

My name is Brian Crews and I farm just north of Trenton with my wife Cyndi, my son Andrew and my parents, Carl and Helena. My family settled here in the mid 1800s and my ancestors decided that the best use for these rolling hills of Northumberland was to grow apples and raise sheep. They weren't wrong. I can clearly remember the apple orchards and the struggle to make a living. The lack of labour at harvest time, and the difficulty bargaining with only a couple of buyers are some of the challenges that are still familiar to me. I recall one year, in the late 1960s when the deal was made, the apples loaded out of storage onto the truck, and the cheque never came. The buyer had gone bankrupt. That was a lean year. Many local orchards are gone now, as well as the frozen corn and peas, and prior to that the canning industry, particularly in Prince Edward County. The same can be said about the tobacco industry in the west of Northumberland. More recently, we remember how the beef industry was decimated 20 years ago with the BSE crisis and the end of the Crow rate in the mid '90s made it more economical to finish beef in the West. Similarly, I remember the penny auctions and the high interest rates of the early '80s. The point I make here is agriculture is always changing. Even though our industry fared reasonably well though COVID, we must be ever vigilant. Things can get tough in a hurry, and we need a strong federation to advocate for agriculture. My commitment to you, as your provincial zone 12 director, is that I will attend your meetings, listen to your concerns and be your voice at the board table.

In the early 1970s, my parents realized that these hills were also well suited to growing alfalfa and the apple trees disappeared. We now milk around 95 cows with two Lely robots. We do all our own field work, from planting, spraying, harvesting and crop drying. We even dabble a little bit in tile drainage and land clearing.

When I attended University in the 1980s, three things happened that changed my life. Most importantly, I met my wife Cyndi, without whom I could not have had two careers for the last 30 years. Secondly, I developed a strong desire to research and learn the facts. Between classes I could usually be found in the library reading the periodicals. I read all the Hoards Dairyman magazines back until the early 1900s! Arranged alphabetically, next to the Farm Journal was the Fire Journal. And that brings me to number three. For the past 33 years I have been a fire fighter with the City of Toronto Fire Services, the last six years in a leadership roll.

In short, my education and my farm experience made me an ideal candidate to be a fire fighter, and my experience as a fire fighter makes me an ideal candidate for a provincial director. I am just as comfortable at Yonge and Bloor, as I am at a county twilight meeting, the Hastings Plowing match or meeting local members in a farm shop. If ever there was a team sport, it is fire fighting, where your life can literally depend on someone else, and likewise, them on you. I am used to interacting and communicating with others, both urban and rural. These qualities make me an ideal candidate for the board table.

Finally, I want to talk about the importance of voting. Nothing says we don't care more than low voter participation. OFA is your voice to government. Make your voice heard by voting. Follow up by getting involved. Visit the OFA website and learn the issues. Reach out to me for a friendly chat. Stop by the OFA booth at the Hastings Plowing Match August 23-24. Talking agriculture is my favourite thing. Call anytime. If I don't answer, I'll call you back. Texts are preferred and email is fine as well.

Brian Crews

Cell: 613-391-8990

email: brian-crews@hotmail.com



OUR MISSION:

**Farms and
Food Forever**

OFA VISION:

- Farming is a science – sustainably producing food, fibre and fuel.
- Consumers trust the food system, which offers nutritious food across the province and around the world.
- Farm viability is supported by an effective and efficient legislative and regulatory framework.
- Farmers are proud advocates and leaders in adaptation and innovation.



BRIAN CREWS
YOUR CANDIDATE FOR ZONE 12
613-391-8990
brian-crews@hotmail.com

