

News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry

2023 ISSUE #4



Message from the President Allan Carruthers

Harvest is mostly finished here in Northumberland with Xmas upon us and the end of 2023 approaching. Crop yields for the most part this year were above average and the challenges on the farm as we manage our crops and livestock seem to be above average as well. Here in Northumberland County the costs of doing business and doing our part in feeding our families and providing good quality food for Canadian families seem to be constantly scrutinized. The passing of bill C-234 to remove carbon tax from the drying of grain and heating our barns took a frustrating blow with an amendment passing in the senate to keep the tax on for heating our

barns and drying our grain. A cost that we bare and can't pass on and must absorb in this environment of rising costs of all our inputs is very disappointing. We need to keep up the pressure on our elected officials to educate them, so farmers can continue to grow quality, affordable food without policies in place to make this job more difficult than it already is.

I would like to welcome two new board members, Kristen Carberry and Brian Nelson, we appreciate you getting involved. A big thank you to Doug Gray for his years of service on his retirement and to Ben Currelly who stepped down for health reasons but is still actively questioning our elected

officials and keeps me updated.

We are experiencing great sadness on the loss of our board director and very dear friend Sid Atkinson who leaves a huge hole here in Northumberland. We wish his family well and our prayers are with them as they cope with his passing.

Please keep us updated on any agriculture policy issues challenges you encounter and we will do our best to help. Our contact info is in this newsletter. Have a safe and happy holiday season and remember to take time to enjoy your family and friends and in Sid's words have a party!

Allan

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Notes from OFA

Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

I am humbled with the support and encouragement I have received from many. Thank you all. I would not be telling the whole story, if I did not share that the responsibility weights heavily. Among my new duties, and perhaps one of the lesser obvious, is my job to encourage others to be involved. I will make no apologies for repeating this message throughout my term.

It was 4 short years ago, that our dear friend Sid Atkinson tapped me on the shoulder. With the pandemic governing our lives, I was welcomed via zoom meetings to the NFA board with Sid at the helm. I quickly learned how active NFA is in the local agricultural community. Additionally, and perhaps for the first time, I became aware of the process whereby our local voice can be heard by the decision makers at the provincial and federal level. Although at times, it may appear that voice is not heard, I can assure you that it is. We are all frustrated with the recent Senate decision on Bill C-234, but it is quite clear the farm voice was heard, not only in the red chamber, but across the country. People are starting

Get Involved

to ask about the carbon tax and how it affects their grocery bill.

If your wondering how to feel inspired and motivated, how about checking out the OFA website. There is the public section, but there is also the password protected members only section. There you will find the real nuts and bolts of what OFA is doing. You may be interested in the resolutions. You will find them under the Resources tab, followed by the Resolutions tab. I admit, it is a bit of as challenge to navigate, but remember R and R and that will get you started. If you have forgotten your password, the staff at OFA will be happy to help. memberrelations@ofa.on.ca

Social media is another easy way to be involved. Simply following OFA on Instagram is a great start. Perhaps I'm a bit older fashioned, but it took that tap on the shoulder to give me the push I needed. We will be remembering Sid as I give you that tap on the shoulder.

Brian Crews, OFA Provincial Director Zone 12

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

NFA Directors 2024

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Past President

Sid Atkinson - Trent Hills

Vice President

Brighton - Martin Opsteen
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OFA Director

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613-391-8990
brian-crews@hotmail.com

Cramahe & PAC - Lisa Meekes

905-269-7419
nfa.lisam@gmail.com

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905-372-8263
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Port Hope - Brian Nelson

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Trent Hills - vacant

Directors at Large

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OFA Members Service Rep

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resi.walt@ofa.on.ca

Northumberland County Rep

Trissia Mellor, Ag Manager
905-372-3329 ext. 6492

Dedicated to Sid Atkinson

I've been reflecting on my memories with Sid and what comes to mind most prominently is the twinkle in his eye when he was teasing you. One of my favourite things about him, is the way he was able to get down to business, discussing a serious topic, and then moments later shift to joking and lightening the mood with laughter all around the table.

Some of my earliest memories of Sid include hearing him give industry updates at the annual summer Twilight meetings, as a DFO Board Member. He represented our industry through many ups and downs, and championed dairy farming wherever he went. All of the politicians knew Sid, as he made sure to get his point across.

He wore his passion for the dairy industry on his sleeve. His license plate on the car reading "DRINKMILK". And most recently, he brought cheese and crackers to the monthly NFA meeting, and the vessel of a choice was a cow-print cooler bag.

Sid was also very passionate about advocating for mental health support for farmers. He was always pushing the board to find new ways to promote the Farmer Wellness Program. He spoke candidly about his struggles in the past and truly led the discussion about ensuring there was help for those who needed it. The picture I've included here is from 2018, when a group of us completed a mental health first aid course together. Sid was always willing to be vulnerable and share about himself, to make others feel more comfortable.

His love for his family and his community was so evident in the way he spoke about his wife, children, grandchildren and his friends. Just a quick scroll through his Facebook page and it's easy to see where his joy came from.

Sid's huge heart and passion for agriculture will be so, so dearly missed. He's left a big hole at the NFA board table, and we'll be sure to keep his memory alive. I'm so grateful for the time I got to spend working with him and I will miss him greatly. Thank you for being you, Sid!



Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12

Find us on
Facebook

YOU ARE
WHAT YOU
TWEET

Follow on
Twitter:
@ResiWalt

www.FARM911.ca

Resi Walt

Member Service Representative
Hastings, Lennox and Addington,
Northumberland, Prince Edward



The Loss of Sid Atkinson

Our Board was shocked to learn that our long time board member and friend Sid Atkinson, suddenly passed away Dec 6th

We are heartbroken for Karen, Mark, Jessie, David, Jenna and his four grandsons Oliver, Owen, Joel and Elijah.

Sid was a dedicated board member for Northumberland serving as President 2019-21. He actively participated around the board table and during our events and projects. He represented Trent Hills Township and would often attend meetings in that district to present the grounding perspective of agriculture to the issue at hand. His generosity of time and passion for Agriculture has left an empty spot for Northumberland.

We will miss your waving pen Sid.....



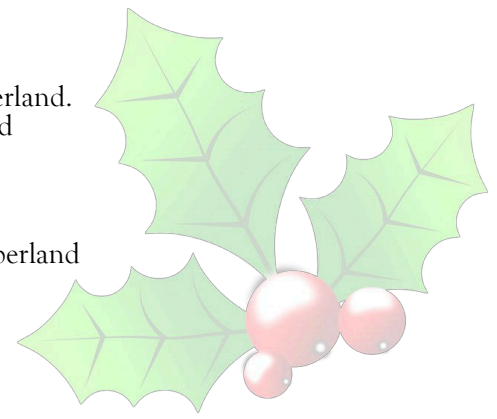
Miss any newsletters or
want to find an old one?
Try out this QR Code to
take you right to the page

A Year in Review - 2023

In 2023 NFA directors continued to advocate for the agriculture industry in Northumberland. Monthly board meetings as well as events and special meeting kept the directors busy and engaged. The following is a list of things NFA has been working on for you!

- Addressing the Riding map boarder change
- Ontario Housing Bill implications to Agriculture
- Networking with community groups like local Rotary, Incredible Edibles & Northumberland Hills Hospital
- Meeting with MPP Piccini identifying policies and their implications
- Three \$1000 scholarships were awarded to local youth
- Investigating how to direct Fertilizer Tariff back to the Ag Industry
- Carbon Tax exemption and Bill C-234 following this progress
- Learning & supporting Canadian Centre for Agriculture Wellbeing
- Road Safety Radio ad for Northumberland
- Meeting with MP Lawrence to discuss federal policies and concerns
- Farmer Wellness Program promotion at local customer appreciation day
- Supported a Migrant Workers of Northumberland BBQ in Cobourg
- Distributed the crop signs and their uses across the county for another year
- The Poli-Ag tour, connecting politicians with the local ag industry
- Provided a Grain Entrapment Rescue Workshop for 60 first responders of Northumberland
- Donated to "Breakfast on the Farm" a Farm and Foodcare event in Napanee
- Ongoing participation with the county Agriculture Advisory committee
- Zone 12 election for new board director. Welcome Brian Crews
- Participated in the Northumberland Farmland Forum at the Best Western in Cobourg
- Sponsored another Wall of Fame Inductee and contributed to the digital transformation
- The Grain Toy Table did a full circuit of events over the summer
- Silent auction contribution to OFA bursary fund at the AGM

When you get a chance thank this dynamic group of farmers who continue to volunteer their time to keep policies that affect agriculture in Northumberland "farmer friendly".
Way to go NFA and keep up the good work for 2024.



FARMER wellness program

NORTHUMBERLAND

Don't struggle talk to
someone. It's free!

www.farmerwellnessprogram.ca

Candice or Michael would be
happy to hear from you



Annual General Meeting

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Alnwick Civic Centre

9095 County Rd. 45 Roseneath

Trade Show 6pm

Roast Beef Dinner 7 pm

Meeting to follow

Entertainment: Comedian Ryan Mcleod

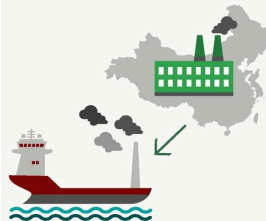
Tickets \$20.00

Contact 905-344-1100 or any director

Support a Farmer and Stay Real!

Fake Trees

Manufactured and shipped
from **factories** in China,
Taiwan and South Korea



Distances of
nearly 10,000km

Real Trees

Grow right here in Canada,
needing only **sunlight**,
rainfall and soil



Approximately
70,000 acres
of farmland allocated to
growing Christmas trees

Mental Health Moment

Have you heard about the
two great councillors
working for the Farmer
Wellness Program?

They are here to help you
take care of your mental
health. Take advantage of
this members benefit of four
free sessions.



Michael
(705) 999-7916

www.mdoriscounselling.com



Candice
(416) 655-4285

www.candicebeach.com/

Congratulations Jennifer Vander Meulen

Northumberland resident Jennifer Vander Meulen received the Woman of Excellence in Agriculture at the 2023 Royal Winter Fair.

Since 1996, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) have recognized the significant contributions made by women in agriculture by presenting them with the prestigious Woman of Excellence in Agriculture Award.





**NORTHUMBERLAND
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE**

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We're on the web
<https://ofa.on.ca/federations/northumberland/>



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**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE AND BEST WISHES
FOR A SAFE & PROSPEROUS 2024**

Lisa

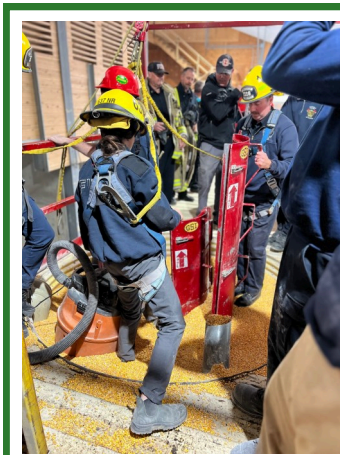
AGM for OFA

Delegates elected at the regional meetings gathered in Toronto on November 21st. A time for Northumberland to connect with other counties addressing common and unique issues that affect the agriculture industry. A full agenda of speakers, points of business, workshops and resolutions kept the two day event moving quickly. We have some great people trying to guide policy for our industry. Be Proud!

You can watch the "year in review" at this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fRQWUKKyO4>

The work keeps being done to speak up for Agriculture in Ontario.



First responders get Grain Rescue Training in Northumberland

On Nov. 4th sixty first responders received hands on grain rescue training with the generous support of TCO for hosting the event in their facility and Grain Farmers for supplying lunch. NFA was able to get a facilitator to give the full day training and those that attended now have new skills and awareness for the problems with flowing grain at so many farms and facilities in this county. Covering the costs of the workshop was made possible through the revive funding program offered by OFA. Thank you Allan for your perseverance to make this event happen.



The eighth annual edition of Nourish Marketing trend report for 2024 from Canada's only marketing agency specializing in the food sector from field to fork



Social Media
Farmer Wellness
Program
Like and Share
www.facebook.com/FarmerWellnessProgram
www.instagram.com/farmer_wellness_program



- ⇒ Artificial Intelligence (AI) arrives for the masses
- ⇒ The future cost of Water
- ⇒ Food for our Health
- ⇒ Alcohol Moderation Mainstreams
- ⇒ Generation Alpha and their perspective
- ⇒ Population Decline and fewer future calories
- ⇒ Rethinking the approach to meat alternatives
- ⇒ Agriculture looks to the diversity of the past to feed the future

Check it out here and learn more about what consumers will be looking for. <https://www.nourish.marketing/>