



OAAS Gazette



Volume 19

December 2008

Presidential Greetings

Sowing Seeds.....Sewing Traditions

A Message from the 2008 OAAS Co-Presidents

My how time flies! Another Fair season has ended! The hospitality extended to both of us from Fairs across the province was fantastic ---thank you! Unfortunately, we could not visit each and every one of your events. We did manage to visit over 80 and found each Fair to be unique and a reflection of the community spirit that makes the Fair a major event in each town. Several different attractions entertained as well as educated the patrons. Many new friendships were made as well as old ones renewed. Congratulations to all and a special thank you to the volunteers who helped make each Fair an opportunity to celebrate agriculture.

Now, we are gearing up for Convention where several changes are in the air! Each and everyone of you are invited to the Presidents' Reception where several changes to the program are taking place. Many delegates requested more Homecraft seminars and there will be more in '09! The Hospitality Suite will be open at different times. The Entertainment Showcase will prove to be a crowd pleaser for sure! Be sure to look for your Convention package coming in the mail soon. Also, check the website for updates. Come, enjoy, learn, share, renew old friendships and make new ones at the 2009 Convention where "Sowing seeds.....sewing traditions" will be celebrated.

Happy Holidays to all and the best in 2009!

Item	Deliver	View	Pick Up
Live Auction Items	Thurs. 12:30-4:30pm (Salon A)	Evening Showcase (Thurs. 7 pm)	Live Auction takes place throughout Showcase
Silent Auction Items (Salon A)	Thursday 12:30-4:30pm Fri. 7:30-9am	Friday 10am – 5:00pm	Friday 5:30 - 7pm
Choc. Chip Cookies (Ontario Room)	Friday 7:30-8:30am	Friday 11am-5:00pm	Friday 5:00-6:00pm
60% Whole Wheat Bread (Ontario. Room)	Friday 7:30-8:30am	Friday 11am-5:00pm	Friday 5:00-6:00pm
Machine Quilts (Ontario Room)	Friday 7:30-8:30am	Friday 11:00-5:00pm	Friday 5:00-6:00pm
Hand Quilts (Toronto Room)	Friday 7:30-8:30am	Friday 12 – 6:30pm	Friday 7:00-7:30pm
Posters/Displays (Ontario. Room)	Friday 7:30-8:30am	Friday 11am-5:00pm	Friday 5:00-6:00pm
Crafts (Ontario. Room)	Thurs. 2-6pm Friday 7:30-8:30am	Friday 11:00-5:00pm	Friday 5:00 - 6:00pm

Sneak Preview, What's Inside

- OAAS Cookbook submissions WANTED
- Tentative 2009 OAAS Convention Schedule
- President's Receptions Entertainment
- 2009 Convention Keynote speakers highlights
- Changes for the 2009 Convention
- OFAC Convention Announcement
- National Youth Talent Winner from Ontario !
- Celebrate Ontario 2009 grant application info.
- Ontario Volunteer Service Award

ATTENTION ALL OAAS MEMBERS:

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2009. Any fairs, service members or affiliate members who have not paid their annual fees to the OAAS by February 1st, will NOT have information printed in the annual OAAS Directory or brochure, be posted on the OAAS website, receive any mailings from the OAAS including annual complimentary fair passes etc.

Once payment is received the membership will be reinstated and benefits resumed.
If you do not receive an invoice from OAAS by December, please contact us.

OAAS IS NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS, for your Service Membership, Convention Registration, Awards, Judging Handbooks, Passports, Affiliation Fees etc.

2009 OAAS CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Friday February 20, 2008: **PHIL HURST**

Making the Unusual the Usual – “Making the Unusual the Usual” is not just a slogan for Phil Hurst; it’s a philosophy that helps to draw over 300,000 attendees each year to the Clay County Fair located in Spencer, Iowa. Located in Northwest Iowa, and with a population of 11,317, Spencer is the largest city within a 90 mile radius.

You will find yourself laughing with pure enjoyment as Hurst regales you with amusing stories of how he fell in love with fairs as a youth by discovering unusual things that only could be found at the fair. He truly found that he loved fairs because he made the Unusual the Usual. He then takes that initial love of the fair and lays out a plan of action to ensure that we not only build that zest for fairs in our current fairgoers, but that we can grow by creating new fairgoers with the same love of fairs.

“Making the Unusual the Usual” will not only keep you laughing, but will have an impact on how you plan your event in the future!

Phil Hurst – Phil Hurst brings a diverse background to his position as Secretary/Manager of the Clay County Fair. Hurst, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, served 19 years as the Clay County Auditor and the Commissioner of Elections and 4 years as a Judicial Magistrate for the State of Iowa prior to becoming Secretary/Manager of the Clay County Fair in Spencer, Iowa in 1999.

Saturday February 21, 2008: **STUART McINTOSH**

In 1994, Stu McIntosh, the founder of Insight Enterprises, was a leading sales manager for a Fortune 500 company when he instantly lost his sight in what was considered routine eye surgery.

Suddenly finding himself unsighted and unemployed, Stu experienced the greatest struggle of his life. After recovering from the trauma, he realized just how difficult it is for a person with a disability to secure employment.

His own struggles and successes inspired him to found Insight Enterprises and devote his life to assisting other people with disabilities to reach their employment goals. In 2000, he became a service provider for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and is considered a leading service provider in the province. Over the years, Stu and his staff have helped hundreds of people with disabilities to live full and productive lives.

In 2005, Insight Enterprises expanded its services to include injured workers. As a secondary service provider for Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), Insight Enterprises assists injured workers with skills training and work placement experience to prepare them to re-enter the workforce.



NEW FOR 2009 CONVENTION

Coffee Break in the tradeshow
Friday afternoon, 2:30pm for everyone to enjoy.

OAAS Convention Photography & Slide Competition

Please submit your photos to the OAAS by December 1, 2008.

OAAS CONVENTION 2009
February 19 –21, Royal York Hotel

Thursday February 21 – Early Bird Sessions
Registration
Convention Showcase
Live Auction *****

Friday February 22 – Annual Meeting
Seminars
Tradeshaw (coffee break @ 2:30pm)
Family Entertainment Showcase
President Reception
featuring Beverly Mahood

Saturday February 23 – Round Table Discussion

Early bird registration fee for 2009 is \$75 includes admission to all events. (early bird deadline is January 21, 2009)

SEMINAR SCHEDULE FOR 2009 CONVENTION
will be posted on OAAS website when available.

ATTENTION OAAS PAST PRESIDENTS - As of April, 2008, all Past Presidents of the OAAS will receive a complimentary registration to the annual convention. Please complete and return the registration form to the OAAS, indicating you are a Past President, by January 19, 2009. This is just a small token to show our appreciation to you, for your work and dedication to OAAS. Thank you and see you at the convention.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE - FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 1pm - 4:30pm BALLROOM
featuring **The Funky Mamas, Little Finger Music, The Barry O'Show, Paul Behnke and many more**

PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION

Friday February 20, 2009

A NIGHT TO HONOUR AND RECOGNIZE PRESIDENTS
HARRY EMMOTT & JANETTE MULHOLLAND

featuring BEVERLY MAHOOD.



NOTICE OF CHANGE
THE HOMECRAFT MEETING WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN THE TUDOR 7 ROOM (MM), ON FRIDAY. 12:50pm-1:50pm.

OAAS CONVENTION AUCTIONS !!!!

LIVE AUCTION is taking place on Thursday February 19th, at the Evening Showcase. Please have your donations received by 4:30pm on Thursday afternoon.

Don't forget to contribute to the Silent Auction, taking place on Friday February 20, all day.

The OAAS would like to thank all the fairs, service member, donors, bidders and buyers who contribute to making the auction experience a success, each and every year at our convention.

Please complete and return the auction form found on the OAAS website. (www.ontariofairs.com)



WHAT TO PACK IN YOUR SUITCASE FOR THE OAAS CONVENTION ???

1. Hotel confirmation number
2. Auction items (for live & silent auction)
3. Homecraft entries (posters, cookies, bread, crafts, quilts, displays)
4. Spending money for auctions
5. Loose change for Share the Wealth 50/50
6. Shopping list for your tradeshaw ventures
7. Fun, adventurous, casual attitude
8. All your fair friends !!!



OAAS COOKBOOK (2nd Edition)

WANTED: Recipes submissions

The OAAS is currently accepting recipes submissions for our 2009 OAAS Cookbook, scheduled to be release in Spring 2009. *OAAS is looking for at least one recipe from every fair.*

This delicious cookbook will be offering recipes in:

Salads/Dressings/Soups/Sauces	Desserts
Vegetables	Canning
Main Dishes	Extra Special – Diabetic Heart Smart
Breads	

Please submit your recipes by January 15, 2009, to Sheila McLaughlin, R.R. #8, 149 Willis Road, Picton, ON K0K 2T0, sawmclaughlin@sympatico.ca OR Beverley Lane, district3@live.ca.

Please submit recipes on submission form: www.cookbookprinter.com/downloads/recipesheet.pdf

NOTE TO ALL SECRETARIES: Please be sure to update the actual 2009 fairs dates on the annual OAAS directory form. Many fairs forget to change these dates which causes misprinted information. Thank you.

Become an OAAS Partner ... We Need Your Support

OAAS would like to thank the agricultural societies, district organizations, individuals, service members, and corporations that have already become partners with OAAS for the 2008-2009 season that will culminate at our Feb19-21,2009 convention. Your donations are much appreciated. They will be used for our annual convention and/or our ongoing expenses as we support the fair industry.

We look forward to receiving partnership forms and contributions from those of you who have not already donated to OAAS. Contributions may be "in kind" or monetary. They are used to offset costs involved at convention such as speakers, competition awards, and the ambassador program. They also can be designated for the ongoing activities of OAAS such as government relation activities. All donations will be acknowledged at the convention.

All donations and requests for partnership forms should be sent to the OAAS.

Congratulations to Murray Edgar McKerrall (1934 - 2007) and Shirley Marie (Pole) McKerrall (1936 -), who were recently inducted into the Chatham-Kent Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Visit us at: www.ontariofairs.com

Please take the time to update your fair competition book with revised rules and contact information.

DEADLINES

December 31 – Update fair info. for annual directory to OAAS

December 31 – Update fair contact info to OAAS

January 21, 2009 – Registration deadline for Convention

Feb 1, 2009 – Annual Return and grant form to OMAFRA

2008 Agricultural Society Annual Return & Grant Application

Application forms are due February 1st 2009

INTERESTING FACTS:

- To maintain corporate status all agricultural societies in Ontario must file an annual return with OMAFRA.
- An annual return includes statement of officers and directors for the incoming year & an audited financial statement.
- To receive a grant your agricultural society must complete all required forms. All grants are paid based on society eligibility and funds appropriated by the Ontario Legislature.
- All societies must submit forms by **February 1st, 2009**.

Forms must be sent to the designated OMAFRA offices.

For information, contact Helen Scutt, Agriculture Organization Specialist at 1-888-466-2372 x63115 or Helen.scutt@ontario.ca

Does your Agricultural Society have an Abuse Policy within your Policies and Procedures manual? Please share these policies with the OAAS and other fair. (oaas@bellnet.ca)

COMING SOON IN SPRING 2009 – *“Agricultural at Your Fair”* children's book is being reissued.
Look for your complimentary copies at your Spring District meeting.

THE ONTARIO VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

The Ontario Volunteer Service Awards honour the thousands of people who generously contribute their time as volunteers across Ontario. These awards are an important way to recognize volunteers who have provided service over many years.

Nominations must be received by the end of January every year

For more information and application form, please visit:
<http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/honours/vsa/>

CELEBRATE ONTARIO 2009 - *Celebrate Ontario 2009* is a \$9 million program to increase the economic potential of new and existing tourism festivals and events. The program is open to festivals and events taking place in Ontario between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010.

NEW!! This year, the program offers **three** levels of financial support:

- 1) Up to \$50,000 for festivals and events with operating budgets of less than \$250,000
- 2) Up to \$100,000 for festivals or events with operating budgets between \$250,000 and \$1 million annually
- 3) Up to \$400,000 for festivals or events with operating budgets in excess of \$1 million annually.

To apply for funding, applicants are asked to fill out the *Celebrate Ontario 2009* application form and review the application guide carefully before submitting.

The **deadline for applications** is **January 16, 2009**.

For complete information & application form, please visit
<http://www.tourism.gov.on.ca/english/festivals/index.html>



OAAS Adventures in Saskatoon, at CAFÉ -

Saskatoon was the site of the 2008 CAFE Convention held Nov. 5-8. 207 delegates were treated to western hospitality at its finest. Ontario's presence was known since representatives from OAAS (Harry, Janette and Kathryn), Helen Scutt from OMAFRA, and fair delegates from Western Fair, Carp, Markham, CNE, Paris, Thunder Bay, Ottawa, Barrie, Norfolk and Forest attended. Keynote speaker Dr. Joseph Goldblatt addressed the "Top Ten Trends in Canadian Fairs and Exhibitions" in order to advance our organizations into the future. An aging population, the number of events being held yielding less revenue for organizers, the scarcity of volunteers, rising insurance costs, unstable public funding for events and sustainability of individual organizations were some of the concerns he explained. Several seminars and panel discussions dealing with family fun, going green, counterfeit money, heightening board energy and synergy, managing facilities and grounds, to surviving through humour were attended. Throughout the Convention, showcase acts performed and delegates were asked to vote for their favourite. Congratulations to "The Essentials", an acapella group from Toronto, who were named the "Best Showcase Act at 2008 CAFE". The culmination of the Canadian Youth Talent Competition also took place. 14 young people from 11 zones across Canada competed. Congratulations to Jade Lester who represented Southern Ontario and Western Fair on her winning performance. Adele Moore was named the 2009 CAFE President and congratulations to Harry Emmott on his election to the CAFE Board as second vice-president. The networking between Fair Associations from across Canada was invaluable. Many ideas and information were exchanged and new contacts made. Congratulations to the CAFE staff - Hannah, Kim, and Mavis - for an excellent conference. A special thank you to Prairieland Park for showing us that Saskatoon rocks!!!!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND SEASON'S
GREETINGS TO ALL THE
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES,
SERVICE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF THE OAAS.

OAAS NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS –
for your payment needs.

FCC Expression Fund Supporting Canada's official languages

Communities where both official languages thrive are important features of our Canadian landscape. They're strengthened by the people who choose to express themselves in French in communities where English is much more common, and vice versa.

The Expression Fund was developed to support Canada's official languages and honour those communities where both languages thrive. It's \$20,000 in funding for projects that contribute to the vitality of official language minority communities and help residents express the cultural and linguistic diversity of their area.

Successful projects will receive between \$2,000 and \$10,000 for community improvements, such as community centres and daycares, theatrical productions, art galleries or concerts, to name just a few.

For more information: <http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/AboutUs/Responsibility/FCCexpressionfund/index.asp>

Rainy Day Books Are Still Available!!!

*Learn new games, brainteasers, recipes, crafts, puzzles etc. \$5.00 + GST, contact the OAAS office
Great prizes and giveaways for your fair and district*

The Importance of Fairs in Ontario.

After the fair is over and everything has been packed away until next year, we often sit back and wonder why we host our fair year after year. The following brief article will hopefully provide you with one very good reason: education!

As our province becomes more urbanized and as our population moves further away from the farm, our fairs continue to be an extremely valuable source of agricultural education and awareness.

For example, think of the person who, for the first time:

- sees a cow
- watches a milking demonstration
- observes piglets nursing from the sow
- takes in the vegetable display and competition
- intently watches a 4-H competition.
- sees a sheep being shorn
- takes in a horse demonstration or competition
- hears the crow of a rooster, quack of a duck etc.
- wanders through the barns and buildings
- reads the price tags on the displayed farm

Your assistance at your local fair has helped these folks increase their knowledge of agriculture and agri-food.

Never take your volunteer work lightly - you have a tremendous impact on the non farm public with each task you perform at your fair, no matter how large or small.

Congratulations on another successful year!

Lorna Wilson, Volunteer and Membership Coordinator
Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc., volunteer@oafe.org



Notice re: Convention 2009 - Updates will be provided for your fair's Summary of Agri-Food Tips and Ideas (SAFETI) manual. Do you know where your handbooks are? (Hint: the binder is white) Bring the books with you to Convention. There will be a special gift for those who present their handbook/manual at the Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. (OAFE) exhibit at Convention.***

Western Fair's Youth Talent finalist takes first place at National Youth Talent Competition in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

It won't be long before the name, Jade Lester, rolls off the tongue of every Country/Pop music aficionado from Nashville to New Zealand. Jade Lester, a 17-year-old, from the small town of Chatham, Ontario won first place at the 2008 Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions National Youth Talent Finals held on Friday, November 7 at the Prairieland Trade Centre, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, during the Association's annual convention. Jade was the 2008 Western Fair Youth Talent Finalist this past September, making her eligible to compete in the Youth Talent National Competition.

Judging for the youth talent competition is based on Natural Ability, Quality of Performance, Showmanship & Audience Rapport. Jade sparkled in her recent Saskatoon performance, as she has in so many shows across Ontario. Gifted with an angelic voice and commanding stage presence, she is an accomplished vocalist and musician who has won countless awards, prizes, scholarships and trophies.

Also of note, the second place winner in the national competition was Gabriella Caruso, Vocal Solo representing the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto Zone and Connor Steele-Falconer, Vocal Solo, representing the Pacific National Exhibition, British Columbia Zone, who took home third.

The National Youth Talent Awards is an annual event presented by the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions since 1991, the Awards celebrate the performing arts talents of Canada's youth. Young Canadians between 13 and 21, representing fourteen zones from across Canada, perform their way from the local fair to the provincial zone level and then on to the National Finals. Since its inception, the National Youth Talent Awards have been supported by Conklin Shows, through the Patty Conklin Memorial Fund.

Youth Talent preliminary competitions take place across Ontario, prior to the Western Fair finals in September. Watch for 2009 competitions in Clinton, Burgessville, Barrie, Hamilton, Del-Ko-Brydge (Delaware, Komoka, Mount Brydges), Essex, Sarnia, Listowel, London, Kitchener, Stratford, Tillsonburg, Bayfield, Ridgetown, Woodstock, Teeswater, Paris, Glencoe and Thorndale.)

Some notable performers who have participated at some level in this competition over the years are; Jamie Warren, Beverley Mahood, Tiffany Deriveau, Andrea Henry of "Sugar Jones", Michael Buble, Paul Brandt, and Alannis Morrisette.

WHAT IS A SERVICE MEMBER ? OAAS Service Members provide valuable products and services to Ontario Fairs and exhibitions.

Service Members can apply for space in the Trade Show, or in the Main Showcase and Family Entertainment Showcase at the annual Convention in February. All service members are automatically listed on the OAAS mailing lists and the OAAS website including contact information.

Interested In Becoming A Service Member? If you are interested in becoming an OAAS Service Member, please contact the OAAS.

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2009 OAAS Convention: February 19 – 21,
Royal York Hotel, Toronto, ON


DO YOU KNOW A BUSINESS, ORGANIZATION OR SERVICE THAT OTHER FAIRS CAN BENEFIT FROM ??? INVITE THEM TO BECOME A SERVICE MEMBER OF THE OAAS.

WE CAN HELP THEM ADVERTISE THEIR SERVICE AND INCREASE BUSINESS !!!!

CHECK OUT THE OAAS WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.



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 Since - Depuis 1999
Yves Milord
 Producer - Producteur and / et
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Service Member contact information is available online at: www.ontariofairs.com

Service Members include:

- Food vendors
- Amusements/ Midways providers
- Insurance
- Magic/Stunt Shows
- Entertainment
- Booking Agents
- Rental: bleachers, audio visual
- Security
- Petting Zoo
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- Demo Derbies
- Awards/Ribbons
- Music Acts, for all ages



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