



Meet your EFA Board

President

Melissa Schneider

Vice President

Greg Fentie

Past President

Fons Vandenbroek

Directors of the Board

Art Alblas

Angela Cammaert

Kris Pettit

Isaac Clutterbuck

Jonathan Giret

Donna Lunn

MaryAnne Van de Gevel

Mark Wales

Steve Walsh

Roadside Field Crop Signs



Thanks to OFA Revive Fund, EFA was able to create and post 15 educational signs around Elgin County. Contributions from Grain Farmers of Ontario and Pride Seeds led to the installation of the signs in various field locations to show examples of their end uses. Corn, wheat and soy bean fields were highlighted to help educate the general public on where their food and fiber come from.

Pictured here: Ian Foster representing Pride Seeds, Mike Pazstor of Grain Farmers of Ontario, and EFA Director Donna Lunn

Waste Oil Days

After a two- year hiatus, the EFA welcomed the return of waste oil collection days to the community. The event, which is run by EFA directors and volunteers, collected thousands of litres of waste oil, diverting it from the landfill or other means of disposal. Other items collected included anti-freeze and used oil filters. The program is run as a free service for OFA members, but we also accepted from non-members for a small fee.

This year, the events were held at Agris Co-operative in Dutton, and at Max Underhill Farm Supply Ltd. in Vienna. EFA directors and other volunteers worked together to collect the items for disposal, and this year used a new company for the disposal. Green For Life (GFL) provided the totes and handled the disposal. The two day program successfully collected over 14,000 litres of waste oil!

Municipal Elections

Congratulations to those elected and acclaimed to local councils. EFA looks forward to working with our new municipally elected officials on important issues such as: Land preservation and environmental stability, food value chain security, rural infrastructure and affordable energy, labour and workforce development, and mental health and wellness.

Reminder

You have until December 31, 2022 to dispute any outstanding fees or self-declare non-operational vehicles you owned during the COVID-19 commercial licence plate sticker extension period.

Contact HCV@ontario.ca or call 1-877-408-2495

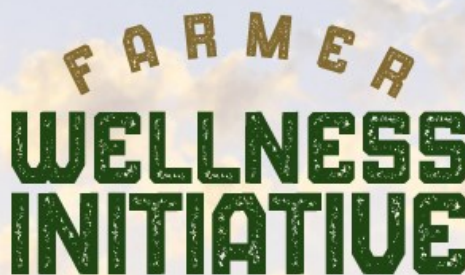
to inquire about a Deferred Payment Plan or to declare a non-operational vehicle

DID YOU KNOW?

The EFA Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8PM.

If you would like to attend a meeting, please contact our Office Administrator via email at elginfarmers@gmail.com or call 519-633-0114

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!



If you are struggling and in need of help, don't hesitate to reach out and access these OFA Resources through the Farmer Wellness Initiative

To reach a councillor 24/7, 365 days per year

1-866-267-6255

www.farmerwellnessinitiative.ca

EFA 2022 Annual General Meeting



Elgin Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting

December 14th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**The Apple Barn at Great Lakes Farms
5111 Union Rd, Port Stanley, ON N5L 1J2**

RSVP to elginfarmers@gmail.com or call 519-633-0114
to register for this in-person event

Deadline to register is 12pm noon Monday December 12, 2022

All members welcome!

Guest Speaker: Connor Ferguson, LTVCA Conservation Services
Programs and funding available to help restore or retire marginal farmland

Please submit nominations for the Board of Directors or Executive Committee to
elginfarmers@gmail.com

Deadline: 12pm noon Friday December 9, 2022

Nominees must be OFA members in good standing. Elections will take place at the AGM

OFA AGM 2022

The 2022 OFA AGM returned to in-person format. The event took place from November 20 to 22nd at RBC Place in London.

Agenda highlights included:

Keynote speaker

Jeff Adams, Paralympian and World Champion

Workshops

OPP—presenting on Fraud

The Co-operators—presenting on Insurance

MNP—presenting on profitability

Emily Sousa— Land Use

Farm Life— Succession Planning

Also included: Elections of Director at Large and board executive, resolutions from County Federations, Harvest celebration, Silent Auction with proceeds to student bursaries, Farmer Wellness Initiative information.

EFA Delegates and PAC members in attendance: Melissa Schneider, Donna Lunn, Steve Walsh, Art Alblas, Mark Wales, Angela Cammaert, Greg Fentie (PAC) and Fons Vandenbroek (PAC).



**For a sign or questions about your farm or business, contact MSR
Laura Fraser:**

Mobile: 519-617-7176, Email: laura.fraser@ofa.on.ca

And finally a message from our President ...



**EFA President
Melissa Schneider**

As we move into the end of November, now is the time to reflect on the changes and challenges this year has brought.

2022 was a busy year for the Elgin Federation of Agriculture, as we participated in many meetings, went back to holding in-person events, and generally sought to keep farmers, farmland, and farmland protection front of mind across Elgin County.

The whirlwind year was full of new policies and legislation, as well as changes to existing policies such as the Planning Act and the Provincial Policy Statement.

By now we have all heard about the Ontario Government's plans to carve acreage out of the protected Greenbelt lands.

Closer to home, we saw 800 acres of farmland expropriated north of St. Thomas subject to a non-disclosure agreement. We also participated in sessions to argue that our federal riding boundaries should not be adjusted, and that Elgin and St. Thomas be left together as a riding, since the County and the City share so many vital services.

To say the year has been interesting is an understatement, and we at EFA continue to work diligently on all issues relating to or affecting agriculture in our County.

As we wind down our calendar of events for 2022, please join us at this year's

Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be held Wednesday, December 14th at Great Lakes Farms in Port Stanley. You will see a notice for the meeting with more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

As always, I am grateful for all the hard work our volunteer board has put in this year, keeping up on the multitude of issues that have arisen. Some days it feels impossible to keep on top of it all, but that's where our excellent Office Administrator Dita Cornelissen comes in and helps keep us on track.

So, busy year aside, the Elgin Federation of Agriculture Board of Directors would like to take a moment to wish each one of you a happy Winter, and hope you are able get caught up on all your mechanical fixes before the snow flies.

Would you like to receive EFA communications, like this newsletter, electronically?

Update your OFA member profile with your email address at

memberrelations@ofa.on.ca or call 1 (800) 668-3276