

FARM VIEW

January 2021
Volume 44 #01

A newspaper with something for everyone



*June Money receives the Order of the Diocese of Toronto.
Read the full story on page 14.*

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.

January 1: New Year's Day

In pre-Christian Rome under the Julian calendar, the day was dedicated to Janus, god of gateways and beginnings, for whom January is also named.

January 5-12: Farmers' Week 2021

Grey Bruce Farmers' Week (#GBFW21), in its 55th year, will run from **Tuesday, January 5th to Tuesday, January 12th**, starting with Trade Show Day, and ending with Crops Day. Full details on page 17.

January 6 & 7: Ontario Agricultural Conference

The Southwest Agricultural Conference, Guelph and Eastern Ontario Crop Conferences have assembled an incredible line up of speakers, presenting over 30 agricultural topics to provide attendees with the knowledge and experience they have come to expect and enjoy from all three conferences. A virtual exhibit hall will allow attendees to engage with conference sponsors.

January 15: News and Advertising Deadline

Advertising and news deadline for the February issue of Farm View is **Friday, January 15th**.

January 21: Simcoe County Beef Farmers Association Annual Meeting

All are welcome to join this virtual meeting. **Thursday January 21st at 7:30 p.m.**, full details in advertisement on page 8.

January 26: Elmvale Fall Fair AGM

Flos Agricultural Society (aka Elmvale Fall Fair) will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Tuesday January 26th, 2021 from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.**, via Zoom. Full contact details on page 7.

February 10: Grain Marketing Seminar

Hosted by the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture this virtual event takes place on **Wednesday February 10th at 10 a.m.** Pre-registration required by February 5th. Details in the advertisement on page 9.

I saw frosty the snowman today at the grocery store, he was leaning over the carrots picking his nose.



Devotional Corner

We can ask ourselves "If not now, when?"

By Kathleen Greidanus
Retired Priest



Happy New Year to you all! May 2021 bring a different style of living to us all than did 2020.

A new year opens all kinds of possibilities for change and renewal. Each year I make a point of reading through a different translation of the Bible and reassessing some of my practices – spiritual and otherwise. Some years I add something new while other years I discard something else that just isn't working for me.

A few days ago I watched the first season of "The Chosen" on UTube. I highly recommend it. It is a new telling of the life of Jesus that I ABSOLUTELY LOVED. The writer had gone into new territory in showing a more three dimensional personality of each of the apostles. It is true that the writing in places reached into somewhat imaginative territory but there was a nugget that hit me right between the eyes and I think it will be my mantra for the new year. It occurred during the wedding at Cana. In the conversation about the depletion of the wine Jesus told his mother that his time had not yet come for public ministry. Mary replies with a short but poignant question – "If not now, when?"

I find that due to some of the restrictions that have been imposed on us in the past year I have become a bit laid back (read lazy) about some things. In other things I feel I have lost my edge. But I realize I am not alone. How about you? Have you been putting something off? The range of our "not nows" is endless. It could be updating your will, or seeking forgiveness from someone you inadvertently hurt or offended. How about spending fifteen minutes in prayer each day or calling someone who is in lockdown somewhere.

I would suggest that one of the things that people in general put off to another time is seeking answers to questions they may have in their faith or really taking a stand in giving an answer to that question that Jesus asks of each of us – "Who do you say I am?" If you really do believe that Jesus is who he says he is what does that mean for your day to day life?

I invite you to ponder that statement – "if not now, when?" If you were to implement that how would it change your life?

Shalom,
Kathleen

If you have a question for Kathleen or would like to comment on something you read, send it to farmview@on.aibn.com, or directly to her at kathleengreidanus@yahoo.ca.

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Selling Food to Ontario

Part two: Selling local at Sobeys and Today's Trends for Food

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Described as a “champion for local food” in Ontario, Sheri Evans, Local Development Officer for Sobeys Ontario led a discussion on the interest the grocery chain has in local suppliers. This discussion was part of the York Region Economic Strategy Division presented webinar titled “Selling Food in Ontario.”

According to Ms. Evans, Sobeys is highly committed to sourcing local suppliers that include producers and growers of local food. In 1907 in Nova Scotia, J.W. Sobeys started to deliver meat from his horse-drawn cart. He bought livestock from local farmers and then sold meat from those purchases. In 1924, his son, Frank Sobeys talked his father into expanding the meat line to include local vegetables and other groceries. In 1939, there were six Sobeys stores. Now, in 2021, there are 233 Sobeys Inc. stores in Ontario which include 138 Foodland stores. Sobeys Inc. is now one of the largest food retailers in Canada and has over 1,500 stores across Canada.

Today there are about 3,500 local items on Sobeys store shelves in Ontario and Ms. Evans says she is always looking for more. But not every local product can be accepted. She gave suggestions on how to better the chance of getting an idea accepted by Sobeys. “The most important is always health and safety, make sure your product meets all the regulations,” she said adding that she will give guidance only and its up to the supplier to meet all the standards. The next suggestion was to offer “unique products” to be considered and be ready to explain why your product is different then the competitor's product. She said that packaging is important starting with using the correct labelling and then a big concern is whether it will fit on a Sobeys grocery store shelf. “If it can't fit on a Sobeys shelf then it likely

won't work for us because where would we put it?” She said adding that taking a product into a Sobeys store and physically putting it on a shelf is the way to be sure this issue is addressed adding that placement on the shelf is another consideration to factor in.

In a recent survey, Ms. Evans explained that “it was found that 83% of Ontario residents want to know exactly where the food comes from.” She added that local suppliers need to come to Sobeys with their story as to how the item was grown or manufactured, because customers want to know.

“You need a plan and a back-up plan since we have COVID now,” she said. She explained that suppliers need to be accountable for delivering product to stores on time, regardless of any issues, to meet customer's high expectations of trust for Sobeys products.

Sobeys is committed to local, she explained. Local is important to the business customers and “partnering with Canadian suppliers is part of our DNA,” she said adding that “being the destination for local products and programs gives us an edge.”

Local must fit the definition set forward by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that states, “produced in the province or territory in which it is sold, or food sold across provincial borders within 50 km of the originating province or territory.”

Building partnerships between Sobeys and local suppliers is a win/win/win/win. “Local is a win for the supplier and the customer and Sobeys and the local economy,” she said.

Brett Willis, President of Green Enterprises Movement discussed mega-trends in the food industry. Today's food customer is far different then the past being extra conscious of wellness and the environment to the point that 75% of

consumers believe that a business should no longer be only concerned with making money.

Being good to the environment is a hot trend today. He mentioned a coffee company that now sells biodegradable cups for the coffee machine. In the past the cups had petroleum based plastic but that has since been changed out instead to a part of the coffee bean meaning it can be finished as compost and is then good for the land. Single use plastic like bags and straws are soon going to be gone by federal law. This opens up packaging innovations like having eggs sold in biodegradable cartons for example. He reported that a major coffee chain is soon going to launch a pilot project on using returnable food containers.

COVID-19 wasn't a full shock to the GEM President, he was talking about the influence that pandemics will have on trends in February when people said “that never can happen.” He said the pandemic has accelerated urban and vertical farming which is using small spaces to grow food. He said that “meal kits” are gaining rapid popularity and the industry is set to be worth 8 billion by 2025. Consumers are “migrating to local businesses” for food shopping.

Wellness is a huge trend in food. There is a “connection to health and what people put in their mouths today,” he said. In today's university population, there is a trend for low alcohol by volume drinks. Across all ages, the search for “natural sweeteners” that can replace sugars is becoming stronger all the time.

Today, consumers want more then “good products”, they want the company that made that product to be doing “good” in some way to the world we live in. According to Mr. Willis, “purpose driven companies are 3x more likely then its competition.”



On the Cover

June Money of Utopia was awarded the Order of the Diocese of Toronto by Bishop of Toronto Andrew Asbil. Read the full story on page 14.

DEADLINE for the February Farm View is January 15th

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FROM THE EDITOR

In the past month there seems to have been quite a few new developments in the agricultural community. The Hon. Doug Downey has written an interesting article highlighting the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, John Morrison brings our attention to two TV programs that were intended to slight the farming community but in fact did the opposite and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture discusses the importance of protecting our land and water resources. Another topic to comment on is one brought to my attention by a reader who lives in Ramara Township. This gentleman owns and works a farm in that area and brought the issue of the roadways to my attention. I took a drive through Brechin and discovered this sign (to the right) announcing "County Roads Rehabilitation \$4.3 Million." As I continued to drive through the countryside, there were farms and farmland as far as the eye could see. It didn't matter which Concession road I turned down, it was beautiful farmland stretched out before me. The other sign I noticed repeatedly as I drove was the 'No heavy trucks' sign. I thought, now that is interesting. The County has spent a lot of money on these roads, but how is a working farmer to get their equipment from one field to the next if signs are posted saying no heavy trucks? Not too mention how heavy the equipment must be on the back of a tow truck being taken for repairs. Once I was back in the office I looked up the definition of the 'No heavy trucks' sign. The law does say that farm equipment is exempt but if the equipment causes damage to the road, the farmer will be held liable. I think the reader's point of view is that more attention needs to be paid to the use of these roads and others just like them in other farming communities. Agricultural areas need agricultural roads.



After my drive through Ramara Township I headed to Cathy Hamill-Hill's home. While there I had the wonderful opportunity to meet a few of the farm animals who are featured in Cathy's 'After the Chores' column. I fell in love instantly with Pandee and Hummer. There is a photo of Pandee in Cathy's column this month, I think you will love him instantly too.

Speaking of love, I'd like to wish my better half a very Happy Birthday this month. Shawn is the wearer of many hats from son to husband to father to friend, coach of soccer and baseball, full time employment and volunteer firefighter. Shawn you give us all so much of yourself and encourage us to be our best, we are thankful to have you in our lives and hearts. Shawn is featured on page 18, if you see him out and about please say Happy Birthday!

And last but not least, Happy New Year from our family to yours! I wish all of you health and happiness for all of 2021!

LETTERS

Dear Friends,

As the holiday season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year. Regrettably, it will always be remembered for the dreadful COVID-19 virus inflicted on our world. Rather than fixating on the negative, we should all take a moment at this time of year to consider the good we saw in 2020.

Let's be grateful for the steadfast commitment of the front-line health care professionals who selflessly worked long hours, in very trying conditions, to care for our families and friends, especially the vulnerable elderly.

We should be thankful for the essential workers who showed up every day and were indispensable in ensuring our critical needs were met. And also for the many volunteers who sewed masks or delivered groceries and other needed goods to shut-ins.

Entrepreneurs, large and small, who re-tooled to manufacture Personal Protective Equipment, or produce urgently needed medical supplies and devices, deserve our appreciation. Like everyone, I'm in awe of the scientists who miraculously developed a vaccine in record time.

Remember the ordinary people, going about their everyday lives, whose acts of kindness – big and small – contributed to our well-being throughout the year. And, not least, let's celebrate our children who've been patient through months of restriction and lock-down, waiting for normal life to return.

Sadly, some of our neighbours are suffering. Jobs have vanished. Businesses have faltered. Tragically, there are families grieving the loss of loved ones. These are unfortunate stories we need to keep in our prayers as we move ahead.

Let's go into the New Year looking for ways to "pay it forward." To find ways of supporting our less fortunate fellow citizens. We've been going through a very rough stretch. But the end is in sight.

Let's be grateful that we live in one of the finest areas of the best country in the world.

Please accept my very best wishes for a wonderful holiday, and for a much healthier and more agreeable 2021.

From Jim Wilson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey



Thanks to some grassroots volunteers, local residents were treated to two nights of a tractor parade. The first night highlighted the Thornton community and the second night delighted onlookers in Ivy over to Angus. Thanks to all the volunteers!

— Photo by John Beischer

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The Farm View is delivered to these business between the 24th and 27th of each month and copies are available while supplies last. If you would like the Farm View mailed directly to your home, one year subscriptions can be purchased for \$49.95. Contact Roslyn at 705-722-0138, by mail 8 Luella Blvd Minesing, ON L9X 0W7 or email farmview@on.aibn.com.

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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.

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44th Anniversary
FARM VIEW



**In memory of
Jill Beischer**

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

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

W.J. Bryan

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Learning about egg farming

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Hubert Schillings is doing exactly what he always wanted to do- farming. His family owns the successful White Feather Farms Inc. in Raglan. Hubert is a member of Egg Farmers of Ontario.

White Feather Farms began in 1953 with the first generation of the Schillings family. Hubert finished high school then began to work at the family farm and now, decades later, he is still building the business.

An on site feedmill makes the exact food needed for the chicken at each stage of her life. Happy, healthy chickens are the most productive and Hubert believes this, strongly.

Hubert begins his day at 7:00 am and that time is spent looking at the previous day's records. There are computerized records at many levels here. The amount of food consumed, along with water intake and the number of eggs produced are all easily accessible statistics of the operation. At 7:30 am staff at the farm arrive and are advised on the day's plans.

It was a rare treat to visually see the inside of the barns at White Feather farm. These barns are not open to the public. "COVID-19 meant no changes for us here, we have always practiced strict bio-security and our work never stopped," he said as he changed his boots to a pair of boots that are used only for entry into the chicken barn.

The life of a chicken at this farm begins with arriving at 1 day old from a hatchery. The chicks go to the "Pullet barn" where they eat and grow for the first 14-20 weeks of their lives. At 20 weeks, the birds get vaccinations to keep them healthy and then are moved to the "Laying Barn" where they stay until they are one year old.

The "Laying barn" has a lot of residents. There are about 5,000 brown egg laying hens and 40,000 Leghorns which lay white eggs. Each hen will lay about 26 dozen eggs each, Hubert says.

There is no difference in the taste or nutrient content between brown and white eggs. Hubert explains that "it's culture that decides what colour eggs you eat. Some cultures like brown, some like white." He adds that brown eggs are a bit bigger than white eggs and that the brown egg laying bird eats a bit more than the Leghorns usually do. He added all hens start by laying small eggs that increase as they age.

The laying hens are not fed one big meal but instead six smaller ones through the day for maximum hen comfort that means better production. The feeding is all on a computerized system. Eggs are collected through a conveyor belt that brings the eggs to a special room. In this room, a person packs the eggs on to plastic trays and puts them in a cooler ready for grading. Egg grading is done at a separate building for about 20% of the eggs that are sold at the family's popular White Feather Country Farm Store. The other 80% of eggs are sold to a supplier that sells into Toronto.

Hubert is very excited about the construction of a brand new laying barn. This barn will be ready in June 2021. This

barn is made for "hen comfort." There will be 4 rows that will hold 16,000 birds. The birds will live in a new concept called "enriched housing." He explains that this housing means that 30 birds will live in one unit that will include a nesting area for laying eggs and also a perch for the hens for sleeping.

Ventilation is key to healthy barns and Hubert points out the computerized system in place at White Feather. The temperature and humidity are always being monitored and anything out of order sends off an alarm to two phones among the Schillings family. A standby generator is ready for power outages.

Hubert is busy, he also has a meat chicken barn at another location plus 1,500 acres of crops. He says he has no regrets in his choice of career. He considers himself lucky to do what he enjoys- and get a first hand look at the cycle of life, that starts, in his business, with a baby chick.

Hubert Schillings farm story was part of the "Home Grown Farm Tours Live! With a Local Farmer" produced by Shanice Sproule, Competitions Coordinator at the Lindsay Exhibition (LEX). She and her summer student, Maggi-Jo Hickson came up with the idea as part of the Virtual LEX for 2020. This was done as a form of agriculture education to replace the usual school tours that take place at the LEX. Others in the series included a segment on crop farming and another on dairy farming. There are plans for more in the future.



The White Feather Country Store includes baking and unique gifts along with fresh eggs for sale. All the COVID-19 regulations were followed meaning customers, wearing masks, had to wait outside because of social distancing requirements. All of the eggs sold here are produced from the chickens that live in barns nearby owned by Egg Farmer, Hubert Schillings and Family.



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Central Ontario Agricultural Conference Postponed



The coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic has led to a need for social distancing to help prevent the spread. For this reason, we made the difficult decision to postpone the Central Ontario Agricultural Conference until further notice. While we know this is disappointing, we hope you understand this is a necessary step to help keep each other safe in these unprecedented times.

We will update our supporters, sponsors and exhibitors with the new date and conference program once confirmed. At this time, we are offering assistance with the promotion of neighboring virtual Agricultural programs on our website;
www.CentralOntarioAgConference.ca.

**If you should have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with COAC
Chairperson Paul Maurice at: monpiero@bell.net**

Early's Auto Parts: great sales and service

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

A 60 day guarantee on all parts, electrical included could be why Early's Auto Parts from Alliston has seen such success since its opening in 2011.

The business began when owner, Earl Graham decided to venture out independently to open his own part recycling business in Alliston. He certainly knew the business with over 40 years of experience working in the industry.

There is an inventory of thousands of parts at Early's Auto Parts. The business collects used auto parts from the Alliston area. Each part is tested for quality- and comes with the 60 day guarantee on top. Sometimes entire vehicles are found that are considered "repairable vehicles" and are offered up for sale, as one complete unit. The "repairable vehicles" are all listed on the business website- and Earl says, "we sell about 30 of these vehicles a year." He added this is the cheapest way to obtain parts for someone with the experience to do so.

Early's Auto Parts is considered an essential service so wasn't shut down for the 2020 provincial lockdown. However, the business felt the impact with the necessary increase of sanitation and disinfecting needed for curbside pickup service. There is still a lot of this extra work being done now as the pandemic continues. "We are grateful though we stayed open and business has stayed good," Earl says.

There are two main advantages to sourcing used parts for fixing a vehicle. The first advantage is to our environment. Earl and his team at the business collect and take parts off of vehicles in the Alliston area that are no longer roadworthy. Without being used for parts, these vehicles would be tossed out for scrap or worse, allowed to rust away in a corner somewhere. The second advantage is that used parts are a lot cheaper than new ones.

Earl likes his job. He admits the hours are long in owning one's own business but the feeling of achievement at the end of a work day is wonderful. He says what he likes most about his job is, "Helping people out. People come in here with a problem and then I can find the part that will fix the problem and that helps them out. It's a great feeling of satisfaction after helping someone."

There are two classic cars owned by Earl- but the classic cars aren't what he spends most of his time on when off from the business. Earl is a part-time farmer working on his crop farm that has hay, beans and wheat. He says that it's a great balance of life, working with people and auto parts by



week and then working on his land on the weekends and evenings.

Light duty trucks are very popular today and anyone who has tried to find a low mileage, good used one will know this. "People aren't trading in used light duty trucks these days. Instead they are fixing them up and keeping them on the road. We get a lot of requests for trucks, especially Ford," he said.

The inventory for car parts extends all the way from 1980 to 2020 in nearly every make, Earl says adding the truck part inventory doesn't quite go to 2020 but it's close. Part inventory includes SUV's and minivans too. He said when calling in for a part or using the online quote service, the customer needs to know the make, model and engine size of the vehicle to start with along with the part's specific size that is needed.

Farm View's main readership are those in the farming industry and Earl appreciates that. "I'm a farmer at heart and I like supporting local farming. I have tried ads in two different newspapers but the best results have come from my advertising with Farm View."

Elmvale Fall Fair Annual General Meeting

Upcoming Virtual AGM

Flos Agricultural Society (aka Elmvale Fall Fair) will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday January 26th, 2021 from 7:30 - 8:30 pm, via Zoom.

If you were a voting member in Jan 2020, you are invited to "attend" the upcoming AGM, from the comfort of your home.

Watch your email for further instructions, OR call Linda Murray at 705-322-5067, after Jan 10th.



Elmvale Fall Fair
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OFA launches Feeding Your Future initiative to tackle agriculture labour and training needs

By Michelle deNijs

In May 2020, OFA launched a new project as a direct response to the agri-food labour challenges onset by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Feeding Your Future project connects Ontario employers and job seekers in the agri-food sector through job postings, virtual career fairs, webinars and short-term training opportunities. In early December, a series of training videos were launched through the Feeding Your Future project, highlighting Ontario producers. The Focus on Food and Focus on Livestock video series offer a behind-the-scenes look at various tasks and skills needed to be successful in the industry in addition to insight on various career opportunities for those who may be exploring jobs

in agriculture.

Looking ahead to 2021 to prepare for the spring hiring season, an exciting new Ontario Agriculture Worker Safety and Awareness Certificate was developed and will be launched in early January, in collaboration with the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus. This certification consists of a series of online training modules to help agricultural workers stay safe and be aware of how a farm operates. While this certification does not replace hands-on, in-person learning, it is an opportunity to learn basic awareness and health and safety. Employers can register their employees at a discounted rate for a limited time at the project website. Additionally, on March 11, 2021, a virtual career fair

will be held to assist with on-farm hiring to mitigate the stress of an already -busy season. For more information, visit the Feeding Your Future website at feedingyourfuture.ca.

Do you want more news from your farm community?

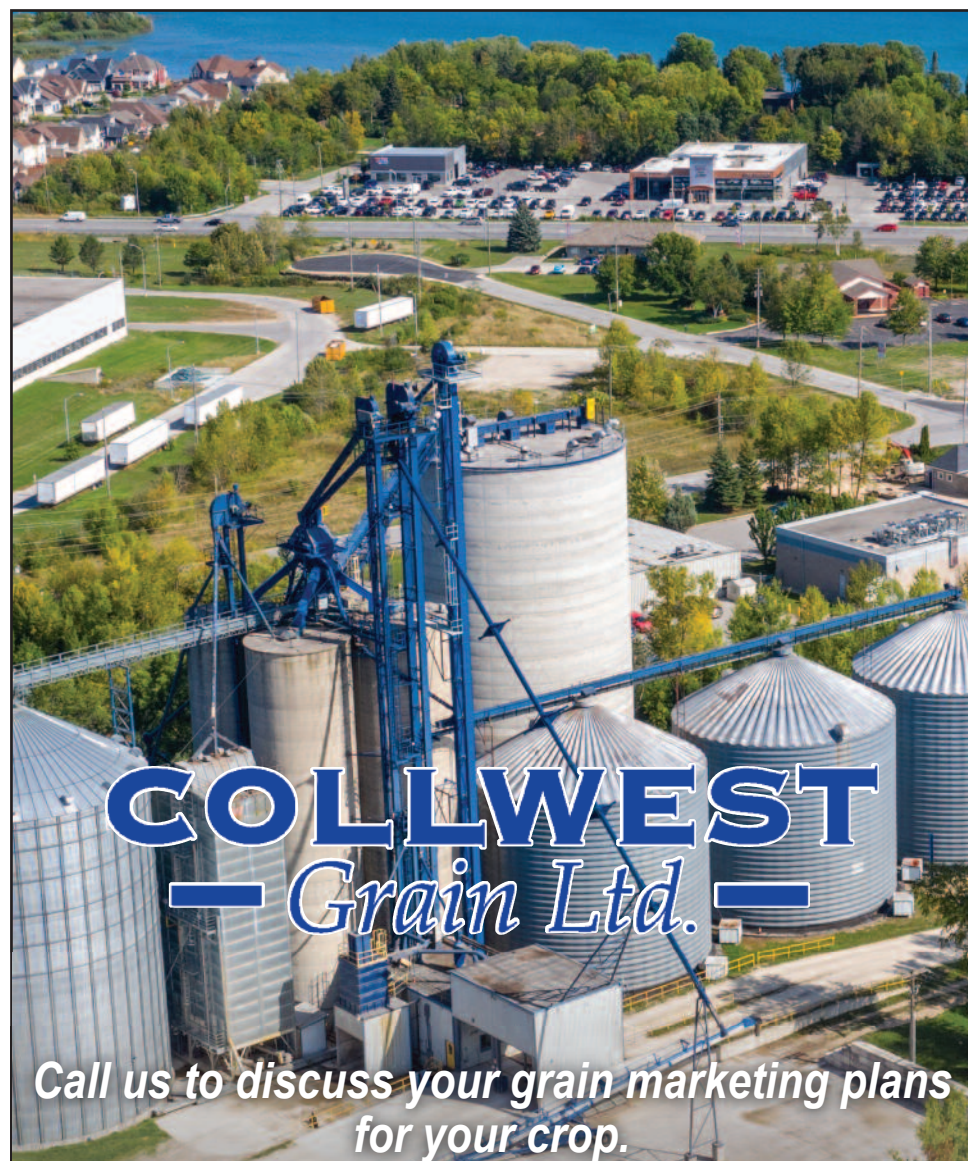
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Contact info-page 4



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Protecting Public Safety, Food Supply in Ontario

By Hon. Doug Downey

Recently, the Ontario government has proclaimed the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020, putting the safety of our food supply first. This new law recognizes the unique risks that can result when individuals trespass onto farms and agri-food processing facilities, or when they interfere with the transportation of livestock.

This Act increases the protections for Ontario's food supply, farmers, agri-food businesses and farm animals from trespassing activities while maintaining the right for people to participate in lawful protests on public property, provided that such protests do not have the potential to cause harm and are conducted in a safe manner.

The Government of Ontario has adopted this Act after hearing from farmers and their families, agri-food producers and transporters of livestock about their growing concerns for personal safety, and the safety of their animals. In recent years, farmers and agri-food producers have reported an increase in concerns regarding trespass on their farms, and the interference with operations. These actions not only put the health and safety of our agri-food workers and farm animals at risk, but also jeopardizes food safety.

The government consulted widely on a Minister's regulation from August 31 to October 15, 2020, receiving over 850 responses from the public, including Indigenous communities. This input was used in the development of the Minister's Regulation. The Act includes protections for Aboriginal and treaty rights. Ontario will take steps to educate the public and agri-food sector on the new legislation to encourage a smooth implementation, including raising awareness for Aboriginal and treaty rights.

The Act will help protect our food supply and deter trespassing by:

- Escalating fines of up to \$15,000 for a first offence and \$25,000 for subsequent offences, compared to a maximum of \$10,000 under the Trespass to Property Act;
- Prescribing aggravating factors that would allow the court to consider factors that might justify an increased fine;
- Allowing the court to order restitution for damage in prescribed circumstances which would include damage to a farmer's livestock or from theft;
- Increasing protection for farmers against civil liability from people who were hurt while trespassing or contravening the act, provided the farmer did not directly cause the harm;
- Removing consent to enter a farm property when it was given under duress or false pretenses.

The protections in the Act will help improve working conditions for farmers, farm families and agri-food sector employees and allow agri-businesses to focus on important aspects of their operations, including the production of safe, high-quality food for Ontario families.

Time for updates and re-newels

January signals the annual exercise of renewing your Farm Business Registration Number with Agricorp. During the month, your renewal notice should arrive in the mail. The deadline to submit your payment is the end of March. This year you will notice a change to the payee if you bank online. Agricorp has implemented a one payee system to simplify the payment process. All payments will be using Agricorp-FBR as the payee instead of the old process of having the three separate farm organizations listed as payees. To ensure uninterrupted access to OFA services and the Member Benefit Program, all holders of Farm Business Registration Numbers are encouraged to double check on their renewal form that the farm organization they support is still correct.

A Bill introduced in 2019 to amend the Planning Act, proposed to remove the merged property titles clause within the Land Registry system. This Bill is stalled in the legislative process. Under the current Land Registry system abutting properties titles held in the same name are merged even though the owner of both properties will receive separate property tax bills with separate roll numbers. In many cases, property owners were not aware of the merger until they were ready to sell one property. The process to unmerge is costly, time consuming and many times unsuccessful. OFA needs the support of our members to get this important piece of legislation moving and passed into law this spring. Visit the OFA website to complete a template letter to send to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, The Honourable Steve Clark. www.ofa.on.ca

I want to remind farmers that the Enhanced Agri-Food Workplace Protection Program administered by OMAFRA deadline is fast approaching. The program is open while funds are still available or until February 26, 2021. There are several categories with cost share funding opportunities. Preventative Occupational Health & Safety Measures category covers expenses that your farm business incurred since March 15, 2020. Eligible expenses could be Personal Protective Equipment and supplies needed to enhance cleaning and disinfection. This program could cover up to 70% of the cost. Another category is On-Farm Worker Safety Improvement Program. This program could cover eligible expenses of 60% for improvements made to housing or work spaces that would allow greater physical distancing. Funding is limited to \$100,000 per business, per property. Eligible expenses in this program could include retrofitting and training on COVID 19 safety protocols. Please note that you must have a valid Farm Business Registration Number to apply for these programs.

For additional information please contact OMAFRA. Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

Do you have a private railway crossing on your farm? Are you aware that Transport Canada made changes to its grade crossing standards regulations back in 2019? This information is slowly being communicated to property owners along railways. Railway staff is conducting inspections of all private and public crossings. These requirements to upgrade crossings to enhance sightlines and grade levels for safety have to be completed by November 28, 2021. The kicker in these regulatory amendments is that you, the property owner will be responsible to complete the tree trimming and any grade improvements on your property. As well, there is a component in the regulations that stop signs as well as warning signs are mandatory and could cost you \$700. A fee of \$275 is also administered to the property owner for the inspection/assessment of your private crossing. Some property owners have been advised that the crossing will be closed thus leaving some of their property land locked. OFA is aware of this situation and is working closely with The Canadian Federation of Agriculture. At this time, we are advising our members to also contact their Member of Parliament to voice your concerns.

Happy New Year to all the readers of Farm View! May you have a safe and prosperous 2021.

As we are continuing to struggle with the affects of COVID-19, please remember to be kind to one another. Its the least we can do!



By Leah Emms
OFA Member Services Rep.
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The Simcoe County Beef Farmers Association

would like to invite you to join our **VIRTUAL Annual Meeting this year.**

All are welcome to join us on Thursday January 21, 2021 at 7:30pm.

Due to Covid restrictions, we will be doing a Zoom meeting for everyone.

We will be hosting our Annual Meeting program along with industry updates from BFO.

To register or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Katherine Giffen: 705-718-1877 or katherine_giffen@hotmail.com

Lori Chalmers: 705- 720- 0829 or lorichalmers@gmail.com

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Traumatic auction incident revisited

This article is written with the backdrop that three people died from injuries they incurred during this event.

One of the most well-known and most entertaining auctioneers of past decades is George Pifher. He reminisced recently with a fan and friend about a horrific event at one of his auctions on the evening of Friday, July 27, 1973 in Ephrasia township.

Annette Sandberg was at that auction, as a ten year old, taking in the performance, the process and admiring the wares. Her brothers and parents were there too but in traditional fashion, Sandberg moseyed about on her own. The event had moved inside to a barn, taking place in the maw, as rain had started. The atmosphere was one of good-natured excitement and anticipation. That changed in a mo-

ment with the light hearted toss of a basketball into the crowd, by Pifher.

The structure of that second floor maw had weakened over time and the simultaneous movement of tens of people reacting to the ball toss was too much for it. A portion of the floor gave way to the stalls below and forty people plummeted downward without warning.

Pifher fell, as did that young girl, with everyone else plus debris. Ian Shaw, Pifher's clerk fell too. There was an eerie silence for a moment as a dust cloud filled the space and everyone tried to fathom what just happened, and what to do about it. Some people were still up top, peering down into the space people had disappeared into. Sunlight peered in through the windows through the dust. By-standers seemed to go into action automatically after that initial lull.

Sandberg's recollection of the fall involves seeing a post, a support post. This post happened to be in a photograph of the hole in the floor, taken later and printed in the Collingwood Times newspaper report. She does not remember landing, but remembers "waking up" and being somewhat buried.

She was unable to move her legs as they were pinned down with a man lying across them. He wouldn't move off; he was not conscious. She could see the people still up top, looking down. Her parents Allan and Hella were among those people. He parents didn't realize right away that their daughter had fallen until her mom saw her lying in the rubble. Hella saw a man enter the scene, stepping over debris and people to get to Sandberg, picking her up and subsequently carrying her to the house. That's when Sandberg felt a wave of safety come over her. She had incurred some serious gashes to her left calf.

Pifher was dragged out and put on an old, dried manure pile. He also recalls a doctor giving him a needle to ease pain, which worked wonders. Shortly after, he was loaded into an ambulance



Photographs and story by Don Beaulieu



Auctioneer George Pifher is seen here discussing the most horrific event of his auctioneering days with friend and fan Annette Sandberg.

and taken to the Collingwood hospital. Some folk were taken to the Meaford hospital.

Sandberg still bears physical scars and says it took decades to get over the emotional trauma of enclosed spaces and bouncy floors.

Pifher suffered a broken ankle and injured his sternum. He suffered for a decade with pain from his injuries.

Many lawsuits were incurred afterward too, which dragged on for seven years.

Sandberg is producing a memoir of sorts, a book containing stories of Pifher's experiences in the auction business. The pair have been meeting regularly to swap stories and recount details with her taking notes.

Writing is second-nature to Sandberg. She has been writing about the Niagara Escarpment for years from hiking to history. She grew up on the escarpment and currently lives in Collingwood. Local newspapers often publish her stories, bringing to light long-forgotten bits of history right under our feet.

Grain Marketing Seminar

Wednesday, February 10, 2021
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South Simcoe 4-H achievements 2020

By Donna Lange

2020 has been a year like no other. With many events cancelled and in-person activities halted, volunteers and leaders with South Simcoe 4-H Association had to quickly pivot and 'learn to do by doing' in order to continue to provide members with quality 4-H programming in a virtual format.

Due to our volunteers' dedication to the program, we were able to offer 22 clubs to over 110 members – truly an amazing accomplishment during these unprecedented times. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our over 30 volunteers who have worked tirelessly to provide a wide variety of clubs this year – without these dedicated volunteers and leaders, the South Simcoe 4-H Association wouldn't be able to offer our members the opportunity to grow their knowledge and build their leadership skills. We congratulate all leaders, volunteers and members on completing during this very unique 4-H year.

South Simcoe 4-H Association would like to congratulate the following members and volunteers on their achievements as recognized by 4-H Ontario.

The following members received their Project Provincial Seals:

1 Project – Mathias Blank, Jessa Bray, Clara Brooks, Kaitlyn Dunlop, Amber Folliott, Abigail Patton, Amelia Quijada, Audrey Rutherford, Emily Vaughan and Ben Wienecke

6 Projects – Riley Broad, Kylee Chantler, Layne Chantler, Lauren Cowan, Jackson Faust, Amber Folliott, Julianne Ford, Ben Marin, Scarlett McCallum-Pinho, Danya Orr, Milana Palmateer, Nicole Palmateer, David

Patton and Nicholas Senick

12 Projects – Braedon Bishop, Lauren Cowan, Sarah Dowdall, Julia Katirai, Danya Orr, Jayme Orr, Wiggy Tibbitts

18 Projects – Rebecca Lange, Jaiden van Kolfshoten, Jordan Williams

24 Projects and GayLea 24 Project Print – Margaret Alexiou and Nicole Kneeshaw

24 Projects – Isabella Cullen and Jaiden van Kolfshoten

30 Projects – Isabella Cullen

36 & 42 Projects – Madeleine Cullen

The following South Simcoe 4-H volunteers received their volunteer seals:

1 Year – Greg Bray, Nadina Bray, Grant Cowan, Amber Katirai, Jacquelyn McCallum, Anna Lisa Wienecke

5 Years – Betty-Anne Alexiou, Tamara Fisher-Cullen, Matt Gingerich, Kim Kneeshaw

10 Years – Scott Cullen, Bill Gilpin, Maureen Millar, Carla Williams

30 Years – Kevin Harvey

Three members also received their graduate seals – Ashley Harvey, Matt Lange and Katelonne Thomson. Ashley and Matt were also recipients of the Longstanding Graduate Award sponsored by Kubota Canada Ltd – a true testament of the 4-H spirit.

Finally, we wish to thank all our sponsors for the unparalleled support in the South Simcoe 4-H Program.

Plans are already underway for the 2021 4-H year. Check out our website at <https://4-hontario.ca/association/simcoe-south-4-h-association/> or our Facebook page (South Simcoe 4-H) for more details early in the new year.

Winter Heating Fire Safety Tips

By Dennis Gannon

As the temperature gets colder, home fires occur more frequently from heating equipment and appliances. It's important to pay close attention to potential fire hazards such as fireplaces, furnaces, chimneys and vents, and space heaters.

There are some simple steps that can be taken to help make your home and family safe this winter.

Have all fuel-burning appliances inspected annually by a registered fuel contractor. Go to COSafety.ca to find a contractor near you. Keep chimneys and intake/exhaust vents for furnaces and heating appliances free of debris, ice and snow accumulations to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) build-up from inefficient combustion. Burn dry, well-seasoned wood in fireplaces and woodstoves to reduce the risk of excessive creosote build-up in chimneys. Allow ashes from your fireplace or woodstove to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outside.

Space heaters should be at least one metre (3 feet) away from anything that can burn, including curtains, upholstery and clothing. Replace

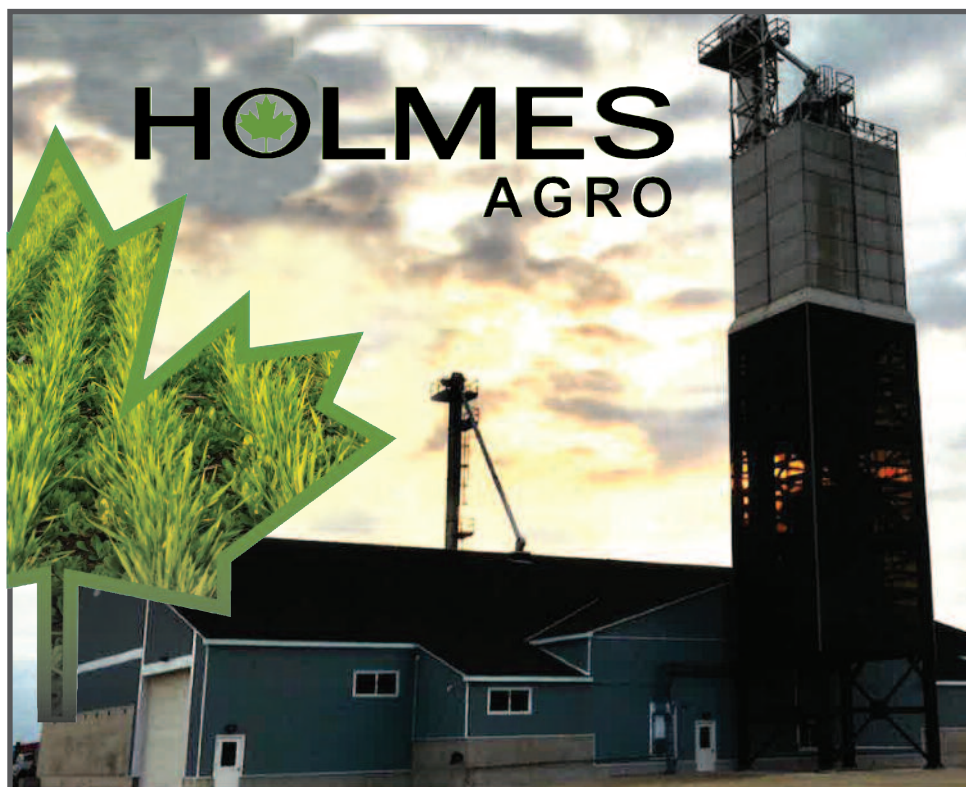
worn or damaged electrical wires and connections on vehicles and extension cords and use the proper gauge extension cord for vehicle block heaters. Consider using approved timers for vehicle block heaters rather than leaving heaters on all night. Ensure that vehicles are not left running inside any garage or building. Make certain that there is a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas of your home. Install CO alarms to alert you to the presence of this deadly gas. The Ontario Fire Code requires smoke alarms to be installed on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide alarms are required outside all sleeping areas if the home has a fuel-burning appliance, a fireplace or an attached garage. For more information about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, or fire safety, contact your local fire department. They are a great source of assistance and can help you determine if your smoke and carbon monoxide alarm meet the current standards.

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Protecting and promoting agriculture

By John Morrison President, S.C.F.A.

We at the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture hope you had a safe and Merry Christmas. Who would've thought last year at this time that we would be in a pandemic this year? But things are looking brighter as a vaccine is just around the corner, and hopefully, we can soon get our lives back to normal.

Peter Jeffery, OFA Senior Farm Policy Analyst gave a presentation at our December meeting on various issues he encountered during his years at OFA - Animal Welfare/Animal Rights, Land Use Planning, Line Fences Act, and Right to Farm. Some of his personal highlights were Parliament Hill rallies, developing EFP information sheets and the MTO Farm Guide. The issues he sees going forward are the future of farming, cannabis, MZO's, tree cutting and upcoming issues in the agriculture landscape. Peter has now retired after 33 years at the OFA. We all wish Peter well in his retirement.

In early November, the provincial government reviewed the Conservation Authority Act in Bill 229, Section 6. They asked for comments on the proposed changes to the Act. The Simcoe County Federation was in favour of the changes and wrote letters of support to Minister Yurek, Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks. Copies of the letter were sent to the area MPP's as well as area municipalities. We felt that some of the conservation authorities were overstepping their mandate, and this bill was to address those issues.

At our last board meeting we were informed that our OFA Director, Keith Currie, will be stepping down as our district director and we should be looking for a replacement. If you are interested, let your zone director know so that he/she can inform the board.

At our PAC meeting held Dec.10, two past TV programs were discussed. On CTV's W5, Farm Secrets, an animal welfare/rights investigator was hired by Animal Justice to go undercover and get hired by a hog farmer. While undercover, he took pictures of the farmer's pig operation and gave them to the W5 producers, who then aired them on TV depicting animal abuse. This report shows us how far animal activists are willing to take their cause. The farmer did operate a well

managed farm; the OFA got involved and nothing really became of it. CBC's Fifth Estate reported on migrant workers on fruit and vegetable farms in southwestern Ontario. I saw this program, and I have to commend the farmers for outlining everything they did to try and keep the workers safe. The reporter came away, I thought, kind of bewildered because he was shown everything about the migrant workers' living conditions.

These two programs really showed the TV audience that farmers are doing everything in their power to produce safe, nutritious food for everyone's table. Bill 156 should prevent trespassing on farms, but it is up to the farmer to thoroughly screen who they hire to work on their farm as the bill is silent on whistle blower employees.

To help promote agriculture in Simcoe County, we have proposed that the county post signs on area hiking trails to inform the public about how farms follow sound environmental practices including preparing an Environmental farm plan. By allowing the public to hike across our property, we only ask in return that they stay on the marked trails and not leave any garbage behind.

A Grain Marketing Seminar has been planned for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 – see details in ad on page 9. The details of a Precision Agriculture Seminar to follow.

These have been trying times for everyone, hopefully we can all be vaccinated in the near future and get back to normal.

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QUILTING

Quilting Corners Guild Community Outreach

Story and photos by Senora Baldry

On November 29/2020 Quilting Corners Guild, Alliston presented quilts and quilted items to three of our community partners. Usually we make our presentations at our December guild meeting, however, there isn't very much that has been usual this year so we had to find an alternative. We invited representatives from My Sister's Place, Matthew's House Hospice and Quilts of Valour – Canada to join us outside at a member's home. A tent covering was set-up along with a quilt rack and table and each presentation was recorded to share virtually with our members and community partners.

Thanks to Sheila, Kim and Elizabeth for joining Cheryl, Jill and I for our Christmas donations on behalf of our guild members. Once again we had many quilts, stockings and decor items to present. It is heartwarming to see the work our guild members create for our community partners. We appreciate

their skills and the time given to make so many pieces to share. The donations included 118 quilts and quilted items, 117 quilted stockings and some toiletries, face masks and Christmas decorations.

Even during these uncertain times our guild has pulled together to support one another and beyond. For many the quilting has been comforting and therapeutic, and we hope will bring some of the same to the recipients of our work. Our meetings have become a virtual compilation of messages, demonstrations and Show 'n' Tell organized by the executive monthly. Our members continue to be contributing members to both the virtual meetings and the creativity that goes into our donations. The festive season becomes a little break from our community work, but the needles will begin to fly again in the New Year in preparation for our next donations in July 2021.



Above are Jill & Senora (left to right) joined by Sheila from My Sister's Place with some of the donated items on display.



Pictured here Jill & Senora (left to right) presenting 11 quilts to Elizabeth from Quilts of Valour – Canada.



Shown above are Jill & Senora with Kim from Matthew's House Hospice surrounded by the many quilted items made by guild members being donated.



Barn quilt photographed by Roslyn Watkins on a recent drive through Ramara Township.



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After the Chores: Foster Llama Mama

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



I'm still learning in my new job as foster Llama Mama.

Pandee is the Mama-less llama that his Dad, Hummer and I are raising. He is still getting a bottle twice a day. Mama llamas wean baby llamas at six months old. Pandee was born in August. Sweetie thinks he looks ridiculous getting a bottle at his size now-but we are doing this until February. The least I can do for Pandee is feed him milk as his foster Mama Llama for the required six months.

We have special family that we needed to visit in October for a two night away weekend. A longtime friend said she and her spouse would do chores for us at last minute when my first chore help had to cancel. My friend said she would feed Pandee. She and I look much alike so I thought Pandee should be okay. I need not to have worried about Pandee though- he promptly dumped me.

My friend's spouse is a cigar smoker. He smokes those big, highly scented or highly stinky cigars, depending on one's opinion. My friend and I go so far back, we actually wrote letters to each other. One of these letters told me about this new guy she just met. One of his best traits was the cigar smoking- "he smells just like my Dad back home" she wrote. She was so in love- and Pandee felt the exact same way. The cigar smoker was fascinated by little Pandee and offered to feed the bottle- when we were away. Instead of showing loyalty to me, Pandee promptly sucked back a bottle every single feeding from this cigar scented male stranger.

I was thinking that my friend might have exaggerated a bit over Pandee being so attracted to her spouse. The spouse came over the next morning after we got back- and Pandee promptly walked past me to

stand beside the cigar smoker giving him the special looks that I thought were only mine.

Minus cigar smokers, Pandee likes me. He waits for me at the front barn door, humming loud. If Sweetie is the first to get to the barn, I am greeted with a little loping llama half way to the barn.

For fear that Pandee will be 7 feet tall and 300 pounds like Hummer, I have made a rule that all bottles are served only in the barn which means Pandee waits in the barn until he actually sees me. I made the mistake of teaching lambs to come to the back door of the house and am not doing that again.

I found out how warm and comfortable the "hoodie" was last year. I found a hoodie in an ugly black and green colour at the thrift shop that I wore to the barn one day. Pandee had his bottle and after I pulled up the hood as I was cold per usual. I was putting the water bucket into the goat pen when Pandee came up behind me. Pandee then backed up and put his head down. I worried the young llama was having stomach pains as he was acting strange. I stood watching him when he stepped closer, turned his head- and then he stuck his face right under my hood so I was nose to nose with Pandee. Pandee wasn't sick, he was just taking a good long look to see if it was me. I can see why llamas are such good guardians, they need to check everything out.

The very latest with Pandee is his need for hugs. Pandee started to stand crossways in front of me after his bottle. I couldn't understand what he wanted, humming is not a very effective form of communication when only one of us understands llama. It turned out that Pandee wanted attention. I pulled him close and his hums changed, then I put my arms around him and he snuggled in. Pandee's ears fit right under my chin. Pandee wanted hugs. Pandee loves hugs.

Pandee has taught me to live for today not six months from now. Hummer and Pandee, both being males, might start to fight one day and one will have to leave here. For today, I have a llama requiring two bottles a day and hugs which makes me feel happy.



This is Pandee having his breakfast. I thought he looked rather cute here, his ears are forward so he's content, when the ears go flat llamas are angry or upset about something.

— Photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Trends for 2021

By Paul Bootsma, Field Services
Manager for the Christian Farmers
Federation of Ontario

It's the time of year when the experts shine a light on agriculture and food production and make predictions about what lies ahead.

Just last month, the Real Dirt on Farming came out for the fifth time, and it is packed with lots of information about how our food is actually produced. Farm and Food Care publishes this amazing, 60-page resource.

This year, it highlighted some newer subjects, including Indigenous agriculture, the use of plastics and packaging, grasslands and livestock grazing and plant-based proteins. It's chock-full of facts, and it profiles 32 people – from farmers to truckers to scientists – who work hard every day doing the essential job of feeding Canadians and the world.

The publication is widely distributed – to politicians, doctors, dietitians and as an insert in national publications. So far, an impressive 4.5 million copies have been put in the hands of consumers across the country. It's a great read that provides good messages to the folks we feed.

The people in the Nourish Network also produced a recent report that outlines trends occurring in the food, beverage and agriculture space. On the farming side of the equation, it singled out three main directions that are going to have an effect in the coming years.

Firstly, the labour shortage, which many farmers have known about for decades, has become a front-and-centre issue due to the pandemic. So far, there has been a decent response – with job-matching portals being set up and government programs launched. And the report says there will be many more efforts by industry and government to attract, train and retain employees in the coming years.

Secondly, soil health is getting more attention than ever. Sustainable practices like diversifying and rotating crops, the use of cover crops, grasslands for livestock grazing, and minimal tillage are becoming more common in the industry.

The importance of taking care of this foundational part of food production has even made it into consumer advertising – with big restaurant chains launching grass-fed beef promotions. Look for maintaining good soil health and preserving agricultural land to be an ongoing trend.

Finally, advances in technology will definitely continue to be part of how we move forward as an industry. Whether it's virtual platforms for meetings and conferences or applications that help farmers better manage their production, the wave of the future will be digitally driven.

As we move into 2021, we look forward with optimism for a safe, environmentally and economically sound future.

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario is a professional organization for family farm entrepreneurs. As an Accredited Farm Organization, we advocate on behalf of our members, advising provincial government on policy solutions for a broad range of agricultural and rural issues.

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June Money awarded the Order of the Diocese of Toronto



On January 1st, June Money of Utopia was awarded the Order of the Diocese of Toronto by Bishop of Toronto Andrew Asbil at a service that was live-streamed from St. James Cathedral.

The purpose of the Order (see emblem) is to recognize and honour those members of the laity in the Diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry. We give thanks to God for the work and witness of June amongst us. The Order takes the form of a medallion in coloured enamel, which is worn around the neck on a ribbon, and may be worn at:

- Special occasions, in parishes or at the diocesan level
- Worship or an event where the Bishop of Toronto or a Suffragan Bishop of Toronto is present
- Synod and diocesan services and events
- At the installation of New Members

Holders of the Order also receive a small lapel pin to be worn with everyday dress.

A record of all Awards of the Order made shall be kept in the Register, into which the pertinent details of each award of the Order is subscribed, including the recipients' name, biographical information and photograph, the reason the award was made and the date of the award. It should be noted that the Register shall be kept at the diocesan synod office and is a public document.

To the left: June Money photographed at Christ Church-St. Jude's, Ivy with inset photo of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto medallion.

CONGRATULATIONS JUNE!

You are so deserving of this honour.



Station 3 Firefighter Kids Annual Christmas Party took place on Sunday December 13th, 2020. Families of firefighters at Station 3 were invited to a 'drive thru' event. Children received a gift card and each family received a cookie decoration kit created by Sister Sweets Bake Shop. Sparky and Santa were on hand to deliver gifts to each family's car along with the firefighters.

Thank you to the Association for supplying the gifts for the family and children. Thanks also to Becca and Jase Allan for planning such a wonderful event.

— Photo by Becca Allan

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Merry and Bright Festival at the Lindsay Fairgrounds

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The recent MERRY & BRIGHT Festival transformed the Lindsay Fairgrounds into a scene fit for a Christmas movie. Local businesses and organizations decked up farm equipment, trucks or created Christmas scenes and covered them all with dazzling bright Christmas lights. To meet COVID-19 regulations, guests had to pre-purchase tickets that were good for one hour of the event. Guests stayed in their vehicle driving through a snowy path surrounded by all the lights. A clever illumination show lit the barns on site into interactive Christmas scenes. Dedicated volunteers dressed in orange reflective safety wear each had masks and face shields on and had the job of directing all the traffic that moved slowly through the bright lights. The Lindsay Fairgrounds is the location, in a normal year, to a lot of events including the Kawartha Antique Power Heritage Show. This Fairgrounds is home to the Lindsay Exhibition (LEX) and it will be a big part of the International Plowing Match 2021. The conclusion of the show (see photo top right) was to get a Merry Christmas call-out from a very happy Santa Claus. The MERRY & BRIGHT Festival was presented by the International Plowing Match 2021 and the Lindsay Agricultural Society from December 18 to December 31.

100% of ticket sales supported local charities.

What a sight!



Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

Stop me if you've heard this one...

Larry: I hear you went to the fights last night — how was it?

Barry: Lousy! Right in the middle a hockey game broke out!

Why did the chicken cross the road?
That's where he parked his coup.

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon?
The food is great, but there's no atmosphere.

I went to a restaurant the other day and had a businessman's lunch.
The businessman was furious!

I wrote a book about watchmaking... everyone said it was about time.

Some mornings I wake up grouchy; other mornings I just let him sleep.

Did you hear about the boxer who lost every bout?
He had to go in for jab counselling.

I took up gardening as a hobby... but I only grew tired.

Definition of Bigamist: *a heavy fog*

My son just got his B.A. and now he wants to go for his Ph.D. Frankly... I think he should get a J.O.B.

Susie: I have found a marvelous way to eliminate wrinkles!

Annie: Tell me!

Susie: I take off my glasses when I look in the mirror!

What do you get if you cross a summer vegetable with a chicken?
A corny yolk!

Knock, knock
Who's there?
I, Felix.
I, Felix who?
I Felix-cited!

Knock, knock
Who's there?
Urn.
Urn who?
Urn your keep by finding a job.

Knock, knock
Who's there?
Otto.
Otto who?
Otto theft is a serious crime.

Knock, knock
Who's there?
I'm Helen.
I'm Helen who?
I'm Helen on wheels! VAROOM!

And last but not least...

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Vision
Vision who?
Vision you a Happy New Year!

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OFA believes conservation authorities have vital role in working to protect our land and water resources



Ontario's conservation authorities provide a watershed level planning perspective that transcends municipal borders, one that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) supports and one that deserves support, not only from the province but also from municipalities.

"Agriculture and conservation authorities have a vested interest in the health and sustainability of our land and our waterways," said Peggy Brekveld, OFA President. "Ensuring conservation authorities can adequately fulfill their roles and responsibilities is important in enabling farmers and landowners to be able to protect our most vital land and water resources."

This is about the long-term planning for protecting and preserving our productive land and water resources.

The proposed amendments to Schedule 6 will negatively impact a conservation authority's role in watershed level planning as well as their role in keeping development out of hazardous areas, such as flood plains, erodible beaches, etc.

That watershed level planning perspective transcends not only municipal boundaries, but also the boundaries of unique features, such as the Oak Ridges Moraine, as well as protected spaces like the Greenbelt Plan area. Development activities occurring outside the Greenbelt will have negative impacts to protected spaces in the Greenbelt Plan area.

OFA strongly supports plans for an agricultural representative to have a voice and seat at the board table of the conservation authorities. We believe those on the board should have a vested interest in the conservation authority area they're representing.

However, the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs has proposed a new section to Schedule 6 which would require a conservation authority to issue a permit when the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing issues a Minister's

Zoning Order (MZO), which can override a conservation authority's watershed-based decision. The new section requires the conservation authority to issue the permit even if the application does not meet their criteria for issuing a permit and/or contravenes provincial policies and plans. OFA opposes the government's abuse of its MZO powers.

As an organization, we understand the importance of conservation authorities to be able to implement stop work orders when things are not going well or as planned. In those situations, prompt action is vital.

OFA also agrees that conservation authorities have a role and responsibility in development related to natural hazards and the conservation and management of lands, the ability to appeal planning decisions is appropriate.

OFA emphasizes that there is only one Ontario landscape, meaning that the full range of land uses found across Ontario; urban, rural, agricultural, natural heritage, cultural heritage and mineral extraction, must share that landscape. Our agricultural areas not only provide us with food, fibre and fuel, but also a broad range of environmental and ecological goods and services that benefit all Ontarians. Ontario's conservation authorities play a vital role in fulfilling that perspective through their role in watershed level planning.

It is evident that more time and consultation is needed to develop workable solutions for all stakeholders.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, representing 38,000 farm families across the province. As a dynamic farmer-led organization based in Guelph, the OFA works to represent and champion the interests of Ontario farmers through government relations, farm policy recommendations, research, lobby efforts, community representation, media relations and more. OFA is the leading advocate for Ontario's farmers and is Ontario's voice of the farmer. For more information, visit ofa.on.ca.

Farmer William Kell helped shape Innisfil

The Kell family has been a fixture in Innisfil since 1858, farming the fertile soil there without interruption for more than 160-years. That was more than William Kell could have asked for when he arrived in the township, fresh from the Old World with little to call his own. He couldn't have known the role he would play in shaping Innisfil's future.

William Kell was born in Pocklington, Yorkshire, in March, 1829, one of ten children to Thomas and Jane Kell. Around 1850, William married Mary Faulkner, a woman 11 years his senior and quite possibly recently widowed. Realizing there were few opportunities in Britain, in 1851 the couple sailed for Canada and new ventures. After a brief stop in Markham, the Kells moved north to Innisfil to put down permanent roots and establish a thriving farm.

"In those days, farmers could make a lot of money logging their bush lots," William's great-grandson, Keith Kell, once told me. "William cut down an ancient pine tree that took 2 horse-drawn sleds to get it to the railway siding in Gilford, where three railway cars were used to take it away. It became a mast for the Royal Navy. I remember the stump from when I was a kid; it must have been three or four feet in diameter. I've heard it was the second-largest tree in all of Simcoe County."

Dragging the tree to Gilford would have been an onerous task because of the deplorable state of the road now known as Highway 89. Today a modern asphalt thoroughfare, for much of the 19th century it was notorious for being in poor conditions, so bad that most travellers diverted to the 13th or 14th lines to travel east-west. This inconvenience was no longer tolerable when the railway came through Gilford. Farmers from Cookstown needed a more direct and reliable route to the railway siding by which they would ship their crops and livestock to distant markets.

The solution was to transform what is today Highway 89 into a corduroy road,

consisted of cedar logs laid across the path and packed in mud. Logs harvested from the Kell farm – and others in the area – were used in the program. It was a primitive but effective form of surfacing. And it endured.

"Prior to 1952, Highway-89 was gravel and I remember times when logs from the old corduroy road would lift up through the earth in the spring," Keith told me. "The logs, surprisingly, were still in good condition."

The Kells were more than simple farmers. The family became intimately involved in church and community affairs within the small community of Fennell's Corners, epitomizing the spirit for which small communities are famed. William even played a small but important role in the development of Innisfil.

Petitions for the incorporation of Allandale as a village were put forward to Simcoe County Council as early as 1883. The petitions were cast aside for a decade, but by 1891 the cries had become too loud to ignore any longer. In 1891, William Kell was appointed Census Enumerator to ensure Allandale was large enough to warrant being incorporated. After a thorough investigation, Kell determined that there were 984 inhabitants in the community and that it was indeed sizable enough to qualify. As a result, Allandale became a Village and W.P. Soules became the first reeve of the new municipality.

William undoubtedly was proud of his involvement in this historic decision, but his excitement was tempered by the death of his wife a year later. The widower survived his wife by 15 years, finally passing away at the age of 77 in 1907 after a lifetime of toiling the land. His obituary in the Barrie Northern Advance referred to him as "a gentleman of many sterling qualities."

Not the least of which of was perseverance. Through tireless toil and perseverance, he not only established a farming legacy that endures to this day but also helped shape modern Innisfil.

Village stories

by Andrew Hind



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Virtual 55th Grey Bruce Farmers' Week 2021

It goes without saying that the past few months have been difficult, with everyone adapting to a “new normal” that is constantly evolving. With the safety of everyone in mind, and following Public Health guidelines, the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week (GBFW) committee, with the support of their Premier Sponsor FCC, will deliver “the best virtual conference possible” in January 2021. GBFW has been there for local producers and beyond for 54 years. It will continue to be there in its 55th year, but with a new look and format – delivered right to producers farms offices, kitchen tables, or tractors. Co-ordinator Lorie Smith comments that, “We are in a sweet-spot to pivot to a virtual conference as a result of live streaming GBFW for the past three years. Our continued partnership with CTRE Productions will ensure the success of this new initiative.” Smith continues, “We will take all of the best features about Grey Bruce Farmers' Week, box them up, and create an online experience that mimics all the feels of the live event.” Producers from across the province, Canada and the World, wherever they have reliable internet access, will be able to participate in the GBFW conference. The GBFW organizers know the importance of interacting with agribusiness. There will be opportunities to do that in the virtual trade show. Producers are missing the opportunity to catch up with their neighbours. The daily producer mingles will facilitate these interactions.

Virtual Grey Bruce Farmers' Week (#GBFW21), in its 55th year, will run from Tuesday, January 5 to Tuesday, January 12. The week starts with a bonus Trade Show Day. Registration to that Day is complimentary to all registrants. Beef Day is on Wednesday, followed by Dairy, Goat, Sheep, Horse, Ecological, and Crops Days. It is an 8-day Agricultural Conference packed with a most impressive and informative line-up of speakers! The week will include live sessions and pre-recorded sessions. That content will be available in real-time, on the commodity Day, but importantly will also be available for 30 days following the event so that participants can engage in the sessions on their own schedules, at their own pace. Each Day starts with an 11:15 welcome, and the presentations conclude around 4:00. There will be an opportunity to pose questions to the speakers via the chat box, and face to face with the speakers after each session. The conference offers over 50 sessions covering a vast array of topics targeting the issues and challenges facing the farming community today. Of note, reflecting a deep concern for the wellness of our farmers, at GBFW21 there will be a daily Mental Health in Agriculture presentation. Don't miss the daily Exhibitor Show Case from 9:00 – 11:00 am.

As always, exciting Panels have been developed for 2021. These panels include:

- On Beef Day, three farm families will tease out Direct

Marketing Beef.

- On Dairy Day, the panelists will share their perspectives on the Future of the Dairy Industry in Canada.

- On Goat Day, we have asked one goat producer, and a researcher to provide tips and data on Goat Kid Survival.

- On Sheep Day, three producers will discuss their tips and insights about Labour Saving Tips on the Farm.

- On Ecological Day, three producers will share their thoughts about More Sustainable Food Production Systems.

- On Crops Day, agronomists will tell us what they see in their Crystal Ball on Crops 2021.

Here's a glimpse of some of the featured keynote speakers and presentations:

- On Beef Day, Anne Wasko, Market Analyst, with Gateway Livestock will provide a Cattle Market Outlook. Anne is sponsored by Royal LePage RCR Realty, Steacy Den Haan; B&L Farm Services & Walter's Falls Milling; Robert's Farm Equipment & McGavin Equipment; and Bowler & Company Chartered Accountants Professional Corporation.

- On Dairy Day, producers will glean significant “nuggets” to take back to their operations. GBFW welcomes Travis Busman, who will present Modern Hoof Care: A Method for Success. Travis is sponsored by: Royal LePage RCR Realty, Steacy Den Haan; B&L Farm Services & Walter's Falls Milling; Partner Ag Services; Conestogo Agri Systems Inc.; and Grober Nutrition.

- Goat Day welcomes two speakers from Cornell University. Dr. Mary C. Smith will address Goat Udder Health including the diagnosis of mastitis and implementation of control programs. Dr. Tatiana Luisa Stanton will delve into Goat Nutrition, and explore the concept of “potential fermentable fiber”. Dr. Smith is sponsored by Partner Ag Services; and Grober Nutrition. Dr. Stanton

is sponsored by Ontario Dairy Goat Co-operative.

- On Sheep Day, GBFW puts the powers of a virtual conference to great use by live streaming speakers from around the world. Robert Hodgkins from the UK, and Johanna Scott from NZ will dig into Using Genomic Markers in an Ovine Breeding Strategy. This presentation is sponsored by Grober Nutrition.

- Horse Day will deliver an abundance of practical tips and information regarding: Nutritional and Nutraceutical Methods for Maintenance of Joint and Gastrointestinal Health; The Science of Bits, Spurs and Training Tack. How we Choose, Use or Sometimes Abuse Them; and Horse Pasture Management.

- Ecological Day, has something for everyone. Dr. Scott Weese will address livestock producers as he turns the focus on Emerging, Re-emerging and Changing Infectious Disease Threats. Ellen Polishuk, owner Plant to Profit Maryland will share Improving Soils = Making More Money. Ellen is sponsored by Williams Drainage Inc. and Sideroad Farm. The focus on soil continues with Brett Israel, who will dig into Keys to Cover Crops, followed by Janine McGowan who will provide tips on how to nourish pollinators while building your soil with cover crops – Cover Crops & Bees.

- GBFW21 ends with Crops Day on Wednesday. Crops Day also shines the spotlight on soil with Dr Lee Briese, Agronomist, Centrol Ag Consulting, diving into Soil and Crop Management: The Details Matter. Lee attempts to reduce some of the complexity around the topic of soil health and encourages growers to adapt and customize practices to fit their individual farms and needs. He is sponsored by AgDrain Inc. Matthew Pot, Consultant and Economist will dig into 2020 Vision: What Have We Learned? Matthew is sponsored by Williams Drainage Inc.; Royal LePage RCR Realty,

Steacy Den Haan; Lystek International Corp.; and John Ernewein Ltd.

- Perennial favourite, Peter Johnson, will wrap-up the week with, The Holy Grail: Organic Matter! Peter is sponsored by Marquardt Farm Drainage Ltd.

For more details on the speakers planned for each day, please refer to the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week website www.gbfw.ca. If you need detailed information about any of the presentations, or complete bios, that information is also available on the website.

The GBFW planning committee would like to thank all of the generous sponsors!! The full list is on our brochure, or on our website (www.gbfw.ca)

Grey Bruce Farmers' Week would like to acknowledge the Premier and Platinum Sponsors: Farm Credit Canada (Event and Technology sponsor); BDO Canada LLP (Brochure sponsor); Trillium Mutual Insurance Company (Technology sponsor); Country 93 (Media sponsor); Howick Mutual Insurance Company and CMR Insurance (Media sponsor); Bruce County Federation of Agriculture (Daily sponsor).

During the course of the week, the Tradeshow will include over 60 virtual trade show exhibitors from across the province.

Visit www.gbfw.ca to register

\$30/Day; \$70/any 3 Days; \$160/Week (Plus HST & Processing fees)

Conference content will be available to registrants for one month following the event.

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @GBFarmersWeek #GBFW21.

For further information or interviews, please call Lorie Smith at 519-986-3756, or email Lorie at lorie@greyagservices.ca.



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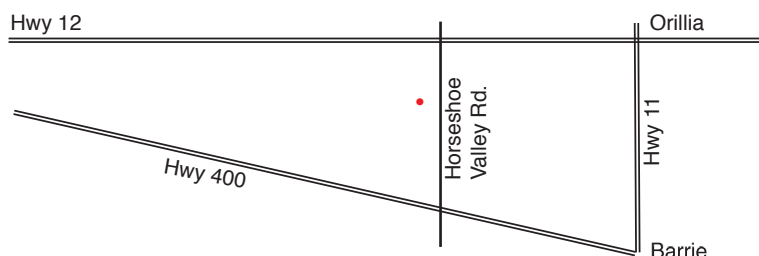
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