

News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry



2023 ISSUE #1

Message from the President Allan Carruthers

Spring is now here after what seemed a very long winter. It's been an ongoing challenge keeping the snow moved off the driveway and yard so we could get to the barn or shop. Maple syrup production has been above average for some producers. Markets for livestock and crops have stayed strong. Meetings have been well attended and have given us renewed confidence in social

gatherings. Our monthly federation meetings have been well attended and we have had breakfast meetings with both David Piccini and Philip Lawrence presenting them questions and concerns that relate to agriculture in Northumberland county and rural Ontario. These concerns are very real and potentially have huge financial challenges that affect our bottom line. We need to

have a strong unified voice and presence and confidence in what we produce. We can make a difference in agriculture. Please keep your local directors informed of municipal, provincial and federal concerns that affect agriculture and maybe we can sway the vote or come to some common ground. All the best in the upcoming planting season.

Allan

Inside this issue:

Directors contact info	2
Resi's Report	2
Bursary	2
OFA/CFA	3
Mental Health Moment	3
Celebrate family farm	4
Rotary	4



Notes from OFA

Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

The OFA board of directors held an in person lobby day on March 21, the first lobby day at Queens park since Covid hit in 2020. The directors met with 20 MPPs and or their staff over the course of the day, including, Minister of Agriculture Lisa Thompson, Rob Flack Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and John Vanthof Agricultural Critic NDP.

The key messages for the MPP's were; Farmers are key drivers of the Ontario Economy, The Industry boasts 50,000 farms, 11.7 million Acres of farm Land, \$47 billion in annual GDP, \$20 billion in Agri food exports and 750,000 jobs.

Directors stressed the Priority of investing in Rural Ontario's Physical and Social Infrastructure including;

Lobby Day at Queen's Park

- Roads and Bridges
- Energy, affordable and reliable
- Broadband Internet
- Investments in rural healthcare
- Long term care facilities and supporting programs
- Mental health and wellness
- Improving access to Veterinary care in Rural and Northern Ontario
- Promote and protect Ontario's Food Producing Capacity

The messaging was well received by the politicians and many productive conversations took place. As hoped we are receiving requests for follow up meetings.

Bruce Buttar OFA director Zone 12

NFA Directors 2023

President

Allan Carruthers
Alnwick/Halifax
905-376-5049
carruthersallan@gmail.com

Past President

Sid Atkinson - Trent Hills
705-924-2145
sid.atkinson0658@gmail.com

Vice President

Port Hope - Ben Currelly
905-753-2239
bcurrelly@gmail.com

OFA Director

Bruce Buttar - 905-373-6175
Bruce.Buttar@ofa.on.ca

PAC Member

Arlene Dorland - 613-475-0891
dorlandab@xplornet.com

Brighton - Martin Opsteen

613-920-1170
martinopsteen@gmail.com

Cramahe - Doug Gray

905-344-1100
dbgray@xplornet.ca

Hamilton - Paul Burnham

905-372-8263
burnham.market@sympatico.ca

Quinte West - Brian Crews

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

Directors at Large

Ian Sculthorpe - 905-377-5520
ian.sculthorpe@hotmail.com

Albert Botha - 289-251-6872
ontariolamb@gmail.com

Bette Jean Crews - 613-921-0597
bettejean.crews@gmail.com

Rod DeJong - 905-375-4370
dejongrn@gmail.com

Rueben DeJong - 905-207-8530
dejongcropcare@gmail.com

OFA Members Service Rep

Resi Walt 613-847-3037
Toll free : 877-277-3037
resi.walt@ofa.on.ca

Northumberland County Rep

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



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

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

Hi members! Thank you for choosing OFA.

We greatly appreciate your membership in our organization. First off, I wanted to make sure you are aware of some of the benefits of membership in OFA. Are you taking advantage of the **Member Benefits Program**? <http://www.ofa.on.ca/benefit/>

has a great line-up of program partners, including Mark's Work Warehouse and Peavey Mart. If you missed snagging the discount cards from winter editions of *Better Farming*, feel free to contact our office and we can send the barcodes digitally. Next, are you receiving email alerts about timely webinars and noteworthy events? Ensure we have your email on file, so you don't miss out on great information and opportunities. Some of our recent webinar topics include Bill 23, Underused Housing Tax, and OFA's annual Research Day. Don't miss out just because we don't have your email address!

Furthermore, our website hosts a huge "Resources" section where you can find "Factsheets & Submissions and Correspondence" on all the different industry topics OFA works on, on behalf of the membership. This section of our website is the best place to find topical information on industry issues. www.ofa.on.ca/resources/

Some exciting events to mark on your calendars for the year include the Hastings County Plowing Match & Trade show, August 23-24 at the farm of Todd and Matt Milligan 1351 Deseronto & Tucker Rd, Deseronto. As well, Farm & Food Care's "Breakfast on the Farm" makes its way east this year, hosted by Kevin Maclean and family, east of Napanee on August 26. If volunteering at this event interests you, reach out to Farm & Food Care Ontario.

Stay safe this planting season!

Resi Walt Member Service Representative

Hastings, Lennox and Addington, Northumberland, Prince Edward

Port Hope Ag Society Bursary

The PHAS is pleased to offer financial support to an eligible student to assist in the achievement of their academic success. This support is in the form of a \$500 bursary for a student who is enrolling (or is already enrolled) in an agriculture-related field, and can be obtained by those in degree, diploma, or certificate programs at a recognized post-secondary institution in Canada. Full details can be found in the PHAS Bursary Criteria document at the link below. There you will also find the PHAS Bursary Application form, which is to be completed by the student applicant.

Deadline is July 31st.

<https://www.porthopefair.com/bursary/>



Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12



Follow on
Twitter:
@ResiWalt

OFA Works with the CFA

By Drew Spoelstra, Vice President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is a provincial organization that represents Ontario's farmers on the issues that matter to them.

Most of those issues are provincial in nature, and we work with governments at the municipal and provincial levels to raise awareness and find solution to matters that impact farmers.

When it comes to issues that are national in nature – such as the federal government's 35% tariff on fertilizer, access to labour or the new national sustainable agriculture strategy currently in development – the OFA turns to its national counterpart, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), to take the lead.

Our organization is an active member in the CFA and send representatives to participate in the CFA annual meeting in Ottawa, which this year focused on the theme of **Building a Resilient Future for Canadian Agriculture**.

Even though we work closely with the CFA, the OFA also does its own advocacy work at the national level to make sure the voices of our 38,000 farmers are represented. That's why, for example, the OFA participates in the federal pre-budget consultation process by making submissions to Finance Canada on what we believe is needed to help strengthen our agri-food sector, rural communities and the Canadian economy.

This year, OFA made five recommendations to the federal government:

1. Financial compensation for farmers negatively impacted by federal fertilizer tariffs
2. Exempt farm businesses from filing requirements for the underused housing tax
3. Improve the Advance Payment Program
4. Funding for clean technology adoption
5. Broadening the fuel tax exemption for farmers

We're prepared to work closely with the federal government to deliver these necessary investments and programs for the benefit of all Canadians and our national economy.

For more detail on these issues check out this page. <https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/ofa-outlines-federal-budget-priorities-for-agriculture/>

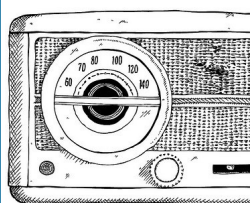
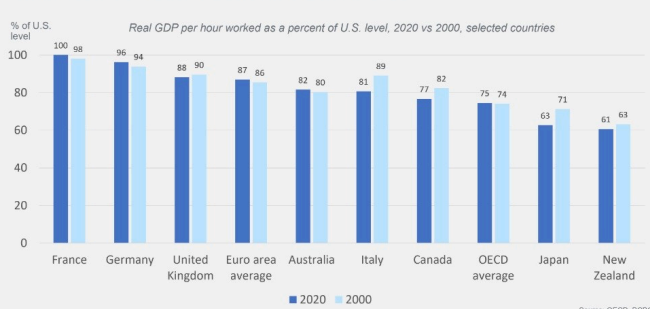


Canadians spent 11% of their disposable income on food in 2022, which is slightly higher than the 10.7% of disposable income spent on food in 2021. Due to this, Food Freedom Day is now one day later, landing on February 9th, 2023.

How has Canada's labour productivity changed relative to peer countries since 2000?

Find more on this topic <https://bcbs.com/insights-and-opinions/canadas-productivity-performance-over-the-past-20-years>

CANADA'S LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY HAS SLIPPED RELATIVE TO PEER COUNTRIES SINCE 2000



A Little Care Can Make an Accident Rare!

Listen for the radio campaign to keep our roads safe. Respect on the roads for all traffic, including agriculture equipment, is a high priority and we hope this campaign will help with awareness.

Classic Rock 107.9



Check out the points for agriculture in the latest **Federal Budget**.

www.realagriculture.com/2023budget

Mental Health Moment

Have you heard about the two great counsellors 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/



FARMER
wellness program

NORTHUMBERLAND



NORTHUMBERLAND
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE

Contact: Lisa Meekes

Secretary-Treasurer/Newsletter Editor

1246 Dingman Rd

Castleton, ON K0K1M0

Phone: 905.269.7419

Email: nfa.lisam@gmail.com



We're on the web

[https://ofa.on.ca/
federations/
northumberland/](https://ofa.on.ca/federations/northumberland/)

Gadgets

Digital resource that you
may find useful.



Test your internet speed
and see if you are getting
what you are paying for.

performance.cira.ca/OFA



Social Media Farmer Wellness Program

Like and Share



www.facebook.com/FarmerWellnessProgram

www.instagram.com/farmer_wellness_program



Soon the equipment will be on the roads.
Be safe out there and listen for our radio
ad to make all aware to respect farmers
doing their jobs.

Lisa

Northumberland farming family this year's recipient of James Crossen business award

Northumberland farmers Chris, Amy, Rod and Nancy DeJong were chosen as the recipients of this year's James Crossen Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes outstanding lifetime achievement and contribution to the business community.

Sponsored by Alliance Security Systems of Northumberland, the prestigious award was presented at the Business Achievement Awards at the Best Western Plus Cobourg Inn and Convention Centre on Friday, March 24.

"It's truly an honour to receive the prestigious James Crossen Lifetime Achievement Award," said the DeJong brothers in a news release. "We proudly share this award with our families who have been instrumental in the farming operations."

Gerban and Anne DeJong purchased a farm on South Burns Road in 1966, with cash-cropped corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and pigs being raised from birth to shipping weight. Today, sons Chris and Rod honour the family legacy by continuing in the agriculture industry.

Chris and his wife Amy manage the pig operation, while Rod and wife Nancy have expanded into the turkey business with the start of Knollcrest Poultry.

Third-generation DeJong cousins Trevor and Kyle, who will both be graduating this spring with a degree in agriculture, have actively been working on the farm for the last few years and look forward to contributing to the family business by managing the cash crops.

"Congratulations to the DeJong family! We're honoured to celebrate their multi-generational success in the constantly evolving agribusiness sector," said Ann Newell, co-chair of the Business Achievement Awards.

The DeJong family belongs to the Northumberland Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Pork Producers, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the turkey board.



ARE YOU AN ESTABLISHED PROFESSIONAL
WANTING TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGES IN
YOUR COMMUNITY AND AROUND THE
WORLD?

Local Rotary Clubs are looking for Members.

Our club members are dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Becoming a Rotarian connects you with a diverse group of professionals who share your drive to give back. Discuss your community's needs and discover creative ways to meet them. Expand your leadership and professional skills. Catch up with good friends and meet new ones. Connect with leaders from all continents, cultures, and occupations.

What does it mean to be a member ?

Membership of a Rotary club is something granted to those willing to commit to assisting in their local communities, in addition to the global community. If you are ready to join other like minded individuals in accomplishing these goals you should let us know.