



# OAAS Gazette

Volume 18

August 2008

## Presidential Greetings

### **Sowing Seeds.....Sewing Traditions**

A Message from the 2008 OAAS Co-Presidents

Hi to All

The summer of 2008 is upon us. The Fairs are being planned or have been enjoyed for this year.

This summer has been a challenge of a different kind compared to last year (my rubber duck floated away). The crops look like they should be of excellent yield and quality compared to the drought of last year.

The Fairs of Ontario have the personalities of their own area , whether large or small. From Homecraft or Agricultural exhibits to the commercial displays, the local fairs show off the uniqueness of their community. The many volunteers of the community let everyone know that this is a labour of love and enjoyment and that they are proud of their area. They give of their time and talents for the smiles and comments of the many visitors.

As soon as the fairs are over, the Provincial Directors get together for their Fall meeting. If anyone has any questions or suggestions that should be discussed, let their District Director know or give a member of the executive a call.

Plans are proceeding for the annual convention that takes place Feb. 19-21 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto. If you have any ideas or topics that you would like as a seminar, please let us know as the convention is for the benefit for all. We are planning to have a preliminary program out in the late fall.

Hope everyone is having an enjoyable year and see you either at your fair or who knows where.

Janette and Harry

### **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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.



### **CHECK OUT THE OAAS WEBSITE**

[www.ontariofairs.com](http://www.ontariofairs.com)

- Ontario fair dates and contact information
- Service Member contact information
- Upcoming judging school dates
- Board of Directors and Executive contact information
- Industry partner links
- Pictures from across the province
- Forms: convention, competition, awards
- Partnership opportunities
- Constitution & Bi-Laws
- Upcoming news and events

### **NEW FOR 2009 CONVENTION**

Coffee Break in the tradeshow Friday afternoon, for everyone to enjoy.

WATCH THE DECEMBER GAZETTE FOR MORE EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**Successful Judging School in District #5** - District #5 Judging School was held on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Brampton Fall Fairgrounds. The judging school was for needlework, Quilts, Canning and Baking. There were over 70 participants from all over the district and nearby districts.

The Home craft Section of the Brampton Fall Fair provided coffee, tea, water and muffins, loafs, and Tim Horton's Tim Bits for the morning coffee break.

The registration fees for the judging school were \$10.00 and bring your own lunch. The judges were:

- Baking and Canning – Sharon Petheram
- Quilts and Needlework – Jeannette Jamieson & Kay Taylor

Jeannette Jamieson did an introductory to judging at fairs and then everyone went to the areas of interest. Everyone had a chance to participate and practice their judging skills.

Thanks to the Brampton Homecraft Section for their help and providing the goodies for the morning coffee break. Thanks to the Brampton Fall Fair for donating the use of the Junior Farmer Hall and meeting rooms and allowing for set up the night before at no charge. Also, thanks to Theresa Lockerbie for all her help and advice in helping me organize and run the judging school.

By the responses of the survey, everyone enjoyed the day, learned new things and was quite impressed on the presentations done by the judges.

*Submitted by Ruth Wiggins, Homecraft Director District #5*



Timber Sports was an event at Tweed Fair, earlier this summer. A creative artist at work, carving out a chair.

## **WANTED !!**

### **OAAS CONVENTION SHOWCASE ENTERTAINMENT**

Do you know any outstanding and/or unique entertainment. Want to share your ideas with others? Let the OAAS know!!

We are looking for new ideas and acts for the Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup> Showcase Entertainment at the OAAS Convention.

**CALL TODAY !! Application deadline is quickly approaching**

### **Is Your Fair Celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> this Year?**

**Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. has black and white laminated historical agriculture prints for your special display!**

Contact Lorna Wilson for more information by phone at 905-878-1510 or email [volunteer@oafe.org](mailto:volunteer@oafe.org)

### **PROVINCIAL FAIR PASSPORT:**

Do you enjoy visiting several different fairs and exhibitions throughout the year? OAAS is offering a fair pass (that admits two people) into fairs and exhibitions in the province for only \$50 + GST.

Fair passes are available only from the OAAS office.  
Please forward cheques payable to OAAS.

**SEND YOUR FAIR PICTURES TO THE OAAS, WE WOULD LOVE TO POST THEM ON OUR WEBSITE.**

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

**OAAS CONVENTION 2009**  
February 19 –21, Royal York Hotel

- Thursday February 19** – Convention Sessions, Registration, Convention Showcase & Auction  
**Friday February 20** – Annual Meeting, Seminars, Tradeshow, Family Entertainment Showcase, Presidents' Reception  
**Saturday February 21** – Round Table Discussion

**Ag. Accomplishment Award** - The OAAS recognizes volunteers who contribute consecutive years of time and energy to an Agricultural Society and whose work meets any or all of the following requirements.

**Who is Eligible?**

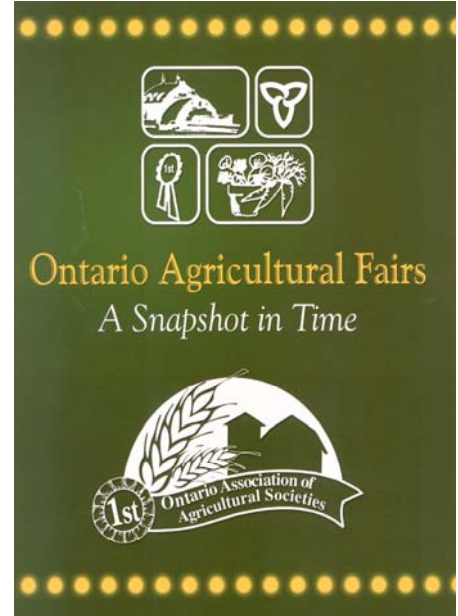
1. An individual who has made a significant contribution as a leader, volunteer **or** as a committee member.
2. Has been active in the Society through longtime involvement.
3. Promotes the community betterment by the Agricultural Society.
4. Promotes and develops activities to encourage our youth to participate in the Agricultural Society.

**Youth** – up to 20 years of age may be recognized for five or more years of volunteer service.

**Adults** – may be honoured for 10/15/20/25/30/40/ or more dedicated years of continued service.

**PICTORIAL BOOK  
FOR SALE**

A excellent collection of memories from across the province. Get yours today.



Contact Sylvia Parr to order your copy today:  
905-648-3955  
sylvia009@sympatico.ca

Visit [www.ofac.org](http://www.ofac.org) for a great Ag Aware Toolkit and resources dealing with farm tours, displays, Ag. activities, petting zoo guidelines etc.

**OAAS Service Diploma** - Each member Society of the OAAS can present one Service Diploma per year to a person who has given longtime and meritorious service to the Society. The award can be given to a husband and wife jointly. Service Diplomas **should not** be awarded routinely to members of the Executive – i.e. at the end of a President's term but instead to well deserving individuals without whom our societies would be lost. The recipient of a Service Diploma will receive a certificate and pin from OAAS.

**Visit us at: [www.ontariofairs.com](http://www.ontariofairs.com)**

**Rainy Day activity books  
are still available. \$5**

K T F E R C W 4 E B S D N E I R Y P D  
 C 4 S C K O C R A F T S S U O I A U L  
 O 4 - H O M E C R A F T E J B C W O L  
 T Y S X C M D F S N B C I U K P D X N  
 S L H K R U U E P T D X R D U P I G O  
 E I L R F N I 4 L I K 4 O G H I M P B  
 V M S C H I Q U A Q P D M E B C R N U  
 I A F U S T E U Y U A B E S B 4 H I K  
 L F G U G Y A W D E M O M E H N I J Z

- |        |           |           |
|--------|-----------|-----------|
| CRAFTS | MIDWAY    | LIVESTOCK |
| FAMILY | COMMUNITY | HEMOCRAFT |
| 4-H    | FUN       | ANTIQUE   |
| JUDGES | FRIENDS   | MEMORIES  |

Attn: Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies

The Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (C.A.F.E.), is extending an invitation to the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies membership to “Saskatoon Rocks” the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual C.A.F.E. Convention, November 5 - 8, 2008 at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in downtown Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

C.A.F.E. will be presenting a solid program of sessions and workshops to help us all learn and grow as industry professionals as we “Rock Saskatoon!” Attending this convention is a great way to find out about C.A.F.E. and to discuss the key issues that we are all currently grappling with.

Our 82nd annual convention in Saskatoon will be a benefit to fairs of all sizes. I hope you will find the convention not only informative but also fun because after all, we are in the “fun” business.

The bottom line is that no matter where we are located, in rural areas or in urban, in the east or west – we are all haunted by the same demons: uncertain weather, failing infrastructures, rising energy costs, the threat of E. coli, bird flu, a ride accident, and a world that has been utterly transformed by technology and shifting demographics.

We have a lot to talk about. Please join us in Saskatoon this November.

To register for the C.A.F.E. Convention visit [www.canadian-fairs.ca](http://www.canadian-fairs.ca), or call 1-800-663-1714.

Sincerely,



Rudy Friesen  
President  
Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions



**PROVINCIAL OAAS FAIR PASSPORT**

NOW AVAILABLE, \$50 + GST

Contact OAAS today !!!

**MEET HELEN SCUTT ....**

It is my pleasure to say “Hello” as the new Agriculture Organization Specialist at OMAFRA. I am looking forward to working with the Board and Staff of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies. I am also looking forward to getting out to many of your fairs this fall, and meet some of the members of the OAAS.

I have worked as both staff and a volunteer in several not for profit organizations and municipal governments. For the past 9 years, I have been with the Ontario government working with volunteer organizations in the culture, heritage, sport and recreation sectors. I have ‘rural roots’, having grown up on a beef farm in Grey County, participated in 4-H during my youth, and volunteered in many rural organizations.

Please feel free to contact me at 519-826-3115 or 1-888-466-2372 x63115 or by email [Helen.scutt@ontario.ca](mailto:Helen.scutt@ontario.ca)

Have a great summer!

Helen Scutt  
Agriculture Organization Specialist

# 2008 Round Table Summaries

## Something New that worked for you

- Celebrated sports teams at fair and other special events
- Themes
- Community harvest (not market)
- Fireworks
- Rooster crowing
- Sunflower seed spitting
- Place cards about fair at restaurants
- Idol contests (good MC needed)
- Demolition Derby (big)
- Home depot looked after bird kits
- Send ambassador to school classes
- 700 pea plants given out to schools , 50 returned by students that had not been part of fair prior to this
- Bicycle draws

## Developing a Junior Ambassador Program

- Junior ambassadors who come to convention are like a fish out of water
- If enough junior ambassadors perhaps could a workshop just for them
- Ages discussed 13 – 15 and 9 – 12
- Judging tell a story about yourself and interview
- Must have chaperone with them at all times
- Find out what fairs have a junior ambassadors and encourage them to attend convention
- Make sure junior ambassadors have specific responsibilities
- One fair has junior ambassador promote a specific event at the fair
- Have separate pageant for junior so their friends can support it
- Go into schools to research and promote program
- Promote the program to teachers
- Have Sr. ambassador visit and promote to schools
- Suggested instead of ages could use grades as criteria
- Could create a display board on yourself or a scrapbook
- Could have meeting prior to judging to prepare maybe hold a carwash to promote program
- Must be utilized at the fair (promoting the fair and community)
- Have junior ambassador speak at public schools
- Have Sr. ambassador speak to future junior ambassadors
- Incorporate 4-H and other young clubs in order to pick a Junior Ambassador
- Recruitment look for youth outside of immediate community – bigger number of contestants
- Speak to schools and explore opportunities for this to work

## How to encourage youth to join your fair board

- Make meetings fun
- Freedom to organize events
- Willing to take risks
- Want to educate agriculture awareness
- Up dated web site is needed to attract youth
- Face book meetings
- Liaison with main meetings
- Need own budget
- Problem that can make this difficult; fair timing all headed off to school or summer jobs, voting age, transportation issues to meetings etc
- Implement junior board meeting using a link to main meetings
- Support needed from all involved with fair
- Advertise specific responsibilities for youth
- Join with other students groups and make links
- Work with schools and put programs together
- Have connection with executive and a youth rep
- Advertise in schools for youth
- Mentoring program for youth
- Youth have their own meetings
- Have youth staff a information booth they could decorate and work on interacting with those coming to the fair
- Youth day at fair
- Sometimes board members must realize we need fresh ideas and let the youth be in charge of an event to change with new ideas
- Do not give them grunt jobs make sure you give them important work
- 4-H involvement very important
- Entertainment should attract youth
- Make them feel comfortable
- Affirm the youth and the work they do for you

## Keeping your prize book current

- Make sure direction of committee is clear
- Separate committee for prize book
- Advertising as part of book
- Committee changes need to come from chair of various committee with sign offs before book goes to print
- Binding?
- Advertising revenue can pay for book
- Make it look professional
- Create and maintain image so you look credible
- Print separate one for children that can be given out at schools
- No theme in book so it can used again with very little changes
- Mail out of prize is important

### ***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*

# 2008 Round Table Summaries

## Keeping your prize book current

- Schools are becoming less committed to assisting some local fairs with getting information out to students will need to look at other options
- No entries in a class remove it from book and put in a new class
- Be willing to make changes as they are needed and suggested by others
- Be sure to update rules re: OAAS Competition

## OAAS sponsored competitions (cookies, quilts etc)

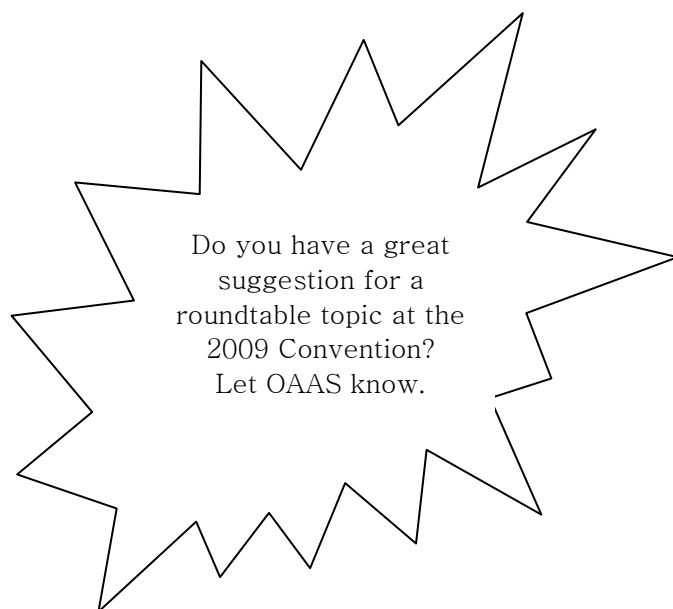
- Machine quilt instruction not specific – 48” x 48”
- Measure perimeter 48”? 192 clarified by attendee – rules ok
- Posters, prize money should be for local fair and district
- Quilts not right size should not go to district
- Bread recipe must accompany for proof of 60%
- New competition rules should be mailed out to judges as well
- Double the competition rules pages and label one set to be given to homcraft department
- Suggestion different competitions might be better eg. Change to fruit cake because of freshness of bread or cookies when they get here
- “new rules” for machine quilts competition should have been red flagged so fairs would be aware
- New Rules should be announced at fall and spring meetings so this can go to district meetings
- District director’s needs to keep judges list updated. Making sure judges are qualified to judge. Have they had any updating?

## What changes are impacting homcraft at your fair

- Long arm quilting making sure that classes are included in fairs
- Culinary arts
- Need to make changes yearly so that this will attract new exhibitors
- Need to be willing to change to attract new ethnic groups
- Take a chance and bring in new groups with new ideas
- Change with times
- Have a entire section on environmental or recycled items in your fair book
- Continuous demo going on during fair i.e. scrap booking, cooking clay work etc
- Cooking for children
- More additions to include diabetic cooking, low fat, non-gluten etc
- Quilting 3 categories; long arm, machine, hand
- Advance list is important and should be out 6 months before fair
- Create a measuring tape on the back of your book
- Cost of ingredients continue to increase so prizes need to change

## Does your fair have a grievance policy for exhibitors?

- Have the fairs at the table had a policy some did not know
- Policy should be written in book and then placed in hall
- Have a specific committee that would look at procedure
- Make sure that procedure is clear
- Written grievance within 2 weeks of fair with a \$25.00 deposit to the secretary
- Written grievance to board with 72 hours of fair closing



Find all the 2008 Service Members at:  
[www.ontariofairs.com](http://www.ontariofairs.com)

## COMING THIS NOVEMBER ...

- 2009 OAAS Convention Registration pkg.
- OAAS Directory Information page
- OAAS Affiliation Fee Invoice
- Updated classes/rules for your 2009 prize book

ALL INFORMATION IS DUE BACK TO  
OAAS BY DECEMBER 31, 2008.

**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.

**GRAND SCALE  
ILLUSIONIST**



*One Of North America's Largest Touring Illusion Shows*

**Claude Haggerty 647.886.9631**  
email: [magicman7@sympatico.ca](mailto:magicman7@sympatico.ca)



**Barry O'Neil**  
519-442-3375  
[barryo@brant.net](mailto:barryo@brant.net)

**The Barry O'Neil Kidshow!**

**www.BarryO.ca**  
81 Willow Street  
Paris, Ont. N3L 2K9

**THE  
STYLAMANDERS**



Mark Kersey- (416) 485-1372 (ph/fax)  
(416) 712-1717 (cell)

Paul Gibson- (416) 425-4493

e-mail- [kersey@thestylamanders.com](mailto:kersey@thestylamanders.com)  
website- [www.thestylamanders.com](http://www.thestylamanders.com)



**Janice Faltash**  
*Executive Director of  
Marketing & Client Development*

[worldsfinestshows.com](http://worldsfinestshows.com)

**World's Finest Shows Inc.**  
P.O. Box 680  
Simcoe, ON N3Y 4T2  
Phone: 519-587-3283  
Fax: 519-587-3285  
Cell: 519-751-9007  
[jan@worldsfinestshows.com](mailto:jan@worldsfinestshows.com)

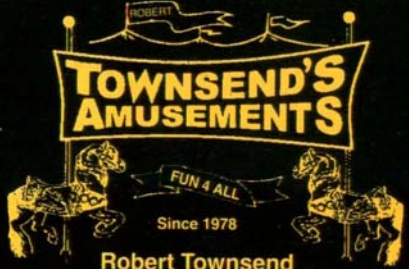


**Adrian Plant**  
Sales Manager

Cell (416) 937.3611  
[adrianplant@rogers.com](mailto:adrianplant@rogers.com)  
Tel (416) 593.7800  
Fax (905) 660.0900

180 Jardin Drive, Unit 3  
Concord, ON, L4K 1X8 

[www.kadfab.com](http://www.kadfab.com)



**TOWNSEND'S  
AMUSEMENTS**

FUN 4 ALL  
Since 1978

**Robert Townsend**

Cell: 905-351-9492  
Tel/Fax: 905-382-3418

3380 Baker Rd., RR #3  
Niagara Falls, Ont.  
L2E 6S6

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.

**FARCO**  
ENTERPRISES LTD.

800 Steeles Ave. W.  
Suite B10-136, Thornhill  
Ontario L4J 7L2  
Fax: (905) 761-9948

(905) 761-0010

**Shane Farberman**  
President, CEO

- BALLOON DECORATING
- PARTY CONSULTING
- CHILDREN'S T.V. SHOWS
- BALLOON BOUQUETS
- CLOWNS
- MAGICIANS

[www.farcoentertainment.com](http://www.farcoentertainment.com)

Service Member contact information is available online at:  
[www.ontariofairs.com](http://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
- Tractor Pulls
- Horse Pulls
- Demo Derbies
- Awards/Ribbons
- Music Acts, for all ages

**Ron Gubtman**

68 Edmund Seager Dr.  
Thornhill, Ontario L4J 4S5

Tel: (905) 889-5113  
Fax: (905) 889-5314  
Cell: (416) 801-1207

[thePartyMagician.com](http://thePartyMagician.com)  
[ron@thePartyMagician.com](mailto:ron@thePartyMagician.com)



**Wally Townsend Sr.**

• Pony Rides

• Pig Races & Racing Ducks



3380 Baker Road  
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6S6  
905-382-3410  
Fax: 905-382-3418

**Danielle Tuboly, CIP**  
Underwriting Supervisor



1750 Ernest Avenue, 2nd Floor  
London, Ontario N6E 3H3  
Ph: (519) 433-9991  
Toll Free: 1-800-373-2224  
Fax: (519) 433-7666  
email: [dtuboly@graininsurance.com](mailto:dtuboly@graininsurance.com)

**Grain Insurance and Guarantee Company**

[www.graininsurance.com](http://www.graininsurance.com)

CHECK US OUT ...

[www.ontariofairs.com](http://www.ontariofairs.com)

Return to Sender:

Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies  
PO Box 189  
Glencoe, ON  
N0L 1M0

Customer Number: 7260146  
Publication Agreement: 41511545