



OAAAS GAZETTE

| Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies |



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Check it out...

Celebrate Canada's 150
Ontario Wide!!!

Greetings from OAAAS President... Judy McFaul, Russell



As the OAAAS fairs and District meetings are coming to a close, and the loom of winter settles over Ontario let the planning begin for 2018 Fair season. What an amazing year we have had celebrating, Canada's 150th birthday! "Fairs are living reflections of the life and times around them, rooted in agriculture and volunteer-driven. They hold deep cultural, traditional and emotional connections to the people of their local area and define a sense of community that grows social capital and quality of life." That was so evident from all reports across Ontario this fair season.

Your Provincial Directors have been extremely engaged working and adopting Vision and Mission statements. Vision – “Inspiring and Supporting Ontario Agricultural Societies” and Mission Statement – “The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies is a resource for its members, providing leadership through communication and education, and encouraging the promotion of a rural way of life in Ontario.” We are now working on our strategic plan with the assistance of the Rural Ontario Institute, completion 2018.

I’m looking forward to my second term as your OAAS President and I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

I would like to recognize and thank Vince and Kathryn, for all the work and dedication that our office staff gives to the OAAS all season long.

On behalf of the OAAS board, I would like extend an invitation to all the fairs to attend the 2018 OAAS convention February 16-18th at the Royal York - it is an amazing opportunity to share resources, information and a voice for Ontario fairs.

We look forward to seeing you all in Toronto!

Yours Truly,
- *Judy McFaul*





Scottish Heavy Events Competition

Held at Kirkton Fall Fair

The sounds of bagpipes and sights of kilts flooded the fair grounds at the Kirkton Fall Fair on September 9, 2017. This marked the second year for a Scottish Heavy Events Competition held in conjunction with the Kirkton Fair. Chris Racknor of Lucan brought together his friends to showcase their hobby and unique talent of competing in strength events.

Featured events included:

- Caber Toss - an 18' wooden caber weighing 100lbs, tossed by competitors and judged on accuracy.
- 16lb & 22lb Scottish Hammer Throw - a round mass weighing 16lb & 22lb thrown for distance.
- Open Stone - similar to shot put, a field stone is thrown for distance.
- 56lb Weight for Height - one handily, a 56lb mass is heaved over an elevated bar using a technique that does not allow foot movement.



*Submitted by April Barker
Photos by Danielle Camacchio*





The Bayfield Fair

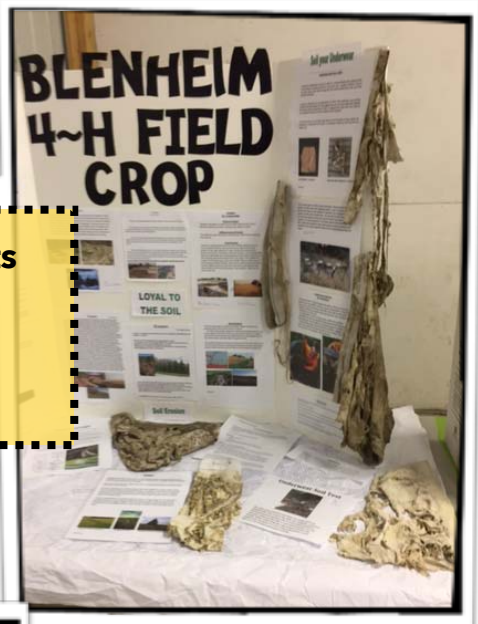
By Kate Burbidge

The amazing thing about Darren Steckle is not the awards he won at the Bayfield Fair this past weekend – he didn't win a thing – but his determination and drive. The 16-year-old walked more than an hour in the noon-day heat from his home outside Zurich Sunday so he could play his guitar and sing again at the fair even if he didn't even place in the Rise2Fame youth talent competition held Friday. Steckle belted out Maroon 5's She Will Be

Loved, The Door's Ain't No Sunshine, Wonderwall by Oasis and John Legend's All of You, a song he learned that same morning. His voice, aside from cracking on occasion, and his guitar playing seemed to be that of a seasoned professional. "I started singing four months ago," says the Grade 12 student, wearing his St. Anne's t-shirt and a Toronto Blue Jays cap. He's been playing the guitar six months. "Do you mind if I play a cheesy song," Steckle asked the small audience cheering him on and then played an Usher song just as a young child ran through the tent with a painted face and a sword made of balloons. Steckle can't believe he even had the nerve to stand up and sing before an audience. "I was shy, shy, shy," he says. "I always thought I had a terrible voice." A friend convinced Steckle to play at a coffee house – it was there his confidence grew. Where all this is leading is anyone's guess but Steckle did pick up a gig at the Dock's restaurant in Bayfield. But on this day, after playing an hour, he has to wrap it up and get to his job at Foodland. The Bayfield Fair, which has run the third weekend in August for 161 years and features rides, horse shows, a rib fest, hot air balloon rides, 4H events, a mini tractor pull, an old time jamboree, a watermelon challenge and an interdenominational church service, plus an outdoor flea market, is mostly volunteer run and relies on donations.



**Special Exhibits Home Crafts
at High Gate Fair**
Submitted by: District 9 Ag
Director Dan Wiper



Floral Designs using foot wear, mud pies made by kids, and a space ship made out of an ear of corn.



A 4-H project on different under wear planted in the ground to see the differences on how the lasted.



Different styles of Barbie clothing - note one is made out of mud and leaves.





Congratulations to the Brussels Agricultural Society for having the first fair at an IPM.



A special 150th quilt that was made for Celebrating the Bracebridge Fair's 150 years.





Colleen Anderson was presented with the Lieutenant Governor's Sovereign Award for Volunteers on Saturday June 3rd 2017. It was presented by our Member of Provincial Parliament Norm Miller.



"Red, White & Farmin'"

From their Junior Calf Club - if you look in the centre of the flags you will see the leaves are the kids hand prints.

Submitted by: Kimberley
Dundalk Ag Society Secretary



AssistExpo

Complete Software for Agricultural Fairs

About AssistExpo:

Accurate, efficient and easy record-keeping is invaluable to your Fair, and your staff! Discover how AssistExpo can work for you and help managing all aspects of your Fair, livestock and homecraft. From entries to judging sheets to posting results, along with accounting, sponsorships, concessions, and everything else, AssistExpo will make it easy for you. It works for all, very small to very large fairs and single user to large teams. It's a very user-friendly program that more and more Fairs are wondering how they ever managed without!

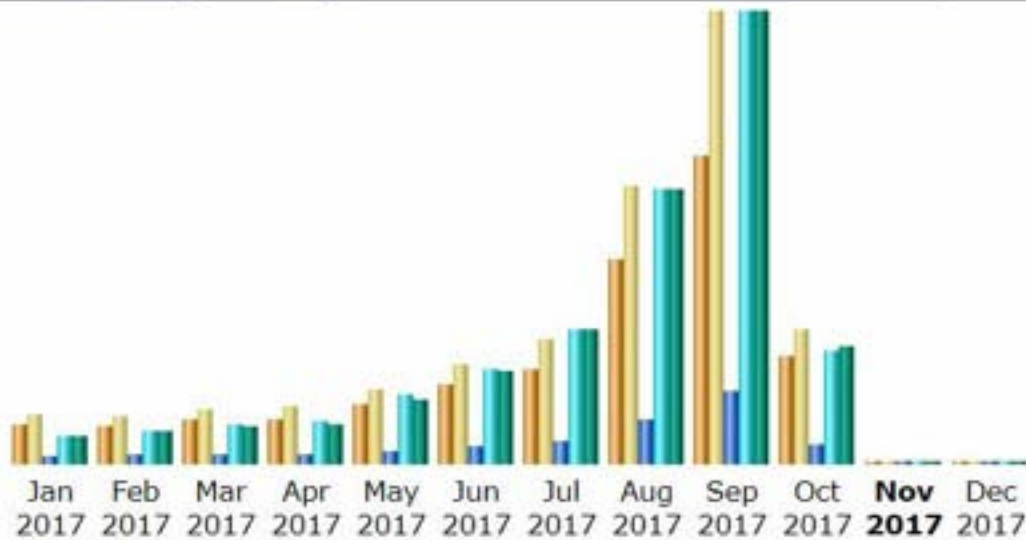
About Michel St-Pierre:

Michel St-Pierre, President and Founder of AssistExpo. Mike is passionate about agriculture and technology; he's been an exhibitor and has worked with and worked for several fairs for most of his life. Combining his solid engineering experience, his understanding of Fairs' needs, and his hands-on experience volunteering at Fairs, he created and developed the most complete software for Fairs and Exhibitions: AssistExpo. Mike and his team love their job; when new fairs sign up for AssistExpo, they not only get the software, they also get another team member!



Ontario Fairs Website Monthly Statistics

Monthly history



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2017	8,208	10,323	39,509	167,447	5.20 GB
Feb 2017	8,025	10,268	47,150	195,596	6.06 GB
Mar 2017	9,317	11,847	54,214	235,055	6.76 GB
Apr 2017	9,564	11,938	49,323	253,355	7.64 GB
May 2017	12,995	15,971	72,495	423,431	12.15 GB
Jun 2017	16,818	21,592	95,303	592,044	17.29 GB
Jul 2017	20,305	26,625	133,020	839,335	25.68 GB
Aug 2017	43,955	60,078	268,860	1,711,169	52.18 GB
Sep 2017	66,599	97,528	442,953	2,815,404	86.16 GB
Oct 2017	22,794	28,789	114,284	702,100	22.10 GB
Nov 2017	269	299	766	3,603	110.78 MB
Dec 2017	0	0	0	0	0
Total	218,849	295,258	1,317,877	7,938,539	241.34 GB

Definitions

Unique Visitors: Each visitor is counted only once each month

Number of Visits: Visitors are counted each time they visit

Pages: Every page opened is counted

Hits: Every part of a page is counted - images, fonts, format files, menus etc.

Bandwidth: the amount of traffic generated in the month



Meet Alex Wall, Country Heritage Agricultural Society's First Ambassador - A True Pioneer

My name is Alex Wall and I am the 2017/ 2018 Ambassador for the Country Heritage Agricultural Society. I am a student at the University of Guelph currently in my fourth year. I am taking an Arts Degree with a major in English and a minor in History. When I'm not studying I enjoy reading, spending time with my family, cooking, or going for walks in the country.

It brings me great pride to be Country Heritage Park's very first ambassador. Country Heritage Park represents an extensive part of Canada's past and just how important agriculture has been throughout our history. Having the chance to be an ambassador brings me the opportunity to profess this history to the people of our community.

Although my background in agriculture is not extensive (my first time driving a tractor was during my first summer fair as ambassador!), I hope to learn from the agricultural community and, more importantly, give a lot back in return.

Country Heritage Agricultural Society welcomed Alex as its first Fair Ambassador at the Summer Fair & Farm Expo in July. Since becoming Ambassador, he has raised the visibility of CHAS at the C.N.E. in Toronto, Barrie Fair, Erin Fair, Markham Fair, and the District 5 Annual Meeting in Stayner. He will be attending the Ontario Agricultural Society Annual Meeting in February, 2018 – again, doing CHP proud.

THE LEN & IDA PATTERSON MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is presented annually to a Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary - Treasurer or dedicated Volunteer who has served for at least ten years and and has worked at the OAAS District level, showing extraordinary dedication and innovative leadership.

Presented at the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies Convention sponsored by Encore Promotional Products Inc.

Please send your nomination to:

OAAS Past Presidents' Association,
c/o Joanne Gregson, 16 Red Pine Cres.,
Wasaga Beach, Ontario L9Z 3B3 or email: jwgregson@sympatico.ca

Ontario Poultry Judging Association

Submitted by Beth Meszaros - Oct 2017

This September saw the first new poultry judges certified by the Ontario Poultry Judging Association. Six judges passed the test, having apprenticed for two years, as well as having attended workshops throughout the training.

Applicants for the program had to be at least 19 years old, and had to have been involved with poultry as a breeder or exhibitor for at least 3 years. They also had to provide three references from individuals who are involved in the poultry exhibition hobby. Applications are accepted between January 1 and April 30 for the next session.

The new judges, in order of district, are:

From District 4

Judge **Roxanne Daley** grasshillpoultry@hotmail.com

From District 6

Judge **Will Bergen** willy_bergen@hotmail.com

Judge **John Beamer** john@gardencitygrowers.com

Judge **David Van Driel** d_vandriel@yahoo.ca

From District 7

Judge **Gregory Oakes** bashcurl@golden.net

From District 10

Judge **David Pauls** daverpauls@gmail.com

To maintain certification, these judges must attend continuing education seminars, tests, or other form of education. This is to ensure the judges are kept current with any changes to the Standard of Perfection.

Judges who are certified through other recognized organizations (such as the Ministry of Agriculture Ontario, Ontario Poultry Confederation, the American Poultry Association, and the American Bantam Association) will be "grandfathered" and not required to go through the apprentice program or testing procedure. They are encouraged to take advantage of the continuing education opportunities.

Please support these new judges and invite them to judge at your fairs and exhibitions.



Father's Day Farm Tours

OAAS GAZETTE



One panel discussion at the last Convention dealt with developing more agricultural awareness at local levels. A specific presentation discussed how a District could also educate the public more fully about the farming sector. The session outlined how District 8 planned the event after they agreed that Districts also should try making the public more aware of rural life.

This past Father's Day, the Father's Day Farm Tours took life following a couple of rains that washed the area in needed moisture. Cars continuously flowed from one site to the next in any order as they visited all or most of the seven farms. The farms were very specialized in many regards -Friesian horses, switchgrass operation, sheep farm, winery/ grape growing, miniature horses, tree farm, and longhorn cattle.



The carloads came from the local area, from nearby municipalities, and from neighbouring counties. Cars had lone passengers, couples, families, and three generations all longing to go into a farm lane and talk with farmers passionate about their livelihoods or sideline ventures. Often there were ten or more cars parked at a farm. Many questions were resolved and a greater insight was gleaned about living in the country.

Everyone who went on the tour went to an advertised central location to pick up a pass and a map. Instead of a set fee, it was suggested that a minimum donation of \$10 be given. Over \$750 was raised that day on the first tour organized by District 8. Seven of the Agricultural Societies in the District sent volunteers to ensure it would be a success. This activity indicates that Districts can play a role in promoting agricultural awareness in their region and the community responds to these ventures wanting information about their rural community. The

bonus is the fact that Districts can make some money doing it. The volunteers parking cars enjoyed the experience, the community had only positive comments about the tour, and the farm operators absolutely were thrilled with the exposure and contact with the visitors. It was an afternoon of education through experience and exposure. The District is already planning to do something similar next year.



Would your society like to:

- Clarify your vision and mission
- Set goals that will make a difference, and
- Develop realistic action plans

Then here's your opportunity!

**Registration Deadline:
Monday, October 30**



The Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) is partnering with the OAAS to help societies build their organizational capacity through a strategic planning process. This opportunity will help your society realize its potential, strengthen the leadership skills of your volunteers, and build a network of support and collaboration.

For further information and to register, contact:

Helen Scutt, OMAFRA
 Agriculture Organization Specialist
helen.scutt@ontario.ca
 1-888-466-2372 x 519-826-3115

Strategic Planning (2017-18) Train-the-Trainer Program

- Free in-person training for Agricultural Societies
- Participants will learn how to facilitate the strategic planning process with their own society.
- A core team of five volunteers from each society is required to participate in the training.

Session 1 - Saturday, Nov 4 from 9 am to 12 noon
Training location: Harriston-Minto
 Preparation for Strategic Planning

Session 2 - Tentative date - December 2
 Develop a Vision and Mission

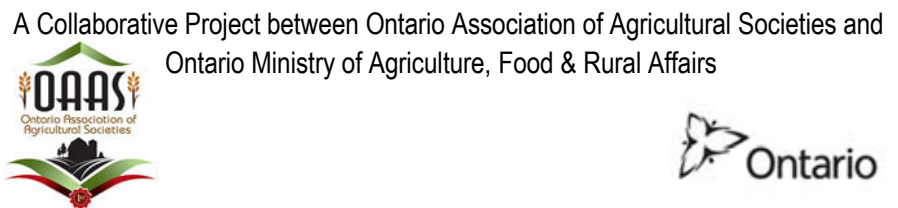
Session 3 - Tentative Date - January 6
 Collect and Analyze Information
 Develop Goals

Session 4 Tentative date - February 3
 Develop Action Plans
 Implement and Monitor

“Homework” - After each training session, volunteers will be able to facilitate the strategic planning process with their group.

- Sessions will be done in person on Saturday mornings.
- Training sessions will be approximately 3 hours.

These training sessions will be using OMAFRA’s
“Introduction to Strategic Planning Resource Manual”
 Download the Resource Manual: <http://ontario.ca/b77p>



OAAS Convention 2018

FEBRUARY 15-17 ~ FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK HOTEL, TORONTO, ON

2018 OAAS CONVENTION REGISTRATION RATES

Rates received by January 26

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

Rates after January 26

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

Rates at Convention

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

TAKING THE TRAIN TO THE CONVENTION ?

Save 10% off your ticket.

**Promo Code:
13613**

Check the OAAS website for the VIA Rail convention discount code. Info.

(does not apply to all rates)

OAAS Young Professional Meet N' Greet,

Presented by Horse Power Live (Millar Group)

(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 15, 4:00pm – 5:00pm in the Van Horne Suite.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS SATURDAY MORNING

LIVE AUCTION is taking place on Friday February 16th around 8:30pm.
AFTER AMBASSADOR INTRODUCTIONS

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 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.



FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE at 2018 OAAS CONVENTION

Friday February 16th
10:30am - 11:45am & 1:30pm - 4:00pm

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

All Ambassadors and Chaperones MUST be registered convention delegates and complete the waivers available online.

There is a separate Convention Program for Ambassadors.

THANK YOU TO VIA RAIL FOR SUPPORTING THE 2018 OAAS CONVENTION



CALL THE ROYAL YORK HOTEL TODAY and BOOK YOUR ROOM Toll Free: 1 866 540-4489

<https://aws.passkey.com/go/agriculturalsocieties2018>

Winter 2017

Register online now @ www.ontarioagsocieties.com

2018 OAAS CONVENTION

FEBRUARY 15-17 ~ FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK HOTEL, TORONTO, ON

OAAS CONVENTION SEMINAR TOPIC

(tentative list, subject to change)

- Volunteers Are An Endangered Species
- Insurance - Youth
- Social Media 101
- Encouraging More Youth to Get Involved
- Putting a Little Glitter & Glamour Into your Homecraft Displays
- New Convention Delegate Orientation
- Dealing With Threats
- Modernizing Your Ambassador Program
- Handling Money Electronically
- AssistExpo, just not a fair entry database
- Ag. Education Resources (panel discussion)
- Succession Planning for Your Fairboard
- Board Governance
- Facts about Livestock Traceability
- Animal Entertainment at the Fair
- Public Safety at Livestock Shows
- Fair Secretary Session
- Fair Treasurer Session
- Creative Ideas for Competitive Exhibits
- Volunteer Retention
- Volunteer Recognition

There will be round table discussions on Thursday, Friday & Saturday morning.

OAAS CONVENTION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2018

1:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Receive Posters, Butter Tarts, Cookies & Crafts in Ballroom
1:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Registration Desk open
1:00 pm - 4:45 pm	Receive & Bidding at Silent Auction items in Ontario Room
3:00 pm - 4:45 pm	Ambassadors Program begins
3:00 pm - 4:45 pm	Early Bird Seminars & Round Table Discussions (3:00-3:45 and 4:00- 4:45)
4:00 pm - 5:00pm	OAAS Young Professional Meet N' Greet, Under 40
6:30 pm	Doors Open to Concert Hall for Thursday Evening Showcase
7:00 pm	Thursday Evening Entertainment Showcase begins in Concert Hall
10:00pm - 12:00pm	OAAS Hospitality Suite
10:00pm - 11:00pm	Ambassador Hospitality Suite

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2018

7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration Desk open
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Receive Posters, Butter Tarts, Cookies & Crafts in Ballroom
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Receive Machine & Hand Quilts in Ballroom
8:00 am - 4:30 pm	Receive & Bidding at Silent Auction items in Ontario Room
8:30 am - 10:15am	Opening Ceremonies, Keynote Speaker: Marla Calico
9:00 am - 4:30 pm	Tradeshow in Canadian Room
10:30 am - 4:30 pm	Family Entertainment Showcase in Toronto Room
10:30 am - 11:45 am	Various Seminars & Round Table Discussions
10:40 am - 11:30 am	Ambassador Program begins
11:00 am - 4:30 pm	Viewing of Crafts, Quilts, Butter Tarts & Cookies, Posters
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Various Seminars & Round Table Discussions (1:30-2:30 and 3:00-4:00)
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Homecraft Meeting in Concert Hall
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Pick up Crafts, Posters, Butter Tarts, Cookies & Quilts
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Pick up Silent Auction winning bid items in Ontario Room
7:00 pm SHARP	Ambassador Group Photo
7:00 pm	Doors Open to Concert Hall for Friday Evening Showcase
7:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Friday Night Showcase
	Introduction of Ambassadors
	Live Auction
	Entertainment
10:00pm - 11:00pm	Ambassador Hospitality Suite
10:00pm - 12:00pm	OAAS Hospitality Suite

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2018

7:30 am - 9:30 am	Registration Desk open
8:00am	Round Table Discussion
8:30 am	Ambassador Program
9:00 am	Annual General Meeting
	Transfer of Officers
	Adjournment



Learn More About the Delicious Butter Tart Tour at the Homecraft Meeting on Friday afternoon at the Convention.

THANK YOU TO
Dominion Regalia,
The Co-Operators & VIA RAIL
for already sponsoring the 2018 Convention !

FRIDAY MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MARLA CALICO

Did you ever stop and think that in the middle of the word 'life' is the word 'if'?" and the statement is, "That means that life is full of 'ifs'." In reality, many of us are afraid of the "if". We don't really want to ask "what if"? We prefer the routine, the expected, rather than the "ifs" that come along. In this message you will be challenged to think about the world of possibilities and opportunities for our fairs to thrive and create a sustainable base for the next generation, if we just will embrace the "ifs".

Marla Calico is the President and CEO of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions – the IAFE – headquartered in Springfield, Missouri. The Association represents and facilitates the evolving interests of its 1200 members which are agricultural fairs, exhibitions and show from around the globe.



2018 OAAS Convention

FEBRUARY 15-17 ~ FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK HOTEL, TORONTO, ON

CONVENTION SHOWCASE

Barbara Lynn Doran
Muir Family Band
The Stylamanders
The Silver Starlets

Greg Williams Band
Celtic Kitchen Party
Mystic Drumz
Spin Cycle

Team T&J
The Party Magician
Stacey Kay
Cirque Works
Little Buckaroos

..... and more to come

ARE YOU BRINGING AN AMBASSADOR TO THE CONVENTION ?????

Please complete and return by February 1st

Ambassador Convention Participation Agreement Form &
Convention Ambassador Chaperone Agreement Form

Both found online www.ontariofairs.com
Convention, 2018 Convention Information
Ambassadors must be 16+ years of age to participate

MAKE N' TAKE SESSION with SPINRITE

Friday 11am ~ 4pm in Ballroom
\$5.00 pay at the session

Spinrite[®] LP



Paris Fair Junior
Baking Department with
our Canada 150 theme.
Submitted by: Cheryl





OAAS Provincial Board of Director Notes following our Fall Board meeting in Toronto on October 20 and 21



Submitted by: OAAS Office manager Vince Brennan

1. Kathryn Lambert, Convention Coordinator, updated the Board about the Convention organization.

- The main speaker is Marla Calico from IAFE and most seminars topics are already determined.
- There will be an effort to tape the “Threats to Fairs” seminar and possibly a portion of another and add them to the OAAS website for everyone to view.
- Confirmation of raisins in butter tarts. Discontinuance of 2-D posters for 2018 fairs/2019 convention.
- Each District is to come up with a couple of “hot topics” to be used for round tables and give them to your Provincial Director.
- Do consider bringing one item for the auction.

2. The OAAS budget was approved for 2018

- A policy was approved to reimburse a partial or full registration for some volunteers who wish to help with the Convention. The application form and a list of the specific volunteer needs will be posted on the website and selected candidates will be chosen by the Convention Coordinator. Depending on how many apply, we may not require everyone that submits an application.
- A policy for District expense reimbursements was agreed upon whereby the travel costs of up to two District Directors will be covered to attend fairs up to a specified maximum limit per District. Expense forms will have to be submitted by the Directors to their District and the District will submit the expenses to the Office Manager
- Finally, a policy was developed to cover travel costs of Provincial Directors attending Agricultural Society meetings. The goal is to have each Provincial Director, within their 3-year term, attend an general, regular or Annual meeting for every Society.
- Chart for 2018 affiliation fees has been updated to assist the smaller fairs and make it more equitable.
- It was approved that feedback be requested from Ag Societies at the District AGMs about a proposed new mechanism to pay their affiliation fees. The proposal is to have the fee be a percentage of the total Society revenue with a maximum fee or cap created. The goal is not to increase the total being

collected by the fee but to have a much fairer system since some fairs have no gate admission, or admission on some days, or the admission covers more than just fair admission. Special grants will be not be included in revenue. This total revenue will be achieved by hopefully accessing the financial statement sent already to OMAFRA to maintain an “in good standing” status.

- It was decided to eliminate the Sunday meeting following the AGM in February. All these meetings will be covered through more regular ZOOM videoconferencing with the Board.
- Fair video Promotion updates - some money is being put aside to create a video all fairs could use

3. The Executive for 2018 was elected. President – Judy McFaul; 1st Vice President – Doug Yeo; 2nd Vice President – Brian Slaughter.

4. The Provincial Directors reflected on their role since their election. There are growing pains which are not unexpected since this role is new to the organization. They are making efforts to visit the Societies at their meetings and outlining the services provided by OAAS. Some expressed it was taking more time than initially expected. Some find the challenge of looking at the provincial picture in decision making refreshing.

5. The Strategic Plan is being developed with the guidance of Rob Black. The following have been adopted earlier this year:

Vision – Inspiring and Supporting Ontario Agricultural Societies

Mission Statement – The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies is a resource for its members, providing leadership through communication and education, and encouraging the promotion of a rural way of life in Ontario.

As **core values** and **guiding principles** of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) we will:

- Live with integrity - be inclusive, honest and transparent, showing respect and civility to all.
- Be collaborative and share best practices.
- Communicate effectively and consistently with one voice.
- Provide and pursue growth and learning.
- Build upon our past and long-standing heritage.
- Embrace change, encourage all voices and opinions to be heard and respect members’ individuality and uniqueness.
- Recognize and value the contribution of volunteers from across Ontario, cultivating and supporting leaders of all ages.

Critical Issues –

We identified four areas of importance to ensure continuity to move the organization forward:

- **Member Services** - Providing education, support and resources to member.
- **Organization Sustainability** – Ensuring the organizational capacity and financial health of OAAS.
- **Collaboration and Dialogue** – Facilitating partnerships and the exchange of information.
- **Marketing** – Developing and implementing a marketing Strategy to promote and educate the agricultural community and our audience and potential partners on our services and mission.

Our next steps are Implementation, identify what we want to accomplish (Goals) and measurable objectives. Our Goal is to have this document ready for our Convention.

6. A Youth Policy is being developed for OAAS and the Districts as encouraged by the current insurance company. An ad hoc Committee of 6 people will have a draft policy ready by the December meeting. It will consist of a short core policy and include several policies to support it.

It was approved that all the Board members have vulnerable sector police check prior to the installation of the new Board in February.

It will be encouraged that Agricultural Societies consider adopting similar Policies.

7. 6 new poultry judges, names available on OPA website.

8. It is recommended that more communications in regard to Agricultural Society or District Board matters i.e. Board or member conflicts, changes to Judges Lists, service provider conflicts (midway), etc. be sent to the District or Provincial Director for action instead of the Office Manager. Many issues or questions can be solved or resolved by the District or Provincial Director to allow Vince to deal with other concerns. If they are unable to resolve the issues, the Director would contact Vince for assistance. Agricultural Societies and Districts should continue to contact Vince for items similar to the following examples i.e. District or Agricultural Society Contact information updates, Awards, web page, articles for Gazette, Constitution or Policy questions, etc.

9. Resolutions must be received by the Office Manager by November 30th, 2017. For information on submitting a resolution, please visit our website - under “Board” dropdown menu.

Amendments to the Constitution must be received by the Office Manager by November 30th, 2017

Review of 2017 OAAS Highlights

Awards - The updated “Years of Service” Award has been quite popular. We have had quite a few Meritorious Service Award and Accomplishments Award ordered as well. Please go to our website for more information or to order these awards.

First Impressions Program - The 2017 fair matches have many completed and certificates are ready to hand out at the 2017 district AGMs. The Provincial Directors will have certificates for those fairs who have handed in their presentations for this year as well as for the fairs who have participated in the program in the past. The Office Manager will be sending out the deposits ASAP.

Judges Lists – Just posted the 2 Districts lists that I recently received. Still waiting for 4 Districts. If you have any questions or concerns about completing the Judges List, please contact the Office Manager.

One of our future projects is to set up a Judges List using AssistExpo that should streamline the collection of the information from Judging Schools and eliminate a lot of work for the Districts and ensure the Judging Lists are much more current.

AD-Hoc Judging Schools, Judges and Instructor Standards Committee – We’ve met and creating some working documents – We will be sending a package to the Instructors in the next few days for their input on our work. We are working to create Standards to ensure that all Judging Schools are run the same way, so all Judges have the same qualifications. Planning to have something to present at Convention. We have decided to begin with a small committee to work on the initial documents. Once we have the feedback on these documents from the Instructors, we will be looking for feedback from District Directors and Judges.

AD-Hoc Judging Standards Committee – We sent out an email on their behalf to the Districts for feedback on changes to the current Judges Standards Handbooks – we have received a few very good submissions – looking for more.

Zoom conferences – getting good feed back on the use of Zoom rather than teleconference for Board of Directors meetings. Saves money over using Teleconferences - \$ 150 per year rather than an average of \$ 50 to 200 per call/month for Teleconference. There is free version of Zoom if anyone would like to give it a try.

Strategic Plan - Working on Strategic Planning Process for OAAS – see meeting notes above for more details

Youth Program Committee - new Committee was created this year. A Terms of Reference has been approved. An Ad-Hoc committee has been struck to work on our Youth Policy and will be reporting back at the December Board.



Judging Committee - new Committee was created this year. A Terms of Reference was approved earlier this year. Two Ad Hoc Committees were also created to help get policies and documents in place before turning them over to the Judging Committee. Judging Schools and Judges are an important Member Service

Policies - Many Policies have been updated and are available on the OAAS website.

Gazette – if you have something for this addition, please Vince know ASAP

Fair Directories and Fair Date Brochures – next big project.

When you are at District or Agricultural Society meetings, please stress to them

1) that the Fairs **MUST** ensure that the Office Manager has their current contact name and email address.

2) Please stress that they follow instructions on how to update and return the information to the Office Manager.

- All fairs must send in updated information – at the very least their fair dates will have changed.
- When you receive the Fair Directory Update document, copy and paste your Fair information into an email and make all corrections. Don't send just the corrections. i.e. DO NOT send a message with "Remove Dog Show and add Cat Show". Make that change in your Fair Information blurb in the email.
- If I have all the correct Contact names and email addresses and all fairs send their updated Fair information correctly, I could have the file ready to go in a couple days. I spend days getting that file ready to go to the printer last year.
- I am hopeful that AssistExpo will be able to get the Module done this fall that will allow the Fairs to make those changes online so that I can run a query to create the file rather than having to copy and paste from emails into a Word Document. But it is still very important that the Fairs update their information in a timely manner.

Thanks
Vince



NATIONAL AWARDS

CAFE is proud to offer the chance to celebrate and acknowledge individuals and organizations involved in the industry and the great things they are doing across the nation. Awards are presented each year at our annual convention.



CANADIAN FAIR CHAMPION AWARD

Recognizes “that special someone” who goes the extra mile for your Fair or Agricultural Society.

Congratulations to Cathy Redden, OAAS Past President, on receiving a Canadian Fair Champion Award - nominated by OAAS

Catherine Redden has been a dedicated, knowledgeable leader while serving on the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) Board of Directors and Executive from 2011 until 2017. She encouraged and facilitated (almost single-handedly) the start of a transformation in the

organization, moving it forward in to the 21st century. As a result, the organization has a new and updated Constitution, Governance Model and Policies and Procedures and is proceeding forward in a positive manner as a strong, vibrant and contributing organization in rural Ontario. The OAAS has a membership of over 210 Agricultural Societies in 15 Districts.

In addition to her service on the Provincial Board, Cathy is very involved with the Campbellford-Seymour Agricultural Society for over 35 years and served as President in 2001-2002.

In addition to her work with the OAAS, Cathy has been very involved in numerous other organizations. Cathy’s background includes over a decade on municipal council (1989-2000) where she served as a Councillor for one year and three additional terms as Mayor of Campbellford. Cathy returned to Municipal Council in 2014 when she was elected to the Council of the Municipality of Trent Hills, Northumberland County.

After leaving politics, she became a Lieutenant Governor Appointee (lay) to the Council of Professional Engineers of Ontario (2001 to 2008) and then served as their Chief Elections Officer (2011-2014). In 2010, she was inducted into the PEO Order of Honour for her services to the profession.

In 2011 Cathy joined the Board of Directors of the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI). During her tenure with the Board she has actively involved herself in all aspects of board operations and is a strong and contributing member of the Board. She has served as Governance Committee Chair and Secretary and is currently the Vice Chairperson of the ROI Board of Directors.



Congratulations to Darren Little of Markham Fair on receiving a Canadian Fair Champion Award.



INNOVATION AWARD

What is innovation? It's a new product, service, technology or method that provides a better or more effective end result. It could be innovation in engineering, beautification, competitiveness, environmental programming.

Congratulations to Shawville Fair (Pontiac Agricultural Society), OAAS Affiliate member!
Sara Knox President



FUTURE LEADER AWARDS

These awards are to recognize exceptional performance and leadership from the "up-and- comers" in our fairs and Agricultural Societies.

Nominees must be age 40 or under
Show promise as a future leader in your organization.

There are two awards for fair staff and one for a fair volunteer.



Congratulations to:

Jessica Vanderschee, Norfolk County Fair - Authentigate Future Leader Award (staff)
Abbey McFaul, Russell Fair - CNE Future Leader Award (volunteer)



ROLL OF HONOUR AWARD

Established in 1979, this award is to recognize distinguished service by an individual or organization to the Canadian fair and exhibition industry.

Criteria:

Length of service or performance of normal duties associated with a local fair is not considered.

Nominations must demonstrate how the nominated individual or organization has made significant contributions to the industry through one or all of the following:

- Leadership, Vision, Specific Expertise and/or Outstanding Service**
- Impact beyond their local community.**



Congratulations to Kathryn Lambert – nominated by OAAS

When you think Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) Convention – you think Kathryn Lambert.

Kathryn has been the driving force behind the OAAS Convention since 2005.

Approximately 1000 people attend the Convention at the Fairmont Royal York in Toronto each February. The Convention features the AGM, speakers and seminars, Entertainment and Family Showcases, Tradeshow of Service Members, Fair Ambassador Program, live and silent auctions, large craft display as well as Provincial competitions where District winners vie for top honours for quilts, baking, and posters.



The Convention runs so smoothly that the average attendee has no idea the work that goes on in the months leading up to the Convention or during the Convention. Kathryn coordinates with many volunteers and committees as well as the Fairmont Royal York and numerous contractors to ensure that the people that attend the Convention have a worthwhile experience. Kathryn has amazing patience and calmness no matter how hectic things might be. Her strengths of efficiency and organization are incredibly remarkable.

Prior to the hiring of the current Office Manager, Kathryn was also the volunteer Secretary for the OAAS. In addition to day to day correspondence, meeting minutes, etc. she was also

responsible for the newsletter as well as compiling the Fair Directory and Fair Date Brochure and other duties.

All of this is in addition to being a wife and mother, Office Manager at Boumatic Robotics, London as well as volunteering with various organizations (including Glencoe Fair) in her local community.

Because of Kathryn's leadership, vision, hard work and dedication, the Convention is the highlight of the year for Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies. Kathryn has been a constant presence and one of the cornerstones of our organization for many years.

As one of our members expressed so well in a note he recently sent to Kathryn, ***“Just wanted to let you know the work you do has a positive effect on many.”*** We certainly agree.



(l to r) Darren Little, Jessica Vanderschee, Abbey McFaul, Kathryn Lambert, Cathy Redden

All photos from CAFE are courtesy of Doug van Wolde, Markham Fair



Seasons Greetings...

OAAS GAZETTE

As 2017 is coming to close I wish to thank the OAAS Board of Directors, Districts, and Agricultural Societies for all their continued support - your hard work is appreciated. I had privilege of attending many Fairs and Opening Ceremonies throughout the past year. It was extra special celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday, and seeing all the work and preparations each of fairs put into this special celebration.

I continue to enjoy working with you, and I truly appreciate the commitment, time and energy that you put forth each year, in having successful and educational fairs in your communities year after year.

Your Provincial Board of Directors have had a busy year, meeting on a monthly via (Zoom) since last Convention. Some highlights of the Board's year are: working on a new Strategic Plan, developing Polices around our Youth programs, working on updating Judging Schools and Judges and Instructors Standards.

The Board updated the OAAS Awards earlier this year and they have been very popular.

We have updated this year's Affiliation Fee Schedule to decrease the fees for the very small fairs and to correct the very uneven categories in the middle of the previous fee schedule without increasing the total overall fees collected by the OAAS. The Board will continue to investigate to ensure that we are using the most equitable method to assess Affiliation Fees and there are no plans to make any further modifications next year. Your feedback is always encouraged and appreciated.

Please take some time to read this Gazette - there is a lot of information in it.

New for 2018, OAAS has been working AssistExpo to streamline the collection of OAAS Convention registrations and information. Please follow the link - <https://www.assistexpo.ca/oaas-delegates>

IMPORTANT: I will be sending an email to all Agricultural Societies in the next week or so to start the process to collect and/or update your Fair Information for the OAAS Fair Directory. We will be using AssistExpo for the first time this year to collect your Fair information. I will be providing full instructions on the new process in the email. Our goal in moving to AssistExpo is to make the process of collecting and updating Fair Information much more accurate and much faster for the Agricultural Societies and myself.

Again, thank you for all you do. The time, efforts, and energy you provide in support of the fairs in Ontario is appreciated by many! I wish each of you a very Happy Holiday Season, and I'm looking forward to seeing each of you in February at our 2018 OAAS Convention.

Sincerely yours,

- Vince

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