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MESSAGE FROM OVSGA PRESIDENT – JEFF WALDROFF

On behalf of the Directors of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association (OVSGA), I wish I was welcoming you to the 2022 in-person Ottawa Valley Farm Show where farm, family and friends of our community come together.

As OVSGA celebrates 95 years of Ag in the Valley, our directors, committee members and staff were working very hard to host the 2022 in-person show. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, the difficult decision was made to cancel our show this year. Thank you to the many partners and sponsors who continue to support the show and all our other community initiatives.

Since 1927, OVSGA has hosted seed shows. On March 12, entries to the annual Ottawa Valley Championship Seed, Feed and Forage Show will be judged, with an Awards Presentation Event the following week. We are very proud to showcase seed show exhibitors and entries from across the 12 counties and districts of the Ottawa Valley region. We are also excited to be planning Judges Training for those wishing to develop expertise to judge seeds, crops, feeds, and forages.

The 30th Annual Prestigious Pedigreed Seed Auction with proceeds to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario will take place online closing March 19. Thank you to everyone for bidding on the selection of donations ranging from a barn quilt to gift baskets, prints, collectibles, handmade benches, and a variety of pedigreed seed lots.

Watch later this year for the return of the OVSGA scholarship opportunity, the OVFS photo contest, and a special project at IPM22 in North Grenville.

To our dedicated board of directors, committee



members, volunteers, and staff, thank you for your ongoing commitment to the OVSGA. You continue to foster new and creative ideas for our organization. Our 95 years of success is truly a full team effort.

To our Past President, Robert Dessaint, we wish you all the best in your retirement. You have guided us successfully through the pandemic challenges. These have not been easy times, and we are all grateful for your leadership.

We wish all the best to everyone for the remainder of 2022 and look forward to welcoming visitors, exhibitors, and ag businesses of our community back to the show in 2023!

With kind regards,
Jeff Waldroff, OVSGA President

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OTTAWA VALLEY SEED GROWERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1927

The Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association traces back to 1927, after the First World War, when a group of Ottawa Valley farmers banded together with an aim to help one another merchandise their field crops. The OVSGA was formed, and J.H. Findlay of Arnprior was named the first OVSGA President. Together with the help of local agricultural representatives, the group held the first seed fair at Renfrew Collegiate. The introduction of new and better varieties, merchandizing of increased production, and the continual updating of agricultural information were the founding objectives of the Seed Fair, and continue to drive the modern rendition of the show.

The Seed Fair became an annual event, rotating throughout Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec, between the home communities of the association's presidents. It travelled through Almonte, Pembroke, Kemptville, Cornwall, Perth, and many towns in between. It eventually developed into a Championship Seed, Feed, and Forage Show, where exhibitors were required to compete at the county level shows for the opportunity to bring their entries to the next level. Over time, the Championship Seed Show added equipment and trade show components, eventually becoming the Ottawa Valley Farm Show. In 1959, the OVFS settled into Lansdowne Park in Ottawa, where it remained until moving to its current location, the EY Centre in Ottawa, in 2012. OVFS is now Ontario's longest running agricultural trade show with more than 360 exhibitors occupying over 200,000 square feet under one roof.

Today, the OVFS is an extensive tradeshow,



bringing together farmers and industry professionals to facilitate networking and sharing of information. The OVFS continues to boast its seed show roots, proudly displaying the Court of Honour at the centre of the show. Days before OVFS, the annual Ottawa Valley Championship Seed, Feed and Forage Show welcomes top entries from all local county seed shows, seeing almost 200 exhibitors enter up to 600 exhibits. Entries are evaluated by a team of judges, and winning entries are then showcased in the Court of Honour



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New support line launched for farmer wellness

Effective January 1, 2022, the Farmer Wellness Initiative, a new province-wide project, launched a telehealth line to provide free and confidential mental health and wellness support counselling to all farmers and farm families across Ontario.

Funded by the Ontario and federal governments, the Farmer Wellness Initiative is providing access for up to four free counselling sessions with a mental health professional for all farmers across Ontario, including members of their families. Each mental health professional has received training to understand the unique needs of Ontario farmers.

The Farmer Wellness Initiative is operated by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) – Ontario Division, in partnership with OFA and aims to protect and enhance the mental well-being of farmers and their families. This program will provide valuable support for the agricultural community by giving farmers easy access to a comprehensive network of mental health counselling and crisis services.

All resources and services will be available in English and French.

To learn more and access farmer mental health services, please contact 1-866-267-6255.

This project was funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

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along with 4-H field crop and life skills exhibits. The OVSGA recognizes and rewards the achievements of winning exhibitors at the annual Seed Show Awards Ceremony normally held at OVFS.

The OVSGA actively engages in the community through various events throughout the year including the annual Prestigious Pedigreed Seed Sale, now in its 30th year. This auction sale, originally created in 1992 to showcase and sell quality pedigreed seed, now offers a range of pedigreed seed, products, and services.

The modern day OVSGA is a dynamic not-for-profit group, run by a dedicated volunteer board of more than 25 Directors. Directors are farmers and agribusiness representatives from across Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. Each of the 11 Eastern Ontario counties as well as Western Quebec nominate a county representative, and Directors at Large (Regular and Honorary) complete the board. The association is deeply involved in the community and celebrates and supports many local and agricultural charitable groups and initiatives, as well as agricultural research, knowledge, education, and advocacy. In addition to those initiatives, the OVSGA is proud to work with volunteers to plan and host the annual Ottawa Valley Farm Show.

The Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association OVSGA is a loyal member of the Farm Show Council, the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame and Farm and Food Care Ontario. OVSGA is dedicated to engaging and supporting the agricultural community through numerous different initiatives across Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. These include:

- Youth Scholarship opportunities
- 4-H grants to local county associations and field crop and plowing clubs
- Grants to support county seed shows
- Support for community agricultural celebrations
- Grants to Agricultural Societies to support agricultural education programs
- Host training programs for local farm and school community
- Seed Show Judge Training to develop seed, crop, feed and forage judging skills
- Support local community seed, soil, and crop research initiatives

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THE HUDSONS ARE THE SEED SHOW GO-TO FAMILY

Seed shows have been a tradition in the Ottawa Valley since 1927. And they are a tradition as well for the Hudson Family at Panmure Farms of Kinburn, Ontario.

It is not clear in the archives when Graham Hudson first joined OVSGA, but over his years of involvement, the impact of he and his family has been tremendous. Graham led the OVSGA organization as President in 1976 and 1977, including its 50th Anniversary celebration in 1977.

Most recently, one could find Graham presiding over the vast array of trophies for the Ottawa Valley Championship Seed, Feed and Forage Show. Cared for by the Hudson family, Graham took immense pride in gathering and polishing the trophies each spring and making any needed repairs. He ensured each trophy was updated and delivered in time for the annual seed show awards.

In addition to being part of the seed show organizing team, Panmure Farms is a perennial seed show exhibitor. You will find the Hudson name repeatedly on many of the seed show awards including the Nation Valley Potato Growers' Association Trophy for the champion exhibit of potatoes, C&M Seeds Trophy for the grand cham-



Brian, Graham and Bruce Hudson displaying seed show winning entries.

pion wheat exhibit, Barclay Dick Challenge Trophy for the best entry of red clover and EH Wallace Memorial Trophy for the champion exhibit of soybeans.

The Ottawa Valley Championship Seed, Feed and Forage Show is OVSGA's foundation event. Now in their 95th year, valley seed shows continue

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as strong as ever. Winning entries from local seed shows, 9 of them throughout the valley, compete in the championship show.

“Some of our earliest memories are of gathering seed samples with dad and heading off together to set up the seed show” has often been shared by Bruce and Brian, Graham’s sons. It was always a heartwarming sight for fellow volunteers to see the three of them arrive together on judging day.

Graham, together with colleague Director and past president Jim Arbuckle, established the charity seed auction in 1992. This Prestigious Pedigreed Seed Auction is held annually at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show and has raised more \$186,000 for the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

Behind the scenes, there are always many Directors making things happen, and Brian Hudson is one of those key people. With his history of seed show involvement and the active role he has always played with entries, organization, set-up and take-down, he is our go-to man for all things seed show. He is a quiet fellow, letting his actions speak for him. Although that wit and sense of humour sneaks out at the best of times!

Following Graham’s example, Bruce was the OVSGA president in 2012 and 2013. Those were

exciting years as the organization managed the move of the Ottawa Valley Farm Show from its Lansdowne Park home of more than five decades, to the EY Centre near the Ottawa airport.

Bruce has also been heavily involved in working with the Seed Growers to develop guidelines and criteria for the OVSGA’s support of Eastern Ontario seed research initiatives.

When asked why he has been so involved, “the farm show and the seed show are put on by farmers for farmers” says Bruce. “That’s important to our family.” Graham was always an important member of the farm show and seed show family, and we were all very saddened to learn of his passing earlier this year.

All of the Hudsons are quick to note that only when members and volunteers work as a team will an organization succeed. OVSGA has become the dream of its original founders, and its continued success is a result of the dedication and hard work of people like Graham, Brian and Bruce Hudson.

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OVSGA OFFERS TRAINING FOR SEED AND CROP JUDGES

The Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association (OVSGA) has been in the seed, crop and forage judging business for 95 years. Assessing and comparing samples to determine superior exhibits is what the show has been based on since the first annual show in 1927.

In order to keep competition strong and judging skills sharp for those in the agricultural community, OVSGA has partnered with like-minded organizations and individuals to host a Seed and Crop Judging Workshop, April 2, 2022 at the Carp Agricultural Hall at the Carp Fairgrounds.

The goal of this workshop is to offer an opportunity to gain insight, expertise and background to judge seeds, crops, feed and forages. Not only will participants learn judging techniques and skills, but they will also learn how those in the agricultural community might become champion exhibitors.

Over the course of the training day, experienced judges will share the latest resources on field crop and seed judging, offer interpretation of materials and lead discussion of scorecards and their importance. All participants will have the opportunity to practice placing samples of cereals, soybeans,

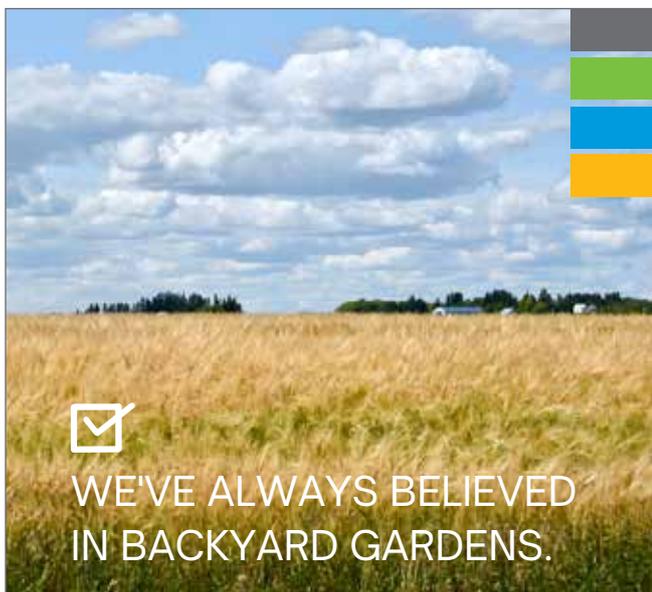


hay, shelled corn and corn cobs, as well as sheaves of grain. “Learning by doing” will be encouraged through discussion and interpretation of results. Judging tips for assessing standing crops, potatoes, eggs and maple syrup will also be featured.

“This is a great opportunity to develop judging skills and contribute to the ongoing and future success of seed and crop classes at local fairs and competitions” says Jean Sullivan, OVSGA Director on the planning committee. Jean is working together with the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) with hopes to certify the training for fairs and agricultural societies of OAAS who use the official judges list when looking for resources to judge at their events.

Special guest of the day, Kim Turnbull, a Cayuga Ontario farmer with a passion for judging, will set the stage with presentation of the opening session. Kim has established himself as an experienced judge, with an admirable profile in SeCan, 4-H and the Royal Winter Fair, and is always excited to share his passion.

You are never too young ... or too old to learn! 4-H members, seed show exhibitors, fair board volunteers, industry representatives, experienced judges and fellow farmers are all welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided, the training is free and registration with OVSGA is required before March 25th.



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WHERE

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Field Judging**



THE PRESTIGIOUS PEDIGREED SEED AUCTION – AN ANNUAL OVSGA EVENT

2022 marks the 30th year of the annual Prestigious Pedigreed Seed Auction with proceeds to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). Since the first auction hosted by the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association (OVSGA) in 1992, more than \$186,000 has been donated to CHEO.

This year, proceeds will be directed to CHEO's Cardiology Unit, with matching dollars provided by Canadian Pacific (CP) who has partnered with the CHEO in support of children's cardiology services. Purchase amounts and any donations will be matched thanks to CP.

Traditionally, the auction is live at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show. In 2021 and again in 2022, we have used the 32 Auctions site for an online auction, this year with a soft close mid-day Saturday March 19, 2022.

Feature auction items include a 2'x2' barn quilt donated by Anne Young of Blocks by Anne, and unique wool items from the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers in Carleton Place. There is a beef semen certificate courtesy of EastGen, a handcrafted wooden bench and a beautiful deacon's bench donated by perennial auction sponsor SeCan. Also donated are a print of the Alexandra Bridge by artist Caroline Galand, St. Albert Cheese

gift basket, baked goods or a quilted wallhanging.

Vintage Iron and Traditions of Eastern Ontario (VITEO), perennial auction supporters, are donating #1 of their 2022 collectible tractor series to the auction. This year's tractor is the Cockshutt 1755 and sure to attract much attention from the tractor enthusiasts.

County Soil and Crop Improvement Associations of Eastern Ontario have been challenged to donate items highlighting local attractions. To date these include a Frontenac County tour package, passes to winery and agri-tourism events and baskets of local products.

The auction would not be complete without its namesake, the pedigreed seed lots donated by local growers together with seed companies. Look for barley, wheat, and soybeans available for bid, complete with germination numbers to guide your decisions.

OVSGA is proud to host this annual auction. Sincere appreciation is extended to the many individuals, businesses and organizations who continue to work together with OVSGA each year to present the auction.

Thank you to all who support the auction, and children in the community.



Auction proceeds support the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario



Beautiful Barn Quilt donated by Anne Young of Blocks by Anne



VITEO's Daryle Payne displays the Cockshutt 1755 #1 collectible tractor



Roy Carver, auctioneer and OVSGA lifetime member, calls for bids at the 2019 live auction

A photograph of a large field of green soybean plants, with a person walking through the rows. The field is vast and stretches to the horizon under a clear sky. The person is wearing a plaid shirt and dark pants.

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OVSGA 2021 SCHOLARSHIPS

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2021 OVSGA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



OVSGA Past President Dave Blair, OVSGA President Jeff Waldroff, Recipient Bruce Porteous of Winchester, Recipient Travis Dow of Metcalfe, Recipient Sarah Kay of Roslin, OVSGA Past President Robert Dessaint and OVSGA 1st Vice Barry Dean

Congratulations to the recent scholarship recipients who attended the OVSGA Annual Meeting in August and shared their stories. We wish them well in their future educational and agricultural endeavours!

TRAVIS DOW

Hello, my name is Travis Dow. I am currently in my first year of the Bachelor of Education program at Queen's University in the Intermediate/Senior division. I grew up on a sheep farm outside of Metcalfe, Ontario, where my family and I currently raise a flock of 25 purebred Suffolk sheep. For nine years, I was an active member of my local 4-H club, raising and showing livestock projects and participating in workshops and public speaking events. I have been fortunate to be able to show my stock across Canada and at the Royal Winter Fair. Through 4-H, I have judged achievement days and regional youth shows in Ontario and Alberta. In the summer of 2020, working at synAgri, I learned new and innovative cropping, fertilizer, and management strategies that I will apply to my personal operation. Working with youth in 4-H activities and summer camp programs has inspired me to pursue a career in teaching. I hope to



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become a high school science teacher in a rural community, where I can continue to raise a small sheep flock, exhibit stock at local fairs, and be an active member of the agricultural community. I want to thank the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association for this scholarship and for supporting youth in the rural agricultural community.

SARAH KAY

Hello, my name is Sarah Kay, and I am 21 years old. I am entering my fourth year of a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree majoring in Animal Science at the University of Guelph. My home is Roslin, Ontario where my family owns a 90-acre hobby farm with 2 riding horses, a herd of Boer goats, and laying hens. My family owned Standardbred racehorses from the time I was a baby until 2019 and I was heavily involved as a groom from the age of 10 until 18. I began in 4-H in 2011 as part of the Hastings Beef Club and became involved in multiple other clubs such as Animal Friends, plowing, horse and goat in following years. I have participated in the National Junior Beef Heifer Show and the Youth Dairy and Meat Goat Shows at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair on multiple occasions. The past 2 summers I worked for Rossmore Animal Hospital in Belleville as a vet assistant and this summer I am working as a research assistant for Dr. Renee Bergeron's lab at the University of Guelph. After graduation in April 2022, I plan on pursuing a master's degree in Animal Reproduction. I am keeping an open mind as to what career path I take once leaving university, but I want to remain a part of the agricultural community that I love so much!

BRUCE PORTEOUS

Hello, my name is Bruce Porteous. I am beginning my second year in the mechanical engineering program at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. I grew up and am currently living on our family's century dairy farm just north of Winchester in Dundas county. I have been a member with the Dundas 4-H Association since I was 9 and have completed over thirty clubs including dairy, judging, woodworking, cooking, and much more. I have been fortunate enough to be able to participate in a variety of activities with my clubs including 4-H provincial exchanges to both Saskatchewan and Alberta, Youth Adventure Camp, and judging competitions. I have represented Dundas county at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, participating in both the open Jersey, Holstein, and TD Classic shows. I have been relief milking on a few local farms, and I have learned how everyone does things differently and how I have had to adjust my practices to do the job



correctly. As for my future, after graduating, I hope to design agricultural machinery with any given company but hope to still be able to manage the home farm. My sincere thanks to the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association for offering this scholarship opportunity to students like me who are passionate about agriculture.

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OVFS PHOTO CONTEST ENTRIES REVEAL THE BEAUTY OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture boasts a rich history, a vibrant present and an exciting future full of opportunities. Photo contests offer entrants the opportunity to capture and share the unique beauty of agriculture in our communities. Each year, OVSGA hosts the Ottawa

Valley Farm Show Photo Contest and we welcome your photos taken here in Eastern Canada. Congratulations to winning entries from the most recent seasons!

CLASS 1 - FACES OF FARMING



2020
"Working in the Barn" Diana Ferguson, Forfar
**Grand Champion Photo*



2021
"Jim ... Dairy Farmer" Lisa Flewellyn, Kinburn
**People's Choice Champion*

CLASS 2 - FARM BUILDINGS



2020
"Path Less Travelled"
Melissa Herrick, Kinburn



2021
"Calm Before the Storm"
Kelsie Pecarskie, Pakenham

CLASS 3 - LAY OF THE LAND



2020
 "Rye Up Clise and Personal"
 Corinna Ward, Fort Erie



2021
 "Time to Harvest"
 Corinna Ward, Fort Erie

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Getting in the Know for BETTER MENTAL HEALTH



While there are numerous areas of farm safety that are emphasized year in and year out – tractor rollovers, equipment entanglements and falls to name but a few – there has been great progress made in an area that once was not even considered an agriculture hazard by many.

That area is mental health. In recent years it has gotten more attention across the board. With the already stress-filled aspects of farming further increased during COVID, it's good to know that we now have remarkable resources that specifically focus on mental health in agriculture. Many of these resources are free of charge and several of them are detailed below.

Mental Health Literacy Program for Farmers

In the Know is a mental health program developed at the Ontario Veterinary College (University of Guelph). It recognizes how busy farmers are and has been formatted as one, four-hour, half day workshop.

It was developed in collaboration with farmers/producers in various agriculture sectors, including Workplace Safety & Prevention Services (WSPS). It is also intended for individuals who have regular contact with those groups such as family members, peers, veterinarians, breeders, feed or seed salespeople and others who are directly or indirectly impacted.

It provides insight and actionable routes in areas including stress, depression, anxiety and substance misuse as well as techniques on how to communicate effectively about mental well-being. For more information about *In the Know* visit <https://wsps.news/CMHA>

For free online resources relating to mental health for farmers, visit:

engage.wsps.ca/ag-mental-health-2021



Raising Awareness of Mental Health

WSPS offers two webinars developed by the WSPS team including subject matter experts with literally a lifetime of experience growing up on farms, ensuring that the materials will resonate with farmers' real-world experiences.

Raising Awareness of Mental Health in Agriculture details what mental health is in terms farmers will relate to as well as why it's important to discuss. It defines mental health and stress in very relatable terms.

It also uses the **Stop Think Act** method, a proactive approach to help take care of our mental health. The **Stop Think Act** model is demonstrated in ways that relate to many aspects of farm life including isolation, anxiety, regulations, financial concerns, crop loss and work-life balance.

The recorded webinar is available free of charge on the WSPS website. Visit <https://wsps.news/AgriHealth1>

Continuing the Conversation on Mental Health

Continuing the Conversation on Mental Health in Agriculture is a follow-up webinar. Following a review of the definitions of mental health and stress as well as the **Stop Think Act** approach, it introduces 13+ workplace factors that contribute positively or negatively to mental health on the farm.

It then focuses on 5 of these workplace factors and incorporates the **Stop Think Act** model: To stop and ask what could go wrong. To think, am I physically and mentally ready? And finally act. What needs to be done to make it safe?

It ends with a comprehensive list of resources to help farmers as they move forward and is also available free of charge on the WSPS website.

Visit <https://wsps.news/AgriHealth2>

Check out *ThinkMentalHealth* for additional mental health resources for the agriculture community.

Visit <https://wsps.news/Think>

OMAFRA is providing funding to Workplace Safety & Prevention Services to deliver resources and consulting services to help farmers and other agri-food businesses provide safe workplaces.

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THE INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH AND RURAL EXPO IS BACK!

The Ontario Plowmen's Association and the hosting communities of North Grenville and Leeds and Grenville are proud to be able to host the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo at the Kemptville campus this September the 20th-24th, 2022. The United Counties are overjoyed to be able to bring this historic event back to Eastern Ontario for its 103rd year.

The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo is an annual celebration of heritage, agriculture, education and community that is rooted deep in rural Ontario culture. The IPM showcases the soil preservation methods of plowing at the competition level, as well as, the importance of bringing communities together. The IPM is a family friendly attraction that will display plowing, quilting, entertainment, Queen of the Furrow competition, historical displays, local and provincial exhibitors, education centers, Celebration of Excellence Gala and much more! The Local Committee has been preparing this event for the past two years and is extremely excited to be able to share what they have put together on behalf of the community and the Ontario Plowmen's Association.

The importance of this event after the Covid-19 pandemic is vital for the mental health of our rural communities as we reestablish our sense of normal and look more towards outdoor and family friendly

events. The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo will continue to follow Ontario Health and Safety Guidelines, as well as, ensuring accessible hand sanitization stations and promoting safe physical distancing when required throughout the IPM grounds.

The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo will have an incredible economic footprint throughout North Grenville and the surrounding counties as it welcomes between 80,000-100,000 guests from throughout the province and country. Local businesses, tourism, accommodations, restaurants, landscaping, and more will benefit from the IPM attendees and participants creating much needed economic stimulation after the impacts from Covid-19.

If you would like to get involved with the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo, the Local Committee is actively searching for volunteers, approximately 1000-1200 people are needed to be able to bring the IPM to life. The Local committee will be looking for volunteers to drive tractors, help set up tented city, greet people at the gates, beautify the grounds, assist with setting of displays and tents, and more. There are plenty of areas that will require help leading up to the event, during and after. The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo committees thank everyone who





can help in whatever way they can, there would be no Match to celebrate without it's volunteers.

For more information about the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo or how you can be involved please visit our website, www.plowing-match.org/ipm2022, and follow along with our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, to see what the Ontario Plowmen's Association and the Local Committee is up to as we await the Match in September.

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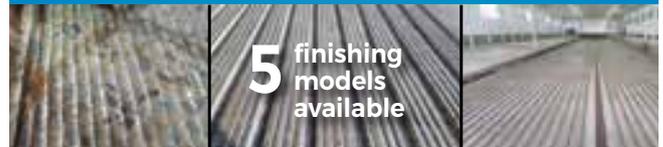
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CECIL CASS ... OVSGA VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Nestled in the rolling hills of Eastern Ontario's Champlain Township, overlooking the Ottawa River and the Gatineau Hills of Quebec, you will find Cassbrae Farms. One of the most successful and longest running farms in our agricultural community, 6 generations of the Cass family have farmed these hills since 1798, producing milk, beef, dairy heifers, hay, soybeans and other field crops, and maple syrup.

Cassbrae Farms maple syrup is in demand across Eastern Canada, and those of us who have received this coveted gift will vouch for the wonder of the maple tree! An avid syrup producer since the age of 10, and a decorated official maple syrup judge, Cecil Cass received the 2013 Ontario Maple Syrup Award in recognition of innovative approach to ensuring growth and viability of maple syrup production in Ontario.

Small but wiry, Cecil continues to move thousands of small hay bales a year from field to barn to farm across all of Ontario, Eastern Canada and the United States. This top quality hay has fed some of the finest North American cattle and horses, and won numerous seed show awards. An official hay judge since 2008 and a mentor for

decades, Cecil looks forward with anticipation to Seed Shows and the hay classes each spring. The farm has exhibited a variety of seeds, feeds, and forages in local, regional and championship shows, winning numerous quality awards over the past half century. A Seed Show Points Championship Trophy sits proudly on the house mantle, with Cassbrae Farms profiled as the winner many years in the 1980's and the 1990's when Prescott County competition was at the peak.

Cassbrae Farms has always been an active supporter and participant of the Prescott Plowmen's Association. An avid plowman with both his 2-furrow and 3-furrow plows, Cecil has competed annually at local matches since they began more than 70 years ago. Cecil's proudest moments are as a recognized plowing coach for new plowmen. On 5 different occasions, Cassbrae Farms hosted the Prescott County Plowing Match and for 2 separate terms, Cecil was elected as the President of the local association. When the 2011 International Plowing Match was held in Chute-a-Blondeau, volunteers named the tractor grounds "Cecil Cass 2011 IPM Tractor Park" in recognition of his tireless work in preparation for the match.

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March 12-14, 2024

March 11-13, 2025



A staunch supporter of all aspects of the local and agricultural community, Cecil never hesitates to get involved, work together and contribute towards accomplishing common goals. With his wisdom and calm demeanor, Cecil efficiently guided the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers and Ottawa Valley Farm Show through challenge, change and celebration during his tenure on the executive and as president, and was at the helm for 90th Anniversary celebrations in 2017. The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Vankleek Hill Agricultural Society, local Holstein Clubs and the Cassburn United Church have all enjoyed Cecil's involvement.

While all his community, organizational and industry activities are fulfilling and important to Cecil, "my proudest accomplishments are those of my family on the farm". Cecil is a family man of honesty, integrity and hard work, and "without the support of my wife Maureen and all of my family, to build and maintain a successful farm operation, I would not have the opportunity to contribute as I have to my community".

On behalf of all the community organizations, we thank Cecil for his long history of volunteer dedication. We are better organizations because of your contributions – may we all learn from your example!



Cecil Cass and Paul Sullivan - OVSGA Hay Judges.



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THE POSTHUMUS LEGACY AT OVSGA

The Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association is rich in family and traditions and is strengthened by its volunteer Directors. The Posthumus family of Wolfe Island is an excellent example of this resource.

Henry Posthumus recently joined OVSGA as a Director and is “excited to carry on the Posthumus legacy at the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association”. OVSGA is very fortunate to have Henry sharing his expertise, wisdom, and island ag knowledge, building on the foundation set in place by his father, John.

Born in Hoornsteerwaag, Friesland in the Netherlands, John Posthumus’s story of “Coming to Canada”, published in the Island Gazette of Wolfe and Simcoe Islands, back in the days of the 15 cent papers, is a fascinating read.

In the 1940’s, John left for Canada in search of a farming life, via the “Flying Dutchman”, landing in Montreal and taking the train to Tweed to meet his sponsors. There he milked and did farm chores, finding that farming in Canada was similar to Holland.

In 1950 he first saw Wolfe Island when he drove to visit friends. John liked what he saw as it had similar geography as Holland. He later returned to



John working with wool, one of his favorite retirement pastimes.

the Island and put a deposit of \$500 on his first farm. It was 100 acres with a little house and no hydro or phone ... but it was home.

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Nouvelle ligne d'appel d'urgence pour le bien-être des agriculteurs

À partir du 1er Janvier 2022, l'Initiative pour le bien-être des agriculteurs-trices, un nouveau projet provincial, a permis de lancer une ligne de télésanté visant à offrir des séances de counseling axées sur la santé mentale et le bien-être; ces séances, gratuites et confidentielles, s'adressent à tous les agriculteurs et familles d'agriculteurs de l'Ontario.

Financée par les gouvernements de l'Ontario et fédéral, cette initiative permet d'offrir jusqu'à 4 séances de counseling gratuites avec un professionnel de la santé mentale; elles s'adressent à tous les agriculteurs de la province, y compris les membres de leur famille. Chaque professionnel de la santé mentale a reçu une formation lui permettant de comprendre les besoins uniques des agriculteurs de l'Ontario.

L'Initiative pour le bien-être des agriculteurs-trices est gérée par l'Association canadienne pour la santé mentale (Ontario), en partenariat avec la Fédération de l'agriculture de l'Ontario (FAO); elle vise à protéger et améliorer le bien-être des agriculteurs et celui des membres de leur famille. Elle constituera un précieux soutien pour les membres de la communauté agricole qui peuvent accéder facilement à un réseau complet de services de crise et de counseling en santé mentale.

Toutes les ressources et tous les services seront offerts en français et en anglais.

Pour en apprendre plus et y avoir accès, composez le 1-866-267-6255.

Ce projet a été financé par le Partenariat canadien sur l'agriculture, une initiative quinquennale fédérale-provinciale-territoriale.

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After years of working in the lumber camps with both horses and Caterpillars, and then in saw mills to support himself and get his farm running, John at last returned to Wolfe Island to stay. He married his wife Saakje in the Island's United Church and together raised their family, welcoming the births of Garry, Joanne, Henry, Eddy and Sally. They bought more land, got hydro and a telephone!

In 1963 they built a new barn which held 50 dairy cows and had stalls for calves. Installing a pipeline and milking with a bulk tank, one of the first on the island, gave them a \$0.10 premium on their milk. In 1965 they built two silos for corn silage, followed by a Harvestore silo for high moisture corn. By this time, they had expanded to farm 390 acres, and later added another 100 acres with the help of kind friends.

John has always been proud of his family. He believes it is important for them to understand their roots and the rewards of hard work. His children have all been to Holland to explore their heritage and he hopes the grandchildren and great-grandchildren will all have the same opportunity.

During the 1960's, John joined and became active in the Federation of Agriculture, Farm Safety Association, Plowmen's Association and Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Not long after, he

became involved with the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association, leading the organization as its President in 1984 and 1985. At that time, OVSGA hosted the annual Ottawa Valley Farm Show at Ottawa's Lansdowne Park.

John judged hay, seed and grain at seed fairs, and plowed at a host of Plowing Matches. In recent summers, he volunteered at Wolfe Island's Tourist Information Booth, proudly sharing the island's features and history, and enjoying the many interesting visitors. Today, John keeps busy with his many hobbies including woodworking, card playing and spinning wool. From being crowned the Pumpkin King at Pumpkinfest 2004, to receiving many farming awards, John has always been proud to farm.

John has now settled into retirement, enjoying visits with friends and family. "I have lived a very full life on Wolfe Island, and I wouldn't change it for the world. I have learned from the many experiences, and it has been wonderful."

OVSGA is grateful for the opportunity to work with volunteers like John and Henry.

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- 2021 – Bruce & Brian Hudson, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2020 – Bruce & Brian Hudson, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2019 – Murray & Gordon Wilson, Prescott County
- 2018 – Murray & Gordon Wilson, Prescott County

Speare Seeds Plaque

For the best entry of Barley

- 2021 – Rick Hess, Dundas County
- 2020 – Dave Pemberton, Dundas County
- 2019 – Gary Gordon, Frontenac County
- 2018 – Doug & Wayne Conboy, Lanark County

NK Brand, Syngenta Seeds Award

For the best exhibit of Corn Silage

- 2021 – Ray Halpenny, Lanark County
- 2020 – Kurtis McRae, Lanark County
- 2019 – Robinson Farms, Grenville County
- 2018 – John Nanne, Lanark County

Ed & Isaac Wallace Challenge Trophy

For the champion Hay exhibit

- 2021 – Gary Gordon, Frontenac County
- 2020 – Darren McCord, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2019 – Gary Gordon, Frontenac County
- 2018 – Caroline Taylor, Ottawa-Carleton

Hal Botham Memorial Trophy

For the champion exhibitor of Forage Seeds

- 2021 – Winchester Ag Research Station, Dundas County
- 2020 – Murray & Gordon Wilson, Prescott County
- 2019 – Murray & Gordon Wilson, Prescott County
- 2018 – Murray & Gordon Wilson, Prescott County

OVSGA Challenge Trophy

For the champion exhibit of Haylage

- 2021 – Puenter Farms, Dundas County
- 2020 – Spencer & Bruce Hill, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2019 – Gary Gordon, Frontenac County
- 2018 – John, Martin & Pam Westervelt, Dundas County

SynAgri Award

For the champion Ear Corn in the open and 4-H classes

- 2021 – Robert Campbell, Lanark County
- 2020 – Robert Campbell, Lanark County
- 2019 – Quinn Dickson, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2018 – Gary Brugmans, Dundas County

Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group Award

For the best entry in the Pedigreed Seed Auction

- 2021 – not awarded
- 2020 – not awarded
- 2019 – Sevita International Pro Seeds – Genesis Soy
- 2018 – Dekalb

New-Life Mills Award

For the champion exhibit in the Ottawa Valley in Hay Quality Class

- 2021 – Gary Gordon, Frontenac County
- 2020 – Bruce Paul, Lanark County
- 2019 – Russell Sortberg, Leeds County
- 2018 – Doug & Wayne Conboy, Lanark County

Nation Valley Potato Growers' Association Trophy

For the champion exhibit of Potatoes in the open and 4-H classes

- 2021 – Gary Gordon, Frontenac County
- 2020 – Gary Gordon, Frontenac County
- 2019 – Gary Gordon, Frontenac County
- 2018 – Bruce & Brian Hudson, Ottawa-Carleton

Embrun Agricultural Co-op Trophy

For the champion exhibit of Shelled Corn

- 2021 – Tibben Farms Inc., Dundas County
- 2020 – John, Martin & Pam Westervelt, Dundas County
- 2019 – Tibben Farms Inc., Dundas County
- 2018 – Tibben Farms Inc., Dundas County

E.H. Wallace Memorial Trophy – presented by the United

Co-operatives of Ontario for the champion exhibit of Soybeans

- 2021 – Winchester Ag Research Station, Dundas County
- 2020 – Tim Moher, Dundas County
- 2019 – Bruce & Brian Hudson, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2018 – Rejean LeClerc, Russell County

C&M Seeds Trophy

For the grand champion Wheat in the open classes

- 2021 – Bruce & Brian Hudson, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2020 – Thomas Haerle, Prescott County
- 2019 – Tibben Farms Inc., Dundas County
- 2018 – Tibben Farms Inc., Dundas County

Bennie Vance Memorial Trophy

For the champion Sheaf of Grain in the 4-H and open section

- 2021 – Joe & Carolyn, Jansen, Dundas County
- 2020 – Jim & Connie McDiarmid, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2019 – Bruce & Brian Hudson, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2018 – Jim & Connie McDiarmid, Ottawa-Carleton

Hudson Family 4-H Award

For the most points in the 4-H Field Crop section

- 2021 – Sam Grant, Leeds County
- 2020 – Erika Wilson, Prescott County
- 2019 – Addison Dwyre, Leeds County
- 2018 – Ben Gordon, Frontenac County

John Posthumus 4-H Award

For the most points in the 4-H Life Skills section

- 2021 – Haleigh-Jo Teplate, Stormont County
- 2020 – Haleigh-Jo Teplate, Stormont County
- 2019 – Terry Ennis, Stormont County
- 2018 – Terry Ennis, Stormont County

Ken Paul Memorial 4-H Award

For the champion 4-H Field Crop exhibit

- 2021 – Hugh Nixon, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2020 – Darren McCord, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2019 – Hugh Nixon, Ottawa-Carleton
- 2018 – Caroline Nixon, Ottawa-Carleton

Masterfeeds Award (New in 2021)

For the champion exhibit in Ottawa Valley Haylage Quality Class

- 2021 – Alex Beaudette, Stormont County

OVSGA Past Presidents' Award

For the County with the most points in open field crop classes

- 2021 – Dundas County
- 2020 – Lanark County
- 2019 – Lanark County
- 2018 – Dundas County

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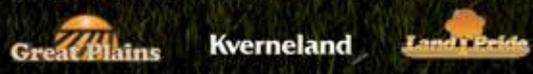


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Together with Farm and Food Care Ontario, the Carp Agricultural Society and a host of local volunteers, OVSGA hosted Breakfast From the Farm for about 1,000 visitors. This was the first of three drive through breakfast event in Farm and Food Care Ontario's (FFCO) continued efforts to highlight local food and farms and connect the public with the source of their food. On Sunday July 18, visitors had the opportunity to drive through the Carp Fairgrounds and see the livestock showcases featuring beef and dairy cattle, sheep and pigs. West Carleton 4-H members were grooming, shearing and displaying their animals. The baby pig tucked under the arm of Ontario Pork and OVSGA Director Bruce Hudson attracted lots of attention from those in the approximately 350 vehicles.

Visitors drove through a series of signage highlighting agricultural activities, information and activities. Passing through the fairgrounds,

visitors viewed an extensive collection of modern farm machinery from Carp area farms. Combines, tractors, balers, sprayers and planters were displayed with signage and volunteers to describe the equipment and answer questions.

The breakfast bags, feeding a family of four, were the feature of the morning. Visitors could return home and prepare an all-Ontario delicious breakfast of local foods featuring Lanark County maple syrup, P&H Milling Group's buttermilk pancake mix, Carleton mushrooms, and delicious apple chips. Also included were Gay Lea milk, and butter, a dozen farm fresh eggs, Sun-Tech grape tomatoes and pot barley from Carp's Ottawa Valley Grain Products. Almonte's Dairy Distillery sanitizing handrub and a host of recipes and ag goodies also filled the bags.

"Our organization was thrilled to work together with FFCO to bring breakfast to Carp. This was another great example of farmers and food partners working together to enhance public trust in food" says Robert Dessaint of Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association.

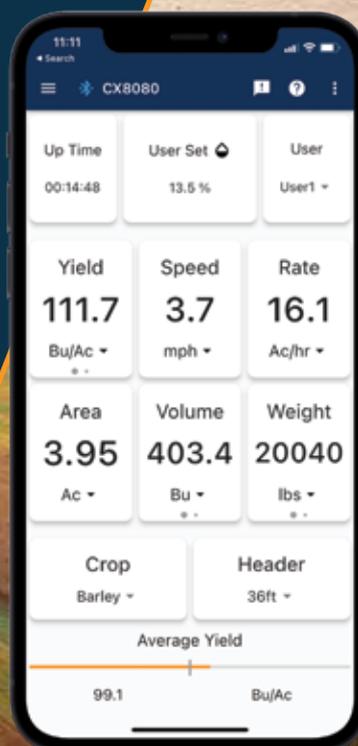
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Harold and Shelley pose with a first prize wheat sheath.

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One of the signs around Harshell Farms.

GROWING A COMMUNITY

The McPhails live to give back

by LESLIE STEWART

If you've driven by Almonte, you may have noticed the signage at Harshell Farms on the roadside. These signs have become a popular roadside attraction, identifying the crops being grown and what they're commonly used for.

Family and community are important to Ottawa Valley Farmers Harold and Shelley McPhail. The couple grow soybeans, spring wheat, sunflowers, corn, and hay.

The McPhails began putting informative signs by their crops when they started growing canola – a new crop for the area. As the crop was new, they wanted to let people know what they were looking at and what it was being grown for. They followed suit and placed coroplast signs by each of their crops.

Since they put their signs up, their farm has become a popular landmark for those who drive by or enjoy a hike on the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail.

"It's incidental learning," Shelley says. "People can watch the growth through the season, and they enjoy coming back in the spring to see what we put in each field."

The signs are loved by the community. "After we put them up, people come and read them," Harold says. "They don't realize we rotate crops, and they'll ask what changed."

"We've had some really positive feedback from fellow farmers who don't know what their crops are for – it's not just the city people!" Shelley adds.

The McPhails have been long-time supporters of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association and have been frequent volunteers and seed show participants over the years.

"We've been competing for around 15 years. We started because of our neighbour, Dave Blair. We did well in a local show and were invited to compete in Ottawa," Shelley explains.

Harold and Shelley became active volunteers and board members. Harold is the sub-chair of the coarse grains section of the seed show and helps with the awards banquet, while Shelley sat on the board until she was hired on at Agricorp.

"I was heavily involved with the board between 2011-2018," Shelley says. "And I dragged Harold along. It's a bunch of like-minded people who are interested in improving things for farmers. I was very sad when I had to step down."

The McPhails have an open-door policy and are never too busy to help a friend, family member, or neighbour in need.

"People need people. The door's always open and the coffee's always on, so come on in. I don't know if it's because we're farmers, but it's important for us to be community minded," Shelley says. "It's not just about farming, it's about being there for our people." Harold and Shelley have four kids and six grandchildren. One of their daughters lives around the corner and their three grandchildren love to come visit on Wednesdays. "We bake something for someone who's sad, stressed or grieving and deliver some food to them. Despite this pandemic, we make it work. We drop off the food and social distance."

The McPhails are proud of the many roles they've played in their community over the years.

"We've been the sunflower people, and the sign people. We've worn various hats over the years. We're proud of who we are in the community and our ability to lift people up."





Harold overseeing harvesting.



Shelley with the grain wagon.



Grandma Shelley loves baking with Johnny, Frankie, and Leah.



Shelley and Harold pose with friend Cecil Cass (centre) in 2017.



Harold shows off a healthy soybean plant.



The McPhails on a vacation to Banff, AB.



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The Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame was incorporated in 1979 as a charitable organization and opened June 1, 1980 with the induction of nine pioneer agriculturists who represented more than 100 years of combined efforts and initiatives in building a better agriculture for the province. Their mission is to acknowledge, record and preserve the contributions made by leaders to the growth and development of Ontario's agriculture and agri-food industry. There are currently 240 individuals who have been inducted into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame. (source: <https://www.oahf.on.ca/>)

The Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association is very pleased to feature all past Eastern Ontario inductees to the Agricultural Hall of Fame at future Ottawa Valley Farm Shows. This display is our way to pay tribute to these outstanding local agricultural leaders who have played a significant role in advancing the agriculture/food industry and improving the quality of life in rural Ontario. Please join us and celebrate the lasting legacies of these outstanding men and women.

For the permanent Eastern Ontario display, please visit the Municipality of North Grenville's Kemptville Campus. More information available at oahf.on.ca

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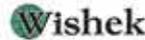
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Brian Hudson	Yvon Proulx
John W. Joynt	John Roosendaal



OVSGA Directors joining together at the 2021 OVSGA Annual Meeting



2022-23 Executive - L to R - Past President Robert Dessaint, OVSGA President Jeff Waldroff, 1st Vice Barry Dean, 2nd Vice Don Gordon.



Robert Dessaint and Jeff Waldroff - welcoming Jeff Waldroff as OVSGA President 2022-23.

95 YEARS OF OVSGA PRESIDENTS 1927-2022

PRESIDENT	HOME	YEAR	SEED SHOW/OVFS LOCATION
John H. Findlay	Arnprior	1927-32	Renfrew, Almonte, Arnprior, Pembroke, Hawkesbury
F.S. Caldwell	Carp	1933	Kemptville
D.L.Scott	City View	1934	Perth
David Barr	Renfrew	1935	Renfrew
R.H. Davis	Jellyby	1936-37	Brockville, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa
J.W. MacRae	Lochiel	1938	Cornwall
A.M. Timmins	Pakenham	1939	Arnprior
D.M.Oswald	Vankleek Hill	1940	Smiths Falls
J.M. Arkinstall	Dunvegan	1941	Pembroke
S.W. Haydon	Pakenham	1942	Chesterville
Harvey Young	Arnprior	1943	Kemptville
R.S. Sparrow	Kinburn	1944	Carp
H.K. Nesbitt	Britannia Bay	1945-46	Metcalfe, Alexandria
T. Albert Wilson	Pakenham	1947	Perth
Murray Galbraith	Renfrew	1948	Cobden
H.C. Pinhey	Dunrobin	1949	Kemptville
Victor McCord	North Augusta	1950	Pembroke
Hugh Davidson	Bells Corners	1951	Richmond
W.L. Ross	Cobden	1952	Hawkesbury
Allan Ewart	Perth	1953	Perth
E.W. Wallace	Bells Corners	1954	Renfrew
Ollie Timmins	Pakenham	1955	Ottawa
Orval Smart	Shawville, QC	1956	Shawville
Lloyd Logan	Mountain	1957	Navan
Geo. Humphries	Castleford	1958	Kemptville
John Vandembosch	Chesterville	1959	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Wm. Ewing	Vankleek Hill	1960	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Garnet Ralph	Richmond	1961-62	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Barclay Dick	Douglas	1963-64	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
George Suffel	Mountain	1965	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Trevor Thompson	Kemptville	1966-67	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
R.H. Kemp	Ramsayville	1968-69	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Russell Camelon	Almonte	1970-71	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Gerard Savage	Rockland	1972-73	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Florian Bourgon	St Isadore de Prescott	1974-75	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Graham Hudson	Kinburn	1976-77	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Gordon Hill	Nepean	1978-79	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Mack James	Carleton Place	1980-81	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
William Cross	Wakefield, QC	1982-83	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
John Posthumus	Wolfe Island	1984-85	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Yvon Proulx	Cumberland	1986-87	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
John Joynt	Smiths Falls	1988-89	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Keith Hobbs	Ashton	1990-91	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Alfred Beaudette	St Andrews West	1992-93	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Denis Perrault	Navan	1994-95	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Keith Lackey	Richmond	1996-97	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
John McGill	Pakenham	1998-99	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Edward Findlay	Kars	2000-01	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Lynda McCuaig	Gloucester	2002-03	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Wm. S. Halpenny	Almonte	2004-05	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Keith Matthie	Brockville	2006-07	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Robert Dick	Douglas	2008-09	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Jim Arbuckle	Vernon	2010-11	Lansdowne Park, Ottawa
Bruce Hudson	Kinburn	2012-13	EY Centre, Ottawa
John Roosendaal	Mountain	2014-15	EY Centre, Ottawa
Cecil Cass	L'Orignal	2016-17	EY Centre, Ottawa
David Blair	Pakenham	2018-19	EY Centre, Ottawa
Robert Dessaint	Sarsfield	2020-21	no OVFS 2020 or 2021 due to Covid19 pandemic
Jeff Waldroff	Newington	2022	no OVFS in 2022 due to Covid19 pandemic

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