

Since 1977

# FARM VIEW

A newspaper with something for everyone | March 2026 | Volume 49 #03



Complimentary copy for the FARM household

**MPP Jill Dunlop peers into a maple syrup bucket during a visit to Sugar Maple Ridge, celebrating the first annual tree tapping in Tay Township.**

**Inside this issue: Horse Day from Grey Bruce Farmers' Week · Preventing Farm Theft and Navigating Stress in Agriculture from the SouthWest Ag Conference  
Urease and Nitrification Inhibitors · Grain Bin Rescue  
Equipment comes to Simcoe County**

# 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.

### March 1st: The Flailing Shilaleighs Concert

The Tec-We-Gwill Women's Institute hosts a live performance by The Flailing Shilaleighs. The concert takes place Sunday, March 1, 2026, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. EST at Bond Head Memorial Hall, 2892 County Road 27, Bond Head, Ontario. **Information on page 12.**

### March 13th: YRFA hosts Emergency/CPR Training

York Region Federation of Agriculture presents Emergency and CPR training on Friday, March 13th. **Full details and registration information can be found in the ad on page 17.**

### March 13th: North Simcoe SCIA Seed & Feed Fair

North Simcoe Seed and Feed Show March 13th, 2026 at Elmvale Community Hall from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Contact Nicole at nsimcoesoilncrop@gmail.com for more info.

### March 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

### March 24th: North Simcoe 4-H sign-up Night

North Simcoe 4-H invites you to come out to the Edgar Town Hall, 1167 Old Barrie Rd W, Oro-Medonte, on Tuesday March 24 from 7-9 pm, to see the clubs that are planned for 2026 and meet the leaders.

### March 27th: Program announcement for E.D.G.E

Elmvale District Garden Enthusiasts' first meeting is March 25th at 7 p.m. at Elmvalle Legion, 7 John Street. Presentation: "Be Pet Aware" for the gardening season. Guests welcome.

### March 28th: YRFA hosts a Celebration of Agriculture

York Region Federation of Agriculture is pleased to host a Celebration of Agriculture taking place Saturday, March 28th. **Full details and registration information can be found in the ad on page 17.**

### April 1st: Hall of Fame applications due

Do you know a farmer in Simcoe County that deserves to be recognized by the Agricultural Hall of Fame? If so, please send an email to simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com to request a nomination application. All applications must be in by April 1st 2026. **Information on page 12.**

### April 7th: Addis Grain Annual Marketing Meeting

Addis Grain hosts their annual Spring Marketing Meeting on Tuesday, April 7th. The event takes place from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Call 705-720-0431 x1 to RSVP. Addis Grain is located at 274 Third Line South in Oro-Medonte, ON. **Information in the ad on page 12.**

### April 11th: SCFA hosts Keep Kids Safe Workshop

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture is pleased to once again present the Keep Kids Safe Workshop to be held at Huron Tractor at Cashtown Corners on Saturday, April 11th. **Full details and registration information can be found in the ad on page 15.**

### Wednesdays ongoing: Open Stage at The Hive

Wednesdays, after the chores are done: Open Stage at The Hive Restaurant & Pub at 1441 Mosley Street, Wasaga Beach, 6 to 9 p.m. A supportive place for neighbours to share music, favourite poems, a story or a bit of magic! Host is Don Beaulieu. Professional sound system. To reserve a dinner table text 705-606-0500. Sign up for a time on stage after you arrive.

## Soul Sisters Celebrations The Grace of the Deep Freeze

The last few months here have been a test of spirit, haven't they? I've spent more mornings than I can count looking out my kitchen window at a world turned completely white, listening to the house groan under the weight of the snow and the biting wind. In our rural bends of the road, a winter like this isn't just a weather report, it's a way of life. It's the ritual of neighbors checking in, the ache of shoveling the front entrance for the third time in a day, and the quiet isolation that settles in when the roads are finally declared impassable.

When the temperature drops into the negatives and the whiteouts blur the line between the ground and sky on the horizon, it's easy to feel a sense of spiritual frostbite. We start to feel stuck, or worse, forgotten. But there is a profound theology hidden in the deep freeze. In our modern world, we are taught that doing is the only way to be good. But a blizzard laughs at our schedules. It forces a Sabbath upon us, whether we want it or not. There is a humility in admitting that we cannot withstand the blast on our own. Weathering a winter storm is a lesson in surrender. It teaches us that we are not the ones fully in control of the seasons of our lives. When the drifts pile high against the barn door, it is an invitation to go inward, both into our warm kitchens and into the quiet chambers of our hearts.

Spiritual weathering isn't about being tough enough to bear the brunt of the cold in solitude; it's about having the wisdom to huddle together. I want to challenge you: don't let the isolation of the snow become the isolation of the heart. Even if the roads are closed, the lines of grace remain open. Pick up the phone. Send that text. Trek across the yard to knock on a door.

The storm strips away our pretenses and leaves us with the bare necessity of community. When you check on a neighbor, you aren't just checking a chore off a list, you are being the hands and feet of a God who promised never to leave us or forsake us. In the middle of a freeze, our warmth comes from the fire in our hearths, but our survival comes from the love in our hearts. There is a specific kind of gratitude that comes from seeing a neighbor's tractor clearing your drive before you've even had your coffee, or getting that "Just checking in" text when the power flickers. It's a reminder that while the weather might be cold, the people are anything but.

If you are feeling weary of the gray skies and the endless cold, remember this: the snow is a blanket to the land. Beneath that heavy, frozen layer, the earth is actually resting. The moisture from this winter is exactly what will feed the roots of the crops we'll plant in the spring. The "storms" you are weathering right now; the health scares, the financial worries, the heavy silences in your home, are not just empty hardships. They are tilling the soil of your soul. You are being prepared for a harvest that can only grow because you endured the freeze.

Keep the fire lit, keep your heart open, and check on your neighbor. The thaw is coming, but for today, let the stillness teach you.

A prayer for the long winter: God of your Understanding, We thank You for the beauty of the blanketed earth, but we acknowledge the heaviness it brings to our bones. For those of us feeling isolated by the drifts or chilled by the winds of circumstance, wrap us in the warmth of Your presence. Give us the strength to clear the path for others and the humility to ask for help when our own strength fails. May we trust that beneath the frozen ground, You are working a hidden miracle of renewal. Keep our hearts soft even when the world feels hard, and lead us safely through the storm to the light of the coming spring. Amen.

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

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# First annual maple tree tapping in Tay Township

Story and pictures by Don Beaulieu

At the end of January, on a bright but cold day, the first official tapping of a maple tree, signifying the year's first agricultural harvest, took place in Tay Township in Simcoe County. Not too many years ago during a milder spring, the sap was already running before this annual event took place. This time, there was no chance of sap running yet.

This year's location was Sugar Maple Ridge and was attended by many maple syrup producers, politicians and media. Everyone met in the sugar shack, telling stories and enjoying hot beverages and treats. Maple syrup was on hand for tasting and adding to one's coffee.

Starting things off ahead of the actual tree-tapping Vice President Jack McFadden of the local maple producers welcomed everyone in attendance. He explained that "We don't manufacture maple syrup. We take the sap that comes out of the tree, heat it up to intensify the sugars, and package it up for sale all around the world".

McFadden introduced Marin and Marianna Magdic who took over the family operation from his father and mother, Ivan and Terezija, in 2019. Ivan started out in 1978 with just 50 pails and a flat pan over a wood fire. Now, the Magdic's have almost 2,000 taps on a vacuum system leading to a recently renovated sugar shack. Marin elaborated on some of the family history and how his father was truly an outdoors man at heart.

His telling of the family history and this acreage was full of very positive emotional memories, dads and sons working together, over generations. "Lord willing, he said, one day there'll be some grandkids around".

McFadden recognized some key maple producers in attendance representing the Ontario Maple Producers Association including Brian Bainborough, former president and John Williams who has just completed his role as executive director of the Association.

Mayor David Evans, Township of Tiny, brought greetings along with Tiny Councillor Dave Brunelle. Evans noted the global appeal of maple syrup.

Mayor Ted Walker of Tay Township also spoke briefly, saying how maple syrup is a large part of the economy.

Before heading out for the first tapping, McFadden explained one of many changes made for the safety and protection of the trees. The size of hole drilled into the trees has been reduced from 7/16th of an inch to 5/16th of an inch. The older, manual brace-and-bit drills were of the larger size, but now the powered drills used are of a smaller diameter. The placement of taps around the circumference of the tree, and the height of them, are taken into account to be sure to maintain a healthy forest.

It was eventually time for everyone to go outside and witness the first official tapping, performed by Member of Provincial Parliament Jill Dunlop. Other politicians took part, including Tay Mayor Ted Walker and Deputy Mayor Barry Norris who each tapped a tree. Snow in the forest was extremely deep, so a tree very near the sugar shack was this year's chosen sugar maple to start off the season.

After the VIP tappings, everyone moved back into the sugar shack for social time and to have a toast to the upcoming seasons. Everyone had a little cup of maple syrup for the celebratory toast given by Brent Beers of Maple Grove

Syrup in Severn Township.

"Here's to a prosperous, a healthy and a very successful syrup tourist season for 2026" offered Beers.

There are health benefits to using maple sugar in place of refined white sugar:

**Rich in Antioxidants:**

Maple syrup contains numerous antioxidants, particularly phenolic compounds, that help protect cells from damage caused by free radicals and reduce oxidative stress. Darker syrups generally have higher antioxidant levels.

It is a good source of several essential minerals, with a 1/4 cup (60 ml) serving providing significant amounts of the following...

**Manganese:** Essential for energy production, normal brain and nerve function, and healthy bones.

**Riboflavin (Vitamin B2):** Aids in metabolic processes and energy production.

**Zinc:** Important for a healthy immune system, wound healing, and male reproductive health.

Trace amounts of calcium, potassium, and magnesium are also present, which contribute to bone health, blood pressure regulation, and muscle function.

**Lower glycemic index:** Pure maple syrup has a slightly lower glycemic index (around 54) than table sugar (around 65) and honey (around 61), meaning it raises blood sugar levels more slowly and helps avoid sharp spikes.

**Anti-Inflammatory properties and potential for gut and brain health:** Emerging research suggests maple syrup extract may have prebiotic properties that support beneficial gut bacteria. Other studies indicate potential neuroprotective effects, such as protecting brain cells from damage associated with Alzheimer's disease, though more human research is needed.

**Enhanced antibiotic effects:** Preliminary lab research suggests that maple syrup extracts may enhance the effectiveness of antibiotics against bacteria, potentially helping in the fight against antibiotic-resistant "superbugs".

As with all good things, moderation is key. Despite beneficial compounds, maple syrup is primarily sugar (sucrose) and should be used sparingly as an alternative to refined sugar, not as a primary source of nutrients.

Also, beware of claims that maple syrup can fight diseases like cancer in humans are currently based on lab or animal studies and require much more research.

**Choose "Pure" Maple Syrup:** Many commercial syrups are just sugar with maple flavoring and do not offer these natural benefits. Always use 100% pure maple syrup.

In conclusion, pure maple syrup is a more nutritious sweetener choice than refined sugar, but it is still an added sugar that needs to be consumed mindfully within a



Jack MacFadden is seen here welcoming folk to the first tapping and offering insight into the craft, including history and humour.

healthy diet.

Keep your eyes peeled this spring for a multitude of festivals based around maple syrup and its traditions. Some of these traditions go back to pre-European contact, right here around Georgian Bay.



Deputy Mayor Barry Norris of Tay Township is seen here tapping one of the first maple trees of the year at Sugar Maple Ridge.



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Your Grocery Bill - Lets Dig Deeper By John Zekveld, Executive Board Member for CFFO

You have likely noticed that food prices have increased. Every generation raises concerns about the cost of fuel and food, two essentials we purchase frequently and that are immediately felt in household budgets. We fill our vehicles regularly, and we buy groceries once or twice a week, making these costs highly visible.

So why have food prices risen, and is this truly a crisis?

According to a recent news article, Prime Minister Carney attributed rising food costs to tariffs, climate change, and geopolitical disruptions, and further suggested that Canada is experiencing food insecurity. These statements raise important questions that deserve closer examination.

Tariffs increase costs primarily when we impose them on imported products, not when other countries tariff Canadian exports. The term "Climate change" has become a broad, catch-all explanation, yet weather variability, including droughts, disease, and extreme events, has existed throughout history. These challenges are not new to agriculture. Likewise, claims of geopolitical disruptions affecting domestic food prices require clearer, concrete examples to support the argument.

There are, however, several significant factors much closer to home that directly influence food prices: the carbon tax, inflation driven by excessive government spending and monetary expansion disconnected from GDP growth, sharp increases in production inputs since the COVID-19 period, and Ontario's annual minimum wage increases. These policies directly affect farmers, processors, and food businesses operating within Canada.

While wages must rise to help Canadians manage inflation, as people need to earn a livable income; these increases also raise operating costs throughout the food supply chain. Rather than addressing these policy-driven pressures, it is easier to place blame elsewhere, including on our own food industry, which is often accused of price fixing

or gouging despite paying significant taxes and operating under strict regulations.

Recently, Farm & Food Care released data showing that Canada's Food Freedom Day falls on February 8. This means it takes approximately 40 days of annual income to pay for food, an amount that has remained relatively unchanged in recent years. Food prices have risen but not disproportionately compared to other household expenses.

Government intervention in private markets, such as grocery rebates or price controls, may offer short-term relief but ultimately function as Band-Aid solutions and many times are detrimental to long term solutions. They do not address the root causes of inflation. Meaningful change requires fiscal discipline, responsible spending, and policies that support a competitive and business-friendly environment.

Canada's farmers and food processors provide food with exceptional care, safety, and efficiency. They continually make difficult decisions to remain viable while absorbing rising costs. Without their innovation, stewardship, and commitment to efficiency, food prices would be significantly higher. Canada is, in fact, among the countries with the lowest food-cost indexes in the world.

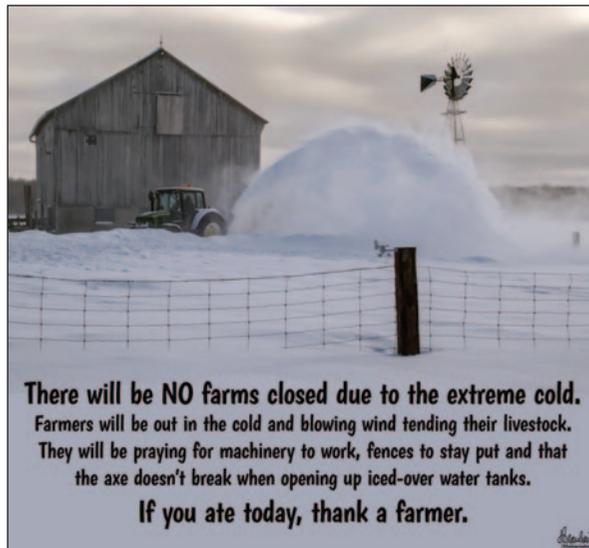
As for food insecurity, it is important to consider this term in a global context. True food insecurity looks very different in many parts of the world. In

Canada, we are blessed with abundance. Food sovereignty, producing our own food, is a wise and important goal, and one we should continue to support.

May the Lord bless our governments with wisdom and resolve to examine domestic policies honestly and pursue healthy, sustainable solutions. Pray for our leaders as they govern and take a moment today, and every day, to give the Lord thanks for the food on your table. It is God who provides and cares for us all.

The CFFO Commentary represents the opinions of the writer and does not necessarily represent CFFO policy.

From frost to Facebook: A salute to winter-weary farmers



**There will be NO farms closed due to the extreme cold.**  
Farmers will be out in the cold and blowing wind tending their livestock. They will be praying for machinery to work, fences to stay put and that the axe doesn't break when opening up iced-over water tanks.  
**If you ate today, thank a farmer.**

At 2 p.m. on January 26th of this year, reporter/photographer Don Beaulieu posted a self-made meme about the dedication of farmers, on his personal Facebook page. As of the March deadline for this issue of Farm View, his message has been shared 541 times and viewed 68,553 times. "This really shows the support and respect people have for our agricultural communities" he says.

Most of the views have been by folks in Canada (88.8%) and the United States of America (9.8%) with the United Kingdom, Australia, Mexico and the Netherlands adding up to 1.2%.

Farm View is proud to be a part of this community and supporting such dedicated people. And rumour has it that spring is coming.

Farm View is available at the following agricultural businesses.

- ALLIANCE AGRITURF in Ivy, Bolton, Fenelon Falls, Baxter and Lindsay
- BARRIE KOA (Seasonally)
- BRADBURY SMALL FAMILY FARM INC.
- BRADFORD GREENHOUSES GARDEN GALLERY, Barrie
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- HOLMES AGRO in Stayner and Orangeville
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- SOBEY'S in Angus and Bradford
- STEER ENTERPRISES
- STEWART'S EQUIPMENT in Cookstown and Stayner
- THE UPS STORE in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza

The Farm View is delivered to these businesses between the 25th and 29th of each month, with copies available while supplies last.

If you would prefer to have The Farm View mailed directly to your home, one-year subscriptions are available for \$45. For more information or to subscribe, contact Roslyn at 705-722-0138, by mail at 8 Luella Blvd., Minesing, ON L9X 0W7, or by email at farmview@on.aibn.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Farm View invites letters to the editor. They should be fewer than 300 words and deal with a single topic affecting farmers. All letters must be signed, including your full name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to editing for brevity. Please no phone calls.

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In memory of  
**Jill Beischer**

Farm View attempts to present a forum for varying points of view from the agricultural community. Editorial opinions are freely expressed by individual authors.

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

*W.J. Bryan*

2026 ADVERTISING RATES

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# Protecting Your Farm Amid Expanding Infrastructure Projects



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As you look ahead to the coming years, it's important to stay informed about external factors that could directly affect your land and your operation.

Government-led infrastructure projects are expected to expand in many regions. Projects such as the proposed ALTO high-speed rail line and new hydro transmission corridors have the potential to cross or border productive farmland. While details on routing, timelines, and land requirements may continue to evolve, these types of projects can carry long-term implications for access, drainage, field layout, biosecurity, and overall farm efficiency.

Even when a project does not directly remove land from production, construction activity and easements can create operational challenges. Access points may change. Tile drainage systems can be disrupted. Field patterns that have worked for decades may need to be adjusted. Understanding potential impacts early allows you to ask questions, participate in consultations, and seek advice from your lawyers and other advisors about your rights and options.

It is important to watch for formal announcements, environmental assessment notices, open houses, and consultation opportunities. Routes and project details can shift over time. Staying informed ensures you are not caught off guard and gives you the opportunity to provide input before decisions are finalized.

OFA will continue to advocate on behalf of our members as these projects move forward. Our policy analyst team of highly skilled professionals is actively monitoring developments, reviewing proposed legislation and regulatory changes, and engaging directly with government officials to ensure farmers' voices are heard. We are focused on protecting farmland, ensuring fair processes, and pushing for practical solutions that recognize the realities of farm operations.

Locally, your county federations will also be advocating on behalf of our members. County board members represent local interests and know the area best, from soil types and drainage patterns to long-standing land use pressures. Their on-the-ground knowledge is critical in ensuring local concerns are clearly communicated and considered throughout the planning process.



To stay informed, we encourage members to stay connected to OFA news. Subscribing to our weekly newsletter ensures you receive timely updates on infrastructure projects, policy developments, and advocacy efforts that may affect your operation. Staying informed is one of the most effective ways to stay prepared.

Monitoring infrastructure developments, just like markets and weather is part of protecting your operation for the long term.

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Read more in this month's Fun Farm Science article on page 13.

# SouthWest Agricultural Conference Navigating Stress In Agriculture

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Megan Burnside-Poitras of the Agriculture Wellness Initiative explained that, according to the World Health Organization, "stress is a natural human response that can create mental and physical tension in times of worry, crisis, or other difficult situations". Stress is a common part of life. It can be activated by both the positive and the negative. Stress can lead to growth and learning but if it is ongoing for a long time with no recovery, it can lead to physical and/or mental illness.

There are two broad forms of stress. The first is acute stress, she explained, which can be compared to equipment breaking down at harvest time. Feelings of acute stress peak and then subside.

The second is chronic stress, which is ongoing and creates persistent feelings of worry. It tends to linger over a long period of time. An example, she noted, would be ongoing financial pressures or fluctuating crop prices.

When someone is fronted with stress, Burnside-Poitras said, "Stress shows up and there are two main reactions, fight or flight. Fight means getting verbally or physically aggressive and flight is wanting to escape the stress or just avoiding the stress. Other reactions to stress are freeze as in feeling stuck or numb and fawn which is people pleasing to try and gain control."

Identifying stress is critical to deal with it. She explained that stress has a lot of symptoms including panic attacks and low moods. Physical symptoms can include sleep issues and illnesses. Panic attacks can mimic heart attacks and she stressed it is important to get any heart attack symptoms promptly checked out.

Agriculture has stresses that none of us can control. These stresses include weather conditions like that Great Ice Storm of last spring and last summer's drought. Other stress inducers are market prices and global trade policies. There are also communication and public perceptions. Another stressor is supply chain disruptions.

What we can control is what we should focus on. She clarified that we can control our routines, our reactions and how we talk to ourselves.

Farmers cope with stress and how they cope is that "Farmers regularly support each other during daily routines and tough times," she said adding that this naturally creates a sense of security and belonging.

Farmers often attend community events. "Participating in events like church services, being part of an Agricultural fair, going to 4-H meetings and local boards strengthens social ties and fosters collaboration," she reported adding that these social connections have huge benefits.

According to a Stanford study, sociable people have lower stress, anxiety and depression, she reported. She added that having social ties build self-esteem and greater empathy, increased trust and co-operation.

People that have a social life, according to the study, "had 50% increase chance of a longer life."

When stress comes in, "let's talk about it," she suggested, adding that "it is important to share highs and lows and to encourage conversations. Hearing each other helps the community at large."

Stress is coming, at harvest, planting and when the livestock goes into the birthing pens- guaranteed. Burnside-Poitras said to be ready for the stress to come, "be realistic with your goals, expect difficulties and try to find ways to deal with it." She gave an example that with calving, having a well bedded area for new calves will make the time easier to handle.

When stress comes in, build efficiency routines. Suggestions included deep breathing, a drink or snack, taking a short break and always, "talking it out."

Creating your own coping strategies can include watching a movie or tv show, calling a friend or family member, take a nap or listen to music. Take care of yourself, "get adequate sleep, meals and hydration," she recommended.

"Be kind to yourself," she summarized. There is help for stress for farmers. The Farmers Wellness Initiative is available 24/7 365 days per year and it is free. The number to call is: 1 866 267 6255.



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## OSCIA Names New GM, Updates Leadership Structure

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) has appointed Julie Henderson to the newly-created position of General Manager. Henderson, who previously served as OSCIA's Interim Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer, will act as the primary link between OSCIA's senior leadership team and its Board of Directors.

Henderson's appointment is part of a broader review and restructuring process designed to strengthen collaboration, improve transparency and support effective decision-making across OSCIA. This new structure moves OSCIA away from its previous model—an Executive Director supported by departmental Directors—to a more collaborative leadership approach that improves coordination and responsiveness across the organization.

Operational and strategic decisions will be guided by a Senior Leadership Team, consisting of Henderson and four department Directors:

- Director of IT and Shared Services – Gabriella Visontai Perry
- Director of Member Services and Business Development – Nicole Mackellar
- Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer – Kimberley Cathline
- Director of Programs – Recruitment underway

OSCIA is pleased to formally welcome Kimberley Cathline to the team. As Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer, Cathline brings more than 20 years of experience in the agricultural research environment and over a decade of progressive leadership in research program management, policy development and organizational governance.

She has held senior roles at Niagara College's Horticultural and Environmental Sciences Innovation Centre (HESIC) and Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, as well as positions with the University of California, Davis, the University of Guelph and the National Research Council of Canada. Cathline holds a Master of Science in biological sciences from Brock University specializing in plant science, oenology and viticulture, and an Honours Bachelor of Science in plant biology from the University of Guelph.

"We are thrilled to welcome Julie into the

role of General Manager and Kimberley into her new leadership position," says Andy Van Niekerk, OSCIA President. "Their leadership qualities, combined with our new structure, position OSCIA to better serve our members, strengthen our research and knowledge transfer efforts, deliver high-quality programs and continue advancing innovation in Ontario agriculture."

Daily operations and staff supervision will be led by new Senior Manager roles, including a Senior Manager of Program Operations, a Senior Manager of Finance, and additional Senior Manager roles that may be added as part of future planning.

Under this new model, the General Manager serves as the primary link to the Board of Directors, while the Directors guide operational and strategic decision-making. Senior Managers provide day-to-day leadership for their teams, ensuring OSCIA's governance and operational roles remain distinct, clear and effective for future operations.

"This structure reflects our belief that the best decisions come from bringing different voices to the table," says Henderson. "Each Director and each Manager will contribute unique insights and input from their teams, leading to a collaborative approach that delivers stronger outcomes for our members and partners."

Van Niekerk says the new model aligns with OSCIA's Strategic Work Plan, and will enhance member engagement, streamline delivery of applications, claims and services, support staff growth and professional development, enhance transparency and ensure decisions are informed by multiple areas of expertise. There will be no disruption in the delivery of OSCIA's programs or on-farm research participation, cost-sharing funding, or knowledge transfer opportunities.

The new model is the result of significant planning and discovery, says Van Niekerk, "Over many months, we explored several organizational models and found that collaboration was always at the centre. This new structure reinforces OSCIA's long-standing reputation for innovation. It supports the excellent work already underway and positions us for the future."

## Bringing the Past Back Into Focus: John Rundle's Farm Photo Restoration

Story by Roslyn Watkins

For many farm families, old photographs are more than pictures—they are pieces of history. Weathered prints tucked into albums or boxes often tell the story of the land, the buildings, and the generations who worked them. Through his recent project, photographer John Rundle has been helping families bring those memories back to life.

Rundle has been carefully restoring an old farm photograph that had faded and deteriorated with age. The original image, once dull and marked by time, showed a proud homestead. John repaired scratches, corrected fading, and enhanced details that had nearly disappeared.

The result is a photograph that looks remarkably close to the day it was first taken. The buildings stand out clearly, and the overall image has regained its warmth and clarity. What was once a fragile, aging print is now a vibrant piece of family history, ready to be shared and preserved for future generations.

Projects like this highlight the value of photography not only as art, but as a tool for preserving rural heritage. By restoring these images, Rundle is helping families reconnect with their roots and keep their stories alive.

John Rundle can be reached at johnrundlesphotos@gmail.com or by calling 705-321-2592.



The original farm photograph before restoration, showing visible fading, scratches, and signs of age that had dulled the once-vivid image of the family homestead.



The restored photograph by photographer John Rundle. John has revived clarity, detail, and warmth bringing the historic family homestead back to life for future generations.



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## South Simcoe 4-H Rally Night Showcases Clubs and Community Spirit at Angus Recreation Centre

By Weston Yoo

South Simcoe 4-H Rally Night brought dozens of 4-H members together for an evening of connection, activity, and fun at the Angus Recreation Centre on February 8th! Members, leaders, and families gathered to showcase what 4-H is all about and to welcome potential new members interested in joining 4-H this year.

The highlight of the evening was the club showcase. Many clubs set up poster boards to display what they have been working on and to share information about themselves. From the Mechanics club, to Poultry club, to Model Rocketry, there was something for everyone. Additionally, the Line Dancing Club added energy to the event by performing a short demonstration, giving attendees a taste of the learning to do by doing, what 4-H stands for.

Of course, no 4-H event would be complete without food and activities. Guests enjoyed pizza and beverages while checking out club booths and learning more about the different opportunities available. After the showcase wrapped up, everyone headed onto the ice for an open skate, which gave members and families a chance to relax, laugh, and have fun!

Rally Night was not only a celebration of the clubs already underway, but also an excellent opportunity for new members to learn what 4-H is all about. By the end of the evening, it was clear that everyone – from long-time members to first-



Weston and Remi Yoo proudly display their Model Rocketry poster during South Simcoe 4-H Rally Night at the Angus Recreation Centre on February 8. The brothers were among dozens of members showcasing their clubs and welcoming new participants for the year ahead.

time visitors – had a great time and left excited for the year ahead. For anyone who is interested in joining 4-H, there is still plenty of time to register for and get involved this year! With a wide range of clubs and opportunities, 4-H offers youth aged 9-21 the chance to build life skills, make lifelong friendships, and learn to do by doing. You can find more info about 4-H Ontario at 4-hontario.ca!

## Ontario and Prairie farms and Crop Advisors are invited to share cover crop insights

As cover crop use in Ontario and in the Prairies continues to grow, a survey has been launched to understand the evolving dynamics in cover crop use. The survey aims to gather insights from farms and crop advisors about adoption, practices, benefits, and challenges related to cover crops.

The survey is open to all farm types and sizes, as well as crop advisors across Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. It targets:

- Farms who did or did not grow cover crops during the 2025 growing season
- Farms who have stopped using cover crops
- Crop advisors, whether they advise on cover crops or not.

<https://gfo.ca/cover-crop-survey/>

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# After The Chores: Winter Conscience

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



My conscience has been working overtime with guilt this winter.

There were no goat babies planned for winter. The first kid had a mother that decided that kids were not for her. The only way to get milk into the kid was to pin the doe down and use strong force to keep her there. At -35 nights and -20 days with strong west winds this winter, the kid had to be full at times. My conscience kept thinking of the cold kid in the barn. I had to get up long before the sun to get in the early morning feed. There was another afternoon feeding as long times in between risked hypothermia which means death and my conscience wouldn't let me not either. It was night chore time on day five that I went to the barn and found the doe letting the kid get her own milk. The doe was in major "I got a baby now" mood and the kid was being covered in kisses and sweet talk for the first time.

The next kid was born the only day in the week when I'm away for the day at my off-farm job. The kid was just freshly born when I came to the barn this polar vortex infested day and she was one of those slow starters. Some babies are born ready to go, some are born slower. This kid was slow and resembled a pretzel. From her ears to her back legs, everything was twisted. I tried to give her first colostrum and she refused being not ready yet. Her mother ran away to the other side of the pen. I got the baby cleaned off and she got to her front legs but her back legs were twisted and unable to hold her up. Time said leave so I had to leave all this which broke every rule in the conscience of this farmer. I spent my entire workday until Sweetie could get to the barn feeling so guilty leaving this innocent kid.

Today the same kid is a testimony to Francis the boer buck. I see why people raise boers. She has long ears, the typical boer compactness and she is light red with faded out spots. Like Francis, she is demanding and will let me know exactly when it is feeding time. Her young mother has held on to "no kid for me" and so she gets run down and pinned in place three times a day. The kid now plays kid games on

four strong legs.

I watched the forecast and decided on a weekend to sell some extra sheep here at our local Woodville Auction. The temperature was close to above freezing and it was a sunny Saturday morning. Kevin the carrier (new word for trucker) arrived here at 7 a.m. as agreed upon. The warm temperatures had turned the snow into slippery glass and with a long livestock trailer, the carrier got stuck. It was a warm day so the old tractor here fired right up. Kevin didn't say a word but the look when that small 60 some year old tractor pulled out the garage was not hopeful. "We got a wonderful neighbor Brian with a big John Deere who is our 911 rescue- if this does not work," I assured Kevin. The old David Brown tractor was hooked up by Sweetie to Kevin's new truck. The David Brown huffed and puffed- and nothing happened. Another try was made, more huffing and more puffing with zero results.

My conscience was in tatters when I made the call to Neighbour Brian. Here I was in mid-winter on a Saturday morning at 7:20 a.m. bothering someone for a rescue. "Give me 20 minutes" this wonderful Neighbour said. He arrived in 15 minutes, accessed the situation and seemed to have had this all fixed in under ten minutes. Wonderful Neighbours don't just take off for home when the rescue seems finished and instead idle the massive John Deere tractor and wait on standby. Sweetie had made a turnaround space the day before when it was colder- and it now was all more of that slippery snow. With no hesitation, this good Neighbour dropped his massive snowblower and made a down-to-the ground turnaround space. Next was hooking up the truck again- and pulling it to better ground. At this point, I felt so guilty over the efforts of Kevin, Brian and Sweetie, I left the area and filled water bottles for my rabbits. I'm not sure how many more pulls and hook-ups were needed before that trailer was finally expertly backed up to the door.

I thought finally this is over when the livestock trailer door was shut after the last sheep went in. And it was not. That slippery snow had the truck and trailer sliding yet again. This wonderful Neighbour had to hook up the truck again- and again to that massive John Deere. It was a full 95 minutes before this was finished and everybody could finally leave here. Thank God for my Sweetie, our patient calm carrier and a wonderful Neighbour I thought as I finished chores that morning.

I'm grateful that winter is only one season long, my conscience cannot take any more of this.

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# Grey Bruce Farmers' Week

## Wrapped Hay Gains Ground as Climate Change Challenges Dry Hay for Horses

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

It is getting harder to make dry hay with climate change and wrapped hay has become an option for many operations. Horse Day at the Grey Bruce Farmers Week addressed this real concern in a segment titled "Hay (lage) is for Horses. Sort of. Sometimes".

Christine O'Reilly, Forage and Grazing Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Food, Rural Affairs and Agriculture explained that haylage for horses is actually "wrapped hay". This is hay that is baled wet and is wrapped with plastic to preserve it.

Wrapped hay contains moisture, a lot of moisture. Dry hay moisture readings are usually between 12-18% while wrapped hay comes in at 20-40%.

The list of advantages for wrapped hay is all about "faster drying" and "easier to harvest". Good quality horse hay, according to O'Reilly, needs to be harvested in June. To get dry hay in June, that means a 7 day drying window- which is hard to find in these current times of climate change. Wrapped hay though can chop off the drying window to only three days in the field, "We often get three (good drying, no rain) days in June," she reported.

A big concern that needs to be figured out first is how to manage these wrapped bales. The wrapped bales may look like the exact same size as dry bales- but they are far from the same. While it is possible to somewhat manually move or tip over a dry 4 foot by 5 foot bale of dry hay, it's not happening at all with a wrapped bale. O'Reilly proved the difference in weight with this comparison:

4 by 5 soft core bale weighs 400-600 pounds

4 by 5 hard core bale weighs 850-900 pounds

4 by 5 wrapped bale weighs about 1,000-1,500 pounds

"Wet bales are heavy," O'Reilly pointed out adding that these heavy bales need a tractor big enough to move them. She said a 60 horsepower tractor on level surfaces only "may" lift them but a tractor that size should be used care-

fully. "An 80 horse power or higher tractor is far safer to move wrapped bales," she stressed.

Assuming one has an 80 horsepower tractor, there is an absolute need for a "bale grabber" if the wrapped bales need to be moved even once before they are fed out. The traditional bale "spear" that goes into dry hay to move them, will poke holes into wrapped bales which will be a disaster, guaranteed.

"Air spoils the (wrapped) hay. It is wrapped in plastic to keep the air out. Even a pin hole can let air in. Air spoils the hay," O'Reilly said. She stressed several times that rodents that can chew bales must be kept away adding, "mow grass around the wrapped bale pile, grass is an excellent cover for rodents and rodents will put holes into the bales. Holes cannot happen."

Another major issue with wrapped hay is that once the bale is open, there is a three day window before it is unfit to feed. "Must get the bale fed out in three days," O'Reilly said adding wrapped bales work only for larger operations that can feed out a full bale within three days.

Dr. Lisa Costa, veterinarian for Georgian Bay Equine warned horse owners that her presentation on "Botulism" was going to be a bit scary to hear. Botulism is a disease created by a toxin produced by clostridium botulinum which is a bacteria found in soil similar to tetanus. "It is not the rusty nail that causes tetanus, it is the soil that is on the rusty nail," Dr. Costa stressed.

Botulism essentially "stops transmission from nerves to muscles." Symptoms include muscle weakness, including "shaker foal syndrome," facial paralysis, difficulty standing, chewing, and swallowing.

Early treatment is key for the best chance of survival, with adults having a 30-70% survival rate and foals having a 90% survival rate. When botulism sets in, achieving these survival rates requires getting the horse to a veterinary hospital. At best, Dr. Costa said, treatment may cost about

\$4,000, but a stay in the ICU can cost approximately \$10,000 per week.

"In (quality clean) dry hay, Botulism is often not found," Dr. Costa advised adding, moldy/spoiled round bales are high risk. Areas that have higher cases of Botulism include Kentucky, USA. It can also be spread from dead carcasses of wildlife that end up in water troughs used by horses.

Botulism can be prevented. Management practices to prevent this starts with cleaning clean hay out of clean feeders and mangers. She stressed, "if feeding haylage (wrapped hay) that there is no air entry allowed." Further, there is a commercial vaccine available starting with young foals that must be repeated at set intervals to make it work. Pregnant mares should have an added booster at a specific time before foaling. All horses need an annual booster following strict timelines for this vaccine to work, Dr. Costa stressed.

At this point, Dr. Costa was correct when said that horse owners are now thinking, "Why even feed haylage (wrapped hay) then?" She explained that wrapped hay has "great benefits" for horses that are considered "hard (er) keepers" and/or have Heaves, known as Equine Asthma or "allergy of the lung" which has no cure. Wrapped hay also can be helpful for the older Thoroughbred that has a performance/sport jobs as it is easy to consume with dental issues.

"Climate is changing in Ontario, it is harder to make quality feed," she said adding that wrapped hay is naturally "fermented" as the bacteria have partially digested the plant fiber leaving a "high energy protein".

Horses known as "easy keepers" should not be fed wrapped hay, as it can pose health risks. Wrapped hay is also unsafe for any horse prone to laminitis.

Dr. Costa concluded that feeding hay should always be approached with careful evaluation to ensure horses remain healthy.

## New Investments Strengthen Support for Simcoe North Farmers Ahead of Growing Season

A message from MPP Jill Dunlop

As we welcome the growing season and gather to celebrate the hard work of our farming families, I am pleased to share the latest updates that support our agricultural sector, including new provincial and federal-provincial investments that will benefit farmers across Ontario, including here in Simcoe North.

This past month the Governments of Canada and Ontario announced a significant investment of up to \$20 million through the new Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative. This initiative is part of the broader Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and will help farmers, food processors and agribusinesses sell more Ontario-grown products at home and in international markets. Applications to access this funding open February 17 and run

until March 17, 2026, providing opportunities for our local producers to grow their markets and strengthen competitiveness amid global economic uncertainty.

This announcement builds on previous investments that help farmers make important improvements to their land and operations. For example, nearly \$14.6 million was invested last year through the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program, supporting projects that enhance soil health, build water retention features and expand natural habitats on farmland, helping producers become more resilient to extreme weather and market pressures.

In addition to these funding opportunities, our provincial government has continued its commitment to agricultural risk management, including on-

going support for programs that help mitigate the impacts of market volatility and global trade challenges for grain, livestock and specialty crop farmers.

Farming is the backbone of Simcoe North's economy and rural way of life, and these initiatives reflect our government's commitment to ensuring that agriculture remains strong, innovative and sustainable for years to come.

I encourage all local farmers and agri-business owners to explore these opportunities and consider how they might support your operations. Please reach out to my office if you have questions or need assistance connecting with provincial resources.

Warm wishes to our farming families and to all residents of Simcoe North as we look forward to a productive spring and a successful year ahead.

## Simcoe County Agriculture Hall of Fame looking for Nominations

The Simcoe County Agriculture Hall of Fame is an organization dedicated to recognizing and honoring individuals who have made significant contributions to agriculture in Simcoe County, Ontario. This recognition highlights the achievements of farmers, agribusiness leaders, and community members who have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and dedication to the agricultural industry.

Inductees into the Hall of Fame are celebrated for their exceptional efforts

in advancing farming practices, promoting sustainable agriculture, supporting agricultural education, and contributing to the community. The Hall of Fame also serves as a means of preserving and sharing the history of agriculture in the region.

To nominate someone for the Simcoe County Agriculture Hall of Fame, there is a Nomination form that requires information about the person's education and training, chronological involvement in farm organizations, agriculture ac-

complishments in Simcoe County, community and other accomplishments in Simcoe County as well as any additional information that the applicant deems pertinent.

Letters of support or references from people who can attest to the nominee's impact on the agricultural community and additional materials that demonstrate the nominee's legacy.

For more information about the nomination process please contact Nicole at [simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com](mailto:simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com).

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# Preplanning a Funeral: Peace of Mind for Families

By Roslyn Watkins

A recent presentation by Legacy Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. welcomed guests with warmth and hospitality. Visitors were greeted at the door by friendly staff and offered a hot drink, bottled juice, or water. A beautifully arranged charcuterie board by GrazeNorth created a relaxed atmosphere, helping everyone feel comfortable before the session began.

Matt Drury, co-owner along with Cindy Drury, of Legacy Funeral and Cremation Services Inc., quickly put the room at ease with his approachable manner. He opened the presentation with a simple but reassuring message: "Talking about death doesn't bring it closer." Instead, he explained, preplanning is about preparing for the future and relieving pressure on family members. He encouraged attendees to involve loved ones in the conversation, noting, "We have our preferences, but what do our loved ones need?"

Drury then introduced the afternoon's speaker, Cindy Keeting of GFD (Guaranteed Funeral Deposits). GFD is an established financial services provider specializing in products for the bereavement sector. Their team helps support business growth, reduce administrative workload, and respect the traditions of the communities they serve—providing comfort and peace of mind to families.

Drury and Keeting asked the audience a simple question: "Why don't people pre-arrange?" Responses included postponing the decision, having other priorities, and not wanting to think about death. Keeting explained that preplanning is really a form of estate planning that removes some of the emotion from the process.

"Death is real, and so is inflation," Drury said. In 2010, a dozen eggs cost \$2.64; by 2025, the price had risen to \$4.94. As the cost of living increases, funeral costs rise as well. Expenses include cemetery fees, lumber for caskets, flower arrangements, staff wages, and utilities. The average cost of a funeral has increased by 83 per cent since 2010.

Preplanning and prepaying for funeral arrangements can protect against inflation while providing security for loved ones. For those unsure about details, there is always the option to plan the basics and add choices later.

Keeting outlined three simple steps:

1. Create a personalized plan
2. Communicate your wishes to loved ones
3. Decide how to fund the arrangements—through a full payment, monthly plan, or instalments

She also explained that life insurance does not lock in funeral prices. "It's like a pot of money," she said, while preplanning locks in today's costs.

Funds placed with GFD are held in trust. Even if a funeral home closes, or if someone moves and chooses a different provider, the funds follow them. One audience member asked what happens if a plan is only half paid at the time of death.



Cindy Keeting of GFD and Matt Drury, co-owner of Legacy Funeral and Cremation Services Inc., offer expert guidance on planning meaningful funerals.

In that case, the family would be responsible for the balance. However, if the plan is fully paid and the investment has grown, any surplus goes to the beneficiary.

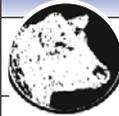
For example, if someone purchases a funeral plan for \$8,500 and the trust grows to \$11,000 by the time of death, while funeral costs have risen to \$10,000, the beneficiary receives the \$1,000 difference. The growth helps offset price increases so families are not left with an unexpected bill.

"There is a lot of flexibility in preplanning and payment," Keeting said. "Your wishes, your way." She encouraged people to customize their plans, from music selections to floral preferences, and to put their wishes on paper.

Drury suggested revisiting a preplanned funeral just as one would a will. Changes can be made over time, and there is no cost or obligation to meet with a professional. "We're here to educate and inform you," he said.

Another question from the audience asked about price differences between funeral homes. Drury explained that while most providers stay within a similar range, some services may carry additional fees. At Legacy, for example, there is no extra charge for after-hours transfers, meetings on statutory holidays, or pacemaker removal. Other homes may charge for those services, so it is important to understand the pricing structure.

Legacy staff are available to sit down with families, explain terminology, and review the pros and cons of different options. The goal is to provide clear direction, so loved ones know exactly what to expect when the time comes.



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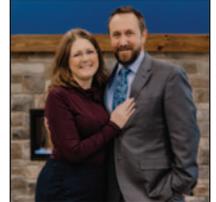


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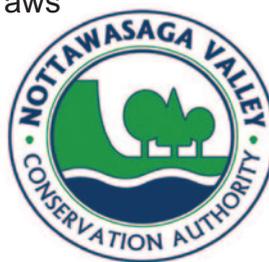
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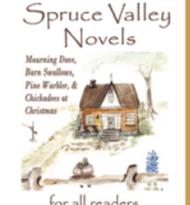
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# SouthWest Agricultural Conference

## Preventing Farm Theft

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

The farm property is usually a distance from the road and it is full of good things to steal, vehicles, farm equipment, power tools and fuel.

Theft on the farm “is a real nuisance” said Sgt. Jillian Johnston of West Region Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). She and Bradley Hull, Auxiliary Inspector, Regional Commander of West Region OPP, were both presenters in Preventing Farm Theft.

According to Hull, the first line of defense against theft is to know your neighbours. Neighbours are extra sets of eyes on your property when you cannot be there. “Communities that interact are a safer community,” he said adding that “if you are going to be away (on a vacation), let your neighbours know. They can see if there are headlights at night and if anything suspicious happens your neighbours can call us (police) to check it out.”

He explained that there are four parts to Crime Prevention to Environmental Design.

Natural Surveillance starts with having the property number easily seen. “Make sure your property number is really visible, it is very important to us (police) and other emergency services. Anyone should be able to see your property number on your property, it is important they can identify your property immediately,” Sgt. Johnston said.

Access control is a tool to help minimize theft. It starts with a gate. “Gates at the end of driveways can make a real difference in deterring people from entering properties,” Hull said, clarifying that police understand this is not always a practical solution for busy farm sites that require frequent opening and closing of gates.

“After hours, a closed gate can be really helpful. Gates are a territorial reinforcement. They show that you have just left the public roadway and entered someone’s private property.”

Further, a gate “sends a message that this property is secure and that we are doing all we can to keep things safe. Often, people will simply move

on, as it is not seen as an easy target.”

It is well known by thieves that a farm truck stopped on the side of the road by a field could have keys in it. “The keys are left in the cab (of the truck), we see it quite regularly. The keys are left on the seat, the console, the visor or the door mat, all places that keys are expected to be found. Keys in magnets around the wheels and keys in the gas cap area, are all common places and will be found,” Sgt. Johnston explained.

When a truck is stolen, a call goes to the police. The police have to come to the scene and gather any evidence. “Items left on the ground like a mask or water bottle are evidence,” she clarified. All this is added to a report that finishes when a notice is put out across social media that the vehicle has been stolen.

Those who steal vehicles are “often involved with substance use or are doing this under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The person often has a suspended licence or is prohibited from driving,” she explained.

Stolen vehicles often end up in crashes, requiring a full emergency response from fire, ambulance, and police services.

Stolen vehicles, according to Sgt. Johnston are often used in “future crimes like fuel theft. This is why often license plates are visible in theft as they are stolen vehicles. 99.9% of license plates seen at crime scenes belong to stolen vehicles,” she reported. Other uses for stolen vehicles are to steal trailers.

“This is a draw on resources and manpower all because the keys were left once in a vehicle,” she summarized.

She explained another situation is when a truck is parked, with keys inside, as the owner just steps away to talk to someone in another truck in a field in an isolated area. A thief jumps in the parked truck with keys in the ignition and speeds away. The natural response is to get in the second truck and chase after the stolen vehicle.

“Do not chase a stolen vehicle as the person

driving it could have weapons,” she warned adding that people stealing vehicles “will do anything to keep from going back to jail”. She stressed, “Call the police at the emergency line if one sees a vehicle being stolen”.

A farm, especially at harvest time, means “everybody is out in the fields,” explains Hull, adding that nobody questions another vehicle entering a farm during the busy daytime harvest season. To offset this risk, motion-sensor lights “can light up very brightly and are often unexpected.”

“Sensor lights draw unwanted attention. People who do this (steal) don’t like attention.”

Surveillance cameras are now “inexpensive and we (police) use them all the time in our investigations,” Sgt. Johnston said adding that CAMSafe is a private, secure database where farmers and residents can register their outdoor surveillance cameras. She explains this means that police do not have access to these cameras but instead the police know who has the cameras and can contact the owners to see if they have any coverage of specific incidents like a missing child, she said.

A dog that barks is another deterrent to crime. A dog that barks to alert that someone new is on the property unsettles the quiet that thieves prefer to work in.

With buildings, the first step is to actually lock the door. “Wide open buildings with doors with open windows means people can “see all the goodies in there,” Hull said. He added, “Don’t want to make it this easy, cover the windows in the doors and make sure there are quality four screw locks on the doors.” He advised adding a simple two screw lock is too easy to break open.

People are not “bothering the police” by calling them after a theft. There is a 24/7 non-emergency number of 1-888-310-1122 to call. Calling with serial numbers of missing items might get that item back to you from finding a crime scene involving stolen items. Further, alerting police to crime could end a long series of similar crimes.

## Celtic Night in Bond Head!

The Tec-We-Gwill Women’s Institute is bringing a burst of East Coast and Irish musical energy to Bond Head this spring with a live performance by The Flailing Shilaleighs, a high-energy Celtic-style band known for their lively arrangements and crowd-pleasing stage presence.

The concert takes place Sunday, March 1, 2026, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. EST at Bond Head Memorial Hall, 2892 County Road 27, Bond Head, Ontario.

The event supports the Tec-We-Gwill Women’s Institute’s ongoing community outreach initiatives.

Admission  
 · \$5.00 for Tec-We-Gwill W.I. members  
 · \$10.00 for Non-members  
 · Youth 16 and under are free (seat reservation required)

All attendees must register in advance by contacting Sally at 416-402-7530 or [Sallysainsbury@rogers.com](mailto:Sallysainsbury@rogers.com)

## Profitable Pastures Webinar

Ontario Forage Council (OFC) is pleased to announce the 2026 Profitable Pastures Webinar Series. This popular webinar series focuses on best management practices for pasture and grazing managers.

There will be three webinars airing daily from 7:30pm to 8:30pm EST over March 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Registration is required but there is no cost to attend. CEU’s will be available for Certified Crop Advisors.

March 3rd - Growing grass, supporting livestock: Nitrogen in pasture systems - Caroline Reisinger

March 4th - Impact of grazing management on pathogen presence in livestock and the environment - Dr. Heather Murphy

March 5th - Watering Systems for Pasture – Panel Discussion - Amadou Thiam, Steve Sickle, Tom Cunningham

All presentations will be made available on the OFC YouTube channel approximately one week post-event, but attending live allows registrants to ask questions.

For more information about the webinar series and to register: <https://onforagenetwork.ca/ontario-forage-council/profitable-pastures/>



**Join us April 7th for our  
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## Grey Ag Services Winter Courses

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Grey Ag Services is located at 206 Toronto St. S., Unit 3 Markdale, Ontario

### Building for the Future: Considerations for New Dairy Barns

Presented by: Cynthia Miltenburg, Angie Wilson, Christoph Wand, & Tom Wright, OMAFA

Date & Time: Monday, March 9th, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.

Course fee: \$20.00.

### Separating the Grain from the Chaff in Soil Health and Regenerative Agriculture

Presented by: Andrew McGuire, Washington State University

Date & Time: Tuesday March 10th, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

Location: Webinar

Course fee: \$12 OR FREE for OSCIA members.

### Learn & Practice 5 Basic Hand Stitches for Mending or Sewing Clothes

Presented by: Valerie Cheaney, Simply Farmshed

Date & Time: Wednesday, March 11th, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.

Course fee: \$20.00.

### Raising Rabbits

Presented by: Michelle Sanders, Ontario Rabbit Rancher

Date & Time: Saturday, March 14th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Location: Hybrid - attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

Course fee: \$20.00.

### Modernizing your Dairy Barn: Financial Aspects and Farm Tour

Presented by: Cynthia Miltenburg, Angie Wilson, Christoph Wand & Tom Wright of OMAFA, & Cam Mock, Farm Credit Canada. Farm tour included in afternoon.

Date & Time: Monday, March 23rd, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm.

Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.

Course fee: \$40 - lunch included.

### Economics of Feeding Beef Calves

Presented by: Steve Duff, John Molenhuis & James Byrne, OMAFA

Date & Time: Tuesday, March 24th, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.

Course fee: \$40 - lunch included.

### In The Know

Presented by: Jackie Ralph, CMHA Grey Bruce

Date & Time: Thursday March 26th, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm.

Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services

Course fee: Free

### Small Space, Big Impact

Presented by: Ann Joyner & Tory Bowman, Grey County Master Gardeners

Date & Time: Tuesday, March 31st, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

Location: In-person at Grey Ag Services.

Course fee: \$20.00

### Introduction to Starting a Cut-Flower Business

Presented by: Amy Kitchen, Sideroad Farm & Gillian Griffin, Flora Grey

Date & Time: Thursday April 9th, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

Location: Hybrid - attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

Course fee: \$20.00

### Horse Health Night

Presented by: Dr. Tee Fox & Dr. Mandy Mulder, Markdale Veterinary Services.

Date & Time: TBD

Location: Hybrid - attend in-person at Grey Ag Services or online through Zoom.

Course fee: \$20.00

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## 2026 IS GOING TO BE A ROUGH YEAR FOR MORTGAGES BUT ONTARIO-WIDE FINANCIAL CAN HELP LIGHTEN THE LOAD

Tracy Green, Broker at Ontario-Wide Financial says, “close to 60% of Canadians mortgages are going to be coming up for renewal in 2025-2026. This will make it one of the most significant mortgage renewal periods in decades. And this is stressing out a lot of homeowners!”

That works out to approximately 1.15 million Canadian mortgages across the country, with many borrowers facing significantly higher payments after locking in low rates during the pandemic. While specific numbers vary by source, projections from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) point to this large volume of renewals in 2026, impacting a massive number of households.

“Well, we have the first year “2025” under our belt and we’ve worked really hard to help our clients have as much of a soft landing as possible. We’ve been busy consolidating debt and negotiating the best rates possible for renewals, refinances and reverse mortgages,” says Tracy Green 35-year veteran in the mortgage industry, and Owner of Ontario-Wide Financial. “One advantage in 2026 is that rates have gone down from last year although there is no guarantee for how long. AND YES, WE NEGOTIATE RATES FOR OUR CLIENTS!”

I’m not going to sugarcoat it; things are very unpredictable, with tariffs and droughts affecting livestock, making food prices soar, and the uneasiness of the economy resulting in falling property values. So, for clients with upcoming mortgage renewals carrying significant debt, whether it be loans, credit cards, property or income taxes, CERB repayment etc., it’s important to reevaluate the whole picture now to see if there is a better and more affordable way to restructure.

Homeowners thinking about doing upgrades to their homes or securing a credit line for future expenses or just to have as a cushion, now is the time!

Don’t think you’ll qualify or have already been turned down? Here at Ontario-Wide I hear this constantly and while I can’t help in every situation many of my clients have been surprised and happy with the outcome once they did call. I work personally with every single client. It is my job to do my best to help my clients achieve their goals.”

Have questions? Call! Because each client’s situation is unique let’s have a one-on-one discussion to see what options are available to you with no pressure or obligation to move forward.

At Ontario-Wide Tracy works to find solutions for all realms of clients.

“I AM AN EXPERT IN ALL MORTGAGE PRODUCTS INCLUDING BANK MORTGAGES, “B” MORTGAGES, CREDIT LINES, PRIVATE MORTGAGES AND REVERSE MORTGAGES.

I work with clients that have great credit, good, tarnished or bad credit with no judgement. Employed, self employed, retired and clients on assistance.

We have programs that accommodate many situations. Including bankruptcy, proposals, tax and mortgage arrears and pensioners with limited to no income.”

Why is it ESPECIALLY important to consolidate debt and mortgages maturing in 2026 for some homeowners?

Consolidating mortgages and loans during renewal in 2026 is important because it lets you combine high-interest debts (like credit cards) with your mortgage, often securing a lower interest rate, simplifying payments into one bill, improving monthly cash flow, and potentially paying off debt faster by lowering overall costs, and because you’re up for renewal you won’t have penalties to do so!

#### Key Benefits

2026 rates are lower than last year and over all still reasonable so a good time if you’re not planning to sell anytime soon to lock in a longer term at a reasonable rate if your looking for security and peace of mind.

Alternatively variable mortgages are reasonably less and if you’re thinking shorter term or want to take advantage of lower rates to lock in later, now is also a good time as long as you keep a close eye on the movement of current rates.

**Lower Interest Rates:** Mortgage rates are usually much lower than credit card or personal loan rates, saving you significant money over time.

**Simplified Finances:** Instead of juggling multiple bills with different due dates, you’ll have just one payment, making budgeting easier.

**Improved Cash Flow:** Lower overall interest and potentially extended terms can significantly reduce your total monthly payment, freeing up cash.

A good time to prepare for income taxes owed.

Pay off the debt owed from Covid “CERB” (Canada Emergency Response benefit) balances to avoid penalties.

**Faster Debt Payoff (Potentially):** While you can extend the term, a lower rate can help you pay down principal more effectively, reducing total interest paid.

**Review Your Whole Financial Picture:** Don’t just accept your bank’s offer; look at all debts, not just the mortgage.

**Consult a Professional:** Consider talking to Tracy to see if consolidation is right for your specific situation. Tracy at Ontario-Wide Financial will go over your finances together with you to determine what the next step is in the right approach to help reduce financial strain and interest.

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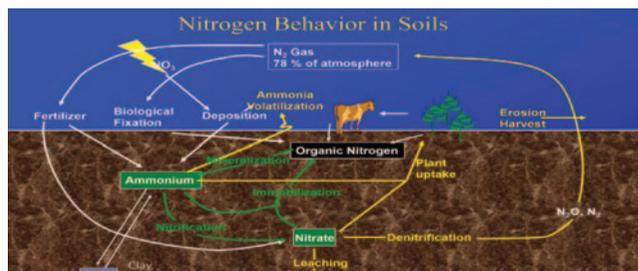
# Understanding Urease and Nitrification Inhibitors

Synopsis by Andrej Baca

The Ontario Certified Crop Advisor Association (CCA) and Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OS-CIA) have partnered to deliver training and educational resources to Ontario agronomists. With a focus on cover crops, nitrogen management, and rotational grazing, these sessions will support the objectives of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund.

Urease and nitrification inhibitors can reduce nitrogen losses in agricultural systems and improve nitrogen use efficiency. Nitrogen is essential for crop growth, yet a significant portion of applied fertilizer is often lost through ammonia volatilization, nitrification, denitrification, and leaching. These losses reduce crop uptake, increase production costs, and contribute to environmental impacts such as nitrous oxide emissions and water contamination.

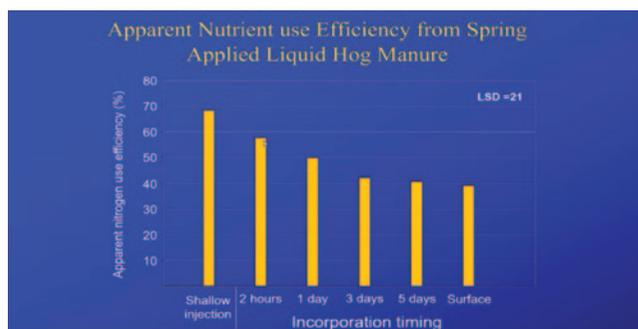
Dr. John Lauzon is an Associate Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph, specializing in soil fertility, nutrient management, and agroecosystem sustainability. Dr. Lauzon presented the following graphs to help explain urease and nitrification inhibitors.



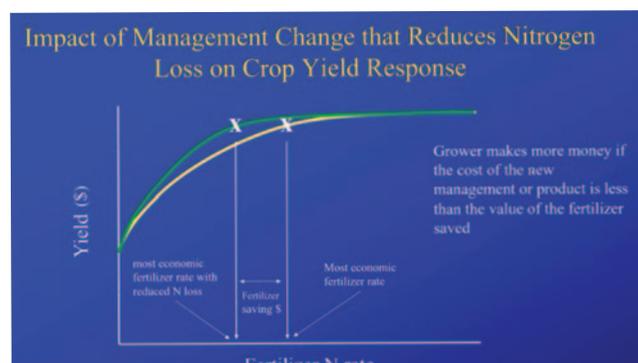
## Goals of Managing Nitrogen Losses

- Reducing nitrogen loss not only reduces the potential for environmental issues, but also increases the amount of nitrogen remaining in soil available for the crop. (Win-Win)
- There are many possible solutions to reduce nitrogen loss.
- Best solution may be different from one field to another.
- Understanding losses will allow individuals to develop best solutions for a given field/grower.

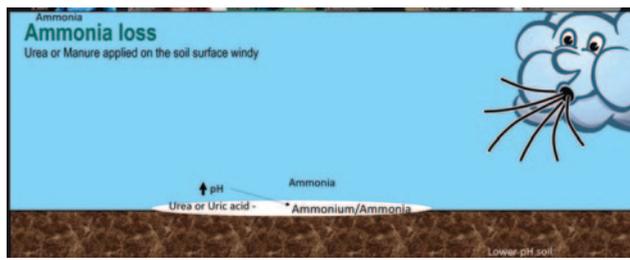
The chart shows the time and the percent of nitrogen efficiency available to the crop using hog manure as a nitrogen source.



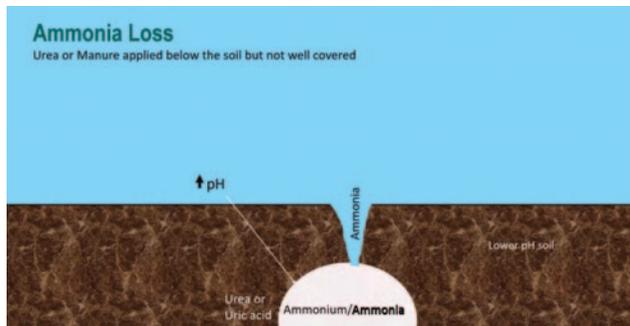
Making a change, like using nitrogen inhibitor, the grower needs to weigh the new cost to the value of fertilizer saved. If you can do more, with less product because of your change in nitrogen management, you and the environment win. Adding more fertilizer can quickly bring you to declining returns, once you have reached the ideal point on the chart. A dollar more fertilizer will not return a dollar in product.



Wind, rain, saturation of water in soil and temperature are all considerations in nitrogen management. Surface placement has the most rapid loss, while below surface, there are losses but at a slower rate.



It is important that the imbedded nitrogen injection site is covered. Opening allows ammonia to escape.

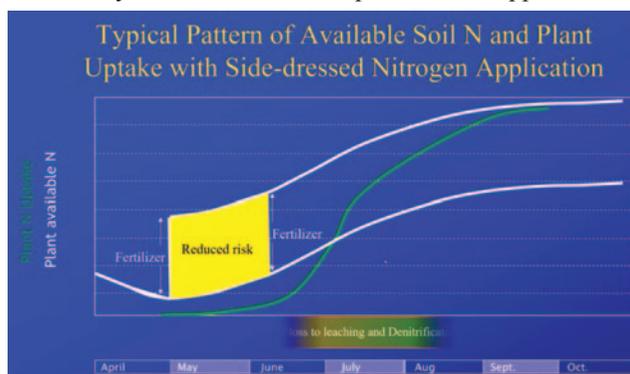


How climate and time influence ammonium-N loss. (N is nitrogen)

Time to incorporation	Estimated loss (% of ammonium-N)			
	Cool wet	Cool Dry	Warm Wet	Warm Dry
1 Day	10	15	25	50
3 Days	15	22	38	65
5 Days	20	30	50	80
Not incorporated	40	50	75	100
Early fall not incorporated	40	50	75	100
Late fall not incorporated	25	25	n/a	n/a

Manure Type	Ammonium Nitrogen (%)
Liquid Poultry	77
Liquid Hog	68
Liquid Beef/Dairy	44
Solid Hog	30
Solid Poultry	21
Solid Dairy	20
Solid Beef	18

Monthly indicator based on April fertilizer application.



Further information is available.  
 Government of Canada  
 T-4-127 – Regulation of nitrification and urease inhibitors under the Fertilizers Act and Regulations  
 T-4-127 – Regulation of nitrification and urease inhibitors under the Fertilizers Act and Regulations - inspection.canada.ca

CCA contact: Erin Burton  
 erin.tfio@bellnet.ca  
 OSCIA Contact: Abbie Wiesner  
 awiesner@ontariosoilcrop.org

## Fun farm science:

Why goats aren't commercially viable for making spider silk.

By Don Beaulieu

Imagine goats producing milk that can be spun into silk stronger than steel or Kevlar. This is the premise behind the “spider goat” experiments, a pioneering but experimental effort to harness the remarkable strength of spider silk.

Researchers, originally led by Canada's Nexia Biotechnologies and now by Dr. Randy Lewis at Utah State University, have genetically modified goats so that their milk contains dragline silk proteins from golden orb spiders. These proteins, known for their extraordinary tensile strength and elasticity, could be used to make everything from bulletproof vests to artificial tendons.

Spider silk is incredibly tough, but harvesting it from spiders is impractical: spiders are tiny, territorial, and produce small amounts of silk. One project required one million spiders and four years to create a single small piece of textile. Goats offered a scalable solution, producing up to eight liters of milk daily that could be purified into silk proteins.

Once extracted, the proteins can be processed into fibers, films, adhesives, or even foams. Beyond industrial applications, the silk shows promise in medical uses, such as stabilizing vaccines without refrigeration, coating intravenous catheters to reduce infection, and creating sutures for delicate surgeries.

Despite their charm, Dr. Lewis often introduces the public to goats with names like Freckles and Pudding, spider goats remain research animals. They are

not commercially raised, and the process remains costly and low-yield. Alternative production methods are overtaking goats, including transgenic plants, bacteria, and most notably, silkworms.

Transgenic silkworms, genetically modified to produce spider silk proteins, are emerging as a more practical path. Companies like Kraig Biocraft Laboratories are developing fibres such as “Dragon Silk,” which are tough, flexible, and suitable for textiles, industrial composites, and medical applications. Using modern techniques like CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats is a revolutionary gene-editing technology), researchers can enhance the silk's properties and even incorporate bio-imaging capabilities.

Unlike goats, silkworms are easy to farm in large numbers, enabling higher production volumes and a clearer route toward commercial use. Silkworms don't need to be milked daily, either.

While spider-goat silk remains more of a scientific curiosity, transgenic silkworm silk is beginning to transition from lab experiments into real-world applications. From surgical sutures to high-performance fabrics and lightweight protective gear, spider silk-based biomaterials could redefine both industry and medicine.

The dream of a fibre stronger than steel, yet light and flexible, is no longer science fiction; it's quietly spinning its way toward practical reality. Could we have silkworm farms in Ontario's future?



Scientists have successfully modified silkworms to create an innovative form of spider silk. Remarkably, this new material is six times stronger than Kevlar. That's the substance of bulletproof vests. This research could revolutionize multiple industries, from textiles and aerospace to biomedical engineering.

# Loaves and Fishes Growing Project Summary 2025

**Working together to end Global Hunger for 28 years**

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger by: supporting international programs to meet immediate food needs, reducing malnutrition, and achieving sustainable food security; influencing improvements in national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger; and increasing and deepening the engagement of Canadians in efforts to end global hunger.

The Loaves and Fishes Growing Project have just completed its 28th year raising funds for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGFB) to end world hunger. The CFGFB collaborates with over thirty denominations providing emergency food assistance and long-term responses to countries all over the world. Projects ranged from promoting conservation agriculture and creating self-help groups to providing unconditional food assistance.

In South Simcoe County, crops were raised in different fields growing a total of 85 acres of winter wheat, soybeans, oats and corn for the growing project. Farmers and agri-businesses donated their labour, equipment, crop inputs, and time to grow and harvest the crops. Churches and individuals donated cash. Our supporting churches come from South Simcoe and beyond, churches from cities like Toronto, Richmond Hill,

Newmarket, Bradford, Tottenham, Alliston and Cookstown, Innisfil, Barrie and others. This past year, the project had extreme drought, lower crop yields and generally lower commodity prices. Despite this \$101,000 was donated to the CFGFB! After growing crops with the donations through the growing project, the Canadian government matches by 4:1. Just like the 5 loaves and 2 fishes fed crowds, our efforts are multiplied as well to feed our neighbours in need all around the world. After 28 years, Loaves and Fishes have amounted to a total of \$3,504,947 in donations to the CFGFB (without any matching funds).

The work continues to end global hunger. The challenges are great, but we do not do this alone. God has blessed this work, and it is making a difference.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Plans are underway for our 29th year in 2026. Our project is always looking for more individuals to contribute to this worthy cause, in any way possible. Thinking Globally and acting locally.

Kevin Eisses  
Project Co-Ordinator  
<https://www.facebook.com/LoavesandFishesSimcoe>  
CFGFB website: [www.foodgrainsbank.ca](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca)  
705-623-0432

# Spring Safety Starts Now

By Dennis Gannon

Spring will soon be here and in our area, it is a season of renewal. It also brings more risks from flooding, power outages, and wildland fires. Our continuing changing weather patterns, heavier rainfall, and fluctuating temperatures mean that emergency preparedness is no longer optional—it is essential. We need to take time now to prepare our household to reduce risk, protect property, and most importantly, save lives.

Flooding is one of the most common natural hazards in Ontario, particularly during spring snowmelt and heavy rain events. Rivers and streams can rise quickly, and urban areas may experience basement flooding due to overwhelmed drainage systems. Homeowners should ensure eavestroughs and storm drains are clear, extend downspouts away from foundations, and consider installing a sump pump with a battery backup. Keeping valuables and important documents above ground level and knowing whether your property is located in a flood-prone area is essential. Everyone should also stay informed through local news media along with social media and heed evacuation notices when issued—waiting too long can be dangerous.

Power outages are another frequent challenge during spring storms as we saw last March. These are often caused by high winds, ice accumulation, or saturated ground that weakens tree roots. An extended outage can disrupt heating, refrigeration, medical devices, and communication. Every household should have an emergency kit capable of sustaining occupants and their pets for at least 72 hours. This kit should include flashlights, extra batteries, charging packs for cell-phones along with a battery-powered or crank radio, bottled water, non-perishable food, medications, and a first-aid kit. If you

rely on electricity for medical needs, have a backup plan and register with your utility provider where applicable. Never use barbecues or generators indoors, as carbon monoxide poisoning is a serious risk during outages.

Wildland fires may seem like a summer concern, but during the spring season they can be a particularly dangerous period. Dry vegetation left over from winter, combined with warm temperatures and wind, creates ideal conditions for fast-spreading fires, particularly in rural and forested communities. Always follow municipal fire restrictions, avoid outdoor burning during high-risk periods, and properly extinguish cigarettes and campfires. If you burn, get a permit from your local fire department and follow the rules. Creating a defensible space around homes by clearing dead brush, keeping grass short, and storing firewood away from structures can significantly reduce fire risk.

Preparedness also means having a family emergency plan. Discuss evacuation routes, meeting places, and how to communicate if family members are separated. Ensure children understand what to do, and don't forget to include pets in your planning. Staying informed through trusted sources such as Emergency Management Ontario, your local municipality, and weather alerts which can provide critical lead time before emergencies escalate.

Emergencies often happen with little warning, but their impacts can be minimized through preparation. By taking proactive steps this spring—before floodwaters rise, power goes out, or fires ignite, we can all face the season with greater confidence and resilience. Preparedness for today is peace of mind tomorrow.

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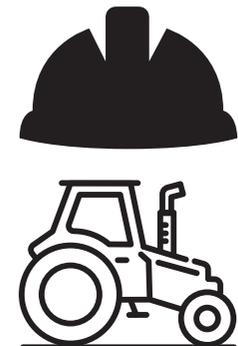
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# QUILTING



## Cozy Up: Quilting Ideas for Blustery Days

By Janis Hamilton

I write this column well before the first of March so did it come in like a lamb and will it go out like a lion? I hope the sheep haven't been sheared they'll freeze with the wind chill.

Time to wrap yourself in a cozy new quilt.

If you have a pattern or a stash of fabric you are halfway there. Now you need a day to escape in your sewing area and have some fun! Most quilt shops are now offering classes from beginners to very intermediate so check with your local or favourite shop. Some classes are even online and with the weather howling outside these are safe options. No, you won't finish a quilt online but you will be given all instructions, tips and tricks and the instructor will be more than qualified to walk you through the process of completing the quilt or project you want to try.

This is a site I've used before and believe I've mentioned it in a former column. If you are online, you just right click on the link and the information appears. <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com> There are 98 different pat-

terns to choose from so if you can't find one there maybe visit your local library as they will have lots of books to choose from as well. Churn dash, cathedral windows, snail trail, rag quilts, denim quilts, and even Sunbonnet Sue and Overalls Sam, a friendship quilt, pin-wheels, and eight hands around the quilt just to name a few. Here is another good site with coloured instructions. <https://www.quiltedtwins.com/free-patterns.htm> I hope I've given you some ideas to look at so you can get started.

Another great site will give you free patterns as well but not just quilts, mug rugs, casserole carriers, table runners, seasonal ideas and just so much more. It is a safe site as well and I'm sure you will find something to help spend the winter months inside rather than shovelling. <https://www.nationalquilterscircle.com/free-quilting-patterns/>

Now if making an actual quilt isn't your thing right now maybe consider reorganizing your sewing room. A container for bindings, sort fabric into colour groups, or sort into themed fabrics, flannels go in a separate box so

when you want to make a small baby quilt everything is there for your creative juices to fly. I have my threads sorted-yes, I know I have way too many but always handy when you find one piece of fabric that needs a variegated purple. I sort them into boxes with one with just white, black, greys. Another for variegated all colours, plain colours go in one very tightly packed container with the lightest pink to the darkest... well you get the idea. I keep invisible threads and the bobbin together. One tip I'll mention is with variegated threads the threads in the bobbin do not look like the spool of thread so I use a simple and inexpensive bobbin pin. They are at all the local quilt shops. Some stores even sell them individually.

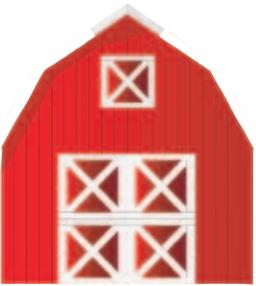
If you don't know if you have a guild in your area check this site out. It lists by cities in Ontario. <https://quiltguilds.com/ontario-quilt-guilds/> Have fun and hopefully next month you will have finished a project you are proud to share with your family and friends.

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# Grain bin rescue equipment comes to Simcoe County

Report and photographs by Don Beaulieu

Grain farmers in Simcoe County have a new life-saving device available to first responders. In the spring of 2025, *Farm View* reported on first responders receiving training on grain-bin entrapment and conducting a safe rescue, courtesy of the Be Grain Safe initiative and direct experience using the GSI brand (Grain Systems International) of RES-Q Tube.

At that time, we were delighted that Be Grain Safe planned to donate a device to the Simcoe County Federation

of Agriculture.

Late this past January, delivery was made to Tay Fire Station 2 of a Quick-Contain Dam. Local first responders, representatives of Pioneer seeds and Dave Ritchie, president of the SCFA were on hand for the unboxing.

The unit itself is a purpose-built-and-designed cofferdam which is easy for rescuers to assemble; it's practically fool proof in design and simple labelling. Included with four

curved sides which join together, an auger is included which can be powered by the responding crew's powered drill. In an actual situation, that auger we see would be inside the dam. Mats are also supplied so the responders can stand on top of the grain without becoming entrapped themselves.

At the time of delivery, the plan was to house the unit in Barrie, as that is where specialized rescue efforts are deployed.



This image is from a training event in April 2025. This shows a partially installed cofferdam being put around this volunteer victim.



Here we see the new piece of rescue equipment, the Quick-Contain Dam, flanked from left to right by: President of SCFA Dave Ritchie, local Pioneer representative Matt Ververs, sales agronomist with Pioneer Rebecca-Jo Cellini, Tay Deputy Fire Chief Mike Moore, Tay Township Fire Chief Shawn Aymer, Barrie Fire Chief Barry White, Severn Township Fire Chief Rick Sowell, Chief Training Officer for Tay Township Fire Department Cameron Wright.

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# John Perry and Perry's Corners

Have you ever heard of Perry's Corners in Innisfil? You'll be excused if you haven't. The community hasn't gone by that name in two centuries. Today, the one-time crossroads hamlet of Perry's Corners has evolved into Cookstown.

And the man for whom Perry's Corners was named? He too has faded into history.

John Perry was born in Ireland in 1782. As a younger son of a farmer, he would not inherit land. His future, if he was to have one, lay somewhere other than Ireland.

On March 14, 1804, he married Elizabeth Whitford. For more than a decade John was able to make ends meet in Ireland, but as the family grew with the addition of a new baby almost like clock-

work each year (the couple would eventually have fifteen children) it became increasingly difficult.

In 1820, John and Elizabeth packed up their children and belongings and made for Canada.

The couple settled in Innisfil on a lot on the south-east corner of the modern-day Highway 27 and Highway 89 intersection. John farmed and apparently did so successfully, but more importantly for his legacy in 1825 he opened a roadside tavern. At that time, the north-south road was a busy stagecoach route linking York (Toronto) with Barrie, so the tavern - which was likely just his original log homestead cabin, modestly

furnished and with few comforts - was busy with road weary travelers.

Perry's tavern became a local landmark and thus the intersection became known as Perry's Corners. Soon, as more settlers arrived, a distinct hamlet took shape with the tavern as its nucleus. A blacksmith shod horses and tended to bent wheel rims, and farms stretched out along the length of both roads.

Perry's Corners was off to a good start. But it wouldn't remain Perry's Corners for long.

Around 1837, John moved his family to Barrie. After the family left it didn't take long for people to begin referring to Perry's Corners as Dixon's Corners after another tavern-keeper who set up shop in the roadside village. But one hopes that Dixon didn't crow too much because in the blink of an eye Dixon's Corners became Cooke's Town, after early settler Thomas Cooke, and then eventually Cookstown.

John and Elizabeth Perry both died in 1846. They haven't completely been forgotten even if they no longer have a village named in their honor. Barrie's Perry Street is named after them.

## Village Stories

by Andrew Hind



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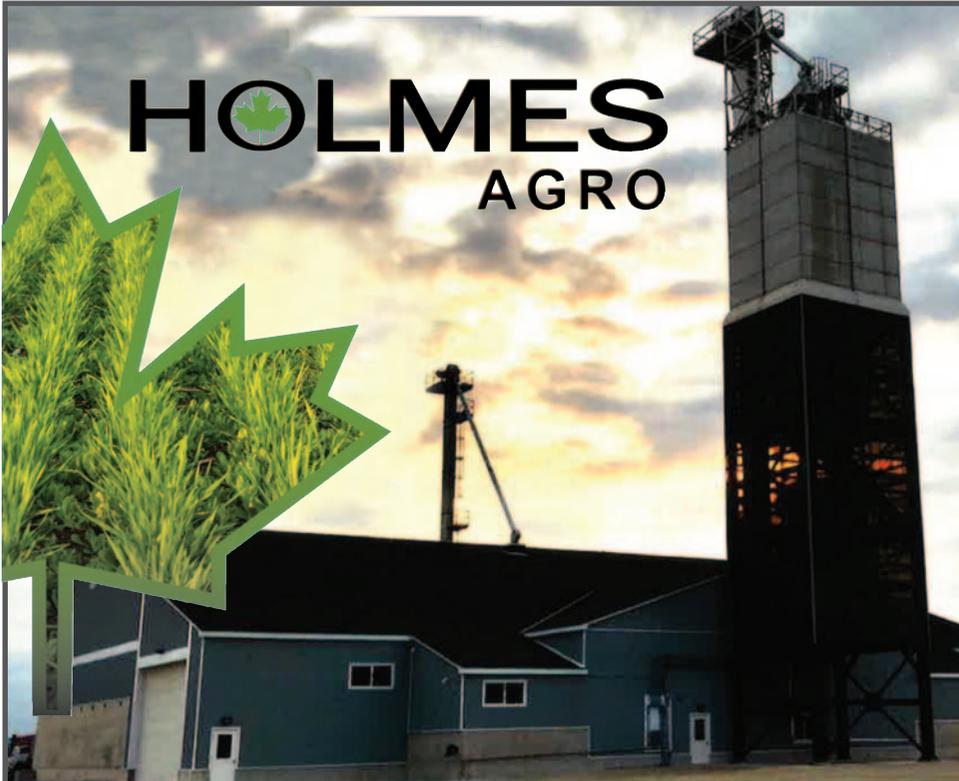
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8761.7 hours ua , 2006 , cab with heat and air , 17.5r25 tires , auxilliary hydraulics , bucket with cat it24 quick attach, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. **\$63,900**



**Kubota L4310**  
Hours showing: 1847.60, 4wd, open station w/foldable rops, 540 rpm, one remote, glide shift, 8-16 fronts, 14.9-24 rears, grill guard, kubota la682 loader with bucket, Unit is in Erin. **\$14,900**



**Kubota B2620HSD**  
hours showing : 184.4 , 4wd , diesel , foldable rops ,kubota la364 loader and bucket , hydrostatic , 540rpm ,23x8.50-12 front tires , 33x12.50-15 rear tires, Unit is located in Erin. **\$19,600**



**Case Maxxum 125**  
hours showing:458.5, 4WD, cab/heat/air, 14.9r28 fronts, front fenders, 18.4r38 rears, 2 remotes, 16x16 auto shift, fender mounted switches, 540 rpm, metal plessis snow blade **\$126,900**



**Kubota RTV-X900**  
hours showing : 1377.0 , 4wd , diesel , rops with canopy , 1/2 front windscreen , front bumper , spray in bed liner, Unit is located at Stewarts Equipment in Erin. **\$12,900**

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**Stayner 705-428-3132**



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St. Patrick's  
Day



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