



News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry

Message from the President Allan Carruthers

Well 2024 spring planting is over for most of us here in Northumberland county. It has been a challenge to get the crops off to a promising start, with frequent showers and cloudy days. A new growing season has farmers thinking of a prosperous year in the making for the crops and livestock, optimistically hoping all the hard work will pay off. Challenges of other things that influence a prosperous outlook on the farm seem to be plentiful also. Locally, Cobourg is trying to implement storm water management fees on all lands inside their boundaries including land that grows our crops. NFA board members have been attending meetings in opposition to these fees and recently Brian Crews spoke to the council about the loss of farmland. We are hoping for a

favourable reply June 26th.

Municipal, Provincial and Federal governments continue to provide us with challenges that seem to reduce our agricultural earnings.

We will persevere!

Hope to see you out and about this summer feel free to reach out and connect with us over ag issues or conversations.

Allan

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Storm Water Management Fees in Cobourg

Just before Christmas last year, a member informed our MSR Resi Walt about a new bylaw in Cobourg where farmland was being assessed a fee of about \$160 per acre to help the municipality fund their storm water system. This was discussed at the December NFA board meeting and I was directed to carry it forward to the provincial board. OFA Farm Policy Analyst Tina Schankula, Resi and Lisa Meekes collaborated on a letter and it was presented to Cobourg Council by Allan Carruthers. At that time, interest was waived on unpaid accounts until June 1. At our winter Policy Advisory meeting a panel of 3 from across the province provided information on Storm Water Fees in their municipality, with Lisa representing NFA. With input from PAC, the board arrived at the position that OFA does not support storm water fees, that are not

associated with a municipal drain under the drainage act. This position was forwarded to Agriculture Minister Thompson and she responded with a letter to all municipalities in Ontario expressing her concern about storm water fees charged on agricultural land and urged municipalities to follow the Brant county example where agriculture is exempt from storm water fees. Cobourg received the correspondence at last council meeting and I spoke about the disastrous effects these fees will have on local agriculture. The issue is on the agenda for discussion at June 26th council meeting.

I am proud of the efforts NFA and OFA has had in advocating for farmers on this issue.

Brian Crews, OFA Director Zone 12

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Northumberland County Rep

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905-372-3329 ext. 6492

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

OFA Resources

OFA's YouTube page youtube.com/@ontariofarms has a ton of informative content including webinars on drainage, a new women's mentorship program, railway crossings, easements on farm properties, and more. Check it out!

Fight for farmland in Wilmot Township

The Waterloo Federation of Agriculture (WFA) and the OFA are disappointed at the ongoing lack of transparency and consultation in the land use situation in Wilmot Township, a municipality in Waterloo Region. A consulting firm acting on behalf of the Region of Waterloo has approached farmers and landowners in the area with offers to purchase 770 acres of prime farmland for a yet undisclosed industrial economic development project.

OFA has been working closely with the WFA, area farmers and affected landowners ever since the Region's land assembly process for industrial development first came to light earlier this year. The provincial organization takes an active role provincially in advocating for farmland preservation through a responsible land use planning approach that supports economic growth opportunities in areas that are best suited for this type of development and prioritizes farmland use for food production. If you would like to read more about this situation and show your support for affected farmers, go to fightforfarmland.ca

OFA Gate Signs

It's that time of year again! If you see someone at the end of your driveway with a drill, do not fret, it's just me changing out your faded OFA sign. Get in touch if you'd like yours replaced.

Resi Walt

Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12

Find us on
Facebook

YOU ARE
WHAT YOU
TWEET

Follow on
Twitter:
@ResiWalt

www.FARM911.ca

The Benefits of Rural Economic Development

Investing in Ontario's rural economy will grow all of Ontario and produce good jobs in family-oriented communities.

OFA advocates for rural economic development policies by :

- Advocating for municipalities to take a leadership role in agriculture economic development initiatives using our resources on our website (www.ofa.on.ca/GrowAg) to grow the agricultural sector
- Communicating with municipal staff, non-government organizations, regional provincial staff and the private sector on agricultural issues in partnership with OMAFRA through our Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Community of Practice
- Campaigning for affordable natural gas access as a competitive necessity to attract and retain businesses in rural Ontario
- Collaboration on initiatives such as the [SWIFT network](https://www.swiftnetwork.ca) to expand access to reliable broadband internet across rural Ontario
- Supporting the Agricultural System approach and the businesses and infrastructure that are linked to agriculture all along the value chain
- Encouraging progress from the province's Grow Ontario: a provincial agri-food strategy



**Join this
dynamic team
and help us
influence the
policy makers.
Contact one of
the directors
and ask your
questions if you
think you want
to help us make
a difference for
our industry.**

BeDriftAware
Best practices to reduce spray drift.

**Let's reduce spray drift
across Ontario**

Take the quiz
<https://bedriftaware.ca/>

Canadian Farmers:
Help us shine a light on you, your farms, and the
incredible Canadian ingredients you produce!

August 3, 2024

Take the Food Day Canada Pledge on www.fooddaycanada.ca to join the celebration.
Share what you bring to our tables and your stories with us all year long! @FoodDayCanada #FoodDayCanada
Shop • Cook • Dine • Celebrate • Canadian.



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



Growth Management and Agriculture Mapping - Northumberland County is updating the Official Plan to guide growth and development in over the next 30 years. These updates align with Provincial legislation that requires municipalities to review and update their Official Plan every few years.

Current Provincial forecasts indicate that the population for Northumberland County will grow to 122,000 people and 44,000 jobs by the year 2051. As part of the Official Plan update, we will be reviewing the maps and policies in the current Official Plan, and will undertake a series of amendments to update the Plan to ensure that the County and its member municipalities are prepared for the forecasted growth.

Attend consultation meetings and submit feedback through this process. Now is the time to influence how this county will change to accommodate future needs. Stay informed and updated.

<https://joinin.northumberland.ca/northumberland-next-official-plan-update?>



Annual Beef Day

Thursday July 4th, 2024

Trade Show @ 4:00pm

Beef BBQ @ 6:00pm

Adults \$20

Kids 6-12 \$10

Under 6 free

Hosted by:

Dang Charolais

Derek Dekeyser & Tami Matthews,
1940 Telephone Rd., Colborne

Northumberland Holstein Club Family Night/Twilight Meeting

Hoftzyer Farms Ltd.

530 9th Murray Rd., Frankford, ON

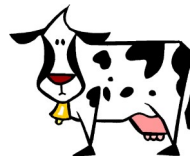
Friday July 18, 2024 @ 5:00 - 8 pm

Advanced tickets can be purchased from
directors of the
Northumberland Holstein Club

\$20 - Adults

\$15 - Kids 10 and under

At door sales will be \$5.00
more



Peavey Mart

Members, print your new
digital 15% off discount card
once you have logged in.

ofa.on.ca/benefit

Mental Health Moment

The growing season has begun and along with it, many things out of our control. Weather can cause a lot of stress to farmers.

Crops showing drought stress, too much rain causing yellowing, too windy to spray.

Working late to beat the rain then it doesn't rain and you keep working, exhausted. And always wondering each day how this will affect the end yield.

While the Farmer Wellness Program (705) 999-7916 can't do anything to control the weather, it is available to members at no cost to help deal with the stress of growing food.

Check yourself, and make sure you have good coping mechanisms to help with growing season stress. Reach out for a little support so your body can handle the added stress of the season.

Other options for you are:

Northumberland Hills Hospital clinic which is covered by OHIP (905) 377-9891

Talk it Out can connect you via zoom to online support. www.domore.ag/talk-it-out

Asking for help is a strength.

Take care of yourself so you can continue doing what you do.

Support each other and keep talking.

Students look.....Bursaries!!!!

The Port Hope Agriculture Society is pleased to offer financial support to an eligible student to assist in the achievement of their academic success. This support is in the form of a \$500 bursary for a student who is enrolling (or is already enrolled) in an agriculture related field, and can be obtained by those in degree, diploma, or certificate programs at a recognized post-secondary institution in Canada. Full details can be found on their web site www.porthopefair.com/bursary or contact secretary@porthopefair.com

Deadline is July 31st



Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is offering five postsecondary bursaries in 2024. Along with offering three bursaries in the amount of \$2,000 each to students in an undergraduate program, we are also offering a \$2,000 bursary to a

person completing an apprenticeship, as well as a \$2,000 bursary for a person completing a post-graduate, veterinary, or leadership development program.

Bursary recipients will be selected from applicants who are OFA members, a child of, or employee of an OFA member and are residents of Ontario. Applicants should be able to demonstrate industry related accomplishments, an interest in agriculture and rural issues, and community involvement.

The winners will be announced at OFA's 2024 Annual General Meeting in November. Don't miss out on this opportunity - the deadline to submit an application for the bursary program is August 31, 2024. ofa.on.ca/bursary2024/



**NORTHUMBERLAND
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE**

Contact: **Lisa Meekes**

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Phone: 905-269-7419

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@NorthumberlandFed-
erationofAgriculture

#northumberlandag

We're on the web

<https://ofa.on.ca/federations/northumberland/>

Gadgets

*Digital resource that you
may find useful.*

Keep track of all farm equipment
maintenance records, create



detailed
service
history,
schedule
service
alerts.

Check it out.

farmservicemanager.com



Spread the Word to Students

Do you know a young person in second year of post secondary that would like some funds for their schooling? There are several bursaries available to Northumberland students and I have included a few links in this issue. Pass this info along and let's get some money into their pockets.

Mark your calendars with the dates for the local dairy and beef social events and support their causes.

Have a happy growing season everyone.

Lisa



NORTHUMBERLAND

**Don't struggle talk to
someone. It's free!**

Farmerwellnessprogram.ca

705-999-7916

Northumberland Federation Scholarship



NFA is currently accepting application for the 2024 Scholarship Application Program.

Qualifications are as follows:

- The applicant must be a member or related to a member of the OFA within the boundaries of Northumberland County. An affiliation with a Northumberland OFA member **may** be considered based on a written description (by the member) of the applicant's involvement on the member's farm. Example: A neighbouring student that has helped on the farm and has demonstrated a passion and future interest in agriculture.
- The applicant must submit a detailed essay listing the relationship to the OFA member, his/her activities on the farm, associated memberships (4H, etc.), volunteer work, detail their course studies, and their future goals.
- The applicant must be entering the second year or greater of an accredited post-secondary diploma or degree program.
- A late application will disqualify the applicant for consideration. The applicant may reapply for consideration in the next subsequent year.
- Unsuccessful applicants may reapply
- A maximum of three scholarships will be awarded.
- A recipient may only be awarded once
- A maximum of \$3000.00 will be awarded in any one year.
- \$1000.00 will be awarded to each successful applicant.

Deadline for receipt of applications is **August 1, 2024**. The Scholarship committee will need time to read and consider all the forms and essays and make their final decision well in advance of the AGM and banquet. Please do not forget to include all the requested information and use a separate sheet to tell us about your farming connections and your community interests. Fill out an application form and include a separate sheet for additional info.

Mail to:

Lisa Meekes
1246 Dingman Rd.
Castleton, ON.
K0K1M0

or

Email to:

nfa.lisam@gmail.com



Name: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Township/Municipality: _____

Name of OFA membership or Affiliate: _____

OFA Farm Registration # _____

Home Address: _____

Student Address: _____

Student ID#: _____ College or University Attended: _____

Address of School: _____

(Agricultural) Course Enrolled In: _____

(Agricultural Diploma or Degree being sought: _____

Average Mark Attained: _____ Year(s) of Study Completed: _____