



Ottawa Valley FARM SHOW

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OVSGA SECRETARY-TREASURER RETIRES AFTER 27 YEARS

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Mary Joynt of Smiths Falls has retired as secretary-treasurer of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association, sponsors of the Ottawa Valley Farm Show.

Joynt performed the duties for 27 years, beginning when the spring farm show, a smaller event than it is today, was held at Lansdowne Park. She was a key component as the show expanded to occupy every bit of indoor space at Lansdowne and when it relocated three years ago to the EY Centre beside Ottawa International Airport... a massive undertaking.

Joynt's contribution to the success of the OVFS was officially recognized during the association's recent annual meeting held at Winchester. She had considered leaving the position for more than a year. Mary joined her husband John in being confirmed as an honorary director of the association. She was presented with flowers, earrings and a travel voucher. OVSGA president John Roosendaal cited her dedication to the job over many years.

As Joynt's replacement, a hiring committee chose Arlene Ross of Russell who's well known in Eastern Ontario agricultural circles for her involvement in 4-H, the Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the Environmental Farm Plan.

In charge among many other things of keeping meeting minutes and association financial records, Joynt said there was no single reason that precipitated her decision other than "it was time".

Along with general manager Tom Van Dusen, Joynt booked and billed 350 exhibitors and was the familiar face behind the counter during farm show check-in. "Mary joked that I probably wanted to work with somebody younger," Van Dusen said. "Not true at all. Nothing beats experience and Mary and I have been a smoothly operating team for years."

The departing secretary-treasurer will help train her replacement, adding she doesn't plan to completely remove herself from the organization. She'll volunteer to help out at the 2015 farm show. "The Seed Growers and the show have been part of my life for a very long time."

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