



**Location:** Brussels Library

**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024

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

## Brussels Agricultural Society General Meeting

### In Attendance

Reg Vinnicombe, Glenda Morrison, Maggie Speer, Sandra Machan, Linda Garland, Crystal Blake, Pam McLellan, Jeff Cardiff, Cathy Cardiff, Monique Baan, Rhonda McArter, Jenna Baker, Terri Gray, John Lowe, Justin Morrison, Mary Douma

Regrets: Rosie Kellington, Joan Bernard, MaryAnn Thompson, Dorothy Cummings

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. The motion to approve the agenda as amended (to add report by Crystal re: Building Communities Leaders workshop), made by Sandra, seconded by Cathy, motion carried.

### Approval of Minutes

The previous meeting minutes (April 3, 2024) were emailed. A motion to approve the previous minutes made by Mary, seconded by Terri, motion carried.

### President's Report

Prev. Meeting Action items: Justin updated website with Treasurer address. **Rosie to check with Zoey that Treasurer's address is added to the Fair Book.**

Sean Mitchell attended District 8 meeting.

**First Impressions program:** Is back up and running after Covid. Participation fee is \$226, of which 50% will be refunded upon completion of all requirements. Ag Societies paired with another Fair. A team from each visits the other's fair and evaluates specific characteristics based on a visitor's first impression. Each society is responsible for travel costs, photocopying and printing etc.

**Building Community Leaders Program:** 51 people attended in London (including Crystal Blake & Lori Vader). The OAAS is excited to offer this valuable workshop to all Ag Societies.

**OAAS** in final stages of a new website.

**ONCA Webinars:** bylaws to be updated and passed by membership before October 18, 2024. Reg working on these updates. It will expand our bylaws, but they will now include details on procedures.

**Spring Webinars** coming up. Watch [website](#) and [Social Media](#) for updates.

**Central Canada Exhibition Association Scholarship:** [submission](#) due July 31.

**OAAS marketing Packages:** Each Society will receive a directory, brochures, 3 OAAS Fair Passports and other materials.

**District Committees Update:** the OAAS Board will be making some updates in 2024 to the

make-up of districts to be compliant with ONCA. District boards become district committees. District directors become district representatives (DR's). Districts will no longer have designations of ag or homecraft. A max of 3 voting members of an Ag Society will be allowed to vote at a district meeting. Quorum 50% + 1 Ag Society.

## Homecraft President's Report

Linda reported that the **Family Fun Fair** has received lots of publicity in The Citizen, Betty Graber-Watson included it in her April 19th column, The April 26th edition mentioned it in a headline with information provided by Reg in an earlier interview for the Salute to Agriculture edition a few months back. Judges are lined up, and have generously offered their services free of charge. Judges are, Edna McLellan, Marie McCutcheon & Marlene Glanville, who will also bring along an apprentice judge. Thanks to John for asking, the Legion has graciously offered the use of their facility free of charge for the afternoon. **Rosie to send a Thank You to them. John to have a list of unused Exhibitor numbers ready**, so everyone entering items for the first time will already be in the system for the Fair in September. Sections are welcome to bring a display if they wish. John mentioned there is all kinds of bristol board in storage. **Rosie to bring some to the Legion.**

**Buckets of Junk** category can be entered by any family, possibly 3 buckets are still available at Murray's Barber Shop.

The Quilt & Needlework section is planning a workshop for the **Charity Begins at Home category**. It will be the last Thursday in June, more details coming soon.

Linda reported that Rosie would like to know what is needed in everyone's bins. Most bins are stored at the arena. **Section leads to let Rosie know if their section prefers ribbons and/or stickers, and how many, and how many entry tags needed, so she can place an order.**

## Treasurer's Report

The financial statements were mailed out. New donations have been received, \$1000 from the Brussels Optimists and \$500 from the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry. Glenda reported deposits were sent for the escape room and inflatables. A motion to: Transfer \$5000 from the TD account to the Manulife savings account, was made by Linda, seconded by Jeff, motion carried. No change on the registered charity status as of yet. Crystal made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented by Glenda, seconded by Rhonda, motion carried.

## Ambassadors' and Ambassador Sub-committee Reports

Maggie reported that the ambassadors hope to be at the Fun Fair and will have their display board available for viewing for sure. The District 8 Ambassadors Competition will be held May 4th in St.Pauls at 7pm. Please attend to show your support for Loretta. Reg is planning to attend. We are sending along 2 hanging baskets of strawberry plants as our silent auction item.

## Ladies Night Sub-committee Report

Jenna reported that Ladies Night is set for Oct. 26th at BMG Community Centre, it will be a lip sync competition, and letters will be sent out to recruit teams. Instead of a DJ, a good speaker system will be rented and the group will look after the music. There will be a silent auction. A taco/nacho bar will be available for a late night snack. Cardiff's catering will make the meal with members to volunteer. Will need about 8 members to serve and clear tables and clean up. Pies and dessert will also be provided by

members. They will be asking the firemen to help out again too.

## Old Business

- AssistExpo - updates for 2024 fall fair classes are complete. The link to register your entries remains the same.
- No further update from Huron East regarding rental agreement.
- Constitution updates, still being worked on by Reg.
- [Day at the Races Fundraiser](#), Sunday August 25th at 12:30 (race is 1:30-4:30). Need at minimum 3 volunteers for food, plus 50/50 sellers. Raceway provides 1 BBQ, but will need a second one. We are responsible for all the food & condiments; sell hot dogs and possibly pre-cooked hamburgers. Will need to obtain a license from Central Huron for 50/50 draw.

## 2024 Fair

- Fair Book updates- Z. Onn has been updating the sections. **Profiles are needed for the Ambassadors.**
- St.Johns Ambulance will not be asked to attend as they don't have volunteers during the day. Local Firefighters will hopefully be in attendance.
- Children's program- Jill will head this program, plans in place to have a Pork presentation, and a Bean presentation, and then for a third activity a bean bag toss is one of the ideas.
- Basket Raffle Draw. The license will allow for 2000 tickets to be sold, Tickets \$2 or 3/\$5. Draw to be held at 3pm on Wednesday. Peter & Sandy Allison have a budget of \$1000 and have created 6 baskets: Good Housekeeping, Surprise, Bakers, Roast Dinner, Travellers, Handy Tool.
- BBQ - Tuesday BBQ 5-6:30pm, Adults \$25, 12 & under \$10. Menu: milk, baked potato, caesar salad, pork chops, beans, ice cream cups for dessert. The food booth (in new lobby) on Tuesday will serve Pie for \$3/slice, hamburger & drink \$8, hotdog & drink \$5, Coffee & cold drinks \$1. On Wednesday: Pie, Coffee, beef on a bun & drink \$8, peameal on a bun & drink \$6, and possibly fries if equipment available. Tables will be set up in the auditorium for BBQ dinner.
- Entertainment - Ron Howatt Band, Wednesday afternoon
- Escape Room Tuesday night, Inflatables \$5000 Tuesday night and Wednesday.
- **D. Cummings will contact the Firemen regarding the obstacle course and smoke house.**
- Ambassador Cake Decorating contest. **Crystal McCallum to reach out to other Ag.Societies.** Will start at 7pm (location still to be determined since the stage will be in use) and the auction will start around 7:30 as soon as the dog show is over.
- Dog Show - 7:15 pm-Alanis Clarke.
- Vendor Market - all the tables for vendors and community partners will be in the lobby..
- Signs advertising the Fair, 2 sided with stakes are \$20. Motion made to purchase 5 additional signs by Terri, seconded by Rhonda, motion carried.
- Face painting has increased to \$1000. Motion to have face painting at the fair at this price made by Mary, seconded by Sandra, motion carried.

## New Business

Crystal and Lori attended the Building Community Leaders Program in London, offered by the OAAS. This is a leadership and governance training program for agricultural societies. The impact of the Building Community Leaders program, delivered with the support of the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI), will ensure increased leadership, governance skills, and risk management practices in Ontario's agricultural societies and, by extension, the agri-food sector in Ontario.

Crystal reports it was 2 good, full days, with lots of food/snacks and a nice venue. Content included:

- Knowing and understanding the “why” we do what we do. Getting to the root of why we belong to the Ag Society.
- Using the term “Partnership” vs “Sponsorship” has helped other societies receive more funding.
- The importance of thanking and following up with volunteers to keep them engaged, and making sure no volunteer feels like they wasted their time.
- Onboard training for new members, and refreshers for current board members is always helpful for retention.
- Discovered the importance of why we should use “yes, and...” vs “yes, but...”, and how that can change the outcome of a conversation.
- Having an elevator pitch in your back pocket is also a good idea.
- There is a new board game board training coming (Alberta Assoc. Ag. Societies). You sign up online, \$200 dollars.
- Having written policy and procedures for things we do was a way to reduce risk.

## Correspondence and Announcements

- District 8 Ambassador Competition, May 4th, Downie Optimist Hall, St. Pauls, ON at 7pm
- Family Fun Fair, Sunday May 5, 2024 at the Brussels Legion starting at 1pm.
- Brussels Fall Fair, Theme is Pork & Beans, September 17 - 18, 2024
- Michael Whiting ([michael@thewhitings.ca](mailto:michael@thewhitings.ca)) from the Parkhill Fair has asked to borrow the table cloths from the baking section for their fair August 10 & 11. It was agreed that we would allow this as long as they were returned in the same condition. *Update: Michael realized he made a mistake and it was actually the table cloths from the Canning section he wanted to borrow.*

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Terri.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 pm, Brussels Library

Minutes submitted by: Monique Baan

Minutes approved by: Reg Vinnicombe