

Since 1977 **FARM VIEW**

A newspaper with something for everyone | June 2025 | Volume 48 #06

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*The Canadian
Agriculture Safety
Association travels
across Canada
teaching grain
entrapment rescue
training.*

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.

June 2nd - 8th: Ontario Local Food Week

Local Food Week is happening from June 2-8, 2025. It's a time to celebrate the abundance of fresh, healthy food grown, produced, and processed right here in Ontario. Our hardworking farmers dedicate themselves every day to providing safe, nutritious food for everyone across the province to enjoy.

June 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

June 21st & 22nd: Kawartha Antique Power Show

The 45th Kawartha Antique Power Show is the biggest, annual event of the Kawartha Antique Power Club. An event not to be missed, taking place Saturday and Sunday June 21st and 22nd at Lindsay Exhibition Fair Grounds 354 Angeline St. S. Lindsay, ON Contact: 1-519-939-0354 or kawarthaantiquepower24@gmail.com

June 25th: Program announcement for E.D.G.E.

Elmvalle District Garden Enthusiasts' June 25th meeting will be Blooms to Vase. A hands on demo in flower arranging. Elmvalle Legion 7 John Street at 7 pm. All are welcome.

July 10th: SCFA Annual Summer BBQ

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture annual summer BBQ will take place on Thursday July 10th at Drysdale Tree Farms. Ticket information and more details in the ad on page 15.

August 9th: St. John's Pancake Breakfast

St John's United Church will be celebrating it's 50th anniversary hosting the Potato Pancake breakfast during the Alliston Potato Festival. Taking place in the East parking lot of the Church, all are welcome! Visit www.alliston-potatofest.com

Make memories, meet new friends, and get involved!

We're gearing up for the BARRIE FAIR, and we need your help to make it a success! We're looking for dedicated adults and high school students to join our volunteer team. Roles include Gates/Admission, Groundskeeping, Education Centre, Homecrafts, Parking, and more! Perks? You bet! All volunteers get a free lunch and supper, plus a Barrie Fair volunteer t-shirt. Be part of one of Barrie's biggest community events—meet great people and earn volunteer hours too! Visit EssaAgriplex.ca/volunteers for details.



Special Provisions for Financial Difficulties

Eligible applicants may receive one-time funding of 100% cost-share up to a maximum of \$5,650. Applications accepted until February 28th, 2026.

Visit <https://programguides.ontariosoilcrop.org/> for this program and other cost-share programs.

Railfence Books

Read your way back to the country



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by Carolyn j Morris
Illustration by Richard McNaughton

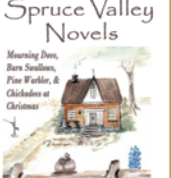
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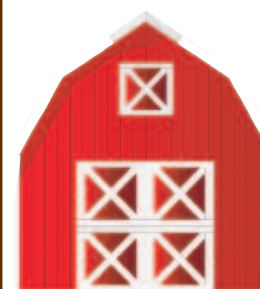
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Fruit tree pruning makes the tree the most productive it can be

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Cannington Horticultural Society hosted an evening on April 14 with a Fruit Tree expert, Rob Alexander, general manager of a well known apple orchard, Nature's Bounty from the Port Perry area. Nature's Bounty Farm is home to about 12,000 trees with 25 varieties of apples.

Alexander knows a lot about pruning- from personal experience. "Pruning is done on all 12,000 trees- by hand," he told the crowd. He believes that each tree needs pruning to do its best.

Pruning is done for two main reasons. One reason is to make the tree look good and the second is to make the tree the most productive it can be. "My goal is to have quality edible fruit, I trade off cosmetic quality (of the tree)," he said adding his purpose at his workplace is to grow fruit that is suitable for sale.

To start pruning, it is important to get the proper tools which begin with a well maintained saw for large cuts, loppers for medium cuts and sharp hand pruners for cutting out pieces of the tree, he explained.



Pictured above is Rob Alexander, general manager of Nature's Bounty Farm near Port Perry. Here, he is showing a damaged part of a branch explaining how to best prune it.

Before cutting anything, one needs to look at the tree and make a plan. "Before you cut, make a plan," he stressed several times adding that there is no way to fix a huge unplanned cut after it happens. The first look should always be to find any dead or damaged or diseased wood in the tree. Dead, damaged and diseased is always the first to go and that is the first line in the plan.

Diseased branches should be removed immediately once found at pruning time. "Never leave diseased branches lying around, insects can spread the disease around the orchard," Alexander said adding that burning the diseased parts is the best way to keep it contained and it is important to use disinfectant on all tools after to keep it from spreading out.

For a healthy tree, the general rule is "plan to only remove 20% to 25% of the tree" in one pruning session. Cuts should start at the top of tree and start with the biggest. The trunk is often cut at the top each year. The next cuts should be made to the branches shading the ones below it. The tree can be shaped with cuts from the hand pruners.

Apple trees can produce apples for decades, without pruning but the quality of those apples produced may not be good. "A tree can have 500 blooms but they will not all be good apples," he said explaining, "go down to 200 blooms to try and get a balanced crop of apples year after year." By plucking off flower cups, the apple crop can be further planned out per branch of the tree.

Moving branches around by tying them in a different

direction can be an alternative to cutting, he said adding that it is important to create a space for light to come in for apples to be able to fully ripen.

Pruning is often done in winter when trees are dormant. Diseased or damaged wood should be removed as soon it is found from March to December. It is not recommended to prune in the cold months of January and February as the tree may not be able to heal before it freezes.

Young trees have a natural enemy in wild rabbits. "Put tree guards at the bottom of young trees to protect the base of the tree," he advised adding that the tree can survive if deer damage the tree from eating at the top but the base of the tree has to be kept intact to thrive.

The Cannington Horticultural Society is a busy club that began 50 years ago. The Society is known for beautification projects within its home community of Brock Township.

Giffen Grain Elevator acquired by Central Ontario FS a division of GROWMARK, Inc.

I'm excited to announce that we have reached an agreement with Central Ontario FS a division of GROWMARK, Inc. who will be acquiring the Giffen Grain Elevator. Central Ontario FS, in conjunction with Great Lakes Grain will operate the elevator and provide grain marketing services. I have decided to stay on and operate the elevator during this transition to ensure uninterrupted service to all our customers.

In 2012, we had the idea to create a convenient local elevator solution for farms around Minesing, which quickly grew to customers across the region. Over those 13 years

we have enjoyed working with each of you and supporting the local farming community. I must thank P&H, its been an honour and privilege to be your partner on this journey, you have been nothing but a first class organization.

To our customers and the local farming community, I want to thank you for your trust and support of our family business.

I look forward to speaking with each of you in the near future and seeing you at the elevator.

Sincerely,
Larry Giffen

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Announcement: Giffen Grain Elevator Acquisition

Central Ontario FS, a retail division of GROWMARK, Inc. has entered into a purchase agreement with Giffen Grain Elevator located in Minesing, Ontario. In conjunction with Great Lakes Grain, the elevator will be operated to provide grain marketing services in the Simcoe County region as part of our grain cooperative system.

This strategic acquisition represents a key step in the continued growth of our grain elevator system. It enhances our ability to serve growers in the region and reinforces our commitment to providing trusted, local solutions backed by the strength of our co-operative network.

We're also pleased to share that Larry Giffen will continue to operate the facility during the transition, ensuring a smooth handover and ongoing support for local farmers.

Grain contracting for the Giffen location will be coordinated through our Beeton Elevator.

We're excited about this new opportunity and the potential it brings to better serve producers in Simcoe County.

Frank Barron, Division Manager
Central Ontario FS

Matthew van Sintern-Dick, General Manager
Great Lakes Grain

For more information, contact the **Central Ontario FS Beeton Branch (905) 729-2047**, or **Grain Originator Jim Irvine (905) 729-2047 jimi@greatlakesgrain.com**

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OPINION
GUEST EDITORIAL

Government Action is needed to Protect our Soils and Feed our Country

From the Office of the Honourable Rob Black

With the end of an election and a new government, The Honourable Rob Black, Senator for Ontario, is calling on the Government of Canada to declare soil as a strategic national asset that is essential to the well-being and health of Canadians as well as the future of our country.

Approaching its one year anniversary, the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry's (AGFO) soil health report, Critical Ground: Why Soil is Essential to Canada's Economic, Environmental, Human and Social Health, reported on the state of Canadian soils, including the issues being faced by the agricultural industry and how farmers and producers are dealing with them. It provided insights on how Canada can safeguard our soil and why this is vital to the future of the agriculture sector, food security and the entire country.

In the report, the committee proposed 25 recommendations for the Government of Canada to undertake to better protect, preserve and conserve Canadian soils by supporting farmers through, for example, financing and

programming, establishing baselines for soil health, and encouraging the use of sustainable and innovative strategies. The AGFO committee received the government's response to these recommendations in November 2024. It is now time for this new government to act on the report now.

As the previous chair of the AGFO committee, Senator Black is "calling on the government of Canada to show their commitment to protecting and conserving Canadian soils by fulfilling the first recommendation, and designate soil as a strategic national asset." said Black. "Since the release of the report, I have not stopped sharing the findings of the soil health report and its recommendations. The support received has solidified what we already know: farmers, scientists, researchers, and stakeholders all agree that the critical ground we need to support our country is at risk and we need to act."

Healthy soils produce nutrient dense foods for consumption and for feed for our livestock. Healthy soil also mitigates climate change and supports cleaner air and water for all living

things. However, the report is clear: pollutants are permeating our soils, climate change is causing wildfires and floods on our farmlands, deforestation is reducing biodiversity, urban expansion is paving over agricultural lands, and Canada is losing healthy, arable, and nutrient dense soil. "Canada cannot sustain increased degradation of our soils. We will lose the ability to feed our country." continued Black.

Canada's federal election candidates made numerous promises related to infrastructure and the building of more homes, yet Black is concerned these promises may need to be achieved by developing on prime agricultural farmland. This would take that land out of food production. Designating soil as a strategic national asset would help to ensure land use planning takes Canada's soil health into account.

As a new Parliamentary session is set to begin, Black will continue to 'advocate' for the soil health report, its recommendations, and urge government to act on those recommendations and their responses starting with designating soil as a strategic national asset.

Farm View is available at the following agricultural businesses.

- ALLIANCE AGRI-TURF in Ivy, Bolton, Fenelon, Baxter and Lindsay
- BARRIE KOA (Seasonally)
- BRADBURY SMALL FAMILY FARM INC.
- BRADFORD GREENHOUSE Barrie
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- 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

After the Chores column enjoyed by family

Hi, we really enjoyed Cathy's story about "White Kid"(May, Farm View). This is on par with some parents who never give up on a child born with abnormalities. Congratulations to Cathy. We always enjoy her life on the farm. A great story. From a farm family in Scugog Twp. Donna & Wayne Irwin.

On the Cover

During the demonstration of grain entrapment rescue training pictured on the cover, we see "rescuers" Spence Crump and Louisa Cirimele preparing to save Jerry Jericho. They have platforms to put on the grain, which will support them as they put the RES-Q Tube around their patient.

—Cover photo by Don Beaulieu



This is Nicole Johnston from Scarborough making another memory at the Ontario Alpaca Show with her rental alpaca, Birchleaf Bullion that lives at Poot Corners Alpacas in Palmerston. Alpaca renters get special alpaca times including a video call from their rental alpaca on their birthday or other special event and a discount on farm store purchases along with the opportunity to come to shows with their alpaca. For information, info@pootcorners.com Please see page 20 for more photos from the Ontario Alpaca Show.

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.I. Bryan

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

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OFA Zone Director for Dufferin County:
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Scholarships in Agriculture

The Stewart L. Page Scholarships in Agriculture and Home Economics, as contributed primarily by people and organizations of North Simcoe, are offered annually in recognition of the guidance given in the development of agriculture and rural life by Stewart L. Page, Agriculture Representative for North Simcoe during the years 1925 to 1967.

The Scholarship is open to residents of North Simcoe for at least one year at the time of application, who've attained an acceptable Grade 12 standing as required by the selected college or university; and who wish to enrol in an approved Agriculture, Veterinary or Home Economics related degree or diploma course, as may be available at Kemptville, Ridgeway, Alfred or University of Guelph, or any other similar institution with a course approved by the committee.

Applications are available from the School Guidance Departments or by contacting Myrna Jones at myrna.jones48@gmail.com

Agricultural land is an irreplaceable asset



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

Mark your calendars—**Local Food Week runs from June 2 to June 8, 2025**, and it's the perfect time to celebrate the farmers, growers, producers, and food businesses that keep our communities nourished with fresh, locally sourced products. This week-long event highlights the importance of choosing local and reminds us of the many benefits that come with supporting our regional food systems.

Local Food Week isn't just about enjoying delicious, farm-fresh produce—it's about building stronger communities. When you choose local, your dollars stay within the community, supporting family farms, small businesses, and local jobs. This contributes to a resilient local economy and encourages the growth of food-related enterprises like

markets and restaurants.

The economic value of Ontario's agriculture and agri-food sector cannot be overstated. Agriculture contributes over **\$50 billion annually** to the province's GDP and supports **more than 836,000 jobs**, from on-farm labor to food processing, distribution, and retail. When you support local food, you're not just buying a product—you're investing in one of the province's most important economic engines.

If we truly value local food, then we must also recognize the urgent need to **protect Ontario's vital agricultural lands**. These lands are not only the foundation of our local food system—they are a finite, non-renewable resource. Ontario loses an average of **319 acres of farmland every day** to urban expansion and development. That's the equivalent of more than one family farm vanishing daily.

Once farmland is paved over, it's gone for good. We cannot grow food on asphalt. That's why **preserving farmland must be prioritized in provincial and municipal planning decisions**. It's time for our elected officials to elevate farmland protection as a critical issue—on par with housing, infrastructure, and economic development.

Safeguarding this land is about more than maintaining green space; it's about securing our long-term food supply, supporting climate resilience, and protecting rural livelihoods. **Agricultural land is an irreplaceable asset**, and defending it today ensures that future generations will have the same access to fresh, local food that we do now.

To better understand what's at stake, **visit the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's HomeGrown website**, which features a **mapping tool that visually illustrates the expansion of urban areas across Ontario since the 1980s**. It's a powerful reminder of just how much farmland we've already lost—and why protecting what remains is so important.

Eating local also means choosing freshness. Local food travels a much shorter distance from farm to table, which means fruits and vegetables are harvested at peak ripeness and delivered with maximum flavor and nutrition. Whether it's strawberries picked that morning or fresh eggs from a nearby farm, local food offers a unique connection to seasonality and place.

There are countless ways to get involved during Local Food Week. Visit a farmers' market, take a tour of a local farm, or try cooking a meal made entirely from local ingredients. Support restaurants that source their food locally or participate in community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs. Better yet, spread the word—share your local food experiences on social media, encourage friends to buy local, and advocate for policies that strengthen local food systems.

Need help finding local food near you? **Visit the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's HomeGrown website** to discover where to purchase local food across Ontario—from farm stands and markets to retailers that stock homegrown goods.

This June 2–8, join the movement. Celebrate the flavors of your community. Support your local farmers, markets, and producers. Let's make Local Food Week not just a special event, but a meaningful step toward a stronger, more connected local food future.

www.Homegrown.ofa.on.ca

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Ansnoerveldt Rose from Water and Mud, Twice

In the 1920s, the swamps of the Holland Marsh were painstakingly drained of water and cleared of trees to reveal the rich black soil beneath. But reclaiming the soil from the wilderness was only the first step in creating the bountiful cropland we know today. Farmers still had to be found to successfully cultivate the land. Sounds easy enough in retrospect, but in fact it was anything but.

The process of recruiting farmers, and their families, gave rise to the community of Ansnoerveldt.

Muck farming is a very specialized form of agriculture and Canadian farmers had very little experience in it. As a result, initial efforts to source farmers were disappointing. John Snor, the Canadian representative of the Netherlands Emigration Foundation, believed that he had a solution. Why not resettle Dutch farmers from other parts of Ontario to the Holland Marsh? The Dutch certainly had the required expertise as much of the Netherlands consists of land that had been reclaimed from the sea using methods not dissimilar to those that had been used on the Marsh.

Dutch-Ontario farmers would also have the motivation. It was the height of the Depression when Snor put forward his proposal and there were rumors that landless and unemployed immigrants might be sent back to their countries of origin. Among the unemployed were many farm laborers of Dutch origin who felt threatened with deportation.

The government agreed to Snor's plan and in 1934 fifteen Dutch families were resettled in the marsh, forming the village of Ansnoerveldt (literally 'On Snor's Field', in honor of John Snor).

Each family received a five-acre plot of land valued at \$90 per acre, and a \$600 government grant to cover the expense of building a home and farming infrastructure and living expenses for 12 months as they got started. The government built a school, SS#16, to educate the youth.

Beyond such assistance the settlers were left to succeed or fail on their own merits.

The first years at Ansnoerveldt was full of endless toil, men and women working side by side dawn until dusk. The farmers had to build homes (small, 20-foot by 20-foot cabins built atop stilts in case of flooding) and ready the black, spongy soil for planting. At nightfall they could do no more than flop into their beds.

Government living expenses ran out before the farms were firmly established, so there were many dark and hungry days. At one point, it's said that

the families were so destitute that they resorted to eating stewed groundhogs.

Yet, through skill and determination, as well as the natural richness of the soil, things turned around and by 1938 the farms were producing a wealth of crops. Within another decade, the Holland Marsh's black fields were among the most bountiful in Ontario, fulfilling the promise originally envisioned by Dave Watson and Professor Day decades earlier.

But that wasn't to be the end of the hardships faced by the people of Ansnoerveldt. On October 15, 1954, the Holland Marsh was drowned by Hurricane Hazel. Ansnoerveldt was underwater, the surrounding fields transformed into a lake. Yet, despite extensive damage, the families endured, rebuilding homes and restoring farms.

Many descendants of these original stoic farmers still work the Holland Marsh, building on the dream of their ancestors.

Village stories

by Andrew Hind



READY FOR ADOPTION



Murphy is a 4 year Old Great Pyrenees. He is great with animals, but he also loves lounging indoors with his people. Murphy has lived with horses, ducks, goats and sheep. He is with the Northern Dogs Project and is looking for the right home. Northerndogsproject@gmail.com or (519) 766-6114



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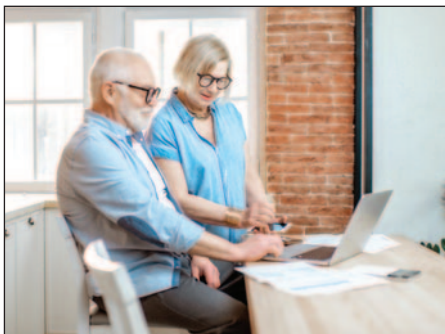
For many people the approval process with the banks can be grueling. Tracy Green Mortgage Broker (level 2 licenced to provide all mortgages including private funds) owner of Ontario-Wide Financial has been a mortgage provider in the industry for 37 years and has always had the "if there's a will there's 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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Who are you going to call, 9-1-1 or?

By Dennis Gannon

We live in an age where we need or look for information regularly. Most times we can get it via the internet which many people do but there are times when it has to be instant and as a result, many call the emergency number of 9-1-1.

But is this the best number to call? The answer is no. 9-1-1 is a critical lifeline designed to provide immediate assistance during emergencies. Calling 9-1-1 to get road information or to find out when the garbage will be collected are not what the service is for. Calling 9-1-1 is for an emergency. A

motor vehicle collision where people are injured or trapped. A structure fire that requires the immediate response of the fire department. A medical emergency where paramedics and an ambulance are required such as difficulty in breathing, an unresponsive person or sudden cardiac arrest.

Dialling 9-1-1 for a minor collision when the vehicles can be driven away isn't an emergency. Your neighbour having a fire in their backyard that is causing you discomfort

is not an emergency. Medical situations are more complicated and the medical dispatcher can determine if an ambulance is required or going to a clinic or hospital by private vehicle is sufficient.

So who are you going to call? If you live in an area serviced by the OPP, you can call the non emergency cell number, *OPP or

*677 to report minor incidents or other incidents. They also have 1 888 310-1122 for non emergency situations. Local police and fire have non emergency numbers you can find by an internet search. 2-1-1 and 3-1-1 numbers are also

available province wide. Calling these numbers can provide information on services such as social housing, community services and financial assistance.

Keeping 9-1-1 for true emergencies means that emergency responders can quickly get to an emergency when required. Your actions are critical to ensure when needed, emergency personnel can be deployed.

So who are you going to call?



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Firefighters receive grain entrapment training

By reporter/photographer Don Beaulieu



Firefighters across the country are receiving training in grain bin entrapment and rescue. A purpose-built mobile training unit has made its way through Ontario and will continue to head west this summer.

One stop was at David Spring's farm in Springwater Township, where our Farm View photographer/reporter caught up with it. Apologies are extended to the participants pictured; our reporter's recording device failed after-the-fact, therefore names and details are trapped inside his digital recorder.

Crews from surrounding fire stations received first-hand experience with the rescue equipment. Be Grain Safe will be donating the equipment used in this rescue training to the

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture; the GSI brand RES-Q tube. President of the organization Dave Ritchie was delighted with that prospect.

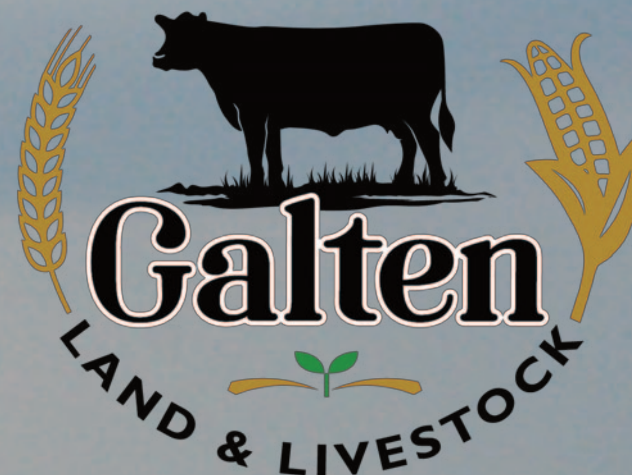
This firefighter training has been developed by the Canadian Agriculture Safety Association; the specific training programme is Be Grain Safe. The CASA recognized grain entrapment is extremely dangerous for the victim and the rescuers. Firefighters must use specific safety and rescue procedures to increase their chances of a successful rescue, while keeping members of their department safe.

Variables such as types of grain, size of grain bins and bin height factors were discussed, as was the fact that "true" patients may be in more of a panic than their crew-mates.



Here we see the beginnings of a cofferdam being inserted around an entrapped patient. Four units combine to surround the person. Grain is then augered out from inside the dam, powered by a wireless drill unit.

Here we see the travelling training trailer. A number of sponsors have helped the Canadian Agriculture Safety Association get this excellent resource together and travel Canada.



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Simcoe County 4-H Reports

Reports and photos submitted by Simcoe County 4-H

North Simcoe 4-H Dairy Club

By Tyler Phillips

The Elmvalle 4-H Dairy Club had our first meeting on April 29, 2025 at Shady Glen Farms. We introduced ourselves and played a “Get To Know You” game. Jay Robertson provided tips and advice on how to pick, feed and train a 4-H calf. We had three heifer calves to choose from, where we gave reasons on what we liked about the calf. We moved the meeting to North Simcoe Vet Clinic and Dr. Elri Oosthuizen provided important information about calf health, and how to keep our calves healthy during the show season. We concluded our meeting with voting for President, Vice President and Secretary positions. We would like to thank Shady Glen Farms, Jay Robertson and Dr. Elri Oosthuizen for a great first meeting.



South Simcoe 4-H Pickle Club

By Nicole Palmateer

On March 19, 2025 the South Simcoe 4-H Pickle club had its first meeting of the year. The meeting was generously hosted by the Cullen household where we started our meeting with a really fun game so that everyone could get to know each other better. The game we played is called “Squirt” however, instead of saying squirt we had to say each other's names which made for an interesting challenge. Then we all went on a competitive scavenger hunt to look for a pickle! After that we all gathered together to discuss all of the things we wanted to cover in our pickle club. We talked about all the types of things that can be pickled and the things we want to try to pickle. Our group is definitely most interested in making the classic dill pickles everyone loves but we also want to try making things like sauerkraut, pickled asparagus, and maybe even relish. As a club we also discussed our achievement day for the club. For our achievement we can either enter some of our pickles in a local fair or make an awesome educational poster on the processes of pickling and how it works. In the meeting we also did some fun hands-on activities. We made “Positive pickle jars”, this is where we painted jars in any way we pleased and filled the jars with cut outs of pickles with funny pickle jokes or kind messages on the backs of them. It was a great way for our club to grow closer. Afterwards we got to taste all kinds of pickled things to help us better decide what we want to learn how to make this year. We tried things like sweet gherkins, baby dills, pickled green beans, pickled onions, and even pickled tomatoes. It was really nice getting to taste some options to really get the most out of the 2025 South Simcoe Pickle Club. This meeting was so much fun and us 4-h'ers cannot wait to see what else this awesome club has to offer!

South Simcoe 4-H Vet Club

By Olivia Livingston

The South Simcoe Vet Club has had three engaging meetings, each focusing on different aspects of veterinary science and animal care. The first meeting, held at Jackie's house on Monday, April 14th, featured a guest speaker vet from Gravenhurst. The club members learned about hotspots and wound care, including a demonstration on how to wrap wounds. The meeting concluded with snacks and discussions about future events. The second meeting took place on Friday, April 25th, also at Jackie's place. This session was dedicated to sheep and goats. The club members observed a newborn lamb and discussed lamb processing, and initial care.

They also learned about preventing accidents in sheep and watched a demonstration on hoof clipping and infection management. The meeting ended with a game of capture the flag and snacks. The third meeting, held on Monday, April 28th, at Trish's dairy farm, continued the club's learning of animal care and veterinary practices. Our Guest speaker vet talked about how to debud calves and why we do that. We also learned how to suture stitches on a banana and ended the meeting with a fun guessing game. Thank you to everyone who hosted as well as all of our guest speakers.

South Simcoe 4-H Sheep Club

By Catherine Reid

At our second monthly meeting of the 4-H sheep club level one, we had a lot of fun! First, we did role call! The question was “what is your least favorite color”. Then one of the leaders chose about eight people to get a lamb. We learned so many things about structural correctness, like what their feet should look like, their toes, their ears, and their face. The lambs that we picked were the demonstration. Then we all chose which lamb feels like it has the most meat and stood beside it. Then the leader told us the correct answer. Next, level two split up with level one. Then we each chose one of the lambs that we grabbed earlier to be their practice lamb. We took their halter off and practiced holding our lambs for a long time, so I think that we all got a lot better at that! Finally, we did the 4-H motto, closed the meeting and had some yummy snacks! We all had a blast!

South Simcoe 4-H Horse Club

By Anika Mortelliti

The South Simcoe 4-H Everett Horse club has started up. In the first meeting members went over the contents of the club and which riding level they were all at. Members also discussed which Ontario equine riding level they hope to achieve in the club. Elections were held for president, vice president, secretary, and news reporter. During the second meeting members had an overview of horse anatomy, colors, markings and saddle fitting. In the third most recent meeting guest speaker Alayna May came and taught the club about lunging horses. The meeting started off with a chat about how to lunge and continued into hands-on demonstrations with the horses. Each member got to work with a horse one on one. Members learned how body language and vocal cues are a very important aspect in lunging. All meetings were concluded with the 4-H pledge and a sweet treat.



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'Ridiculous': Residents decry more homes in Holland Marsh

Proposed changes to Bradford's comprehensive zoning bylaw also include permitting more homes on non-marsh agricultural areas, relaxing restrictions for on-farm employee housing, increasing heights for accessory buildings and updating accessible parking standards

By Michael Owen, Originally published in Bradford Today

Farmers and residents are pushing back on proposed changes to allow more home construction on the "sacred ground" of the Holland Marsh.

More than a dozen residents turned out to show a mix of support and concern for a variety of proposed changes to the town's comprehensive zoning bylaw 2010-050, during a special council meeting on April 29.

Based on a report and presentation from town planner Priscilla Lan, the changes fall into five main categories: updates to accessible parking standards, increasing permitted heights for accessory buildings, updating permissions for accessory farm employee accommodations and permitting more residential buildings on certain properties zoned agricultural (A) and marsh agricultural (AM).

Changes to marsh agricultural in particular were a sore subject.

"This is the hot potato," said Jody Mott, executive director of the Holland Marsh Growers' Association.

She described their board's discussion of the issue as "not pretty," and estimated the suggested changes could lead to the loss of about 64 hectares of "prime agricultural marsh muck that is the pride of Ontario."

Lan explained staff discovered a bylaw inclusion from 2010 that prohibited the construction of homes on marsh agricultural lands larger than four hectares, but could not determine the reason for this prohibition, so they recommended its removal.

Concerns for the marsh were echoed by others including Christine Munshaw, who said she and her husband have been farming in the marsh for about 50 years, and feels there's already too many non-farm-related houses.

"The muck is very dear and near to us," she said. "We need to do something to ensure farming for future generations."

That was further emphasized by her son, Dave Munshaw, who plans to continue farming for the rest of his life, but worries about the loss of that unique farmland as the last dozen or so homes he's seen built in the marsh were "mansions," he compared to "monsters."

"It's ridiculous," he said. "We really need to watch what we're doing here."

Several councillors agreed with the residents, including Coun. Nickolas Harper who called the marsh "sacred ground," and Coun. Jonathan Scott, who suggested requests for exemptions to build homes in the marsh should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

"When you have a gem, you polish it — you don't chip away at it," Coun. Joseph Giordano said.

Mott suggested it would be better to have the bylaw changes reviewed by the group working to harmonize zoning in the marsh between Bradford and neighbouring King Township, and after several councillors agreed, Bradford Mayor

James Leduc amended the motion to do just that.

Other agricultural areas

It wasn't just the marsh that residents wanted to protect, though.

Community members were also apprehensive about the proposal to remove a local 1967 prohibition on the construction of homes on agricultural lots between four and 10 hectares, which staff suspect was originally implemented to prevent severing agricultural land.

Both Lan and community planning manager Alan Wiebe assured residents and councillors that currently both the town's official plan and the province's planning statement prevent subdividing agricultural land to plots smaller than 40 hectares for purposes other than agricultural use, with only "few" exceptions.

However, based on the size of modern farm machinery, having houses built on the lots in question will make it "virtually inaccessible" to farm the properties, according to fourth-generation farmer and president of Gwillimdale Farms, John Hambly.

That's already an issue along Morris Road, according to Scott, who said access to some plots are blocked by estate homes.

"The biggest thing is just to maintain the right to farm," Hambly said. "I am not against advancements in the community, but they need to be smart advancements."

That was echoed by several councillors, and in response, staff agreed to investigate setback requirements to ensure access.

Still, Ward 5 Coun. Peter Ferragine worried the changes could "open a can of worms," as many of the properties were bought "a long time ago" for "peanuts," with owners "just sitting on them," waiting for the chance to develop homes.

Several councillors pushed for "clear" and "prescriptive" regulations to ensure the relaxed permissions aren't abused.

"If there is a loophole or if there is an opportunity, I can assure you people will take advantage of it," Deputy Mayor Raj Sandhu said.

Worker housing

Not all changes faced opposition, though, and the proposal to ease restrictions for building on-farm housing for employees was even celebrated, as Mott said the growers' association was "very thankful" for the changes.

"This is a great thing that's going to help agriculture," she said. "We're bringing more and more workers to feed Ontario and feed Canada."

Staff proposed replacing the requirement for owners to also occupy the residence, with three options for the accommodation: it's located on a farm property having a farm business registration, it's located on the same property as the farm owner's residence, or it's located in an existing home

on a farm property.

In the same vein, staff recommend replacing the requirement for the accommodation to be within 50 metres of the primary residence and no less the six metres from the property line, with a standard already present in the in the agriculture zone — that the accommodation be at least 15 m from any property line. However, councillors confirmed staff are already considering some flexibility on that 15-metre requirement in light of some narrower properties in the marsh.

Staff also recommended increasing the required floor area minimum of 5.6 sq. m. per person to 7.44 sq. m. in keeping with the Seasonal Farm Worker Housing Guidelines.

Taller accessory buildings

There was no opposition to a proposal to increase the permitted height for accessory buildings (such as garages) to four metres from three in residential zones one (R1), two (R2) and three (R3).

That recommendation is intended to provide "greater flexibility" to residents based on common requests for exceptions to the town's committee of adjustment, according to staff, who explained a comparison of seven nearby municipalities found permitted heights ranged from 3.5 to five metres.

Wiebe further explained that existing lot coverage requirements would remain unchanged, as would requirements for greater setbacks for any accessory building taller than three metres, and also clarified the increased height permission would only be for non-residential uses and is not related to the town's ongoing work on its accessory dwelling unit (ADU) bylaw.

Accessible parking

There were no public comments about proposals for accessible parking spaces.

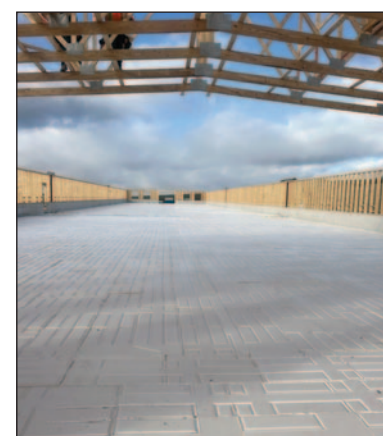
The changes are intended to bring the requirements of the zoning bylaw into alignment with the integrated accessibility standards as part of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), as well as the town's own accessible parking bylaw 2019-22, according to Lan.

The new requirements would only apply to newly built lots or where spaces are added to existing lots. They would replace the town's current requirement for accessible spaces to be 4.4-metre wide, to instead include options for both 3.3-metre wide and 2.4-metre wide spaces (depending on the number of spaces in the lot), either of which would also need 1.5-metre wide access aisles that can be shared.

Council is not expected to make a decision on any of the proposed changes until after staff provide a future report based on public feedback. Until then, residents can still submit comments via email to senior planner Thomas Dysart at tdysart@townofbwg.com or to Lan at plan@townofbwg.com.

For more information about the changes, visit the town's website <https://www.townofbwg.com/>

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After The Chores: With the Boer times

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Francis is the first.

Last December was the final straw. I received close to \$800 less for a dairy breed buck than those did with a boer (rhymes with door) buck. I refused to take advice that I told readers about from “Goat Day” at the Grey-Bruce Farmers Week to meet the strong seasonal demand with what buyers wanted- and paid for it.

Today’s market wants boers. I needed a boer buck. The boer buck purchase was important but most important to me is having healthy goats and sheep that live here. The easiest way of bringing disease to the barn is from bringing in animals with disease. In all my years of having animals, I only met one person that honestly said, “Don’t buy from me, I got problems you don’t want.” Most people will tell you what you want to hear to make the sale and I trust nobody I don’t personally know after my experience years ago. This time I was not going to pass on healthy herd status not even to meet that market.

I remember years ago going to pick out a new dairy breed buck kid some 2 hours away in western Ontario. I had talked to the owner for years and never saw anything in his show animals that made me ever question herd health. He pledged he never ever had what has always bothered me the most, the highly contagious disease known as CL that causes lumps on lymph glands that eventually burst open spreading out its contagious venom. There are highly effective CL vaccines for this now proving I’m not the only one that cannot deal with this. We go to this farm in western Ontario to choose the buck kid and its clear the owner put a lot of work into our visit, the pens were freshly bedded and the few goats we saw were clipped and looked like it was show morning. I was impressed. We only saw one pen and the kid’s par-

ents.

A few months later and it was time to pick up the kid. We had scheduling conflicts and finally chose to come one late day at last minute. I never will forget that day nor do I want to re-live another like it. I walked in and found a doe with an obvious CL abscess ready to burst lounging on top of a broken hay bale in the hallway along with a bunch of others, some with CL scars. The barn was full of evidence of the disease I hated the most. I was devastated but didn’t have the courage then to just walk away.

It was an anxiety filled trip home for me with this nice looking kid on my lap. My fear was that I was purposely bringing the dreaded CL directly into the barn. By the time we got home, my plan was fully in place. I told Sweetie to hold the kid in the jeep while I got the kid’s bath ready in our bathtub. Sweetie was none too impressed to be told to leave all his outer clothes outside on a cool, dark late spring evening after I got the kid. The kid went into the bathtub and was scrubbed from under his 3 month old hooves to the tip of his tail. Our footwear went into a disinfectant foot bath, all outer clothes into the washing machine and every surface we touched including in the jeep was disinfected. Thank God I never brought anything unwanted home and the buck lived a full life here- but it was a lesson to remember, people will lie for money.

Some people in life you can trust and one of these in my farming life have high regards for a boer farmer named Becky Vissers from Tyrone. I heard praise about Becky for years but never asked the big question about her herd’s health. I was assured her herd was healthy and bought a buck, unseen based on my trusted person’s advice to the point the buck kid was chosen for me without even a picture shared.

Purchase day was Easter Sunday. I confess I was plenty nervous about all this however, all my anxiety melted away when I saw this herd. I looked like a hungry eagle on this bright sunny day over the herd of boers and flock of sheep in that barn- and found no signs of disease. A row of mounted Royal Winter Fair banners across the back of the

barn were like spotlights over a big group of healthy animals. The chosen for me buck was huge, he could have been half his size and I would have been still impressed. His father was so massive at two years old, there will have to be some new pen arrangements if I ever get goats here that big.

Becky said no way was she putting a buck this size on my lap. Francis rode home in a provided big dog crate. He said not a sound. We had to dump him out when we got home as he would not budge out of the crate. It was afternoon and it was his nap time.

The kids here were eating grain that evening and Francis, the new kid, simply pushed his way in. He is strong and fearless. He likes sheep as he had them at his first home and chose them to be with the first few days he was here. The big, mean ram here backed up to charge him the first morning. Francis simply sidestepped the ram and moved behind a ewe.

Except for the day he got caught out in rain, Francis seems totally happy here. Every morning I have a boer kid race out with the sheep to get grain. Not even Francis can compete with these sheep. He gets down on his knees and braces himself to try and keep a place to get grain, but he gets pushed out every time. He was spending his days with the sheep but he got caught in a full day rain and he came in that night looking frazzled and miserable. Now Francis checks the weather carefully, if rain is predicted, he stays in the barn. Becky says his Dad hates rain too.

Francis has his own grain bucket, the kids have learned he does not share. Sweetie says he eats like a white rock chicken.

Judging from the 24/7 line-ups of people saw on the tv news from all classes in life that paid tribute in Rome to the late Pope Francis, he was accepting that people come from all backgrounds. It was said he gave his Pope mobile to wartorn Gaza to transport medical service people. I do therefore think that the late Holy Father would find it amusing that his life inspired a name for a spunky boer buck kid- and pray for young boer Francis.

A Message from Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North

As we welcome the vibrant days of summer, I extend my warmest wishes to the residents of Simcoe North. This season brings opportunities for community gatherings, local festivals, and cherished moments with family and friends. It’s a time to celebrate our shared spirit and the beauty of our region.

The recently released 2025 Ontario Budget, if passed, lays the foundation for our province’s continued growth and resilience. Key investments include an additional \$50 million for vocational and skills training through the Better Jobs Ontario program, \$20 million to support laid-off workers via new training and support centres, and the introduction of a \$40 million Trade-Impacted Communities Program aimed at helping local industries adapt to global economic shifts.

Locally, I would like to share how proud I am to be a part of a government that continues to invest in the health and well-being of our communities with the \$3 million planning grant for Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital. The announcement is a huge win for Orillia and is the first big step toward the new hospital the growing community needs and deserves.

In line with our commitment to safety and preparedness, the province is investing an additional \$5 million to enhance local emergency response capabilities. This funding, part of the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant, supports municipalities in acquiring critical equipment, improving infrastructure, and providing essential training.

As MPP, I am dedicated to ensuring that Simcoe North benefits from these initiatives. Together, we will continue to build a community that is not only prosperous but also resilient and prepared for the future.

Wishing you a joyful and safe summer season!

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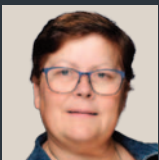
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Soil is an important ally in tackling climate change, as well as achieving productivity and profitability. Paying attention to the health of the soil realizes a rich harvest of benefits: climate stability, improved water quality, drought resistance, cost savings, healthier food, and a generally more profitable enterprise. It all comes down to six basic practices: the 6Cs of Soil Health.

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AUCTIONS?

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See page 23.

Canadian Farmers: Stewards for Healthy Soils

From the Compost Council of Canada

Farmers across Canada are becoming partners with their soil, working to build ever greater soil health. Sometimes called the “living skin of the Earth”, soil and its health offers a powerhouse of opportunities for both agriculture as well as our environment, influencing crop productivity, water quality and overall ecosystem resilience.

During the last year, our Council, with support from Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, travelled across Canada to interview farmers who are changing various farm practices within their op-

erations to reflect their ever-increasing focus on soil health.

This commitment is neither easy nor without considerable investment. But these farmers as well as many others are making this personal commitment and, in so doing, are contributing to greater food security, cleaner water, richer biodiversity and a calmer climate.

We welcome you to meet these farmers, learn about their efforts and beliefs and be inspired. Along with these video interviews, we've included a series of

fact sheets that detail the various soil health practices which they are using.

And what they are doing at their farm to not only fight climate change but also support greater food security, water quality and biodiversity, you can as well in your own garden and landscapes. It's just a matter of scale.

Check out our information series: Canadian Farmers and Gardeners: Stewards of Healthy Soil to learn more www.compost.org/canadian-farmers-stewards-for-healthy-soil/

For more information on these topics please visit the Compost Council of Canada Website.



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Agricultural Anecdotes
from
Farmer Tim

The Farm That Raised Me

What if I told you that I never moved or lived away from home? Over 50 years ago, my parents bravely relocated their entire farm, with my sister in tow, from Halton County to Wellington County. I can't imagine milking cows at one farm in the morning and the new farm that evening! My parents hauled over tractors, equipment, belongings and even some smaller buildings. A few months after their move, I was born – the only one of our family to never have known the original family farm.

I grew up in paradise, 150 acres of playground with an old 1885 Victorian farm house as my castle. I knew every square inch of that farm. I knew where the black caps and elderberries bloomed, where to find puff balls, wild pears and apples. I knew where fish spawned in the stream and where crayfish hung out. I knew where to find coyote and fox dens and gurgling springs in the forest. The old house was drafty but full of character. I used a metal detector to find countless lost treasures in the yard, including the old bell that once hung on a bell tower on the roof of that house. I found clay marbles and old coins and marvelled at the century-old lilac and peonies that graced the gardens.

While attending the University of Guelph, I even commuted from home each day, returning to help with farm chores. When I finally got married, my parents moved to an adjoining farm we purchased in the early 1980s. The massive old farm house was a great place to raise a family. We had a three-story tree house in our old willow tree with a tire swing so big that it could send you to the stars. That yellow brick house was made for

hide and seek, and its creaky stairs let me know when my kids came home late! We stripped and hung wallpaper, painted walls, and stripped the trim to its original golden pine. The floors were torn up to unearth the original maple and pine boards, which we lovingly sanded and sealed. The house was back to its original glory.

Well, all good things come to an end. My parents have passed on, and my adult children need a place to live. My wife and I made the decision to move to the farmhouse next door and to make new memories.

Don't feel sad for me! I willingly moved to our new digs – an 1840 stone farm cottage with deep window sills, high ceilings, celestial windows, exposed stone walls and original axe-hewn beams! It also has two heritage barns and a smoke house to top it all off! It is my dream home! The best part is that it's just a short walk or bike ride to the other farm to help with chores.

I've gone through a lot of personal changes over the last couple of years, so I'm happy to finally be settling down again. My two kids are lucky to be able to share their childhood home for the time being. It's also that time in my life to take one short step away from the responsibility of being next to my place of work, even though my new farm houses some of our younger cattle. I can't put a finger on the emotions I feel – excitement, sadness, sentimentality, pride, thankfulness... .. However, there are two things for certain: life goes on, and I'll never forget the farm that raised me. Stay tuned for new adventures.

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

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

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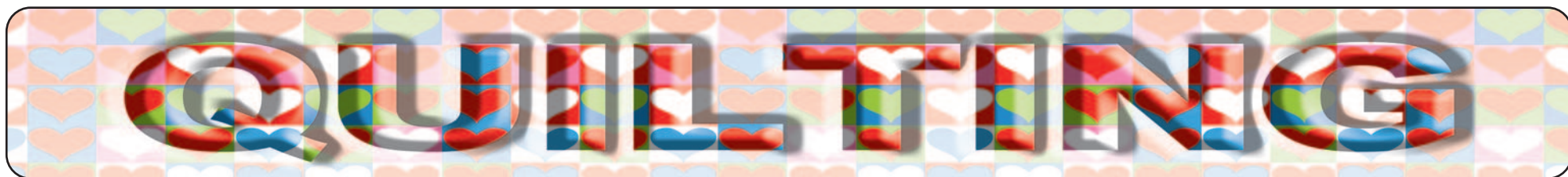
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Quilt Canada returns to Toronto By Janis Hamilton

I hope the major part of the clean up after the ice storm is over at your house and you can enjoy the daffodils, tulips and the hummingbirds returning. I have a pair of mallards come to my city pond and they've visited for over 8 years. Life does go on even when we aren't sure how. So, were you able to enjoy the shop hops in the area that I mentioned last month?

There is an even bigger one that only comes to our area once in very long time, Quilt Canada is returning to Toronto at the International Centre. It is open to the public June 19-21 from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. except June 21 it closes at 4 p.m. The International Centre is located at 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga with free parking and the entrance fee is \$35. So why make the trip? What will you see? Can you take classes? Can you buy fabric or even a machine? Yes, it will be a fun trip, way too much to see, classes to learn daily and fabric and notions and of course demos on machines will run all day. The workshops must be prebooked, so you may be too late by the time the paper comes to your door, but worth knowing what they offer for another time.

However, you can purchase \$25 lecture tickets that day. Look on the website for more information. www.canadainquilter.com Look under "events" to see what is happening. The lectures can be found under the square "workshops, lectures and tours" once you are on the site. There are 3 challenges put out for quilters including 1 for youth for this show using certain fabrics. It is always fun to see how creative quilters are when given a subject for a challenge and to see how they interpret the challenge. Click on the square for vendors and you will be shocked to see so many. The Quilt Store from Newmarket will be there so that is very local. If you want to test drive a new sewing machine, long arm machine or serger this is the time and place.

The quilts have had to be selected by the committees involved. This is a very involved process. A friend applied to have her family quilt entered in the show and to her delight, it was accepted. The quilt is one you will want to read the information on how the quilt was created. Unfortunately, I can't use the photo of the quilt as it is not allowed once the quilt is accepted into the show. This is a quilt that was many years in the making and started in England by my friend, Ann's sister Murri Smith. The idea started when the 4 sisters were clearing out the treasures left after their mother passed.

In one of the dressers, they found a cot quilt given to their Grandfather by his Grandmother. The note attached said it was made in 1867. Murri got the cot quilt and moved to England in 1999. Shortly after she started a 4 year course in arts / design / quilting at Westhope College in Shropshire. The Quilts started to take shape after attending Quilt Canada in 2004 & 2006.

Murri used her Grandfathers Cot Quilt as the foundation for her "Sister's Family Tree Quilt". The tree represents her parents & the leaves are the rest of the family. Murri asked for copies of a hand or footprint of her 3 sisters & their families (57 members) which she transferred on to leaves. Each person was given individual red fabric. That way they would be able to find theirs immediately. The foundation started with the cot quilt and then the tree trunk in the middle are their parents intertwined, and their arms make the branches of the tree. The family kept growing so she needed to expand the red sides giving the illusion of a Canadian Flag. The Quilt was brought back to Canada & the sisters helped secure the leaves on the tree by 2024. The quilt was delivered to families in Alberta & Ontario so everyone could find their hand or foot on the Quilt. All the family were given a card with their fabric so they could find their leaf. It was so beautiful to see the excitement as they found their hand or footprint! Murri felt it is a typical Canadian Family Tree linking all together no matter how far the winds of time have blown us from "home". This is indeed a treasured gift she has given her family but now if you attend you too can see the stunning and creative quilt.

I hope if you do attend Quilt Canada you take the time to spend the day soaking up the colours, the methods, the creativity and the skill shown as you tour the quilts.

Grey County Charmer's Quilt Club is presenting "Sunshine & Shadows Quilt Exhibit May 30-31st from 10-4 at Osprey Community Arena 494196 Grey Road 2 Feversham. The cost is \$10 cash at the door, vendors, café and free parking. I went last time and was not disappointed.

Hope you can also take in the local show in Alliston on June 7-8 at the Alliston Curling Rink, 52 Albert Street West from 10-4 with \$10 admission but free parking. Always a great show and a good lunch is available as well. Vendors, quilts and another road trip... why not.

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Simcoe Area Women's Institute Rose Program Celebration

Story and photos by Roslyn Watkins

In April I was honoured to be invited as a guest to attend the kickoff 100th anniversary celebration of the The Simcoe Area Women's Institute. Members of The Simcoe Area Women's Institute planned a fun and fabulous day. Beginning with refreshments during the registration giving the ladies an opportunity to catch up with one another.



Barrie Mayor Alex Nuttall (above to the left) joined the group for the morning of the Women's Institute Rose Program Women's Day. Mayor Nuttall gave a welcome speech and presented Donna Jebb with a certificate of appreciation.

Institute as well as the role of crafting in placemaking and community-building, both historically and in the present day. I learned that the Women's Institute was founded in Stoney Creek, Ontario, and the movement quickly spread throughout Ontario and across the world.

Dr. Gillett shared with us what our craft for the afternoon was to be; a quilt square to help form the 100th anniversary quilt. Each guest was given an embroidery circle, fabric and thread. Our task was to embroider our name, some of us were new to embroidery and had a lot of laughs figuring it out.

Dr. Gillett invited anyone who is interested in helping to create the Women's Institute 100th anniversary quilt to please contact her at mollyclaregillett@trentu.ca. You do not need to be a member to participate.

While we were working on our embroidery, we had the opportunity to admire a few quilts that guests had brought in as well as review the historical Women's Institute items Dr. Gillett brought from the Simcoe County Achieves.

Following the morning's refreshments Barrie Mayor Alex Nuttall gave a welcome speech and presented the group with a certificate of appreciation. The day's guest speaker was then introduced, Dr. Molly-Claire Gillett, and we were treated to a thorough and fascinating talk of the history of the Women's

After the craft segment of the day we enjoyed a delicious lunch and then began the real excitement! When I read there would be a fashion show as part of the days celebrations I didn't realize it was a comedy fashion show! The effort and humour put into each costume had the whole room laughing. One of my favourite costumes was the pin stripe suit. The models were dressed in dark suits with safety pins pinned on in stripes over the entire outfit. The time and detail that went into this fun fashion show was certainly enjoyed by all.

Following the fashion show we were treated to the Music Melodies of The Paraguinn's. Beautiful upbeat signing with humour and audience interaction thrown in.

Throughout the day I found myself often looking around the room, listening to the laughter and conversations. It was a beautiful event to be included in, filled with humour and comradeship.



At the Women's Institute Rose Program Women's Day guests were encouraged to bring their favourite quilts and given the opportunity to share the quilts story. The quilt in this photo was one of many on display and now resides at the Dalston Church. Dr. Molly-Claire Gillett, to the right in the photo, helped hold the quilt while Women's Institute member, Pat Richards, described how much her family loved flying kites at their family farm and so designed her quilt block (very top right block) to represent those memories.

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Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

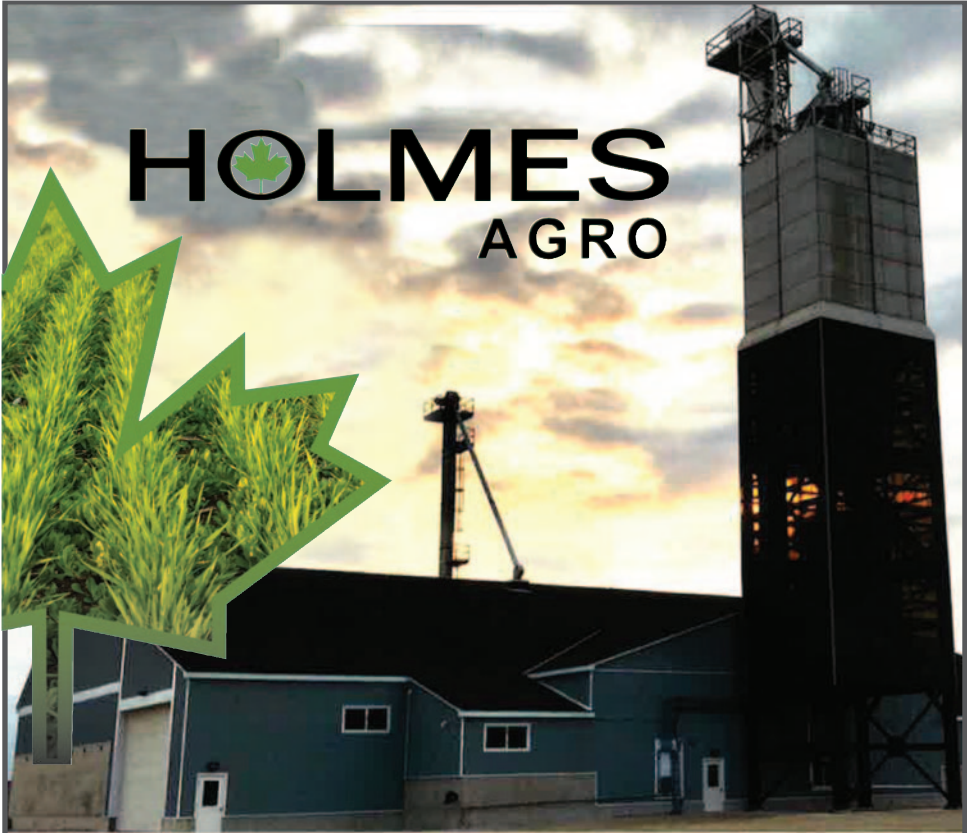
Youth Forum Beef Show is a beef cattle show that is open to competitors up to the age of 21 as of January 1st of the current year. The mission of this show is "celebrating today's youth, building tomorrow's leaders". Youth Forum has showmanship classes and conformation classes- and in the photo to the right, a Jackpot show. The Jackpot show is judged by a panel of young judges- and the prize to the winners is the "jackpot" which is a big portion of entry fees for this class. Youth Forum has earned a place in the show circuit in Ontario and it can be seen here how well attended it is by the full stands of people watching.



In the photo above is Brynn Currie showing Vos Vegas Missy. Brynn is from a show family, they show cattle and draft horses across North America. Brynn and her family live in Shawville, Quebec which is a four hour drive from Lindsay where the Youth Forum Beef Show was held.



This is Alyssa Haywood from Brigden, which is near London. Alyssa has been showing for a decade- and says it's a fun experience for her. She is also involved in 4-H. Alyssa is seen here with Charolais named ACL Martini at the Youth Forum Beef Show. The next show on the circuit for Alyssa and her family is in Ottawa.



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Youth Forum Beef Show is a show for everyone

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Pictured above is young Tyson Sutcliffe showing Magic, a Charolais. Tyson is only 5 years old and this is the third show he has shown at. Next on the show circuit for Tyson and his family will be at Brooklin Fair. He is from Pontypool and his family owns Over the Top Cattle Co.

Pictured to the right is a young judge on the Jackpot Judging panel at Youth Forum, Adam Smith from Binbrook. Adam and his family are well known in the Hereford cattle community operating Shady-Villa Cattle Company with purebred Herefords. He has been a longtime serving member for both Ontario and the Canadian Junior Hereford Association. He graduated from the University of Guelph and won a Canadian Western Agribition's Judging Competition.



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Visitors came from across Ontario to the Ontario Alpaca Show

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

There were 137 Alpacas shown at the recent Ontario Alpaca Show held on April 11th-13th at the spacious Kawartha Downs Event Centre in Fraserville. This was an Alpaca Canada Sanctioned Show. Exhibitors and visitors came from all across Ontario for both the alpaca show held in a tent by the stables and the Alpaca product marketplace held at the convention centre. Halter classes were judged by Cathy Merkley of Saskatchewan and Walking Fleece classes were judged by Karolyn Knoll of Iowa, USA.

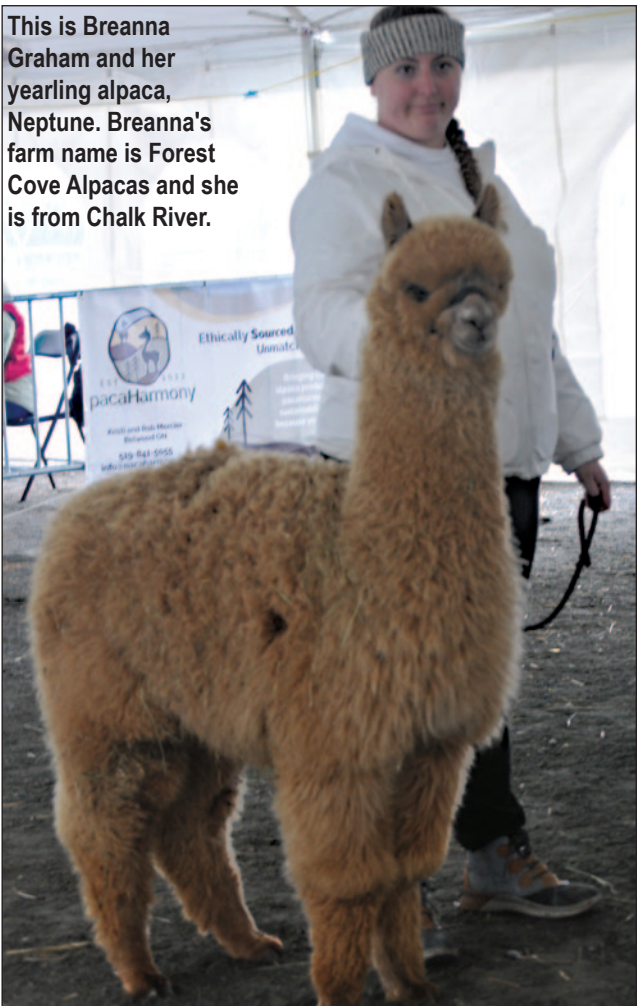
Alpacas are kept for fiber production. Alpaca fiber is especially sought after for socks as alpaca fiber is naturally different being six times warmer than wool and for wicking moisture away. It contains no lanolin and is naturally hypoallergenic. Alpaca fiber is also made into clothing like ponchos and sweaters.

Native to South America, the Alpaca is a member of the camelid family. A baby alpaca is called a cria (cry-ah). Crias at a year are often called “yearlings”. A male yearling mature to an adult called a macho (maw-ch-o). The female yearling matures to an adult called hembra (hemb-row). Macho and hembra alpacas usually live between 15 to 20 years.

When annoyed or upset, alpacas may spit but this behavior can be controlled with training. At the show, alpacas politely walked around the ring while being led on a halter by a showperson. They stood patiently in line for the second fiber part of the show when the fibre judge gently plucked a bit of their fiber out for individual judging.

Alpacas are naturally colourful. Colours range from white to all shades of brown and black. Alpacas can be 22 different colours with 250 shades of these colours.

Anyone interested in learning more about or where to purchase alpacas can contact www.alpacaontario.ca



In the photo to the right is alpaca entrepreneur, Deb Griffey. Deb Griffey founded Alpaca Time, a thriving business now owned by her daughter, Tara. Alpaca Time's storefront is located in Harriston and sells made with alpaca items manufactured there or found in South America at alpaca farms. Deb, who is also highly skilled in travel photography, goes to South America on buying trips for clothing that is exclusively made by selected alpaca fiber artists. At home, the on site equipment is used to make an incredible 10,000 pairs of socks and about 6,000 pairs of insoles per year to meet the thriving market and can be found at www.alpacatime.ca Here, Deb is weaving alpaca fibre beside her vendor booth at the convention centre at Kawartha Downs as part of the Ontario Alpaca Show.



Pictured to the right is Kristi Mercier from Belwood of Harmony Meadows Alpacas and owner of this business, paca-Harmony which features alpaca made products. Kristi is eager to educate about alpacas and her business specializes in selling alpaca products including socks, duvets and toys to alpaca farm stores. There is a strong mandate to support the alpaca industry and all items are carefully sourced to be ethical and sustainable. Her super cute stuffed toys seemed to be highly popular at the Ontario Alpaca Show as people wanted souvenirs of the fun experience.





HAPPY

Father's Day!

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Where do you feel your God the most?

This past week while cutting the grass after work the sun began to set. The air was warm, the smell of freshly cut grass filled my lungs, and the sky was painted in streaks of gold, pink, and deep orange. I paused for a moment, watching the light shift across the horizon. In that quiet, ordinary moment, I felt it. A stillness. A presence. A sense that I was not alone. That something was right there with me in the fading light. I wasn't praying, I wasn't meditating, I was just cutting the grass. And yet, something stirred deep in my soul. I felt my God. I've come to realize that the Divine isn't limited to a building or a ritual. The God of your understanding meets us in all kinds of places. Each of us, across different faiths and traditions, feels that presence in different ways.

For centuries, humanity has turned toward the divine, however we may define it for comfort, guidance, and connection. Whether you call this presence God, Allah, Yahweh, Krishna, the Divine Mother, Spirit, the Universe, or simply Love, there is a moment in life when you feel undeniably close to that sacred presence. But where does this connection happen? In the quiet corners of temples? In the rhythm of daily life? In the awe of nature? The answer is deeply personal, yet surprisingly universal.

Some feel closest to their God in formal spaces of worship. The hush of a cathedral, the call to prayer from a mosque, the chants within a temple, or the circle of a sacred fire, each of these places holds the energy of generations of devotion. Within these spaces, rituals, prayers, and songs create a collective connection that many describe as deeply moving. These are places where the divine is not just sought but expected, and where hearts open wide in reverence and surrender.

Yet for others, the divine is most present in the ordinary moments: washing dishes, caring for a child, walking to work, or listening to a friend in need. In many spiritual traditions, the sacred is found in service, humility, and the simple act of being present. A mother rocking her baby may feel the same sacredness that a monk experiences in deep meditation. A cook preparing a meal with love may be offering as holy a prayer as any spoken aloud.

And then there is nature, a place where countless people across faiths and beliefs say they feel closest to God. The majesty of a mountain range, the silence of a forest, the vastness of the ocean, or the first light of dawn can stir something ancient and wordless in us. It is here, far from man-made walls, that many say they feel held, seen, and spoken to by something greater.

For some, God is felt in moments of struggle. In grief, illness, or loss, when the world feels like it's falling apart, a still, small voice often arises within offering comfort, hope, or simply presence. In those dark nights, some say they do not just feel God, they need God, and in that need, something sacred responds.

The beauty of our diverse world is that we each find our path to the divine in different ways. And perhaps that's the point: that God, however we understand that word, meets us where we are. In temples, kitchens, forests, hospitals, and city streets there is no single place where God resides, because God, many believe, resides within us.

Where do you feel your God the most? In silence or in song? In solitude or in community? Wherever it is, that place is holy not because it's perfect, but because you meet the Divine there.

And that, in itself, is sacred.

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Why So Many Condemnations? OFA Agricultural Scholarships – 2025

By Paul Bootsma, CFFO Policy Coordinator

Most farmers will tell you that local abattoirs are disappearing from rural Ontario. They will also mention the important value they provide for them. It's the 'why' for this, that has to concern the animal livestock sector and those who want to make a livelihood in the abattoir business.

Local abattoirs are an important part of livestock production, it's where animals are processed for custom orders, or for unforeseen/accidental reasons that require immediate processing because they are still fit for human consumption. Small local abattoirs also offer consumers the ability to purchase fresh and specialty meats for their taste buds. The old fairy tale line of 'The butcher, baker and candlestick maker' still has significance in our 'highly industrialized economy'. Abattoirs offer a personal aspect to sales.

Over the past decades, we have witnessed a serious decline in the number of abattoir businesses, more concerning is that there are very few young entrepreneurs entering this industry. And we know the reasons, difficult regulations in building layouts, health and safety requirements, labour regulations all deter young folks from picking up this trade. Meat cutting is a skill.

A more prominent current issue is that of condemnations by the meat inspectors. CFFO has had a committee for several years that has been responding to this issue. We have spoken with many producers and abattoir owners who are concerned with this and are expressing significant financial losses due to this. And the consequences for them.

Reports of high rates of condemnations show that this is a significant financial loss to the abattoirs and farmers who lose payment for their animals. The big issue is that there is no process to appeal the decisions and save 'part' of the animal. Again, the economic loss to both the abattoir and farmer can quickly add up.

Health and safety are very important in food production and there is no appetite for changing that. However, when a carcass has a small deformity, and thus condemned, the rest is wasted food if the whole thing is thrown out, and that is the problem. It's like throwing out the baby with the bath water.

A review of the inspection process and the training of inspectors is highly needed, better training with experienced inspectors for graduates should be a requirement. The way things are currently, there is no accountability for the inspector, so it's the approach when in doubt, throw out. Not a good system.

This overhaul needs to come from the Ag ministry and the minister himself. We are possibly losing a needed sector of the industry which we cannot afford to lose. A change needs to come, or we will lose a valuable industry along with the skill it requires. When provincially inspected, abattoirs are compared to federally (CFIA) inspected plants, the differences in condemnation rates are very high.

CFFO has been and will continue to work with Meat & Poultry Ontario to lobby the provincial government for these changes.

Scholarship and bursary program information for all post-secondary students interested in pursuing a career in the agriculture industry.

The 2025-26 academic year offers a wide range of scholarships and bursaries designed to help you achieve your academic and career goals. Whether you are returning to school in the fall or entering post-secondary studies for the first time, there are many opportunities available to support your education. These scholarships and bursaries can provide financial assistance for tuition, textbooks, and other educational expenses, helping to ease the financial burden of pursuing higher education. With the agricultural industry playing a vital role in our society, these scholarships and bursaries are a great opportunity to invest in your future and make a difference in the world. Don't miss out on these fantastic opportunities to support your education and career in the agricultural industry.

Visit ofa.on.ca/resources/agricultural-scholarships/ for complete information and application deadlines

Ecological and economic benefits of small grains

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

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

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

Find out more about eligibility, program requirements, and benefits <https://efao.ca/small-grains/>

July 2025 for fall 2025 planting of small grains (harvested summer 2026); – coming July 2025

December 2025 for spring 2026 planting of small grains (harvested summer 2026).

Attention Farmers

Do you allow hunting on your land? My brother and I are respectful hunters looking for access to private land in Springwater Township (or surrounding area) for the fall hunting season. We are local, ethical hunters that will respect your property and leave no trace of us having been there. Willing to share any game realized on your land. We are local to the area with young families.

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Live Auction Sale**for **Keith Johnston****Saturday July 19th, 10am**4958 Wellington Rd 125, Acton, ON From the town of Acton come North on Wellington 125, for 3km to sale on west side of road **OR** from the town of Hillsburgh, come south on Trafalgar Rd for 7.5km to Regional Rd 124. Then west on 124 for 6.5km to Wellington 125. then south on 125 for 7km to sale on west side of road. **** PARKING ON SITE******Tractors/Skid Steer:** Kubota M6-131 4x4 tractor, 104hrs; NH TM75 4x4 tractor, 4135hrs, new clutch, Quicke loader; MF 275, 4351hrs, new clutch; Case 1825B skid steer, 1930hrs, diesel; Kubota TB1860 riding mower. **Truck, Trailers:** 2011 Ford F250 Super Duty, FX4 Off Road; Royal 6'x12' enclosed trailer; & sm trailers. **Mach/Equip/Accs:** Great Plains 1005NF no till drill; ; 30' header wagon; (3)gravity wagons; AGI WRX 10-51 auger; Hardi 500 sprayer; Kuhn Optimizer D1008 disc; Hydra Spread 200 manure spreader; Kubota RA1035 rotary rake; Hydra Farm King 12' harrows; 6"x36' PTO drive auger; 16' Watveare cultivator; 18' pony harrows; 10' chain harrows & drawbar; John Deere 18' disc, man wings; and many more pieces. **Shop/Farm Rel:** Wallenstein BX62R woodchipper; North Forest firewood processor, Kohler motor, takes up to 24" diam logs; 4t hopper bottom plastic bin; (2)grain bins-19'x4 rings; WinPower PTO drive generator; and much much more.**Lunch Booth & Washroom Available****Preview: Friday July 18, 1-6pm****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: Keith Johnston (519) 835-4718****Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264****Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083****www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur**

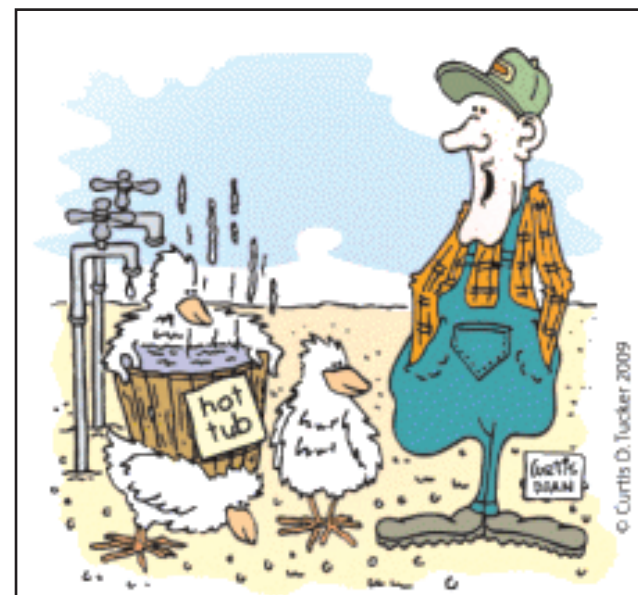
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Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com**Full Listing of the Keith Johnston sale
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