



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021

CONNECTING WITH ONTARIANS

2021 Virtual Annual General Meeting



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de l'agriculture
de l'Ontario





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CONNECTING WITH ONTARIANS

2021 Virtual Annual General Meeting

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CONNECTING WITH ONTARIANS

2021 Virtual Annual General Meeting

Agenda

Monday, November 22, 2021

- 09:00 Call to Order & Official Opening – Peggy Brekveld, OFA President
- 09:05 Premier Doug Ford video greetings
- 09:10 OFA Year in Review video highlights
- *09:20 Approval of 2020 Minutes
Receive Financial Statements, August 31, 2021
Approve the Auditor's Report
Appointment of Auditors 2021-2022
Appointment of Election Chairperson and Election Procedure
- 09:40 Mary Robinson, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- *09:50 Election of Director-at-Large
- 10:15 Health Break
- 10:30 Keynote Speaker – Terry O'Reilly, Canadian radio host & personality
- 11:15 OFA initiatives focused on *Connecting with Ontarians*
- 12:00 Lunch Break
- 01:00 Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- 01:20 Resolutions
- 02:20 Announcements
- 02:40 Closing remarks
- 02:45 Adjournment

* An Order of the Day 2021 AGM Agenda

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Enhanced Farm insurance coverage: This optional endorsement is available to members only and contains more than 30 different coverages. This additional protection is valued at \$300 but is available to you at a nominal cost.

Enhanced Home insurance coverage: Additional coverage is provided at a reduced cost through free or discounted endorsements. For example, the Claims Forgiveness for Members is a free endorsement automatically added to all eligible Home policies and gives you peace of mind knowing in the event you need to make a claim with us, your first claim will have no impact to your premium or insurability.

Farm and Home discount: Receive a base rate discount of 5% on your eligible Farm and/or Home insurance.

Executor EASE® – Assistance for Executors/Estate Trustees: Members who need assistance in administering an estate can participate in a no-cost, no-obligation consultation with a personal trust consultant and select only the services they require, whether the estate is simple or complex. An exclusive offer is available when members hire our partner for estate and trust services.

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Auto insurance: Receive a 5% base rate discount.



President's Report



Every once in a while, you get asked a great question. The kind of question that makes you pause, think deeper, and respond more slowly, because you really care about the answer. Last week, I got asked five of those questions – all in one interview.

While I am not going to detail all of my answers to you (hopefully you read them in Better Farming magazine), I did want to focus on one of them specifically; what is one message you're telling yourself right now?

It made me chuckle. I remembered my grandmother, who was a widow at age 59, and lived many years alone. She would proudly joke about saying to herself, "Well Margaret, what are we going to do?" She was perfectly sane and laughed at herself as she told me that she even played Scrabble between "Me and "Margaret" on lonely days.

If you hang around me for a while, you will know that I also occasionally talk and sing to myself when I think I am alone.

Obviously, I could blame it on my genes! I am coming to realize that this is a part of me, though, how I process life in my mind. Talking things out helps us process priorities and make good decisions. The good thing about talking to yourself or your "echo chamber" is that you rarely disagree with yourself. The challenge however, is that the answers you find can be very narrow in scope and knowledge – there is only one working towards the right answer.

What is the one message that you're telling yourself right now?

Now, as we continue to come through a pandemic world that appears to be full of post-traumatic stress... Now – as weather extremes push us to make tough decisions on the farm and keep us worrying at night... Now – as we consider how to protect our mental health and wellness, how to protect farmland for future generations, how to better the environment, how to ensure all the work gets done...

What I realize is that I cannot do it alone. No one can. Even if you talk to yourself!

I am acutely aware of how important connection is, both at home, on the farm, and in the greater community. I cannot do my role at OFA without the support of my family and

friends, who both fill in the gaps when I can't be everywhere at the same time, who encourage me to keep going when things are tough. I see how the greatest work OFA does is when it's partnering with commodities and other organizations, fighting the good fight together, speaking up for agriculture and sharing the messages that will move us closer to Farms and Food Forever.

One commodity leader sent me a message after a meeting, "I appreciate everything that we've been able to accomplish together, and I think all farmers in this province need to see no one can get anywhere alone anymore." I agree, I responded. This year, we have partnered on farmer mental health resources, environment conversations, pandemic responses, sharing notices and events, Northwestern Ontario drought response, diversity, equity and inclusion training, labour issues and food processing conversations. Those partners include government, industry stakeholders, commodity organization and even some non-farming organizations. I believe we've been able to move the needle and get further ahead because of the work we've done together – as a collaborative voice.

Partnership is a combination of understanding common goals, hearing each other's needs

and motivation, and connecting in ways to move the common goals forward.

This year, the theme of our AGM is Connecting with Ontarians. The theme speaks to the ways in which our organization, in collaboration with others, is working diligently to find more ways connect to all Ontarians. It is more than just farmers telling our story; it is also about informing those outside of our own echo chamber about the strength and personality of Ontario's food value chain. It is about creating a connection to shared values. Connection that includes:

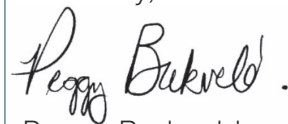
- If you ate today, a farmer grew it, and the best food is grown in Ontario.
- We care about the environment, too, and want to be able to grow food for generations, so we aim to be good stewards of the land.
- When we revive downtown cores and work within a city's current footprint, we have the potential to both invest in complete communities, better use of infrastructure and provide food security for all Ontarians.

You get the picture! For some of us, these conversations will come naturally. Some have

been doing it for years. For others, it will be a learning experience. That's okay. Between county and regional federations and the provincial organization, there are lots of ideas and ways to get involved.

I am looking forward to connecting with you, our members, at the AGM, and potentially in the coming year, virtually or in-person. And I can't wait to see where this conversation goes.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brekvelde
OFA President

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General Manager's Report



Everyone across the organization – from county and regional federations to our staff to provincial board members – have played a vital role in the success of the OFA over the last 12 months. Our collective passion and dedication to improving the livelihoods of our 38,000 members never cease to amaze me. Collaboration, leadership and teamwork are critical to our advocacy efforts and I'm proud of the results we've accomplished together alongside many industry partners and stakeholders as the voice of Ontario's agriculture industry.

As the leading advocate for farmers in Ontario, we've continued to host critical discussions with farm leaders, engage in conversations with government policymakers at all levels, conduct Policy Advisory Council meetings, participate in county and regional federation activi-

ties and launch new advocacy initiatives. It has always been our top priority to maintain an open line of communication with our federal, provincial and municipal officials no matter what platform we connected on. We've had to be flexible and adaptable, and patient from time to time with the internet, but it allowed us to maintain and grow relationships, and forge new ones while engaging in critical conversations about policy and legislation impacting our members. As a result of these efforts and industry collaborations, Ontario agriculture has been the beneficiary of several government announcements related to funding and investments that will greatly benefit the industry moving forward.

Some of the key successes for our sector this year came in the form of connecting with Ontarians around issues of importance to all citizens, including food security and farmland preservation as well as funding for mental health. We've seen significant commitments to expansion of natural gas pipelines across the province, investments in rural infrastructure and

a commitment to affordable, reliable broadband access for all of Ontario by the end of 2025. In addition, new investments in research and technology in the livestock sector at both the farm and processing level is welcome. Recognition of these priorities with resources and funding such as we've seen in 2021 will help to ensure this sector is sustainable, profitable and productive moving forward.

A silver lining of the pandemic and our move to conducting the majority of our business virtually has been the reduced operating costs of the organization, resulting in a surplus budget over the past two years. This has allowed the OFA a unique opportunity to boost our investments into our agricultural communities across Ontario. One of the ones we're most proud of is the Revive Fund, and making significant investments in our county and regional federations to help our farming and rural communities initiate and fuel projects that are important locally. We have been able to direct emergency financial support to farmers in Northern Ontario and across Canada by donating to Hay North and Hay

West initiatives in the amount of \$100,000. Another example is that OFA has been able to make additional investments in leadership development through providing extraordinary support to the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program to assist them to adapt to delivering their program during COVID-19 as well as donating a 2021 Honda ATV to 4-H Ontario for one of their fundraising campaigns supporting youth across the province. These examples of 'paying it forward' are what makes the agriculture community such a fantastic, heartwarming and proud industry to work in. It has been an absolute pleasure to see everyone across the organization and industry come together to support one another and continue to grow and learn while COVID has kept us largely physically apart. I am convinced we will come out the other side of this stronger than ever before through these partnerships.

OFA's strategic priorities will continue to serve as a road map for the organization as we tackle issues and opportunities in the agri-food sector. We remain committed to advocat-

ing for responsible land use planning and environmental sustainability, labour and workforce development, food value chain security, rural infrastructure and affordable energy and mental health and wellness. We look forward to keeping these priorities at the forefront of the government's agenda, while looking ahead to a provincial election in June 2022.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you – our members – for your continued trust, loyalty and support of our organization. Without you, we would not exist. Thank you to our 18 board of directors for your dedication, leadership and excellence in agriculture. Your passion and commitment to improving the business of farming in Ontario is unmatched. And to our staff, thank you for your passion, commitment, adaptability and dependability in always being there to serve our members and the organization. It truly is a team effort.

We will continue to work hard on your behalf, putting the issues and priorities that matter most to you first and ensur-

ing Ontario's agri-food sector remains profitable and sustainable.

Sincerely,



Cathy Lennon
General Manager

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2020 AGM Minutes

1. Call to Order

President Keith Currie called the 2020 Virtual OFA Annual General Meeting to order.

2. Hon. Ernie Hardeman – Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

The Hon. Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs addressed the delegates. Minister Hardeman praised Ontario's agri-food sector for their unwavering commitment to producing food for the province and the world.

In looking ahead to the 2021 growing season, he touched on the government's newly launched strategy to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on farms and ensured measures will be put in place to ensure the safety of the agri-food sector.

Minister Hardeman added that he will continue to strive for improvement to government agricultural programs and represent Ontario farmers' best interests.

3. Premier of Ontario – The Honourable Doug Ford

OFA was pleased to have Premier Doug Ford on the virtual stage to address the membership and show his continued support for Ontario's agri-food sector. The Premier identified how important the agriculture and food industry is to the provincial economy and how instrumental the sector will be for solidifying economic recovery post-pandemic. He thanked Ontario's farm families for their resiliency and commitment in keeping Ontarian's plates full of fresh, high-quality and affordable food, saying "Ontario farmers ensured food continued to flow from farm to table, grocery stores remained stocked and the supply chain strong."

He closed by stating that Ontario farmers have proved to be modern day heroes in these unprecedented and difficult times.

4. Keith Currie - President's Remarks

Keith Currie welcomed the delegates to OFA's 2020 Virtual Annual General Meeting.

He noted that this has been a year like no other, but OFA is still tackling the issues and working on behalf of the Ontario farmers to ensure that we have farms and food for ever.

Keith introduced a Year in Review video, which visually encapsulated all of the organization's accomplishments in 2020. The video highlighted advocacy efforts, key issue and priority wins with government, COVID-19 response and resources, mental health and farm safety campaigns, introduction of new board members and food literacy initiatives.

5. Agenda Approval

Motion: Hemsted/Nurse... "THAT the 2020 Virtual Annual General Meeting Agenda be approved."

CARRIED



6. Approval of 2019 Minutes

Motion: Dignard/Meeke... "THAT the 2019 AGM Minutes be approved."

CARRIED



7. Receive Financial Statements, August 31, 2020

Motion: Mous/Campbell ... "THAT the Auditor's Report and OFA Financial Statements for the period of September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2020, be accepted."

CARRIED



8. Appointment of Auditors 2020-2021

Motion: Marchant/Knapton ... "THAT the OFA Annual General Meeting delegates accepts the OFA Board of Directors recommendation to have BDO Canada as OFA's Auditor for the 2020/21 fiscal year."

CARRIED



9. Appointment of Election Chairperson and Election Procedure

Motion: Hudson/Empringham ... "THAT Cathy Lennon be appointed as Elections Chair."

CARRIED



10. Ratification of Amended By-law

General Manager Cathy Lennon explained the Bylaw amendments that had been previously approved the OFA Board of Directors and posted on OFA's website.

OFA received two resolutions from Dundas and Leeds Counties that pertained to the proposed amended by-law.

The following two resolutions were presented prior to the ratification vote of Bylaw 20.1.

Dundas
Delaying of Bylaw

Motion: Mellon/DeVries ... "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) delay the ratification of decision of bylaw change, under the Corporations Act until OFA delegates can meet in person at the Annual General Meeting to allow proper grassroots input."

LOST



Leeds

Process for Election of Executive Members to OFA Board

Motion: Renaud/Danis ... "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Board rescind the bylaw change which would require the board to elect all executive positions after the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and replace it with a bylaw change that allows the board to elect its President after the AGM, but allows members to elect the vice presidents and the executive member at the AGM. This would allow OFA to be compliant with the Act and still allow members the democratic choice to elect the future executive team."

LOST



11. Keynote Speaker – Brent Butt

A highlight of the AGM was keynote speaker Brent Butt.

Mr. Butt's question and answer period shared life advice on how to find inspiration and stay positive during hardships and facing fears such as public speaking.

12. Bylaw 20-1 Ratification

Motion: Glaude/Smith ... "THAT the bylaw amendments as proposed by the OFA Board of Directors be confirmed and ratified by the membership as Bylaw 20.1."

CARRIED



13. Election of Director-at-Large

Elections Chair Cathy Lennon introduced the following nominees for OFA Director At Large:

Peggy Brekveld
Barclay Nap
Jamie Reaume

Each candidate addressed the delegates followed by a question-and-answer session and electronic ballot.

Cathy Lennon declared Peggy Brekveld elected as Director At Large for a three-year term.

14. Resolutions

Elgin

Request for Modified CVOR for Transport of Farm Product from Field to Storage

Motion: Vandenbroek/Devries ... "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with related ministries to develop a modified Commercial vehicle operator's registration (CVOR) requirement or Agricultural Trucking Permit for farm operators whose trucks are not used for carrying payloads to end users but are strictly used as part of a harvest between farms only."

CARRIED



Perth

Misuse of Minister's Zoning Orders

Motion: Weitzel/Wood ... "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture encourage all local federations of agriculture to lobby the Ontario government to stop the use of Ministers Zoning Orders (MZO) when there are rigorous, well established, planning processes in place."

CARRIED



Russell

Insurance Coverage for Straw

Motion: Dignard/Wolfe ... "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby Agricorp to modify their existing Forage Plan to include straw from cereals using the same rainfall stations across Ontario and offer coverage to producers."

CARRIED



Renfrew

Local Abattoirs

Motion: Armstrong/Vander Galien ... "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture pursue the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs to improve clarity and simplicity in the provincial regulations made under the Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001, and create opportunities for local abattoirs, who are a very important part of a local food supply chain, to be able to help Ontario's best in class local food, meet the demands of its customers while strengthening a very important local food system."

CARRIED



Frontenac

Commercial Vehicle Registration

Motion: Williamson/Tolls ... "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the appropriate Minister/Ministry for the regulation to be amended and /or interpreted that if you are hauling your own produce/commodity that a CVOR Certificate not be required nor a drivers log or inspection report not be needed as you are not being compensated for trucking and hauling your own product and definitely not when used or could be used as a passenger vehicle."

CARRIED



East Nipissing/Parry Sound, West Nipissing/Sudbury
East & Algoma

Slow Moving Vehicle Signage

Motion: Marchant/LeBlond ... "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the MTO, municipal governments and other relevant stakeholders to improve the viability of installing slow moving vehicles travel this roadway signage on local and provincial roads, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture develop and provide technical support/resources for use by interested local federations to help facilitate the implementation of slow-moving vehicle safety programmes and the installation of signs on local and provincial roads."

CARRIED



Ottawa

Wild/ Feral Pigs in Ontario

Motion: Mussell/Williamson ... "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby the Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs and the Ontario Government to implement programs to eradicate wild pigs and get Ontario to be a wild pig free province, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA encourage its members to report any sightings to (Ontario Pork) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry."

CARRIED



Bruce

Infrastructure Funding

Motion: Gillespie/Nichols ... "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture collaborate with all relevant municipal stakeholders to jointly lobby the province for additional infrastructure funding targeted at rural municipalities."

CARRIED



15. Announcements

This year's OFA bursary recipients were Derek Van De Walle (St. Mary's), Margaret Alexiou (Beeton) and Caitlin Allen (Alfred).

A special farewell and words of appreciation were shared to thank two valued team members. Director Debra Pretty-Straathof wrapped up her final term on the Board after more than 20 years of dedicated service and Senior Policy Analyst Peter Jeffery will be retiring at year end following a 33-year career with the organization.

OFA also welcomed newest board member Jennifer Doelman, who will be replacing Debra Pretty-Straathof as the provincial director representing the counties of Arnprior, Lanark, Ottawa and Renfrew.

16. President's Closing Remarks

Keith Currie thanked OFA staff for all their hard work during this past year in this extraordinary time.

Keith also gave thanks to the farmers of Ontario for all they do and for their dedication on the backroads during COVID-19.

17. Adjournment

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Speaker Biographies



KEYNOTE SPEAKER Terry O'Reilly

Terry has won a few hundred national and international awards for writing and has directed such notable actors as Alec Baldwin, Ellen DeGeneres, Kiefer Sutherland, Bob Newhart, Martin Short and Drew

Carey. He has been a judge at the Cannes Advertising Festival in France and was named Radio Chairman for both the International Clio Awards in Miami and the London International Advertising Awards. When he's not creating advertising, he's talking about it as the host of the award-winning CBC Radio One/Sirius Satellite/WBEZ Chicago radio show, "Under The Influence," which was the follow-up to the hit series, "The Age of Persuasion."

Terry began his career as Copy Chief for FM 108 radio in Burlington, Ontario, then went on to become an award-winning copywriter for Toronto advertising agencies Campbell-Ewald, Doyle Dane Bernbach and Chi-

at/Day. He created campaigns for many of the top brands in the country, including Labatt, Molson, Tim Hortons, Volkswagen, Nissan and the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1990, Terry co-founded Pirate Radio & Television. A creative audio production company producing scripts, sound and music for radio and television commercials, Pirate grew to a staff of 50, with 8 recording studios in Toronto and New York City. Terry was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the advertising industry, and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from McMaster University. He has co-written a best-selling book called "The Age of Persuasion: How Marketing Ate Our Culture".



Mary Robinson President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Mary Robinson is a managing partner of a 6th generation family farm operation, Eric C. Robinson Inc. and its sister company Island Lime and serves on the boards of associated companies PEI Agromart and Mid-Isle Farms. She holds a degree in economics and business and has worked in Canada and in Scotland in all facets of the potato industry (agronomy, food processing, and production).

She joined the PEI Federation of Agriculture board in 2008

and led the Federation as President from 2015 to 2017. After serving on the Canadian Ag HR Council board for seven years, Mary became CAHRC's first female chair in 2017. Mary currently serves on the Board of Directors for the WFO.

For many years Mary has been a leading advocate for the agriculture industry, delivering witness testimony and key messaging at provincial and federal levels to senior government officials.



Hon. Lisa Thompson

Minister of Agriculture,
Food & Rural Affairs

Lisa was first elected to Queen's Park in October 2011, re-elected in June, 2014, and she was elected for a third term in June, 2018 by more than 50% of the

vote in Huron-Bruce, as part of the Ontario PC government.

On June 18, 2021, Lisa was proudly appointed Ontario's 40th Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs by Premier Doug Ford. Prior to being Agriculture Minister, Lisa served as Minister of Government and Consumer Services, Ontario's Registrar General and Minister of Education. Additional to her parliamentary roles, Lisa is honoured to represent Ontario as Chair for Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians—Canada Region.

Lisa was born and raised near Wingham in Huron County, but now calls Bruce County home as she lives near

Teeswater on a farm that has been in her husband's family for 120 years. Lisa is a graduate of the University of Guelph and is also an alumnus of Class 6 of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program and the George Morris Executive Leadership Program. Before entering into politics, Lisa served as the General Manager of the Ontario Dairy Goat Cooperative (ODGC).

Lisa has a long history of being an active and engaged citizen, working with many community organizations. She is a past Chair of the Ontario 4-H Foundation and also served as Vice-chair of Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. (now known as Agscape).

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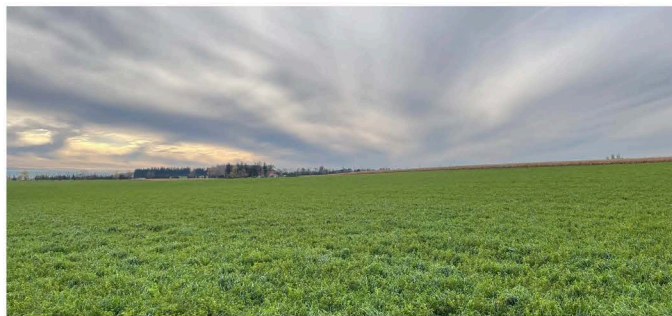
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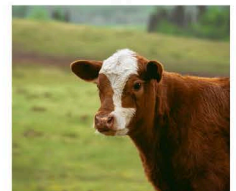
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2021 Board of Directors



BOTTOM ROW (left to right): Louis Roesch, Teresa Van Raay, Crispin Colvin, Drew Spoelstra, Peggy Brekveld, Mark Reusser, Tracey Arts, Rejean Pommerville

TOP ROW (left to right): Paul Vickers, Hugh Simpson, Bruce Buttar, Jennifer Doelman, Keith Currie, Jackie Kelly-Pemberton, Steve Brackenridge, Brent Royce

Absent: Mark Kunkel, Larry Davis

OFA Past Presidents

1936-1940

H.H. Hannam

1940-1941

James A. Gifford

1941-1943

Harry H. Scott

1943-1945

Alex McKinney

1945-1947

Kenneth Betzner

1947-1949

R.A. Stewart

1949-1950

R.W. Morrison

1950-1952

J.C. Brodrick

1952-1954

C.A. Milligan

1954-1955

J.A. Ferguson

1955-1957

Lloyd Jasper

1957-1960

Gordon W. Greer

1960-1962

William G. Tilden

1962-1964

A.H.K. Musgrave

1964-1966

Charles Huffman

1966-1969

Charles Munroe

1969-1976

Gordon Hill

1976-1979

Peter Hannam

1979-1984

Ralph Barrie

1984-1986

Harry Pelissero

1986-1990

Brigid Pyke

1990-1995

Roger George

1995-1997

Tony Morris

1997-1999

Ed Segsworth

1999-2002

Jack Wilkinson

2002-2006

Ron Bonnett

2006-2008

Geri Kamenz

2008-2011

Bette Jean Crews

2011-2014

Mark Wales

2014-2016

Don McCabe

2016-2021

Keith Currie

2022 Policy Advisory Council

ALGOMA

Kristen Taylor

ARNPRIOR

John Shaw

BRANT

Angela Leach

BRUCE

John Gillespie
Lorne Underwood

DUFFERIN

Leo Blydorp

DUNDAS

Stephen Mellon

DURHAM

Ken Lamb
Ed Beach

ELGIN

Fons Vanderbroek
Greg Fentie

ESSEX

Josh Mailloux
Scott McLean

FRONTENAC

Logan Orser

GLENGARRY

Christopher Ferguson

GRENVILLE

Kirstan Bennett

GREY

Hugh Simpson
Dianne Booker

HALDIMAND

Henry Lise

HALTON

Jamie Reaume

HAMILTON WENTWORTH

Michelle Spoelstra

HASTINGS

Gayle Grills

HURON

Marinus Bakker
Rob Vanden Hengel
Erica Murray

KAWARTHA LAKES/ HALIBURTON

Paul Buckley
Barry Baxter

KENT

Jay Cunningham
Bill Parks

LAMBTON

Brian Eves
Darcy Fuller
Gary Martin

LANARK

Brenda Cochran

LEEDS

Cornelia Danis

LENNOX & ADDINGTON

Richard Pringle

MANITOULIN – NORTHSORE

William Orford

MIDDLESEX

Patrick Verkley
Dave Bolton
Marcel Meyer

NIAGARA

Mike Chechalk
Robert Bator

NORFOLK

Brett Schuyler
Kees Meijaard
Jason Ryder

NORTHEASTERN REGION

Michael Marchant

NORTHWESTERN REGION

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Updates on 2020 AGM Resolutions

20-11-03

Elgin

Request for Modified CVOR for Transport of Farm Product from Field to Storage

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with related ministries to develop a modified *Commercial vehicle operator's registration* (CVOR) requirement or Agricultural Trucking Permit for farm operators whose trucks are not used for carrying payloads to end users but are strictly used as part of a harvest between farms only.

Activity:

OFA contacted Andrew O'Connor from Ontario Ministry of Transportation requesting assistance in elevating a request to develop an agricultural-modified CVOR June 2021.

OFA engaged Ministry of Transportation (MTO) staff through spring 2021. The ministry responded this summer, that they are planning a review of the CVOR program's application process and assessment tools, of commercial vehicle requirements, knowledge, and best practices to ensure safe operation, and that the assessment is user-centric to meet the Ontario Digital Standard. This review will specifically consider the variety and type of operators in the CVOR program and how the Ministry may best manage that relationship.

Following up on the OFA resolution, and to ensure there is progress on conducting a balanced review, OFA has invited the Minister to discuss potential considerations. This is meant to ensure the ministry has the support of OFA in assessing the needs of Ontario farm-commercial vehicle operators and the safety of operators and others on our roadways.

20-11-03 – OFA Letter to Elgin Federation President

20-11-03 -OFA Letter to MTO Minister CVOR Follow up request

20-11-04

Perth

Misuse of Minister's Zoning Orders

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture encourage all local federations of agriculture to lobby the Ontario government to stop the use of Ministers Zoning Orders (MZO) when there are rigorous, well established, planning processes in place.

Activity:

As a result of the submitted resolution the OFA Board of Directors passed the following motion:

“THAT OFA develop a resource guide for local federations to aid in their discussions with their respective municipalities regarding land use planning matters concerning agricultural land no matter how it is zoned; and

THAT OFA include in such a resource guide that a municipality should be encouraged to refrain from requesting that the Ontario government issue a Minister's Zoning Orders (MZO) for zoning changes affecting agricultural land and farming communities and instead follow the municipality's own planning processes.”

OFA staff organized a meeting of the Policy Advisory Council to solicit feedback as to the kinds of information that could be contained within the Resource Guide that would be most useful to local federations to aid in their discussions with their local municipalities regarding land use planning matters. At the June OFA board meeting, approval was obtained to move forward with developing an updated Consolidated Land Use Policy, an updated Ag Matters Toolkit, and to start work on creating the resource guide based on input from the OFA board and Policy Advisory Council Meetings.

In April 2021, OFA published a Viewpoint article on the issue of Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs) and the threat to farmland in Ontario. President Peggy Brekveld penned an article which outlined our con-

cerns with how this will impact the domestic food production. The Viewpoint was titled, *MZOs jeopardize long-term productivity and sustainability of Ontario's farmland* – <https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/mzos-jeopardize-long-term-productivity-and-sustainability-of-ontarios-farmland/>.

In response to the increased pressure on farmland caused by urban development and Minister's Zoning Orders, OFA formulated a public awareness campaign focused on the importance of farmland preservation and protecting domestic food production – *Home Grown*. The initial launch of Home Grown (<https://homegrown.ofa.on.ca/>) was May 4, 2021, with the expectation that it would be a multi-year campaign. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to bring awareness of the rapid loss of Ontario farmland to urban audiences through targeted social media ads, microsite and an online petition. There also was an underlying political angle to our message that focused on the threat posed to productive farmland by urban development. Urban development and the use of Minister's Zoning Orders have been frequently used to by-pass long-standing land use policies.

Following the launch of the Home Grown campaign, we drafted and published a news release announcing the new campaign – <https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/ofa-vows-to-protect-ontarios-farmland-with-new-advocacy-campaign/>.

Additionally, President Peggy Brekveld hosted two roundtable meetings with local federation leaders discussing a variety of topics including farmland preservation. A shared point of concern during these conversations focused on how to contain urban sprawl, Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs), resisting the pressure to develop farmland and the re-zoning/classification of agricultural land – <https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/ofa-hosts-local-federation-leaders-across-ontario-for-an-open-roundtable-discussion/>.

OFA brought these important messages to the Rural Ontario Municipal Association meeting in January 2021, as well as at OFA's virtual lobby day in May 2021. Key messages and speaking notes were developed and shared with OFA board members and representatives prior to attending these meetings with elected

officials and government policymakers. Several meetings were held over those two events which offered the opportunity to speak with government officials at both the municipal and provincial levels on the importance of protecting our natural resources. OFA representatives hosted virtual meetings with Minister Steve Clark and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) on multiple occasions voicing our concerns regarding Minister's Zoning Orders and the Planning Act. In addition, correspondence was to the Minister and MMAH in response to changes and provisions to the *Planning Act*.

OFA's Policy Advisory Council (PAC) provided feedback on the topics that could be contained within the Resource Guide that would be most useful to local federations to aid in their discussions with their local municipalities regarding land use planning matters. At the June 2021 board meeting, approval was obtained to move forward with developing an updated Consolidated Land Use Policy, an updated Ag Matters Toolkit, and to create the resource guide based on input from the OFA Board and PAC meetings. OFA staff will present a draft policy to the OFA Board for their consideration. The draft policy contains the natural heritage recommendations, economic and environmental benefits of preserving farmland, and a recommendations section at the bottom. Once the updated Consolidated Land Use Policy receives Board approval, the resource guide will be developed consistent with the approved content of the Consolidated Land Use Policy. OFA continues to provide advice and support to local federations navigating MZOs in their areas. Additional input will be sought to ensure a useful resource guide is developed. Once the resource guide is developed, it will be circulated to local federations to use as a reference in navigating MZOs, zoning by-laws and land use policies. OFA expects to release the guide in February 2022.

Significant digital and social media content was created, including a video highlighting the importance of preserving farmland. The video was narrated by President Peggy Brekveld – <https://youtu.be/nQwFn-nobJTww>. In total, 17 posts were published across OFA's social media platforms on the topic of farmland preservation and MZOs. Additionally, the topic appeared

UPDATES ON 2020 AGM RESOLUTIONS

8 times in the OFA NewsWire (weekly newsletter) to members.

20-11-04 – OFA Letter to Perth County President

20-11-05

Russell

Insurance Coverage for Straw

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby Agricorp to modify their existing Forage Plan to include straw from cereals using the same rainfall stations across Ontario, and offer coverage to producers.

Activity:

OFA staff have had numerous communications with Agricorp staff regarding this issue. On May 26th OFA GM, Cathy Lennon wrote to the CEO of Agricorp. As a result of that letter, on June 25th Senior Policy Analyst Ben Le Fort, met with Agricorp staff to begin discussions exploring the feasibility of this proposal.

On May 26th OFA GM, Cathy Lennon wrote to the CEO of Agricorp. As a result of that letter, on June 25th Senior Policy Analyst Ben Le Fort, met with Agricorp and OMAFRA staff. Agricorp reported that this request has many design and implementation hurdles to overcome. This request has been identified as a low priority for Agricorp at this time. OFA staff recommends no further follow up as the likelihood of success is very low.

20-11-05 – OFA Letter to Agricorp

20-11-05 – OFA Letter to Russell Federation President

20-11-05 – OFA Letter to Grain Farmers of Ontario

20-11-05 – Agricorp Response Letter

20-11-06

Renfrew

Local Abattoirs

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture pursue the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs to improve clarity and simplicity in the provincial regulations made under the *Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001*, and create opportunities for local abattoirs, who are a very important part of a local food supply chain, to be able to help Ontario's best in class local food, meet the demands of its customers while strengthening a very important local food system.

Activity:

OFA President Peggy Brekveld has been participating in a Livestock Processing Capacity Working Group coordinated by OMAFRA. Several meetings have taken place over the past year with industry stakeholders including Meat & Poultry Ontario, livestock commodity representatives and the Minister of Agriculture. Conversation has included how to build on current livestock processing capacity, regulations that hold the industry back, and ways to address challenges such as labour shortages.

OFA President Peggy Brekveld and OFA Director Tracy Arts met with the Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction Nina Tangri on August 23, 2021. OFA noted that the Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001 should be reviewed and also requested a review of the regulations to reduce the red tape for local abattoirs. OFA noted that depending on what inspector is present the interpretation can sometimes not be clear. Regulations might be interpreted differently by different people. There is a need for better clarity and simplicity.

OFA noted how during Covid-19 measures, processing capacity was shown to be inadequate. Provincially inspected abattoirs are essential to the marketing chain of Ontario's livestock and poultry production. Improving the clarity and simplicity in the provincial regulations made under the Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001 would help to create opportunities for local abattoirs. Associate Minister Tangri agreed to relay

our concerns to the Ministry staff.

OFA has also requested suggestions from Renfrew County Federation of Agriculture (RCFA) on proposed regulatory amendments that would help improve clarity and simplicity in the regulations made under the Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001 and is waiting on their reply.

20-11-06 – OFA Letter to Renfrew Federation President

20-11-07 Frontenac Commercial Vehicle Registration

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the appropriate Minister/Ministry for the regulation to be amended and /or interpreted that if you are hauling your own produce/commodity that a CVOR Certificate not be required nor a drivers log or inspection report not be needed as you are not being compensated for trucking and hauling your own product and definitely not when used or could be used as a passenger vehicle.

Activity:

OFA Board chose to not adopt this resolution.

20-11-07 – OFA Letter to Frontenac Federation President

20-11-08 East Nipissing Parry Sound/West Nipissing/Sudbury East & Algoma Slow Moving Vehicle Signage

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Ministry of Transportation, municipal governments and other relevant stakeholders to improve the viability of installing slow moving vehicles travel this roadway signage on local and provincial roads,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture develop and provide technical support/resources for use by interested local federations to help facilitate the implementation of slow-moving vehicle safety programmes and the installation of signs on local and provincial roads.

Activity:

OFA Research Department has begun discussions with Communications Dept, MSR Department, OGRA, OPP, ROMA and local federations to develop an SMV Campaign including 1. Billboards, 2. MTO approved caution signage, 3. Social media campaign, 4. Education, public awareness, safety and correct farm vehicle SMV and lighting.

OFA helped to spread the importance of road safety and increase awareness of appropriately using Slow Moving Vehicle signs over the past 12 months through print ads, social media messages, Viewpoints, web content and repurposing videos.

On social media, OFA published 19 messages about road safety. These messages ranged from road safety reminders to our SMV video to retweets and comments on resources from OPP, media outlets and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association.

OFA produced 2 Viewpoints on road safety in 2021, in April and September. Direct links to those are available here: <https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/ofa-encourages-farmers-to-make-this-years-planting-season-safe-and-productive/> and <https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/ofa-reminds-members-of-their-responsibility-for-a-safe-harvest-on-the-roads/>.

A road/farm safety message was shared and broadcast on the Grain Farmers of Ontario podcast – Grain-TALK. It ran on the October 15 podcast – the 1-minute message was shared twice throughout the podcast.

Print ads were produced and published in the May issue and November issue of Better Farming magazine.

OFA responded to several media requests about the importance of making road sure everyone takes re-

UPDATES ON 2020 AGM RESOLUTIONS

sponsibility for road safety. Some of the media outlets OFA representatives spoke to include Farms.com, Globe and Mail, London Free Press etc.

Further, OFA contributed \$30,505, matched by a further \$30,505 from the County Federations through our Revive Fund in initiatives targeting Road Safety including the following examples:

County/Region Topic

Algoma	Wagon turning signs for farm laneways
Glengarry	Road safety radio campaign
Hastings	Road safety signs
Huron	SMV swap program w local grain dryers
Leeds & Grenville	Updating roadsigns - SMV, buggies
Prince Edward	Pass when safe' signs for wagons/buggies
West Nipissing	Road safety billboards

Starting in fall of 2020, with the support of Ontario livestock groups, OFA also undertook a letter-writing effort connecting local Federations to their police counterparts. While some Federations already had contact with local police, this created an introduction to those that had not. The letters offered insight into the type of farms and related activities active in the area. Key points raised included: Bill 156, rural crime, and road safety.

And new outreach tools were created such as this video with a farmer and OFA's Member Service Representative, Leah Emms

<https://twitter.com/OntarioFarms/status/1400101178084634627?s=19>

Approximately 20 Federations and Policing units have connected in various ways since this campaign began.

OFA has begun discussions with Ontario Good Roads Association, OPP, Rural Ontario Municipalities Associa-

tion and local federations about a province-wide SMV Campaign.

OFA staff continue to engage OFA and county federation members, other stakeholders including Beef Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Provincial Police, Good Roads, Rural Ontario Municipalities Association and Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Ministries of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs and Transportation regarding next steps in an ongoing action plan to be presented at the Feb, 2022 board meeting. This includes the awareness campaign, education, and support for farmers to ensure the proper use and installation of caution markers.

20-11-08 – OFA Letter to County Federation Presidents

20-11-09 Ottawa Wild/Feral Pigs

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby the Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs and the Ontario Government to implement programs to eradicate wild pigs and get Ontario to be a wild pig free province; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA encourage its members to report any sightings to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Activity:

Wild pig populations, if they become established, pose significant risks to the viability of agriculture, animal and human health, and the natural environment.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) believes that the negative impacts on agriculture, native wildlife, ecosystems, and biodiversity warrant the development and implementation of policies and programs to curtail the population growth and spread of wild pigs across Ontario. In response to the resolution, OFA has worked with government and key stakeholders to curtail the populations growth and spread of wild pigs

in Ontario. In June 2021, OFA provided comments on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)'s proposed strategy to address the threat of wild invasive pigs. OFA supported the proactive approach and core principles and commended the ministry on the collaborative nature of the strategy. OFA recognized the serious risk captive Eurasian wild boar, and their hybrids pose should they become established in the wild and supported the prohibition of live Eurasian wild boar in Ontario. In October 2021, the ministry finalized Ontario's Strategy to Address the Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs and set the proactive goal of preventing the establishment of invasive wild pigs in the province. To assist farmers and encourage faster transition from Eurasian wild boar farming, producers who agree to stop raising them within six months will be eligible for funding to shift to other forms of production such as heritage breeds of swine, other livestock or crop production. The ministry is also developing and sharing communications to encourage public reporting of wild pig sightings.

OFA supported adding wild pigs to the Invasive Species List under Ontario's Invasive Species Act in June 2021, as the negative impacts on native wildlife, ecosystems and biodiversity warrants the development and implementation of policies and programs to curtail the growth and spread of wild pigs across Ontario. Additionally, OFA supported prescribing the province as a control zone for pigs, and further supported prohibited the hunting of wild pigs in Ontario.

OFA has been active in communicating on the issue of wild pigs in Ontario, and the importance of sighting reports. OFA has created posts about wild pigs on our social media accounts in addition to sharing tweets from Ontario Pork which encourage members to report wild pig sightings. The issue was shared with members in the NewsWire, OFA's weekly newsletter multiple times.

OFA board and staff have, and will continue to engage regularly with key stakeholders to discuss important issues, share resources, and assist in communications with our membership on the topic of wild pigs, including the importance of reporting sightings. OFA

will continue to advocate for policies and programs that ensure Ontario becomes and stays a wild pig-free province.

20-11-09 – OFA Letter to Ottawa Federation President

OFA submission to Ontario MNRF regarding Invasive Wild Pigs

OFA submission to MNRF regarding the Invasive Species Act

20-11-10 Bruce Infrastructure Funding

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture collaborate with all relevant municipal stakeholders to jointly lobby the province for additional infrastructure funding targeted at rural municipalities.

Activity:

OFA staff and board members had numerous discussions with Bruce County Federation of Agriculture (BCFA) on this issue. It was communicated to BCFA that OFA will continue to work with municipal stakeholders to lobby for increased funding for infrastructure in rural communities across Ontario.

20-11-10 – OFA Letter to Bruce Federation President

NORTHERN
ONTARIO

ZONE 15

OFA ZONE AREAS

WESTERN AND
EASTERN ONTARIO

