



## President's Message

I had the exciting honour of being one of the honorary parade Marshals at the Bayfield fair on August 19. The other parade marshal, Jean Bennett and I met, when the The Citizen published a picture of Gordie the Bear and myself as newly elected president. Jean happened to be reading the newspaper and recognized Gordie, who she had made 25 years ago. We had an interview with the Citizen when we met for the first time. The story resonated with the citizens of Bayfield, which is why we were asked to parade marshal. It was a beautiful sunny day, while riding in a Rolls-Royce with Tom, a fantastic driver who dressed the part! It's been a pleasure meeting new people and the opportunities that have arisen through this role. It's been a busy summer for Junior Farmers with Leadership Camp, Ambassador Banquet, and Night at the Races. We saw 4 members travel to Scotland, Switzerland, Northern Ireland, and Republic of Ireland, and clubs hosted 7 international delegates over 10 weeks. It was a great opportunity to become tourists in your own backyard but also learn about the Young Farmers programs overseas. We continued on with a busy fall, with Carleton hosting Autumn Profile and Oxford hosting Sing Swing. We had a successful OYFF in Toronto and I'm looking forward to heading to Renfrew for Jamie's Roast and Toast January 20th and to Stormont-Glengarry for Winter Games on February 24th. We've starting thinking about the 80 years of history of Junior Farmers. We're looking forward to celebrating it next year with all our alumni and friends! If there are any members or alumni interested in organizing the celebrations with me, please reach out at [jolande@jfao.on.ca](mailto:jolande@jfao.on.ca).

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

In Junior Farmer spirit,  
Jolande Oudshoorn  
Your 80th JFAO President

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Thanks to the support of.....



## Upcoming Dates:

Jamie's Roast and Toast- January  
20th, 2024, Cobden, ON

Winter Games- February 24, 2024,  
Stormont- Glengarry, ON

March Conference- March 22-24,  
2024, Peterborough, ON

# Autumn Profile

Autumn profile took place in Greeley this past October, hosted by Carleton County. This year's theme was Halloween. The day's events ranged from pumpkin bowling, and team sack races, to trivia, and pumpkin carving. 8 counties made it out this year creating 10 teams and resulting in quite a competitive day. Members returned at night dressed up to compete in the costume contest and dance the night away.



## International Exchanges



It was a busy summer for clubs as this was the first year back for our international summer exchange program. This year we welcomed 7 Delegates; there was Ashley Spark and Andrew Bennie from Scotland, Lukas Koller from Switzerland, Julia Breitwieser from Austria, Marieke Hoehne from Germany, Aine Doyle from Republic of Ireland and Amy Kirkpatrick from Northern Ireland.

JFAO's international exchange program is an amazing opportunity for members to meet likeminded people around the world. Whether it going on an exchange yourself or hosting the delegates it's an opportunity you don't want to miss.

If you're interested in going on an exchange keep an eye out for applications in the early new year.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out at [nic@jfao.on.ca](mailto:nic@jfao.on.ca).

# Ambassadors Banquet

Grey County did a great job hosting the ambassadors banquet this year. It gave the delegates the opportunity to catch up with some of their previous hosts but also to meet some of their future ones too. Dinner was followed by a couple presentations, Kelsey Brekelmans gave one on her exchange to Scotland and the delegates gave one about their experiences up until that point. Two of the Delegates had to return home prior to the banquet but also submitted videos about their experiences. They ended their presentation with a room full of laughter as they handed out awards to past hosts (some examples being: best host, worst driver and, most eligible bachelor/ bachelorette). As for the dance portion of the night, it was one to remember. Andrew, with the help of Aine, taught everyone some Scottish Ceilidh dancing filling the room with joy and a bit of confusion as everyone spun in circles for the Strip the Willow dance.



# Night at the Races



A picture with the winning horse from the Junior Farmers' race.

# Sing Swing

This year Sing Swing was hosted by Oxford in Princeton, which was focused on the theme 'Around the World'. The day began with 31 participants from 9 different counties entering in their homecrafts, field corps, baking, handiwork, etc., and preparing for the day's events. The first event of the day was the music category (instrumental and singing), followed by dance (line dancing, two-stepping, and alternative), thinking on your feet (spelling bee, and impromptu), and entertainment (lip sync battle and the gong show).



During the lunch break Sarah Danen presented her International Exchange Presentation, where she had travelled to the Republic of Ireland this past summer.

After lunch, everyone was broken into 2 different groups, which were then assigned into one of the two afternoon workshops. The first workshop was highland dancing, which was taught by Paige Fawcett. Paige taught each member the art of highland dancing as well as some of the background and history behind the dance. The second workshop was baking, which was taught by Emily Danen. Emily taught members how to make the famous French dessert the Éclair, which would then be served for dessert during our banquet. After each group went to each session, the day's events were concluded.

Later the evening, members and guests returned to the hall for dinner and the banquet. During the banquet, awards were presented and there was some entertainment as well, such as the Movember contest and the final contestants of the Lip sync battle. Elizabeth Bruce also presented her International Exchange to Northern Ireland this past summer. Following the banquet, there was a well attended dance. Overall, the event was very successful and was a lot of fun to participate in and organize.

Congratulations to Middlesex for winning Sing Swing! Huron Perth earned second place and University of Guelph placed third.



# OYFF

OYFF 2023, Farm to Fork for the Future, ran alongside the OFA AGM Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st November, in Toronto. With over 30 people in attendance, we opened the conference with a bus tour Monday afternoon, followed by a day of seminars and breakout sessions on Tuesday.

At our first stop on Monday, we learned about the cheese making process and the sustainability initiatives being undertaken at Arla Foods. We then went to Quality Holstiens and Quality Seeds, where attendees got to check out the fantastic herd, and we learned the story of Quality Seeds and the different types of forage seed blends they are making. The afternoon was wrapped up with dinner at Moxies before returning to the hotel. Attendees had the opportunity to meet with members of the OFA as they began to arrive.

Tuesday morning was comprised of two speakers. First, Kelly Dobson of LeaderShift came by to talk about coaching and mentorship in agriculture, how it has been shifting through the years, and how we can look internally to begin to find solutions to the challenges that we face. After Kelly, Andrew Leach of Farm Life took us through the process of succession planning, covering all angles from the financial security of all generations, to navigating the complexities of intrafamilial strife.

On Tuesday afternoon, we wrapped up the conference by splitting into smaller groups. First, we had a pair of breakout sessions on stress management and identifying one's strengths. This was followed by completing an activity focused on identifying what must be done to keep agriculture sustainable moving forward, and what we can do specifically to attain that.

Once our conference was complete, we had half of the attendees stick around to go to the OFA's Harvest Dinner as well. Many thanks to the OFA for their support of the conference. And finally, a big shout out to our OYFF coordinator, Kylie O'Neil, and this year's OYFF Committee - Carson Wagner, Mark Ruiter, Patrick Sullivan & Tina Wark.



# March Conference

Mark your calendars! March Conference is taking place on March 22-24, 2024. The conference will be held in Peterborough at the Holiday Inn Peterborough Waterfront hotel. Come on out for a fun Friday night activity, a Saturday bus tour, and Sunday sessions. Help recognize amazing members and clubs at our annual awards banquet with friends, family, and alumni. March Conference is a great way to meet fellow members from across the province and reconnect with friends! For more information, contact Heidi at [marchconference@jfoa.on.ca](mailto:marchconference@jfoa.on.ca)



Ontario Water Buffalo Company, March Conference 2022, Peterborough



As part of the 2023 AGM, a resolution was brought forth to look into the name of Junior Farmers as well as past decades. We would like your input (members, alumni, supports, friends, etc.) on the topic. Please fill out the survey here and forward the survey to members, alumni, and friends. [Survey Click here](#)

## Wellington

Wellington County experienced a bustling autumn with events like our annual community supper, pumpkin pajamarama, and harvest. The community supper, held on October 14th, was a success with a diverse turnout of current members, alumni, and community attendees. We sold 70 dinners, generated a profit for the club, and collected numerous non-perishable food items for the Drayton Foodbank. After a hiatus during COVID, hosting the supper again was a delight, and we are eagerly anticipating next year's edition. Looking forward to upcoming events, we are excited to participate in local Christmas parades, and our Christmas Curling social in a few weeks' time.



## Essex- Kent

The Essex – Kent Junior Farmers have been in the spirit of the seasons this fall. On October 28th we had Middlesex join us at the IMAZE corn maize in Thamesville, followed by dinner at a meeting at Johnny Quests. On November 24th, we participated in the Tilbury Santa Clause Parade where we handed out candy to kids. We would like to wish everyone in Junior Farmers, along with their families, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





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# Club Reports

## Huron Perth

This quarter Huron- Perth had our annual roadside cleanup followed by a busy June volunteering at events. We had a booth advertising JF at the Goodrich pride event, helped out with seaforth farm safety day, and volunteered at breakfast on the farm in Brussels. The pigs for our who let the hogs out fundraiser also received an upgrade with a new paint job.



Middlesex invited us to join them for their car rally in July. This was a great introduction to the delegates for the few members who were able to make it out. They also invited us turbo tubing the following weekend for a west- zone social.

August has been quite the exciting month for our club. A couple people from our club

attended the ambassadors banquet where a member did a presentation following their international exchange. We then spent the following week hosting the delegates ending with an eventful last night including night at the races. Also as of august the who let the hogs out fundraiser is officially underway and off to a great start.



In other news, we're currently enjoying seeing progress photos for the giant sunflower and pumpkin competition and would love to see how other clubs are doing.



## Wentworth Niagara

Wentworth Niagara had a great turnout at Oxford's Sing Swing in Princeton! We had a lot of fun trying new things and showing of some of our skills at various events throughout the day. We are looking forward to our Christmas Party, axe throwing in Hamilton, and meeting more Junior Farmers across the province at Provincial events!



## Stormont- Glengarry



## Oxford



Oxford JF has been keeping busy these past few months. We hosted the international delegates back in July for a week. Some of the tours included unique farms, a tractor dealership, Niagara Falls, Oxford Agropur, a cheese store and more. We had a great time hosting our international friends and hope that they enjoyed their time in Oxford! From there, we started gearing up for our biggest event of the year, the Embro Truck and Tractor Pull! Yet again, we had a great turnout, with the second highest attendance recorded! A special shout out goes out to our members volunteering their time over the course of the weekend, and of course to all the volunteer groups that allow the event to happen, we couldn't do without them!

August seemed like a crazy busy month with an event almost every weekend! Three of our members made it to the Ambassadors Banquet in Grey County. This was an opportunity to see our delegates again, and to learn about other exchange experiences in the province. Oxford JF sold ice cream at Heritage Days and we had a food booth at Oxford Farms World Cup, a soccer tournament for migrant workers in and around Oxford County.

In September, we had our End of Summer Bash, which was exactly how it sounds, a great time to end summer with a fun night of dancing. In October, two teams from Oxford made the trek out East to attend Autumn Profile in Carleton County. It was an exciting day filled with competitions, Oxford came in second and third. GO OXFORD! Seeing as it is a known fact that Oxford doesn't travel very far out of the county, we felt it was fitting to dress up as tourists for the Halloween dance after the day event. Shout out to Carleton county for hosting! In November, we hosted Sing Swing which was a great event. We had nine clubs participate and quite a few entries! JFers learned how to make éclairs and highland dance in our afternoon workshops. We realized that JFAO members have some hidden talents, did you know that Nic Willemsma is pretty good at Highland dancing? Us neither. Our banquet had a good turnout, and awards were given out to clubs afterwards. We also had a Movember contest where our members could show off their scruff! Afterwards we had a great dance, shout out to Grey county for sending several of their members for the dance! Overall, it was a great event, and we thank the clubs for coming from far distances to travel to Oxford. Our AGM and Christmas party are coming up this month, and then the Junior Farmer life will slow down a bit until the new year. We cannot wait to see what our club gets up to in the coming year!





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| [fcc.ca/YoungFarmer](http://fcc.ca/YoungFarmer)



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# Wedding Announcements



Oxford member Emily Danen on her engagement to Cody Bray early July



Haldimand-Norfolk members Oscar Peeters and Rinske van der Steege tied the knot this past summer



Huron Perth Alumni Cam Alton and current member Meaghan Weber who were married this past summer



Huron Perth alumni Samantha Klaver who also tied the knot this summer to Kurtis McNichol

## Obituaries

Cheryl provided support to JF's in the 80's-90's, especially at JF Camp, May she rest in peace.

[https://hodgesfuneralhome.ca/tribute/details/783/Cheryl-Brine/obituary.html?fbclid=IwAR0\\_yv5sdfdOeY4Ze5dTyX4pIWl6wQ6zBkms1FDtLYParWejILFUWjWVMmw](https://hodgesfuneralhome.ca/tribute/details/783/Cheryl-Brine/obituary.html?fbclid=IwAR0_yv5sdfdOeY4Ze5dTyX4pIWl6wQ6zBkms1FDtLYParWejILFUWjWVMmw)



Ron Werry was an active member in Ontario County. He and Audrey Stiver attended Provincial Camp in 1955 for Ontario County. Later, Ron served as County Director in 1957 and 1958. The following year he became County President. At that time, Ontario County had 4 JF clubs and 2 JI clubs. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/oshawa-on/ronald-werry-11171226?fbclid=IwAR3ADK17Fkh-sacPgkAni7jn8FzQnrPQv4aYTy2G-cAu02gQNO4uU1y8Nyo>

Fern was an active member in Northumberland. Records show she served as County President in 1958, as a Provincial Director in 1960 and 1961, then going on exchange to Alberta in 1962. She was the third Northumberland Junior Farmer to go on exchange and the third female County President. I was lucky enough to interview her on her memories in 2017.

<https://www.weaverfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Fern-Alberta-Tinney?obId=27459264&fbclid=IwAR0OO4gM3EjYac1k9uMZxmZJ5DZu02pFIOjpeX0uxMxsZTM3bDShzBSarA>

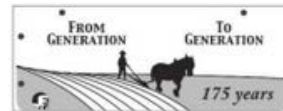


# Century Farm Signs

Is your farm eligible? See for yourself! Head on over to <https://www.jfao.on.ca/resources/century-farm-sign>

Signs are now available in French!

Contact Nic Willemsma, Director of Community and International Programs, for more information at [nic@jfao.on.ca](mailto:nic@jfao.on.ca)



# Gate Signs

The Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario (JFAO) is pleased to offer gate signs. Gate signs can be proudly displayed at the end of your driveway or as part of your farm gate display. There are two sign options including, "Alumni Lives Here" and "Member Lives Here". Due to the popularity of the gate signs, JFAO has extended the availability through an online store (click [here](#)). This is your chance to show your support and pride of JFAO!

Once you have your sign installed, share a photo with us on social media using the #ProudJFer hashtag.. Select photos may be chosen to be featured on the JFAO website or marketing materials



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