



Volume 31, Issue 2

**To build rural leaders through personal growth, travel, experiences,
and community betterment**

Fall 2020

President's Message

This year continues to be full of challenges and hurdles, but that hasn't stopped Junior Farmers from across the province. They've creatively solved problems and carried on.

Instead of their annual fundraiser baseball tournament, North Simcoe JF is raising funds through their "You've been Flushed" travelling toilet. While Middlesex JF normally volunteers at local 4-H events, this year they hosted a virtual Go for the Gold 4-H practice night complete with Dairy Queen gift cards as prizes! Grey County JF held a Community Car Rally raising funds for their local hospice. Multiple clubs have practiced social distancing while collecting garbage along the ditches of their club's adopted road.

These are just a few of the amazing ways our members have adapted to the challenges of 2020. Nothing can stop a determined Junior Farmer!

In JF Spirit,
Elizabeth Bruce
JFAO President



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Thanks to the support of:



COVID-19

Due to our current circumstances, all in person activities are postponed. See [Health Canada](#) and the [Ontario Ministry of Health](#) for guidelines.

We look forward to hosting our in person events again when is appropriate.

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West Zone Director - Lee Mayes - lee@jfao.on.ca

Community and International Programming - Rinske van der Steege - rinske@jfao.on.ca

JFAO Office Move

The JFAO office has moved to a new temporary home. Our new contact information is:

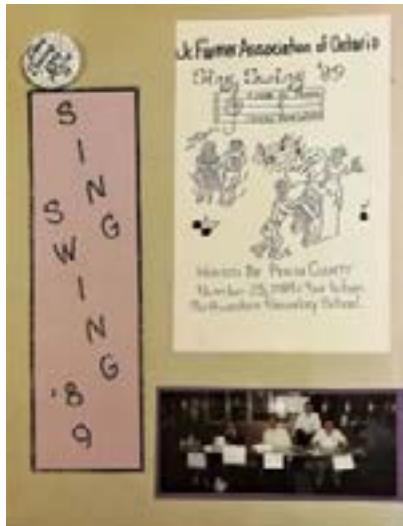
Phone: 226-820-6137

Email: info@jfao.on.ca

Blast From The Past!

Can you guess what year these Sing Swing Pictures were taken?

Answers for Blast From the Past on the last page



Sing Swing/Autumn Profile 2020: Singing and Swinging 6 Feet Apart

Greetings fellow Junior Farmers! The pandemic has been a pain for everyone but through hardship comes innovation, so in light of this, we are doing an online Sing Swing and Autumn Profile.

We are still doing classic events such as line dancing, gong show and two stepping but have had to scrap larger group events for the sake of the community's health and wellness.

The package has already been sent out to Provincial Directors and copies can be found on Facebook or emailing lee@jfao.on.ca.

All entries are to be video or photographed and sent into lee@JFAO.on.ca by November 21, 2020 at midnight. Anyone wanting to enter the public speaking section must send an email to lee@jfao.on.ca by November 20th at midnight and they will be emailed a topic which will be due on the 28th.

If you or your club have not received the package please contact Lee Mayes (lee@jfao.on.ca)

Deadlines:

All Entries: November 21 at midnight

Public Speaking (to get a topic): November 20th at midnight

Public Speaking Entry (speech video): November 28th, at midnight

Sing Swing 2019 Highlights:



OYFF 2020: The Young Farmer Survival Guide

On Monday, November 2nd JFAO members and others involved in the agriculture industry gathered virtually for the first session of the Ontario Young Farmers Forum (OYFF).

The session consisted of three separate sections: an industry presentation, the farmer spotlight, and a social. For the industry presentation, Adelle Stewart, the Executive Director of the Do More Agriculture Foundation, provided an overview on mental health in agriculture. Adelle spoke to attendees about managing pressure, finding a work-life balance, and the various community resources available. At the end of the session, she challenged JFAO members to:

1. Use the term mental health in a conversation this week.
2. Ask someone how they are doing and how they are feeling.
3. Make an effort to listen often and listen well.



**The
Do More
Agriculture
Foundation**

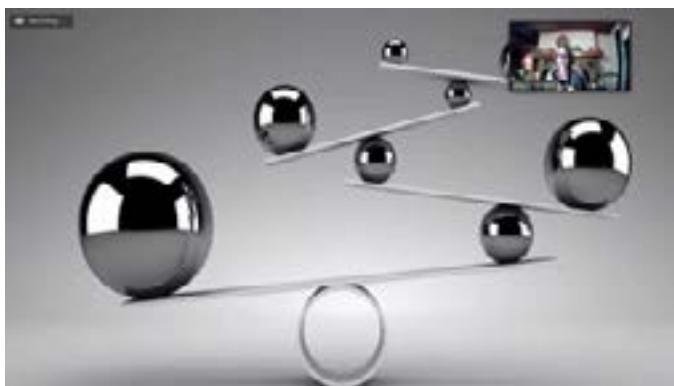
Sarah Judd from Meadow Lynn Market Garden & CSA joined OYFF for the first farmer spotlight. The purpose of the



farmer spotlight is to profile a Canadian farmer and share their story with OYFF attendees. Sarah explained the Community Support Agriculture (CSA) model and described how she operates her market garden and CSA. She discussed some of the challenges and successes that her operation has faced over the last number of years. As well as answered numerous questions from attendees.



The decision to host a virtual OYFF program was not one taken lightly by the OYFF organizing committee. In light of ongoing provincial and local health restrictions and potential health concerns, the concept of a virtual program was presented to a number of clubs for feedback. Thanks to all the members who provided suggestions and ideas for this program! After much discussion, the committee decided to go ahead with a four-part speaker series during the month of November. We hope to "see you" virtually at one of the three upcoming sessions. Register for a session or learn more at <https://www.jfao.on.ca/oyff>.



TALK MORE
ASK MORE
LISTEN MORE



Club Reports

Carleton

Although this summer has not been as busy as planned, with in person events being cancelled, Carleton has managed to stay in touch and keep a positive outlook. We have held our past 5 monthly meetings on Zoom, as well as a virtual Trivia Night in May. Hosting the virtual social allowed a past Carleton member, Rhian Mitchell, to join in on the fun. Despite the late hour (1:30 am) in Scotland, Rhian managed to emerge the champion.

Two of our annual events had to be cancelled this summer, Trivia Night and Redneck Games. We are hoping to bring back both of these events next year.

Each year our club offers a scholar award to a student attending a post-secondary institution in the fall semester in a program related to agriculture. This year's scholar award committee received applications from across the province and were happy to present this year's award to Rhiannah Gallagher. Rhiannah has been involved in 4-H for 10 years and has completed a variety of both livestock and homecraft clubs including sheep, beef, horse, dairy, bread making and square dancing. This year she remains involved by participating in virtual clubs for sheep, livestock judging, cooking, baking and personal fitness.

Asked how she will be a leader in agriculture in the coming years,



the response was:

"...I hope to inspire and change the way we teach about agriculture in Canada. I hope to help implement education in schools, social media, and public events. (...) If we want the agriculture industry to continue to grow and play important roles in our society, we need future leaders like myself, to take a stand and encourage the public to learn more about this industry."

Rhiannah will be attending the University of Guelph starting this September. We wish her well in her studies and look forward to the impact she will certainly have for agriculture in the years to come!

Our club will be looking forward to the fall and seeing how we can contribute back to our community within the new social climate.

Durham West

The pandemic may have locked us down, but that hasn't kept Durham West from doing amazing things!

For the first meeting since the Covid-19 restrictions started, Durham West went virtual, holding the first zoom meeting with typical attendance. From there, things only went up! Durham West hosted a bingo night for our county with members, families, and community members all attending. A lot of laughs were shared and good times were had!



Durham West was able to have a couple in person meetings, and a lot of strategic planning sessions about how we could fundraise for the remainder of the year while still respecting social distancing and current restrictions. In November, Durham West will be hosting a Can/Bottle/Battery Drive to fundraise.

Durham West continues to look forward to what's left of 2020 and hoping that 2021 will be a better year!

By: Meghan McLeod

Huron-Perth

On August 6, 2020, Huron Perth Junior Farmers met in Stratford at the Split Rail Country Store for our annual Roadside Clean Up. This stretch of road leads towards the airport and is the section that Perth Junior Farmers adopted in 2015. We received many honks and thumbs up of appreciation from passersby. We were able to collect a few garbage bags full along both sides of the roads, including finding a full jug of oil and a front bumper!



Our inaugural Toonie Tours was un-bee-lievable! On August 8, Huron Perth Junior Farmers met at Field and Forest Honey Farm. The bee yard, surrounded by wildlife and a quarry-turned-lake, is owned by Scott Currie and Tom Prout. Members who attended learned a lot about what operating a bee hive looks like and what is required. We are looking forward to our next tour!

By: Jolande Oudshoorn

Club Reports

Middlesex

The Middlesex Junior Farmers have some projects and events that we like to hold and take part in each year. This year, we have had to use some creativity to still be able to hold the events in a safe way and by following all rules and guidelines.

On August 5, we held a virtual Go For the Gold competition for Middlesex 4-H members. We used Zoom to meet with the members and Kahoot to hold the competition. The members enjoyed the questions on agriculture, 4-H projects and facts about Canada. The event was well received as they had a chance to chat with each other and they particularly enjoyed the Dairy Queen gift card that they received in the mail as prizes. On October 24,

we participated in the virtual Walk-a-thon for Mental Health hosted by 4-H Ontario Ambassador Lauren Bos. We had 4 members walk 2.5 km on a local trail outside of Lucan and participate in the online activities to raise awareness for Mental Health in rural Ontario. Our club made a donation to the Do More Ag Foundation as part of the event.

Each year, we typically run our Trick or Feed project to collect donations for the food bank. This year, we still wanted to donate

but found another way to do it. On October 31, we ran a food drive at the Komoka Foodland where people could purchase an extra item or two while shopping and donate it on their way out the door. We also handed out lots of candy with our tongs to celebrate Halloween. We collected two car loads of food and \$260 in cash donations which was then split between the Strathroy Salvation Army Food Bank and the Ailsa Craig and Area Food Bank.



North Simcoe

Despite the COVID 19 restrictions putting a hold on the usual events North Simcoe usually host throughout the summer, we have kept very busy doing some new things! After realizing that we wouldn't be able to host our Baseball Tournament and Dance this year, we sat down to discuss ways that we could still raise funds to support our community. We thought about the "Get Flocked" fundraiser that Stormont- Glengarry have been running and put our own spin on to it, creating "Get Flushed". This fundraiser was more successful than we ever thought would be possible. The toilet visited a total of 55 houses, raising just over \$2000 to be donated back to the community. As we were also missing playing sports this summer, a member decided to organize and host a Golf Tournament at Orr Lake Golf course. We had 12 teams participate and although it was a rainy day, teams all had tons of fun.

In September we hosted our monthly meeting at The Royal Canadian Legion- Branch 262 to show our support for the legion who have been struggling to keep their doors open. After our meeting we presented members of the Legion Executive with a cheque for \$1500. The following week we also presented a

cheque to the Elmvale and District Foodbank for \$500.

As Thanksgiving weekend approached, we were quite saddened that our Elmvale Fall Fair wouldn't be happening. Members of the Fair Board reached out to our club and challenged us to create a Bale Display for the community to enjoy. We decided to go with a theme that local farmers. We received great feedback from many members in the community, including a local radio station. Going along with this theme we heard about a tractor parade which would be hosted on Saturday October 10th. Although this parade was strictly for tractors, we reached out to members of the organizing committee and asked permission to enter a float in the parade. It was absolutely incredible to drive around all the streets of Elmvale, following approximately 25 tractors. We dance and wished all of the spectators a Happy Thanksgiving. It was amazing to see all the smiles on their faces, it really brightened up spirits during this time and was great to see the community support in thanking the farmers.

Oxford

Even a global pandemic won't stop Oxford Junior Farmers from making the most of the 2020 year, and doing the most for our community. Some of the highlights of our distanced club included COVID-19 Cares Challenges; virtual meetings; and supporting those in our community. When the pandemic put us in virtual mode and apart from one another, Oxford decided that this would be the best time to do something helpful with our time, which sparked our COVID-19 Cares Challenges, which included picking up garbage around your neighbourhood, donating blood, helping neighbours, and calling friends and family.



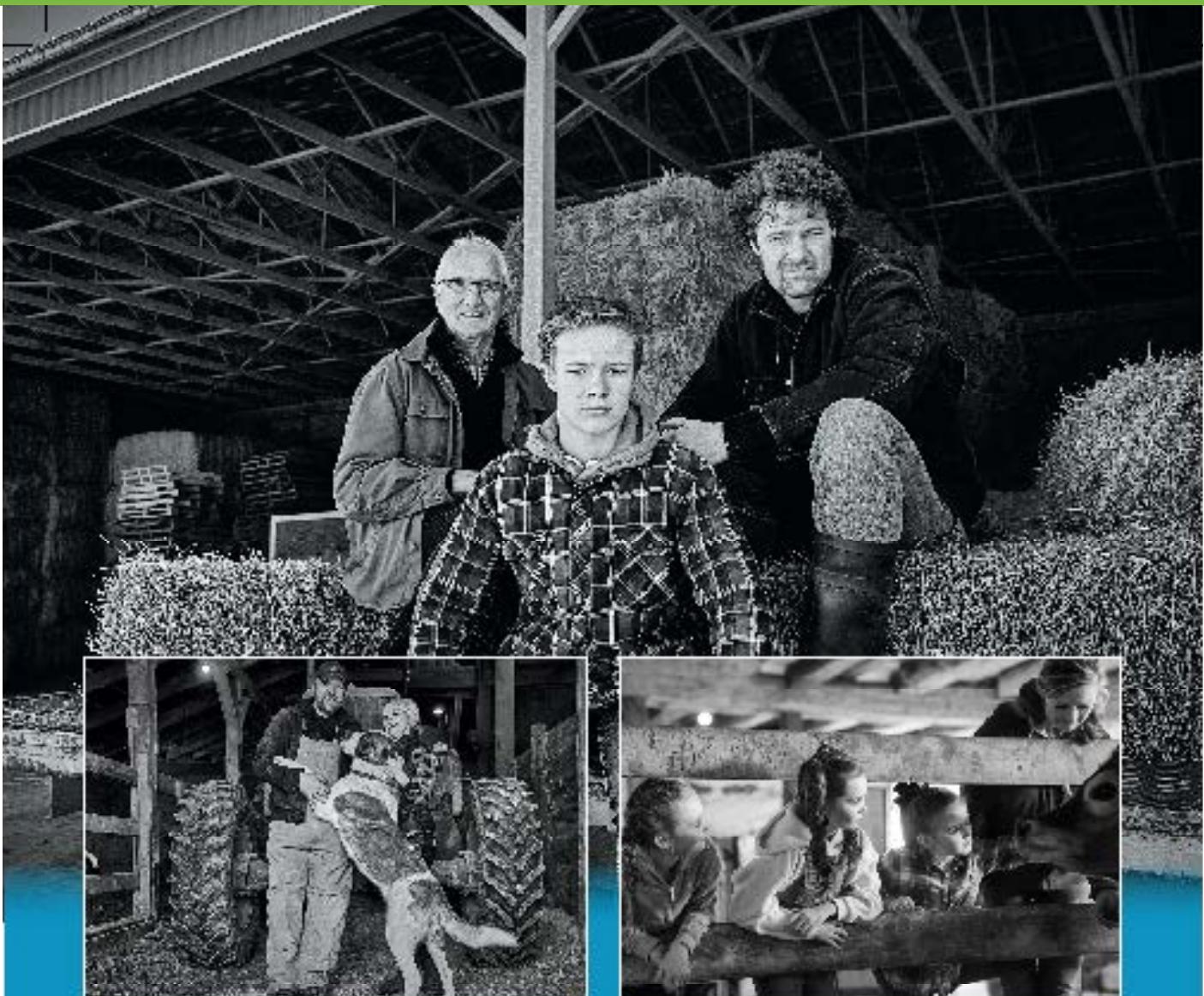
Throughout the pandemic, Oxford has also had many virtual meetings, a virtual graduation tribute, a smile cookie crawl, as well as two ice cream socials - when the public health restrictions enabled us to do so.



Something we are really proud of is having been able to - along with the Oxford Federation of Agriculture - make a donation, providing a month's worth of boxes

containing fresh fruits and vegetables to families affected by COVID-19.

Although the pandemic has been a difficult time for everyone we are thankful for being able to connect virtually and continuing to help out as a club, as best we can. We hope everyone is staying healthy and had a Happy Thanksgiving!



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Announcements

Marriage



Congratulations to Adam Messenger and Tina Straathof (Waterloo) on thier nuptials on September 27th



Congratulations to Billie Diemert (North Simcoe) and Darren Leach (North Simcoe) on thier nuptials on September 26th



Congratulations to Alex Richardson (Essex-Kent) and Stephanie Campbell (Essex-Kent) on thier nuptials on June 20th



Congratulations to Amy Harrigan (Haldimand-Norfolk) and Coleman Dortmans (Haldimand-Norfolk) on thier nuptials on August 29th



Congratulations to Jackie Shaw (Wellington) and Taylor Dane (Wellington) on thier nuptials on September 19th



Congratulations to Brad Jacobs (UofG Alumni) and Kesley DePaepe (UofG Alumni) on thier nuptials on September 5th



Congratulations to Johanna Dwyer (Renfrew) and Tanner Bromley(Renfrew) on thier nuptials on October 10th

Births



Sarah Teefy (Durham West) and Mike Sproxton (Durham West) are proud to announce the birth of ther daughter, Layla Sproxton, on July 12th.

Engagements



Waterloo JF is pleased to announce the engagement of Nic Weber (Waterloo) and Leslie Reid (Waterloo) on September 19th



North Simcoe JF is pleased to announce the engagement of Drew Langman (North Simcoe) and Amanda Stafford (North Simcoe) on October 10th



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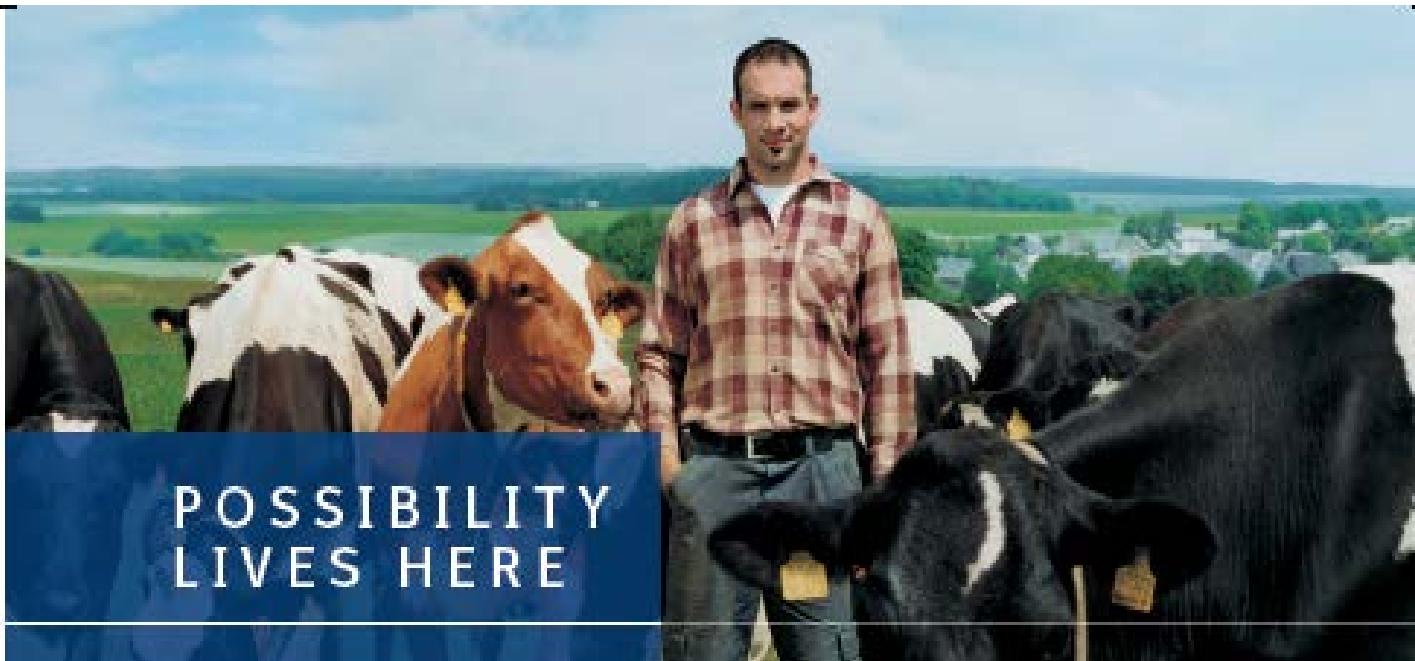
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OFA proudly supports the work of the Junior Farmers Association of Ontario with our current partnership. We actively invest in leadership programs to develop young leaders who will continue to drive sound public policy for Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities.

Congratulations on another successful year, JFAO, and cheers to developing young farm leaders.

OFA: Supporting the next generation of Ontario farmers.



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If you see your future in agriculture, we're here to help – from dream to reality. Ready to explore your opportunities? Let's get started.

fjc.ca/YoungFarmer

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 meghan@jfao.on.ca. Select photos may be chosen to be featured on the JFAO website or marketing materials.



Pictures on Front Page:
Top: North Simcoe JF Tractor Parade
Bottom: Winter Games February 2020

**Answer to Blast From The Past:
Huron-Perth Sing Swing 1989**

Is your farm eligible?
Go see for yourself!

1

Go to jfao.on.ca

2

Hover over 'Resources'

3

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

Contact Rinske van der
Steege, Director of Community
and International Programs, for
more information at
rinske@jfao.on.ca

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