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Vol. 47, No. 12

December 2024



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Chloe Duval-Deslauriers Photo

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Trump versus John Deere: Will the threat of tariffs change the company's strategy?

By Terry Tinkess
AgriNews Staff Writer

NOW THAT THE 2024 US ELECTIONS ARE BEHIND US, MANY PEOPLE ARE WONDERING IF THE PRESIDENT ELECT WILL REALLY GO HUNTING IN THE SPRING FOR DEER. JOHN DEERE, THAT IS.

The issue popped up, and then blew up on the internet after Donald Trump, during an appearance in Pennsylvania stated that he would levy substantial tariffs on the Illinois-based company if it continued with its plan to outsource some manufacturing to Mexico, as it had previously announced.

The apparent move of manufacturing to Mexico comes while at the same time John Deere has, in 2024, laid-off approximately 2,100 workers, many of whom work in some of the companies dozens of factories in small-town America where replacement work is difficult to find.

Speaking at an event with farmers, Trump made it clear that, as he has repeatedly stated, he would use tariffs to punish companies that did not put the USA first.

"I just noticed behind me John Deere tractors," said Trump. "I know a lot about John Deere, I love the company. But as you know, they've announced a

I'm just notifying John Deere right now, if you do that, we're putting a 200 percent tariff on everything you want to sell into the United States, so that if I win, John Deere is going to be paying a 200 percent — they haven't started it yet. Maybe they haven't even made the final decision yet. But I think they have."

— President-elect of United States of America, Donald Trump

few days ago that they're going to move a lot of their manufacturing business to Mexico.

"I'm just notifying John Deere right now, if you do that, we're putting a 200 percent tariff on everything you want to sell into the United States, so that if I win, John Deere is going to be paying a 200 percent — they haven't started it yet. Maybe they haven't even made the final decision yet. But I think they have."

Trump continued weeks later during a luncheon at the Economic Club of Chicago.

"Are you ready? John Deere, great company," said Trump. "They announced about a year ago they're gonna build big plants outside of the United States. Right? They're going to build them in Mexico. ... I said, 'If John Deere builds those plants, they're not selling anything into the United States.' They just announced yesterday they're probably not going to build

the plants, OK? I kept the jobs here."

Deere responded to the claims two days later and by denying the narrative which Trump had seized upon.

"We are not moving production to Mexico as continues to be reported, instead, we've strategically leveraged our footprint in Mexico for cab production (that transition was announced in 2022 and is being completed this year) and now mid-size skid steers and CTLS — by 2026," a spokeswoman for the company said. The company added that it's had a presence in Mexico since 1952 and that 75 per cent of the equipment sold in the U.S. is made in the U.S. as well.

Whether you believe the claim that the layoffs are a result of a drop in sales, or that they were made necessary due to manufacturing being relo-

cated to Mexico, it still sounds like jobs are being lost in the US and created in Mexico. But while the company may not be doing anything illegal in the moves, it should have considered the optics, particularly during an election campaign in which the margin of victory was expected to be razor thin, especially when one of the candidates was campaigning on a platform of USA first.

Now, months later, with Donald Trump the President-elect, many wonder if he will act on the threat of a 200 per cent tariff, or if John Deere will rethink its strategy. Will he make an example of them, forcing others to fall in line, or will "The Art of the Deal" play a part.

What transpires could be a good indicator of how doing business in and with the US will develop over the next four years.

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The AgriNews is published by Etcetera Publications (Chesterville) Inc. in the first week of each month.

Publisher:
Etcetera Publications Inc.

Editor:
Linda Vogel editor@etceterapublications.ca

Staff Writers:
Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Terry Tinkess
AJ Al-Rajab
Donald R. Good

Production Manager:
Chantal Bouwers production@etceterapublications.ca

Advertising Representative:
Brenda Fawcett agrinewsads@gmail.com

P.O. Box 368, Chesterville, Ont. K0C 1H0

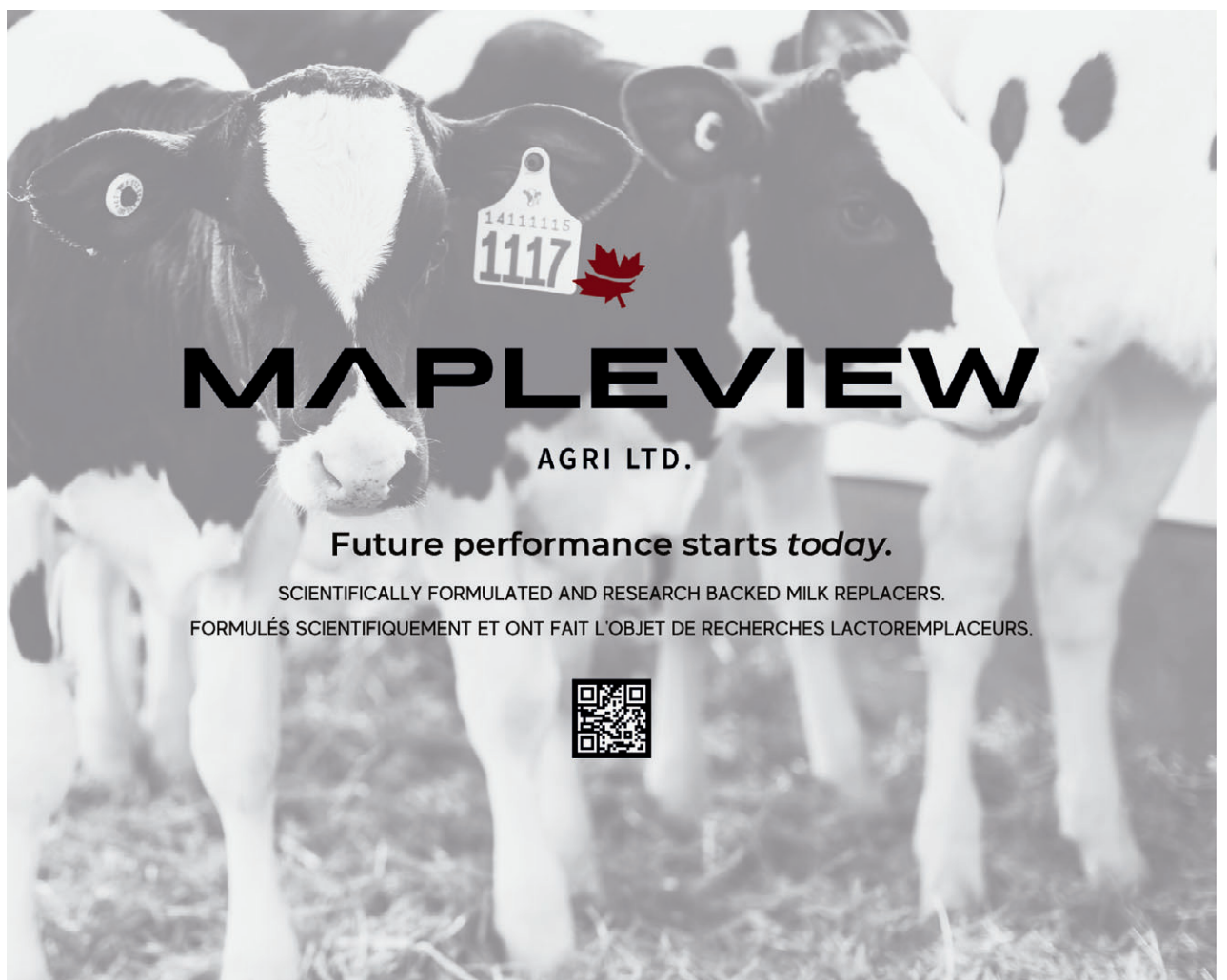
Telephone: 613-448-2321 Fax: 613-448-3260
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Annual Subscription:

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Uhr does Stormont County proud

By Carolyn Thompson Goddard
AgriNews Staff Writer

NORTH STORMONT – NADIA UHR OF CRYSLER, ONTARIO WAS THE SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP GRAND CHAMPION OF THE 2024 TD 4-H CLASSIC. SHE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF STORMONT COUNTY FOR 10 YEARS, AND MENTIONED IN A RECENT INTERVIEW THIS WAS HER FIFTH YEAR FOR COMPETING IN THE TD 4-H CLASSIC.

This event, considered to be one of Canada's top youth dairy shows, continues to be an important part of the 2024 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) which was held between Nov. 1 and 10 of this year. The showmanship division was held on Nov. 4, with the confirmation division held on Nov. 5.

Uhr explained how the showmanship competition involves the handler being judged on "how you present your animal", with the confirmation competition "based on how well your animal meets certain physical standards."

"Competing at the Royal is a magical feeling as the atmosphere is second to none. I think it's really because of being in such a big city and the fact that you are alongside people that share the same goals and passion as you do, who have all travelled from different parts of Ontario through Quebec, and also the East coast," said Uhr. She noted how her favourite part about competing in the TD 4-H Classic and the RAWF is "working alongside my team, family and friends" continuing how "everyone there has the same passion and love for the industry, so it makes for an exciting competition."

She explained how Homeridge Webcam Buttons 2, the Jersey calf shown in the

competition by Uhr, was born in September and bred by Daybreak Farm in Richmond, Quebec. After purchasing a share of Buttons this spring during the Glenholme Tag Sale, long-time friend Steven Morin who bred the calf "decided to stay in on the other half as a partner" and they own her together. She noted how Buttons won her confirmation class on Nov. 5 "which was the cherry on top of an unforgettable Royal."

Competing at the TD 4-H Classic is more than a one-day event explained Uhr. She mentioned that every day this past summer she "spent time training Buttons to ensure she was ready". When she returned to Durham College to continue her full-time studies there, she made the trip home on numerous occasions to work with Buttons.

To be eligible to compete in the 4-H TD Classic one has to qualify to attend the event, which Uhr mentioned occurred at the club's achievement day which occurs at Stormont County Fair. Once you are qualified, planning begins for attending and competing in the three-day event. While the competitions begin with Showmanship on the Monday and Confirmation on Tuesday, the Sunday is move in day with priority given to settling themselves and the animals in the new area.

"I'd like to thank my parents Chris and Bobbi-Jo for their endless guidance and support through this whole journey. I'd also like to thank everyone who helped get my heifer out looking her best, my siblings, mentors, friends, chaperons, and team who have supported me through it all, they all helped make it an unforgettable Royal." commented Uhr and mentioned the importance of having big dreams, working hard to achieve them and never give up!



Nadia Uhr and Homeridge Webcam Buttons 2 are shown following the competition in which Nadia Uhr was named Senior Showmanship Champion.

Photo Credit: Ella Wright for Cowsmopolitan, Inc.

Showmanship results – TD 4H Classic at the Royal Winter Fair

Information from Assist Expo

Junior Showmanship (12-14 years of age)

Junior Showmanship Champion
McKenzie Howard, Burgessville, Ontario, Hodglynn Actionman Harissa
Reserve Junior Showmanship Champion
Emily Smygwyat, Russell, Ontario, Kingsway Warrior Lookout

Intermediate Showmanship (15-17 years of age)

Intermediate Showmanship Champion
Carson Phoenix, Sunderland, Ontario, Kawartha Master Violet
Reserve Intermediate Showmanship Champion
Nathan Wilker, Hickson, Ontario, Royhaven Warrior Favour

Senior Showmanship (18-21 years of age)

Senior Showmanship Champion
Nadia Uhr, Crysler Ontario, Homeridge Webcam Buttons 2
Reserve Senior Showmanship Champion
Vanessa Birt, Mallorytown, Ontario, Kawartha Canadian Jayla

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The Editorial Page

The AgriNews is dedicated to covering and promoting agriculture, one of Eastern Ontario's most important economic sectors.

The power of perspective in a divided world

In our increasingly interconnected yet deeply fragmented world, it is important to pause and consider the perspectives of others. It is, however, something most of us do far too infrequently. This exercise, though simple in concept, can greatly impact how we see the world. Too often, we view the world through a lens shaped by our own experiences, values, and priorities, forgetting that these are not universal. What matters deeply to one person may be irrelevant to another, but these differences should not divide us. Instead, they should foster understanding, empathy, and collaboration. Build on what we have in common rather than magnifying our differing opinions.

In Canada, we pride ourselves on being a diverse, inclusive nation. But even within our borders, cultural, geographical, and ideological divides persist. Someone in downtown Toronto may view environmental policy through the lens of urban pollution and sustainability, while a farmer in rural Alberta might focus on how those same policies impact crop yields or livestock management. Neither perspective is wrong—they're simply different and fail to consider opinions other than their own.

The challenge arises when one perspective is framed as the "right" one, dismissing or marginalizing others. In doing so, we fail to acknowledge the complexity of human experience. We also ignore, sometimes wilfully that the world is not as simple as we would like it to be, or as simple as we remember it being.

Understanding someone else's perspective doesn't mean agreeing with them. It means recognizing their experiences and values as valid, even when they conflict

with our own. This act of acknowledgment is not just a gesture of kindness; it's a bridge to better communication and problem-solving. I repeat: You do not have to give up your beliefs if you acknowledge someone else's right to theirs.

Farmers, often through necessity are some of the most practical people on the face of the planet. The problems they face are often common ones, affecting the many rather than the few, regardless of the opinion or beliefs of the person holding them. They know that in many circumstances it is best to join together against a common enemy, understanding that while I may not agree with a lot of what you say, and I may not even particularly like you, but I know if we work together, we can fix this, so let's get it done.

I guess you might call it tolerance.

So how do we cultivate this habit of perspective-taking in our daily lives? It starts with small, intentional acts:

Listen Actively: In conversations, focus on understanding rather than responding. Ask questions that encourage others to share their thoughts and feelings.

Challenge Your Assumptions: Reflect on why you hold certain beliefs. Are they rooted in evidence, or are they shaped by biases or limited exposure?

Expose Yourself to different opinions: Seek out books, films, and media created by people with different backgrounds. Travel, when possible, or connect with communities different from your own.

Engage in Constructive Dialogue: Instead of avoiding controversial topics, approach them with curiosity. Aim to learn, not to win.

Practice Gratitude and Humility: Recognize that your viewpoint, while important, is not the only one. Be thankful for opportunities to learn from others, and encourage them to learn, positively, from you. This was never meant to be a one-way street, although some have tried to make it so. You do not have to abandon your beliefs, but you must respect that others are allowed to have theirs as well.

Perspective-taking is not a passive act. It's an ongoing commitment to understanding and valuing the humanity in others. Whether it's through community involvement, education, or simply a willingness to listen, we all have a role to play in building a more empathetic society.

As a journalist, I've been privileged to share stories that reveal the many layers of the human experience. I've interviewed people from many walks of life, the elderly who have seen their world change and young people who wonder what kind of future it holds for them. I've watched immigrants building new lives and listened to young activists fighting for change. Each story reminds me of the power of perspective, not just as a storytelling tool but also to foster connection.

In a world facing crises that demand collective action, our ability to understand and empathize with one another is more crucial than ever. We cannot afford to silo ourselves into echo chambers where only our priorities matter and confirmation bias is the golden rule. The challenges we face require the collaboration of diverse minds, each bringing their unique insights to the table.

When we take the time to see the world through someone else's eyes, we gain more than understanding. We gain solutions. We gain unity. And most importantly, we gain the ability to move forward together, respecting the truth that while our experiences may differ, and our opinions may be diverse, our humanity is shared.

Terry Tinkess

Editorial

Bitter sweet

Every season has its pros and cons but this time of year sure seems to allow things to build and compound. Whether it is the emotions, bills, or your credit card balance things are definitely rising.

The thrill of the start of the year, goals set to achieve, things to change and improve but this time of year is when reality sets in and whatever has been accomplished is checked off of the to do list and those things not achieved are reflected upon.

Crops are off so the talk can start but unless the crop is sold and the cash in the bank or the feed is in the storage facility, there is no denying the end result. For some areas, the bragging has begun and the best yields seen in years were achieved, yet for some, the yields were lower and not so impressive.

That sets us into the next years planning.

Christmas is a time for family and friends, the opportunity to spend time together and hopefully include a few laughs.

As times get tougher, this is not a reality, for many people this year. Cutting back on spending as the basic necessities are just simply costing more.

We are definitely seeing a change in the conversation around how much is being spent on gifts and novelties vs the rising cost of basic living.

The demand for the foodbanks and angel trees is growing.

The Canada Post strike has definitely affected these groups. There marketing materials caught in the mail system to be delivered whenever the strike might end. This is little or no relief for those organizations who are struggling to meet the demand already.

As we settle in for a long winters nap...oops, I got side tracked. As we bring 2024 to a close, I wish each and everyone one of you an opportunity to share the holiday period with family and/or friends and to have the opportunity to appreciate all that life has to offer.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to possibly curl up on the couch and watch some movies or just catch up with some friends. So, as I pour myself that rye and gingerale, cheers to 2025! May it bring renewed hope and opportunities!

Linda Vogel



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OFA recognizes five young agricultural leaders at annual convention

By Terry Tinkess
AgriNews Staff Writer

TORONTO – FIVE YOUNG PEOPLE PURSUING CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE HAVE EACH WON A BURSARY OF \$2,000 FROM THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE (OFA). THE UNDERGRADUATE, POSTGRADUATE AND APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS WERE PRESENTED AT THE OFA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN TORONTO ON NOV. 26, 2024.

"This year's recipients are passionate about agriculture, dedicated to their communities, and determined to build strong futures for themselves, their families, and the industry," said Drew Spoelstra, President of the OFA. "It's crucial to recognize the emerging talent entering the agricultural sector, and we're proud to support these young individuals as they embark on their careers. Through these bursaries, we celebrate their potential and look forward to helping them achieve their goals and contribute to the growth of our industry."

The bursary program is open to applicants who live in Ontario, and are OFA members, or the child or employee of an OFA member. Applications are judged based on demonstrated leadership skills, involvement in the community, and varied accomplishments in both school and the agriculture industry. Bursaries were presented in the following categories:

Postgraduate Bursary Winner – Alaina MacDonald, Clifford (Wellington County)

Alaina MacDonald is a veterinarian and PhD candidate in Population Medicine at the University of Guelph, focusing on One Health- exploring the links between human, animal, and environmental health. With a background in veterinary training and research on emerging diseases at the livestock-wildlife-human interface, Alaina has contributed to multiple international conferences and publications. She has also volunteered in Uganda and Tanzania, strengthening her commitment to global agriculture and public health. Alaina remains active in her rural community through 4-H and zoonotic disease education, with aspirations to make significant contributions to global health and veterinary medicine.

Apprenticeship Bursary Winner – Bobby Robinson, Finch (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Counties)

Bobby Robinson is a young farmer with a passion for agriculture and community involvement. After completing his



It is always nice to recognize the accomplishments of the next generation of agricultural leaders. Pictured from left to right: Zone 6 Director Crispin Colvin, Zone 14 Director Vanessa Renaud, Zone 9 Director Mark Reusser, bursary winners Mary Brander, Bobby Robinson, Kyla Lewis, and Alaina MacDonald at the OFA Annual General Meeting in Toronto on Nov. 26, 2024. (Absent from the photo: Kaylee Wells.)

Photo Courtesy of the OFA

Red Seal Agricultural Specialist High Skills major, Bobby enrolled in the Dairy Herdperson Apprenticeship program at Ridgetown College. He runs Baler Bob Custom Work, a custom baling business he founded that serves local farmers. Bobby is also active in 4-H Ontario and local agricultural societies, with a goal to take over the family farm and continue mentoring the next generation of farmers.

Undergraduate Bursary Winner – Kaylee Wells, Jasper (Leeds and Greenville Counties)

Kaylee Wells is a student in the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture program at the University of Guelph, focusing on the beef industry and Hereford cattle. Raised on a Hereford farm, she owns her own herd and is active in the university's Beef and Dairy Clubs. A dedicated 4-H member and Junior 4-H Leader, Kaylee aims to improve

beef cattle efficiency through her research in genetics and nutrition and share her findings with global producers.

Undergrad Bursary Winner – Mary Brander, Rockwood (Wellington County)

Mary Brander is in her second year of a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at the University of Guelph, majoring in Animal Science. Growing up on a family farm and participating in 4-H, she is passionate about animal health, particularly in large animal veterinary care. Mary has gained practical experience through co-op work placements and aims to prevent and treat diseases in food animals. She is also deeply involved in community service, including 4-H leadership and charity work, and is committed to advancing the agricultural industry and animal health.

Undergraduate Bursary Winner – Kyla Lewis, Dorchester (Thames Centre)

Kyla Lewis is a fourth-year Animal Biology student at the University of Guelph with a focus on dairy nutrition. With over 10 years of experience in the dairy industry, Kyla plans to pursue a master's degree in animal nutrition to become a dairy nutritionist. She has excelled academically, receiving multiple scholarships and awards, and is highly involved in 4-H leadership, agricultural clubs, and event organization. Kyla aims to help dairy farmers optimize herd nutrition and promote sustainable farming practices.

Funds raised at the silent auction held at this year's AGM will go toward OFA's 2025 Bursary Program. Generous donations from federations, individuals, businesses help make programs like these possible every year. OFA invites students to look for announcements regarding applications in late spring.

An extensive list of available scholarships and bursaries for all post-secondary students interested in pursuing a career in the agriculture industry can be found on the OFA website.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, representing 38,000 farm families across the province and serving as the leading advocate and strongest voice of Ontario's farmers. As a dynamic farmer-led organization based in Guelph, the OFA represents and champions the interests of Ontario farmers through government relations, farm policy recommendations, research, lobby efforts, community representation, media relations and more.

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Russell County 4-H celebrates their achievements

By Carolyn Thompson Goddard
AgriNews Staff Writer

RUSSELL – THE 2024 AWARDS BANQUET FOR THE RUSSELL COUNTY 4-H CLUB WAS HELD ON SAT., NOV. 23 AT THE NATION SPORTS COMPLEX IN LIMOGES. LEADERS, MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AS WELL AS SPECIAL GUESTS ATTENDED THE EVENT WHICH FEATURED A POTLUCK MEAL, AWARDS CEREMONIES AS WELL AS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SOCIALIZE.

Lindsay Berry, 4-H Ontario Region 2 Volunteer Support Coordinator, brought greetings from the organization and expressed her thanks to the leaders and the 4-H members. During a conversation with The Record, Berry explained how events like this are important as it showcases the work and opportunities available to the membership as well as informing the public on its role in the community.

The keynote speaker was local veterinarian Dr. Dave Douglas who has volunteered with Veterinarians Without Borders North America, an organization in Canada and the United States of America. This organization is part of VWB/VSF International which is dedicated to work

aimed at delivering veterinary services as well as support in over 30 countries. Douglas explained VWB North America provides support in the Canadian North as well as three African countries. He provided a slideshow of his experiences in Kenya while providing interesting information on farming practices in that country.

Following this presentation, the awards segment of the event commenced, with Eileen Blenkam receiving a 10-year Volunteer Seal, Lois James receiving her 20-year volunteer Seal and special recognition given to Elizabeth O’Gorman Smit for her many years of volunteer work with the organization as she retires.

Emily Smygwaty and Tobias Oeschger each received a seal for completing six projects, with 13 new members receiving a plaque and certificate. There were several club overviews presented during the afternoon, including those from the Christmas Craft Club, Baking Club, and the Calf Club with presentations to the club “Most Enthusiastic Member” made to Julia Chin Yuen Kee, Hollyn VanMunsteren and Zavié Guindon respectively. Calf Club members participated in several



Lindsay Berry, 4-H Ontario Volunteer Coordinator for Region 2, joined leaders and members of Russell County 4-H following the organizations 2024 Awards Banquet held on Nov. 23 in Limoges Ontario. Thompson Goddard Photo

shows including the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic at The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, the East Gen Showcase, the Regional Show at Metcalfe Fair and held their Achievement Day at the Navan Fair. A Judging Day was held at Cecilbay Farms, operated by the McFaden Family.

Vicki Brisson noted how the 2025 Go for the Gold competition will be held in Russell, explaining each county 4-H organization can enter a four-member team into the competition. The team will answer questions, the answers to which can be found in the different 4-H manuals and then held a simulated test for several Russell County 4-H members participating.

Hailey Smygwaty received the 2024 Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association

Scholarship. Russell County 4-H Special Awards were presented to Tanya Régimbald (Youth Leader), Cali Olive (Outstanding Agricultural Member), Tobias Oeschger (Soil & Crop Award), with Régimbald also receiving the Spirit of 4-H Award. The Jack James Memorial Leadership Award was presented to Shamus Williams by Lois James.

Tanya Régimbald, who completed 46 projects, was honoured as this past year was her final year in Russell County 4-H. She told The Record she joined 4-H in 2012 and explained how the organization has helped to develop friendships, skill development and enabled her to develop knowledge of agricultural practices as well as a network of like-minded people. Régimbald con-

tinued she has studied farm management at college and is currently working on her family farm in Sarsfield, Ontario.

Her words echoed Russell County 4-H president Darcy Newman who mentioned 4-H provides its members with development in leadership and other skills will be useful in their futures. He explained that the leaders are there to guide and facilitate the members in developing both their personal and agricultural skill sets.

For those who would like to receive more information on either volunteering with or joining Russell County 4-H, it is suggested to contact Eileen Blenkam, Russell County leader, vice-president and membership chair at eileen.blenkam@rogers.com.

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Tax break and rebate cheques welcomed by some, but not all Canadians

By Terry Tinkess
AgriNews Staff Writer

OTTAWA – ON NOV. 21, PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU, ACCOMPANIED BY CHRYSTIA FREE-LAND, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE ANNOUNCED THAT STARTING DEC. 14, 2024, THERE WOULD BE A TEMPORARY GST/HST EXEMPTION ACROSS CANADA ON SPECIFIC ITEMS, SUCH AS

- Prepared foods, including vegetable trays, pre-made meals and salads, and sandwiches.
- Restaurant meals, whether dine-in, takeout, or delivery.
- Snacks, including chips, candy, and granola bars.
- Beer, wine, cider, and pre-mixed alcoholic beverages below 7 per cent ABV.
- Children's clothing and footwear, car seats, and diapers.
- Children's toys, such as board games, dolls, and video game consoles.
- Books, print newspapers, and puzzles for all ages.
- Christmas trees.

The tax break is projected to last until Feb. 15, 2025.

In addition, working Canadians will also receive a new Working Canadians Rebate. This would apply to Canadians who worked in 2023 and earned up to \$150,000. The rebate will be in the amount of \$250 and it is expected to be received in the early spring of 2025. It is projected that 18.7 million Canadians will receive the rebate.

"Our government can't set prices, but we can give Canadians, and especially working Canadians, more money back in their pocket," said Prime Minister Trudeau in making the announcement. "With a tax break for all Cana-

dians and the Working Canadians Rebate, we're making sure you can buy the things you need and save for the things you want."

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Freeland echoed these sentiments, acknowledging that the holiday season puts additional strain on household budgets.

"The holiday season is when expenses are highest for many Canadians and their families even with inflation back down to 2 per cent and interest rates being cut four times this year," said Minister Freeland. "With new tax relief on groceries and seasonal expenses and a rebate for working Canadians, we are reducing costs when they are highest for Canadians. This is about helping you celebrate with family and friends and start 2025 with a little extra money in your bank account."

Additional information will become available as the information is digested, but this much is known:

- The GST/HST would be fully relieved on the supply or importation of qualifying goods for a period beginning on Dec. 14, 2024, and ending on Feb. 15, 2025. A list of qualifying goods is available below.

• Canadians who have claimed tax credits for Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan contributions or for Employment Insurance (EI) or Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) premiums, and those who reported income from EI or QPIP benefits, with individual net income below \$150,000 in 2023, would be eligible for the Working Canadians Rebate. Eligible Canadians would begin receiving the payments starting in spring

2025. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the news during a morning news conference, promising relief to Canadians still dealing with cost-of-living concerns. The tax break, which still needs approval in the House of Commons, will last for two months.

CBC News reported that based on information received from a Finance official that the tax holiday is expected to cost the federal treasury an estimated \$1.6 billion in foregone revenue. The \$250 cheques will cost about \$4.68 billion.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre described the Prime Minister's tax measures as "a trick" because it's only temporary relief before the government goes ahead with a permanent carbon tax hike that is scheduled to take effect in the spring.

"That's the misery you get with massive socialist money-printing and what I'm proposing is a common sense alternative," said Poilievre, while pushing his plan to scrap the carbon tax and the GST on new home sales.

Poilievre would not say how Conservative MPs would vote on the proposal, adding he needs to see the details.

Following the Trudeau's announcement, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh said his party will support the affordability measures in Parliament.

"We want to see this bill passed as quickly as possible," said Singh. "We know middle class families need a break. We're not going to oppose getting people some help."

Singh added the NDP will work with the Liberals to temporarily lift the logjam in Parliament to get the bill passed in a single day before then allowing

an ongoing filibuster to resume.

For the past six weeks, Parliament has been held at a stand-still by a standoff over documents related to a federal green technology program.

Outside of Parliament, not everyone is happy with the announcement either. Those who will not receive the Working Canadians Rebate, which includes many seniors voice their displeasure at being left out, stating that \$250 would make more of a difference to someone on a fixed income than it would

to someone earning \$150,000.

Small business, who will have the unenviable job of updating point of sale software to remove the tax from hundreds if not thousands of individual items, only to have to replace it two months later lamented the amount of admin work that would involve for a relatively small gain to the consumer. Others considered the consequence of having paid the tax when purchasing merchandise for resale and now not being able to have an opportu-

nity to recover it through the sale of taxable merchandise.

With the amount of dissent the Prime Minister is feeling from some within his own party, the passing of the legislation to make this short-term tax break and rebate happen is not guaranteed. Parliament resumed sitting on Mon., Nov. 25. If the legislation is passed, it will mean a late night for small business on Fri., Dec. 13, as they update their software to reflect the changes promised for Sat., Dec. 14.

Continued on page 8

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Community meeting to address updates to noise bylaw

By Carolyn Thompson Goddard
AgriNews Staff Writer

LONG SAULT – OVER 350 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE AFTERNOON PUBLIC CONSULTATION, AND A SIMILAR NUMBER IN THE EVENING MEETING WHICH WAS HELD ON NOV. 15 IN THE SOUTH STORMONT. MAYOR BRYAN MCGILLIS, SOUTH STORMONT DEPUTY MAYOR ANDREW GUINDON AND SOUTH STORMONT COUNCILLOR REID MCINTYRE ATTENDED THE SESSIONS AS DID SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL STAFF.

During the afternoon meeting, McGillis welcomed those attending and explained the proposed by-law is still under initial review and the meetings were planned to provide residents an opportunity to

voice their opinions on it. He noted that there are sections of the proposed by-law which appear to not be workable for a rural community. He was followed by SS Director of Corporate Services and Chief Clerk Loriann Harbers who provided background information on the proposed by-law.

Harbers explaining that the present by-law in force was adopted in 2016 and is similar to those in other local municipalities in SDG, with staff being requested in the latesummer of 2024 to draft a new by-law. She mentioned that the municipal governments are responsible to ensure that by-laws remain current as well as that other by-laws have been reviewed and updated.

The draft by-law was presented to council during the Oct. 9 meeting and afterwards was to be shared on several platforms on the municipal website, in the Seaway News as well as in emails sent out to those who have indicated they wish to receive notifications from the municipality.

“We really do want to hear what the public has to say!” commented Harbers, noting among the opportunities presented to the public to voice their concerns includes the two public meetings on Nov. 14 and a survey provided to residents regarding the draft by-law changes.

SS Deputy Mayor Guindon then prepared to take questions from those attending the event. He noted, as did other speakers, that this

was a draft by-law and that no decision had been made and the municipality is seeking and collecting information from stakeholders.

Throughout the event there were numerous questions and statements on this matter, with several pertaining to the Cornwall Hand Gun Club (CHGC) and the effect this by-law could have on its operation. Guindon commented on a few occasions that there is a need for all stakeholders to work together to find a reasonable and commonsense solution, noting there were some technical issues which would have to be resolved. There were concerns raised about why it had taken so long to consider an exception regarding the club and the

discharging of firearms at its firing range, with many people commenting on the longevity and need for the CHGC during the meeting. A discussion surrounding the decibel level of guns being fired was discussed, with a request for all the results of a decibel test undertaken at the club be made

available to the public. Following the question and answer period, people attending the meeting were able to speak with municipal staff and council members as well as provide comments by placing a sticker on the storyboards or on sheets provided for that purpose.

Tax break and rebate cheques

Continued from page 7

Here is a full list of items which will be included in the tax break:

Food and beverages

- Alcoholic beverages, but only wine, beer, ciders and spirit coolers up to seven per cent alcohol by volume.
- Candies, including candy floss, chewing gum, and chocolate, as well as fruits, seeds, nuts or popcorn coated or treated with candy, chocolate, honey, molasses, sugar, syrup or artificial sweeteners
- Salty snacks including chips, crisps, puffs, curls, sticks, popcorn, brittle pretzels and salted nuts or seeds

- Granola products and snack mixtures that contain cereals, nuts, seeds, dried fruit or other edible products

- Popsicles, juice bars, ice waters, ice cream, ice milk, sherbet, frozen yogurt or frozen pudding, including non-dairy substitutes

- Fruit bars, rolls or drops or similar fruit-based snack foods
- Cakes, muffins, pies, pastries, tarts, cookies, doughnuts, brownies and croissants with sweetened filling or coating
- Pudding, including flavoured gelatine, mousse, flavoured whipped dessert product or any other products similar to pudding
- Prepared salads, sandwiches, platters of cheese, cold cuts, fruit or vegetables and other arrangements of prepared food

- Food or beverages heated for consumption, beverages dispensed at the place where they are sold and those bought as part of a catering service

Kids' stuff and games


- Children's clothing, including garments up to girls' size 16 or boys' size 20, baby bibs, socks, hosiery, hats, mittens and gloves, scarves and shoes
- Children's diapers
- Children's car seats
- Children's toys, designed for kids under 14, and jigsaw puzzles
- Video-game consoles, controllers and physical editions of video-games
- Literature and trees
- Print newspapers
- Printed books and audiobooks
- Christmas trees



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E11300	B	Ezee On	1225	10' Offset Disc, 10.5" spacing, 26" blade	\$26,500	\$23,500
E11200	B	Rockomatic	57	Pto powered Rock picker	\$8,600	\$7,800
E10919	B	John Deere		20, Disc harrow, tandem axle, hyd fold	\$8,400	\$7,150
88778	B	New Holland	575	Square baler, hyd tension, thrower	\$14,900	\$9,900
E09428	B	Kubota	BV5160	4'x5' Variable Chamber Round Baler	\$54,500	\$49,000
E09142	B	Case	DCX131	Discbine, 13' Center pivot, rubber roll	\$16,900	\$14,500
E11081	T	Farm King	RSB7HFK	Sickle mower, 7' hydraulic lift, 3point	\$5,750	\$4,000
E09283	T	JBM	8.5-24	Hay Rack mesh floor on 8 ton wagon	\$5,900	\$5,200
E08539	B	Great Plains	EWD13	13' End wheel seed drill, dbl disc	\$14,900	\$11,000
E09892	B	John Deere	5065E	4wd, open platform, loader	\$36,500	\$32,400
E10925	B	Kubota	BX2350	23hp Compact, 4wd, 50" front blower	\$13,950	\$12,250
E11388	T	Kubota	L5740HSTC	57 hp 4wd Tractor, Cab, Turf tires	\$25,500	\$22,500
E10812	B	Massey	275	74 Pto hp, twd, loader and cab	\$14,900	\$12,200
E09777	B	New Holland	TM115	92 Pto hp, 4wd, Cab, powershift	\$54,900	\$49,500
E08462	T	Load Max		8 ton deck over Equipment Float	\$18,500	\$11,500
E09773	T	Raboud		11 Ton Log trailer with 6.75m grapple	\$37,000	\$29,000
E08954	T	Normand	N98-342HTR	98" dbl auger, rotating drum, ice auger	\$19,000	\$14,750



BARGAIN CORNER

UNIT	STORE	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	WAS	SALE	UNIT	STORE	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	WAS	SALE
e10920	B	Massey	9	Square Baler with thrower	\$1,900	\$1,325	E02386	T	Metal Pless	Agrimax	10'-16' Snowblade with live edge	\$17,000	\$9,900
E09316	B	New Holland	664	Round Baler 5x6	\$8,900	\$5,900	89973	T	Grattex	610	Expandable Snow pusher 6'-10'	\$2,500	\$1,250
E07719	B	Case IH		8' Vibrashank cultivator, 3pth	\$1,575	\$900	E10354	B	Landpride	RB1584	84" grading blade, Cat 1, manual angle	\$1,175	\$750
E07219	B	Case IH	8309	9'3" cut disc mower conditioner	\$12,500	\$3,650	E10071	B	Kubota	F2560	Cab with heater, mount for F2560, F3060	\$2,950	\$1,500
E10685	B	Newholland	676	Manure Spreader, tandem, 305 bushel	\$6,250	\$4,450	E07184	T	Stol	FZ60.1	Loader boom only, self level, 3rd funct	\$5,900	\$3,650



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Police across Ontario kick-off Festive R.I.D.E. campaign

By Terry Tinkess
AgriNews Staff Writer

EAST REGION – ON NOV. 21, THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE (OPP) KICKED-OFF THE PROVINCIAL FESTIVE R.I.D.E. (REDUCE IMPAIRED DRIVING EVERYWHERE) CAMPAIGN, WHICH WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY POLICE SERVICES ACROSS ONTARIO DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN PROMOTES TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT THE MANY DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH ALCOHOL AND DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVING. THE EVENT, WHICH WAS HELD IN OAKVILLE, ONTARIO, INCLUDED POLICE SERVICES AND CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS DEDICATED TO PROMOTING SAFE DRIVING THROUGHOUT ONTARIO THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs continues to be the leading contributing factor in serious road collisions in Canada. Police services and their community partners are urging drivers not to drive if they have consumed drugs or alcohol that might impair their ability to safely operate a vehicle.

"Everyone deserves to reach their destination safely and celebrate the holidays with their loved ones. That is why our government continues to crack down on those who drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs," pointed out Prabmeet Sarkaria, Ontario's Minister of Transportation. "Earlier this year, our government introduced the Safer Roads and Communities Act, 2024. If passed, the legislation would introduce a lifetime licence suspension for anyone convicted of impaired driving causing death and establish a time-limited zero-tolerance condition for all convicted impaired drivers.

There is no excuse for alcohol or drug-impaired driving under any circumstances."

Officers across the East Region will have an increased visibility while participating in the 2024-25 Festive Ride Campaign. Starting Nov. 21, 2024, and continuing until Jan. 1, 2025, members in all detachments will focus on conducting R.I.D.E. checks during the upcoming Holiday Season.

Impaired Driving is a leading cause of collisions on our highways, and a threat to public safety in our communities. There are many options to avoid driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs: take a taxi, call a friend, stay over, or have a designated sober driver.

Quick facts:

- In Ontario, one in three roadway fatalities involves impaired driving.
- A 2022 roadside survey found that one in five drivers tested positive for drugs, alcohol, or both.
- The percentage of drivers killed while under the influence of cannabis more than doubled between 2012 and 2020.

R.I.D.E. programs remain an important part of road safety as they are a visible reminder to motorists to not drive impaired. All young drivers, novice drivers and commercial drivers are required by law to have zero presence of alcohol and/or drugs in their system while driving.

Road safety is a collective responsibility. As such, we encourage community members to commit to:

- Planning and arranging for a designated driver or public transportation
- Offering a sober ride to a friend who has been drinking or consuming drugs
- Calling 9-1-1 to report suspected impaired drivers
- Enjoying responsibly



"We all have a role to play in keeping people safe on Ontario's roads," said Thomas Carrique, Ontario's Provincial Police Commissioner. "Your actions, com-

bined with robust impaired driving enforcement on the part of the OPP and its valued policing partners, can go a long way towards saving lives."


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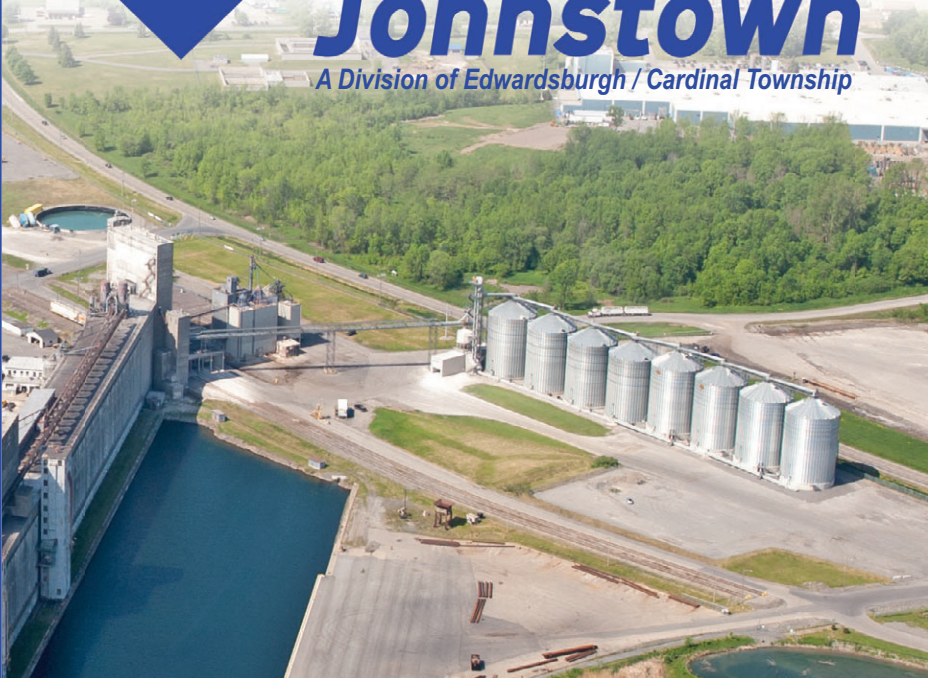


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Dare to be Vulnerable Project returns to Stanley's Olde Maple Lane Farm

By Terry Tinkess
AgriNews Staff Writer

EDWARDS – JUST UNDER A YEAR AGO, STANLEY'S OLDE MAPLE LANE FARM IN EDWARDS WAS THE SETTING WHEN THE DARE TO BE VULNERABLE PROJECT SPENT AN EVENING TRYING TO CREATE A SAFE SPACE TO SHINE A LIGHT ON SOME OF THE MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES FACED BY CANADIAN FARMERS.

On Wed., Nov. 20, Stanley's, for the second year in a row, provided a safe place for some "Courageous Conversations with our Rural Communities" led again by Susan Blain, founder of the Dare to be Vulnerable Project.

In many ways the evening had a feeling of déjà vu about it. It was in the same location, two days short of a year later, and with many of the same volunteers and speakers who had been present in November 2023. That wasn't a problem though; some messages need to be repeated again, and again, being reinforced for some while reaching others for the first time.

The first speaker of the evening was Lisa McLeod, a six-term member of Ontario's Provincial Parliament, who, in 2022, spent the last two weeks of the Provincial election hospitalized and in crisis. She held onto her seat, but did not earn a spot in Premier Doug Ford's cabinet. She was eventually diagnosed as being bipolar, but on the advice of her doctor, did some research and found that with that diagnosis, she was in good company. Sir Winston Churchill, Ernest Hemingway, Frank Sinatra, and Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia from Star Wars.) She has been very open about her diagnosis, believing that in this was she can help others who may be struggling. She also looks at it as a badge of honour.

"I thought, you know what? Nothing's wrong with me," said MacLeod. "Some of the greatest leaders in their fields in the whole of history, well taken. So, I've spent a lot of time surrounding myself with other advocates, people that I can learn from, and I can understand.

That's why Susan is so important with me, and that's why her conversation here with you is so important. And thankfully, my friend Earl (Stanley), who had been a great friend of mine for the past 20 years, he wanted to connect with Susan, and she wanted to connect with him and look where we're at. Two years in a row, we're here together to talk about mental health in our rural community and with our farmers."

Blain says her goal, wherever and whenever the Dare to be Vulnerable Project presents, is to create a safe space for people to share their stories. The Dare to be Vulnerable Project was founded to help end the stigma of suffering with mental health issues. By speaking out, by having "courageous conversations" takes back control of the narrative and in the process, people discover that they are not alone, much as she discovered it herself.

Blain explained it wasn't until she had "gone through my journey," that



There were several sponsors for the Courageous Conversations event held at Stanley's Olde Maple Lane Farm this year, but the one in particular that was recognized was from the Osgoode family ball tournament in the amount of \$10,900. From left: Earl Stanley, Tracey Blanchfield, and Paul Downey, who made the announcement.

Tinkess Photo

she realized that something was wrong. "It wasn't until I started really working in mental health, I realised that I've been struggling for a long time," said Blain. "One of the messages that's most important for me is to let everybody know that we all have a mental health. It's not something inside of us. It's something that we all have."

In 2019 Blain suffered a major trauma in her life. "Through an act of betrayal, I lost everything," she said. In her 50's she found herself jobless and

homeless.

"I ended up in the hospital. Check out the day: March 11, 2020, just days before COVID struck the world. I went into the Queensway-Carleton hospital. And the reason I went into the hospital is because I was brave enough to have a courageous conversation with my best friend let her know what was going on in my thoughts."

If you talk, you might be surprised how many people are listening.

The rest of the evening consisted of people telling

their story to Blain and everyone else in attendance as a way of taking the topic out of the shadows and removing the stigma and feeling of shame that many still connect with the concept of mental illness.

The four were followed by an open mic session where others spoke about their struggles and how they were dealing with them, gathering strength as they spoke.

With the end of the session approaching, Earl Stanley took the mic for a few words. The first thing

Continued on page 12



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Dare to be Vulnerable Project

Continued from page 11

he did was introduce one particular sponsor and called Tracey Blanchfield and Paul Downey to come forward.

Paul Downey told the audience that 34 years ago, they started an event called the Osgoode family ball tournament. It involves 16 area families, and it has taken place every year except during COVID. From the 32 annual tournaments they have managed to raise and donate \$230,000. It's always given to a charitable group,

“A year ago, when we got the tournament, we decided right then and there, that this year our money would be going towards mental health and that was our decision,” said Downey.

“So, we had talked about it, and I was at this event last year, and I had put forward The Dare to be Vulnerable Project. And I did send a message to Susan late June, maybe it was July. I know that it was one of the two that we donated to. So, from this, we would like to present Susan with a cheque for \$10,900.”

When the applause finished Stanley spoke once again. “Last year, when we did this, it was a small group of my family and friends and the local junior farmers on a small tractor pull, and we made the money for mental health. Like Lisa said earlier, we approached Susan, we held the event, and several people asked us that night, what makes the event a success? If it helps one person, it was a success.

“Within a couple of weeks, I had four different phone calls, and I almost felt like I was actually trying to point people in directions of somebody that they should talk to,

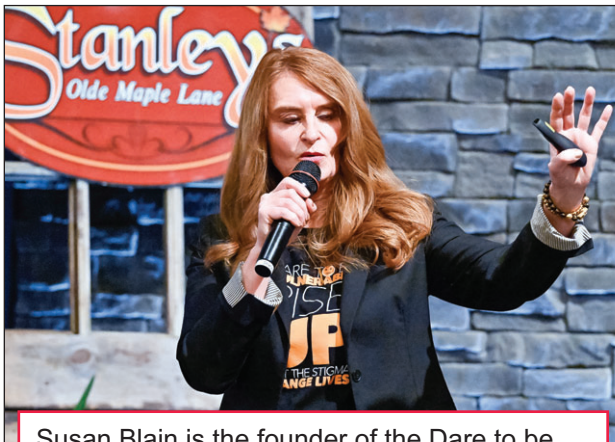


Lisa MacLeod is a six-term member of Ontario's Provincial Parliament, who, in 2022, spent the last two weeks of the Provincial election hospitalized and in crisis. Her willingness to talk about what she went through can help others to understand that there is no shame involved, what so ever.

Tinkess Photo

and they wanted to talk to me. I was overwhelmed. One Sunday morning, actually, after the article in The Ottawa Sun, I got a phone call from a young gentleman down here in Limoges who sent three of his buddies to probably in the St. Isidore area, to find a buddy there who was getting ready to commit suicide.”

Hearing about other people opening up and talking, gave them strength to



Susan Blain is the founder of the Dare to be Vulnerable Project. She says her personal journey is what put her in the position she is in today, trying to help others who are battling any number of different issues. Tinkess Photo

realize that there's a problem, and it's time to talk about it.

Stanley thanked all the volunteers and the sponsors who had contributed to the event and acknowledged that it would be back again in 2025. Same message, maybe some of the same people, but probably some who want to find out more.

If you'd like to know more about the Dare to be Vulnerable Project, you can visit their website at daretobe-vulnerable.com.



Earl Stanley isn't known as a man who likes to talk a lot, but he believes strongly that if you know there is a problem, you need to talk about it. Tinkess Photo

If you are a farmer and you're going through a rough period, there is help out there. You can reach the Farmer Wellness Initiative at farmerwellnessinitiative.ca or by calling 1-866-267-6255. It is a free service that is available for farmers and their families 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Bottom line, if there is a problem, you need to talk about it, and if you talk about it, you will be surprised how many people will listen.

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The Maxville Manor, a long-term care home, is undertaking a huge renovation project and needs our help. We must raise \$11 million by the end of 2024. The fundraising committee has raised \$8.2 million so far but needs \$3 million more to reach their goal. Maxville Manor is now home to 122 seniors but after the renovation will accommodate 160 residents and will continue to offer services to over 500 seniors through its outreach program that provides services such as Meals on Wheels, Day Away Program, Diners Club, and Coffee Hour. These services are offered in Maxville, and a huge area surrounding Maxville.



Can you be one of our 100 Farmers Who Care and donate to this very important renovation project? Let's show everyone that the agricultural community is strong, caring, and always willing to help. Donations can be a one-time amount or can be pledged for a certain amount per year for up to 5 years.

In addition, the Kenyon Agricultural Society has pledged to match donations up to \$500,000! For example, your \$1000 donation becomes \$2,000, or your \$5,000 donation becomes \$10,000 when given by

the end of 2024. Please consider supporting this very worthy project with a donation to the Maxville



Manor Foundation.

A pledge card (shown below) offers information on how to give online, by

mail, or in person to Maxville Manor Foundation. We thank you in advance for your support.

For more information contact: Eric Metcalfe 613-930-3939, Jack & Linda Fraser 613-527-2572, Ernie McMillan 613-874-2995, Gary Bradley 613-818-0864, Laurent Souigny 613-614-1572, Mackie Robertson 613-347-2935, Bill Hagen 613-874-2617, Alain Legault 613-880-7863, Jim Wert 613-577-3723, Dale Murray 514-448-8198 and Robert MacDonald 613-525-3471.



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This estimated \$68 million project will address the increasing demand for long-term care services for seniors, take pressure off our health care system, upgrade our Manor to meet the new health and safety standards, and increase access to long-term care and services so they're available for you and your loved ones.

Since 1889, the Kenyon Agricultural Society's Maxville Fair and Glengarry Highland Games events have been helping build critical infrastructure in this corner of Eastern Ontario... including the original Maxville Manor in 1968. And the Manor Redevelopment project is no exception. In fact, we're so committed to its success that, if you make a donation by...



For more details on this new, capacity-building project,



scan the code, or visit...

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Or... **DONATE ONLINE!** Just scan the code, or visit our website: **MaxvilleManor.ca**

And don't forget... the Kenyon Agricultural Society will match your gift **DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR!**

Minister MacAulay announces funding for innovations in sustainable agricultural technology

By Terry Tinkess
AgriNews Staff Writer

OTTAWA – THE HONOURABLE LAWRENCE MACAULAY, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD, HAS ANNOUNCED AN INVESTMENT OF MORE THAN \$7.2 MILLION FOR FOUR (4) PROJECTS THROUGH THE AGRI-INNOVATE PROGRAM, AN INITIATIVE UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP. THIS INVESTMENT AIMS TO DRIVE GROWTH AND INCREASE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADA'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.

"By supporting these impressive and innovative projects, we're giving our farmers the tools they need to lead in the industry," said Minister MacAulay in making the announcement. "From new production facilities to advancements in digital tools and feed silo technology, we're boosting Canadian agriculture and making it greener, keeping the sector strong and sustainable for the long haul."

The first project announced is CRO Quail Farms Inc. (CRO) in Saint Anns, ON which will receive up to \$1,645,200 to adopt automated production and packaging systems that will make it the first-of-its-kind quail production facility in North America. The project will address labour shortages and reduce costs, allowing CRO to compete in the growing North American quail market.

Aaron Oosterhoff, President, CRO Quail Farms Inc. says the funding will provide benefits in many ways.

"With the help of the AgriInnovate Program, Spring Creek Quail Farms has been able to install cutting-edge technology to further the quail farming industry," said Oosterhoff. "We've been able to create good jobs while remaining a zero-waste farm using sustainable farming methods. Vertical integration farming is crucial to our success and AgriInnovate has allowed us to do this!"

KSM Inc. in Tring-Jonction, QC is receiving up to \$5,000,000 to build and operate Canada's first large-scale plant to produce Potassium Sulphate (SOP) and Potassium Magnesium Sulphate (SOPM) fertilizers.

This project will help reduce reliance on imported fertilizers and support local industries. KSM's innovative production process uses less energy and lowers greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) compared to traditional methods, making it a more sustainable choice for farmers.

David Lemieux, CEO of KSM Inc. says that for his company the investment will provide a competitive edge in a very competitive market.

"We are very proud and grateful to have been selected by the AgriInnovate Program for the generous funding of \$5M," said Lemieux. "These funds are earmarked to advance the commercialization of our patented process that among other attributes, reduces GHG emissions by 70%. Being based in Quebec, our fertilizer production facility gains a competitive edge being close to major agricultural growing regions."

Solution Aleop Inc. in Québec, QC is receiving up to \$371,250 to further expand and commercialize its digital tool, Aleop, which helps Canadian agricultural businesses automate administrative tasks and track production costs in real time.

By reducing paperwork and increasing efficiency, Aleop supports better resource management, helping producers improve productivity and sustainability while strengthening the agricultural sector.

Robert Verge, President, Solution Aleop Inc. says the investment will help the company expand its reach.

"This critical funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will strengthen innovation and accelerate the commercialization of the Aleop platform across Canada," said Verge. "It will support the development of new features, including the addition of advanced cost centres, to better support entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. By building on these improvements, we are consolidating our role as a key partner in companies' strategic decisions."

Finally, Axceta Inc. in Longueuil, QC is receiving up to \$255,353 in funding to demonstrate its ultrasound gauge technology for inventory management in feed silos. This technology will help producers and feed mill operators monitor feed

levels in real time, making operations more efficient and reducing waste.

By improving resource management, Axceta enables farmers to better anticipate their needs, avoid costs associated with last-minute orders, optimize supplies, and support sustainability in agriculture.

Francois Roy, Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Axceta Inc. said in their case, the investment will enable them to enter larger operations, both in Canada and into the US.

"The AgriInnovate funding will allow us to continue developing our Connected Silos solution, a product of our Agflo Connected Agriculture Innovation Division," said Roy. "With more than 10 customers in Quebec and more than 250 sensors already installed, we are now working on increas-

ing the reliability of our readings and extending the maintenance free life of our sensor so we can enter markets with larger livestock operations, such as the United States and the rest of Canada."

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a \$3.5-billion, 5-year agreement, between the federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector.

The AgriInnovate Program provides repayable contributions to incent targeted commercialization, demonstration and/or adoption of commercial-ready innovative technologies and processes that increase the agricultural and agri-food sector's competitiveness and sustainability benefits.

Merry Christmas

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2025 will see a slight drop in milk price for Canadian dairy farmers

By Terry Tinkess
AgriNews Staff Writer

OTTAWA – ON Nov. 1, 2024, THE CANADIAN DAIRY COMMISSION ANNOUNCED THAT A DROP OR STABILIZATION OF INPUT COSTS ON DAIRY FARMS ACROSS CANADA WOULD MEAN THAT THE BENCHMARK ON-FARM PRICE FOR MILK WILL DECLINE BY 0.0237 PER CENT. THE DROP WILL TAKE EFFECT STARTING IN FEBRUARY 2025.

The Canadian Dairy Commission is a Crown

Corporation and a part of Canada's supply management system which determines farmgate milk pricing in Canada. Based in Ottawa, the Commission, according to their website, has over 70 employees who fulfil the mandate of providing dairy producers with the opportunity to obtain a fair return for their labour and investment, and consumers with a continuous and adequate supply of high-quality dairy products.

Having a set price for

milk, as opposed to letting price be completely market driven helps help dairy producers plan for their business operations from year to year. The benchmark on-farm price, however, is only one element considered when determining the final price that farmers receive for their milk. It is also affected by regional dairy consumption trends and the world price for milk. An increase in the consumer price index, which determines half of the milk price prevented the

decline in the milk price from being greater.

The 2025 farm-gate milk price reflects the lack of exceptional circumstances that have affected the price of milk amidst the COVID pandemic and in the years following.

How does the Canadian Dairy Commission arrive at the on-farm price for milk? A cost production survey of 250 farms of different production types across the country is used in the process with the information gathered pro-

viding the data that is used in the calculation. The survey results have a statistical margin of error of two per cent.

In 2023 the indexed cost of production was \$93.09 per hectolitre. The 2024 price takes into account the previous year's survey. An indexing of information from three months ending in August, shows a cost of production of \$90.36 per hectolitre, a decline of 2.93 per cent. This is based primarily on a reduction in the cost of feed.

A stabilization of production costs is expected to continue in 2024, as opposed to 2022 and 2023.

As mentioned above, the Consumer Price Index determines half of the milk price. The other half is based on the indexed cost of production. This led to the projected decrease in the farm gate milk price of 0.0237 per cent.

The full 2023 cost of production survey results can be found on the Canadian Dairy Commission website (cdc-ccl.ca).

Upcoming Building Code could have short-term effect on agriculture construction

By Terry Tinkess
AgriNews Staff Writer

GUELPH – THE NEW NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CODES AND NEW ONTARIO BUILDING CODE (OBC) WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JAN. 1, 2025, AND THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND AGRI-BUSINESS IS PREDICTING THAT THE NEW OBC WILL NOT AFFECT MOST FARM CONSTRUCTIONS.

Canadian Farm Builders Association (CFBA) suggests the new OBC may result in a -10% cost to material and construction where prefabrication and/or site and design parameters are favourable, and as much as a +35 per cent cost to material and construction in projects with unfavourable site and design parameters.

Design costs and drafting time will not be affected for some small farm buildings that can be designed in a way that exempts them from the new OBC. Design costs and drafting time for structures that fall under the new building code may temporarily increase due to lack of familiarity with the new OBC, but these times should return to normal once staff gains familiarity.

In the immediate future, there may be a slowdown in the issuing of building permits as staff work to become familiar with the new code. An increase in building permit fees is not expected, but fees are at the discretion of each municipality as they react to the new code.

Earlier this year, The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) provided comments on the proposed change to the 2025 National Construction Codes relating to Farm Buildings to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Canadian Board for Harmonized Construction Codes.

OFA generally supported the proposed change to address safety precautions within farm buildings; clarity and consistent interpretation and application of construction and building requirements are paramount to a thriving agri-food sector in Ontario.

Many of the comments submitted by OFA and commodity groups have been factored into the new OBC. For example, the proposed code required relatively low windowsills, but livestock groups noted that farm animals may attempt to use those windows as an exit, so the OBC was updated with a special exemption to allow relatively tall windowsills in livestock buildings.

OFA submitted several letters over the last year for building code consultations, hosted a lunch and learn on fire protection and farm insurance, and updated the battery storage fact sheet which touches on the building code. These can be found on the OFA website.

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Tips for managing the holiday stress and protecting your mental health

Submitted By Canadian Mental Health Association Champlain East
Special to AgriNews

HOLIDAY MAGIC. IT MIGHT SEEM THAT IT IS REAL FOR MOST PEOPLE. HOWEVER, EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT. MANY PEOPLE FIND THIS TIME OF THE YEAR ENERGIZING AS THEY ENJOY DECORATING, EXPERIENCE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SOCIALIZE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS, SHOP FOR THE PERFECT GIFTS AND ANTICIPATE THE UP-COMING CELEBRATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE ALSO PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLE WITH THEIR MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING DURING THIS TIME OF THE YEAR AS THEY TRY TO MANAGE CHALLENGING EMOTIONS THAT CAN COME WITH THE CELEBRATIONS, SUCH AS DEPRESSION, ANXIETY ABOUT GETTING EVERYTHING DONE IN TIME, ENVY, AND EVEN DREAD AND DESPAIR, RATHER THAN JOY AND CHEERFULNESS. IN FACT, 52% OF CANADIANS REPORT FEELINGS OF ANXIETY, DEPRESSION AND ISOLATION DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

If you find the holiday season challenging, the good news is there are ways in which you can plan for and protect your mental health during this time. Here are some suggestions:

- **Identify your holiday triggers.** Triggers are people, places and things that remind you of upsetting events such as traumatic memories, stressful family relationships, or the anniversary of the loss of a loved one. When you

know your holiday triggers, it can help to control your emotional reactivity and put a plan in place to reduce the stress associated with them. A plan could involve engaging yourself in self-soothing practices like taking a warm bath, spending time in nature, watching a comedy show, practicing yoga or meditate. Those are healthy activities that are good for your mental health. By planning and doing them more, you'll have more patience, energy, and happiness to deal with your holiday triggers.

- **Limit or take a break from social media.** Perhaps you spend a lot of time looking at what other people are doing during the holiday season on social media. It might make you believe that everyone is having a good time with friends and family while you are the only one alone and bored at home. Mindfully limiting or taking breaks from social media can prevent you from engaging in a self-sabotaging cycle of comparing your situation and then experiencing despair. A way to prevent this is to place firm limits and boundaries around social media use which can be an essential step for protecting your mental health and well-being.

- **Set boundaries.** You might feel the pressure of pleasing everyone and ensuring others are having enough fun, especially if you are the one hosting a gathering. That can be a lot of pressure. Thus, you can ask other people to help and try to delegate. You can even ask someone else to host the gathering this



year. If you know they are certain topics that can bring tension, be kind and clear about boundaries and expectations. Make rules about what topics to avoid in discussions or plan a time to discuss difficult subjects in advance.

- **Limit things that aren't good for your mental health.** It might be tempting to indulge in many things, such as eating and drinking too much, or spending too much money on gifts. Overindulging can negatively affect your wellbeing. Be on the lookout for the things that might make you feel good in the short term but cause you to feel worse in the long term. Identify and find ways to limit your personal traps.

If, despite your best efforts, you feel overwhelmed with feelings of anxiety or sadness, or if

your negative feelings are persistent or get in the way of your daily life, you should reach out for mental health support. If you are struggling, know that there is help and hope.

Make an appointment with your physician or talk to a therapist if you can so you can get the tools you need to feel better.

Sources:
<https://cmha.ca/news/five-ways-to-protect-your-mental-health-this-holiday/>
Minding Your Mental Health This Holiday Season | Psychology Today

<https://www.verywellmind.com/ways-to-manage-your-mental-health-during-the-holidays-6889414>

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From our home to yours Christmas Recipes

Cut-out Cookies

There is something special about enjoying a couple of holiday shaped sugar cookies with a mug of hot chocolate on a cold and snowy winter's evening. While I have a holiday cookbook, there are some very tasty cookie recipes on websites. Depending on the cookie cutters you have, the recipe is also good for other holiday cookies, such as Easter or Valentines Day. I have had a collection of holiday themed cookie cutters since my children were little and have enjoyed carrying on the tradition with my grandchildren. Hope you enjoy them as much as I do!

Ingredients

- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¾ cup unsalted room temperature butter
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 1 large egg (at room temperature)
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- Optional ¼ tsp almond extract

Directions

Whisk the flour, baking powder and salt in a medium sized bowl. In a large bowl mix together the butter and sugar until smooth and creamy, then add the egg and vanilla extract, until well mixed. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and mix until well combined.

You can add a bit more flour if dough is too soft or sticky. Refrigerate until dough is cool and easier to roll.

After dividing the dough into two parts, roll out each one out until about ¼ in thickness. Then grab your favourite holiday cookie cutters and cut the dough out and place on a greased cookie sheet. You can re-roll the dough scraps which increases the number of cookies made.

Baking

Bake in a 350-degree oven for 11-12 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Remove from oven and cool for about 5 minutes before removing to a cooling rack. When they are cooled, then you can enjoy taste-tasting the cookies to ensure they are delicious!

If you plan to decorate them, then whip up a batch of your favourite icing, adding food colouring to make the decorations more colourful and sprinkles to add a special something to them. Note, however these cookies are delicious without decoration.

Carol Thompson Goddard



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From our home to yours Christmas Recipes

Irish Cream Cheesecake

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 1/3 cup butter (melted)
- 4 packages (8 ounce/ 228 g.) Philadelphia Cream Cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 4 eggs
- 3 ounces Baileys Irish Cream or similar

Directions

Heat oven to 325°F. Combine graham crumbs, 3 tbsp sugar and butter; press onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan. Beat cream cheese, 1 cup sugar, 3 ounces Irish Cream, and vanilla with mixer until blended. Add eggs,

one at a time, mixing on low speed after each just until blended. Pour over crust.

Bake 55 min. or until centre is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool before removing rim. Refrigerate cheesecake

4 hours. You can garnish with shredded chocolate or chocolate or caramel drizzle and a light dusting of icing sugar and maybe just a bit of whipped cream. Goes very nicely with an Irish coffee!

Terry Tinkess



Neapolitan Squares

Ingredients

- 1 ¼ cups Graham cracker crumbs
- ½ cup butter or margarine, melted
- ½ cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups medium coconut
- 11 oz can sweeten condensed milk

Directions

Bottom layer: combine first 4 ingredients. Press into 9 x 9-inch pan with greased sides. This makes it easier to remove side pieces. Bake in 350F oven for 10 minutes.

Second layer: In clean bowl, combine coconut with condensed milk. Spread over bottom layer. Bake in

350F oven for 20 minutes or until a very slight brown begins to show on the edges. Allow to cool before frosting.

Icing ingredients

- 2 cups Icing sugar
- 4 tbsp butter or margarine
- 3 tbsp Maraschino cherry juice

Directions

Beat all together, adding a bit more juice, if needed, to make icing soft enough to spread. Spread over cooled bars. Cover tightly and store at least a day.

Cut into 36 squares

Linda Vogel

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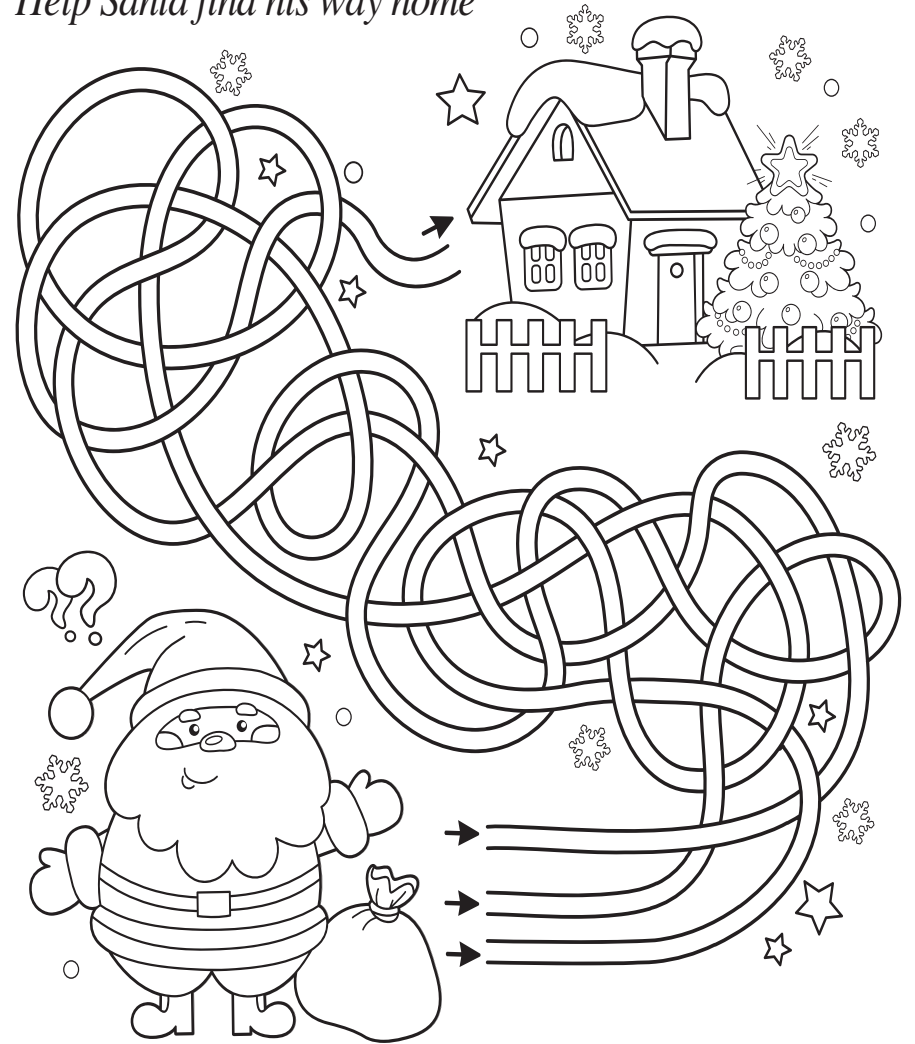
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Three Christmas craft ideas

ARE YOU IN THE MOOD FOR CRAFTING? HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS TO HELP YOU DECORATE YOUR HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.

1. String tree

Cut a triangle out of cardboard and wrap a string around it until it's completely covered. Make sure to glue the string at the beginning and end to keep it from unrolling. Decorate your tree with pompoms, sequins or tiny multicoloured beads to give it a festive look.



2. Paper Santa

Paint almost half the surface of a white paper plate red. Draw the red paint down one side of the

plate, creating a rounded, tapered edge to form Santa's hat. Colour everything else beige. Then, draw Santa's eyes and



nose. For the finishing touch, glue cotton balls all over the bottom of Santa's face and around the edge of the tuque to make it look like his beard and hair.

3. Winter landscape

Glue a large black circle in the middle of a coloured piece of cardboard. Glue a white half-moon on top to hide the bottom of the circle. This will create snowy ground and night sky. Glue two bottle caps on top of

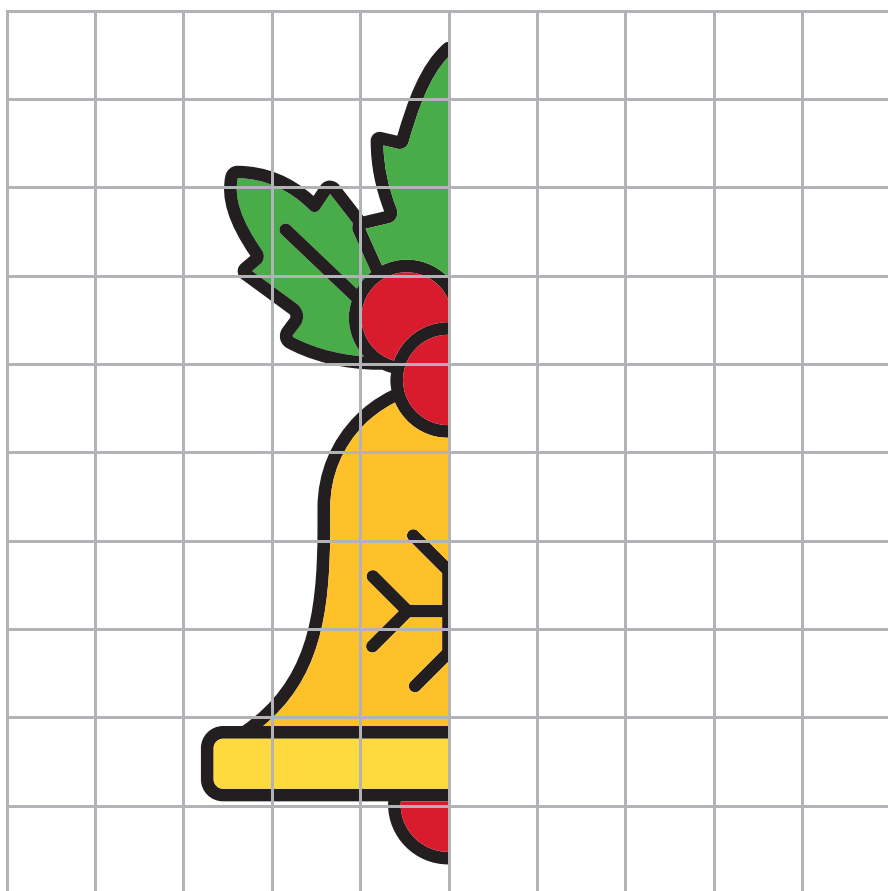


each other in the middle of the landscape to form a snowman. Draw a face on the bottom of the top cap and buttons on the lower one. Then, make Christmas trees out of green and brown cardboard and glue them to each side of your snowman. Finally, if you want it to look like it's snowing, sprinkle white confetti in the sky.

Now, all you have to do is display your work!

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McDonalds USA, Syngenta, and Lopez Foods work together to increase beef sustainability

By Terry Tinkess
AgriNews Staff Writer

CHICAGO – MCDONALD’S USA, AGROCHEMICALS AND SEED COMPANY SYNGENTA, AND LOPEZ FOODS ARE COLLABORATING TO HELP PRODUCE BEEF MORE SUSTAINABLY IN THE US.

The collaboration is aimed at increasing feed efficiency and helping to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions released per pound of meat produced, as part of efforts to improve the sustainability of beef production.

Enogen® corn is an in-seed innovation available exclusively from Syngenta, that has been shown to increase feed efficiency in cattle and thereby help reduce emissions intensity compared to other corn.

Justin Wolfe is the President of Syngenta Seeds. “At Syngenta, we’re convinced improving the sustainability of

the global food system can be accelerated through innovation and collaboration,” said Wolfe. “We’re proud of the great attributes of our Enogen® corn, and how our work can help enable McDonald’s and their beef supply chain to deliver impact.”

Ambitious climate commitments mean that companies like McDonald’s and Lopez Foods may need to invest in climate-smart technologies like Enogen® corn. “McDonald’s is starting with a priority ingredient for our company – beef,” said Kendra Levine, Director of US Sustainability for McDonald’s. “We believe the innovative collaboration with Syngenta is an opportunity to help us make progress toward our science-based climate targets.”

Enogen® corn, used for both grain and silage, contains a robust alpha amylase enzyme that quickly converts starch to usable sugars, delivering

more available energy to cattle while being easily digestible. According to Syngenta, increased digestibility of Enogen® corn can result in increased feed efficiency, which is widely recognized as an important approach to helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions in livestock production systems.

University research has shown that feeding Enogen® as silage or grain can improve feed efficiency by about 5 per cent. Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) shows potential for environmental savings resulting from this increased efficiency, including lower emissions of greenhouse gases and lower use of land, energy, and water per unit of production. Specific findings show that, per 1,000 head of beef cattle, this collaboration could potentially achieve annual savings of:

- 35 cars from the road for a year.)
- 69-acre reduction (28 hectare) in land use for growing feed
- 6 million fewer gallons (22 million litres) of water used
- 231 thousand kilowatt-hours energy savings
- 196 tons (178 metric tons) CO2e in GHG reduction (This is the equiv-

alent of the removing McDonald’s plans to scale this program to help deliver over 164,000 metric tons CO2e per year.

According to Wolfe, sustainability is fully embedded in the global business strategy of Syngenta, with clear targets and an ambition that guides the company’s innovation, including advancements in Seed technology like Enogen®. Syngenta sustainability priorities include achieving higher yields with lower impact, regenerating soil and nature, improving rural prosperity, and establishing sustainable operations.

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Very best wishes to everyone we know for a beautiful holiday season and a wonderful new year.

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North Dundas Senior Rockets recognize creators of mini-Zamboni

By Terry Tinkess
AgriNews Staff Writer

CHESTERVILLE – THE NORTH DUNDAS SENIOR ROCKETS REMAINED UNDEFEATED AND IMPROVED THEIR RECORD TO 8-0 ON SATURDAY AS THEY DEFEATED THE SOUTH GRENVILLE RANGERS 7-4. BEFORE THE GAME EVEN GOT UNDERWAY THOUGH, THERE WAS A WHOLE LOT OF PRIDE ON DISPLAY AS THE ROCKETS AND THEIR FANS RECOGNIZED THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CREATION OF A MINI-ZAMBONI BEARING THE ROCKETS LOGO AND COLOURS.

The project took almost a year and a half to complete. It started in May 2023 when the perfect frame for the project, an old electric feed cart no longer in use was located. Hormandale Farms and Jason and Colby Ibbetson donated the feed cart to the Rockets and the project was underway.

The fabrication of the Zamboni was made possible by students at North Dundas District High School (NDDHS) as part of a class project. Once that was completed, D's Collision Center primed and painted the entire Zamboni, including the inside and the wheels. Dennis and Phil Carkner donated the entire cost of



You can expect to see the North Dundas Rockets mini-Zamboni at local events, promoting the team, but also the community that supports them. Tinkess Photo

the labour and paint to complete the project. The workmanship speaks for itself.

Prior to the start of the game, many of the people responsible gathered around the Rockets Zamboni along with Rockets captain Derek Froats. Through their applause, the crowd showed their appreciation for the effort.

While not everyone was present at the game, the following is a list of those who participated:

Chris Vanbridger, Stone Thistle Design
Hormandale Farms and Jason and Colby Ibbetson

(donated the seed cart) NDDHS teacher Andrew Whitton, who allowed this to become a student project

NDDHS students Kingsley Raistrick, Trenton Douma, Micah VanGilst, Ashton Scheepers, Samuel Dean, Haley VanGilst, Noah Provost, Nevan Socholotuk, Hayden Munshaw, Travis Casselman, Austin Doornwaard, and Noah Biemond

D's Collision and Dennis and Phil Carkner and Dave Warren and Catlin Boyer for the fantastic paint job.

As for the game, the Rockets never trailed, leading 1-0 after one period, and 4-2 after two periods, before ending up with the final score of 7-4.

The Rockets spread the scoring around with Bradley Stitt, Michael McNamee, Mike Bird, Fabian Walsh, Mitchell Gibson, Marco Azzano, and Glenden Bakker each scoring once for the Rockets.

Brandon Gilmour, Broydon Stufko, Nathan Merrett, and Adam Goodfellow scored for the Rangers.

The three stars were

Marco Azzano (first star), Fabian Walsh (second star) and Brandon Gilmour (third star.)

The Rockets outshot the Rangers 56-19 in what was a chippy game. The

Rockets picked up 53 minutes in penalties while the Rangers had 43.

The Rockets next game is Sat., Nov. 30 at 7:00 p.m. against the Pagan Falls Rapids in Low, Quebec.

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Ontario celebrates Excellence in the Agriculture and Food Industry

By Terry Tinkess
AgriNews Staff Writer

TORONTO – THE ONTARIO’S GOVERNMENT’S ANNUAL EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARDS FOR 2024 RECOGNIZES FARMERS, PROCESSORS, INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS, AND BUSINESSES WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS STRENGTHEN GROWTH ACROSS THE PROVINCE’S \$50.7 BILLION AGRI-FOOD SECTOR. THIS YEAR, THIRTEEN WINNERS AND 16 HONOURABLE MENTIONS IN AGRICULTURE EXCELLENCE ACROSS 11 DIVERSE CATEGORIES WERE HONOURED FOR THEIR EFFORTS THIS YEAR.

“This year’s Excellence in Agriculture Award winners inspire me and demonstrate the extent of the passion and talent that sets Ontario agri-food apart in a competitive global market,” said Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. “My ministry and our government will continue working with leaders across the sector to reinforce the right conditions for long-term growth and dynamism.”

The recipient of the centrepiece Minister’s Award is Farm & Food Care Ontario, who build partnerships to help raise awareness about food and farming in Ontario. They foster meaningful connections through marketing campaigns and resources including The Real Dirt on Farming, while hosting farm tours and events such as Breakfast on the Farm. The organization also provides training to develop strong agricultural ambassadors who educate the public on where their food originates.

Crispin Colvin, is the Chair of Farm & Food Care Ontario. “The Board and staff of Farm & Food Care Ontario are delighted to be receiving this award from the province,” said Colvin. “Our work with farmers and food partners helps to reinforce trust and confidence in local farming and food production. This benefits us all. It is so rewarding to see the important work we do supported by our government partners.”

The Excellence in Agriculture Awards aligns with the goals of the Grow Ontario Strategy, including spreading awareness of Ontario grown local food and our agri-food supply chain, and encouraging the consumption of high-quality, locally sourced food.

The Ontario government’s Excellence in Agriculture Awards recognize businesses, individuals and organizations that have raised the bar for excellence in the agriculture and food industry and demonstrated leadership in their field.

The 2024 Award Recipients are as follows:

- Minister’s Award, Farm & Food Care Ontario – Guelph
- Research and Innovation Excellence, Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute, Brock University – Niagara
- Food Processing Excellence, Conestoga Meats – Waterloo
- Education Excellence, Foodpreneur Lab – Toronto
- Promotional Excellence, Bite of Brant – Brant Farm & Food Care Ontario – Guelph
- Supply Chain Excellence, Second Harvest – Toronto
- Workforce Excellence, Operation Grow – Simcoe
- Urban Agriculture Excellence, ZipGrow Inc. – Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
- Northern Business Excellence, Bujold Farms – Rainy River
- Women’s Excellence, Jenny Carnaghan, Carncroft Farms – Durham
- Youth Excellence, Beck’s Broth – Waterloo
- Farm Family Excellence, Award winner – North ELD Farms – Kenora and Award Winner – WestSchooley Orchards Ltd. & Apple Hill Lavender – Norfolk

2024 Honourable Mentions:

- Research and Innovation Excellence, Croptracker –

- Kingston, Dr. David Liscombe, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre – Niagara
- Food Processing Excellence, Jakeman’s Maple Products – Oxford
- Education Excellence, Dr. Amy Proulx, Niagara College – Niagara, Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) – Wellington
- Promotional Excellence, Toronto Garlic Festival – Toronto
- Supply Chain Excellence, Sheldon Creek Dairy – Simcoe
- Workforce Excellence, CareersNOW!, Food and Beverage Ontario – Niagara
- Urban Agriculture Excellence, Barrett Centre of Innovation in Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Durham College – Durham, Wijiindamaan Indigenous Land Futurity and Gdoo-naaganinaa Garden, Conestoga College – Waterloo
- Northern Business Excellence, Mattagami Heights Farm – Timmins
- Women’s Excellence, Split Rail Brewing Co. – Manitoulin, Energrow Inc. – Perth
- Youth Excellence, Mighty Harvest Produce Inc. – Durham, Remix Snacks Inc. – York
- Farm Family Excellence, Sunningdale Farms – Simcoe

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Three DIY Christmas gift ideas for your friends

DO YOU WANT TO GIVE PRESENTS TO YOUR FRIENDS THIS CHRISTMAS WITHOUT SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY? GOOD NEWS! YOU CAN CREATE UNIQUE GIFTS USING MATERIALS YOU ALREADY HAVE AT HOME. TRY THESE SUGGESTIONS FOR INSPIRATION.

1. A collage

Use old flyers, newspapers or magazines to create a collage with found pictures. Choose images that reflect

your friends' hobbies and interests and cut them out. If you have a colour printer, you can also print out images you've found online.

2. A video

Use your computer or smartphone to create a fun, personalized video for your friends. You can make a funny Christmas greeting, an ad parody, a music video or any other creative content. All it costs is your time.

3. A recipe

If you enjoy cooking, an edible creation makes an excellent gift. Consider making homemade treats such as cookies, chocolate truffles or caramel spreads. Just make sure to ask for your parents' help if you need to purchase ingredients or use the stove.

Have fun creating your gifts!



City of Cornwall to host exciting World Junior Championship games

CORNWALL – THE PRE-TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL ICE HOCKEY FEDERATION (IIHF) WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED, AND THE CITY OF CORNWALL IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE IT HAS BEEN SELECTED AS ONE OF SEVEN COMMUNITIES TO HOST GAMES FROM DEC. 19 TO 23. IN TOTAL, 11 GAMES WILL BE PLAYED THROUGHOUT EASTERN ONTARIO ON THE ROAD TO THE WORLD JUNIORS.

The road begins and ends in Ottawa, with three games scheduled for the Nation's Capital and Arnprior, along with Belleville, Brockville, Cornwall, Hawkesbury and Kingston. Over five days, all 10 competing teams will be on the ice.

Cornwall will be hosting 2 exhibition games at the

Cornwall Civic Complex. On Fri., Dec. 20 at 7 pm Finland will be taking on Slovakia, while on Mon., Dec. 23 Team USA and Finland will hit the ice for a 4 pm game. Tickets for the two exhibition games in Cornwall are on sale now at the Benson Centre and Cornwall Aquatic Centre Box Office, as well as online at through TicketPro <https://tproontario.ticketpro.ca/en/pages/IIHF?aff=cc>.

In addition to the 2 games, Finland and Slovakia will hold pre-tournament camps at the Cornwall Civic Complex and the Benson Centre from Dec. 16 to Dec. 23.

"Once again, the City of Cornwall is proud to be hosting teams from around the world as part of the 2025 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship", said Cornwall Mayor Justin Towndale. "We value our

continued partnership with Hockey Canada, and look forward to showcasing our community as we host the training camps and games.

Other Ontario communities hosting pre-tournament camps ahead of the holiday hockey tradition including Arnprior (Latvia), Belleville (Czechia and Sweden) Brockville (Switzerland), Carleton Place (Kazakhstan), Kingston (United States) and Ottawa (Canada and Germany).

"This year's World Juniors will celebrate hockey in Eastern Ontario, and we are thrilled to have these communities play host to practices and games leading up to Boxing Day," said Dean McIntosh, senior vice president of revenue, fan experience and community impact for Hockey Canada. "We know fans and volunteers in each community take immense

pride in welcoming the world, and we look forward to seeing the excitement build as the 10 teams prepare to compete for a gold medal in our Nation's Capital.

Canada will open its ex-

hibition schedule with a pair of games at TD Place in Ottawa, taking on Switzerland on Dec. 19 and Sweden on Dec. 21 before facing Czechia at the Canadian Tire Centre on Dec. 23. All three games

begin at 7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT. Limited individual game tickets remain available for 2025 IIHF World Junior Championship in Ottawa. Fans can secure their seat by visiting HockeyCanada.ca/WorldJuniors.



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Christmas vacation: what can you do between the two big celebrations?

Not going to school during the holiday season is an excellent opportunity to have fun in a variety of ways. Are you short on ideas to keep yourself busy between Christmas and New Year's Day celebrations? Here's some inspiration.

• **Make a snow sculpture.** If the snow is nice and sticky, build a snowman—or several! Why not create some other original work of art? Animals, vehicles, castles and more—the only limits are those in your imagination!

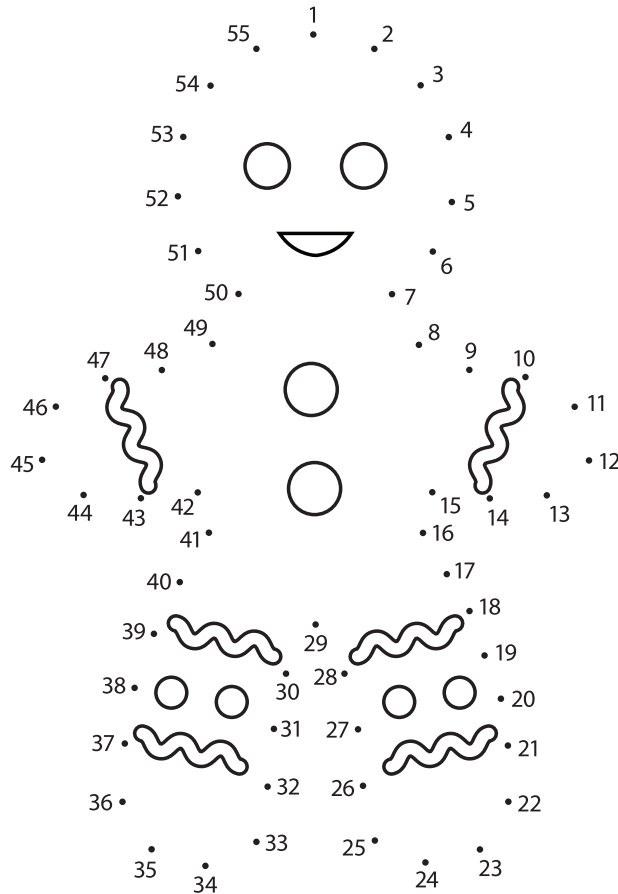
• **Have a PJ day.** Spending the day in your pyjamas is great, especially the day after a late-night party! For added comfort, wear soft slippers or warm socks. What's on the agenda? Only relaxing activities you enjoy, like reading or drawing.

• **Play board games.** You need only two people to play countless board games! Take advantage of your free time to play your favourite games or try out some new ones. Did you receive one as a Christmas present?

• **Try cooking with your family.** Some recipes are best prepared in a group. With your family, find one that everyone agrees on, like fruit salad, cookies or doughnuts. Then, buy the missing ingredients, put on some festive music and have fun whipping up a storm together!

From movie nights and video games to treasure hunts, skating, crafts and tobogganing, there's plenty of fun to be had! How will you spend your time this Christmas week?

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