

# Lanark Federation News

## President's Message – February 2026 Derek Oliver

Greetings Members!

I hope that you all have been taking good care during this very cold and snowy winter. Soon enough we will be able to shed some layers and get back out to the land.

The Lanark Federation of Agriculture had a busy end to 2025. We hosted another well attended Hall of Fame Gala in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting where three more incredible individuals were inducted. The LFA also helped unveil a brand-new outdoor AED at Thompsonstown Maple's Black Rock Park. This device was purchased with the assistance of the OFA's Revive Fund and is among the first outdoor devices installed in Lanark County. In addition to all this, our group has successfully transitioned to become an Incorporated Not-for-profit organization.

The LFA is looking forward to another exciting and eventful year ahead. We are currently in the planning process for a Farmer's Breakfast and a farm tour for our local politicians sometime this spring. Please stay tuned for more developments!

We have been hearing a lot of concerns about the proposed high-speed electric rail line that is poised to be constructed somewhere through our county. Our group is to be included in upcoming consultations with the contractors and will be sure to convey the concerns of our members. Ensuring safety at crossings, and that operations of active agricultural businesses will be minimally impacted needs to be a priority when moving forward with this project.

If there are any other issues that you are facing on your farm, we may be able to help you. The OFA has so many great connections and resources that can be utilized. Chances are someone else in this county or elsewhere in the province has faced the same problem and we can help find a solution, so don't be afraid to reach out to anyone on our board or the Member Service Representative.

All the best in the year ahead!



## Upcoming LFA Events

**FARMERS BREAKFAST**

**FARM TOUR**

**More Details to Follow**

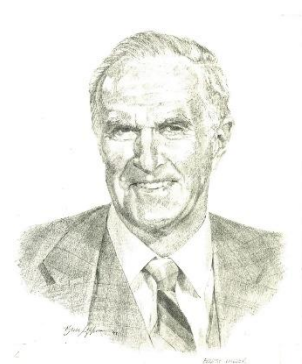


**Lanark Agricultural Hall of Fame**  
**2025 Inductees**

The Lanark Federation of Agriculture (LFA) is proud to recognize three outstanding individuals in its 2025 Hall of Fame class. Each inductee has made lasting contributions to agriculture, leadership, and rural life in Lanark County.

**J. R. Ernest “Ernie” Miller**

Ernie Miller of Glen Tay was an influential livestock breeder and agricultural leader. At Tayside Farm, he built award-winning herds of Yorkshire swine, Shropshire sheep and Holstein cattle, the last of which earned a Master Breeder shield and international recognition through the bull Tayside Pabst Rockman. Beyond the farm, Miller played a key role in founding the Junior Farmers’ Association of Ontario, served in numerous local and provincial leadership roles, and contributed to early farm record-keeping systems. He is also an inductee of the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame.



**Lois James**

Lois James is remembered for her dedication to preserving agricultural history and supporting rural youth. A long-time 4-H leader, she mentored generations of young people and was recognized for advancing agricultural opportunities for women and girls. James also co-authored Hereford Memoirs of Ontario, helping preserve the province’s beef industry history, and volunteered for decades at major agricultural events. Her work strengthened both community engagement and agricultural heritage.



**Gordon Patterson**

Gordon Patterson is honoured for his long-standing service to agriculture and rural community organizations in Lanark County. Known for his leadership in municipal politics and volunteer commitment with local agricultural societies, Patterson supported fairs, commodity boards, and grassroots agricultural initiatives that fostered community connection and bettered agriculture in Eastern Ontario. Together, the 2025 inductees reflect the leadership, stewardship, and community spirit that continue to shape agriculture in Lanark County.



## Outstanding LFA Volunteers

At our 2025 AGM, three directors were recognized for their long-time involvement in the organization. Lillian Drummond was recognized for 45 years of service on the LFA board, and Lorne Heslop and Alvin Dobbie were recognized for 40 years. Congratulations Lillian, Lorne, and Alvin!



## New Outdoor AED Installed at Thomson's Black Rock Farm – October 2025

Using funds saved from our first aid training courses this past spring, Lanark Federation of Agriculture purchased an automated external defibrillator (AED). We are excited to have partnered with Thompson's Black Rock Farm and Thompsontown Maple Products, both long time OFA members. The device is located at their storefront, on the porch in the heart of Thompsontown and is available to anyone in need, 24/7.



This is only the SECOND outdoor AED to have been installed in Lanark County. We are proud to be a leader in this initiative and hope to see more coming to the county in the near future. We chose this location for several reasons. Thompson's Black Rock Farm is on the west shore of Clayton Lake which borders two municipalities within Lanark County. This farm has a significant visitor population which comes from their campground and maple syrup operations. Additionally, they have beef and forestry

operations. Access to the AED is available not only by road, but also by boat as this is the main access point for emergency services and OPP boat launch. The area where the AED will be located is quite remote, at least a 25-minute drive by ambulance to the nearest hospital – at speeds appropriate for emergency services. The closest AED to this one is approx. 15 minutes each way by car but is locked in the community center. As we all know, seconds and minutes can save lives.

On October 30, we had an open house where the public was invited to learn where the AED is, how it works and how to help save a life! Despite a bitter cold, rainy morning, it was well attended and gained traction beyond the small community with guests requesting more information on how to purchase and install one in other locations throughout the county.



## Zone 8 Director's Report Andrea McCoy-Naperstkov

Happy New Year to you all!

A little birdie close to my heart told me that many members feel it is not worth talking to me or Jayne Henry, our OFA Members Service Representative, or your local Board of Directors. This comment may only apply to a very few numbers of members, but it concerns me when a member pays a membership to OFA and feels the organization does nothing for them.

I apologize if I am too blunt in this report but I want to make sure all members of the OFA in Lanark County and Zone 8 - Lanark, Ottawa, Renfrew and Arnprior - know that your boards, MSR and Director are all here to assist you with agricultural issues to the best of their ability. There are times when our hands are tied but, we try our absolute best. All our contact information is in this newsletter. Your first point of contact is Jayne.

I hope that in the rest of this report I can provide you with a glimpse of the up and downs in our ag industry for 2025. Ontario's agri-food system remains one of the province's economic pillars, supported by major government programs, technological innovation, and a strong focus on food safety and sustainability. At the same time, farmers and processors continue to navigate structural and financial pressures.

### Positive Developments

1. **Government Investment:** Up to \$4.4 million committed to support small agri-food businesses and improve food safety.
2. **Strategic Growth:** OMAFRA's Grow Ontario Strategy focuses on innovation, supply chain strength, trade expansion, and rural development.
3. **Food Safety:** Funding supports upgrades in water filtration, traceability, and safety programs.
4. **Economic Impact:** Agriculture contributes significantly to GDP, employment, and rural communities.

## Challenges

1. **Rising Costs:** Increasing expenses for fuel, fertilizer, feed, and equipment strain farmers.
2. **Land Affordability:** High prices hinder new entrants and succession planning.
3. **Tax Burdens:** Affect long-term viability and investment.
4. **Supply Chain Risks:** Labour shortages, climate variability, and market disruptions remain concerns.

Ontario's agri-food system remains a key economic pillar, supported by government programs and technological advances, while managing financial pressures. In the upcoming year we will continue to address rural infrastructure, broadband, rural Health, risk management programs, local food and procurement initiatives, and rural economic development. Adding to the list will be labour shortages, wildlife damage, tariffs, conservation authorities, veterinary access, soil health and conservation funding, Ontario Municipal Partnership funding and Commercial Truck Driver Training and insurance.

At a local level, your MSR and local Board is there to support, represent, provide resources, events, and their time to you members of Lanark County. And I am responsible to the board and what they feel you as members see as important. We are all grassroot representatives for you.

## MSR Report

Jayne Henry

As the new year begins, it is also time to for members to renew their Farm Business Registration numbers and their OFA memberships. You can do this two different ways, either through our website at <https://ofa.on.ca/join-ofa/> or by calling one of our Member Relations staff members at 1-800-668-3276. Members receive a physical card after signing up but if you would like to have proof of membership faster you can also download the MyOFA app onto your smart phone or device which gives you a digital copy of the card. We want to keep our members and the farming community informed about the latest news, issues, resources, benefits and so much more. With streamlined information, contacts at your fingertips, and digital membership card option, your MyOFA account is a one-stop shop for all things Ontario Ag.

When renewing your membership with the OFA it is also a perfect time to confirm that we have the most up-to-date contact information for you and that we know how you like to receive communications from us and from your local federation. You can confirm with OFA staff that you would like to be on our email list for Friday Newswire's, follow us on social media, or ask to not be contacted at all. Separate individuals on the same membership (spouses, children, partners, parents) can also sign up for our Newswire and email list by filling out the form at the bottom of our website homepage or letting their MSR know they would like to be added to the mailing list. Being in contact with us through the Newswire or social media lets you know about the latest events happening in your area, monthly OFA webinars, funding opportunities, other ag organization events, and the latest news from the OFA.

Wishing you a productive spring and as always please reach out to me with any member issues or questions at [jayne.henry@ofa.on.ca](mailto:jayne.henry@ofa.on.ca) or 613-761-8426.

## Policy Advisory Council

Derek Oliver

No Report.

## 2026 LFA Bursary Recipient: Logan Badour

The Lanark Federation of Agriculture is pleased to award Logan Badour of Perth with a \$500 bursary. Logan is a fifth-generation farmer who raises cattle and grows crops alongside his family. He is currently in his second year at Fanshawe College where he is taking the Motive Power Diesel Technician Program. Upon completion of his studies, Logan would like to take over the family farm and possibly start up his own farm repair shop to assist farmers in his community with their repair needs. Logan is heavily involved in 4H and is a member of both Middlesex and Lanark Junior Farmers. He also volunteers his time at many local and regional agricultural events and fairs.

Congratulations Logan!

The LFA offers (2) \$500 bursaries per year to students enrolled in a post-secondary diploma or degree course in an accredited institution, or to an Individual who is pursuing further leadership or development in an agriculture program. The recipients of the scholarship must be either an Ontario Federation member within the boundaries of Lanark County or a direct family member of one.

Application period September 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. Please send all applications to:

Lanark Federation of agriculture  
c/o Nancy Fleming, Administrator  
PO Box 181 Station Main  
Smith Falls, ON K7A 4T1  
Or email: [lanarkfedofag@gmail.com](mailto:lanarkfedofag@gmail.com)



## **New Directors for LFA**

Are you looking for a new challenge, have some new farm related ideas, want to work with a talented group of people, meet farmers from other communities and regions, and talk to local politicians regarding current events? Lanark Federation of Agriculture is looking for new Directors to join our group. We meet the second Thursday of every month at Beckwith Township Hall in person and via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested, we would be excited to have you contact one of the Directors or Association Administrator listed above.

### **LANARK FEDERATION DIRECTORS**

Chairperson	Derek Oliver	613-812-3315
Vice Chairperson	Bev Holmes	613-316-0501
Association Administrator	Nancy Fleming	613-284-1280
Past Chairperson	Ashley Knapton	613-277-6208
PAC	Derek Oliver	613-812-3315
Representative Directors	Anthony Timmerman	613-264-0091
	Lillian Drummond	613-256-3628
	Jamie Fortune	613-256-6584
	Bruce Nolan	613-253-5238
	Lorne Heslop	613-724-0991
	Alvin Dobbie	613-267-3388
	Brenda Cochran	613-256-2222
	Jo Steinman	1-204-381-4054
Member Service Rep	Jayne Henry	613-761-8426
Regional Director Zone 8	Andrea McCoy-Naperstkow	613-257-5750