

# OAAS Gazette

Spring 2015

## OAAS President Address – Catherine Redden, Campbellford

Many of you may have recognized that the 2015 theme “CELEBRATING RURAL ONTARIO” is also part of the OAAS logo. I purposely chose this phrase as I wanted to ensure that despite the many tasks we may find ourselves engaged with throughout the year that we don’t forget to stop and celebrate. We need to celebrate both the similarities and the diversity of the parts of this Province that we live in, celebrate the skills and talents of our volunteers, and celebrate the efforts of the more than 200 agricultural societies who showcase our rural way of life. We also need to celebrate the fact that 4-H Ontario, an organization that has contributed a great deal to the success of our youth, our volunteers and our communities has reached its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year!

While you are celebrating however, you can also be confident that the OAAS and its Board of Directors are working hard to provide the support and assistance that its membership requires. We set an ambitious work plan at the recent Spring Meeting that includes revisions to our Policy Manual, carrying out actions contained within our Strategic Plan and preparing suggestions for improvement to our current governance model. We are also building on the success of this year’s convention and have some new and exciting things planned for the next one in February 2016.



In 1859, Abraham Lincoln said the following: ***“Agricultural Fairs are becoming an institution of the country; they are useful in more ways than one; they bring us together, and thereby make us better acquainted, and better friends than we otherwise would be”***

Despite having been said over 150 years ago, his message is as important now as it ever was.

Along with the many special events and celebrations held each year by our societies, the annual Fair continues to bring communities together, makes us better acquainted and creates long lasting friendship. With so many people moving from rural to urban environments we have the ideal opportunity to promote agriculture awareness and educate individuals about agriculture. I look forward to continuing my travels throughout Ontario and joining with you as you carry out this important task.

Cathy

- Insurance Web Ex (coming soon)
- Look into Convention 2016
- FCC AgriSprit Fund
- Celebrate Ontario Grants Recipients
- Festival and Events Ontario awards
- Strategic Planning workshops
- West Niagara Ag. Society news
- Premise ID Registration
- Directory Updates
- Volunteer positions website
- Convention survey summary
- South River Ag. Society volunteer award
- Judging Schools in Ontario
- CAFÉ Convention coming to Niagara Falls
- Convention partners, *thank you*
- OAAS Board & Executive
- Ontario Trillium Foundation Info Sessions

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**100**  
**YEARS**  
1915–2015

Congratulations to 4-H Ontario, Celebrating 100 Years !

## West Niagara Agricultural Society Receives \$100,000 Donation from Richardson International at the Ground-breaking Ceremony for the new West Niagara Agricultural Centre

Easter Weekend was cause for celebration for the West Niagara Agricultural Society (WNAS). They held the official ground-breaking ceremony with board members, and local politicians on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> to mark the start of construction of the long awaited West Niagara Agricultural Centre project. The ceremony was made that much more special by the donation of \$100,000 to the Agricultural Hall by the Hamilton export terminal of Richardson International Limited, Canada's largest agribusiness and recognized as a global leader in agriculture and food processing.



**FCC AgriSpirit Fund** is about enhancing rural communities. If your organization is raising money for a capital project and your city or town has less than 150,000 people, it may qualify for a donation between \$5,000 and \$25,000. **Applications will be accepted until May 18, 2015.**

The Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration just launched a new website called [www.findmyspark.ca](http://www.findmyspark.ca) to act as a database for Ontarians to find volunteer opportunities in their communities and for organizations to post any volunteer positions that they may have.



The Western Fair District has received recognition at the first annual Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA) London Region - Hospitality Awards; as the Event, Entertainment or Recreational Facility of the Year.



## COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES DEDICATED AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEER

A behind-the-scenes organizer stepped out into the lime-light last month. **Suzanne Learn** is the recipient of the 2015 Don Ivens Memorial Community Volunteer Award, presented by the South River Lions Club.



The award recognizes the best of volunteerism, based on both excellence and commitment to those who give their service to the community of South River. *"She's really turned around the [South River-Machar] Agricultural Society into a thriving business,"*

Photo credit: Rob Learn published in Almaguin News ~ Rebecca Zanussi, Reporter/Photographer



**Congratulations to the Ontario Fairs  
& OAAS Service Members  
who have recently received ...**

**Celebrate Ontario Grant**

Delta ~ \$14,400  
Navan ~ \$ 25,335  
South Mountain ~ \$33,228  
Paris ~ \$14, 625  
Russell ~ \$31,500  
Warkworth ~ \$11,790  
Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show ~ \$234,832



**FEO's Top 100 Festivals & Events**

Western Fair District  
Canadian National Exhibition  
International Plowing Match  
Carp Fair  
Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show  
Rockton's World Fair

**FEO's Level Events of Distinction Award**

Western Fair District  
Canadian National Exhibition  
International Plowing Match

**Achievement Award**

Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show

**Service Excellence Award**

Mega Magic  
The Feldman Agency  
TicketPro

OAAS Directory Update ~ please note

Kinmount Fair ~ September 4 - 6 , 2015

Dresden Exhibition ~ July 31 - August 3, 2015 (just announced)



For the latest news, LIKE Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies

**PREMIER EQUIPMENT LTD.  
DONATES A LAWN TRACTOR TO  
THE NEW WEST NIAGARA  
AGRICULTURAL CENTRE**

**West Lincoln, ON - November 11, 2014**

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.*



at the 2015  
**Canadian Association of Fairs & Exhibitions  
CONVENTION**

**November 19 - 21, 2015 | Niagara Falls, Ontario**

Hosted by the Canadian National Exhibition



Photo courtesy of Clifton Hill.com

# OAAS Convention 2015

## COMPETITION RESULTS

### 60% Whole Wheat Bread (see August Gazette for champion recipe)

1st place - Marlaine SteCroix - Manitowaning Fair, District 12

2nd place - Percy Burke - Perth Fair, District 2

3rd place - Darlene Haines, - Dundalk Fair, District 10

### Chocolate Chip Cookies

1st Place - Shannon Yolkowskie - Renfrew Fair, District 2

2nd Place - Katelyn Schnurr - Walkerton Fair, District 10

3rd Place - Madison Squires - Langton Fair, District 6

### Junior Poster

1st Place - Keegan Thompson - Harriston-Minto Fair, District 7

2nd Place - Lauren Williamson - Bayfield Fair, District 8

3rd Place - Sarah Lamers - Milton Fair, District 5

### Intermediate Poster

1st Place - Danielle Jezdic - Harriston-Harrow Fair, District 9

2nd Place - Anna Bowman - Wellesley Fair, District 7

3rd Place - Maggie Scott - Renfrew Fair, District 2

### Senior Poster

1st Place - Carly Coombe - Harrow Fair, District 9

2nd Place - Shannon Wlnstone - Sutton Fair, District 5

3rd Place - Danielle Cassidy - Mitchell Fair, District 8

3rd Place - Rebecca Dawson - Providence Bay fair, District 12

### Hand Made Quilt

1st Place - Myra Tollman, Providence Bay Fair, District #12

Pattern: Consider The Lilies Of The Field



### Machine Made Quilt

1st Place - Bernadette Forbes, Dunnville Fair, District #6

Pattern: Capistrano

### Grand Champion Photography

Thorndale Fair

### Junior Champion Photography

Paris Fair

Dear Fair Friends,

I am thankful for the opportunity to be involved with the OAAS and the Ontario fair community, the years of travelling around Ontario visiting fairs has been a pleasure! The wonderful people I have met, the marvellous sights I have seen and the many stories will be remembered for years to come.



Thank you to all the people and businesses and entertainers who supported the hospitality room and the Presidents Reception at the 2015 Convention.

A special thank you to the Ancaster Agricultural Society for everything! The financial support, the goodies and for hosting the hospitality room, but most of all the friendship.

Thanks for the memories!

Sylvia Parr

# Thank you

for supporting the  
2015 OAAS Convention

## Platinum

Canadian National Exhibition

## Gold

Ancaster Agricultural Society  
Dominion Regalia  
The Co-Operators Insurance

## Silver

Carp Agricultural Society  
Craig Douglas, Comic Juggler  
Fairmont Royal York Hotel  
FaveQuest  
Grand River Agricultural Society  
International Plowing Match  
Limestone Productions  
Lorna Wilson  
OMAFRA  
RAM Rodeo  
Robertson Amusements Ltd.  
VIA Rail  
Western Fair District

## Bronze

4-H Ontario  
Alberta Premium  
Albion Amusements Ltd.  
Ambush  
Arnie De Vaan  
Bayfield Agricultural Society  
Better Buy Bulk, Hanover  
Blyth Festival Theatre  
Bobcaygeon Agricultural Society  
Brittany Graul  
Campbell Amusements  
Canadian Agri-Services Inc.  
Carleigh McInnes  
Carrie Fraleigh DeSchutter  
  
Carter Shows  
Chesley Agricultural Society  
Comber Agricultural Society  
Country Fair Baking  
Dairy Farmers of Ontario  
Debbie Kirby  
Dryden & District Agricultural Society  
Dunnville Agricultural Society  
Edge Motor Sports  
Egg Farmers of Ontario  
Electrical Safety Authority  
Embros & Zorra Agricultural Society  
Emergency Rescue EMS  
Erin Agricultural Society  
Essa & District Agricultural Society

Farm and Food Care Ontario  
Fastsigns Mississauga - Caroline Peer

Grain Farmers of Ontario  
Grand River Agricultural Society  
Halton Agricultural Society  
Hands On Exotic  
Harriston-Minto Agricultural Society  
Howick Agricultural Society  
Jane Armstrong  
Jim Warrington  
Jim Wright  
Julien Kelland  
Kerry McDonald  
Kidomo  
Kimberly Clarke  
Kincardine Agricultural Society  
Laird Signs  
Madoc Agricultural Society  
Magical Midway  
Margaret & Kim Clark  
Mega Magic  
Memorable Designs, Chesley  
Moore Agricultural Society  
Motus O Dance Theatre  
Niagara Regional Agricultural Society  
Norfolk Agricultural Society  
North Dorchester Agricultural Society

Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education .  
OAAS District #1  
OAAS District #6  
OAAS, District #12  
OAAS Past Presidents' Association  
Ontario Agri-Food Education (OAFE)  
Ontario Chuckwagon  
Ontario Equestrian Federation  
Ontario Sheep Marketing Association  
Perfectly Polished Events  
Port Hope Agricultural Society  
Premium Alberta Whiskey  
Rockton's World Fair  
Roseneath Agricultural Society  
Russell Agricultural Society  
Shannonville Agricultural Society  
Spencerville Agricultural Society  
Spirit of the Keys  
Stratford Agricultural Society  
Sylvia Parr, President OAAS  
Technical Safety Standard Authority  
Thrill Show Productions  
Ticketpro  
Tourism Toronto  
Wellesley Agricultural Society  
Workplace Safety & Prevention Services  
World's Finest Shows

## CONVENTION 2016 IS ALREADY IN THE WORKS !

- Keynote speaker **DAN NEEDLES** will kick off the convention on Friday February 19, 2016, !!!
- Annual meeting will take place Sat. February 20th
- Only online registration & payment accepted
- One day registrations will be available again
- Registration rates will remain the same !!
- Send OAAS your seminar and/or entertainment suggestions

**2016 OAAS Convention**

*February 18 - 20, 2016*



## OAAS Partners With OMAFRA Obtaining Premises ID Information

Working together, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the Ontario Association of Agriculture Societies (OAAS), will be contacting your fair as the OAAS has made an initiative to get all of its members registered under the Ontario Provincial Premises Registry and to obtain Premises Identification Number (PID) for all of their venues. The Provincial Premises Registry is the destination for registering parcels of land in Ontario associated with agri-food activities. The PPR is an OMAFRA initiative and the only official provincial registry for obtaining a PID for Ontario agri-food businesses.

### What is a Premises ID used for?

A Premises ID is the first step to an effective traceability system and can lead to business advantages such as operational efficiencies and increasing market access. Accurate premises verification and identification is critical to the strength of our agriculture and food industries. Highest quality location information will assist emergency response efforts by improving emergency preparedness, responsiveness and risk management due to natural disasters, plant and / or animal disease.

There are a few ways to register your premises:

You can register your premises by providing us the address the Fair, Exhibition or Show takes place.

OR

You can register at: [https://www.ontariopr.com/register\\_premise.html](https://www.ontariopr.com/register_premise.html) or call 1-855-697-7743 and then send the PID and address of the premises back to me so I can add it to the list we are compiling on behalf of OAAS.

For more information on the Ontario Provincial Premises Registry please visit: <https://www.ontariopr.com>

All the best to the retiring OAAS Directors ....

Welcome to the new OAAS Directors ....

Robert Hargrave, Past President  
Sharon Bjergso, District #2  
Linda Murray, District #5  
Paul Anderson, District #6  
Ron McKay, District #8  
Geri Pegelo, District #10  
Brenda MacTavish, District #13  
Margaret McNabb, District #14  
Clifford Shannon, District #14



Judy McFaul, 2nd Vice President  
Evelyn Bernique, District #1  
Barb Scott-Cole, District #2  
Linda Bogart, District #3  
Garry Milne, District #5  
Michael Philpott, District #6  
Doug Yeo, District #8  
Wayne Pfeffer, District #10  
Michelle Evanitski, District #13  
Lorraine LaForest, District #14  
Leonard Riopel, District #14

## OAAS JUDGING SCHOOLS STILL TO COME ....

District # 11 ~ June 13, Huntsville, Culinary Arts

District #12 ~ May 31, Iron Bridge, Safe Food Handling

**The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF)** is releasing the details of its new Investment Strategy this spring, hosting information sessions to offer you an opportunity to learn more about the changes to our application process.

These sessions will include an in-depth overview of the new strategy and time for questions.

We encourage you to prepare for the session, by visiting [www.otf.ca](http://www.otf.ca) to familiarize yourself with How We Fund and What We Fund.

**Woodstock, May 11**, 1-3pm at Goff Hall, Community Complex, 381 Finkle St  
**St. Thomas, May 14**, 1-3pm at Canada Southern Railway Station, 750 Talbot St  
**London, May 25**, 1-3pm at Hellenic Community Centre, 133 Southdale Rd W

**CONTACT THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION FOR INFORMATION SESSION IN YOUR AREA**

***Free on-line  
learning  
opportunity for  
organizations***

# Strategic Planning Train-the-Trainer Program

Organizations are invited to participate in a new program. Participants will learn how to facilitate the strategic planning process with their groups. We encourage several people from each organization to participate in the training.



## **Session 1 - Thursday, April 30**

- Preparation for Strategic Planning

## **Session 2 - Thursday, May 21**

- Develop a Vision and Mission

## **Session 3 - Thursday, June 18**

- Collect and Analyze Information
- Develop Goals

## **Session 4 - Thursday, July 9**

- Develop Action Plans
- Implement and Monitor

**“Homework”** - After each training session, volunteers will be able to facilitate the strategic planning process with their group.

- All sessions start at 7 pm EST.
- Sessions will be done by webex (computer) and teleconference.
- Training sessions will be approximately 2.5 hours.
- The training sessions are FREE.

**For further information and to register, contact:**

Helen Scutt, OMAFRA  
Agriculture Organization Specialist  
[helen.scutt@ontario.ca](mailto:helen.scutt@ontario.ca)  
1-888-466-2372 x 519-826-3115

These training sessions will be using OMAFRA's new  
**“Introduction to Strategic Planning Resource Manual”**  
Download the Resource Manual: <http://ontario.ca/b77p>

A Collaborative Project between Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies and  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs



Presented by  
The Co-operators

# Risk Management Webex

## Topic: The Importance of Waivers

Date: May 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm-7:15pm

Please register for the webex by emailing: [lori\\_lapalm@cooperators.ca](mailto:lori_lapalm@cooperators.ca)

Those registered will receive login information and a toll free number to call into via email. Organizations are free to just call in and listen to the presentation without logging online.

## Convention Survey Comments

- **Offer coffee throughout the convention:** The OAAS contacted the Food Services at the hotel, coffee for 700 people would be approximately \$3500 + tax & gratuities. To add muffins add another \$3300 + tax & gratuities. For one coffee break, convention registration rate would increase by \$10 per person, for one coffee break. (or you can walk 5 minutes and spend \$3.00)
- **The seating offered on Thursday & Friday Evening was awful:** Thank you for the feedback, we completely understand. The venue location for Thursday and Friday evening were moved to Concert Hall to accommodate the overwhelming successful growing tradeshow. Looking forward to 2016, OAAS has already met with production crew to improve sound quality and room layout will be updated to accommodate more delegates comfortably.
- **The convention needs to move:** The OAAS hears this comments every year. "It's easier said than done." The OAAS convention occupies 450 rooms per night (under one roof). Also required ALL AT THE SAME TIME: 8 seminar rooms at one time (occupy approx 80 ppl/room), tradeshow (80 booths), large craft room, have evening program room setup, Silent Auction room. The Fairmont Royal York offers an extremely feasible rate for the seminar rooms, but only if the guest room block is filled. The numerous nearby food vendors is very key, as many are within a few blocks of the hotel and overall can accommodate the 700+ convention delegates.
- **Annual General Meeting should be on Friday/AGM speakers got short-changed:** The comments regarding the new convention schedule with the AGM on the Saturday received mixed comments. However the OAAS feels for the one-day delegates to receive the most "bang for their buck", we would offer two more seminars and additional time to view the tradeshow, craft room and Family Entertainment Showcase. For fair members who have work conflicts, a Saturday AGM provided another opportunity to attend the AGM.

In regards to the keynote speaker at the AGM, the OAAS is thrilled to confirm that **Dan Needles** has agreed to be the kick off speaker for the 2016 Convention, Friday morning and therefore the AGM will be strictly business in 2016.

**THANK YOU TO 196 DELEGATES FOR COMPLETING THE CONVENTION SURVEY .... THE OAAS IS LISTENING.**



**Avian Influenza Advisory for Small Flock Owners and Bird Fanciers**

On April 8, 2015, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed the presence of a highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza virus at a turkey farm near Woodstock, Ontario. Avian influenza (AI) can infect domesticated and wild birds, including chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quails, ducks, geese, pigeons, psittacines and guinea fowl. A highly pathogenic virus, as opposed to a low pathogenic virus, can cause severe illness and death in domestic birds. Some of the bird species may not be affected to this extent but will be able to infect other species. Birds become infected when they have direct contact with the secretions or feces of infected birds, or with contaminated surfaces or infected food and water supplies.

People who raise small flocks or game birds for personal or limited commercial purposes should be aware of the risk to their birds from diseases such as avian influenza. During an avian influenza outbreak, attending poultry events can increase the risk of spreading diseases. Diseases are most often transmitted from one infected flock to another flock by infected birds, and contaminated people or equipment. Moving infected birds can result in transferring AI virus to a new location. If infected birds are moved through an auction, or “swap meet”, then the AI virus can be transferred to multiple new locations. Birds that appear to be healthy can be infected and can transmit AI to other birds before exhibiting any signs of disease themselves.

Birds with outdoor access should not share areas with wild ducks, geese, or shorebirds. Make sure free-range areas do not have attractions for wild waterfowl, such as a pond or open feeders, which may become contaminated with wild waterfowl droppings.

Be very diligent in observing your birds. Monitor mortalities and track feed and water consumption. Watch for any signs of disease, such as depression, decreased feed consumption, drop in egg production, swollen wattles, sneezing, gasping, a discharge from the nose or eyes, diarrhea or sudden death.

Early detection is critical. **Should you suspect any signs of health concerns in your flock, contact your veterinarian immediately.**

**Prevention is the key.** Take the following steps:

- Avoid attending shows, sales, and swap meets during a disease outbreak.
- Do not allow people who have recently been in contact with other birds (e.g., their own or attending a bird sale or show) near your birds.
- Do not share equipment with other bird owners.
- If you add new birds to your flock, at any time, make sure that you get their complete background information, including a history of any diseases and vaccinations, and keep the vendor's contact information in the event that your birds become sick, so that they can be traced to their flock of origin.
- Keep new birds or those returning from shows separate and preferably in a different airspace (quarantined) for at least 2-4 weeks after returning home, and monitor them for signs of illness. Clean and disinfect the cages and equipment used for these birds. Use separate clothing, footwear and equipment for quarantined birds, and handle them last. If the same equipment and clothing must be used, clean and disinfect them before and after handling the birds. Wash your hands between the two groups.

Agricultural Information Contact Centre:  
1-877-424-1300  
E-mail: [ag.info.omafr@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafr@ontario.ca)  
Northern Ontario Regional Office:  
1-800-461-6132  
[www.ontario.ca/omafr](http://www.ontario.ca/omafr)