



## March Conference 2018

Belleville, Ontario, was the destination weekend spot as JF'ers from across the province flocked together to find their creative minds, celebrate the past year with old friends, and welcome in the upcoming year with new friends. The 50th anniversary of the Century Farm Sign program was celebrated through a slide show of farm gate signs from the byways and highways of the province and members of the Century Farm families were invited to attend the banquet.

One change in programming from the past several years was the AGM being held in the afternoon rather than the evening. As per usual, this meeting went well past the allotted time, but for a change, it did not last into the wee hours of the morning. The review of financials, policy, constitution, and election of new executive wrapped up by 8 pm, which allowed members to try their hands at some arts and crafts and general socialization.

Saturday morning dawned bright and early and conference attendees had a busy agenda ahead. The opening, key-note speaker was none other than Dundas JF alumni Jay Garlough. Garlough delivered an entertaining and thought-provoking talk on "Money doesn't grow on trees. Food does." Where he discussed his experience co-founding the company Hidden Harvest, talked about the 1%, and threw nuts at people (edible black walnuts to be specific). Following this, Ivan MacKinnon discussed his family's brewery, MacKinnon Brothers Brewery, and some of the challenges of producing a beer from products grown on the farm, and the importance of community.

The afternoon was filled with breakout sessions focussing on creatively engaging 4-H members, the importance of networking, and some hands-on financing calculations. At the conclusion of the afternoon sessions, MC conference goers disappeared into their rooms to get themselves all gussied up and shiny for the evening banquet. The year passed was celebrated with the acknowledgement of the Communication Awards, Club of the Year Awards, and Rose Awards. The new JF year was welcomed in with the announcement of the 2018 Travel Scholarship Awards. Finally, the banquet was concluded with the induction of the 2018 executive with the annual and traditional candle lighting ceremony.

Sunday morning saw the MC delegates waking up to Toastmasters, who walked us through preparing a short speech, and concluded with several victims presenting their speeches. The featured speaker of the morning was none other than the enchanting, and effervescent Lyndsey Smith! She spoke on engaging people on social media, about being polite, and not being afraid to pull in an expert. Our wrap up speaker of the day was Murray Dale who shared with us stories of his travel exchange to Germany. Then it was time to say goodbye as another JF weekend wrapped up. Slowly, we packed our things and took flight to once again disperse across the province, promising to see each other at the next JF event!



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Thanks to the support of:



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Spring PD and Training Meeting  
May 6, 2018  
Drayton, Ontario

2018 Leadership Camp  
YLCC  
Orillia, Ontario  
June 8, 2018

Golf Tournament  
Guelph Lake CC  
July 13, 2018

Summer PD Meeting and  
Ambassadors Banquet  
August 11, 2018

Autumn Profile  
Wentworth-Niagara  
October 27, 2018

November PD Meeting  
Essex-Kent  
November 16, 2018

Sing Swing  
Essex-Kent  
November 17, 2018

# President's Message

It is my honour to be the 75th president of this great organization that we call JFAO. I joined JFAO in 2011, and since then I have been a provincial director for one year and the Executive Director of Finance for five years. During this time, I have been able to meet a lot of wonderful people and participate in great events hosted by JF clubs and JFAO.

There are a lot of fun events that will be taking place this year. From Leadership Camp to Ambassadors' Banquet, to Sing Swing, I encourage everyone to attend. Please stay tuned to our website (<http://www.jfao.on.ca/membree-event-calendar>) for more details on all club and provincial events that will be taking place this year.

If you are curious as to what our members are up to please visit our JFAO blog (<http://www.jfao.on.ca/jfao-blog>). This is a great place to see what our outgoing and incoming exchange delegates are experiencing as well as the great activities and achievements all of the local clubs have been involved in.

Lastly, if you have glanced at a calendar recently, you would have noticed that JFAO will soon be celebrating its 75th year. If you are a member, alumni, or partner of JFAO and would like to get involved, please email myself at [president@jfao.on.ca](mailto:president@jfao.on.ca) or call into the JFAO office at 519-780-JFAO (5326) and leave a message.

This will be a great year that will be full of memories, new skills, and great networking opportunities for everyone to take advantage of and I hope to see everyone out celebrating Ontario agriculture, and rural life this year.

**Erich Weber**  
**JFAO President 2018**



# Amanda Brodhagen makes the news

## Former Perth County Queen of the Furrow to participate in three-month Junior Farmer exchange in the UK

By Galen Simmons, Stratford Beacon Herald



As part of her final year as member of Perth County Junior Farmers, Amanda Brodhagen will soon be enjoying the chance of a lifetime – three months in the U.K. learning from farmers and producers across the pond.

Though she wasn't initially sure she could spend three months away from her family's beef farm in Brunner – especially in the midst of planting season – Brodhagen decided to compete for the opportunity with other members of the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario at the organization's annual March conference, held this year in Belleville on March 24.

"There are so many different opportunities that are available to Junior Farmer members, one of them being travel. We have a long-standing relationship with young farmer organizations around the world, and being in my last year as a member and also having served on the provincial executive as the director of marketing a few years ago, I kind of thought that the exchange opportunity was underutilized by our membership."

So Brodhagen decided to lead by example by throwing her hat into the ring for a chance to travel abroad, not really expecting success.

After filling out an application, ranking the countries she wanted to travel to, sitting through an interview, writing a test, and making a presentation at the conference in March on her experience as a junior farmer and why she wanted to travel abroad, Brodhagen was awarded the opportunity at the conference's closing gala – an announcement that left her with somewhat mixed feelings.

"The main reason (I wanted to go to the U.K.) is I'm interested in learning about agriculture and rural life over there – in particular with sheep and cattle. I took one course in university... on agriculture policy in Europe, so I'm really interested in that," Brodhagen said.

"... I told my mom that night and she congratulated me, but it didn't really sink in until I got home. My parents weren't really that thrilled at first just because I am involved in my family farm, in addition to working off the farm, so I'll be leaving during a very important time of year."

In speaking with those involved with co-ordinating her exchange, however, Brodhagen was able to push back her flight to the U.K. by a few weeks to May 10, giving her some extra time to help her parents out on the farm while still being able to make it to the Balmoral Show in Northern Ireland from May 15 to May 18.

While in the U.K., Brodhagen will spend a month each in Ireland, Scotland and England, staying with a different host family every week. Along with attending agricultural shows and getting a feel for life on different kinds of farms, Brodhagen will also have the chance to attend the Highland Games in Scotland, camp out with a group of young farmers, and reconnect with at least one young farmer she met during an exchange trip to Perth County a few years ago.

"I'll get a really authentic look at the culture, rural life, and just everything the U.K. has to offer while I'm there. I'll also have the chance to kind of share where I came from, too," Brodhagen said.

"In planning for this trip, I had to think about what kind of gifts I'll bring for my host families. ... I'm bringing over maple tea and some maple syrup, and some flyers. I actually thought I should try to be informative, too, so the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association is sending me some brochures to take so I can show how maple syrup is produced in Ontario."

Brodhagen is also bringing information and recipes provided by Canada Beef – something she, as a beef farmer, can provide some unique insight into.

Brodhagen's three-month exchange will conclude in mid-August, giving her plenty of time to experience everything U.K. agriculture has to offer.



Amanda Brodhagen, a member of Perth County Junior Farmers, will be participating in a three-month agricultural exchange in the UK beginning on May 10. (Submitted photo)

*Thanks to StratfordBeaconHerald for the article.*



# March Conference - Award Winners

Travel Exchange Awards		Rose Awards	
<b>Republic of Ireland:</b>	Adrian Straathof	<b>New member:</b>	Rachel Nivens
<b>Scotland:</b>	Dannielle Teefy	<b>Retiring member:</b>	Dale Sutton
<b>Germany:</b>	Nic Willemsma	<b>Member of the year:</b>	Becky Mattice
<b>United Kingdom:</b>	Amanda Brodhagen		
<b>Wales:</b>	Zach Lance		
<b>Austria:</b>	Kate Johnson		
Communication Awards		Club Awards	
<b>Best News article:</b>	Renfrew	<b>Agricultural Club of the year:</b>	Oxford
<b>Best new fundraising idea:</b>	Perth, JF fritters	<b>Club of the year:</b>	Renfrew
<b>Best digital scrapbook:</b>	Wellington		
<b>Best scrapbook:</b>	Haldimand-Norfolk		
<b>Best Club recruitment:</b>	Haldimand- Norfolk		
<b>Best Club photo:</b>	Perth		

## Winter Games 2018

Tacky plaid worn in a way that would make Don Cherry proud, a tasteful game of musical chairs, and a large crowd of uncoordinated farm kids trying to sport. If there was a way to write it I would but please hum the hockey night in Canada theme song now just to get back in the mind set.

This year, our club Prince Edward was privileged and excited to host Winter Games 2018. This has been our second time hosting a provincial event, and for some of our members the first taste of the overwhelming but worthwhile task of preparing and planning a provincial event. We are a small but mighty club, having only 7 members able to be at the event the day of, and officially 12 involved in the behind the scenes planning. The event was held at PECI (the local high school) in Picton. We had 21 teams and over 150 participants for the day's events and over 180 attending the dance held in Allisonville.

Clubs arrived in their running shoes, short shorts and....cowboy boots ready to compete. It was a great day participating in badminton, basketball, soccer, volleyball, balloon stomp, and of course the largest game of indoor musical chairs. After some initial scheduling conflicts in the morning it was time to stay fit and have fun.

After a day of physical activity it was time to do..... well more physical activity. Everyone loaded on the busses and headed for what the locals have lovingly dubbed Possum Lodge; a small hall that seemed to fit everyone perfectly and encourage some serious dancing and boot stomping. Clubs were encouraged to dress in their Don Cherry best, many supporting the cause with a rose on a lapel and a different kind of plaid than we're used to. The winners were announced and awards handed out for the efforts of the top 3 winners.

We had an amazing time hosting and want to thank all those that made the day possible. A Don Cherry double thumbs up to those that travelled to "The County" to participate in these events. They can't happen without club excitement and willingness. Thank you all for a successful winter games.

**Jenn Courneyea**  
**Prince Edward Junior Farmers**

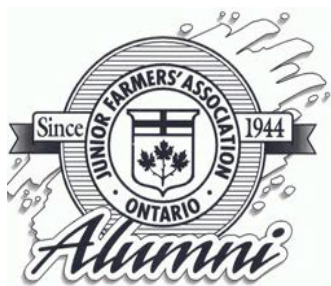
# A Roast and Toast for Kurtis Smith

On January 13th, 2018 the Middlesex Junior Farmers hosted a roast and toast in honour, of Past president, Kurtis Smith. Kurtis always strives for the best and shoots for the top. In 2016 he became the 73rd president of JFAO. It was right to the top for Kurtis. On January 18, 2018 Provincial Directors and other members travelled from many counties across the province to celebrate the end of Kurtis' reign as president and past president with the annual roast and toast.

Over the past year, Kurtis has been a very active member and attended many events across the province. At the Ilderton community centre, we took the night to celebrate all of his accomplishments in Kurtis' JF years. The night was full of stories, pictures and a parody presentation of Taylor Swifts "love story", highlighting his accomplishments and some funny memories. We learned so very much. It was a very nice black tie evening filled with laughter and joy and who could forget the amazing food we enjoyed. Couldn't have asked for a better way to celebrate the end of another great, well accomplished JFAO presidency.



**Krista Jeffrey**  
Middlesex Junior Farmer



**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)**



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# Club Reports

## Renfrew



Winter in Renfrew County may be cold but the junior farmers are as busy as ever! We continued to meet once a month to practice our two stepping with the club 'newbies' who would be attending Winter Games. We had a total of 19 members (two teams) make the trip to Belleville for Winter Games hosted by Prince Edward County. Even though neither of our teams won, we had a blast bringing our new members to their first provincial event outside of Renfrew County. Coming to the end of February we held our third annual Zone 1 curling day. We spent a Saturday afternoon

throwing a few rocks with some friendly competition and finished off the day with a potluck supper.



March saw the Renfrew JF bring out a wee bit of our Irish roots to participate in many St. Patrick's Day celebrations, including Irish trivia nights and the annual St. Patrick's Day parade held in Douglas. With all the festivities March Conference was quick to come around. While not everyone could make it for the entire conference, a group of our members did attend the banquet. We were honoured and thrilled to be named the 2017 JF Club of the Year. This marks the first time in our club's history that Renfrew has ever held the title and we are so thankful for all the support we have received from local businesses, the community, parents, and alumni who helped contribute to the success 2017 brought us and we hope to continue to give back to our amazing county throughout 2018.



At the annual Junior Farmers Association of Ontario's March Conference event this past weekend in Belleville, the Renfrew Country Junior Farmers were surprised and ecstatic to be named the 2017 Club of the Year for all of Ontario. This marked the first time this title has ever been awarded to Renfrew County. Some of the outstanding highlights from the past year that factored into the win included celebrating over 100 years of Junior Farmers in Renfrew County with a hugely successful banquet in January, hosting the provincial event Autumn Profile in October with huge amounts of community support, organizing a bottle drive that raised over \$1200 for the Cobden Food Bank, and consistently having large member participation in provincial events throughout the year. The Renfrew County Junior Farmers would like to thank everyone who supported us throughout 2017 and helped to make it as successful as it was. We could not have achieved everything we did without the amazing support we received from our family, alumni, and the community. We hope to carry this success through the rest of 2018 and continue to give back to the community through donations, club projects and volunteering.



*Shown above from left to right; Front Row: Grady Dwyer, Emma Duncan, Johanna Dwyer, Meredith Mulligan and Tanner Bromley. Back Row: Zach Lance, Miranda Mulligan, Jamie Schultz and Marissa Mulligan.*



# Carleton

On Friday April 13th, Carleton County hosted its third annual Trivia Night at the Greely Legion. With categories spanning from agriculture to music and movies, the record eleven teams were put to the test and showed their knowledge on a variety of topics. Three category focuses were even chosen with the roll of the dice, making the evening even more unpredictable. Teams were also given the chance to try three mini-games throughout the evening, where they tested their guess skills in “Guess what’s in the shoebox”, their improv skills in “Impromptu Speaking” and their competitive side in “Musical Chairs.” One highlight of the evening was listening to attendee Peter Ruiter compare his shoes to canoes and how difficult it is to shower on cruise ships during his impromptu speech about boats. After a very tight race to the end, the teams City Slickers, Trivial Pursuit of Happiness and Curious Georges took the top three spots respectively. It was a great success!



*First Place Winners:  
City Slickers*



*A few of the teams hard at work*



*Impromptu Speaking*



*Musical chairs*

# Perth

## JF Fritters back by Popular Demand & New VIP Pre-Show Parking at the Canadian Dairy Xpo



The smell of delicious deep-fried fritters being cooked up by the Perth County Junior Farmers proved to be an attraction at the Canadian Dairy XPO, once again this year. The Members brought back their famous “JF Fritters”. Since they won for “Best Fundraising Idea” in 2017 with the JF Fritters, they couldn’t disappoint.

\*New\* this year, they added on VIP Pre-Show Parking to their busy fundraising efforts. Exhibitors could pay a \$5 donation to Perth JF and be able to park in the VIP Parking Lot between 7am and 9am each day. The members even ran a shuttle that was donated by CDX and funded by donations, for those that had supplies to still bring in the morning of the event. This was to help exhibitors park closer and keep the parking lot’s open for those paying admission to the event.



The Perth County Junior Farmers would like to thank everyone for the support, including Junior Farmers’ members and alumni from other counties who stopped by and bought food, to CDX for working with our group, MasterChoice Seed for sponsoring our booth space, Absolute Insurance Brokers that gave us financial support and Sunset Diner for their continued support. The success of our booth and parking could not have happened without the support of the community and those mentioned above. Perth JF members are looking forward to bringing “JF Fritters” to CDX again next year.

## Perth JF Back Serving up Food at the Stratford Home and Leisure Show



The smell of food being cooked up by the Perth County Junior Farmers proved to be a successful feature at the Home Show, once again this year. The members brought back their famous menu of Sausage on a Bun and Home-Made Beef Chili. Over the three-day event, the members of the group kept the grills warm, the food served quickly and the customers happy. Overall it was a busy three days, but a fun three days.



The Perth County Junior Farmers would like to thank everyone for making our food booth at the Stratford Spring Home Show a success. From the Committee for working with our group, Absolute Insurance Brokers that gave us financial support and to all our members for their continued efforts. The success of our booth could not have happened without the support of the community and exhibitors.

**By Crystal Blake,  
Perth County Junior Farmers**

# Waterloo/Wellington

## Sapfest 2018

Deep in the maple bush, surrounded by snow and frozen sap a roaring fire was built by the Waterloo JF'ers, and their friends from Wellington JF and the local 4-H beef club. Atop this fire was a large, cast-iron pot, older than several members combined. The spitting sound of hot oil was soon followed by popping popcorn. The ground around the fire was littered with errant white pieces and drew curious crowds. Thus began the Waterloo JF's annual fundraiser hosted at the Weber farm during the Elmira Sapfest. It was a long, chilly day that saw the fresh maple flavoured popcorn selling faster than it could be made. Attendees of the Sapfest could take a bus to the Weber farm where they were met with tractors and hay wagons for the remainder of the journey to the maple bush and sugar shack. Here they got to see and learn a little bit about maple syrup production. The JFs sold popcorn and drinks to the many visitors. Back by popular demand was maple popcorn, which promptly sold out. Despite the cold, the crowds were steady all day and many left happily licking the last of the maple sugar off their fingers.

## Bowling Hosted by Oxford County for Perth and Middlesex

It is always fun to catch up with other clubs and bounce ideas off each other. The friendly competitiveness of our neighbouring clubs is also a bonus and gets us ready for provincial events. On February 25, Oxford JF hosted a multi zone social and had a great turn out despite the change of plans. It started off as a tubing social, but due to the lack of snow, we went bowling instead. Thank you to Elizabeth Bruce (Oxford) for organizing a fun Sunday afternoon. All the members in attendance had a blast and are working on the next multi zone social plans as we speak. Keep tuned in to find out what those plans are.

**By Crystal Blake,  
Perth County Junior Farmers**



## Announcements

### New Members of Family



**Happy, healthy and spunky future Junior Farmer**

Evelyn Nelda, February 16, 2018, 9 lbs. 4 oz. Proud parents, Stan and Sarah Lennox, Wellington JF members.





## Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

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### Supporting Ontario's agri-food and agri-products sector through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership

**Guelph, ON (April 4, 2018)** – The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) will deliver Canadian Agricultural Partnership programming to producers and other agribusinesses on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Canada and Ontario are pleased to announce programming that will help grow the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector in Ontario to increase its competitiveness, prosperity and sustainability.

Under the new, five-year framework, producers and other agribusinesses can now [apply](#) for cost-share funding assistance to support projects in three key priority areas:

- Economic development in the agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector;
- Environmental stewardship to enhance water quality and soil health; and
- Protection and assurance in food safety and plant and animal health.

The first application intake window for producer and other agribusiness cost-share funding assistance is from April 3 to May 8, 2018. Program details, including how to apply, program guides and application forms can be found online at [ontariosoilcrop.org](http://ontariosoilcrop.org).

Funding is available for producers and other agribusinesses to undertake various activities to improve their business and to innovate and modernize their practices, equipment and operations. Additionally, many workshops, resources and online learning opportunities are available to them at no cost.

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership builds on the successes of *Growing Forward 2* and helps government, producers and industry partners to create further economic growth for Ontario's agri-food and agri-products sector.

#### QUOTES

“Global demand is growing for the products and food our farmers and processors can deliver. The investments that will be made by the governments of Canada and Ontario through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership will give the sector the tools needed to meet that demand and help it innovate, grow, and prosper. By supporting our farmers and food processors, we will be creating well-paying middle class jobs while working towards our objective of expanding agricultural exports to \$75 billion by 2025.”

- Lawrence MacAulay  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

.../2

“We are committed to strategically and innovatively supporting this thriving sector to build its competitiveness, expand its markets, and to add to its world-leading reputation for producing safe, quality food. Our Canadian Agricultural Partnership programming will be incredibly important in our efforts to make the sector stronger and more prosperous.”

- Jeff Leal

Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

“The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) is pleased to be delivering the new Canadian Agricultural Partnership programming to producers and other agribusiness across Ontario. For over 30 years OSCIA has played a large role in delivering various programs to producers and looks forward to working with the federal and provincial governments in delivering this five-year initiative.”

- Peter McLaren

President, Ontario Soil Crop and Improvement Association

## **LEARN MORE**

[Canadian Agricultural Partnership - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada](#)

[Canadian Agricultural Partnership - OMAFRA](#)

[Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association](#)

[Growing Forward 2 – Producers](#)

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## **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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

Golf Tournament  
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...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?  
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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 Crystal Blake, Executive  
Director of Agricultural Programs,  
for more information at  
[agprograms@jfao.on.ca](mailto:agprograms@jfao.on.ca)

## JFAO Leadership Camp YLCC, Orillia, Ontario June 8 - 10, 2018

*Early Bird deadline May 11th*

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