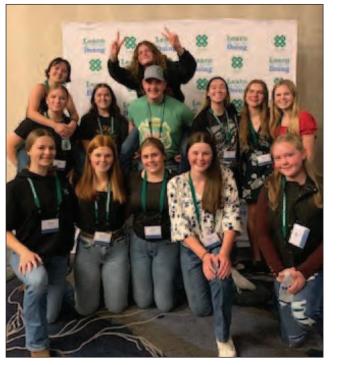
Our first game ended in a loss by 5 points but that didn't phase our team, we came back with a tie, 2 wins and a loss in the last game. The results of the 2024 go for the gold competition were as follows: Leeds Region 2 6th place, Sudbury Region 1 5th place, Durham West Region 3 4th place, South Simcoe Region 4 3rd place, Oxford Region 6 2nd place and Huron Region 5 Champions for 2024.

On behalf of our South Simcoe 4-H Go For The Gold team we'd like to congratulate all the teams on their efforts and hard work. Although our team didn't win, I can safely say we all had fun and were proud to be representing South Simcoe 4-H! Congratulations to our team members: Isabella Cullen, Krysta Downey, Brooklyn Downey, Milana Palmateer, Nicole Palmateer and leaders: Tamara Fisher-Cullen, Trish Downey, Kim Kolb on our third place finish.

Big thank you to Ontario Mutuals for sponsoring this amazing and educational event. Big thank you to 4-H Ontario volunteers and employees that were involved in making the 2024 Go For The Gold Ontario Provincial event memorable.



4-H Impact Conference



Simcoe County 4-H members attended the 4-H Impact Conference which was held October 18th, 19th and 20th in Oakville, Ontario.

4-H Canada's Members Forum



Simcoe County had 4-H members attending the 4-H Canada's National Members Forum November 2nd - 7th at Oakville, Ontario. This event has been offered to 4-H members since 1931.

Royal Winter Fair 2024 South Simcoe 4-H Youth Rabbit and Cavy Event

On Sunday November 10th at the Royal Winter Agricultural Fair South Simcoe 4-H had three members showing their rabbits in the Youth Rabbit and Cavy Competition. Nicole Palmateer was third in



showmanship and second with Pecan her rabbit for confirmation. Milana Palmateer was fourth in showmanship and third with Jumanji, her rabbit for confirmation. Milana's rabbit Jumanji was third in the open class for confirmation as well. Anna Kamminga was sixth in junior showmanship. They all did a wonderful job representing South Simcoe 4-H answering numerous questions that the crowd and viewers had.

As we celebrate our 35th year of working with you, we extend our sincerest thanks for being part of our journey!



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The Reunion By Joyce Ernyes

Barcelona International was teeming with pre-Christmas activity. Consumed with anxiety, Sister Catalina jostled her way as close to the arrivals gate as possible. Her black and white habit would be her only identification for the person she was meeting. She clutched the cross hanging from her neck as it had always given her strength, and if she ever needed strength, it was now.

She knew very little about the man she would soon meet and even less as to his appearance. She knew only that he was arriving from Nairobi and would be accompanied by a priest. How extraordinary, she thought.

While scanning the faces of arriving passengers her reverie took her back to another time, some forty-five years prior, when she was fifteen years old and her name was Isabella. She had been so in love with Juan, a boy of seventeen who had a smile that lit up her world. Despite their strict Catholic upbringings, teenage passion had consumed them, resulting in conception.

Fearing the dire consequences if her parents learned of her pregnancy, Isabella confided her predicament to the parish priest and subsequently, to his sister, Lucinda. They assured her that she was not the first young girl they had helped in a like situation.

Father Roberto and Lucinda had quickly arranged a consultation with her parents. The narrative was such that, with Isabella's final school year coming to an end, a work opportunity was available to her in Barcelona, albeit a significant distance from the family home in Valencia. With seven younger children to care for, her parents were receptive to the idea. Father Roberto was careful to relay the information as truthfully as possible. He rationalized, that under the circumstances, he would be forgiven for omitting a few details.

All had gone as planned and several months later Isabella gave birth to a baby boy.



Adoption had been arranged with a suitable family in another city. She eventually joined an order of Catholic sisters leaving her past behind, including her name.

Sister Catalina had never forgotten her son. She had held him briefly after his birth and had kissed his tiny forehead where she observed a small port wine birthmark on his temple.

In the recently received correspondence from the man she was about to meet, who proclaimed to be her son, he had mentioned the birthmark. After reading the words repeatedly she had pressed the letter to her heart and silently prayed, "Please may this not be a cruel joke."

As her thoughts reverted to the present, she observed two men walking towards her, one clothed in priest attire. The other, the younger of the two, bore a striking resemblance to Juan.

Approaching her respectfully, the priest asked if she was Sister Catalina. Unable to speak she nodded her head. He introduced himself and then, motioning toward the other man he said, "May I present His Most Reverend Excellency, Alejandro Diaz, Bishop of Nabura, Kenya."

The younger man smiled as he stepped forward grasping each of her hands in his. For several years Bishop Diaz had used all of the resources available to him in order to find his birth mother. As he looked down at her upturned face, he had no doubt that he had found her.

Still unable to find words, Sister Catalina could only gaze in disbelief at the man holding her hands. There, on his left temple, was the small birth mark she had kissed on the day he was born.









Best wishes to our watershed friends & neighbours. Have a happy & healthy holiday season!

Healthy Watersheds • Healthy Communities



The end of the year brings no greater joy than the opportunity to express to you Season's Greetings and good wishes.

> May your holidays and New Year be filled with joy!



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Label your projects and celebrate the work you do

By Janis Hamilton

By the time you get your latest issue of Farm View News, your Christmas may be in full swing. I hope it is enjoyed with family and friends and you have lots of time for laughter, love and cherished memories.

How are your Christmas projects coming along? I hope you are having great successes no matter what you tackled.

I attended the ROM in Toronto for the Artistry of Quilts in Canada exhibition. The display featured very rare Canadian quilts from the 1800's. What a lesson on fabric! Often the maker of the quilt was not known but they could tell how the fabric was made by the approximate age of the quilt. One of the quilts was a memorial quilt from Toronto's Casey House, a special hospital caring for people living with and at risk of HIV. Princess Diana visited this hospital when she toured Canada. The featured quilt shown here was Northern Night 1956 by Ada B. Torrance, Simcoe County. If you wish to see some of the quilts as the exhibit is now over visit https://www.rom.on.ca/en then go to exhibits and it will scroll through some of the quilts at the top of your page.



So with the calendar about to change, what will you decide to make on your sewing journey? One main take away from this exhibit is to put on a label on all your work. Your name, city, pattern or original design, who did the quilting and year of course. If it's for a special reason, put that as well. "Graduation, retirement, wedding etc." Celebrate what you did and the details will make it so special in years to come. I found some old quilts on my husband's side of the family. No one knows who made them or when and they are very special but to have the details would have really helped cemented the family connection. You can get someone to embroider one on with an embroidery machine, or if you like hand work be creative, do it on your ink jet printer and add appropriate art. A winter quilt might have snowflakes in the border or a graduation might be pencils. I use my ink jet only printer and use sheets from Avery # 3384 (5 sheets 8.5 x 11") I can usually get 4-6 labels out of one sheet, so I wait and do them all at once as you can't put a cut piece of paper into your printer again or at least mine won't accept it. Also, Printed Treasures has 5 sheets and again they can either be sewn on or iron on. There are ways to iron muslin onto Steam a Seam and make your own sheets, but it's fiddly and you have to make sure the sheet is exact or your printer will not print the label.

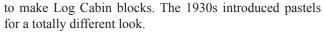
Does your creativity need a boost? I hope to give some ideas for projects...how about learning the history of your favourite quilt block and then making the block. If you research enough you'll soon have a quilt and then know all about why the names were chosen.

Here is one thanks to a friend's suggestion, but there are hundreds or thousands of quilt blocks.

Log cabin: Log Cabin blocks usually start with a square. Strips are added around the square, often with two sides being of lighter fabrics and the other two sides of darker prints. A red center square was thought to symbolize the hearth of the home, and a yellow center was believed to represent light shining through the window.

In the latter part of the 19th century many Log Cabin quilts were made using fabric scraps that were popular during that time including silk, velvet, wool, and satin. Because the fabrics were of different weights, they were difficult to sew together. Quilters started using a foundation, usually muslin, to sew pieces together to make blocks. When it came time to sew blocks together to make a quilt top, the thickness of the blocks and foundation made quilting the tops difficult. Some quilts made during this time did not have batting, again because of the thickness, and many were tied instead of quilted.

As we moved into the 20th century, gray, indigo, and claret along with plaids were fabrics that quilters were using



Depending on the orientation of the blocks and the placement of the dark and light sides, names for the Log Cabin setting can include Sunshine and Shadow, Streak of Lightning, Barn Raising, Straight Furrow, Chevron, and Straight set. The way you lay out the log cabin will create such fun if you are willing to experiment either on your design wall or I use the floor and keep moving the blocks until I'm happy with the design. I find taking a photo of the work will help you find any errors (block wrong colour at the bottom). If you also do it black and white it will easily show you the values of your colour choices before you cut your fabric out. A medium value may look much darker in black and white on your Ipad or your phone setting.



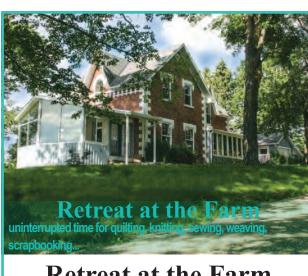
Pictured at left is a quilt I made through our guild. The panel I designed.

C on s i d e r searching for a bit of Black History coming in February before the month creeps up on fascinating and

you. The Underground Railway Quilts are fascinating and filled with history worth researching. Lots of patterns and information on google for you to research. Again, you could make blocks and before you know it a quilt would be ready. I've listed just a few below for your interest. You may be interested in In the book Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad, by Ozella Mc-Daniels Williams.

An Underground Railroad Quilt would have hung on the clothesline of someone on the underground route trying to give safe instructions to the slaves hoping to find freedom. I hope you have fun exploring and you will be ready for February and Black History Month. Happy Quilting.



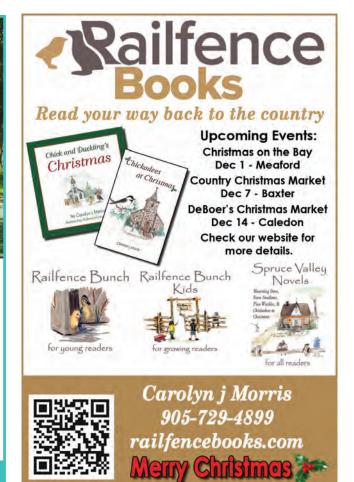


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Investing in the future of our environment with TD Tree Days

The Nottawasaga River Watershed has an additional 800 native trees and shrubs thanks to TD Tree Days and the 130 volunteers who planted them at three community planting events held this Fall.

On September 7, 45 volunteers from TD and NVCA planted 150 trees and shrubs near Little Lake Park in Barrie. Two weeks later, on September 21 at the Whitetail Refuge Nature Reserve in Mono Center, NVCA hosted another TD Tree Days event where 50 volunteers came out to help put 400 trees and shrubs in the ground. And on October 19, another 40 volunteers came together to plant 275 trees along the Ganaraska Trail in Creemore.

This much needed restoration was made possible with the help of the volunteers and the support of TD Tree Days," said Sarah Campbell of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), who organized the planting events. "These events are a great way of engaging our local community in the restoration of natural habitats in our watershed."

The newly planted 800 trees and shrubs will create wildlife habitat, provide shade

which will help to cool water temperatures, and will naturalize the landscape. The trees also act as a buffer to filter excess nutrients and pollutants before rain or snowmelt reaches our rivers, streams and wetlands.

TD Tree Days provides TD employees an opportunity to demonstrate environmental leadership in their local communities. Since TD Tree Days launched in 2010, over 520,000 trees have been planted nationwide. This year, volunteers will help plant 30,000 more at various events hosted across Canada and around the world.

"We were excited to continue working with TD Tree Days this year and look forward to working with them in 2025," added Ms. Campbell.

NVCA is booking now for 2025 tree planting and stewardship projects. Landowners that are interested in planting trees and shrubs along streams or wetlands on their property can contact NVCA at 705-424-1479 to arrange a site visit and learn about available funding. Volunteers interested in tree planting and other environmental projects should visit http://www.nvca.on.ca to learn more.

when all around us some have next to

nothing? Sure, Christmas is about children

and there are few things as special as wit-

nessing their big smiles while opening

presents on Christmas morning - that is

the magic of Christmas and giving to those

we love can bring us joy. What about the

rest of us? Haven't the holidays gotten

out of hand? What happened to family,

friends and giving to those in need? The

holidays are more commercialized every

I guess I'm a hypocrite. I too will be

buying for my family but I will also be

doing my part to help the sick, the hungry,

the homeless, the lonely and the down-

trodden. After all, Christmas is still the

season of giving and there is no greater

of only one thing - the need to help oth-

How are you helping others over the

So, this Christmas I hope that you too

joy than to help those in need.



Agricultural Anecdotes from **Farmer Tim**

vear.

So what do you want for Christmas?

My daughter Abby recently texted me and asked me that very question. For the first time in my adult life, I can honestly say that there is absolutely nothing that I really want for Christmas and definitely nothing that I need - not even cheese! (I can't believe I said that).

I drove into town today to do some holiday shopping for my family. As I stood in line at the check-out I couldn't help but feel a bit of sadness and a touch of guilt. I looked around and saw shopping carts full of items and peoples' arms balancing stacks of gifts. At the entrance, people kept their heads down as they passed the Christmas kettle. Out the window, an older gentleman dressed in grubby clothes and carrying a torn backpack limped by and I didn't think about him again until I saw the same man crawl into his tent just off look inward and find that you are in need to the side of a snowy road during my drive home at the edge of town.

Why do we do it? Why do we feel the need to buy and buy and buy some more

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

ers

holidays?

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

Mortgages for those who don't meet the banks approval process exists

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Ontario-Wide Financial is ready to help you

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 es-



tablish 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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After The Chores: **Turkeys and Highlights**

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Christmas is coming- and turkey time it will be again. Turkey farmers are one special group of people. Turkey farmer time here was at Thanksgiving.

Sweetie gets his turkeys in June. Nobody ever asks about turkeys in June or any time in the summer or even in the fall. Meanwhile, Sweetie has to book in their "vacation" date and pour a lot of money into feed for these turkeys that at this point, have no buyers.

I was at the Woodville Salebarn and saw young turkeys sell for a pitiful \$28 each. The auctioneer Charlie even explained that a day old turkey costs \$10 each. He, in my opinion, worked especially hard to attempt to get the bids up to something reasonable though the buyers just were not interested. Nobody wants turkeys in late September.

It was getting tense here too in late September. Sweetie had 16 turkeys. He ordered 15 and he even raised the extra "free" one. It was made even worse when one sold was no longer sold because the buyer now had checked in with his wife who wanted a specific small size.

A week before Thanksgiving I got a call late one evening asking about turkeys. Sweetie was quite excited- but then we heard nothing more back.

It was the eve of the turkey vacation meaning the Wednesday before Thanksgiving weekend that we heard that the evening caller did have people wanting turkeys. Sweetie also had sold turkeys from his work that day. My family wanted the "biggest" turkey for someone they knew. Sweetie had to make a list and after writing all the names down, he said NO more turkey sales or we would not be eating turkey this year at all.

These 16 turkeys are now important with all these people counting on them to plan a special meal around. The stress level is sky high as there is only one window of time to get those turkeys in. We just cannot think about what would happen if the old truck blew its motor on route or if we both woke up sick on Turkey morning. I was woken up at 4:45 am by a worried turkey farmer that just had to get started on this day.

I think all turkey farmers feel the same as the line up at the processor site was so long we were just barely off the road into the lane that was full of waiting trucks and trailers. We got there at 6:20 am. Workers were still arriving and were having quite the time to get squeezed in past the long line of trucks.

We sat in our truck until 9:25 until finally it was our turn to offload 16 turkeys. If we were on a moving plane, we could have been in Newfoundland in this time. No one got angry and no one complained that I saw. The wait was to comply with the rules that turkeys must be transported in large containers

where they can spread out their wings. This means turkey farmers have to use trailers or build huge carriers for the turkeys. Turkeys have to be put "on the line" versus leaving them behind in crates so with 600 turkeys coming in that day, there is no other way but to wait. Rules are rules in this province that keeps us with a safe, healthy food chain and keep us waiting on Turkey morning.

When we sit around the roasted turkey at Christmas, we have to give thanks to that turkey farmer for having all that turkey patience.

2024 is coming to a close- and what a year it has been with so much happening compared to the pandemic's silent years. I do appreciate each of you that take the time to read this column each month. Some of vou even take the extra time to tell me you read this- every single comment has made that day special. I also appreciate all of you that reached out to invite Farm View to events, as I always say, "First I need to ask Roslyn, she's the Boss and one of the nicest people EVER."

Here are a few highlights of 2024 that I feel were extra special and I hold as memories of a wonderful 2024 directly because of Farm View.....

"You got a picture last year of my Cousin. That picture is on Nana's fridge." (From Schomberg Fair in May)

The Innocence of a Child moment:

"Is EVERYONE in the WORLD going to see this picture of us?" (from Bracebridge Fair in September)

I'm so grateful to be working with sweet Roslyn here at Farm View moment:

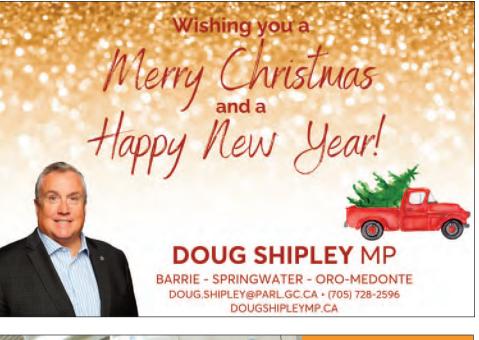
Background: I was getting a picture set up of the 2024 Fair Ambassador with her Rooster Contest container and have ribbons in the background in my slow, picky way. An important looking person with identification around his neck came over and asked me exactly what I was doing and why. I explained. He responded with:

"Oh, Farm View. That is fine. Farm View is a GOOD one. Enjoy your day here." (from the Coldwater Fair in September)

I wish all of you reading this a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2025 with good health, happiness and good prices on sale days.

God Bless you all.







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Christmas blessings to all!

Grey Bruce Farmers' Week returns for its 59th consecutive year in 2025!

Grey Bruce

RMERS

This annual conference and tradeshow will be held inperson at the Elmwood Community Centre or can be livestreamed from your home between January 8th and 14th 2025. Attendees should note that GBFW will take place a week later than normal this year, and in order to avoid conflict with other conferences, Crops Day will happen Monday January 13th while Ecological Day will be held on Tuesday January 14th, 2025.

Organizers look forward to seeing producers, agribusiness professionals, and industry experts gather together once again. There is no better way to beat the 'winter blues' and build excitement for the new year, than by enjoying good company, a good meal, and learning the latest on your industry at a conference like

GBFW!

The GBFW committee would like to thank the local agribusiness community for their strong sponsorship and exhibitor support. There are currently 120 businesses or organizations registered to support various days in terms of sponsorship or tradeshow exhibition. If produc-

ers are looking to make connections in their industry, GBFW'25 will be an excellent opportunity for doing so! It should be noted that the conference could not run without the support of these groups, and organizers hope that producers might consider that support while making some of their purchasing decisions throughout the year.

As mentioned, GBFW'25 will once again be available for participation in-person or through a livestream. In addition to the daily presentation agendas, all participants can access pre-recorded On-Demand presentations plus recordings of the proceedings in Elmwood, from home for thirty days after the event wraps up. The nineteen On-Demand recordings span topics related to all days of GBFW plus general interest presentations.

As always, a stellar crew of service group members local to Elmwood will be preparing their famous roast beef dinner each day. Local goat and lamb will be served on their respective days, and pies will be abundant on the buffet style table. Afterall, what is a farm meeting without a bountiful spread at noon?!

The program is looking strong as ever in 2025. Highlights include:

Beef Day: Dr. Jordan Thomas, Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri will be presenting Replacement Heifers: Hiring the Right Employees

Dairy Day: Dr. Albert De Vries, Professor from the University of Florida will be presenting Longevity in Your Dairy Herd, and Maggie Van Camp, CEO of Redcrest Farms and Director of Strategic Change for Loft 32 will be presenting Communication, the Grease Gun of Succession

Goat Day: Dr. Andrea Mongini, Partner in M&M Veterinary Practice, (Denair, CA) will be presenting Artificial Kid Rearing: Nutrition and Management for Optimal Results, and Goat Milk and Everything in it: The Science and Nutrition behind Milk Components

Sheep Day: Peter Delbridge, Chair of the UK's National Sheep Association and Farmer/Owner of Blindwell Farm, Exmoor, will be presenting Sheep Farming in the UK, from

a Farm and National Perspective Horse Day: Steve McConnell, Farrier, will be presenting Hoof Mapping: If You Know What is Correct, You Will be Able to Recognize What is Wrong

Crops Day: Odette Menard, ing. et agr., Soil Health Consultant at Action Semis Direct will be presenting Maintain, Improve and Maximize Soil Health

Through Affordable and Efficient Practices and Mark Robinson, Storm Chaser for the Weather Network will be presenting Changes in the Weather: Farming in a new Climatology

Ecological Day: Odette Menard, ing. et agr., Soil Health Consultant at Action Semis Direct will be presenting Maintain, Improve and Maximize Soil Health Through Affordable and Efficient Practices

Many, many more excellent speakers fill out the schedules for each day, as well as panel discussions covering (by order of the day they appear) Setting Up Calves for Success, Longevity in Our Herds, Virtual Goat Farm Tour, Finishing Lambs for the Processor, Controlling Tough Weeds, and Pastured Pigs.

Livestreaming tickets must be pre-purchased online. It is recommended that attendees purchase in-person tickets online as well but for those unable to do so; cash, cheque and debit will be accepted at the door. Ticket sales will open in early December.

If you would like more information about Grey Bruce Farmers' Week's program or tickets you can go to their website: www.gbfw.ca, or contact the organizers directly by emailing info@greyagservices.ca or calling 519-986-3756. Don't forget to follow the event on social media too! Twitter and Facebook: @GBFarmersWeek, Instagram: @GB_FarmersWeek, #GBFW24.



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The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair considered the largest indoor agricultural Fair in the world Article and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair known as The Royal

is an annual event like no other. It is considered the largest

indoor agricultural Fair in the world- and it is held right

within the city of Toronto on the grounds of Exhibition

The Royal is 102 years old- and it is still recognized as

The fact the Royal is within Toronto offers city people the chance to see where food comes from. The Royal puts a

lot into education that is taught by actual farmers educating thousands of students that come to the Fair. There is so much here including milking cow and milking goat demonstrations, sheep shearing, spinning, a petting farm and many

cooking demonstrations all throughout the full 10 days of

the event.

The Royal offers so much

to see, from pigeons to

pumpkins. There are oppor-

tunities to buy unique prod-

ucts like honey wine and

smoked fish from Manitoulin

about 300,000 people on av-

erage over 10 days, the Royal

remains popular- many of us

can hardly wait until it begins

again next year.

With an attendance of

Island in northern Ontario.

one of the most important shows of the year for livestock exhibitors. Lots of tears, hugs and flashes from cameras are involved when there is a win because this is where often the most prestigious shows take place. For the huge horse shows and cattle shows, there are often international visitors ring-



The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is a place to find new food experiences. Above is Elise Carlson, Store Manager for Lost Meadows Apiaries & Meadery from Egbert. She was super busy selling Mead. Mead is an alcoholic beverage made by fermenting honey.

Place.

side.



Above is Robbie Taylor from Amherstburg, located near Windsor, showing pigeons. He races his pigeons in about 10 races a year- and loves it. He was inspired by his uncle to try the sport. He has imported pigeons for their racing genetics from Scotland. He says that the first race of the young bird season is about 100 miles and it increases to about 400 miles at the end of the season as the birds gain experience. It is not unusual for a pigeon to fly at average speeds of 50 miles per hour.

This is Gwendolyn Barlow who had the opportunity to enjoy a "Country comes to the City" moment while holding a Lionhead Rabbit owned by Kathryn Cooper of Cooper's Falls. Gwendolyn came to the Royal Winter Fair with her grandparents, also from Toronto.



This giant pumpkin was on display at the Royal Winter Fair. This pumpkin weighs over 1,000 pounds and was grown by Norman Kyle of Ennismore.

Registration Fees

For in-person or livestreaming:

\$50.00/day (incl. HST) \$120/3 days

Beef Day - Wednesday January 8th Dairy Day - Thursday January 9th Goat Day - Friday January 10th Sheep Day - Saturday January 11th Horse Day - Sunday January 12th <u>Crops</u> Day - Monday January 13th <u>Eco</u> Day - Tuesday January 14th 9:00 am - registration & tradeshow Time of adjournment varies each day

Visit www.gbfw.ca for more details and to pre-register

Questions? Contact us at info@greyagservices.ca, 519-986-3756

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook @GBFarmersWeek & Instagram @GB_FarmersWeek #GBFW25



Conference & Tradeshow Celebrating 59 Years Jan 8 - 14, 2025 Attend In-Person

Elmwood Community Centre, 38 Queen St. W, Elmwood ON

Or via the Livestream

Conference content will be available to all ticket holders (in-person or livestream) for one month following the event. (Livestreamers can purchase the full week for \$180) Pre-registration is required to secure livestreaming tickets and is encouraged for in-person tickets. Go to www.gbfw.ca to pre-register.

(processing fees apply) For those attending in-person who cannot pre-register online, fee is payable by cash/cheque/debit at the door. Includes a hot roast beef dinner,

(goat and lamb also served on their respective days).

Don't miss the chance to network with fellow producers and agribusiness representatives in the tradeshow daily.

Some sessions are CEU accredited.

Premier Event Sponsor:



December 2024 FARM VIEW Page 21

Tasty fundraiser to preserve history!

By Roslyn Watkins

The 2024 Soupalicious fundraiser held at the Utopia Hall was a fun and lively event for all who participated. Even before stepping into the Utopia Hall on Nov. 16th my son, Trenton, and I were greeted by the incredible aroma of what was cooking inside. For \$15.00 guests were welcome to try as many samples of the 10 pots of soup available. And once favourites were chosen, guests could purchase a jar to take home for \$5.00. Many preserves and snacks were also on sale, with all proceeds going to the restoration of Bell's Gristmill.

Susan Antler, one of the fundraisers coordinator's shares "Special thanks are extended to Cookstown Greens, Fox's Bakery, Marric Gardens as well as Rural Roots Nursery and Market Garden for generously donating their delicious locally-grown veggies and great baking for our soup-er event."

To learn more about the restoration of Bell's Gristmill please visit http://www.utopia.on.ca/gristmill.htm or follow the group Friends of the Utopia Gristmill and Park on Facebook.

Simple Squash Soup

Story and photo by Roslyn Watkins

Marric Gardens located in Stayner, Ontario, was one of many businesses who donated food/produce for the recent Soupalicious fundraiser held at the Utopia Hall. I was gifted a Hubbard squash from their farm at the end of the event and once home began my re-



search on how to prepare this formidable looking vegetable. It didn't take long to decide to make squash soup in honour of the Soupalicious event.

Ingredients

1 Hubbard squash (1/2 used for this recipe), split and seeds removed, 3 tablespoons olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon pepper, 500 ml vegetable broth, Pinch nutmeg and 1/3 cup 35% cream

Method

Preheat oven to 400°F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Cut squash in half if ripe enough, or place in clean bag and drop on the ground to crack the skin. Place halves on the baking sheet, brush with a few tablespoons of olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake until the squash is tender, about 40 minutes.

Remove from the oven and let rest until cool enough to scoop the flesh from one half and place in a soup pot, scoop the other half and place in a freezable container to make another batch in the future. Add the broth and puree using an immersion blender until smooth. Heat over low heat adding a pinch of nutmeg, taste and add a little more salt or pepper if required. Stir in cream and enjoy!



Soupalicious volunteer Mike McCann, far left, took a quick break to say hello to Terry Dowdall, MP Simcoe-Grey and visit with Susan Antler (coordinator of the fundraiser) and Roslyn Watkins, publisher, Farm View, far right.



Guests of Soupalicious were entertained by the musical band Throwback. They are described as performing "Songs you haven't heard in ages." At right in the photo above is Wayne Nichols (guitar & vocals) and Steve Lang (bass & vocals) to the left.





From my family to yours, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, very Happy New Year and successful growing season in 2025!

MPP Dunlop Announces that Governments are Strengthening the Local Food Supply Chain in Simcoe North

The Biosecurity Enhancement Initiative (BEI) will support 365 projects across the province through an investment of up to \$7.5 million. Funding will help farmers, food processors, and other essential farm-supporting agribusinesses protect their operations against disease, enhance operational resilience and improve public trust in our food supply system.



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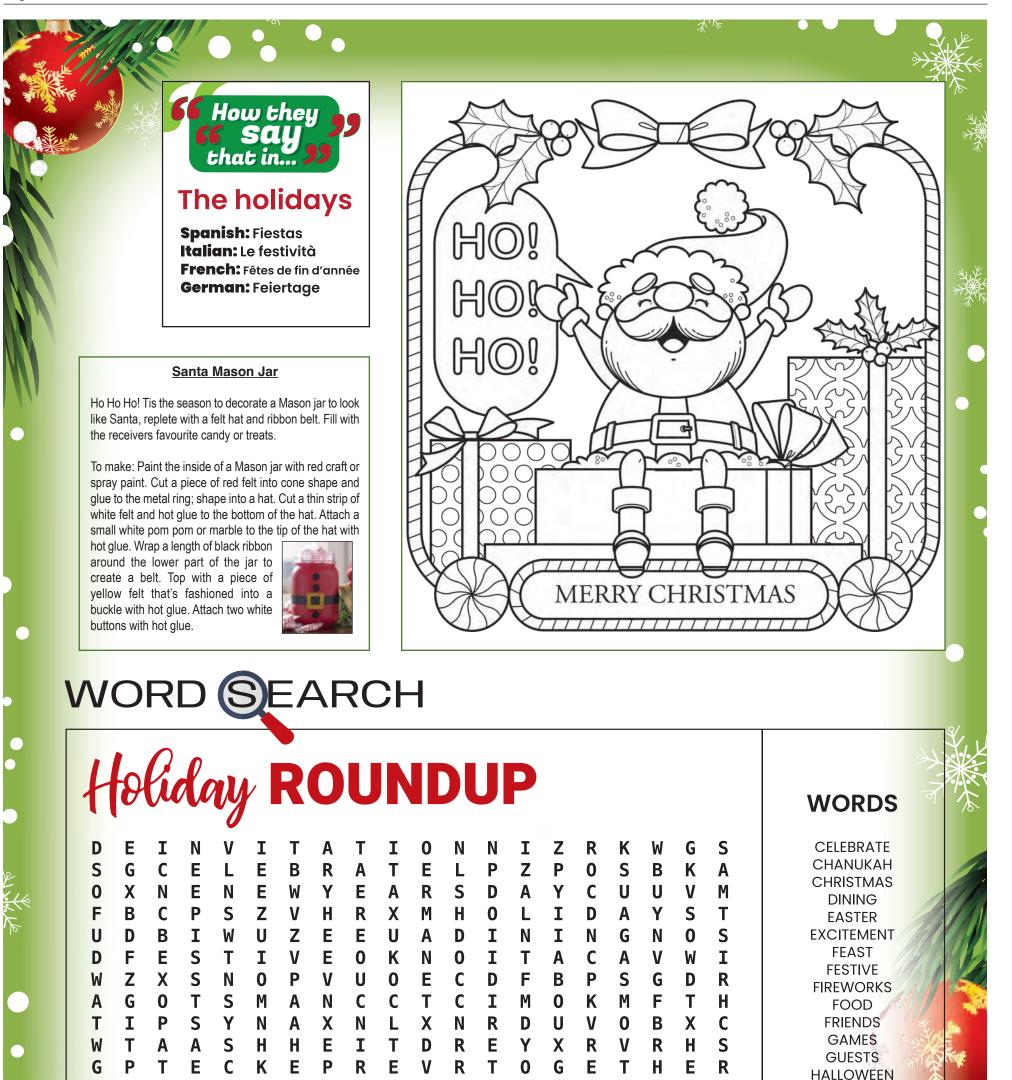
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Wishing all of our Buyers & Sellers a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year Looking forward to a great 2025 auction year!



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Thank you to our sponsors and attendees for making the 2024 Dufferin Farm Tour a great success!

The 25th annual Dufferin Farm Tour was a roaring success! There were more than 1500 people visit the five Dufferin Farms; Sky Ridge Clydesdales, Vanderveen Farm, Deaksview Holsteins, Moritz Farm and Holmes Agro. The cash value of food and cash donations to local food banks was over \$13,000!



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 Image: Statute of Agriculture

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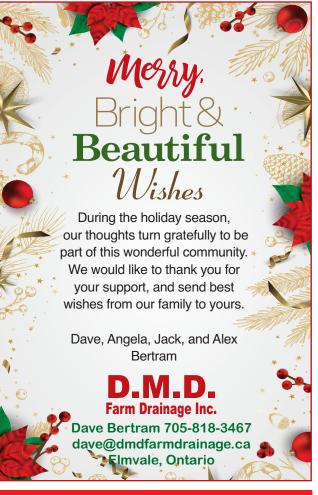


We wish you a day of joy, a season of cheer, and health and happiness throughout the new year!

From everyone at the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture It has been a pleasure serving you in 2024!







DALSTON STORE



The Yule log; An age-old European tradition



The crackling of a log on the fire, the hearth draped with fresh greenery, with people gathering around to bask in the glow and share in their merriment is as It all barkens back

part of the popular imagery of Christmas. It all harkens back to the ancient Christmas tradition of the Yule log.

An age-old European tradition that, like so many others, found its way to North America, the Yule log is a hardwood log that is burned in a fireplace over the course of several nights.

The word Yule comes from the Old Norse word 'jol', which refers to midwinter. It's believed that Norse and Germanic pagans may have burned a log at midwinter festivities to represent divine light and the hope that long, dark days of winter would soon give rise to longer days of spring.

Eventually, when the Norse and Germanic settlers of Britain converted to Christianity and their language helped inform the Anglo-Saxon tongue, Yule became a word for Christmastime. The celebratory burning of a log was similarly adopted and became a Christmas tradition.

Different cultures tended to

prefer different woods for the Yule log. In England ash or oak was preferred, in Scotland birch. In France, the wood of a fruit tree was considered ideal. Generally, the log had been felled to dry the previous Candlemas (Feb 2). Bringing the log home was ceremonial in nature, with much singing and jubilation. Often colorful ribbons were tied to the log.

Originally, Yule logs were large. Some were six feet or more, cut to fix in the massive hearths of manors and castles. Even the smallest would have been several feet long because they weren't intended to put in a fireplace in their entirety.

The crackling of a Instead, only one end of a log was placed in a fire, where it burned for one night. The log was removed before it could be entirely consumed.

The following evening, the log was again placed in the fire and more of it allowed to be burned. This continued for twelve days, the 12 Days of Christmas, which represented the number of days before the baby Jesus was seen by the Three Wise Men (or Three Kings).

In some cases, it was believed that the log must be lit with the remnant of last year's log. There were drinks to celebrate the lighting of the log.

In France, the Yule log was known as bûche de Noël ("Christmas log"). Around the 17th century, the burning of an actual log was supplemented by the tradition of eating a cake that looked like a log. By the time that sponge cakes emerged in the 19th century, the burned of real Yule logs was going out of popularity and bûche de Noël was more likely to refer to rolled sponge cakes iced to resemble a wooden log.



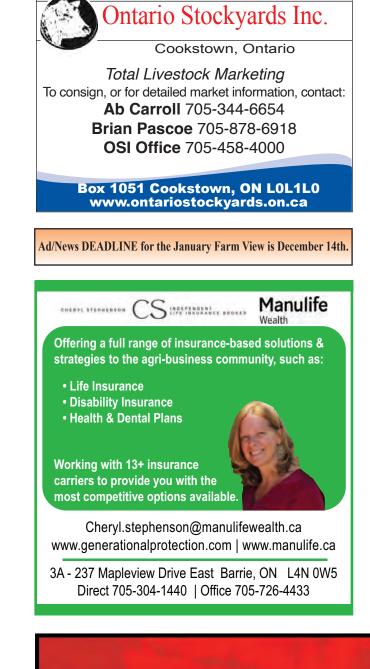
The Yule log was imported to North America, where traditions evolved in their own unique directions. In Newfoundland, for example, the man of the house would go outside and discharge a gun to announce the event. In the southern United States prior to the Civil War, slaves would be given a holiday for as long as the log

burned. Slaves would surreptitiously pour water over the log to ensure it remained wet and therefore burned longer, giving rise to the expression that a piece of wet has 'as much water as a Christmas log'.

Around this same time the Yule log had become part of the general tradition of building a log fire at Christmas, its superstition and symbolism largely forgotten.

And Christmas continues to evolve, with virtual Yule log fires played on television screens now a part of holiday festivities.





Worth a Chuckle...

bv Aunt Hazel

Misunderstandings:

Two men were discussing popular family trends on sex, marriage, and family values.

Bill said, "I didn't sleep with my wife before we got married, did you?" Larry replied, "I'm not sure, what was her maiden name?"

A little boy went up to his mother and asked: "Mom, where did my intelligence come from?"

The mother replied. "Well, son, you must have got it from your father, cause I still have mine."

"Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully," the divorce Court Judge said, "And I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week."

"That's very fair, your honor," the husband said. "And every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself."

A doctor examining a man who had been rushed to the Emergency Room, took the wife aside, and said, "I don't like the looks of your husband at all."

"Me neither doc," said the wife. "But he's a great cook and really good with the kids."

The graveside service just barely finished, when there was a massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder rumbling in the distance.

The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, "Well, she's there!"



MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE



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news from your farm community? Send us your pictures and reports and we'll include them in the next issue. Be sure to include a contact name and number. email us at **farmview.on.aibn.com** see page 4 for more contact information

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Forage Focus theme; Hay As A Cash Crop

The Ontario Forage Council (OFC) is pleased to announce that Forage Focus will be happening on Friday, December 6th, starting at 9:30am. This event is being held in conjunction with the Canadian Forage & Grassland Association's (CFGA) Annual Conference being hosted in Guelph this year, and will serve as the popular post-conference tour.

This year's theme for Forage Focus is Hay As A Cash Crop.

The day will begin in Gorrie at Marcrest Hay Storage to look at the hay dryer and an innovative hay storage facility. Attendees will then get to tour the Marcrest Manufacturing facility where the Bale Baron is manufactured. After lunch, the tour moves on to Marhaven in Drayton for a look at the Chinook hay dryer and the hay press. At this location there will be a panel discussion with some of the big names in the Ontario hay markets about the opportunities available for hay producers. This is an excellent opportunity for those looking to expand their operation, as well as those thinking about

getting started with hay production.

A trade show will be held in the afternoon at the Marhaven location.

Forage Focus is a FREE event but registration is required. Lunch will be provided for attendees, courtesy of Marcrest Manufacturing.

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

For more information about Forage Focus: https://onforagenetwork.ca/ontario-forage-council/forage-focus/

To learn more about the CFGA Annual Conference, Roots to Success – The Foundation of Resilient Agriculture: https://www.canadianfga.ca/en/events/conference-2024/

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Annual General Meeting

All Voting Members of the Essa & District Agricultural Society are invited to attend the 2024 AGM.



Thurs January 23, 2025 6:30 PM

Living Faith Community Presbyterian 206 Murphy Rd, Egbert, ON (County Rd 21)

RSVP by January 16 EssaAgriplex.ca/members

705-726-1200 | admin@essaagriplex.ca

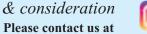
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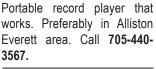
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