



Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

La Fédération
de l'agriculture
de l'Ontario



2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 21-22



Fields of Opportunity: Cultivating
a Sustainable Future for Ontario Agriculture



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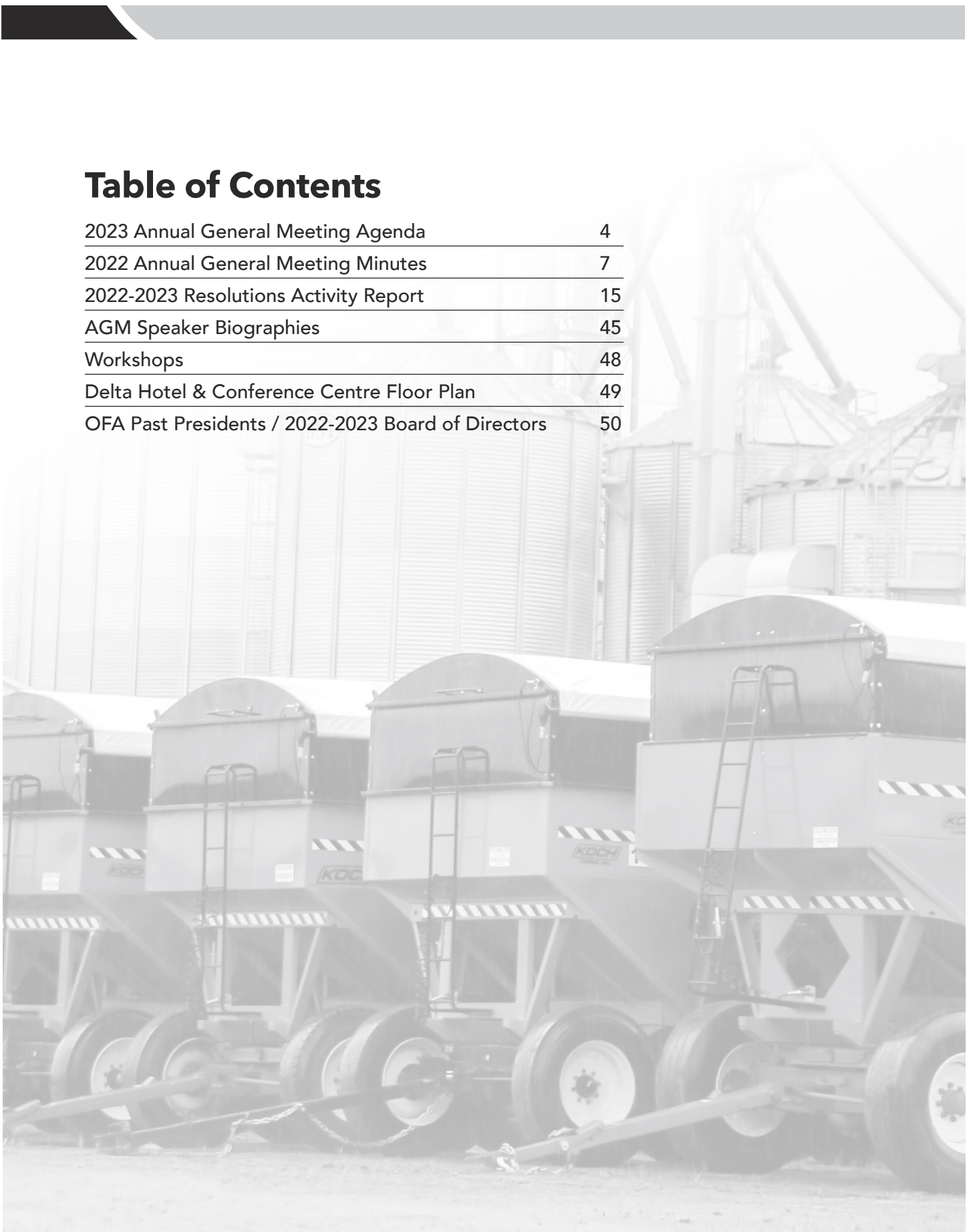
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BENEFIT PROGRAM

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2023 Annual General Meeting Agenda

Fields of Opportunity: Cultivating a Sustainable Future for Ontario Agriculture

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

			Location
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.		Registration	South Lobby
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.		Northern Caucus Meeting	Windsor Room
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.		Southwest Summit	Ottawa Room
7:00 – 9:30 p.m.	Exhibits	Opening Reception & Exhibitor Showcase • Silent Auction Opens	Plaza Foyer

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

			Location
MORNING			
6:30 – 8:30 a.m.		Breakfast	International A
7:30 a.m.		Registration	South Lobby
8:15 a.m.		Call to Order – Peggy Brekveld, OFA President	Plaza Ballrooms ABC
8:20 a.m.		Opening, Senator Rob Black	
* 8:30 a.m.	Exhibits & Silent Auction Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of 2022 Minutes • Receive Financial Statements, August 31, 2023 • Approve the Auditor's Report • Appointment of Auditors 2023-2024 • Appointment of Election Chairperson and Election Procedure 	
8:55 a.m.		Year in Review Video	Plaza Ballrooms ABC
* 9:00 a.m.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OFA Proposed By-law Amendment • Middlesex Federation Proposed By-law Amendment • OFA Proposed Amendments to Articles of Incorporation 	Plaza Ballrooms ABC
9:45 a.m.		Resolutions	
10:30 a.m.		Exhibitor Break	Plaza Foyer
10:45 a.m.		Jack Wilkinson, Cooperators	Plaza Ballrooms ABC
11:00 a.m.		Keynote Speaker, Kelly Dobson, LeaderShift	
11:45 a.m.		John Vanthof, NDP, Agriculture Critic	
12 noon		Lunch	International ABC

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21**Location**

AFTERNOON			
1:30 & 2:45 p.m.	Workshops	Finding Solutions for Deadstock Management	Hamilton
		AgRobotics and Innovation in an Era of Immense Change	Toronto A
		Planners As Your Best Friend	Toronto B
		Farming a Story – Engaging with Government and the Media	Ottawa
3:45 p.m.	Silent Auction Closes 10 Minutes After Adjournment (Plaza Foyer)	Exhibitor Break	Plaza Foyer
4:00 p.m.		Keith Currie, Canadian Federation of Agriculture	Plaza Ballrooms ABC
4:15 p.m.		Bursary Presentation & Director Recognition	
4:45 p.m.		Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs	
5:00 p.m.		Adjournment	
EVENING			
6:30 p.m	Ontario Harvest Celebration • Celebrating Ontario’s Finest Foods & Beverages		International ABC

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22**Location**

6:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	International A
8:15 a.m.	Resolutions	Plaza Ballrooms ABC
9:30 a.m.	Fireside Chat with the Ag Leaders of Tomorrow Moderator, Sara Wood, OFA Director	
10:15 a.m.	Health Break	Plaza Foyer
*10:30 a.m.	Director at Large Election	Plaza Ballrooms ABC
11:15 a.m.	Derek Edwards, Canadian Comedian	
11:45 a.m.	President's Address	
12 noon	Adjournment	

* An order of the day

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2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

President Peggy Brekveld called the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to order.

2. Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Premier Doug Ford addressed the delegates with a recorded greeting.

The Premier thanked OFA for its role in building a better and stronger Ontario.

3. OFA President, Peggy Brekveld

President Peggy Brekveld welcomed the delegates back to an in-person AGM for the first time in three years.

She gave the delegates an update on the activities of OFA which included lobbying for improved broadband, continuous streams of lobbying submissions to the government and the ongoing work on the fertilizer reduction strategy.

President Brekveld introduced the Board of Directors and welcomed Bill Groenheide as OFA's newest director representing Zone 15.

The delegates were thanked for all that they do for Ontario agriculture and President Brekveld stated that she is also proud of OFA for what it does and looks forward to having another successful year.

4. Opening Speakers - Peter Devlan, President & Alison Ewart, Dean Centre for Research and Innovation, Fanshawe College

Peter Devlan, President & Alison Ewart, Dean of Centre for Research and Innovation, Fanshawe College were the opening speakers for the 2023 AGM. Together they made a presentation on Fanshawe College's Centre for Research and Innovation.

5. Agenda Approval

Motion: Stone/Rodgers ... "THAT the OFA Annual Meeting commence."

CARRIED

Motion: Rodgers/Cochrane ... "THAT the Agenda be approved and late resolutions dealt with, time permitting at the end of business with 2/3 majority."

CARRIED

6. Approval of 2021 Minutes

Motion: Bonnett/Freeman ... "THAT the 2022 AGM Minutes be approved."

CARRIED

7. Receive Auditors Report and Financial Statements, August 31, 2022

Motion: Renaud/Wales ... "THAT the Auditor's Report and OFA Financial Statements for the period of September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022, be accepted."

CARRIED

8. Appointment of Auditors 2022-2023

Motion: Gilroy/Davis ... "THAT the OFA Annual General Meeting Delegates accepts the OFA Board of Directors recommendation to have BDO Canada LLP as OFA's Auditor for the 2022/23 fiscal year."

CARRIED

9. Resolutions

Leeds

Membership Residency

Motion: Renaud/Passey ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's By-Law subsection 5.1 (Membership Eligibility) be amended to add "Members, if they so choose, have the right at any time to designate their Region as long as they farm or carry-on business in that Region, or the closest Region thereto. A Member's chosen designated Region shall be considered the Region in which they reside for all OFA membership rights, privileges and obligations", and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this resolution passing would be binding on the OFA board."

LOST

Leeds**AGM Resolution Accountability**

Motion: Renaud/Passey ... *"THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's By-Law section 9 (Annual General Meetings) be amended to add "Notwithstanding the Board's resolution policy, a resolution approved by voting Members at an Annual General meeting shall be binding on the Board, unless the Board determines the resolution exposes the corporation to undue financial burden, reputational damage, and/or legal liability", and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board revise their resolution policy to include the obligation for the Board to advise OFA convention delegates of any approved Annual General meeting resolution that the Board has chosen not to adopt along with the rationale for the Board's decision, within two months after the Annual General meeting at which the resolution was approved by delegates."

LOST

**Algoma Federation Resolution
Wild Turkey Hunting**

Motion: McKinnon/Regele ... *"THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to ensure that wild turkey sightings are adequately measured and that existing hunting metrics (limits) be reviewed, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA lobby the appropriate government agencies to further open fall hunting seasons for wild turkey in wildlife management units that currently only have a spring hunt and increase the tag limits for wild turkey hunting."

CARRIED

Algoma**Health Care Workers**

Motion: Lunn/Bonnett ... *"THAT Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with other provincial health care stakeholders to lobby the Ontario government to act more quickly and decisively in filling staffing gaps within the provincial health care system, and support legislation, tools, and activities to improve access to health care."*
Amended Resolution

CARRIED

**Algoma/Cochrane/Manitoulin/North-Shore/
Temiskaming/West Nipissing/Sudbury East**
Spot Loss Compensation Resolution

Motion: Regele/Marchant ... *"THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association and other stakeholders to fully quantify crop losses and investigate the viability and potential for a spot loss compensation program for wildlife damage to crops, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA strongly advocate and pressure the provincial government for a spot loss compensation program for wildlife damage to crops."

CARRIED

Arnprior**Hybrid Meeting Model**

Motion: Cousens/Stone ... *"THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture as of March 1, 2023 offers a hybrid meeting model for all of its key meetings. AGM, PAC and other committee meetings. Included in this change would be the ability to Vote if the meeting presented such opportunity, and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT over the next 3 months, the OFA will review its physical facilities and make any appropriate technology changes to support the effective delivery of meetings in a hybrid model."

CARRIED

Cochrane Release of Crown Land

Motion: Helin/Regele ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture advocate for and work with the government and other stakeholders to develop agricultural policies and processes for the timely release of crown land for agricultural purposes in Northern Ontario, in a sustainable manner that is accessible to individual farmers."

CARRIED

Elgin Inclusion of Farm Employees in the Farmer Wellness Initiative Program Services

Motion: Fente/Vanderbroek ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ontario government to extend the eligibility to include farm employees in the Farmer Wellness Initiative Program."

CARRIED

Elgin Implement an Agricultural System Approach and Conduct Agricultural Impact Assessments for All Non-Agricultural Land Use Acquisitions in Ontario

Motion: Lunn/Wales ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the provincial government to ensure that an Agricultural System Approach be implemented, and Agricultural Impact Assessments be conducted for all agricultural land acquisitions for the purpose of conversion to non-agricultural land use in Ontario."

CARRIED

Elgin Recognizing the Historical Provision of Environmental Goods and Services by Ontario Farmers

Motion: Wales/Lunn ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with CFA to ensure that the newly announced \$250 million Environmental Goods and Services Program, beginning with Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) in April 2023, provide payments to producers who already adopted many of these Best Management Practices and include producers who already adopted these best practices prior to the implementation date."

CARRIED

Elgin PR campaign on the benefits of Fertilizer use

Motion: Fentie/Martin ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture consult with Grain Farmers of Ontario and other commodity associations to develop a new campaign extolling the need and benefits of fertilizers aimed at elected representatives, the media, and the general public."

CARRIED

Glengarry Elimination of LCBO Markup and Wine Levy on the Direct Delivery of 100% Ontario Non-VQA wine to a licensee

Motion: MacMillan/Lang ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture ("OFA") lobby the Ministry of Finance and LCBO to eliminate the LCBO Mark-up and Wine Levy imposed on the direct delivery of 100% Ontario Non-VQA wine to a licensee; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT OFA request that the Minister of Finance, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Minister of Red Tape Reduction, and Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport support the elimination of the LCBO Mark-up and Wine Levy imposed on the direct delivery of 100% Ontario Non-VQA wine to a licensee."

CARRIED

Grenville Increase Canadian Fertilizer Production

Motion: Wynands/Pemberton ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture recommend to both the Ontario government and the Federal government that they enable the return of fertilizer production at the Industrial Park located in Augusta Township, Ontario and at other Ontario locations."

CARRIED



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Grey Tree Planting on Prime Farmland

Motion: Booker/McQueen ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture develop a position to discourage tree planting on all farmland for amenity purposes, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT OFA develop resources to support municipalities' design of municipal tree by-laws which protect agricultural land and enable long-term farming activities."

LOST

Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton OFA Annual General Meeting

Motion: Buckley/Baxter ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Board of Directors move their AGM to the winter months with enough lead time to allow county federations to also hold their AGMs in the winter. A suggestion of February is made."

LOST

Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton Surcharge on New Residences

"THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ontario government to enable a municipality to levy an additional \$1,000 charge on each new residence built to go towards funding the cost of new and/or upgrades to drainage systems and municipal road infrastructure needed to serve areas of less productive lands being brought into food production to replace existing productive farmland lost to urban development.

WITHDRAWN

Lambton Spray Drift

Motion: Martin/Eves ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ontario Government to enhance education on the effects of spray drift on different crops and how to avoid drift as part of the Ontario Pesticide Education Program, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ontario Government to create an easier conduit to report and record issues of spray drift, and that such tracking lead to identification of, and consequences for, applicators causing chronic spray drift, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to lobby the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada for consistency of information across approved labels and technical or promotional materials prepared by pesticide manufacturers and registrants."

LOST

Leeds New Farmer Recruitment

Motion: Passey/Renaud ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture will conduct dedicated, academically supported, analysis on how to attract a new generation of farmers and to look at what incentives and ensuring policy changes are required to allow for the industry to be open for opportunity for those 30 and under. This could include incentives to existing or retiring farmers to transition their land and agribusiness to first generation farmers when there is no viable family succession plan."

LOST

Middlesex Federal Electoral Boundaries

Motion: Myer/O'Neil ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture support the position that Municipalities should not be split between more than one electoral district unless the population of the municipality itself exceeds the target threshold for riding population, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA support the position that Counties should be fragmented into as few electoral districts as is possible."

CARRIED

Middlesex Fertilizer Tariff Issue

Motion: Verkley/Lee ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Board communicate to OFA Membership why they deserve membership's trust in their current strategy."

CARRIED

Niagara European Foul Brood

Motion: Mullet Koop/McAdams ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) work with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the Ontario Beekeepers Association (OBA) to develop best management practices for beekeepers in the hope of decreasing the effects of European Foul Brood (EFB), and

FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the OFA work with the OBA in promoting Ontario resistance Honeybees (ORHBS) bred, specifically for resistance to Brood Disease such as European Foul Brood (EFB)."

CARRIED

Niagara OMAFRA Boardrooms and Halls

Motion: Cosby/Mullet Koop ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Infrastructure Ontario to develop a policy allowing agriculture stakeholders, organization and commodity groups the use of board rooms and halls in OMAFRA offices and buildings."

CARRIED

Ottawa Aid for Navan-Sarsfield Farmers

Motion: Otto/Banning ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the proper levels of Gov't MMAH, OMAFRA, the Premiers office and any other necessary agency that could help get financial assistance for everyone affected by this storm for losses not covered by insurance, and

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED THAT OFA work with the same Government Departments to develop a clear and concise set of rules for disaster assistance for future events to alleviate the stress and unpredictability and what appears to be discriminatory rules or political interference when one area qualifies for assistance and others don't which were affected by the same event!"

CARRIED

Perth Agricorp's Customer Service

Motion: Danen/Denham ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture request the Province to review Agricorp's customer service and ability to service Ontario Farmers effectively and promptly."

CARRIED

Perth Board Level Leadership Training

Motion: Halliday/McIntosh ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture prepare a board level leadership training and development policy to ensure continued success into the future."

CARRIED

Perth Cellular Reception

Motion: Van De Walle/Devries ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby appropriate organizations to determine causes of unreliable cellular reception in rural Ontario and seek potential solutions to improve cellular connectivity in rural areas, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT OFA submit a complaint to Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission on current cellular connectivity issues."

CARRIED

Wellington PMRA

Motion: Nap/Dineen ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby PMRA, Agriculture Canada, and the federal Minister of Agriculture to expedite the approval of drone application of pesticides by harmonizing labelling procedures respecting drone applications where the pesticide involved is already approved for ground and aircraft application in Canada and where drone application is permitted by EPA in the US."

CARRIED

10. John Vanthof, NDP Critic, Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs

John Vanthof, MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane addressed the delegates.

MPP Vanthof thanked the OFA for the invitation to speak. He stated that OFA is always the first out of the gate to say how important agriculture is to Ontario and that agriculture is the building block.

MPP Vanthof concluded his comments by commending the OFA on its Home Grown farmland preservation campaign.

11. Geri Kamenz - The Co-operators

Geri Kamenz, Director with the Co-operators gave an update to the delegates on the past year at The Co-operators, noting The Co-operators appreciate the strong partnership with the OFA and the invitation to this year's AGM.

12. Scotiabank Fireside Chat with Jean-Francois Perrault, Chief Economist & Janice Holzschere, VP National Head of Agriculture

Jean-Francois Perrault, Chief Economist and Janice Holzschere, VP National Head of Agriculture of Scotiabank spoke to the current economic climate which included inflation and the impact to the consumer and the tight labour market and its high level of vacancies as well as the costs.

13. Mary Robinson, President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Mary Robinson, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) gave an update on CFA's activities in 2022.

Ms. Robinson noted that this will be her last year CFA's President and that it has been an honour to serve Canadian farm families.

14. Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Hon. Lisa Thompson addressed the crowd, highlighting recent government investments into the sector and efforts currently underway to update various pieces of legislation impacting agriculture, including modernization of the Veterinarians Act, and consultations around the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario.

15. Daniel Levitan, Hydro One Networks

Daniel Levitan, Vice President of Stakeholder Relations addressed the delegates.

He appreciates the working relationship with Ontario farmers.

Hydro One energizes life for people and communities, helping Ontarians live a better and brighter future and remains committed to supplying clean and reliable electricity across the province.

16. Bursary winners

This year's five bursary recipients were post-graduate winner Valerie Higginson, apprenticeship winner Andrew Kuiack, and undergraduate winners Faith Emiry, Michael Jones and Lexi Johnston. Bursaries combined were \$10,000 raised by membership contribution to silent auctions.

17. Josh Morgan, Mayor of London

Mayor Josh Morgan brought greetings to the delegates.

He stated that he was pleased that OFA is hosting this AGM in London as it is the centre of agrifood processing and innovation.

18. Year in Review Video

A Year In Review video was presented which captured OFA's accomplishments in 2022.

19. Keynote Speaker, Jeff Adams, Paralympian & World Champion

Keynote speaker Jeff Adams, Paralympian and six-time world champion wheelchair racer, drew on his own life experiences to share themes also common in the farming community: resilience, perseverance and striving for excellence. He encouraged farmers to look around themselves for support from family, friends and community when they need it, and to offer that support to others.

20. President's Closing Remarks

President Peggy Brekveld thanked the sponsors of the AGM for their support and looks forward to the 2023 AGM.

21. Adjournment

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2022-2023 Resolutions Activity Report

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July 2022

① 22-07-01
Middlesex
White Tail Deer Population

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) continue to lobby for financial compensation for farmers incurring crop damage caused by wildlife; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA lobby the Ontario government to reduce red tape, by prescribing in regulation under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, to enable a person to harass white-tailed deer, on the person's land, for the purposes of deterring white-tailed deer from damaging the person's property without needing to first obtain the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry's specific authorization; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA work with the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and Indigenous groups to increase the sustainable harvest of white tail deer in Southern Ontario through more tags, longer hunting seasons and more cooperation between landowners and hunters.



CARRIED



ACTIVITY

[Memo to OFA Board of Directors](#)

[OFA Letter to Middlesex County President](#)

[OFA Letter to Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

[OFA ViewPoint-Farmers need help dealing with wildlife crop damage and losses - October 2023](#)

OFA continues to advocate for financial compensation for farmers incurring crop damage by wildlife. OFA included the issue of harassing white-tailed deer in red tape discussion documents for proposed Red Tape Reduction, and asked that the government prescribe in regulation under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, to enable a person to harass white-tailed deer, on the person's land, for the purposes of deterring white-tailed deer from damaging that property without needing to first obtain authorization. Most recently, a request to change Section 31 of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act to enable a person to harass white-tailed deer without prior authorization was raised at the Ag-Wildlife Conflict Working group. OFA will continue to advocate for these changes with relevant stakeholders.

Ontario's White-tailed Deer Population Objective Setting and Harvest Management Guidelines outline the approach for determining deer population objectives and for identifying the appropriate harvest management strategies for deer management in Ontario. OFA has reviewed the 2022 Mandatory Deer Hunter reporting summary, which had a 90% compliance rate from hunters who purchased or were issued a tag to hunt deer. 2022 datasets were also reviewed, based on hunting reports from successful deer license holders.

OFA continues to raise the importance of a sustainable harvest of white-tailed deer to stakeholders, and will continue efforts to increase tags, hunting seasons, and more cooperation between landowners and hunters where opportunities exist.

② **22-07-02**
Dufferin
Municipal Drain Design and Maintenance Standards in Ontario

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with provincial officials to ensure municipal drain standards are followed so that flooding of adjacent agriculture land doesn't occur and the problems of large, concentrated areas of crop residue in fields is mitigated.

CARRIED 

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Dufferin County President

Upon further investigation, OFA was advised that the Drainage Act relies on the drainage engineer's professional opinion to ensure that municipal drains are designed and built to the appropriate standards. Furthermore, the Drainage Act does have processes embedded within it to be able to reassess the performance of a municipal drain if problems arise.

To request improvements or modifications to an existing Municipal Drain, landowners can submit a "Request for Drainage Works" form to their Drainage Superintendent or the township office.

With this confirmation, the OFA is satisfied that the resolution can be closed.

③ **22-07-03**
Dufferin
Merging of Adjacent Agriculture Lots

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with provincial officials to amend the Planning Act to change regulations that require consent applications and the severance process to demerge formally unmerged properties to what they were prior to merging (usually the original surveyed lots of about 100 acres/40ha).

CARRIED 

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Dufferin County President

OFA Letter to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

It has been OFA's longstanding ask that the Ontario government change the Land Registry System under the Planning Act so that the practice of automatic merging of farm and rural properties is discontinued. OFA seeks to raise awareness across our membership in a number of ways to proactively prevent merging of properties from happening. More recently, OFA has brought this issue to the attention of Minister Calandra, of Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting the Ministry ease the burden on property owners seeking to demerge properties that had previously been automatically merged.

September 2022

④ 22-09-01

Halton

Agriculture Buildings Near the Natural Heritage System

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) assist the Halton Region Federation of Agriculture (HRFA) in getting clarity on the Provincial planning requirements for agricultural buildings in or near the Natural Heritage System (NHS) including the following actions:

1. Assist with setting up a meeting between HRFA and the author (Helma Geerts of OMAFRA) and/or such other representatives of the Province as is appropriate to have the issue clarified. It is hoped an OFA representative would also attend.
2. Assist with any follow up to meeting that is reasonable.
3. Review the issue internally and consult with other county groups as appropriate.
4. If it is the Provincial policy that requires another level of red tape in order to be implemented, then work with the local federations to find an alternative and lobby the Province for change.

CARRIED



ACTIVITY

Letter to Halton County President

OFA met with OMAFRA and Halton Region's Senior Planners to review their implementation of provincial policy in early September 2022. Since that time, OFA has continued collaborative efforts with OMAFRA staff to gain clarity and better assist members with important issues in their regions. OFA has recommended the closure of this resolution, yet will continue efforts to advocate for and assist farmers with matters related to Natural Heritage Systems.



⑤ 22-09-02

Middlesex

Electoral District Redistribution

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) support the position that municipalities should not be in more than one electoral riding as this will cause undue difficulties in service deliveries for two constituents; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA support the position that counties should be fragmented into as few electoral districts as is possible.

LOST



ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Middlesex President

Although the OFA Board did not adopt this resolution at a provincial level, OFA did encourage local Federations to raise local concerns and possible remedies with the Commission during the consultation period which ended October 29, 2022.

OFA Directors discussed that other local Federations have reviewed proposed redistribution of federal electoral districts in their county/region. Each situation is unique. Concerns ranged from rural residents being a minority in a predominantly urban riding to creating a very geographically large riding albeit predominately rural. In some cases, it was felt there may be benefit to some local Federations that might now have multiple Members of Parliament (MPs) to connect with, and/or an MP might have multiple local Federations upon which they could call upon covering different areas within their riding allowing for multiple vehicles to get messaging to federal candidates and elected officials.

Local Federations have always aimed to build solid working relationships with MPs in their area. While OFA has no position that favours a particular rural/urban electorate composition or riding geographic area, we will continue to support local Federations as they engage with elected officials.

6 22-09-03 Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton PAC Engagement

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PAC Steering Committee commit a future meeting to discuss how PAC can become a forum for discussion on current issues affecting the membership as well as providing the Board of Directors with understanding of County concerns and viewpoints before decisions and positions representing the membership as a whole are made: and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the feedback and direction from this meeting be implemented for future PAC meetings thereby engaging membership with these issues. The PAC, County Federations and OFA Board of Directors will generate much needed attendance and meaningful grassroots engagement; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the PAC Steering Committee, OFA Board of Directors and all County Federations for endorsement.

LOST 

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton President

While this resolution as submitted did not carry, the board took time to review the extensive work that has been done to solicit feedback from members, commodities and organizations and to share information about fertilizer issues from March of 2022 when focus was initially on fertilizer supply for Spring 2022, through to the application of tariff on Russian sourced fertilizer as well as the federal consultations on fertilizer emission reduction targets, member surveys and outreach as well as how OFA represented the concerns of our members to media and government. A highlight of OFA efforts on this file was shared with Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton.

The board also had discussion about the role of the Policy Advisory Council (PAC) mentioned in the resolution. Agendas for PAC and guest speakers are arranged well ahead of the PAC meeting and normally include an update on current issues and events at OFA led by the President, and an area for County/Member Concerns to be raised in an open forum for discussion. A fulsome PAC review has been undertaken with recommendations going forward to be considered by membership at the Annual General Meeting.

November 2022 – Annual General Meeting

⑦ 22-11-01

Leeds

Membership Residency

**Required 2/3 majority to be Carried*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's By-Law subsection 5.1 (Membership Eligibility) be amended to add Members, if they so choose, have the right at any time to designate their Region as long as they farm or carry-on business in that Region, or the closest Region thereto. A Member's chosen designated Region shall be considered the Region in which they reside for all OFA membership rights, privileges and obligations, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution passing would be binding on the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's board.

LOST (X)

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Leeds President

Discussion and debate took place at Federation Summits in advance of the Annual General Meeting as well as on the floor of the meeting with respect to this resolution and it was lost.



⑧ 22-11-02

Leeds

AGM Resolution Accountability

**Required 2/3 majority to be Carried*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's By-Law section 9 (Annual General Meetings) be amended to add Notwithstanding the Board's resolution policy, a resolution approved by voting Members at an Annual General meeting shall be binding on the Board, unless the Board determines the resolution exposes the corporation to undue financial burden, reputational damage, and or legal liability, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Board revise their resolution policy to include the obligation for the Board to advise OFA convention delegates of any approved Annual General meeting resolution that the Board has chosen not to adopt along with the rationale for the Board's decision, within two months after the Annual General meeting at which the resolution was approved by delegates.

LOST (X)

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Leeds President

Discussion and debate took place at Federation Summits in advance of the Annual General Meeting as well as on the floor of the meeting with respect to this resolution and it was lost.

9 22-11-03
Algoma
Wild Turkey Hunting

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) work with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to ensure that wild turkey sightings are adequately measured and that existing hunting metrics (limits) be reviewed, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA lobby the appropriate government agencies to further open fall hunting seasons for wild turkey in wildlife management units that currently only have a spring hunt and increase the tag limits for wild turkey hunting.

AMENDED 

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Algoma County President

When the OFA board reviewed this resolution, they divided it into two parts for consideration.

Part one “THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to ensure that wild turkey sightings are adequately measured and that existing hunting metrics (limits) be reviewed, and ...” was **CARRIED**.

Part two “FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OFA lobby the appropriate government agencies to further open fall hunting seasons for wild turkey in wildlife management units that currently only have spring hunt and increase the tag limits for wild turkey hunting.” was **LOST** as it was not felt this was within the OFA mandate.

Ontario’s Turkey Management Plan outlines guidelines that aim to harvest wild turkeys sustainably in the province, based on hunter reports and scientific observations. OFA has reviewed the 2022 Mandatory Wild Turkey Hunter report summary, which had an 83% compliance rate from hunters who purchase or were issued a tag to hunt wild turkey. Data sets on 2023 spring wild turkey numbers were reviewed, based on mandatory reports received from successful turkey license holders. OFA has raised the importance of reporting wild turkey sightings during discussions with stakeholders, and will continue to provide feedback to key stakeholders to increase wild turkey hunting opportunities where existing metrics are met.

10 22-11-04
Algoma
Health Care Workers

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with other provincial health care stakeholders to lobby the Ontario government to act more quickly and decisively in filling staffing gaps within the provincial health care system, and support legislation, tools, and activities to improve access to health care.

AMENDED AND CARRIED 

ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Algoma County President](#)

[OFA Letter to Health Minister Sylvia Jones](#)

[OFA Submission to Finance Minister regarding 2023 Pre-Budget Consultations](#)

[OFA Lobby Day Leave Behind Document](#)

[OFA Viewpoint – October 2023](#)

[Ontario Federation of Agriculture urging province to invest in rural healthcare | Watch News Videos Online \(globalnews.ca\)](#)

Better Farming article link – October 2022

<https://www.betterfarming.com/flippingbook/betterfarming/2022/october/#24>

In response to this resolution, OFA incorporated messages around rural health care, and the importance of addressing our healthcare system's human resources issues in meetings with MPPs from all parties at our Queen's Park Lobby day March 21, 2023. This also formed part of our printed provincial advocacy materials shared here. OFA communicated the urgency of labour shortages, and heightened risk to rural Ontario with emergency room closures. OFA has asked for priority to be placed on filling staffing gaps, and funding to leverage innovation and technology and evaluating new patient care approaches and models that have been successful in other communities. Advocacy messaging also included prioritizing long-term care services across rural and northern Ontario by recruiting and retaining skilled labour and establishing adequate, predictable and stable direct care funding for these facilities.

Appearing in Better Farming just ahead of the November, 2022 Convention was a feature article about "Rural Health Care in Disrepair." This article and the two personal shared experiences of OFA members with rural health care has been a valuable resource to share as part of our ongoing discussions with provincial members of parliament. OFA continues to seek further discussions with Minister Jones to further this discussion.

Further, the OFA incorporated messages around rural health care needs, and particularly our concerns with staffing gaps in the February, 2023 pre-budget submission.

In October of 2023, OFA initiated a ViewPoint issued to members, and media urging investment in rural health care. This ViewPoint triggered a television interview with Global TV further raising the awareness of critical rural health care needs with the government and general public.

11 22-11-05 Northern Caucus Spot Loss Compensation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work (OFA) with the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association and other stakeholders to fully quantify crop losses and investigate the viability and potential for a spot loss compensation program for wildlife damage to crops, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA strongly advocate and pressure the provincial government for a spot loss compensation program for wildlife damage to crops.

CARRIED



ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Chair of Northern Caucus](#)

[OFA Letter to OMAFRA Minister Thompson and Agricorp Doug LaRose September 2023](#)

[OFA ViewPoint-Farmers need help dealing with wildlife crop damage and losses - October 2023](#)

OFA has completed several studies quantifying the financial damage caused by wildlife to Ontario crop producers. The most recent study completed in 2021 found that the annual damage to crop producers in Ontario was approximately \$215 million. It is standing OFA policy that Agricorp should develop and deliver a program to compensate Ontario crop producers for the damage caused by wildlife. Past correspondence with the ministry has included asking the Ontario government to create a wildlife damage compensation program to compensate crop producers for the losses they experience due to Ontario wildlife. We continue to advocate on this issue. On January 26, 2023, Agricorp's Chief Executive Officer Doug LaRose attended our Board meeting and the issue was raised in our conversation.

In October of 2023, OFA issued a ViewPoint bringing additional awareness to issues of both crop and livestock losses due to wildlife and OFA's request to see program amendments to address the losses incurred by farmers.

12 22-11-06 Arnprior Hybrid Meeting Model

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture as of March 1, 2023 offers a hybrid meeting model for all of its key meetings. AGM, PAC and other committee meetings. Included in this change would be the ability to Vote if the meeting presented such opportunity, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that over the next 3 months, the OFA will review its physical facilities and make any appropriate technology changes to support the effective delivery of meetings in a hybrid model.

LOST 

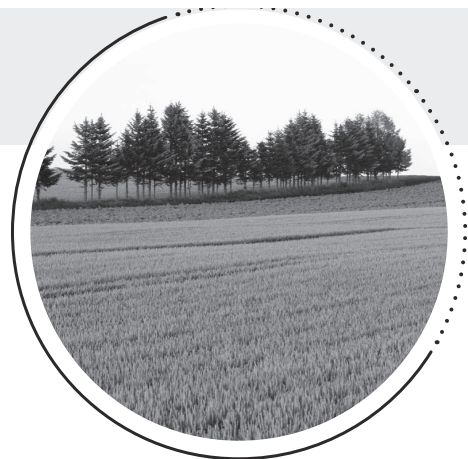
ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Arnprior County President](#)

While carried by members at the Annual General Meeting, the resolution was lost at the board. After lengthy discussion about ongoing rural broadband challenges and associated delays as well as human and financial resources associated with hosting large hybrid Annual Meetings with the complications of voting on resolutions and elections, this resolution was not carried as presented. There was however, sincere appreciation and recognition of the desire of both the OFA and local Federations to continually work towards improved access and engagement of OFA members across the province and that hybrid meeting alternatives will be explored wherever feasible. Over the past year, all Policy Advisory Council meetings offered a hybrid format for in person and virtual participation. Board and committee meetings are conducted in a hybrid fashion where possible.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture advocate for and work with the government and other stakeholders to develop agricultural policies and processes for the timely release of crown land for agricultural purposes, in a sustainable manner that is accessible to individual farmers.

CARRIED



ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Cochrane County President](#)

[OFA Letter to Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry](#)

OFA has identified many opportunities to support expansion of the agricultural sector in Northern Ontario, including the release of Crown land. In addition to seeking a meeting with Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Graydon Smith, OFA has also reached out to MPP Greg Rickford Minister of Northern Development to discuss ways that the OFA and government might work together to address the timely release of crown land for agricultural purposes. OFA has also reached out to Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) to better understand their lobbying efforts around this issue and seek their input and expertise around both issues and opportunities.

Previous related OFA submissions:

May 15, 2020 OFA submission regarding proposed amendments agricultural land use amendment for Hearst and Kapuskasing

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/ofa-letter-regarding-bill-257-broadband-and-infrastructure-expansion-act-2021/>

December 20, 2023 OFA comments regarding Opportunities to Enhance Carbon Storage in Crown Forests

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/ofa-comments-regarding-opportunities-enhance-carbon-storage-crown-forests/>

August 21, 2023 OFA submission regarding Bill 46: Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario Act, 2022
<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/ofa-submission-regarding-bill-46-less-red-tape-stronger-ontario-act-2022/>

January 10, 2023 OFA submission regarding proposed legislative amendments affecting custom cattle feeding operations
<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/ofa-submission-regarding-proposed-legislative-amendments-affecting-custom-cattle-feeding-operations/>

14

22-11-08

Elgin

Inclusion of Farm Employees in the Farmer Wellness Initiative Program Services

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ontario government to extend the eligibility to include farm employees.

CARRIED



ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Elgin County President](#)

[Response Letter from OMAFRA Minister](#)

[OFA Lobby Day Leave Behind Document](#)

[OFA Submission to Finance Minister regarding 2023 Pre-Budget Consultations](#)

Mental health and wellness for farmers and the farm community continues to be a pillar of OFA's strategic plan and government relations priorities. Appreciation for funding of the Farmer Wellness Initiative, continued support of, and expansion of the Farmer Wellness Initiative to farm employees formed a key part of the advocacy efforts at OFA's Queen's Park Lobby Day on March 21, 2023 and was well received by members of all parties. This messaging was also carried forward as part of OFA's 2023 pre-budget submission. OFA acknowledges and appreciates the increased funding to Farmer Wellness programs recently announced by Minister Thompson's Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs.

15

22-11-09

Elgin

Implement an Agricultural System Approach and Conduct Agricultural Impact Assessments for All Non-Agricultural Land Use Acquisitions in Ontario

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the provincial government to ensure that an Agricultural System Approach be implemented, and Agricultural Impact Assessments be conducted for all agricultural land acquisitions for the purpose of conversion to non-agricultural land use in Ontario.

AMENDED AND CARRIED



ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Elgin County President

OFA Letter to MMAH and OMAFRA

OFA submission to the Standing Committee regarding proposed Planning Act changes as specified in schedule 6 of Bill 97

OFA submission to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the review of A Place to Grow (APTG) and Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)

OFA submission to the Environmental Assessment Modernization Branch regarding the Environmental Assessment Act – January 2022

OFA Letter to MPP John Vanthof regarding protection of agricultural land and expanding agricultural impact assessments

OFA has been actively advocating for an expanded use of Agricultural Impact Assessments. In July of 2022, a letter was written to Minister Thompson, requesting that the draft Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidance Document be finalized and released for widespread use. In January 2022, OFA provided a submission to the government consultations “Moving to a project list approach under the Environmental Assessment Act”, and “Extending the expiry date for Environmental Assessment Act approvals for certain projects”. In both submissions, OFA requested mandatory Agricultural Impact Assessments be considered for projects that have potential to impact agricultural land and/or operations.

In November 2022, we supported MPP John Vanthof’s Bill 27 - Protecting Agricultural Land Act, 2022. In submissions to Bill 97 and the Proposed Provincial Policy Statement, OFA reiterated our position on the importance of both Agricultural Impact Assessments and Agricultural System Mapping. Additionally, a letter was sent to Minister Calandra (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing), copying Minister Thompson, further advocating for the changes put forward in this resolution.

16

22-11-10

Elgin

Recognizing the Historical Provision of EG & S Services by Ontario Farmers

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to ensure that the newly announced \$250 million Environmental Goods and Services Program, beginning with Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) in April 2023, provide payments to producers who already adopted many of these Best Management Practices and include producers who already adopted these best practices prior to the implementation date.

CARRIED



ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Elgin County President](#)

[OFA Letter to OMAFRA Minister](#)

[CFA Resolution Brief - Recognizing the Historical Provision of E&S by Ontario Farmers](#)

Consistent with existing OFA policy, OFA has been in regular contact with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) during the development of the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) recommending that new programming include recognition of early adopters of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). OFA sent a letter to Minister Thompson on February 9th, 2023 to emphasize the need for programming that recognizes early action and does not prevent participation among those who have already implemented BMPs.

Because funding for RALP comes from the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (SCAP), this resolution was also included in the OFA Resolutions to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) Annual General Meeting in March 2023. The resolution passed and CFA has also been taking this message forward in discussions nationally.

Funding for RALP was announced on July 12th, 2023 as part of the Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Initiative (OASI). With a commitment of \$56.7 million over five-years, the program will provide funding towards projects such as reducing tillage, creating water retention ponds and other projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon. Program application and guide, terms and conditions, and intake dates have just been released October 24th and appear to reflect the ability for funding applications by early adopters allowing eligible activities to include “increasing plantings” and for “more substantial reductions” and activities such as “improving existing” and “increasing existing” which seems to allow for early action/early adopters. OFA will continue to monitor member experience in the application and funding process.

17 22-11-11 Elgin PR Campaign on the Benefits of Fertilizer Use

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture consult with Grain Farmers of Ontario and other commodity associations to develop a new campaign extolling the need and benefits of fertilizers aimed at elected representatives, the media, and the general public.

LOST 

ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Elgin County President](#)

While there is strong support by the board for the need and benefits of fertilizer to the viability and profitability of the agriculture sector, after lengthy discussion, the resolution was lost.

The OFA board is currently engaged in a long standing partnership with Fertilizer Canada, Grain Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Agri Business Association, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs and Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario. This partnership was established to support and promote the 4R program (Right Source at the Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place) with both financial and staff resources to ensure the program will continue to provide solutions for Ontario

farmers currently facing pressures of reducing environmental impacts while maximizing yields and economic benefits.

It was felt by the board that significant effort has already been put into the 4R program and that efforts to work with the partners involved to ensure it's continued and ongoing success was the right way to ensure the industry's ongoing public trust. It was also felt that the 4R program was more robust and able to take into consideration all inputs associated with crop production by focussing on a broader 'nutrient' stewardship than just fertilizer.

18 22-11-12
Glengarry
Elimination of LCBO Markup & Wine Levy

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby the Ministry of Finance and LCBO to eliminate the LCBO Mark-up and Wine Levy imposed on the direct delivery of 100% Ontario Non-VQA wine to a licensee; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OFA request that the Minister of Finance, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Minister of Red Tape Reduction, and Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport support the elimination of the LCBO Mark-up and Wine Levy imposed on the direct delivery of 100% Ontario Non-VQA wine to a licensee.

CARRIED



ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Glengarry County President](#)

[OFA Letter to Minister Bethlenfalvy](#)

OFA consulted with the Grape Growers of Ontario who fully endorsed the resolution. OFA made a request of Ontario Finance Minister Bethlenfalvy to level the playing field for Ontario produced wine by eliminating the LCBO mark-up and wine levy for 100% Ontario Non-VQA wine and replace it with the same 6.1% LCBO administration fee applied to VQA wine when delivering directly to a licensee. OFA has sought the support for this request from other Ministers. Minister Bethlenfalvy has replied and indicated that 'Ontario's alcohol marketplace has changed significantly in recent past and they continue to look towards creating a vision for the future of alcohol in the province.' OFA will continue to monitor and advocate for this issue. In addition to correspondence to Minister Bethlenfalvy, this request has been added to OFA's summary of recommended Red Tape Reduction considerations for future discussions and submissions going forward.

19 22-11-13
Grenville
Increase Canadian Fertilizer Production

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture recommend to both the Ontario government and the Federal government that they enable the return of fertilizer production at the Industrial Park located in Augusta Township, Ontario.

CARRIED



ACTIVITY

[CFA Resolution Brief - Increased Fertilizer Production in Eastern Canada](#)

[OFA Letter to Grenville County President](#)

[OFA Letter to Minister of Agriculture & Agri Food Canada](#)

[OFA Letter to OMAFRA Minister](#)

OFA Press Release:

<https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/ofa-applauds-ontario-fertilizer-solution>

In follow up to this resolution, OFA initiated a resolution to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) for further advocacy in establishing fertilizer production capacity at the federal level. This resolution was carried at the CFA AGM in March. In addition, OFA issued a press release at the time of the provincial Fertilizer Accelerating Solutions and Technology Challenge announcement thanking the government for recognition of their support and also sent a letter to Minister Thompson, recognizing the contributions of the Fertilizer Accelerating Solutions and Technology Challenge, and noting that this is only a partial solution and that more investment is needed. OFA also reached out to Minister MacAulay suggesting financial support and incentives to encourage more fertilizer production in Ontario and eastern Canada would be a welcome investment in the growth and viability of our sector in the long term.

OFA continues to seek advocacy opportunities to increase fertilizer production, including work with partners like Ontario Agri-Business Association, Fertilizer Canada and CropLife.

20 22-11-14

Grey

Tree Planting on Prime Farmland

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) develop a position to discourage tree planting on prime farmland (classes 1, 2, 3, and 4) for amenity purposes, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture develop resources to support municipalities' design of municipal tree by-laws which protect agricultural land and enable long-term farming activities.

LOST (X)



ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Grey County President](#)

[OFA Agricultural Tree Cutting Policy 2021](#)

While this resolution was lost at the OFA convention, within the resolution Grey Federation mentioned the value of OFA developed resources to support municipalities design of municipal tree by-laws which protect agricultural land and enable long-term farming activities. OFA provided Grey County Federation with several resource documents which may assist local advocacy efforts with

municipalities: 1) OFA's Agricultural Tree-Cutting Bylaw Policy, 2021. 2) A link to OFA's consolidated land use policy and 3) OFA's position on woodlots and taxation as adopted by AGM resolution in 2019:

21 22-11-15
Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton
OFA Annual General Meeting

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Board of Directors move their AGM to the winter months with enough lead time to allow county federations to also hold their AGMs in the winter. A suggestion of February is made.

LOST 

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Kawartha Lakes/Haliburton County President

While this resolution was lost, it did spur valuable conversation about continuing to work towards ways to engage members through technology and other means where feasible. OFA appreciates that fall is a busy time for our membership.

22 22-11-16
Lambton
Spray Drift

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby the Ontario Government to enhance education on the effects of spray drift on different crops and how to avoid drift as part of the Ontario Pesticide Education Program, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA lobby the Ontario Government to create an easier conduit to report and record issues of spray drift, and that such tracking lead to identification of, and consequences for, applicators causing chronic spray drift, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA lobby the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada for consistency of information across approved labels and technical or promotional materials prepared by pesticide manufacturers and registrants.

LOST 

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Lambton County President

While this resolution was lost, OFA invited Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs specialists Mike Cowbrough and Jason Deveau to speak to our board to better understand the issues and resources currently available, and has shared an OMAFRA article on What to do if you Suspect

Spray Drift in our NewsWire twice this fall and also shared a fact sheet on our website which is available on an ongoing basis. Further, OFA has partnered with Grain Farmers of Ontario, and Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association to identify further ways to increase grower awareness of pesticide drift and best application practices.

23 **22-11-17**
Leeds
New Farmer Recruitment

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture will conduct dedicated, academically supported, analysis on how to attract a new generation of farmers and to look at what incentives and ensuring policy changes are required to allow for the industry to be open for opportunity for those 30 and under. This could include incentives to existing or retiring farmers to transition their land and agribusiness to first generation farmers when there is no viable family succession plan.

LOST 

ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Leeds County President](#)

This resolution was discussed at several of the provincial Summits held in advance of the annual general meeting in 2022 and debated at the OFA Convention held in London, November 21 and 22, 2022 and was lost. There will be no further action taken.

24 **22-11-18**
Middlesex
Federal Election Boundaries

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) support the position that Municipalities should not be split between more than one electoral district unless the population of the municipality itself exceeds the target threshold for riding population, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA support the position that Counties should be fragmented into as few electoral districts as is possible.

LOST 

ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Middlesex County President](#)

Upon fulsome discussion at the board level, it was not possible to come to an overall provincial policy statement on this matter and the resolution was lost at the board level. Although the OFA Board did not adopt this resolution at a provincial level, OFA did encourage local Federations to raise any local concerns and possibly remedies with the Commission during the consultation period which ended October 29, 2022.

25 **22-11-19**
Middlesex
Fertilizer Tariff Issue

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Board communicate to OFA Membership why they deserve membership's trust in their current strategy.

CARRIED 

ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Middlesex County President](#)

[OFA Update on Return of Fertilizer Tariffs Paid by Ontario Farmers](#)

<https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/ontario-on-farm-climate-action-fund/>

The OFA board reviewed efforts of board and staff to consult with membership, stakeholders and government around concerns related to fertilizer tariffs and appreciated that information may not have made it to the hands of our membership. An all-member communication was prepared and circulated with background and activities of the OFA board on the matter and shared by email, posting on the ofa.on.ca website to provide additional clarity to OFA's work on this matter. In June of 2023 information was shared by Sollio Agriculture with respect to some success they had had in obtaining a return of tariff dollars to Ontario farmers as well as details provided by Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association around program dollars available to Ontario agriculture resulting from fertilizer tariffs collected.

26 **22-11-20**
Niagara
European Foul Brood

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) work with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the Ontario Beekeepers Association (OBA) to develop best management practices for beekeepers in the hope of decreasing the effects of European Foul Brood (EFB), and

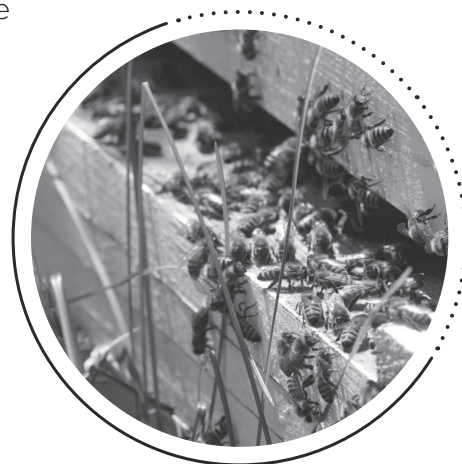
FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the OFA work with OMAFRA and the OBA in developing a policy that includes recommendations and science-based testing of hives before burn orders are delivered to beekeepers perceived to be struggling with EFB.

LOST 

ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Niagara County President](#)

This resolution was discussed at the OFA Board of Directors meeting and was lost. Best management practices (BMPs) for the management of honey bee pests and diseases, including European



Foul Brood (EFB), were found to already exist on OMAFRA's website. OFA discussion with Ontario Beekeepers Association (OBA), concluded that OBA had been working with government on implementing BMPs when EFB is suspected in hives. OBA advised they continue to work with government on this issue and will reach out to OFA if further support is needed.

OFA continues to advocate the importance of pollinators in maintaining a robust food system and healthy environment. OFA will continue to partner with and working with important stakeholders such as OBA, in the future on key issues.

27 **22-11-21**
Niagara
OMAFRA Boardrooms and Halls

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) work with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Infrastructure Ontario to develop a policy allowing agriculture stakeholders, organization and commodity groups the use of board rooms and halls in OMAFRA offices and buildings.

CARRIED



ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Niagara County President

OFA has engaged in discussions with senior OMAFRA staff about the great value of OMAFRA offices and building space to host local Federation and agricultural group meetings and training in rural Ontario, across the province.

28 **22-11-22**
Ottawa
Aid for Navan Sarsfield Farmers

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) work with the proper levels of Government MMAH, OMAFRA, the Premiers office and any other necessary agency that could help get financial assistance for everyone affected by this storm for losses not covered by insurance; and

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED that OFA work with the same Government Departments to develop a clear and concise set of rules for disaster assistance for future events to alleviate the stress and unpredictability and what appears to be discriminatory rules or political interference when one area qualifies for assistance and others don't which were affected by the same event.

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Ottawa County President

OFA Letter to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - October 2022

OFA Letter to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – September 2023

Over the past year, OFA has reached out to both previous and current Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to discuss future disaster assistance programs and how OFA and government could work together to ensure timely, clear and transparent communications as well as equal access for any affected areas of the province. Ongoing advocacy will continue around this area.

29 22-11-23
Perth
Agricorps Customer Service

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture request the Province to review Agricorp's customer service and ability to service Ontario Farmers effectively and promptly.

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Perth County President

OFA's board of directors invited Doug LaRose, CEO of Agricorp to attend at the January meeting of the board. Doug presented historical customer service survey results and how Agricorp was addressing issues raised across all programs. Doug shared that a current customer service survey was underway and that Agricorp would be happy to share results with OFA and other Accredited Farm Organizations when they are available. In June of 2023, OMAFRA secured the services of a third party independent consultant (Shore Consultants) to conduct a review of Agricorp to ensure that the agency's mandate aligns with both the agency's current operations and the government's direction to the agency. All three Accredited Farm Organizations were invited to provide input on the governance and delivery of FBR programs, customer service, administrative costs as well as areas of improvement.

30 22-11-24
Perth
Board Level Leadership Training

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture prepare a board level leadership training and development policy to ensure continued success into the future.

ACTIVITY

In May of 2022, the OFA board engaged Reimagine Leadership to offer a fulsome board leadership training program. It involved three full days and two half days of training delivered over a period of January to June, 2023 and included self and team evaluations including Emotional Intelligence 180 degree assessments to establish a baseline of self and social awareness, management and resilience skills. It also included Better Teams and DiSC assessments to explore alignment, readiness for success, team trust and leadership mindset.

In addition, the board has budget set aside for each director to utilize towards their own personal development goals which can and has been used for professional development in leadership, governance, and media training initiatives.

Director leadership training and policy will continue to be a focus for the organization, as well as at the staff and Federation level.

31 **22-11-25**
Perth
Cellular Reception

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby appropriate organizations to determine causes of unreliable cellular reception in rural Ontario and seek potential solutions to improve cellular connectivity in rural areas; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OFA submit a complaint to Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission on current cellular connectivity issues.

TABLED



CARRIED



ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Perth County President

The OFA Board of Directors initially tabled this resolution until a survey of the OFA membership investigating issues with rural cellular coverage could be conducted. OFA engaged a graduate student through the University of Guelph's Student Summer Intern Program to conduct a review of the literature on the role of cellular/mobile technologies in the agricultural sector, including challenges with reception and coverage, to inform new research questions for the 2023 OFA Internet Communication Survey. The survey was launched July 18, 2023 and closed on August 1, 2023 after receiving 763 member responses. The OFA board received the results of the member survey at the October, 2023 board of directors meeting and determined further engagement and action was warranted.

OFA has also engaged with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) Broadband Subcommittee. Members of the Committee include selected Chambers of Commerce, HydroOne, Infrastructure Ontario, and internet service providers (ISPs). Through the committee we emphasize the needs and challenges faced by rural Ontarians accessing broadband internet and cellular service, especially in northern Ontario. This committee is ongoing, and OFA will continue to raise this issue to increase our advocacy through the OCC.

32 **22-11-26**
Wellington
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Agriculture Canada, and the federal Minister of Agriculture to expedite the approval of drone application of pesticides by harmonizing labelling procedures respecting drone applications where the pesticide involved is already approved for ground and aircraft application in Canada and where drone application is permitted by EPA in the US.

CARRIED



ACTIVITY

[CFA Resolution Brief – Drone application of Pesticides](#)

[OFA Letter to Wellington County President](#)

[OFA Letter to Ministers MacAulay and Holland](#)

OFA continues to engage with other organizations to advocate for an efficient, science-based regulatory environment for pesticides in Canada. To further this resolution, OFA presented a resolution to Canadian Federation of Agriculture to advocate for expeditious approval of drone applications that was carried at their Annual General Meeting in March. OFA also sent a letter to Ministers MacAulay and Holland, highlighting the opportunities that pesticide application by drone presents for Ontario/Canadian farmers and advocating for expeditious review by PMRA.

OMAFRA and AAFC are conducting trials on drone applications. There is emerging evidence that drone application may be quite different from other aerial application methods, but more work is needed. OFA will continue tracking this issue and the emerging science, and will continue to advocate for an efficient, science-based regulatory environment for pesticides in Canada.

December 2022

33

22-12-02

Halton

Ontario Provincial Planner Institute

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) approach the Ontario Provincial Planner Institute (OPPI) to create an open dialogue to improve training of OPPI members in rural, agricultural, near urban agriculture and edge planning; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA budget funds to collect and or develop resource materials and speakers on rural, Agricultural, near urban agriculture and edge planning, and these resource materials and speakers be offered to the OPPI to assist in educating OPPIs membership.

CARRIED



LOST



ACTIVITY

[Letter to Halton County President](#)

After discussion, the Board divided this resolution into two pieces. The first part of the resolution regarding working to create an open dialogue to improve training of Ontario Provincial Planner Institute (OPPI) members in rural, agricultural, near urban agriculture and edge planning was **CARRIED**. The second portion of the resolution further be it resolved that OFA collect and/or develop resource materials and speakers on rural, agricultural, near urban agriculture and edge planning, and these resource materials and speakers was **LOST**, due to current available staffing resources.

Since that time the OFA has initiated a dialogue with OPPI. OFA reached out to OPPI requesting that they offer and promote rural land use planning courses for its full and candidate members as a part of their Continuous Professional Learning. They responded and shared current ways they offer rural land use planning information as well suggesting an opportunity to collaborate with the OPPI

on a proposed module within new learning materials (currently in development), tentatively named “Planning 101”. OFA Board and staff are currently working with OPPI representatives to explore and discuss these learning materials as well as other learning outputs and future collaboration.

34 22-12-03

Kent

Hybrid Electricity Facilities that Generate, Store, Inject and Withdraw Power from Transmission and Distribution Systems

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture demand a moratorium on municipal support for Hybrid Electricity Facilities throughout the Province until:

- i. Comprehensive studies can be completed by the project proponents evaluating measures taken to avoid using agricultural land, an assessment of the impacts of the project on agriculture and the agricultural systems, and mitigation measures, and
- ii. Until Further information is available regarding the potential health and safety impacts of these projects to farmers, agricultural operations, and agricultural products.

ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Kent County President January 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Kent Council March 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Oxford Council March 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Lanark Council March 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Lambton Council March 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Huron Council March 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Haldimand Council March 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Essex Council March 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Elgin Council March 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Arnprior Council March 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Ottawa Region Council June 2023](#)



To address this resolution as requested, OFA communicated with Councils across the province suggesting a moratorium on municipal support for Hybrid Electricity Facilities until further information could be gathered/made available. The OFA Board of Directors struck an Energy subcommittee comprised of five board members, and supported by the research department. The committee has met several times with staff and stakeholders, received presentations and had discussions with Energy Storage Canada, the IESO, the National Fire Prevention Association and Hydro One to raise questions, concerns of membership and seek information.

January 2023

35 23-01-01 Lambton Crop Insurance for cover crops

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with other commodity organizations along with OMAFRA and Agricorp to develop guidelines to allow for double cropping following a cover crop to be covered under our provincial crop production insurance under Best Management Practices.

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Lambton County President

OFA Update Letter to Lambton County President

OFA has engaged with Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO) and further discussed this resolution with Agricorp. Specific examples provided to Agricorp by GFO related to a cover crop being green cropped before planting corn and a former hay field being used to plant soybeans were shared. Clarity was provided that as long as planting deadline dates and other criteria are adhered to, corn/soybean production insurance (PI) coverage would be available for these examples as per the existing PI rules. It was determined based on new information that no further action is required on this resolution to address member concerns. It is recommended that this resolution be closed.

36 23-01-02 Lambton Compare the Share Update

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture consider updating the Compare The Share document through a new study.

ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Lambton County President

Resolution was withdrawn by Lambton County

37 23-01-03 Wellington Rural and Urban Land Use Planning Courses

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) request the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) offer and promote rural land use planning courses that OPPI full and candidate members can complete to obtain Continuous Professional Learning credits; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA ask University of Guelph, Algonquin College, Fanshawe College and Northern College to require a rural land use planning course in the curriculum for agriculture business program; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OFA request that the University of Guelph offer a rural land use planning course through its Continuing Education initiative.

ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Wellington County President – May 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Wellington County President – June 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Algonquin College – August 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Ontario Professional Planners Institute – August 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Northern College – August 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to University of Guelph – August 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to University of Guelph Continuing Education – September 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Fanshawe College School of Design – September 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Fanshawe College Centre of Research & Innovation – September 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Fanshawe College President of Academics – September 2023](#)

[OFA Letter to Fanshawe College Agri-Business – September 2023](#)

OFA has sent a letter to the Ontario Provincial Planners Institute (OPPI) to request that they offer and promote rural land use planning courses for its full and candidate members as a part of their Continuous Professional Learning. We received a response outlining the current ways OPPI offers rural land use planning information as well as the opportunity to collaborate with the OPPI on a proposed module within new learning materials (currently in development), tentatively named “planning 101”. OFA is currently working with OPPI to follow up with respect to learning materials as well as other learning outputs and future collaboration.

OFA has sent letters to the University of Guelph, Algonquin College, Fanshawe College, and Northern College to ask for the requirement of a rural land use planning course within their respective agriculture business programs. To date, we have received recognition of the request from two representatives at Fanshawe College with the possibility of future correspondence. While we have not received formal recognition of the request from the University of Guelph, Algonquin College, and Northern College, OFA has been a guest speaker for the Sustainable Practices in Agriculture Course at Algonquin College and looks forward to future correspondence and collaboration there.

OFA has sent a letter to University of Guelph’s Continuing Education program to request the inclusion of a rural land use planning course but has not yet received a reply.



March 2023

38

23-03-01

Larry Besinger

Adjustment to the Capital Gains Exemption

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Federal Government to increase the Capital Gains Exemption to keep up with inflation.

ACTIVITY

[OFA Letter to Minister Freeland](#)

[Response Email from Minister Freeland Office](#)

[OFA Response Letter to Perth Member Mr. Biesinger](#)

OFA has shared and will continue to do so, our members concerns regarding ensuring that the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption (LCGE) keeps current with inflation. In addition, OFA will include the request to inflation-index the LCGE in our submission with respect to the upcoming 2024 federal budget consultation

June 2023

39

23-06-01

Halton

Red Tape Reduction

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) request the province modify section 5 sub 6 and 6.1 of Regulation 828 such that all installation and maintenance is exempt in an open road allowance regardless of whether it is rural or urban and regardless if it is a public utility or a private utility.

Note: the effect of this should be to exempt private companies from needing a Development Permit for public infrastructure on an open road allowance. One less level of red tape that added little or nothing to process.

TABLED 

Halton Region Federation of Agriculture revised the wording of this resolution at their August meeting:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA request the province modify subsection 6.1 of section 5 of Ontario Regulation 828 made under the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act such that all installation and maintenance is exempt throughout the Niagara Escarpment Plan area and regardless of who might construct, install, operate, or own the work or system.

Amended resolution was CARRIED by the OFA Board of Directors on October 20, 2023.

OFA will write the MMAH Minister to request that O. Reg. 828 made under the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act* be amended.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) investigate the available opportunities for courses (either in person or online) in farm equipment training and provide a summary of said courses currently available (similar to the heavy equipment training in Cornwall) with colleges and universities. As well, potentially have OFA work with WSPS to develop an updated list of existing training opportunities.

CARRIED



ACTIVITY

OFA Letter to Leeds County President

This resolution was carried by the board of directors at their June board meeting. OFA is working to develop the summary of available programs and courses related to farm equipment and heavy equipment training to share with our members. OFA will also continue to work with Ministry of Transportation, Good Roads, Rural Ontario Municipality Association and others around increasing awareness of Slow Moving Vehicle Signs and what they mean for motorists, including new drivers.

OFA is actively seeking an opportunity to meet with the new Minister of Transportation, Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, and this will form one of the agenda items for discussion at that meeting along with member concerns around Commercial Vehicle Operator Registration and recommendations for a modified registration process as well as our desire to be even more involved in transportation planning to ensure appropriate actions are taken with regard to roads, bridges, culverts and roundabouts that may impact agricultural equipment on the road and access to farm properties.



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AGM Speaker Biographies



Hon. Rob Black

Senator

The Honourable Rob Black has worked in the rural, agricultural, and leadership arenas for much of his working career.

He has had close involvement in 4-H and other leadership programs, such as Junior Farmers and the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP). He credits his involvement in these programs with allowing him to develop the skills that would lead him to apply to be a senator. He has been involved in 4-H for 45 years in all aspects of the program, at the local, provincial and national levels and is a Past President of the Canadian 4-H Council.

Rob was Ward 5 Representative on Wellington County Council. He has also been Manager of the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund, and President of the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Association and the Wellington County Historical Society.

Rob worked with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs for 15 years. He then spent a short time with the Ontario Soybean Growers before accepting the job of his dreams: Executive Director of The Centre for Rural Leadership, which morphed in to the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI).

In 2012, in recognition of Rob's significant contributions to 4-H across Canada over many years, he received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. In 2013, Rob was awarded the Outstanding Leadership Program Director Award from the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership (IAPAL) and in 2016, Rob was made an Honourary Member of the Canadian 4-H Council.

Rob applied to be a senator in July 2016, after some prompting from his son, Tayler. In February 2018 he received a call from the Prime Minister, summoning him to the Senate to represent the province of Ontario. The Prime Minister told Rob specifically that he wanted him to bring his background in agriculture, rural community development, and leadership development to the Senate.

On February 27, 2018, Rob was sworn in as a senator. Since then, he has been working on several issues of important to Canadians through his role.

Rob and his wife Julie live north of Fergus and have four grown children and two grandsons.



Jack Wilkinson

Director, Cooperators

Jack Wilkinson has been a leader within the farming community for the past thirty years with provincial, federal and international farm organizations. He has been

recognized for his contribution with an honorary doctorate from the University of Guelph and as an inductee to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame. Since serving three terms as the President of the International Federation of Agriculture, he has focused on cooperatives; as Director of Nipissing-Sudbury Co-op and a Director of Cooperators Insurance. He was most recently named as one of three farm representatives to the UN Year of The Co-Op Committee 2012. He continues to farm with his wife Julie in Northern Ontario.



Kelly Dobson

Founder, Performance Coach - LeaderShift Inc.

Kelly has been formally coaching in the ag space since 2017. Initially working with farm families – primarily dads, sons & siblings, which

expanded to include cohort-based coaching through the National Farm Leadership Program (NFLP). The success of the NFLP branched Kelly's client base to include agribusiness managers of both private and multinational firms.

Kelly's primary interest is in equipping and supporting people to adapt to their changing environment, roles, responsibilities, and relationships. Over time, their work becomes a catalyst for personal innovation and growth that underpins their professional success. Kelly is also a fourth-generation farmer from Manitoba and has served agriculture for over a decade, chairing provincial and federal organizations, as well writing for Country Guide.



John Vanthof

MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane & Critic, Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Being the Member of Provincial Parliament for Timiskaming Cochrane

is a big change from my previous job. My wife and I have been full time dairy farmers in Earlton for the last 30 years.

For years I have spent my free time helping to fight for issues that were important to Northerners and together we have fought some tough battles. Now, I have been given the opportunity to speak on your behalf as the Member of Provincial Parliament and I pledge to treat this position with the utmost respect that it deserves and to be your voice in parliament.

My motto when faced with hard issues has always been to surround myself with team players and then motivate them to perform at their peak. That has not changed. My staff members are the front line of the local team and I urge you to contact them with your concerns.

Together, we will ensure that you have access to all provincial services available and we will stand up for you when legislation needs to be changed. Feel free to contact us with your concerns and be assured that we will do everything in our power to "Put People First".



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 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.



Keith Currie
President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Keith Currie, a Collingwood, Ontario farmer, was born and raised on the family farm

and is the 8th generation on the farm family operation. Currie graduated with a diploma in Agriculture Production Management from the University of Guelph, Ridgetown College in 1982. Upon Graduation, Currie returned home to manage the family dairy and cash crop farm in Simcoe County with his wife Janice and together they have raised four children.

Currie's operation now focuses on production of grains and oilseed, forages for dry hay, along with a sweet corn and gladiolus flower production.

Over the years, Currie has represented many agriculture boards and organizations at the regional, provincial, and federal levels serving on both livestock and cropping organizations. Keith is the Past President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and has had 25+ years of board experience with the OFA. Agriculture Co-operatives, Dairy Herd Improvement association, Fair Boards, Holstein Clubs, Soil and Crop Improvement association, Conservation Authority committees and county federation of agriculture boards are just a few of the local organizations that Keith has been involved with over the years. Keith is also an Ontario delegate to The Co-Operators Insurance.

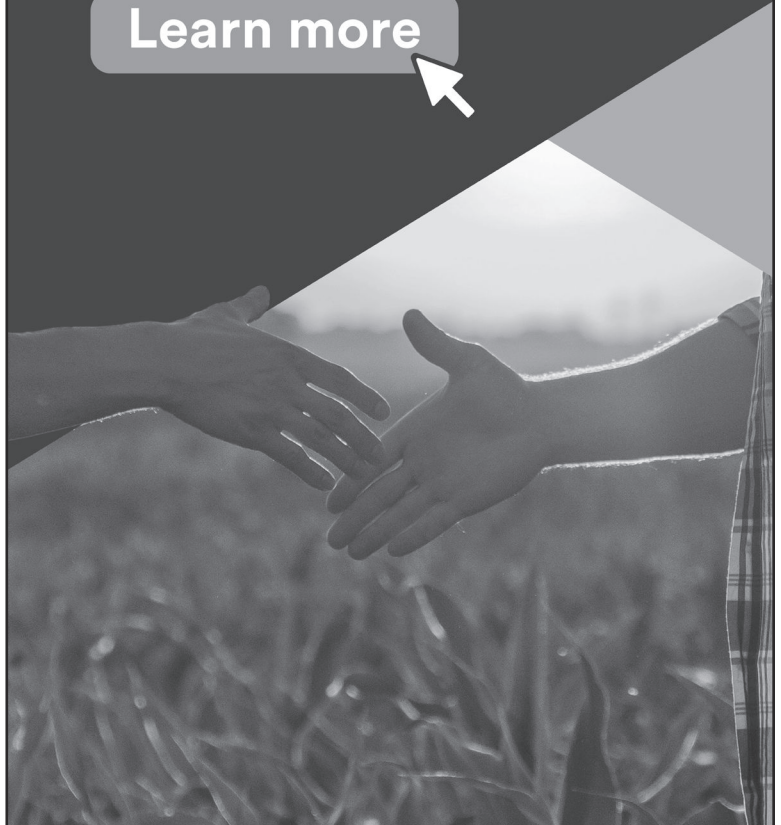
Keith has also been appointed to three provincial government advisory committees in Ontario, the 4 Plan Review committee (a review of 4 provincial land use plans), the Environmental Advisory committee as well as the Wetlands Advisory committee.

Before becoming CFA President in 2023, Keith served on the CFA board for several years, and was elected as the organization's 1st Vice-President in 2019.

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OFA

CWB National Leasing

Workshops

AgRobotics and Innovation in an Era of Immense Change



Ian MacDonald

Applied Research Coordinator, OMAFRA

While we have experienced much innovation in agriculture starting with the movement away from the horse as the means of “farm power”, never have we seen the

speed of tech advancement of today which likely pales to the speed of technology change coming toward us. How do we make the right decisions regarding technology and its integration into farming systems?

Farming a Story – Engaging with Government and the Media



Calvin Reid

Director of Public Relations & Jonathan Sampson, Director of Government Relations, Enterprise Canada

Jonathan Sampson

Director of Government Relations, Enterprise Canada



This workshop will provide tips, tactics and advice for lobbying the government and managing media situations, with an emphasis on creating effective messages, taking important issues forward to local councils, and elevating to MPPs and MPs, how to prepare

for and talk to the media and how to be most effective in communicating with either the government or the media (or both).

Finding Solutions for Deadstock Management



Jennifer MacTavish

Association Leader

The effective management of on-farm mortalities is always a concern, and recently became a high priority issue, for the Ontario livestock sector.

Producers, government, and other stakeholders (renderers, pickup, composters) recognize the need for a longer-term solution. Work done by the Livestock Research Innovation Corporation identified the following recommendations: establish a coordinating body; continued investment into deadstock removal and infrastructure; work with waste management companies; and review regulations. This workshop will seek input from the participants on the recommendations being presented.

Planners as Your Best Friend



Wayne Caldwell

Retired Professor, Rural Planning and Development

Gwenyth McCarthy

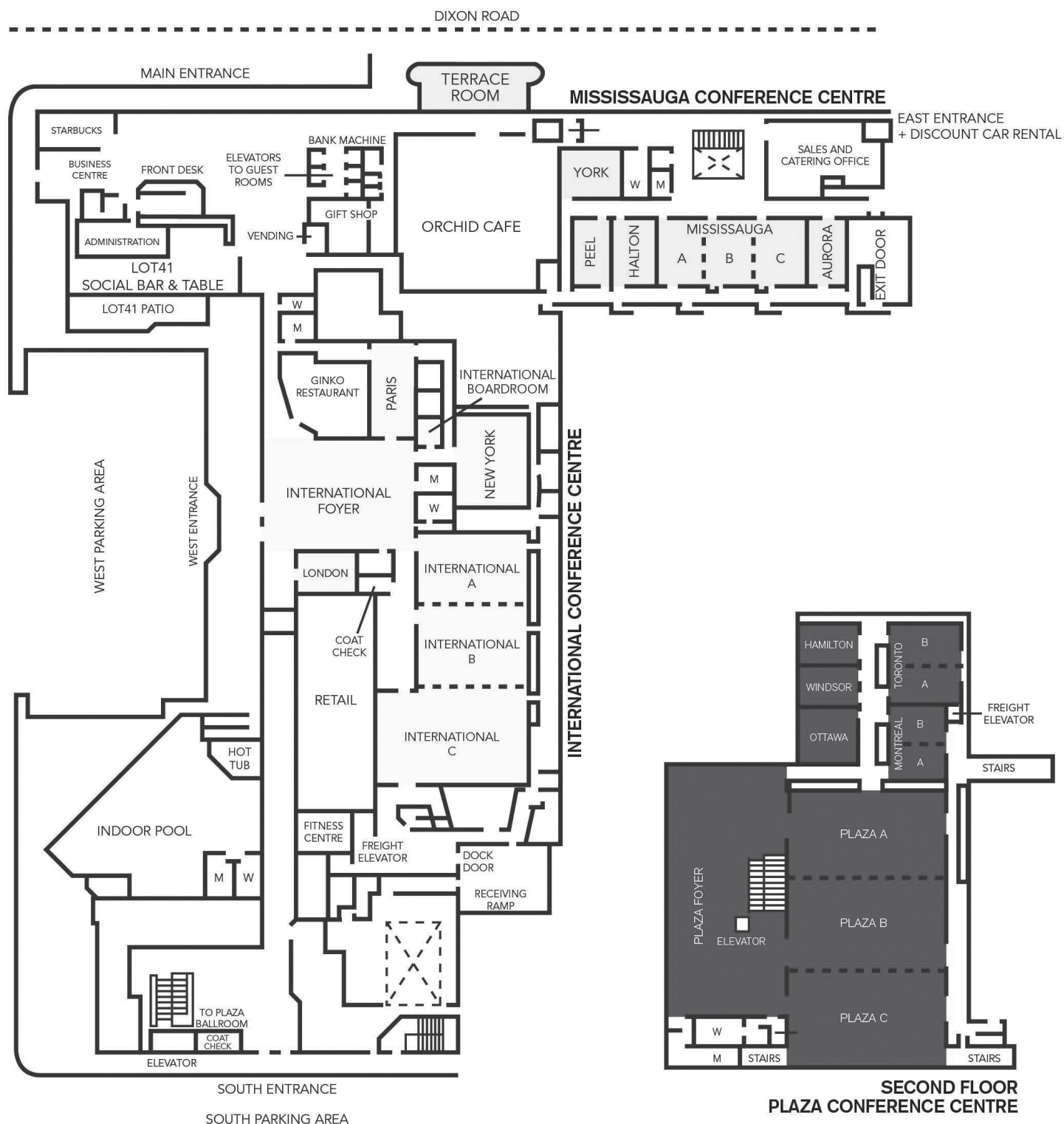
Farm Policy Analyst, Ontario Federation of Agriculture



This workshop will provide a basic understanding of Land Use Planning policy and promote a productive and collaborative relationship between farmers and planners. The workshop will cover the basics of Land Use Planning policy from the provincial level to the municipal level as well as any relevant concerns, projects,

and updates. In addition, the workshop will provide some insight into building trust and establishing relationships between farmers and planners to benefit both parties and touch on some innovations and good news within the planning world.

Delta Hotel & Conference Centre Floor Plan



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

2016-2020

Keith Currie

2020-2023

Peggy Brekveld

2022-2023 Board of Directors



Top row left to right: Bruce Buttar, Jennifer Doelman, Mark Reusser, Paul Maurice, Peggy Brekveld, Larry Davis, Drew Spoelstra, Crispin Colvin, Vanessa Renaud, Steve Brackenridge, Louis Roesch **Bottom row left to right:** Jackie Kelly-Pemberton, Teresa Van Raay, Ethan Wallace, William Groenheide, Sara Wood, Tracey Arts, Paul Vickers

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Financial



Transportation



Farm publications and communications



Travel



Farm supply, hardware, clothing

