



# Newsletter

# | March 2024



landafedag@outlook.com



@OFAzone12

LAFFA has been doing a lot of terrific work this past year, working on behalf of the membership to represent agriculture in Lennox and Addington. It is my pleasure to work with such a great group of volunteers. I want to extend my appreciation to all of the directors who make up the board, for giving their time to the organization. I would invite anyone from the membership to come check out LAFFA at one of their regular meetings – we are always looking for new faces and voices to join our team.

We've welcomed some new support members to the LAFFA team in the last year, including our new Administrator, Alana Cassibo. Alana keeps everything running behind the scenes and is doing an excellent job to keep us on track and everything accounted for. Thanks Alana!

I can't miss the opportunity to thank Tiffany Babcock-Robinson for her work with LAFFA for several years. Tiffany was a huge part of the organization and we accomplished so many great things with her support, especially the launch of the Farmer Wellness Program. Thank you Tiffany!

We've also welcomed a new provincial OFA Director for our zone. Brian Crews was elected by the membership last September, and officially began his duties in November. Brian is an energetic and passionate advocate for agriculture. He has dived right in to the role and I know he is always available for listening to the needs of the membership. With the passing of the torch, we thank Bruce Buttar for his decade plus as provincial Director and the countless hours he spent advocating for Ontario agriculture across the province.

Land use is one of the most important policy files that OFA works on, and in our work, protecting productive farmland is our goal. OFA works hand-in-hand with the local county federations, like LAFFA, to advocate for better land use policies both provincially but also municipally. Currently, the Township of Stone Mills is embarking on a process to better protect prime agricultural land. I encourage all members living in Stone Mills to make themselves aware of the meetings, and to get involved. This is an excellent opportunity to ensure that the farmland you care about, stays farmland for generations to come.

OFA's website is a big hub of resources and its worth doing some exploring at [www.ofa.on.ca](http://www.ofa.on.ca)

o We regularly offer informational webinars on current topics. For example, we just offered one called "Cyber Security, Minimizing Your Risk and Protecting Your Farm Business". The webinars are all recorded and saved, and available for anyone to access after the fact.

o OFA works to keep our membership informed of any changes to regulations and taxation. Our most recent helpful article will help with the current tax season, "Three tax filings members should know about."

o We also post all of the official submissions we send to the province's ministries when they are soliciting comments and feedback on proposed changes to legislation.

o Finally, our section called "Factsheets" is where you can find detailed information on all of the issues that affect your farm business. Feel free to print them out, or share and send them to your neighbour.

All the best with the upcoming growing season!

Resi Walt [resi.walt@ofa.on.ca](mailto:resi.walt@ofa.on.ca)

## **STUDENT BURSARY 2023 & 2024**



Leonard Austin presents cheque to Lindsay's mother

LAFFA is proud to offer an annual post-secondary bursary of \$500 for students who: are a resident of Lennox and Addington County, entering first or second year in post-secondary education, is a child of an LAFFA member and has never received a scholarship from the LAFFA before.

The recipient for 2023 was Lindsay Davis of Napanee. She is attending Waterloo University, majoring in Biology Co-op.

2024 Scholarship applications are due August 23rd.

Please contact Alana for an application [landafedag@outlook.com](mailto:landafedag@outlook.com)



## March 28 | 10 AM

Westminster United Church  
1199 Wallbridge Loyalist Rd. Belleville  
Just 1 min north of the 401

**Jim McComb, The Farmer's Edge Agri-Coaching**  
Close Neighbours: Rules about Distance from Farms to Housing

**Ian Nokes, Policy Analyst, OFA**  
Local impacts of Battery Energy Storage Systems

**Mike Robinson, Fire Chief, Township of Hamilton**

The meeting concludes with a complementary hot lunch at noon catered by Flossie's



Contact: Resi Walt, OFA | [resi.walt@ofa.on.ca](mailto:resi.walt@ofa.on.ca)

## New Faces



**Brian Crews-** As I complete my third month as your new director for zone 12, I am convinced more than ever that it was the right decision to make the step to the provincial board. The job is exciting, challenging and I feel truly privileged to be

your director. Thank you all for your support. It is exciting to work with Leonard and his local directors. It was a challenge to meet many of you last summer as I went door to door campaigning. It was a privilege to hear you share your stories. But there are many of you that I have yet to meet. Try to get out to an OFA event and say hello. Meeting other farmers is my favourite part of the job. Farmers have always needed a strong voice, and the OFA voice is being heard. OFA led the charge against the 3 lot severance per farm and the government listened. Our new president Drew Spoelstra sat on a speaker panel at the recent Roma conference in Toronto. OFA continues to work hard on issues that affect you right here in L and A. Battery Electric Storage Systems, Storm Water Management Fees, and farmland preservation to name a few. OFA has 38000 members across the province. Those members and their associated families are a lot of voices. Let us all use those voices to speak for agriculture and rural people, as we continue to provide food for our families, Ontario, Canada and the world.



**Alana Cassibo (Brown)-** Alana has been the new Administrator for the Lennox and Addington Federation since March 2023. Alana grew up on Brownlands Dairy Farm in Enterprise. She furthered her education by attending Loyalist College through the Business/Human Resource Program. She then worked in Human Resources within the Agricultural

field before starting a family of her own.



## A Year in Review

### Events:

July– Councillor Farm Tour  
 August– Breakfast on the Farm  
 August– Plowing Match  
 September– AGM  
 February– Canada Ag Day Breakfast

### Donations:

\$500– L&A Holstein Club– BBQ  
 \$500– L&A Mutual Salvation Army Campaign  
 \$500– L&A Holstein Club– BBQ  
 \$700– L&A Holstein Club– Royal Prep  
 \$500– Beef Club– Royal Prep  
 \$500 Farmtown Park

### Letters Written:

March– Bill 62 Support  
 May– Napanee Railway/  
 Walking Trail  
 September– Zoning Amend-  
 ment– Camden East



# FARM 911

THE E<sup>B</sup>ILY PROJECT

[www.FARM911.ca](http://www.FARM911.ca)

To start the application process for a sign, contact your municipality.  
 For questions about the program, contact Resi Walt

Loyalist - Building Department- (613) 386-7351  
 Addington Hills - Roads/Bridges- (613) 336-2286  
 Greater Napanee - Building & Development- (613) 354-8863  
 Stone Mills - Roads Department- (613) 378-1435



**FARMER**  
 wellness program  
 est. 2019

*Professional counselling service for OFA members and their families*

- Four sessions at no charge
- Fully private & confidential
- Flexible appointment options
- Farm-focused counsellors

**Call to book:**  
 (613) 985-7233

**FarmerWellnessProgram.ca**