

Since 1977

# FARM VIEW

A newspaper with something for everyone | April 2026 | Volume 49 #04



2 year old Russell Harris of Springwater, enjoyed playing in the cornbox at the 35th Annual Lindsay Farm Show.

Complimentary copy for the FARM household

**Inside this issue: Spring Season Safety reminders  
Remembering Arie Manintveld · Spotlight on Tony McQuail,  
NDP leadership Candidate · Ray Robertson, OFC Wall of  
Fame · Columns from all your Favourite Writers · Fun Farm  
Science; Bird's Nest Soup Anyone?**

# Why Join 4-H

By Nick Senick, South Simcoe 4-H Member

4-H is an association that helps youth learn new skills by actually doing things and getting involved. Instead of just learning from a book, members learn by participating in activities, trying new experiences, and helping others. 4-H gives young people opportunities to grow, explore interests, and develop skills they can use later in life.

4-H also focuses on being respectful, friendly, and professional. Whether you are at a club meeting, a youth camp, or an event like the Impact Conference, everyone is expected to treat others with kindness and respect. These values help youth build strong character and learn how to work well with others. Through 4-H, I have learned how to be patient, show empathy, and understand other people's perspectives.

I have also gained important skills such as public speaking through judging competitions, meeting new people, and learning how to introduce myself confidently. One of the best parts of 4-H is South Simcoe 4-H, which is my local association. It has a strong sense of belonging and offers many different

clubs. One unique club is the mechanics club, where members learn hands-on skills like working on cars, changing oil, doing basic electrical work, and changing tires.

South Simcoe 4-H truly offers something for everyone. There are also a wide variety of livestock clubs, including beef, dairy, rabbits, and many others, giving members the chance to learn how to care for animals and build responsibility. For those who enjoy quieter activities, there are clubs like book club, while members who enjoy being active can join biking and hiking clubs that explore the outdoors together.

This year, a new Financial Fitness Club is also being offered to help youth learn how to budget, save money, and make smart choices with their finances. The club will be online and led by great leaders who want learning to be fun and useful.

Overall, 4-H is a great community that helps youth build skills, confidence, and strong values while being part of a supportive group. Check out South Simcoe 4-H online or email southsimcoe4h@gmail.com for more information.

# 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.

### 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](mailto:simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com) to request a nomination application. All applications must be in by April 1st 2026.

### 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 9.**

### 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. **Contact [simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com](mailto:simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com)**

### April 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

### April 22nd: Program announcement for E.D.G.E

Elmvale District Garden Enthusiasts April 22nd meeting at 7 p.m. at the Legion at 7 John St. Elmvale. Topic "How to Grow Roses Easily." Guests always free and welcome.

### May 2nd: Sunshine Fibre Fest

Fabulous fleece and fibre festival featuring diverse vendors, demonstrations, live animals and more! Taking place on May 2nd at the ODAS Park 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. **More details in the ad on page 20.**

**marshall w. driver**  
cremation & burial service



**Marshall W. Driver**  
Cremation & Burial Service  
by Arbor Memorial

**Melody Somerville, Funeral Director-Manager**  
tel: 705-734-7616 | [www.marshalldrivercremation.ca](http://www.marshalldrivercremation.ca)  
email: [marshalldriver@arbormemorial.com](mailto:marshalldriver@arbormemorial.com)

**FA** FIRE-ALERT Simcoe County & area

- Mobile fire extinguisher service & sales
- Commercial/Industrial/Farm/Residential
- NFPA 10 Compliant

Brad Ayres (705) 241-4574  
[brad@fire-alert.ca](mailto:brad@fire-alert.ca)  
FIRE-ALERT.CA



**Ontario Stockyards Inc.**

Cookstown, Ontario

**Total Livestock Marketing**  
To consign, or for detailed market information, contact:  
**Ab Carroll 705-344-6654**  
**Brian Pascoe 705-878-6918**  
**OSI Office 705-458-4000**

**Box 1051 Cookstown, ON L0L1L0**  
[www.ontariostockyards.on.ca](http://www.ontariostockyards.on.ca)



**Charwen Farms Inc.**  
EST. 1966

**Visit our website daily for cash bids, weather updates and more.**  
[www.charwenfarms.ca](http://www.charwenfarms.ca)

**Contact us today to discuss your grain marketing needs!**

7284 9th Line Thornton, ON  
705-424-1905  
[office@charwenfarms.ca](mailto:office@charwenfarms.ca)

London Ag App  

**Railfence Books**

*Read your way back to the country*

April 1  
Five Points Theatre Barrie  
April 3 & 4  
Murphy's Farm Market  
April 10  
Tommy's Toys and Treasures  
April 11  
Guelph Public Library  
April 14  
Blue Heron Bookstore  
April 15  
Meaford Public Library  
April 17  
Caledon Public Library  
April 18  
New Tecumseth Public Library  
April 24 am  
Ronan Realty Tottenham  
April 24 pm  
Grey Highlands PL  
April 25  
Georgina Public Library



Wildflower Bees  
by Carolyn J Morris  
Illustrations by Richard McNaughton

Join Carolyn and her baby chicks at one of the events listed at right. Some events require registration.



**Carolyn j Morris**  
905-729-4899  
[railfencebooks.com](http://railfencebooks.com)

# Agknowledge Forum, an annual success

Synopsis, photograph by Don Beaulieu

Each year Nottawasaga Futures hosts a late February gathering which is a perfect combination of insight, inspiration in a social atmosphere.

Guest speakers are the main draw for this event with a market available after the guest speakers conclude their presentations. The artisans taking part were absolutely varied from wearable to edible to drinkable to fanciful items, all very well presented.

Master of Ceremonies Nicole Cross did an excellent job welcoming and introducing VIPs off the start and keeping the guest speakers on time.

## Grant writing

The first official speaker of the morning was Nancy Comber with her presentation titled The ABCs of Grant Writing. This was of value to many of the attendees, offering guidance, must dos and never dos. She explained the differences of grants, sponsorships and donations. Generally, they all will require an application.

A grant is money that is given to a person or an organization. Most often there is an obligation applied which must provide a public benefit. A sponsorship is usually for an event such as sports, arts or entertainment. A donation is a monetary gift, often for a charitable organization.

Starting points to look at for grants are the federal and provincial governments. They have websites available, but your regional governments may have something to offer too. For the farming community, conservation groups have projects they can provide funding for.

Other options are foundations, major corporations (banks, insurance companies), for example.

It is important to follow the guidelines when applying for a grant. Be sure you are eligible before you start. For agricultural grants, you need to be incorporated or have proper farm designations. Specifics would be included with the grant information.

Plan ahead. This process takes months.

## The Mushroomery

Sinda Simpson of White Pine Meadows in Oro-Medonte, was the second speaker of the day. She explained a some-

what circuitous route of experience before landing in 2023 on the idea of building a gourmet mushroom farm on their 60 acres.

Prior to this idea, Simpson did not like mushrooms, having grown up with canned product. Currently, husband Darryl and daughter Ali are her team members, each one with a passion for mushrooms, high quality product and spreading the word about how healthy and varied mushrooms are.

Simpson is quick to mention how many products contain mushrooms including cosmetics, fabric, packaging, building materials, insulation, blocks as strong as concrete and mushrooms can break down plastics.

There are a couple of basic types of mushrooms, the first being nutritional (for food) and those referred to as functional. Those are related to health benefits.

"Mushrooms are very nutrient dense" she explained; "There is a very significant amount of protein in them, phosphates, potassium, selenium and magnesium."

A visit to The Mushroomery is an excellent opportunity to discover mushrooms and their flavours. They have a brochure with recipes for the mushroom they have. "You get the most out of them when they're cooked". There are mushroom powders for seasoning.

<https://www.whitepinemeadows.ca>

## Cultivating Local

Policy Research Analyst Allison Hessels von Westerholt at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture started off the second set of guest speakers. She spoke about a project called Seizing Opportunities to Grow Ontario's Local Agri-product Sector.

Von Westerholt explained that if you are a farmer considering direct-to-consumer sales and you don't know where to start "...this will give you all the answers you are look-

ing for". Nine workshops are available online at no charge. There is also an online research hub.

The workshops include market trends and in-demand local products, adding value, selling at farmers' markets, selling to restaurants and institutions, selling online, labelling, being certified organic, agri-tourism and selling non-food items. There is help with networking and finding organizations involved with aspects of your endeavours.

Here is a link to Cultivating Local: <https://ofa.on.ca/cultivating-local/>

## Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit

Final guest speaker of the day was Food Safety Program Coordinator for the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit Shannon Kelly.

Food safety is one component of what the health unit looks after; there are many aspects of public health programming the unit is involved with. The largest statute that they follow is the Health Protection and Promotion Act. "That gives us the authority to what we need to do" said Kelly.

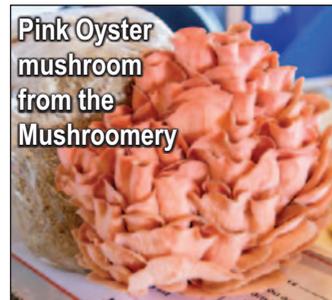
When dealing with the food aspect, the SMDHU looks at more than restaurants. "It's really anything that is selling and offering food; banquet halls, community halls, on-farm, schools and hospitals" Kelly explained. There are over 4,500 food establishments/premises in Simcoe-Muskoka.

The unit works closely with municipal partners such as building inspectors and by-law enforcement.

Farmers' markets are a large part of their workload, working closely with the operators. She stressed that a farmers' market must have "true farm" products. "A farmer is not someone who goes to Toronto to the terminal and gets some produce brings it back and says they're a farmer".

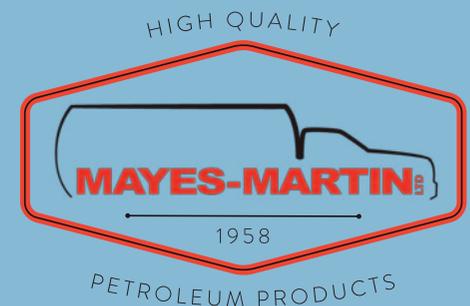
Home-based food businesses are growing in number. This was aided by the Ford government eliminating red tape and loosening requirements for commercial product to be produced in a separate area (not in a home kitchen). Home-made goods may now be truly made in a home, still meeting certain criteria. When one processes food as a home-based business, it is necessary to notify the SMDHU.

The SMCHA is here to help, don't let the rules scare you.



## Spring Motor Oil Sale

April 1st - May 15th 2026  
(while supplies last)



### Shell Rotella T4 15W40 & 10W30 Diesel Engine Oil

18.9L pails \$109.99/ea  
5L jugs \$34.99/ea  
208L drums \$1,299.00/ea

### Shell Spirax S4 TXM (Trans/Hydraulic fluid)

18.9L pails \$117.99/ea  
5L jugs \$39.99/ea  
208L drums \$1,299.00/ea

### Shell Tellus S2 MX 32 & 46 Hydraulic fluid

18.9L pails \$119.99/ea  
208L drums \$1,199.00/ea

### Shell Formula 10W30 & 5W30 Gas Engine Oil

1L bottles \$6.49/ea

### Shell Nautilus Premium Outboard Oil

1L bottles \$9.99/ea

### Phillips 66 X/C 20W50 Aviation Oil

1L bottles \$12.99/ea

### Catalys TDH Super Trans/Hydraulic fluid

20L pails \$89.99/ea  
5L jugs \$29.99/ea  
208L drums \$899.00/ea

**All Shell Gadus Grease sizes 10% off**

### Catalys AW32 & AW46 Hydraulic fluid

18.9L pails \$69.99/ea  
208L drums \$749.00/ea

### Catalys Diesel Exhaust Fluid

9.46L jugs \$14.99/ea  
208L drums \$279.99/ea

### Pennzoil Automatic Transmission Fluid

18.9L pails \$129.99/ea  
208L drums \$1,699.00/ea

### Castrol Go! 2-stroke oil

1L bottles \$10.99/each  
500ml bottles \$6.49/each

**All Prices plus taxes**

Head Office: 150 Vespra St., Barrie, ON L4N 2G9 Phone: (705) 728-5027 Fax: (705) 739-9235

Orillia: 379 West St. South, Orillia, ON L3V 5H1 Phone: (705) 325-2992 Fax: (705) 325-6539

EDITORIAL



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

As this edition of Farm View comes together, the skies overhead remain a stubborn grey, casting a dreary tone across the landscape. In many ways, it feels reflective of the broader state of the world. There is no shortage of uncertainty or unrest in global affairs, and it can weigh heavily. Yet, as farmers know better than most, seasons change—and with them comes renewal. The promise of spring is just ahead, bringing longer days, fresh growth, and, perhaps, a much-needed lift in spirit.

This issue arrives at a time when many are eager to turn their attention back to the land. With that in mind, we are pleased to welcome our seasonal advertisers, whose services and expertise can help with the many projects that come with this time of year, around the farm or the home. As you begin preparations for spring planting and cleanup, I would also encourage you to take a moment to revisit the important safety reminders shared by Leah Emms and Dennis Gannon on pages 6 and 20. In the rush of the season, safety can too easily become an afterthought.

I am pleased to feature Farmer Tim's latest column. His words are a powerful reflection of determination and resilience—qualities that continue to define the agricultural community. At a time when many are facing difficult decisions and mounting pressures, his perspective offers both honesty and encouragement.

Rev. Erin's column, Soul Sisters, resonated deeply with me on a more personal level. Grief is something that does not follow a timeline, yet there is often an unspoken expectation in society to "move on" or to somehow leave that sadness behind. Her message is a gentle but important reminder that it is not only acceptable to continue missing those we have lost—it is a reflection of love that endures. I hope her words bring comfort to all who need it.

This issue also includes a heartfelt tribute by Cathy Hamill-Hill, honouring Arie Manintveld as a purpose-driven farmer whose life left a lasting impression on those around him. It was a privilege to learn more about his story through her writing.

As we embark on a new season, there is a quiet sense of transition in the air. Spring invites us to begin again, even when the world feels heavy. It reminds us that growth often follows the most challenging seasons. My hope is that within these pages, you find not only useful information and inspiration, but also a sense of connection.

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

A "Pawkerchief" Quilt



This beautiful, intricate quilt was made from the handkerchiefs given to three small breed dogs after each grooming session over a period of 18 years. Louise Marshall and Patty Jo McIntosh (formerly of Baxter and now living in Thornbury), the owners of Tippy, Tucker and Montana Don, collected these "pawkerchiefs," then passed them on to the maker of the quilt, Bonnie Mederak of New Liskeard. The result is the pictured quilt. You'll notice many doggy-themed images on several of the squares.

—Photo by Louise Marshall, submitted by Mary Lucky

On the Cover

On the cover, two-year-old Russell Harris of Springwater, Ontario, is pictured enjoying the corn box at the 35th Annual Lindsay Farm Show. The Harris family operates Harris Farms, which includes a farm market specializing in fresh vegetables.

—Cover photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

New Advertisers Corner

Introducing the following new Farm View advertisers this month:

- Fire Alert
- The Wet Basement Specialist
- SWB Insurance

Keep an eye out for their ads and give them a call or visit!

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
- CHARWEN FARMS
- COLLINGWOOD FUELS
- COUNTRY CONCESSION QUILT STORE
- DALSTON STORE
- DEREK'S DIESEL SERVICE INC.
- DOUBLE JB FEEDS
- EISSES FARM FRESH EGGS, Innisfil
- ESSA AGRIPLEX
- ESSA VALLEY FEED SERVICES
- FOODLAND in Elmvale
- HAMILTON BROS.
- HARRIS FARMS (Seasonally)
- HOLMES AGRO in Stayner and Orangeville
- LEGACY FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES INC in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza
- MARSHALL W. DRIVER CREMATION & BURIAL SERVICE, Barrie
- McLAREN EQUIPMENT, Phelpston
- NICHOLYN FARMS
- ONTARIO STOCK YARDS
- PREMIER EQUIPMENT, Alliston
- RAILFENCE BOOKS
- RICHARDS EQUIPMENT INC.
- SOBEY'S in Angus and Bradford
- STEER ENTERPRISES
- STEWART'S EQUIPMENT in Cookstown and Stayner
- THE UPS STORE in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza

The Farm View is delivered to these 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.

FARM VIEW is published monthly by:

**Roslyn Watkins**

**The 5 N's Publishing House**

8 Luella Blvd, Minesing ON L9X 0W7

Phone (705) 722-0138

e-mail farmview@on.aibn.com

Visit us on the web: [www.farmviewonline.com](http://www.farmviewonline.com)

**A forum for the Agricultural and Rural Community**

The farm newspaper that covers Simcoe and Dufferin County, York, Peel and Muskoka Regions, keeping farmers and rural home owners informed about local and national news that affects their farm business, family and rural lifestyle.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

\$45.00 including HST for 12 issues

The publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement or for omitting to publish an advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issues or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisements.



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

Full Page.	\$995./month
2/3 Page.	\$775./month
1/2 Page	\$525./month
1/3 Page	\$395./month
1/4 Page	\$310./month
1/6 Page	\$205./month
1/8 Page	\$150./month
1/16 Page	\$100./month
Business Card	\$88./month
Ag. Business Directory	\$700./year

Please visit [www.farmviewonline.com](http://www.farmviewonline.com) or call Roslyn at 705-722-0138 for rate reductions based on frequency.

The ad deadline is the 14th of the month for the following month's issue.

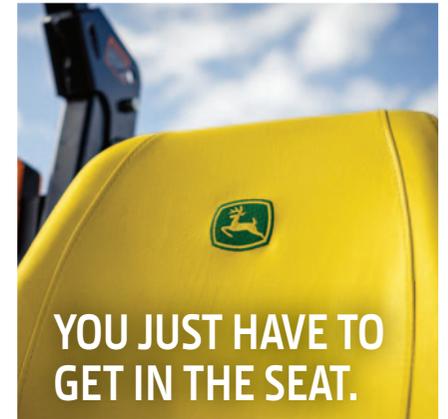


**Premier**  
Equipment

[premierequipment.ca](http://premierequipment.ca)

READY TO / SALES  
**RUN / EVENT**

Offer ends April 30, 2026



YOU JUST HAVE TO  
GET IN THE SEAT.

FINANCING STARTING AT

**0%**

on Compact Utility Tractors plus other incentives + offers on Residential Lawn Tractors, Zero Turn Mowers and Gator Utility Vehicles.



**0% FOR 36 MONTHS FINANCING**  
WITH 42" MOWER DECK

**X300**  
Riding Lawn Tractors



**0% FOR 36 MONTHS FINANCING**

**X500**  
Riding Lawn Tractors



**Z300**  
Zero Turn Mowers

**0% FOR 36 MONTHS FINANCING**



**Z500**  
Zero Turn Mowers

**0% FOR 36 MONTHS FINANCING**



**0% FOR 84 MONTHS FINANCING**

**1023E**  
Compact Utility Tractor



**0% FOR 72 MONTHS FINANCING OR \$1675 CASH OFF**

**1025R**  
Compact Utility Tractor



Bring your turf & property care equipment in for a Premier Service Inspection and SAVE!



Keep your equipment running at its best!  
**ON NOW!**

**+ 10% OFF LABOUR ON ADDITIONAL REPAIRS!**

FREE engine oil, oil filter, fuel filter and spark plugs when your inspection is booked and completed by April 30th, 2026

**\$60 IN SAVINGS**

**Alliston**  
(705) 453-7551  
4896 Dean Drive

**Stouffville**  
(905) 640-2692  
14183 Highway #48

**Nobleton**  
(905) 859-0581  
6770 King Road West

**STIHL**  
**HONDA**  
Available at select locations.

# Busy Spring Fields Mean More Farm Equipment on Rural Roads



1-800-668-3276  
Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca  
www.ofa.on.ca

As spring planting season approaches, farmers are preparing for one of the busiest and most demanding times of the year. Long days in the field, tight planting windows, and the pressure of unpredictable weather can make safety easy to overlook.

As equipment begins moving more frequently between farms and fields, it's important to take a few extra steps to ensure machinery is safe and visible, especially when travelling on public roads.

Before the rush of planting begins, take time to inspect and maintain your equipment. Tractors, planters, sprayers, and wagons that have been parked over the winter should be checked before heading out. Make sure brakes, hitches, tires, mirrors, and lights are in good working order. Reflective markings and slow-moving vehicle (SMV) signs should also be clean, visible, and not faded. These simple checks can improve visibility and help reduce the risk of collisions with faster-moving traffic.

Lighting plays an important role during planting season, when many farmers start early or work after sunset to take advantage of favourable weather. Flashing amber lights, working headlights, and reflective tape allow approaching mo-

torists to recognize equipment sooner and react safely. Make sure implements being towed do not block lights or SMV emblems. When moving large or unusually wide equipment on public roads, consider using an escort vehicle if one is available. An escort vehicle with hazard lights can help warn approaching traffic and provide an extra level of safety for both the operator and other road users.

When travelling between fields, take extra care on public roads. Farm equipment typically moves much slower than regular traffic, which can surprise drivers approaching from behind. Stay as far to the right as safely possible, signal turns well in advance, and avoid sudden movements. When possible, use an escort vehicle when moving oversized or slow-moving equipment, especially on busy roads or routes with limited visibility. A second vehicle can help alert traffic, assist with turns, and reduce the risk of unsafe passing.

Road traffic has also changed in recent years. More drivers now rely on GPS navigation apps that route them along rural roads to avoid congestion on highways and in urban areas. Roads that were once relatively quiet may now carry more traffic, including drivers unfamiliar with farm equipment or rural road conditions. Keeping this in mind when moving equipment can help you stay alert and prepared for unexpected traffic.

Improper passing by motorists is one of the leading causes of serious collisions involving farm equipment. Statistics show that eight out of ten collisions involving farm machinery occur during daylight hours, and seven out of ten happen on dry road conditions. These numbers show that

many crashes occur when visibility is good, often because drivers misjudge speed differences or attempt unsafe passing.

With today's larger equipment, take extra care when approaching bridges, curves, and intersections where visibility may be limited. Making sure there is enough room and sightline for both your equipment and oncoming traffic can help prevent close calls.

Farmers are encouraged to review safety resources from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, including The Farm Guide: Farm Equipment on Ontario's Highways. The guide outlines requirements and best practices for lighting, marking, and moving farm equipment on public roads, and is available online at

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/farm-equipment-highway>

In the coming weeks, you will see road safety messaging from OFA on our social media channels and in farm publications. Please like and share these messages to help remind the driving public what to expect during the busy planting season.

In the weeks ahead, taking a few minutes to check equipment and practice safe travel habits can make a big difference. Staying focused on safety helps protect you, your family, and everyone sharing rural roads while you work to get the crop in the ground.

## Andrew Hunter Essay Writing Award

The Andrew Hunter Award was originally offered to post-secondary Canadian History students at Laurentian University's Barrie Campus. When Laurentian phased out its History program, the award was retooled to focus on students at high schools across Simcoe County.

Winners of the Hunter Award received cash prizes as well as a copy of the The History of Simcoe County, the book written by Andrew F. Hunter, the award's namesake. Andrew Hunter was an early local historian of Simcoe County and a co-founder of the SCHA. His book was one of the earliest local histories to be published in Ontario and remains an essential read for young historians today.

The SCHA is now accepting submissions for the next Andrew Hunter Award throughout the current academic year. Interested students can contact the SCHA for more information, or submit their essay to [info@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:info@simcoecountyhistory.ca)

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

See contact information on bottom of page 4.



*Collingwood Fuels Ltd has been providing Collingwood and surrounding areas with skilled, professional and reliable installation and service for more than 35 years.*

## Bulk Fuel Delivery of Propane, Furnace Oil, Diesel and Gasoline

### Our services include

- Oil tank installation and removal.
- Furnace installation and service.
- A/C installation and service.
- Hot water heater installation and service.
- Propane tank installation. (aboveground and underground)
- Bulk fuel tank and pump installation.

**705.445.4430 or 1.800.553.5571**  
15 Stewart Road, Collingwood ON L9Y 4M7  
[www.collingwoodfuels.com](http://www.collingwoodfuels.com) [info@collingwoodfuels.com](mailto:info@collingwoodfuels.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/collingwoodfuels/>

## SWB Insurance Brokers

(Smith, Williams and Bateman Insurance Brokers Ltd.)  
*We have been insuring farms and agribusinesses for 76 years (So Far!)*



Farms · Commercial · Residential · Automobile  
Professional Liability · Cyber  
Life Insurance · Travel Coverage · Etc.

16700 Yonge Street Box 2005  
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6W4  
905-895-2591 | 905-773-6266  
1-800-263-1520  
[info@swbins.com](mailto:info@swbins.com)

# Maple Season Begins with First Tapping for Sunderland Festival

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Pictured above is 2nd generation maple syrup producer Paul Harder showing how taps, years ago, were placed in a maple tree at the First Tapping held on March 14th. Paul was among the small group of founders who established the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival nearly 30 years ago. Today, he and his family continue to welcome busloads of visitors to their farm and sugarbush each year, while also operating a vendor booth on Main Street during the Festival. The Festival now attracts 10,000 people to Sunderland for this sweet spring tradition.

The First Tapping for the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival (SMSF) took place at Harlaine Farms owned by Paul Harder and family. Paul Harder was a founder of the SMSF and continues this year offering tours to his sugarbush and his maple syrup operation.

“We have a school bus arriving every hour during the Festival,” said Paul at the First Tapping. “Our family divides visitors into two groups—one heads out to the sugarbush while the other stays at the buildings. We show them how maple syrup is made. I look forward to the Festival every year.”

The SMSF returns on Saturday, April 11th and Sunday, April 12th and is held in the small town of Sunderland. There is usually an attendance of 10,000 or more people that often drive for hours to participate in this annual event. The entire town is involved as it is transformed into a busy market. River and Church Streets are an outdoor market and the Sunderland Public School is an indoor market.

This market is full of unique shopping from kettle corn to craft jerky to retro-inspired aprons. The market also has lots of maple syrup and maple syrup products for sale—direct from the producer. There are stages with live entertainment and food vendors on site.

An addition to this Festival are “Blades of Glory”, a group that makes history come alive with authentic medieval experiences that include knights, educating about the past. There will be shows happening at two different times on both days at the Festival, located near the Arena.

Free parking is available at the west end of River Street near the Grain Bin Elevators, where visitors can board shuttle buses that will take them into the Festival grounds.

For information about the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival, find them on Facebook.



Pictured above is Katie Harder, the 4th generation of the Harder family to work in maple syrup. Katie works at her family’s business, Harlaine Maple Products, where she specializes in making the famous Harlaine maple candy using the cherished recipe passed down from her late grandmother, Betty Anne. Beside her is boyfriend, Mckye Hill of Zephr. This tree is also considered “youth” in the maple syrup business as it is 40 years old. A tree must be 40 years old before it can be tapped for the first time. Katie’s Grandpa, Paul Harder owns this tree and 2,199 others that make up his 2,200 tap operation.

**D.M.D. Farm Drainage Inc.**  
**Drainage & Excavation Solutions**

Call or text for a free quote today 705-818-3467  
 dave@dmdfarmdrainage.ca | Elmvale, Ontario

**JOIN US!**  
 CENTRAL ONTARIO DISTRICT  
 (Formerly Simcoe County District)  
**Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario**  
 christianfarmers.org

*Keeping Faith in Farming*

**DOUG DOWNEY**  
 Member of Provincial Parliament  
 Barrie - Springwater - Oro-Medonte

www.dougdowney.ca  
 705-726-5538  
 14-20 Bell Farm Rd.  
 Barrie, ON  
 L4M 6E4

**Thank you**  
 from the North Simcoe Soil & Crop Improvement Association  
 to the following sponsors for helping  
 to make the annual Seed & Feed Fair a success!

**Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors**

DLG farm drainage · Robert Ritchie forest products · Harry Noordegraaf Construction

**Thank you to our Gold Sponsors**

Giffen Trucking · Greg Wood · Karen Jakubos Professional Corp · Rockeyrol Farms Ltd

**Thank you to our Silver Sponsors**

Beards Farm Supply	Double JB Feeds	North Simcoe Vet Services
Central Ontario Vet services	Elmvale Auto Supply Carquest	Prettyview Farms
Coldwater Auto Carquest	Maple Lane Farm Service	Red Edge Agriculture
Craighurst Autopro Napa	Mayes-Martin	Robinson Hardware
Dalston General Store	Minnings Electric	Steer Enterprises
Dunlogon Farms	North Simcoe Junior Farmers	Tire Buster - Tire & Towing

**True North Mechanical**  
 Air Specialist

Meeting all your heating and air conditioning needs,  
 one satisfied customer at a time.

Call, text or email Shawn for a free estimate.  
 705-828-3394 · truenorthmechanical@icloud.com  
 Fully licensed, insured and registered by TSSA  
 Serving Simcoe County and Surrounding Area.

## Financial security for peace of mind



### There is help if you are struggling with debt and unable to make ends meet

Tracy Green and her team at Ontario-Wide Financial offer solutions for homeowners who can't afford to stay in their homes and are considering selling to meet those financial obligations. There are other options!

- Mortgages and home equity loans and credit lines
- Financing for income tax, property tax and mortgage arrears
  - Bank turn downs
  - Self-employed with no proof of income
  - Retired with inadequate or no pension
    - Bad or tarnished credit
- People in a consumer proposal or a past bankruptcy
  - Reverse mortgages for people 55 years and older
    - Help with credit clean up

### Reverse mortgages can help you out of financial insecurity without losing the equity in your home.

- Maintain equity through mortgage payments or
- Make no payments and take lump sums as needed

### A 5-year mortgage payment pause

- Up to 60% of the home's value can be put on a 5-year, no payment program.

*Call Tracy Green to answer all your questions about any mortgage situation!*

*Tracy is a lifetime professional mortgage consultant 37 years in the business and a certified reverse mortgage specialist.*

Very competitive rates

416-573-7669 | 705-259-3974 | 1-888-307-7799  
 www.ontario-widefinancial.com  
 Broker FSRA Licence #12456 level 2

## After The Chores: Lesson

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



This year I was really excited for kidding. This was the first year for having boer cross kids.

I opened the door at chore time. I found my oldest doe, a black LaMancha extremely proud of her new baby. The baby was healthy and strong- and totally the wrong colour. I was looking at the exact replica of "White Kid" from last year.

"White Kid" was a buck kid that was born here that was so crippled that he could not stand for days. "He really should be euthanized as he can't get better in that condition," Dr. Brent said and then he prayed for this sad little buck kid. It was like the prayer was an energy drink as this kid got stronger, every chore time. Then my knowledge from raising goats for many years packed up and left- and my heart took over. This buck kid didn't only get better, he thrived. All I ever saw was the "White Kid" struggling to survive as the White Kid matured into a badly behaved white buck in the fall. He became so obnoxious and aggressive that he had to be sold from the barn.

There are justified consequences for stupidity I always say- and now I'm living it. There are three does, with a strong possibility for the fourth one that produced kids from my stupid decision. The one doe kid, born in the Polar Vortex, is a strutting LaMancha that has that obnoxious personality of her father as an adult. She jumps up on me constantly for no reason. Her mother feeds her to full every day. This kid is into everything. She is the one that dashes out when the sheep are fed and I find her dancing in the sunshine in the sheep paddock- after the barn is locked up for the day. She sneaks in with the grain and I find only her tail peeking out of the bag. I will call her "Polar" though her name should be "Lesson".

Another kid is thriving and I'm suspicious now that she isn't related to Francis the new boer buck here. She has an obnoxious personality which is a clue plus she does not look at all like Francis.

I came to the barn this morning to find two miniatures of Francis. The distinct red and white colour exactly matches Francis. Their mother is a black LaMancha and is LaMancha on both sides, for many generations. These two kids are strong, short and sturdy and match no other kid ever born here. They have the traditional deep red neck and head with the rest of the body all fluffy white. The mother is beyond proud of these extremely cute kids. One kid was seriously happy kid dancing 10 hours after birth. After two years of having kids and refusing to take them, this doe has her mothering skills finally working. It is again stupid to chase down a doe for two seasons; now that all that work is validated. These kids are a whole level of their own in cute, even with their too short ears from the LaMancha side of the family. And to top it off, one kid is a doe.

Francis the boer buck has fully answered my question as to why so many people raise boer goats. Francis is the boss of his pen. No doe pushes Francis around though they all tried. He is front row for every meal. If I'm not on time with meals for any reason, he calls me out. He doesn't take excuses. When he saw a kid for the first time in his pen, Francis did a double look and ran. He has accepted kids now and won't push them. I am grateful to Becky Vissers of Tyrone for giving me all this boer entertainment.

I just hope the rest of the kids look like Francis not my heart from last year.

## D.L.G. FARM DRAINAGE (2007) LTD.

Elmvale, Ontario

Over 40 years of hands on experience in **TILE DRAINAGE AND EROSION CONTROL**. Along with up to date drainage and excavation equipment installed with GPS mapping and laser technology.

**REMOVAL OF FENCE ROWS, ROCKS AND TREES, DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS AND INSTALLATION OF PUMPING STATIONS**

**Get a head start on planting and increase your yields!**

PLEASE CALL OR TEXT FOR A FREE QUOTE TODAY

**GREG GRAHAM (OWNER) 705-623-0211**

**DAVE GRAHAM 705-623-0300**

**OFFICE 705-322-9292**

email [dlgfarmdrain@hotmail.com](mailto:dlgfarmdrain@hotmail.com)

OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE:

**NEW BUILDING SITE PREPARATION, FLOAT MOVES, GRAIN HAULING**

PLEASE CALL OR TEXT **ROB GRAHAM 705-331-5371**

# North Simcoe seed and feed show held in Elmvale

Synopsis and photographs by Don Beaulieu, graphics courtesy of ROAR.

Guest speaker presentations took place at the 71st Seed and Feed show sponsored by the North Simcoe Soil & Crop Improvement Association that took place mid-March at the Elmvale Community Hall.

## 2025 Season

To begin the afternoon talks, Taylor Legge of Holmes Agro gave a review of the 2025 growing season. Legge is one of 17 agronomists at Holmes Agro, manages a Pioneer Seed agency and is a director with the North Simcoe Soil & Crop Association.

With the aid of graphs, Legge demonstrated that despite what seemed like a hot dry summer, was not far off the ten-year trend. Three rainfall events in the Mount Forest area last July made a noticeable positive difference from the Stayner area which did not receive those rainfalls. There are certain times when a crop can most use rain, so timing, aside from the overall season's rainfall can play a major role.

During the topic of crop rotation, Legge noted that long-term rotation studies show that "There is a rotation effect, but it happens more in the bad years than the good years". She likened it to insurance.

## ROAR (Resident Owners Against Radar)

Two speakers took part in the second portion of the afternoon's presentations. Rachel Brooks and Terry Jackman provided the background and latest updates on the agricultural community's concerns over the Department of National Defence' over-the-horizon radar system's potential receiver site in Clearview Township.

First up was Brooks. Although it seems this has been in the news extensively, particularly in the agricultural industry and local municipalities, this presentation included the basic information for those not up to speed. Brooks explained the "...presentation is designed to explain what the project is, what is proposed for our area, what it could mean for our community and why we are asking for a different approach".

The DND says that the Clearview location is not the only one being considered, but "It is the only one being advanced at this time. One aspect Brooks brought up was that these lands are suitable for the DND's use because they have been tiled for farming.

Jackman spoke to environmental concerns. A portion of the preliminary site includes part of the Minesing Wetlands. She took the time to mention the importance of the wetlands, not only for the diverse flora and fauna, but also

## Impact of losing 4,000 Acres of Farmland (Annual Production)

- 820,000 bushels of Corn:
  - 8.7 Litres of ethanol, 22,960 tons of livestock feed, 50 million boxes of Corn Flakes
- OR-
- 196,000 bushels of Soybeans:
  - 977,000 Litres of soybean oil, 8.6 million lbs of protein meal, 35M 1/4 lb soy burgers
- OR-
- 368,000 bushels of Wheat:
  - 15.4 million lbs of flour, 7.0 million loaves of bread, 15.4 million boxes of pasta
- OR-
- 14.0 million lbs of Canola seed:
  - 1.9 million Litres of canola oil, 8.0 million lbs of canola meal
- PLUS-
- Livestock operations displaced from the lands being considered:
  - Beef: 185,000 lbs/year (75-head cow/calf and 200 feeder cattle operations)
  - Lamb: 63,000 lbs/year (450-ewe sheep flock)
  - Chicken: 700,000 lbs/year (120,000 chicken operation)
  - Pork: 2,500 lbs/year (12 hogs to finish)

\* Yield Data: 2024 Simcoe County Average yields (Agricorp & Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Agriculture)  
\*\* Food product equivalents calculated using industry-standard conversion factors (USDA Agriculture & Agr-Food Canada, Canola Council of Canada, Grain Farmers of Ontario)

mentioned it is a Ramsar recognized site, recognized as an important wetland around the world.

The Ramsar Convention works on the core purpose of conserving wetlands, promote wise use of wetlands which includes protecting their hydrological characteristics (water flow, aquifer recharge, flood buffering) and to maintain diversity of wildlife, to prevent irreversible alteration, unnecessary degradation before considering mitigation and to generally provide international co-operation for the preservation of wetlands. This wetland is also designated as a provincial area of natural and scientific interest (ANSI).

*Farm View* has included two slides from the presentation; one tells of the equivalent losses of different agricultural uses should the DND go ahead with plans. Also, a map showing the current preliminary site (solid black line) and the potential expropriated land, with County Road 10 running down



members with a review and what may be expected in the near future in the grain market. Homick is the Team Lead, Grain Origination and Business Development.

Unpredictable consequences in the situation at the Strait of Hormuz along with market trends caused by certain tweets (twits?) makes forecasting difficult or requires a couple or so scenarios to watch for.

Homick finished his talk with a baseball analogy: "For the ones here marketing their crop, I am a firm believer of base hits. Too often guys swing for the fences... to get the top of the market. ...Take advantage of those base hits. Lay down the odd bunt, try to advance your price point".

## Wheat Pete, Keynote speaker

Mr. Personality was in the house, Peter Johnson. Supply of nitrogen, particularly urea ammonium nitrate (UAN), basically a liquid nitrogen fertilizer. With expectations of a supply issue, discussion was had as to how and when to best disseminate it on crops.

Johnson had a lot of insights to share, but here are just a couple of sound bytes:

"If you put wheat in rotation, you automatically get five more bushels per acre in soybean".

Showing a graph that demonstrated how many people world-wide are fed via use of synthetic fertilizers, Johnson expressed: "We in agriculture do a really crappy job of telling our story. We have the greatest story in mankind's history. Agriculture is the greatest success story man has ever known; It's because of pesticides and fertilizers."

"Unfortunately, science impacts the brain but people don't make decisions with their brain. They make decision with their heart, their emotions." When we tell our story we need to make it resonate with them [city folk] he insisted.

In 1920, one person in three did not know where their next meal was coming from, globally. Currently it is one person in ten. That is still too many, but because of "...what we are doing, only one in five people are no longer food insecure".

Another source indicates 28% of people were undernourished in 1970. Today, as of *Farm View* deadline, that figure is down to 8%.

If you ate today, thank a farmer.



Peter Johnson

Join us April 7th for our

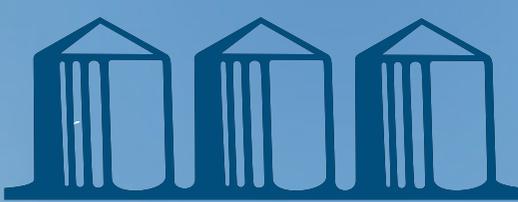
Spring Marketing Meeting: 9:30am-1:00pm.

Speakers begin at 10:00 a.m. · Lunch Provided

Call 705-720-0431 ext 01 to RSVP

Buyers and Sellers of Soybeans, Corn and Wheat. Call or go to the website for up-to-date pricing.





**ADDIS GRAIN**

in Oro-Medonte

705-720-0431

Now online... Up-to-date Cash bids for old and new crop corn, soys and wheat

Visit us online at [www.addisgrain.com](http://www.addisgrain.com)

# Remembering Arie Manintveld: Purpose Driven Farmer

Article by Cathy Hamill-Hill, photo provided by the Manintveld family

Arie Manintveld of Manilla was a purpose driven farmer. He thrived under hard work, his wife by his side with close family and the challenge of building a large farming operation.

Arie was born on December 10, 1934, on a dairy farm in the province of Holland in the Netherlands. While in school he was encouraged to learn a trade and chose carpentry. He later joined the Dutch army, where he rose to the rank of captain.

At a dance he met Elisabeth Van Gastel, a Dutch girl known as Beppie, who worked as a finance manager. Around this time Arie also decided to return to school to become a master carpenter. The couple married in July 1957, beginning a lifelong love story.

Later that same year, the newlyweds immigrated to Canada, flying to Toronto to start their new life. Beppie quickly found work sewing and cleaning, while Arie began working as a carpenter. Before long, he learned about a Dutch-speaking owner of a carpentry business in Pembroke. Their first Pembroke home was a drafty cottage rental as the couple purchased three building lots. The purpose driven Farmer had a plan.

After finishing his full-time job each day, Arie would head to the construction site to continue building their house. When he had to leave for work, he would give Beppie instructions on what needed to be done next. The couple moved into a nearby trailer while raising their children—Simon, Nancy and Mark—quietly working together and steadily carrying out their plan.

While grocery shopping at the Pleasant View Dairy in Pembroke, Beppie met two people, also Dutch, named Frank and Diny Vanderloo. “Arie was working that day but they all met up another time and became friends forever,” Bernice Vanderloo-Hogendoorn says. “Arie built 3 homes and he did that well too,” Bernice’s parents remembered. It was disbelief when Arie announced he, as an accomplished house builder and highly respected carpenter was leaving- to go farming.

In 1966, after selling the houses, the plan came together to move the family of five to Manilla. Arie went out to work to earn enough money to build the dairy herd and Beppie cared for the children, the home and kept the finances. Arie quit the off farm job when he bought the first dairy herd of Gurnseys. Later, the herd was replaced by Holsteins and a modern milking parlour.

Donnie Johnson, a retired farmer in Manilla reports, “many thought Arie was going to lose that farm when he put up three

big Harvestore silos. The story was the silo payment was \$700 a month which was a fortune then. But Arie showed everyone he knew exactly what he was doing.”

Bernice and Wendy Vanderloo have fond memories of summers spent at the farm. “Arie and Beppie had names for all their cows and Arie knew each one when they came in for milking. Helping with the hay, we unloaded the wagon onto the elevator. What I remember most is heading out in the farm truck sitting on the tailgate. We went to pick apples. Beppie helped us after to make apple pies. Picking fresh veggies that Nancy and I picked and washed was part of our meals. Of course going to the Salebarn was exciting and that was an outing for everyone,” Wendy Vanderloo remembers adding, “We sure weren’t bored on Arie’s farm.”

“Beppie told my wife that she and Arie never missed a milking in the barn for 37 years. Beppie was so done with milking. The kids (children) had no interest in milking. Arie knew it was time for a change,” Donnie remembers.

The purpose driven Farmer Arie always went to the local Salebarn each week. He knew markets, he knew trends and what was happening in the local farming community. He and Beppie attended community events between chores to support neighbours and other farmers. Arie was networking long before the term was invented. Arie purchased another farm, very close to his home farm where youngest son Mark and his family settled. The other two children eventually left home to pursue higher education and start families of their own. Nancy began a career in nursing while also helping manage her husband’s farming operation and raising a family. Simon became an auto mechanic and went on to own a successful business with his wife, while also raising a family. Mark remained closely connected to home, joining the operation started by his parents.

Arie decided that broiler chicken production would be next and took on the role of chief contractor for building the massive chicken barn. He used his master carpenter skills to oversee building a barn to last for decades. Mark managed the broiler chicken operation. Arie made plans for crop farming and how he was going to get past missing chores twice a day.

“Arie liked doing chores in the barn. Arie decided he needed to keep doing chores- that is why he first got his goats,” Donnie explained.

With his networking, Arie watched for

more opportunities to buy or rent good farmland, near the home farm. It was clear that Mark was not only an exceptional equipment operator handling the long, long days of planting and harvesting, he was gifted to fix and maintain equipment. “Arie and Mark could fix anything. They didn’t need to buy all new because the two of them could keep it all going,” Donnie explained. Beppie was always at Arie’s side, she did all the paperwork from ordering seed to the next combine.

It was time for Donnie to retire- and he put up his farm for sale by tender. He was looking for a good, price. Arie, with his networking skills put in the highest tender. “Arie said I was property #10 that was now part of the farm,” Donnie said adding that he was grateful to be offered to rent the house and barn back so he didn’t have to relocate.

The purpose driven farmer bought Donnie’s farm specifically for crop farming. Fences and fence rows were pulled out and in its place was more good productive land in large spaces to fit large equipment. The one exception was a small piece that was set aside. “Arie had to have some hay- for those goats he had.”

Arie raised only boer goats. Boer goats are the most popular breed of goat now sold at any auction in Ontario. “From a farm in Manilla” listing meant goats from Arie’s farm topped the Woodville Livestock Auction yet again. His family farm dairy herd had won production awards. His family farm crops won awards. Arie was a successful goat farmer, now in his 80’s.

Beppie became seriously ill. The close family, that now included grandchildren, pulled in closer. Arie stopped everything but absolute necessary work staying by his beloved Beppie’s side. The Arie and Beppie 65 year love story ended on this side of the sky on March 28, 2022 when Beppie passed away. Beppie was in her 88th year.

Arie immediately bought a companion house dog, named Lucky. Between Lucky, his goats and his close family, he managed to find a way through his grief. By this time, Mark’s son, Josh had joined in the operation. “There was still a board meeting every morning at 8:00 a.m.,” Donnie said explaining that



Arie Manintveld  
December 10, 1934 - February 12, 2026

Mark and Josh would each faithfully come to Arie’s farm every morning to plan out the day just like when Beppie was there. Arie had a purpose to each day, even now in his late 80’s.

Arie always felt grateful that his three married children chose to all live close to his home farm. The purpose driven Farmer decided “my boys” meaning Mark and Josh needed Tim Horton’s coffee most afternoons and made it his job to drive his truck to Lindsay to fetch it. He spent a lot of time with son Simon and daughter Nancy- and his grandchildren in his last years.

It was certainly weather related that caused the accident with Arie and his truck. Six days later, the master carpenter, award winning dairy/crop and successful boer goat farmer, devoted family man, Arie Manintveld peacefully passed out of this world on February 12, 2026. Arie was in his 91st year. The Arie and Beppie love story moved to the other side of the sky.

Arie was father to Simon (Bonnie) Manintveld, Nancy (Scott) Little, and Mark (Michelle) Manintveld, grandfather to Krystle (Max), Adam, Colin (Marnie), Stirling (Meaghan), Austin, Joshua (Ashleigh), and Denise, great grandfather to Charlotte, Chloe, Jack, Clarke, Caydence, Jacob & Aubrey.

## Escarpment Corridor Alliance, with RBC Foundation, Funds Biodiversity Projects for South Georgian Bay Farms

Nearly sixty per cent of the land within the Escarpment Corridor Alliance (ECA)’s area of influence across South Georgian Bay is farmland, making farmers key partners in preserving the region’s natural heritage.

This year, ECA is launching a new initiative offering small grants for on-farm projects that support soil health, biodiversity, habitat connectivity and other nature-based solutions that improve long-term agricultural sustainability and outcomes for biodiversity.

“We want to hear directly from our farming community,” says Executive Director

Jarvis Strong. “Our survey will help us understand the barriers farmers face and how we can best support those interested in adopting sustainable practices.”

Farmers can access the survey and grant application at: [myescarpment.ca/growing-together-supporting-sustainable-agriculture-in-south-georgian-bay/](https://myescarpment.ca/growing-together-supporting-sustainable-agriculture-in-south-georgian-bay/)

ECA began in 2022, as community members gathered to form a non-profit organization aimed at preserving the local natural environment and its fragile ecosystems. Today, ECA is a registered charity and South Geor-

gian Bay’s regional land trust, working across the region’s interconnected watersheds, as illustrated here;

<https://myescarpment.ca/evolving-into-the-science-of-a-corridor/>

Within their Area of Influence, more than sixty per cent of the lands is agricultural, underscoring the vital role farmers play in maintaining both the ecological health and rural character of the region.

“It is well known that farmers already engage in sustainable practices such as low or no till cultivation to prevent soil loss, rota-

tional grazing, cover crops for weed control and more.” According to the last census, farms in Grey Highlands, an agricultural Municipality within the ECA’s Area of Influence, led other local Municipalities in wind and solar energy leading to energy efficiencies in their buildings and machinery as well. “ECA wants to support the good work already being done by farmers in our region to improve sustainability and can offer some funding for projects that provide nature-based solutions to climate change”, adds Jarvis Strong.

# Farmer Tony McQuail Brings Ground-Level View to NDP Leadership Bid

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

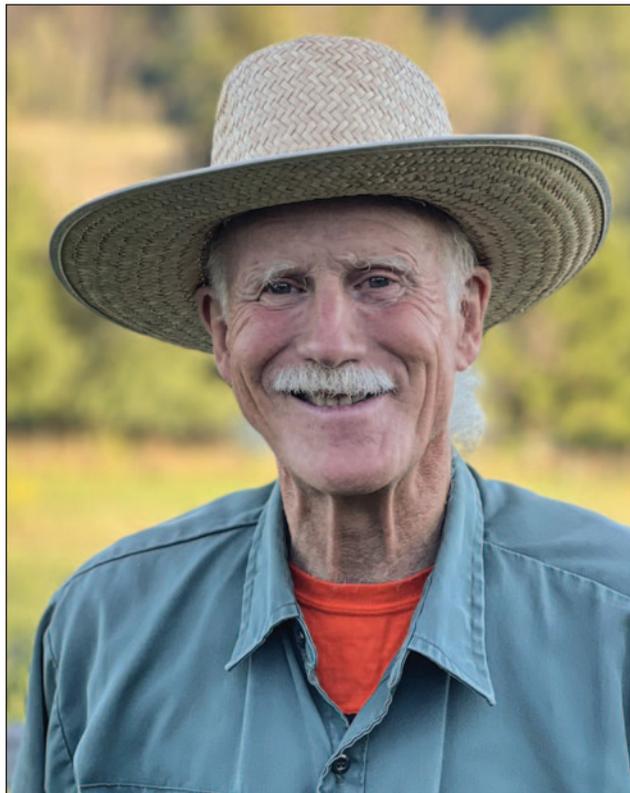
Tony McQuail might be the only politician gaining national recognition while still organizing his days around chores in the barn. He is an approved candidate for the federal New Democratic Party's leadership. The New Democrat Party (NDP) has been a part of McQuail's life for decades.

Tony McQuail bought a run-down farm near Lucknow in Huron County with his wife in 1973. He improved the farm, building an operation that included beef cattle, a small orchard, vegetables, and crops. The farm had a Community Garden and sold vegetable shares. McQuail co-founded the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario. He also served on the executive of both the Huron County Federation of Agriculture and the Huron National Farmers Union, including terms as president of each organization. Today, he remains active on the farm, which has been passed down to the next generation of his family. It is not unusual to see McQuail and a team of draft horses feeding hay on the family farm.

McQuail first entered federal politics in 1980. He explains, "18% and higher interest rates were robbing farmers, homeowners and small businesses, transferring money to the banks and the wealthy while doing nothing to fight inflation caused by an 8 fold increase in the price of oil." He said there was only political choice that he could accept. "Ed Broadbent and the NDP proposed fighting energy price inflation with conservation, efficiency and renewables and a made in Canada interest rate reflecting the actual risk to lenders," McQuail remembers, adding "it was obvious to me that others (other political parties) were using inflation as an excuse to rob ordinary Canadians while making the rich richer. Not a lot has changed."

"My Dad (an accountant) always said money is like manure- it works better when it is spread around," He says adding that he always saw the NDP as a more sharing driven leadership.

McQuail has a strong understanding of effective farm policy. Bob Rae, who served as Ontario's premier from 1990 to 1995, led the province's only New Democratic Party government to date. McQuail was appointed as the Executive Assistant to Elmer Buchanan, the Minister of Agriculture and Food. During those years, two Ontario Farm Programs were researched, designed and implemented and are still thriving today. The first program was the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). It was developed with farmers to increase environmental awareness in over 20 different areas on their farm operations. Through the EFP process, farmers find their farm's environmental strengths and find potential environmental concerns before they happen. This program links with cost-share programs. It is managed by the Ontario Soil



Tony McQuail, a longtime farmer near Lucknow, balances daily barn chores with a bid for the leadership of the New Democratic Party, bringing decades of agricultural experience and rural perspective to the national stage.

and Crop Improvement Association and is hugely important to Ontario farmers.

The Farm Business Registration (FBR) program is an Ontario law where every farm that has a gross income of \$7,000 or more must register with an accredited Farm Organization meaning the OFA, Christian Farmers of Ontario or the National Farmers Union-Ontario. The FBR is managed by AgriCorp and it provides Ontario with a total unified database of active farmers plus it works as a known funding stream for the three Farm Organizations. The three Farm Organizations are critical in protecting farmers and farmland especially now with the constant sprawl of urban housing development. McQuail was at the table when these two programs were born- and he says he knows why they both found success. "Farmers were part of building these programs because we (members of Premier Bob Rae's government) went out to

the farming community to find out what was needed. Working with farmers we got programs that work for farmers. Both programs survived other governments because they work- and we need them," he explained.

"It is criminal that current governments are not protecting our best farmlands," he stressed adding that there is still a need for a third farm program that he thought of in the 1990's. He said there should be a type of "Farmland Pension Fund." Today, farmers whose land lies near expanding urban areas are often approached by developers looking to purchase it. These offers typically exceed market value, making them difficult to refuse. However, the greatest profits are realized later, when developers sell to builders—leaving farmers with no share in the increased value generated from their former land.

McQuail explains the concept, "I would like to see a farmland pension program which would be the only body that could apply to rezone farmland. If there was pressure to rezone a farm it would be purchased by the Farmland Pension Program at its Agricultural Productive Value. The program would then apply to rezone it and sell it at the higher price." He adds, "the difference would go into a trust fund to be used for a type of farmer pension for retirement for farmers across our nation. It is a spread the money around to make it better for many farmers idea." McQuail thinks it would also reduce the incentive to develop farm land and help stabilize farmland prices for farmers.

McQuail says he fully understands the need for development but it should not be done by "dissecting farmland." He says that the "car has become a prison" as people are forced to drive so far from where they live and work. Careful planning should be done around farmland not through it, he added.

Supply management works and is a "great idea that builds healthy rural communities." It remains a proven Canadian policy. McQuail would like to see a committee of farmers established to explore new ways of entering supply-managed agriculture, helping to address the steadily declining number of people involved in farming across all sectors in Canada.

"Many young people are interested in agriculture, we need ways to get them into our business because our way of life has no match," he said. "Agriculture and food are the foundation of society."

He summarizes "As a farmer I see the world from ground level, I'm out in nature on a daily basis which is a very different perspective from someone in the corner office of a corporate tower," McQuail says adding it is a different perspective from our current leaders. It also brings a rural farmer view to the NDP leadership race.

**Committed to local producers because we understand that every kernel counts!**

Est. 1989



**Call today to book 2026 crop prices**

**Please visit our website for information and current cash bids.**



[www.dunkerronelevators.ca](http://www.dunkerronelevators.ca)  
Family owned and operated  
for over 35 years!

4931 3rd Line, Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0 (905) 939-7494 E-mail: [office@dunkerronelevators.ca](mailto:office@dunkerronelevators.ca)



**ADS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
DIESEL SPECIALISTS  
MEMBER

**DEREK'S**  
DIESEL SERVICE INC.

Gas & Diesel, Fuel Injectors  
Turbo Chargers and Diesel Fuel Pumps  
Authorized Dealer For:

**DELPHI** **BOSCH** **STANADYNE**

Tel: (705) 733-3787 • 1-800-862-3405  
Fax: (705) 733-3789  
Joe Roach, Manager 66 Morrow Road, Barrie

**MCLAREN**  
EQUIPMENT

JOHN DEERE  
STIHL

705-734-2424 INFO@MCLARENEQUIPMENT.COM  
3464 HORSESHOE VALLEY RD W. PHELSTON  
ESTD 1993

We have: **Firestone**  
**Ag Tires**

Call Dave, Blake  
or Paul for all your  
ag tire needs!

**905-939-8964**  
northwaytire@outlook.com

**NORTHWAY TIRE LTD.**  
24/7 Farm & Truck Service  
More than 30 years serving South Simcoe County

**FARM FEED SERVICE** **DOUBLE**  
**JB FEEDS**

959 Marshall Rd.  
Wyebridge, ON L0K 2E1  
Just north of Mertz Corner Rd. on Marshall Road  
Phone 705-526-0563 Fax 705-526-4862  
www.doublejbfedds.ca

**Curbside pick up still offered**  
Call today to place your poultry order

• **Organic Feed Available** •  
Dairy, beef, poultry, swine, sheep,  
rabbit, equine rations, bird seed  
& feeders, cat & dog food

**Bulk and custom orders upon request.**  
We also carry CCIA cattle & sheep tags,  
fencing supplies, salt, minerals, twine,  
Herbs for Horses products and more!

Monday - Saturday 9:00am-5:00 p.m.,  
Sunday and Holidays - closed.

MasterCard VISA Facebook Interac **Trey's**

## Fun Farm Science: *Bird nest farming*

Presented by the curious Don Beaulieu

For many farmers, the phrase bird nest farming sounds extremely odd-to-nonsensical rather than giving the impression of an agricultural enterprise. Yet, in parts of Southeast Asia it has quietly become a significant rural industry. An industry not built on meat, eggs or feathers, but on the nests themselves.

The birds involved are swiftlets, small, swallow-like birds that normally nest on the walls of coastal caves. Certain species make their nests almost entirely from strands of hardened saliva. Once cleaned and dried, these delicate, translucent nests are the famous edible bird's nests used in soups and tonics in Chinese cuisine. In markets across Asia, they can command prices that rival luxury foods such as truffles or caviar.

Traditional harvesting took place in limestone caves where collectors climbed bamboo ladders hundreds of feet high to scrape nests from the rock. That work was dangerous, unpredictable, and often depleted wild bird populations.

In recent decades, entrepreneurs in countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand have essentially brought the caves into town. A typical swiftlet "farm" has the appearance of a plain concrete warehouse or small apartment block. Inside, the building is deliberately dark, warm and humid. These conditions resemble the caves where the birds naturally nest. Narrow slots near the roof allow the birds to fly in and out.

Farmers install wooden planks or ledges along the walls and ceilings. These provide the surfaces where swiftlets attach their nests, much as they would on cave rock.

Unlike most forms of livestock production, the birds are not confined or fed by the farmer. Swiftlets spend the day flying outdoors, catching insects on the wing across rice fields, wetlands and forests. In that sense they remain wild. What farmers control is the real estate.

To attract birds, many buildings, or swift houses, have small audio speakers playing recorded swiftlet calls from dawn to dusk. The sounds indicate to passing birds that a colony exists inside. If conditions are right, the newcomers move in and begin building nests. Once established, a colony may grow year after year as young birds return to breed in the same structure.

Successful houses typically maintain temperatures around 26–28°C and humidity close to 80 per cent. Thick concrete walls, small openings and sometimes simple misting systems help maintain those conditions. Farmers also pay attention to airflow, light levels, and cleanliness. Too much light discourages nesting; too little ventilation can cause mould or parasites. It's not so different, conceptually, from managing a poultry barn, except the birds come and go freely.



Swiftlet houses used to farm and harvest edible bird nests in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia.

The nests themselves are harvested after the young birds have fledged. At that stage the nest has done its job and the birds will simply build another one for the next brood. In well-managed operations, this allows two or three harvests a year without harming the colony. Once collected, the nests are cleaned by hand to remove feathers and dust. After drying, they are graded according to shape, colour, and purity before entering the market.

The demand for edible nests comes largely from Chinese cuisine and traditional medicine, where the ingredient is believed to support health and vitality. The most famous preparation is bird's-nest soup, a delicacy served at banquets and special occasions. Because of that cultural demand, processed nests can sell for thousands of dollars per kilogram.

From an agricultural perspective, swiftlet farming certainly is unusual. The farmer provides habitat rather than feed, and the birds gather their own food from the surrounding landscape. Advocates say this approach has two advantages. First; it reduces the dangerous and sometimes destructive harvesting of nests from natural caves. Second; it provides a reliable supply of nests while allowing the birds to live essentially wild lives.

For farmers looking around the world at creative ways people produce food and income, the swiftlet houses of Southeast Asia offer a striking example: An entire agricultural sector built on little more than clever architecture, patient management and the remarkable nesting habits of a small bird.

## Healthy Waters Program

Grants & Technical Advice for your Stewardship Project



NVCA's Healthy Waters Program helps landowners in the Nottawasaga Valley undertake projects that improve water quality and stream health by providing funding and free, on-site technical advice.

**Grants covering 30 – 100% of projects costs up to \$10,000 per year are available for eligible projects.**



- tree planting
- livestock restriction fencing
- manure storage improvements
- on-stream pond bypasses, fishways & bottom-draws
- clean water diversion for barnyards
- abandoned well decommissioning
- tile drain control boxes
- and more!



**Call us today about your project!**

Contact Shannon Stephens, NVCA, at  
705-424-1479 x239 • www.nvca.on.ca



## Supporting Agriculture in Simcoe North

By MPP Jill Dunlop

Agriculture has always been a cornerstone of life and prosperity in Simcoe North. From family farms passed down through generations to new producers bringing fresh innovation to the sector, our agricultural community plays a vital role in feeding Ontario and strengthening our local economy.

After returning to Queen's Park last month, I am happy to provide these updates on initiatives that will benefit farmers and agri-businesses across our region. The province continues to recognize the importance of agriculture and is making significant investments to support local producers. Recently, the governments of Canada and Ontario announced up to \$20 million through the Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative. This program helps farmers and food processors expand into new markets and increase global sales of Ontario-grown products, protecting local producers and strengthening the competitiveness of our agri-food sector in an increasingly uncertain global marketplace.

Another important step forward has been the province's decision to increase funding for the Risk Management Program and the Self-Directed Risk Management Program, adding \$100 million in additional support over three years. These programs help farmers manage risks beyond their control, including market fluctuations, supply chain disruptions, and weather challenges. By strengthening these tools, our government is helping producers plan with greater confidence and stability.

Ontario is also continuing its work through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year framework supporting innovation, sustainability, and productivity in agriculture. This partnership funds a wide range of programs designed to help producers adopt new technologies, improve environmental stewardship, and strengthen the long-term resiliency of farms across the province.

Here in Simcoe North, agriculture remains an essential part of our rural identity and local economy. Whether crop farming, livestock operations, or value-added agri-businesses, our farmers continue to demonstrate dedication, innovation, and resiliency.

I want to thank the farmers and agricultural workers across our region for the hard work they do every day. Your commitment to producing high-quality food and caring for the land is something we can all be proud of. I also invite you to join me for the 2026 Free Annual Seniors Day event on May 20th at the Barnfield Point Recreation Centre in Orillia, featuring guest speakers, service providers, and more. I look forward to seeing you there and to continuing to advocate for our agricultural community and support the growth of this vital sector for years to come.

## Ray Robertson Inducted Into OFC Wall Of Fame

Ontario Forage Council (OFC) is pleased to announce Ray Robertson as the inaugural inductee into the OFC Wall of Fame.

Chris Martin made the presentation during Forages For Tomorrow, the OFC Annual General Meeting, held at the beginning of March this year.

As Ontario Forage Council's former manager, Ray Robertson, played a pivotal role in advancing Ontario's forage industry through strong leadership and collaboration. During his tenure, he worked closely with producers, researchers, and industry partners to strengthen forage research, education, and extension efforts across the province.

"Ray has been the greatest ambassador for the Forage Industry in Ontario that I have ever met. He helped raise Ontario's profile as a Forage Exporter throughout all of Canada and to international markets. His hard work and dedication in the industry is second to none," said Terry Nuhn, President of Nuhn Forage Inc and Past President of Ontario Forage Council.

The Wall of Fame celebrates the individuals whose dedication, leadership, and vision have shaped the growth and impact of OFC. Honourees are decided by the OFC Board of Directors.

To learn more please visit <https://onforagenetwork.ca/ontario-forage-council/ofc-wall-of-fame/>

For more information about OFC, please visit: <https://onforagenetwork.ca/ontario-forage-council/>

For more information:

Patricia Ellingwood, General Manager: 877-892-8663, [support@ontarioforagecouncil.com](mailto:support@ontarioforagecouncil.com)

Rebecca Vito, Communications Manager: 877-892-8663, [admin@ontarioforagecouncil.com](mailto:admin@ontarioforagecouncil.com)



Ray Robertson, former manager of the Ontario Forage Council, was named the inaugural inductee to the organization's Wall of Fame. Chris Martin presented the honour during the Forages For Tomorrow annual meeting in early March, recognizing Robertson's leadership and long-time contributions to advancing Ontario's forage industry.

Legacy  
Funeral and Cremation  
Services Inc.

Independently family owned and operated  
Full service funeral home and funeral alternative provider under one roof

*Celebrating Life, One Legacy at a Time.*

offering...  
Simple Cremations.  
Traditional Funerals.  
Celebrations of life.  
Graveside Services.  
Pre-Arranged or At-need.

Matt and Cindy Drury/Owners

**Tel: (705) 728-8282**

[info@legacyfuneral.ca](mailto:info@legacyfuneral.ca)    [www.legacyfuneral.ca](http://www.legacyfuneral.ca)

55 Cedar Pointe Drive #600 Barrie, Ontario L4N 5R7

**Check out the Ag Business Directory on page 22.**

John Rundle  
PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER

Where every photo becomes a Masterpiece

705-321-2592  
[RundlesPhotography.com](http://RundlesPhotography.com)    [@rundles\\_photography](https://www.instagram.com/rundles_photography)

Ontario is proud to support the hardworking farmers, producers, and agri-businesses who put food on our tables every day. Recently, Ontario partnered with the federal government to invest up to \$20 million through the Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative, helping farmers and food processors expand into new markets and strengthen the long-term competitiveness of Ontario-grown products.

### Providing Provincial Support in Simcoe North

- Anniversary, Birthday & Special Event Scrolls
- Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates
- Family Responsibility Office Issues (FRO)
- GAINS (tax credits for disabled persons and seniors)
- Health Care
- Health Cards/OHIP Issues
- Natural Resources & the Environment
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- Ontario Student Assistance (OSAP)
- Provincial Government Programs
- Seniors Issues
- Small Business Issues
- Transportation
- Trillium Drug Program (OTDP)
- Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB)



**JILL DUNLOP**  
MPP – Simcoe North/Nord

705-326-3246 • [Jill.Dunlopco@pc.ola.org](mailto:Jill.Dunlopco@pc.ola.org)  
[JillDunlopMPP.ca](http://JillDunlopMPP.ca)

**MB**  
MURCOTT DESIGN BUILD  
Serving Simcoe County Since 1992

• Agricultural • Equestrian • Commercial • Industrial

**Free Estimates** [murrayscott65@outlook.com](mailto:murrayscott65@outlook.com)

**705-721-8472**



## Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

### Decisions, decisions

For most of my life, the future of our farm has been something that quietly sat in the back of my mind. Some days it whispered and other days it kept me awake at night.

Farming isn't just a job. It's a chain of decisions, sacrifices, and hopes that stretches across generations.

Fifty-five years ago, my parents did something that still amazes me when I think about it. They moved an entire farm to our current location - buildings, cattle, equipment, and a dream. They started again with little more than determination and a willingness to work harder than most people can imagine.

Then in the early 1980s, when interest rates were pushing 22%, they took another leap and bought a second farm next door. I can't even begin to imagine the pressure that must have come with that. Through all of it they never took a single holiday or weekend off. They simply worked day after day to provide for our family and keep the bills paid.

When you grow up watching that kind of sacrifice, you carry it with you.

Now I find myself in the same place they once stood.

A family of my own. Seven-day work weeks. A farm that has given us everything, but also

asks everything in return.

Some days I look around the barn and realize just how tired the place is. The feeding system... the milking system... parts of it are well over half a century old. Parts are getting harder to find and repairs seem to come more often than they used to.

And the sad truth is, this farmer is getting a little tired too.

Even though we are proud to be in the top 1% in Canada for production and management with our little 41 cow herd, the reality is that our herd is less than half the size of the average Canadian dairy farm now. The industry has grown and we haven't grown our facilities with it.

My dad needed knee replacements by the time he was 50 from being a workaholic. My own body isn't much better off. Three knee surgeries, a nagging shoulder, and a back that reminds me every morning that I'm 6'4" and still milking cows the old-fashioned way.

Now I'm starting to see my son feeling the wear and tear too.

That's the part that weighs on me the most. It's not right.

I'm at the age where I probably should be slowing down, but instead, I feel like I have to keep pushing harder just to make the workload

manageable for my family. Hiring extra help isn't much of an option these days because the cost is high and reliable help is hard to find.

So the question becomes... what do you do? Sell out?

Change direction entirely?

Or somehow find the courage to forge ahead?

After a lifetime of worrying, soul searching, and more than a few sleepless nights... we've made our decision.

We're forging ahead.

My dad made sacrifices to keep this farm going so that I would have the opportunity to farm. I want to give my family that same chance.

It's exciting... but if I'm honest, it's also terrifying. Taking on generations of more debt is not something anyone does lightly. But the hope is that by working smarter and not just harder, we can build a better life for our family and a better life for the cows that depend on us.

This farm has always been more than buildings and cattle. It's our story. It's our past, and with a little courage, hopefully it will be our future too.

More than ever, we will need the support of our community, our neighbours, and the people who believe in family farms.

The next chapter begins now.

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

## Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival

Hosted in partnership with the Rotary Club of Barrie, the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival is a tradition spanning more than three decades.

Visitors will journey back in time to discover how maple syrup was made in the past, then return to the present to see how it's crafted today.

Complete your tour with a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast topped with fresh maple syrup, followed by fun family-friendly activities!

**Date:** April 11 and 12, 2026

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation, 8195 8th Line, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0



# PRIMO

## 3RD GENERATION PAVING.ca

Primo Service, Primo Quality, Primo People!

# YOUR SOLUTION PAVER

### Special Offer

## We pay the TAX!

with C.O.D. purchase only

Limited time offer. Valid only with this coupon. Not valid with any other offer.

- RESIDENTIAL • INDUSTRIAL
- COMMERCIAL • RECREATIONAL

### Book Now

## FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

### Barrie: 705.408.0247

t: 416.748.7484

c: 416.717.7700 (No texting)

email: [info@primopavingltd.com](mailto:info@primopavingltd.com)

www.primopaving.ca



Services we provide but are not limited to:

- Farm Laneway
- Barn Yard
- Overlay
- Grindings
- Grading
- Excavation



# Echoes of Industry in the Hamlet of Franklin

## Village Stories

by Andrew Hind

Time moved gently in the East Gwillimbury hamlet of Franklin. People went about their business in a leisurely fashion. Smoke curled lazily from chimneys. Even the livestock seemed unhurried, cows grazing peacefully in green pastures.

Few who visited the placid hamlet could have imagined that just a generation prior that Franklin was a bustling community, full of industry and ambition.

When two busy roads intersected, communities emerged. Franklin followed that trend, developing around the corners of modern-day Highway 48 and Herald Road.

Around 1820, the northern advance of civilization reached the area. Allen and Benjamin Graham, fresh off the boat from Yorkshire, England, were among the first settlers to put down roots in the arable soil.

Close on their heels were Moses and Elizabeth Toole and their brood of sons, several of whom would play an important role in growing the community. Isaac and Aaron Harman, born in 1818 and 1820 respectively, dammed a branch of Teel Creek in 1858 and built a grist mill on the resulting pond. Another brother, Amos, donated a parcel of land east of the village upon which to build a school that served both Franklin and Mount Albert.

It wasn't all good times for the Toole family. They mourned in 1851 when Mary, the wife of yet another son, Lewis, was killed in a threshing machine accident.

An oatmeal mill was built in the 1860s by Holland Landing born brothers Isaac and Harman. Other industries that emerged was a sash and door factory owned by Themie Purdy, Sylvester Woodcock's lumber mill, and a pump factory established by Jack and William Brodie in 1859.

By the 1870s, Franklin also boasted two general stores, one owned by Aaron Harman, a second lumber mill, two blacksmith shops, a wagon shop, and homes for 150 residents. The first church was built on the property of Isaac Harman.

That's about when the floor fell out from under Franklin.



Franklin school in the 1890s.

In 1877, the Grand Trunk arrived, but instead of passing its tracks through Franklin it opted for neighboring Mount Albert. One by one, Franklin's industries flocked to the railway like moths to a flame, depriving the village of its vigor.

By the turn of the century the only industry remaining was the gristmill, by this time owned by local lad George Hammett. Hammett's son, James, joined him at the mill when he was old enough and took over its operation in 1947 when George passed away. There wasn't life left in the mill, however. On Oct 31, 1953, the mill was razed by fire. The following year, Hurricane Hazel completed the work of destroying the mill by washing out the dam.

The end of the gristmill was symbolic, drawing a curtain on Franklin of old.

Here to help!

My office is here to assist with any federal programs including CRA, Passports, Service Canada, and Immigration.



**DOUG SHIPLEY MP**  
 BARRIE - SPRINGWATER - ORO-MEDONTE  
 DOUG.SHIPLEY@PARL.GC.CA • (705) 728-2596  
 DOUGSHIPLEYMP.CA



**PUREBRED CHAROLAIS BULLS**  
*for sale at the farm*

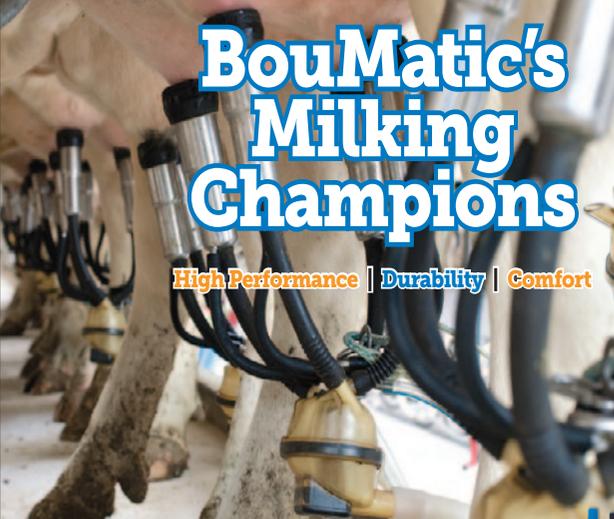
**Easy calving  
 High Performance  
 Quiet  
 Polled  
 Purebreds**



*Get your next herd sire picked out*  
**TODAY**

**JIM & ELIZABETH BAKER 705-430-9873**  
 jbfarm2018@outlook.com

**BouMatic's Milking Champions**  
 High Performance | Durability | Comfort



**Flo-Star® MAX** - the gold standard in performance, capacity, durability, weight reduction, milkability and comfort.

**Magnum™ Liners** - the best of both worlds by providing both cow comfort and unparalleled milking performance.

**HiFlo™ Evolution** - the ultimate in durability and simplicity.

Contact Your BouMatic Dealer Today!  
 519-934-2343  
 www.partneragservices.com

**Partner AG**



# QUILTING

## Women's Institute Celebrates 100 Years with Hand-Stitched Tribute

By Janis Hamilton

The world of quilting takes us to many unexpected places. I was invited by the Simcoe County Women's Institute's to attend the hand quilting day at the Edgar Hall in Oro-Medonte on March 11th. It started with a potluck lunch that proved ladies in the country certainly know how to cook, bake and put on quite the spread!

The reason for this get together was to work on a project for their Area's Centennial Year. The inspiration for the quilt they are creating was suggested by Dr. Molly-Claire Gillet, who volunteered to work with the Simcoe Area Women's Institute on the project. On display was a signature quilt created in 1916 by the WI of Mitchell Square (located in general area of East Oro in Oro-Medonte-now disbanded). This antique gem was originally left on a quilter's porch. No one was given the history, but the names embroidered on this quilt told a story of the families that lived in the area. Families had their names embroidered on a white square. All used red embroidery floss.

So what is Women's Institute and how did they get to be 129 years old? It started in Stoney Creek February 19, 1897 through the efforts of Adelaide Hoodless and Erland and Janet Lee. The membership fee was 25 cents and by 1949

the fees had jumped to 50 cents! Talk about inflation! By 1953 there were 50,000 members in 1503 branches. Queen Elizabeth was a member. Over time the group have evolved from helping with our local Hurricane Hazel in 1953 to helping youth grow through 4-H groups. The local WI have raised funds for many causes: computers for schools and equipment for volunteer fire departments. Some groups collect menstrual products and toiletries for women's shelters, mittens and socks for schools and day care centres, and socks and gloves for men's shelters. A project of the FWIO (ROSE-Rural Ontario Supporting Education) that is undertaken by many WI groups across Ontario prepare kits with blankets and bears and books to be given to children in distress through hospitals or first responders. One group donate to Green Haven and the local hospital. Each child receives a book, colouring book, crayons, PJ, socks, toothbrush or even an outfit, a stuffy all in a cheerful fabric bag made by a WI volunteer. This group have donated 825 bags since they started! The Crown Hill branch got the Township to install a four way stop at the Dalston Corner which has greatly improved traffic flow and fewer accidents. The same branch advocated for lights at Georgian Drive and Penetanguishene Road working with 3 townships and the County of Simcoe.

The Simcoe County area was founded in 1926 and have been involved in the communities where they are located. WI's in communities such as Wyebridge are 125 years old and Crown Hill will be 115 years old as well this year. Clowes WI celebrated 100 years in 2024. Simcoe Area WI has recently sponsored in conjunction with the Federation of Agriculture the "Keep Kids Safe Workshop" April 11th at Huron Tractor Ltd. in Stayner. Check it out on their facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/485325174964409> They've already sponsored a "kid's curling day", so the groups are very active and engaged in their communities.

Now back to the day's event. So, at the peak of the event 23 ladies attended. Prior to this day each local branch was given 8 Inch blocks for each member in white cotton and asked to embroider their name on the block with flowers or whatever they chose. Then the main committee (Peggy Pratt, Lynne Fisher and Dr. Molly-Clarie Gillett) decided to have a square representing each of the branches name: Bond Head, Centre Flos, Clowes, Craighurst, Crown Hill, Eady Gerard, Guthrie, Hampshire Andrea, Hawkestone, Sparrow Lake, Tec-We-Guill and Wyebridge stitched with royal blue and yellow border fabric-the colours of WI. At this event the

ladies were asked to hand stitch their square in diagonal lines on the square leaving their white centre square with their name not quilted. This method of "quilt as you go" would make it easier to assemble once completed. Hand stitching is certainly an art form on its own. The gold standard of hand quilting is to do 12 running stitches on your needle for 1 inch. One lady was in her 90's and seemed to be loving the process no doubt she has done for decades. What a gift!

This Centennial quilt should be completed in September with 130 squares. The group will be approaching the Simcoe County Museum to see if it can be displayed to the public. There will also be a presentation within the Simcoe County Area of the Women's Institute in the fall. It started in November of 2024, so with so many hands involved that does seem like a short timeline. I do hope you get to see this treasure of time celebrating their 100th birthday.

If you are interested in talking to someone about what the Women's Institute might offer you there are 12 branches spanning Simcoe County. So, if you want to spend time meeting friendly ladies with the common theme of helping others this could be just the group for you. In Simcoe County you might consider contacting Simcoe Area Secretary Bonnie at [westkalfarms@gmail.com](mailto:westkalfarms@gmail.com) or the District Secretary-Marg Patterson 705-715-2907 and either contact will give you all the information you need depending on where you live. Learn more about hand quilting with a step by step video and written directions at <https://mrsquilting.com/blogs/news/complete-beginners-guide-to-hand-quilting>

Now anyone who loves quilting knows that hand quilting is certainly an art. When you visit the Quilt Fair at the Simcoe County Museum in September you don't see many hand quilted. There is a group in Barrie at St. George's Anglican Church who meet on Tuesdays weekly and will hand quilt for you. Another group that you could approach is St. John's Anglican Church in Craighurst.

I had the treat of visiting Collingwood Library for a quilt exhibit from Slope to Shores Quilt guild. From clothing, modern art quilts to traditional, this show ticked all the boxes. This guild is in Wasaga Beach and if interested in joining or finding out more details contact them at: [slopetoshorequiltersguild@gmail.com](mailto:slopetoshorequiltersguild@gmail.com) Their monthly meetings take place at the RecPlex, 1724 Mosley Street in Wasaga Beach. Guests are \$8 at the door.

Happy Quilting till next time.



**JONES LLP**  
**POWELL**  
**CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS**  
offering a full range of services to the agricultural community including:  
Accounting, Corporate and Personal Taxes, Estate Planning  
and assisting with Government Grant Applications  
121 Anne Street South, Barrie, Ontario L4N 7B6  
Tel: (705) 728-7461 [www.powelljones.ca](http://www.powelljones.ca)

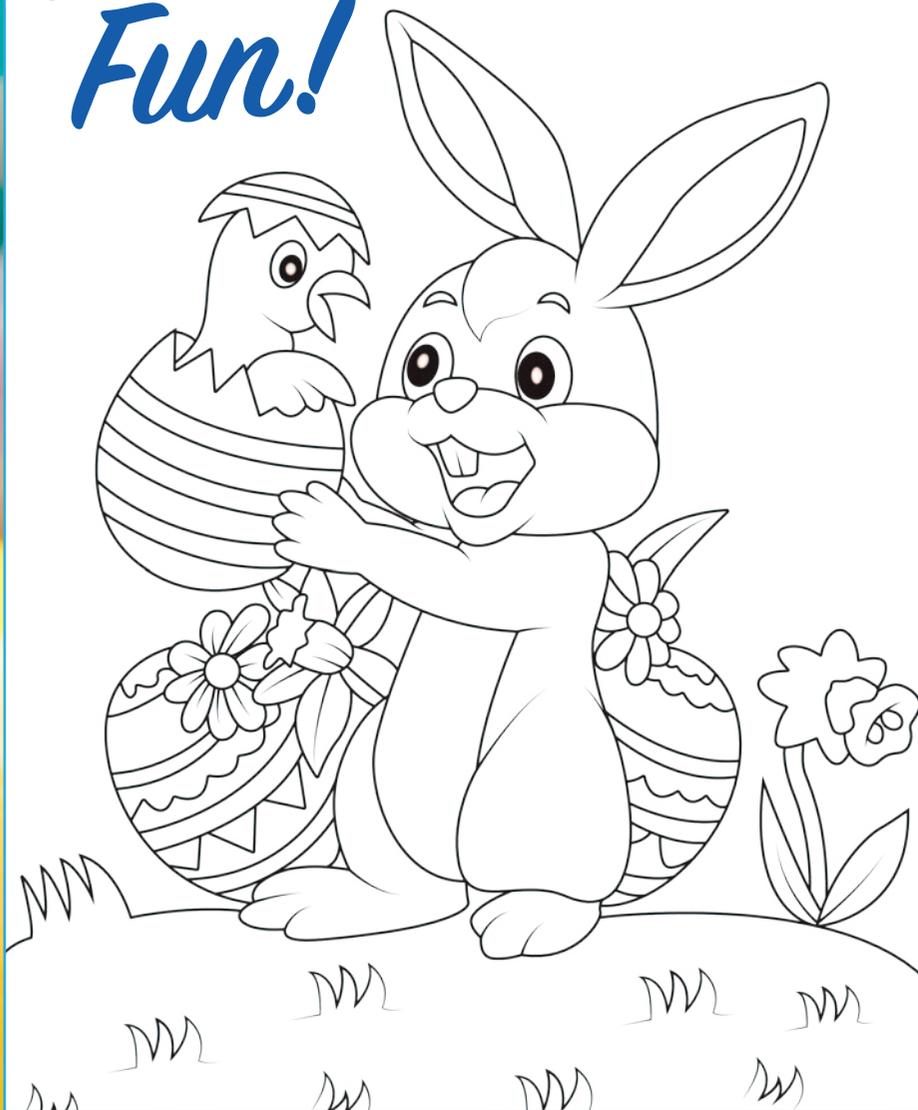
**HAPPY Easter**

**TERRY**

**DOWDALL MP**  
**SIMCOE-GREY**

1-866-435-1809  
[TerryDowdallmp.ca](http://TerryDowdallmp.ca) | [Terry.Dowdall@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Terry.Dowdall@parl.gc.ca)

*Easter Fun!*



# SPRING WORD SEARCH

D	G	S	M	F	S	Z	W	O	O	R	E	V	O	S	S	A	P	B	N
E	L	N	U	G	S	R	O	O	D	T	U	O	C	E	Y	O	H	I	O
B	L	E	I	M	N	S	V	T	L	L	U	M	M	B	W	Y	S	M	S
U	C	O	I	K	B	I	E	B	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	R	B	A
D	N	V	P	F	I	R	R	I	U	F	T	R	A	V	E	L	E	U	E
G	S	H	M	D	D	H	E	P	G	L	K	L	L	D	B	D	W	T	S
R	A	I	N	Y	A	D	T	L	S	R	B	C	Z	I	V	P	O	T	S
S	U	C	O	R	C	T	M	A	L	R	E	S	O	L	O	E	H	E	L
Z	R	E	B	I	R	T	H	I	P	A	N	L	L	L	R	S	S	R	A
O	R	G	A	N	I	Z	A	T	I	O	N	N	L	U	A	Z	F	F	M
L	L	A	B	E	S	A	B	W	M	R	C	V	T	A	S	M	E	L	I
T	H	G	I	L	Y	A	D	Y	O	I	D	A	W	G	P	U	S	I	N
S	T	C	E	S	N	I	Y	B	Z	R	R	T	A	A	C	R	M	E	A
F	L	K	F	F	Z	N	L	K	A	E	M	A	M	R	L	S	P	S	R
H	L	N	E	L	L	O	P	Y	P	L	E	S	B	D	E	O	O	W	R
S	S	O	M	T	O	D	K	M	S	A	A	R	C	E	A	T	T	E	E
I	A	M	W	M	B	C	E	S	G	N	S	N	B	N	N	U	C	K	T
V	H	H	I	E	A	T	Y	N	V	R	O	B	R	I	I	W	P	N	S
P	P	N	C	B	R	N	F	Y	N	E	U	Z	I	N	N	V	L	N	A
E	G	F	H	L	D	S	G	E	S	V	M	C	I	G	G	A	I	M	E

- ALLERGIES
- ANIMALS
- BACKYARD
- BASEBALL
- BLOOMING
- BREEZY
- BUD
- BULBS
- BUTTERFLIES
- CLEANING
- CROCUS
- DAYLIGHT
- EASTER
- FIELD
- FLOWERS
- GARDENING
- HIKING
- INSECTS
- ORGANIZATION
- OUTDOORS
- PASSOVER
- POLLEN
- RAIN
- REBIRTH
- SEASON
- SHOWERS
- SOIL
- SPRING
- SUNSHINE
- TADPOLE
- TEMPERATURE
- TRAVEL
- UMBRELLA
- VERNAL
- WORMS

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

# Maple syrup season taps into Canada's most iconic symbol

Ontario Federation of Agriculture reports

As temperatures begin their familiar springtime swing between freezing nights and warmer days, maple syrup producers across our province are tapping trees and getting ready to harvest the crop that comes from that most iconic Canadian symbol – the maple tree.

It's fitting that maple syrup season arrives just as Canadians begin looking for signs of spring. The maple leaf has long been one of the country's most recognizable symbols, appearing on our flag, representing Canada around the world, and standing for the quality and care that Canadians bring to the products they produce.

"Maple syrup is one of the most legendary Canadian foods and it all begins with the maple tree," says Angela Field, farmer and director with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA). "When people around the world see the maple leaf, they think of Canada, quality and authenticity — and maple syrup producers help bring that symbol to life every spring."

Ontario is Canada's third largest maple syrup producing province, contributing four per cent of the annual crop behind Quebec (90 per cent) and New Brunswick (six per cent). Ontario boasts over 600 maple producers who collectively produced approximately three million litres (nine million pounds) of maple syrup in 2025, contributing more than \$50 million to the provincial economy.

Canada is the global leader in maple syrup production, with farmers harvesting 119.5 million kilograms of maple syrup last year and exporting approximately 70.8 million kilograms to more than 70 countries around the world. And as much as we love maple syrup here at home, about 60 per cent of Canada's maple syrup production is actually exported – with the United States as the largest buyer.

"Visiting a local sugar bush or choosing maple syrup produced by Canadian farmers is a great way to support local agriculture and rural businesses and show appreciation for home grown products," Field adds. "Maple syrup is a product that truly connects people to the land and to the farmers who produce it and we encourage everyone to celebrate the

start of spring with a taste of the country's most iconic flavour."

The OFA's Home Grown campaign raises awareness of the importance of preserving Ontario farmland to produce local food, fuel, flowers and fibre – and maple syrup.

Many Ontario maple syrup businesses will be welcoming visitors during Maple Weekend on April 4 and 5 by offering tours, demonstrations and the chance to taste fresh maple syrup and maple products right where they are made. More information on how to visit a farm near you and for recipe-focused inspiration, visit [ontariomaple.com](http://ontariomaple.com).

## Fun facts about maple trees, maple leaves and maple syrup

- Canada adopted the Maple Leaf flag in 1965, making the maple leaf one of the most recognizable national symbols in the world. The iconic Canadian maple leaf has 11 points, but it's actually a stylized design rather than one specific maple species.

- There are more than 100 species of maple trees worldwide, but only a few produce sap sweet enough for maple syrup. The sugar maple is the star of syrup production; a mature sugar maple tree can produce sap for 40–60 years or longer if managed properly.

- Sap only runs during the freeze-thaw cycle of early spring — freezing nights and warmer days.

- A single maple tree produces about 35–50 litres of sap per season on average. Maple sap is mostly water and only about 2% sugar before it is boiled down.

- It takes about 40 litres of sap to produce one litre of maple syrup, making every bottle the result of both nature and careful production by farmers.

- Maple syrup is naturally fat-free and contains minerals such as manganese and zinc.

- In 2012, thieves stole 3,000 tonnes of maple syrup from a storage facility in Quebec — one of the largest food heists in history. The heist inspired the Amazon Prime comedy series *The Sticky* starring Jamie Lee Curtis.

## Maple Bacon Mac 'n Cheese Casserole

Recipe from [www.ontariomaple.com](http://www.ontariomaple.com)

### Ingredients:

1 lb. uncooked large elbow macaroni  
 1 1/2 tsp salt, divided  
 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded or grated  
 1/2 lb bacon slices, cooked and crumbled  
 1/3 cup all-purpose flour  
 1 tsp black pepper  
 1 tsp dry mustard  
 3 1/2 cups milk  
 1/4 cup Sweet Ontario maple syrup  
 1/3 cup unsalted butter, plus more for greasing dish (can also use bacon fat from bacon cooking)  
 3 1/2 cups Cheddar cheese, shredded (we used old cheese for a richer flavour)  
 2 large eggs, well beaten

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° Fahrenheit.  
 Bring water to a boil over high in a large stock-pot, then add pasta and return to boil. Cook, stirring occasionally, until pasta is tender but still firm (al dente). Drain. Return pasta to pot and cover to keep warm.  
 Cook bacon and crumble.  
 Grease 9x13 inch baking dish.  
 Combine parmesan cheese, approximately 2 strips of

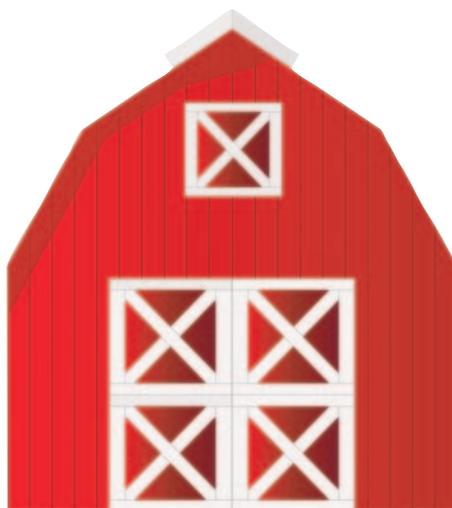
bacon, crumbled, and 1/2 cup grated cheese and set aside. This is your topping.  
 Combine flour, pepper, mustard, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt in a small bowl and set aside. Beat two eggs until they are well combined and frothy. Heat milk in a medium saucepan until steaming but not boiling.  
 Melt butter (or heat bacon fat) in a large saucepan; add flour mixture. Cook, whisking often, until mixture is smooth and is golden coloured. Slowly whisk in warm milk and bring to a boil. Cook, stirring frequently, until thickened to the texture of cream.  
 Stir remaining shredded cheese into milk mixture. Remove saucepan from heat. Stir in eggs until mixture creates a smooth and silky sauce. Add maple syrup and combine.  
 Pour sauce over macaroni and combine. Add remaining bacon and combine.  
 Pour macaroni mixture into prepared baking dish and sprinkle top evenly with bacon and parmesan cheese mixture. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes. Enjoy!

# BARN PAINTING & REPAIRS

## CRAVEN MAINTENANCE

Residential & Commercial  
**EXTERIOR PAINTING**

**FREE ESTIMATES**



Fully WSIB Insured

- Barn painting
- Pressure washing & sand blasting
- Screw nailing
- New barn board installation and repairs
- Metal roof installation

- Custom built barn doors and repairs
- Board and batten installation
- Soffit fascia & eavestrough
- Gunitite foundation spraying and repair
- Exterior house painting/staining

**1-877-726-5329      519-826-7422**  
[www.cravenmaintenance.ca](http://www.cravenmaintenance.ca)

# Photo highlights from the 35th Annual Lindsay Farm Show

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Joel Speers of Uxbridge stopped by the Premier Equipment tractor display at the Lindsay Farm Show, taking time to see what's new in farming and catch up with neighbours. Well known in the agricultural community, Joel has held leadership roles with the Junior Farmers, serves as a director on the Uxbridge Fall Fair board, and will be volunteering at the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival this April.



Rebecca Vito, Communications Manager for the Ontario Forage Council, was at the Lindsay Farm Show inviting farmers to attend the Forage Expo being held in the Norwood area. Rebecca says, "The Forage Expo is hay making in motion." The event will show the newest innovations for making hay, from the cutting to the baling. Admission and parking are free, and there will be lunch available. The event is on Thursday, July 9th and runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is presented by the East Central Region Soil & Crop Improvement Association and Ontario Forage Council.



Doreen Sinclair of Lindsay, a member of the Outreach Team for Cambridge Street United Church, was on hand at the Lindsay Farm Show to raise awareness of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFB). CFB's vision is a world without hunger. There are many ways to support its work, including becoming a growing partner or assisting those already involved. All eligible donations to CFB are matched four to one by the Canadian government.



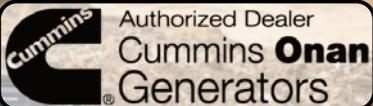
At the far right, representing the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) are Jason Bent, Director of Policy Research at left, and Mark Torrey, Member Service Representative for Durham, Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton, and Peterborough. A key concern currently being raised by members is the proposed high-speed passenger rail project that could pass through farming areas. The OFA is on the front line, even at this early stage of discussions, working to ensure the farming community's concerns are heard and understood.



## Ready for Spring? The Power to Work The Gear to Shine

### Wash, Polish & Detailing Supplies





Authorized Dealer  
**Cummins Onan**  
Generators



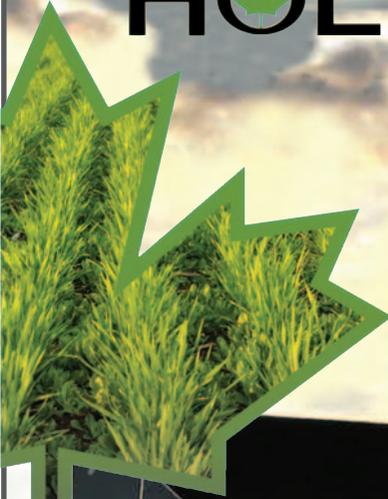
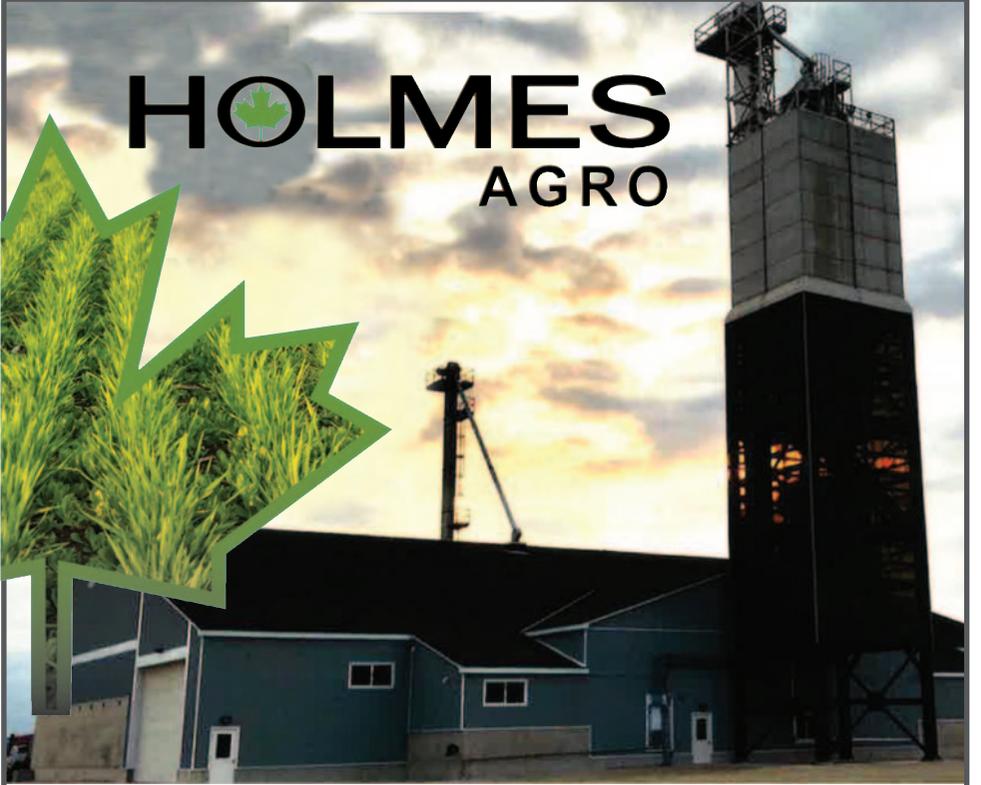




7051 County Rd.9, Stayner, ON, L0M 1S0  
705-466-2600 | Toll Free: 844-466-2600

[f](#) [X](#) [i](#) @SteerEntLtd



A local, full service Ag retailer providing agronomic solutions to increase productivity and profitability on your farm.

Working to Grow With You!



ORANGEVILLE 1.800.668.3047  
REDICKVILLE 519.925.3138  
STAYNER 1.866.388.8002

www.holmesagro.com

## Warmer Weather Signals Spring Cleanup Season

By Dennis Gannon

The snow has melted and the temperature has risen. As we look around our properties, we see limbs, twigs and branches that have fallen over the past winter. Wind has also blown the leaves that weren't gathered up along with other debris, onto the lawns and properties. It's time to clean up and get the yards ready for another season of outdoor living.

But are you aware that each spring firefighters throughout the province, both in large and small communities face one common and preventable type of fire?

With warmer winds blowing, the top portion of grass and fields dried out quickly. While the ground below may still be wet or damp, grass and vegetation fires can rapidly develop, spreading swiftly and covering a large area, even acres. When this occurs, firefighters sometimes need assistance from neighbouring communities to help extinguish the blaze.

Unfortunately, many of these damaging fires begin when people burn winter debris in barrels or open fires.

Most municipalities regulate open air burning through a permit system. Municipal by-laws typically regulate the time, size and conditions under which controlled fires are allowed. In many cases open air burning is not permitted within a specified distance from structures or when wind is expected to be over a prescribed speed.

Bylaws also usually outline the type of container that may be used and the physical size limits of the fire permitted. There can be severe financial consequences if a fire occurs when the conditions are not followed. The municipal by-law generally contains a penalty portion which can amount to upwards of thousands of dollars depending on the services required to respond.

Before you clean up the yard and light the fire, contact your local fire department, obtain the required fire permit and follow the instructions carefully. Taking these steps may be saving yourself some significant hardship and allow firefighters the opportunity to respond to remain available for

emergencies in your community.

Spring also is a great time to do some additional household safety checks.

First and foremost test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. A monthly check is quick and easy to do and will ensure your family safety.

Dispose of newspapers, flyers and cardboard that may have accumulated over the winter in the garage or carport. Recycling is the best and fastest way to make a potential hazard safe.

Is your property number clean and visible for emergency responders? Many municipalities have installed a roadside property number. It's not only for the delivery person but is critical for you in case of an emergency. Make certain that it is straight, in the proper location and not obscured.

Examine outdoor electrical outlets and other appliances for animal nests and to ensure wiring is intact and safe. Consider keeping 100 feet of garden hose with an attached nozzle connected and ready for use during the warmer months. Check your fire extinguishers and if you don't have one, consider purchasing one. A working fire extinguisher can help stop the spread of a fire during its early stages.

Properly store household chemicals and never mix cleaning agents. Chemical reactions can occur when mixing chemicals resulting in toxic and deadly gases.

In the kitchen, pull the refrigerator out from the wall and vacuum or dust the coils on the back. Clean coils help prevent overheating and allow the refrigerator to work more efficiently. Also check and clean the filter above the stove. Windows should be checked to ensure they open and close properly. Stairs and landings should always be clear for safe evacuation and in the event of an emergency.

Finally, practice your family fire escape plan so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.

For more fire safety information or questions about open air burning regulations, contact your local fire department.

## Children's Book Celebrates Gratitude for Farm Animals

By Roslyn Watkins

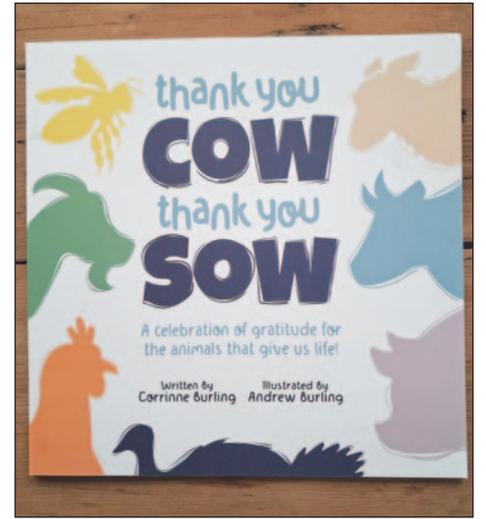
At the recent AgKnowledge Forum held in late February, I had the pleasure of meeting children's author Corinne Burling. Her colourful book caught my eye as I browsed the many talented vendors in the marketplace. I was delighted to purchase a copy of Thank You Cow, Thank You Sow: A Celebration of Gratitude for the Animals That Give Us Life.

The book offers young readers a warm introduction to the animals that help provide the food and every day products we rely on. Written in playful rhyme, it expresses appreciation for animals such as cows, pigs, hens, sheep, and bees, highlighting their important contributions to daily life.

Bright illustrations and simple, engaging language make it especially well suited for reading aloud to younger children, while gently teaching them where their food comes from. A glossary at the back adds further educational value, offering easy-to-understand facts about each animal.

With its positive message of appreciation, Thank You Cow, Thank You Sow is a charming way to help children better understand the role of farm animals in our lives.

Thank You Cow, Thank You Sow can be purchased here <https://www.burlingbooks.com>





**Birdseed, Freezer Meat, Feed**  
[www.BradburyFarm.com](http://www.BradburyFarm.com)

**Humanely Raised (by us):**  
 Beef • Chicken • Pork • Turkey

**We also carry:**  
 Livestock Feeds • Pet Food • Miller's Dairy  
 Maple Syrup • Honey & much more!

**Small Family Farm Inc.**

**Order your Chicks NOW ~ We are your local dealer for Chicks & ready to lay Hens ~ Spring & Summer 2026**

**Visit our Farm Shop!**  
 4043 2nd Line • Cookstown • 705-816-2917  
[www.BradburyFarm.com](http://www.BradburyFarm.com) [BradburyFamilyFarm@gmail.com](mailto:BradburyFamilyFarm@gmail.com)

 Follow us on FB Bradbury - Small Family Farm



**Saturday May 2, 2026**  
**ODAS Park, Orillia 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Fabulous fleece and fibre festival featuring diverse vendors, demonstrations, live animals and more.

Tickets available at Eventbrite and at the door \$7

Media sponsor:



[www.sunshinefibrefest.ca](http://www.sunshinefibrefest.ca)  
[sunshinefibrefest@rogers.com](mailto:sunshinefibrefest@rogers.com)  
 Or call Sheila (705) 423-9695



**Native Wire Basket Trees**

**Sugar Maple**

**\$125\* each**

(\*50-60mm Caliper, FOB Everett, ON)

**Ready to Ship Beginning in April**

**Contact Us Today to Place an Order** 

**705-435-6258 x 106 info@somervillenurseries.com**

## Soul Sisters Celebrations

### The Sacred Spiral: Finding Resurrection in the Quiet Moments of Grief

Since writing my last article, the 26th anniversary since my mother died has come and gone.. She was only forty-seven. I was twenty-one, barely old enough to understand the shape of my own life, let alone imagine all the directions it would eventually take. And yet, all these years later, the truth is simple: the pain didn't end. It just became something I learned to live alongside. Grief doesn't disappear; it settles in. It becomes familiar, not lighter, not smaller, just more normal.

There are still the moments every daughter imagines her mother being present for. The things you want to share, the victories you want to brag about, the days when you crave a hug, the nights when you wish you had her voice on the other end of the phone. Those longings don't go away. They just echo in different corners of my life. My love for her never changed. It simply doesn't have the same places to land. I still find myself in quiet moments of grief.

Somehow, life kept unfolding. I've explored, accomplished, created, survived, and risen in ways my twenty-one-year-old self couldn't have dared to picture. Every chapter since her passing has held something she never got to see, and still... in my heart, I carry the quiet hope that she would see me now. To anyone who walks

with this kind of loss: I see you. Your pain doesn't make you weak. Your longing doesn't make you stuck. Loving someone who is no longer here is a kind of courage all its own.

The spiritual journey of grief is rarely a straight line. It is more of a sacred spiral where we find ourselves circling back to the same feelings, though ideally from a slightly higher vantage point each time. In the quiet spaces of the heart, we eventually discover that a profound void is not merely an absence. It is a hallowed ground where a physical relationship transforms into a spiritual one.

Grieving is not a problem to be solved but a process to be honored. Spiritually, it is the soul's way of integrating a massive shift in the universe. This shattering of our known world is often an invitation to surrender the illusion of control. In many traditions, this is where we learn that while the body is finite, the essence of the love and the lessons a person provides is eternal. There is a deep comfort in the idea that the veil between worlds is thinnest during seasons of mourning. This is a time for quiet reflection, prayer, or meditation, allowing us to sense a presence in the legacy they left within us.

This process mirrors the spiritual paradox of April, a

month defined by the emergence of life from the stillness of winter. While the sudden vibrancy of spring can feel out of sync with an internal landscape that is still dormant, April teaches us that resurrection and rebirth are the natural order. Just as the earth remembers how to bloom after a long frost, the human spirit carries an internal blueprint of a loved one's impact, ready to surface in new ways.

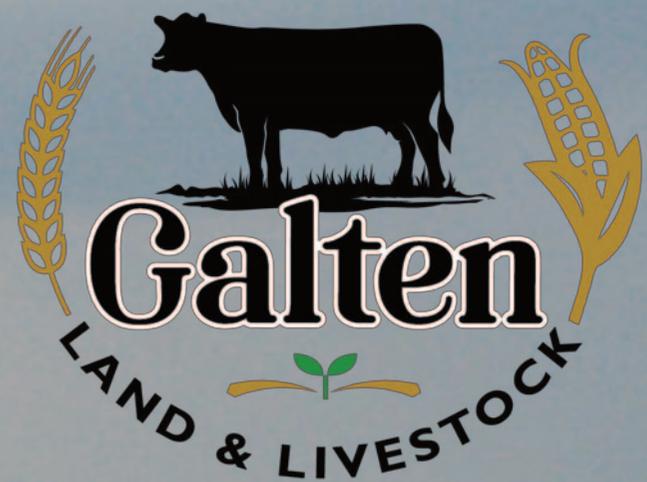
The growth we experience now is nourished by the soil of that original loss. April asks us to hold both the sorrow of the bare branch and the hope of the new bud at the same time. This is the balance of grief and gratitude. Grief is real. Gratitude is real. We can mourn the physical departure while simultaneously giving thanks for the enduring light they planted within us. We learn that life and death are not opposites but a continuous cycle. A loved one is not a finished chapter but an ongoing root system that feeds the person we are becoming today. May you walk gently through your own process, trusting that even in the silence, something sacred is growing. You are not just moving past your loss; you are moving forward with a love that has simply changed its form.

After twenty-six years, I am still her daughter. That, in its own enduring way, is one of my greatest strengths.

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



SOUL SISTERS CELEBRATIONS



- From Vaccinated Herd of 500+ cows
- Variety of BW options
- Performance Data Recorded Through Canadian Angus
- Yearling and 2yr Old Bulls Available
- Semen Tested & DNA Tested
- Selection of Bulls from AI Sires

Office #: 905-898-4463

Gerald's #: 905-252-6315

Email: galtenlandlivestock@gmail.com

## Adoption Fees Waived to Help Large Dogs Find Homes

Adoption fees for dogs at Toronto Animal Services will be waived for one month as part of a special campaign.

Partnering with local dog food company NutriCanine for its 2026 initiative, the agency is putting the spotlight on large-breed dogs, which typically remain in shelters about one-and-a-half times longer than smaller dogs.

“Big dogs are often passed over because of misconceptions about their space and exercise needs, even though they are loyal, affectionate, and well-suited to many families,” the agency noted. “In reality, many large dogs adapt well to a wide range of living sit-

uations and make excellent companions.”

From March 23 to April 23, adoption fees for large dogs and large-breed puppies will be waived across Toronto in an effort to reduce barriers and encourage more people to consider adopting a bigger dog. Toronto Animal Services says there are currently many large dogs waiting for homes. During last year’s campaign, 58 dogs were adopted, and the organization hopes to surpass that number this spring.

Under normal circumstances, dog adoption fees range from \$185 to \$215. For more information about adopting, visit Toronto Animal Services online.

# Farm VIEW CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

email: farmview@on.aibn.com

## For Sale 2009 Kawasaki Ninja 250 – \$2,000

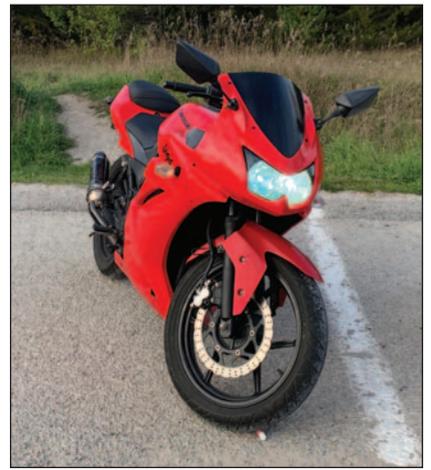
Up for sale is my 2009 Kawasaki Ninja 250. This is a well-used, reliable bike with approximately 55,000 km. I’ve owned it for the past year, and it has treated me well.

Recent maintenance includes an oil change, a new battery, and a new chain installed last summer. I also

disassembled and cleaned the carburetor. The bike passed a safety inspection last year. To the best of my knowledge, it may need a new rear tire soon, as the tread is getting low.

Cosmetically, the bike has quite a few scratches. It also appears to have been dropped on one side at some point, as there is a mark on the brake lever.

I recommend this bike for anyone who wants to learn on something small and develop the foundations of



motorcycle driving. I’m selling because I’m looking to upgrade. For more photos, videos, or to inquire, please call or text 705-627-6710 or email watkinstrenton1@gmail.com.



# AGBUSINESSdirectory

PHONE: 705-722-0138 EMAIL: farmview@on.aibn.com

Let us help you find the right people to get the job done!

**ADVERTISING RATES: \$70 per month,** based on 11 months OR prepay **\$700** for 10 months and receive **1 month FREE!**

### CUSTOM FARMING

**ROB HENRY'S CUSTOM FARMING INC.**  
FOR ALL YOUR FARMING NEEDS

**6056 10TH LINE, THORNTON**  
**ROB HENRY • 705-790-7714**  
**ROBSCUSTOMFARMINGINC@HOTMAIL.COM**

### ELECTRICAL SERVICES

**KLEIN ELECTRIC**  
AGRICULTURAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • RESIDENTIAL  
**BRETT KLEIN GEBBINCK**  
2687 Flos Road 7 West, Elmvale, ON L0L 1P0  
705-795-4592  
brett.kleinelectric@gmail.com ESA 7010173

### FARM SUPPLIES

**DALSTON STORE**  
*This spring, save yourself a trip into town!*  
HARDWARE • FARM SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER AND LAWN SEED

- Masterfeeds
- Sunflower & mixed bird seed
- Electric fencing supplies
- Gates • Bale Feeders

**1696 Penetanguishene Rd.**  
RR 1 Barrie, Ontario Phone 705-728-8617  
L4M 4Y8 Fax 705-728-8617

### HANDYMAN SERVICES

**AARON ROBICHAUD**  
**289-500-9079**  
**RMC CONTRACTING**

Insured Handyman services including new and rebuilt decks, patios, stairs. Tiling, floors and doors.

Serving York Region and Bradford

### HVAC SERVICES

*True North Mechanical*  
Air Specialist

Meeting all your heating and air conditioning needs, one satisfied customer at a time.

Call, text or email Shawn for a free estimate.  
705-828-3394 • truenorthmechanical@icloud.com

Fully licensed, insured and registered by TSSA  
Serving Simcoe County and Surrounding Area.

### MOBILE PAINTING

*Rundle's Painting*  
Agricultural & Industrial Spray Painting

Spray painting done at your farm or business

John Rundle  
**(705) 321-2592**  
RundlesPainting.com

### PAVING SERVICES

**PRIMO**  
3RD GENERATION PAVING.ca

Primo Service, Primo Quality, Primo People!

**JOE BRUNO**  
T: 416.748.7484. or 705.408.0247  
C: 416.717.7700 (No texting)  
F: 905-856-9498  
E: info@primopavingltd.com

Asphalt • Interlocking • Concrete  
Snow Clearing & Salting Services

### SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

**Colin's SMALL ENGINES**  
Maintenance & Repairs

Chainsaw Sharpening, Tire Changing, Balancing & Sales, Hydraulic Hose & Crimping, Custom Built Trailers & Wiring, Welding & Custom Fabricating, Colin's Custom Cnc Plasma Cutting, Tool & Equipment Rentals, Local Pick up & Delivery Available

(705) 434-2308  
www.colinssmallengines.com  
colinssmallengines@hotmail.com

6126 Concession Rd 3  
Everett ON L0M 1J0

### WET BASEMENT SPECIALIST

**The Wet Basement Specialist**  
**Waterproofing Inc.**

**416-677-8780**

Waterproofing • Concrete Work  
Underpinning • Foundation Repairs  
Excavation & more

WetBasementSpecialist.ca

### AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

**Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario,**  
Central Ontario District:  
info@christianfarmers.org  
1-855-800-0306  
christianfarmers.org

**Grey Ag Services:**  
519-986-3756  
info@greyagservices.ca

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

**OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:**  
Paul Maurice: 705-427-3126  
email: paul.maurice@ofa.on.ca

**OFA Zone Director for Dufferin County:**  
Mark Reusser: email: mark.reusser@ofa.on.ca

**Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture**  
705-726-9300 ext 1224  
simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com

**York Region Federation of Agriculture**  
york@ofa.on.ca

**Dufferin County Federation of Agriculture**  
sherri.dfa@hotmail.com

**Peel County Federation of Agriculture**  
peelfederationofagriculture@gmail.com

**Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association**  
1-800-265-9751  
oscia@ontariosoilcrop.org

**Farm VIEW CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**  
 email: farmview@on.aibn.com

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

**AUCTIONS**

**Kevin Barker & Greg Snoddon Auctions**

Timed online consignment auctions featuring farm and construction equipment, tractors, vehicles, trailers, tools and much more.

The next online sale is the  
**April Consignment Sale,**  
**April 13th - April 20th, 2026**

Visit our website for more information  
[www.kevinbarkerauctions.com](http://www.kevinbarkerauctions.com)

**705-328-1478**  
**3484 Hwy. 35 Lindsay, Ontario**

**SPRING & SUMMER AUCTIONS**

**Book your 2026  
 Spring/Summer sale NOW!**

Kevin **McArthur - Bessey Auctions** Scott  
 Farm, Livestock, Estate, Home & Business  
*Auctions with experience & consideration*  
 Please contact us at    
 Kevin (519)942-0264 • Scott (519)843-5083  
[mcarthurbessey@gmail.com](mailto:mcarthurbessey@gmail.com)  
[www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur](http://www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur)

**QUILT/CRAFT SHOWS**

**Hills & Valleys Quilt Shop Tour**  
 April 30th, May 1st and 2nd  
<https://quiltshoptour.wixsite.com/hillsandvalleys>

**Sunshine Fibre Fest**  
 May 2nd  
 ODAS Park  
[sunshinefibrefest.ca](http://sunshinefibrefest.ca)

**Sunshine Quilt Show**  
 May 8th and 9th  
 ODAS park  
[www.orilliaquiltersguild.com](http://www.orilliaquiltersguild.com)

**Muskoka Quilts from the heart!**  
 June 5th and 6th  
 Muskoka Lumber Centre  
[www.pinetreequiltersguildofmuskoka.com](http://www.pinetreequiltersguildofmuskoka.com)

**Around the Bend Shop Hop**  
 June 4th to 7th  
[www.thimblesandthings.com](http://www.thimblesandthings.com)

**A Stitch in Time**  
 July 11th and 12th  
 Wellington and District Community Centre LeHigh Arena  
<https://pecquguild.weebly.com>

More listings available here:  
<https://quiltguilds.com/events/>

**AUCTIONS**

**Online Farm Auction at  
 Kevin Barker & Greg Snoddon Auctions**

**The Property of Murray McCleary**  
 128 Clark Road, Roseneath, Ontario K0K 2X0

**Runs Monday, April 20 to  
 Monday, April 27th, 2026**

**Sale Includes:**

- John Deere 6330 Premium 4x4 tractor
- 4710 Massey Ferguson A/C cab tractor
- M7040 Kubota hydraulic shuttle o/s diesel tractor
- 855D S4 John Deere side-by-side
- New Holland H7220 discbine
- 458 John Deere Silage Special Mega Wide Plus round baler
- 185 New Holland 2-beater poly floor manure spreader
- Pronovost tandem combination 10' hydraulic dump trailer
- Martin 24' round bale wagon with flotation tires
- 250-bushel gravity wagon with flotation tires
- Meteor 8' single auger snowblower
- Shaver hydraulic post hole auger
- Cattlemaster adjustable cattle squeeze
- Plywood small livestock transporting box
- SS230 Spitfire 3pth hydraulic 2 way log splitter with log lifter,
- 2 & 4 prong A10 bale forks
- Overum Triple OK semi-mount plow

**Please Note:** This is a partial listing only, all equipment is in excellent condition and field ready.

**Viewing: Saturday, April 25, 2026**

**150 acre viable beef farm &  
 50 acre vacant scenic property to be  
 auctioned online in May**

**Sale Managed & Sold by:  
 Kevin Barker & Greg Snoddon  
 Auctions Ltd.**  
**3484 Hwy. 35, Lindsay, Ontario K9V 4R1**  
[www.kevinbarkerauctions.com](http://www.kevinbarkerauctions.com)

Kevin: 705-878-2947  
 Office: 705-328-1478  
 Greg: 705-934-9611

**FARM & AUTO BATTERIES**

**KAWARTHA BATTERY**

**AUTO · MARINE · FARM · COMMERCIAL  
 GAS · DIESEL · GENERATORS  
 TRACTOR CHAINS ALL TYPES**

671 Erskine Ave #201, Peterborough, ON 1-800-954-9998

**FREE ADS**

**Wanted - Case C shank 30**  
 foot cultivator narrow frame with harrows and brackets ex shape Tiger-Mate 200 or 255 also 3 ph loader (wifo, sedore)?  
 Call 905-251-1307

**For Sale: Noma 28 inch, 10hp**  
 snowblower in good condition. Used this winter and serviced for next winter. Original owners selling because bought new tractor mounted snow blower. Asking \$500.00 or best offer. Please call 905-806-5111.

**Wanted 1980's Yamaha enticer**  
 snowmobiles.  
 Call 519-338-2688, Harriston.

**WANTED, church organist**  
 St Georges Anglican Church in Utopia is currently seeking a person proficient in piano and organ to lead our choir during Sunday morning service 9 am. We are a small congregation and the remuneration would be in the form of a monthly honorarium. To discuss this opportunity further, please call Sandi Schneider at 705-424-5735.

**MF 33 seed drill, \$2000**  
**Triple K cultivator, 12 ft, 3pth, \$650**  
**Vibra Shank cultivator, 9 ft, 3 pth, \$650**  
**Hallman hyd woodsplitter, 3 pth, \$750**  
 Contact busib4u@gmail.com

**Common No.1 DC Red Clover for sale**  
 55lb bags call for pricing. Seed report available. Please call 289-264-3938.

**Wanted a Bull to Rent for**  
 Summer for 15 Beef Cows. Phone 705-325-4832.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Happy Birthday Aaron!**

Wishing you a wonderful day filled with happiness, good company, and a bit of time to relax and enjoy yourself. We hope the year ahead brings you continued health, success, and plenty of good moments.

**Lots of love from your family & friends!**

**YOUR AD HERE**

**MASONRY SERVICES**

**Eli Noble  
 Masonry Specialist**  
 905-904-1570  
[ednoble2@gmail.com](mailto:ednoble2@gmail.com)  
 Service areas include Barrie, Durham and the GTA

**Free Classifieds**

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

**Email: farmview@on.aibn.com**  
**Mail: 8 Luella Blvd., Minesing ON L9X 0W7**

**Wanted**

**International Super W4 farm tractor.**  
**22 x 32 or 22 x 38 Dion Threshing Machine.** Please phone in evenings  
 905-983-9331.



**Sales - Parts - Service - Rentals**

**Stewart's Equipment Stayner Location:**

6837 ON-26, Stayner, Corner of 26 & Center line Rd  
ON, L0M 1S0 **705-428-3132**

**Erin Location:**

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

**Cookstown Location:**

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

**Certified Parts, Sales, & Service**

**Factory Trained Technicians**

# Stewart's Equipment Spring Open Houses

## Cookstown

Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>  
9am - 3pm

## Erin

Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9am - 3pm

## Stayner

Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>  
9am - 3pm

"The Stewart's Way" is our commitment to doing business the right way — with accountability, knowledge, and long-term relationships at the centre of every decision. We are here to know more, care more and give more.

### Event Highlights:

- **Meet Factory Reps:** Talk to Kubota factory experts and get all your questions answered.
- **Extra Discounts:** Take advantage of exclusive savings on Kubota equipment during the BIG ORANGE EVENT!
- **Equipment Maintenance Seminars:** Get pro advice on how to properly maintain your gear.
- **Live Demos:** Try out Kubota equipment in our demo areas and find the perfect fit for your needs.
- **Fun for All Ages:** Face painting, toys of all sizes, and fun activities for kids and adults.



### BIG SAVINGS AT THE KUBOTA BIG ORANGE EVENT

**Don't Wait—Save NOW!** Now is the perfect time to save big! With the **Kubota BIG ORANGE EVENT**, you'll get **extra discounts** on Kubota equipment.

# AUCTION APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**TIMED ONLINE ONLY BIDDING**

**LOTS WILL START CLOSING WEDNESDAY APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2026**

**OVER 600 LOTS! SELLING CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND ATTACHMENTS, FARM TRACTORS, NEW AND USED FARM EQUIPMENT, TRUCKS, LAWN & GARDEN & MORE.**



Scan this qr code with your smart phone to visit the auction on Proxibid

**STEWARTSEQUIP.COM**

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

**Follow Us**



**From all of us at Farm View**

***Bringing you agricultural news since 1977***

Serving the Agricultural communities of Simcoe and Dufferin Counties and the Regions of York, Peel and Muskoka.

As well as farm communities in Grey, Bruce, Victoria, Durham, Wellington and Haliburton Counties.



**email: [farmview@on.aibn.com](mailto:farmview@on.aibn.com) web: [www.farmviewonline.com](http://www.farmviewonline.com)**