

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – SYLVIA PARR

It is hard to believe that the fairs for 2014 are over – and what a season it has been.

I was fortunate enough to travel to many parts of our great province to visit fairs of all sizes. I opened Langton a wonderful one day school fair, where the parade was so long it incorporated the whole town. I presented ten OAAS Agricultural Service Diplomas to very worthy members of Uxbridge Agricultural Society. At Providence Bay I attended their ambassador competition, what a marvellous evening I am sure everyone on Manitoulin Island was in attendance. From there I travelled to Iron Bridge then up to Laird where I was humbled by the dedication of volunteers who work so hard to produce a fair under some very challenging conditions. In eastern Ontario after travelling miles through some of the loneliest and winding roads I have ever been on, I drove into Beachburg Fair. I was overwhelmed by the crowds. I am only sorry I couldn't stay the entire weekend. I thank all the fairs I visited for their gracious hospitality.

This has been a very busy year for the OAAS Board and Executive with many changes and challenges and I am pleased to say that your board is moving forward. In order to do this, two ad hoc committees have been formed. One is to address the structure and function of the OAAS Board, the second one is to develop a realistic business plan to ensure the future success of this organization.

The convention is developing into an outstanding program. I am pleased to announce that there will be an Under 40 Meet N' Greet in the Van Horne Suite, Thursday afternoon; generously sponsored by Ram Rodeo and the Ancaster Agricultural Society. This will give our younger members an opportunity to network and share their ideas for the future of our societies. Friday will now be a full day of informative seminars and round tables as the annual general meeting has been moved to Saturday morning.

I am looking forward to seeing each and everyone one of you at the Fairmont Royal York in February where we will be celebrating: **ONTARIO FAIRS – Fabulous Family Fun**



New for 2015 is the

OAAS Young Professional Meet N' Greet,

Presented by Ram Rodeo & Ancaster Agricultural Society

*(open to convention delegates under the age of 40,
at least 19 years of age & excluding current
Ambassadors)*

This event would take place on Thursday February
19, 4:00pm – 5:00pm in the Van Horne Suite.

2015 OAAS CONVENTION REGISTRATION RATES

Rates received by January 23

3 day - \$125
1 day - \$100/day

Rates after January 23

3 days - \$150
1 day - \$125/day

Rates at Convention

3 days - \$175
1 day - \$150/day

~ ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKING PLACE ALL DAY FRIDAY AT THE 2015 OAAS CONVENTION ~

2015 OAAS Convention !!

February 19-21, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto

OAAS CONVENTION 2015

THURSDAY February 19, 2015

- Speakers/Seminars & Round table discussions
- Ambassador program begins @ 1:30pm in the Upper Canada Room
- Registration desk opens at 1pm
- Receive crafts & auction items, cookies, bread, machine quilts, posters
- Under 40 Networking *thanks to Ram Rodeo*
- Evening Showcase

FRIDAY February 20, 2015

- Morning seminar sessions (9:00am – 10:15am & 10:30 – 11:45pm)
- Round Table Discussions, all day during seminars
- Family Entertainment Showcase (**new location**)
- Tradeshow opens at 9am – 4:30pm (**new location**)
- Receive crafts & auction items, cookies, bread, machine quilts, posters, hand quilts.
- Afternoon seminar sessions (1:30am – 2:45pm & 3:00pm – 4:15pm)
- Homecraft Meeting, 1:30pm (**new time**)
- Pick up all items (crafts, quilts, posters, displays, breads & cookies), 5:00pm – 7:00pm (**new time**)
- Pick up Silent Auction items
- President Reception begins at 7:30pm
- Ambassador *photo* (in hotel lobby) & introductions @ President's Reception
- Live Auction & Entertainment Showcase during the President's Reception

SATURDAY February 21, 2015

- Annual General Meeting (**new time & location**)
- Closing Speaker, Mark Johnson

Piper's Restaurant at the Fairmont Royal York is offering a 15% discount as a convention delegate.

KEEP UP TO DATE ON
THE LATEST
CONVENTION NEWS ...



The OAAS Partnership Committee is looking for your contribution and support at the 2015 Convention.



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

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Join *President Sylvia Parr*
Friday February 20th, 2014, 7:30pm
Concert Hall

Ambassador Introduction
Live Auction

Entertainment by: Dirty Dishes, Urban Rodeo &
Spirit of the Keys

TAKING THE TRAIN TO THE CONVENTION ?
Save 10% off your ticket.

VIA convention discount code: **12991.**

EARLY BIRD CONVENTION REGISTRATION
ends on JANUARY 23rd

LIVE AUCTION is taking place on
Friday February 20th at the
President's Reception



REGISTER TODAY !!

TENTATIVE CONVENTION SEMINARS

(subject to change without notice)

THURSDAY February 19, 2015

- Insurance Matters – *Staying Clear of Problems with your Communication Tools*
- Progressive Safety Days
- Round Table Sessions
- Secretary/Treasurer Matters
- Homecraft Sessions

FRIDAY February 20, 2015

9:00 – 10:15; 10:30-11:45; 1:30-2:45; 3:00-4:15

- Governance 101 *Good “Governance and Effective Meetings for your Society”*
- Operating a Successful Ambassador Program
- First Impressions Program
- Information for Society Treasurers
- Information for Society Secretaries
- Working and Learning with Midways
- Insurance Matters continued
- Turning Your Fair Around
- Working With Your Municipality
- Managing Emergencies at Your Fair
- Social Media 101
- TSSA/ESA – How Are They Related to Your Fair?
- Agriculture Safety Days
- Promoting Farm Safety at Your Fairs
- Working With Volunteers
- Strategic Planning
- Finding Sponsors for your Events
- OAFE

Plus Round Table Discussions –(Ongoing throughout Friday)
Ag Awareness Mini Trade Show – note new location

All Ambassadors and Chaperones **MUST** be registered convention delegates.

There is a separate Convention Program for Ambassadors.

More information in the Convention Registration Package

~ KEYNOTE SPEAKER HAS BEEN CONFIRMED ~

Mark Johnston ~ Mark started his camp career as a camp counselor in 1980. Since then he has held camp positions as varied as Canoe Guide, Backpacking Guide, Archery Instructor, Life Guard, Program Coordinator, Experiential Educator, Tipi Parent, Challenge Course Director, Camp Director, and Program Manager; for organizations as varied as the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Boy Scouts of America, Scout Association of the UK, Vision Quest, Nature's Classroom Outdoor Education Centers, and the Tim Horton Children's Foundation. Mark is currently Program Manager at Tim Horton Onondaga Farms in St. George and lives in Paris, ON with his wife, Erin, and their three daughters, Molly, 13, Samantha, 9, and Violet, 7.

Mark will be speaking on *Motivating Youth and Convincing Them to Take On More Responsibility.*

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OAAS ACCEPTS CHEQUES & CREDIT CARDS

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

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE at 2015 OAAS CONVENTION

Friday February 20th, - 9:00am- 11:45am

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



OAAS Convention Photography Competition

Please submit your photos to the OAAS
by December 1, 2014

CRAFT ROOM SLIDESHOW

Each year at the Convention there is an ongoing slideshow in the Craft (Ballroom) Room sharing many different crafts, homecraft, school & junior fair, vegetable etc. entries from across the province.

Stop by and get some ideas.

Send your interesting pictures to the OAAS now to be included.

THANK YOU TO VIA RAIL FOR
SUPPORTING THE
2015 OAAS CONVENTION



ROUND TABLES WILL BE ALL DAY FRIDAY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS SATURDAY MORNING

2015 Affiliation fees

Please note that the 2015 Affiliation fees must include HST and are due to the OAAS by December 31, 2014.

Agricultural Society Annual Return & Grant

Forms are due February 1st 2015

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, 2015**.
- Forms must be sent to the designated **OMAFRA** offices or completed online.

FORMS **ARE AVAILABLE NOW** AND CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE.

FORMS ARE NOT BEING MAILED TO AG. SOCIETIES

Contact your regional **OMAFRA** or **MNDN** representative for more information

http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/rural/returns/agreturn_grant.htm

DO NOT SEND A COPY TO THE OAAS OFFICE in 2015

OMAFRA is 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.

BOARD GOVERNANCE & EFFECTIVE MEETINGS WEBINAR

November 27, 2014 7:30pm – 9:00pm.

Check out www.ontarioagsocieties.com to register.

Thank you to ROI and OMAFRA for your partnership



*Celebrating
100 Years !!*

Plan to celebrate 100 years.

4-H Ontario in 2015
www.4-hontario.ca

LEN PATTERSON

MEMORIAL AWARD

Presented by Nothers Awards, London

The fifth annual Leonard Patterson Memorial award will be presented at the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies annual convention in February 2015.

Leonard Patterson worked for Nothers for several years and made many contacts and friends at the fairs. He volunteered and worked diligently on the board of Mount Forest fair, as well as for District #10, where he served as their director on the OAAS board and was elected president in 1986. Nothers is presenting this award in Leonard's memory.

Agricultural Societies wishing to nominate their Secretary and/or Treasurer, who has served their organization for at least 15 years, may do so by sending their nomination to the OAAS Past Presidents' Association by January 1, 2015. There is no special nomination form. Please submit in writing, explaining in details why you feel your Secretary and/or Treasurer is deserving of their honour. If previously nominated, please re-apply with an updated profile.

A memorial plaque will be presented to the winner by Paul Nother and accompanied by \$100. A permanent plaque will hang at Nothers, in London, Ontario, with all winners names inscribed.

Please send your nomination to: OAAS Past Presidents' Association, c/o Joanne Gregson, 20 Somerville Cres., Mulmur, Ontario L9V 3J2 or jwgregson@sympatico.ca

We are looking forward to hearing from our Ontario Fairs and receiving your nominations.

DEADLINES

December 31, 2014 – Update fair info. for OAAS directory

December 31, 2014 – 2015 Affiliation fees due to OAAS

Jan. 23, 2015. – Early bird Registration deadline for Convention

Feb 1, 2015 – Annual Return and grant form to OMAFRA

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.

2015 OAAS AFFILIATION FEES & OAAS DIRECTORY UPDATES

If you have not submitted your 2015 affiliation fees or directory updates to the OAAS, please do so ASAP.

If you need another invoice or a copy sent to you, please contact the OAAS.
Due to OAAS by December 31, 2014

Modifications to OAAS Competition Rules

Please note that:

- i) Wall Hanging has been removed from the Machine Quilt Competition
- ii) Judging Criteria for the poster competition has been modified
- iii) The classes and rules for the Photography classes has been revised.

These rules are posted online and printed in the 2015 Convention package.

Also available electronically from the OAAS.

Effective for the 2015 fairs and the 2016 OAAS Convention.



Shannonville Fair Support ALS Ice Bucket Challenge ~ A director of the Shannonville Agricultural Society, took the opportunity to raise money at the fair and support the ALS Foundation, by raising over \$400, in the Ice Bucket Challenge. Way to go !

2014 CNE AMBASSADOR OF THE FAIRS COMPETITION

Ambassador of the Fairs: Jodie Hooker, Dundalk and District Agricultural Society

1st Runner Up: Samantha Binkley, Arthur Agricultural Society

2nd Runner Up: Justina Walker, Dresden Agricultural Society

Congeniality Award: Alexis Kramer, Embro and Zorra Agricultural Society

Semi-Finalists

Holly Breen, North Dorchester Agricultural Society

Kaitlin Francis, Markham and East York Agricultural Society

Amanda MacCannell, Listowel Agricultural Society

Taylor Smith, Feversham Agricultural Society

TRACTOR TO THE NEW WEST NIAGARA AGRICULTURAL CENTRE

West Niagara Agricultural Society (WNAS) recently announced the donation of a John Deere Zero Turn Lawn Tractor for the new West Niagara Agricultural Centre being built in Grassie, ON. Premier Equipment Ltd. in Smithville, made the donation as their way of being a positive partner in the community and ensuring the maintenance of the grounds is made easy for the volunteers dedicated to operating the agricultural society and the new facility.

"The new West Niagara Agricultural Centre will be an asset to agriculture, rural and small-town growth for our region. We are extremely proud to offer our support to this community venture through our donation of the John Deere lawn tractor," offers Jay denHollander, Manager of Premier Equipment Ltd., Smithville.



BROOKLIN SPRING FAIR INCLUDES A NEW FEATURE TO ATTRACT THE YOUTH

Submitted by: Nicole Jackson, Brooklin Fair

This year as a past ambassador and a co-chair to the Brooklin Ambassador program, together with my fellow chair members we decided to give this opportunity to young girls and boys within our community.

It was our first year running a Mini Ambassador program, and although we had thought about it all year (getting ideas from the OAAS conference seminars), putting it together was last minute. We wanted the values of the mini program to be the same as the original ambassador experience. Helping youth improve public speaking skills, meet new friends and representing the Brooklin Spring Fair and the community while creating opportunities and memories.

The Brooklin Spring Fairs Mini Ambassador competition included participants that were between ages six & seven. They were judged on their overall impression, poise, personality and answers. This year we had the five participants, parents create bios that were read out the night of and they also answered five questions each about the fair in their community. During the fair the participants all got to ride in the parade, and the winner presented awards at the pet show and other events around the fair.

Next year we will continue with the hopes that it will continue to grow and spread awareness of our Ambassador Program as well as other fairs. We hope that the participants and future participants have and will enjoy a wonderful experience at the Brooklin Spring Fair but that they also are given an opportunity to learn more about what our fair has to offer.



FCC Agri Spirit Grants Fund Local Fairs ~ Congratulations to West Niagara, Burford, Glencoe, Markdale & Almonte for recently receiving a FCC Agri Spirit Grant.
WELL DONE !

Congratulations

Hanover/Clinton, Embro/ Milverton,
Orangeville/Rockton and Metcalfe/ Williamstown
for completing the
First Impressions program, offered by the OAAS.



Linda Murray, District 5, working the OAAS display at the International Plowing Match

Ontario Volunteer Recognized at Upcoming CAFE Convention

For immediate release: The Canadian Association of Fairs & Exhibitions (CAFE) has announced the winners of the 2014 Canadian Fair Champions Competition, which invites exhibitions and agricultural societies across Canada to nominate their "unsung heroes" for recognition. Three winners are selected annually from across Canada to receive an expense paid trip to the CAFE Convention, where they will be honoured at a gala luncheon. This year's convention is in Vancouver, BC. The 2014 winners of the competition are:

Wanda Aultman, nominated by Powassan Agricultural Society in Powassan, ON

Susan Page, nominated by the Lone Pine Agricultural Society in Didsbury, AB and

Leslie Stirling, nominated by the North Thompson Fall Fair, North Thompson, BC

These three outstanding women were selected from nominations from across Canada. Each of them exemplifies unselfish dedication to community, and has gone beyond and above the "call of duty" for their local fair or exhibition. These very deserving winners will travel to Vancouver, stay at the Hyatt Regency as guests of CAFE, and be honoured at the annual Convention which runs from November 19th to 21st.

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

ALL THE BEST IN 2015.
~ OAAS Executive and Board of Directors ~



Turning 100 is a pretty big deal.

We know that marking a full century of creating strong youth leaders, building communities, and sharing the tradition of "Learn To Do By Doing" is truly something to be proud of.

That's why 4-H Ontario is rolling out plans to celebrate our centennial year in 2015, along with thousands of participants, volunteers, alumni, allies and supporters.


And as you develop your local plans for anniversary celebrations across the province, we look forward to joining in. Let's all make 2015 a year to remember — for the next century, and beyond.


For more on 4-H Ontario and our planned centennial celebrations, be sure to visit our website and follow us on social media!

www.4-HOntario.ca | 100years@4-HOntario.ca | 1.877.410.6748

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Ontario



RURAL ONTARIO
INSTITUTE

Board Basics

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

Webinar: November 27, 7:30-9 p.m.

Join us for an interesting evening learning about becoming a better board member - whether you're a seasoned chairperson or a new board member, there will be information to help you and your organization be more effective.

Helen Scutt, Agricultural Organization Specialist at OMAFRA and Rob Black, CEO of the Rural Ontario Institute will lead the webinar. Helen and Rob have years of experience training boards and being members of boards of many types of organizations.

Key learnings will include:

- Roles and responsibilities of board members
- Legal and managerial duties of a board of directors
- Techniques for making meetings and decision-making more effective
- Ways to handle sticky situations

November 27, 7:30-9 p.m.

Internet connection is required.

This webinar is free, but pre-registration is required.

[Sign up here](http://bit.ly/boardbasicswebinar)

<http://bit.ly/boardbasicswebinar>



Learn new skills, build your organization and grow your community. Register today!