



**Location:** Brussels Legion (downstairs)

**Date:** Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

## Brussels Agricultural Society General Meeting

### In Attendance

Marie McCutcheon, John Lowe, Bessie Johnston, Linda Garland, Lori Vader, Crystal Blake, Loretta Higgins, Dorothy Cummings, Glenda Morrison, Zoey Onn, Peggy Aitchison, Mary Douma, Jenna Fischer, Pam McLellan, Mary Ann Thompson, Brenda Perrie, Justin Morrison, Jeff Cardiff, Cathy Cardiff, Rosie Kellington, Reg Vinnicombe, Matt Cardiff, Murray Hoover, Margaret Speer, Sandra Machan, Kate Aitchison

Regrets: Monique Baan

**NOTE:** Quorum achieved.

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. The motion to approve the agenda (M. Mcutcheon) was seconded (D. Cummings) and passed.

### Approval of Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed. The motion to approve the previous minutes from the Sept. 6, 2023 meeting (Z. Onn) was seconded (J. Morrison) and passed.

### President's Report

R. Vinnicombe thanked the members for all their hard work leading up to and running the fair and reported that he heard only compliments. There were no follow ups required on the action items from the last meeting. **Action items for this meeting are indicated in red throughout this report.**

### Homecraft President's Report

L. Garland reported that North Woods Elementary School was glad that they attended the fair. The volunteer potluck was well received and as usual there were lots of volunteers. She thanked everyone who donated. **She asked if section leads would please let her know if they liked their judges and whether the apprentice judges would be suitable for next year. The Junior and Culinary Arts sections are both looking for new leads with both past leads willing to help out. Any suggestions for improvements for next year, please tell L. Garland who will pass them onto M. McCutcheon.**

### Treasurer's Report

J. Lowe provided bank balances. He reported that he needs more time to get financial reports ready due to the short turnaround time since the fair. M. Thompson asked if we will have a detailed budget

for 2024? R. Vinnicombe noted that the goal is to have a balanced budget with things assigned to proper categories by at least December. He noted that detailed financials need to be available so we are not overspending and are able to make better decisions to break even or raise more money. J. Lowe indicated that he will try to have more detailed reports available at the next meeting. He will be going through AssistExpo and putting it to the test. He reported that large bills have been paid.

TD \$19,866.29

Manulife Advantage \$2,717.07 (including Sept. interest of \$6.35)

GIC 2640358 \$6,797.06

GIC 2677288 \$4,332.77

## Ambassadors' and Ambassador Sub-committee Reports

L. Higgins, the Senior Ambassador, gave a very positive report of her involvement in our fair and other fairs. M. Speers gave a report on behalf of the experiences of Isla Fischer, the Little Ambassador.

## Ladies Night Sub-committee Report

J. Fischer reported that there are approximately 50 tickets left to sell. **She asked if anyone had a fall welcome sign to decorate the front entrance?** M. Thompson passed around a sign up sheet for tart/square donations. **M. Thompson asked about the table cover box which Reg will bring to the arena. The group indicated that they will be meeting Friday, Oct. 20 at 7pm to set up chairs, tables, add centerpieces, etc. and they will need volunteers. The group will be needing volunteers on both Friday and Saturday for food preparation and setup. R. Kellington will share sign-up sheets via email to the members.** Round tables will be used for dining and rectangular tables for the silent auction.

## Old Business

### ● AssistExpo

-R. Vinnicombe reported that he wants to enter data from this year so we know what it looks like and can run reports post fair.

### ● 2023 Brussels Fall Fair Wrap Up

-D. Cummings noted that the Huron-Perth Beef Producers are paying for the 4-H meals. **Need to ask Terri Gray for the number of tickets she collected in order to give them an amount for the cheque.** Neither Terri or John had the ticket stubs so we will charge the Beef Producers based on the number of 4H members/leaders at the show.

-D. Cummings noted that when judging is occurring the doors need to be locked.

-D. Cummings recommended that donation jars have a person assigned to them as they are too easy to walk past. She noted that we used to collect between \$16-1800 at the door. Glenda indicated we made around \$1300 this year from donation stations.

-D. Cumminings said it was an excellent 4-H show and that the judges and generator were great and the water line was perfect..everything worked out well.

-M. Hoover said there were concerns in the past about the bedding blowing around after the fair. D. Cummings said she would look into cleaning it up if needed.

-Z. Onn reported that the Principal at Northwoods had only praise for the fair. He said that the Birds of Prey and Petting Zoo were the highlights. He would like the Junior section of the Fair book to him by January if possible, in order to incorporate it better into the curriculum.

-J. Cardiff reported that the beef meal was well attended with about 280 people. There were lots of volunteers with overlapping shifts that worked well to inform the next group what needs to be done. There was good flow and timing. He catered the meal at cost and is not charging for his professional services so he is hoping that we made good money.

- L. Vader noted that the kids were very engaged in the Birds of Prey show but that the second show was not as well attended.
- L. Garland asked if anyone was interested in leading the children's activities, as Matt and Janelle Cardiff are wanting to step back as leads? She also asked if there were any ideas for future activities?
- C. Blake reported that we need to rethink the Country Games due to overlap. It was suggested that we make a display at the front door of what is going on and at what time and location. This would provide a visual timeline of our events. Perhaps use a white board. R. Vinnicombe said it would be nice to have a tv with the events listed, if this is part of the new lobby.
- It was noted that the arena sound system was horrible.
- There was an overlap of the band and Birds of Prey show...adjusted start times to accommodate both groups.
- People liked the exhibits on the arena floor.
- C. Blake noted that for the 50/50, people waited for an hour from 8-9pm. She recommended we either have the draw earlier or have the bar open to entertain people.
- L. Higgins said a teacher thought the younger kids got bored due to so much sitting.
- K. Aitchison thought we were maybe overcharging for the food which adds up for families. Prices were discussed based on the size of the bun, etc. This could be reevaluated for next year. Leos donated the buns and hotdogs.
- D. Cummings asked if Leos made money on the popcorn.
- A big "thank you" to Terri Gray for being the convenor of the food booth.
- At 2:30 pm on Wednesday, most people are gone off the ice surface so why are we staying until 3:30? It was noted that quite a few kids went back on the bus and were not picked up.
- R. Vinnicombe suggested that for future Fairs, we could provide some kind of entertainment in the auditorium to keep people at the Fair longer. Will definitely have challenges due to the weeknight.

- **Hydro (and Water) Line to Shed** - no update

## New Business

- **District 8 Fall Meeting Oct 24th, Milverton (confirm attendance #'s & RSVP)**

-J. Lowe needs to know how many members will be attending? L. Higgins plans to attend. M. Thompson is a maybe. R. Vinnicombe is going. R. Kellington is a maybe. We need to do the In Memorium.

- **Ideas for 2024 Fall Fair**

-J. Lowe reported that we have an excellent cover for next year entered by an adult for our theme of Pork and Beans. R. Vinnicombe noted that we need to decide the theme for 2025. **R. Kellington will send out the ideas and ask for any other ideas for the theme for 2025.**

-M. Cardiff reported that he and J. Cardiff will be stepping back as the leads for the Children's Program and asked for volunteers. He will be getting feedback from school, etc. and will have a report for the next meeting.

-J. Lowe indicated that there was some disappointment regarding lack of food or beverage options besides the roast beef dinner on Tuesday night. He suggested that more options like beef on a bun, hot dogs and water/drinks be sold for those attending who are not interested in the meal. Maybe drinks could be sold on Tuesday night by a local group like the Leo's in conjunction with whatever food they are selling.

-D. Cummings noted that Milverton Fair hosts different events like beef bbq's throughout the year and perhaps this is something we could do instead of having everything on our Fair days.

-Z. Onn asked if we could focus on a membership drive this winter to get more volunteers.

- **Draft Budget for 2024 (review at December meeting)**

- **Fall Fair Float**- J. Baker and K. Aitchison volunteered to organize the Fall Fair float for the Brussels Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 5pm. R. Vinnicombe to look into getting plastic pigs to use in lieu of real pigs. J. Cardiff to provide the wagon...need volunteers to clean up the wagon of staples from previous years.

## Correspondence and Announcements

- United Way Perth-Huron: Youth in Action Grants-Email the completed application form to [wwellington@perthhuron.unitedway.ca](mailto:wwellington@perthhuron.unitedway.ca) by October 13, 2023
- "Finding Fairness in Farm Succession" Workshop: Thursday, November 16, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm, Goderich  
Early Bird Tickets: \$65 each. Deadline: September 30, 2023. Regular Tickets: \$75.00 each. Deadline: November 2, 2023.
- 2024 OAAS Convention: February 22-24, 2024 at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Toronto North, Richmond Hill. Details to follow. R. Kellington has booked rooms for 3 nights.

## Adjournment

The motion to move the Ag. Society meetings back to the Brussels Library (D. Cummings) was seconded (G. Morrison) and passed. R. Kellington to book the Library and cancel the Legion. The meeting was adjourned by D. Cummings. The next meeting will be Wed. Nov. 1st, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brussels Library.

Minutes submitted by: Rosie Kellington

Minutes approved by: Reg Vinnicombe