

Ontario Federation of Agriculture 2023 Annual General Meeting

Fields of Opportunity: Cultivating a Sustainable Future for Ontario Agriculture

1. Call to Order

President Peggy Brekveld called the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to order.

2. Senator Rob Black

Senator Rob Black addressed the delegates. He spoke on the theme of the AGM and noted that it was well suited as he believes there are lots of fields of opportunity for Ontario agriculture and that they need to be protected.

Senator Black's address also touched on soil health, food security, urbanization and industrialization and Bill C-234.

In his closing remarks Senator Black stated that together we can build a more prosperous and sustainable future.

3. Agenda Approval

Motion: Stone/Murray ... "THAT the Agenda be approved."

CARRIED

4. Approval of 2022 Minutes

Motion: Davis/Pemberton ... "THAT the 2022 AGM Minutes be approved."

CARRIED

5. Motion to Receive Auditors Report and Financial Statements

Motion: Stone/Cammaert ... "THAT the Auditor's Report and OFA Financial Statements for the period of September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023, be accepted."

CARRIED

6. Appointment of Auditors 2022-2023

Motion: Kruszel/Jebb ... "THAT the OFA Annual General Meeting Delegates accepts the OFA Board of Directors recommendation to have RLB LLP OFA's Auditor for the 2023/24 fiscal year."

CARRIED

7. Motion to Appointment of Election Chairperson

Motion: *Stone/Freeman ... "THAT Cathy Lennon be appointed as Elections Chair"*

CARRIED

8. Year In Review Video

A Year In Review video was presented which captured OFA's accomplishments in 2023.

9. OFA By-laws and Letter Patent

President Peggy Brekveld made a presentation to the delegates with two key changes to consider:

1. Considering changes to OFA's By-laws
2. OFA's Letters Patent

She noted that Jason Bent, Director of Research, would speak to the changes to the Letters Patent and the specific wording changes to the Bylaws, specifically responding to the Ontario Not For Profit Corporations Act and removing references to the Policy Advisory Council (PAC) from OFA's By-laws.

Jason Bent reviewed the changes in OFA By-law Amendments 23-2 and 23-1 with the delegates.

By-law #23-2

The proposed By-law #23-2 would:

1. Remove the clause regarding the Policy Advisory Council (PAC);
2. Eliminate the position of "Councillor";
3. Replacing the term "Member Representatives" with the term "Delegates"; and
4. Increase from three to four the number of "Delegates" per fixed number of members residing in a Region and per Agricultural/Commodity Organization Member.

Motion: *Vanden Hengel/Feurth ... "THAT By-Law # 23-2 is approved by the Members as a by-law of the Corporation to come into force at the adjournment of the 2023 General Meeting.*

By-law #23-1

Jason Bent explained that to align with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) while the three-year transition period exists for some ONCA provisions and to make other amendments relating generally to the conduct of the business and affairs of OFA, By-law # 23-1 was enacted by the OFA Board on October 19, 2023. It took immediate effect replacing By-law # 20-1.

He also noted that if By-law #23-2 was approved by the Members it will repeal By-law # 23-1. Otherwise, Member confirmation of By-law # 23-1 would be required.

The following Special Resolution was introduced:

**Special Resolution to the OFA
for a By-Law amendment to restructure the Policy Advisory Council into the
Federation Forum**

Motion: *Berkley/Schneider ... THAT Article 1 of the proposed Bylaw # 23-2 be amended or revised to include the following Definitions: "Local Federation" means any of the County, District, or Regional Federations of Agriculture;*

- 1. "The Forum" means the Federation Forum**

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Article 18 and subsequent Articles renumbered in the proposed By-law 23-2, and a new Article 18 be inserted to read:

18. FEDERATION FORUM

18.1 PURPOSE

The Federation Forum will serve as a space for communication, collaboration and engagement between the OFA and the local Federations. The Forum will facilitate information sharing, discussions, and collaboration.

18.2 PARTICIPATION

The Federation Forum shall be open to representatives from the boards of directors of each Local Federation, the Agricultural/Commodity Organization Members, and the OFA Board.

i) Each Local Federation may send from their board one (1) representative per a fixed number of members within their region. Any Local Federations with less than the fixed number of members may still send one (1) representative to the Forum.

ii) Each Agricultural/Commodity Organization Member may send from their board one (1) representative.

iii) All the Directors of the OFA Board may participate in the Federation Forum.

18.3 MEETINGS

The Forum shall meet no less than once in each fiscal year. Representatives shall be given the opportunity to participate in Forum meetings by telephonic or electronic means.

18.4 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Forum will establish by majority vote of the representatives its own terms of reference to govern its operation, and shall review those terms of reference on an

annual basis.

18.5 REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

Representatives may be paid remuneration and traveling expenses in accordance with the OFA Board Expense Policy.

LOST

Motion to Table By-law #23-2

Motion: *Jason O'Neil/Paul Buckley ... "THAT By-Law #23-2 be tabled for one year."*

CARRIED

Confirmation of By-law #23-1

Motion: *Harrop/Verkley ... "THAT By-Law #23-1 is confirmed by the Members as a by-law of the Corporation."*

CARRIED

Motion to Approve Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation

Motion: *Meekes/Lee ... "THAT the Corporation is authorized to file Articles of Amendment to the Corporation's Letters Patent to:*

(a) To specify the number of directors of the corporation as minimum 12 to a maximum of 20 directors; and

(b) To delete the special provisions contained in the Corporation's Letters Patent in their entirety and replace them with the following:

1. The Corporation shall be carried on without the purpose of gain for its members and any profits or other accretions to the Corporation shall be used in promoting its objects.

2. Commercial purposes, if any, included in the articles are intended only to advance or support one or more of the non-profit purposes of the corporation. No part of a corporation's profits or of its property or accretions to the value of the property may be distributed, directly or indirectly, to a member, a director or an officer of the corporation except in furtherance of its activities or as otherwise permitted by the ONCA.

3. The corporation is authorized to establish one class of members. Each Member shall have the right to receive notice of and attend meetings of the OFA Members. Each Member shall have the right to receive notice and attend the Annual Regional Meeting held in the Region where they reside, and shall have the right to cast one vote on matters put before the Members at the Annual Regional Meeting.

4. The registered office of the corporation shall be 200 Hanlon Creek Boulevard, Guelph, Ontario.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT any two (2) Officers of the Corporation,

or any one (1) Officer together with any one (1) Director of the Corporation, are authorized and directed to do, execute and perform all acts, documents and instruments necessary or desirable to give full force and effect to the foregoing, including, without limitation, the execution and delivery to the Ontario Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery ("MPBSD") of the Articles and all other required documents; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the persons executing the Articles of Amendment are authorized and directed to make such technical changes in the Articles as may be required by MPBSD, with no further recourse to the Board of Directors or Members to approve or confirm such changes, and any such amendments made by such persons shall be conclusive evidence of the need to make such amendments and are ratified, sanctioned and approved.

**Amended Resolution
CARRIED**

10. Resolutions

A. OFA Meetings & Agendas

**Arnprior
Hybrid Meetings**

Motion: *Cousens/Shaw ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture 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."*

CARRIED

**Elgin
AGM Resolutions**

Motion: *Fenti/Vandenbroek ...THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture will modify the annual agenda to prioritize the discussion and votes on resolutions, including increasing the time allotment."*

CARRIED

B. Farm Property & Land-use

**Oxford
CP Railway Company**

Motion: *McKay/Gardiner ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture ask Canadian Federation of Agriculture to lobby Transport Canada's Minister to advise the Federal Railway company that they should not require a new agreement from landowners."*

CARRIED

**Elgin
Finalization Draft Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Guidance Document**

Motion: *Cammaert/Schneider ... "THAT the OFA lobby for the revision,*

strengthening, and finalization of the Draft Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Guidance Document, March 2018."

CARRIED

Elgin

Strengthening the Protection of Agricultural Lands

Motion: *Cammaert/Schneider ... "THAT the OFA lobby to participate as part of the comprehensive review process with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the completion of the 2023 Provincial Planning Statement (PPS), and FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA lobby for changes to Section 2.3 of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) 2020 to strengthen the language used in the planning process to protect agricultural areas; Specifically, using words like 'shall' should be prioritized over 'encouraged', to ensure the protection of farmland and arable land."*

CARRIED

C. Energy & Transportation

Huron

Battery Energy Storage Systems

Motion: *Vanden Hengel/O'Rourke... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the provincial government to develop rules and regulations to govern the planning of the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) sites.*

CARRIED

Lambton

Truck Drivers

Motion: *Eves/VanWieren ... "THAT Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the government to create a program to offset the risk for insurance companies to allow new qualified truck drivers to be insured."*

CARRIED

D. Agricultural Science

Leeds

Simplifying Dealing with Specified Risk Materials (SRM)

Motion: *Renaud/Passey ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, along with Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO), lobby the Federal and Ontario governments to eliminate Specified Risk Materials (SRM) separation and transportation requirements imposed on small abattoirs; This would be in keeping with the provincial government wanting to keep the cost of food down."*

CARRIED

E. Health & Education

Grey

Lyme Disease

Motion: *Wettlaufer/Danis ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ontario Government to direct the Ministry of Health to review current best practices available around the world for modern diagnosis and treatments for tick borne diseases and to take steps to publish / educate and promote options to the medical community for immediate improvements to existing outdated protocols."*

CARRIED

Leeds

OMAFRA Support is Needed for All College Agriculture Programs

Motion: *Renaud/Domio ... THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby OMAFRA to provide financial resources for all college Business-Agriculture programs."*

CARRIED

F. Agriculture Economic Development

Huron

Groceries

Motion: *Murray/Vanden Hengel ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Provincial Government and Federal Government in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to be included in conversations with regards to the impact the food chain infrastructure has on grocery prices."*

CARRIED

Late Resolution

Motion: *Orford/Witteveen ... "THAT Peel's Late Resolution on Stormwater Management Charges be allowed on the Agenda."*

CARRIED

Peel

Stormwater Management Charges

Motion: *Dolson/Smuck ... "THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture takes a proactive role to communicate our concerns with research-based material to municipalities throughout Ontario and to assist our members and local federations who are currently impacted, by providing science-based information in support of the elimination of unfair stormwater charges on farmland; and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT OFA review the validity of storm water charges as they result in a manipulation of current taxation under the Farm Property Tax Rate; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT OFA research and support alternative methods of stormwater retention in rural Ontario, with the objective of

reducing instances of flooding in urban areas, thereby encouraging residential intensification and reducing urban sprawl.

CARRIED

11. Jack Wilkinson – The Co-operators

Jack Wilkinson, Director of The Co-operators gave an update to the delegates on the past year at The Co-operators and appreciates the strong partnership with OFA.

12. Kelly Dobson – LeaderShift Inc.

Kelly Dobson, Founder and Performance Coach from LeaderShift Inc. addressed the delegates

Mr. Dobson spoke of LeaderShift Inc. National Farm Leadership Program “Grow Your Potential” which equips and supports people to grow bigger than their challenges, so they achieve the outcomes that matter.

He then led the delegates through an interactive session where it was about self-innovation, how they can be more, do more, and get the outcomes they want for sustainability.

13. John Vanthof, MPP

John Vanthof, NDP Critic Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs addressed the delegates.

Mr. Vanthof commented on *Bill 150, Planning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023*.

With respect to agriculture Mr. Vanthof noted that when it comes to land use issues and preserving farmland we need to speak beyond government and agriculture. It is important to speak to the urban population. He stated that everyone grasps that food comes from soil and when you lose that soil you lose the ability to grow food. It is important to speak to the non-agricultural population and the HomeGrown campaign is proof that we are getting the support.

Mr. Vanthof concluded by thanking the delegates on behalf of the official opposition.

14. Keith Currie – President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Keith Currie, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture congratulated Peggy Brekveld on her successful career with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

He informed the delegates that a big part of what CFA was dealing with was the 2023 federal budget which showed how effective CFA is in lobbying as the budget included many of CFA recommendations such as:

- Establishing a foot-and-mouth disease vaccine bank
- Establishing a transportation supply chain office
- Fertilizer tariff revenue re-invested into agriculture

Keith Currie also noted the following issues that CFA has been involved with:

- CFA and the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy
- CFA Farm Financial Health Report and Budget 2024
- Labour – National Workforce Strategy
- Environment and Climate Change - Bill C-234
- Pest Management Regulatory Agency Transformation Process (PMRA)
- Plant Breeding Innovation
- Grocery Code of Conduct

15. Hydro One Presentation

Robert Reinmuller, Vice President, Transmission Planning and Large Customer of Hydro One made a presentation to the delegates that included Hydro One's efforts in ongoing grid improvements and their customer commitment and care to provide reliable power. He also reminded the delegates of Hydro One's Rapid Response Teams if there are issues on their farms

16. Bursary Winners

The five 2023 bursary recipients of \$2,000 each were:

Undergrad – Northeast - Cassidy Porteous (Dundas)
 Undergrad – Central - Cheyanne Leifso (Grey)
 Undergrad – Southwest Emma Oulette (Lambton)
 Apprenticeship - Evan Atkinson (Simcoe)
 Postgraduate - Lauren Miller (Brant)

The funds for the bursaries were raised at the 2022 AGM silent auction.

17. Director Recognition

Paul Vickers gave recognition and presented gifts to three outgoing OFA Directors:

Jenn Doelman - Zone 8
 Arnprior, Lanark, Ottawa and Renfrew
 2020-2023

Jackie Pemberton – Zone 11
 Dundas, Frontenac, Grenville and Leeds
 2017-2023

Bruce Buttar – Zone 12
 Hastings, Lennox & Addington, Northumberland and Prince Edward
 2012-2023

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

Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Hon. Lisa Thompson recognized President Peggy Brekveld and thanked her for always showing up on behalf of the farmers of Ontario.

The Minister then addressed the delegates highlighting the government has been very busy this past year and noted their recent initiatives which included the Grow Ontario Strategy for the industry and the Agri-Rech Innovation Initiative.

19. Fireside Chat with the Ag Leaders of Tomorrow

OFA Director Sara Wood was the moderator for a "Fireside Chat with the Ag Leaders of Tomorrow".

The panel participants included:

1. Derek Vanderwall
2. Mike Johnson (North)
3. Ashley Knapton (East)
4. Erica Murray (West)
5. Carson Wagner (West)

20. Director At-Large Election

Elections Chair Cathy Lennon introduced the following nominees for OFA Director At-Large:

1. Angela Cammaert
2. Julie Danen
3. Andrew Kuyvenhoven
4. William Orford

Each candidate addressed the delegates followed by a question-and-answer session and electronic ballot.

Cathy Lennon declared Angela Cammaert elected as OFA's Director At-Large after the 3rd Ballot.

21. Derek Edwards

Derek Edwards entertained the delegates with his award-winning humor.

22. President's Closing Address

President Peggy Brekveld gave her closing remarks to the delegates that included an overview of her 12 years at the OFA.

She commented that the years with OFA have flashed by and that she was blessed to serve as OFA's 32nd president and the 3rd woman to lead the OFA.

Peggy thanked her husband Gert, the OFA Board and Staff, the membership and gave special

thanks to OFA's General Manager Cathy Lennon.

She was proud to be President – Farms and Food Forever.

After Peggy's remarks she was presented with a gift and a special recognition video was played.

23. Adjournment