

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

A newspaper with something for everyone | September 2026 | Volume 49 #09

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Affecting
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Fair, Essa
Draft Horse
Show, the
Ontario
Summer
Show,
Harlaine
Heritage Day
and more!**



Avery Goldberg of Woodville, owner of Ewe Acres Farm, proudly shows her first-place Southdown yearling, Sugar.

Complimentary copy for
the FARM household

Stewart L. Page Scholarship Recipients

This year, the Stewart L. Page Scholarship Selection Committee is pleased to announce that Cevana Nugent, Kya LaFreniere and Samantha Parnell have received our scholarship to assist with their Post-Secondary Education.

Samantha Parnell will be attending the University of Guelph in the fall studying Agri Business.

Kya LaFreniere will be attending the University of Guelph (Ridgetown Campus) taking the Veterinary Technology Course.

Cevana Nugent will be attending Georgian College (Barrie) taking the 2 year Veterinarian Technician Course.

Congratulations to all three of our applicants.

The Stewart L. Page Scholarship Fund was established in 1967, when S. L. Page retired as an Agricultural Representative in North Simcoe. Money was provided by farm people in North Simcoe, in appreciation of his guidance in the development of agriculture and rural life. Further contributions, by individuals or commodity groups, to the scholarship fund are welcome. The scholarship is available to students, residing in North Simcoe, who plan to enroll in an Agriculture, Veterinary, Environmental or Home Economics related Degree or Diploma Course.

Planting Seeds Of Hope To Address World Hunger

Cambridge Street United Church, Lindsay, is partnering with local supporters to help the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide "A Christian Response to World Hunger".

Ten acres of soybeans have been planted near Oakwood with funds raised by the church on farmland donated by the Bruce Vandenberg family and with help from local suppliers namely Huitson Farms AgriServices in care of Bayer, Little Britain who donated the Dekalb soybean seed and Alliance Agri-Turf for the donated fertilizer and crop care products.

Funds raised from the harvested soybeans will be forwarded to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a national charitable organization that partners with Canadian churches and church-based agencies to end world hunger. At present, Global Affairs Canada matches up to "four to one" of the funds raised from the growing projects across the country. Canadian Foodgrains Bank, in turn, responds to the ever-increasing level of global hunger donating food in times of crisis, helping people improve access to food in long term crisis as well as engaging Canadians and governments toward meaningful change. If market prices are good in October, we are hoping to raise \$5,000 and with

Global Affairs matching grants for local growing funds raised, our efforts will be multiplied to increase Canadian Foodgrains Bank ability to provide food assistance around the world. As you know, crop prices and yields are only known at harvest time. A follow-up press release later in the year can give final details.

The Outreach Team of Cambridge Street United Church thanks Phil Vandenberg, a Volunteer Ambassador for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Learn more about the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and its impact at www.foodgrainsbank.ca and follow the progress of the project on the Cambridge Street United Church FaceBook page.



From left to right are Outreach team members Pam Putman-Kimmitt, Doreen Sinclair, and Jack Kyle (Agricultural Consultant).
Photo by Carl Kimmitt

RACHEL BROOKS

Clearview Township

WARD 5 COUNCILLOR



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

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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.

September 3rd: SCFA Regional Meeting

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture Regional Meeting will take place on Thursday, September 3rd at 1110 Hwy 26, Midhurst. Contact Nicole to learn more simcty.fed.agriculture@outlook.com

September 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

September 22nd - 26th: International Plowing Match

The International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (IPM) is a showcase of agricultural excellence! There are plowing competitions, a range of activities for people of all ages, numerous opportunities to learn about agriculture, near-constant live entertainment, hundreds of vendors and exhibitors!
www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2026/

Sept. 23rd: Program announcement for E.D.G.E.

Elmvale District Garden Enthusiasts' Sept. 23rd open Meeting: "Delightful Dahlias", with Gail Cocker master gardener, Elmvale Legion at 7 John Street. Lift available as we meet upstairs at 7 pm. Guests always welcome. Lug your mug and bring a friend.

September 25th - 27th: Great Northern Exhibition

The GNE takes place at 2220 Fairgrounds Rd N, Stayner, ON L0M 1S0 Animals, Midway, Tractor pull and much more! Information can be found in the ad on page 6.

September 25th - 27th: Bolton Fall Fair

The Bolton Fall Fair is taking place September 25-27, 2026. Featuring a Monster Truck Show, Livestock, Demo Derby, Midway. Celebrating Barns, Yarns & Country Charm. Check us out <https://www.boltontractorpull.ca/>

September 26th: Anten Mills Artisan Craft & Food Fair

Annual Artisan Fair takes place at the Anten Mills Community Centre and Park on Saturday, September 26th. Vendors still welcome! Shop for unique items! Door prizes from each vendor! For more details see the ad on page 16.

October 3rd: Dufferin Farm Tour

Annual Dufferin Farm Tour takes place on Saturday, October 3rd. Rain or shine! See the ad on page 6.

October 9th - 10th: Elmvale Fall Fair

On Thanksgiving weekend, the Flos Agricultural Society, hosts one of its most popular events, the Elmvale Fall Fair, at the Elmvale Arena (14 George St.). Midway, livestock shows, tractor pulls, live music, fun for everyone!

For full details visit www.elmvalefallfair.com or call 705-527-1899.

Wednesdays ongoing: Open Stage at The Hive

Wednesdays, after chores: Open Stage at The Hive Restaurant & Pub, 1441 Mosley Street, Wasaga Beach, 6-9 p.m. A supportive place to share music, poems, stories, or magic! Host Don Beaulieu. Professional sound system. Reserve a dinner table: text 705-606-0500. Sign up for stage time after arrival.

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Is Smoke from Wildfires Affecting Crop Yields?

By Andrej Baca

The greatest potential impact of wildfire smoke on crop growth and yield comes through changes in the amount and quality of sunlight that reaches the crop.

Ample sunlight is critical for maximizing plant photosynthesis and crop yield, and lower-than-normal solar radiation during grain fill can be detrimental. Corn, in particular, may be susceptible to reduced productivity when smoke significantly reduces available sunlight. If plants need to remobilize carbohydrates from the stalk to make up for a deficit in photosynthesis, this can weaken stalks and increase the risk of lodging and stalk rot.

Wildfire smoke contains multiple pollutants that can be harmful to crops, including particulate matter and gases that can contribute to ground-level ozone. However, the extent to which smoke increases concentrations of these pollutants at the crop canopy, and whether those increases are sufficient to cause significant crop damage, depends on atmospheric conditions, smoke concentration and duration.

The effects of wildfire smoke on both agricultural and natural ecosystems are likely to remain an active area of research in coming years, as smoky days become more common.

Wildfires in North America have become more severe in recent decades. Over the past four decades, the average area burned annually by wildfires in the United States has increased substantially—from roughly 2.5 million acres in the 1980s to more than 8 million acres in recent years.

In Canada, 2023 was the worst wildfire

season in recorded history by a wide margin. More than 14.6 million hectares of forest burned, with broader burned-area estimates exceeding 17 million hectares. This was more than twice the previous national record.

The increase in wildfire activity has contributed to a substantial increase in the number of days each year affected by smoke in the air. The effects of wildfire smoke can extend far beyond the immediate vicinity of the fires. The heat generated by large, intense fires can lift smoke high into the atmosphere. Once aloft, smoke can be transported long distances by upper-level winds, including the jet stream. Pockets of concentrated smoke can sometimes occur far from the fires that generated it.

Smoke is most noticeable and poses the greatest human health threat when it reaches the surface. However, smoke at higher altitudes can still affect the amount and quality of sunlight reaching crops by reflecting and scattering incoming solar radiation.

Reduced Sunlight Intensity

The most obvious effect of wildfire smoke in the atmosphere is a reduction in total solar radiation. Much like hazy cloud cover, smoke reflects and scatters a portion of incoming sunlight, reducing the amount of direct light available to plants.

Since plants depend on sunlight to carry out photosynthesis, a significant reduction in light can potentially reduce crop productivity. Plants with the C4 carbon fixation pathway, such as corn, generally have a higher light-saturation point than C3 plants such as soybeans. As a result, corn may be more sensitive to substantial reductions in

total solar radiation.

However, the relationship between smoke and photosynthesis is more complicated than simply less smoke-free sunlight being equal to less plant growth. Smoke can increase the proportion of diffuse sunlight. Diffuse light can penetrate deeper into a crop canopy, allowing leaves that are normally shaded to receive more usable light. Under some conditions, this can partly offset the reduction in total sunlight and may even temporarily benefit photosynthesis.

The overall effect therefore depends on the concentration and duration of the smoke, the crop species, the stage of crop development, and atmospheric conditions.

Ozone on Plant Growth

Ozone is an important air pollutant, and ozone injury to vegetation has been reported and documented in many areas throughout North America, including southwestern and central regions of Ontario.

Wildfires release pollutants and gases that can contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone. However, the amount of additional ozone produced and its effect on crops varies with atmospheric chemistry, sunlight, weather conditions and the distance from the fire.

Ozone symptoms characteristically occur on the upper surface of affected leaves and appear as flecking, bronzing or bleaching of the leaf tissues. Although yield reductions are often associated with visible foliar injury, crop losses can also occur without obvious signs of pollutant stress. Conversely, some crops can sustain visible foliar injury without an adverse effect on yield.

Injury levels vary annually, and white beans, which are particularly sensitive to ozone, are often used as an indicator of damage.

Climate Change

The risk of severe wildfire has been exacerbated by climate change in many parts of North America. Higher temperatures, drought and lower fuel moisture can create conditions that allow fires to ignite and spread more readily. In some regions, a longer fire season has also been associated with warmer spring and fall temperatures, earlier snowmelt and changes in precipitation and water availability.

These factors do not affect every region in the same way, but warmer and drier conditions can increase the likelihood of large and severe fires and contribute to the amount of smoke entering the atmosphere.

This article is for information only. These findings describe what could happen and should not be interpreted as a prediction of crop losses from any individual wildfire smoke event. The effects of smoke on crops depend on many factors, including the intensity and duration of the smoke, weather conditions, crop species and stage of development.

Crops and people will continue to adapt. Wildfires will continue to occur from both natural and human causes, with lightning accounting for roughly half of wildfire ignitions in Canada and a disproportionately large share of the area burned. As wildfire activity and smoke exposure change, understanding their effects on agriculture will become increasingly important.

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OPINION

VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

Discover Ontario Through Local Food and Family Adventures

Family vacations don't have to mean expensive flights or crowded airports. Some of Ontario's best summer memories can be found just down the road – around a campfire, at the cottage, wandering a farmers' market or discovering the farms and food that help feed the province.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture's Home Grown campaign is encouraging families to make the most of the final weeks of summer by combining affordable local adventures with Ontario-grown food.

"Whether you're camping for the weekend, heading to the cottage or simply taking a day trip, Ontario offers incredible opportunities to enjoy great food while discovering the people and places that produce it," says Larry Davis, farmer and director with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. "Shopping at farm stands, farmers' markets or directly from farmers gives families fresh, seasonal food while supporting local farms and rural communities."

Late summer is one of the best times of year to eat locally. Grocery stores, roadside stands and farmers' markets are overflowing with Ontario-grown fruits and vegetables including sweet corn, tomatoes, peaches, blueberries, green beans, cucumbers, peppers and potatoes. Add locally raised meat, cheese, eggs or fresh fish and families can create simple, affordable meals with ingredients grown close to home.

For campers, that could mean grilled Ontario sweet corn alongside locally made sausages. At the cottage, fresh tomatoes, cucumbers and cheese make an easy lunch, while peaches or blueberries become an effortless dessert around the campfire. Even a roadside picnic can become a memorable meal when it's filled with food grown just a few kilometres away.

"One of the best parts of eating local is that it connects people with the places they're visiting," Davis says. "Many Ontario farms welcome visitors through pick-your-own experiences, corn mazes, farm markets, educational tours and seasonal events. It's a chance for Ontarians to see where food comes from while creating lasting family memories."

Across Ontario, visitors can discover attractions that celebrate agriculture and food, from bustling farmers' markets and agricultural museums to educational destinations like the Children's Museum in London, where exhibits often explore food, farming and the natural world. Families can also visit local fairs, conservation areas with working farms, orchards and other agritourism destinations that showcase Ontario's rich agricultural heritage.

Find your local agritourism or farmers' market adventure using these handy websites.

<https://agritourismontario.com> and <https://farmersmarket-sontario.com>

Open letter to the candidates knocking on our doors this fall:

Here's my confession: we didn't get to our yard until early August. Between work and a family calendar that fills itself, the garden waited. Late? Yes. It was also the best we could do and I doubt we're the only Springwater household where weeding loses to sports and work and shift schedules.

We ended up with forty bags. Forty. The only reason they aren't rotting beside the shed right now is that we own a utility trailer and hauled them to the dump.

That last part matters. The County's answer to the July-to-October gap is that residents can self-haul, free of charge. Free is doing a lot of work in that sentence. It's free if you own a trailer, have time to spare, and have a back that cooperates. For neighbours without a hitch — seniors, new families, the list goes on — it isn't really an option, and the bags just sit.

I understand the arithmetic. Summer volumes run about approx 200 tonnes a week countywide against approx 600 in spring and fall, and continuous collection was priced at roughly double the current cost. Council chose status quo. That's defensible. But low summer volumes may measure less what we generate than what we've quietly stopped putting at the curb. Nobody lines up for a bus that isn't coming.

The current contract ends by 2030, and service levels return to County Council before the next one is signed. Whoever we elect this October will be at that table.

So: will you commit to pushing County Council for continuous yard waste collection, spring through fall? Not a study. Not a pilot. A position, said out loud, before we vote.

We'll be fine next August. We have a trailer. That shouldn't be what municipal service depends on.

Stephanie Tavitian-Guthrie,
Anten Mills

On the Cover

Fourteen-year-old agricultural entrepreneur Avery Goldberg of Woodville, owner of Ewe Acres Farm, brought her show sheep to the Fenelon Falls Fair. Washed the day before, her sheep arrived in purple show coats and leg wraps to keep them looking their best. On the Cover, Avery poses with Sugar, her first-place Southdown yearling.

Cover photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Farm View is available at the following agricultural businesses

- ALLIANCE AGRI-TURF in Ivy, Bolton, Fenelon Falls, Baxter and Lindsay
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ESSA VALLEY FEED SERVICES
FOODLAND in Elmvale
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HARRIS FARMS (Seasonally)
HOLMES AGRO in Stayner and Orangeville
LEGACY FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES INC in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza
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SOBEY'S in Angus and Bradford
STEER ENTERPRISES
STEWART'S EQUIPMENT in Cookstown and Stayner
THE UPS STORE in the Barrie Cedar Pointe plaza

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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In memory of
Jill Beischer

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

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

W.J. Bryan

2026 ADVERTISING RATES

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Business Card	\$88./month
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Please visit 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.



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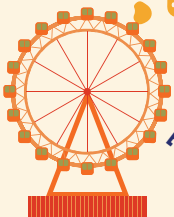
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The Dufferin Farm Tour is coming!

We are excited for this year's event on
Saturday, October 3rd, 2026
- Rain or Shine!

Registration is now open ONLINE,
Spaces may be limited.

Sign up for Farm Tour news at [Dufferinfarmtour.com](https://dufferinfarmtour.com)
or follow us on social media: Facebook or Instagram



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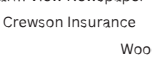
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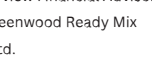
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See Dufferin County farms in person this October 3rd!

Your Vote Matters to Agriculture

By Leah Emms, OFA Member Services Rep.

When we talk about elections, most of us probably think about what is happening in Ottawa or at Queen's Park. But when you're farming, some of the decisions that affect your operation can be made much closer to home.

Ontario's municipal elections are coming up on October 26. That means it's time to start paying attention to who is putting their name forward to sit around your municipal council table.

Why should farmers care? Because municipal councils make decisions that can have a very real impact on your farm.

Think about land-use planning and development, roads, infrastructure, drainage, property taxes and other local services. Depending on where you live, some decisions may be made by your local municipality, while others may fall to a county, region or other upper-tier government. And this is where I think one question is worth remembering: Who makes the decision? It sounds simple, but it can make a big difference when you're trying to get something done.

The same question applies when you're talking to candidates during an election. Do they understand the importance of agriculture in your community? Do they understand that farming is a business and that farmers need to be able to make decisions about their own operations? Do they understand the importance of agricultural land? Do they understand normal farm practices? And perhaps most importantly, are they willing to listen when farmers tell them something isn't going to work?

We don't expect every person running for municipal council to be an expert in agriculture. They don't need to be. But we do expect them to understand that agriculture is an important part of their community and to recognize when they need to ask questions and seek out the right information before making a decision.

Before October 26, take some time to find out who is running in your municipality. If there is an all-candidates' meeting, go. Ask questions. Tell candidates what matters to you and what you need from your municipal government.

Your local county or regional federation is also an important resource. They know the local issues, have relationships with municipal representatives and can help bring agriculture's perspective to the conversation.

OFA has also developed resources specifically for this municipal election to help farmers and local federations engage with candidates. There are questions to consider for all-candidates' meetings, information to help with conversations with candidates and resources to help municipalities better understand agriculture.

Use these resources. Talk to your local federation. Get involved. <https://ofa.on.ca/growag/>

Getting involved doesn't mean you will always get the outcome you want. Even when OFA and our local federations become involved in an issue, there are times when we don't succeed in getting the change we were seeking. That doesn't mean the effort was wasted. Every conversation is an opportunity to build relationships, help municipal decision-makers better understand agriculture and make connections that can be valuable the next time an agricultural issue comes across their desk. Advocacy is not always about getting an immediate "yes." Sometimes it is about making sure agriculture has a relationship with the people making the decisions and that they know who to call when they need information about farming. And remember, this works both ways.

Municipal councillors and staff don't have to know everything about agriculture either. If they have questions about agriculture or are working on a policy or issue that could affect farmers, we want them to reach out to us. OFA and our local federations are here to provide information and help make sure agricultural considerations are part of the conversation.

Municipal elections aren't just about deciding who will take a seat on council. They are about choosing the people who will make decisions about your community for the next four years. So, before you cast your ballot, get to know the candidates. Ask questions. Talk to them about agriculture. Work with your local federation and use the resources available to you.

And if you're elected—or if you're a municipal staff member trying to work through an issue that involves agriculture—remember that you don't have to have all the answers. Reach out. We're here to help.

Building those relationships now can make a difference long after election day. Know who makes the decisions that affect your farm and make sure they know who to call when they need to understand agriculture.

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Reflecting on 2026 Wheat Harvest

By Taylor Legge, Agronomist Holmes Agro, 705 428 4444

Winter wheat harvest seemed to take its time across the Georgian Bay region this year. We use the month of September to grease our equipment, but also to capture lessons learned as we prepare to plant our 2027 crop.

Let's review. Our 2026 wheat crop went into the ground in beautiful—if not a touch dry—conditions. Moisture later in October helped with crop establishment, and I was pleased with the top growth we had before the snow came. We then proceeded to have another consecutive winter characterized by heavy snowfall and lack of hard frosts—which alludes to some of the agronomy challenges we had later in season. The large snow load melted into widescale flooding which put many wheat acres underwater in March and April. Cool spring temperatures kept us off the wheat for fertilizer and herbicide applications, but made for excellent vegetative growth and setup for heading time.

As we tally up, yields have been very good for wheat in the area around my office in Stayner. Two things of note in the wheat crop this year have come directly from a heavy snow cover: higher presence of bunt, and the introduction of Orange Wheat Blossom Midge in Ontario. Both have negative implications on quality and yield, and were amplified by the insulating winter conditions and heavy rainfall in June around anthesis.

A lot of these problems were ultimately out of our control, so what can we learn from the 2026 wheat crop? Document fields that had issues for future observations, work with certified seed when you can, and have reactive plans in place for when the weather doesn't match your management programs. My personal priorities for the 2027 crop are early planting and establishment, pushing phosphorus rates, and fall control for perennial weed species. Best of luck with planting for the fall season!

Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

This morning started like any other on the farm... chores, cows, and a quick glance toward the horizon. Then I spotted a hot air balloon way off in the distance. I'll admit, I was hoping the wind would carry it somewhere else. I watched for a bit and felt relieved when it looked like it had landed on another property, so I turned around and went back to work.

A few minutes later, my son came running and yelling that the balloon was right over our farm.

Sure enough, there it was — low and loud over the cattle yard. Every time they blasted the flames to heat the air, the cows panicked. The riders were getting quite the scenic view, but from the ground, it was pure chaos. Cows were running for the barn, slipping and scrambling like they were on skates, trying to get to safety. Poor LouWho was sliding all over the yard trying to make it inside (see photo).

I jumped in the side-by-side and followed the balloon as it drifted lower and lower. I could tell pretty quickly it was going to land in one of our fields. I tore across the farm just in time to see it touch down on the edge of a hayfield that's supposed to be cut any day now. As a farmer, seeing a giant balloon flattening your crop doesn't exactly fill you with joy. I wasn't happy!

To their credit, the balloon operator was extremely polite and professional. He apologized right away and explained they were running out of options. They had come all the way from St. Jacobs, Ontario, and with a balloon, you pretty much go wherever the wind decides to take you. He actually seemed knowledgeable about crops and understood why I was stressed. We managed to move the balloon to a

back laneway and have them pack it up in a field I hadn't seeded yet. Shortly after, the rescue vehicles showed up to pick up the riders and crew.

They even offered me champagne afterward... probably as a peace offering. I suppose I could've pushed for a free balloon ride too.

And honestly, despite the frustration, there is something magical about seeing a hot air balloon floating across the countryside at sunrise. I completely understand why people love it. I'd even like to try it myself someday.

But I also wish more people understood the stress these balloons can cause on farms. The noise and sight of a low-flying balloon terrify livestock. Over the years, we've had cows smash through fences twice trying to escape balloons. A friend of mine lost a cow after it impaled itself on a fence post in panic. We once lost a cow ourselves from injuries she suffered running during a balloon flyover.

People often see beautiful scenery from above. Farmers see frightened animals, damaged crops, liability, and thousands of dollars of risk.

After all, I wonder how many people would appreciate a hot air balloon landing in their backyard flower beds or vegetable garden.

Still, I do appreciate that this operator listened and took the situation seriously. Before leaving, he marked our farm as a dairy farm in their records so future pilots would know there are cattle and crops here if they ever drift this direction again.

Farming certainly keeps life interesting. One minute you're feeding cows... the next minute you're chasing a hot air balloon across a hayfield.

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

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After The Chores: I Miss Her So Much

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



It's an incredible gift in life to meet someone that lives close, is in your type of farming and has a heart of compassion that becomes your best friend- and I had my gift for decades, until this sad summer.

I first met Doris when I was living with my parents and brothers. Someone who worked in the auto industry knew her and warned "she talks a bit rough". Doris stepped out of a rickety old truck, a cigarette in one hand. Her language was profanity piled on profanity- and I was more scared of her than anything. My first perception was totally wrong.

I found a letter in the mailbox addressed to me a few weeks later- and when I opened it, found a newspaper clipping of her goat sound asleep on a couch. That letter was the start of a friendship that only ended by her death.

I soon realized that profanity was just her, she was not angry. She was a strong opinionated person and she got set off quickly when she saw injustices. Doris didn't just talk about injustice, she did what she called a "tune-up". Being tuned up was getting told- right to the face- that something was being done wrong in strong language.

A retired couple from prestigious professions showed very heavily uddered up goats many years ago when we all showed dairy goats. Doris told me they needed a tune-up. I was at a show when one of the retired professionals stomped over to me, visibly very angry. "I want you to know we DID milk our goats the day before the show. I don't EVER want you to say we didn't- ever again." The person got me mixed up with Doris, another goat person explained, "You look kind of the same, with that dark hair- but she has the mouth." The tune-up worked.

Doris met Neil and they became an exceptionally happy couple living close to here. They had about 15 dogs in the house. Their kennel of dogs always behaved better than our one dog. They belonged to the Canadian Kennel Club and went right to the top, showing dogs and selling purebred puppies across Canada.

I met Doris's Mom when she was about 96 years old. She moved in with Doris and Neil when her apartment build-

ing enforced the smoking bylaw. She was a 75 cigarette a day smoker so getting off/on the elevator was getting to be a big job. Doris and Neil welcomed her into their farm home and she would often come to goat shows. She answered my question about her good health, "Well, dear, I start my day off with a cigarette. And toast."

The only time Doris ever got frustrated with her beloved Mom was the time when the Mom decided, in her late 90's, to go by bus to Halifax to visit friends. The visit had to happen by bus which Doris strongly opposed to but her Mom would not back down. Doris planned for attendants at each stop to get her elderly Mom on/off the bus safely. The friends called Doris to report that her Mom had arrived, safe, sound and happy in Halifax. The trip home meant Doris was in Oshawa when no Mom arrived. "We kind of lost her," the bus company worker explained. The worker got one of the biggest tune-ups that Doris ever gave. It was soon found out that Mom was placed on a wrong bus and she went to Montreal instead of Oshawa. Doris wanted to make the company pay for the mistake to help others. There was no action taken since the travelling Mom flat out refused when she finally recovered from the experience, "No, Dear. Dear, they were all so nice to me." The Mom passed away, years later from natural causes at 105 years old.

It was just a short time later, when Doris's little sister wanted to leave her addiction life situation. Doris took her in at the farm and gave her the job of watching the sheep on pasture from the living room window. The sister was impacted from addiction and asked the same questions- every day- several times a day. She always called Doris "Sis". The one time the sheep got out of the pasture and she reported it to her Sis, she was beyond proud. Doris got her a guinea pig and that gave her purpose. By now, Doris was stepping into the world of rabbits.

With Neil by her side, Doris rocketed to the top with her rabbits. She had a natural eye for choosing genetics- and Neil encouraged her to go to the highest level. She and a friend often went to New York, USA to show her rabbits at huge shows bringing home top awards. Neil was the encourager that gave Doris one of the greatest challenges of her life, to try and be a licensed Dominion Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association (DRCBA) Rabbit judge.

It is a long apprentice process to get licensed by DRCBA and Doris had to stop halfway. Her little sister suddenly became very ill and passed. Doris stayed home and grieved until the next Fair season started.

With encouragement from Neil, Doris bravely picked up her apprenticeship. She passed her judging exam- and again,

right to the top as the main judge on the DRCBA circuit for her first year. I was confident with my first show with Doris and was not too impressed when she disqualified two of my four rabbits. We all had to learn that she knew the judging rules and enforced them. In her judging career, she was asked to judge the Royal Winter Fair and to train other DRCBA judges. She took her job so seriously, once she pulled on her white judging coat, she was a polished educated professional.

I decided that it was time for my heart dog, Larry the loving Labrador Retriever to fulfill my dream. I want to become a St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dog owner specializing in senior visiting. Larry and I were ready and when I told Doris, she said she wanted to do this with us. Larry suddenly died. Doris decided she would carry on with my dream- and she again, went right to the top.

Doris was a natural for the St. John's program, her dog was so well behaved and she had so much compassion to give. She visited a prison. She especially loved going weekly to a local Longterm Care Home. She was asked to walk in parades and with her loyal Corgi, stand as an honour guard on special days. She was seen for all she truly was- and was soon offered an assistant training position. She was asked to add in having her trained dog work with special needs children and then she got sick.

My dear friend with so much compassion met me for her birthday lunch on January 22nd. She had fallen on the ice on the way to the barn for chores after freezing rain and she was in pain that day. We talked for close to 3 hours and she was so pleased to be asked to judge DRCBA shows at Schomberg in May, Bracebridge in September and Roseneath in October. She helped me plan the Sunderland Fair Show saying her usual, "You know I will do anything to help, Cath, just tell me."

On February 1st, an xray showed definite bad news. My tears started when I got the news on February 2nd. On June 2nd, she called and asked if I would take some of her show rabbits to live here. Her final wish was to home all her animals to people that she personally chose.

On July 11th Doris left this world. She was 72 years old. I had to hide away my "Cathy and Doris" blanket and my Friend Angel, both Christmas gifts over the years. I cannot cry away all my days for my best friend.

I believe my eternal resting place is with Jesus- and my hope is there I will meet the gift of my life, Doris again one day and she will smile and say, "welcome Home, Bestie."

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Ontario's Top Cattle Gather in Lindsay

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The 29th Annual Ontario Summer Show brought some of the province's finest dairy cattle and exhibitors to the Lindsay Fairgrounds. The event featured strong competition in both Holstein and Jersey classes.

Taking Supreme and Grand Champion honours was Fami-page Legend Barabas, owned by Ronald Grandy of Oshawa, while Martin-View Doc Hot Shot, owned by Maplekeys Farms of Aylmer, was named Reserve Grand Champion. Butlerview Glitter Girl-ET, owned by Butlerview Farm, Clarkvalley Holsteins, Kevin Jay Doeberliener and Pat Conroy, earned Junior Champion. Fraeland Farms of Fergus was named Premier Breeder, while Mt. Elgin Dairy Farms of Guelph received Premier Exhibitor honours.

In the Jersey division, Riview Victorious Sophdawg ET, owned by Bridon Farms Inc. of Paris, was named Grand Champion, with Mixin Moos Victorious Rylah, owned by Ferme Pierre Boulet and Clark Valley of Quebec, taking Reserve Grand Champion. Schulte Bros Victorious Final, owned by AJ Genetics and Golden Jerseys of Ontario, was named Junior Champion. The results highlighted the quality of cattle and the strength of competition at one of Ontario's premier dairy shows.



The Ontario Summer Show is one of the most prestigious shows in the province, second only to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The 29th Annual Ontario Summer Show took place at the Lindsay Fairgrounds. In the photo above is a red/white Holstein named Charwill Warrior Red Rustico sired by Mr Blondin Warrior-Red-ET. This cow is owned by Beckridge Holsteins and Quality Holsteins. The handler is Brian O'Neill.



This is Nadia Uhr handling Knaudale Miranda Lambert, bred and owned by Knaudale Farms Inc. of Crysler, ON. The sire of this cow is Walnutlawn Sidekick.



Pictured above is Melyssa Sargent showing her family's bred-and-owned two-year-old Jersey cow, Enniskillen Map Sue 779, sired by Treasure Map-ET. The Sargent family is from Enniskillen, ON.



Seen in the photo above is Carldot Delta Lambda Lilah, a 3 year old sired by Farnear Delta-Lambda-ET. This cow is owned by Andrew Den Haan, Mount Kolb Farm and Plum Valley Holsteins. The handler is Carter Landman.



The crowd falls silent as the judge decides the winners of the championship class. Competing in the Jersey Championship class was Riview Victorious Sophdawg ET, (pictured above) owned by Bridon Farms Inc. The sire is Riverview Victorious ET, and the handler is Rory Timlin.



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4-H Members Learn, Lead and Get Involved

Reports and photos submitted by Simcoe County 4-H

South Simcoe 4-H Hiking Club

By Parker Beaudry

On July 30th, the South Simcoe hiking club met for the sixth time for a Wasaga beach hike. The group met at the Wasaga beach recplex and said the 4-H pledge, after the pledge we took a trail down to the beach and started hiking. The hike started at beach 5 and stopped at beach 6 where we turned around and started walking back to the recplex. When we got back to beach 5 the people that had brought bathing suits went in the water for a swim. After the swim, some of our group had to leave so we ended the meeting on the beach with the 4-H motto. The hike was approximately 3.6 kilometers from beach 5 to 6 and back, overall it was a great day for a hike and I would definitely stop there again for a swim or a walk on the beach.



South Simcoe 4-H Garden Club

By Hannah Cossar



In this South Simcoe 4-H garden club we help at the Essa Agriplex with their garden. In the garden club so far we have weeded the garden and started to let plants breathe again. We also made our own mini water fountain with rocks to bring home and use! During our garden club, we have been connecting with people and working together to make our garden grow. We have also taken lots of tours in gardens to see what they look like and we see if we can identify the plants and flowers. We went to Creemore for 4 garden tours and in our last meeting we went to Lisa's house and got a tour in her garden.

Elmvale 4-H Dairy Club

By Carina Jones

On July 21st, the Elmvale Dairy club went on a bus tour. We started the day off by visiting Cargill Palmerston Feed Mill. We were introduced to Dennis Coelho and John Hoogendoorn. As small groups toured the feed mill, Tristan Emiry talked to the group about what kinds of feeds are important to a cow's diet. After that, we had lunch in the park provided by Mapleview Agri. Next, we toured the facilities at Mapleview Agri Milk Replacer Plant with Aaron Keunen. After the tour, Luke Michalek took us through the importance of milk replacer and what it is made



up of. We ended the day by stopping at Misty Meadows Market for ice cream. We would like to thank the family of Joe McLean, who generously donated the money to help with our bus rental.

Cookstown 4-H Mini Horse Club

By Grace Wallace

On Sunday July 26th the Cookstown 4-H Miniature Horse Club met at Canter by Tack for a double horse club meeting. On this day, we all brought our miniature horses with us. We began by grooming our miniature horses and practicing in the ring. We learned how to side pass our miniature horses as well as lead them over obstacles. Members enjoyed a picnic lunch before continuing on for the rest of the day. During the afternoon portion, we continued to practice showmanship in the ring to prepare us for our upcoming show at the Barrie Fair. The meeting concluded with us helping to load our mini horses back into their trailers and helping to clean up the ring before we left.

South Simcoe 4-H Community Club

By Charlie Leal

The Potato Pancake Festival 2026 was so much fun. The volunteers were so kind and nice. One of the most fun parts was getting to hang out with my friends while also doing some work. I also got to chat with some of the people who attended, and they were really nice.. I just have to say thank you to our volunteers that showed up to help, our 4-H leaders and members from the South Simcoe 4-H Community Involvement Club and last but not least the people that showed up to support the Potato Pancake breakfast 2026 and enjoy pancakes.



Photo by Andrej Baca

Continued on page 11



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Simcoe County 4-H reports continued from page 10.

4-H South Simcoe Poultry Club

By Catherine Reid



The South Simcoe 4-H Poultry club held its second annual fur + feather vendor market on June 27th. We had a variety of vendors come out to the GNE Fairgrounds to buy and sell. There

were turkeys, a highland calf, and rabbits etc. We look forward to the event growing for years to come!

At the fifth meeting of the South Simcoe 4-H Poultry club we toured a broiler barn.

We learned about the ventilation needed, we learned about the process of cleaning the barn between flocks, and about how the barn was built to best suit the chickens and the workers. At the end of the meeting we looked at the grain elevator. We also played beach volleyball to cap off our meeting!

At the sixth meeting of the South Simcoe 4-H Poultry club we were invited to attend Canter by Tack and Gift. We learned how to show a chicken. Some important things are as follows: securely hold your chicken in your hand, gently tap its beak so that the chicken moves its head to show each eye to the judge, gently pull the wing to show the judge your chicken's wing. We are looking forward to demonstrating our knowledge at the Beeton Fall Fair!

South Simcoe 4-H Line Dancing Club

By Thomas McKnight

In the past few weeks the South Simcoe 4-H Line Dancing Club have visited places such as Maple Grove Farms and the Gilpin Farm. We have learned dances such as Footloose, Wagon Wheel and Church Clap. All in all, it has been fun but tiring.



Cookstown 4-H Beef Club

By Grace VanCampen



On Wednesday, July 15th the Cookstown 4-H Beef Club toured a number of beef farms in the area. First we visited the Den Haan's and learned about their short horn cows. Next we visited the Wallace's and saw their charolais herd. Lastly we went to Maple Grove Farms and saw their highland cows and calves, some cute goats, ducks and pigs!!! Thanks to all our hosts it was a great night.

South Simcoe 4-H Go for the Gold Club

By Isabella Cullen

The 4-H South Simcoe Go for the Gold team has been busy this year learning plenty of knowledge from 4-H manuals on a variety of topics, such as gardening, poultry, and horse nutrition. Go for the Gold is a trivia competition based on 4-H project manuals; each year a select set of manuals are studied for the regional competition. All the studying has been in preparation for the 4-H Ontario Region 4 Go for the Gold Competition, which was hosted in Waterloo County on Saturday, August 8th, 2026. There were 4 teams competing which were from Brant, Haldimand, Waterloo and of course South Simcoe. The trivia competition was a round robin competition, with each team playing each other once, to see who knew their 4-H trivia knowledge best. After the 3 round robin games, the South Simcoe team of Isabella Cullen, Madeleine Cullen, Brooklynn Downey, Krysta Downey and Anna Kamminga was undefeated with a combined total score of 655 heading into the championship game!

A delicious pizza lunch was enjoyed prior to the championship game, with plenty of snacks, and chocolate milk. The championship game was South Simcoe against Haldimand county, with both teams hoping to win and qualify for the 4-H Provincial Go For the Gold Competition which will be at the Royal Winter Fair in November. The final game of trivia was filled with plenty of cor-

rect answers, and was a demonstration of all the hard work both teams had put into studying. In the end, the South Simcoe Go for the Gold team prevailed with 230 points, meaning the South Simcoe team are the 4-H Region 4 Go for the Gold champions, and are Provincials bound!

A huge congratulations and thank you to all the members, leaders and coaches of every team for making the competition a success. A huge thank you to all the volunteers, who came out to support Waterloo County in hosting such a wonderful event, these opportunities would not be possible without you! Lastly, I would like to thank the many sponsors of this 4-H competition for making it possible, your support of leadership development in agriculture is greatly appreciated!

A huge thank you to South Simcoe Leaders Trish Downey, Tamara Fisher-Cullen, Sam Kamminga and Kim West-Kolb. Thank you for helping us study, making questions, explaining things clearly and never giving up on us. Our leaders demonstrated great leadership and were amazing role models for good sportsmanship. We are beyond grateful for them leading this club that offers knowledge, learning experiences, amazing memories and friendships. We are so excited to represent Region 4 at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.



Pictured above is the winning South Simcoe 4-H team from the Regional 4-H Go For The Gold competition in 2026. From left to right are Kimberly West-Kolb, Trish Downey, Anna Kamminga, Krysta Downey, Isabella Cullen, Brooklynn Downey, Madeleine Cullen, Tamara Fisher-Cullen and Samantha Kamminga.

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Fun Farm Science...

Our curious reporter Don Beaulieu has been asking the questions that perhaps should have been asked before somebody put it on Facebook.

They don't kill people and it isn't an extinct auroch

Most cattle farms have dairy cows. Cute creatures, for the most part, with woolly ears, placid natures and a generally co-operative attitude toward the business of being a cow.

But there is a breed that looks as though it wandered out of a prehistoric painting. Meet the Heck cattle:

With dark coats, substantial horns and a decidedly primitive appearance, Heck cattle were developed in Germany in the 1920s by brothers Heinz and Lutz Heck. Their ambition was an unusual one: To recreate the extinct aurochs, the enormous wild ancestor of modern cattle.

Aurochs were a formidable beast. Bulls could reach well over five feet at the shoulder and weigh close to 1,000 kilograms, with large, powerful horns. Unlike today's domesticated cattle, the aurochs were a wild animal; humans eventually hunted it to extinction. The last known aurochs died in Poland in 1627.

The Heck brothers believed they could bring something resembling it back. But now, the story gets complicated.

For years, Heck cattle have been surrounded by some pretty good stories. Unfortunately, some of those stories aren't true.

Myth #1: Heck cattle are dangerous

This appears to have grown largely from one well-publicized incident involving Heck cattle that behaved aggressively toward people. It has subsequently been repeated as though the entire breed carries a murderous disposition. There is no good evidence for that.

Heck cattle are kept on farms, in zoos and in grazing and conservation projects, and the breed is generally described by breeders as unproblematic. In other words, a Heck cattle isn't automatically plotting your demise simply because it has big horns and looks like something from the Stone Age.

Myth #2: Bred using Spanish fighting bulls.

There's a reason this one sounds convincing. Lutz Heck did use Spanish fighting cattle in his experiments.

The important detail is that none of Lutz Heck's cattle

survived beyond the Second World War. Modern Heck cattle descend from Heinz Heck's stock, and Heinz did not use Spanish fighting cattle.

So, technically, blaming the Spanish fighting bull for the modern Heck's appearance is barking up the wrong family tree.

Myth #3: The Nazis created Heck cattle

This one makes a great headline: Nazi Cows! It just isn't accurate.

The brothers began their breeding experiments in the 1920s, before the Nazis came to power, and their stated motivation was zoological, to try to recreate the lost aurochs.

There is, however, a Nazi connection. Lutz Heck received support from Hermann Göring, a leading Nazi official, and his cattle were introduced into German game parks. Heinz Heck, whose cattle form the basis of the modern breed, was opposed to the Nazi regime.

So the Nazi involvement is part of the story, but it didn't create the breed.

Myth #4: Heck cattle are basically aurochs, only smaller.

Nope. This may be the biggest misconception of all.

Heck cattle differ from aurochs in body proportions, head shape, leg length, musculature, horn shape and overall build. Aurochs were taller and more athletic, with a long head and powerful shoulders. Heck cattle are much more like domestic cattle in their proportions.

There are even other cattle breeds that resemble the aurochs at least as closely.

Myth #5: The brothers independently produced the same animal

Heinz and Lutz Heck used different cattle in their breeding programs, and later claimed that their results looked essentially identical, supposedly proving that they had successfully reconstructed the aurochs. They hadn't.

The Berlin and Munich cattle looked noticeably different. Lutz's animals were strongly influenced by Spanish fighting cattle, while Heinz's were heavier and had different horns.

In other words, the evidence suggests that the brothers' confidence in having resurrected the aurochs was somewhat greater than the scientific evidence warranted.

That doesn't make Heck cattle uninteresting. Quite the opposite.

Some facts

There are now roughly 2,000 of them in Europe and they are hardy animals capable of living in conditions that would challenge many modern breeds. Their unusual appearance also makes them useful in conservation and re-wilding projects, where large grazing animals can help maintain natural landscapes.

But they aren't resurrected aurochs.

They're cattle; interesting, unusual cattle, produced by an ambitious breeding experiment nearly a century ago.

And perhaps there's a lesson here for anyone who reads something often enough that it starts to sound like fact. Sometimes the biggest horns in the story belong not to the cow, but to the story itself.







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Carrot Fest Takes Over Downtown Bradford

Story and photos by Andrej Baca

Downtown Bradford was transformed into a celebration of carrots, drawing thousands of people to enjoy vendors, entertainment, food and drinks at Carrot Fest on August 14 and August 15, 2026.

This year Carrot Fest was presented by Toromont Remanufacturing, TD, York Energy, Global Pet Foods, Holland Marsh Growers Association and local businesses.

If like me, you wonder what Toromont Remanufacturing does, it remanufactures large and larger commercial and farm motorized equipment.

Vendors offered so many yummy foods or interesting products from local and worldly places. It was difficult keeping myself from buying more than I could carry. Free Carrots, sunglasses and other marketing give aways were on hand. Low-cost fund raisers pulled on your heartstrings.

The black organic soils of the Holland Marsh make Bradford West Gwillimbury one of Canada’s biggest carrot-producing regions and the ‘Heart of the Vegetable Industry’. Carrot Fest is a celebration of the region’s agricultural heritage, especially the role of the carrot in the local economy. Carrot Fest is a way to bring the community together to celebrate, encourage participation and generate pride. What started as a merchant-based community event has now developed into a historical event.

The first Carrot Fest in 1998 added children’s entertainment, contests, and a main stage to the existing vendor market. Since 2005, Carrot Fest has been organized by the Town’s Department of Community Services.

Carrot Fest has definitely become “a growing tradition” as the number of attendees has quadrupled since 2006, with an estimated 50,000 participants and \$1 million generated locally.



Representing Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery, Amanda, Carrie and Abby hosted a “Guess How Many Carrots” game, giving participants a chance to win one of two prizes.



Volunteers Edna and Leslie made sure visitors received a memorable keepsake from the weekend’s event.





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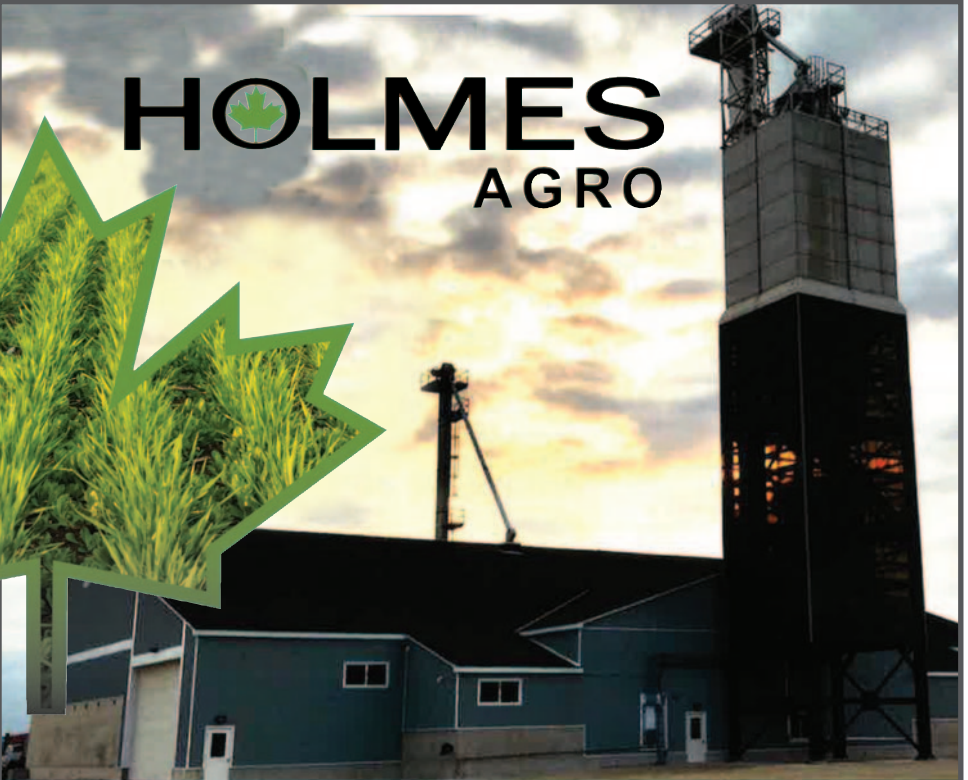
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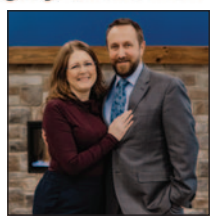
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A Blue Harvest: Hand Rakes Assisted in Picking Wild Blueberries

Canada is the world's second largest producer of blueberries, second only to the United States. While Ontario is dwarfed in blueberry production by the likes of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Quebec, it nonetheless produces 974 tones of blueberries across more than 170 farms.

An important but unheralded part of the evolution from harvesting in the wild to commercial cultivation was the hand rake.

Blueberries represent a traditional taste of summer in Ontario. Originally growing wild in fields, they have been harvested in turns by First Nations, settlers and finally enterprising businesspeople who turned to commercial cultivation.

Blueberries (more specifically, lowbush wild blueberries) are indigenous to Ontario, as well as much of North America. Hardy and with minimal nutritional requirements, they grow wild on "barrens" or fields and flourish without any intervention by man. Blueberry barrens are periodically renewed by brushfires which serve as a method of fertilizing the soil, pruning, and weed control.

These berries formed an important part of the Native American diet, who called blueberries 'star berries' because the end of each berry—the calyx—forms a five-pointed star. Folklore told that the Great Spirit sent 'star berries' to ease the hunger of First Nation children during a crippling famine. Blueberries were dried in the sun and added year-round to soups and stews, crushed into a powder to use on meat as a preservative, and put in a simple pudding with cracked corn and water called Sautauthig. Additionally, blueberries (as well as their leaves and roots) were used in a medicinal role. Blueberry root tea, for example, was used to ease labour pains.

When Europeans arrived in North America, they were quickly introduced to blueberries by the continent's original inhabitants. In 1615, Samuel de Champlain made note of seeing Natives harvesting wild blueberries along the shore of Lake Huron.

Early Ontario settlers, desperate to supplement the meager

gains from their bush farms, eagerly harvested wild blueberries. They also made strong teas from blueberries as a medicinal beverage.

But whether it was a settler or a First Nation woman, picking blue berries was time consuming and back breaking. Wild blueberry bushes grow only six to 18-inches in height, requiring the picker to kneel and meticulously pull the tiny berries from the foliage.

A solution was found in the form of the blueberry hand rake, which looked something like a household dustpan with

teeth. Made of wood or, more commonly metal, they were typically about 14-inches wide and had a handle for easy gripping. The rake would be gently skimmed over the blueberry bush, separating the berries from the bush. Fast and efficient, rakes resulted in harvest rates of 5 to 10 pounds per hour, far surpassing pure hand-picking

without compromising fruit quality. It was the hand rake that enabled blueberries to be cultivated as a viable crop.

At the same time, it should be noted that environmentalists caution the use of rakes in the wild as they can rapidly deplete an area of food for wildlife and damage plants uprooting or stripping leaves, all of which can degrade ecosystems.

In time, the basic technology of the hand rake was adapted to machinery that could perform the task of harvesting even more efficiently.

While mechanized harvesters have largely replaced hand raking on large commercial operations since the mid-20th century, the blueberry rake was so effective a design that they are still manufactured and widely used on small farms or where machines cannot operate.



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Young Animal Lovers and Big Horses Steal the Show at Fenelon Fair

Story and photos by
Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Fenelon Fair was filled with young animal lovers, special friendships and impressive horses this year. From seven-year-old Makenzie Mason and her beloved Netherland Dwarf rabbit Aster, to Kayla Henderson's massive Clydesdale gelding Beau and the Hayes family's miniature horses, the fair gave local families a chance to share their passion for animals and enjoy a day together. For these young exhibitors and their families, the Fenelon Fair is about much more than competition—it's about friendship, learning and making memories with their animals.

BIG BAY NAMED BEAU: When Kayla Henderson from Lindsay told her friends and family she was buying a "riding horse," nobody could believe she had bought this big Clydesdale gelding named Beau. Beau may look somewhat familiar, as he is the famous "Budweiser Bay" colour, with four white socks. The Budweiser hitch of horses and wagon is known across North America—and around the world—through television commercials that everybody loves to watch. Beau is from the Starr Family Farm near Cambray, and many of his siblings are official members of the Budweiser stable. There is a strict list of requirements that must be met to be officially accepted into the famous stable, and Beau was found to have a tiny flaw, so he was not accepted. This left him available for purchase by a very excited Kayla. "Beau is trained to hitch and ride. He is such a good boy," she says. Seen here at the Fenelon Fair for his first show, Beau was taken for a little walk to help settle him, as this was a brand-new experience for the big, young horse, who will grow even bigger when he fully matures.



Pictured at left is 7-year-old Makenzie Mason from Little Britain with her Netherland Dwarf rabbit named Aster. Makenzie credits her involvement with the Fenelon Fur 'n Feather Club for helping her meet her best friend, who also owns rabbits. The two young rabbit owners are hoping their rabbits become girlfriend and boyfriend and that there will be a litter of nice rabbit babies in the future. Makenzie says she loves spending Fair day with her best friend and their rabbits.



HAYES FAMILY AT THE FAIR: Pictured above is the Hayes family from Bobcaygeon who came to the Fenelon Fair to take part in the horse show. Kristen Hayes, pictured here, has a background in hunter/jumper horses and has passed her love of horses on to her children. Sophia, on the left, is with the family's miniature horse, Hot Wheels, while her brother Vincent is with Olive. Little Michael is in front with Mom Kristen, and he also joins his siblings in helping with the horse-care chores.

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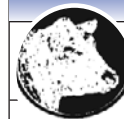
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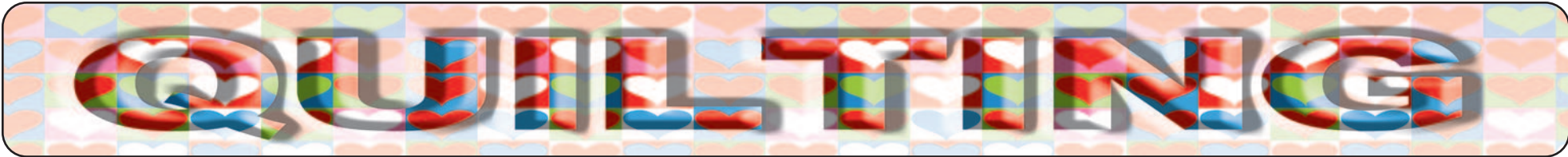
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Time to Get Sewing: Quilting Projects, Tips and Inspiration

By Janis Hamilton

With the kids and grandkids off for another school year, it's time to focus on what you want to do with your time and perhaps find some projects to inspire you at the Simcoe County Museum's Artisan and Quilt Fair, taking place September 18th to 20th.

So, project in hand, maybe a deep clean of the sewing room/area might be a good start. I love to finish a project knowing the vacuuming will be done, and the fabric dust bunnies will be gone for a short while anyways. It is amazing how many pins/spools of thread you find on the floor, or you shake your head wondering why my trimming scissors ended up there and why is that 6 inch ruler hidden behind the pile of patterns.

First as a refresher remember how to make sure you are quilting with accuracy using 1/4" seam. Most machines have an actual 1/4 inch foot. If not use painter's tape to mark on your machine where the 1/4 inch line would be and just line up your needle and fabric so you get the sewing line you need.

I've listed a few videos to watch but here is the basis of the idea for lifelong accuracy.

<https://quilting.craftgossip.com/mastering-the-perfect-1-4-inch-seam-tutorial-roundup/2024/02/05/>

<https://www.allpeoplequilt.com/how-to-sew-a-perfect-1-4-seam-11882079>

<https://www.connectingthreads.com/tutorials/t/how-to-sew-an-accurate-quarter-inch-seam-allowance/95>

<https://homemadeemilyjane.com/perfect-quarter-inch-seam/>

Sew a sample test

Cut three 1 1/2"-wide strips of fabric. Join two of the strips using a 1/4" seam; then add the third strip with another 1/4" seam. Press seams away from the center strip. Turn the unit right side up and measure the center strip. It should measure exactly 1" wide. Reset your seam guide, or needle position, as necessary.

A scant 1/4" seam measures 1 or 2 thread widths narrower than 1/4" on your ruler, shown.

Making simple quilts with few pieces 1/4 inch is just fine, but if you are joining say 8 smaller pieces and you are out a bit multiply that by the number of pieces and you could

easily be out 1/4' just on one block, now multiply that by the number of blocks and your quilt is not the size you had hoped for.

So how do you decide on the colours for your project or quilt? Well, I know a lot of quilters go with their first "I have to have it" fabric and then compliment the colours from there. However, if you are just wanting a simple quilt and want to try some new colours, I've found a site that offers colouring pages so you can print them off for free and work with colours in your stash that may work once you get out the markers or coloured pencils. There are 23 different patterns you can print off so the ideas are limitless. (Well considering the size of your stash and the sewing time you have). The patterns come in baby quilt sizes and go up so explore and have some fun. Kids love to colour, so admit you are not ready to be too mature to colour and go for it. Don't forget to use light, medium and dark fabric for best results. I take a photo of the fabrics I want and using my iPad, change the photo to black and white and you can easily see what is dark and light and the medium is now obvious. I had a friend's 12 year old daughter here sewing for a day making a doll quilt and she lined up the fabrics and was shocked she had put them in descending order, they went from dark to light. She looked at the photo and needed to start rearranging but was delighted with the results when the first quilt she'd ever made was done.

<https://homemadeemilyjane.com/coloring-pages/>

If you decide to make a quilt and haven't gone from start to finish, I found this site (if you are seeing the digital copy of the paper, just click on the highlighted link and it will go directly there for you. If not, sorry you'll have to do it the slow way by typing, but the information is simply too much for one article and that way you can have it for future reference.

<https://homemadeemilyjane.com/how-to-make-a-quilt-from-start-to-finish/>

No matter the project, it doesn't have to be a lifelong project, but make it fun, that is what a hobby is really all about, right? If you wanted simpler, try sewing a shopping bag and yes, it can be quilted and then lined. How about an apron for a baking friend... it too can have quilting on it for

practice. You are only limited by your imagination and of course Pinterest... well that is a rabbit hole that could keep you busy for days. Here is a timely tip, quilt shops have Christmas fabric in now and advent calendars but they sell out quickly so if you need something, don't put it off till November. Happy Sewing!

Celebrating 100 Years in Quilts

The Simcoe Area Women's Institute is pleased to announce the completion of its 100th anniversary quilt, created by members and friends of the Simcoe Area W.I. to celebrate a century of community, creativity, and service. The quilt was developed in conjunction with Dr. Molly-Claire Gillett and her research into the history of rural women and their contributions to the rich fabric and heritage of our community.

Members of the public are invited to attend the unveiling on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026, at 2 p.m. at the Simcoe County Museum. The Museum provides a fitting setting for the display, as the Simcoe Area Women's Institute played an important role in establishing the museum and archives to help preserve the area's rich heritage.

The Simcoe Area Women's Institute welcomes community members, history enthusiasts, and supporters of local heritage to join in celebrating this meaningful milestone.



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Horses, Heroes And Horsepower At Essa National Draft Horse Show

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The heavy rain may have forced the cancellation of the Essa National Draft Horse Show, but it certainly did not stop the equestrian action. From homemade treats created especially for draft horses to the high-speed excitement of Equine Mounted Games, competitors, vendors and horse lovers carried on through the challenging weather to make the weekend a memorable one.



This is Farm View advertiser and supporter Carolyn J. Morris at the Essa National Draft Horse Show vendors' market. Carolyn is an established author specializing in children's books based on farm life. She also writes novels under "Spruce Valley," suitable for both youth and adult readers. She is also a teacher, speaker and a busy volunteer at the Barrie Fair.



Shelley Stripp from Angus is seen here with her newest baking creation, Draft Horse Delights, a special treat made especially for the draft horses that were the stars of the weekend. Draft Horse Delights were tested by some Clydesdales on Saturday in the show barns and found to live up to their name, as the "horses loved them," Shelley reported on Sunday. The new creation follows the trademark "Good Dawg Bakery" tradition of using locally sourced ingredients, which in this creation included apples, carrots, molasses and oats. Each batch of treats is handmade by Shelley and her son, McKay. Ingredients are sourced from Simcoe County, including maple syrup from Muskoka.

Despite the torrents of rain, brave rider Jocelyn Ruhl of Beeton, at right, races her trusted pony, Stormy, in the Flag Fliers race, skillfully riding through the challenging conditions. The heavy rain did little to slow the determined riders, who continued to compete at full speed.



Equine Mounted Games is an exciting equestrian sport in which riders compete in fast-paced relay races on ponies less than 15 hands tall. The games require athletic ability, excellent riding skills and a strong competitive spirit. Mounted Games were originally created by Prince Philip, who wanted to provide a competition for all children who owned ponies, rather than just those with expensive ponies and prestigious backgrounds. Despite the harsh weather, the Mounted Games went ahead, showcasing the determination and skill of the young competitors. The athletic ability of these riders is clearly demonstrated here by Emily Wright of Fergus, who is seen above vaulting onto her pony, Annie, during the Founder's Race.



Proving her dedication by standing in the heavy rain, dressed in full rain gear and perched on a ladder, is Michelle Cruikshanks of Cannington. Michelle was working as a referee in the Open Division of the Equine Mounted Games Canada competition at the Barrie Fairgrounds.

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Supporting Simcoe North Agriculture

A message from MPP Jill Dunlop

Agriculture has always been an important part of the identity and economy of Simcoe North. As we move through another busy growing season, I want to recognize the farmers, farm families, agricultural businesses and organizations whose hard work continues to feed our communities and contribute so much to our local economy.

Our government remains focused on ensuring Ontario farmers have the tools and supports they need to remain competitive and resilient in an increasingly challenging global environment.

Recently, the governments of Ontario and Canada announced an additional \$12 million through the Agricultural Stewardship Initiative to help farmers make practical improvements to their operations. This funding will support projects that can improve soil health, water quality and energy efficiency while helping farms reduce costs and strengthen their long-term resilience.

Innovation is another important part of keeping Ontario agriculture strong. This year, Ontario is investing up to \$7 million through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance to support 34 research projects focused on turning made-in-Ontario research into practical solutions for farmers and food processors.

Here in Simcoe County, we know agriculture is about much more than the food produced in our fields and barns. It is about generations of families, local businesses, jobs, stewardship of our land and a strong connection between rural communities and the people who call them home.

As harvest season approaches, I encourage everyone to continue supporting our local farmers whenever possible, whether that means visiting a farm market, choosing Ontario-grown products at the grocery store or simply taking a moment to appreciate where our food comes from.

To our farmers and agricultural community across Simcoe North, thank you for the work you do every day and for your continued commitment to our communities and our province.

Harvest Safely: Preventing Farm Equipment Fires

By Dennis Gannon

After a very hot and wet summer, it's harvest time in Ontario. Unlike last summer where we suffered with drought-like conditions, this year the heat and rain have produced outstanding crops. From now until the snow falls crops will be harvested and agriculture equipment will be used in full force. The opportunity for equipment fires will still exist regardless of the weather conditions. Locally there have been two significant fires in the past two months that could have had devastating consequences but fortunately the fires were quickly brought under control. It is important that those involved in harvesting take precautions to protect their equipment and their crops. Follow these suggestions and enjoy the benefits of the harvest.

Know your exact location. Many municipalities will provide municipal addressing signage for rural properties. Installed at the entrance to the field firefighters can get to the scene quicker. Install the what 3 words app on your cell phone. If you need to call for emergency services dispatchers can relay your exact location through use of this app as well as family members will know exactly where to find you.

Clean your equipment daily. Use a pressure washer or air blowgun to clean dust and debris from the equipment. Think about taking a leaf blower with you. This can provide a quick clean of

the equipment and should a fire occur it can be used to help stop the spread.

Make sure you have properly charged fire extinguishers. A minimum 10 lb multiple purpose ABC extinguisher should be in the cab along with a 10 lb multipurpose ABC extinguisher on the equipment itself. Remember the PASS system for extinguisher use, Pull Aim Squeeze Sweep. Always call 9-1-1 in the event of a fire regardless of its size. Firefighters will never complain about not needing their assistance if the fire is handled quickly and not allowed to spread before calling for help.

Watch where and when you refuel. Before refueling, always shut off the engine and let the equipment cool for 15 minutes. Wipe off any excess, or spilled fuel and allow fumes to dissipate before starting the equipment. Check all belts for proper tension and wear to reduce friction. Carefully check bearings for excessive heat. Overheated bearings are a major cause of combine fires. Carry a handheld thermal heat gun with you so that you can monitor the heat on the bearings. Pay particular attention to the exhaust system, checking for leaks, damage, or an accumulation of crop residue. High heat or a spark from exhaust can easily ignite surrounding areas.

Having tillage equipment ready can also reduce the spread of fire. Tillage equipment can help establish a perimeter



in the event of a fire like it did at one of the recent fires.

Consider having a portable water source in the field with you. This can be a water wagon or a water truck on standby in the field. They will require a portable pump to operate and testing the equipment prior to use is necessary for operating it safely.

Finally, if possible try to avoid any activity in the field when there is extreme heat or windy conditions.

Harvest is one of the busiest and most rewarding times of the agricultural year. A few minutes spent cleaning equipment, checking bearings and belts, inspecting extinguishers and preparing for an emergency could prevent a small problem from becoming a devastating fire.

Your local fire department is always available to assist with any questions about fire safety that you may have.

Stay safe, protect your equipment and crops, and enjoy the benefits of a successful Ontario harvest.

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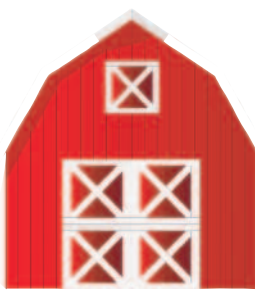


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Bringing agricultural history to life

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Harlaine Heritage Day offered visitors a rare glimpse into the hard work and machinery of days gone by. From steam engines powering threshing machines to hand-forking sheaves of grain, the event showcased how farmers once harvested and separated grain using equipment and methods that have largely disappeared from modern agriculture.

The day also gave families and visitors a chance to see antique tractors, balers and other historic equipment in action. With knowledgeable enthusiasts demonstrating how the machinery was once used, Harlaine Heritage Day provided an entertaining and educational look at Ontario's agricultural past and the people who continue to preserve it.



Long ago, steam engines were used to power threshing machines during grain harvest. This steam engine is owned by the Durham Heritage Gas & Steam Society and is being operated by Curtis Goodhand of Fenelon Falls, president of Kawartha Antique Power.

At right is two-year-old, sixth-generation farmer Jack Warren from Brechin. Jack lives on a beef cattle and cash-crop farm with his family. He came to Harlaine Heritage Day and especially loved the tractors on display, owned by Paul Harder and others.



This is hard work and shows how grain was separated from straw years ago. Every bundle, called a sheave, had to be hand-forked into the threshing machine. Here, the threshing machine was being operated by a working steam engine, just as it was done long ago. Harlaine Heritage Day offers a rare opportunity to see living, working agricultural history. Working here and feeding sheaves into the threshing machine is Mark Hendy of Claremont, president of the Durham Heritage Gas & Steam Society.



Pictured above is Bob Skerritt from Fergus, wearing a T-shirt from a past Harlaine Heritage Day hosted by Paul Harder and his family. Bob met Paul through an ad in a print publication about the sale of a historic International Harvester piece of equipment. "Paul and I became friends, and we have gone to International Harvester shows and tours. We have also been on International Harvester shopping trips." Bob was happy to attend Harlaine Heritage Day on a beautiful, sunny Sunday, August 9, and was especially grateful that the big rainstorm had happened the day before.



This is a McCormick-Deering International Power Press made by International Harvester Co. It was one of the first types of balers, where straw had to be hand-forked into the machine, which then pressed it into bales that were tied with wire. Here, we see how it was done long ago, with host Paul Harder feeding straw into the machine with a fork.



It was all manual work years ago. Steam engines needed wood to operate. Here, Kayla Donaldson of Fenelon Falls hauls in some wood for the steam engine that was on site working at Harlaine Heritage Day.

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Pancakes, People and Plenty of Fun: A Community Tradition for Everyone

Story and photos by Andrej Baca



It is a community tradition that seems to have something for everyone. The day began with a much-loved pancake breakfast and continued with classic cars, vendors, music, dogs, demonstrations, rides and plenty of family fun.

The pancakes are made with potato flakes, although the exact recipe remains a closely guarded secret. Unlike a previous year, when Canada experienced a shortage of potato flakes, there was no shortage to worry about this time around. Volunteers were ready to keep the pancakes coming.

Volunteers from Banting Memorial High School, South Simcoe 4-H, St. John's United Church and members of the public all pitched in to make the breakfast a success. Pancake lovers arrived from Toronto, Orangeville, Alliston and surrounding communities.

Behind the scenes, the volunteers worked quickly and efficiently. Some mixed the batter while others dispensed the hot, golden pancakes. There was even time for a little friendly competition as volunteers tried their hand at pancake flipping.

Serving more than a thousand meals also creates plenty of waste, making cleanup and waste management an important part of the day. Members of Alliston Union Public School, Banting Memorial High School and 4-H worked together to help keep things organized and the grounds clean.

Once breakfast was over, attention turned to the classic car show. A favourite with both young and old, the gleaming cars attracted plenty of attention. Visitors could then wander through the many vendors offering an assortment of goods and services. Not to mention there was plenty of entertainment throughout the day including the dog show and live music that added to the



festive atmosphere.

A new attraction this year was robotics. Banting Memorial High School students demonstrated a potato-shooting robot and explained how the skills they are learning could eventually be applied to automated farm equipment, including combines, tractors, fertilizer spreaders and sprayers.

From the first pancake of the morning to the final ride of the day, the event once again demonstrated what can happen when a community comes together. It is more than a breakfast or a festival, it is a tradition built on volunteers, visitors, laughter and a shared love of getting together.



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Little Sprouts Grow a Market for a Good Cause

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

There was a small market like no other held in Cannington on Friday, August 7th. The Sprouts Farmers' Market was organized, advertised, and staffed by a group of enthusiastic children. Much of the produce for sale was grown in the Cannington Nourish and Develop Foundation (CNDF)'s community garden.

Arielle Bruce, Food Literacy Coordinator with CNDF, explains, "This market experience was part of our Kids Farmers' Market Camp. Everybody worked together to make, grow, and design the items sold here today. It was a team effort. All proceeds from our sale today go to the Nourish Home Food Bank, which is also part of CNDF."

The young people were super excited about the sales and earned \$1,000, which was all donated to the nearby CNDF Food Bank.



These two were quite the salesmen working at the Market. At right is Jack Shulist from Woodville holding a custom made advertising sign along with another "Little Sprout", Pacey Gardner from Beaverton.



This is young Market gardener, Brinley Gardner of Beaverton.



Pictured above is Liza Devos from Manilla selling cookies at the Little Sprout's Farmer's Market. Liza said this was a "fun time".

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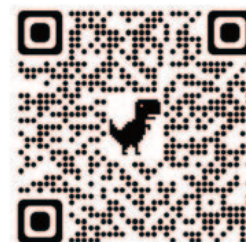
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