

Since 1977

FARMVIEW

A newspaper with something for everyone | January 2025 | Volume 48 #01

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After the Chores columnist Cathy Hamill-Hill receives an unseasonal surprise. Read about the baby lambs on page 13.

Soul Sisters Celebrations

The Power of the Helpers

Happy New Year to the wonderful community of readers. December has been a busy month. Lots of laughs, prepping and planning for the holidays. We've had lots of blessings and few lessons reminding us to help others when we are blessed and to always look for the helpers to keep highest faith in humanity in the lessons or challenging times. People who offer their support, whether they are friends, family, or even strangers, play a vital role in navigating life's challenges. When times are tough, it is often these compassionate individuals who bring light, hope, and healing, helping us remember that we are not alone.

The actions of helpers cannot be overstated. They may not have the solutions to our problems, but they offer something more valuable: their presence, their kindness, their time and their willingness to help. It is their actions that make the difference. "The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." Oscar Wilde.

Helpers come in many forms, and each offers a unique gift. Some provide practical support, offering help with daily tasks, giving advice, or stepping in to alleviate burdens. Others bring emotional support, offering a shoulder to cry on or a space for us to share our worries without judgment. Spiritual helpers, too, offer peace and guidance, reminding us that there is more to life than the current moment and that we are part of a larger, interconnected whole.

One of the greatest gifts that helpers provide is a sense of connection. In times of isolation or fear, their support reminds us that we are part of a community. Whether that community is made up of close family and friends or people we encounter by chance, the sense of belonging that helpers offer can be transformative. In a world that often emphasizes individualism, it is the helpers who show us the beauty of collective strength, reminding us that we are stronger together.

Helpers around us are often the first signs of grace. Recognizing them isn't always about seeking large, grand gestures. Sometimes, it's about noticing the small acts of kindness, the neighbor who checks in, the colleague who offers words of encouragement, or the stranger who shares a

smile when we're struggling. These moments, though fleeting, remind us that there is beauty and love in even the darkest corners of life.

It's important to be open to receiving help. Allowing others to help is an act of trust and vulnerability. It is an acknowledgment that we are human, that we are not invincible, and that there is strength in receiving as much as there is in giving. In doing so, we not only lighten our own load but also allow others to experience the joy and fulfillment of serving.

When we have the opportunity, we can also choose to be a helper to others. Life is full of moments where we can offer a kind word, lend a hand, or simply be present for someone else. Being a helper, even in small ways, can be a profound experience. It doesn't always require grand gestures; sometimes, the most meaningful help is as simple as listening or sharing a moment of empathy. When we extend our support, we create a ripple effect of kindness, showing that no matter how small the action, it can still make a world of difference.

In offering help, we also grow spiritually, for it allows us to step outside of ourselves and connect with others in ways that nourish both parties. It's in these acts of service that we find purpose and a sense of shared humanity. "When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." Maya Angelou. The act of helping, especially when we can, brings us closer to the essence of love, compassion, and unity that transcends any challenge.

As we journey through life, it is the helpers, both those who support us and those we support. Often reminding us of the essential qualities of love, compassion, and empathy. They teach us that in the face of hardship, we are not alone, and that kindness can be the balm that heals even the deepest wounds. Let us be grateful for the helpers, both near and far, who embody the light we so desperately need, showing us the way through service to others and when we can, may we also choose to be that light for others.

Keep shining bright!

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

SOUL SISTERS CELEBRATIONS

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

Corny jokes...

Can February March?
No but April May.

Why was 6 afraid of
7?
Because 7 8 9.

Why do you have to
be careful with
sunrises and sunsets?
Because day breaks
and night falls.

Which kind of house
weighs the least?
A lighthouse.

What's full of holes but
holds water?
A sponge.

What are two things
you can't eat for
breakfast?
Lunch or dinner.

What's round and bad
tempered?
A vicious circle.

AGcalendar

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

January 7th & 8th: SouthWest Agricultural Conference

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

Full details available at <https://southwestagconference.ca/swac1/swac-agenda/>

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 can be found at <https://www.greybrucefarmersweek.ca>

January 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the February issue of Farm View is Tuesday, January 14th.

January 22nd - 25th: Guelph Organic Conference

Celebrating 44 Years of Growing Together 2025 Guelph Organic Conference!

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. Call 705-726-1200 for information.

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Local prize winning lamb a tasty treat for Collingwood Food Bank clients

Story by Cathy Hamill-Hill, photo by Roslyn Watkins

Supporting a known local farmer and giving people a treat of Ontario raised lamb is what is behind a generous donation to the Salvation Army Food Bank located in Collingwood.

Tim Prior is the owner of Brussels Agri-Services, a business dedicated to farming, supplying fencing needs and livestock handling equipment along with a retail farm store. The business is located in Huron County. Tim and his wife, Donna, believe helping others especially at Christmas with food needs is very important and Food Banks need to be supported.

“We like to support the sheep industry and especially those that go to the Royal Winter Fair for the market lamb classes,” Tim said.

This year the 2nd place winner in the Southdown Market Lamb class at the Royal was a homebred entry owned by Garry and Karen Milne of Twyla Brae Farms from Simcoe County.

“I have known Garry for years, he’s a great guy. I asked to buy Garry’s lamb to support Garry as a local sheep farmer. He had a group of lambs going (to the abattoir) for his (direct sale) customers so asked him to take this market lamb also and give it to a Food Bank in his local area,” Tim explained.

The market lamb was a purebred Southdown and was a member of the flock of Southdown, Dorset and Charollais of the Twyla Brae Farm. Twyla Brae is Gaelic for “Evening Hill”.

The flock owner, Garry explains, “Tim and Donna paid a premium price for this lamb- and also covered all the processing costs.”

The processing was done at Grey County Meats, located in Maxwell. “I had a booking date made a year ago as that is how it is here in the Fall. Grey County Meats does a real good job,” Garry explains adding that there were special instructions with this order. The wrapping was made for two people with two lamb chops per package and one pound burger packages. This gave the Food Bank better options for dividing it for smaller households with two people and easily being able to double it for larger households. The finished lamb had a weight of 50 pounds.



Garry Milne of Twyla Brae Farms in Simcoe County is pictured above (centre) with the donation of his prize winning lamb. The lamb was purchased by Tim Prior of Brussels Agri-Services with the intent of donating it to a local Food Bank. On hand to receive the lamb were (at left) Major Calvin Collins and to the right Beryl Collins.

Ontario lamb production cannot fill the Ontario lamb demand and therefore, lamb has to be imported to meet consumption rates. Ontario lamb is highly sought after especially for Easter and Christmas markets.

Premier Equipment expands John Deere dealership through acquisition of Hutchinson Farm Supply of Stouffville, Ontario.

Premier Equipment, a multi-store John Deere dealership serving southwestern Ontario, has come to an agreement to purchase Hutchinson Farm Supply effective January 31, 2025.

Hutchinson Farm Supply celebrated 60 years of business in 2024, serving agriculture and rural property owners in the northern and western parts of York and Durham regions.

“It has been a pleasure providing John Deere equipment and service to our customers for so many years,” says Bob Armstrong, General Manager of Hutchinson, who has been the dealership owner since purchasing it from founder Keith Hutchinson in 1986.

The addition of Hutchinson’s is the first acquisition for Premier Equipment since it was formed in 2011. Over the past decade Premier has focused on improving its ability to support customers. Modernizing facilities, increasing parts capacity and service capabilities along with specialization in key areas like precision agriculture has positioned Premier well to expand operations.

As part of the transaction Armstrong is announcing his retirement. “I am very thankful for my staff, proud of the business, and grateful for the opportunities we’ve had to support farmers and the community. I have a lot of respect and appreciation for the team at Premier, and I am excited for what the future holds for our team and the customers we serve,” says Armstrong.

“We intend to build on the foundation of service and dedication that Bob and his team have established over the last 60 years,” says Allan Dueck, President of Premier Equipment. “We look forward to the opportunity to share resources and the potential for growth that being part of a larger dealership brings for staff and customers.”

Premier Equipment intends to assume operations with existing staff and facilities on February 3, 2025 - subject to all necessary approvals and final due diligence.

To learn more visit premierequipment.ca



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FROM THE EDITOR



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

Happy New Year! As I write this the sun is shining and it gives me a feeling of a brighter year ahead. With the hope that our society's concerns will be taken seriously and addressed and our future and our children's future will be brighter and better. It never ceases to amaze me that even in times when we all have our worries about the state of our Country the kindness and altruism we extend to one another still shines through. There is a

definite theme to this January issue and it is the generosity of those surrounding us. Soul Sisters Celebrations' article on page 2 kicks us off with the subject of Helpers. Recognizing the people in our day to day lives who offer small acts of helping to improve our mood or workload. Reverend Erin also guides us along on how we can become Helpers. Something that comes naturally the more you do it. This is followed by articles covering donations made to many worthy charities and the gratitude the recipients experience.

On pages 8 and 9 there are a few winners listed from the recent Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The categories and winners were vast, we chose just to highlight a sample of the results, all of which are available at <https://www.assist-expo.ca/results/rawf/> Congratulations to Farm View reporter Cathy Hamill-Hill for her win in the Rabbits - Utility: Satin category.

January is a special month for our family as we celebrate my husband's birthday. There is a birthday announcement on page 19 for Shawn. If you see him in your travels please wish him a very happy birthday. Shawn is certainly a Helper, whether it is in his personal or work life, Shawn strives to make a positive difference in the lives of everyone he meets.

I wish all of you the best for 2025, may you discover new adventures!

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

Cover photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill.

On the cover is a 3 day old Dorset ewe lamb born in December when usually this flock and the shepherd are not expecting lambs. Sheep have naturally strong hearing and she is listening to her Mom telling her to get back to the flock. Read Cathy Hamill-Hill's article about these unexpected lambs on page 13.

**Agricultural Anecdotes
 from
 Farmer Tim**

So, do cows really lay down before it rains?

Cows have lots of amazing superpowers like turning grass into milk but predicting the weather isn't one of them. However, there is a bit of truth in the myth. Just before a rain, there is usually a low front that comes in. This brings cooler air so cows tend to lay down to conserve heat by exposing less surface area. In hot weather, they tend to stand more and expose more surface area to get rid of excess heat. Cows are very susceptible to heat stress so that's why farmers usually provide cool shady barns with fans and sprinklers to keep them comfortable and lying down as much as possible. Happy cows are productive cows. Now you know!

A friend once told me that they lay down together to "keep each udder warm"!



Farmer Tim farms in Southern Ontario and has been sharing his stories through social media for many years. Tim is quoted saying "All farmers need to get their stories out there and have fun while they do it!"

New Advertisers Corner

Introducing the following new Farm View advertisers this month:

- Marshall W. Driver Cremation & Burial Service
- Kristy's Tax Services & Bookkeeping
- McGuire Fencing Limited

Keep an eye out for their ads and give them a call or visit!

Farm View is available at the following agricultural businesses.

- 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.

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**In memory of
 Jill Beischer**

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

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

W.J. Bryan

OFA Members Service Representative:

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

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:

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OFA Zone Director for Dufferin County:

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By Leah Emms
OFA Member Services Rep.
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The global uncertainty surrounding Y2K had everyone on edge, as experts scrambled to ensure that critical infrastructure wouldn't collapse. Fast forward to today, and the world is vastly different. The digital age has far surpassed any of the anxieties we had about the Y2K bug. The internet, smartphones, and social media have transformed the way we live, work, and communicate, with technology becoming deeply embedded in almost every aspect of life.

On that note, we are excited to announce the release of the OFA app, designed to support and connect our members. This member-focused tool provides valuable resources and up-to-date information to help you navigate the challenges of modern farming.

Stay informed with important agricultural news, government policies, and industry updates that directly impact your farm. As an OFA member, you now have exclusive access to a wide range of resources, from farm management tools to educational content, all at your fingertips. The OFA app helps you run your farm more efficiently and stay competitive in an ever-changing agricultural landscape.

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe that 25 years have passed since we anxiously stewed and worried about the potential digital impacts as the calendar rolled over from 1999 to 2000. The Y2K bug was a major concern at the time, as many feared that computer systems, which used only two digits to represent the year, would mistake "00" for 1900 instead of 2000. This could have led to widespread system failures in everything from banking to power grids.

Managing your membership has never been easier. The app gives you quick access to your account details, allowing you to view your membership status, track benefits, and explore available discounts—all from the convenience of your mobile device.

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve member experience, two of our benefit partners are no longer producing physical discount cards. However, with the OFA app, these discount cards are now digitally uploaded to your members-only account. You can easily access them anytime and scan them directly at checkout—no physical card required. Enjoy the same great discounts with a hassle-free, paperless solution!

Don't have a members-only account yet? No problem! Simply call our friendly Member Relations staff at the Guelph office at 1-800-668-3276 to establish your account.

Download the OFA app from your favourite app store today and make the most of your membership with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture!

January marks the beginning of Farm Business Registration (FBR) renewal season. However, due to the ongoing Canada Post strike at the time of writing, renewal notices may be delayed. To avoid any disruptions, we want to remind you that you can easily renew your FBR online via the Agricorp website.

It's important to note that failure to renew your FBR on time can jeopardize your eligibility for the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program. This program not only applies to your owned farm properties but also to your rental properties. Your valid FBR is also required to participate in other government programs.

Don't wait for the renewal notice—act now to ensure your FBR is up to date, and your farm continues to benefit from the tax program. Visit the Agricorp website today to complete your renewal quickly and easily!


Wishing everyone a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2025!

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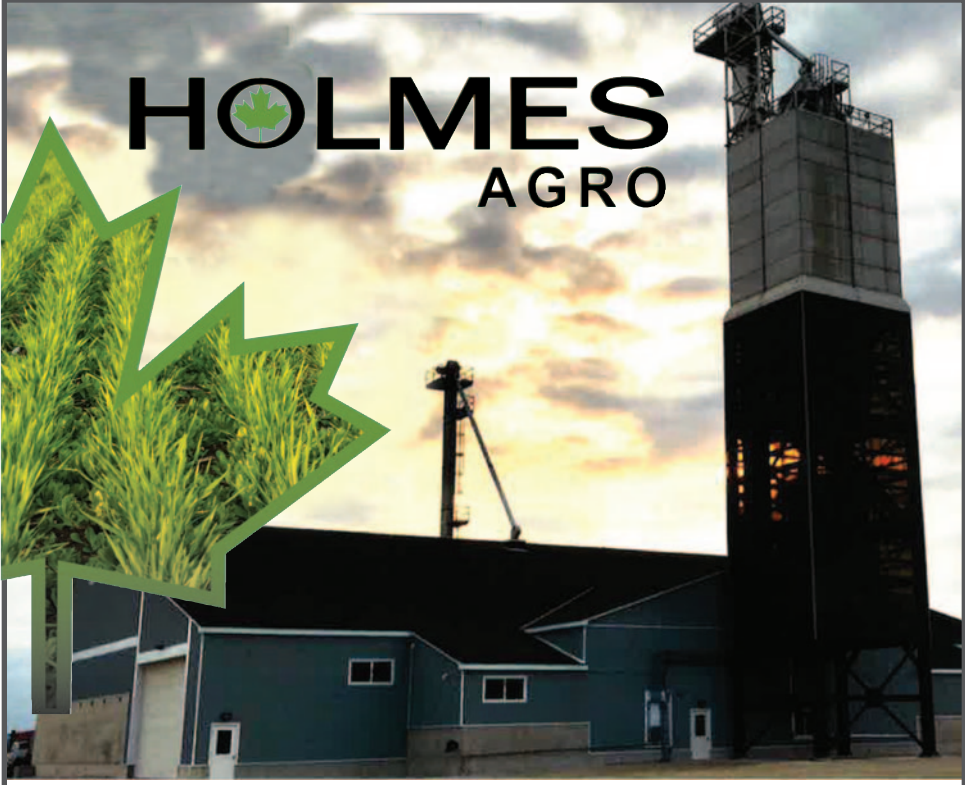


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Fire safety resolutions top priority for 2025

By Dennis Gannon

When the new year comes around, we think about resolutions. Some are for our employment, some for health, some for family and friends. We should also think about fire safety resolutions that can keep everyone in our place of employment at our home and our family and friends safe. Now is the time to make these fire safety resolutions our priority for 2025.

Install smoke alarms: Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test your smoke alarms monthly and replace the batteries if they aren't working. Working smoke alarms are the law in Ontario and every home and recreational vehicle where sleeping is permitted must have them.

Be careful with heat: Keep space heaters away from pets and children and give them some space. Space heaters should be no closer than 1 meter from anything combustible. If purchasing a new one, look for regulatory approval and one that shuts off automatically if it tips over.

Use electricity responsibly: Avoid overloading electrical outlets and extension cords. Unplug appliances when not in use and regularly inspect cords for damage. Never charge a cellphone on a bed or on upholstered furniture.

Be careful with cooking: Cook carefully. Alcohol and cooking are a dangerous combination. If you are cooking, do not drink. Never leave your cooking unattended even for a minute.

Be careful with matches and lighters: Keep matches and lighters away from children. Children are fascinated by fire and matches and lighters are attractive to them. If you smoke, do it outdoors and keep matches and lighters high up in cupboards so children can't get to them.

Know how to use a fire extinguisher: Learn how to use a fire extinguisher and inspect yours regularly. Know the PASS method. If you encounter a fire and after 911 has been called you can use a fire extinguisher by PULLING the pin, AIMING at the base of the fire. SQUEEZING the handle and finally AIMING at the base of the fire.

Have an escape plan: Know your nearest safe exit and practice your escape plan with your family at least twice a year. Not only is this a good practice in case of a fire emergency but anytime there may be a situation where everyone needs to get out of the house or apartment and they know where to meet up.

Update emergency contact information: Make sure your emergency contact information is up to date. Keep a copy of your emergency contacts in your wallet, purse or on your cell phone. With children ensure that they know their home address and how to call 911 in the event of an emergency. Add the What3Words app on your phone in case you need help and you are not certain of your location.

Review your fire risk assessment: Identify potential fire hazards, evaluate the severity of each hazard, and record your findings. Review and update your fire risk assessment when needed. This is of great benefit at your place of employment or home. Know your risks and do everything you can to reduce them. Housekeeping is an essential component of keeping your home fire safe.

GET OUT and STAY OUT. In a fire, prioritize your personal safety over your belongings and evacuate the building immediately. Things can be replaced but human life cannot. While it may seem safe to reenter a burning building to retrieve possessions or pets it's not. Let the firefighters who have the proper protective equipment do their job effectively and safely and don't you become a casualty.

Your local fire department can assist you with any questions you may have. Let's start 2025 off by making these resolutions our top priority.

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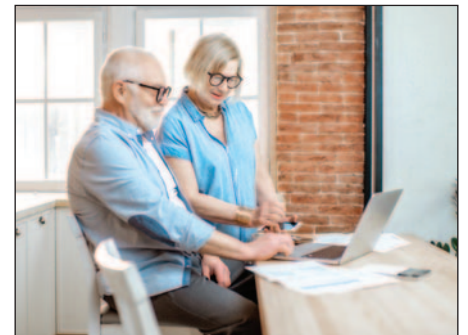
For many people the approval process with the banks can be grueling. Tracy Green Mortgage Broker (level 2 licenced to provide all mortgages including private funds) owner of Ontario-Wide Financial has been a mortgage provider in the industry for 37 years and has always had the "if there's a will there's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

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

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

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

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



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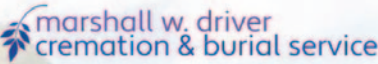
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The Royal

AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

Results from Farm View country

Farm View has sifted through the results from the 2024 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair competitions to compile these lists of First place winners from our distribution area. This is a small representation of the categories and winners, simply due to space limitations.

Farm View congratulates everyone who participated.

Online results for the Fair can be found at: <https://www.assistexpo.ca/results/rawf/>

Breeding Sheep Show: Hampshire

Slick Shorn Ewe Yearling, 3rd pair of temporary incisors in place
 1. MARBREN LIPSMACKER 4L, CAN802218
 Champion Ewe
 Marbren Farm, Coldwater, ON

Slick Shorn Junior Ram Lamb, 1st pair of temporary incisors in place
 Lambs must be born after January 1, 2024 One handler per lamb
 1. MARBREN MAGNUM 1M, CAN814562
 Marbren Farm, Coldwater, ON

Slick Shorn Junior Ewe Lamb, 1st pair of temporary incisors in place
 Lambs must be born after January 1, 2024 . One handler per lamb
 1. Cowan Acres Molly 43M, 815029
 Slick Shorn Ewe Lamb
 Champion 4th
 Cowan Acres, Innisfil, ON

Slick Shorn Junior Ram Lamb, 1st pair of temporary incisors in place
 Lambs must be born after January 1, 2024 . One handler per lamb
 1. Cowan Acres Magnum 41M, 815035
 Slick Shorn Ram Lamb
 Champion - 5th
 Cowan Acres, Innisfil, ON

New Crop Milk Lamb weigh between 35-59 pounds
 This Class has been developed to support the production of milk lambs that are being sold to the ethnic markets in Canada
 1. 30M, NA
 Champion New Crop Milk Lamb
 Lauren Cowan, Innisfil, ON

Dairy Cattle - Red & White Holstein

Winter Yearling in Milk
 Born December 1st, 2022 to February 28th, 2023
 1. Westcoast Illustrator Shadow, Hocanf14609170
 Beckridge Holsteins, Quality Holsteins, Keswick, ON

Dairy Cattle - Black & White Holstein
Spring Heifer
 Born between March 1st, 2024 and May 31st, 2024
 1. LOA-DE-MEDE DESTINATION LINDOR, HOCANF14826320
 Best Bred & Owned
 Loa-De-Mede Farms Ltd, Oshawa, On

Spring Yearling
 Born between March 1st, 2023 and May 31st, 2023
 1. ULMAR SIDEKICK ENTENSITY, HOCANF145029 68
 BECKRIDGE HOLSTEINS, PFISTER Dairy, Quality Holsteins, Keswick, On

Beef Cattle
Angus
Junior Yearling Heifer Born 2023
 Born between April 1st, 2023 and December 31st, 2023
 1. SULL ELLIE 3450L, 2355058 (1st in heat #3)
 Champion Junior Yearling Female - Reserve
 Clair Lane Stock Farm, Fergus, ON

Shorthorn
Junior Yearling Heifer
 Born between March 16th, 2023 and December 31st, 2023
 1. HILL HAVEN BREATHAKER SAGE 288L ET, [CAN]*32707 (1st in heat

#1)
 Champion Junior Yearling Female
 Hill Haven
 Shorthorns, Stayner, ON

Junior Heifer Calf
 Born on or after March 16th, 2024 , Min. 3 months of age
 1. MCC MADONNA 3M, [CAN]*32996
 Champion Junior Female Calf
 McGlashan Cattle Company, Woodville, ON

Senior Yearling Heifer
 Born between January 1st, 2023 and January 31st, 2023
 1. ELBA GLEN QUINN 17L, [CAN]*31487 (1st in heat #1)
 Champion Senior Yearling Heifer - Reserve
 Elba Glen Cattle, Shelburne, ON

Senior Bull Calf
 Born between January 1st, 2024 and February 29th, 2024
 1. HILL HAVEN LIBERTY 9M, [CAN]*33259
 Champion Senior Bull Calf
 Hill Haven
 Shorthorns, Stayner, ON

Charolais
Senior Heifer Calf
 Born between January 1st, 2024 and January 31st, 2024
 1. ROLLIN ACRES XARIS 6M, FC885194 (1st in heat #1)
 Champion Senior Heifer Calf - Reserve
 Rollin Acres Charolais, Mulmur, ON

Simmental
Senior Bull Calf
 Born between January 1st, 2024 and January 31st, 2024
 1. BLACK RIVER LEXOR 5M, 1477276 (1st in heat #1)
 Champion Senior Bull Calf
 Grand Champion Bull / Kingfield Farm Award - Reserve
 Black River Farms, Sutton, ON

Limousin
Junior Heifer Calf
 Born on or after March 1st, 2024 , Min. 3 Months Of Age
 1. MBT XJG SAMMY 301M, CPF4125253
 Champion Junior Heifer Calf
 Lisle Livestock, Lisle, ON

Special Ingredient
Butter Tarts
 Maple Bacon Butter Tarts
 Premier Exhibitor - Homemade
 1. Klerevue Farms, Lindsay, ON

Honey, Beeswax & Mead Amateur
Liquid Honey - White
 1. Flights of Fancy Honey Bee Company, Loretto, ON

Liquid Honey - Golden
 1. Mad River Honey, Singhampton, ON
 Toronto District Beekeepers' Association Trophy

Honey, Beeswax & Mead Professional
Liquid Honey - Amber
 1. Beamish Honey, Barrie, ON
 Premier Exhibitor Award - Professional
 Dominion & Grimm Award
 Grand Champion
 Professional Liquid Honey
 Canadian Honey Council Trophy

Liquid Honey - Dark
 1. Beamish Honey, Barrie,

Ready to Eat (RTE) Meat Snack
Smoked Sausage -Specialty
 Sausage must contain non-meat specialty ingredients.
 1. Kranska with Cheese & Jalapeno
 Judge's Choice RTE Meat Snack Award
 Grand Champion Sausage Meat Snack
 Florence Meats, Oakville, ON

The Royal AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

Results from Farm View country

Rabbits - Utility: Californian

Californian - Senior Buck
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Californian - Senior Doe
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Best Of Breed Champion
Californian - Intermediate Doe
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Californian - Junior Doe
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Californian - Junior Buck
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Best Of Breed Champion - Reserve

Rabbits - Utility, Lop French

Lop French - Senior Buck
1.Shannondoe, Beaverton, ON
Best of Variety - Solid - Reserve
Lop French - Senior Doe
1.Shannondoe, Beaverton, ON
Best Of Breed Champion
Lop French - Junior Buck
1.Shannondoe, Beaverton, ON
Lop French - Junior Doe
1.Shannondoe, Beaverton, ON
Best of Variety - Solid
1.Shannondoe, Beaverton, ON
Best of Variety - Broken - Reserve

Rabbits - Utility: New Zealand

New Zealand - Senior Buck
1.Gardsmere
Farms, Schomberg, ON
Best of Variety - White
Best Of Breed Champion
Best Utility Rabbit
New Zealand - Senior Doe
1.JS Rabbitry, Beaverton, ON
New Zealand - Intermediate Buck
1.Gardsmere
Farms, Schomberg, ON
Best of Variety - White - Reserve
Best Of Breed Champion - Reserve
New Zealand - Intermediate Doe
1.Gardsmere
Farms, Schomberg, ON
New Zealand - Junior Buck
1.Gardsmere
Farms, Schomberg, ON

Rabbits - Utility: Satin

Satin - Senior Buck
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Best of Variety - Broken - Reserve
Satin - Senior Doe
1.Doris Brady, Beaverton, ON
Best of Variety - Solid

Best Of Breed Champion - Reserve
1.Cathy Hamill-Hill, Beaverton, ON
Satin - Intermediate Buck
1.Doris Brady, Beaverton, ON
Best of Variety - Solid - Reserve
1.Doris Brady, Beaverton, ON
Satin - Intermediate Doe
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Best of Variety - Broken
Best Of Breed Champion
Best Satin Rabbit Trophy
Satin - Junior Doe
1.Doris Brady, Beaverton, ON

Utility: Flemish Giant

Flemish - Intermediate Buck
1.Doris Brady, Beaverton, ON
Best Of Breed Champion - Reserve
Best of Variety - Sandy - Reserve
Flemish - Junior Doe
1.Tiffany Stein, Waterdown, ON

Commercial: Fryer Class

1.Gardsmere
Farms, Schomberg, ON
Champion Fryer
Breeder's Herd: Black & White
Breeders Herd - Black White
1.Gardsmere
Farms, Schomberg, ON
Best Of Breed Champion

Fancy: Florida White

Florida White - Senior Buck
1.Alberto Campoli, Wasaga Beach, ON
Best of Breed Champion
Best Fancy Rabbit - Reserve
Florida White - Senior Doe
1.Alberto Campoli, Wasaga Beach, ON
Best of Breed Champion - Reserve

Fancy: French Angora

French Angora - Senior Doe
1.Hopping Bunnies
Rabbitry, Brampton, ON
Best of Variety - White
1.Fuzzies Wasie
Rabbitry, Barrie, ON
Best of Variety - Coloured
Best of Breed Champion

Fancy: Havana

Havana - Junior Buck
1.Alberto Campoli, Wasaga Beach, ON
Best of Variety - Chocolate - Reserve

Fancy: Lionhead

Lionhead - Senior Buck
1.Kathryn Cooper, RR1
Washago, ON
Lionhead - Senior Doe
1.Kathryn Cooper, RR1

Washago, ON
Best of Variety - Solid - Reserve
Best of Breed Champion - Reserve
Lionhead - Junior Buck
1.Kathryn Cooper, RR1
Washago, ON
Best of Variety - Solid
Best of Breed Champion
Lionhead - Junior Doe
1.Kathryn Cooper, RR1
Washago, ON

Fancy: Mini Rex

Mini Rex - Senior Doe
1.Dawn Cooper, RR1
Washago, ON
Best of Variety - Lilac
1.West Wood Acres
Rabbitry, Simcoe, ON
Best of Variety - Tortoise - Reserve
1.Sarah Duffy, Lindsay, ON

Fancy: Mini Satin

Mini Satin - Senior Doe
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Best of Variety - Broken
Best of Breed Champion
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Mini Satin - Junior Buck
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Best of Variety - Broken - Reserve
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Best of Variety - Solid
Best of Breed Champion - Reserve
Mini Satin - Junior Doe
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
1.Shadowrock
Farm, Schomberg, ON
Best of Variety - Solid - Reserve

Fancy: Netherland Dwarf

Senior Buck
1.Sweet Serenity
Rabbitry, Schomberg, ON
Best of Variety - Black
Best of Group - Self
1.Sweet Serenity
Rabbitry, Schomberg, ON
Best of Variety - Red Eye
White
Best of Group - Self - Reserve
Best of Breed Champion - Reserve
Senior Doe
Junior Doe
1.A & K Cavery, Bradford, ON
Best of Variety - Himalayan
1.Gilbank Guys, Oakwood, ON

Fancy: Rex

Senior Buck
1.Shannondoe, Beaverton, ON
Best of Variety - Solid -

Reserve
1.Shannondoe, Beaverton, ON
Best of Variety - Broken
Best of Breed Champion - Reserve
Junior Doe
1.Slaters Farm, Sharon, ON

Cavy: Smooth Coat

Senior Boar
1.A & K Cavery, Bradford West Gwillimbury, ON
Best of Variety - Black
Best of Breed Champion - Reserve
1.A & K Cavery, Bradford West Gwillimbury, ON
Senior Sow
1.A & K Cavery, Bradford, ON
Best of Variety - Any other
Marked Colour
Best of Breed Champion
1.A & K Cavery, Bradford, ON
Best of Variety - Any other
Marked Colour - Reserve

Cavy: Teddy

Senior Boar
1.A & K Cavery, Bradford, ON
Best of Variety - Broken
Senior Sow
1.Natalia
MacDonald, Schomberg, ON
Intermediate Boar
1.Daria
MacDonald, Schomberg, ON
Intermediate Sow
1.Daria
MacDonald, Schomberg, ON
Best of Variety - Tortoise Shell & White - Reserve

Cavy: Boar & Son

1. Natalia
MacDonald, Schomberg, ON
Best of Breed
Best of Breed - Reserve

Cavy: Breeder's Pen

1.Natalia
MacDonald, Schomberg, ON
Breeder's Pen Champion

Skein: 100% Angora - White or Natural

White Or Natural Colour - Two-Ply
1.Fuzzies Wasie
Rabbitry, Barrie, ON

Skein: Angora Blends, Natural or Dyed

1.Fuzzies Wasie
Rabbitry, Barrie, ON
Skein Champion

Raw Wool: French

French - Plucked
1.Fuzzies Wasie
Rabbitry, Barrie, ON



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Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario; Grassroots Forum

Synopsis by Donald Beaulieu

November's Grassroots Forum of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario began with a couple scripture readings and a prayer; then it was down to the business at hand.

General Manager Tom Tavani introduced Pauline Todd, the CFFO office administrator, a relatively new hire with the organization. Tavani encouraged donations to the Canadian Food Grains Bank and to share the video which has been sent to members.

Tavani advised the annual general meeting is scheduled for March 21st, 2025 and that there will be positions on the board becoming available: President, two vice-president positions and two director positions. He asked members to nominate people "who would make a difference... and honour the Lord".

Highways, farmland & expropriation

Suzanne Armstrong, director of policy and research, addressed the attendees, aided by a slide show presentation. Highway 413 (Peel, York, Halton) and the Bradford bypass (York Region, Simcoe County) were discussed. The 413 would remove approximately 2,000 acres of farmland, including hundreds of acres in the greenbelt. The Bradford bypass also passes through greenbelt and significant wetlands near the Holland Marsh. Maps were presented, of the routes of these highways, as the discussion carried on.

Details were brought up on expropriation and dates of possession, penalties for denying access to property or refusal to relocate off the properties. Highway 413 is exempted from the Environment Assessment Act; an abbreviated process would apply here as well as for Highways 410 and 427 extensions as well.

The CFFO has written that "Protections for those subject to expropriation should continue to be respected. Affected property owners should continue to have access to request a hearing of necessity and to request adjustments to the date of possession. The process of authorization of site inspections and possession of expropriated properties should not be expedited".

Regarding Highway 13 in particular, the CFFO requests "The Government seek alternatives to the ongoing plans for Highway 413; the CFFO recommends better use of existing infrastructure including Highway 407, rail and public transit and reducing demand altogether where possible. Also; that a thorough environmental assessment process should be undertaken and that as part of that property owners and farm businesses need to be consulted, understand the potential impacts and be able to provide meaningful feedback".

Pandemic prevention, preparedness act

Bill C-293 was the next topic Armstrong presented. This concerns pandemic prevention and preparedness. The private member's bill was passed in the House of Commons this

past June. It is before the senate and is in second-reading.

Key concerns for the CFFO are that "...it places undue responsibility for antimicrobial resistance on agriculture as opposed to a whole health, animal and human and environment aspects of microbial resistance. It proposes regulation of animal agriculture, specifically related to pandemic risk". Further; high risk species in agriculture are mentioned in the bill, but not specific species or how that status would be determined. "It (the bill) encourages the use of alternate proteins". That last part in particular raise questions of the agenda of the bill C-293, Armstrong says "As it favours one dietary choice over another". It was noted that this bill was put forward by Nathan Erskin-Smith, Member Parliament for Beaches/North York, whom is vegan.

CFFO delivered concerns about his bill in 2023 and there is a draft letter prepared to send to the senate. Many farmers were taken aback, learning about this bill, others have been following and expressing concern for some time.

Elite Agri Solutions

From Glencoe, Ontario, Jonathan Giret talked about his business which brings experience from a variety of agricultural concerns to one helpful centre. This includes nutrient management plans, grant writing, and safety.

Giret's business began with nutrient management, having a management degree in that field. His experience with safety, from time spent working in oil fields was a natural way to expand his services. With a new and larger location, space for on-site safety courses is very much improved.

On-site consulting and how to deal with the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB) and the Ministry of Labour are areas he and his team can help with. Grant writing is where they spend most of their time helping farmers. He has business support, safety, environment consultants and energy management consultants on staff.

The newest area of expertise offered is energy management audits. Most of their safety work is in Ontario, but a few projects have taken them nation-wide and there are grant clients and business planning clients across the country and one job on another continent.

The insight provided by Giret made it clear why guidance and a pro-active route in these areas is becoming vital. CFFO members receive discounts on Elite Agri Solutions services.

Farm Business Consultants

Jay, the team lead for the London, Ontario office of Farm Business Consultants, was the first speaker of the afternoon. Farm Business Consultants is a Canada-wide tax firm specializing in farming. The particular rules pertaining to

farmers and taxation can get complicated and having a good understanding of them, and all the options "...can put some money in your pocket" as Jay said.

Jay explained a number of capital gains rules with the help of some graphics. In the most basic explanation, a capital item is a long-lasting, tangible asset. One needs to use this asset to generate a profit with something other than the asset itself.

As of June 24th this year (2024), the inclusion rate changed from 50% to 67%... this and other recent changes and details in the tax field were discussed. Gilland provided a lot of insight for participants.

Canada United States Mexico Agreement

There will be updates in the Canada United States Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) until negotiations in 2025. It is expected the new US administration will fight hard against the supply-management sector in Canada, although sentiment is mixed in the public's view.

John Van Dyke, CFFO board member and milk producer, expressed huge concerns for beef, pork and any crops exported to the US saying "If that's all included in the tariff (as presented by President Elect Trump) then we need to send some type of letter very very soon to Trudeau that he gets this in line". Van Dyke doesn't want us to upset the US and put supply management at greater risk, but "I think at the moment" he continued, "We need to speak up for beef, pork and crop, because this is huge and he's (Trump) not gonna kid around". Van Dyke suggests getting our border in line with immigration and fentanyl, to quell Trump and then "...this tax may not happen".

Lots of comments and opinions were heard on tariffs and governments, including opening more abattoirs in Canada. The chat feature of the online session was popular for sharing ideas and information.

One attendee brought attention to the fact that the US marketplace is not the free market some of us may think it is. Reports have been written and published about "...bribes and court cases regarding collusion and such... for their processing industries".

Grassroots Forums in 2025

There will be five Grassroots Forum meetings scheduled during 2025. They will be held in February, April, June, September and November. All meetings will be online, most likely planned for two hours, from 1 to 3 p.m. Five meetings (instead of four) will provide for more discussion on more topics. Members of the CFFO will, of course, be advised of the dates.

A closing prayer ended this edition of the final Grassroots meeting of 2024.



Meet the Farmers: Anne Howden Thompson and Allan Thompson of Alvista Farms in Caledon

Story by Cathy Hamill-Hill, photo provided by Anne Thompson

“Passion for agriculture and family first”

Allan and Anne Thompson are a farm husband/wife team in Caledon with a powerful passion for supporting agriculture.

Anne Howden and Allan Thompson were two 4-H kids from dairy farms when they first met in Junior Farmers. The two married- and moved on to the Thompson family farm dairy cattle operation that was with Allan's parents, Roy and the late Heather Ann Thompson and Allan's brother David and his wife Jackie. The family's Elmlawn Farms prefix was awarded the highly prestigious Holstein Master Shield in 1986. Further, the Thompson Family was named as Peel Region Farm Family of the year in the past.

The dairy cattle were sold and the operation transitioned into a crop farming operation of a total today of 1600 acres managed by brothers Allan and David. Allan and Anne's son, James is a commercial pilot who also helps on the farm. Their daughter, Julia graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College and is now the Sales and Marketing Manager for Cribit Seeds in West Montrose. Allan's brothers' three children are also involved in agriculture and help on the family farm.

“We raised five children on our family's farm- and all five are now involved in agriculture. This is something we are sure excited and pleased about,” Anne says.

Anne began her off-farm working life in advertising and marketing with United Breeders, Inc. now known as GenCor. She returned home to the family farm full-time with the arrival of her children. “As a young woman we can do a lot- but we cannot do it all and family is first,” Anne advises. She re-entered the off-farm work life again after going to school to study journalism. Her passion for agriculture led her to become a farm journalist. The byline Anne Howden Thompson became well known as she was a field reporter for Ontario Farmer Publications. She was the lead reporter from the Ontario Legislative Building that is situated in Queen's Park covering the politics that affects Ontario agriculture.

While Anne was covering politics, her husband was entering politics at his local hometown level in Caledon. Allan had long served at his local community level farm associations. He became frustrated about farming not being represented at the municipal level and his passion for agriculture led him to action. As an example; local roads were modified to put in guard rails, preventing large farm equipment from travelling on those roads. “Nobody on local council thought about farmers when planning. I wanted to change that so I decided to see if I could get on local council to educate about farming,” Allan said. This was the beginning of a long

successful career.

Allan was a strong force on council- and he won the hearts of his voters both from the farm and the town. He moved up to serve as Regional Councillor because he could get even more done at the Regional table along the local council. He was chosen also to serve at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) which is the rural voice of the Association of Municipalities. At ROMA, Allan became the champion for getting Broadband Internet service to rural properties to the point he will always be known as the “Broadband Man”. He was elected twice to serve in Caledon's top spot at the council table, as Mayor.

There is a lot the same on council and farming, the former Mayor says, “When farmers turn on the lights in the morning in the barn, anything is possible. We see problems and then we solve those problems- this is what farming is all about. Farmers are the best at problem solving because we have to be. Council work is the same, we solve problems for people.”

A Caledon Mayor's position is full-time and Anne left her farm journalist position to return to work from home to support her husband because she believes in family first.

While her husband was serving as Mayor, Anne stepped in at the local branch of the Ontario Plowmen's Association that she always believed in. She initially began her career with the Ontario Plowmen's Association (OPA) as a teenager. “I was 17 and on my first train ride from the farm to Toronto. It was the first time I saw the Royal York (hotel) and I made a speech there as the (reigning) Brant County Queen of the Furrow to try and win the bid to host the 1989 IPM in Brant County. Our County held it in 1929 and 1959 and wanted it in 1989. We didn't get it but we did get it in 1990”. Years after, her daughter Julia, competed at the Brant County Queen of the Furrow competition and watching was Anne's Mom who also had competed in the past.

“OPA is all about families and family traditions,” she said adding this is why she believes strongly in the OPA. She was the Media Chair using her farm journalism expertise for the 2023 Dufferin County IPM. This fall, she was elected to become a director of OPA Zone 4 that is Durham, Halton, Peel-Dufferin, Simcoe, Victoria and Wellington .

Allan retired from politics after a 19 year career. He was pleased with his accomplishments on council but it was time to return home. “I was needed at home- family is first,” he said. He came home to care for his parents and to focus back on the farm.

Allan is now a Provincial Director for the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA). His zone is the Golden Horseshoe.



Anne Howden Thompson (left) And Allan Thompson of Alvista Farms in Caledon.

The biggest challenge he says for farming could be coming. President-elect Donald Trump of the United States could impact Canadian agriculture hugely. Allan says, “If Trump puts on the tariffs, it is going to be a bit hit for Canadian agriculture.” The current challenge is commodity prices which are in a “sort of recession” with lower prices. He says the exception is the “beef cattle prices which are high” and show no signs of lessening which is good news for this sector.

Anne says the biggest challenge for farming is the lack of understanding from the general public. “People still think food comes from the grocery store- and they have thought this for decades. We have so many resources about farming now and that is improving all the time. People often only realize the family farm was there when it is sold away. We need to continue to tell the farmer's story more than ever before.”

The passion for farming is in no way lessened with the challenges of farming today for Allan and Anne who remain passionate about farming. Allan explains, “There is nothing more rewarding than growing livestock and growing crops. Farming is rewarding like nothing else we can ever do. Farmers love farming.”

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John Brooks: Pioneer

Pioneers, those willing to uproot and attempt to tame new lands, were a disparate lot. Some were fleeing hardship or heartache. Some were driven by the hope of prosperity or a stretch of soil to call their own. Others simply had itchy feet. All faced difficulties of one sort or another.

John Brooks faced more than his share along the way. John Brooks was born in Kent, England in Aug. 1822, one of 11 children of John Brooks Sr. and Ann Obey. In 1833, John Sr. packed up the family, boarded ship, and immigrated to Canada. John grew into a man working alongside his father on the family farm in Nobleton, Ont. In 1846, he wed Jane Brown, a 16-year Yorkshire-born, Tecumseth Township-raised girl. Jane gave birth to three children before dying in 1853 of unknown causes. John didn't need to look too far for a new mother for his young children: a year after Jane's death, her sister, 20-year-old Hannah, married John and slid comfortably into the role.

Hannah gave birth to seven children over the next two decades, beginning with Mary Jane in 1855 and ending with Joseph in 1872. She died ten days after childbirth.

In the winter of 1873 John headed north to Muskoka, then just recently opened to settlement and therefore something of a new frontier. Some sources suggest he had secured a contract to haul timber out of the woods. It's equally likely that he had acquired land and was clearing it in a season when there were few chores on his King Township farm. In any event, accompanied by his children, riding atop a sleigh and undoubtedly shivering in the bone-numbing chill, John arrived late in December.

The snow was said to have been six feet deep, a shock to a family accustomed to more moderate snowfalls. More shocking was their accommodation - a little log shanty with

neither door, windows, nor fireplace. To keep warm, the family huddled around a fire built in a corner of the cabin. Their fitful sleep was interrupted by the haunting call of wolves howling, seemingly all around the cabin. The serenade lasted throughout the night and only ended with the coming of dawn. John may have wondered about the wisdom of the trip. The children, according to son John Henry's obituary, were terrified.

But despite the rude introduction, the Brooks' persevered, felling trees and hauling timber all winter before returning to King in the spring.

John wasn't yet finished marrying. He found comfort in the arms of Rebecca Readman, a woman 27 years his junior. John was not yet finished siring children, either, as Rebecca gave birth to several more children. And though aging, John wasn't ready to settle down. Instead, he elected to uproot his family to move north to Muskoka permanently. They settled on virgin land in the backwoods hamlet of Lewisham.

Life there was hardly easy. The soil was threadbare, a thin layer over the rock of the Canadian Shield. Biting bugs – blackflies, mosquitoes, and horseflies – were an ever-present annoyance. On most years, one barely grew and raised enough to get by. And yet, somehow, despite the odds, John Brooks endured. He tirelessly farmed for more than two decades – somewhat successfully in some years, less so in others – before passing away on June 21, 1898, aged 76.

Village Stories

by Andrew Hind



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After The Chores: Fall world is rocked

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



My world here on this little farm has been rocked this year. Late fall has always been quiet in the barn.

I've had a small flock of sheep for close to 20 years. I raise exclusively Dorsets because honestly, they look beautiful to me being white especially against the green of pasture like a real life postcard scene. No sheep breed has ever got the longing for ownership for me but the Dorset and I've seen at a lot of high quality sheep of many different breeds at Fairs over the years. I was looking to add in a couple of ewes from a large mixed breed flock and the ones I chose were, the same as usual, more Dorsets. My tunnel vision for sheep ownership seems to be genetic. My paternal great grandfather was set in his sheep preference and had a flock of exclusively Oxfords. My maternal grandfather was also set in his opinion, he only wanted to own Suffolks. The Dorset is a popular breed not for its prettiness that I see but for the fact the ewes are usually excellent mothers and they naturally breed out season.

It was a normal day in quiet season here when I was woken up from a deep sleep at the hour of 5:45 am. There is no good reason in my world in the fall except for a Fair that has a rabbit show and snow cones that I need to be woke up at this time. I'm not a morning person, I wake up miserable, stupid, grumpy and sad- often all at the same time with the exception of Fair mornings. So this fall morning I was woke up with Sweetie yanking on my foot, hard. Apparently, I'm hard to wake up.

"Get up! Get up! You got baby LAMBS!" Sweetie said, extremely excited as this was an unbelievable occasion for the Fall here. He is a morning person so he is happy, joyful and fully alert as can be, every single morning the second his eyes are open.

"Are they dead?" was my sad response.

Sweetie shook his head and rushed back outside.

I'm in the barn by 5:50 and there, to my shock, are two very much alive, fully formed, average weight and super healthy twin lambs. The loving ewe was right beside them. Just unbelievable.

But now, there is a problem. There was zero thought of EVER having lambs born in the Fall. The lambing pens were taken apart and set up now to hold goats. Expecting any ewe to not have a pen for the first few days to bond with her lambs is just never going to work. I had to think this all out and hurry up too because the ewe and her lambs bonding happens early after birth.

I made a new living arrangement for the goats and then Sweetie helped me get the new lambs and the ewe into a pen. The sheep were put outside early for the day and we all were rocked with this big occasion except for the new Mama Dorset who was clearly in love with her baby lambs.

Any Dorset shepherd should not have been so surprised to find lambs out of season as I was the NEXT time this happened. There was another 2 more times to bring my total to what I consider five blessings now that I have recovered from the surprise of lambing in the fall.

Isaac the red dog has surprised us too. He has spent all spring, summer and early fall wanting only to be an outdoor dog. He barks in the house so loud that sometimes the windows rattle to get back outside and tied again to his tie-out. He was spending all nights outside, barking. Sweetie built him an insulated dog house as seeing the dog looking like a homeless dog looked so sad.

Now, there is a red dog named Isaac sleeping in blankets on the couch. He walks quietly around the house, wants to be hugged and pet all the time and doesn't bark. It seems one night outside in the dog house during below zero temperatures has changed his mind about the great outdoors, he prefers the warm indoors.

With these new baby fall lambs and this new nice house dog, our world here has been rocked to a happy place.

Want to grow small grains or expand your small grains production? EFAO's Small Grains Program is for you!

As many farmers already know, small grains can offer big gains! But, trying something new on the farm comes with some uncertainty and risk. Recognizing the on-farm benefits and ecosystem services that diversified rotations provide, EFAO's Small Grains Program addresses this risk by offsetting some of the cost of growing new acres of small grains. The Small Grains Program is open to farmers across Ontario, regardless of your agronomic practices.

The next Small Grains Program intake will open in July 2025 for farmers planting winter small grains in the fall of 2025 for harvest in summer 2026.

SMALL GRAINS PROGRAM

Who can apply for the program?

Program Eligibility

The program is open to farmers across Ontario who are either:

- New to small grains – growing small grains for the first time;
- Returning to small grains – have grown small grains in the past, but not in the last three years; or
- Expanding acres of small grains – have grown small grains in the last three years, and will be expanding small grains acres to land that has not had small grains grown on it for the last three years.

What do I need to do to receive funding?

Program Requirements

To qualify for the payment, eligible farmers must:

Plant and harvest a small grain. For the purposes of this program, small grains include wheat, spelt, barley, rye, oats, triticale, buckwheat, amaranth, and quinoa.

Plant a legume cover crop or cover crop mix with legume species that is seeded with the small grain in the same field; or planted in the same field after the small grain is harvested. The cover crop can be seeded as preferred (i.e. inter-, under-, broadcast or direct seeded).

What benefits do I receive as part of my participation?

Program Benefits

Funded participants will receive:

- Payment based on their bid
- Access to agronomic support, educational opportunities, and peer-to-peer mentorship
- Opportunity for baseline soil testing

How do I apply?

Application and Bid Submission

To apply to the Program, eligible farmers must:

- Submit their email address to receive an application form
- Submit bids to EFAO indicating the funding they require to plant a spring small grain followed by a legume cover crop on up to 100 acres
- Indicate their experience with small grains in order to be sorted into one of two equally funded experience groups: a) new to small grains; b) & c) farmers returning to or expanding acres of small grains

How are the program participants selected?

Funding Decisions

The most competitive bids will be approved and funded with each experience group separately. Bids will be ranked on a cost per acre basis and funded starting from the lowest bid per acre, then the second lowest, and so on, until the available funds have been allocated. Applications will be evaluated solely on the per acre cost (the submitted bids).

Visit <https://efao.ca/small-grains/> for more information.

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Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association team up to support Headwaters Health Care Centre

Story and photo provided by Anne Howden Thompson

The Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association have joined the team of community partners and champions supporting the Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville, with a \$10,000 donation to Smart Headwaters, the \$18-million campaign to bring a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine to the local community.

"I'm delighted to see the Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association supporting the Smart Headwaters campaign with their generous donation," says Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon. "With our government providing operating funding for our community's very first MRI machine, this donation will help bring this milestone to fruition for Dufferin-Caledon families."

Having this equipment available in the local community will allow for more accurate and timely diagnosis, improved treatment planning and enhanced patient outcomes, saving more than 4,000 patients per year from having to travel out of the area for care.

"The current campaign to raise funds for the MRI is an important initiative so it was an easy decision for us to proudly support such a great community medical resource," says Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association president Glen Early.



With a changing landscape—particularly in the Peel community—the local Peel Dufferin Plowing Match is the last one-day agricultural event being hosted by a farm organization in Peel and it remains an important annual event in the agricultural community calendar.

Next year the Association will mark its Centennial. "Our Annual Peel Dufferin Plowing Match relies on the continued support of our agricultural and supporting-business

fellow agri-businesses and farm organizations and families across the Peel and Dufferin communities to consider joining them in this philanthropic effort, however they are able.

To learn more about the first MRI coming to Headwaters visit: headwatershealth.ca/MRI.


For more information or to make a donation in support of the Smart Headwaters campaign visit: <https://tinyurl.com/CaledonCares>.

partners. We are grateful for that support and we wanted to send a strong signal to our agricultural community that when there is a need we are here to support," says Paul Johnston, a director of the Association who pitched the donation idea to his colleagues.

Construction on the MRI began this fall and is scheduled to be completed next year.


"Our relationship with organizations in the community, like the Peel-Dufferin Plowmen's Association, is invaluable," says K.C. Carruthers, Headwaters Health Care Foundation CEO. "This gift will help us ensure exceptional care is available close to home for members of our community."

The Peel Dufferin Plowmen's Association invites their






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Generous donation received by Essa Historical Society



Last month John Beischer [centre] on behalf of the Essa Historical Society, accepted a generous donation from the Ivy Orange Lodge [No.450]. Members Ted 'Woody' Woods [left], and Scott Guy, presented the cheque to Beischer at their annual Christmas event at the hall. Essa Historical will use the funds to further their work promoting the history of Essa Township. Essa Historical Society is a group of dedicated volunteers whose main objective is to recognize, maintain and preserve the history of the 'garden' township of Simcoe County. Former and present members of the EHS have produced many books and calendars, as well as coordinating plaque installations at historical locations throughout the township. The EHS meet once monthly and welcome new member volunteers who share an interest in preserving the important history of Essa township.

New Year's Message from MPP Jill Dunlop: A Year of Growth and Looking Ahead

As we step into 2025, I want to extend my warmest wishes to everyone. I hope the new year has already brought you moments of joy, peace, and time spent with those you hold dear. It's a time to reflect on what we've accomplished together and look forward to all the opportunities ahead.

Looking ahead, we're focused on making significant improvements for our communities in 2025. An important priority this year is enhancing winter maintenance services. As the winter months continue, we're committed to ensuring that our roads and pathways are safe and accessible for all. Upgrading winter maintenance services means faster response times, better road conditions, and a safer environment for everyone to enjoy.

Additionally, I'm excited to share that Ontario is expanding access to dementia care in our communities. We're working to connect more individuals and families to the care and support they need, closer to home. We are committed to providing better support and resources to ensure that everyone can age with dignity and respect.

Lastly, I encourage you to take part in the many activities and events that bring us together as a community. One event that I'm excited to offer is a Family Day Free Skate and Swim on February 17th. Community members can enjoy swimming from 11am to 12:30pm at the Midland YMCA and/or skating from 12pm to 1:50pm at Orillia Rotary Place.

Here's to a wonderful 2025 ahead—filled with growth, progress, and new opportunities. Together, we'll continue to build a community that is stronger, more connected, and better for everyone. I look forward to seeing you around and wish you and your loved ones all the best in the months ahead!

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

40 Years of Marriage

A married couple in their early 60's are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in a quiet, romantic little restaurant in Hawaii. Suddenly, a tiny yet beautiful little fairy appeared on their table.

She said, "For being such an exemplary married couple and for being loving to each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish!"

The wife answered, "Oh, I want to travel around the world with my darling husband." The fairy waved her magic wand and - poof! - two tickets for the Queen Mary II appeared in her hands.

The husband thought for a moment: "Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. I'm sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me." The wife, and the fairy, were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish.

So the fairy waved her magic wand and poof!...

The husband became 92 years old.

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New year, new hobbies and new projects ahead!

By Janis Hamilton

Happy New Year and let the fun and memories begin. Let's hope 2025 so far has been kind to you and the weather has encouraged you to try out your cross-country skis, snowshoes or even just a walk in the forest with snow on the branches. If, however, if it has been blustery, and roads are closed well it's time to head to the sewing room for a day of quiet daydreaming and figuring out your next project.

So, if you are new to the world of quilting where do you start? Well first I hope you have a machine, and you know how to thread it, wind the bobbin and from time to time clean out around the bobbin (amazing how that area just gets filled with lint from your thread) and occasionally oil the right moving parts if that is what your manual suggests. If you have a machine and you are not sure how it works but you have bought it locally, call the shop and see if they will spend time showing you how to get the very best from your investment. Make sure you have a quarter inch foot and a walking foot for accurate sewing and the walking foot will help you sew your top, batting and backing with ease.

Here is a list of basic quilting tools: or you can read up on all that you might need for later at <https://www.seasoned-homemaker.com> or <https://suzyquilts.com> or <https://designedtoquilt.com> or <https://www.aquiltinglife.com> and <https://www.nationalquilterscircle.com> They offer free patterns if you sign up for their newsletter and you can cancel your subscription at any time. Patterns with tutorials include: fabric postcards, table runners, placemats, pot holders, quilting slippers, rope bowls, quilts of course, clothing and so much more. Worth a look if you have the time.

- Thread – basic can be white, grey and black is a great starting point. Use cotton thread usually a 50 wt is best as the thread is fine and won't create bulk on your project. Personally, I find Aurifil is well worth the extra cost, and I fill the bobbin less with this thread. Superior threads are wonderful to use for embellishments.

- Needles: yes, they will break, and they will get dull. 80/20 is a good needle to start with. Schmetz is a well-respected company and have needles for every project from jeans to free motion quilting. As a rule, after I've filled my bobbin twice, I change my needle and put it in a container like a pill bottle so I don't stab someone by putting it in the garbage.

- Seam ripper – yes reality is you will need one more often than you'd like to admit, I have one with a rubber on the end cap. It is great for rubbing on loose threads and they just come right away from the fabric. Saves a lot of time pulling loose threads.

- Scissors – spend the money on good quality fabric scissors. I have smaller ones for clipping fine areas, larger ones

for trimming.

- Rotary cutter/blades and a self-healing cutting mat (24" x 36" is the most practical) – this is again worth the investment. They are not cheap, but you can't start without these. Check out brand names (Olfa Grid or Adir are good brands) and don't buy it because it is cheap. I had a friend buy blades for her rotary cutter online and they were such poor quality they hardly cut paper. Again, your local quilt shop will make sure you are getting the best value. Personally, I try to buy Titanium blades as I find they last much longer and cut beautifully. The plastic cutting mats will leave a groove and you will end up replacing them vs a self-healing mat. Whatever size of mat you buy make sure you store it flat. Otherwise, it will curl and be out of shape when you want to cut on the mat. It can be stored under a bed, table or just sit on your cutting table if you have one.

- An iron and of course an ironing board is needed to make sure your fabric is not creased when you begin to cut your fabric and for ironing your seams. You do not have to spend a fortune on the iron, just make sure it has steam if you need it and it has different temperatures.

- Pins – I find the flower head straight pins work well for me, but there are many on the market.

- Batting and clips for completing the quilt can wait till you are ready for that stage.

So, the basic equipment is sitting there and now what? Well off you go and find something you want to make. A quick visit to the two web sites I've included will put you in the mood for sure. Then off to the quilt shop and if you are unsure of what colours you might use, the staff are always willing to help if they aren't too busy. Don't be overwhelmed by vast choices in the stores. Focus on what you want to do and don't just start buying because you like it. That is the beginning of going down the rabbit hole of having the "stash" of fabric and not wanting to use it because it is so pretty, or you have nothing that will go with it to make a project. Buy what you need for the project!

So where can you get help to start your quilting journey. A quilting friend is perfect if you are lucky enough to have one close by. The quilt shop usually offers beginner classes and if you are inclined to search the internet there are online classes as low as \$10 and some are even free if you sign up for a subscription to their website. Most local quilt guilds offer workshops for members and most guilds have at least 8 meetings a year and some even go all year round. Their annual fees range from \$50-\$80 annually. Your local library should have local connections with the guilds in their information section. In Barrie, you just go to "Information Barrie," and it links you to the library. The Community Information Directory has a directory primarily on government, voluntary and non-profit organizations. This is not in all small towns and villages, but worth a look where you live to see if they have it or just search for quilt guilds and quilt shops in your area.

Start the year thinking of a challenge, plug in the sewing machine and let your creativity blast ahead. You have nothing to lose and only a lifetime of enjoying the hum of your machine. It is such fun to create so off you go-you've got this!

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QUILTING

A busy time of year for the Quilting Corners Guild

Story and photos provided by Senora Baldry

Another busy night in November at guild with 23 Quilts of Valour - Canada being presented to our regional rep Elizabeth. The quilts are the combined efforts of Quilting Corners Guild members and friends, and the many participants of the Country Concessions Quilt Shop Charity Sew Days. It is our way of supporting the many men and women who have served in the military, past and present, by providing them with a warm 'hug' to thank them. It was also a nice surprise to be presented with a certificate of recognition from QoV-Canada for the many quilts created by QCG. Thank you to all of the hands that provided fabric, time and sewing creativity once again.

Bundles of quilts, stockings and pillow cases were ready to go for Giving Tuesday on December 3rd. Quilting Corners Guild has once again stepped up in support of our community partners: the Alliston Food Bank, Matthew's House Hospice, My Sister's Place, the Good Samaritan and Simcoe Manor. In total 102 Quilts of Comfort, 116 stockings and 50 pillow cases were happily received. There was also a toiletry collection and a few rounds of Quilto to raise cash for the Food Bank. Thank you to all members and friends of the guild for their time and creativity.



November donations



December donations



Calling all Quilters!

Farm View readers would like to hear from you!

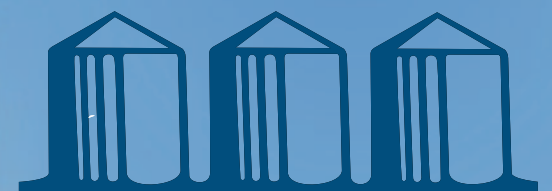
Please share your stories and photos of your quilting projects and adventures.

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R	R	P	L	D	N	J	Z	T	G	O	P	H	L	N	O	A	W	P	B
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X	P	W	V	B	A	Y	L	V	B	I	T	U	D	M	J	K	E	U	F
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P	A	K	T	E	E	W	B	J	J	R	E	Z	L	Y	E	K	C	O	H
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C	H	D	E	P	K	R	A	O	O	Z	I	M	C	D	I	F	T	A	P
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V	A	O	I	X	A	X	G	Y	S	M	X	M	S	T	P	G	M	H	Y
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O	C	X	A	H	E	V	I	P	D	T	I	J	N	L	I	R	A	S	I
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- AXEL
- BLADE
- BREAKAWAY
- CHECK
- COAST
- COMPETITION
- DISCIPLINE
- EDGE
- FLIP
- HOCKEY
- ICE
- JUMP
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- RINK
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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COMING EVENTS

Beyond Macronutrients: Diving into Soil Health at the OSCIA Annual General Meeting and MicroSmart Deep Dive

OSCIA to host two-day learning event in February 2025 Kingston, ON. Dive deep into on-farm soil health at a unique two-day learning event! The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) is hosting its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Deep Dive learning day on February 4-5, 2025 in Kingston, Ontario. After the success of OSCIA's inaugural SpraySmart Deep Dive event in 2024, the OSCIA team has shifted its sights to soil micronutrients for the topic of the 2025 MicroSmart Deep Dive.

Attendees can expect to hear the latest OSCIA research and program updates and presentations from exciting guest speakers on the topic of soil health, including a panel of Ontario farmers sharing their experiences with reducing tillage on their farms. The MicroSmart Deep Dive will be an in-depth exploration of the role of soil micronutrients in soil health and crop production, and will feature a tradeshow of innovative agricultural products and services. A knowledgeable line up of guest speakers from Ontario and beyond will offer practical, science-based insights into how farmers can improve their soil health and the economic benefits of investing in soil health. Keynote speaker Dr. Luke Gatiboni of NC State University will give a presentation tailored to each day of the event.

While soil health and crop fertility are a key concern for many Ontario farmers, the conversation is typically focused on soil macronutrients. The MicroSmart event offers a unique opportunity to dive deep into the topics of micronutrients and aims to bring the latest research on the best use of micronutrients to Ontario farmers.

According to Colin Elgie, Soil Fertility Specialist at OMAFA, "our crops require 17 essential nutrients for survival, but so much of our crop fertility plans are spent on just 3 or 4 – nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulfur. As yields continue to increase, micronutrients may be limiting

factors in crop production, and understanding the what, where, when, why, and how to best apply them is critical to optimize nutrient use efficiency and improve on-farm profitability."

"The OSCIA AGM and Deep Dive Learning Day are invaluable opportunities for our members and the broader agricultural community to come together and reflect on the achievements and aspirations of OSCIA and our partners." says Angela Straathof, OSCIA's Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer. "These events embody the OSCIA mission of fostering responsible, sustainable agricultural practices and our vision of supporting thriving farms and healthy environments. By sharing knowledge, exploring innovative solutions, and learning from one another, we strengthen the connections and insights that drive our industry forward."

Event details:

Annual General Meeting - February 4, 2025

MicroSmart Deep Dive – February 5, 2025

Location: Kingston Market Square Hotel, 285 King Street East, Kingston, ON K7L 3B1).

Pre-registration is required. Please visit: <https://membership.ontariosoilcrop.org/event/oscia-annual-general-meeting-and-deep-dive/>

Ticket prices:

Annual General Meeting - \$75 per person.

MicroSmart Deep Dive - \$125 for OSCIA members, \$175 for non-members.

More information:

Kathleen Pentland

OSCIA

kpentland@ontariosoilcrop.org

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Kubota B2650
hours ua: 1116.3, 4wd, diesel, cab/heat/air, 23x8.50-14 front tires, 12.4x16 rear tires, 2 remotes, 540 rpm, la534 loader, front grill guard, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.
\$23,900



New Holland 460
net wrap / twine, silage special, 540 rpm, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.
Stock number: U4814
Serial number: YFN187897
\$29,800




Kubota DMC8536R
pivot tongue mower conditioner, 1000 rpm, 2 pth, excellent condition, Unit is Located at Stewart's equipment in Erin.
Stock Number : U27673
\$34,800



Kubota RTV-X900W
hours showing: 772.4, diesel, rops with canopy, front windsheild, front bumper, hydraulic dump box, worksite tires, Unit is Located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.
\$14,600



Case IH 5120
hours ua: 5783, 2wd, cab heat air 11.00x16 front tires, 18.4x38 rear tires, 540 rpm, two sets of remotes, 16x16 semo power shift, bar axle, Unit is located in Erin
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John Deere 2155
hours showing : 3757.6, open station tractor with foldable rops, 4wd, 1 set of remotes, 540 rpm, loader, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin
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Kubota M6-141
hours ua: 1331.3 hours ua: 2160, 4wd, diesel, cab/heat/air, 540/1000 rpm, 2 remotes, 420/70r24 fronts, 520/70r38 rears, hla lasb4203wef1016 blade, live edge, in Erin.
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