



Bullhorn

Volume 26, Issue 1 To Build Future Rural Leaders, Through Self-Help & Community Betterment 2015

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Upcoming JFAO Events

All Ontario Judging Competition

May 30 - Orangeville ON.

Leadership Camp

June 7 - Sundridge, ON

August PD Meeting and Ambassador's Banquet

August 22 - Perth County

Autumn Profile

October 24 - Perth County

November PD Meeting and Sing Swing

November 21-22 - Carleton



Thank you for your support

Next Bullhorn Deadline is:
August 1



March Conference 2015

Written by: Jen van der Meulen, MC Chair

March Conference 2015 "Positive Expressions" was held at the Ramada Inn in London Ontario from March 27th to 29th. This years Conference Committee was made up of Committee Chair Jen van der Meulen of Wellington, Mike Sproxtion of Kawartha, Katherine Clyne of Wellington, Heather Thompson of Wentworth, Jason Follings of Perth, Laura McMaster of Peterborough, Kelsey Banks of Carleton and Co-ordinator Lucia Lilbourn (Middlesex Alumni).

The weekend started out on March 27th with the final Provincial Directors Meeting of the year. Followed by registration, dinner and the Annual General Meeting, where

the executive gave a review of the 2014/2015 year and JFAO members voted in the 2015/2016 executive. Mike Sproxtion was voted in as this years President, followed by Erich Weber as Director of Finance, Justin Williams as Director of Agricultural Programs, Jen van der Meulen as Director of Community and International Programs, Sarah Breckon as Director of Fund Development, Alex Mitchell as Director of Marketing, Nicolas Weber of Director of Membership and Claire Francis will be the Past President.

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President's Message

Hello Junior Farmer Friends, Alumni and Partners!

2015 is well underway, and now the same can be said for the JFAO year as well. With another successful March Conference in the books we can now look ahead to what lies in store for the the coming 12 months. I am a firm believer in approaching every situation with a strong level of optimism, and "Positive Expressions" being this years JF theme could not suit me or this organization any better. There are always troubles that lurk around the next corner and forks in the road ahead but, like Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men, we JFers know how to band together to overcome any obstacle, any challenge, and have a good time while doing it. With spring upon us and summer just around the corner it's all a-go in preparation for the events that will be here before we know it. The 1st All-Ontario Judging Competition, the arrival of our 5 Summer International Delegates, Leadership Camp, JFAO's Charity Golf Tournament, and all the local club events dotted throughout the spring and summer filling it with fun activities, a chance to get out and get involved will certainly make for a summer that wont soon be forgotten! At our Annual General Meeting just past I had the honour of being elected the President of this amazing organization. On a personal note, I very much look forward to a chance to connect with the all you members of JF clubs that are, and have always been truly the heart and soul of the JFAO - as well as having a chance to work with the newly elected board of directors and Provincial Executive. It is shaping up to be a fantastic year full of fun, sun, old friends and new alike, and plenty of POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS!

Yours in Junior Farmer spirit,
Mike Sproxton
2015 JFAO President



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March Conference 2015

Written by: Jen van der Meulen, MC Chair

Our new reps will include Sylvia Megens as 4-H Rep, Eric Mclagan as OFA Rep and Katherine Clyne as Social Media Rep.

Saturday morning the conference opened with 65 delegates listening to Andrew Campbell speaking on his #Farm365 campaign. Andrew vowed to tweet a picture every day in 2015 for something he was doing on his farm. The group also discussed the surprising challenges Andrew has faced with this kind of social media attention, and how he has been able to cope with the negative feedback, as well as how the positive feed back has kept him going.

Following Andrew's presentation, Karen Kloibhofer helped us discover our True Colours! The workshop was full of laughs as the delegates learned what colour category their personality fit into as well as their peers! Those who fit into the blue category were loyal and calm and tended to wear their hearts on their sleeves, those in the gold were responsible, goal oriented and organized, Orange were outgoing, impulsive and energetic and the Greens were assertive, practical and determined. The delegates were then challenged to an exercise which truly presented their True Colours! They were asked to come up with three strengths and three weaknesses of their colour group. The Blue groups answers revolved around their feelings, the Gold groups answers revolved around organization and control, the orange groups were outgoing and spontaneous and finally the green group just wanted us to look in the hand out because it was outlined there It was a typical green answer.... The delegates continued to joke about their colour group for the weekend.

Following lunch the delegates heard from three charities Josiah's Journey, the Farley Foundation and Center for Mental Health and Addiction. Delegates then discussed their options and voted for the 2015 Provincial Charity, which would be announced at the Banquet.

Delegates would then attend three breakout sessions which included Mike Sproxtton's emotional presentation on positively changing your world. An inspirational journey of Mike's horrific car accident and his positive attitude following the accident. Elysia Townsend showed the delegates some ice breakers clubs could use, and Cheryl McLachlan's shared her heart breaking yet inspirational Journey from the bottom to the top as an Olympic athlete.

The Banquet took place Saturday evening where members and clubs were recognized for their accomplishments over the past year and the new board of directors were sworn in. Presidential Rose Award winners were Jason Follings of Perth for Most Outstanding Novice member, Jen van der Meulen of Wellington for most outstanding member and Theo van der Meulen of Wellington for most outstanding retiring member. Club of the year went to Perth and Agricultural Club of the Year went to Oxford. Communication awards were won by Haldimand- Norfolk, Perth and Wellington. Eight members were also presented with exchanges for 2015. Josiah's Journey was selected as the 2015 Provincial Charity and the 2014 Provincial Charity Bullying Canada was presented with a cheque for \$6000. Members spent the remainder of the dance bidding on fantastic silent auction items, socializing and dancing.



Continue reading on page...



March Conference 2015

Written by: Jen van der Meulen, MC Chair

Sunday morning brought the conference to a close with our final speakers Virginia Dibble spoke briefly on joining with Farm and Food Care to help distribute the Real Dirt on Farming magazines and Dave Jones spoke on Pumping Up Your Passion. Dave encouraged us to find passion in our work whether that was in our job or in our involvement with Junior Farmers. Dave explained that "Passion is a strong emotion that happens within each of us when we are doing meaningful work that makes us feel better about ourselves at a pace that feels like real progress. Meaning x Progress = Passion." He also helped us understand anyone can be a leader if they put their mind to it! It's about changing our attitude to get the best out of our work and our life!

Heather Thompson of Wentworth was the photographer for the weekend and wrapped up the day with a slideshow from the weekend.

The March Conference Committee is challenging club members from around Ontario to show their "Positive Expressions!" We are encouraging our members to believe in themselves and look at their strengths; then find a way to use those talents and abilities to have a positive impact in their own lives as well as others! Striving to not just make a good impression but to truly contribute what they can with their clubs and communities.



Top Novice Junior Farmer: Jason Follings, Perth JF (above)



Top Junior Farmer: Jen van der Meulen, Wellington JF (top centre)



Top Junior Farmer Club: Perth JF (right)

Top Retiring Junior Farmer: Theo van der Meulen, Wellington JF

The Beef Farmers of Ontario recognizes the importance of supporting rural youth in Ontario.
Ask us about our BUILD Leadership Development Program or get involved in the Beef Advocacy Program!



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Incoming Delegate Bio's



Beatrice Hadorn – Beatrice is 23 years old and lives on a farm with cattle and a compost works. She is from Switzerland, where she has a beautiful view of the mountains. She loves to play trumpet and is a member of the musical band in her village. She enjoys nature, spending time with her friends and helping her parents on their farm. She looks forward to seeing how beautiful Canada is and having a great time, meet new people and take in new experiences while on exchange.



Lisa Walsh – Lisa is 22 years old and is a student Veterinary Nurse in the Republic of Ireland. She has been apart of Suirside Macra since August 2014, and it has been the best few months of her life! She has met so many amazing people who she will remain friends with for life. So many doors have been opened for Lisa and she has been given plenty of opportunities that she plans to enjoy. Lisa is very interested in Dairy and Beef farming in Canada as well as to see Niagara Falls and a Rodeo.



Gillian Stewart – Gillian is 24 years old and lives on a family run farm in Scotland. She has been apart of the Strathearn Young Farmers for 10 years. She likes having fun and trying new things. She loves to help and get involved with everything going on. She is a hard worker and can adapt to any situation. She is looking forward to her time in Canada and all the opportunities available. Gillian is interested in the Canadian day to day living and discovering the differences between Canada and Scotland.



Carolyn Westerkamp – Carolyn is 22 years old and from a small community of about 25 neighbours in northern Germany. She has been a member of KLJB Harkebrugge since 2011. At the beginning of 2014 she finished her apprenticeship and is now working in the sale department until her exchange. After her exchange she would like to study agribusiness. She is very excited to learn about Canadian agriculture and the life in Canada and to have many new experiences and meet new people. She is willing to lend a helping hand on her host's farms and would like to see a Holstein and Jersey show.



Christina Poganitsch – Christina is a 22 years old Accident Consultant from Austria. Her family has a farm where they sell direct to the consumer. She has been an active member of Landjugend for 5 years. Her greatest passion is singing. Four years ago, three of her friends, her twin sister and herself formed a band and they perform at weddings, birthdays and cultural events. In her spare time she enjoys spending time in nature and with her animals. Christina is eager to learn different ways of practising agriculture. She thinks living and working with foreign people will be challenge and unique possibility for her. But she is most interested in new cultures and the Canadian way of life.



THIS IS JF COUNTRY

Middlesex Blue Jays Bus Trip


Middlesex JF are doing their annual trip to see the Toronto Blue Jays take on the Detroit Tigers Friday Aug 28. Ticket includes all you can eat : Hot Dogs, Chips, Nachos, Popcorn, Peanuts, Apples and Pop. Interested people may contact Jason O'Neill for more info.

Brant Junior Farmers 30th Anniversary

Save the date: Brant County Junior Farmers 80th Anniversary Celebration Banquet
Friday, October 30, 2015
Paris Fairgrounds
Social at 6:30 dinner at 7pm

Middlesex Junior Farmers Halloween Dance

Sat. October 31, 2015, 9pm
Lucan Community Memorial Center
263 Main St. Lucan
Age of majority required
\$10.00/ ticket
DJ, late lunch and prizes for best costume!



We recognize the importance of our future agriculture leaders in creating a strong vision for our future farmers.

Ontario agricultural co-operatives have been working for farmers and their families for 100 years and we have many rural leaders to thank.

Thank you to the young leaders of JFAO!

*Since 1914:
Celebrating 100 years
of Ontario farmer-owned
co-operatives!*

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Junior Farmers Past



Audrey Hilliard (Geer) (1920-2015)

Audrey was the wife of former Secretary-Treasurer (1948-1957) of JFAO T.R. (Dick) Hilliard. She was 95. She was familiar to many a Junior Farmer, especially to those who were delegates of Junior Farmer Camp. She participated with the delegates at Camp and organized a Sunday afternoon tea party, which began with a reception line and provided one-on-one chats while enjoying her special sandwiches. Audrey is survived by two children and six grandchildren.

Brent Stephens (1979-2015)

A former board member and friend to all passed away suddenly in April. Brent Stephens was a rock in Lambton Junior Farmers, even serving as President and Provincial Director in the same year. Brent was President in 2003 and 2004. He served on the provincial board as a director in 2002 and 2003, then serving as Executive Director of Finance for JFAO in 2003. He also represented JFAO as its delegate on the exchange trip to PEI in 2003. Brent was a staple at provincial Junior Farmer events and married fellow Junior Farmer from Peel. He made sure that if the moment was serious, a silver lining of humor was added. Outside of Junior Farmers, he volunteered with the fire department in Wilkesport, plowed snow, worked in construction and tested the early versions of the JFAO website to its limits. Brent is survived by his wife Kristen and his children Natasha, Breyden and Trey.



Renfrew County

This year our little club has had quite the successful and promising start. We started off our year in February when we had an amazing time in Guelph and won Winter Games. We returned home to Renfrew County to much excitement and congratulations from our alumni and some public recognition in our local papers. This recognition increased interest in our club and lead to us adding some new members. Having more members has allowed us to increase our presence in the community, most notably when we wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day and put a float in the annual Douglas St. Patrick's Day parade. The Douglas St. Patrick's Day parade was also our first club event where we got to show off our new club signs that were donated as a surprise by the Wytenburg and Schultz family.

[Learn more about Renfrew JF here](#)



What's up in Perth County?

If you aren't one to embrace the exciting world of social media, than you have probably missed out on all the great things, which Perth County has been up to. The club hosted its first awards banquet since we re-founded in 2013. It was a momentous occasion where we brought together members, their families and our alumni friends to celebrate. In true Junior Farmer fashion, we wanted to give back to a local charity – Bullying Canada – by holding a live pie auction to raise funds. Thanks to the roughly 100 people in the audience we raised \$440.

Shortly after we held our awards banquet, we were honoured to win Club of the Year for 2014.

[For more information, pictures, and exciting stories from Perth JF, click here...](#)



Celebrating 100 Years of Junior Farmers in Oxford County

After a year and a half of planning, and with the help over several alumni, Oxford County Junior Farmers celebrated their 100th Anniversary. We were a little nervous in the month leading up to the event as ticket sales were not as high as expected. However, the organizing committee pulled through and the final ticket sales push resulted in us breaking our sales goals! By the time the event rolled around, we had sold 540 dinner tickets, plus several dance-only tickets.

The evening kicked off with a social period, Junior Farmer grace, and the Junior Farmer song. This was followed by an excellent dinner by Belmont Town Catering.

[More details, pictures, and celebrations of history can be found here](#)

Wentworth Junior Farmers at the Ancaster Food Drive

By Dale Sutton

On February 20th and 21st the Wentworth Junior Farmers volunteered at the Ancaster Food Drive and it was a great experience. Matt Smith was there for the Friday and helped out by unloading donations from schools and organizing things for the following day, when the flood gates of food would really open. Heather Thompson and I went on the Saturday, ready to dive in. We chose our route and headed out, into the oncoming snowfall to pick up the food. It was a joy to meet the people who were generous enough to donate.

[For more information, click here...](#)

The **Wellington Junior Farmers** would like to thank all of those who attended the 8th Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday April 12th at the Drayton Agricultural Hall. The dinner was a huge success! The Wellington Junior Farmers served 121 people, who enjoyed spaghetti, garlic bread, creaser salad, and a variety of desserts. Over \$1100 was raised, with \$165 raised on the raffle prizes alone. The event would not have been so successful without the amazing sponsors; Grand Valley Fortifiers, Wellington Federation of Agriculture, Heartland Veterinary Services, Imperial Foods, Drayton Agricultural Society, Lynn & Ivan Dane, & the Alma Catering Services. The funds along with the unperishable food items will be donated to five local food banks; Drayton, Centre Wellington, Harriston, Mount Forest, & Palmerston.



Oxford County Junior Farmers to Distribute Real Dirt on Farming

Sometimes, it seems like we, as farmers, can never get ahead of the bad press surrounding our lifestyle. Whether we are taking flak about spraying pesticides and planting GMOS, or defending how we raise our animals, it seems like we can never do enough to educate consumers about modern agriculture. And for a good reason – 48% of consumers admit they know very little or nothing about Canadian farming practices. But, there is some good news – 66% of Canadians want to KNOW more about farming. (Compare this to the 20% that want to LEARN more about farming).

So, we have our work cut out for us – how do we “teach” people about farming without actually teaching them? And how do farmers, making up less than 2% of Canada’s population, reach the 66% who want to know more?

Enter the *Real Dirt on Farming*, published by Farm and Food Care Ontario. This magazine aims to tackle the questions about farming that consumers have – everything from why we spray and grow GMOs, to why we keep animals in barns.

The “tough” questions, such as hormone implants, are covered as well. The struggle with this is getting it into consumers’ hands – which is where Oxford JF and all the other JF clubs across the province come into play.

Oxford JF has set the goal (and challenges other clubs to beat us) of distributing 500 full (50 page) copies and 1500 digest (12 page) copies across our county. We are well on our way to meeting this goal, having distributed them at doctors, dentists, accountants, hospitals, pharmacies, retirement homes, and businesses across the county. We have also partnered with local vegetable farmers to hand them out at farmers’ markets, and will be passing them out at local fairs and other events.

With the help of JF clubs across the province, we can all do our part in reaching the 66% of Canadians who want to know more about farming. By doing this, we will get the right information into consumers’ hands, and maybe we will have to work a little less hard on fighting the negative media surrounding today’s agriculture.

For more information please contact

Virginia Dibble, Secretary and Media Coordinator,
Oxford County Junior Farmers
519-608-3095 | dibblevirginia@gmail.com



We’re proud to continue our strong support of the **Junior Farmers’ Association of Ontario** – cultivating the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Ontario’s leading farm advocate for more than 75 years.

CARLETON COUNTY JUNIOR FARMERS

REDNECK

GAMES

- Teams of Four
- \$40 Per Team
- June 20th, 2015
- Ages 15 to 30
- Metcalfe Fair Grounds

Be prepared for a full day of Redneckin'! We are hosting our 2nd annual Redneck Games and we are hopin' y'all would join us, it will be an entire day of redneck themed events and lunch! Make sure to register through our email carletonjuniorfarmers@gmail.com or our Carleton County Junior Farmer Facebook page!



JUNIOR FARMER TRIVIA NIGHT

Carleton County Junior Farmers



**JUNE 12th
@ 8:00pm**

OSGOODE LEGION

- TEAMS OF UP TO SIX

**\$60 PER TEAM, \$50 IF YOU HAVE A
JUNIOR FARMER MEMBER**

To Register Contact

Kristy-Anne @ 613-281-0266 or

email carletonjuniorfarmers@gmail.com



Want to submit club news, stories, or events to the Bullhorn or website? Email marketing@jfao.on.ca to get your message out!