

# *Since 1977* **FARM** **VIEW**

A newspaper with something for everyone | July 2025 | Volume 48 #07

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*Almost 3 year old  
Jolene had a great  
time showing this  
Hereford at the 175th  
Schomberg Fair.*



# Happy Canada Day!

## 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.

### 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. For ticket information contact Nicole at [simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com](mailto:simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com)

### July 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

### August 1st - 4th: Georgian Bay Steam Show

The very popular Georgian Bay Steam Show returns taking place **August 1st to the 4th**. Featuring Made in Canada equipment, a fun filled family event! Visit [www.steamshow.ca](http://www.steamshow.ca)

### August 2nd & 3rd: Essa National Draft Horse Show

The 10th Annual Essa National Draft Horse Show takes place **August 2nd & 3rd at 7505 10th line, Thornton, ON**. This promises to be an exciting event not to be missed! See the ad on page 6. Call 705-726-1200 or email [admin@essaagriplex.ca](mailto:admin@essaagriplex.ca) for details.

### 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](http://www.alliston-potatofest.com)

### August 16th: SSFA Golf Tournament

South Springwater Firefighters Association presents the annual golf tournament taking place on August 16th, 2025 at Springwater Golf Course.

Golf, lunch, dinner and prizes!

Email [south.springwater.firefighters@gmail.com](mailto:south.springwater.firefighters@gmail.com)

### August 21st - 24th: Barrie Fair

The Annual Barrie Fair takes place at **7505 10th line, Thornton, ON August 21st to the 24th**. Many exciting activities, shows and vendors! Visit [www.essaagriplex.ca](http://www.essaagriplex.ca).

### Sept. 24th: Program announcement for E.D.G.E.

Elmvale District Garden Enthusiasts meet on Sept. 24th, the topic **Help Plants Thrive not just Survive** at Elmvale Legion 7 John Street at 7 p.m. Guests are free.

## 50th anniversary of the Potato Pancake breakfast

By John Morrison

St John's United Church will be celebrating it's 50th anniversary hosting the Potato Pancake breakfast this year on August 9th, quite a milestone.

In the early days of hosting the breakfast, they held it at the corner of Victoria and Church street, thinking that if they held it where they hold it now, nobody would come. Apparently they ran extension cords from the hydro office, which is now Feehley Gastaldy Law office, over to the table to brew the coffee, and ran the pancake batter from the church kitchen up to the grills to cook the pancakes.

We tried to keep the tickets prices affordable so that parents with kids would be able to enjoy the pancakes and have breakfast as a family. We also promoted that, if you showed up in your pyjamas you could eat for free. It was such a success that we moved it to its present location, to the east parking lot at the church.

The Potato Festival was cancelled for 2 years because of COVID, but before cancelling the pancake breakfast, it helped with the cost of installing the elevator, and bought pancake grills for cooking the pancakes. Over the years we have supported many worthwhile charities as well as giving back to the church. Before COVID, we were serving 1200 to 1400 people. They were lined up around the block and down the street.

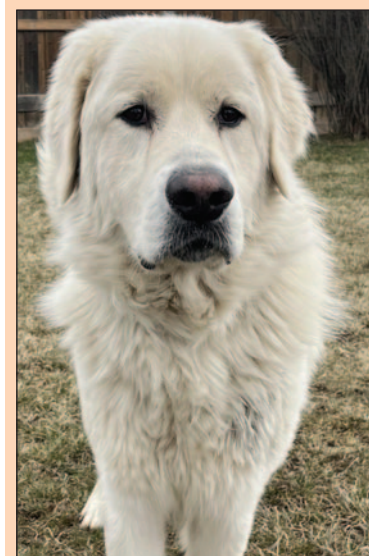
In recent years, we have given over \$19,700.00 to local charities as well as some world wide charities. Through our donations, we have supported such organizations as the Loaves and Fishes Growing project, Famine Relief in Horn of Africa, Habitat for Humanity, Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, Matthews House, South Simcoe Learning Disability, Rotary Polio Eradication, S.H.I.F.T., Good Shepherd Food Bank, Canadian Mental Health Association, Krasmen Centre, Grandmothers Embrace, as well as many other worthy causes. It has also helped support the church with its operating expenses.

As we looked over the many families enjoying the pancakes, talking to whomever is next to them, it gives a sense of a community spirit that makes supporting this event so special. It is a "community event".

Holding this event, would not be possible without your support.

Birthday Bonus- free pancakes available to anyone born between Aug. 8 to 11, 1975. You must show proof.

## READY FOR ADOPTION



Casper is a 2+-year-old male Great Pyrenees at the Caledon Animal Shelter. He is very gentle and sweet, but typical to his breed, he is very cautious of new faces. He needs a rural setting with experience with LGDs. We don't know if he is ok with Livestock, but he loves dogs and likes to be indoors with his family. Casper had surgery June 6 for a torn cruciate and is looking for a foster to adopt, it is a 7-8 week recovery.

[Animal.services@caledon.ca](mailto:Animal.services@caledon.ca)  
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# Forest health, post ice storm

Synopsis by Donald Beaulieu

Last month saw a gathering of woodland and woodlot owners gather in the quaint Eady Hall in Oro-Medonte Township. The event was sponsored by Huronia Woodland Owners Association and the Ontario Woodlot Association. The seminar attracted about sixty people who enjoyed light snacks and hot drinks.

Craig Drury, chairman of the OWOA welcomed everyone and introduced Doug Frost who provided a short update on the group's activities. The OWOA has grown to about 3,000 members.

Frost mentioned the term *Ontario model forest* and then explained what that means. It is a large-scale forest landscape encompassing many different land uses. A specific partnership-based approach to sustainable forest management and a long-term process that adheres to a broad set of principles to promote sustainability. It makes for a multi-stakeholder platform for good governance and stewardship.

Two guest speakers presented insights. The first up was Wes Reynolds, an arborist and the owner of Wes' Tree Service. After a short break, Forests Canada Field Advisor Eleanor Reed addressed the crowd.

## Wes Reynolds

Reynolds provided insight into our spring ice storm, and previous storms, offering safe clean-up methods and how to determine if a tree can be saved. He has a rich history and experience in this realm.

He worked in Kingston cleaning up after the ice storm of 1998. When he goes to that city now, he can see how well trees can come back from the damage if cared for properly at the time. He says that although we see some damage and devastation from our spring storm here, "There is light at the end of the tunnel".

Reynolds addressed is-

suess of forest management, rather than trees in a landscaped situation. The same species may do well in a forest but less so as a single tree in the open. His perspective was how to help the forest recover to its best ability in a landscape where dealing intimately with each individual tree is out of the question. Many folk in the room had sugar maple bushes, for example. This was a group familiar with forest management to begin with, but questions concerning the extent damage and dealing with debris were many.

He explained some basics about how particular species will respond and cope, or not, with ice load. He also noted how dangerous it can be for an inexperienced person with a chainsaw to "read" a loaded tree. Thinking back to Kingston and 1998, he said there were a lot of injuries resultant from inexperienced folk working on ice-laden trees and branches.

Reynolds says that for a tree that is badly damaged "Consider its recovery time versus natural regeneration taking over". He was also able to explain the logistics about clearing roads and dealing with downed trees along roadsides and what our municipalities and utilities have been dealing with, keeping financial efficiencies in mind.

He fielded many questions from the crowd, following his presentation.

## Eleanor Reed

Eleanor Reed, a Forests Canada field advisor addressed the attendees after a coffee and snack break. She is the first contact for anyone inquiring about tree planting in Canada.

The ice storm this spring was her first time seeing the result and devastation of such, in person. As a forester, she was excited to see how trees reacted/succumbed to the weight of ice.

"It is something to see a

white pine with each needle holding an inch of ice and to see a stand of spruce with their needles held together, having an inch of ice around them."

Forests Canada is a non-profit organization funded through the 2-Billion Tree programme, to the year 2030. They are working toward a goal to have connected forests, mixed with farmland across our landscape.

Tree seeds are vital to this project; the closing in 2018 of the Angus Tree Seed Plant was lamented. It was the only facility of its kind in Ontario. Currently, private nurseries are assisting.

In recent years, tree planting has expanded to northern Ontario, to a notable extent. Private nurseries in northern Ontario are helping out.

Tree planting creates jobs, as Reed explained: "We're collecting seeds and we're turning that into jobs, business, all kinds of benefits to our communities through the investment of government and corporations into this tree programme".

Running this sort of a programme takes a lot of forecasting and planning to make the most of the funding available. "To turn a seed into a tree" Reed says, "is a six-year process". Private nurseries are compensated for their work; they can not afford to be growing trees they can't sell, of course.

Tree seeds also have varying "life expectancies", they do not last forever in storage, therefore one can imagine that adds another hidden dynamic to the planning.

There are about 60 active partners, including nurseries, conservation authorities, arborists, landowners and more. It is a project for all ages to get involved in... fresh out of school to seniors with a love of our planet.

## Forests Canada MISSION

*Together, we conserve, restore, and grow Canada's forests to sustain life and communities.*

Wrapping up the meeting, David Hawke of the Ontario Woodland Association invited everyone to their Fall Field Day on Saturday, October 4th this year.

## ADVERTORIAL

# A reverse mortgage does not mean that you are giving away your home and the equity in it.

**Reverse mortgages have come a long way over the years especially with more competition and options!**

Discover the benefits of a reverse mortgage or a 5-year mortgage payment pause to give you financial peace of mind while you maintain the remaining equity in your home

Tracy Green, a 25-year plus veteran in the industry, Level 2 Mortgage Broker and Owner of Ontario-Wide Financial in Orillia has received numerous enquiries over the years from older homeowners who have been rejected by a bank for a mortgage.

Green says, "I have a lot of seniors calling me looking for funds, because they have been unsuccessful at the banks or other lending institutions. And the 2% qualifying rate as set out by the Government of Canada, is making it more difficult for seniors to obtain institutional funding. Many seniors are unable to borrow against their homes.



## Age and risk management

Obtaining a mortgage as a senior can be a daunting challenge in two ways: firstly, with the reduction of the amortization period based on age with some lenders, and secondly, the extra 2% qualifying rate the bank of Canada set out in June 2021. Green says, "These measures, while justifiable under the guise of risk management, significantly hinder seniors ability to secure a mortgage if they need the funds. Even though the equity in their home may be \$1,000,000, they may not qualify for a \$300,000 mortgage to buy a vacation home or help their children buy their own home. This often leaves seniors turning to private mortgages which come with higher interest rates. But Tracy Green says there are alternative solutions.

## The benefits of a reverse mortgage

Reverse mortgages offer a unique flexibility that many may not be aware of. Green says, "Many people think that a reverse mortgage means that they're giving their house away. They don't realize that they can make mortgage payments on a reverse mortgage to maintain the equity in their home."

By making regular payments, homeowners can cover the interest or a portion of the interest and even reduce the principal by up to 10% annually, maintaining or growing their equity stake in the property as values rise over time. Green says, "This approach allows older homeowners to enjoy the liquidity of a reverse mortgage while safeguarding the value of their home. A reverse mortgage does not have to mean that the homeowner is taking equity out while the interest is accumulating, and they'll eventually have nothing left. A homeowner can make full payment which over the full term will not take any equity out of the property or they can make partial payments to slow the erosion of equity.

Homeowners can also take advantage of the "no payment at all" option and take lump sums as needed rather than all at once. It works like a line of credit, with some restrictions.

As property values increase, a home's equity will appreciate. A reverse mortgage with the option of making monthly mortgage payments slows or eliminates equity erosion, capitalizes on rising property values, and gives older homeowners peace of mind.

## A 5-year mortgage payment pause

A program that offers a 5-year pause on monthly mortgage payments may sound like a financial fantasy, but Tracy Green says it's a viable option for many, regardless of their age. "Up to 55% of the home's value can be put on a 5-year, no payment program. While the interest accumulates over the 5 years, if the homeowner wants to sell or refinance early, they can do that with no penalties."

The program is designed for homeowners who need a break from making full mortgage payments because they are returning to school, or they may be struggling financially and want to wait to see if interest rates decline. As home values rise and they age, they may then qualify for a reverse mortgage that can be held as long as they want. The program is open to homeowners of any age who can't afford their mortgage payments and are considering selling.

Navigating the complexities of mortgage financing can be challenging, especially when traditional mortgages from a bank are out of reach.

There are alternative options that can provide significant financial relief. Tracy Green and her team at Ontario-Wide Financial can access a wide range of mortgage options and tailor solutions to the clients specific needs.

**Tracy Green 416-573-7669/705-259-3974/1-888-307-7799**  
**Mortgage Broker/Owner Level 2 FSRA Licence #12456**  
[www.ontario-widefinancial.com](http://www.ontario-widefinancial.com)



Wes Reynolds



Eleanor Reed



## LETTERS

Contact: [peel.federationofagriculture@gmail.com](mailto:peel.federationofagriculture@gmail.com)

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<p>STK#147817</p> <p>✓ \$15,000 CASH IN LIEU <b>\$</b></p> <p><b>JD 9470R 2015 ... \$349,995</b> 18/6, COMMANDVIEW CAB, HI FLOW, 5 REMOTES, 1000 PTO, PREM LIGHTS, 4030 HRS</p>	<p>STK#139787</p> <p>✓ \$20,000 CASH IN LIEU <b>\$</b></p> <p><b>JD 8320R 2014 ... \$299,995</b> IVT (40K), PREM CAB WITH ACTIVE SEAT, DUAL PUMP, 5 REMOTES, 4400 HRS</p>	<p>STK#148721</p> <p>✓ \$25,000 CASH IN LIEU <b>\$</b></p> <p><b>JD 8R 310 2022 ... \$559,995</b> IVT (50K), ULTIMATE COMFORT, CAB SUSP, DUAL PUMP, 5 REMOTES, 1009 HRS</p>	<p>STK#148014</p> <p>✓ \$25,000 CASH IN LIEU <b>\$</b></p> <p><b>JD 7R 290 2023 ... \$571,995</b> IVT (50K), PREM COMFORT, 60GPM PUMP, 5 PREM REMOTES, TLS, PR, 168 HRS</p>	<p>STK#148677</p> <p>✓ \$15,000 CASH IN LIEU <b>\$</b></p> <p><b>JD 6R 165 2023 ... \$345,995</b> IVT (50K), AT READY, ULTIMATE PACKAGE, CAB SUSPENSION, 4 REMOTES, 65 HRS</p>	<p>STK#145662</p> <p>✓ \$7,500 CASH IN LIEU <b>\$</b></p> <p><b>JD 6120M 2020 ... \$129,995</b> 24/24, AT READY, 3 REMOTES, LOADER, MFWD, AUTO DIFF LOC, 3597 HRS</p>

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# Seventeenth Annual Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Prize Awarded



Grey Bruce Farmers' Week has been a main stay for the agricultural industry in Grey and Bruce Counties since 1966. The featured commodities have evolved as the area's agricultural focus has changed, but the mandate to provide information to producers and agribusiness has remained firm. Producers have supported our programming for 59 years, so 17 years ago, the committee created an annual \$1000 Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Prize in conjunction with the University of Guelph, Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), to give back to our supportive farming community. The award recognizes new veterinarians entering food animal practices serving producers in Grey and Bruce Counties, recognizes the individual's past accomplishments, but also encourages their future contributions, and commitment to our rural communities.

On June 9, 2025, the OVC Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2025 had their Convocation and Veterinary Oath Ceremony. The GBFW Committee is delighted to announce that Dr Cole Radbourne is the recipient of the 2025 GBFW award.

Cole has had a lifelong connection to agriculture and is a third-generation dairy farmer, living and working with his fiancé on a farm in Grey County, near Owen Sound. His deep-rooted connection to the land and livestock has shaped his path and inspired him to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

Before completing his DVM, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology from the University of Guelph. Throughout this time, he remained closely involved in the

agricultural industry, working mainly in the dairy genetic industry with various roles.

Throughout his time at the Ontario Veterinary College, he worked hard to get hands-on experience and community involvement.

Alongside his studies, he remained actively involved in the agricultural industry, working as a cattle breeder for East-Gen, a genetic advisor for STgenetics, and an animal care specialist with Semex. These roles allowed him to support producers with innovative genetic tools and deepen his understanding of herd health and performance.

Dr Radbourne has started his career as a veterinarian with Metzger Veterinary Services in Chesley, where he'll continue to serve rural producers with quality care. Growing up on a dairy farm, he has seen firsthand the value of strong veterinary support in maintaining healthy, productive herds. Cole plans to build a career in rural medicine, working alongside producers who call Grey and Bruce County home, to improve herd performance and animal health. He adds, "For me, veterinary medicine isn't just a career - it's a way to give back to the agricultural community that shaped me."

Cole feels deeply honoured to receive this award. Since he is Grey County born and raised, he commented that the award holds special meaning. He has a deep respect for our agricultural communities. In Cole's words, "Thank you to the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Committee and its supporters. Your generosity strengthens animal health, supports family farms, and helps rural veterinary care thrive. I look forward to giving back to this community in the years ahead."

The Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Committee congratulates Dr Cole Radbourne and wishes him all the best in his future endeavours!

For further information or interviews, please call Grey County Agricultural Services at 519-986-3756, or email [lorie@greyagservices.ca](mailto:lorie@greyagservices.ca).

You may also contact Dr. Radbourne via email at [coleradbourn@gmail.com](mailto:coleradbourn@gmail.com), or call him at 519-372-6399



Dr Cole Radbourne, pictured above, is the recipient of the 2025 GBFW award.

#GBFW26 will mark our 60th Anniversary of Continuous Producer Education - Dates for GBFW 2026, Wed. Jan 7 – Beef Day; Thurs. Jan89 - Dairy Day; Fri. Jan 9 – Goat Day; Sat. Jan 10 - Sheep Day; Sun. Jan 11 – Horse Day; Mon. Jan 12 – Crops Day; [www.gbfw.ca](http://www.gbfw.ca)

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# Why Net Zero Isn't a Realistic Goal for Agriculture

By Charlotte Cuthbert, Communications Coordinator with CFFO



**CHRISTIAN FARMERS  
FEDERATION OF ONTARIO**  
ACCREDITED FARM ORGANIZATION

There's been a lot of talk lately about "net zero" emissions. Governments, corporations, and advocacy groups are setting bold targets—many with the year 2030 circled in red. And on the surface, who wouldn't want to reduce emissions and protect the environment? Farmers certainly do. After all, we rely on healthy soil, clean water, and stable weather more than anyone else.

But there's a growing disconnect between the conversations happening in boardrooms and the realities playing out in barns and fields. The idea that agriculture, particularly in Ontario, reach net zero emissions might sound good in a press release, but for those of us who actually grow the food, raise the animals, and manage the land, it's clear: net zero isn't just unrealistic, it's impossible.

Let's start with what isn't being said enough: Ontario farmers have already made real, measurable progress. Since 1990, agricultural emissions in the province have dropped by 12%. Since 2005, they're down 23%. And that didn't happen by accident. (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-change>)

It happened because farmer's care. It happened because we've invested in more efficient equipment, embraced conservation practices, planted cover crops, and adopted precision agriculture to reduce inputs and improve yields. Many have taken steps to manage manure more efficiently, reduce tillage, and improve pasture rotation. We're not standing still—we're adapting every season.

But there's a line between improvement and impossibility. And net zero crosses that line.

There's a reason agriculture can't hit zero emissions—and it's not because we aren't trying. It's because some emissions are simply part of the biological and mechanical systems required to grow food.

Livestock, for example, produces methane during digestion. No amount of innovation can fully eliminate that. Yes, there are feed additives and breeding strategies that can help reduce methane output. But eliminate it? Not without eliminating the animals themselves. Humans emit roughly 400 million metric tons of methane a year: as much as two-thirds of all methane entering our atmosphere. Does that mean we should start eliminating humans? (<https://climate.mit.edu/ask-mit/how-much-methane-do-human-activities-put-atmosphere>)

Then there's the equipment. Combines, tractors, sprayers, trucks—we rely on them every single day. And while there's talk about electrifying farm machinery, the technology just isn't there yet. Electric tractors that can work the size and hours needed on a commercial farm don't exist at scale. Even if they did, the charging infrastructure in rural areas can't support it. Try running an electric combine for 12 hours during harvest and see how far you get.

And let's not forget about synthetic fertilizer. It's a critical tool for feeding a growing population. Some argue we should replace it entirely, but current alternatives can't match the yields or reliability. Cutting back too far risks food shortages and rising prices—not just in Ontario, but around the world. It has been proven that corn helps with the absorption of carbon and is actually very helpful and good for the environment. An acre of corn can absorb a substantial amount of CO<sub>2</sub> during the growing season, potentially exceeding 36,000 pounds. (<https://www.agweb.com/news/crops/crop-production/corns-carbon-cowboy-busts-outstanding-yields#:~:text=Carbon%20Guzzling&text=%E2%80%9CA%20200%20bu.,story%20we%20need%20to%20tell.%E2%80%9D>)

80%9D)

The truth is simple: food production comes with a footprint. Always has. Always will. What matters is how responsibly that footprint is managed—and Ontario farmers are already leading the way on that front.

But the more pressure there is to push agriculture toward an unreachable zero, the more damage we risk doing. Pushing farmers to abandon livestock or drastically reduce inputs may look good on a chart, but it comes with real-world consequences: lower productivity, higher food prices, fewer young people entering farming, and a broken food supply chain.

And let's be clear: the people pushing for net zero in agriculture aren't the ones who will pay that price—we are. Farmers, rural communities, and consumers will bear the burden of unrealistic policies and disconnected decision-making.

It's time for some honesty in this conversation. Farmers aren't afraid of change. In fact, we've always adapted. Every year is different—new weather, new markets, new challenges. We've always found ways to evolve. But there's a difference between innovation and fantasy. Net zero is a fantasy for farming and setting it as a hard target only sets us all up to fail.

What we need instead are practical, science-based goals that recognize the biological limits of agriculture while continuing to support the efforts farmers are making. We need policies that reward progress, not perfection. And we need policymakers to stop treating farmers like villains and start treating us like partners.

Because if we want a sustainable future—one with safe, reliable, affordable food on every table—then we need to support the people who make that possible.

And that starts with telling the truth: net zero in agriculture is not possible.

## BRIAN SAUNDERSON

MPP - Simcoe-Grey

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# After The Chores: It is haying time

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



“small baler”- could make bales in the field. The baler was an absolute miracle on wheels to my Dad who had years of harvesting hay with only a pitchfork. The next job was getting all those bales stored for the year in one barn and there was a “miracle help” for that job too. The only way to get them all to fit in was to have them carefully stacked- with absolutely no space wasted. This meant that bales had to be thrown up from the wagon to the mow when the baler first arrived. As the mow grew up, there was more throwing needed to get the bale to its final resting place. The next purchase in my Dad’s hay days was one that my Dad never got past- he was just in awe of the bale elevator. The bale elevator could transport a bale all by itself from one space to another. This little portable elevator, bought secondhand, ran by a motor powered by electricity. My Dad often would tell us that the elevator made haying “just so easy”.

One of the big problems of haying with the baler and elevator years ago was from a rodent. Groundhogs- or woodchucks as he called them- were my Dad’s #1 enemy. I met a groundhog up close one time that lived at a wildlife sanctuary. The groundhog weighed about eight pounds, had a soft, furry brown coat and prominent front teeth making them rather cute. It is incredible how much misery something so small could cause in a hay field.

Groundhogs love wild grasses and clover is their favourite making the hay field a home at a buffet table. A groundhog can eat a pound of vegetation per day so it was perfect to build an underground burrow in one of my Dad’s hayfields. These underground burrows were tunnel systems with different burrows for sleeping and hibernation plus the nursery complete with several entrances. The entrances were big mounds of earth that often had

It is haying time and again this season, I miss my Dad.

My Dad was always amazed at how “easy” haying was for us compared to when he was young. The baler- and this is what we now consider a

deep holes right next to them.

The only natural enemies for groundhogs in those haying days were in short supply. There were no bobcats, badgers, wolves and rarely foxes or coyotes in the hay fields. Predators prowled around in quiet wooded areas that were in ample supply as most farmers chose to have small fields with untouched, natural fence rows with trees. Dad often would be cutting hay with his single row hay mower- and smash into a hidden groundhog entrance breaking knives on the mower. He was most mad when he saw a groundhog standing on an entrance mound whistling “danger” to his woodchuck relatives across the field.

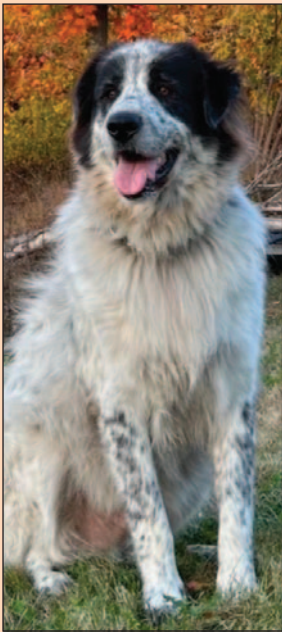
When Cousin George came to the farm one summer Saturday driving a shiny silver Land Rover asking the beautiful question, “Could I hunt here?” he got a definite yes. Some fields got so populated with groundhogs that it was all groundhog estate property. The rules were set down by Dad: no shooting EVER near the barn or the hen house or the cattle. No shooting groundhogs that were NOT in the hay fields because groundhogs living in the fencerows were the good ones.

Cousin George asked if he could bring a guest, his brother Norman and together, the two brothers got a bit of control of the hayfields back from the groundhogs. My Dad was so happy when he got a successful report back from the hunting “trips” and how proud the brothers were to be helping out. We found out, years later, the trips to the hayfields behind the barn meant so much to both brothers. Both brothers chose my Dad’s hay fields to be their final resting place for their ashes in memory of those wonderful summers.

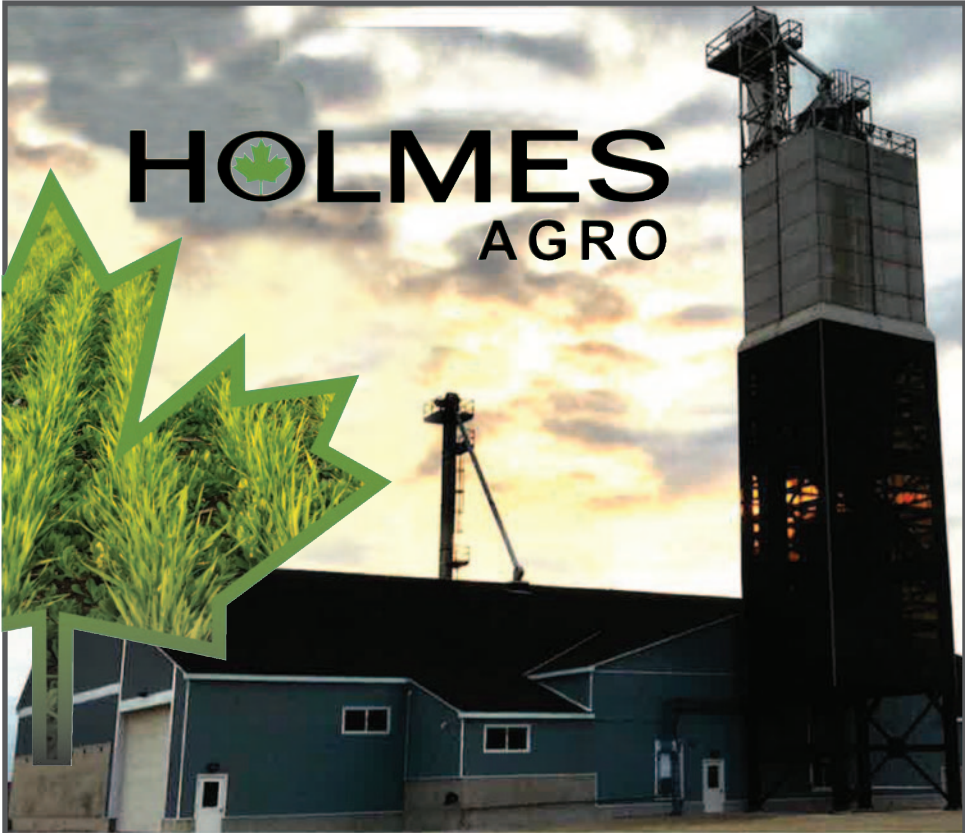
Just one more load of hay. I would be happy to climb into the tiny cab aboard the David Brown tractor with no power steering. Behind would be the faded red Massy Ferguson baler. Next in the trio would be the century old repurposed from use with draft horses wooden wagon. Just one more load of hay. My Dad, young and strong again would be on that wagon waiting for the bales to come up the baler chute. I would even happily drive around over those groundhog estate entrances. Just one more load of hay. This time I would cherish each churning thump of the baler as it spat out another bale and I would not complain that the tiny cab windows did not open on one side. Just one more load of hay with Dad.

I miss my Dad so much when it is haying time.

## 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](mailto:northerndogsproject@gmail.com) or (519) 766-6114



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# Grants, Loans and Learning for Organic farmers and those who want to

Synopsis by Andrej Baca

**The Organic Council of Ontario – The Voice for Organics in Ontario is your link for funding opportunities available from the Federal, Provincial, Private, and Not-For-Profit organizations.**

Organic Council of Ontario (OCO) is encouraging younger farmers and new farmers along with farmers who want to transition to certified Organics. Whether you're seeking farmland, financing, or mentorship, there are numerous supports available across Ontario and Canada designed to help new farmers thrive—especially those committed to sustainable and organic practices.

Examples of some of the Funding, Grant, and Monetary support for farming practices that reduce emissions, sequester carbon, or improve climate resilience are:

- Grants to protect native habitat, support pollinators, reduce runoff, or enhance ecosystem services on farmland.
- Funding for on-farm trials, innovation testing, or collaboration with scientists and universities.
- Grants for contributions to support non-profits, co-ops, and associations working on food sustainability, or farmer support. Rebate & incentives for programs that offer money back or discounts on things like energy efficient upgrades, water saving equipment, or solar panels.
- Emergency & Relief short term support in response to natural disasters, market disruptions, pest outbreaks, or climate shocks.

**Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association**

Programs and Cost-share Opportunities to reduce environmental risks, improve productivity and profitability and cost sharing programs.

Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program has Cost-share Funding for beneficial practices that directly or indirectly benefit species at risk. The range of possible activities applies to croplands, grasslands, stream banks, shorelines, wetlands and woodlands.

**On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)**

OFCAF provides cost-share funding to farmers to support implantation of best management practices that tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gases and increase carbon sequestration.

**Who is eligible to apply?**

Farm businesses are eligible to apply that are actively farming or own actively farmed land in Ontario, as demonstrated by either:

- A valid Farm business registration number (FBRN)
- A Religious exemption letter provided by the OMAFA Appeal Tribunal
- A cultural exemption letter provided by the Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario to First Nations farmers, verifying the farm business operates in a First Nations community.
- 25 acres of land or more assessed as “Farm”, as indicated by the most current Municipal Property Assessment Notice or Municipal Tax Bill.
- An income exemption from the Farm Property Class Rate Program.

**In summary**

You can use multiple funding sources. You need to join OCO and get guidance from the field advisors. Plan early and control deadlines.

More information is available at [www.programguides.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.programguides.ontariosoilcrop.org)

To stay up to date and receive program launches and announcements go to [www.ontariooilcrop.org](http://www.ontariooilcrop.org)

To explore membership options: [www.organiccouncil.ca](http://www.organiccouncil.ca) or email [membership@organiccouncil.ca](mailto:membership@organiccouncil.ca)

**Additional information**

**Where Can I Find Help Accessing Land?**

NFU-Ontario – Land Access Tools

Who it’s for: New farmers looking for land and secure tenure

What’s offered:

- Land Access Guide
  - Toolkit for Non-Family Farm Transfer
  - Legal Templates – Lease/license agreements for clear arrangements
  - Workshops – Connect with retiring farmers and explore land transfer options
- Learn more: [nfuontario.ca](http://nfuontario.ca)

**What Loans Are Available for Land or Startup Costs?**

**Farm Credit Canada (FCC) – Young Farmer Loans**

Who it’s for: Farmers under 40

What’s offered:

- Young Farmer Loan – Up to \$2M with special interest rates
  - Starter Loan – Up to \$150,000 for early-stage costs
- More info: [fcc-fac.ca](http://fcc-fac.ca)

**Canadian Agricultural Loans Act (CALA) Program**

Who it’s for: Beginning farmers across Canada

What’s offered:

- Federal guarantee for up to 95% of loan loss to lender
- Up to \$500,000 for any one farm operation
- Loans are limited to a maximum of:

- \$500,000 for the purchase of land and the construction or improvement of buildings
  - \$350,000 for all other loan purposes, including consolidation/refinancing
- Learn more: [agriculture.canada.ca](http://agriculture.canada.ca)

**Where Can I Learn the Basics of Starting a Farm?**

Ontario- Rural and North

Starting a Farm in Ontario: Learn information and considerations when making the decision to start a farm.

Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) – New Farmer Guide

What’s offered:

- Starting and growing your farm: resources for young, new, and beginning farmers
  - Farm Business Registration (FBR) – Unlock access to programs
  - Taxation Help – Understand farm-specific taxes
  - Marketing Tips – Find your niche and grow your brand
- More info: [ofa.on.ca](http://ofa.on.ca)

**Are There Resources for Farmers with Disabilities?**

- Back to Ag Program – Equipment support for injured or disabled farmers

Learn more

- AgriDiversity Program – Supports equity and inclusion in agriculture

Learn more

- Ontario Agricultural Workforce Equity & Diversity Initiative

Learn more

**Are There Ontario-Based Programs That Support Sustainable Practices?**

FaRM Resilience Mentorship

- Free mentorship to build climate resilience

- Now Open

**Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) Programs:**

- Nature Smart Climate Readiness – Up to \$40,000 | Apply by May 21, 2025
- RALP (Resilient Agriculture Landscapes Program) – Rolling intake
- Species at Risk Incentive – Up to \$20,000 | Intake Closed
- Financial Difficulties Support – Up to \$5,650 | Apply by Feb 28, 2026
- Lower Thames Valley – Precision Phosphorus Reduction
- Targeted BMPs for phosphorus reduction | Applications Open
- EFAO Small Grains Program
- Agronomy, soil tests, performance-based payments | Apply by July 2025

**What Innovation and Research Grants Are Available?**

SCAP National Programs (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada):

- AgriInnovate – Up to \$5M for agtech; The program may provide an additional 10% on the cost-share ratio where the majority of the organization is owned or led by one or more under-represented groups.

- AgriDiversity – Up to \$1M for underrepresented groups | Closing Soon!

- AgriCompetitiveness – Knowledge transfer | Apply by May 30, 2025

**Ontario Agri-Food Research Initiative (OAFRI)**

- Grow Ontario Accelerator Hub (GOAH) –provides mentoring and advisory services in agri-food business acceleration, growth planning and investment readiness, as well as to provide support to businesses across the agri-food supply chain with respect to adoption of innovation.

**Labour Force Management Strategies**

- \$40K–\$100K for farm labour attraction/retention | Apply by Sept 2, 2025

**Are There Any Programs Specifically for Northern Ontario?**

SNAPP Program (RAIN)

- Equipment and value-added upgrades for Northern Ontario agri-businesses
- Intake usually opens Nov–Jan

**Are There Fair Financing Options for New Farmers?**

Fair Finance Fund

- Patient capital loans for sustainable, values-based food/farm businesses
- Prioritizes those without access to traditional financing

**Are There Wage Subsidies for Hiring Youth?**

ECO Canada – Youth in Natural Resources Program

- 75% wage subsidy (up to \$30,000) for youth aged 15–30
- For employers in sustainable ag sectors

**What Other Credit Options Exist for Farmers?**

Commodity Loan Program (Ontario)

- Up to \$750,000 for planting/harvest cashflow
- Federal guarantees up to \$500K (farms) or \$3M (co-ops)

Explore More

Advance Payments Program (APP)

- Eligible companies can receive up to \$250,000 in the 2024 and 2025 Program years interest-free with an additional \$750,000 available at the Prime Interest Rate, for a total of \$1,000,000

Farm Debt Mediation Services

- Free financial support for farmers, such as financial counselling and mediation



**Simcoe County 4-H is in full swing!** *Reports and photos submitted by Simcoe County 4-H*

**Elmvale 4-H Dairy Club**

By Tyler Phillips

On Sunday May 11th, the Elmvale Dairy Club had our second meeting which was held at Marben Farms. We had a shared meeting with the Elmvale Sheep Club, and Elmvale Soil and Crop Club. Steve Jones started off the meeting sharing information on how to identify weeds that are in our fields. Whitney Ball provided insight on judging Beef Heifers and Sheep. Owen Wright and Julie Parnell provided insight on how to judge Dairy Cows and Show Halters. Rhonda Montgomery gave us reasons on how to judge Baked Goods. Then we had the opportunity to judge and give reasons for all the different classes in preparation for our judging competition at the Elmvale Fairgrounds. Thanks to all the speakers for the great information and to Whitney Ball for hosting.

**North Simcoe 4-H Beef Club**

By Johanna Woudenberg

We held our very first meeting on May 12, 2025 at the Orillia Fair Grounds, where we voted on our President, Vice President, and secretary. We all got to know each other better, playing games and trivia to learn more about beef cattle.

On June 27, 2025 we had our second meeting held at a beef farm up in cold water, where we practiced our judging skills in beef, sheep and weeds, exploring judging in all aspects, fine tuning our skills and learning how to judge for the new comers. We have seen much growth with many people joining 4-H, the more the merrier and we hope to learn more as we go along. Learning to use our minds to better our world, using our hands to help, learning about how to keep our community healthy and using our hearts to guide us as we go. We have had a great start and are looking forward to a hopeful and fun future learning to care for beef cattle and better our community around us while doing so!



**South Simcoe 4-H Sheep Club**

By Olivia Livingston

The South Simcoe Sheep Club held their third meeting on Wednesday May 21st at the farm of Chris and Leo Atkinson. We started the meeting by dividing into groups and catching up on club business. Shortly after, we moved into the barn where we talked about breed characteristics especially in long wool breeds. We moved through the barn pen to pen to talk about the different breeds Border Leicester, Suffolk, and North Country Cheviots. We talked about what to look for when you go into the barn and how it is easier to keep an eye on smaller groups, and body conditioning and feeding. We then moved into the shop where we talked about show kits and some of the stuff in them as well as the uses. We were very generously provided with lumber by Leo to build our very own show boxes!! People teamed up and helped each other to build and everyone came out with great boxes for our shows! Thank you to Leo for planning such an amazing meeting as well as Chris and Leo for hosting our meeting and speaking!



**South Simcoe 4-H Veterinarian Club**

By Olivia Livingston

The South Simcoe Vet Club held their fourth meeting on Monday May 26h at leader Jackie's house. We started with a reminder about the safety of bio security. We then headed back to the arena and grabbed some horses out of the pen on our way. We started with brushing the horses and just giving them some attention. We soon talked about horse hooves and how the lines on them can show different things that happened in the past year. We then talked about foot care and what can happen, then we were taught some wraps on tail and legs then set out ourselves to practice some wraps. We did all sorts of wraps and everyone got to try. It was a very interactive meeting. Thank you to Jackie for hosting!"



The South Simcoe Vet Club held their 5th meeting on Monday June 2 at the King Animal Hospital. We were given a tour of the facility and loved seeing all the amenities and things they had for the staff and animals. We started by looking at the small animal unit and where they prep surgeries as well as some machines such as the CT and MRI. We then moved down to the equine portion of the building looking some of the horses and were told what they were in for. As a group we moved into a padded room and were told about the procedure for this room. We went through some bigger procedure rooms for horses then into the area where they observe horses. We saw many things such as water therapy for dogs and rehabilitation for smaller animals. We would like to thank King Animal Hospital for having us and the amazing tour and everything we were shown and taught! It was an amazing experience.

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## South Simcoe 4-H shares their recent activities Reports and photos submitted by Simcoe County 4-H

### South Simcoe County Judging Competition

By Emery Samson

The 4-H South Simcoe Judging competition was very special because we learned to judge six different stations which were dairy cows, potatoes, beef heifers, cowboy boots, ewe lambs with long wool and showmanship attire. The leaders put the stations together and brought the classes to Downey Farm. The work these leaders put into making the stations was remarkable. They had great set ups. I learned so much.



### 4-H South Simcoe Poultry Club News Report

By Emery Samson

On Thursday May 15th the 4-H South Simcoe Poultry Club met at Scott's, one of the leaders' homes. We had a guest speaker named Ryan who is great at breeding a special type of chicken called a Wyandotte. They lay over one hundred eggs per year.

Ryan explained "that maybe only five of the hatchlings would turn out to be good enough to show. The birds need to have nice beautiful yellow feet for show otherwise it doesn't look as nice for the judges. Split wings are a no show and that you might have to cull the bird if they have split wings. Wyandotte should be on a certain feed and a little bit of hamburger patty is a good snack for those little dinosaurs too. The birds need to go through three molts to get full colour in their feathers. When they lay their first egg they are no good for showing anymore. To prevent them from laying you have to keep moving them around to another hen pen." We thanked Ryan for sharing a lot of knowledge.



### South Simcoe 4-H Mechanics Club

By Sierra Steuernol

The Automotive Club hit the brakes—and the turns—at their third meeting on June 3rd, diving into the essentials of vehicle safety and handling. Members learned how to change brakes and tires, then shifted gears into judging mode by practicing classes of paint on cars in preparation for the upcoming judging competition. At their fourth meeting on June 10th, members attended the Cruise Night Car Show in Alliston. They took part in a scavenger hunt designed to help them learn about all types of cars, from vintage classics to modern builds, and had the chance to chat with owners to dig deeper into the details behind each vehicle.



### South Simcoe 4-H Cooking Club

By Sierra Steuernol

The Cooking Club has been cooking up a storm—one spud at a time! This season, members have focused their culinary creativity on all things potato, whipping up delicious dishes like potato leek soup, soft potato buns, crispy breakfast potatoes, and classic poutine. At their most recent meeting, the club hosted their annual Cooking Social. Members each brought a potato-inspired dish to share, creating a table full of homemade spud-tacular recipes. The event also featured potato games and a chance to practice potato judging skills, for the upcoming judging competition.



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July 19<sup>th</sup> 9 - 1 pm  
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## Meet the Advertiser: Bradbury Small Family Farm

Article by Andrew Hind, photo provided by Jeanette Bradbury

A farmer's labour follows the rhythm of the seasons. Tom Bradbury takes it for granted as he and his wife Jeanette have been farming for the better part of two decades. He's therefore surprised by how little many people know about what crops are in-season, where they come from and how they are grown.

"I get asked as early as May if we have sweet corn," he laughs. "People are so far removed from our farming past that they take for granted the food we have in our supermarkets. One of the things I like about farming is talking to people and educating them a bit."

Tom and Jeanette eschew the supermarket model of farming. Produce from their Cookstown farm are sold direct from the farm store and at area markets. "Our goal is to provide humanely raised, high quality food direct to customers," says Jeanette. "We are truly a 'farm to fork' operation – our farm to your fork – which is the best way to know you are actually getting locally raised food".

Tom and Jeanette began farming with an Oro Township cattle operation in 1999. Then came the 2003 Mad Cow crisis that proved devastating to the small farm. The couple tossed in the towel in 2005.

The following year, the couple had the opportunity to purchase Jeanette's grandmothers' land in Cookstown, land directly beside the farm where Jeanette grew up. They jumped at the opportunity to raise their two young children in a farm setting and to engage in small scale agriculture to fill their own freezers.

What began modestly grew over the years so that by 2020 Tom and Jeanette began selling to the public. In January 2021 Bradbury Small Family Farm Inc. was founded.

"We raise our own pork, beef, chickens, and turkeys and offer a wide range of cuts," explains Jeanette. "Word of mouth has brought us many customers from Cookstown and across South Simcoe."

Bradbury Small Family Farm raises its livestock as humanely as possible, with the best quality feed, clean housing, with lots of room to roam naturally and with lots of sunlight and fresh air.

Bradbury Small Family Farm now also produces birdseed and livestock feeds, a natural transition since Tom has two decades of experience in the industry. They also have a sweet corn wagon in season.

Bradbury Small Family Farm welcomes the public to their farm store and additionally frequents the Innisfil Farmer's Market and Tottenham Artisan and Farmer's Market.

"We're increasingly getting people from Toronto who found us by online searches," says Jeanette. "People are growing more concerned about knowing where their food comes from and getting food direct from the source. It's



Tom Bradbury of Bradbury Small Family Farm Inc.

meant we've grown a lot in the last few years. The store on weekends can be really busy, which is a good problem to have."

A true family farm, their son and daughter play active roles. Tom and Jeanette are hopeful that the farm will continue for another generation as their son, 20-year-old Earl, is very interested in farming.

"Our daughter is in grade 11 and not quite as interested," laughs Tom.

Whether it's their children or customers, Tom and Jeanette are passionate about inspiring people to reconnect to the countryside.

"We really enjoy educating people about where their food comes from and how it is grown," says Tom.

Raising that food is a lifestyle that brings them immense satisfaction.

"Farming is hard work with long hours," says Tom, "but working with the livestock and providing your family and customers with the healthiest meats possible is very rewarding."

The Meet the Advertiser series is a complimentary news article for Farm View advertisers. If you are interested in being featured, please contact Roslyn Watkins at [farmview@on.aibn.com](mailto:farmview@on.aibn.com).

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## Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

### Summer "Break"

It's a myth that schools shut down in the summer for agricultural needs. Of course, farm kids play a pivotal role with farm work, but by the time summer holidays roll around, spring planting is done and fall harvest ramps up when school starts again in September. The real reasons that schools close down for a couple of months in the summer are multifaceted. The break provides time for building maintenance, teacher training and holiday time for families during pleasant weather.

My family has never taken a summer holiday together. Our small family farm always required at least one of us to be on call and look after the cattle and crops. Relief help is scarce and expensive, and if you happen to find someone, it's often hard to leave your livelihood in the hands of a stranger. I know that people have a hard time getting a pet sitter or leaving their dog in a kennel - imagine leaving your entire herd behind!

As soon as I said goodbye to my school friends in June, I was put to work milking cows, gardening and choring. The bulk of my summer was making hay. Hay harvest was much different than it is now. This year it took us three days to finish the first cutting of hay, but when I was a kid, it took many weeks. These days we can easily get three or four cuttings of hay but back in my youth, we were lucky to get one or two. In fact, it took so long that when we were finishing up the last of our first cut hay, the first of our second cut was ready to go! Cutting down the hay was slower, and we made all dry hay, so the weather had to cooperate perfectly. It took a good four days to get the hay in safely, and it took a lot of work, so we were lucky to harvest 5-10 acres at a time between the risk of showers. In the beginning, we stooked the hay into triangle piles and then forked the bales onto wagons to be later unloaded into the barn mows. We then moved to a loader bucket that could lift

the stooks onto the wagon. A few years later, a square baler pumped out heavy little packages of hay that we hooked by hand and stacked on a wagon. Finally, we upgraded to a bale thrower that would toss the bales into a hay wagon that had sides like a giant basket.

If you were lucky, you got to unload the wagons and hoped for a breeze through the open barn doors. I often got mowing duty, but even though it was challenging, I took pride in stacking the blocks of hay like a game of Tetris or Lego. It was a hot and physically demanding job walking across soft piles of hay, often with a bale in each hand. The prickly stems gave your arms a rash, and only the bravest would wear shorts! Once the hay was done, straw harvest was in full swing, and it was often done just before school began in the fall. To this day, I still get the back-to-school itch when straw harvest is underway -literally.

My summers may sound awful, and at the time it was, but looking back, I wouldn't want it any other way. I miss those days. When I went back to school in the fall to reunite with my friends, I didn't have stories of adventurous travel to share, but I lived life to the fullest. I worked hard for my tan. I was surrounded by family and neighbours working together for a common goal - to feed the world. We rejoiced over small victories - the birth of a calf or a successful harvest just before the rain. We supported each other through our struggles - a hailstorm knocking down a crop of corn or drought and disease ravaging our wheat crop. We broke bread as a family three times a day around the kitchen table to enjoy the fruits of our labour - beef, milk, vegetables and fruit all from our farm. I like that harvest is a bit easier on my body and my anxiety levels these days, but I miss the days gone by. I wish my kids could have shared in my experiences that shaped me into the person I am today.

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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# NVCA and BILD Establish Working Group to Support Ontario's Housing and Economic Development Goals

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) have launched a new working group to strengthen collaboration between the conservation authority and the development industry, with a shared focus on supporting Ontario's home-building targets and local economic development in a safe, sustainable manner.

In the development review process, NVCA's focus is on ensuring that development moves forward in a safe manner and avoids the loss of life and damage to property due to flooding, erosion, and other natural hazards.

The initiative reflects NVCA's ongoing work to ensure modern, timely, and coordinated review processes. The new working group will focus on improving service timelines, clarifying technical expectations, and ensuring a consistent and efficient approach to development applications.

"BILD appreciates NVCA's leadership in establishing this new forum," said Paula Tenuta, Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy of BILD. "We are encouraged by the NVCA's commitment to work directly with our industry to help get more housing and employment lands built, faster and more predictably. We all have a role to play in reaching Ontario's housing goals while protecting our natural environment. This partnership is a strong step in that direction."

The NVCA-BILD Working Group will meet regularly, bringing together NVCA staff, BILD members, and municipal leaders to proactively identify and resolve issues, modernize internal systems, and ensure that review processes keep pace with the growth pressures facing communities across the watershed.

"This is about getting things done in a positive way," said Councillor Jonathan Scott, Chair of NVCA's Board. "We're focused on working constructively with the development industry to meet the challenges before us. That means improving timelines, reducing red tape, and being clear and consistent in our technical reviews, all while ensuring we protect people, property, and the planet."

The working group aligns with broader efforts to modernize NVCA operations and reflects a growing culture of outcome-focused service delivery.

"This partnership reinforces our commitment to working alongside industry, municipalities, and stakeholders to help communities grow responsibly," said Jennifer Vincent, Chief Administrative Officer of the NVCA. "We know that home building and economic development depend on timely approvals. Our goal is to help projects move forward efficiently

and without compromising public safety."

The initiative supports the province's broader housing and economic priorities while demonstrating how conservation authorities and the development sector can work together in good faith to get things done.

"Ontarians want housing, jobs and livable communities — and they want systems that work," said Scott. "This is about coming together to deliver that in a safe, sustainable way."

## BBQ Safety Tips By Dennis Gannon

After a long day at work or a fun day at the beach with family or friends, what better way to cap off the day than with a meal made on the BBQ. The savory smells of the food cooking away is mouth watering and almost everyone looks forward to enjoying what has been prepared. BBQ's come in many types now and different sizes and they can be fueled by wood, natural gas or propane, wood pellets and the old standard of charcoal. Whatever type is used, there are safety factors we all need to follow so that our meal is enjoyed and the day comes to a relaxing end.

Start by remembering that BBQ grills should only be used outdoors. Carbon monoxide is a byproduct of BBQ's and fresh air is important. For gas and propane BBQ's it is important to not allow grease to build up on the burners or at the base of the BBQ as this could cause a grease fire. Clean the burners at the beginning of the season and regularly throughout the year. Always make sure your gas grill lid is

open before lighting it. It is important to watch where you position your BBQ. Too close to vinyl siding on homes, wooden fences or walls and there is a great chance that it may ignite those combustible materials. Many home fires have been started with the BBQ too close to vinyl siding with devastating results. Keep children and pets at a safe distance and never leave the BBQ unattended when in use. Throwing water on a grease fire will only spread the flame so avoid this at all times. Always turn the gas valve off first when finished, then turn off the burner controls, so no gas is left in the connecting hose. Finally, after the burners have cooled down, close the lid. Remember, if you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

Charcoal BBQ's have been around for many years and even for the most seasoned BBQer, can be a challenge. Using a charcoal chimney starter allows you to start the charcoal using newspa-

per as a fuel. It provides a great start to get the charcoal going. If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. Another method to start the charcoal is to use an electric charcoal starter, which does not use fire. Make certain to use an extension cord rated for outdoor use. After grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing them in a closed metal container away from buildings and anything combustible.

BBQing requires a clear head and careful attention. It is a good idea to leave the alcohol drinks until the cooking is done, it is the safe thing to do as they don't mix.

July is the peak month for BBQ fires with approximately half of the injuries involving BBQ's being thermal burns. Think about what you are doing.

Enjoy the BBQ this season and be safe!





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## Soil Health's Critical Ground Report One Year Old

One year ago, the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry (AGFO) tabled its report *Critical Ground: Why Soil is Essential to Canada's Economic, Environmental, Human and Social Health*. To mark this anniversary, the Honourable Robert Black, Senator for Ontario, highlights the report, the progress made since its release, and the next steps to push the report further.

Tabled on June 6, 2024, the AGFO soil report details the findings from an 18-month study on the state of soil health in Canada, incorporating an international lens while also highlighting regenerative methods being used. The committee had not investigated soil conditions in Canada for 40 years, with the previous Senate soil health report tabled in 1984 entitled *Soil at Risk: Canada's Eroding Future*. Regardless of the years between the reports, the 2024 study reiterates some of the same issues and concerns as previously identified in 1984: soil is at risk across Canada and around the world, and we must take action now to protect it. We do not have another 40 years!

"The response we have received from farmers, researchers and other stakeholders is fantastic!" said Black, "Support from across the country is reaffirming the relevance, importance and significance of our report." Black continues to encourage organizations, farmers, and industry to help ensure the report remains front of mind for all levels of government, and some have already put forward resolutions in support of the recommendations made to the Government.

The AGFO committee received the government response in November 2024. "Overall, the government supported 9 of the recommendations; supported in principle 13 of them; and acknowledged 3, without dismissing them. So, 22 received overall support in some fashion," said Black. With a new government elected in April and a new cabinet announced in May, Black is looking forward to discussing the report with new and returning government officials to ensure that the protection, preservation, and conservation of soil in Canada is prioritized and met with immediate action.

The report reaffirmed what the agriculture industry already knew, Canadian farmers are resilient and innovative. In fact, many early adopters of sustainable practices and new technologies are making strides in the conservation of soil health. However, with farmers facing unpredictability in their work due to, for example, climate change and trade barriers, it is difficult to commit their time, energy and finances on new technologies or farming techniques. There needs to be more incentives to encourage the use of regenerative methods that preserve soil as well as financial and administrative support for farmers who want to implement these practices to offset the risks.

Black is glad to return to work and continue representing Ontario and the agriculture sector across Canada. He is hopeful that this session will provide more opportunities to highlight the immediate need for the Government to prioritize the protection of Canadian soils.

## 25th Annual South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards

### The Agricultural Excellence Award presented to Lisle Livestock & Fresh Market, Adjala-Tosorontio

South Simcoe businesses were honoured at the 25th Annual South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards on Thursday, May 22, 2025. Over one hundred people gathered at the Community Hub in Bradford for the event, hosted by the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury in partnership with Nottawasaga Futures. Representatives from the federal and provincial governments, mayors, deputy mayors, councillors and community leaders attended to show their support.

The Agricultural Award was presented to Lisle Livestock & Fresh Market, Adjala-Tosorontio.

Bryan and Mel Twiss are passionate about several sectors in agriculture and always knew they wanted to be farmers. Today they calve cows, cash crop, and operate a produce & meat delivery business from their farm with the help of their friends and family. Congratulations to the Twiss family!



Mel and Bryan Twiss of Lisle Livestock & Fresh Market, located in Adjala-Tosorontio.

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## Summer quilting retreats a joy!

By Janis Hamilton

As we pulled into the Sunshine and Shadows Quilt Exhibit held at the end of May at the Osprey Community Arena the conversation immediately was echoed by all, “We don’t need to buy any fabric!” For the most part we did pretty well. This event showcased 110 quilts that featured the “log cabin” pattern and 3 colours had to be used even if only on the back label (yellow, red and black). So yes, the image of the log cabin pattern came to mind and then our world of quilting ideas just exploded. No two quilts were the same and some were done on the diagonal, others formed a background in one colour so you couldn’t really see the log cabin. So stretch your imagination when you chose a pattern and be willing to try and think outside the box. Turn the pattern or add movement to the whole quilt as your eye moves to the next feature in the quilt. The leaves in this quilt add the movement and the centre panel of leaves add interest to the quilt as well.

As I write this, I’m getting ready to take in Quilt Canada in Toronto that was mentioned in last month’s column. It will be an entire day of looking at unique quilts that have been judged worthy of being in the show. And of course, there will be vendors selling those “must have new notions” Not to mention fabric that we are sure to find a reason to buy.

Summer vacations can include quilting. I know it’s not exotic, or needing a passport to a foreign land, but it’s very possible. Some retreats are a distance, but most can be driven within a few hours. Some have meals provided, some you have cooking facilities and others you do need to visit a local town for the main meal but with your sewing machine and your best sewing friends it is all meant to be the best vacation ever! Here are a few to consider:

www.farmgirlquilting.ca in Beaverton  
www.cherishedpieces.com in Tillsonburg  
www.springhouseretreat.com in New Hamburg  
www.quiltthyme.ca in Gananoque  
www.quiltingbytheriver.ca at the French River  
www.girlfriendsgetaawy.ca just north of Huntsville  
www.theretreatatthefarm.ca in Mulmur Township.

Maybe just a time away with no computer, or doorbells ringing, family wanting your time or your “taxi” service.



Some down time just for you to unwind and enjoy. Consider a group project? Do you have someone who could teach a new technique? Consider making a quilt as a group for a charity or making baby quilts for the local community. It all sounds just like fun to me so hope you are willing to consider the idea. It puts a whole new spin on quilting rather than just trying to finish a project.

With summer soon approaching, consider teaching young people in your life the love of sewing. I have previously mentioned the two young kids 12 & 11 that come on PA days to visit. Their love of sewing hasn’t stopped. I had them at the last PA Day and the pajama bottoms the boy made had sprung a seam. He arrived with them in hand and shared his sad news. I pointed to the sewing room and said well, let’s make sure you fix them right now so they are done. He had them repaired in less than 5 minutes. The confidence he showed with the pedal of the sewing machine off and running was just great to see. Start small and just make sure they understand the safety aspects: rotary cutter (only for those old enough of course, scissors, that hands guide the fabric but keep fingers away from needle on the machine...well I’m sure you know all the ins and outs of safety. A maze of practice sewing lines might be a start. A simple mug rug, a fabric coaster, a stuffy animal or even a pencil case with a zipper might be fun projects. It doesn’t have to be expensive; we all have a stash of fabric and kids love to feel the fabric (like we do) and it will be like a treasure hunt looking for just the right fabric.

<https://hellosewing.com/diy-fabric-coasters/>  
<https://masterpiecequilting.blogspot.com/2016/12/super-simple-9-patch-mug-rug.html>

Consider what a great summer holiday it will be if you give the gift of sewing to those young folks in your life or in your neighbourhood. Your gift will last them a lifetime and get them off their screens and devices.





# Quilting Corners Guild send hugs to veterans

Story and photos by Senora Baldry

A busy evening at guild on June 3rd with quilt show intake and our Quilts of Valour (QoV) presentation to our regional rep, Elizabeth. Nineteen QoV were on display and shared with a full house. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this successful donation...guild members and friends of the guild for their time and expertise piecing, quilting and binding the quilts and Country Concessions Quilt Shop for sharing their classroom. Thank you to Elizabeth for many of the kits we begin with and ensuring that our beautiful quilts provide hugs for our veterans. Well done everyone!



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# Crowds poured in at the recent Kawartha Yarn and Fibre Festival

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Kawartha Yarn and Fibre Festival was held on Saturday, June 14th at the Fenelon Falls Community Centre in Fenelon Falls. The weather was perfect, a bright, warm spring day- and the crowds poured in to this Festival. The entire parking lot and the overflow parking lots were packed full of visitors that paid admission to this show. It was a sea of people that were sincere buyers- as yarn and fibre have seen a surge of interest since the COVID-19 pandemic. Christine knows because her daughters, Allison and Jessica Hendry from Barrie both work full-time in their own business that began- and

thrived titled "Full Moon Fibres". The sisters can barely keep up with the demand for their hand dyed in Ontario yarns for crafters across Canada and the USA. "In the pandemic when people were stuck at home in isolation, they went back to the old crafting that was done at home generations ago. People found they loved the old ways as it brought them great comfort at a scary time. The pandemic ended but the interest in crafting is getting stronger," Christine said in her daughters' busy vendor booth at the Festival.



Pictured to the left is Rebecca Lamperd from Santosha Fibreworks and Farm from Little Britain. Rebecca is spinning with an "Ashford" product that she is an authorized dealer for with head office in New Zealand. Rebecca is also a teacher at the Haliburton School of Art and Design of Fleming College. The fibre shown in this picture is from her own Shetland sheep that lived at Santosha Fibreworks and Farm which she owns with her husband, Jeremy. Santosha means contentment and the farm mission is, "we strive everyday to craft contentment on our farm and with our animals."

Pictured to the right is Carol Howe, owner and founder of Tools 4 Ewe based out of Pentanguishene. Carol is an upcycler taking raw fleeces directly from local farms and doing all the processing and dyeing herself to produce the beautiful swaths of fibre she has in her arms in this picture. Tools 4 Ewe can be found on Etsy.



Pictured above is Dar Bolahood who owns Wild Mohair along with her husband, Charly Sylge. Wild Mohair is based in Kitchener and features hand weaved, knitted and dyed creations made from kid mohair that is imported from Africa. The mohair is dyed to these incredible colours at Wild Mohair in their own home. All the work to make everything seen here is done by the owners. Dar is also a master weaver and a retired arts professor.



Pictured to the left is Allison Hendry, one of the owners of Full Moon Fibres from Barrie. Allison is wearing a "granny square vest" that is an old fashion that is now coming back. She and her sister began their business during the time of the pandemic- and their business has flourished. They buy natural coloured yarn from mills in Ontario, New Zealand, Peru and the UK- and then hand dye it all. "We especially like the neon and the "punchy" colours," she explains.



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# The Village of Millington

Ontario is dotted with villages that began with promise and then faded away, sometimes disappearing so completely that few even remember their existence. Millington was one such victim of fate.

Millington was a farming hamlet, located on the 15th Sideroad of Mara Township, south of Brechin, on the east of Lake Simcoe.

The township was first surveyed in 1821 by a man named J.G. Chewett, but he reported that the land was of little value and so the Government made no effort to promote its settlement. That changed after a follow-up survey was conducted by Scotsman Robert Riss in 1836. His report was glowing, insisted that, contrary to Chewett's claims, the land was fertile.

And so, Mara Township was opened for settlement.

The land around what would become Millington was settled largely in the late 1840s and 1850s, mostly by land-hungry settlers from the highlands of Scotland. These were hardy folk unafraid of hard work, and so they set themselves to the task of clearing the land and establishing farms.

By 1860, a small but identifiable hamlet had taken root in the newly cleared soil. It became known as Millington, the name almost certainly given by postmaster John Harrington, who served from 1863 until his death in 1866, after which time the post office was inexplicably closed.

A cluster of craftsmen operated in the community, including blacksmith C. Champlin, a weaver, a cobbler, and carpenters A. Kelly and Alexander P. McDonald (the son and namesake of one of the region's earliest settlers, Lt. Alexander McDonald, a British veteran of the Napoleonic Wars). Other businesses included a sawmill and a hotel operated by

a Mrs. Prudhomme.

A school, SS#7 Mara, was built on the 8th concession. There was also a methodist church and a town hall.

Millington continued to grow. In 1885, the post office was re-opened under 55-year-old Alexander McDonald, who by this date had passed on the smithy son George McDonald and was running a store instead. When Alexander passed away of typhoid fever in 1891, his son succeeded him as postmaster and storekeeper. There were other prominent McDonalds in town as well. James is listed as a carpenter and Annie as hotelkeeper. Annie had competition because by this time Millington boasted two additional hotels, run by Michael Flood and Annie McVeigh.

Millington was also big enough for a second store (this one run by William Maguire) and a second smithy (with William McLean at the forge).

In 1888, the aging school was replaced by a new brick school.

Residents likely still had high hopes for the future, but they were eventually dashed. Millington was overlooked by railways – the closest was the CP line which passed a tantalizing 5 kms away - stunting its growth. At the same time, with the improvement of roads in the early 20th century it became more practical to venture to larger centers for shopping and other needs, undermining local craftsmen.

The demise of the village was gradual but defined. When the post office was closed in 1914 it signaled the death knell of Millington. Many farms continued for another half century, but the village was well-and-truly dead.

The old schoolhouse, now a residence, serves to remind us of Millington.

## Village stories

by Andrew Hind



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# Growing Futures: Inspiring Young People to Explore Careers in Agriculture



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

It's that time of year when Grade 12 students are looking forward to the end of their high school careers and making big decisions about what's next. Post-secondary education, career options, and future plans are all top of mind—and for those looking for a meaningful path with plenty of opportunity, agriculture might be the perfect fit.

Agriculture plays a bigger role in our lives than most people realize—and it's not just about tractors and fields anymore. From food security

to climate change, agriculture is at the heart of some of the world's biggest challenges and opportunities. And right now, there's a growing need for fresh ideas, new energy, and young people ready to make a difference.

Today's agriculture is full of exciting possibilities. It includes careers in technology, environmental science, business, animal care, sustainability, and so much more. Whether you're into science, engineering, the environment, or even communications, there's a spot for you in this fast-changing field. It's a great fit for creative thinkers and problem-solvers who want to help feed the world and take care of the planet at the same time.

The best part? There's a lot of support available to help you get started. Across Ontario and Canada, hundreds of scholarships are up for grabs for students interested in agriculture. You don't need to come from a farm—you just need

to care about the future of food and farming. Whether you're planning to study crop science, ag tech, animal biology, or any ag-related program, there's funding out there to help.

Organizations like the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and 4-H Ontario are great places to start. The OFA offers an annual bursary for students from OFA member families who are heading into post-secondary education in agriculture. Plus, many local county federations across Ontario offer their own scholarships—perfect for students connected to their local ag community. These local awards are often less competitive and can really make a difference. Beyond the financial help, some of these scholarships come with extras like mentorship, hands-on learning, or opportu-

nities to meet others working in the field. It's a terrific way to build your skills and your network while you're still in school.

If you're someone who wants a meaningful, future-focused career, agriculture is worth a serious look. It's innovative, it's impactful, and it's full of opportunity. So, check out the options, connect with local ag groups, and see where a career in agriculture could take you.

Learn more about the 2025 OFA Bursary Program at <https://ofa.on.ca/community/bursary-program/>

Looking for other scholarship and bursaries? Check out this OFA resource. <https://ofa.on.ca/resources/agricultural-scholarships/>

## Farmerettes documentary highlights women's role in food production during WWII

The film, *We Lend A Hand: The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes*, tells the story of 40,000 women who worked on Ontario farms during and immediately after WWII, providing essential support to the war effort on the home front.


The film is part of an ongoing effort by Bonnie Sitter, an Exeter-area woman who has brought this important story to life in the 21st Century. In addition to the documentary, the Farmerettes' story has been highlighted in a book, a play, and commemorative postage stamps.

Good in Every Grain has supported Sitter's efforts by sponsoring the film and offering Remembrance Day resources featuring the Farmerettes, including virtual Q&A sessions with former farmerettes, for Ontario schools through its Good in Every Classroom program.


For more information, including information about screenings of the film, visit [welendahand.ca](http://welendahand.ca).



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# North Simcoe Soil & Crop Improvement Association St. Jacob's Bus Tour

By Allen Mosley, NSSCIA President

In July of 2024, it was NSSCIA's 46th annual bus trip with 46 people in the tour and the trip events were spread over six counties.

Our first stop was at Gwillimdale Farms near Bradford where we saw the process production of carrots – sorted, graded, washed and bagged for the grocery stores. Later in season potatoes and onions will follow the same process. They farm locally and in the far north totaling 7,000 acres. They also farm wheat and corn. Next was Quality Holsteins, in Woodbridge who are still able to milk 72 pristine cows, even when they are in the middle of the city and grow mostly hay. The last stop of the day was Heritage Park in Milton, their buildings and operating expenses are covered solely by private donations. We had a great tour of their buildings. It was a great ending to the day.

Day 2 of the tour started with some time spent at St. Jacob's Market. We then had a short video on the old order of Mennonite history. Once everyone was on the bus, we enjoyed an interesting tour guide who relayed stories as we drove through the Mennonite farming area. Last stop was the Cambridge

Butterfly Conservatory.

Day 3 began with a tour of the Richardson Port Terminal, Hamilton. It was an impressively huge operation, shipping Ontario grains (wheat, Canola, Corn, etc) overseas. On to the Royal Botanical Gardens where they haven't used any pesticides since 2018, their methods seem to be working, as they have mastered cultivating certain plants to control the insects. Next, we headed to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum where our tour guide was very knowledgeable on all the restored warplanes.

Our last day of the tour began with a stop at Ripley's Aquarium in downtown Toronto, we then had lunch at the Mandarin in Pickering. Once we were fueled up again, we visited Galton Farms. It is a 420-beef cow operation where most of the spring calving occurs outside in March. Our last stop before heading back to Simcoe County was at Old Flame Brewing who import German barley to imitate the taste of German beer. Our 46 participants enjoyed sampling 4 different kinds of their beer. We had a light supper at St. Paul's united Church in Orillia before arriving back

to Simcoe County Museum to head our separate ways. A big thank you to Glen Simpson and his committee for all their planning skills for a tremendous trip.

This year the Committee has planned a great tour down to the Kitchener area for July 14th to 17th. Tentative stops include Clydesdale farm, a highland cattle ranch, Grand Valley Fortifiers, a peanut farm, a ginseng farm and a visit with the Six Nations Farmers Association. It won't be all work though as they will also be going on the Grand River Cruise for lunch, and heading to the Hamilton Theatre.

If you are interested in attending, please email Nicole at nsimcoesoilncrop@gmail.com for more information.

## Riddles from young Farm View readers Bridget and Stella Wilson

- What goes up but never down?
- Can you draw a square with only three lines?

Turn to page 27 for the answers.

## Anten Mills Annual Artisan Craft and Food Fair

**Saturday, September 27th  
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- Adds slow release macronutrients and organic matter
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- Improves drainage and aeration in dense, clay soil
- Enables light soil to retain nutrients and moisture
- Attracts earthworms and other beneficial organisms
- Enhances the soil's ability to clean the water that passes through it on the way to our streams and rivers
- Results in a darker soil colour, which better holds the sun's warmth

**Compost Quality Counts!** – All well-made compost is good for your lawn and garden soil, and composts must meet stringent government standards designed to protect human health and the environment. Some compost producers, however, go above and beyond the legal requirements: they produce composts with specific traits, which provide growers with further benefits, depending on the end use. Look for the Compost Quality Alliance logo and visit the Compost Council of Canada's website at [www.compost.ca](http://www.compost.ca) to find out more about this important program.

### How to Apply Compost

**Existing Flower Beds** - Add about 1.25 cm (1/2") of compost as a top dressing. If adding mulch, apply compost first, then cover with mulch. If last year's mulch is still in place, remove it, add a layer of compost, then re-apply the mulch. Water until the entire root zone is saturated.

**New Beds** - Add 5 cm (2") of compost and mix to at least a 30 cm (1ft) depth. Although compost is beneficial whenever it is added to soil, for the best results, add your compost about 4 weeks before planting. This will give the compost some extra time to boost the level of beneficial organisms in your soil, energizing plant growth.

**Vegetable Gardens** - Apply about 2 cm (3/4") of compost as a top dressing, either before or after planting. Again, for best results, apply the compost at least 4 weeks before planting. You can also put a bit of compost in the hole you make when you plant your seedlings.

## The Sacred Art of Fun

There's some perception floating around that spirituality has to be serious all the time, that if you're truly devoted to a spiritual path, you're meant to be solemn, wise, and perhaps a little heavy. But I want to challenge that idea. Fun is often seen as something frivolous or shallow, but when it springs from a deep sense of presence and connection, it becomes sacred. It's a form of spiritual aliveness. I think fun is not only compatible with spirituality, it's essential to it. I know many of you practise and understand this daily.

I'm not talking about the shallow kind of fun that leaves us empty afterward. I mean the kind of fun that makes your soul come alive. The belly laughs that bubble up from nowhere. The quiet joy of losing yourself in a creative moment. The wild dance in your living room when no one's watching. The delight of being fully here, right now, with no agenda. That kind of fun is sacred.

Fun is not a detour from the spiritual path, it is the path, sometimes. Fun breaks through our defenses. It softens us. It makes room for the God of your understanding to move. When we're laughing, dancing, exploring, or even being a bit silly, our egos take a back seat. That's when something greater can sneak in, not in spite of our joy, but through it. Fun invites connection with others, with ourselves, and with the Divine.

I think we've underestimated fun in spiritual circles because it doesn't always

look "reverent." But fun, in its truest form, is incredibly reverent. It says: Life is a gift. Right now matters. I trust enough to let go. Fun doesn't deny the world's suffering, but it refuses to let suffering have the final word. It's an act of resistance against despair.

Fun doesn't make us shallow; it makes us whole. It reminds us that life is more than toil and trial. It gives us the strength to face hard things with light in our hearts. I've sat with the grieving and the dying, and time and again, what comes up is joy, shared laughter, spontaneous moments, playful memories. Fun is not a distraction from what matters. It is what matters.

So yes, sit in silence, seek wisdom, walk humbly. But also make room for laughter. Let yourself be surprised. Dance even when no one's watching. Tell a bad joke. Play. Not because life is easy, but because fun keeps our spirits from growing hard.

Let joy be part of your sacred rhythm. Let delight become your prayer. Because the God I know doesn't just sit in temples and cathedrals. God is also found in the laughter that makes your eyes water and the joy that makes you lose track of time.

Spirituality isn't about becoming someone else. It's about becoming more you. And chances are, the truest version of you knows how to laugh and play. Let fun be part of your sacred practice. Let it open your heart. Let it reconnect you with the mystery and miracle of simply being alive.

Warmest Blessings and Belly laughs.

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Reverend Erin Wilson and Reverend Kelly Blakely  
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SOUL SISTERS CELEBRATIONS

## A Message from Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North

As we transition into the heart of summer, I want to take a moment to recognize and extend my sincere gratitude to the dependable and hardworking people who keep Ontario's agriculture and food sector thriving.

During this past Local Food Week, held from June 2nd to 8th, communities across the province celebrated the vital role of our farmers, food processors, distributors, retailers, and restaurateurs. Here in Simcoe North, we are fortunate to be surrounded by hardworking people who grow, prepare, and deliver the fresh and healthy local food that families across Ontario rely on. Their efforts not only nourish us, but they also support more than 871,000 jobs and contribute nearly \$51 billion to our provincial economy.

Supporting locally grown and made food has never been more important. Whether you're buying produce at a farmers' market, choosing Ontario-made products at the grocery store, or enjoying a meal at a local restaurant that sources ingredients close to home, you're helping to strengthen our agri-food network as well as our communities.

That's why programs like the Foodland Ontario Retailer Awards matter—they highlight retailers who go above and beyond to promote local produce. I'm proud to share that this year, Metro in Orillia and Foodland in Coldwater are being recognized for their efforts to showcase Ontario fruits and vegetables. Their efforts to support and showcase Ontario-grown-produce play a critical role in strengthening our communities.

The Ontario government is also supporting the future of agriculture through investments in made-in-Ontario research. With \$75 million going toward 162 research projects across the province, we're helping to spark new ideas, support good jobs, and keep Ontario competitive.

To all those who work across the agri-food sector, thank you. Your dedication to feeding both our province and country is truly inspiring. Let's continue to support local, celebrate our producers, and take pride in the abundance our province has to offer.

Wishing everyone a joyful and safe summer season!

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# Severn Sound Environmental Champions Celebrated

The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) hosted its annual Environmental Champion Awards and Partners Reception on May 9, 2025, recognizing outstanding individuals and community members for their environmental leadership and dedication to protecting the Severn Sound watershed. The evening brought together dignitaries and environmental partners to honour six local champions whose efforts continue to make a lasting impact on the region's environment.

A posthumous Severn Sound Guardian Award was presented in memory of Carrie McIntyre, with her family accepting the award and reflecting on the deep pride she took in her environmental work. As a member of Team SSEA, Carrie played a key role in developing and leading stewardship projects to improve water quality and restore vital habitats in Severn Sound. Driven by a passion for nature, a gift for fostering meaningful partnerships, and an unwavering dedication to restoration, she leaves behind a legacy that will benefit generations to come. "Her legacy is a testament to the power of individual action and the importance of community-driven conservation" says SSEA Executive Director Julie Cayley.

The prestigious Environmental Legacy Award was presented to Dr. Todd Howell in recognition of his lifetime commitment to environmental science and stewardship in Severn Sound. His leadership and profound

expertise in Great Lakes ecosystems have been instrumental in advancing impactful research, shaping sound policy, and driving effective restoration efforts. "Severn Sound Environmental Association is a rare and valued voice of credible, unbiased information on the Great Lakes—a living example of science and community working together for lasting environmental stewardship," said Dr. Todd Howell upon receiving the Environmental Legacy Award.

Severn Sound Environmental Champions recognized at the event included:

- Severn Sound Student Environmental Champion – Julia Johnston Recognized for her leadership in environmental outreach, including organizing successful community events to combat invasive phragmites and inspire youth action.

- Severn Sound Student Environmental Champion – Annabell Whyman Honoured for her dedicated research on heavy metal toxicity and its environmental effects, showcasing strong scientific inquiry and awareness.

- Severn Sound Environmental Stewardship Champion – Robert Coulas Celebrated for his commitment to fostering environmental awareness in youth, inspiring careers in environmental fields, and celebrating student contributions to sustainability.

- Severn Sound Environmental Sustainability Champion – Briana Dean Commended for her leadership in reducing energy



Recipient Dr. Todd Howell – Severn Sound Environmental Legacy Champion Award. Pictured left to right (standing): Town of Midland Mayor Bill Gordon, Tay CAO Tedd Walker, SSEA Board Member Bill Meridis, SSEA Executive Director Julie Cayley, Recipient Dr. Todd Howell, SSEA Board member Kristian Graziano, SSEA Vice Chair Suzanne Marchand, SSEA Board member Lori Hutcheson, Township of Severn Mayor Mike Burkett, Town of Penetanguishene Mayor Douglas Rawson. (Kneeling): Georgian Bay Mayor Peter Koetsier, SSEA Board member and Past Chair Steffan Walma, MP Adam Chambers.

use and greenhouse gas emissions and her strong support of local environmental initiatives in the Township of Springwater.

The SSEA was honoured to have Jeff Lehman, District Chair of Muskoka, as a guest speaker who acknowledged the unique structure and impact of the SSEA, and extended heartfelt congratulations to the envi-

ronmental champions for their outstanding contributions.

Congratulations to all winners, past and present, who's actions and dedication make a difference in Severn Sound and our local environment. Stay tuned for highlights on all winners as we continue to celebrate their significant accomplishments!



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# Schomberg Fair Sewing Seeds of Memories for 175 Years

Photos and captions by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Pictured above is 3 year old Blakely Walt from Schomberg getting ready to show in the Dairy show-manship class at the Schomberg Fair. Blakey is from Bakeridge Farms in Schomberg.



Pictured above is Alessia Marchese with a Shorthorn named Mya, who is owned by Morgan Gilpin. Alessia was showing in the Schomberg Fair's beef show. Alessia travelled to the show with her family from Essa Township.

In the photo below right is Anika Mortelliti, a busy 4-H member. She is a member of the South Simcoe Clearview Dairy club and earned the honour in the past of being part of the prestigious TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic competition group. At the Fair she was showing her Lionhead rabbit "Rory" as part of the South Simcoe Rabbit Club at the Schomberg Fair.






The Schomberg Agricultural Fair is the very first agricultural fair of the year. On the Sunday of the Schomberg Fair there was a lot of rain and cold temperatures- however, childrens' entertainer Doo Doo the Clown spread happiness all day along with Lisa-Marie Steenhoek. The duo toured the grounds between his shows in a golf cart. Schomberg Fair is a family tradition for Lisa-Marie, she served as President of the Schomberg Fair in 2010-2011 and this year, her son, Cameron Wells, is the Fair President.



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# From watermelon to wool: Ontario farms produce more than you think

Ontario farms produce more than 200 different food and farm products, giving consumers a wide range of options for filling their shopping carts and dinner plates with local food all year long. Some are long-time favourites; others, like sweet potato, watermelon, or Asian greens, are more commonly thought to grow elsewhere.

“Our climate and our incredibly rich farmland give us the opportunity to grow and produce an enviable range of food and farm products here in Ontario – both for consumers here at home and people across Canada and around the world,” says Angela Cammaert, a director with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. “Choosing local means you’re supporting local farm businesses and sustainable farming practices – but it’s also a key way to put the focus on the importance of preserving that rich farmland and why it’s so critical that we keep it for agricultural uses.”

Local food and farm products in Ontario include everything from meat, dairy, eggs, grains and produce to wool, plants, flowers, trees, honey and more. When it comes to fruits and vegetables, long-time favourites include apples, grapes, peaches, blueberries, strawberries, cherries, asparagus, beans, beets, broccoli, sprouts, cabbage, carrots, onions, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, squash, sweet corn, and many more.

However, Ontario growers also produce a wide range of lesser known crops – crops many people didn’t even know can be grown right here at home.

- Sweet potato varieties, for example, have been developed in Ontario specifically for Canada’s climate and are now grown in Ontario and other parts of the country.

- Juicy, sweet watermelon is a popular summer treat that most Ontarians know as a crop from the warmer regions of

the United States, but they’re grown in southern Ontario and will be ready to enjoy in the summer months.

- Ontario is also a world-leader in ginseng production. We are home to world’s largest production of North American ginseng, most which is exported to China, Hong Kong and Taiwan where it is used in traditional medicine.

- Hazelnut trees thrive in Ontario, where confectionary producer Ferrero Canada is investing in its Brantford manufacturing facilities to boost production of its popular Ferrero Rocher chocolates and other sweets made with hazelnuts.



- Asian greens like bok choy and nappa cabbage have become popular vegetable crops, especially in the Holland Marsh area north of Toronto, which is where the majority are grown.

“Summer road trips, camping adventures and cottage visits are a great opportunity to check out local on-farm

stores, farmers’ markets and community shops and discover first-hand the diversity, freshness and quality of Ontario food and farm products,” adds Cammaert.

The OFA’s Home Grown campaign raises awareness of why it’s important to preserve Ontario farmland to produce local food, fuel, flowers and fibre. Learn more and sign up for regular updates on products grown and raised in Ontario at [homegrownofa.ca](http://homegrownofa.ca).

## About the Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) represents 38,000 farm families across the province and serves as the leading advocate and strongest voice of Ontario’s farmers. As a dynamic farmer-led organization, the OFA represents and champions the interests of Ontario farmers through advocacy and government relations, research and farm policy recommendations, media and public relations, community representation, and more.

Join the conversation on X @OntarioFarms, Instagram @ontariofarms and Facebook /ontariofarms.

## About Home Grown

A public awareness initiative of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Home Grown’s objective is to raise awareness about the importance of protecting and preserving Ontario farmland. Learn more about the key role of Ontario farms as a source of food, fuel, fibre and flowers and get regular updates on products grown and raised in Ontario by joining Home Grown Ontario.

Follow Home Grown on Instagram @homegrownofa.

## AGBUSINESSdirectory

PHONE: 705-722-0138

EMAIL: [farmview@on.aibn.com](mailto:farmview@on.aibn.com)

### AGRICULTURAL STORIES WANTED

**We’re working on our next issue...**

**Do you have a story idea for us?**

See contact information on bottom of page 4.



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# Farm View CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

email: farmview@on.aibn.com

Free classified word ad's can be mailed, emailed or faxed by the 15th of the month for the next month's issue. Telephone orders are invoiced at \$15 for the first 25 words. Ad's run for one month only and must be re-submitted each month to be repeated. Mailing information is on page 4.

## EXCAVATION SERVICES

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## FOR SALE

### Farm Equipment

Agway vegetable, corn scuffler, 3ph, four row, 5 tines, rolling shields \$1,450.00

Disc Bines Heston 1320, good shape, 9 ft, owner's manual, 540 PTO \$13,500.00

Vicon 281 9ft, owners manual, 3ph, steel rolls, used last season, 540 pto \$5,800.00

Macdon swather crimper, steel rolls \$1,250.00

Call Dan Seifried,  
Harriston  
519-338-2688

## FREE ADS

Have 'cash' to buy a convertible. Prefer either a classic 1960's to 1970's or a mustang from the late 1990's V6 auto and low kms Call 705-526-7481.

Wanted International or McCormick grain binder phone evenings Call 905-983-9331.

Used 20' metal flag pole, free. A small quantity of locally sawn lumber. W. Pine, Cedar, Bur Oak etc. Make an offer! Call 705-728-2609 In Oro-Medonte.

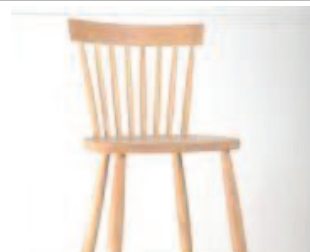
Wanted JD 443 or 444 combine corn head, 4 row and JD 35 38 corn harvester. Harriston 519-338-2688.

Black Angus bull, for sale or trade for young heifer(s). Born July 5, 2024. Sired specialist EastGen easy calving, grain and grass fed healthy. Creemore area

Text. 705 817 6818  
Email tttaverner121@gmail.com

Looking for a plastic dinghy for sale 8' - 9', not an inflatable. Call 705-526-7481.

Boer Goats-CAE negative-CL free. Call 519 940-8897 (land line).



Wanted 2-3 similar in style to the photo bar stools. Traditional or modern style. Max budget \$30.00 a stool. Call or text 705-792-9364. Simcoe County area.

John Deere 4230 tractor for sale. 100 horsepower, set of duals included, very good condition. Retired farmer, please call, no texts, 705-835-6542.

North America's preeminent breed for type. New Zealand White rabbits. Young pair (buck and doe) available for \$100.00. Call 905-888-1050 Stouffville.

Michelin Tractor Tire 14.9 R24 85% tread left. No cracks. \$550.00. Call 705-833-2168 evenings.

For sale 100 bales 1st cut hay, 2024 no rain. 4' x 4' @ \$40.00 each. Call Wayne Simpson Shanty Bay 705-627-7788.

## AUCTION SALE

### Timed Online Consignment Auction

Featuring tractors, hay including 200 4x5 round bales of hay, ATVs!

Sale also includes farm, shop & construction materials and equipment, vehicles & trailers plus much more!

July Consignment Sale Runs  
July 14th - 21st, 2025

For more information visit the website!

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## 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.



New price! \$6,399.00

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. Please call John at 705-726-5308.

Riddles from young Farm View readers  
Bridget and Stella Wilson

Answers from page 21: Your Age and



## AUCTION SALE

### 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, 1yr old, 131hp, 2 remotes; NH TM75 4x4 tractor, 4135hrs, new clutch in '24, Quicke Q720 loader, 2 remotes; MF 275, 4351hrs, new clutch, 2 remotes; Case 1825B skid steer, 1930hrs, diesel, bucket; Kubota TB1860 riding mower, diesel, 685hrs, 48" cut, hydrostatic.

**Truck/Trailers:** 2011 Ford F250 Super Duty, FX4 Off Road, 6.7 powerstroke, diesel, Lariat, 98,000km, crewcab, black leather int, safety; Royal 6'x12' enclosed trailer, 1 axle, side door, double swinging rear doors; older McBride horse trailer converted to livestock trailer, tandem, 6'x10'; 8'x8' dump trailer-off road, bumper hitch; single axle 5'x9' utility trailer; 10'x6.5' flat deck trailer, 2 axles.

**Mach/Equip/Accs:** Great Plains 1005NF no till drill, 3584 ac, rebuilt at 3000ac, 15 run, grass seed, fert(never used), markers; 30' header wagon; (3) Killbors gravity wagons; AGI WRX 10-51 auger on wheels, PTO, used 4 seasons; Hardi 500 sprayer, 500gal, rebuilt pump, tandem axle, 45' boom; 2013 Kuhn Optimizer D1008 disc; Hydra Spread 200 manure spreader, tail gate, top beater; Kubota RA1035 rotary rake, 10'; Hydra Farm King 12' harrows, bolt on; 6"x36" PTO drive auger; 14' steel land packer; 16' Watveare cultivator, with harrows; 18' pony harrows; 10' chain harrows & drawbar; JD 8' disc; JD 18' disc, man wings; 14' rubber tired land packer with harrows; skid steer atts(bale spear, manure bucket, lg material bucket); Farm King grain cleaner with loading auger (corn, soybean, wheat screens); Behlen P380 continuous dry corn dryer, propane (to be removed by purchaser)-as is; 3pth grass seed spreader; 3pth Wallenstein CX900 backhoe; 24' bale elevator with motor; 32' bale elevator with motor; 24' steel bar round bale wagon; MF 228 sq baler with thrower; MF 880 4x16" semi-mount plow; Forage King 7' snowblower, 1 auger, hydr chute; 2 wheel swath turner; 5' 3pth scraper blade with leveling wheel; 7ft landscape rake with leveling wheels.

**Shop/Farm Rel (A-antique):** Wallenstein BX62R woodchipper, 6", hydr, PTO; North Forest firewood processor, Kohler motor, up to 24" diam logs; (2)diesel fuel tanks-with elec pumps; 4t hopper bottom bin, plastic; (2)grain bins-19'x4 rings, 1 has aeration floor (to be removed by purchaser); Gehl 99 silo blower; asst 4" augers; lumber; fencing supplies; silo pipes; WinPower PTO drive generator; (16)pcs safety fence-6'x10'; pig paneling; portable 3pth loading chute; asst gates; cattle squeeze with auto headgate, palp cage; (5)20' feed fronts; feed mangers(3)10', (1)x12', (1)x8'; creep gate; (104)6" plastic posts; (3)round bale feeders; feed fronts 4x6'; (22)10' gates with feet; steel shelving; (2)square hay feeders; Pickwick chicken plucker; (5)insulated cement tarps; 12' hay feeder on wheels; 3pth cement mixer; air greaser; round bale goat feeder; lawn roller; walking plow(A); turnip planter(A); bushog-for parts.

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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.

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## Used Equipment

**Case IH 85C**  
hrs showing: 4950, 4wd, open station tractor with foldable rops, 2 sets of remotes, 540 pto, 11.2-24 fronts, 16.9r30 rears, stoll fz10 self leveling loader, In Erin.  
**\$26,900**

**New Holland L216**  
hours showing: 2151.6, cab with heat, standard flow auxilliary hydraulics, iso & h pattern controls, air ride seat, 10x16.5 tires, hydraulic, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.  
**\$32,900**

**Claas Liner 650 Twin**  
Drawbar Hitch, 540 PTO RPM, Twin Rotor, 20'8" Working Width, 9'10" Transport Width. Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.  
Stock #: U29257  
S/N: 924792.0  
**\$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**

**John Deere 5090M**  
hrs showing: 216.8, diesel, 4wd, cab/heat/air, radio, 14.9r24 fronts, 18.4r34 rears, 540rpm, 3 remotes, ldr ready subframe, john deere 3pt q/a, hla 8x13 front mount blade, In Erin.  
**\$103,000**

**Case IH 105C**  
hrs showing: 701, diesel, 4wd, cab/heat/air, three sets of remotes, third fnctn loader, 540 & 1000 rpm, 380/85r24 fronts, 460/85r34 rears, 24x24 power shuttle,  
**\$39,900**

**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 rotor draw bar rake, working width 13'5", tandem axle, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.  
Stock Number: U29156  
**\$8,800**

**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 GF7802THA**  
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 7230**  
2018 model year, 108" cutting width, 540rpm, 8 disc, high stubble kit, rubber rolls, draw bar hitch, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.  
**\$24,300**

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