



OAAS Gazette

Volume 28

November 2011

~ OAAS President's Message ~

Darn! another fair season has ended and we were having so much fun combining fairs with family visits and trips. We really enjoyed the friendship and hospitality we received from the 44 fairs we visited. Thank you to everyone for making us feel right at home and for sharing the highlights of your Fair. We put 16,000 k's and 4 bald tires on the truck traveling the backroads and 400 highways. I think that means a new truck and a promise to avoid the 400's whenever possible.

The weather was a bit of everything - extreme heat to chilling rains - but that didn't seem to bother the volunteers. A big thank you to all volunteers who give so generously of their time, energy and skills. You are a big part of making our Ontario Fairs a success. Your volunteerism makes your communities rich in social capital, resulting in healthy, vibrant Fairs and Communities.

The OAAS fall board meeting was held the Oct. 21st weekend. Your board members worked hard on their respective projects. This includes the committee working on resolutions to be put forth at the AGM.

Feel free to call any of your O.A.A.S members for clarification on any of these matters.

Convention committees are excited about Convention 2012 in February. They have noted suggestions from Convention 2011 surveys and have tried hard to incorporate most in their planning. So, take note of the Convention Program and plan to participate in all that interests you. This year at the President's Reception, Fair Ambassadors will introduce themselves at the beginning of the evening. I've chosen a western theme so come wearing your most comfortable jeans and boots. Enjoy the Western tribute show and sing along with your favorite country singer. Eleanor Wood will be our keynote speaker, Saturday morning. So plan to attend and be a part of a great presentation.

I hope to meet and say hello to as many delegates as possible. I'll be looking for you! See you at Convention, in February.

I hope everyone had a safe and prosperous Fair event. Celebrate the past, embrace the future - the best is yet to come.

Wishing you peace and joy this holiday season and a New Year full of happiness.

Fred Cooper



LEN PATTERSON **MEMORIAL AWARD**

Presented by Nothers Awards, London

The 3rd Annual Leonard Patterson Memorial Award will be presented at the 2012 Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies Annual Meeting.

Agricultural Societies wishing to nominate their Secretary, Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer, who has served their organization for at least 15 years, may do so by sending their nomination to the OAAS Past Presidents' Association, c/o Betty Lester, 84 Albert St. N., Lindsay, ON K9V 4K3, by December 1, 2011.

There is no special nomination or application form, please submit in writing, explaining in detail why you feel the nominee is deserving of this honour. Previous nominees must re-apply with an updated profile.

For inquiries please phone Betty Lester, 705-324-5644.

TAKING THE TRAIN TO THE CONVENTION ?

Save 10% off your ticket.

Group VIA confirmation number: **12257**

For online booking instructions contact the OAAS.

EARLY BIRD CONVENTION REGISTRATION due
JANUARY 27th

OAAS IS ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE OAAS

OAAS Pictorial Book: \$15

2012 OAAS Passport: \$50 + HST

OAAS Cookbook, 2nd Edition: \$10



2012 OAAS Convention !!

February 16-18, Royal York Hotel, Toronto

OAAS CONVENTION 2012

Thursday February 16 – Registration
Early Bird Sessions (See topics on next page)
Round Table Discussions
Ambassador Group Photo
Entertainment Showcase

Friday February 17 – Annual Meeting (at a new time)
Seminars (See topics on next page)
Tradeshow
Family Entertainment Showcase
President's Reception
Ambassador Introductions
Live Auction
Country Magic

Saturday February 18 – Round Table Discussions

Early bird registration fee for 2012 is \$79.65 + HST, includes admission to all events. (early bird deadline is January 27, 2012)

The OAAS Partnership Committee is looking for your contribution and support at the 2012 Convention.



For more information regarding possible partnership & participation, please contact the OAAS.

CONVENTION AUCTIONS !!!!

LIVE AUCTION is taking place on FRIDAY February 17th,
at the President's Reception.

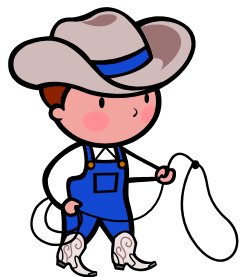
Don't forget to contribute to the SILENT AUCTION, taking place on Friday February 17, all day.

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

Thank you to Farm Credit Canada (FCC) for supporting our 2012 Convention



WATCH THE PRE CONVENTION NEWSLETTER TO WIN COMPLIMENTARY T-SHIRTS AT THE OAAS TRADESHOW



PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Honouring OAAS President Fred Cooper



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17th, CANADIAN ROOM

Ambassador Introductions
Live Auction
Entertainment by Country Magic

~ don't forget your western wear ~



TENTATIVE CONVENTION SEMINARS

(subject to change without notice)

THURSDAY

- Attracting New Exhibitors to Homecraft & Junior Fairs
- How to create a homecraft committee
- Volunteer Recognition
- Conflict Resolution
- Fair / Amusement Business Relationship (panel discussion)
- New Convention delegate orientation
- Various round table topics (to be determined)

FRIDAY

- Picking the Winner: Judging Do's & Don'ts
- Getting & Retaining Homecraft Volunteers
- Ag Education Tradeshow
- Hands On Activities
- Becoming Involved with OAAS
- Horticulture
- Mobile Marketing
- Staging a Successful Horse Show
- Hosting a Demo Derby
- 4-H at the Fair
- Tips for New Board Members
- Contracts for Secretary-Treasurers
- Setting up an Effective website
- Choosing a database
- AGCO – The Liquor Law
- Creating a Fair Archive
- Tips for First Time Secretaries



OAAS Convention Photography Competition

Please submit your photos to the OAAS by December 1, 2011

LIVE AUCTION

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President's Reception



DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE TRADESHOW AT
THE OAAS CONVENTION.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE at 2012 OAAS CONVENTION

Fri. Feb. 17, 2012, 9:30am-11:15am &
3:30pm-4:30pm, Ontario Room

A great opportunity to explore new family
entertainment for your fair.

THANK YOU TO VIA RAIL FOR
SUPPORTING THE
2012 OAAS CONVENTION



Register online now !!

OMAFRA Offering Electronic Funds Transfer: If you enrol in this system, it will mean that the annual grants will be directly deposited into your bank account. As well as being environmentally friendly, it will make funds available in a timely manner. If you have any questions, or would like a form, please feel free to contact Helen Scutt, Agriculture Organization Specialist at 1-888-466-2372 x63115 or Helen.scutt@ontario.ca OR AHOA.Admin@ontario.ca

2012 Affiliation fees

Please note that the 2012 Affiliation fees will include HST and will be due to the OAAS by December 31, 2011.

ATTENTION ALL OAAS MEMBERS: EFFECTIVE

FEBRUARY 1, 2010. Any fair, service members or affiliate members who has 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.

Agricultural Society Annual Return & Grant

Application forms are due February 1st 2012

INTERESTING FACTS:

- To maintain corporate legal status all agricultural societies in Ontario must file an annual return with OMAFRA.
- Annual return includes statement of the number of society members, a list of officers and directors for the incoming year & an audited financial statements.
- To receive a grant your agricultural society must complete all required forms. All grants are paid based on society eligibility and are a reimbursement of eligible expenditures.
- All societies must submit forms by **February 1st, 2012.**
- Forms must be sent to the designated OMAFRA offices or completed online.

FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY NOVEMBER 15th AND
CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE.

FORMS ARE NOT BEING MAILED TO AG. SOCIETIES

Contact Helen Scutt for more information:
helen.scutt@ontario.ca 1-888-466-2372 ext.63115

Success stories from Harrow Fair

The annual pie auction at the Labour Day weekend fair raised \$12,725.00, with the top pie a Lemon shaker auctioning off for \$3400.00. Proceeds went to the John McGivney Children's Centre, a centre that provides rehabilitative services to the Windsor and Essex County community, enriching the lives of children and youth with disabilities and special needs by helping them reach their full potential. This year's auction continued to break records with a total raised of \$12,725.00



The Ontario Beekeeper Association's Mascot and Erick Traplin, children's entertainer pose for a picture at the Harrow fair.

The mascot was very fitting for the "Busy as Bees" theme.

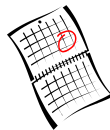
Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. (OAFE) wishes to acknowledge and encourage the interactive educational programs of Ontario Agricultural Societies.

The **Award of Excellence in Agriculture and Food Education** is awarded annually to one agricultural society that provides an outstanding agri-food education program for students and teachers.

Check out www.ontariofairs.com for complete details. November 30th deadline.



Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.



DEADLINES

December 31 – Update fair info. for OAAS directory
December 31 – 2011 Affiliation fees due to OAAS
January 27, 2012 – Early bird Registration deadline for Convention
Feb 1, 2012 – Annual Return and grant form to OMAFRA

Royalty Visits Acton Fair

Lord Johnny Acton of England was a special guest of the Acton Fair this summer. (photo with District 8 Director, Lorna Wilson)



Royal Flush at Campbellford Fair



Campbellford Fair President Joy Petherick (wife of OAAS Past President El Petherick) competing in the "1st Annual Toilet Bowl Race" with her team.

FOLLOW UP FROM 2011 CONVENTION SURVEY: Just an FYI that the OAAS executive investigated and visited a potential alternate location to relocate the annual convention.

At the current time the OAAS Board of Directors has decided to remain at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Considering factors included: location, attendance geographics, accommodations, seminar room availability.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS & SEASONS GREETINGS TO OUR FAIRS, MEMBERS, FRIENDS.

ALL THE BEST IN 2012. ~ OAAS Executive and Board of Directors ~