

# 2014

**BMO® Bank of Montreal  
Ontario Farm Family Awards**







## President's Greeting



The Members, Directors and Staff of the Ontario Plowmen's Association are pleased to welcome you to the BMO Ontario Farm Family Awards and the 2014 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo. It is an honour to have you join us.

We know that farm families are the very heart of the agricultural industry in Ontario and around the world. Through your innovation, dedication and family values, you have set an example for many, and produced abundant, safe and flavourful food.

The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo is built on the same values as each of your farming businesses. Since 1913, this event has been built by farmers and farmers-at-heart to offer agricultural and rural living experiences and education for our urban, rural non-farm and farming friends.

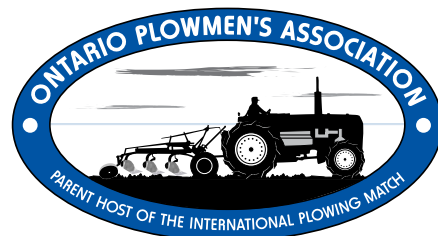
We are pleased to be partnering with BMO to present these awards. As a presenting partner of the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo, BMO positively influences this event and all our Branch Plowing Matches across the province---as well as the entire agricultural industry in Ontario.

Congratulations to the families being recognized today. Thank you for your commitment to agriculture.

We hope you enjoy your day. If we can be of assistance in any way, please let us know.

We have accomplished much by all of us working together.

Melvin Switzer, President  
Ontario Plowmen's Association



## Greetings from BMO



On behalf of BMO Bank of Montreal, we would like to acknowledge the 2014 BMO Ontario Farm Family Award.

We are privileged to partner with the Ontario Plowmen's Association to recognize outstanding Ontario farm families.


The vital contribution these families make to the province's economic growth and to the health and wellness of citizens in Ontario and throughout Canada is recognized with great respect. Those we honour with this award represent important examples of the spirit and admirable traditions that come from "working the land."

Through these awards, we will be supporting a renewed urban-rural relationship that showcases how the values and hard work of the farm family unit enhances our quality of life.

Susan Brown  
Senior Vice President,  
South Western Ontario Division  
BMO Bank of Montreal



Sandra Henderson  
Senior Vice President,  
Eastern Ontario Division  
BMO Bank of Montreal

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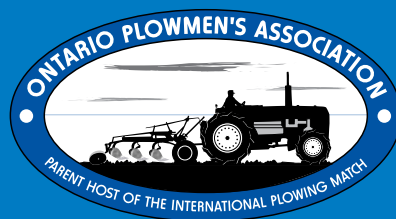
# Congratulations!

## We are proud to recognize the Top Ten Honourees of the 2014 BMO Ontario Farm Family Awards.

The BMO Ontario Farm Family Awards allow BMO and the Ontario Plowmen's Association the opportunity to showcase 10 outstanding families from across Ontario.

These families best represent the values and hard work of the family farm unit within their rural communities and enhance everyone's quality of life.

We couldn't be prouder.



## Congratulations

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# Anderson Family

## Anderson Farm



### Community Involvement

Roy and Betty are active members of the Dover Centre Church and have served on many church committees. Currently, Rick and his wife Brenda hold the position of treasurer at the church, and both Betty and Brenda were youth leaders.

Roy was a trustee at the Dover Centre School. He was also on the public school board and as chairman of the board was instrumental in the establishment of McNaughton Avenue Public School and Indian Creek Road Public School in Chatham. Roy has also served on the former Dover Township Council, and as a director of the Ontario Human Performance Association.

Roy and Rick have both been directors of the Kent Cattlemen's Association, and Rick has also been president. They both served on the board of the Ontario Hereford Association. Roy was president of the association in 1989 and Rick was president in 1999.

In his youth, Roy showed cattle through 4-H and later became a Junior Farmer. Both Rick and Randy followed in his footsteps and paid it forward as 4-H beef club leaders in Dover Centre. Rick's daughters Chantal and Amanda, and Randy's daughters Stacy and Crystal, were all 4-H members and continued the family tradition of showing cattle. Crystal was president of the Junior Hereford Association in 2000 and Chantal was treasurer in 2005. Chantal and her husband Matt are now 4-H leaders of a beef club in Dresden.

Roy coached minor hockey in Dresden in past years. He played fast ball in Dover Centre and coached a number of Ontario Championship teams. Rick and Randy also played baseball, and their daughters are keeping the ball diamond vibrant today. The girls were also active in school sports throughout their high school years and beyond.

### Awards and Highlights

Truluck Livestock was named "Breeder of the Year for the South West Zone" in 1997 and went on to earn "Breeder of the Year" in Ontario that same year.

Roy and Betty have co-chaired the National Hereford Show at the Royal Winter Fair. All four grandchildren were keen 4-H members and representatives of the family farm, showing cattle in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, P.E.I., and throughout the United States. In 1994, Crystal won Grand Champion Hereford at the Royal Winter Fair and Reserve Champion of all breeds. That same year, Amanda was Peewee Champion Showperson at the Royal Winter Fair Hereford Show. Chantal was Intermediate Champion Showperson and Grand Champion Showperson at the Knob Hill Heifer Show in 2000.

Amanda played basketball for Western University, and finished as the second highest scorer in Ontario university athletics history.

### Goals for the Future

In the future, the family intends increase the use of automation and implement further conservation innovations. Chantal's son, Holten, is the eighth generation to live on the farm, and the family's primary goal is to make sure the farm is viable for future generations.

### Historical Background

Roy Anderson grew up on the 150-acre farm near Chatham-Kent owned by his maternal grandfather, Roy Winter. Four generations of Winters had owned the farm, and by the time Roy Anderson married Betty Rose in 1955, he was renting the farm from his grandfather. With the help of his father and grandfather, Roy farmed a feed lot and cash crops. In 1960, he bought the farm from his grandfather.

### Type of Farming Operation

The farm has expanded to approximately 1000 acres, consisting of cash crops and livestock (Hereford and Angus cattle). The family follow no-till and conservation tillage practices.

Roy and his sons, Rick and Randy, began breeding Herefords in 1972 under the farm name "Truluck Livestock". Today, the livestock operation is run by Roy's granddaughter, Chantal Van Esse, and her husband, Matt. They raise both Hereford and Angus cattle.

### Family Participation

Roy and Rick, along with Roy's brother Ron and nephew Blayne, work together on all aspects of the cash crop operation. Randy was actively involved in farm operations until he passed away 5 years ago. Roy, Rick and Randy operated many Ontario bull test stations over the years, to improve genetics in beef cattle. These days, the grandchildren are responsible for the livestock.

Rick and Brenda ran the Cold Springs Elevator located near the farm, in Oungah, for 13 years. Rick has also been a part-time sales representative, overseeing seed production at Devolder Farms in Dover Centre for four years, but is currently focusing on the operation of the family farm.

Betty has been involved in the family farm throughout the years, raising the children and maintaining the household. Granddaughter Crystal lives on the farm, as does Chantal and her family.

# Cox Family

## Cox Farms



### Community Involvement

Tom Cox has wealth of agricultural knowledge and his blog on Farms.com is widely perceived as a source of valuable insights on agricultural matters. He is a director of Hamilton-Wentworth Federation of Agricultural and past president of Brant Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Tom was the founding chair of Integrated Grain Processors' Co-operative, Inc. This co-operative, composed mainly of local corn farmers, was responsible for the building of the ethanol plant in Aylmer, Ontario. It is the largest co-op start-up in Canadian history. The plant was completed in 2008 with public and private funding and processes 16 million bushels of Ontario corn per year to produce fuel ethanol at a rate of 160 million litres per year. It is wholly owned by the co-operative and contributes to the community by stimulating the market for Ontario corn and by providing local jobs. Animal feeds are produced as a co-product of the process and the plant generates its own power. The project that Tom spearheaded acts as a blueprint that similar communities can follow.

Tom is passionate about the athletic development of children and has volunteered his time to coach fast-pitch softball and the Beverly Bandits minor hockey team.

Bill was a schoolteacher for many years. He was president of Brantford Aquatic Club and a member of Brantford Flying Club.

Marjorie is a member of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, a national women's charitable organization.

### Awards and Highlights

Bill has won many top grower awards from the Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

### Goals for the Future

The family intends to continue to grow the farm and elevator business and achieve maximum output in an environmentally conscious manner.

### Historical Background

Bill Cox's father purchased the original farm on 5th Concession Road in 1920. Bill left the farm to become a mechanic and school teacher, returning to farming in 1977. He bought the present home farm near Troy in 1979. Initially, it was a mixed farm, with crops and beef cattle, but in 1987 the Cox family began to focus on grain elevation.

### Type of Farming Operation

The farm primarily grows cash crops of corn, soybeans, and wheat on 3,030 acres of owned land and 1,600 rented acres. The family was an early adopter of improved tillage practices such as reduced tillage and no-till. Conservation tillage is heavily used, with satellite positioning via GPS for spring operation, with the intention of managing a continuous process of soil improvement. The crop residues on the fields help to achieve the same results as conventional tillage but in a more environmentally conscious manner. Some commercial fertilizer is used in combination with these tillage practices to achieve optimal results.

The soybeans are elevated to a crusher, producing edible oils and a range of other products, including animal feeds from the by-product of the process. Storage tanks on the farm have a capacity of 750 bushels.

The Cox family also operate a grain elevation business, providing a service to local producers.

### Family Participation

Bill and Marjorie Cox are founders and presidents of the company. A mechanic by trade, Bill easily turned to servicing the farm equipment and Marjorie was the bookkeeper until the business evolved and the accounting became more complicated. Their son, Tom, took over the bookkeeping responsibilities and is also responsible for the buying and selling of grain. Until recently, Tom was the crop-spraying expert of the family, but his nephew, Joshua, has recently taken over this task on the farm.

Tom's brother-in-law, Alex Vajoczki, does the majority of the planting and is also responsible for trucking. Several B-trains and smaller trucks are on the roads at all times and are the preferred method of transportation.



# Eby Family

## JSE Farms



### Historical Background

In 1971, Stanley and Islay Eby purchased a 500-acre beef feedlot near Kincardine, and in 1974 built one of the first slatted-floor beef barns in Ontario. Originally from Paisley, Ontario and nearby Chesley respectively, the couple added a further 200 acres in the 1980s, switching from crop production to intensive pasture management. In 1994, Steve Eby bought 300 acres (including the feedlot) from his father, although Stan continues to farm the remaining 400 acres, and is actively around helping out at JSE farms daily.

### Type of Farming Operation

The Ebys finish and market 1,500 head of cattle annually at JSE Farms. They utilise intensive pasture management and a nutrient management program, they sold 400 grass-fed yearlings last year. In 2013, Steve erected a state-of-the-art, naturally ventilated Cover-All finishing barn.

The feedlot is certified by the Ontario Corn-Fed Beef Program, which requires cattle to be finished on an 80% corn-based ration to provide nutritional consistency and meat quality right through to the consumer. Steve prefers to work with known genetics and strings with solid health programs that are consistent with his feedlot health program.

### Family Participation

Steve's brother Jeff also farms, and the extended Eby family achieve economies of scale by sharing some equipment, facilities and workload. Collaboration is natural to the family, and they feel it is an essential component of life on a vibrant Ontario farm.

Steve's spouse, Janine, works from a home office unrelated to farming, and daughters Lauren and Rachel are in school. However, they all participate in farming activities when they can.

### Community Involvement

Stan and Islay Ely were highly active in the community, and have passed the torch to Steve. Inspired by his parents, he is mentoring his children to follow in his footsteps.

Steve has been director of the Beef Farmers of Ontario since 2012, sitting on committees for government relations, Ontario feeder finance, feedlots, and forage insurance, and was an advisory councillor for Bruce County to the Ontario Cattlemen's Association from 2008–2012. As director of the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, he sits on a number of industry committees, and has been a member of the OMAFRA Livestock Medicines

Advisory Committee since 2010. He has been a director of the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week since 2007, and chaired the committee from 2009 to 2011. This week-long conference and expo is a leading provincial education event. Steve is a founding director of the West Bruce Feeder Finance Co-operative, and assisted in the legal work for incorporation and the hiring of staff. Active in a number of environmental initiatives, he is a member of the Penetangore Watershed Group, a community-based environmental action group working to achieve sustainable water quality improvements. He has been a mentor for the Sustainable Grazing Management Program, and chaired the committee that hears/rules on landowner assessment appeals to the Drainage Court of Revision for the municipality of Kincardine. He also was a member of the Nutrient Management Steering Committee involved in the development of a bylaw for consideration by council in 1999–2000. Steve is an elder at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Glamis, coached girls' minor hockey, and was involved in 4H while his daughters were active in the organization.

Stan was heavily involved in the Ontario Cattlemen's Association and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association throughout the 1990s and 2000s, becoming president of both organizations. He is a member of Tiverton Agricultural Society, sits on the Toronto Stock Yards Land Development Board, and was actively involved in the organization of the International Plowing Matches held in Bruce County in 1976, 1993 and 2008.

Janine is a church pianist, and has been involved in Tiverton minor sports for a number of years. Lauren has been active in local 4H clubs and girls' minor hockey, and is the 2013–2014 Tiverton Agricultural Society Fall Fair Ambassador. Rachel has also been involved in 4H.

### Awards and Highlights

In 1982, the Eby family featured in a CBC mini-documentary "Country Canada", about the future of farming. They also appeared on the front cover and featured in articles in Better Farming magazine in 2008, and in Canadian Cattlemen magazine in 2013.

### Goals for the Future

The Eby family and JSE Farms are well positioned for continued success, and intend to build on their food production focus, producing high quality beef for customers worldwide. Other goals include certification by the Ontario Corn-Fed Beef Program, and staying active as a voice in the Canadian beef industry.

# Huffman Family

## Huffmandale Holsteins Ltd.



### Historical Background

The Huffmans are United Empire Loyalists who migrated to the Napanee area in the early 1800s. John Huffman purchased the main farm in Thurlow Township in 1908. William Carman Huffman inherited the farm in 1946 and married Wilma Swan the following year. Their five children (Harry, Nancy, Carl, Edward, and Edwin) grew up and worked on the farm. In 1957 an additional 100 acres was purchased one mile west of the original farm.

Edwin began farming full-time in 1980 and Edward followed suit two years later. In 1988 Edward and Edwin formed a partnership and purchased the cattle, milk, quota, and machinery from Carman and Wilma, who leased the land and buildings to the partnership. The partnership was incorporated as Huffmandale Holsteins Ltd. in 1993.

### Type of Farming Operation

The 200-acre farm is a dairy operation with about 135 head, milking about 65 registered Holsteins in a tie-stall barn. Calves are raised in hutches before being moved into a freestall calf barn. New bloodlines are introduced to the herd by the use of embryo transfer.

Pasture and crop rotations of corn and hay provide most of the forage requirements of the herd. About 150 acres are workable, most of which are tile drained, and an additional 100 acres is rented. A mixture of no-till and conventional tillage is used and nurse crops on new hay grounds are either harvested for forage or left for grain and straw depending on inventories. Semi-solid manure is the primary fertilizer.

### Family Participation

Over the years, all members of the family have played a part in the farming operation. Currently, Wilma is landlord and Edward and Edwin are farm managers and provide the bulk of the day-to-day labour. Edwin's children, Sarah and Arnold, help out as work and school commitments allow, and elder brother Harry provides consulting advice.

**Community Involvement** Wilma and Carman were instrumental in the building of Gilead Community Hall. Wilma was a 4-H leader

and taught sewing, cooking and gardening. She is curator of Plainfield Women's Institute. She volunteers at St. Mark's United Church in Cannifton and was president of the United Church Women group. Wilma has volunteered, sponsored, organized and judged at numerous local agricultural fairs.

Harry was an assistant 4-H leader, chairman of the Scout Group Committee and manager of the West London hockey team. He is a life member of the Byron Optimist Club and a member of Byron United Church. He is secretary for CEDASSS, a volunteer group supporting the development of mechanized farming in South Sudan.

Edward is a 4-H club leader and a director of Hastings County 4-H Association. He is a director of Hastings County Farms Service Association and represents Hastings County at EastGen and on the board of Eastern Breeders Inc. Edward also volunteers for Shannonville Fair.

Edwin was a 4-H calf club leader and a Junior Farmer and a county delegate for CanWest DHI. He coached minor baseball for 3 years and is president of Gilead St. Andrew's cemetery.

Sarah was a junior director for the Hastings County 4-H Association and volunteered at the East-Central Ontario judging school hosted by the Hastings County Holstein Club in 2011. She was a campus resident advisor and student ambassador at Kemptville College and secretary for the 2013 Kemptville College Royal.

Arnold is a 4-H member and has completed six clubs. He was secretary of the Dairy Judging Club and also volunteered at the East-Central Ontario judging school.

### Awards and Highlights

One of the biggest highlights for the farm was having a cow selected for the Semex Walk of Fame at the 2008 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. One of her calves went on to be awarded an Honourable Mention as an All-Ontario Milking Yearling in 2010. The family has won many awards for showing Holsteins, including Reserve Champion 4-H Holstein Heifer at Ottawa Winter Fair and Grand Champion 4-H Holstein Heifer at Madoc Fair.

Wilma has received Belleville Fair president's Award twice and was presented with the Thorton Portt Memorial Volunteer Award at Shannonville Agricultural Society in 2011. She received the 2013 Hastings County Woman-of-Excellence Fair Award and an Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies service diploma for outstanding service to the Belleville Agricultural Society in 2014.

Other highlights include Edwin's fourth place 4-H potato exhibit at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Sarah's spiritual leadership award from Kemptville College, and Arnold being named top Junior 4-H Showman at Madoc Fair.

### Goals for the Future

The Huffmans would like the farm to pass on to a fifth generation and intend to buy more land and additional milk quotas to improve the viability of the business. Improvements to heifer and dry cow facilities are planned, along with the adoption of labour-saving technologies. Winning a Master Breeder Shield from Holstein Canada is also a goal.



# Lunn Family

## Lunnvale Farm



### Historical Background

Brian Lunn's parents began farming in 1951, when Brian was a year old. Raised on the farm and a lifelong member of 4H and Junior Farmers, Brian married Donna, a registered nurse, in 1973. They built a house on the family farm, which they bought from Brian's parents in 1980. Additional land was purchased in 2006 and 2007 to begin the transition to their son, Brad, and his wife, Janine.

### Type of Farming Operation

The farm is mostly cash crops, and some beef and lamb. Up to 2010, Brian and Donna also milked a free-choice pastured Jersey dairy herd. They expanded the herd by 50% and built a milking parlour and naturally ventilated freestall barn. The home farm has a crop rotation of corn, beans, wheat and hay, with some oats and barley. The farm was certified organic in 2009, growing organic feed for livestock. The production of organic grains for human consumption started this year. The conventional farm grows identity-preserved crops, using conservation practices such as green cover, crop rotations, and forage cropping. There has been an environmental farm plan and a nutrient management plan since 1996.

Brian and Donna have planted four acres with new crops to research the agronomy for an exciting project they developed in association with Elgin Federation of Agriculture. The project will investigate crop diversity for prebiotic food ingredients and manufacturing in the form of a community cooperative.

Brad and Janine repurposed the dairy barn for the production of sheep's milk. In partnership with local cheese makers Gunn's Hill Artisan Cheese, they have created and marketed Crossroad Farms Sheep Gouda. They also collect sheep's milk from other local producers for delivery to processors.

### Family Participation

Donna and Brian could not have managed the farm and been so active in the community without the help of their three children. All three were active in 4H and attended the University of Guelph. Ammie and Becky are now partners at other farm operations, and Brad home farms with Brian and Donna. Brad and Janine's three children are also keen young farmers just starting 4H.

Donna and Brian helped support the farm with off-farm income in the 1980s - Brian working at Imperial Tobacco in the winter and Donna as a registered nurse. Donna still works part-time in health promotion and community economic development. Brian became

a professional hoof trimmer in 1996, and Brad and Janine operated Belmont Corn Maze for three years.

### Community Involvement

Brian is a past president of the Southwestern Jersey Club, a member of the board of Elgin Federation of Agriculture, and first vice president of Elgin Plowing Committee. He has been Noble Grand and District Deputy of Belmont Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is a member of St. James Presbyterian Church in North Yarmouth.

Brian and Donna created and co-chaired the Farmer's Market at the International Plowing Match - a highly successful tented area for farmer to display and sell their produce. They helped create the Elgin County Buy Local Buy Fresh map and brochure in 2006 and have chaired the committee ever since.

Donna is a past president of Elgin Federation of Agriculture and a board member since 1998, and was vice-chair of the executive committee for the 2010 International Plowing Match in Elgin. She has been active in many organizations concerning women's issues and abuse, particularly in agricultural and rural families. Donna also serves on the St. Thomas branch council of Libro Credit Union, and wrote the proposal for the creation of the Settlement Stories Quilt Trail for Mennonite Community Services.

### Awards and Highlights

Brian was Hay King at Aylmer Fair, and was awarded a 25-year service jewel by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Donna was appointed by the federal Ministry of Agriculture to the Farm Debt Mediation Services appeal board from 1998 to 2006 and to the Ontario Farm Income Disaster Program appeal board from 1999 to 2004. She was awarded the Canadian Commemorative Medal in 1992 in recognition of many years of community work. Donna received the Leading Women, Leading Girls, Building Communities award in 2006 from the Ontario Women's Directorate, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's 75th anniversary volunteer award in 2010 and a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award in 2011. Donna's proposal writing skills have brought in funding of over \$11 million to Elgin County for rural broadband, local food strategy, and many other agricultural and rural issues.

### Goals for the Future

Brian and Donna want to encourage and support the next generation of farmers and to promote cooperative and innovative farming in the community. For Lunnvale farm, the goals are to further develop organic farming, to retail processed grains such as rolled oats, and continue to market sheep cheese. More personally, they intend to spend quality time with their grandchildren, and to enjoy the RVing experience while exploring other rural communities.

# Reid Family

## Davdonest Farms

### Historical Background

The Reid family originates from Paisley, in Renfrewshire, Scotland. In 1866, Robert Reid settled with his wife and family on a small farm in Admaston Township, Renfrew County. Upon his death in 1909, his son, James, discovered that the farm the family had operated for 40 years had never actually been in his father's name, so he bought a 100-acre mixed farm nearby. The two-storey red brick farmhouse, built in 1895, is still the Reid homestead today.

James' son, George, took over the family farm. He purchased the farm's first two registered Holsteins, forming the basis of the current herd. In 1939, when pasteurization became mandatory, George began shipping milk to the dairy in Renfrew. George died from a head injury sustained while herding cattle on the farm when his son David was only fifteen. With the help of neighbours,



David and his two younger brothers worked alongside their mother to keep the family farm in operation. David bought his own 100-acre farm while still in high school, and when he married Joan Bennett, also from a local farming family, they were milking 25 registered Holsteins. At first they used traditional pails and a dumping station in the barn. David was eager to expand and in 1960 they would add a bulk tank. In 1972 they built an extension to the dairy barn, doubled the size of the herd, and installed a pipeline system.

David and Joan had four children; Gail, George, Robert, and Katherine. All of the children were actively involved in the farm and in 1998 Robert and George became the fifth generation to operate the family farm. With their parents' help, the Reid brothers have grown a small family farm to a 1,100-acre mixed family farm and business.

### Type of Farming Operation

Davdonest Farms is a mixed farm with a dairy operation milking 50 registered Holsteins, and a cash crop business with 1,100 acres of tillable, tile-drained land. The farm has completed a nutrient management analysis and is in full compliance. Rotational cropping is practiced and the farm is registered with the Canadian Quality Milk program. The farm also produces pedigreed seeds.

### Family Participation

Currently, Robert, Michelle, and their three daughters live in the family homestead. After graduating from Guelph University, Robert took over the management of the dairy farm. Michele is the farm's bookkeeper.

George and his wife, Kim, live nearby. They have three sons, two daughters, and three grandchildren. George is responsible for planting and crop management and for all equipment maintenance.

David and Joan continue to be active in the management of the farm. David provides valuable advice and works alongside George and Robert in the fields or wherever he is needed. Joan provides family support and encouragement.

### Community Involvement

David is a director of the Renfrew Agricultural Society, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and Renfrew County Plowmen's Association, and is secretary/treasurer of Renfrew County Wheat Producers. He is secretary of Renfrew County Milk Producers and held the position of treasurer for 30 years. David is a member of Renfrew County Soil & Crop Association and was a long-serving 4-H leader. He is a church elder, teaching Sunday school and church youth programs for many years, and has managed Admaston Cemetery for 50 years.

Joan is a 4-H leader and an assistant leader for Canadian Girls in Training. She is branch secretary of the Balsam Hill-Horton Women's Institute and Admaston representative for the Renfrew Seniors' Home Support program. Joan is a member of the Admaston United Church Women group and taught Sunday school and church youth programs.

The Reids advocate age-appropriate farm machinery operation and general farm safety and Robert is a member of the Farm Safety Committee.

### Awards and Highlights

David was recognized for 50 years' service as director of the Renfrew County Soil & Crop Association and inducted to the Renfrew County Agricultural Hall of Fame. He was awarded a 50-year Veteran Breeder pin by Holstein Canada and was Grand Champion Exhibitor at the Renfrew County Seed and Forage Show.

Joan was nominated as Citizen of the Year for Admaston Township and has a lifetime membership award from the Women's Institute.

Robert and Michelle's three children are active in 4-H and consistently win awards at the local Soil & Crop fair.

### Goals for the Future

The Reids are a multi-generational farm family and their goals are to help the next generations to uphold family farming traditions, to continue to strive for quality and innovation in agriculture, and most importantly, to maintain the family's values and way of life.



# Sleeth Family

## Eilevale Farm

### Historical Background

The Sleeth family came to Frontenac County from Ireland in the 1820s. Ronald's grandfather purchased the farm in 1921. Ronald's grandmother was a schoolteacher for 40 years and also taught English to Dutch immigrants the family took in after the Second World War. Ronald was born on the farm. He took over the operation from his grandfather and father in 1962 when he married Eileen, who also hails from a well-established local farm family. In 1986 after Paul graduated from Kempville College, Eilevale Farm was established under the partnership of Ronald, Eileen and Paul.



### Type of Farming Operation

Eilevale is a dairy farm milking 30 registered Holstein cows daily. The Sleeths are increasing the number of genomic-tested cows, and recently purchased a high-genomic cow from the United States. One of her offspring sold at the Sale of Stars at the Royal Winter Fair in 2012. Embryo transfer is used for elite cows, and embryos have been exported to Japan and Germany. The farm currently has the highest deviation genomic-tested cow in Frontenac County. This 3-year-old has just completed her second lactation and through the use of embryo transfer she already has five milking daughters – something that would be impossible without this technology.

Crops are grown on 250 acres using minimum tillage and a crop rotation of hay, barley, soybeans and corn. The use of commercial fertilizer has been reduced by 50% over the past five years, and pesticide usage has been reduced by 25% over three years. Grassed waterways and tile drainage are used to reduce erosion. Sons Paul and Jeff recently purchased the neighbouring farm, increasing acreage by 100 acres.

Five years ago an outdoor wood furnace was installed to eliminate the use of oil for home heating. It also heats the milk house and the machine shed, and provides hot water for the milk house and the farmhouse. At the same time, a 10 kW solar panel system was installed on the barn roof to produce clean energy for sale back to the grid.

### Family Participation

Ronald is the principal operator of the farm. Eileen keeps the records and the accounts, and maintains the yards and gardens. She also helps take care of her four grandson which live very close to the farm. Paul works off farm, but plays a major role in day-to-day operations. He is responsible for repairs and cropping. His wife Catherine is a Mission Funding Co-ordinator for the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Grandsons Brody and Connor, aged 13 and 11, feed the calves and heifers, do the most of the field work and raise 100 meat chickens each year.

Jeff is a veterinary physician. He takes care of herd health and partners in High Genomic Holstein Cows.

### Community Involvement

Ron is a former Reeve of Storrington Township and Warden of Frontenac County, and was involved in municipal amalgamation for Frontenac County. He is president of the Holstein Club, chair of the Frontenac Milk Committee and a past president of Ontario Holstein Association. Ron is National Director for Holstein Canada, representing Eastern and Northern Ontario, and a director for the Frontenac Federation of Agriculture. He has been a director of the Kingston Fall Fair for many years, a past director of Frontenac County Plowman's Association and an organizer for the 1998 International Plowing Match in Frontenac. Ron also coached for the Church Athletic League hockey program when the boys were younger.

Eileen is very involved in her church, and is on the Board of Stewards responsible for fundraising. She also has been secretary treasurer for the Frontenac Federation of Agriculture for the past 14 years.

Eilevale farm hosted the Frontenac County Family Fun Night in 2011 and has had numerous school farm visits over the years. The family provides wagon rides for the Battersea Pumpkin Festival and Eileen helps run the canteen for this event. The farm has hosted 4 Students from France to help them learn English and about local farming methods.

### Awards and Highlights

Ronald has been recognized by various groups for long service to the community and as Reeve and Warden of Frontenac County. He was named Farmer of Year by the Soil and Crop Association.

Eileen was recently recognized for 36 years of driving school buses, safely transporting two generations of children to school.

### Goals for the Future

Eilevale farm intends to continue to improve herd genetics and access world markets with progeny from its elite cow family. Ron and Eileen hope their grandsons will continue farming, invest in new farming technology and the best land stewardship practices, and build on nearly 200 years of family involvement in Frontenac County.

# Smith Family

## Don-Mair Farm



### Historical Background

Dale and Marie Smith both come from local multi-generational farming families. Dale's parents, Don and Marion Smith, purchased the 69-acre home farm in Mount Hope in 1945. Don retired from the Meteorological Service to become a full-time farmer. They acquired a small Jersey herd and an additional 35 acres of land the following year. They also kept a purebred herd of prize-winning Tamworth pigs and a flock of laying hens.

Over the years, Dale and Marie have transitioned this small general farm to highly specialized dairy and cash crop operation.

### Type of Farming Operation

Don-Mair Farms has a herd of 200 purebred registered Holstein cattle, which is maintained by selective breeding and embryo transfer from elite cows. The 70 milking cows and the young calves are housed at the home farm and the stalls of the milking cows are fitted with gel-filled rubber mats for comfort. Real-time video from the barn is streamed to an iPod in the house to monitor the cattle.

The cropping operation produces cash crops and fodder for the herd. Crops include soybeans, corn, hay, and barley. All of the land is random tile drained and conservation tillage is used on all cropping acres except for the soybeans, which are no-tilled. The Smiths have completed many environmental farm plans and these have been instrumental in the introduction of grass waterway to control erosion and manure storage facilities to control pollution and the use of energy-efficient lighting for the farm.

### Family Participation

Dale, Marie, and their two children, Aaron and Kendra, are all actively involved in day-to-day operations. Dale and Aaron work together on all aspects of the operation including milking, feeding, and cropping. Aaron is also responsible for breeding and reproduction management. Marie milks and feeds the cattle and assists with bookkeeping duties. Kendra assists with relief milking and handles the majority of the farm's bookkeeping.

### Community Involvement

The family hosts exchange students from Sri Lanka, China, and Quebec, and agricultural students from France.

Dale has been a member of South Wentworth Plowmen's Association for 30 years and served two terms as president. He is a plowing judge at branch competitions and at the International Plowing Match. Dale is a 4-H crop club leader and started the 4-H Inter-County Sodbusters club. He is a member of Wentworth Soil

and Crop Improvement Association, Wentworth Milk Producers and the Holstein Association of Canada. Dale has served on the City of Hamilton's committee of adjustments and is a past president of the Ancaster Fair.

Marie has volunteered for the Salvation Army's Hamilton and Community Family Services and is a director of Glanbrook Non-Profit Housing Corporation. She is an elder, choir member, Sunday school teacher and Chair of Christian education at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Carluke and takes part in numerous church initiatives. Marie sits on the committee of South Wentworth Plowmen's Association and is a director of Ancaster Agricultural Society, co-chairing the education committee.

Aaron is an EastGen delegate and a member of Ancaster Agricultural Society. Kendra is also a member of Ancaster Agricultural Society and sits on the education and national committees of Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' program.

### Awards and Highlights

The Smith family has received numerous awards for their Holstein herd, including 25-star awards for type from Holstein Canada (with 16 Excellent and 40 Very Good cows) and for the highest-placing cow with a lifetime yield of 60,000 kg of milk in Wentworth and Brant. They have had 30 milk production awards and many Quality Milk awards and were one of the top four milk producers in Wentworth County for the last five years.

Dale and Marie were Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmers in 1999 and Hamilton-Wentworth Farm Family of the Year in 2000. They both have life member pins and 40-year volunteer awards from the Ancaster Agricultural Society and were the Hamilton-Wentworth Rural Citizen of the Year – Dale in 2003, and Marie in 2010. Marie is a former Ancaster Fair Queen and Dale has received long-service volunteer awards from 4-H and South Wentworth Plowmen's Association.

Aaron has been hay and silage champion at Ancaster Fair for the last six years and won a trip to the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin in a Dairy Sense competition.

Kendra was the 2010 Ancaster Agricultural Fair Ambassador and received the Glanbrook Sunflower Award for farmstead beautification. She also received a Youth Volunteer Award from Ancaster Agricultural Society in 2011.

### Goals for the Future

For the farm, the goals are to improve soil and water conservation, to reduce costs and increase revenue, and to become self-sufficient in energy by producing power. The family also want to develop on-farm processing and agri-tours to promote agriculture to urban populations.

On a more personal note, the family intends to start estate planning, to enjoy family, friends and life, and to travel more.



# Underwood Family

## George Underwood Farms

### Historical Background

The Underwood family has been farming in North Huron for generations; originally in Howick Township, but later moving to Turnberry Township, in what is now the municipality of Morris-Turnberry. George Underwood has been farming at the present location since 1949, when he took over the farm from his father. At that time, it was a mixed farm operation of 200 acres, raising shorthorn cattle. The family has always been open-minded and has never resisted change or new technology. George's grandfather was one of the first to buy a tractor and "quit plowing with horses," and after a poor harvest in 1992, the Underwoods became the first no-till farmers in North Huron the following year. With the emphasis on improved cropping and tillage practices, most of the livestock part of the operation was phased out over the next few years.



### Type of Farming Operation

George Underwood Farms now operates under the umbrella of Underwood Grain Ltd. The operation comprises 3,300 owned or rented acres growing grain corn, food production soybeans, edible white beans, winter wheat, and canola, and a poultry business consisting of 33,000 broiler units. The cash cropping operation is supported by an elevation business.

The soybeans are no-tilled and the corn acres are strip-tilled. The winter wheat acres are no-tilled but the white beans require conventional tillage to thrive. With this combination of tillage practices the Underwoods are able to better able to maintain strict crop rotation protocols. Organic matter content of the soil has risen dramatically and labour costs have been reduced by one-third.

Conservation has always been a top priority and the family believe strongly in reforestation. Three-corner fields and acreage that is unsuitable for cropping or subject to erosion are reforested, and over the years, many acres of white pine, spruce, and black walnut have been planted.

### Family Participation

The Underwoods pride themselves in creating a business that is still largely family-run. George and Helen Underwood raised five children on the farm. Without Helen, who passed away this year, the farm would not be the multi-generational farming success story it is today. Sue, Nelson, John, Kathy, and Aileen all did

whatever it took to keep the farm going, and Sue, Nelson, and John are still actively involved. Nelson's daughter, Kate, and John and Susan's four children also help out.

### Community Involvement

The Underwood grain elevation business is a major contribution to the rural community. Large numbers of local farmers are brought together for a common purpose and treated with fairness and respect. The availability of convenient local storage and transport of grains means local growers can achieve a significant market presence and command the best possible market prices.

In 1977 the Underwoods saw an opportunity to diversify crop production. Soybeans were not being grown in North Huron at the time and there were only two varieties available. They gathered together a group of 15 local farmers and convinced them that soybeans could be marketed effectively if they worked together and the rest is history for soybean production in North Huron. Now it is widely grown in most cash crop rotations.

George has been closely involved in the Ontario Farm Safety Association and was instrumental in the development of the Country Heritage Park (formerly the Ontario Agricultural Museum), and with the Ontario Chicken Producers Marketing Board prior to it becoming the Chicken Farmers of Ontario. He also assisted with the Blyth Threshers Reunion and was a local 4-H leader. George is an active member of Wingham United Church.

John has been a local hockey coach, served on the Belmore Arena board, and was actively involved with the minor hockey association and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Nelson is a Belmore baseball coach and a township councillor and deputy reeve, and was an assistant agriculture representative for OMAF in the Haldimand-Norfolk area.

### Awards and Highlights

The Underwood family has hosted tours for the two-year agricultural diploma program at the Ontario Agricultural College, and has been recognized by the University of Guelph for continued support for agricultural education.

Helen was presented with an Ontario Citizenship Award by the premier and George has been named Huron County Farmer of the Year by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

### Goals for the Future

The Underwood family aim to maintain and grow the business, staying open to new opportunities, while supporting and engaging the community. Above all, they want to make sure agriculture remains an important part of the fabric of their community.

# Wert Family

## Stanlee Farms



### Historical Background

Stanlee Farms, in North Stormont, has been in the Wert family for 150 years. Jim and Nancy's four sons are the fifth generation to live and work on the family farm.

### Type of Farming Operation

The farm is a dairy operation, currently milking 120 Holsteins in a double-eight herringbone parlour. It is a closed purebred herd free from strawberry foot rot and Johne's disease. The herd has been free stalled since 1953, so is well adapted to this environment. They moved in to a new freestall facility in 2005. The heifer barn was upgraded and three bunker silos were added in 2011, and an automatic feeder was installed in the calf barn in 2013. All three barns are designed to allow cattle to be outside as much as possible. The farm has completed two full validation cycles for the Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) program and has been producing for the Ontario Omega-3 milk program since July 2010.

The crop program includes corn, soybeans, azuki beans, barley and forages. The farm has completed an environmental farm plan and a nutrient management plan, and has participated in the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's Grow Your Farm Profits workshops.

### Family Participation

Jim and Nancy took over the farm from Jim's parents, Mavis and Sesel, in 1995. A graduate of MacDonald College, Jim has been working full-time on the farm since 1978. Nancy has an Associate Diploma in Agriculture from the University of Guelph, and worked for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food for nine years before they were married in 1990. Their four children, Nick, Pat, Ryan and Chris, have all been actively involved in the farm while pursuing their own educational aspirations. Ryan graduated from Kemptville Agricultural College in April 2013 and is currently at home full-time. Their youngest son Chris is enrolled at MacDonald College in the Farm Management Program.

Jim manages the day-to-day operations, and Nancy keeps the books and manages the calf department. Mavis and Sesel still live on the farm and help wherever needed.

### Community Involvement

Jim and Nancy have been active members of their community for many years. Jim is presently completing an 18-month term on the township council, and is a director of Roxborough Agricultural Society. Nancy is a member of the fair board. For several years she

organized the 4-H calf rally at Avonmore Fair and still assists the organizers by announcing the show. They were both members of the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario. Jim was provincial president from 1986 to 1987, and Nancy was provincial secretary/treasurer from 1985 to 1987.

They have both had leadership roles at their church; Nancy is clerk of session, a member of the Special Events Planning Committee, and taught Sunday school for over 15 years. Nancy chaired the local Public School Parent Council for two terms, and she and Jim worked together to bring French immersion to the area. When their boys were at secondary school, they helped with fundraising for the school and for scholarships and bursaries for graduates.

Jim and Nancy are members of their community recreation association, and Nancy has helped with baseball coaching. They were a driving force behind the building of the community centre in 2009, and Nancy chairs the management committee that oversees the daily operations of the centre.

Nancy was the local Dairy Educator for five years and is currently the co-chair of the 2015 International Plowing Match Queen of the Furrow committee.

All four boys have been members of Stormont 4-H, are Junior Fair directors, and assist the community recreation association when needed.

### Awards and Highlights

Stanlee Farms hosted the second annual "Breakfast on the Farm" event in August 2014, in association with Farm & Food Care Ontario. Approximately 2000 visitors were able to tour the farm, see farm animals and farm equipment, talk with farmers, and enjoy a free breakfast featuring Ontario foods. This family-friendly event gives visitors a glimpse of what farming is all about.

The 125th anniversary of the arrival of Holstein cows in Canada was celebrated at the farm in 2006. The Werts were selected for the Stormont County Farmer of the Year award in 2009, and received the South Nation Watershed award for conservation practices the same year.

In 2002, Jim and Nancy were co-chairs of Avonmore's successful Guinness World Records attempt to be the town with the most scarecrows in a single area.

### Goals for the Future

Aside from the aspirations of working towards a Master Breeder shield, the Werts intend to keep up with changing technology and conservation practices and make sure that the farm will be viable for the next generation.





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