

Since 1977

FARMVIEW

A newspaper with something for everyone | April 2025 | Volume 48 #04

Complimentary copy for
the FARM household

Inside This Issue:

North
Simcoe
SCIA
Seed & Feed
Fair

Photos
from the
East Central
Farm Show

Coverage
of the Ag
Knowledge
Forum
and the
Next Level
Ag Seminar

Maple Syrup
Weekend
April
5th & 6th!

Favourite
Columns
Farmer Tim,
Soul Sisters,
Village
Stories &
After the
Chores



Celebrating a
shared passion
for Holstein
breeding at the
2025 Holstein
Ontario Annual
Convention.

IPM 2025 commemorative cookbook now available

The cookbook remains a popular souvenir item to commemorate the annual International Plowing Match and Rural Expo coming to Niagara this September

Community cookbooks have served as a way to bring people together, share cherished family recipes and raise funds for meaningful local causes for generations, and the International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (IPM) 2025 Local Committee is proud to continue this tradition with the release of their new cookbook, "From our Farm to Your Table".

The IPM is one of the largest agricultural events of its kind in Canada, drawing thousands of visitors each year to celebrate farming, rural living, and innovation. Hosted in a different community each year the event showcases local agriculture, business and culture. The Match features plowing competitions, vendors, educational exhibits, entertainment, and much more, providing a unique and engaging experience for visitors.

Organizing an event of this scale comes with significant costs, and both local and provincial organizers work hard to raise funds to help offset expenses. Community cookbooks have been a popular part of this effort and IPM 2025 is continuing this time-honoured fundraising tradition.

The newly-published IPM 2025 cookbook is more than just a collection of recipes—it is a celebration of the local community and its rich agricultural roots. The book features a carefully-curated selection of appetizers, salads, main dishes and more contributed by community members, farmers, volunteers, and supporters of IPM 2025. Each recipe proudly lists the contributor's name, allowing readers to connect with familiar names from across the region and discover new family favourites.

"From our Farm to Your Table" is designed to be a treasured keepsake—not just for this year's event—but for gen-



erations to come. Whether you are looking for a tried-and-true comfort meal or a new and unique dish to impress guests the IPM 2025 cookbook "From our Farm to Your Table" offers something for everyone.

The cookbook is available for \$20 and can be purchased at several local businesses, including:

- Devries Fruit Farm - 825 Canboro Road, Fenwick;
- Lowden's Feed Supplies - 7269 RR #20, Smithville (cash only); and
- Lincoln Line Orchards - 9764 RR #20, Smithville

All proceeds from the cookbook sales will go directly towards supporting IPM 2025 and its local initiatives, ensuring this large-scale agricultural event remains a memorable and successful experience for all. Pick up your copy today to help support your community, celebrate local traditions and bring home a piece of IPM 2025 history—one recipe at a time.

For more information on IPM 2025 and its fundraising efforts visit: www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2025.

The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo (IPM) 2025 will take place from September 16 to September 20 in Grassie (West Lincoln) in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario. The IPM is a five day celebration of agriculture and rural living. There will be plowing competitions, a range of activities for people of all ages, numerous opportunities to learn about agriculture, daily live entertainment in multiple Match venues, hundreds of vendors and exhibits, a wide variety of food, an RV park and more. For more information: www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2025/.

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.

February 10th to April 16th: Winter Webinars & Courses

Grey Ag Services schedule of winter webinars and courses for the month of April can be found on page 12. Full details can be found on their website www.grayagservices.ca or by calling 519-986-3756.

April 1st: Hall of Fame applications due

Do you know a farmer in Simcoe County that deserves to be recognized by the Agricultural Hall of Fame? If so, please send an email to simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com to request a nomination application. All applications must be in by April 1st 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole at simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com

April 8th: CFFO Wellness Dinner and Workshop

The CFFO is hosting an evening of fellowship, hope and insight from guest speakers, Lauren Van Ewyk of the National Farmers Mental Health Alliance and Diane Bergsma of Three Oaks Respite Cabin. This free event is open to the public and includes dinner. Royal Ashburn Golf Club, Durham. 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM. RSVP required; call Celma Freitas (416) 862-5106. **More information in the ad on page 9 and the article on page 8.**

April 12th: SCFA hosts Keep Kids Safe Workshop

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture is pleased to once again present the Keep Kids Safe Workshop to be held at Huron Tractor at Cashtown Corners on Saturday, April 12th. Email Nicole at simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com to reserve your space!

April 12th: Holstein Club Social Night

Join us for a Holstein Club Social Night on April 12th at 8 PM at the Elmvale Lions Club Hall!

This year, we're keeping it casual and fun with charcuterie & snacks, a cash bar, and the County Holstein Awards – all for just \$10 a ticket!

Email simcoecountyholsteins@gmail.com for tickets!

April 15th: CFFO, Simcoe County District AGM

New re-scheduled date. The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario - Central Ontario District, Annual General Meeting rescheduled for Tuesday, April 15th at the Ivy Orange Hall, 5085 20th Sideroad, Ivy, (Essa Township). 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM. The program includes lunch with special guest speakers. Please RSVP by calling or texting Shelly (705) 209-8161.

April 17th: Ag Safety Training Course

York Region Federation of Agriculture and Workplace Safety & Prevention Services present Agriculture OHS Compliance Material Handling, Machine & Tractor Safety. Taking place in Mount Albert on April 17th. **Full details in the ad on page 17.**

April 23rd: Program announcement for E.D.G.E

April 23rd at 7 p.m. E.D.G.E. (Elmvale District Garden Enthusiasts) presents Protecting Life that Sustains Us. Speaker: Kathy Patnode from Xerces Society (insects). The meeting will take place at the Elmvale Legion, 7 John Street, Elmvale at 7 p.m. Guests welcome, Annual Membership only \$15.

April 26: Simcoe Area Women's Institute Women's Day

Simcoe Area Women's Institute will be hosting a Women's Day on April 26, 2025 located at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 170 Steel St. Barrie, ON L4M 2G4.

Registration is from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. The cost for the day including lunch is \$25.00 or \$15.00 without lunch. **More information can be found in the article on page 23.**

May 3rd: Sunshine Fibre Fest

Fabulous fleece and fibre festival featuring diverse vendors, demonstrations, live animals and more! Taking place on May 3rd at the ODAS Park 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More details in the ad on page 16.



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North Simcoe Soil & Crop Improvement Association, Seed & Feed Fair

Report by Don Beaulieu

It was a spring-like afternoon in mid-March when the North Simcoe Soil & Crop Improvement Association met at the Elmvale Community Hall for their Seed & Feed Fair and to hear three guest speakers. Approximately 65 people attended the event.

Information booths and the competition displays were on hand to add to the interesting and welcoming feel of the event and the networking opportunity.

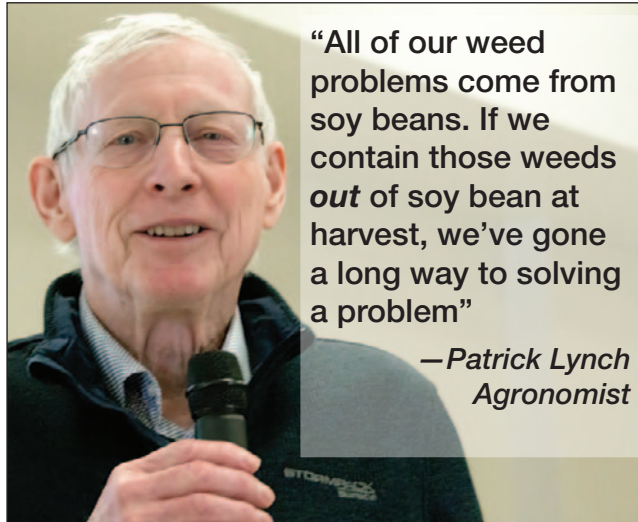
Master of Ceremonies, President Allen Mosley, kept the afternoon on track which included the usual bevy of draw prizes before and after the speakers. The first guest speaker he introduced was Patrick Lynch.

Past, present, future

Patrick Lynch is a well-respected agronomist from the Stratford, Ontario area and is a popular speaker.

He spoke to several topics; weed controls, fertilizer, genetics, insect and disease control and more. Each was broken down into three segments; how they were dealt with or handled in the past, how we do it now and what we can see coming in the future.

One thing from the past Lynch mentioned involved removing weed seeds at harvest. "That was one way of keeping the weeds under control. For years there were Scour Kleens on the combines". He insists "There is no reason we can not put Scour Kleens back on the combines", particularly with soybeans. The Scour Kleen unit can remove particles smaller than the harvested grain using appropriate sized screen.



"All of our weed problems come from soy beans. If we contain those weeds out of soy bean at harvest, we've gone a long way to solving a problem"

—Patrick Lynch
Agronomist

Market talk

Steve Kell is a popular speaker when it comes to grain markets. This can be a very dry, chart and number-heavy topic. Kell manages to speak to the numbers, but makes them interesting with his lively, light-hearted manner. This presentation was no exception and he covered a lot of bases, so-to-speak.

Early on, he talked about corn and ethanol in Ontario, including aviation fuel. Wheat exports, U.S. tariffs and spoke about Ontario wheat markets. Time was spent on soybeans, production amounts and the cost of moving grain "down the river" (The St. Lawrence Seaway) to ship it to the world.

Kell had a lot of positive information and scenarios to offer.

Yield Enhancement Network

Joanna Follings from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness explained in detail, Great Lakes Yield Enhancement Network Data Collection. In general, The Great Lakes Yield Enhancement Network is one of a global series of YENs that help local farmers better understand their yield potential and learn what is limiting that potential.

YENS connect a great variety of agricultural organizations, extension specialists, academics, agronomists, and farmers who are striving to improve crop returns by unlocking the potential of the field by closing the gap between potential yield and actual yield. The Great Lakes YEN currently focuses on winter wheat. This particular YEN covers the Great Lakes area of the Province of Ontario, Canada, and the Great Lakes region of the USA.

The amount of information gathered and processed is staggering. Several comparisons were presented of nearly every aspect of planting on the member farms.

The technology can allow one to chart and map an amazing number of data points. Summer tours and group meetings among participants allows for face-to-face networking as well as on-line opportunities.



Steve Kell
Kell Grain Elevator



"We believe that in the Great Lakes region, we can achieve 200 bushels per acre wheat."

—Joanna Follings
YEN





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EDITORIAL



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

Five years ago I made the statement that I wasn't going to dwell on Covid in this newspaper. I wanted the Farm View to be a respite from the negativity in the news. I've decided to treat Trump like Covid. They do have many similarities to one another after all... Trump is very much like a bad disease himself.

Seriously though, I'm not going to talk about the tariffs and the many other wrong doings happening south of us

but I recognize the nervousness and uncertainty we are all feeling. To that I will say turn to a trusted source, fact check what you hear and know there are programs designed specifically for those working in the ag industry that offer mental health support. The OFA has many resources as well as the CFFO. The CFFO is hosting a wellness dinner on April 8th that is free to attend, information can be found on pages 8 and 9.

This issue provides more coverage of Grey Bruce Farmers' Week, the AgKnowledge Forum recently held in Alliston and the Next Level Ag Seminar organized by Holmes Agro and Collwest Ltd. If you haven't been to one of the spring seminars yet, Grey Bruce Ag Services still has many courses throughout the month of April. Information on those can be found on page 12. This month Dennis Gannon's article is on spring flooding, a must read for tips on keeping you and your loved ones safe.

Now back to the beginning, five years ago was also when I purchased this paper from my father, John Beischer, and took on the role of newspaper publisher.

I'd like to pause for a "Juno Awards" moment and thank the contributors, the advertisers who keep the lights on, and just as importantly, the readers. I appreciate everyone's support and encouragement to keep the paper going. If you see me at one of the wonderful upcoming events (Simcoe County Holsteins night, April 12th) please introduce yourself. I have learned a fair amount about our agricultural industry and am excited to learn more.

I hope you continue to enjoy the positivity and good community spirit reflected in the articles and stories of the Farm View. If there is anything you would like more coverage of please just let me know and the Farm View team will do our best to make it happen.

Looking forward to seeing you out and about this spring and summer!

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



In the photo above left to right Nicole Palmateer, Luke Jones and Isabella Cullen are all smiles during the 4-H Provincial Leadership Camp. Read Isabella's article on page 21. Photo provided by South Simcoe 4-H.

DEADLINE for the May Farm View is April 14th.

On the Cover



Auctioneer Carl Phoenix, who is also a dairy farmer and Holstein breeder from Sunderland (to the left), and Dave McMorrow, Holstein breeder from Lindsay pause for a photo together at the 2025 Holstein Ontario Annual Convention. Read all about it on page 14.

—Photo credit Claire Swale.

Farm View is available at the following agricultural businesses.

- ALLIANCE AGRITURF in Ivy, Bolton, Fenelon, Baxter and Lindsay
- BARRIE KOA (Seasonally)
- BRADBURY SMALL FAMILY FARM INC.
- BRADFORD GREENHOUSE Barrie
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- DOUBLE JB FEEDS
- FOODLAND in Elmvale
- FOUR CEDARS CAFE & CONVENIENCE
- GIFFEN'S COUNTRY MARKET
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- HARRIS FARMS (Seasonally)
- HOLMES AGRO in Stayner and Orangeville
- HURON TRACTOR, Stayner
- KEVIN BARKER AUCTIONS in Lindsay
- LEGACY FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES INC in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza
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- RICHARDS EQUIPMENT INC.
- SOBEY'S in Angus and Bradford
- 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 \$45.00. 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:

Leah Emms 1-800-668-3276 email: leah.emms@ofa.on.ca
 Lisa Hern 1-877-343-5444 email: lisa.hern@ofa.on.ca

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Celebrate the sweetest time of the year at an Ontario sugarbush April 5-6th, 2025

Ontario's maple syrup season is in full swing, and there's no better way to experience it than at Maple Weekend. Hosted by the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association (OMSPA), this free, family-friendly event takes place April 5 and 6 in 2025, inviting visitors to sugarbushes across the province to celebrate the tradition, taste, and craftsmanship behind Ontario's liquid gold.

In 2024 Ontario maple producers harvested a staggering 607,000 gallons of syrup, an increase of 20 per cent over 2023 production. Maple Weekend is the perfect time to taste the new crop of Ontario syrup when it's only days from tree to bottle.

During Maple Weekend, visitors are invited to experience the Canadian spring tradition of a visit to the local sugarbush to meet the producer and see firsthand how Canada's first farm crop of the year is made. Whether you're indulging in pancake breakfasts, sugar-making demonstrations, taffy on snow, sleigh rides, or scenic trail adventures, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

"The annual trip to a sugarbush is a quintessential Canadian experience," said Leann Thompson, Chair of the OMSPA Maple Weekend working group. "Every year, participating producers go all out to give visitors an authentic, hands-on look at how maple

syrup is made, from tree to table."

Since its launch in 2015, Maple Weekend has grown into a traditional spring event for families, drawing thousands of visitors to sugarbushes across the province. Each year the event continues to grow, with 75 maple producers participating across multiple OMSPA locals in 2025, including:

- ◆ Algoma & District
- ◆ Algonquin District
- ◆ Eastern
- ◆ Grey-Bruce & District
- ◆ Haliburton-Kawartha
- ◆ Lanark & District
- ◆ Ottawa Valley District
- ◆ Quinte & District
- ◆ Simcoe & District
- ◆ Southwestern
- ◆ Waterloo-Wellington

"With participating sugarbushes all across Ontario, you won't have to travel far to experience Maple Weekend," Thompson added. "Whether you visit one sugarbush or make a day of exploring multiple locations, each producer offers their own unique activities and maple treats."

Maple Weekend runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both April 5 and 6, 2025, offering visitors the chance to watch sap being collected and boiled into fresh maple syrup, enjoy maple-inspired

treats, including taffy on snow and pancakes drenched in syrup, learn about traditional and modern syrup-making techniques, and explore scenic sugarbush trails and take part in family-friendly activities.

A full list of participating Maple Weekend sugarbushes, along with details on their specials and activities, is available at www.mapleweekend.ca. Use the interactive map to plan your visit and discover the sweetest spots near you!



The Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association (OMSPA) represents over 600 maple syrup producers across the province. As the official voice of Ontario's sugar makers, OMSPA is dedicated to supporting high-quality production, education, and advocacy in the maple industry.


With 11 local chapters across Ontario's maple-producing regions, OMSPA members are committed to preserving Canada's rich maple syrup heritage and bringing top-quality maple products to consumers.

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Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Goat Day

Raising Kids Artificially

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

With good management, goat kids raised on milk replacer can be as healthy as doe raised kids, was the basic message given by Dr. Andrea Mongini. Dr. Mongini is a partner, along with her husband, at M & M Veterinary Practice in California, USA. The practice specializes in dairy goats and provides nutrition and management consultation across the USA. Dr. Mongini also owns her own sheep dairy farm.

Kids raised on milk replacer can "look the same as dam raised" kids, Dr. Mongini said in her presentation "Raising Kids Artificially" as part of the Grey-Bruce Farmers Week, "Goat Day". According to Dr. Mongini, kids raised on milk replacer can grown equal to doe raised kids and become productive does to be used as herd builders.

Taking kids away from their natural mothers and raising them is not easy. "Raising kids takes a lot of work- its hard. The only way to do it (successfully) is put the work in. Spend the time taking care of the kids," she said. Dr. Mongini added she cannot eliminate the amount of work however, she can offer ways to keep the kids healthy to eliminate spending time dealing with sickness.

Raising kids away from the mother doe is done for two main purposes. The first, by far, is disease control. Diseases, like mastitis, can pass from the doe to the kid- and not show up until the kid has her first kidding. The second reason in the dairy business is "economics of dairy production, the milk is the valuable profit centre," Dr. Mongini said.

Getting ready for kidding starts long before the kids arrive. A close-up to kidding pen should be set up for the last month of gestation. This pen should be kept clean. Plans for regular kidding checks need to be set in place. And the first milk, colostrum, must be heat treated. Heat treating means the milk must be heated to a certain temperature to clear it from carrying any disease.

Colostrum needs to be collected early, within hours of when the goat kids. Studies have shown "cow's milk at 6

hours freshening (after birthing) has 50% milk so there is a huge dilution happening rapidly in most cases," Dr. Mongini explained that colostrum should be collected within 6 hours of birthing only. She said she has seen colostrum being added to by simply adding more, day after day, in a bucket sitting on a counter- and that is not healthy colostrums as it is full of bacteria.

"Add potassium sorbate because it stops bacteria growth. If you want to save colostrum in a fridge, add that and it will be okay for a few days," she advised.

At kidding time, the rule is, according to Dr. Mongini "one ounce to 1 pound of body weight" (66 ml per 1 kg body weight). When in doubt, weigh the kids, she stressed. The first meal must come within two hours of birth.

"Kids need to get that volume in," she insisted adding, "that big meal is what is going to pass into the bloodstream. Kids need two feedings at this whole volume. The second feeding must be within 6 to 8 hours of the first feeding. After two feedings, they can go to milk (or milk replacer)."

She said powdered colostrum is made from cow milk, and in her experience in the USA, they "are better than nothing" however, they can be used if the herd is dealing with CAE, John's and CL and "you don't have any way to heat treat."

Kids being raised off the doe should have access to water, grain and a small amount of hay. Kids should be kept warm.

Kids' feeding tools starts with a bucket. Feeding buckets- often called lambing bars- can be purchased from feed supply stores or can be made using plastic buckets and tubing with nipples.

"Avoid nipple confusion," she stressed adding that the exact same nipple should be used for feeding colostrum that will be on the feeders. "Use the same type of nipple for the bottle for the colostrum and the feeding bucket. Half of the kids will refuse a new nipple and then you are bottle feeding

half your kids for the next two months," she advised. Adding a "backflow preventer valve" is very helpful, she said adding that buckets can be placed in rings on cement blocks in the pen.

"Many producers clean the feeding bucket once a week- and add milk twice a day," she said and they see cases of soremouth, bloating and scouring as a result. She said the entire system should be cleaned and disinfected- daily.

For large herds that feed groups of 5,000 kids at one time, the only option are feeding machines. "The best dairies sanitize one time per hour by cleaning the nipples and doing a flush of the lines."

If many kids show signs of bloat, the entire feeding unit should be replaced with a new one. "A new feeding bucket is not worth the loss of a kid," she said.

Kids should be in a limit-free setting, be eating 900 ml of milk over 2 to 3 feedings. Water must be accessible "water should be accessible not full of ice chunks," she added. Grain should be made available.

Milk replacer needs to be high quality to make high quality kids. "A lot of kid milk replacers (in the USA) are only made twice a year because of the volume needed. If it was made six months ago and stored in a real cold or real hot warehouse, it can break down milk proteins. Every bag has a manufacturing date on it," she said.

"The goal is to have an average weight gain of 400 grams of weight gained each day. Fat, shiny kids are possible with artificial milk replacers," she said.

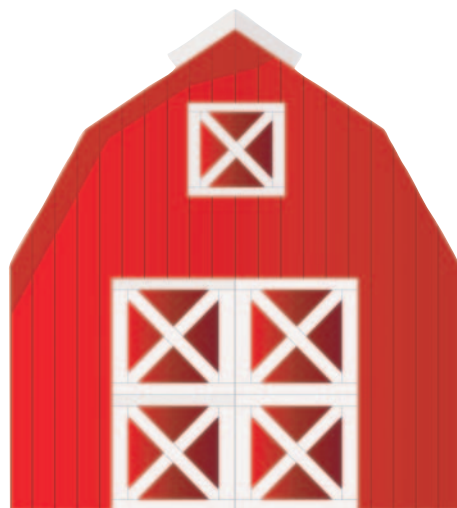
The first step starts by pulling the kids off at birth. "Kids should be put in a cardboard box or tote and towed off," she recommended adding that if one can be present at the birth, there is a veterinary tape that can be put on teats to keep the kids from nursing. She stressed pulling the kids before the doe can lick them is by far the best.

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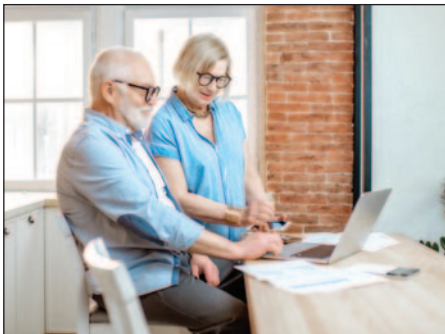
For many people the approval process with the banks can be grueling. Tracy Green Mortgage Broker (level 2 licenced to provide all mortgages including private funds) owner of Ontario-Wide Financial has been a mortgage provider in the industry for 37 years and has always had the "if there's a will there's 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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CFFO Love Thy Neighbour Event on April 8, 2025

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is excited to invite you to the Love Thy Neighbour Event on April 8, 2025, at 6 p.m., being held at the Royal Ashburn Golf and Country Club in Whitby, ON.

This special evening will bring together community leaders to share inspiring yet practical messages on mental health and support for both the agricultural community and the general public.

Featured Guest Speakers:

- Lauren Van Ewyk, co-founder and CEO of the National Farmers Mental Health Alliance, delivers a compelling workshop on mental health. Her insightful messages resonate deeply with attendees, highlighting the critical need for mental health resources.
- Diane Bergsma shares the moving story of Three Oaks Cabin, established in memory of her son, Dalles. This sanctuary provides a haven for farmers and first responders experiencing high levels of stress, anxiety, depression, PTSD, and suicidal thoughts.

Attendees will have the opportunity to gain valuable resources to support mental well-being, hear insightful discussions, and foster meaningful connections.

Please join us for this free event as we come together in support of farmers, mental health, and strong community connections sponsored by Caldwell Securities Ltd.

To RSVP, contact Celma Freitas at cfreitas@caldwellindustries.com or call 416-862-5106.

For more information contact: info@christianfarmers.org or 1-855-800-0306.

About Caldwell Securities Ltd.: At Caldwell, we believe preserving and growing your wealth is achieved through a personalized, customized and flexible plan. We foster long-term partnerships with our clients supported by our successful track record and our experienced and sophisticated investment advice since 1980. www.caldwellsecurities.com

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is an Accredited Farm Organization representing the interests of over 4,000 farm families in Ontario who are called to the vocation of farming. CFFO policy promotes economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable farming, advocating that farmers receive fair returns for their production and stewardship efforts.

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Primary focus remains on protecting the interests of Canadian farmers



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

We are living in extraordinary times. The world around us is changing at an unprecedented pace, and everyone is concerned about their families, livelihoods, and the security of their futures. Amid these challenges, the ongoing evolution of trade and tariff policies — particularly the ones imposed by our largest trading partner — has added further uncertainty and pressure on Canadian industries, including agriculture.

As we face these difficult circumstances, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) continues to work diligently alongside our commodity partners and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA). Our primary focus remains on protecting the interests of Canadian farmers and ensuring the continued strength and sustainability of our agricultural sector.

Despite the negative impacts that these tariffs will have on Canadian farmers, there is a positive side to this challenging situation: it has sparked a new sense of awareness among Canadian citizens about the importance of supporting Canadian-grown and made food. This growing awareness is something we've long championed at OFA, and we're seeing it take root in communities across the country.

One of the ways we've worked to foster this awareness is through initiatives like our HomeGrown website. <https://homegrownofa.ca/>

Launched several years ago, the website aims to educate the public about the invaluable role of Canadian farmland in our economy, environment, and culture. It highlights the vast array of farm-raised and grown products available right here in our own province, encouraging consumers to think local when they shop. The website also emphasizes the growing issue of

farmland loss, which poses a significant threat to our ability to sustain local food production.

The recently announced tariffs have given more Canadians a reason to pause and reconsider where their food is coming from. More people are recognizing the importance of supporting agricultural producers and local food businesses. In turn, many consumers are turning to homegrown food options as a way to support the local economy and ensure the sustainability of Canadian farming.

At OFA, we continue to work hard to build strong relationships with all levels of government. These relationships are vital for advocating and educating policymakers about the challenges and barriers that farmers face while running their businesses. One area where we've made significant lobbying progress is in the realm of economic development. Many municipalities now have dedicated economic development staff, with some even employing specialists focused specifically on the agricultural and agri-food sectors. These professionals are vital allies as we continue to advocate for policies that support our farmers and help grow the agricultural economy.

Though the tariffs are an unwelcome burden, they have inadvertently sparked a much-needed conversation about the value of Canadian-grown and made products. As more Canadians realize the importance of supporting local farmers, it creates a ripple effect throughout the entire agricultural industry. From increased consumer demand for local products to greater investment in the agri-food sector, this renewed awareness has the potential to create lasting, positive changes for Canadian agriculture.

At OFA, we are dedicated to ensuring that Ontario-grown food continues to be a cornerstone of our provincial economy and an integral part of our agricultural landscape. Together, with the support of Canadians across the country, it is my hope that we can build a stronger, more resilient agricultural sector for generations to come.

Winston Churchill said it best, "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival

This April 5 & 6, experience maple syrup season at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation! The Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival is the place to be for families looking for activities beyond maple syrup.

Admission includes a pancake and sausage breakfast with fresh maple syrup. Visitors can also learn traditional and modern methods of making maple syrup, interact with exotic animals, watch dog agility demonstrations, and ride a tractor wagon through the forest. Enjoy learning outdoor skills with cadets, live music, meet-and-greets with firefighters, paramedics, conservation officers, and much more! It's also a great day to purchase Tiffin maple syrup!

For more than 30 years, the festival has celebrated maple syrup as an important aspect of Canadian heritage. It is a fundraising event for NVCA and the Rotary Club of Barrie. Volunteers generously donate their time to organize Spring Tonic and manage different stations during the event.

"All proceeds from the festival go towards Rotary community projects and maintaining Tiffin Conservation Area," added Darren Robinson, Chairperson of the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival at the Rotary Club of Barrie. "Funds help support the Royal Victoria Hospital, Salvation Army, affordable housing and many other community enhancement projects throughout Simcoe County."

This year marks an exciting milestone for the festival with the introduction of new sponsors. "We're thrilled to welcome Brad's Tree Service as our Golden Syrup Sponsor," said Kyra Howes, Director of Conservation Services at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. "Their generous contribution, along with other in-kind support, will allow us to make an even greater impact in our community." The Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival is held at the Tiffin Conservation Area, 10 minutes from Barrie, Angus and Innisfil, and only 1 hour north of the Greater Toronto Area. Admission to the festival is \$20 for adults, \$15 for children between 3-12 and free for children 2 and under. Family packs for groups of four are available for \$65. Visitors can also build their own bird box for \$10.



CHRISTIAN FARMERS FEDERATION OF ONTARIO
ACCREDITED FARM ORGANIZATION



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Guest Speaker
Lauren Van Ewyk
National Farmer Mental
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Attendees enjoy the many exhibitors at the 44th annual farm show

Article and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The East Central Farm Show (ECFS) has a waiting list for vendors to participate. The popular Farm Show is an important date for farmers as this is a show that is truly made for farmers. The 150 exhibitors all contribute to the business of farming. The show is thoughtfully planned out and is highly organized with spaces all having live people in attendance- at all times.

Much of this organization comes from the Secretary-Treasurer of ECFS, Neil Moore. He has been part of this Show in some way since it began 44 years ago.

ECFS started with a show at the Manvers Community Centre in 1981. The first ECFS under the official title was held in Cambrey at the Fenelon Township Community Centre in 1983. The show outgrew the space and was moved to Peterborough to the Morrow Building until 1992. "Then we came here (Commonwealth Building at the Lindsay Fairgrounds) and here we are. We have 12 new exhibitors this year. There is a waiting list that we never got to. The show was filled." Moore explained in a rare quiet moment for him at the Show.

Attendance over two days has about 2,000 people. The cost of the show remains at \$10 per person. Being open for one 12.5 hour day allows for farmers with off-farm jobs to come without taking time off work. There was a big surge of people coming in about 4:30 on Wednesday despite the thick fog that was rolling in.

The ECFS is presented by the East Central Soil and Crop Improvement Association. There was lunch available from the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton 4-H Association and this event proves each year to be a significant fundraiser.



Pictured above is Eugene Carlin from Lindsay of Kawartha Antique Power (KAP). Eugene is a former director of the International Cockshutt Club Inc. that has members all over the world, united with an interest in farm equipment that originally started as Brantford Plow Works in 1877. At KAP, Eugene is the vendor showperson and he is now in the planning stages for the 2025 Kawartha Antique Power Heritage Show.



PROUD TO BE CANADIAN: The Canadian flag business is booming these days thanks to the comments made by United States President Donald Trump about Canada joining the United States. Bruce Cook from Sutton, standing, is the owner of Ontario Flag & Pole and he has never experienced a winter as busy as this past February. "Businesses want people to know they are Canadian," he said explaining Canadian flags of all sizes are seeing huge demands this year as people want to show they are proud to be in the country of Canada. Above, he shows off a Canada flag at his exhibitor booth beside another Farm Show exhibitor, Albert Heffernan, that was at the Show representing the Norwood Country Music Jamboree, Albert is also an owner of Kawartha Battery Sales and Service from Peterborough.



Pictured above is Kurt Schmid of Little Britain. Kurt is a dairy farmer and was checking out Wood's Dairy Source from Keene at the East Central Farm Show.



Above is Jason McIntosh, auctioneer and owner of Jason McIntosh Auctions. "Years ago we had hundreds of people at a farm auction, today we have hundreds of thousands of people at every online auction sale," he said, explaining that since the pandemic of 2020, the online auction has become extremely popular. Through online auctions, he has sold items to people in nearly all the provinces in Canada and nearly all the States in the United States. The online auction is here to stay, he believes, and he had a computer on site at his exhibitor space to explain the new concept.

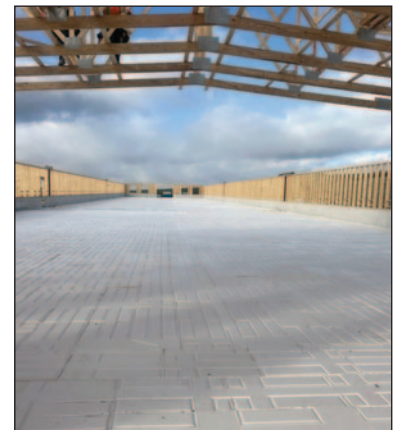


Exploring tractors is an important part of the East Central Farm Show. This is one of the youngest interested in tractors, 11 month old Culllem Green. Culllem is from Cobourg.



Pictured below is Dean Hannah of Hannah Dry-wall Contractors checking out a new ATV for his country property. This was at the HB Cycle exhibitor booth, HB Cycle is from Cameron.

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AgKnowledge Forum and Market held at Gibson Centre

Cultivating growth, innovation and flavour on the farm.

Event synopsis by Don Beaulieu

The much anticipated AgKnowledge Forum, organized by Nottawasaga Futures was held in late February, after the March issue of Farm View was printed.

A lovely buffet of breakfast orientated foods and drinks were on hand throughout the meeting and a general good vibe resonated through the attendees as they gathered, anticipating guest speakers offering insight and inspiration. Various service representatives had tables, displays and promotional gifts to share.

Politicians invited to speak

Office Administrator for the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture Nicole Cross welcomed the group. She then welcomed Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke to speak.

“Across Simcoe County we have (close to) 2,000 farms and 500,000 acres of farmland... I’m a farmer myself” he informed his audience. He is aware of the struggles some farmers are going through, with only about 20% of them “in the green right now”. He spoke to the very full variety of agriculture we have in Simcoe County and spoke in a very positive manner of the farming community.

Member of Parliament Terry Dowdall was also on hand to say a few words. He stressed the importance of food security, tariffs and the carbon tax as current concerns. “We need to do everything we can to make sure that our agricultural businesses continue to thrive”.

Scot Davidson, York Simcoe MPP made his usual dynamic greetings, agreeing with Clarke that farming is a great way of life and added “We gotta give a shout-out to the greatest country in the world right now, Canada, because it’s a way of life”. Before he brought out a Canadian flag, he called for “...big applause to all farmers and this great country that we have!” He recognized that governmental red tape is piling up against farmers and there is a lot the government can do “...to make life easier and better for farmers.”

Always the case with the AgKnowledge Forum, many local politicians were in attendance. Cross introduced and thanked



each one of them before introducing the first official guest speaker of the morning.

Marianne Edward, Sheldon Creek Dairy

Bringing her positive energy and practical insights, the manager of Sheldon Creek Dairy operations and one of the owners of the dairy and Haaniew Farms, Marianne Edward



caught and held her audience’ attention. The topic she was asked to talk about was the challenges of running a business. No small feat; but Edward focussed on some key matters, many not as obvious as they should be, especially to those of us running a family operation. There were “Ahah!” moments during her talk. She aimed her points at business owners and entrepreneurs with much of her insight able to be applied to everyday life.

Delegating work, particularly the work/jobs that someone else can do was a major point. The importance of starting your day slowly, relaxed and planning for the day was explained. She also realized that your day “...is going to get totally hi-jacked” but insisted this is how it should start.

A difficult realization is that perhaps, family members

may not always be a good choice for a position needing to be filled in the business.

Please know these topics, and more, were presented in detail and explained fully; space here only allows a brief mention of key points.

Sauerkraut and maple syrup

Bert Harrington, fourth generation Ramara Township farmer was next to speak. He runs The Farm Gate (since 2014), makes Harrington’s Sauerkraut, maple syrup and more at Brechin, Ontario. With a switch from cattle to cash crops, Harrington had time on his hands to get more involved with the community. He started by growing and selling cabbage to the local grocery store. His crop was so successful he started making sauerkraut using an on-line recipe. His goal then was to get his product onto store shelves year-round.

He connected with the Food Venture Program which describes itself as “The go-to platform for current and aspiring food entrepreneurs, offering expert guidance from industry leaders, and proven strategies for success”. He enrolled in a 13-week online course. “It was just a fantastic course” Harrington said, touching on many aspects such as labelling and food safety. It also provided him with a network of experts to consult with.

Harrington was also involved with the day’s vendors’ market for attendees (when the speakers were done) where he had his popular sauerkraut and maple syrup for sale.

Lisa Peterson, Stone Horse Farm

From Innisfil, Ontario, Lisa Peterson shared some pointers she’s picked up over the years in farming and some areas she sees agriculture could be doing to better interact with today’s public. Her business is producing pasture-raised meats. She boasts her product is locally grown, humanely and in a sustainable, environmentally friendly manner. Peterson also prides herself on no antibiotics, no growth hormones, no genetically modified grain and no confinement housing with her animals. In Canada, growth hormones are not permitted in pigs or chickens, ever.

It was health issues, some years ago, which initiated Peterson and her family to raise their own proteins. Her health improvement sparked her current business methods and made for another interesting story of success.

Two quick guests at the end of the morning programme, before the indoor market opened up, were Alicia Regiere of the Alliston BIA and from Martin Kuzma of Nottawasaga Futures. Kuzma offered closing remarks, thanking partners in supporting the event, the guest speakers, vendor participants, organizers and specifically, Robin Brown.

Many resources available to be prepared for Spring flooding

By Dennis Gannon

There is the old rhyme that goes “April Showers bring May Flowers”. But what else does rain bring? This year with the amount of snow that has fallen, rain could also bring flooding.

Spring flooding is expected and common in some parts of the region and it’s important that you are prepared.

One of the key items to remember is that water damage may not be covered by your insurance policy. According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, “Overland flooding, which occurs when bodies of fresh water, such as rivers or dams overflow onto dry land, is typically not covered.” It’s important to discuss this with your insurance representative before flooding season occurs as it may be possible to purchase an insurance rider to cover this type of loss.

While Spring flooding is common, over the past several years we have had severe summer storms that have resulted in flooding as well. Living in a low lying area such as near rivers, creeks, ponds and even storm ponds requires that you take action now in order to protect your property.

Start with creating an emergency plan. Include all members of your home in preparing the plan and ensure that if you have pets the plan includes them. With the plan, have

an emergency kit. Copies of important documents should be included. Keeping digital copies is a smart idea. Include in your kit, water, food, a flashlight, portable power to charge your cell phone and cash. In the event of a power outage from flooding, cash may be required as debit machines may not be available.

Stay prepared by keeping informed. There are numerous weather apps available. One that is actually local to our area and live streams during storms is Instant Weather. Watch for municipal updates as well. Almost all municipalities have social media accounts and post updates on a regular basis. It’s also important to follow the instructions provided. If they advise you to leave then it’s in your best interest. All municipalities in Ontario have Emergency Management Coordinators who have received valuable training and are in contact with the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre.

Prepare your home and property. Grade your property away from your house. Keep your eavestrough and gutters clean. Use downspout extensions to keep the water away from the house. Check that your sump pump is in working order. After a long winter take the time to check that the pump is functioning properly and consider having a battery

backup in the event of a power failure. Swales and ditches need to be cleared of any debris in order that water can flow freely.

Following a flood it is necessary to use caution when returning home. Return only after municipal officials have advised that it is safe to do so. Appliances may have been damaged and can pose an electrical hazard. It may be necessary to have your electrical system checked by a qualified electrician. If your property is served by a private well avoid using the water until it has been tested and cleaned if required. When cleaning up, be cautious of mould. Dispose of contaminated items that cannot be cleaned.

Flooding is an annual common occurrence. Caution should always be exercised and remember that your local fire department will have information on what to do and how to prepare.

For up to date flood warnings visit the website <https://conservationontario.ca/conservation-authorities/find-a-conservation-authority> to locate the conservation authority in your area.

Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim



Thank-you! I am beyond grateful! I don't need to tell you how awful the news has been lately. The constant threat of tariffs and annexation has Canadians on edge from coast to coast. Our iconic flag with the brazen red maple leaf is popping up more and more and our national anthem has never been sung louder or with more heart. For once, the weather isn't the topic of the day and dry, boring politics has become the new fascination for many.

As a farmer who has spent many years on social media, I take pride in keeping up with the pulse of the nation when it comes to all things agriculture. The support the food and farm industry has gotten from you, the consumer, has been phenomenal! For instance, I belong to a Facebook group called "Made in Canada," and it's all about deciphering food labels and buying Canadian. The lengths consumers will go to find the origin of their food is mind-blowing. Labels and symbols on packaging are being deciphered, and pressure is being put on companies to clearly mark their products. When I walk into many grocery stores, the Canadian flag or a red maple leaf quickly guides me to

products that support Canadians. If nothing else, I've learned so much about the complexities of food and labelling, as it's not always as clear-cut as it seems. Even in the dairy industry, it's voluntary for processors to use the Canadian blue cow symbol on their products, but if you want to be sure, you are best to contact the company directly and ask. Thankfully, many processors proudly display the blue and sometimes black cow with the maple leaf to show that they are using 100% Canadian dairy from farms like ours. That symbol tells you that your dairy products are some of the highest quality in the world, and they come from some of the best-cared cattle on the planet! When you are buying from Canadian farmers, you are supporting your friends, your communities, your neighbours, your province and your country. Thanks for making me proud to be one of the few who feed the many. The food that our farmers produce may nourish your bodies, but the support you have given us does so much more – it makes the challenging lifestyle we've chosen that much more rewarding and I can't wait to get up to do it all again tomorrow.

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!"

Grey Agricultural Services Winter Courses and Webinars

For complete information and to register please call 519-986-3756, email info@greyagservices.ca or visit www.greyagservices.ca/courses-webinars

“Considering Renting your Farmland? Collaboration on Farmland Rental Agreements for Farmers and Landowners”

Presented by: Bruce Kelly, Farm & Food Care Ontario.
Tues. Apr 1, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.
Webinar: Attend on Zoom.

“Keep Excellent Farm Records with MS Excel”

Presented by: Emily McKague, Grey Ag Services.
Thurs. Apr 3, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.
In-person: Attend at Grey Ag Services in Markdale.

“Working and Training Livestock Guardian Dogs”

Presented by: Anne Poirier, EMCA-P, IAABC-ADT, CTDI, CCFC, SDJ, AACE, Peartree Animal Wellness Centre.
Sat. Apr 5, 1:00 - 4:00 pm.
Hybrid course: Attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

“Design of Beef Cattle Handling Facilities and New Barn Construction Workshop”

Presented by: James Byrne, Beef Cattle Specialist and Rajan Niraula, Senior Engineer, both of OMAFA. Barn tour location to be announced.
Wed. Apr 9, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.
In-person course: Attend at Grey Ag Services in Markdale.

“Canva Kickstart”

Presented by: Rebecca Vito, Grey Ag Services.
Wed. Apr 9, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.
Hybrid course: Attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

“Canning Kitchen Calamities”

Presented by: Martha Rogers, The Valley Preservery.
Thurs. Apr 10, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.
In-person course: Attend at Grey Ag Services in Markdale.

“Farm Theft Prevention”

Presented by: Krista Linthorne and Robert Hann, Grey Bruce OPP.
Wed. Apr 16, 1:00 - 2:30 pm.
In-person course: Attend at Grey Ag Services in Markdale.

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5L jugs \$30.99/jug
208L drum \$1,299.00/drum

Shell Spirax S4 TXM (trans/hydraulic)

pails \$109.99/pail
5L jugs \$37.99/jug
208L drum \$1,399.00/drum

Catalys TDH (super trans hydraulic)

pails \$79.99/pail

Catalys Premium Plus 15W40

pails \$84.99/pail

Catalys AW32 & Catalys AW46

pails \$64.99/pail

Shell Tellus S2 MX 32 & 46

pails \$113.99/pails
208L drum \$1,199.99/drum

Catalys Diesel Exhaust Fluid

9.46L jugs \$13.99/jug

Alemite Pistol grease gun\$59.99

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Seeing with our Hearts

Happy April everyone! We are switching things around a bit this month and myself, Rev. Kelly will be sharing a message with you! I am the Spiritual Care Coordinator at Victoria Village Manor in Barrie and I often share messages with families and the resident's and when Rev. Erin read my most recent message, she asked if I would share it with all of you! My inspiration for this month's message came to me while my husband and I were enjoying a comedy show fundraiser put on by the Gilbert Centre in Barrie. For those of you who may not know, The Gilbert Centre is a community-based, not-for-profit, charitable organization in Simcoe Muskoka that has been providing programs, services and a safe place for individuals and families from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) communities since 1995. The atmosphere of the evening was mostly light and funny, which is what you would expect from a comedy show. What I wasn't expecting was the vulnerability of some of the comedians as they shared small insights into some of the hatred they have had to endure in their lives because of their identity or sexual orientation. As I reflected on this I found myself thinking that if maybe those close minded, cruel people were blind they may have a different perspective. That reflection led me to the question "why don't more people see with their hearts instead of just their eyes?"

Let me expand on that a little more! In our world, judgments are often made the moment we see someone. What

if, instead of sizing someone up based on things like their race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation, we treated everyone as if we were blind? Imagine approaching each interaction with an open heart and mind, eager to get to know the essence of the person before using what we see to steer our judgement. A person who is blind doesn't have to imagine this. By nature of their experience, a person who is blind does not rely on sight, but on deeper, more meaningful connections.

In their daily life, a person who is blind, cannot judge another person by their appearance. The visual cues that often guide assumptions are absent, and so a person who is blind is forced to engage with people in a more profound and intentional way. They get to know individuals not by their outward characteristics, but by asking questions, listening, and paying attention to the energy that person radiates. They focus on the qualities that truly matter: the tone of someone's voice, the kindness in their words, the warmth of their gestures and the way their presence makes them feel.

When a person who is blind meets someone new, they don't form immediate conclusions based on appearance. Instead, they ask questions to understand more. What is the person's background? What are their hopes, dreams, and experiences? Through dialogue, they gain insight into someone's heart, not just their outer shell. Seeing beyond the surface helps break down barriers and builds genuine

connections. A person who is blind has learned to listen with more than just their ears. They tune into the essence of others, which transcends the physical. This is a beautiful reminder that our worth is not defined by what we look like, but by who we are on the inside. The world of a person who is blind is not shaped by appearances, so why should a sighted person's world be?

A person who is blind may not see the world as we do, but in my opinion, they see it more clearly when it comes to the things that truly matter. I encourage you to challenge yourselves to do the same; to engage with others not by what you see, but by what you hear, sense and feel. We all have our own journeys, challenges, and gifts to offer the world. By treating others with this level of respect and openness, we create a space where people feel truly seen; seen for who they are, not for what they look like.

So, the next time you meet someone new, practice seeing with your heart and take a moment to imagine what it would be like if you were blind. Ask yourself, "would the clothes someone is wearing, the color of someone's skin, the sex of a person or even who that person loves have any adverse effect on me?". I'd like to believe the answer to that question is NO! Endeavor to remove all preconceptions and judgments, and replace them with curiosity, empathy and love. If you simply listen and learn you may discover that the essence of each person is far more beautiful than anything you could judge with your eyes.

In Gratitude,
The Soul Sisters

Reverend Erin Wilson and Reverend Kelly Blakely
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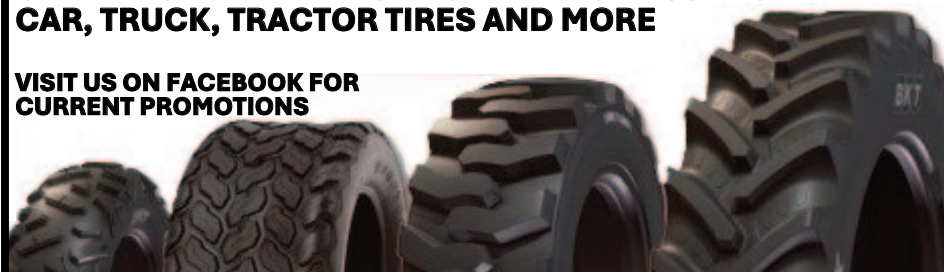
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Celebrating the shared passion for Holstein breeding

By Stephanie Stephenson and Katrina Kort, Ontario Holstein Convention Co-Chairs, Simcoe County Holstein Club

The 2025 Holstein Ontario Annual Convention, hosted by the Simcoe County Holstein Club in Barrie, Ontario, was an incredible success, bringing together breeders, industry professionals, and Holstein enthusiasts from across the province for a few days of celebration and networking.

The convention kicked off with an engaging farm tour, showcasing five of Simcoe County's fine Holstein operations. Attendees had the opportunity to witness top genetics in action, learn about innovative management practices, and connect with fellow breeders. The Annual General Meeting provided key updates on Holstein Ontario's initiatives, industry trends, and future goals, fostering insightful discussions among members and celebrated Holstein Canada's 100th Year of classification by honouring breeders who have bred over 100 Excellent-classifying cows - an incredible feat!

A highlight of the event was the Eastgen Evening of Excellence - where outstanding breeders were recognized for their dedication to excellence in Holstein genetics and herd management. 2025's nine Master Breeders from Ontario were present and celebrated, being given the coveted "Master Breeder Shield" and in fact, many of the recipients have received multiple shields over the years which is something to be very proud of. The Holstein Ontario All-Ontario Awards were also presented to breeders/animals during the evening - nominees were highlighted and winners received accolades.

A standout feature of the convention was the Live and Silent Auctions, which generated an incredible amount of energy and excitement. Auctioneer Carl Phoenix and his team of lively and entertaining ringmen kept the crowd engaged with their enthusiasm and quick wit, making for an unforgettable experience. The proceeds from these auctions will be donated to the Ontario Dairy Youth Trust, supporting the next generation of dairy leaders and ensuring the continued growth and development of the industry.

Beyond the formal programming, the convention provided ample opportunities for networking, socializing, and celebrating the shared passion for Holstein breeding.

The Simcoe County Holstein Club's dedication to hosting a memorable event was evident in every detail, from the seamless organization to the warm hospitality extended to all attendees.

The 2025 Holstein Ontario Convention not only highlighted the strength of Ontario's Holstein industry but also reinforced the importance of community, innovation, and continuous improvement in dairy breeding. As the event wrapped up, there was a shared sense of excitement for the future of the breed and anticipation for next year's gathering.

Meet the Farmers: Lori and Bert Harrington From FarmGate to Fork

Article by Andrew Hind, photo provided by Lori and Bert Harrington

Before he started FarmGate in 2014 with his wife Lori, Bert Harrington grew cash crops for wholesale distributors. He'd been successful, of course, and knew feeding people was an important life's work, but felt something was missing. There wasn't a connection with the consumer, something he craved. "I wanted to be involved in the community and to play a role in the shop local movement," Bert says. "So, we started FarmGate on our 50-acre Brechin farm."

Growing fresh vegetables, tapping trees for maple syrup, and making Sauerkraut so good that people buy it by the case load brings a different sort of satisfaction for Bert and Lori. "It's so rewarding having a relationship with the people who are buying your goods," Bert says.

Bert, a fourth-generation farmer, grew up on a nearby farm. As a young adult he left for a 9-5 career - first as an engineer, then as a marketing manager - but always knew he'd return. Bert took an early retirement to farm alongside his parents and brothers.

Originally, they raised beef cattle, just like generations of previous Harringtons had, but then switched to cash crops. "Raising beef is a young man's game. There are relentless hours and it's a 24-7 lifestyle," he says. "I loved every minute of beef farming and have no regrets, but as we got older, we realized we needed to pivot."

The brothers began growing soybean and wheat, an occasionally corn, on a farm that had greatly expanded beyond the family's original 100-acre farm. "100-acre farms are extinct," says Bert. "We expanded multiple times over the years to keep pace."

But a funny thing happened when the switch from beef to cash crops was made - Bert found he had spare time on his hands. That's when he and Lori began growing vegetables on a separate 50-acre farm on Highway 47. "This was my opportunity to do something with a 'buy local component' and sell direct to the local community," Bert explains.

They settled on the FarmGate name as it reflects the business model the Harringtons were aiming for - selling directly to customers from the farm instead of through a distributor.

Bert grows cabbage, cauliflower, squash, and pumpkins.



Bert Harrington, pictured above to the left, and Lori Harrington proudly display the delicious Harrington sauerkraut that customers literally drive far and wide to purchase.

He also taps 300 trees to make maple syrup each spring and is proudly partnered with Orillia and Lake Country Tourism's Tap into Maple program. But FarmGate may be best known for its sauerkraut. "People say that it's the best sauerkraut they've ever tasted," Bert says, then laughs. "Who knows, maybe it's the only sauerkraut they've ever tasted."

Bert also chuckles at the memory of how he leapt into making sauerkraut. It was his first year growing cabbage and he admits he didn't know what he was doing. As a novice, he was certain he'd lose a good chunk of his crop. Only he didn't. He had a bumper crop, too much to sell in local stores. So, casting about for ways to make good on the bounty, he decided to try his hand at sauerkraut. To his amazement, the venture proved successful. Harrington's Sauerkraut began to find its way onto store shelves in the area.

Harrington's Sauerkraut took another leap forward after 2021. Taking advantage of time on his hands because of the Covid pandemic, Bert took online courses that helped transform it into a more professional business. Outgrowing the home kitchen, Bert built a new building to house a certified kitchen designed with best practices in mind.

FarmGate offerings also include unique artisan soaps crafted by Lori, and Bert's chainsaw-carved bears.

"I'm still involved in cash cropping, but soybeans and wheat are sold on the world market. What we do at FarmGate is local and so much more personal," Bert says.

"When someone drives an hour to pick up more sauerkraut because they are running out, it's really rewarding."

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Craighurst formerly known as Morrison's Corners

Craighurst has experienced a rollercoaster ride of fortune over the past two centuries, rising from modest farm hamlet to bustling crossroads community and rail stop before, ultimately, receding to a quiet country village.

Even the community's name has evolved over time. Originally, Craighurst was known as Morrison's Corners, named after early settler James Morrison. A steady stream of people passing by his farmstead along the Penetanguishene Road (County Road 93), the main road linking Barrie and Penetanguishene, inspired Morrison to create a stagecoach line and open a roadside hotel, the British Arms.

In addition to the hotel and stage, Morrison also operated a sawmill, carried mail, and had the government contract to improve the Penetanguishene Road between Craighurst and Georgian Bay. He died at the age of 41 in 1856. Two years later, the community became Craighurst.

The village' second name honored John Craig, an equally prominent figure. In addition to serving as village postmaster for three decades (1842-72), he was a justice of the peace, clerk of the Fifth Division Court, Reeve of Medonte for 15 years from 1851, and warden of Simcoe County in 1857. There was no one in Craighurst, and few in the entire township, who could match his stature.

Craig was beloved by his neighbours for a seemingly limitless generosity. He donated land for an Anglican church and cemetery and provided a parcel of land on which to build a schoolhouse. In many ways, John Craig laid the foundations of Craighurst.

Throughout the 19th century, the Penetanguishene Road was a vital transportation link between Toronto (via Yonge Street and Lake Simcoe) and Lake Huron. Craighurst represented an important stopping point along this route and derived much of its wealth from servicing the traffic that passed through. At various points, Craighurst was home to a string of competing inns catering to road-weary travellers. These inns included Morrison's British Arms, Queen's Hotel, which burned down in spectacular fashion, The Farmer's Inn, and the Royal Hotel.

Craighurst was home to other businesses as well. John Laing, son of Alexander, opened a smithy as early as 1848 and laboured over his forge

for almost five decades, retiring a few short years before his death at age 82 in 1900. There was also a post office and general store, John Thornton's woodworking shop, a wool mill, and as many as three sawmills operating at one time.

The village was equally well served by houses of worship. There were three in town. An Anglican church was built in 1846, replaced by a larger, brick church in 1886. A Presbyterian church was built in 1849 on land purchased from Alexander Laing, a proud Scotsman. Finally, a Methodist church was erected in 1881.

The railway passed through in 1906 and had a huge footprint in the community. Facilities included a station house for passengers, telegraph office, a residence for the station master, a grain elevator, potato warehouse, coal house, lumber yard, freight shed, and a stockyard for shipping livestock

Craighurst's fortunes began to dip after the 1920s, largely due to the exhaustion of timber, flight of rural inhabitants to cities in search of well-paying jobs, and education in traffic along the Penetanguishene Road. As fortunes fell, businesses closed and Craighurst dwindled.

Craighurst is a peaceful village today, charming and placid. Its heyday is more than a century in the past, and people aren't in a hurry to see those days return.

Village stories
by Andrew Hind





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Caledon Village Library
April 11th 11 - Noon
Meaford Public Library
April 12th 10 - 3pm
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18th & 19th 9am - 4pm
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QUILTING



So many reasons to join a Quilting Guild!

By Janis Hamilton

The snow is melting and the ice has either slid off the roof or it has smashed to the ground. One neighbour lost their front window on our street. I was lucky as the 16" x 3 foot ice build up smashed down with a roar but just left me a pile of snow to shovel. So now that has been shovelled onto what is the buried garden, it is time to see what spring will bring in the quilting world.

OH, did I hear Quilt shows? Gas up the car, road trips are in the future. You will see the listings listed below and they are possible through the quilt guilds. I've mentioned before the shows almost always offer hot drinks, sometimes lunches or even just desserts but always delicious and served by guild members so try to support them if you can. Entrance fees are listed in the calendar as well.

So what do these quilt guilds offer and why might you consider belonging? Well, most have 10 meetings a year and some even have year round meetings. Go online and see what they can do for you...yes I know, don't you get tired of hearing "go online". I must admit I'd like to talk to someone when I call a business and not hear "your call is important to us". I guess until it isn't especially when you have to wait 20

minutes to connect to someone who is probably swamped with customers. So yes, I too get tired of hearing "go online".

Some checklists to consider:

1. Fees can range from \$50.00 to \$100.00
2. Are speakers monthly?
3. Are the speakers' list posted for the year?
4. Would the topics interest you and what you are anxious to learn?
5. Day or night meetings and do you have to travel far?
6. Do they have workshops where you can get parking, have ample lighting and a space to eat your lunch?
7. Do they have "block of the month" (usually a small fee) and do they show you how or offer a video or clear instructions either mailed or hard copy?
8. What other fun activities do they offer? Round robin project (you complete one block then ship your block off to those that signed up and within a year you will get your block back as a finished set size).
9. Are there Presidents' Challenges? Usually, they offer a challenge that you can do on your own without help and most times it will last for a length of time.

10. Do they have in-house quick workshops or demonstrations at their meetings?

11. Do they have "show and share" where you will get inspiration from projects others have done and wish to share and talk about?

12. Do they offer you a chance to give a quilt if you so choose to a charity of the guild's choice?

13. Charity quilts are often done by giving you the fabric, pattern and a deadline to return then it will be assembled and quilted and given to a charity for their fund-raising. If this is something you have an interest, ask when you sign in as a guest. It is maybe best to visit at least once before you join. Even with fabric it is nice to shop around.

14. Guest fees: sometimes you can get a courtesy card for one free visit, others charge between \$5-\$10/meeting. Others offer you the guest fee be put towards your membership fee if you choose to join the same night. When in the quilt shops ask if they have guest passes to any guilds. Kempenfelt Quilters' Guild has cards at most shops in Simcoe County.

UPCOMING QUILT SHOWS

April 11 & 12

Quilted Treasures Quilt Show
Cornwall Quilters Guild \$10

April 25 & 26

Come Home Quilt Show
Kindred Hearts Quilt Guild, Whitby Fee not listed

April 26 & 27, 2025

"Quilted Treasures Quilt Show 2025" by Region of York Quilters Guild, Newmarket, ON
regionofyorkquiltersguild.ca
Newmarket Community Centre, 200 Doug Duncan Drive \$10 admission

April 26 & 27, 2025

Reflections of Georgian Bay
Georgian Bay Quilters Guild. Penetang Arena 61 Maria St. \$8 admission

May 30 8:00 AM - May 31 5:00 PM

EDT Halton Quilters Guild "Stitches in Our Time" Quilt Show in Oakville Ontario Canada Sheridan Conference Centre, 1400 Trafalgar Rd. Oakville. \$10 admission.

June 7 & 8, 2025

"Stitching Among Friends" Presented by Quilting Corners Guild. Located at the Alliston Curling Rink, 52 Albert Street West Alliston 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$10 admission.
www.aqcguild.edublogs.org

Local Guilds to look at and not all have web pages, as some prefer Facebook. More Guilds will be listed in the May edition of Farm View.

Slope to Shore Quilt Guild
<https://www.facebook.com/slopetoshorequilters/Wasaga Beach>
slopetoshorequiltersguild@gmail.com
Meet from Sept - June Guests \$8 at Wasaga Beach Rec Plex 1724 Mosley Street, in Oakview Room. Excellent Block of the month with videos sent to you and full instructions at the meetings.

Dufferin Piecemakers Quilting Guild
<http://www.dufferinpiecemakers.org/>
Orangeville
guild@dufferinpiecemakers.org
The Seniors Centre, 26 Bythia St
Fees \$45 guests \$103rd Monday of each month, September to June 7:15-9:30 up to date web site.

Georgian Bay Quilters' Guild
<https://gbqg.ca>
Midland
info@gbqg@gmail.ca
Membership application on web site.
\$30+ name tag fee \$5 Guest fee \$5
Meet at North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre: 527 Len Self Blvd
4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Kempenfelt Quilters' Guild
<https://www.facebook.com/KQG>
Barrie/
Barrie
\$50 membership=12 meetings. Newsletter will give you a coupon for free visit. Or pay \$8/visit. Night meeting 7-9 on 3rd Thursday of each month at Lions Gate Banquet Centre, 386 Blake Street

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Saturday May 3, 2025

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

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|-------------|-----------|--------------|
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| ASHES | FAITH | PASCHAL |
| BASKET | FLOWERS | PASSION |
| BREAD | GARDEN | PENTECOST |
| BUNNY | GATHERING | REBIRTH |
| CHICK | HUNT | RESURRECTION |
| CHOCOLATE | JESUS | SHROVE |
| CROSS | LAMB | SUNDAY |
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Agriculture OHSA Compliance Material Handling, Machine & Tractor Safety

WHAT: This Farm Safety Compliance session will include OHSA Compliance; Machine Safety and Material Handling; and Tractor Safety

WHEN: Thursday, April 17th 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

WHERE: Mount Albert Community Centre, 53 Main Street, Mount Albert

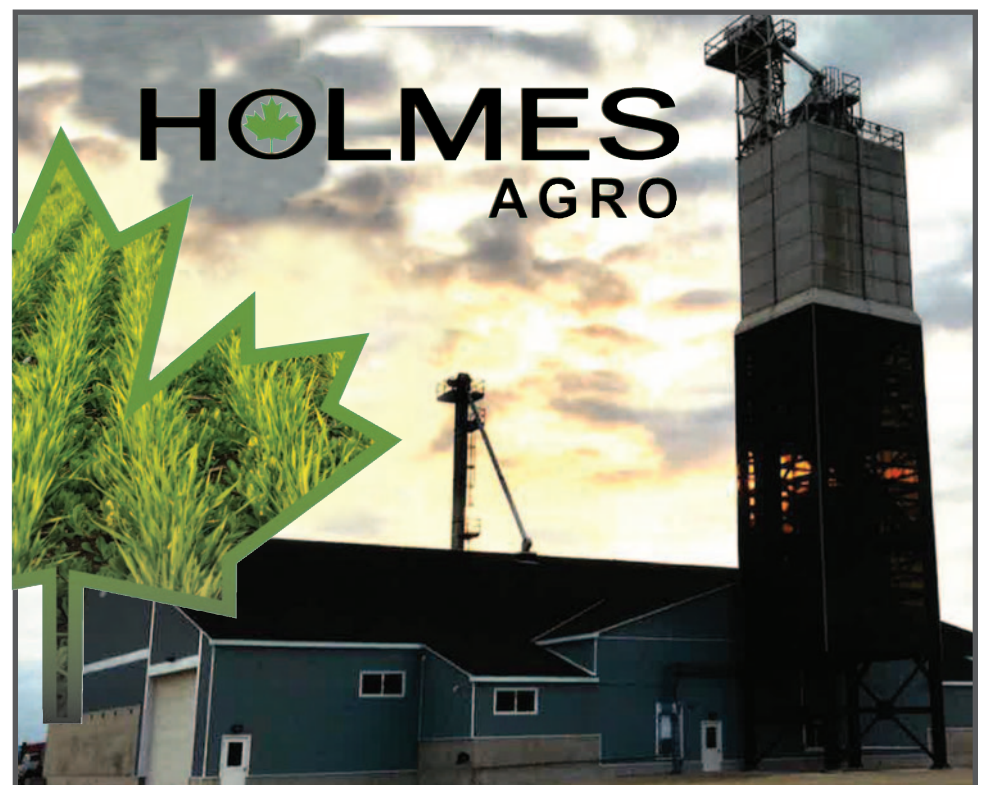
WHO: Farmers, Farm Employees, Farm Family Members

COURSE INSTRUCTORS: Workplace Safety & Prevention Services (WSPS)

COURSE COST: \$10 per person (The hall, light refreshments, and lunch will be provided compliments of YRFA)

REGISTER: Eventbrite link:
<https://AgricultureOHSAMaterialMachineTractorSafety.eventbrite.ca> or by calling (905) 888 – 1235

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Next Level Ag provided latest insights

Event synopsis by Donald Beaulieu

The annual presentation of Next Level Ag, provided by major sponsors Holmes Agro and Collwest Grain Ltd, took place at the end of February, 2025. One-hundred or so were in attendance in the St. Patrick church hall in Stayner.

Crop protection panel

The guest speaker line-up started with a panel which included Rob Miller (Technical development manager, eastern Canada), Jack McTiernan (Territory sales representative, Syngenta Canada), Henry Buffinga (Corteva Agriscience) and Gerrit Schober (Agronomist, Bayer Crop Science).

During their presentation, topics discussed in detail were the cleaning of sprayer nozzles, crop diseases such as tar spot and white mould, weed management, best practices, regulations, drones and more, including future traits and technologies. The length of time it takes to bring a new product to the field, how to patent a molecule and the high amount of technology involved in developing a new product were also elaborated on.



Pictured here is the crop protection panel; from the left is Gerrit Schober, Jack McTiernan, Rob Miller and Henry Buffinga.

fungi and plant roots, where the fungi help plants absorb water and nutrients (especially phosphorus) from the soil in exchange for sugars produced by the plant through photosynthesis. This partnership enhances plant health, improves soil structure, and plays a key role in ecosystem stability.

Bacillus is a genus of rod-shaped, typically soil-dwelling bacteria, known for their resilience and ability to form protective spores. Some Bacillus species benefit plants by promoting growth, suppressing pathogens, and enhancing nutrient availability in the rhizosphere.

Seaweed provides agricultural benefits as a natural fertilizer and soil conditioner, rich in essential nutrients like potassium, nitrogen, and trace minerals. It stimulates plant growth, improves soil structure, and enhances moisture retention. Seaweed also contains bioactive compounds that boost plant immunity, making crops more resilient to pests, diseases, and environmental stress.



Taylor Holmes
Holmes Agro, Redickville
crop advisor

wills” and “living budgets” were largely new terms to her audience but were explained very well and make great sense in preparing for the future of the farm business ensuring understanding between concerned family members.

Update on fertilizer

Scott Caughill, general manager and crop advisor with Holmes Agro at their Stayner location, gave a short talk on fertilizer. More specifically, he spoke to world markets and prices. At the time of the talk, the upward price trend was slowing down. Increases were due to supply; for example China had reduced urea production over the past year. This spring’s supply, Caughill explained is secured with most coming from Trinidad, Iran and Egypt.

There is not a lot of North American production of nitrogen, he said. In all, he doesn’t expect a significant change in prices this year, over last year. He talked of phosphates which may incur an increase in cost this spring. Sulphate supply is down while demand remains steady. Trump’s tariff talk “created a bit of a (buying) frenzy” he said with potash, a couple of months ago. About two-thirds of the United States potash comes from western Canada. Regardless, Caughill says potash will be cheaper than it was last spring.

New-hires at Holmes Agro in Stayner were introduced: Taylor Legge (full-time, sales agronomy), summer students will be Josh Stone (returning for a second year), Caughill’s son Nate and Allison Maher.

He also thanked the sponsors and industry representatives in the room; “It does take a community to make this business work and your business work” Caughill said. He also thanked staff Brooklyn Hughes, Claire Horan, Lydia Noordegraaf, Mackenzie Rutledge, Ty Jelinski and Taylor Holmes from Redickville. “They really put this all together”, referring to the Next Level Ag event.



Scott Caughill
Holmes Agro, Stayner
crop advisor

Plan for the future

From Farm Credit Canada, Andrea De Groot’s topic for the attendees was “Planning for the Future”. She began with a basic procedure which at first seems out-of-place, especially for family-run farms: Organizational charts. Yes, the type of chart which one may associate more with corporations with chief executive officers, managers, departments and various staff. It soon became obvious what the benefits would be.

A catalogue of assets was also shown to be of major importance, as was knowing net worth and wills. “Multiple



Andrea De Groot
Farm Credit Canada

Biologicals

Following the panel was Taylor Holmes who talked about biologicals. Holmes spoke in some detail about the rhizosphere, mycorrhizae, bacillus and seaweed as they apply to agriculture.

The rhizosphere is the narrow region of soil surrounding plant roots where complex interactions occur between the plant, soil, and microorganisms. It is a dynamic environment where roots release nutrients and compounds that influence microbial communities, nutrient cycling, and overall soil health.

Mycorrhizae are symbiotic relationships between certain

Market talk

Via video link, the final official speaker of the day was Kendra Dauer of StoneX Group Inc., from Bowling Green, Ohio, U.S.A. She wears many hats there: risk management, commodities, education and human resource development.

Before joining StoneX, she passed Series 3 National Commodities Futures Examination which allows her to advise clients on marketing decisions and strategies. Her multiple skills allowed her to cover a lot of ground, via the usual charts and graphs that accompany this topic, in her presentation.

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After The Chores: Bad winter day

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



I had an especially bad day here in late February.

Sweetie spent hours the day before moving snow. We had gotten another unwelcome drop of close to two feet plus high northwest winds. There was the added threat of snowsqualls for this evening. Last year the snow blower was not even used once. This year the snow blower has been out over 20 times, sometimes multiple times in one day. All that time and work with the snow blower and bucket resulted in a narrow turnaround and a tunnel out to the road.

There was no way to sleep through a diesel tractor starting in an attached garage. I was wide awake, full of winter anxiety long before daylight. Sweetie had no choice, thanks to that northwest wind, except to snow blow out the lane yet again. This was an off-farm work day and I had to get chores done and get out of here- on time.

I decided to get up early hoping that maybe extra time might calm down all this worry. A high protein breakfast calmed me down some. I made up the bottles for the lambs, got my snowclothes on- and woke up Isaac from inside his crate. I grabbed Isaac to put him out on his tie-out on the way out to the barn.

The turnaround space and lane was still open- but I could not find Isaac's tie-out. The day was bright with the sun shining- and there was no wind for this early hour. Isaac had spent the snow day before snuggled all in blankets on the couch during the big snowstorm and went to bed early so he was exceptionally well rested. I finally found the tie-out, it was on top of the dog house which was blocked by a big snow drift. Sweetie didn't want to put the tie-out through the snow blower. I cannot believe now how stupid I was then to think I could reach that dog house to get that tie-out-with a dog in my hand.

My stupid plan was to walk on top of the drift to get to the box to retrieve the tie-out and clip it on Isaac's leash. My plan worked for about three steps. The fourth step, one leg sunk down, down, down into snow like stepping into a

tight cast while the other leg was fully on top of the drift. The half of me on top of the drift held a red dog. I realized there no easy way to get out of this uncomfortable tipped over ugly situation- and there was no way to do this with a dog. To Isaac's great joy, I had to let him go.

I was now fully trapped in a snowdrift. Isaac bounded over the drift and all I saw was an occasional speck of red of his red tail when he jumped up to see better. He ran out of sight.

After a lot of struggling, I managed to crawl out of that drift and I got that tie-out finally in my hand. Farmers cannot be quitters though on this day, I confess that this farmer would have signed up for anything but life on a farm. I had no chores done, had a runaway dog and this lane to face before an off-farm work day- could it get any worse?

I got to the barn and realized it could get worse. The barn door was half open because of a snowdrift that had pushed open the door. I had pregnant goats so a predicted northwest pushing in snow on top of them just could not happen. I grabbed the shovel and started to fight with the hard packed-in snow- and it was nearly 30 minutes later until I got the door closed and could get the gate open for the sheep. There was still the runaway dog to retrieve.

I usually shoveled a path out to the sheep's hay feeder but this day I told them they had to be their own snowplows. I was fully worn out and my day had not started yet in the non-farm world. I pushed their grain feeders on to the snow and shoved them out. After all that shoveling, the sheep only gave me a very aggravated "BAAAA!" when they hit that snow going full out sheep -running- toward -grain speed.

I carefully drove out the tunnel of lane- and walked down the road to the property closest to us fully expecting to find Isaac visiting his friends here. The time was enough- barely- to get Isaac picked up and walked back to his tie-out. The neighbor was clearing snow with a huge machine. He said that Isaac was there- but then he had left. Our Township road was not plowed so going around looking for Isaac would likely have left me stuck.

I had one of the worst off-farm work days ever full of winter anxiety imagining Isaac in terrible situations. It was also the most irresponsible thing to do as an animal owner, leaving a pet outside running loose especially in a winter like this.

Sweetie, at the end of his work day, picked up Isaac at the property closest to us- and gave him a ride home.

I'm so glad winter is over for another year.

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Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Sheep Day

When the Drugs Don't Work: Strategies to Reduce Gastrointestinal Parasites in Sheep

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Parasites can be controlled in the sheep flock, according to Dr. Talia Fletcher of Markdale Veterinary Service. Dr. Fletcher works in Grey-Bruce County and has a specialized interest in small ruminants and pasture management. She and her husband have a flock of sheep.

"All sheep have, or will have, parasites," Dr. Fletcher said in her opening statements at the Grey Bruce Farmers Week on Sheep Day. Gastrointestinal Parasites live in the sheep's gut or on grass at six inches height or lower. Eggs hatch at 18-26C.

There are two types of parasites, the ones that suck out protein from the sheep and the ones that suck out blood.

The parasites that suck protein have clinical signs how heavily they are populated. For sheep with high infections,

there is "weight loss and poor milk yield". For heavy infections, signs are pale eyelids and a bottle jaw. Very high infections means "sudden death, often in lambs," Dr. Fletcher explained.

Observing the colour of the sheep's eyelids is a key indicator of blood sucker infections. Pink eyelids mean no dose is needed. Pale white means the sheep needs dewormers. All white eyelids means the animal will soon be dead.

Winter usually shows no signs of parasite invasions. "Parasites wait inside the animal for warmer weather in hibernation. It is not worth them laying eggs in the cold because those eggs are not going to hatch," she explained.

Ewes go out on pasture in warmer weather "and those hibernating worms basically start seeding your pasture with parasites," she said adding the cycle starts with the lambs eating the grass that has picked up the ewe's parasites.

Some sheep just do not get parasites regardless of how infected the pasture is. "You get some sheep that are resistant to parasites. You throw tons of parasites at them and they just do not pick them up," she said.

Resistant to parasites sheep are hard to find in the flock. The only way to know what sheep is doing what when it comes to parasites is through fecal egg counts. This means collecting sheep's feces and bringing to a vet office or doing it at home with proper instruments. This count gives a good estimate as to what is going on in the flock- as sometimes the signs of parasite infections are hard to see until it's a serious prob-

lem.

Dr. Fletcher said that less than 300 eggs per grams are "fine and a normal load". When numbers go up to 500 there is a problem.

It would seem easy to just treat all ewes and working rams with parasite medication- but that does not work, she stressed. "70% of the parasites in the flock are in 30% of the animals in the flock," she said several times. She said she did fecal egg counts in her home flock- and found that statistic to be fully true.

Lambs develop their immunity around 6 to 8 months old "which is the time they are off the pasture," Dr. Fletcher said adding, "Young animals don't have the immunity like other animals. They need life experience to develop good immunity," she said.

The best time to gather fecal egg counts is "Ewes at lambing in the claiming pen and lambs in August and September", she said adding that all new additions to the flock should be tested before and after deworming.

A fecal egg count is also a very good way to determine if the dewormer is working- or not. Dr. Fletcher suggested working with a group of 6 to 10 sheep in the flock. Collect from the same group 14 days after deworming and re-do the fecal testing. "There should be a 95% reduction in egg counts- if not, the dewormer is not working and it needs to be changed" she clarified.

There are some ways to naturally lower parasite loads that does not require medications. Remember that parasites that are ready to infect the sheep like to live on pasture that is no higher than 6 inches in height. "Increase protein around lambing improves immunity against per parturient egg rise, Dr. Fletcher advised. "Rotational grazing every 5 days" is also helpful as eggs hatch in five days. When the new eggs hatch, the sheep will be gone from the pasture so cannot get re-infected.

Avoiding grazing in laneways where all the sheep pass through because it tends to be loaded up in parasites. Grazing between the sheep's grazing days is actually helpful when it is cattle, horses, or chickens, geese, ducks and wild birds. Mowing and harrowing the pasture also naturally disrupts the parasite life cycle.

"Leave the best, treat the rest," is the basic message today for sheep flocks. Worming every animal in the flock means that only the resistant 5% that are never killed by dewormers will survive. The pasture will be seeded by resistant worms. On the other side, if only dosing part of the flock, those worms will seed the pasture. The resistant worms compete with the other ones. Dr. Fletcher explained, "It is selection of the fittest, the non-resistant worms will take over from the resistant worms so you only get half of each. Most (survivors) will be resistant and the dewormer product will continue to work."

Sheep that are naturally resistant to parasites is heritable. She said this is "at least 25% heritable". This means choosing rams and ewes with this trait can drop parasite loads at a high rate in a flock over time.

There is also a new test expected to be available soon in Canada to test for sheep's immunity to parasites. In this test, a swab of the sheep's cheek will be sent off for testing. The test is now available in New Zealand.

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Pulled Pork Poutine with Sauerkraut

Recipe and photo by Roslyn Watkins

Looking for a dish that highlights all the best of local farming? This recipe hits every 'locally made' category possible, and is super tasty and satisfying.



We've got Ontario potatoes, Ontario pork, Ontario cheese, Ontario sauerkraut and Ontario maple syrup! Perfect for dinner or lunch. If you are like me, add an egg and call it breakfast!

Ingredients

- Potatoes (one per person, depending on the size)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil, 1 teaspoon each sweet paprika and sea salt and 1/2 a teaspoon of garlic powder.
- Leftover pulled pork
- Cheese curds - as much as you like, no judgement here, but don't be stingy as my grandmother would say.
- Gravy, your choice - homemade or a packet for quick and easy.
- Sauerkraut
- Maple Syrup

Directions

- Preheat oven to 425 degrees F, line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Cut your potatoes into wedges. Toss with the seasonings and olive oil in a bowl and spread in a single layer onto the prepared baking sheet. Roast in the oven for about 30 to 35 mins until golden and tender, turning halfway through.
- While your potatoes are cooking, prepare your gravy and keep it warm.
- After the potatoes have been cooking for about 20 mins heat your pulled pork either in the microwave or on the stovetop.
- Fry your sauerkraut and a small amount of maple syrup in a non stick frying pan.
- Once the potatoes are ready, layer them on a plate or bowl followed by the pulled pork, cheese curds and then gravy. (Or alternate those layers for extra goodness.) Top with the sweet sauerkraut and enjoy!

4-H Ontario Provincial Leadership Camp 2025

By Isabella Cullen

This past week we had three Simcoe County 4-H members attend Provincial Leadership Camp (PAC). When we first arrived, we understood quickly that PAC wasn't going to be like any other 4-H camp we had attended. We were put into starship groups. Each starship was responsible for various activities during the day including wake-up activities, evening program, and sing song/reflection time. These activities helped us practice our leadership skills.

During the day, we took part in leadership training where we learned how to be inclusive leaders. We talked about our personal skills and abilities and practiced effective communication, effective listening and coming to consensus. We learned that everyone has different skills and leadership styles, but we all have what it takes to be a good leader.

Our afternoon outdoor activities were awesome. Some of our favourites included building giant snowmen (5 tiers high!), learning how to ski and going snowtubing!

There was also a lot of

dancing. We learned how to two-step and square dance and had lots of time to improve our line dancing skills. Can you believe it – on the last day of camp a bunch of teenagers got up at 5:00 a.m. to line dance until breakfast time!

The week was filled with dancing, friendships, and memories. We would recommend 4-H members put this 4-H opportunity on their bucket list. We would like to give a shout out to Dairy Farmers of Ontario for their sponsorship of this program – you are helping to build strong leaders in agriculture, and we are very thankful.

The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies held their annual conference from Thursday Feb 20th – Sunday Feb 23rd. About 70 Fair Ambassadors attended along with agricultural society members including some from the Great Northern Exhibition. It was a great opportunity to meet fellow ambassadors, network with ag. society members from across the province and learn about Ontario's ag. societies and the fairs they run each year.



Fair Ambassadors from across Ontario gathered for the Ontario Association of Agriculture Societies annual conference.

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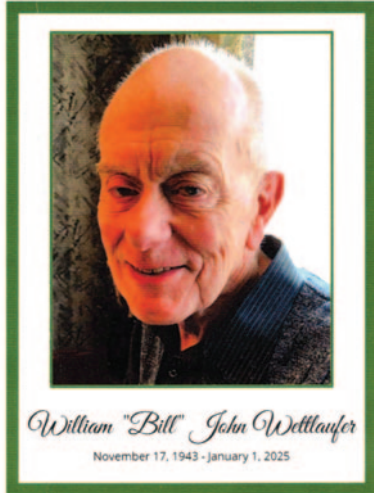
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OBITUARY: William 'Bill' John Wettlaufer Confession of a former publisher

By John Beischer



Farm View lost a long time, loyal reader on New Year's Day, 2025.

I was pleased to attend a celebration of his life on January 25th in Kitchener.

It was well attended by family and friends.

I first met Bill shortly after the new century began, a mere 24 years ago. At that time Farm View featured a monthly trivia contest in which we ran photos of tractors and farm equipment [or pieces thereof] and asked our readers to identify the subject in order to win a token prize. The real prize was the recognition of being identified in the next issue of Farm View. I chose the photos and questions from a small library of tractor books I had in my collection. Unbeknownst to me Mr Wettlaufer had the same books in his possession at his home in Alliston. Month after month

Bill was first to send a correct response to the contest and win the prize!

My contest started to have a ring of 'FIX' due to Bill's consistent winning streak! What to do?

I decided I better meet this gentlemen. After an entertaining visit with Bill we came to a mutual understanding; he would continue to enter the contests but I would award the prizes and the glory to the many other contestants who also enjoyed the contest. And they were many! Occasionally Bill was acknowledged for a 'win' but mostly he was content to play along with me. Many years later the contest wound down but Bill and his wife Barbara, and me and my late wife Jill were visiting regularly at a favourite restaurant in Alliston. This continued for many years until Bill and Barbara returned to southern Ontario just as covid struck in 2020.

Bill's passing was not a surprise as Barbara had kept me informed of his failing health these past few years.

Thanks Bill for the fun and the friendship these past 2 decades.

Bill was born and raised on farms in Ayr and North Easthope township. He loved farming and he loved John Deere tractors. He will be sadly missed by his wife of 57 years, Barbara [Mitchelle].

He will be fondly and forever remembered by his daughter Lisa plus numerous grandchildren, cousins, nephews and nieces. And numerous extended family members. And by me.



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WOMEN'S DAY All Ladies Welcome

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Registration 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Coffee, Tea and Refreshments

Welcome 9:30 - 9:40

Simcoe Area Women's Institute 100th Anniversary Presentation. 9:40 - 10:00

Guest speaker Dr. Molly-Claire Gillett 10:00 - 12:00

Molly-Claire says, "my research explores the role of crafting in placemaking and community-building, both historically and in the present day. I will give a presentation followed by a craft. Supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own embroidery floss, needles, and scissors."

Grace, Lunch, Raffle 12:00 - 1:30, Fun Fashion Show 1:30 – 2:00

"The Paraguinn's" Music Melodies 2:00 - 3:00

Tickets are \$25.00 with lunch or \$15.00 without lunch. Last date to purchase tickets, April 16th 2025. For tickets contact Peggy prattfamily50@gmail.com or Donna twgpres@gmail.com

AUCTION SALE

Live Auction Sale

for **Ron & Wilma Lehman**

Saturday April 5th, 10:30am

7681 Highway 89, Mount Forest, ON From Mount Forest come 9.3km East on Hwy 89 OR from Conn come 4.7km West on Hwy 89. To sale on South side of highway.

**** PARKING ON ROAD** **NOTE - POND ON SITE - please be aware for children****

Tractors/Skid Steer: Case IH 5230 4WD tractor, 660 Quicke loader, material bucket, 2 remotes, cab, AC works, 6770 hrs; Ford NH 5030 4WD tractor, Ford 7310 loader, material bucket, 2 hydr, open station, ; Gehl 4840 skid steer & material bucket.

Mach/Equip/Accs: Gehl 1410 manure spreader, tandem axles, top beater, end gate; Gehl 940 forage wagon; H.L.A. skidsteer pallet forks; Agro-Trend 71 snowblower; Hawkline box scraper; Maple Lane skidsteer 72" manure fork; Ford manure bucket; Ford bale spear; Little Giant 6" auger; Hinniker 1120 20' cultivator, harrows, hydr wings; Horst 20H wagon gear; Kewanee 16' disc, man wings; Danuser porthole auger; Kverneland 5/16 semi-mount plow; acid applicator for round baler; 9' chain conveyor; 30' chain conveyor; 8' sweep auger; grain auger with motor.

Hay Equip: NH Br740A round baler, crop cutter, Xtra sweep pickup, 4x5, net wrap/twine, monitor; Gehl 2340 discbine, 9'; Farm King 4 pod tedder; NH HT 152 wheel rake; Maple Lane (SS)round bale spear; Tubeline bale 3pth unroller; horse drawn hay mower; 30ft round bale wagon, Horst model 240 walking tandem.

Sheep/Hog Equip: Steel lambing pens; collapsible sheep round bale feeders; lamb feeders; goat round bale feeder; wood & hog panel sheep hay feeder; plastic pig feeders; ss pig feeders; pig barrel feeder; homemade wood lamb hay feeders; used 45gal plastic barrels made to lamb warmers; Mar-Weld sheep handling system; homemade runway system; hog paneling; pig scale-dial type.

Shop/Farm Rel: Horse fore cart; calf creep gate; misc farm items; few small tools; cattle gates; round bale feeder; elec motors; used plywood; used lumber; chain link fencing; cement mixer; homemade 3pth cement weight; 3pth 3rd links; 3pth drawbar; roofing metal; slant head rail; T-bar fence posts; lawn sweeper; gas cans; grain bin floor parts; grain insertion dryer; barn windows & operators; bale tarps; orange plastic snow fence; fencing supplies; truck box for storage; scrap metal/wire; tractor tire chains & front wts; wall vents; quick hitch; hammermill parts; barn fans; Yardman lawn tractor 15.5hp, 42" cut; Toro zero turn lawnmower 27hp, 60"cut.

Hay/Straw:(90)bales oat straw, 2022, stored outside; (30)bales hay, last year, 2nd cut, stored outside.

Lunch Booth & Washroom Available Preview: Friday April 4, 1-6pm

Note: shorter sale - please be on time - not a large number of small items

Terms & Conditions: Cash or Cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner and/or Auctioneer will not be held responsible for accident or loss on day of sale. All items are sold "As Is". All verbal announcements on day of sale take precedence over written ads.

Owner: Ron Lehman (519) 323-3129

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264

Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083

www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - full listing and photos

Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

VAN FOR SALE

Used 2010 Chrysler Town and Country van. Clearwater Blue Pearl in colour, one owner.

183,800 km [121,000 miles], 4.0 L 6 cyl gas engine, 2 wheel front drive, 6 speed auto transmission.



This well maintained and well equipped vehicle runs great and includes: power seat and power sliding doors, power lift gate, back up camera, rear entertainment DVD system, stow and go bucket seats, seven passenger [3rd row seating], cruise control, front and rear climate control, electronic traction control, fog lights, heated side mirrors, satellite radio, CD player,

16 inch alloy wheels. No accidents, some rust on front fenders. VIN 2A4RR5DX1AR257025. **\$7,750.00**

The vehicle is located at my home approx ten minutes west of Barrie. Please call John at 705-726-5308 to schedule a visit.

Free Classifieds

Free classified word ads (maximum of 40 words) are for non-profit individuals and farm groups. Ads can be mailed or emailed. They must reach us by the 15th of the month before the next month's issue. Telephone orders are invoiced at \$15 for the first 25 words. Word ads run in one issue only and must be re-submitted each month to repeat. For mail-in ads, use the space below to neatly print out your FREE classified word advertisement.

Email: farmview@on.aibn.com

Mail: 8 Luella Blvd., Minesing ON L9X 0W7



Stewart's Equipment Stayner Location:

6837 ON-26, Stayner, Corner of 26 & center line rd
ON, LOM 1S0 **705-428-3132**

Erin Location:

9410 Wellington Rd 124, Erin,
Corner of 124 & 24 ON,
NOB1T0 **519-833-9616**

Cookstown Location:

4321 Line 13, Cookstown,
Corner of 27 & line 13 ON,
LOL1L0 **705-458-0871**



A reputation that precedes us.

Whether you have a small estate or a large property, there is a Kubota model that will meet your needs. Kubota is synonymous with compact and utility tractors. We offer a wide range of models and series, with or without cab, that are easy to operate, reliable, and versatile. Whether you're moving manure, transporting dirt, cutting grass, mowing, preparing the garden, or feeding livestock - our lineup has you covered.

Used Equipment



Kubota B3350SUHSD

hours ua: 447, 4wd, one remote, 540 rpm, 25x8.50x14 fronts, 15x19.5 rears, foldable rops, kubota la534 loader with manual ss q/a Unit is located in Stayner.

\$27,900



Kubota SVL75-2

hours ua: 2637, cab/heat, rubber tracks, hydraulic quick attach, low profile bucket, aux hydraulics. Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. (Financing available @ 4.99%* O.A.C.)

\$53,500



Case IH 1394

hours ua: 1139, diesel, 4wd, Cab, 2 sets of remotes, 540 rpm, 11.2/10-24 fronts, 16.9/14-30 rears, block heater, 8010 frey loader with bucket, Unit is located in Erin.

\$26,900



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



Kubota M6-111

hours showing : 93, diesel, 4wd, cab, 460/85r34 rears, 340/85r24 midas radials, radio, block heater, kubota m47-2 loader w/ 3rd function, Unit is located in Erin.

\$139,900



Kubota RA2071TVARIO

dual rotor rake , 7.1m working width , side delivery , hydraulic offset, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. (Financing available @ 4.99%* O.A.C.)

\$22,900



Kuhn GA4120TH

single rotar draw bar rake , working width 13'5", tandem axle, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. Stock Number: U29156

\$3,800



New Holland 460

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

\$33,900



Kuhn GF7802TH

working width 25'7" , 6 rotors with 7 tine arms per rotor , minimum horsepower required 35hp, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. Stock Number: U29101

\$14,800



New Holland 650

540rpm , auto wrap , twine , very nice condition, Unit is Located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin Stock Number: U27611 S/N: 916517

\$11,200

STEWARTSEQUIP.COM

Erin 519-833-9616
Cookstown 705-458-0871
Stayner 705-428-3132

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