

Lanark Federation News

Volume 2, Issue 2

September 2017

This past summer has been very challenging for anyone in agriculture. A very wet and cold start to the spring and summer crop season had us wondering what the fall would bring. Here we are in the second last week of September, experiencing our summer weather. How many are out there trying to get all their hay caught up?

LFA members and board directors were instrumental letting the media know about the dire conditions of crops in June and July. Crop insurance has been on the minds of all farmers as our circumstances are quite out of the ordinary.

Members have contacted the LFA on many issues the last six months; municipal land tax assessments, farm land values, land use planning and urban development, livestock kill compensation program changes, minimum wage, wet land designations, noxious weeds, rural broadband, climate change, taxation on value-added operations, hydro costs, energy, tire tax, and natural gas, and rural schools

- Have you had any experience with any of these issues?
- Have you experienced other issues that are not addresses here?
- Are we doing a good job of representing you, OFA member in Lanark County?
- How do you feel about the OFA?
- How do we solicit more involvement from the membership?
- Should we have more social events?

You are important to us. The Board of Directors is here to represent you. Please let us know your opinion through the Lanark Federation of Agriculture Facebook page or contact directors via e-mail or phone.

The LFA Directors are working very hard to bring your issues forward and finding solutions. We are planning this fall to be holding Coffee breaks at local Farm stores in the area. We hope to be in Carleton Place at the Wool Growers later in September & also to visit stores in Almonte, Smiths Falls and Perth.

We hope you will come out to our Annual meeting on Oct. 12 at the Beckwith Hall. Come for dinner & plan to stay for the meeting. Tickets are available from any director.



Lanark Federation Annual Dinner & AGM

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Brunton Community Hall – Beckwith
Township Offices

Dinner at 7:00 PM

*Guest Speakers: Wendell Joyce, Agricorp
and Randy McDonald, MPAC.*

*Wendell is the area manager for Agricorp and
will be speaking about the various crop
insurance and risk management programs
available to producers.*

*Randy is the manager of Property Valuation
and Customer Relations for MPAC for Ontario
and will be speaking about the valuation
process.*

Dave Campbell – PAC Report

It has been my privilege to serve as your PAC representative for the members of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture in Lanark County. This year has been quite busy and interesting. We are working on how to make the PAC function more efficiently as a group, advising the OFA board on the direction we think they should take on issues that affect Ontario farmers. The review of the restructuring of the OFA board is ongoing and hopefully this will be done by our annual convention, November 20-21.

PAC meetings also provide me and the other members the opportunity to discuss the issues in a more informal way, in our rooms, or when we are out for dinner. These are great opportunities to have longer conversations about our county concerns with each other and with OFA board members. Sometimes the President or a Vice President or board members join in with our discussions and we can cover a lot of different topics that concern many of you. In the formal meeting of the PAC members, when we were dealing with how to make PAC work better, plans were presented to provide the same opportunity for informal discussions the night before our meeting, that some of us are already doing, making sure all PAC members have the opportunity to engage.

This year the PAC had been updated on the changes to Business Risk Management, Crop insurance, AgriStability, and the recent proposed tax changes for corporations which includes many family farms. OFA is working with CFA along with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. OFA has provided more information to members along with a template letter to assist you in contacting your MP and the Finance Minister so you help us protest the changes that will impact succession planning, retirement plans and your capital gains exemption. We have also reviewed Bill 148, which threatens our exemptions under the Employment Standards Act as well as the disastrous weather that we experienced in the Spring and Summer this year; school closures and the denied livestock claims from predator kills, and also rural municipal infrastructure needs.

OFA is having now the discussion on public trust and how we go about, as a group, educating the public. Try to get connected in your own area to friends, customers - we all have our own story to tell. Most people do not really know where their food comes from, and we as farmers, need to share our story them. We also need to talk to our MPs and MMPs so they hear about real farming, not what vegans are telling them. This why we have done the "Farmers on the Hill" lobby day for the last 11 years at Parliament Hill with local farmers.

As Your Policy Advisor, getting out in the community at local events or doing interviews on our local radio station, Lake 88, or getting the right people to be on the radio to explain an important issue, I am always trying to keep your agriculture message front and center. Hearing your concerns is a great benefit to me and this helps me be a better PAC representative. Ever year when I am selling tickets for the Annual meeting, I get lots of questions on what OFA is doing. Farmers have no trouble talking about their concerns, about the future of Agriculture here in Lanark County or the Province; whether they are small, medium or large farmers, it's truly a great experience and I have learned so much from you.

As I continue working for you, the membership of the OFA, I again ask for your support in helping to elect me as your PAC member for the next term which starts at our OFA annual meeting in Nov 2018 . Your opportunity to vote in the local election will be at the Lanark Federation annual meeting, Thursday, October 12 in Beckwith Hall, Blacks Corners. I hope to see many of you there for the roast beef dinner and the annual business meeting. We can never ever do enough for you, the membership - without you there would be no OFA.

Thank you.

Dave Campbell, Policy Advisor Councilor (613) 268-2138 daveandfern@hotmail.com

Debra Pretty-Straathof - Zone 8 OFA Director Report – Fall 2017

Hello OFA members in Zone 8, which includes Renfrew, Lanark, Ottawa and the Arnprior Region. I want to say thank you to all members who voted to re-elect me as your OFA Director. It is an honour and privilege to work on your behalf and for all OFA members across Ontario.

These past months have been filled with a number of serious challenges which OFA and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture have been dealing with on your behalf. It is even more effective when you add your voice to the chorus. Here are a few examples of issues which have required our attention, action, submissions, lobbying... starting in January:

- Development of the Safe Harbour Policy under the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (EBR 012-8234)
- forest carbon policy approaches and opportunities to optimize the mitigation of climate change and reduce GHG emissions through Ont's managed Crown forests.
- Management of wild game and fur bearer wildlife
- Climate change issues/Cap and Trade
- Canadian Revenue Agency/ definition of farming
- Food labelling
- Farm products marketing act
- Renewable fuels
- Bottled water extraction

Energy and Climate Change mitigation/adaptation are always contentious issues which requires constant attention. OFA also worked on mitigating the effects of the Waste Free Ontario Act, the closure of rural schools, invasive species, transportation issues, the Conservation Authorities issues, phosphorus issues within the Great Lakes Basin/specifically to start: Lake Erie, soil health, and a huge issue: our input into the next agriculture policy framework which has had several names under different governments; the APF, Growing Forward and now the Canadian Agriculture Policy or CAP. The recently announced new programs (AgriStability, AgriInvest, AgriRecovery and AgriInsurance, plus the non-business risk management programs which support innovation and research, finding new markets, etc.) need improvement, particularly in AgriStability and AgriInvest. The previous government's cuts have remained and have actually slightly increased. This is not the way to support risk mitigation in a leading sector of the economy that they (and we) wish to see grow.

Bill 148 has caused much concern (the Fair Workplace and Better Jobs Act). We are working to defend our exemption to certain requirements and fighting the large increase in the minimum wage. While raising the standard of living for those on the lower end of the pay scale is a positive goal, this is not the way to go about it. OFA believes this will result in less jobs and a higher cost of living.

A land transfer tax review, and building code revisions in reference to greenhouse gas emissions have been addressed.

The recent proposed revisions to tax treatment for small corporations has caused outrage from business and farm owners with a massive backlash against the proposed changes which would negatively affect succession planning, retirements, etc. The OFA and CFA are working to change the proposed revisions.

Deb Knapton - MSR report - Fall 2017

Hello Lanark Federation members!

It's been another challenging year weather-wise for many members but it looks like fall has arrived. With fall comes annual general meeting time, both county and provincial. I encourage you to attend the Lanark Federation AGM – it's an opportunity to chat with your neighbours, enjoy a great supper and see what your board has been doing over the last year. The guest speakers this year are especially timely – Wendell Joyce from Agricorp will be speaking on crop insurance and other risk management programs and Randy McDonald from MPAC will be speaking on farm property valuations!

Do you have some time to dedicate to the board in the coming months? Your time commitment can be as large or small as you can manage – there truly is an opportunity for everyone to be involved. There are many benefits to becoming involved with your local board. Acting as an advocate for local farmers, lobbying, community representation and interacting with other agricultural sectors in the county are just a few!

Thank you to your provincial director Debra Pretty-Straathof for all her work in the county and at the provincial board table! Thanks also to your Lanark Federation board, they are a great group of directors and I truly enjoy working with them.

I can be reached at deb.knapton@ofa.on.ca or by phone at 613-761-8426 (toll free 1-855-761-7617). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lanark Federation Bursary

The Lanark Federation of Agriculture offers two \$400 bursaries to students enrolled in a diploma or degree course in a Canadian university or Community College. The student applicant must be an immediate or family member of a current Ontario Federation of Agriculture member within the Lanark Federation of Agriculture Boundary. The applicant can apply in any of the years in which they are attending the program. The bursary can only be given once to an applicant. Applications are due Dec. 31.

The application must be written by the applicant. It must include the marks from the previous semester. The application must include information regarding their previous education, career aspirations, volunteer and workplace experience and interests and related organizational involvements (e.g 4H, sports, theatre, community).

All information included in the application will be used to evaluate the applicant. Experience and career interests in Agriculture and related fields can be used to finalize the decision between applicants but this characteristic is not mandatory for application and may not be the basis for the final decision.

Please send have applications to Lillian Drummond by Dec. 31, 2016. E-mail letter to bldrumm@storm.ca or mail to 2153 Upper Perth Road, R#2 Almonte, ON K0A 1A0

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LANARK FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH, 2017 - 7:00 PM

Guest speakers – Wendell Joyce & Randy McDonald

LANARK FEDERATION OF AG COUNCILLORS TOUR

OCTOBER 2017 (DATE TO BE FINALIZED)

CONTACT ANDREA MCCOY-NAPERSTKOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

LANARK COUNTY 4-H AWARDS NIGHT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2017

LANARK & DISTRICT CIVITAN HALL, LANARK

OFA ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 20TH & 21ST, 2017

INTERNATIONAL PLAZA HOTEL

655 DIXON ROAD, TORONTO

Ontario Young Farmers Forum

Junior Farmers Association of Ontario with OFA is proud to host the 2017 edition of the Ontario Young Farmers Forum. Young farmers ages 18-40 will join together for two days of learning and networking with peers and industry leaders.

The OYFF will be held on November 19th and 20th in conjunction with the OFA AGM, International Plaza, Toronto.

For more information, look for OYFF on Twitter @OYFF17 or on the web at www.jfao.on.ca/OYFF

Lanark Federation may provide partial financial assistance to local young farmers interested in participating.



Lanark Federation is on Facebook – follow us to stay up to date on the latest news, events and information.

Search for “Lanark Federation of Agriculture” and make sure your voice is heard!

LANARK FEDERATION DIRECTORS

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| President: | Ted Letts | 613-284-2213 | |
| Vice President: | Bruce Nolan | 613-253-5238 | |
| Secretary: | Lillian Drummond | 613-256-3628 | |
| PAC Representative: | Dave Campbell | 613-268-2138 | |
| Past President: | Andrea McCoy-Naperstkov | 613-257-5750 | |
| Directors: | Lorne Heslop | 613-257-7942 | |
| | Richard Kidd | 613-257-5409 | |
| | Roy Lightbody | 613-283-8389 | |
| | Alvin Dobbie | 613-267-3388 | |
| | Rosemary Kralik | 613-268-9999 | |
| | Beth Yuill | 613-267-6123 | |
| Member Serv. Rep | Deb Knapton | 613-761-8426 | deb.knapton@ofa.on.ca |
| Zone 8 Board Rep | Debra Pretty–Straathof | 613-371-8840 | debra.pretty-straathof@ofa.on.ca |

Please feel free to contact the directors or come to the meetings that are held the second Thursday of every month at the Beckwith Township Council Chambers.



Preferred Banking Services for Ontario Federation of Agriculture Members

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and Scotiabank have partnered to provide a preferred banking package with special services and benefits for OFA members.

Preferred Banking includes:

- 15% discount on monthly plan fees for *ScotiaOne™ Account Plan for agriculture* or *ScotiaOne Account Plan for business*
- Five month fee waiver for *Credit Line for agriculture* or *Overdraft Protection for business*¹
- 0.25% discount off of standard rates for approved credit products (*Credit Line for agriculture*, *Scotia Farm Mortgage Loan*, *Scotia Farm Improvement Loans/SFIL*)²
- Interest rate of Scotiabank prime for the first 6 months on approved *ScotiaLine® for business VISA®* card
- Reimbursement of legal/appraisal costs for a *Farm Mortgage* or *Scotia Flex® for agriculture* product³
- 0.25% bonus on posted rates for new personal or business GICs

Plus, additional discounts for OFA members switching their banking to Scotiabank.

For more information and to take advantage of this OFA Member Benefit, contact your Scotiabank branch today.

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Specialized financial services for all seasons.

Background and Experience

Hello, my name is TREVAN KRAMER. I am a part of a team of Scotiabank's Small Business Agricultural Advisors with over 32 YEARS years of banking experience. I am committed to helping you grow your agricultural business by providing you with financial expertise, practical solutions and exceptional service that will help you reach both your business and personal goals.

I am a graduate of ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE with a PFP. I am also actively involved in the community with organizations like BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS.

What I can do for you:

- Listen, to understand your unique agricultural business and personal financial needs.
- Provide a flexible package of financial products suited to your specific needs, and help you find ways to improve your cash flow, save money, manage your borrowing and control costs.
- Provide personal, dedicated service that connects you to our entire team of financial specialists throughout Scotiabank, including investment, will and estate planning experts.

At Scotiabank, we believe helping our agricultural customers become financially better off is all about providing flexibility and financial expertise to help you achieve your farm business and personal goals.

Please call me to arrange your personal consultation.

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