



OAS GAZETTE



Issue 38

December 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – CATHY REDDEN

Greetings All ~ It is hard to imagine that our Fair Season is now behind us and we are in the midst of Annual Meetings and preparations for 2016!

As your Board of Directors prepares for its own AGM in February, it is only fitting that you receive a brief update on some of the activities that have taken place since we last met. This Gazette will also provide you with some exciting information about the upcoming Convention.

The following was approved at the AGM. " That the Board proceed with investigating options for downsizing the provincial board of directors and present the member fairs with appropriate options and reports of progress at the annual meeting in 2016" This motion has guided the Executive and Board of Directors as we carried out our roles and responsibilities this year . One of the keys to the ongoing success of any organization is a professional, flexible and efficient structure. Over the past few years, the governance of the OAS has undergone structural changes and with further changes being contemplated, one of our first tasks was to have a legal review of our Constitution and Bylaws. This would provide us with the following:

1. An analysis of potential risks and liabilities arising from the constitution and by-laws in their current state;
2. An analysis of how proposed changes to the structure of the Board could be implemented;
3. An evaluation of whether the constitution and by-laws comply with the applicable legal requirements ; and
4. Suggested revisions to strengthen the organization's corporate governance

A comprehensive report was received in July which included a number of recommendations for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. These changes will be provided to the member societies for their review prior to the AGM.

Following the announcement by the Secretary and Treasurer that they would not be renewing their contracts in April 2016 discussion took place regarding how these positions could be filled. A draft position description for office support is being developed and it is planned that this one year contract position will be filled by the end of March 2016.



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Back by Popular Demand

OAAS Young Professional Meet N' Greet, Presented by Ram Rodeo

*(open to convention delegates under the age of 40,
at least 19 years of age & excluding current Ambassadors)*

This event will take place on Thursday February 18,
4:00pm – 5:00pm in the Van Horne Suite.

2016 OAAS CONVENTION REGISTRATION RATES

Rates received by January 22

3 day - \$125
1 day - \$100/day

Rates after January 22

3 days - \$150
1 day - \$125/day

Rates at Convention

3 days - \$175
1 day - \$150/day

~ ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE TAKING PLACE THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY AT CONVENTION ~

2016 OAAS CONVENTION

February 18-20, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto

OAAS CONVENTION 2016

THURSDAY February 18, 2016

- Speakers/Seminars & Round table discussions
- Ambassador program begins @ 1:30pm in the Upper Canada Room
- Registration desk opens at 1pm
- Receive crafts & auction items, cookies, bread, machine quilts, posters
- Under 40 Networking *thanks to Ram Rodeo*
- Evening Showcase

FRIDAY February 19, 2016

- Opening Ceremonies: Dan Needles, Keynote speaker
- Morning seminar session (10:30 - 11:45pm)
- Round Table Discussions, during seminars
- Ag Awareness Tradeshow
- Family Entertainment Showcase (*new time*)
- Tradeshow opens at 9am - 4:30pm
- Receive crafts & auction items, cookies, bread, machine quilts, posters, hand quilts.
- Afternoon seminar sessions (1:30am - 2:45pm & 3:00pm - 4:15pm)
- Homecraft Meeting, 1:30pm
- Pick up all items (crafts, quilts, posters, displays, breads & cookies)
- Pick up Silent Auction items
- Evening Showcase begins at 7:30pm
- Ambassador *photo* (in hotel lobby) & introductions
- Live Auction & Entertainment Showcase

SATURDAY February 20, 2016

- Round Table Discussions
- Annual General Meeting
- Transfer of OAAS Officers

Piper's Restaurant at the Fairmont Royal York is offering a 15% discount as a convention delegate.

EARLY BIRD CONVENTION REGISTRATION
ends on JANUARY 22nd

Don't Miss – Dan Needles: For 30 years, author and playwright Dan Needles has been bringing to life the stories and characters of his mythical Persephone Township, a fictional rural Canadian community two hours north of the big city. His Wingfield Farm series of stage plays have appeared in virtually every English speaking theatre in Canada, including the Stratford Festival and Royal Alex in Toronto and eventually became a popular television series aired on CBC, Bravo and the PBS networks. Thousands of readers have followed his magazine columns in Harrowsmith-Country Life, Country Guide, Small Farm Canada, In the Hills, On the Bay and Watershed.

Nominated three times for the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, Dan won in 2003 for his local history of Persephone Township, With Axe and Flask. He is the author of 12 plays,

four books and hundreds of magazine & thousand platforms, Dan has entertained crowds as a banquet & conference speaker, carrying a message of neighbourhood; affection and the power of farmer thinking.



Dan will be kicking off the convention Friday morning !!

TAKING THE TRAIN TO THE CONVENTION ? Save 10% off your ticket.

Check the OAAS website for the VIA Rail convention discount code. (does not apply to all rates)

LIVE AUCTION is taking place on
Friday February 19th at 7:30pm.
**BEFORE AMBASSADOR
INTRODUCTIONS**



REGISTER TODAY !!
Only available online

www.ontarioagsocieties.com

TENTATIVE CONVENTION SEMINARS

(subject to change without notice)

- Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® program
- Livestock Emergency Response At the Fair
- Learning the Latest Regarding Insurance Liability
- Ontario Trillium Foundation – Discover What's New
- New Convention Delegate Info Session
- Secretary & Treasurer's Session
- Social Media – It's Easy & It Works
- Sponsorship
- Incredible Edibles Adventures
- AssistExpo Software
- TSSA/ESA – What You Need to Know
- Board Governance & Running Effective Meetings
- Matters of the Midway
- Total Equine Tent
- Ambassador Program at the Fair
- Attracting Urban Crowds to Fairs

Plus

Round Table Discussions (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)
Ag Awareness Mini Trade Show

2016 Convention Registration

Rates received by January 22

3 day - \$125
1 day - \$100/day

Rates after January 22

3 days - \$150
1 day - \$125/day

Rates at Convention

3 days - \$175
1 day - \$150/day

OAAS ACCEPTS CHEQUES & CREDIT CARDS

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE *expanded*
TRADESHOW AT THE OAAS CONVENTION.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE at 2016 OAAS CONVENTION

Friday February 20th, - 1:30pm - 4:00pm

A great opportunity to explore new family
entertainment for your fair.

IT PAYS TO STAY AT THE ROYAL YORK HOTEL !!!!!

Did you know for every guest room booked at the Royal York, a discount is applied for the meeting & seminars rental rooms to the OAAS. Don't stay at the Royal York ?? Well then the OAAS pays more to the hotel and your convention registration fees will increase.



OAAS Convention Photography Competition

Please submit your photos to the OAAS by Dec. 10th.

THANK YOU to the many partners already on board for the 2016 Convention

CNE, Western Fair District, Robertson Amusements ,
District #1 , Spencerville Fair, Norfolk County Horse
Show & Fair, Encore Promotions, Calgary Stampede ,
Ambush, Ram Rodeo, The Co-Operators, Fairmont
Royal York Hotel, Dominion Regalia, District # , Ross
Carlise, Carp Fair, Comber Fair Harriston-Minto Fair,
PAL Insurance.

THANK YOU TO VIA RAIL FOR
SUPPORTING THE
2016 OAAS CONVENTION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS SATURDAY MORNING

CALL THE ROYAL YORK HOTEL TODAY and BOOK
YOUR ROOM Toll Free: 1 866 540 4489
<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/oaas2016>

The OAAS Partnership Committee is
looking for your contribution and support
at the 2016 Convention.

For more information regarding possible
partnership & participation, please
contact the OAAS.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE cont'd

The Executive also identified the need for support and organization management advice as it began to address the changes recommended by legal counsel. It also had the task of preparing the report requested by its membership at the AGM. Following a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the Board entered into a six month contract with the Rural Ontario Institute to assist with the following:

1. Development and implementation of a work plan that will gain the support and approval of the membership for moving forward with changes to the Association;
2. Updating of the OAAS Constitution and By-Laws in order to meet current legislation and reflect a desired new organizational model;
3. Development of a 'user friendly' resolutions process to be used to present Board, District and Member resolutions at the AGM;
4. Updating of the current OAAS Policy Manual as may be necessary.

I am pleased to hear that following discussion at their District Meetings, several Districts formed committees to address the proposed changes to the District and the District Director's roles and responsibilities as well as their current district policies. This is something that I hope all Districts will be doing in 2016.

While there is much more that could be reported on, I am sure that your District Directors gave very comprehensive reports on our activities at the District Meetings. Should you have additional questions however, don't hesitate to contact either one of them, a member of the OAAS Executive or even me.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Convention and AGM in February 2016...

Cathy Redden
Celebrating Rural Ontario

Agricultural Society Annual Return & Grant

Forms are due February 1st 2016

INTERESTING FACTS:

- To maintain corporate legal status all agricultural societies in Ontario must file an annual return with OMAFRA.
- Annual return includes statement of the number of society members, a list of officers and directors for the incoming year & an audited financial statements.
- To receive a grant your agricultural society must complete all required forms. All grants are paid based on society eligibility and are a reimbursement of eligible expenditures.
- All societies must submit forms by **February 1st, 2016**.
- Forms must be sent to the designated OMAFRA offices or completed online.

FORMS ARE AVAILABLE NOW AND CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE.

FORMS ARE NOT BEING MAILED TO AG. SOCIETIES

Contact your regional OMAFRA or MNDN representative for more information

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/returns/agreturn_grant.htm

DO NOT SEND A COPY TO THE OAAS OFFICE in 2016

OMAFRA is Offering Electronic Funds Transfer: If you enrol in this system, it will mean that the annual grants will be directly deposited into your bank account. As well as being environmentally friendly, it will make funds available in a timely manner.

DEADLINES

December 31, 2015 – Update fair info. for OAAS directory
December 31, 2015 – 2016 Affiliation fees due to OAAS
Jan. 22, 2016. – Early bird deadline for Convention
Feb 1, 2016 – Annual Return and grant form to OMAFRA

ATTENTION ALL OAAS MEMBERS: EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2016. Any fair, service members or affiliate members who has not paid their annual fees to the OAAS by February 1st, will NOT have information printed in the annual OAAS Directory or brochure, be posted on the OAAS website, receive any mailings from the OAAS including annual complimentary fair passes etc. Once payment is received the membership will be reinstated and benefits resumed.

2016 OAAS AFFILIATION FEES & OAAS DIRECTORY UPDATES

If you have not submitted your 2016 affiliation fees or directory updates to the OAAS, please do so ASAP. If you need another invoice or a copy sent to you, please contact the OAAS. Due to OAAS by December 31, 2015



ABOVE: Colleen Anderson, District #11 Homecraft Director, Ramona Gilpin, President Emsdale Ag. Society, Dawn Coreless, Spencer Coreless, Wanda Lumley, District #11 Agricultural Director, Maria Dunnett, District #11 Associate Homecraft Director.

LEFT: Emsdale Agricultural Society presented Spence Coreless with a \$500 cheque as he begins his time at college to become a chef. Spencer has been with his society since he was four years old helping whenever he was able and is still helping wherever he is needed today. His mom, Dawn Coreless, President of the Burk's Fall Agricultural Society says his dream is to graduate and return to cook at super meal for his favourite Agricultural Society.



District 7 Ambassadors at the recent District Mtg.

2015 CNE AMBASSADOR OF THE FAIRS COMPETITION

Ambassador of the Fairs: Matt Garwood, Flos Agricultural Society
1st Runner Up: Ashley Jeffries, North Easthope Agricultural Society
2nd Runner up: Rachael Needles, Thorndale Agricultural Society
Congeniality Award: Matt Garwood, Flos Agricultural Society

Semi Finalists

Kaitlin Brown, Arthur Agricultural Society
Ashley Ferraro, Mount Forest Agricultural Society
Amanda Gray, Stratford and District Agricultural Society
Colleen Danner, Wilmot Agricultural Society



The Board of Directors of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies are pleased to announce the appointment of the Rural Ontario Institute and Executive Director Rob Black on a temporary contract. Rural Ontario Institute will be available on an as needed basis in regards to Governance Matters to the OAAS Board of Directors, Executive and Governance Committee. The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies has some significant challenges and issues facing the organization at this time in order to move forward. The organization's Executive Committee and Board of Directors has certain skills and expertise and a limited time period to deal with these challenges and issues in order to make recommendations and changes necessary to effectively create a long term viable and sustainable organization.

Rob Black is a resident of Fergus, ON he is currently the Chief Executive Officer for the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI). Prior to his position with ROI, he held the positions of Executive Director of The Centre for Rural Leadership; General Manager of the Ontario Soybean Growers; and from May 2000 to October 2005 he was the first Executive Director of 4-H Ontario. Previous to May 2000 Rob worked with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food for 15 years in a number of positions.

The Rural Ontario Institute would support the OAAS in the short term to develop the resources and capacity of the organization to move forward in to the future.

Welcome to the team Rural Ontario Institute and Rob!



RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE

Vision, Voice and Leadership



FERGUS FALL FAIR PROMOTES LIFE SAVING ORGAN DONATION WITH A RECIPIENT'S HELP

This year the Fergus Agricultural Society board members received an interesting request to promote organ and tissue donor registration at our fall fair. The plea came from Larry Mason, a retired volunteer fire fighter who received the gift of life with a heart transplant in 1993. "Without my donor I wouldn't be here", said Mason. Today he is doing well and an active advocate of organ and tissue donor registration.

We jumped at the chance to help raise awareness at the Fergus Fall Fair. With 1,600 people in Ontario waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant, one will die every three days because a transplant is not available, we wanted to start the conversation with our fair goers.

Initiatives included two BeADonor.ca banners on our 'people mover', giving the incredible cause the visibility it deserves. Our free wagon ride tours the fairgrounds transporting fair goers to various drop off points around the grounds. Promoting Ontario's official registration site, BeADonor.ca is vital and residents with valid Ontario health cards can register their consent to donate in two minutes. There is still more to be done. Next year we plan to do more

with Trillium Gift of Life Network, the government agency responsible for organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Ontario. With 27 per cent of Ontarians registered, promotion within a Society like ours, one that attracts countless community members, can be an extremely effective approach. It was news to me that the old paper donor card is no longer in use. By doing our part, Ontarians will learn that one donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and enhance up to 75 lives through tissue donation.

Submitted by: 1st Vice President D. Veldhuizen



FCC Agri Spirit Grants Fund Ontario Fairs
 Congratulations to Howick, Brigden, Thorndale,
 Mitchell & Erin Fair for recently receiving a
 FCC Agri Spirit Grant.
WELL DONE !

2nd Annual **First Impressions Program**

Congratulations to: Mitchell & Glencoe, Wyoming & Ripley,
 Oro & Arnprior, Port Hope & Brooklin, for completing the
 First Impressions program, offered by the OAAS.

Matt Garwood, CNE Ambassador of the Fairs with the Yellow Rose Club.



ONTARIO VOLUNTEER RECOGNIZED AT CAFE CONVENTION IN NIAGARA FALLS



Congratulations to
 Gladys Curry from the
 Renew Agricultural
 Society in receiving a
 Canadian Fair Champion
 Volunteer Award, at the
 recent Canadian
 Association of Fairs and
 Exhibition (CAFÉ)
 Convention in Niagara
 Falls.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS & SEASONS GREETINGS TO OUR FAIRS, MEMBERS & FRIENDS

ALL THE BEST IN 2016.
 ~ OAAS Executive and Board of Directors ~

NOVEMBER 23, 2015, Toronto Sun: Doo Doo the Clown got a hero's welcome at Toronto City Hall on Monday.

Councilor Norm Kelly saluted the clown for heroism and presented him with a scroll recognizing his courage and bravery.

As the Toronto Sun reported Monday, Shane Farberman helped two women on Sunday who were being menaced by an emotionally-distressed man near Front and Bathurst Sts.

After the women jumped into his car for safety, Farberman — who was in full clown costume and make-up — watched as the man pulled the mirror of his SUV before Toronto Police arrived.

"It was very terrifying," he said.

Toronto Police confirmed Monday that a 25-year-old man has been charged with two counts of assault and two counts of mischief.

Kelly said he wanted to meet with Farberman to recognize him for his "act of bravery."

"I think that is the essence of life here in Toronto and I want to thank you publicly for that," Kelly said. "You've given an additional definition to the word, 'clown.' You weren't clowning around. You were acting decisively and bravely."

The clown choked back tears as he described how his own kids applauded him as a hero when he got home from Sunday's incident.

Farberman added he has been overwhelmed by the public response to the story.

"Getting all sorts of 'Who needs Batman? We've got Doo Doo the clown,'" Farberman said.

But despite all the attention at City Hall, Farberman said he has no plans to jump into politics. "You know what I have enough limelight," he said.

Written by: Don Peat, Toronto Sun, don.peat@sunmedia.ca



Doo Doo The Clown and Farco Entertainment have been a long time Service Member of the OAAS. Way to go.