



OAAS Gazette

Volume 16

May 2008

Presidential Greetings

Sowing Seeds.....Sewing Traditions

A Message from the 2008 OAAS Co-Presidents

Winter snows have melted away, the grass is greening, birds are nesting and Spring is well on its way! Thank goodness as many of us were tired of "Old Man Winter" staying so long. We are all anxious for Fair season to get underway!

Harry has been busy with Consumer Protection Program (CPP) workshops and has toured the province from Thunder Bay to Ottawa. Two CPP workshops remain (Markham and North Bay) and if you have the opportunity to attend one, you will garner much information for use at your own events.

Janette has been busy with Judging Workshops, luncheons and organizing her home Fair.

Best of luck to our longtime OMAFRA representative, Denise Edwards, on her retirement and best of luck as she embarks on the next stage of her life. Denise provided OAAS with many inservice sessions and was a wealth of information from completing Fair grants to hot topic sessions at Conventions.

As the Fair season fast approaches, our social calendars are quickly filling up with invitations to your Fairs. Thank you in advance for the hospitality which Fair folk are so famous for and we will likely

See you at the Fair!!!!!!

(Just look for the yellow shirts!!!!)

Harry Emmott
Agriculture President

Janette Mulholland
Homecraft President

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.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

District #8 Director: Robert Hargrave
Box 354, Milverton, Ontario 519-595-8668

Rainy Day books are \$5.00 + GST

PROVINCIAL FAIR PASSPORT

NOW AVAILABLE, \$50 + GST
Contact OAAS today !!!

Sneak Preview, What's Inside

- Provincial Fair Passport now AVAILABLE
- Convention Results
- Rainy Day books FOR SALE !
- Award of Excellence in Agriculture and Food Education
- Upcoming Judging Schools
- Happy Anniversary in 2008 !!
- Happy Trails
- Convention Roundtable Summaries

“Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time, but they have the heart.”



Award of Excellence in Agriculture and Food Education

Ontario's fairs provide an excellent venue for educating the non-farm public about agriculture during school and general awareness programs. Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. (OAFE) values the relationship it has with the fairs of Ontario and was pleased to once again be a part of the OAAS convention. The following is a recap of OAFE's convention participation.

- ❖ **Award of Excellence in Agri-Food Education:** Congratulations to Dryden & District Agricultural Society for winning the award for 2007. Presented during the annual meeting portion, February 22nd, 2008, the award is for the OAFE member Agricultural Society that submits the entry best showcasing their fair's outstanding agri-food education programs. There were a record six **awesome** submissions from OAFE member Agricultural Societies in 2007, including one website and one CD presentation. Well done!
- ❖ **Workshop Seminars:** This year's theme was education activities for fairs entitled "Spread the Word". During these workshops, many excellent activity ideas were collected from the participants and a summary of these ideas will be mailed to the participants in the near future.
- ❖ **Trade Show:** OAFE was also pleased to be a part of the trade show where a copy of the Farms Food Fun, Agri Knowledge CD was distributed to non OAFE member fairs. The resource Veggiemania which included 15 decks of "veggiecards" was distributed to OAFE member fairs.

Submitted by Lorna Wilson, Volunteer and Membership Coordinator, Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.



Lorna Wilson, from OAFE presenting the **Award of Excellence in Agriculture and Food Education** to Christel Kamm from Dryden & District Ag Society

Congratulations to Port Hope Agricultural Society, Grand Valley Agricultural Society and Paisley Agricultural Society. Each fair will receive one complimentary registration to the 2009 Convention. Thank you for taking the time to complete a daily survey at the 2008 convention.

WELCOME

New District Board of Directors to OAAS

Orlee Wells, District #4
Ruth Wiggins, District #5
Sharon Petheram, District #6
Mary Lichty, District #7
Robert Hargrave, District #8
Phil Hernandez, District #9
Ed Lee, District #13

WELCOME Carl DeSchutter as the new 2nd Vice President.

THANK YOU

Retired District Board of Directors from OAAS

Barbara Weese, District #4
Theresa Lockerbie, District #5
Sylvia Parr, District #6
Ken Ross, District #7
Gayle King, District #8
Dave Hernandez, District #9
Carl DeSchutter, District #13

THANK YOU Percy McNabb, Agricultural President and Pat Marcotte, Homecraft President.

THANK YOU Dave Grandy, Agriculture & Margaret Clark, Homecraft as Past Presidents.

THANK YOU to Julia Jenken as Convention Coordinator for the past two years.

BECAUSE YOU'RE SPECIAL

We sometimes take for granted
In the rush of all we do,
And forget to say a special thanks
To volunteers like you!

So we send this note to tell you
How much all you do means,
Your gifts of time and of yourself
Are special ones indeed.

CHECK OUT THE OAAS WEBSITE

www.ontariofairs.com

- Ontario fair dates and contact information
- Service Member contact information
- Upcoming judging school dates
- Board of Director 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

Celebrating 150th Anniversary in 2008

Albion & Bolton Agricultural Society
Russell Agricultural Society
Bobcaygeon Agricultural Society
Burford Agricultural Society
Desboro Agricultural Society
Dungannon Agricultural Society
Durham Agricultural Society
Embros & Zorra Agricultural Society
Markdale Agricultural Society
North Lanark Agricultural Society
Paris Agricultural Society
Parkhill Agricultural Society

OAAS CONVENTION 2009

February 19 –21, Royal York Hotel

Thursday February 19 – Convention Sessions, Registration,
Convention Showcase

Friday February 20 – Annual Meeting, Seminars,
Tradeshow, Family Entertainment
Showcase, President Reception

Saturday February 21 – Round Table Discussion

Is Your Fair Celebrating its 150th 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

The OAAS Education Committee conducted a thorough study of the “*Judging Standards Handbook for Field Crops, Roots & Vegetables, Fruit, Maple Syrup, Honey.*”

The major error is found on page 32, “Tomatoes” Please note the last sentence should read, “Calyx NOT to be removed.” Please inform all judges using the publication of this correction.

Judging Standards Handbook for Field Crops, Roots & Vegetables, Fruit, Maple Syrup, Honey is for sale for \$5.00 + GST through the OAAS Office

UPCOMING JUDGING SCHOOLS:

District #2 - May 10 in Renfrew

District #10 - June 7 in Teeswater, (antiques,
photography and scrapbooking)

** Please contact your district director for more information **

Back by popular demand

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE (t/f)

1. All agricultural societies in Ontario are incorporated.
2. The legislation about agricultural societies is officially called Bill 66.
3. Agricultural societies do not have to file annual returns unless they are applying for grants.
4. Agricultural Societies do not have corporate numbers.
5. An agricultural society should bond their treasurer.
6. All agricultural societies are charitable organizations.
7. To be eligible for OMAFRA grants an agricultural society needs to have 60 members.
8. Section 30 of the AHOA exempts an agricultural society from municipal and school taxes.
9. If an agricultural society decides to disband their land, it would get turned over to the municipality.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 6.

The OAAS Board would like to thank
EVERYONE
who donated to and/or purchased articles at
the 2008 Convention auctions.
Your generosity made these events
a great success. **Thank you**

Visit us at: www.ontariofairs.com

OAAS CONVENTION RESULTS AND THE WINNER IS

Machine Quilt

- 1st Betty Lou Minaker, District #4
2nd Ann Hawkins, District #10

Hand Quilt

- 1st Darlene Rogers District #8
2nd Esther Graham District #3

Cookies

- 1st - Pamela Styles, District #1
2nd - Valerie Robinson, District #10
3rd - Larissa Vanderheyden, District #12

Bread

- 1st - Marilyn Whaley, District #7
2nd - Connie Sweetland, District #2
3rd - Sandra Litwin, Ridgetown, District #9

Posters

- Youth A:* 1st Laura Woodsworth *Youth B:* 1st: Powassan
2nd Gillian Hosik 2nd Jessica Veneza
3rd Victoria Boon 3rd Jordan Mark

- Printed:* 1st Ohsweken – Six Nations
2nd Erin

Displays

- 3-D:* 1st Port Hope *2-D:* 1st Listowel
2nd: Rockton 2nd Six Nations
3rd Kinmount 3rd Wallacetown

Photography

- Grand Champion: Rockton Fair
Junior Champion (tie): Rockton Fair
Markham Fair

THANK YOU DENISE EDWARDS

A MESSAGE FROM DENISE:

To the OAAS and Ontario's agricultural societies

It is the end of March as I write this and reflect on more than 34 ½ years in the Ontario Public Service and OMAFRA. I have been honoured to work with an amazing group of clients and am pleased to call many of you friends. I have had the opportunity to work with agricultural societies in Ontario at every level during most of my working life. I admire the skills, dedication and commitment of everyone to their community and agriculture.

I will be retiring on March 28th and will miss the contact I have had working with "real people". I hope to see the OAAS grow and become an advocate for their members. Agricultural societies do 'great stuff' but unfortunately do not "toot their own horn" or capture the impact they have in their local area. In today's environment we cannot rest on the successes of the past, you need to be proactive; search for opportunities; develop new partners and adapt to the changes that are a constant in today's society. It means working together, respecting each other, and compromise at all levels.

All the best for the future

Denise Edwards

SMUDGE FUNDAES WIN 2008 FAVOURITE CANADIAN CHILDREN'S GROUP OF THE YEAR!

The Smudge Fundaes won the 2008 Canadian Independent Music Award for Favourite Children's Group of the Year on March 8, 2008 during the "Indie" awards ceremony in Toronto, Ontario. The Canadian Independent Music Awards are given out during Canadian Music Week in Toronto, Ontario.

During the past 13 years, The Smudge Fundaes have released 5 recordings, have written, produced and starred in two seasons of Classroom Crayons for TVCogeco and continue to tour extensively through Canada and the USA at festivals, fairs, schools, libraries, corporate events and more. Their roster of shows includes their fabulous variety show and presentations about reading, writing, bullying, environment, health, safety, Christmas, Halloween and more. For further information, contact Sandie Thomson at (905) 684-1643 or Suzanne Nicks at (905) 684-5454.

RCMP MUSICAL RIDE IN METCALFE

WHEN: Friday May 16th, 7:00pm

WHERE: Metcalfe Fairgrounds

WHAT: The preshow will consist of a demonstration by the Ottawa Police Services Canine Unit, and a performance by the Osgoode Township Male Choir. The pre-show is approximately 30 minutes long (starting at 7 pm), followed by the Ride at 7:30, and it lasts 30 minutes.

HOW: \$6 for adults; \$2 for children 12 & Under;
Children under 2 free

Visit www.ofac.org for a great Ag Aware Toolkit and resources dealing with farm tours, displays, Ag. activities, petting zoo guidelines etc.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ANSWERS

1. **TRUE** - Agricultural Societies are considered "not for profit without, share capital" organizations.
2. **FALSE** - in 1988 when the legislation was first passed the number 66 was assigned to it but there has been many Bill 66's since that time. The official name of the legislation is the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizational Act. (AHOA)
3. **FALSE** - parts of the annual return are completed and maintain your incorporation. (stated in the Guide accompanying the returns)
4. **TRUE** - Corporate numbers are not issued under the AHOA. A society can prove their incorporation by getting a "Letter of Good Standing" from OMAFRA.
5. **TRUE** - Section 12 of the AHOA states that a treasurer should give security annually or the directors are personally liable for any loss. Bonding is a type of insurance that is purchased to cover your treasurer and is one that directors can ensure they are exhibiting their due diligence as a director.
6. **FALSE** - Agricultural societies are not for profit organizations but to the charitable they need to apply to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and be registered as a charitable organization. This allows the society to issue receipts to individuals for donations that can be used on their personal income tax return. They must file reports annually with CRA.
7. **TRUE** - In the guide accompanying the Annual returns it states the requirements for grant eligibility as follows:
 - i. work to advance its objectives
 - ii. comply with the requirements of the Act
 - iii. hold an agricultural exhibition

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.

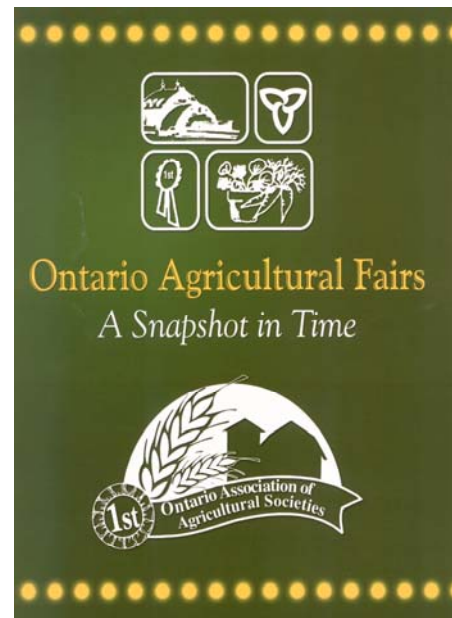
Fair passes are available only from the OAAS office.
Please forward cheques payable to OAAS.

8. **TRUE** - A very important clause to the 50% of the societies who own land.

9. **FALSE** - Following steps should be taken:
- Contact the district director and/or OMAFRA.
 - Hold a meeting with members and pass a motion to disband.
 - Pass another motion that outlines how to dispose of the assets. The Board of Directors need to decide how the assets will be disposed. Some ideas: portable items can be given away to nearby ag. societies, buildings sold or turned over to local service clubs, land could be sold (for minimal amount), cash could be donated to local organization i.e. hospital, school, 4-H.

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

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

2008 Round Table Summaries

Ideas for Celebrating Fair Milestones:

- Planning should begin a least two years before milestone
- Put together a time frame to work with
- Heritage component important to keep in mind
- Use of period customs
- History book on fair
- Bring back former presidents, ambassadors, board members
- Fashion show using wedding dresses of the time period
- Homecoming weekend
- Special music
- Theme
- RCMP musical ride
- Use local journalism to assist with getting out stories relating to history of fair
- Coincide with other community celebrations
- Archives – open them to public viewing
- Booth at fair with local memorabilia of fair's history
- Apply for special grants to assist with celebrating of the history
- Fireworks
- Beard growing competition
- Floats in locals events
- Barn dance and New Years Dance to kick-off celebration
- Brainstorming meeting with various groups that are connected to history
- Fundraising particular to celebration
- Pick a specific project on grounds to do (i.e. front gates, building re-dedication
- Cookbook
- Have memorabilia to give away
- Bigger name entertainment

Working with and instructing judges:

- Each section to look after own judges
- Homecraft secretary should be in charge of details regarding getting judges
- Pay a flat rate to judges for cattle, sheep and other livestock
- Have refreshments available for judges
- Judge appreciation night
- Make sure to inform judges what you want from them (letter prior to fair outlining this is a great idea)\
- Make sure that volunteers working with judges understand their role
- Make sure judges know the field that they are judging
- Keep area closed while judging is happening
- Judging schools in district often
- Speak and ask questions to judges before they began their work
- Book and prize list need to be accurate for judging

- Judges should comment if needed on the entry tag
- Make sure that contract with judge contains all necessary information regarding time of arrival, compensation etc
- Rules have to be followed as you have presented them
- How long can a judge be used ? is there a need for a max 2 years mentioned by most fairs

Attracting new exhibitors

- Prize lists out early
- Revamping of classes and increase prize money
- Utilize local fabric stores and craft stores as a place to locate new exhibitors
- Send preliminary lists to feed stores
- Get into schools early and hand out youth specific lists
- Word of mouth still number one way to get information out
- Award night with pot-luck dinner for exhibitors and use time to give money out
- Adding classes for those with special needs
- Public awareness is important
- Use businesses to get information out
- Sponsors
- Forms out early
- Listen to exhibitors and use information from them
- Suggestion box
- Pay out prizes quickly
- Appreciation of individuals is important
- Getting information out to new families in the area
- Use mail outs
- Send out information for 3-5 years before removing from mailing lists

Parking Solutions – what to do when your fair is landlocked:

- Have township provide signs that are needed for no parking, street closed etc
- Have an area for over-sized vehicles
- If individuals have parking passes make sure staff on gates are aware of all passes in use
- Easier to ask for forgiveness
- Have an officer to help sort out problems
- Encourage people to walk
- Neighbor charges for parking
- Have a location for bus parking
- Shuttles are a good idea
- Hay wagon for transportation also has some insurance issues
- Parking needs to be supervised
- Beer tent can have an impact on parking issues – have clear guidelines for parking attendants regarding drinking and driving
- Handicap parking on grounds is important
- Parking restrictions need to be enforced due to emergency access

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*

Trillium Grants for Fairs:

- Lots of paper work
- Only for inside changes of a building not building a new one
- Deadlines March/July/November of each year
- Important that fairs do active fundraising
- Eligibility non-profit
- Apply to local office
- Writing guidelines on web
- Use their language
- Get to know staff and build relationship
- Volunteer hours are important and need to be recorded
- Before you apply contact office to see if your request would even be considered
- Trillium may even pay for cost of painting bleachers/stands
- A lot of Creative Writing
- Must be registered as charity or incorporated as non-profit
- Two-levels; up to \$15,000 and over \$15,000
- www.trilliumfoundation.org – good tips and examples
- Fit into their priorities; 1. enhance success of students, 2. enhance healthier/physically active Ontario, 3. enhance employment for families
- Areas to Target; 1. Arts and Culture, 2. Environment i.e. green program and recycling, 3. Human and Social Services, 4. Sports and Recreation i.e. healthier Ontario
- Granting Priorities; 1. Enhancement to community spaces, 2. Energy efficiency, 3. Greening Initiatives, 4. Innovative Technology
- Grants can be spread over a 5 year period
- Capital projects only 1 year

Creating a workable emergency plan for your fair:

- Have an emergency response team that will take the lead in an emergency
- Co-ordinate with community and county response team
- Evacuation plan for major emergency
- Talk about plans with all members
- Signage is important
- Lost child shut down gate
- Have one spot were lost children should come to
- Involve all community emergency organizations
- Have a proactive plan in place
- Talk plan over with all individuals with fair
- Radios are important for plan
- Good connection with emergency services in your area are important.
- Make sure emergency vehicles have direct routes to events on grounds
- Make sure all directors know how to use fire extinguishers
- 911 marked in clear spots
- First aid kits marked well and placed in central area

Find all the 2008 Service Members at:
www.ontariofairs.com

Fair Themes: How do you use your Fair Theme?

- Decorating contests for local homes and businesses
- Scare crow contest
- All green as a theme
- Make advertisements specific to themes
- Use the theme through all programs and classes
- Environment theme can be crossed over to various community events
- On grounds specific to theme i.e. decorating large hay bale
- Have contests to pick theme
- Have junior directors pick it
- Make sure book has theme ideas throughout it
- Before end of school year work with them on theme specific education
- Logo contest
- Base it on other community events
- Mascot
- Bee at the fair
- Decorate all buildings to match theme
- Catch phrase relating to theme
- Parade should incorporate theme in floats
- Gift bags decorated with theme
- Get 4-H involved
- Advertisement to match theme
- Game show using theme
- Photography to utilize theme
- Demonstrations relating to theme activities

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


Recording and calculating volunteer hours:

- Have individual sheets that directors are given at each AGM and then asked to keep track of hours and return when full to secretary
- Volunteers hours kept in office and directors are asked to fill when in office with volunteer hours
- Committee chairs keep track of hours and submit them monthly
- Secretary keeps track of hours
- At each board meeting secretary asks for estimate of hours from each board member
- Email hours weekly to fair office

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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