



President's Message

Outgoing President, Elizabeth Bruce, President 2020-2021

Several people have mentioned that my year as president was a "Lost Year" for Junior Farmers and then list all the things that weren't able to happen. However, after reading through the affiliations reports, I read about clubs that adapted to the challenges at hand and still managed to do amazing things in 2020. Here's some of our success stories.

Winter Games went virtual and every single club across the province participated. Over 60 club to club challenges occurred ranging from Blanket forts, step challenges, building massive snowman and cookie decorating to name a few.

During 2020 food banks across the province saw an increase in clients, our clubs stepped up to the challenge and collectively donated over \$18,000 to our local food banks. Several clubs adapted their fundraising efforts in order to make these donations happen. Several clubs held bottle drives, while Oxford and Grey JF both hosted Drive Thru Fundraiser meals. North Simcoe held a Tractor Parade of Lights when their local Christmas Parade was cancelled. During their parade they collected an entire hay wagon filled with food for the local food bank. Huron Perth JF let the Hogs Out with their lawn ornament pigs, collecting enough funds to donate two pigs and the butchering costs to the food bank.

In 2020 Junior Farmer members also volunteered their time, 357 hours of volunteering according to the affiliations reports. Several clubs took on volunteer projects to help improve their communities. Peterborough JF built a gazebo shelter which now allows hikers a rest spot along Canada's Great Trail. Middlesex JF members continued to create fleece blankets which were donated to a Long Term Care home. Durham West JF delivered hay donations to Windreach Farm. Multiple clubs completed road side cleanups on their adopted roads.

2020 was not a lost year. We have so much to be proud of! I hope to celebrate these accomplishments with all of you at our first virtual March Conference banquet on Saturday March 27th.

I'm looking forward to more amazing things that will happen in 2021!

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Executive Contacts

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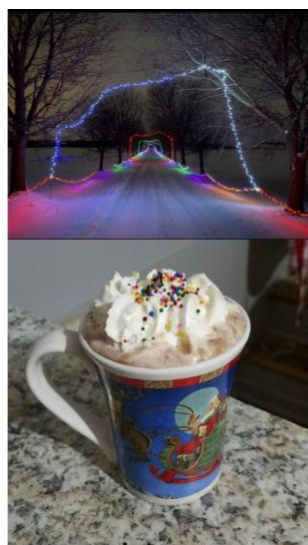
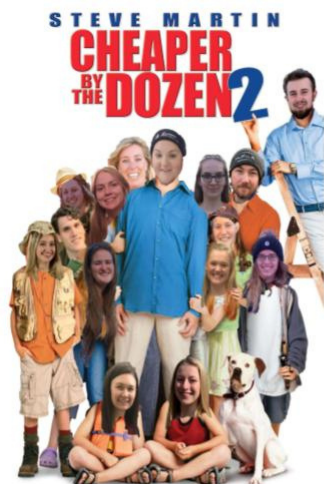
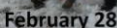
JFAO Office Move

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

Phone: 226-820-6137

Email: info@jfao.on.ca

Greetings from the Virtual Winter Games Committee! We were amazed by the creativity and participation from all clubs in the new virtual format of Winter Games this year! In total, all 16 clubs across the province participated, with 61 club vs club challenges throughout February. Two clubs, Peterborough and Huron Perth managed to complete a challenge with every other club in the province! Congratulations to Peterborough for winning the most points, with Huron Perth in second place and Carleton in third place! A special shoutout goes to all our judges and committee members for making the 2021 Winter Games unforgettable! Enjoy some of our favourite entries!



March Conference 2021: A Hoot and a Half From Home

The March Conference Committee was pleased to host the 2021 March Conference, A Hoot and a Half from Home. This year looked different for everyone, having the first ever virtual March Conference. The March Conference Committee wishes to thank everyone who attended and we hope that any of the information presented was valuable to clubs and every member in attendance!



2021 Rose Award Winners

Ag Club of the Year: Huron Perth

Club of the Year: North Simcoe

Outstanding Retiring Member: Quintina Cuddihy

Outstanding Novice Member: Arin Douglas

Most Outstanding Members: Lauren Bos and Jolande Oudshoorn

Club Reports

Durham West



Durham West has been a busy bunch! During the second wave of the pandemic and the lockdown, Durham West has been trying to keep busy and engaged by planning virtual socials and having our AGM in January completely online! We have newly introduced guest speakers, organized by our Sports and Social Director Gerrit Herrema. These speakers range in topics from construction to financials. Durham West has two upcoming speaker nights, March 16th and March 31st. To register, please contact dwjuniorfarmers@gmail.com. Durham West is pleased to welcome a new executive for 2021, check out the Durham West Junior Farmers public Facebook page for introductions!

By Meghan McLeod

Middlesex



For the past few years, our club has donated gifts to residents in nursing homes at Christmas. This year was no different. With a few changes, we were still able to make and donate our blankets despite being in the midst of a global pandemic. We purchased the fleece and members made the fleece tie blankets at home over a few weeks of cutting and tying. This year, because of COVID, the blankets needed to be done 2 weeks before Christmas to be put in quarantine prior to being given to the residents. Once the blankets were finished, they were wrapped with a Christmas poem and card for each resident before being delivered. Each year, we choose a different home in Middlesex and this year the blankets went to Country Terrace in Komoka. The staff members were very grateful to receive the gifts and bring some joy to their residents.

By: Kylie O'Neil

Stormont Glengarry



On January 28th, the Stormont – Glengarry Junior Farmers decided to take part for Bell Let's Talk. We decided on making a video, with each member passing on a positive message towards mental health. Bell Let's Talk is an important day, as many are struggling with a mental illness. It is for this reason that we need to work on ending the stigma and keeping the conversation open when it comes to mental health. In this video, we had members using positive messages such as, "you are not alone, we fight together" and, "it's okay to not be okay". It was posted on Facebook and Instagram with having over 9000 views on Facebook. With this, the Junior Farmers hope it has led to a positive impact within the community. Bell let's talk donates 5 cents to Canadian mental health programs for every applicable text, local or long-distance call, tweet or Tik Tok video using #bellLetsTalk on January 28. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share the video. The Stormont – Glengarry Junior Farmers are always here for you.

Club Reports

Oxford



Oxford County Junior Farmers has been busy these past couple of months! We are very proud to have ran our first ever drive-thru supper fundraiser on October 22, serving meals to 300 people in the community. We are happy to announce that the \$4,000 in profits we raised were donated to Ingersoll, Woodstock, Tillsonburg, Tavistock, Norwich, Blandford-Blenheim food banks. This couldn't have been possible without everyone who helped and supported us - thank you all! We have also successfully elected and inducted and executive team for the year, and presented our Rose Awards, which was all possible virtually. Congratulations to all our Rose Award winners. Amy Danen won "Most Enthusiastic New Member", Karen DeBruyn won "Most Outstanding Member", Jamie Janssen won "Most Outstanding Retiring Member", and Jack Danen won our "Lifetime Achievement Award". We are lucky to have and have had you all as Junior Farmers apart of our club. We are looking forward to another great Junior Farmer year!

Huron Perth



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Executive Reports

CIP - Community and International Programs



While COVID-19 has kept us apart, ZOOM has kept us together-internationally! On December 6th, CIP and Eastern Zone Director hosted International Trivia. This fun afternoon (or evening for some) consisted of three rounds of trivia via Kahoot, and we heard 2019 exchange presentations from Alex Wytenburg, Emily Kyle, Karen DeBruyn, and Phil English. The online event had a good turnout with about 25 attending, including six international faces.

- Rinske van der Steege

Communications

JFAO Communication Awards

Due by March 21st to meghan@jfao.on.ca

All entries will be judged by a committee of JF Alumni.

By submitting an entry, you are giving JFAO permission to share your photos and ideas for further promotion of our organization.



This year has certainly been one for the books! I have learned so much having been the Communications Director for the remainder of 2020, and a short time for 2021. Seeing how much every club, member, and alumni was doing to stay in touch with each other especially in these challenging times really encouraged me to be as open with communications during the pandemic as I could. Creating and compiling the Bullhorn was not only a chance for me to see and read about what every club was up to during lockdown. The Communication Awards were another project I took head on, and I would like to take a chance and thank every member and club that took part! Although we had a pretty short turn around time, the judges worked incredibly hard and the decisions were not easy for anyone involved! I wish the next Communications Director, Christine Wyville, nothing but the best in her new role as Communications for the Junior Farmers Association of Ontario!

- Meghan McLeod, Communications Director 2020

Mental health isn't something ~~we talk about.~~ *to ignore*

It's time to start changing the way we talk about farmers and farming.

To recognize that just like anyone else, sometimes we might need a little help dealing with issues like stress, anxiety, and depression. That's why the Do More Agriculture Foundation is here, ready to provide access to mental health resources like counselling, training and education, tailored specifically to the needs of Canadian farmers and their families.

**The
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Announcements

Engagements



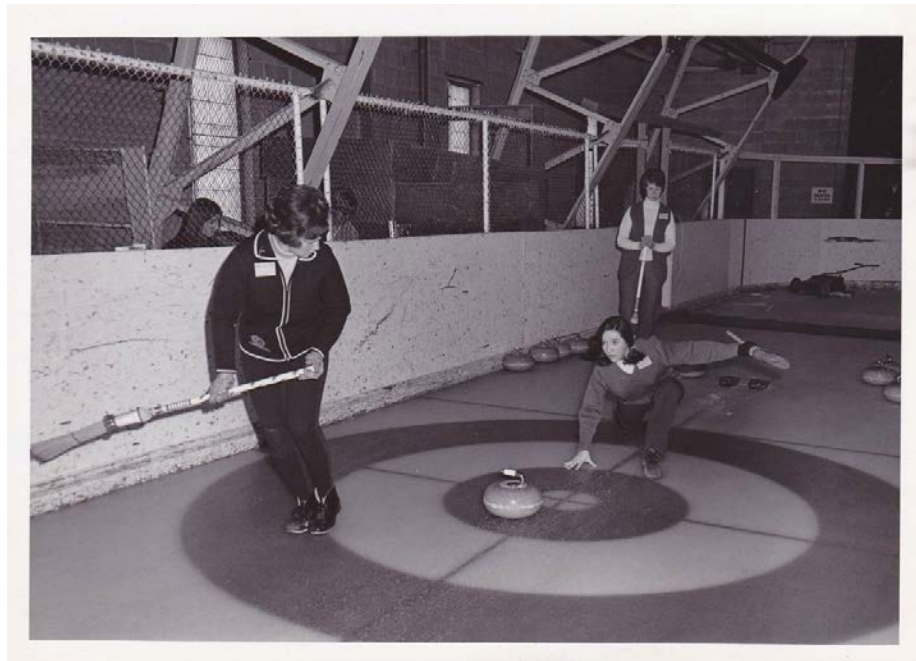
Kristoffer Rivard (Essex-Kent) and Meaghan McLean (Essex-Kent) are now engaged.

Blast to the Past:

Can you guess this year and annual event in this photo?



Check for the answer below!



Century Farm Signs

Is your farm eligible?

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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If you can't handle the stress,
~~get out of farming.~~

talk to someone who can help

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Huron County, Ontario

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



Answers to Blast to the Past:

Spring Competition (event leading up to Winter Games),
1971 at the University of Guelph

The JF Bullhorn is published quarterly by the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario
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and community betterment"
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