



**Location:** Brussels Library

**Date:** Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024

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

## Brussels Agricultural Society General Meeting

### In Attendance

Reg Vinnicombe, Glenda Morrison, Rosie Kellington, Maggie Speer, Monique Baan, Jackie Garniss, Jeff Cardiff, Cathy Cardiff, Pam McLellan, Dorothy Cummings, Mary Ann Thompson, Matt Cardiff, John Lowe, Mary Douma, Marie Perry, Linda Garland, Joan Bernard, Rhonda McArter, Terri Gray, Crystal Blake, Dona Knight, Jenna Baker, Crystal McCallum, Bridget McCallum, Sharon Loveridge, Bessie Johnston

Regrets: Sandra Machan, Marie McCutcheon

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. The motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by M. Baan, seconded by T. Gray, motion carried.

### Approval of Minutes

The previous meeting minutes (Sept. 4th, 2024) were reviewed. The motion to approve the previous minutes made by D. Cummings, seconded by C. Blake, motion carried.

### President's Report

R. Vinnicombe thanked the members and all the volunteers for their hard work to make it such a successful fair.

### Homecraft Report

L. Garland thanked the members for the wonderful displays of exhibits. Number of exhibits were up in some areas (eg. canning) while fruit was down perhaps due to the weather this year. L. Garland is going to take over from P. McLellan as the lead of the Culinary Arts section unless anyone else is interested. She noted that the judges really appreciate the potluck. **She asked section leads to please let her know if they'd like the same judges for next year and for any comments.** D. Cummings reported that field crop participation was excellent.

### Treasurer's Report

G. Morrison provided handouts of this month's financial reports. She reviewed the balance sheet and compared the Profit and Loss numbers from 2023 and 2024 which are looking good. She noted that she is still waiting on a few cheques to come in. J. Lowe was happy to report that we have received donations from some new businesses this year. He noted that sponsors are all

getting thank you cards with their tax receipts. G. Morrison reported that the food booth and pie table were very profitable. Donations from the boxes at the Fair were down a bit from previous years. **J. Lowe noted that he will be asking the Ambassadors to accompany him to North Woods to distribute the winnings to the school age kids.** The motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by J. Cardiff, seconded by M. A. Thompson, motion carried.

## Ambassadors' and Ambassador Sub-committee Reports

M. Speer read a report by Emily Bieman, the Brussels Fall Fair Ambassador, who congratulated everyone on the success of the Fair. She summarized her participation in events and activities with special emphasis on her favourites. M. Speer congratulated the Ambassadors on doing such a fantastic job at the Fair. She was very impressed by how they stepped up and filled in for each other where needed. Junior Ambassador, Bridget McCallum, chronologically shared her experiences at the Brussels and other Fall Fairs. She met many people and promoted our Fall Fair with enthusiasm. She is looking forward to future events. C. Blake made a presentation on behalf of the Little Ambassador, Sophia Blake. She noted that Sophia is gaining confidence and coming out of her shell more with every event. Sophia has met many people and she was super excited to meet the Ambassadors from other Fairs.

## Ladies Night Sub-committee Report

J. Baker reported that ticket sales are going well. **The Committee is still looking for more lip sync groups or solo acts and asked members to promote the event.** They may have to add a trivia game for additional entertainment. She passed around a volunteer signup sheet asking for 8 members to help serve dessert, clear tables and put dishes through the dishwasher. She also passed around a sheet asking members for donations of pies and cheesecakes. **R. Kellington will send an email to members once J. Baker finds out what time the desserts are to be dropped off at BMG Community Centre.**

## Old Business

- 2024 Fair Reflections
  - Food Booth and Pie Table-T. Gray thanked all the volunteers for their help with the food booth and pie table. She noted the challenges of using the new booth in the lobby, but the change worked well with the bbq outside the window. She noted there was a wonderful selection of pies donated.
  - Supplies for Section Leads -**please submit by email any requests for supplies to R. Kellington.**
  - Raffle Baskets Draw-was very successful selling many tickets ahead of time and at the Fair -limit the spending to \$1000 maximum -could have different themes for some of the less popular baskets eg. Children's Basket -tickets could be smaller, packs of 12, with no stub in black and white with boxes to indicate which theme basket. A penny auction was suggested.
  - BBQ-successfully fed over 450 people including take-out -perhaps people could be given a take-out container to fill up themselves -some families didn't have tickets for children -waste of food -perhaps have smaller servings of meat for kids -could have 2 doors to enter taking tickets -perhaps take tickets at the buffet table

- Vendor Market-made the lobby very crowded on Wednesday -need the lobby for non-profit, education and community groups, pie table and food booth-consider not having vendors next year due to lack of room -blocked doorway
  - Thank You's- J. Cardiff would like a thank you note sent to the Optimists for use of BBQ (J. Lowe) and Brett and Laura Fischer for supporting us for their customer appreciation (R. Kellington) -Fire Fighters (Max McLellan-chief) thank you (R. Kellington)
  - Registration
  - Parade
  - Kids Program-recommend that need more than 1 person on committee to allow for work/sickness and other unforeseen circumstances
  - Inflatables- Zorb balls kept deflating, had to be pumped up. Recommend for next year that only have 4 rides and company to supply enough staff to cover them (we can't spare volunteers on Tuesday if doing meal) - would add to cost maybe extra room and 1-2 more bodies
  - Escape Room
  - Face Painting
  - Train Display-move to arena floor by kids' activities
  - Fire Extinguisher Demo/Junior Fire Fit-very worthwhile to have every year.
  - Dog Show-Alanis Clarke would like more involvement with the planning for next year -eg. prizes, advertising-there was some mix up with donation from McLean Brothers Concrete
  - Ambassador cake decorating-went very well-good location and timing
  - Country Music-catered to the elderly
  - Livestock Shows-great participation
  - Fair Signs for Surrounding Areas-Z. Onn suggested a sandwich board to go out at the road that points towards the arena when the fair is on.
  - School-L. Garland reported all positive comments -Fair works great for a local field trip-want to participate again next year.
  - Fall Fair Book-use the book for the basics ie. rules, sections, classes and article descriptions. Could include a tear-out page or a separate page for exhibitors to list their entries and hand it in at registration to be entered in Assist Expo. A postcard size ad for timeline and location of events to be handed out at Library, Foodland and where entry tags and Fair books are available. Amanda Morrison is interested in helping Z. Onn with Fair book and R. Kellington is interested in proof-reading. R. Kellington to apply for a free Canva account for Ag. Society.
- Z. Onn would like all of your section changes by the end of October-either email changes or drop off- She suggested if you had any exhibits that haven't had more than 3 entries for the past 2 years it might be time to switch them up or delete them from your section.
- The Agricultural Society marketing teams' new goal is to have everything ready to be sent out by the new year. In terms of the fair book, Zoey will take out all the internal advertising and only suggest colour on the front and back pages. This should bring the price of printing down.

- Tables at Fair-Z. Onn submitted a chart of the tables needed for each section which will be very helpful for next year's setup.
- Table Cloths-Z. Onn proposed an idea of each section having different coloured table cloths. D. Cummings reported that each table cloth is \$100 and are made from a special material to prevent fire. It was decided that we start by getting new black table cloths to use for the registration table, pie tables, raffle basket tables, etc. **R. McArter will ask her sister for the source and price of tablecloths.**
- Map -Z. Onn emailed a map with the changes she'd like to see for next year's setup
- Cork Boards -Z. Onn would like to fix them for next year and add material to them so that they can be the backdrop for the group displays. R. Vinnicombe noted that they need to be mouse proof and moisture proof.
- New Constitution
  - Number of Directors (now 6, do we want to change?) Also do we want to change who we elect at AGM (i.e Directors vs Officers?) Should decide soon so we can start recruiting after the fair. R. Vinnicombe shared his opinion that Directors may be an easier sell. The motion to change the number of Directors to a minimum of 6 with a maximum of 10 with quorum being 2/3rds by M. Baan, seconded by M. Cardiff, motion carried. **R. Vinnicombe sent out the documents for members to review before our next meeting on Nov. 6th during which the first half of the meeting will be set aside to review them.**
  - OAAS constitution update-OAAS constitution was approved on September 25th Zoom meeting
- New website design -J. Morrison reported he is 30-35% done. He needs more info. for some areas. Goal to have it done by AGM in January.

## New Business

- District 8 Fall Meeting, Howick Community Centre, Tuesday October 22, 2024, \$30/person, bring registration form to registration starting at 6pm, catered dinner 6:30 pm, affiliation fees are \$100 include fee in cheque with meals (G. Morrison), number attending to Janet Cameron by October 14, R. Vinnicombe has typed and sent a one page report of our Society's activities. **M. Speer to ask Emily if she is able to attend and let R. Kellington know by Oct. 14.** J. Lowe, D. Cummings, M. Baan, M. A. Thompson, and R. Kellington will attend.
- Brussels Santa Claus Parade - Dec. 7th, 5pm. **J. Baker will form a Committee. J. Cardiff to supply the wagon. J. Baker will ask Agromart to provide a heated shop for decorating.**
- BMG Grand Opening - Nov 16th-no report-**Roxanne Nicholson to contact R. Kellington**
- OAAS Convention, Feb. 20-22, 2025 -2 Rooms are booked -M. Speer and Emily will use one room -C. Blake is planning on going.
- Commemorative Stone-move to the corner of the shed perhaps in a small flower bed-email request has been sent to Huron East staff
- Remembrance Day-**A motion to purchase a large wreath by M. Cardiff, seconded by M. A. Thompsom, motion carried. D. Cummings and R. Vinnicombe volunteered to lay the wreath.**

## Correspondence and Announcements

- District 8 Fall Meeting, Howick Community Centre, Tuesday October 22, 2024, 6pm registration, 6:30 dinner

- Farm and Food Care Ontario, "Putting Your Best Foot Forward" virtual training session, Tues. Oct 22, 2024, 7-8:30pm, pre-register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/922974841597?aff=oddtcreator>. For more info. ask Rosie
- Ladies Night, Oct. 26, 2024 BMG Community Centre, Cardiff Catering Dinner and Lip Sync Battle
- BMG Community Centre Grand Opening, Sat. Nov. 16th, 2024
- OAAS Convention, Feb. 20-22, 2025. Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Richmond Hill, ON
- M. Baan shared a good news story from people who came to town especially for the Fair. She also suggested we need a sandwich board to direct and remind people where to go. Some people missed the fair. More signs in Brussels. Go back to having people at the door manning the donation boxes.
- D. Cummings-read an email from Anne Marie Craft who shared positive comments about the Little Folks Show and Fair

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by R. McArter.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 6th at 7:00 pm, Brussels Library

Minutes submitted by: Rosie Kellington

Minutes approved by: Reg Vinnicombe

Action items are indicated in red.