



## Sing Swing 2017

This year, our club, the Wellington Junior Farmers were very excited to host Sing Swing 2017. For many of our members, it was the first time being involved in planning a provincial event, which was exciting and daunting at the same time. The event was held in Clifford, ON and had over 40 individuals and 6 teams (min 10 people) in attendance.



Clubs came dressed in their red and white ready to perform according to the theme of the day, which was in celebration of Canada's 150th celebration, the "Ultimate Canadian Adventure". Every event tied back into the theme, with having maple desserts, Canadian songs to lip sync to and even a Canadian memorabilia category.



We were also fortunate enough to have some fantastic judges that consisted of alumni and community members.

They kept the day moving and we were very grateful for their dedication of time and efforts in making this event a success. The day events consisted of a variety of activities for everyone to enjoy, such as; baked good, artistic aspects, dancing, singing, euchre, lip syncing and many more. We had two mystery events for clubs to participate in, which were well received, one being a photo scavenger hunt and the other being minute to win it games. After everyone freshened up and gathered at the Community hall for the banquet, decorated in white, red and gold, everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner served by the Clifford Lutheran Women.

Next the Clubs received awards for their efforts, during the day (which are listed below) and finished by dancing the night away. We would like to thank all of our sponsors and community businesses that assisted in any way to make the event possible, along with the Town of Minto who was fantastic to coordinate the event with. Also, a big thank you to all of the clubs for coming out and supporting our event, as it would not have been a success without you all!



## INSIDE

- Sing Swing 2017 ..... 1
- President's Message ..... 2
- Hello from Scotland - Dave Halligan .. 3
- Autumn Profile ..... 4
- Ontario Young Farmer's Forum 2017.. 5
- Club Reports..... 6
- Announcements..... 7
- Media Release - 4H Ontario ..... 8
- Gate Signs ..... 11

### Thanks to the support of:



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Winter Games  
February 10, 2018  
Prince Edward County

March Conference  
March 23-25, 2018  
Belleville, Ontario

P.D. Meeting  
March Conference  
Belleville, Ontario

Spring Board Training & Meeting  
Date TBD  
Location TBD

# President's Message

Starting a new chapter always opens the door for the unknown, this unknown needs to be met with optimism and enthusiasm.

The enthusiasm for this organization continues to amaze me! Whether it be from members of the executive, or from members at the local level, enthusiasm is very much contagious. This is evident by going to events and talking to new members, returning members, and alumni to hear about what they have gained, experienced, and contributed to Junior Farmers Association of Ontario. As I have travelled across Ontario, attending events from Essex-Kent to Renfrew my enthusiasm for JFAO has only increased throughout the year. At every event I try and spread this enthusiasm by going outside of my comfort zone and encouraging others to do the same, as this is how we grow ourselves as future leaders.

This year marks the 50th year from the conception of the Century Farm Sign Project. Starting as a centennial project, and progressing over the next 50 years to include the 125, 150, 175, and 200 year add-on signs, the project continues to show its success. This year I had the opportunity to personally deliver several century farm signs and add-ons. One delivery stood out to me, it was to a 90 year old alumni, him and his family ordered a replacement century farm sign as well as the 125, 150 and 175 year add-ons. He was so enthused to be eligible to receive the 175 year add-on, and have it hanging with the century farm sign, that he bought 2 sets. Talking with this gentleman, he explained how Junior Farmers was the organization that held the mortgage allowing him to purchase the property from his father. Travelling across the province this year I have noticed the Century Farm Signs and add-on signs, and heard many similar stories from the provincial Directors.

Since joining JFAO, highlights for me have always been going to locally run as well as provincial Events, with this year being no exception. My congratulations to those clubs that have taken on the organization of any of these events, all the events I attended were very well run!

I would like to take this time to personally thank all of you that have helped make this year such a success, for without you JFAO would not be the organization it is today. From my local club, to the board of directors and executive, to all the clubs who have organized or attended events, and the alumni who have given guidance and insight, Thank you.

**Matt Smith**  
**JFAO President 2017**



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**RICHARDSON**

# Hello to All Fellow Junior Farmers!

My name is Dave Halligan and I am a member for Prince Edward County. However, I now live over here in Aberdeen, Scotland, where I work as an Agricultural Lawyer for Blackadders LLP. I was born in Kingston, Ontario and spent my time out and about that beautiful city, as well as working across in Wolfe Island, Ontario.



In speaking to Junior Farmers, I wished to share my experience as not only a Member abroad, but also as a Canadian in a Scottish agricultural environment. Scotland is a wee powerhouse when it comes to agriculture, and this is across both livestock and arable markets. Small in stature, Scotland itself would fit into Eastern Ontario, and farmland is varied across the country. The Southwest of the country in Ayrshire, is known for its wet weather and is where most of Scotland's dairy industry is located. The Northeast of the country, where I am located is known

for our livestock (the home of Aberdeen Angus) and arable farms growing wheat, barley for malting as well as a variety of vegetables from potatoes to carrots to peas. Sheep and lamb are a massive trade in Scotland, not only for the palate of the population, but also for export, and there are large holdings of sheep across the country, from the top in Caithness, to the islands of Orkney and Shetland, and to the south in The Borders. Scotland's diversified agricultural scene makes my job very interesting and varied on a daily basis. Scotland also has fantastic summer shows across the country including the jewel of the summer in The Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh.



You will not find too many lawyers in Ontario or Canada at all that are specialised in an industry as unique as agriculture. Many people ask what I do, as can be misunderstood. Scotland is a mixed legal system, meaning it takes from both Common Law (like Ontario) and Civil Law (like Quebec). It is one of the few jurisdictions like such in the world, another country who has a similar system, is that of South Africa. This means that we base decisions both on court decisions, as well as that of the legislation, where the property rules and laws are derived from a Roman system of landholding, making Scottish Law different from that of the English, or in Ontario's case, Canadian legal system.

What I do is dealing with a broad range of rural property matters, including the acquisition and sale of farms, fields, rural buildings and agricultural property. So essentially, we provide legal advice and purchase and sell farms for our clients, from the size of a tens of acres to hundreds. But we also deal with the business side of matters, dealing with partnership agreements and liaise with our farming clients' accountants. Further, Scotland has specific rules in relation to rural residential leases (for cottages and farm houses) as well as an entire system of agricultural leasing of land, which is quite

heavy in the legislation and is currently under reform. This would be a whole article to write about separate from this!

A major issue of farming across the world is that of funding, and how to gain funding to expand, live and stay afloat. I deal with rural security work for lenders and borrowers, meaning when your farm receives a loan for purchase or refinance, we deal with the registration of these securities (aka mortgages) in Scotland's Land Register.

It sounds all a bit varied and most people find that rural lawyers here in Scotland deal with all matters relating to agriculture, and there are so few of us specialised across this wee place! I hope to write again and update you all on the Brexit and the implications of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union and how this affects agriculture here and what it could mean for Ontario.

Give me a shout via email if you wish to chat about life as Agricultural Lawyer, maybe you wish to do the same, or maybe you are curious further. Also you can follow my exploits on Twitter on @RuralDavie, give a like and a follow.

Thanks for the read and hopefully will have more to write about my experience here in the next issue.

In Junior Farmer Spirit,  
Dave

You can reach Dave at david.halligan@blackadders.co.uk or on Twitter at @RuralDavie

# Autumn Profile 2017

This year Autumn Profile headed east and was hosted by Renfrew County Junior Farmers on October 21, 2017 at the DACA Center in Dacre. In keeping with the lumber industry roots that Renfrew County was built on, this year's theme was "Channel the Flannel" with everyone breaking out their best plaid during the day and at the dance.

After a few wrong turns and an unplanned road trip or two, all of the teams arrived and registered to start the day's events. The games of the day ranged from The Whisper Challenge, Tilt-a-Cup, Magic Carpet Ride, sheep showing and judging to Scrabble Roulette, identification quizzes, and a blindfolded maze. Throughout the day it was obvious that a few games



came out as favourites, mainly the Bubble Gum Challenge, where participants were tested on their ability to hold their breath in cool whip, and It's All in the Hips, where members were tested on how well they could swing a slinky without using their hands.

Teams made their way through 8 stations in the morning before stopping for lunch prepared by our club member Miranda Mulligan and her committee of 3 of our amazing club moms. Lunchtime also saw some of our event sponsors arrive to learn more about what Junior Farmers and Autumn Profile are, as well as see how, thanks to their outpouring of support, we were able to host the best Autumn Profile we could have imagined.



As the day's event started to come to a close it was easy to see that everyone's competitive nature was coming out. This was no more obvious than during the mystery event. The mystery event, fittingly named "Stomp the Yard," saw teams compete against each other by trying to pop each other's balloons that were tied to their ankle. What started out as a fun game of laughs, quickly turned into a game of strategy that saw teams ganging up on each other, friend turning on friend, and some very impressive evasive maneuvers.



After cleaning up and a quick rest it was soon time to return to the DACA Center for the dance, where everyone broke out their finest plaid before breaking out their best dance moves. With the dance also came the announcement of the day's results and awarding the winners their prizes. All too soon it was time to call it a night and shutdown the dance floor, marking the end of another Junior Farmer provincial event.

We could not have hosted the event we did without all of the community and family support we received throughout the year. While we should not be surprised by this support, as it is continuously and unwaveringly given to us time and time again, we continue to marvel and be thankful for it. It is this support and the enjoyment we had while hosting the province that makes us hope we don't wait quite so long to host everyone again.

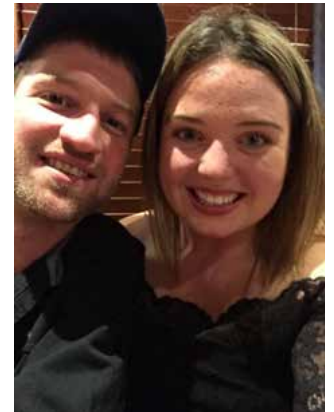
**Meredith Mulligan**  
**Renfrew County Club President**



# Growing Ontario: Ontario Young Farmer's Forum 2017

It is hard to believe that we have just wrapped up yet another year of Ontario Young Farmer's Forum (OYFF). This year we had about 55 young farmers and agribusiness professionals from across the province gather in Toronto, Ontario to hear from various speakers about several topics ranging from leadership to soil health to farming in niche markets.

This year's OYFF kicked off with attendees getting to know each other through an icebreaker where the room was given a list of items with points associated with each item. As each table scrambled to find the items and get the most points, attendees started to shift from sitting with those they came with to the new people they met. After the icebreaker, attendees heard from numerous speakers including Claire Cowan of North American Plant Genetics speaking about giving both men and women equal opportunities in agriculture. As well, there was a young leaders panel where three young leaders, Brad Proud (President of 4-H Ontario), Amanda Jeffs (EastGen Board Member), and Matt Smith (President of Junior Farmer's Association of Ontario). These two great topics set the stage for the rest of the conference and made attendees think outside of the box.



*New friends at Ontario Young Farmer's Forum 2017 Shawn Miller from Grenville County (eastern Ontario) and Josie Linton from Durham County (mid-western Ontario)*



*Jason Van Moorsel of JFAO*

I have been on the Ontario Young Farmer's Forum planning committee for 5 years now and one aspect of Ontario Young Farmer's Forum that never ceases to amaze me is how attendees progress from day 1 of the conference to day 2. Typically on day 1 you see attendees sitting with people they know from home or school, but by day 2 attendees are sitting with new friends. The opportunity to network and met other people from across the province has always been one of the main draws for attendees to attend OYFF. Once again, attendees came together as strangers and left as friends!

As with most years, each year at OYFF we have attendees nominate and interview each other before voting for who will represent us at Canadian Young Farmer's Forum. Congratulations to Jason Van Moorsel of Perth County! Jason is a hog and grain farmer and member of Junior Farmer's Association of Ontario. Along with Jason, Matt Smith (President of JFAO) and myself (Executive Director of Agricultural programs) will also be in attendance among others from Ontario that may attend as well! We look forward to meeting everyone at Canadian Young Farmer's Forum in February!

Thank you to all those who made this year's Ontario Young Farmers Forum - Growing Ontario a success. From our partners, our speakers, the committee, to the coordinator, and the attendees, this event would not be possible without all those involved. A special thank you goes to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture for all their support when running this event, along with all our event sponsors.

*For more information about Ontario Young Farmer's Forum or the Junior Farmer's Association of Ontario, please contact Kelsey Banks, Executive Director of Agricultural Programs at [agprograms@jfao.on.ca](mailto:agprograms@jfao.on.ca)*

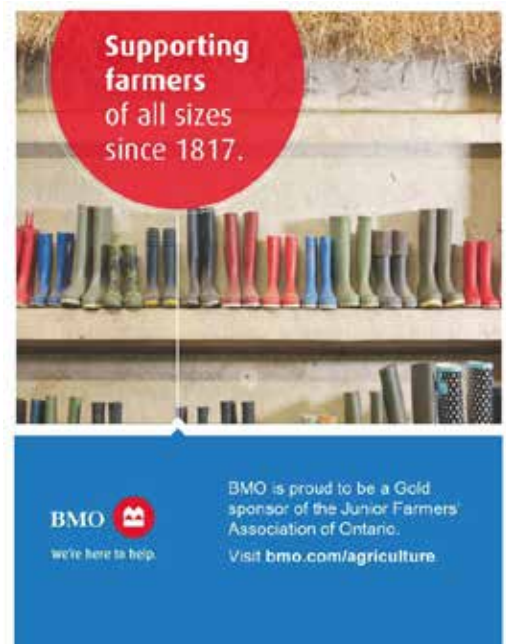
**Written by Kelsey Banks,  
Executive Director of Agricultural Programs, Junior Farmer's Association of Ontario**



**JF WANTS TO HELP YOU.....**

Keep in touch with old JF friends, share stories & life moments. We are always looking for Alumni feedback and inspirations. Please share your special moments (Births, Anniversaries, Announcements) with us. All information received will be shared.

**Email to [editor@jfao.on.ca](mailto:editor@jfao.on.ca)**



# Club Reports

## Renfrew County



Despite the chilly weather here in Renfrew County, things have yet to slow down with the Junior Farmers. Thanks to all the support from our community and hard work from each and every Renfrew JF member, we hosted a successful Autumn Profile in October. However, that night at the dance we realized one thing: our newer members have very little experience with two-stepping. Since the discovery we have been having monthly two-step nights to teach everyone this signature JF dance.

November saw some of the Renfrew members at Sing Swing in Wellington County. There we had a great time competing, meeting new JF members

and even taking home a few 1st place prizes. Toward the end of the month marked the Cobden Santa Clause parade and yet another JF Christmas parade float, then, that evening, we had two teams come out and support the Cobden Curling Club by participating in their trivia night.

We started December off with rounding up all the hunting season empties by hosting a bottle drive. We had a huge response from the community and raised over \$1200 that was donated to the local food bank! With all our members back home from school for the holidays, we had our annual Christmas party potluck to celebrate another fun year with our new and returning Renfrew members along with a few other Zone 1 friends who came out for the night. January quickly rolled around along with our annual general meeting. With the all the votes in, Renfrew has a new executive that is excited to see what 2018 has instore for us!



## Middlesex County

### Giving the Gift of Warmth and Love

4 years ago, the Middlesex Junior Farmers decided to make a tradition of donating to a community group at Christmas time. This year, we chose to donate to a local seniors home as they are often a group forgotten at Christmas. The nursing home hosts a Christmas party where Santa delivers gifts that are donated. After much consideration, we decided to make fleece lap blankets as our gift. We purchased the fleece, spent a few afternoons assembling the blankets and delivered them to the Prince George Retirement Residence in Lucan. The seniors loved the thoughtfulness and practicality of the homemade gifts. We received many comments about what a great idea it was from other members of the community. Social isolation is a problem among seniors, especially at Christmas time. The gifts bring them joy and remind them that they are valued members in our community.



# Perth News

## Do YOU want to Learn to Two Step?

The Perth County club has had a quieter couple months, but they haven't missed a two step night yet. If you know someone interested in learning to two step, direct them to our Facebook Page, where we post two step event details each month. The cost for Junior Farmers is \$5/person or \$10 for non members. All our welcome, and we have members at all skill levels, so no need to worry if you have two left feet. You can also e-mail us at perthjf@gmail.com for more details. The next two dates are Feb 16 and Mar 16..



**Crystal Blake, President and Communication Coordinator**

## Announcements

### Engagements



Kurtis Smith (Middlesex and JFAO Past President) and Bridget Johnson (Middlesex)  
Taylor McMillan (Perth Alumni) and Jenn Butson (Haldimand-Norfolk/Perth Alumni)  
Cassandra Chornoboy (Wellington) and Brock O'Donnell (Wellington)  
Annemarie Struhar (Essex-Kent) and Brian Sterling (Essex-Kent)

### New Members of Family



Sarah (McLaren) and Brad Found (Both Alumni and JFAO Past Presidents) welcomed Harper Wren Found January 18th, 2018

Shannon Kelly (Alumni and JFAO Past President) and Jamie McNinch welcomed Alexander James Dec 24, 2017



Warren Schneckenburger and Christine Littlejohn welcomed LiliAnne Eva Dec 1, 2017



Andrew Louwagie (Perth) and Katie Louwagie welcomed Eva Kimberly Nov 6, 2017

# Media Release - 4H Ontario



## **4-H Ontario Announces 2018 Youth Ambassadors**

ROCKWOOD, ON (February 5, 2018) – 4-H Ontario is proud to announce the selection of the six new Ambassadors who will represent the organization across the province in 2018. This year's Ambassadors will include: Mélissa Brisson (Russell), Devin Catt (Elgin), Andrea Dohner (Elgin), Nicole French (Peel), Evan Jenkins (Elgin) and Kyle Nussey (Oxford).

The 4-H Ontario Ambassador program is sponsored by FS. Since the program's inception in 2005, the Ontario GROWMARK System in Ontario including UPI Energy FS and FS Co-operatives have provided Ambassadors with this experience through sponsorship of the program.

The 4-H Ontario Ambassador program provides youth with advanced level training in leadership, citizenship, communications and public relations. Ambassadors put their energy and 4-H experiences to work recruiting new members and sharing the 4-H story. They attend 4-H Ontario events across the province, as well as representing the organization at community events to promote the program.

"I am very excited to see what all the 2018 Ambassadors will do this year. They are a talented group that is well spoken and extremely knowledgeable about 4-H," says Andy McTaggart, Manager, Programming, 4-H Ontario. "4-H would also like to thank the 2017 Ambassadors for their hard work and hours of dedication."

### **Read on for a listing and bio of the 2018 Ambassadors.**

#### **Mélissa Brisson**

Mélissa has completed over 30 clubs already in 4-H. She is currently in her first year at the University of Guelph. Mélissa is active in her community outside of 4-H completing over 400 hours of volunteering in just the last few years. She hopes to showcase the fun of "Learn To Do By Doing."

#### **Devin Catt**

Devin is a past participant of Provincial Leadership Camp and the TD Classic. Devin is currently at Guelph University studying Mechanical engineering in his second year. Devin is proud to be a 4-H member because of the positive impact 4-H has on every community.



**Andrea Dohner**

Andrea is in her eighth year as part of the 4-H program and has completed a wide range of projects such as Digital Photography and Dairy. She has also taken part in the Rural Ontario Summit and Future Leaders In Action. Andrea is looking forward to sharing her 4-H success story to inspire others to join the 4-H program.

**Nicole French**

Nicole has completed 64 clubs in her eight-year history of 4-H including local and regional public speaking competitions. Nicole is studying kinesiology at Brock University and hopes to inspire others to join 4-H and “Learn To Do By Doing.”

**Evan Jenkins**

Evan is in his ninth year of 4-H and was a Youth Rep for Ontario at the 2017 Global 4-H Summit. Evan is working towards his Diploma in Horticulture at Ridgetown. He is hoping to engage people outside of 4-H to talk to them about what the program has done for him.

**Kyle Nussey**

Kyle has completed 20 clubs in his seven years in the 4-H program. Kyle has also volunteered for many local celebrations as a 4-H member to help spread 4-H news. This included hosting Ontario’s Lieutenant Governor at the Oxford Awards Night. He is hoping to continue his development of leadership and communication skills.

The 2018 Ambassadors will be officially announced at this year’s Ambassador Reception taking place on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Guelph Hotel & Conference Centre. Tickets are available online at: [4-hontario.ca/ambassadors](http://4-hontario.ca/ambassadors).

To book a 4-H Ontario Ambassador for your event please complete the request form online at: [4-hontario.ca/amb-booking](http://4-hontario.ca/amb-booking).

**About 4-H Ontario:**

4-H Ontario is a non-profit positive youth development organization that builds youth as leaders within their communities and assets to the world. With roots in rural Ontario, today it is open to youth of all backgrounds across the province. 4-H youth ages 6–21 and screened, engaged volunteer leaders come together to learn about selected topics through fun hands-on activities and mentorship. There are also provincial camps, conferences, competitions and national and international travel opportunities available to further develop skills in leadership, business, self-confidence and more. 4-H provides youth with a place they can be involved, accepted, valued and heard while developing valuable skills for leadership and life.

**About FS:**

FS provides agriculture-related products and services to farmers and rural residents in Ontario and the United States through local FS branded member co-operatives and by GROWMARK subsidiaries. FS branded and related products and services include crop inputs, crop protection, seed, grain marketing, energy products and services, feed and animal health as well a variety of consumer related products for farm, home and garden, through its more than 70 sites throughout rural Ontario. Visit: [www.growmark.com](http://www.growmark.com) or [www.fssystem.com](http://www.fssystem.com).

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**For more information please contact:**

Ryan Métivier, Manager, Communications,  
4-H Ontario 519.856.0992 x465, [digital@4-hontario.ca](mailto:digital@4-hontario.ca)



Coming up in the next edition of the Bullhorn...

Winter Games  
Strategic Plan  
New JFAO Executive  
Annual Award Winners  
...and so much more!

## 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".



The initiative was launched at the 2016 International Plowing Match held in Wellington County. Due to the popularity of the gate signs, JFAO has extended the availability through an online store.

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 or email [marketing@jfao.on.ca](mailto:marketing@jfao.on.ca). Select photos may be chosen to be featured on the JFAO website or marketing materials.



**Is your farm eligible?  
Go see for yourself!**

**1**

Go to [jfao.on.ca](http://jfao.on.ca)

**2**

Hover over 'Resources'

**3**

Click 'Century Farm Sign'  
and apply if you meet the  
requirements.

Contact Kelsey Banks, Executive  
Director of Agricultural Programs,  
for more information at  
[agprograms@jfao.on.ca](mailto:agprograms@jfao.on.ca)

**March Conference 2018**  
**Belleville, Ontario**  
**March 23-25, 2018**  
*Find your Creative Mind!*

The JF Bullhorn is published quarterly by the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario  
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