FARM VIEW

Since 1977

A newspaper with something for everyone | September 2025 | Volume 48 #09

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Creating family memories at the 168th Sutton Fair & Horse Show

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 11th: SCFA Regional Meeting

Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture Regional Meeting will take place on Thursday September 11th at 1110 Hwy 26, Midhurst. **More details in the ad on page 17.**

September 14th: News and Advertising Deadline

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

September 16th - 20th: 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!

The 2025 IPM takes place at 7402 Mud St W, Grassie, ON from Sept 16th to the 20th. **More information in the ad on page 12.**

September 19th - 21st: Great Northern Exhibition

The GNE takes place at 2220 Fairgrounds Rd N, Stayner, ON L0M 1S0 from Sept. 19th to 21st, 2025. Animals, Midway, Tractor pull and much more! **Information can be found in the ad on page 12.**

September 24th: Program announcement for E.D.G.E.

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

September 27th: Anten Mills Artisan Craft & Food Fair

Annual Artisan Fair takes place at the Anten Mills Community Centre and Park on Saturday, September 27th. Vendors still welcome! Shop for unique items! Door prizes from each vendor! **For more details see the ad on page 8.**

September 27th: Dufferin Farm Tour

Annual Dufferin Farm Tour takes place on Saturday, September 27th. Rain or shine! **See the ad on page 6 and the press release on page 17 for details and contact information.**

September 30th: Vendor applications due for the Guelph Organic Conference

Applications for vendors at the 2026 Guelph Organic Conference are due by September 30th. **New show information and sponsorship opportunities can be found on page 18.** The Guelph Organic Conference takes place January 27th & 28th.

October 2nd - 4th: Lake Loop Shop Hop

The Lake Loop Shop Hop begins Thursday, October 2nd and ends Saturday, October 4th, 2025. All stores have extended hours - open 9am to 5pm each day for the duration of this event. **Visit https://quiltshoptour.wixsite.com/lakeloop for complete information.**

October 9th - 11th: 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.**

October 24th: CFFO Hosts Harvest Dinner

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO), Cental Ontario District hosts the Harvest Dinner on Friday, October 24th at Schomberg Community Hall.

For information please call 705-424-0968. Invite your friends and neighbours to attend this great event of fellowship, food, family and farming.



Agricultural Anecdotes from Farmer Tim

Ontario's Summer of Drought— More Than Just Dry Fields

I truly hope and pray that by the time this column is published, our farm will have seen rain. I need you to know that we are desperate. I know that many of you understand the plight of farmers and our constant battle with the weather, but obviously, some are oblivious. I was listening to our local talk radio station recently. The host invited people to call in on the impact of the summer's heat and drought on their lives. Some loved it, others complained about browning lawns, and one person complained about how cold the air conditioning was in her office building. Not one single person called in to mention how this summer was affecting food or farming. For the first time, I got up the courage to call in to a radio station and vent.

If you've driven past a farm lately and noticed short, yellowing crops or dusty pastures, it's not your imagination. This summer, a vast number of Ontario farms have been affected in some way by the weather – especially the recent lack of rain.

For crops, stunted growth, poor yields, and thirsty fields mean farmers are watching their hard work shrivel under the sun. Sure, crop insurance can help during crop disasters, but most livestock farmers would prefer to have the feed stored for the winter, and it's hard to find feed during a drought when your neighbours also have nothing to offer you.

With livestock, pastures aren't regrowing, hay is short, and feed costs are climbing. Heat stress affects milk production, feed intake, reproduction, and animal health and well-being.

For consumers, less local produce means smaller market stands, higher grocery prices, and more imported food. We are at risk of losing some of our food security.

Of importance to me is farmer mental health: on top of financial stress, farmers face isolation, stigma, and the weight of seeing generations of work at risk. The heat and humidity put extra stress on everyone working outside, and we hate to see our crops and animals suffer, especially when there is little we can do.

However, there is good news. New funding has extended programs like the Farmer Wellness Initiative and Guardian Network until 2027, offering free 24/7 counselling and peer support.

Remember that this isn't just a "farmer problem." It's a food problem, and it's a community problem. Most of all, it is a reminder that supporting our farmers with fair prices, mental health care, and climate resilience is also supporting our dinner tables.

Please buy local, check in on farm families, and remember that behind every meal is a farmer who needs more than just rain to keep going.

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!"

Did you know?

The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies has a very informative website where you can look up all the Fair dates and locations.
Visit https://ontarioagsocieties.com and start planning your fall Fair route!

Hope is not a plan: living with livestock in a drought

Report and photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Beef Farmers of Ontario pulled together experts for a fast paced, well organized informative webinar titled Managing Dry Weather on Livestock Farms.

Chad Mader, Beef Cattle Specialist for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) said, "We can't make it rain. Hope is not a plan."

There hasn't been a significant rain in close to two months- the prime growing season in southern Ontario for crops and pasture lands. In a typical year, beef cattle and sheep graze on continuously growing pasture, while hayfields yield a second or even third cutting for winter feed. This year, however, drought has left livestock with little to no pasture, and most hayfields have produced few, if any, additional cuttings. Most livestock now are being fed from that one first cut of winter supply of hay.

"The challenge is maintaining feed supply," Mader said strongly advising farmers in not making fast decisions to drastically cut down their livestock inventory on the farm. Aside from moving out the culls from the herd as soon as possible, he advised to sell off quality producers only as a final option.

"Look at the cost/benefit vs. purchasing (extra) feed," he said explaining that selling 10 quality herd building cows now and then having to try and purchase 10 comparable new cows back to replace them next year is a minimum $50,000 idea. "How much hay can you buy now for $50,000 is the question that needs to be asked. You worked hard to build your livestock inventory," he said.

Instead of quick selling, he said there are some ways to cut down feed needs for livestock. He suggested early weaning as "weaning reduces demands on the mother" and encourages young stock to eat more grain. Grain is readily available and grain costs are down currently.

There was a good yield for straw this season. One option is to "incorporate straw into forage rations," he suggested adding that talking to a nutritionist is important. With the current intense heat, livestock must have adequate nutrition to help keep general health and, he added, "We don't want a train wreck in 2026 when our herds and flocks are found to have had low fertility rates."

Another major concern amid this drought and extreme heat is ensuring livestock have enough water. Some properties have seen wells and ponds dry up completely. Mader stressed that in this hot, dry summer that water intake is absolutely critical for livestock and water should be available at maximum intake amounts.

"Livestock should have access to water without having to shove, fight or push other livestock out of the way," He added that maintaining reliable water sources is essential to preventing this. Having no water in hot, dry weather is a major stressor to livestock and for their well being, it must be avoided. He suggested using multiple water sources such as ponds and wells instead of relying on only one source if possible.

Debbie Brander of Agricorp was assuring, "we (here at Agricorp) understand how severe this drought is to you and your crops. We understand the severity of dry weather on your crop yields."

Some farmers chose to purchase Production Insurance coverage for their crops. Brander assured those with insured crops that drought is covered. She also explained that this bad year will "not significantly impact further coverage."

Some crops like corn might be too damaged from drought conditions to be harvested as a normal seed corn crop. Brander explained that Agricorp recognizes that, on some farms, both planting plans and current crop plans have been completely devastated by this drought. She said, "Call Agricorp BEFORE you use it for a different use. It is absolutely essential that you call before making any changes. Call Agricorp to discuss your options," she stressed several times.

Harvesting crops in a drought needs expert advice

Unless significant rains come soon- and the longterm forecast is wrong- many fields have no harvest value except possibly for forages. Feeding a grain or oilseed crop as forage can be a disaster for livestock without careful research and planning, Christine O'Reilly warned. She is the OMAFRA Forage and Grazier Specialist.

Crops were planted and treated with applications for a specific harvest time and storage. The applications put on that crop "may be harmful for your livestock," at this new time and way of harvesting, O'Reilly explained. She stressed the information needed to see if it is safe for livestock may not be easy to find so "do your homework: check product profiles and product labels for pre-grazing and pre- harvest intervals."

Corn harvested at very low moisture levels can cause issues both to livestock- and the people that work with it. "Corn can be a fire hazard if it is put up very dry," she said. Further, the corn when it is very dry is loaded with nitrates. Nitrates accumulate when the corn plant growth is slowed or stopped because of stress like this current drought. In a normal growing season, nitrates in the plant naturally change into proteins but this cannot happen if the plant is too stressed. Nitrates also cause silo gas when very dry corn silage is stored in a silo. Silo gas is highly dangerous to human lungs.

Very dry corn must be fed very carefully, "it can cause rumen acidosis," O'Reilly explained. Rumen acidosis, also known as grain overload, happens when ruminants consume large quantities of rapidly fermentable carbohydrates that can cause the rumen to malfunction. Allowing cattle to graze on very dry corn should only be done with the advice of a grazing/nutrition expert as rumen acidosis can cause lifetime damage to the rumen.

It is critically important to realize that this year's corn



This corn field, located near Cannington, shows the effect of severe drought conditions with its stunted height, brown leaves and tiny or non-existent cobs.

crop must be tested before it is fed directly to livestock after it rains again. Very dry corn is dangerous to livestock especially after a rain for the next 5 to 7 days. "Very dry corn has a high risk of high nitrates after a rain and this can poison livestock. Dry corn needs to be tested for nitrates," she stressed adding that this year this testing is critical.

Soybeans that cannot be harvested as they were intended have the least potential to be re-purposed for forage. "Soybeans are unlikely to pass the pesticide label check" for an early harvest as forage, O'Reilly reported. "Do not feed to livestock if the pods are filling, raw soybeans can kill ruminants," she added.

O'Reilly said that this year means "getting a feed analysis done" to be sure the livestock is getting the right nutrients with such weather stressed crops.

She stressed that is important that farmers seek professional advice from experts in this challenging year of drought.

Peter Doris, Environmental Specialist for OMAFRA has been fielding inquiries about landowners wanting to dig a new pond to find water this summer. "You cannot dam or interfere with a watercourse without a permit. Call before you dig. You must call your local Conservation Authority," he said.

"We are now in drought conditions, but we could be (in the future) in a flood situation so we don't want something changed now that will cause liability later," he advised.

Knowing how much water is needed for livestock is important, he said. He explained that a beef cow that is feeding a calf needs 67 litres per day, a dairy cow in milk needs 155 litres per day and a milking ewe needs 12 litres per day. A dry mature beef cow needs 54 litres, a dry dairy cow needs 49 litres and a dry ewe needs 9 litres. A growing beef animal needs 40 litres per day, a dairy calf needs 36 litres and a young sheep needs 5.2 litres. These are maximum amounts needed which he says are "normal this year as our days are hot and dry."

It is everyone's hope that the longterm weather predictions are wrong and that the drought conditions can end.

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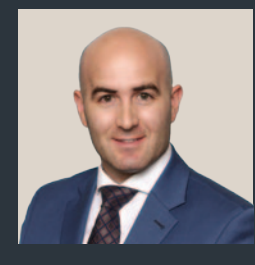

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Editorial



Roslyn Watkins
Publisher/Editor
Farm View Newspaper
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As I sit down to write this, I can hear the steady rainfall outside my window. I imagine many of you echoing a heartfelt "thanks be to God" with voices full of relief. I don't know exactly how much rain your fields need, but I truly hope it keeps coming. Even so, you may find the drought-related articles in this issue helpful—highlighting how it might still be affecting you and where to turn for support.

If you haven't had a chance to attend a community Fair, Festival, or Farm Tour, you're in luck. Cathy Hamill-Hill and Andrej Baca have been out and about, capturing wonderful photos to share from the many events they've attended. As Cathy often reminds us, we are in the heart of "Fair Season," so take a moment to check your calendar and see what's happening nearby.

Personally, I especially enjoy the Farm Tours. There's something eye-opening about setting off with great company and a map in hand, discovering where our food comes from, and witnessing the incredible hard work behind it all.

September 28 is "Saved by the Beep" day—a reminder from the Office of the Fire Marshal to test your smoke alarms. Too many lives have been lost in fires where alarms weren't working. Turn to page 9 and post it on your fridge as a reminder.

As the next school year begins and we head into harvest season, I wish all of you safe travels!

Take care of yourselves and one another,
Roslyn Watkins

Ag Snapshot



Joey Wilson, age 6, doing an impersonation of his grandfather, Randy Humphries of Bobcaygeon, doing his farm reading on a rainy day in the Spring of 2025.

Ad/News DEADLINE for the October Farm View is September 14th.

Correction

In the article titled "Congratulations Luke Jones and Mitchell Hales!" on page 13 of the August issue of Farm View, the woman in the accompanying photographs was incorrectly identified as Pat Leonard. The bursaries were, in fact, presented by Marlene Lambie.

On the Cover

Jim Lockie and his grandson, Cameron, participate in the Little Britches class at the Sutton Fair and Horse Show. See more photos on page 21.
—Photo by Lori Jennings

Say hello for a hat!

In September, if you spot me out delivering papers and stocking newsstands around Simcoe County, be sure to say hello—I'll have a Farm View hat just for you! Can't catch me on the road? No problem! Write in and share what you love most about farm life, and you'll be entered into a draw to win one of the hats.



Farm View is available at the following agricultural businesses.

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HARRIS FARMS (Seasonally)
HOLMES AGRO in Stayner and Orangeville
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KEVIN BARKER AUCTIONS in Lindsay
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

The Farm View is delivered to these business between the 25th and 29th of each month and copies are available while supplies last. If you would like the Farm View mailed directly to your home, one year subscriptions can be purchased for $45.00. Contact Roslyn at 705-722-0138, by mail 8 Luella Blvd Minesing, ON L9X 0W7 or email farmview@on.aibn.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Visit us on the web: 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.

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48th Anniversary FARM VIEW



In memory of Jill Beischer

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

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

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Lisa Hern 1-877-343-5444 email: lisa.hern@ofa.on.ca

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2024-2025 Executive – Dufferin County

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Resilience often starts with asking for support



By Leah Emms
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The summer of 2025 has brought relentless heat and drought to many parts of Ontario, pushing farmers to their limits. These extreme conditions are not only affecting crops and livestock but also taking a toll on mental and physical health. If you're struggling right now, know that you're not alone—and there are resources available to support you through this challenging time.

Hot, dry weather has stalled crop development, dried up pastures, and increased the pressure on water and feed supplies. Many farmers are working longer hours in dangerous heat, trying to protect their operations with limited resources. The emotional weight of watching your hard work suffer under these conditions is heavy—and it's completely valid to feel overwhelmed, frustrated, or anxious.

In difficult times, caring for yourself is just as important as caring for your farm. Long days in the heat can lead to dehydration, exhaustion, and serious health risks. Make sure you take regular breaks, drink water often, wear light clothing, and avoid working in peak sun when possible.

Stress and mental strain are also common right now. If you're feeling burned out or emotionally drained, please consider reaching out. Support is available:

• Agriculture Wellness Ontario – 1-866-267-6255

Free, confidential mental health support specifically for Ontario farmers and their families.

You are not alone. Talking to someone who understands the unique pressures of farming can be a huge relief.

On top of crop stress, fire risk has become a major concern this summer. I understand that many farmers are taking extra precautions to protect their equipment, crops, and fields by ensuring they have a mobile water source available and a tractor with tillage equipment ready to go in case a fire does start. These steps are a wise and proactive part of managing risk during extremely dry conditions.

If you purchased crop insurance this season, it's crucial to report stressed or damaged crops as soon as possible. Timely reporting allows your adjuster to properly assess the situation and helps ensure you receive the support you're entitled to. Even if you're still uncertain about the extent of the damage, don't delay—document conditions now and reach out to your provider, such as Agricorp, to start the process.

Heat and drought can place serious stress on livestock as well. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) has a very informative fact sheet on emergency preparedness for farm animals, available on their website. It includes practical tips on water access, shade, ventilation, transportation, and contingency planning. Taking steps now to protect your animals can help prevent further losses and reduce your own stress.

Extreme weather events are beyond your control, but how you respond doesn't have to be. Consider speaking with local agricultural advisors about drought strategies, feed options, or financial relief programs. Connecting with neighbours or commodity organizations can help you share resources and ideas—and remind you that others are facing the same challenges.

Ontario's farmers are resilient, but even the strongest among us need support. Take care of your physical and mental health, reach out when you need help, and remember that resilience often starts with asking for support—not pushing through alone.

You can do a google search to find information on the OFA website **Emergency management – drought and wildfires in Ontario - Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

Updates from MPP Dunlop

As we move into September, I'm pleased to share good news for Ontario's agri-food sector, news that reflects the innovation and leadership found across our farming communities.

The province is investing $5.4 million in 28 new research projects through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance. These projects focus on practical, forward-thinking solutions to help farmers adapt, grow, and stay competitive, especially in the face of challenges like U.S. tariffs.

Highlights include an AI-powered robot to control pests in soybean fields, advanced technology to protect honeybee populations, and new strategies to help pork producers' lower costs. These are part of a broader $40 million, six-year commitment to agricultural innovation, supporting farmers and strengthening rural communities.

We're also welcoming new leadership at the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission. Brendan Byrne has been appointed as Chair, bringing over 20 years of hands-on agricultural experience. He has managed a family-run cash crop operation, chaired the Grain Farmers of Ontario, and served on the Commission. Brendan's knowledge and passion will be a strong asset for our $51 billion agri-food sector.

I also want to thank Amy Cronin, who served as Chair since 2020, for her dedication and leadership through significant challenges, including the pandemic.

From research and technology to leadership and regulatory support, these initiatives ensure Ontario's farmers and agribusinesses can thrive in a competitive, changing world. They protect our environment, boost productivity, and help safeguard the future of agriculture in our province.

As the fall harvest approaches, I want to wish everyone in Simcoe North a safe, productive, and rewarding season. My team and I remain committed to supporting our farming communities and working together to build a strong, sustainable agricultural sector.

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DUFFERIN FARM TOUR

The Dufferin Farm Tour is coming!

We are excited for this year's event on
Saturday, September 27th, 2025
- Rain or Shine!

Registration is now open ONLINE,
Spaces may be limited.

Sign up for Farm Tour news at Dufferinfarmtour.com
or follow us on social media: Facebook or Instagram



See Dufferin County farms in person this September 27th!

World Shorthorn Conference In Lindsay

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill

The 18th World Shorthorn Conference took place in Canada and united people from across the world on an 18 day tour. The Conference concluded in Lindsay at the Lindsay Fairgrounds this past July for the Canadian National Junior Shorthorn Show.

The Junior Show had young people showing from across the nation- and beyond. Cara Doggett, from New Zealand, was in Lindsay showing her friend's Shorthorn cattle. Her friend, Dr. Christine Ewert-Hill came to the show with cattle from Saskatchewan. The two originally met in a cattle barn at the Canadian Western Agribition. Dr. Ewert-Hill made a 2,400 kilometre drive one way with her Head for the Hills Shorthorns to Lindsay.

Cara says she lives and breathes cattle. "I love the Shorthorn," she says adding her dream is to see her own prefix "Ceejay" known across the world for quality Shorthorn genetics. She has a herd of carefully selected Shorthorns in New Zealand breaking her own path as the breed is almost unknown in her country. The hardworking young woman is currently studying animal science at a university in the United Kingdom, balancing her studies with caring for her herd and fitting show cattle.

"The Shorthorn industry is in a great position for the future. Our Junior show today had 128 juniors showing with 160 head of Shorthorns," said Martin Mason, Vice- President of the Canadian Shorthorn Association and the Director for Ontario.



Pictured at left is Nancy Brown of Beaverton beside the Shorthorn cattle she owns with her brother, Doug, and family under the Glenrothes Farm prefix. The cattle were shown by junior exhibitors while Nancy was busy working at the show desk or with the youth in special programming. Nancy reports, "We had 60 kids (juniors) from the ages of 10 to 20 giving speeches on agriculture, it was so incredible to see so much interest."Nancy adds that she and her brother actively encourage and support young people in showing Shorthorns because "we need to get young people interested to have a strong future."



Pictured at left is Jeff Stump of Kansas, USA, who judged the conformation classes at the recent Canadian National Junior Shorthorn Show. A lifelong livestock enthusiast and American Shorthorn Association Herdsman of the Year, he shares his passion with his family.

Pictured to the right are two junior participants at the recent Shorthorn Showcase, part of the 2025 World Shorthorn Conference: At left is Jessica Davey of Saskatchewan, who traveled 3,000 km to Lindsay, and Justin Green Liberty of Sutton, Ontario.



This is homebred Head for the Hills Rhianna 18 M with her owners, holding banners, Dr. Christine Ewert-Hill and Dr. Clarke Hill of Saskatchewan. Holding Rhianna is Cara Doggett from New Zealand. The banners were for Reserve Shorthorn Plus Yearling Female and Reserve Shorthorn Plus Female at the Canadian Junior National Shorthorn Show.



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INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH & RURAL EXPO
NIAGARA REGION 2025

Celebrate agriculture and rural living at the 2025 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo. The Match offers countless vendors and exhibitors highlighting agriculture, food, lifestyles and more. Daily plowing competitions showcase plowing techniques ranging from the antique to the modern. Relax and take in the fabulous variety of talent and entertainment including the return of many popular fan-favourites – the Canadian Cowgirls, Mudmen, the RAM Rodeo Tour – and of course, the plowing.

NEW!
- The SuperDogs™ just-released "Wild Wild Woof" Show
- Canadian Country Music legend George Fox • the Knights of Valour
- Fiddlestix • Jessie Treneer and more!

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September 16 to 20, 2025 | Grassie, Ontario
www.plowingmatch.org/ipm2025

SCFA's 85th celebration continues

Report and photo provided by
the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture

As part of the Simcoe County Federation of agriculture's 85th anniversary this year, the board hosted the Ontario Federation of agriculture's summer board tour this past week. The OFA board directors were treated to a full day of touring the county. They began the morning in the Holland Marsh visiting the muck research lab and touring the drainage system with Frank Jonkman. Then off to Somerville tree nurseries to speak to James Somerville and learn about succession planning, varieties and challenges to the industry before stopping for a quick lunch in Baxter. The afternoon was spend speaking with Morris Gervais of Barrie Hill Farms about the importance of and need for the temporary foreign workers program. We finished off the day with a cruise around Georgian Bay learning about the waterways and some much needed time for discussion and reflection on the day.



Members of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture gathered for a photo at Barrie Hill Farms, one of several stops on a day-long farm tour across the County.

Be prepared for the autumn season with safety in mind

By Dennis Gannon

After a summer that can be best described as hot, humid and dry, we are now entering the autumn season and it is time to step up our safety around the home. Soon we will have less than 12 hours of daylight and the weather will get cooler and animals will be thinking about hibernation and therefore getting their fill of winter food.

Here are some tips on how you can get ready for the autumn season.

School is now back in class. Be careful around schools and school zones. Children don't always recognize the dangers associated with cars and trucks. Many locales now have speed radar detection in community safety zones. Heed your speed and obey the speed limit.

Watch out for fallen leaves. When wet they can become slippery and a hazard not only to pedestrians but drivers as well. Slippery roads increase the stopping distance of vehicles which can be an issue in residential areas.

Wildlife are more active in the fall especially in the early morning and early evening. Deer don't look both ways before crossing the road and can cause major damage to vehicles. Watch for deer crossing signs which alert drivers to the fact that there are deer in the area.

Early morning commutes may require that you clean your windshield of frost. Let the car warm up and clean the frost and ice from your windshield before heading out. Clear vision is necessary for safe travel.

As the temperature drops it is necessary to wear the right clothes. It is important to dress in layers if you are working outdoors. That way you can remove clothing as the temperature warms up. Remember that rain gear is needed on wet days.

With leaves on the ground, hazards can be hidden. Watch where you are walking. If going in the forest for a nice family walk take a hiking stick with you and look out for fallen branches or tree roots that could cause you to fall.



Let people know where you are going and when you will return. When the weather changes you may get stuck somewhere unexpectedly. If travelling in an unfamiliar area put the What 3 Words app on your phone so that if needed you can communicate exactly where you are with emergency dispatchers.

Plan and practice an emergency plan at home or work. Everyone should know where to meet in the event of an emergency. It is also best to practice it regularly to build confidence.

Prepare a 72 hour emergency kit. Have sufficient supplies in a readily available location. Remember emergency contact information, cash and supplies for your pets.

Check your carbon monoxide detector. Ontario requires that every home has a carbon monoxide detector. Like almost everything, they have an expiry date. Check it beforehand and replace it as required.

Test and check your smoke alarms. Testing should be conducted monthly. Working Smoke Alarms are required on every level and need to be replaced every 10 years. All smoke alarms have a date on the back of them.

On September 28, participate in the Saved by the Beep campaign endorsed by most Ontario fire departments and sponsored by the Office of the Fire Marshal. On September 28 you are encouraged to test your smoke alarm with your family. More information on this program is available by going to https://www.savedbythebeep.ca

Enjoy the autumn season. The colours will be amazing and the temperature comfortable. For more information contact your local fire department who will be happy to assist you.

Anten Mills Artisan Craft & Food Fair
Saturday, September 27th 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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Field Day: Advancing Knowledge for Sheep Farmers

Report and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Dr. Greg Aitkens demonstrates the use of a new band that has been dipped in medication to lessen any pain caused by docking tails of young lambs.

The Ontario Sheep Farmers Field Day was held on July 24th on a very hot day- and still had hundreds of people attending.

The Field Day was a professional development day for sheep farmers. There were over 40 exhibitors and everything was geared to sheep farming in Ontario. This well managed, well advertised and well planned out event was at the Orono Fairgrounds.

Centre stage featured guest speakers, including Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. A former Ontario Federation of Agriculture representative for Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound and the organization's Vice-President for six years, Vickers praised the significant positive impact of Ontario Sheep Farmers. "Ontario sheep farmers produce 22% of sheep sales and 39% lamb sales in the Canadian market," he said. He added that the Ontario sheep industry is a leader "in the whole supply chain from farm to processor to the consumer" and "is a leading agri-food sector."

Dr. Greg Aitken from Peterborough Veterinary Services showed the crowd a new product that makes docking easier for lambs. The product is the usual band coated in Lidocaime which is a type of local anesthetic. This is much like what happens to people in a dentist, a type of pain lessening, Dr. Aitken explained to Farm View after his presentation. This innovative new product is from Solvet, a Canadian company founded by Dr. Merle Olson and Dr. Barbara Olson of Calgary, Alberta. The company applies science to improve Canadian livestock production for both farmers and veterinarians.

Currently this new product is available only through prescription from a veterinarian. The cost is about $2 per band.

There was also a display of Wiltshire Horned Sheep at the Field day highlighting that this little known breed here in Ontario has some real advantages. This sheep is a hair breed so there is no need for shearing every year. This breed has been proven to have more parasite resistance then other breeds of sheep. Both traits make these sheep low maintenance- and they are available here in Ontario. The sheep on display are part of a sheep flock of 400 owned by Emily Hartley and her brother from Peterborough under the prefix Harley Farms.



Emily Harley (at left in the photo to the right) is pictured with her Wiltshire Horned Sheep, part of a flock she co-owns with her brother, both from Peterborough. Sophie Pind, also from the area, assisted at the event, answering questions about this uncommon Ontario breed. Originally imported from England, Wiltshire Horned Sheep are a hair breed.



This is Betty-Jo Almond, General Manager of AgSights. She is holding a trutest wand and a tablet linked with Biotrack plus. This new technology allows information to feed directly in the well known Genovis program that tracks important evaluation information on sheep. Betty-Jo was among the 40 some vendors at the Ontario Sheep Farmer's Field Day held at Orono in July.

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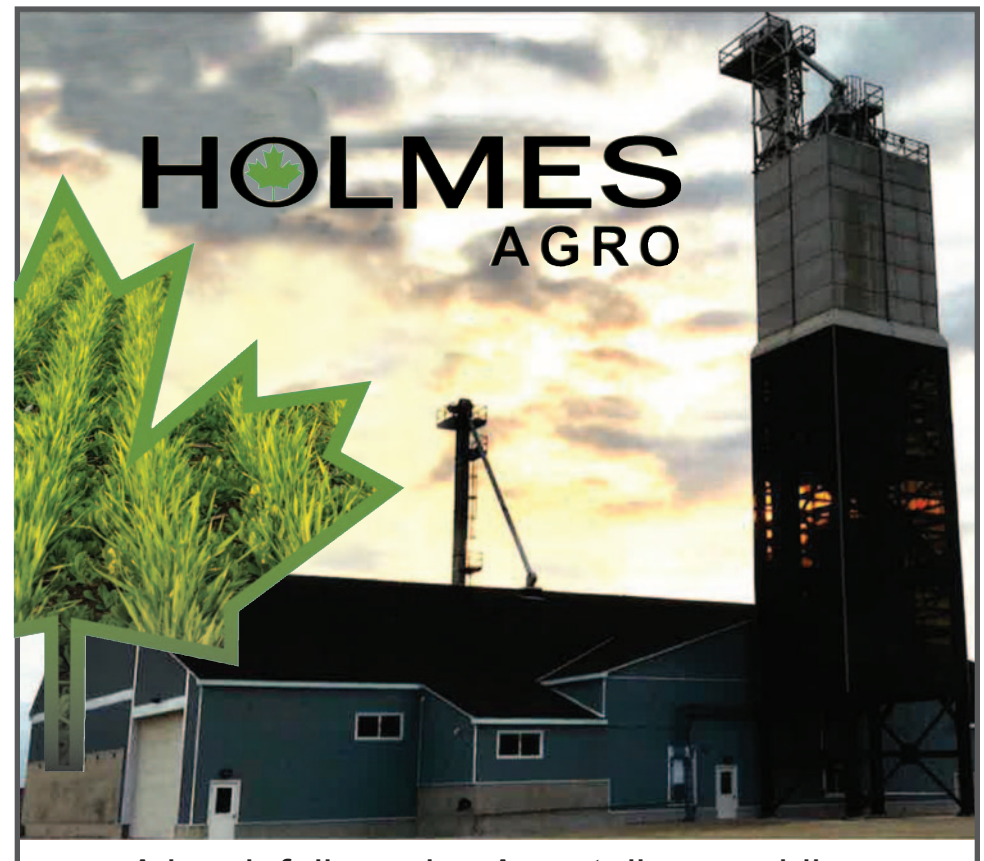

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Spuds, Fun, and Community at the Alliston Potato Festival!

Photos and article by Andrej Baca

Volunteers from 4-H, municipal employees and the general public, got things ready for the Saturday 7:30 AM start of the St. John's United Church potato pancake breakfast. Unlike 2024, this year there was no potato flake shortage.

If you managed to attend this year, let others know your experience, so they can enjoy the next Alliston Potato Festival.



Greg braved the hot grill and entertained doing pancake flips.



The 4-H Community Improvement Club, guided by Tamara and her 7 helpers, worked cleaning up and helping those with mobility needs. They made sure the tables were cleaned and recyclables were separated from the trash.



After breakfast you could check out and dream at some of the cars and trucks lined up for 3 blocks. This year's judging was for 12 car classes and 1 truck class.



Childrens fun activities included, free pony rides and pay per rides including remote drive an excavator and other construction equipment.

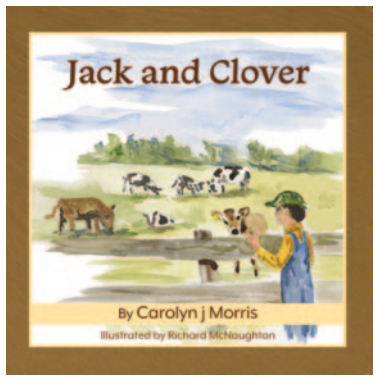


Marketplace vendors offered local, Ontario and International foods, clothing, collectables, jewelry and much more. A broad range of Information booths from the Masonic lodge, police, insurance and real estate to name a few. Complimentary samples of food, drink and pens were available.



Jack and Clover

by Carolyn j Morris
Illustrated by Richard McNaughton



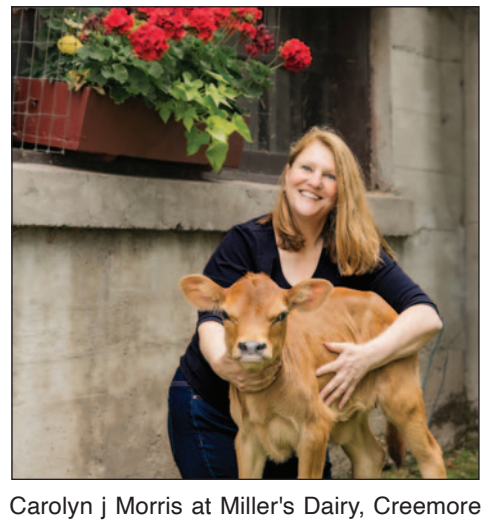
Introducing the latest Railfence Bunch Kids book from children's author Carolyn j Morris and illustrator Richard McNaughton. Jack and Clover is a heartwarming story with charming illustrations to enhance the imagination of any animal lover!

Young Jack bottle fed his Jersey calf, Clover, from birth, forging a bond throughout the summer on Grammy and Gramps' Jersey and Holstein farm. The joy and playfulness between the young boy and his Jersey calf will delight readers of all ages. Of course, the school year is starting and Jack's desire to take his companion to school is considered by his parents, grandparents and his teacher, Mr. Rusty. Will Jack's plan to take Clover to school be successful?

After the story, the fact pages recognize the seven dairy breeds and many other useful facts for readers and educators. Carolyn j Morris knows farm life and her audience. She grew up on the family farm – the youngest of five children – south of Collingwood, Ontario. Her understanding of agriculture is evident in the vocabulary used and settings portrayed on Grammy and Gramps' family farm. Carolyn has been an educator most of her life and is renowned locally for her storytelling and the passion and flair that she brings to her frequent speaking engagements. Because she is so real, her books ring of absolute authenticity.

Marilyn Gilroy
Primary Education Specialist

Jack and Clover $12.95
ISBN: 9781775384199



Carolyn j Morris at Miller's Dairy, Creemore
Photo Credit: Stephanie Lee Photography

AT THE FAIR WORD SEARCH

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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CAROUSEL
CONCESSIONS
CONTEST
CORNDOG
DANCING
FAIR
FERRIS WHEEL
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Simcoe County 4-H combines laughs with learning!

Reports and photos submitted by Simcoe County 4-H

South Simcoe 4-H Sheep Club

By Olivia Livingston

The South Simcoe Sheep Club held their forth meeting at the Cowan farm. We talked about showmanship in a ring and the proper showmanship we can be practicing before hand, such as how to present teeth during a show. We then watched a demonstration on hoof trimming and talked about how to do that safely. After all the learning had been done we got into small groups and had a mini show where we walked and set up and had our judge feel them. Once we finished our game and had done all the important things we played a game and had snacks to finish off the meeting. Thank you to Grant and Lauren Cowan for hosting and speaking.

South Simcoe 4-H Pickle Club

By Evageline Leal

The Pickling Club has been celebrating pickles by planning fun pickle-themed activities and learning how to make different types of pickles. We started the summer off right with the South Simcoe Pickling Club meeting on July 9th 2025. Six members of the pickling club were in attendance. Roll call came where we laughed and chatted about candle smells. We headed over to snacks where we ate pickles in a blanket, avocado dip, pickle chips and more. Then we washed it all down with pickled lemonade. Members of the pickling club are not big fans of pickled lemonade, except for one member who had three cups! After that, we went to splash and played games in the pool. The games we played in the pool were Cucumbers, Pickles (based off of Marco, Polo) and Colours. We enjoyed some happy laughs over hot dogs. Games galore - guess how many green candies, pass the pickle and a food/number game. The meeting ended when our leaders gave us pickled beets and asparagus that pickling club members made in the previous meetings to enjoy.

Cookstown 4-H Mini Horse Club

By Isabella Cullen

The Cookstown 4-H Mini Horse Club members have been busy at the last two meetings getting ready for the Barrie Fair. Practicing showmanship, walking, trotting, obstacle course, jumps, barrels and more. We have had a wonderful year of learning thanks to our leaders and guest speakers.

Cookstown 4-H Beef Club



The Cookstown 4-H Beef Club members have been busy all year. We have had a great time learning from our guest speakers and leaders. At our last meeting we practiced showmanship and how to work on improving consistency in the ring.



Stewart L. Page Scholarships
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2025 Scholarship Recipients

This year, the Stewart L. Page Scholarship Selection Committee is pleased to announce that Madeline Maheu, Mitchell Hales and Luke Jones have received our scholarship to assist with their Post-Secondary Education.

Luke and Mitchell will be attending the University of Guelph in the fall.

Madeline will be attending University of Guelph (Ridgetown Campus).

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.

Farm View welcomes all photos and reports from 4-H groups.

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

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



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

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

Age and risk management

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

The benefits of a reverse mortgage

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

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

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

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

A 5-year mortgage payment pause

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

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

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

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Out of this World

This past month I hope you have taken some time to pause and look up during our hot summer nights gifted us rare and glorious celestial experiences. As summer nights stretched into the heavens, my eyes and heart kept being invited to walk among the stars. The radiant Perseid meteor shower peaked, a glittering dance of Venus and Jupiter in close conjunction, and an alignment of six planets adorning the dawn sky. I can't help but think that these cosmic wonders are whispering to our souls, urging us to remember our place in something far grander than ourselves. Reminding us that we are part of something vast, ancient, and purposeful. They are celestial sermons, written in light, urging us to lift our gaze beyond the limits of our daily concerns.

When planets align, it is as if the universe is drawing a straight, shining line across the heavens, symbolizing divine order amidst cosmic chaos. Though we know these alignments occur according to predictable laws of motion, they can stir a deep, mystical awareness. In those quiet hours, looking up, we sense the harmony that underlies all creation; a reminder that our lives, too, can come into alignment with our higher calling.

Meteors, by contrast, are fleeting. They blaze across the sky, burning brilliantly for a heartbeat before vanishing into darkness. They teach us about impermanence and the sacredness of the present moment. Each streak of light is a whisper from the Creator: "Your life is precious. Live it brightly."

Together, these phenomena tell a greater story. The slow, deliberate movement of planets reveals patience, order, and faith in the unfolding plan. The swift, dazzling meteor invites us to embrace spontaneity, courage, and joy. Both are needed for a soul's journey; steadiness and passion, structure and wonder.

To dare to be out of this world spiritually is to live with one foot in eternity and one firmly planted in the present. It means letting divine truth guide our choices, even when the world urges conformity. It is the willingness to dream bigger than fear, to forgive without keeping score, and to serve with love that defies logic.

The heavens declare the glory of God of your understanding, not just in their beauty but in the way they mirror our inner lives. When we look upward during an alignment or a meteor shower, we remember we, too, are stardust, placed here for a holy purpose.

Sometimes, to truly find our place, we must dare to be a little out of this world. Creator of the heavens and earth, Help us to align our hearts with Your will, and to shine brightly, even if only for a moment, in ways that illuminate the lives of others May we dare to be out of this world in compassion, unwavering in hope, and unafraid to live as children of light. Keep shining bright.

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Georgian Bay Steam Show Thrills Visitors with Live Steam Engine Demonstrations

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



This is Jeffrey Garbutt from Keene beside his rare and collectible 1921 fully restored Massey Harris 3 15-28 hp tractor. He said this tractor was not considered by Massey Harris so only had a short time of production. He reports there are only 15 left in the world with 4 being in Ontario; counting this one.

Pictured on the right is Frank Hume of Milton with his 1921 Sawyer Massey tractor. Perfectly complementing this year's 2025 show feature, "Made in Canada," this tractor was built in Hamilton and designed to run on kerosene. Frank is a member of Steam Era, a show held annually in Halton Hills.





Pictured above is Barb Topp, selling souvenirs and giving out information for the 2025 International Plowing Match (IPM). Barb is from a plowing Match family, her husband is a land steward in plowing competitions and her sister is a plowing judge. Barb is part of the Souvenir committee for the 2025 IPM that will be held at Grassie which is in the Niagara Falls region.

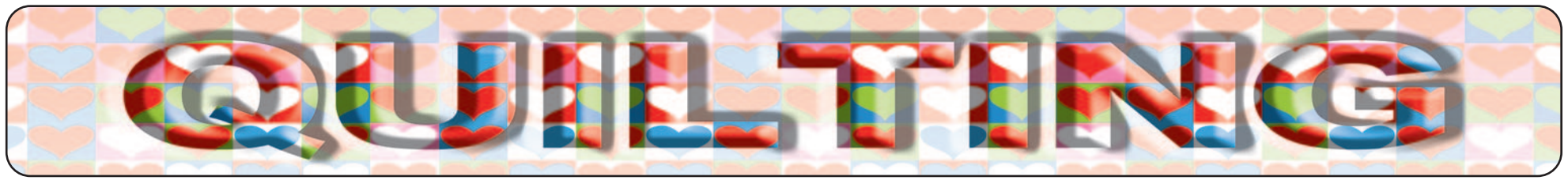


This 1896 portable steam engine, also owned by Kevin Forstner of Toronto, is mounted on wheels and would have been horse-drawn, with the operator seated on the red chair. Pictured here is licensed steam operator Dave Woods from Simcoe, who drove three hours to help out at the Georgian Bay Steam Show in Cookstown.



A 1921 George White Traction Engine, owned by Kevin Forstner of Toronto, powers the wood mill at the Georgian Bay Steam Show as Kevin makes an adjustment. Also pictured is fellow steam engine owner and licensed operator Dan Moffatt of Wyoming, Ontario, representing the Western Ontario Steam Threshers, whose show runs the week after.





Fabric Postcards: A Memorable Project

By Janis Hamilton

As we roll into the end of summer and trips may be winding down or you are squeezing in the last few road trips, think about the landscape as you travel even if it's just for groceries in town. The fires have created amazing sunsets and a night moon. I fully agree no one wishes those horrible fires on any one and we can all do without all the smoke and the horrible destruction and loss, but we are also given to some amazing sites.

Imagine the joy of sending someone a fabric card or postcard featuring your own interpretation of those landscapes and seeing their reaction when they check the mailbox.

So how hard would it be to make one? Well, when I had my young friends visit for the day they were going on a trip, so we made four cards and they were thrilled to say the least. I even put stamps on for them to mail as they "don't have stamps at our house." The world of digital don't you love it.

So, let's get started. Check out a few ideas online by typing in "how to make fabric post cards" or check out some I visited as well:

https://suzyquilts.com/ (she shows you step by step and even how to draw on the "Postcard."

https://Postcrossing.com

https://Quilterscandy.com

https://scrapfabriclove.com

https://sugarstitchequiltco.com

Any card stock will do and yes you can sew on it if you delegate one needle for paper.

Supplies:

Card stock, pencil, a fusible: 'heatnbond" lite (anything heavier will gum up the needle in your machine), sewing machine (optional you could use glue if you are working with children), scissors, iron, pressing cloth that is for adhesives or parchment paper and scraps of fabric.

If you choose a landscape, you'll need fabric for the sky (enough to cover the cardstock and give you plenty of room to work), as well as for fields, hills, water, and small flowers.

After you have chosen the fabrics, lay them out in the order you want on the card and remember a post card is 4 x 6" only but if you chose to make a card from card stock then any size you choose will be perfect.

The fabric section will be assembled separately and then added to the card stock at the end. Cut the fabric wider than you need to allow for final changes in your scene.

Once you have a basic sketch of what you want then put the fusible onto each fabric and cut out the shape of what you decided. Once you have the scene the way you want it pull off the adhesive on the heatnbond and press on to the parchment paper or pressing cloth. (you never want your ironing board to have the adhesive on it so that is why you use this.) If you are happy with your design, then you can do a blanket stitch over each section of the card or satin stitch to accent the design you have created. Or have fun doing free motion stitching to create movement in your design.

Once you've finished your design and are happy with it on the cardstock, draw the word 'Postcard' at the top and a line down the middle to separate the message from the address.

And make sure the fabric section is cut to fit the card of course. Trim as needed. Next, take the two pieces and either use a glue stick in the center to adhere them or apply more fusible like Heat'n Bond Lite. Once they're joined, sew a zigzag stitch all around the edges of the card.

Now that you've mastered this project think about special occasions for cards…like birthdays or anniversaries. I hate to suggest the huge rabbit hole of "Pinterest" but it's an option for ideas. Have fun being creative and making someones day very special when they get their mail.







Field Fires, What you Need to Know

By Dennis Gannon

The growing season is coming to an end with harvest in full swing. The dry weather this year has made for a challenging harvest. Without moisture the field can become tinder boxes and a spark from a piece of farm equipment or the exhaust from a vehicle could result in a major fire with devastating consequences. In early August, Springwater Fire and Emergency Services responded to a combine harvester fire that required additional mutual aid assistance from the Wasaga Beach fire department. Approximately 10 acres were in flames along with the farm equipment. A similar incident occurred outside Elora resulting in field and equipment damage. No injuries were reported in either incident. What can you do to reduce your chances of having a similar situation? Fire chiefs offer these suggestions.

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.

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.

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.Check belts for proper tension and wear to reduce friction.Carefully check bearings for excessive heat. Overheated bearings are a major cause of combine fires. 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.

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.

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

Dufferin Farm Tour Saturday, September 27th, 9 AM to 4 PM Rain or Shine!

The **Dufferin Farm Tour**, established in 1998 by a group of dedicated farmers, was created to bridge the gap between rural and urban communities. This annual event that has been running for over 25 years, offers a unique opportunity to visit working farms, hear firsthand about the challenges of producing safe, nutritious food, and learn about the importance of local agriculture. Each fall, a different group of farmers opens their doors to the public, inviting families to engage with farm animals, ask the farmers questions, and watch live demonstrations.

Why Attend?

Dufferin is home to over 700 farms, but often the connection between these farms and the food on our plate is lost. The Dufferin Farm Tour aims to close this gap by fostering dialogue and providing a firsthand look at modern farming practices. When people understand how their food is grown and raised, they are more likely to support local farmers and contribute to the local economy. Over the years, thousands of people of all ages have enjoyed this enriching experience.

Quick Facts about Agriculture in Dufferin County:

• Agriculture is one of the largest economic contributors in Dufferin County.

• With its related industries, agriculture is also one of the county's largest employers.

• Dufferin County's top five farm commodities are cattle and calves, dairy, potatoes, soybeans, and corn.

What to Expect This Year:

This year's tour offers a variety of farm experiences, including:

• Experience an original Town of Mono homestead with beef cattle and chickens grazing on pasture

• See robotic milking at a high-tech 35,000 square foot Holstein dairy barn

• Do some horsing around at a beautiful school of horsemanship

• Go for a side of veggies at a market garden and hydroponic greenhouse operation

• Get a jump on the festive spirit with a wagon ride through a picturesque Christmas Tree Farm

Tour Details:

• Time: 9 AM to 4 PM

• Food, refreshments and local produce: Available at various stops along the route. Be sure to bring cash for any purchases!

• Self-Guided Tour: This is a self-paced tour. Take your time and enjoy each farm at your own pace.

Registration:

Spaces may be limited, so register now! Donations to local food banks are encouraged and can be made at the time of registration or during the tour. Visit our website at www.dufferinfarmtour.com to register.

For more information contact:
learn@dufferinfarmtour.com
or Andrew Kottelenberg 519-215-1383, Trevor Pugh 519-939-7486

SIMCOE COUNTY FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

Let's gather!

Regional Meeting

Thursday September 11th, 2025
7pm - 1110 Hwy 26 Midhurst
(County of Simcoe Admin. Building)

Ever wondered about the inner workings of the OFA?

Interested in joining the Simcoe County Board or one of the committees?

Do you have a great idea for something we should be doing or supporting?

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Big news! The iconic Guelph Organic Conference turns 45, and we're giving it a major facelift!

For our 45th year, we're turning up the energy with a:

New Venue: The Guelph Farmers' Market
New Schedule: The trade show now runs Tuesday afternoon/evening after the intensive and all day Wednesday
A More Grassroots Experience: Easier parking, easier ways to connect, and a return to our roots to build community together.

Mark your calendars:
January 27–28, 2026 (Tuesday and Wednesday)
at Guelph Farmers' Market
(42 Carden Street, Guelph, ON &
2 Gordon Street, Guelph, ON)

This isn't just another conference. It's a revitalized experience built for today's organic producers, stewards, and supporters of sustainable farming.

Here's what's in store:
Tuesday and Wednesday will be full of fun with:
· A buzzing trade show
· Inspiring intensives
· Social events
· Delicious food
· Workshops
· Speakers and more!

Why You'll Love the New Venue:
Nearby parking: no more long treks from the car
Food vendors on-site: fresh, local, and delicious eats at your fingertips
Everything on one floor: easy flow between sessions and exhibits
In the heart of downtown Guelph: walkable, vibrant, and connected

Sponsorship Opportunities
Visit https://guelphorganicconf.ca

After The Chores: Bad Day in Summer

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



My plan was to attend an event only one hour south of home. I had been to the exact location before.

The morning at first was good. I surprised my animals by being early which gives me a break from having to deal with sneaky Francis. Francis is a big thinker, planning out how to sneak out of the barn to get to the apple trees. Francis will dash out that door to be found with his back braced on the apple tree with his two front feet trying to bat down branches so he can eat the leaves. A sleepy Francis does no escaping so I was doing so well with time this morning. I was on my last trip to the hay manger to carry in the last armful when it happened.

I managed to plunge a piece of coarse hay right into my left eye. The pain at first left me just about collapsed as that eye went dark- but soon vision came back. I debated to stay home and just take care of this with a cold cloth over my eyes. I decided this day would be short, two hours on the road and two hours at the event and four hours is easy peasy in the summer.

The trip to the event was warm as the a/c fully decided not to work this day but 60 minutes goes by fast. The event was hot and the west wind was sure appreciated- at first. The wind and dust- because it never rains here in southern Ontario- was a painful reminder of that hay manger this morning. The eye became firstly irritated then it became mad- and started to pour out tears.

One stop in the main street to get a cold drink and I was so ready for the 60 minute drive home for that cold cloth to calm this angry eye down. I got to the road to get to the 115. My natural directionally challenged self combined with an eye that was now starting to seriously hurt. As soon as I got to the south lane, I realized my huge mistake. I left at next exit and soon pulled over to get to my phone and typed in where the event was. The temperature was now 33C outside- and no better inside.

I followed the phone right to the last 300m when it said go right. With only one eye working, I could still see the big sign that said 401 West Toronto. I pulled over again and looked at my phone- and I was 1 hour and 27 minutes left to go. I misspelled my previous location by one letter. Now, where in the world am I?

Driving to a quieter road I tried again with the phone. I typed in home location and the road I was at- and the phone gave me a menu to choose from. Road names are the same in so many places. I chose one and again, it was in the Toronto area. I drove on further, hoping this was north and then pulled over again. Now, the phone was "over heated" and it refused to work. I am only 1 hour and 20 minutes or so from home and had not a clue where I was.

I followed some road and ended up in some town and saw a town bus, I knew this was not even close to north. No phone, no sense of direction- where was I? At this point, my eye was burning with all the hot wind blowing in from the windows but there was no other option. The traffic was soon stop and go in a maze of traffic lights.

The eye was hurting so much at this point that I could not risk going into any more towns. I took the next road out of wherever I was- and just went wherever it looked less townish. I was so glad to finally see wind turbines in the distance, that had to be Bethany and I knew how to get home from here.

Finally I get into Bethany but everything seemed mixed up. I finally realized I was going east instead of west and going right back to that 115. After three hours on the road, I came home with a swollen red weeping eye that hurt more than I thought possible.

I could have handed off chores to Sweetie that night but Leftover lamb I'm feeding this summer is either fed by me or else. Leftover is one of those loud lambs. Sheep, even lambs as young as Leftover, live in routine. Leftover hears my steps and he's a white blur to jump on me to get his bottle baaing loud every step of the way. It is just easier for all of us to stay on routine.

No day thankfully lasts forever.



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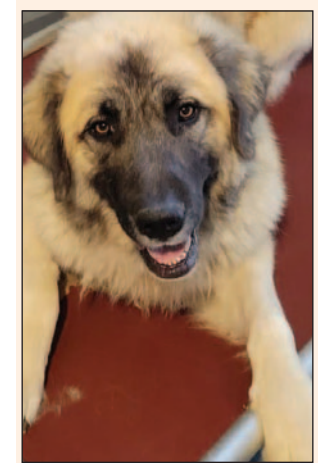


Ontario CCA Association and OSCIA Announce Strategic Collaboration to Elevate Agronomic Training and Promote Sustainable Farm Practices

The Ontario Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Association and the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) are proud to announce a new partnership aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of agronomic advisors across the province. Through a formal collaboration agreement, the two organizations will jointly develop and deliver targeted training that supports the On-Farm Climate Action Fund and promotes the Farmland Health Check-Up program.

This forward-thinking initiative will equip agronomic advisors with the latest tools and knowledge in nitrogen management, cover cropping and rotational grazing—key practices for improving soil health and advancing climate-smart agriculture.

"The Ontario CCA Association is excited to work hand-in-hand with OSCIA to amplify our impact and better serve Ontario's farm advisors and growers," said Susan Fitzgerald, Executive Director, Ontario CCA Association. "Together, we're building a stronger foundation for stewardship and sustainability."

The Ontario On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) provides cost-share funding to farmers to support the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) to tackle climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and supporting increased carbon sequestration. The Farmland Health Check-Up provides farmers with a unique opportunity to work with a CCA or Professional Agrologist (P.Ag) free of charge to assess risks to on-farm soil health and water quality.

"This partnership represents a significant step forward in delivering consistent, high-quality training and practical resources that help advisors and farmers embrace sustainable practices," added Kerry Wright, Executive Director, OSCIA.

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) – On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF).

Founded in 1939, the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) is a not-for-profit grassroots organization. It encompasses over 50 county and district associations across 11 regions, with a diverse membership of approximately 2,500 farmers. OSCIA is committed to responsible economic management of soil, water, air and crops by promoting innovative farming practices.

The Ontario CCA Association is a membership organization representing over 650 men and women across Ontario who serve farmers as crop advisors, providing information and expertise on crop production, crop protection and natural resource management. The CCA certification is conferred by the American Society of Agronomy and is recognized for its rigorous standards and commitment to continuing education.

Essa National Draft Horse Show 2025

Photo and article by Andrej Baca

The Essa National Draft Horse Show (ENDHS) features the showcase of magnificent heavy horses, competitions and vendors. The ENDHS was initially established as a segment of a much larger draft show held at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE). It later found its new permanent home at the Essa Agriplex where it continues to act as an integral part of showcasing draft horse breeds.

Draft Horses are a class of large, heavy horses that are bred specifically for pulling power. Known for their strength, endurance, and calm temperament.

Among the many breeds of draft horses, there are a few that have set themselves apart, including the Clydesdale, Shire, Friesian, and Percheron.

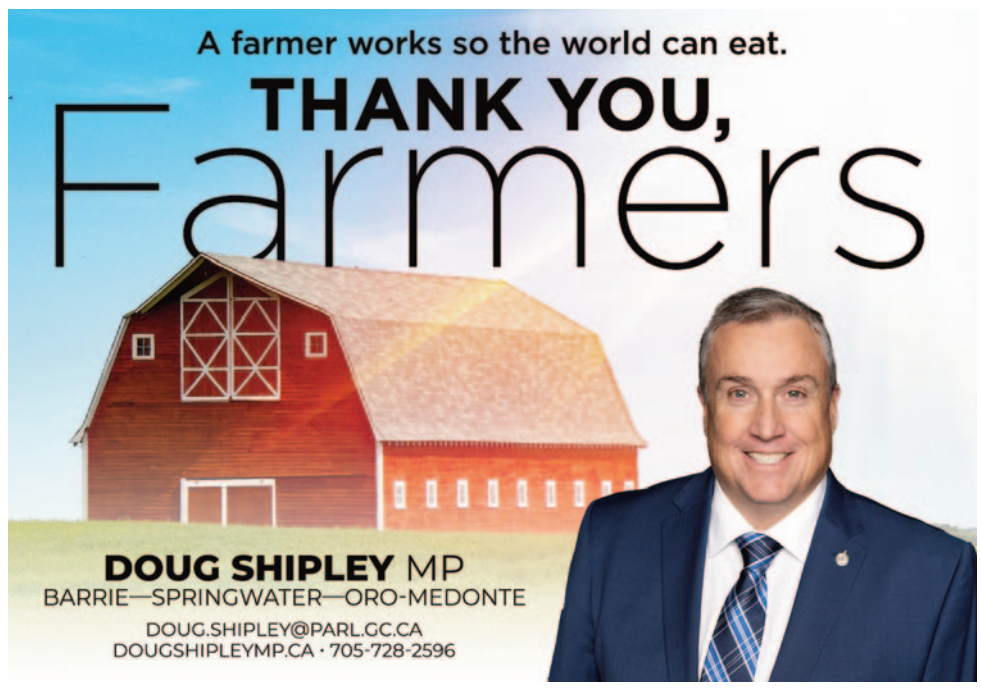
Clydesdales, are recognized for their elegant feathered legs and association with Budweiser Clydesdales, while Shires are celebrated for their sheer power and impressive stature.

Friesians, with their flowing manes and agility, have starred in film and dressage, and Percherons are known for their versatility, being equally at home on a farm or in a parade.

You will find more coverage of the Essa National Draft Horse Show in next month's October issue of Farm View.



Pictured here is Produce Acres Pam from Jardine's Farms, who won Grand Champion mare and best mare on grounds.



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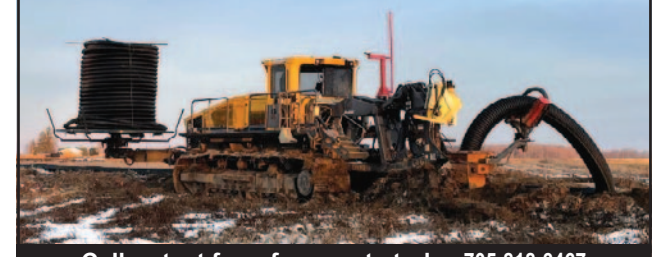
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Canada's Top Carrot-Growing Region Shines at Carrot Fest

Photos and article by Andrej Baca











Carrot Fest celebrates the region's agricultural heritage, showcasing the carrot's vital role in the local economy. What started as a small merchant-led gathering has grown into a major festival, attracting an estimated 50,000 visitors each year and generating over $1 million for the community.

A few highlights are show in the photos clockwise from top left: Holland Marsh Grower's Association gave away a trailer load of carrots, Spencer Scurr Magic (Busker), Bella Magic (Busker), vendor area with more than 150 booths, offering everything from crafts to food, and the Aqua Dogs show.

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NOTTAWASAGA VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Sutton Fair & Horse Show "Sow It, Grow It, and Show It!"

Photos provided by Lori Jennings



Wesley Lockie, 7, and his cousins William, 8, and Hudson, 7, show off their skills and smiles as they compete together in the Little Britches Class.

The Sutton Fair & Horse Show offers a diverse array of exhibits, from vegetables and field crops to language and literature. Community members proudly showcase their photography, culinary creations, flowers, crafts, and hobbies, creating a vibrant display of local talent.

The Sutton Agricultural Society also presents a variety of attractions for public enjoyment, including the Truck and Tractor Pull, Demolition Derby, Ambassador Program, Georgina Idol, Baby Show, Midway, and Livestock and Horse Shows. Each year, committees strive to introduce fresh and exciting events while keeping the beloved favorites that visitors look forward to.

A highlight for many visitors is the Little Britches Class, part of the Sutton Fair Open Junior Dairy Day. This popular event is open to competitors aged 8 and under as of January 1, 2025, and always draws enthusiastic participants and spectators alike.

The Sutton Agricultural Society is a devoted team of volunteers committed to making the Sutton Fair & Horse Show a memorable and enjoyable celebration for the entire community. Keep an eye on their website www.suttonfair.com and make plans to attend next year!



This year, a record was set with 57 calves at the fair, showcased by approximately 35 beginning 4-H members from York and neighboring counties. Little Britches continues to be a highlight of the show.

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Plenty to see and enjoy at the Fenelon Falls Fair!

Story and photos by Cathy Hamill-Hill



Pony pulls prove that small can still mean strong. This white team, owned by Blaine Way, is shown here making a full pull.



Winning Family: The Dennis family of Lakefield is pictured from left—dad Lance, sons Landon and Lincoln, and mom Samantha. Landon holds the trophy won by the family's rabbit, Hazel, a New Zealand shown here with Lance. Hazel captured the title of Best in Show Youth Rabbit at the popular Youth Rabbit Show, a highlight of the annual Fenelon Fair.



At left, Fenelon Fair volunteers Lucas Cardoni of Kirkfield and Cassie Watson of Fenelon Falls are pictured quilting on Sunday. Cardoni, who helps out wherever needed, said the Fair has taught him many new skills, including learning to hand stitch a quilt. Watson, who volunteers in several areas, joined the quilting because she learned how from her Nana. Both are part of the huge team of volunteers who work year-round to organize the Fenelon Agricultural Fair.

Baronial Blooming Star, known as "Bloom," is a registered Morgan horse owned by Holly Buckley of Lindsay. Shown here with rider Lynn Tompkins of Lindsay, Bloom captured first place in the Walk-Trot English Equitation class at the Fenelon Fair. Buckley and Tompkins, friends since childhood, make an ideal team for Bloom's show career.



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See contact information on bottom of page 4.

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ROB HENRY'S CUSTOM FARMING INC.

FOR ALL YOUR FARMING NEEDS

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This fall, save yourself a trip into town!

HARDWARE • FARM SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER AND LAWN SEED

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

Serving York Region and Bradford

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

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Peartree Animal Wellness Centre and Rescue

Specialized in training rescued Large Guardian Dogs for employment as Livestock Guardians

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Phone 519-709-6678

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.

FOR SALE

Farm Equipment

Kneverland plow, three furrow, long boards, 3ph, with steel depth wheel, with coulters **$1,850.00.**
Fiskars auto reset plow model 9776, five furrow, long boards, new coulters **$3,850.00.**
Buzz saw, 540 pto floating table, 3ph, well built **$1,250.00.**
Allied 36 ft grain auger, 6 inch, on wheels, good shape **$1,450.00.**

Call Dan Seifried,
Harriston
519-338-2688

Farm View has great rates and great distribution!
Call for info! 705-722-0138

FREE ADS

Boer Goat breeding stock CAE negative CL free herd. **Call 519-940-8897 (Land Line)**

Sedore hydraulic wood splitter. Made by Ernest Sedore of Mount Albert. Works on the 3 point hitch and hydraulics of a farm tractor. Made for a 25 M.F. Or similar tractor. Free if you can use it. **705-728-2609.**

Wanted Herd of Hereford or Angus Cows prefer with calves. Phone evenings **905-983-9331.**

Tractor For Sale Massey Ferguson 65 Dieselmatic with multipower and loader - narrow manure bucket. Quick change rear tire width Very good starter in the winter! Tractor runs well $3,500.00 **Call Nelson 519-362-1611** nelsonagua@rogers.com

Wanted 3 pth fiberglass fertilizer spreader.
Text 705-720-0264 or northsimcoevets@look.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Happy 20th Birthday Lillian!
Goodbye to the teen years and hello to your twenties—an exciting new decade full of adventure, growth, and endless possibilities. May your day be as bright and joyful as you are!
Lots of Love from your family and friends!

Happy Birthday, Dad/Grandpa!



Wishing you a wonderful day and a year ahead filled with health, happiness, and plenty of good times.
Lots of love from Diana, Aaron, Brianna, Roslyn, Shawn, Lily, Trenton and Harry

AUCTION SALE

Timed Online Consignment Auction

Farm, Shop & Construction Materials and Equipment, Vehicles & Trailers, Etc.

September Consignment Sale Runs
September 15th - 22nd, 2025

For more information visit the website!

Sale Managed & Sold By:

Kevin Barker & Greg Snoddon Auctions
3484 Hwy. 35,
Lindsay, Ontario
For more info visit:
www.kevinbarkerauctions.com
Kevin: 705-878-2947
Greg: 705-934-9611
Office: 705-328-1478
"Auctions with Action"

VAN FOR SALE

Used 2010 Chrysler Town and Country van. Clearwater Blue Pearl in colour, one owner.

183,800 km [121,000 miles], 4.0 L 6 cyl gas engine, 2 wheel front drive, 6 speed auto transmission.



This well maintained and well equipped vehicle runs great and includes: power seat and power sliding doors, power lift gate, back up camera, rear entertainment DVD system, stow and go bucket seats, seven passenger [3rd row seating], cruise control, front and rear climate control, electronic traction control, fog lights, heated side mirrors, satellite radio, CD player, 16 inch alloy wheels. No accidents, some rust on front fenders. VIN 2A4RR5DX1AR257025.

New price! $6,399.00

The vehicle is located at my home approx. ten minutes west of Barrie. Please call John at 705-726-5308 to schedule a visit.

AUCTION SALE

Live Auction Sale
Fall Equipment Consignment
Saturday October 18th, 9:30am

554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Accepting: Tractors, Machinery, Equipment, Farm Rel/Shop

Note: Please contact auctioneer if you are wanting to consign any equipment/items

****Watch the website as items will be added regularly****

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - full listing and photos
Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

SEASONAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

COUNTY OF SIMCOE

As one of the largest employers in the region, Simcoe County provides a diverse and dynamic workplace. The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia.

SEASONAL LABOURER/TRUCK DRIVERS
TEMPORARY, FULL TIME
MIDHURST, ON BEETON, ON
ORR LAKE, ON CREEMORE, ON

Seasonal Labourer/Truck Driver is responsible for working as a labourer and/or flagman on maintenance activities. Also involves the operation of tractors with attachments, trucks for snow plowing, sanding and general summer use, rollers, chainsaws, compressors and other designated equipment requiring special skills.

The successful candidate:

- has a Secondary School diploma or equivalent approved combination of education and experience
- must possess a valid DZ license, be able to work without supervision and make decisions
- is able to interact with the public in a courteous and positive manner at all times

The successful candidate will also have related experience as a truck driver, light equipment operator, or skilled labourer in either construction or maintenance of roads experience.

Start date: November 1, 2025
Wage rate: $30.03 - $30.55 per hour (As per Collective Agreement)
For resume submission, please view the complete job description and apply online at www.simcoe.ca/jobs

The County of Simcoe thanks all applicants but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act (2001) and will be used to determine eligibility for employment.
The Corporation of the County of Simcoe is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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,
N0B1T0 **519-833-9616**

Cookstown Location:
4321 Line 13, Cookstown,
Corner of 27 & line 13 ON,
L0L1L0 **705-458-0871**



High Speed Compact Discs

Time is valuable and, for farmers in Canada, often a luxury. The Kubota CD is your choice for a high-speed compact disc—now available in working widths up to 12m—helping you work faster and reclaim some of that valuable time. Designed for Controlled Traffic Farming and built for productivity, the CD range delivers full cutting performance, intensive mixing, perfect levelling, and reconsolidation. Available in rigid-mounted, mounted-fold, folding trailed, and large-scale trailed configurations, the Kubota CD gives you more choice, more working width, and more efficiency than ever.

Used Equipment



Kubota M59TLB
year:2015, 4wd, four post rops with canopy, front aux hydraulics, kubota tl1350 loader, bt1200v backhoe, hydraulic thumb, grill guard, light package Unit is located in Erin.
$68,900



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



Massey Ferguson 235
hours showing: 891.3, gas, 540 rpm, open station with no rops, loader and bucket , 6:00 x 16 front tires, 13.6 x 28, Unit is located at Stewarts Equipment in Erin.
$5,800



New Holland 460
net wrap / twine , silage special ,540 rpm, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.
Stock number: U4814
Serial number: YFN187897
$29,800



Kubota DMC8536R
pivot tongue mower conditioner , 1000 rpm , 2 pth , excellent condition, Unit is Located at Stewart's equipment in Erin.
Stock Number : U27673
$34,800



Can-am Defender XT
528.9 klm showing, cab enclosure with heat, camo unit, front bumper, front windshield wiper, manual dump box, winch, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin.
$18,850



Case IH Maxxum 115
hours showing:1744, 540/1000 RPM, 2 sets of remotes, 16 speed trans, cab/heat/air, instructors seat, 14.9x28 fronts, 18.4r38 rears, horst lasb4qdm quick hitch ***** UNIT IS BLADE READY ! located in Erin.
$65,900



Kubota RA2071TVARIO
dual rotor rake , 7.1m working width , side delivery , hydraulic offset, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. (Financing available @ 4.99%* O.A.C.)
$22,900



Case IH 6500
9 SHANK CONSER-TIL SOIL SAVER, Unit is located at Stewarts Equipment in Erin.
Stock Number: YU0209
Serial Number: JAG0012440
$9,400



New Holland 460
4x6 bales, netwrap, wide pick-up, hydraulic pick -up,18l-16.5l rubber, crop cutter, rear kicker, bale count 14100, Unit is located at Stewart's equipment in Erin
$33,900



Kuhn GF7802THA
working width 25'7", 6 rotors with 7 tine arms per rotor , minimum horsepower required 35hp, Unit is located at Stewart's Equipment in Erin. Stock Number: U29101
$14,800



New Holland 7230
2018 model year ,10&" cutting width, 540rpm , 8 disc, high stubble kit , rubber rolls , draw bar hitch, Unit is located at Stewarts Equipment in Erin.
$24,300

STEWARTSEQUIP.COM

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

Follow Us



A friendly reminder to slow down and drive with extra care as children head back to school. Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable start to the 2025/26 school year!

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.

Farm View is proud to support

Community Events

FARM VIEW

A newspaper with something for everyone

email: farmview@on.aibn.com web: www.farmviewonline.com