



**FARMERS WORKING  
FOR FARMERS**

**1941 - 2001**

## *Lambton Federation of Agriculture 60th Anniversary*

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**Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

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April 4, 2001

Mr. Don McGugan, President  
Lambton County Federation of Agriculture  
R. R. #2  
Wyoming, Ontario  
N0N 1T0

Dear Don:

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the members and Board of Directors to send greetings to the Lambton County Federation of Agriculture members as you mark your 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

We often underestimate the value of such organizations. During its 60 years the Lambton Federation has been a meeting place for farmers to deal with critical economic and social issues, but of equal importance, has provided a training ground for farm leaders. Many individuals in Lambton county owe thanks to time spent with the Lambton Federation developing confidence and leadership qualities.

The farmers of Ontario are going through crucial times right now. Strength and maturity will be required if we are to develop sound positions on some very tough issues and still maintain a strong and unified voice to accomplish this.

Together we can do it... as we are "farmers working for farmers"!

Sincerely,

Jack Wilkinson  
President

The mission of the OFA is to improve the economic and social well-being of farmers in cooperation with county, commodity and rural farm groups.

### *Forward by Darrell Randell*

This is a brief recounting of the activities of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture from 1981 until 2001. You can see that in the meeting in December of 1985 a motion was made to give a copy of "These Forty Years" an LFA History, to the new directors on the board. I was one of those new directors and I found the book to be a very valuable tool in my career on LFA. If you have some idea of what has been done, why it was done and how successfully it was done, then you have a better idea what to do next.

There are traditions and history within LFA that deserve to be preserved. They deserve preservation not just to celebrate what we have achieved but also, to be of assistance to future directors, and future farmers in Lambton County.

The first history book by Neil Miner and Vera Williamson was of tremendous help to me in working for LFA. That is why I agreed to work on this book when I was asked, first by Earl Morwood, and later by Don McGugan.

I have not written about each and every membership drive or mall show that LFA was in or organized. I have not listed every 4H award, or scholarship or even the names of every LFA director. These are the activities of a deeply rooted organization and are the things that are done as a matter of course to perpetuate the organization. They are extremely important activities but are not the focus of this history.

I have tried to highlight the actions and responses of LFA to the shifting agricultural landscape that rural Lambton has become in the last two decades.

During the last two decades in Lambton we have had a Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Lorne Henderson, and a Federal Minister of Agriculture, Ralph Ferguson. We have seen Bill Abraham's lengthy career as Ag. Rep come to an end and Bryan Boyle begin and stay on as our Ag. Rep. The LFA board has, much of the time, been kept reeling as they tried to respond to crisis after crisis.

There has been some remarkable things that have happened too. Dona Stewardson was able to convince the OFA that the environment issues were not just isolated incidents on some farms in the province to be dealt with locally. She led the way in creating reasonable policies for all farmers in Ontario to live with rather than have arbitrary regulations imposed on us. Janet Mater as a new president was able to sound alarms at OFA, about health care restructuring that helped save not just the Petrolia Hospital, but many other rural hospitals as well. The Stable Funding resolution changed all of OFA and the CFFO. The sales tax removed on building materials for agricultural purposes in the year 2000 was rooted in a LFA resolution from 1992. An LFA resolution on how banks in this country operate, was studied by OFA for over a year and generated a lot of attention from the media and even earned a response from Paul Martin, Federal Minister of Finance, in a letter from him opposing it.



## Acknowledgments

I would like to express appreciation to Leader Publications in Dresden for allowing me access to their archives. Many of the photographs used in this book were found there.

Other people who contributed photographs are:

- Neil and Vera Miner
- Dona Stewardson
- Robert Johnston
- Ann McGugan
- Bill McGuire
- Jim Burns
- Nancy Randell

I wish to thank you all for lending these pictures to me and now put in writing my promise to return them.

I also want to thank those who gave me a written submission:

- Neil Miner
- Lois Wakefield
- Burton McKinlay
- Mac Parker
- Dona Stewardson
- John DeVet
- Robert Johnston
- Earl Morwood
- Don McGugan
- Maria Van Bommel
- Bill McGuire

## Neil Miner's Comments

On looking over the Lambton Federation of Agriculture History "These Forty Years" we find that the list of officers has Miss Lois Symington engaged as an office employee in 1956. Then later, in Oct. 1, 1968, it is recorded that Mrs. Lois (Symington) Wakefield became the secretary- treasurer, and the 1981 "These Forty Years" states that she has continued to serve in that position ever since. Now, twenty years later, we can make the same statement. Taking 1968 as the year she began as secretary-treasurer we find that she has served in that office for 33 years. Going back to when she started as an office employee it all adds up that she has been with the Lambton Federation of Agriculture for 45 years. She has done a splendid job for all of those years.

There is a note in "These Forty Years" that in the director's meeting in May 1978 that the directors discussed the idea of recording the history of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture. It stated that there is a motion "To pursue the idea of the Federation of Agriculture activities and back history". In correspondence for July there is an item stating that "The records of the LFA up to 1969 are in the County library in Wyoming. Here we have the beginning of the idea which resulted in the appointment of an Historical Committee to prepare this history. The Annual Meeting of the LFA on Nov. 15, 1978 reports on the election of officers and Township directors. Mrs. Vera Williamson was the director for Bosanquet and Neil Miner was director for Enniskillen. These two directors volunteered to work on the history of the LFA.

In the acknowledgments at the beginning of the history book, Neil Miner and Vera Williamson are listed as the Historical Committee. I have always been interested in history and believed that it would be wise to record our events in Lambton County before they were forgotten or lost. With this in mind, I volunteered to work with Vera Williamson to record everything that could be found. Also, on a personal level, I wanted a chance to get better acquainted with her. Working together on the history, did that for me. We made use of every source of information that we could find on the Lambton Federation of Agriculture, and we were able to get the material together. In April, 1980 the County Directors gave the go-ahead to the Historical Committee to publish for sale the History of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture, to mark its 40 years as a farm organization.

On March 5, 1981, the LFA had a meeting of the past presidents to review the materials we had prepared and to make further suggestions. After making use of all of the information we took our notes to the printer and had "These Forty Years" published. Incidentally, Vera and I continued our friendship until it became a courtship. This climaxed in our wedding on August 23, 1987.

Another interesting news item is that in the Annual Meeting report on Oct. 30, 1980, Jack Wilkinson is listed as the North East Regional Director to OFA. In the years ahead Jack continued to serve the LFA until he left Lambton and went north to farm near Belle Vallee. There again he became involved with the Federation of Agriculture and went on to become a director with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and served a term as President of CFA. He has returned to OFA and is now the President of OFA. We can look with pride that a person from our county has served in the high offices of the Federation, both provincially and federally.



## Recollections From Lois Wakefield

I worked for the late Ed O'Dell for 1 month, and then I worked for the late Otis McGregor until he resigned to go with the Ontario Wheat Marketing Board in 1959. In May of 1959 the late Fritz Stockklauser was hired, and I worked for him until he resigned in 1969. During these years there were a number of small organizations, such as Lambton Film Council, Lambton Farm Radio Forum, Lambton Folk School, Cooperative Insurance and Lambton Co-operative Co-ordinating Council. At first it was very confusing but Otis was very patient.

There were pipelines back in 1957, and today we are still hearing about the pipelines and gas storage. Back in the 70's it was disposal wells, 402 Highway land acquisitions, hydro towers and lines, and annexation from City of Sarnia.

The Lambton Federation of Agriculture assisted on a number of projects such as hog, wheat, soybean, beef, and corn referendums. Long hours were involved leading up to the General Farm Organization Vote on June 24, 1969. We lost, but as an organization we came out of it a much stronger and determine to succeed.

The farmers from across the county were sending copies of their taxes to the Lambton Federation of Agriculture to compare the amount of taxes they were paying. Lambton made presentations to the local councils, MPP's for their support and sent a resolution to Ontario Federation of Agriculture to examine the education tax on farmland. The rebate discussion on farm taxes all started in Lambton County.

It seems, you may have one problem solved, and then another one would pop up such as high interest rates, farmers losing their farms, up and down prices for our products.

Through the years the Lambton Federation of Agriculture has always supported the Jr. Farmers, 4-H groups, rural child care and scholarships for the farm students to further their education.

I have met, enjoyed working with many members of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, other farm, and urban organizations within the County. The Lambton Federation of Agriculture, through their training sessions has helped me develop my leadership skills during the years.

I would like to congratulate the Lambton Federation of Agriculture on their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and wish them much success in the coming years.



## Lambton Federation of Agriculture History, 1981- 2001

Feb. 1981.

An all candidates meeting for the provincial election was planned to be held at the Centennial School south of Petrolia. Mac Parker, Bill McGuire and Don Craig were in charge. In the March minutes it was reported that Jack Wilkinson had chaired the meeting. Two resolutions were passed at this meeting. One involved the possibility of confusion and error resulting from spray labels being only in metric, and asked for dual labelling with imperial measurements as a safety precaution. The other resolution asked for property tax to be eliminated on all farm property except the house and 1 acre of land. A "Bookkeeping Course for Farm Wives" was planned for Feb. 26. This event had been planned by Neil Miner, Vera Williamson, Earl Woolaver from OMAF, and Burton McKinlay from Canfarm.

April 13, 1981.

Thank you letters were sent to the farmers who had recently hosted the Ontario Farm Machinery Agency Van and invited their neighbours to come and shop. The OFMA van was in Lambton on April 7, 8, and 9, at the farms of Ken Alderman, Jim Duffy, Milton Tofflemire, Gerald Watson and Russell Park. It was decided to send a questionnaire out to all Lambton members seeking input from them on marketing boards, quotas, and land severances. A donation was made in memory of the late Barrett Forbes, the first president of the LFA.



Ontario Farm Machinery Association truck—Elwood Kerr, Tim Kerr, Gord Davidson (Salesman), Jim Duffy.

May 18, 1981.

A special meeting was held to discuss the economic problems facing the Ontario farm community and to prepare Lambton's position for the OFA meeting in Toronto on June 4. The following is the policy decided on at that meeting by the LFA  
1. Reinstatement of the Jr. Farmer Loan for all farmers up to age 35 years.

2. Small Business Development Loan Program should be expanded to include small farms and other unincorporated businesses
3. More money available for loans from Farm Credit Corporation.
4. Interest rates on operating loans should be subsidized by the federal and provincial governments.

July 11, 1981.

A delegation from the Plympton Township Council attended the meeting to participate in discussions on the proposed changes to farm property tax. A committee of Jack Wilkinson, Lavern Wray, Willard Kelly and Ian Lehrbass to work on this issue. Lavern Wray and the land committee were meeting with Lambton County officials to discuss agriculture's place in a revised official plan.

Sept. 14, 1981

The decision was made to participate in a letter writing campaign that had started in Huron County and grown to include Bruce and Wellington Counties. Form letters were sent to members to sign and mail to Prime Minister Trudeau and Agriculture Minister Whelan. The LFA donated \$1175.00 (One dollar per member) to the Foundation for Rural Living.

Nov. 9, 1981

Bill McGuire, Bob McGuire, and Colin McMurphy showed slides of brine damage in fields and ditches from a disposal well in Dawn Township. Bill also showed correspondence from OFA President Ralph Barrie and from Premier Davis expressing an interest in the concerned bylaw.



LFA Mall Display Committee, Willard Kelly, Don Anderson, Laverne Wray, Neil Miner.

Jan. 14, 1982

Jack Wilkinson chaired a meeting with MPs and MPP. 150 people were in attendance. Included in the brief for that meeting were serious concerns for young farmers and that the former Jr. Farmer loans be reinstated. The lack of stability and price predictability was cited as part of the reason for the request that the Provincial Minister of Agriculture establish a more orderly production and marketing system for beef and pork, as had been done in the dairy and poultry



sectors. Other items mentioned in this brief were consolidation of retail food chains into fewer and fewer hands, a need for more long term loans from FCC, a request that a ceiling be established for quota values, a request for more provincial enforcement around pipeline installation and on the use of waste disposal wells and finally a recommendation that a rapeseed crushing plant built in Hamilton should be relocated so that it not interfere with the soy bean market.

Jan. 18, 1982 A new waste landfill had been proposed in Plympton Township so Paul Kernohan and Tom Core were to represent LFA on this issue.



Joe Lucan, Dale Ferns  
(OFA representative)  
Right to Farm  
Meeting - April 23,  
1981

Feb. 8, 1982 A report about problems enforcing the tree bylaw prompted a letter from the land committee to county council. At this meeting the LFA also decided to send a letter to Plympton Township requesting them to keep the LFA informed of all developments regarding any proposed new waste landfills. Mac Parker presented a resolution to go to OFA requesting a "Sound Off" type column in the Member's Digest. It was moved by Peter Van Den Dool and seconded by Tom Core to donate a copy of the LFA history "These Forty Years" to the Lambton County Library, to the museums in the county, and the OMAF office in Petrolia.

Feb. 13, 1982 Jack Wilkinson attended a meeting at the Victoria Playhouse with MPs Ralph Ferguson and Bud Cullen to get public input prior to a new federal budget.

April 12, 1982. It was reported at this meeting that Ken Nicholson had made a presentation before an Ontario Municipal Board hearing, in Moore Township, in favour of building a grain terminal at Courtright. The OMB granted approval to build. The LFA decided to oppose a Euphemia Township plan to allow land severances with just 48 acres. Two resolutions were passed at this meeting, both having to do with farm loans. One asked for the establishment of an Ontario Farm Bank and the other asked for full term, fixed rate loans.

July 15, 1982. A reunion picnic was held in Bridge View Park in Petrolia. Past Presidents, past and current directors attended. A good time was had, and LFA should consider hosting an annual event like this.

Sept. 13, 1982. Don Cook and Dallas McColl of the Lambton County Woodlot Committee spoke about the need to have 13.5% tree cover in Lambton in order to maintain a healthy environment. The LFA felt that if all society benefits from having tree cover then farmers should be compensated for providing these benefits. Laverne Wray had arranged for a display at Bridgen Fair and directors filled in the schedule to man the display.

Oct. 28, 1982. At this LFA annual meeting the guest speaker was MPP Jack Riddell the Liberal Agriculture Critic. Also attending the meeting was Lambton County Warden Donald Elliot.



Jack Wilkinson,  
Ian Lehrbass,  
Mac Parker.  
New LFA executive,  
Nov. 1982.

Dec. 6, 1982. Jack Wilkinson made a presentation to Alan Pope, Minister of Natural Resources. Making points on woodlots, Lake Huron drilling, and on a proposal to tax land owners on the potential value of minerals on their property.

Jan. 28, 1983. Jack Wilkinson and Ian Lehrbass attended a meeting in London with MP Garnet Bloomfield and MP Ralph Ferguson. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss electoral redistribution. Middlesex Federation of Agriculture executive members and Reeves from affected Townships also attended the meeting.

Feb. 14, 1983. It was reported at the monthly directors meeting that a brief highlighting recent activities of the LFA, had been prepared for Township directors to present to their respective councils.

March 8, 1983. A general information meeting was held in the Innwood Firehall. Brigid Pyke spoke on farm finances, and there were speakers from the Lambton County Woodlot Committee, from the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, and from the Ministry of Natural Resources. The minutes state that 60 people attended but that it was not adequately advertised and that the meeting went on too long.



Mac Parker,  
Earl Morwood,  
March 1983.

March 14, 1983. Members of the LFA executive had met with and presented a brief to MP Ralph Ferguson. Allan Harris asked the LFA to help ensure that farmers have more information before signing gas and oil leases. The amount per acre and the length of the leases were major concerns. Willard Kelly announced that OFA would soon have a lease available for use by farm members which could set a standard. The following resolution was sent to OFA. Therefore be it resolved that food producers be protected from having their assets, in storage or held for processing, seized by banks and held as the collateral of a third party who has gone bankrupt. Note: This had happened at the McIntyre elevators in Appin.

April 11, 1983. The LFA executive had recently met with and made a presentation to MPP Lorne Henderson. It was stated that there should be routine yearly visits to our MPPs at a minimum to ensure that the lines of communication stay open. It was also reported that a number of directors had visited, or had made arrangements to visit their Township Councils.



Lorne Henderson

July 11, 1983. It was stated at the meeting that the LFA had received \$1000 from each of the Middlesex and Oxford Federations of Agriculture to assist in the aftermath of the tornado at Reeces Corners. The LFA also organized volunteer clean up crews.

Sept. 12, 1983. Jack Wilkinson met with MP Ralph Ferguson and discussed the need for the Farm Credit Corporation to make more money available. It was suggested to contact Eugene Whelan, The FCC chairman, and the Prime Minister's Office. Annexation talk in the county prompted the LFA

## To the Lambton Federation of Agriculture, Regarding the Sixtieth Anniversary

I am pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate the LFA for sixty years of excellent leadership for Lambton County farmers.

It was my pleasure to work closely with the Federation of Agriculture for twenty five years. It was in that capacity that I saw first hand the efforts made by your board to work on the concerns of our farmers in an ever changing and complex society.

We wish you well in your efforts to be an advocate for agricultural producers as they struggle to clarify their position with the many facets of our society that affect production of food.

Congratulations on a job well done.

Wm. T. Abraham,  
Former Ag. Rep.

to offer assistance to the Lambton County Warden to make certain farming interests were not overlooked in the process.

Oct. 3, 1983. The Agri-Food week activities would see representatives from the Pork Producers and the Milk Committee along with Bryan Boyle from OMAF on the Peter Henderson Hotline radio show. Mac Parker volunteered to attend a NDP agriculture task force meeting in Chatham on Oct. 19.

Oct. 28, 1983. The LFA Annual meeting was held at the Centennial Hall in Watford. Warden David Smith brought greetings from the county.

Nov. 14, 1983. The LFA sent letters to OFA President Ralph Barrie and to Ont. Minister of Agriculture Dennis Timbrell expressing disappointment that the property tax rebate was set at 60%. Jack Wilkinson and Ian Lehrbass were to serve on a technical advisory committee for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.



Jack Wilkinson, Nov. 1983 -  
elected to OFA Executive.



- Dec. 12, 1983. The LFA land committee was directed by motion to inform Sarnia Township of its' position on abandoned railway property.
- Jan. 9, 1984. Ian Lehrbass reported on a meeting with the Lambton and Middlesex Federations and Sony Anderson of FCC and MP's Ralph Ferguson and Garnet Bloomfield. The meeting was to discuss FCC loan policy and availability.
- Feb. 13, 1984. Correspondence from Howard Watson on behalf of Sarnia Township requested information on LFA policy regarding minimum 50 acre severances.
- March 3, 1984. John DeVet organized a MP and MPP meeting for 2pm at the Centennial School. Sixty people including all four Members attended.
- April 9, 1984. Moore Township Council requested the LFA position on spreading processed sewage sludge on farm land. At the following monthly meeting the LFA stated that there were no objections provided Agricultural Codes of Practice were followed.
- May 14, 1984. Upon the retirement of William T. Abraham, Agriculture Representative for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Lambton County for 25 years, collections were taken up to thank and pay tribute to him and his wife Dorothy. There was a large amount collected and Bill asked the LFA to invest the money and use the proceeds to make bursary awards to students enrolled in post secondary agriculture studies. At this meeting the LFA agreed to do that and the Wm. And Dorothy Abraham Bursary was created.



Dorothy and Bill Abraham  
"Appreciation Night"  
June 16, 1983.

- June 11, 1984. MPP Andy Brandt had promised to discuss stronger penalties for removing woodlots with Attorney General Roy McMurtry. Incredibly high interest rates were the reason that the LFA sent telegrams to Finance Minister Marc LaLonde and Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan.

- June 12, 1984. Ian Lehrbass, Mac Parker, and Jim Johnson met with the agriculture committee of Lambton County along with representatives from MNR and The Conservation Authority.
- July 9, 1984. It was moved by Jim Johnson and seconded by Mac Parker to send a resolution to OFA's annual meeting in November requesting a refundable check-off from the Property Tax Rebate be created and used to fund general farm organizations. NOTE: This motion is acknowledged as the first step towards what eventually became Bill 42, The Farmer Registration Act.
- Aug. 13, 1984. Directors from Bosanquet attended a Lake Huron pollution meeting. An all candidates meeting was held for the up coming federal election. Jack Wilkinson, Dona Stewardson and Mac Parker made a presentation to Lambton County Council. Jack Prouse paid tribute to Mr. Ed O'Dell, at the ceremony which named a park in Corunna after him. Mr. O'Dell had been a long serving secretary-treasurer for the LFA and a worker on numerous community groups in Moore and Lambton. Mr. O'Dell was Lois Wakefield's boss for her first two months working for LFA.
- Nov. 12, 1984. The newly elected MP, Sid Fraliegth sent a letter to LFA stating that he was willing to meet and discuss issues.
- Jan. 7, 1985. At the first board of director meeting in 1985, members concerns were discussed. In Bosanquet a proposed bylaw would require lids on manure pits. In Plympton, farmers questioned the need and affordability of a new waterline. In each instance Township directors were to be involved and report back. At 2pm the meeting was joined by MPs Sid Fraliegth and Ken James. Ian Lehrbass lead the discussion on topics that included Capital Gains, Stabilization, Agri-Bonds, Farm Credit, and Fuel tax among other things. As part of the planning for mall displays the LFA invites all commodity groups and other rural organizations to take part. A motion was passed at this meeting to extend an invitation to the Farm Survivalists, an ad hoc group which promoted direct intervention as a way to protest and prevent farm bankruptcies.
- Jan. 22, 1985. Henry Boot, Jack Prouse, Sherry Morrison, and Mac Parker attended a meeting in Sarnia hosted by Ontario Waste Management.
- Jan. 31, 1985. John DeVet, Jack Prouse, Bill McGuire, and Mac Parker were in Ottawa to participate in an OFA lobbying effort.

- March 9, 1985. A number of directors met with MP Sid Fraliegth to discuss free trade proposals. In the minutes for the March meeting, a motion was made that the Member Relations Committee be ready to set up an All Candidates Night for the expected Provincial election. No further mention is made in the minutes, but I have first hand knowledge that an election was held and that LFA did host a candidates meeting.
- April 8, 1985. Correspondence from MP Sid Fraliegth announcing a fuel tax rebate available for 1985-86. Dona Stewardson reported a successful mall display at Lambton Mall March 21, 22 and 23.



Don Simpson,  
working at LFA Mall  
Display invites Kevin  
Marriott to enter  
draw for groceries.

- June 10, 1985. Letters went sent to MPP David Smith on two issues. Farmers in Plympton Township wanted old railroad right of way returned to adjacent landowners. The McKinley grain elevator bankruptcy had affected many farmers. Mac Parker, Dona Stewardson, Henry Boot, Ian Lehrbass and 1970 LFA Past president Howard Huctwith met with MP Sid Fraliegth. It was not felt to be a positive meeting. Ian Lehrbass, Mac Parker, and Earl Morwood met with the Lambton County Woodlot committee. It was at this meeting that a LFA developed a policy that woodlot owners should be paid \$25.00 per acre per year on qualifying woodlot. The directors heard a presentation from George McDermid, a sales rep from the Co-operators about a new disability insurance available only to OFA members.
- July 2, 1985. Tony Beernik asked the directors to host a meeting of representatives from all Lambton commodity groups to hear a speaker on parity pricing.
- July 10, 1985. Bus trip to rally in Toronto. 176 people from Lambton attended. The purpose was to show support for debt review and stabilization programs. The hope was to increase the priority of agriculture and express tiredness of being second class, Ontario citizens.
- Sept. 9, 1985. The Parity Price meeting, of the group which came to be called the Lambton Liaison, was held Aug. 19, with Claude Giroux, the President of the Essex Farmers Union and Jack Wilkinson as guest speakers. It was decided to continue

## Mac Parker's Comments

It was a pleasure and an honour to have been president of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture. An anniversary of 60 years is a memorable accomplishment that shows the strong support and dedication of Lambton farmers, both men and women, over the years. The farm communities used to have political clout in electing rural MPs and MPPs, but that impact is declining and farmers will be forced to work together and speak with one united voice all across Ontario and Canada to get due respect from our elected governments.

Looking back to 1985, we had low commodity prices (what else is new?) But we also had high interest rates. There were bank foreclosures on many farms. They had loaned out too much money, too easily, and interest rates climbed to 18-19%. Farm rally's in Queen's Park in Toronto, and in St. Thomas at the constituency of Federal Agriculture Minister, John Wise, were the order of the day.

June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1986, was the official opening of the Lambton Rural Childcare in Petrolia. This was one of four pilot projects for rural childcare in Ontario. This has become quite efficient at providing childcare and is currently providing services to Lambton Social Services Department on a fee for services basis.

Selling memberships to farmers on a door to door basis was a new and exciting experience to many of us. Earl Morwood and I could write a book on our experiences. We would take our lunch with us and see how many visits we could make, how many sales, and how many excuses we would hear. There had to be a better way. Lambton directors led the charge for stable funding. The OFA had to be convinced and then the Ontario government was approached and working with the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, it became a reality.

Lambton was known for its' movers and shakers. There have been many excellent leaders from within the federation itself and from the other commodity groups within the county.

I have gained much knowledge and experience from the federation and life long friends that money can not buy. Congratulations on your 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and good luck in the future.

meeting 4 times a year with all commodity groups represented.

- Oct. 7, 1985. Meeting with MPP David Smith discussed having both Metric and Imperial measurements on pesticide containers, rural child care, woodlots, spill act, free trade, farm debt and a moratorium on foreclosures, and railroad right of way in Plympton.



Nov. 11, 1985. A bus load of Lambton farmers attended a rally at Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise's constituency office in St. Thomas. During a discussion with MPP David Smith it became known that Lambton would be a pilot project for a rural child care initiative with subsidized care spaces available. Mac Parker, Dona Stewardson and Jane Rombouts gave a report on a seminar in Toronto they attended to learn more about "Agriculture In The Classroom".

Dec. 9, 1985. A motion by Henry Boot and John DeVet to give a copy of the LFA history "These Forty Years" to the new directors on the board. The LFA paid \$40.00 to John Langlois for his expenses in coming to speak to the Parity Price meeting on Dec. 2.

Jan. 6, 1986. Hon. Ralph Ferguson spoke to the Lambton Liaison group about "Various options to get higher prices for commodities".

Jan. 13, 1986. This directors meeting was chaired by Dona Stewardson 1<sup>st</sup> VP. It involved a very heated discussion about the controversial issue of farm debt moratorium, establishing a farm debt review process, and if necessary a strategy for farm gate defence. Euphemia Township had already supported the "Debt Moratorium" as reported by Bill McCutcheon and directors were asked to get support from other townships. Farmers needing the "Farmer In Transition" Program (FIT) were to be put in touch with Bryan Boyle and MPP David Smith. It was stated at this meeting that 33% of all FCC loans were in arrears.



Bryan Boyle  
"New Ag. Rep."  
July 21, 1983.

Jan. 29, 1986. Federal Liberal Agriculture Task Force hearing in Strathroy. Henry Boot made a presentation for LFA. The main topic was free trade with the US and fears of how it would affect agriculture. The LFA decided to send letters showing support for a moratorium on farm debt to Prime Minister Mulroney, Agriculture Minister John Wise, and MPP Sid Fraligh.

Feb. 10, 1986. Most of the LFA directors were present at the Ranch House restaurant for a meeting with the

leader of the opposition party, Larry Grossman. Also attending the meeting were MPP Andy Brandt and former MPP Lorne Henderson. Provincial Agriculture Minister Jack Riddell had announced a task force to preserve farmland. LFA sent a brief agreeing with his stand on the issue to the task force. The Lambton Liaison committee met in February with Gerry Long as the guest speaker.

March 10, 1986. President Mac Parker reported that Lambton County's proposal for the Rural Child Care pilot project was being sent to the Ministry of Community and Social Services for approval. Earl Morwood discussed the training seminar for directors in Lambton and Middlesex, held in Strathroy on Feb. 27. Eighteen people had attended the all day program. The Lambton Liaison Committee members were to have discussions on, over supply and other factors affecting price with their own commodity group and then report back at the next meeting.



LFA President  
Mac Parker,  
Jennifer Battersby of  
Lambton Rural Child  
Care, OFA President  
Harry Pelissier  
at grand opening  
of LRCC.

March 31, 1986. Members of Parliaments night held in Innwood, with MP Sid Fraligh, MP Ken James, and MPP David Smith. Only 40 people attended due to a lack of advertising.

April 14, 1986. A display had been set up and manned by directors at the 3 day, Watford Farm and Home Show. It was felt that there was very good visibility for the LFA at this show. Bryan Boyle the OMAF agriculture representative, gave an update on programs available on the staff working in the Petrolia office.

May, 1986. A group of farmers including several LFA directors took part in a protest outside the Bank of Montreal in Alvinston. The main issue was the foreclosures on insolvent farms.



Jack Wilkinson  
standing in wagon  
at farm protest in  
Alvinston in 1986.

May 12, 1986. Ron Brand reported having been a LFA representative at a Wyoming meeting to discuss a Waste Management System for the County and the City of Sarnia. Several directors had attended a 5 county meeting in the Anglican church in Florence to discuss a resolution from the Essex Federation of Agriculture on farm inputs and commodity prices.

July 13, 1986. Agriculture Minister John Wise met with the LFA Executive and other Lambton farm groups at the Moore Sports Complex in Mooretown. A brief was presented to the Lambton County Agriculture Committee during a meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>.



1986 LFA Board of Directors.

Seated: Paul Vandenabeele, Lois Wakefield - secretary, Mac Parker - president, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Dona Stewardson, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Henry Boot, standing: Allan Doumie, Dave Core, Ron Brand, Sandy Bunker, John DeVet, Darrell Randell, Dan Caron, Lambert Minten, Earl Morwood - OFA Fieldman, Ian Lehrbass, Don Simpson, Ron Huctwail.

Sept. 8, 1986. Paul Vandenabeele met with the Moore township planning committee at their request. The Lambton Liaison Committee had continued to meet up until their final meeting on Aug. 25. The group had put together a series of recommendations and a proposal which were forwarded to the federal government. Twelve Lambton directors plus Wayne Stubbs, reporter for the Lambton Farmer, attended a meeting in Exeter hosted by the Huron Federation and including the Middlesex Federation.

Oct. 6, 1986. The LFA offered to make a financial contribution of \$100.00 to help with the administration costs of bog farmer's lobby for help due to weather related losses. Jane Rombouts was to contact John Smits about this.

Nov. 10, 1986. Dona Stewardson had worked with OMAF staff and members of the Women's Institute to put on a program about "Agriculture In The Classroom" for a professional development day for teachers in Forest. OFA mail box signs had been purchased and were handed out to the directors present.

## Dona Stewardson - LFA President 1987/88

To reminisce of my role as president of the Board of directors of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture, brought back many memories.

The new leadership Executive team for 87/88 consisted of Past President Mac Parker, President Dona Stewardson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice John DeVet and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Sandy Bunker. The support staff was Earl Morwood, with our ever faithful secretary Lois Wakefield assisting us. The list of priorities included the Free Trade Agreement, improved farm income, soil conservation, environmental issues, rural development, farm safety, new improved crop insurance, agriculture in the classroom, rural childcare, to name a few.

The annual membership campaigns, gave the directors an opportunity to drive up the farm lanes to discuss the issues, encourage the farm families to join our farm organization, then place an OFA sign at the end of their driveway.

During my time with the Federation, I was both a participant and observer, as the Stable Funding resolution, that had originated in Lambton County, evolved into the provincial legislated "Farm Business Registration Program," eliminating the need for membership drives as we knew them.

The state of the environment became a higher priority within communities, and society in general, so it was easy for me to become the "Federation Environmental Guru", winning a Sarnia-Lambton, Chamber of Commerce, Environmental Award.

The fallout from the extremely high interest rates of the early 80's arrived on our doorstep. Causing much distress with many farm families. The feeling of despair that we shared with these farm folks is a sad memory, as many of them fought to save their century farms.

The combined skills of the entire board during 87/88, allowed us to explore challenging areas, share the same basic goals, with a clear recognition of the importance of our industry.

Thank you Lambton Federation of Agriculture, for allowing me the opportunity for personal growth and satisfaction. I appreciated the privilege of working with so many dedicated people and look forward to the continued success of our great organization.

Dona & Don Stewardson,  
Dec. 1983





- Dec. 8, 1986. Two issues were raised for MP Sid Fralleg. The first was that loan payments to FCC made, on time at the banks, were being charged overdue interest charges until FCC head office received payment. The second point had to do with fuel taxes.
- Jan. 2, 1987. LFA executive met with MP Sid Fralleg to discuss the debt review process and other topics.
- Jan. 12, 1987. Darrell Randell informed the board of directors that the Public School Board was studying both elementary schools in Sombra Township to determine if they could be closed. LFA sent a letter to school board opposing these schools being closed and expressing concerns for rural schools in general.
- Feb. 9, 1987. Guest speakers at this month's directors meeting were Robbin Dawe and Robert Redhead from Tricil hazardous waste disposal in Moore Twp. They talked about how their company's responsible approach was safe for all neighbouring landowners. Adrian Kustermans expressed his concerns about property tax assessments on bare land in Warwick Township so the land committee were to investigate. Bill Wray was appointed as the LFA representative on the Bluewater Conservation Club.
- Feb. 19, 1987. Provincial, Minister of Education, Sean Conway, was at a breakfast in Oil Springs. Darrell Randell was present to talk about potential school closings in Sombra Twp. and to make a presentation on behalf of the LFA, Agriculture In The Classroom committee.



1987 LFA Board of Directors.

Seated: Lois Wakefield—secretary,  
2nd VP Sandy Bunker, Dona Stewartson—president,  
Earl Morwood—OFA Fieldman, 1st VP John DeVet,  
Standing: John Morwood, Mac Parker, Jane Rombouts, Lambert Minton,  
Darrell Randell, Tony Straatman, Paul Vandenberghe, Jake Feenstra,  
Bill Wray, Beatrix Cornelissen, Ron Brand, Debbie Kuarcak,  
Don Simpson (behind Debbie), Dan Caron, Ron Huettich, Robert Mater.

- April 13, 1987. Sandy Bunker reported on a Free Trade meeting at the Brooke Central School. MPs Sid Fralleg, Ken James and Terry Clifford were in attendance.

As the finale to this year's membership drive a media brunch was held at the Ranch House restaurant in Reece's Corners. Doug Avery from the OFA executive was the speaker, seven media people attended and 89 memberships had been sold.

- June 8, 1987. The LFA and individual directors sent letters to Provincial Agriculture Minister Jack Riddell in appreciation of improvements to the property tax rebate asking for more action on the mandatory, refundable check-off for general farm organizations. Beatrix Cornelissen Reported on a 3 day "Agriculture in the Classroom" seminar in London she had attended for the LFA.
- July 16, 1987. Former Prime Minister and leader of the federal opposition John Turner was at the home of Ralph and Dolores Ferguson. Dona Stewartson of LFA and Paul Ward of the Middlesex Federation of Agriculture presented a brief on agricultural concerns mostly around free trade.
- Sept. 14, 1987. Dan Caron reported that the All Candidates Meeting for the provincial election, held in Inwood, had 150 people in attendance and had very good media coverage. Dan thanked his committee. Guest speaker at this month's meeting was George Duckworth from the Ministry of Natural Resources. He spoke about a Fisheries Management Plan, 1987 - 2000, and farming practices that would have an affect on it. LFA nominated Howard Huetwith to be inducted into the OFA Hall of Fame.
- Oct. 5, 1987. Guest speaker for this meeting was Janet Mater, explaining the process of preserving food by nuclear irradiation. Janet highlighted possible threats to consumers from this unregulated procedure and the ethical questions surrounding it as well.
- Nov. 13, 1987. Beatrix Cornelissen and Darrell Randell put on an Agriculture in the Classroom seminar for teachers during their professional development day at the Queen Elizabeth School in Sarnia.
- Jan. 11, 1988. Bill Wray, the scholarship committee chairman, informed the directors that a new "Kerrigan Scholarship" had been set up. Earl Morwood had assisted Tim and Pat Kerrigan in the negotiations with the Ministry of Transportation for a fair settlement when their farm had been bisected by Highway 402. To express their gratitude, the Kerrigan family donated \$2000.00 to LFA to be used as an endowment to create this new scholarship.
- Jan. 15, 1988. LFA executive and Mac Parker (OFA check-off committee) met with MPP David Smith to discuss numerous issues.

- Feb. 8, 1988. Mac Parker, a member of the Land Stewardship Committee spoke to the directors about the program.
- March 14, 1988. Paul Ward of Dorchester and a member of OFA's membership committee, spoke to the directors about selling OFA memberships.
- April 11, 1988. John DeVet reported that a recent mall display in the Lambton Mall had gone well with 15 organizations taking part with displays for three days. Constable Jack Stirling of the Petrolia OPP Detachment addressed the meeting about farm safety and the law.
- June 11, 1988. Concern that the "Ontario Family Farm Interest Rate Rebate" Program may be cut prompted the LFA to send letters supporting OFFIR to MPPs David Smith, Jack Riddell, Andy Brandt, and Bob Rae. Beatrix Cornelissen reported that she would soon be hosting a group of students on her farm. The LFA sent a motion to OFA asking them to work towards expanding the Land Stewardship Program throughout Ontario.
- June 29, 1988. Dona Stewartson responded to a member's request from Clearwater to speak to that council about several issues in the rural area. She did not feel that it was a productive meeting.
- Sept. 12, 1988. Guests to this directors meeting were Bill Bilton, Chairman of the County Council, Agriculture Committee, and Malcolm Boyd, the new Lambton County Planner. The discussion included severances, farm practices, and woodlots.
- Nov. 14, 1988. Two environmental planners from Ont. Hydro, put on a slide show and led a discussion about hydro towers on farmed property. A new style of tower takes up much less land but is very expensive. This meeting was Dona's last one as president. It was held on the municipal election day. Dona thanked the directors for their help, but excused herself early because she was a candidate for Bosanquet Council. She was elected. This meeting was the first LFA board of Directors meeting in the new OMAF Building.
- Nov. 15, 1988. A candidates meeting for the Federal election was held in the Inwood Firemen's Hall. It was well advertised and organized and had a very large attendance.
- Feb. 13, 1989. Donald Craig was the guest speaker at the monthly LFA meeting to discuss efforts of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to inform and promote better soil conservation, windbreaks, and woodlots. President John DeVet reported on a meeting with MPP David Smith.

## A Few Comments from John DeVet

During the two years that I served as president of LFA we worked hard to find unity among farmers, and were busy trying to please the media. The reason for the unity problem, came about when OFA passed the now famous "Grenville Resolution" in the spring of 1987. (This resolution called for OFA to take an active role in promoting supply management system for hogs and cattle.) It had the red meat sectors upset with OFA, because they felt OFA had stepped over the line. I heard more than once that we should stay home or keep out. For my term, I went to the annual meetings of all commodity groups so we could break down any barriers.

In the fall of 1989 the OFA was planning a rally in Ottawa to keep supply management as is on Nov. 21. We as LFA directors decided it was too short of notice to get a lot of people on busses to Ottawa. At the same time as the rally on parliament hill, and on the coldest day I ever spent in Sarnia, we rallied at Centennial Park. From there we marched to MP Ken James' constituency office to leave a brief outlining our concerns. We were all welcomed inside.

Some of the other issues we worked on back then were right to farm, plant breeders rights, environmental concerns, and Lambton's own resolution for stable funding for general farm organizations.

In the years that I was a LFA director for Bosanquet Township, I made contacts and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Just a Note: Change in agriculture is inevitable on the family farm. When I joined the LFA there were three directors on the board were one member of the family worked off the farm. When I retired nine years later, there were twenty directors were at least one family member worked off the farm.

- Feb. 17, 1989. Executive members of the LFA met with MP Ralph Ferguson at the Oil Rig. An agricultural sub committee to the Lambton Industrial Training Committee was being formed. Sandy Bunker had taken on chairmanship and Darrell Randell would represent LFA.
- Mar. 21, 1989. The minutes show that Dan Caron, Darrell Randell, John DeVet, and Earl Morwood attended 10 minutes of a Lambton County Planning meeting. At the request of the planning Dept. LFA sent a letter to MPP John Eakins, Minister of Municipal Affairs to express our reservations and objections to regional government. An orientation and training meeting was held in the Ranch House restaurant in the evening. Jane Cunningham from OMAF and Nancy McGill from OFA Executive were each invited to make presentations.



April 10, 1989. The LFA sent a resolution to OFA about drainage assessment on woodlots. There was a discussion on the new federal sales tax (GST) and how it would create a great deal more paperwork for farmers.

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1989. Ron Huctwith and Mac Parker were present as representatives of the Warwick-Watford Landfill Committee. The LFA voted to give their committee full political support and \$250.00 of financial support.

Sept. 11, 1989. The proposal to radically change the property tax rebate was countered in Lambton by a lobbying effort led by John DeVet. All commodity groups, Plympton, Bosanquet, Sombra, and Lambton County councils, as well as MPP David Smith had been contacted on the issue.



Oct. 1989.  
Benjamin, Rachel  
and Barry Randell  
visit Earl Morwood  
at LFA display at  
Brigidon Fair

Oct. 6-9, 1989. Directors from LFA took turns manning a display booth at the Brigidon Fair. This was the first year that the Moore Agricultural Society had brought school children to the fair on the Friday as part of an Agriculture in the Classroom program and some directors assisted with that. Other "Ag In The Classroom" activities taking place around this time had Darrell Randell speaking to the grades 5 and 6 at Colborne school in Corunna and the Dairy Princess, Sandy Bunker, and Darrell Randell speaking to the grades 1 to 5 at Rosedale School in Sarnia.

Nov. 13, 1989. Nancy McGill, an OFA executive member, attended the monthly meeting of LFA. She informed the board that a large farm protest rally was planned for Ottawa on Nov. 21.

Nov. 21, 1989. The LFA executive did not feel that with the short notice and busy time of the year, that many Lambton farmers could participate in the rally in Ottawa. A local rally was planned to give farmers the opportunity to show support of the goals. The group met in Centennial Park in Sarnia for a rally and then marched to MP Ken James' constituency office to present a brief outlining actions that the government of Canada must take. A number of farmers from Essex County

journeyed to Sarnia to participate with us. Great media coverage at this event.



Shirley Eyre of MP Ken James  
constituency office welcomes  
LFA President John DeVet and  
40 other protesting farmers.

Dec. 11, 1989. LFA Environment Committee met with the Lambton Health Unit to discuss septic waste in drains. There had not been any of our MPs or MPPs in attendance at our Annual Meeting in Brigidon so a letter was sent to each of them, stating that we expected them to be at our meetings to indicate their personal support for farmers. An announcement was made at this meeting that longtime CFCA radio farm reporter, Harold Smith was retiring and would be replaced by Dennis Guy. The LFA passed a resolution to send to OFA on the location, creation or expansion of waste landfill in rural municipalities without sufficient safeguards and assurances that local contamination would not occur.

Feb. 12, 1990. The minutes state that the LFA executive had in the past month met with all our provincial and federal members. Also attending the meeting with MPP David Smith was the new Minister of Agriculture David Ramsey. All these meetings were frank and honest discussion of the farming crisis and political realities.

Mar. 12, 1990. A week long "Intensive Institute Seminar" was scheduled for the summer at Guelph University. Thirty teachers from across the province would attend for training in teaching agricultural awareness. The LFA decided to pay the tuition for the seminars for two Lambton teachers, one from the Public Board and one from the Separate Board. The LFA sent a letter of congratulations to the Port Lambton Knechtel Store on their having won a Foodland Ontario Award for their advertising and displays which promoted Ontario Produce.

April 6, 1990. Former MPP Lorne Henderson, hosted a meeting in the Oil Rig Restaurant with the purpose of introducing MPP Mike Harris, a contender for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario. John DeVet,

Darrell Randell, Dona Stewardson attended and presented a brief outlining the concerns of the LFA. After this meeting John and Darrell took advantage of being in Petrolia to pay an impromptu visit on MPP David Smith.

June 11, 1990. Joyce Anderson reported a meeting with Moore Township regarding their consideration of an "Energy From Waste" plant. Wayne Annett, the chairman of the LFA land Committee tabled the report on the new tree bylaw for Lambton County. It was sent on to the County, the MNR and the conservation authority. There was also a recommendation to the County that a plan be prepared to control a Gypsy Moth Outbreak near Brigidon. Robert Johnston and Stan Stefanik moved and seconded a motion to send a \$100.00 donation to the American Agricultural Movement to show support of their lawsuit against the Chicago Board of Trade over improper trading practices. It was passed.

July 3, 1990. Meet the Members of Parliament Night. All four representatives attended. An effort was made by LFA to collect briefs from commodity and other rural groups and circulate them to the MPs and MPPs in advance of the meeting. Five other groups presented briefs but only 50 people attended the meeting.



Meet the Members  
Night in Wyoming  
Legion 1990.  
Ralph Ferguson,  
David Smith,  
LFA President  
Darrell Randell,  
Andy Brandt,  
Ken James.

July 9, 1990. Dan Young had attended a meeting with Clearwater Council to discuss their severance policy. Mac Parker was present to speak to the directors on the stable funding proposal. A letter signed by all the directors present was sent to both MPPs urging them to support stable funding for general farm organizations.

Aug. 1990. A sudden provincial election call had the LFA promotion committee staging a Candidates Meeting only one month after the meet the Members night. All five of the candidates participated and it was attended by 200 people. The executive did receive some criticism from some members who felt that we should not have allowed the group opposed to the Warwick Landfill to have helped organize the event.

## My Term as LFA President by Darrell Randell

The two years at the helm of LFA seemed to have flown by. I believe it was because we were so busy. In April of 1991 we held the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party for LFA at Alvinston. Later that year we hosted the International Ploughing Match at Marthaville.

South Lambton was suffering a drought in 1991. Crop prices were so low that a lobbying effort called "The State of Emergency in Grains and Oilseeds" was consuming a lot of time. Ralph Ferguson released his Compare the Share study. It seemed that lunchtime each day that summer someone would phone to make sure I realized just how serious the crisis in farming was. I tried very hard to communicate the activities of LFA to the members by having a regular column in the Lambton Farmer.

In Sept. just before the IPM, reports to the press stated that several farmers in Lambton had committed suicide. Nancy and I felt like we were under siege from all the media attention. TV stations I had never heard of and even Toronto Newspapers were calling to try and sensationalize these tragedies. It was a very difficult time for us.

In November we staged another rally in Sarnia and used the Compare the Share pamphlets to spread the message to consumers at various locations in the city.

Leading up to the huge Ottawa rally, OFA President Roger George asked me for at least three busloads of farmers out of Lambton. I promised him four and delivered five. We had known the call would come and had a plan in place. Nancy watched the news that day and saw the announcer estimate that 40,000 farmers were in Ottawa. She was certain that at least half of them had phoned our house before heading out.

I do not know if any of our actions actually made a difference. I think that in many ways we did. I know for a fact that the rewards were real enough. The inspiration I received seeing people work together, struggle against some very oppressive circumstances, challenging myself on an almost daily basis to accomplish things I had never aspired to do. They simply needed doing and it was my turn.

I have a great deal of admiration for Lambton county farmers. I am very proud of having the chance to work so closely with so many of you. We had a chance to share a few laughs also, and that was really important too.

Sept. 10, 1990. Visitors at this directors meeting were Owen Byers, from Lambton County Council, Malcolm Boyd, County planner, and Ken Yarskavitch from the Ministry of Natural Resources. They were present to discuss the LFA brief on the tree bylaw and to seek help in



encouraging farmers-landowners to reforest where possible. It was decided that a stewardship committee would be the best approach but a funding source would be needed.

Oct. 1, 1990. The executive reported that in order to establish a relationship with our new MPPs, Bob Huget and Ellen McKinnon they had been invited to the Ranch House for lunch and a talk about farming. In preparation for the International Ploughing Match coming to Lambton in 1991 a local OFA committee was formed to arrange for OFA presence at the big event, with Dan Caron, Robert Mater, Robert Johnston, John DeVet, and Earl Morwood as the secretary. NOTE: While many others of us assisted, this group did exemplary work on a very large and difficult task.

Dec. 10, 1990. Roger George, who had just been elected the President of OFA, was the featured speaker at the financial seminar in Alvinston. He was the guest on the radio phone in talk show, "Henderson's Hotline" on CHOK. Roger then attended the LFA monthly director's meeting where he spoke on agricultural safety nets and his goals as OFA President. At the December meeting the directors decided to assist MP Ralph Ferguson collect signatures for his petition to make a minimum 3.2% oxygen content in gasoline fuels mandatory and to ban methycyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl (MMT). The decision to rent a hall and have John Arens speak to Lambton farmers was made at this meeting. John Arens was the lawyer for the American Agricultural Movement, the group suing the Chicago Board of Trade.

Feb. 14, 1991. LFA Executive met with MP Ralph Ferguson at 1pm and MP Ken James at 3pm and presented each with a prepared brief on federal issues.

Feb. 22, 1991. LFA executive met with MPP Ellen McKinnon at 1pm and MPP Bob Huget at 3pm and presented each with a prepared brief on provincial issues.

March 11, 1991. Township directors were reminded to set up an appointment to attend their respective Township Councils and update them on LFA activities.

April 6, 1991. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the LFA was celebrated in Alvinston. MP Ken James brought congratulations from the Government of Canada and himself, MP Ralph Ferguson brought congratulations from himself and the Opposition leader, and Ellen McKinnon brought her own congratulations as well as those of the province.



LFA Presidents attending the 50th Anniversary in 1991.  
George McCormick, John L. Anderson, Bert Logan, Frank Miller, Gordon King, Bert VandenDool, Howard Huctwirth, Standing-Laeorne Wray, John Core, Neil Miner, Ian Lehrbass, Mac Parker, Dona Stewardson, John DeVet, Darrell Randell.

April 8, 1991. The LFA sent a letter to provincial Minister of the Environment Ruth Grier asking for more time to study the implications of the Environmental Bill of Rights. Copies were sent to the Minister of Agriculture, Elmer Buchanan, and our two MPPs here in Lambton. A letter had been received from the President of the Sarnia-Lambton Humane Society, declining an invitation to address a LFA Board of Directors meeting. A motion was made to purchase copies of the photograph of the LFA past presidents at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting, and give one to each of them.

April 26, 1991. Darrell Randell was invited to attend a round table discussion with Premier Bob Rae, MPPs Bob Huget and Ellen McKinnon, Ron Snow the warden of Lambton County, and numerous other major stakeholders in the Sarnia Lambton economy. Darrell was able to speak directly to the premier on the topics of waste management, farm safety nets, the property tax rebate, stable funding for general farm organizations, and the need for a woodlot stewardship committee with funding available from all levels of government to stop the deforestation of Lambton County.

Aug. 2, 1991. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture, along with the Provincial organizations for the corn, soy bean and wheat commodities, declared "A State of Emergency" in grains and oilseeds due to the disastrously low prices. By Aug. 3 the LFA had met with all four MPs and MPPs to discuss the situation. All four were well aware and promised to help.

Aug. 22, 1991. A press conference was arranged at the Country View Golf course, north of Chatham. The presidents of Kent, Essex, Elgin, Middlesex, and Lambton Federation of Agriculture were present to explain how the drought was affecting farmers in their county. They also talked about the

declared "State of Emergency in Grains and Oilseeds" MP Ralph Ferguson was present as well and talked about his study which compared consumer prices to what farmers are paid. "Compare the Share"

Sept. 5, 1991. The OFA regional meeting for the three regions in Lambton were held together at the building to be used by the OFA during the 1pm. Those attending were able to visit the site and see how it was progressing. One of the Host farmers and "Mayor of the Tented City" Clare Freer, welcomed everyone. OFA President Roger George, was the main speaker.

Sept. 9, 1991. The LFA sent a letter to county council asking them to show support for the State of Emergency in grains and oilseeds, lobbying effort. Also at this meeting the LFA endorsed MP Ralph Ferguson's "Compare the Share" research and the recommendations in it. It was forwarded to OFA for the annual convention in November.

Sept. 17 - 21, 1991. The International Ploughing Match in Lambton County made for a very busy time. Robert Mater and his committee, John DeVet, Robert Johnston, and Dan Caron, deserve very high marks for all the thought and hard work that went into preparing and manning this display, and then tearing it down and shipping it to Renfrew County. Many OFA members visited the building and were greeted by fellow members, OFA staff and executive. The "Line in the Dirt" farmers, a grassroots group that had sprung up recently out of frustration with how difficult it was to earn a living, farming, were invited into the OFA building, and given space, to talk to other farmers.



Scene at 1991 IPM.

Oct. 7, 1991. Mona Mae Thompson, from the Moore Agricultural Society, addressed the directors on the topic of a recent provincial meeting to create a group to focus on AG in the Classroom. (I think the meeting referred to was the founding meeting of OAFE, Ontario Agriculture and Food Education) Mona Mae also talked about the program for the school children on the Friday of Brigid Fair. Darrell Randell had been asked by ICI to represent farmers on a public advisory

Nov. 9, 1991. A local protest rally in Centennial Park in Sarnia to raise attention to problems in farming. MP Ralph Ferguson and MP Rex Crawford both attended. After the rally farmers went to stores and malls to hand out "Compare the Share" pamphlets to consumers. This particular event capitalized on the growing frustration in farming, the increasing activism, and the excellent tool of having the "Compare the Share" pamphlet to give to consumers. It got good media attention and made a point that was clearly understood by the public. It was put together in just a few days but was a high water mark for this type of event.

Dec. 9, 1991. The main order of business at this meeting was that OFA President Roger George had communicated that a call for a massive rally in Ottawa would come. LFA executive had already met and prepared a plan. The logistics were worked out, the costs had been determined and "Captains" were set to take charge of filling each bus. At the recent OFA convention both Dona Stewardson and Joyce Anderson had run for a position on the OFA Executive. Dona had been re-elected, Joyce had not been successful. LFA had sent two resolutions to this convention as well. The one supporting "Compare the Share" and the recommendations in it was carried. The resolution asking for all farmers to file immediately for Farm Debt Review as a protest was not successful.

Jan. 13, 1992. Debbie Barker of the Victoria Playhouse in Petrolia was present to state that the grand opening of the rebuilt facility would take place with Agriculture as the theme for the first evening. John DeVet, Earl Morwood, Dona Stewardson, and Darrell Randell formed a committee to plan this night. A number of directors gave reports of their work with other groups on which they represented the LFA or farmers in general. Darrell Randell reported on the ICI committee set up to review their actions regarding stored pond water on site at the Courtright Plant. Robert Mater reported on the Sarnia Lambton, Chamber of Commerce, Environment committee. John DeVet on the Ausable-Bayfield Strategic Plan. Earl Morwood on the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. Joyce Anderson informed the board that she was on the Board of directors for the Ontario Agriculture Training Institute. (OATI)



Feb. 10, 1992. Jane Straatman attended the monthly meeting to make a presentation on Agriculture in the Classroom activities. Leonard McMurphy brought forward two resolutions to the OFA. The first dealt with the extra costs to landowners having to deal with utility corridors on their land and the second dealt with section 13 and 14 of the Expropriation Act and how it determines the value of the land. A third resolution at this meeting asked OFA to lobby for a capital grant program to rebuild equipment and buildings on Ontario farms. This resolution was referenced to the 1987, Farm Management, Safety and Repair Program, and the 1982 Farmstead Improvement program.

Feb. 21, 1992. Five busloads of farmers from Lambton attended a huge rally in Ottawa, estimated to have 40,000 in attendance. It was well organized but a very long trip. The LFA decided to take a 1/4 page advertisement in the Lambton Farmer to thank all the participants and supporters.



Feb. 22, 1992.  
Eric Johnston,  
Robert's son, in front  
of Parliament before  
the rally.

40,000 farmers  
in Ottawa.



March 9, 1992. The Land and Environment Committee of LFA chaired by Leonard McMurphy had been looking at the issues of abandoned railroad rights of way and farm vehicles on controlled access highways. A proposed natural gas pipeline from Dawn to Windsor, an Ont. Hydro environmental review, and a meeting with the City of Sarnia regarding property severances in rural areas. Two more resolutions were brought forward at this meeting. One dealt with maintaining the value of the Canadian dollar through high interest rates and the other called on OMAF to use soy ink in all its' publications.

April 13, 1992. Robert Mater reported that the LFA would be in Sarnia to participate in the Envirofest, June 5

and 6. Mr Ivan Fowler a member from Enniskillen Township stated the amount of provincial sales tax he had paid on building materials in the construction of a new manure storage. The LFA passed a motion to ask OFA to seek a PST exemption on building materials purchased for farm use. This resolution is noteworthy because it predated a policy of rebating these taxes back to the purchaser and eventually led to an exemption. This benefit to all Ontario farmers was rooted in Lambton County.

April 22, 1992. President Darrell Randell representing the LFA and Joyce Anderson representing the Women's Institute made presentations to the public hearings on proposed Local Training and Adjustment Board in Sarnia.

July 12, 1992. It was reported that the revised tree bylaw for Lambton had been approved however it was noted that the section regarding a woodlot stewardship committee had failed to get any county funding and so was lost.

Sept. 14, 1992. Bill Beaton from the University of Waterloo attended the meeting and explained a well water testing project he was conducting. A number of directors volunteered to have their wells tested. The September minutes is the first mention of the Lambton Emergency Agriculture Fund. (LEAF) This group came together at the request of Lambton County Warden Bill Bilton to address a gap that had been created in social services due to provincial changes. Farmers and other self-employed people were not eligible for assistance. The fear was that many farmers could be facing serious trouble over the winter so the committee was established as a temporary measure. Darrell Randell, Lois Wakefield, and Leonard McMurphy from the LFA, Bill Joose and John Deelstra from the Christian Farmers, and Ken Dick, Head of Lambton County Social Service Dept. made up the committee. It was a relief that the program was hardly used at all. No one wanted it to be used much but felt that if it was needed it should be in place. A huge meeting had been held late in the summer in Markdale to show support for the Stable Funding proposal. A busload from Lambton attended.

Sept. 21, 1992. The LFA hosted a dinner meeting for representatives of most commodity boards and rural organizations in Lambton as well as the LFA directors in the board room of the OMAF building. The guest of honour was the Minister of Agriculture, Elmer Buchanan. Who tried to engage all those present in some one on one conversation. After the dinner, the grand opening of the Victoria Playhouse occurred with

Jack Wilkinson and Elmer Buchanan debating the state of Ontario agriculture. Special events were scheduled all week at the Victoria Playhouse grand re-opening, but this very first event, was for farmers.

Oct. 5, 1992. Teacher Rita MacGregor, spoke to the directors about the "Agriculture in the Classroom" seminar in Guelph that the LFA had sponsored her to attend.

Oct. 7, 1992. Leonard McMurphy, Wayne Annett, and Darrell Randell made a presentation to Lambton County Council. Topics included LEAF, rural severances, the tree bylaw and the failure of the county to provide a stewardship approach versus penalty and enforcement, more recycling and a user pay system for garbage collection.

Dec. 11, 1992. Joyce Anderson reported on Phillips Environmental open house in Enniskillen Twp. to discuss a recycling plant in Petrolia. The directors had many questions and asked the waste management committee to investigate. An invitation had been extended from the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce to set up a working agriculture committee. Such a committee had not existed for eight years. Darrell Randell, John DeVet, Bryan Boyle Ag representative, and Jack Greydunnus were to work on it. The LFA sent a letter of support for the North Lambton Health Centre to the Ministry of Health.

Jan. 11, 1993. It was reported that after the annual meeting in November, John DeVet had driven 475kms. to drive Eugene Whelan home after being our guest speaker. There was a motion to pay John the usual per km. rate. There had recently been a series of meetings across the province on the "Drainage Act". The general consensus was that the act is a good act that should not be re-opened. It was written with sufficient flexibility and if opened would lose its' focus as a tool for farmers. There was discussion about Union Gas having removed trees without a permit. The county was considering laying charges? Was the Tree bylaw enforceable? A resolution that resulted from talks with Ken Smith, asked for a PST exemption on farm specific software. It was decided to have a contest in order to get a new logo for the LFA.



OFA executive with  
Prime Minister of  
Canada, 1993.  
V.P. Dona Stewardson,  
Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell,  
OFA President Roger  
George, V.P. Bill Weaver,  
OFA-CEO Carl Sullivan

Feb. 8, 1993. Dona Stewardson was nominated by the LFA for a Sarnia-Lambton, Chamber of Commerce, Environmental Award for her work and leadership on local and provincial environmental committees. The LFA also nominated the Bridgen Co-op for its' work in making ethanol available in Lambton County. Dona did win the award. Doug McCormick reported on the public meetings about the recycling plant. The LFA did like to point out hypocrisy on occasion. The OFA had recently announced a policy of promoting rural economic diversity by decentralizing the economy of Ontario out from Toronto. The LFA passed a motion at this month's meeting that OFA consider relocating its' head office out of Toronto. The motion was lost when it got to a provincial board meeting.

April 12, 1993. An environmental action group from Moore Township came to the LFA asking for help in opposing rotary kiln incinerator construction by Laidlaw. LFA responded with a resolution citing numerous agricultural concerns and asking that no rotary kiln incinerators for the purpose of burning hazardous waste be operated or established near prime agricultural lands. The land committee of the LFA sent a letter to express their displeasure at learning no charges were to be brought against Union Gas for illegally removing trees. Apparently the Tree bylaw of Lambton County only applies to farmers. The LFA sent a letter to Sombra Township agreeing that the location of the proposed "Harkins" development was a suitable site.

June 14, 1993. Charlene Wright received a cheque for \$250.00 from Robert Johnston for her winning entry in the LFA logo contest. George Holbrook of Warwick Township came to the monthly meeting to make the directors aware that Inter Provincial Pipeline had plans to convert an



Charlene Wright  
receives a cheque  
from Robert Johnston  
for designing a new  
LFA logo.

existing pipeline to natural gas. Affected land-owners needed to be notified, so LFA directors agreed to assist in helping them get organized. LFA directors discussed having just recently participated in the Envirofest display in Sarnia, and on the recently organized Mail Show. Doug McCormick stated that Enniskillen Township had



approved the waste recycling plant. Joyce Anderson, Tim Williams, and Darrell Randell each made presentations to the Fair Tax Commission at a hearing in Windsor.

Sept. 13, 1993. Bill Stevens agreed to represent LFA and accept an invitation to a meeting being planned by the Strathroy Hospital. George Holbrook and Fred Brown discussed the Ontario Landowner's Pipeline Association. This group was formed to assist landowners deal with current pipeline issues and to be of service in the future as well. They were very appreciative of the help from LFA and from Earl Morwood in particular. Doug McCormick presented a detailed overview of the Laidlaw rotary kiln incinerator and LFA options around seeking intervenor funding.

Sept. 28, 1993. A candidates night for the up coming federal election was held in the Wyoming Fair Building. All the candidates from the Lambton-Middlesex riding and the Sarnia-Lambton riding took part. There were 250 people in attendance.

Oct. 4, 1993. It was decided at this meeting to have an LFA display at Bridgen Fair and to sell buttons saying "No Rotary Kiln" to raise awareness and meet some of the requirements for intervenor funding. Jamie Armstrong raised concern about the Green Giant Plant at London being closed.

Nov. 8, 1993. Tim Williams announced that a flier would be inserted into municipal tax notices asking people to join a Lambton Woodlot Owners Association. Doug McCormick gave a report from the waste management committee on how LFA had been denied intervenor funding and reminded everyone present that if they attend meetings on behalf of LFA be sure to write down that affiliation. The good news was that Laidlaw had decided to drop the project anyway. The feeling was that public opposition and emerging technology would keep it from being worthwhile. The committee had done a lot of work and it had paid off.

Jan. 10, 1994. Lois Wakefield, LFA Secretary-Treasurer reported that the Royal Bank in Reece's Corner would be closed in April. A motion was made to leave to Lois' discretion whether to move the LFA accounts to a bank in Wyoming or Petrolia. Janet Boot showed slides of her European trip with the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program. There were a lot of questions as she presented a new perspective on farming to many of the directors. Robert Johnston reported that a delegation from LFA had already met with new MP Roger Galloway and were scheduled to meet very soon with MP Rose Marie UR.

Feb. 14, 1994. Robert Mater stated that he would be the LFA representative on the Lambton County Woodlot Owner's Association. Heather Taylor spoke to the directors on the Ontario Environmental Farm Plans. There was a \$500.00 incentive available to take part in the program. She explained how the program was to work and that the most common problem on farms was fuel storage.

March 14, 1994. Guest speaker at this month's meeting was Julie Girard from the District Health Council. They were looking at long term care and how to get input from diverse sectors of the community such as frail elderly, care givers, well seniors, and disabled adults. The LFA sponsored a meeting on March 29, 1994 to help gather opinions on this issue.

April 11, 1994. The ethanol issue was in the spotlight again so LFA sent letters supporting ethanol to Prime Minister Chretien and MPs Rose Marie UR, Roger Galloway, and Rex Crawford.

June 13, 1994. Laidlaw was studying the local impacts of their secure landfill waste management site and invited LFA to participate. Robert Mater and Doug McCormick agreed to attend for LFA. There was a motion at this meeting for LFA to split the cost of a Fax machine for fieldman Earl Morwood, with the Middlesex Federation of Agriculture.

July 10, 1994. This meeting was held at the home of Robert and Janet Mater. At this meeting the participation in Sarnia at the Envirofest, revisions to the Sombra Twp. Official Plan, long term care reform, and an ICI public meeting were discussed. A motion was passed calling for stricter health controls on stockyards.



LFA President Robert Mater shows Ralph & Dolores Ferguson a personalized OFA sign. LFA had one on order for them as a retirement gift.

Sept. 12, 1994. The guest speaker at this month's meeting was Pat Miliken from the London Conference- Farm and Rural life. She talked about a video that had been prepared dealing with violence in the rural areas. The LFA purchased the video after it was viewed by the three presidents in order to place it in the OMAFRA office for use by other groups or individuals. A motion was passed to encourage and give financial assistance to the Lambton Farm Safety Association to put up more SMV warning signs in strategic locations around the county.

Nov. 7, 1994. Dona Stewardson announced she would chair a provincial pilot project with the MNR and other agencies to find a co-operative stewardship approach for private landowners in dealing with habitat and pollution issues. Robert Mater and Darrell Randell were also part of the group that became the "Rural Lambton Stewardship Network". There was discussions about beach closings in Grand Bend, so Dona Stewardson decided to set up a meeting between LFA and the Huron Federation of Agriculture. Dave Core was at the meeting and explained the purpose and history behind the Canada Food Grains Bank.

Dec. 12, 1994. President Robert Johnston stated that the LFA executive had recently met with MP Roger Galloway and MP Rose Marie UR. Topics of discussion were farm safety nets, ethanol, firearms, GATT, cash advances, and availability of pesticides in Canada. It was reported that Bill 173, dealing with long term care had passed at Queenspark but there was some question as to which model would be used.



New LFA President Robert Johnston, Nov. 1994.

Jan. 9, 1995. The brief recently presented to the local MPs was to be sent to Federal Minister of Agriculture Ralph Goodale. Concern was expressed from a member, Albert Shirley, about the cost of the grower pesticide safety course. It was felt that this was government passing costs on to farmers. The LFA sent this on to OFA president Roger George. The newsletter to all members had not been sent out in some time so the Board of Directors asked for one and made some suggestions as to what to include in it. The LFA passed a resolution asking the Ministry of Environment to develop a practical, cost effective, and efficient alternative to the raised bed septic system.

Feb. 8, 1995. This was a special LFA meeting to plan and Budget for LFA activities in 1995. The LFA Board agreed to be a part, with surrounding counties of an OFA advertising campaign on CFPL television. The advertisements appeared on the

## *Memories of Fun, Frustration and Sport by Robert Johnston, President 1995-96*

After way too many years on LFA, starting in 1985, and going through the executive ranks, I can sincerely say that if I had to go back in time and do it again, I would not think twice.

It was my good friend Darrell Randell who got me aboard this crazy train, and to this day we still discuss farm issues. Another good friend, Dan Caron, who also has a long history with LFA, has a saying. "We have too many Ag politicians and not enough Ag leaders". This is the reason that I have stayed in this game so long, and endured the frustration that seems to permeate agriculture organizations.

Over the years LFA has sent many controversial and forward thinking resolutions to the OFA Board of Directors. Many passed, some lost, but some that did become policy were never fully implemented. This may be because they stated obvious truths while identifying farming problems, but could not change global trends and preconceived opinions.

One resolution from LFA that created a great deal of controversy, and generated lots of paper and ink in the farm press, called for the OFA to lobby the federal government to return the Bank of Canada to its' original mandate of creating a large percentage of the money supply needed to operate the country. A lot of the criticism leveled at this idea was founded on the pretext that a farm organization had no business commenting on monetary policy!

This concept was studied by a special committee of OFA, of which I was a member. Further, a discussion panel of monetary experts from both sides of the issue was invited to a public forum, and this debate also generated much media attention.

At the OFA Board meeting that was to have the final vote on this resolution, a letter from Paul Martin, Federal Minister of Finance was circulated. The letter stated that the idea was ill conceived and that the policy would be very inflationary. Former OFA President Gordon Hill stated that this resolution was the most important one that had ever been brought to OFA.

The resolution was referred to the executive and then passed on to CFA. The CFA amended it to read that "CFA should monitor proposed changes to the Bank Act". It completely changed the intent and so was lost without ever being voted on. I believe that LFA had come close to finding the truth and this made people in high places very nervous.

During my two years as LFA President, I learned how important it is for us to fight for what is important to the Canadian family farm. I recommend this job to any farm boy or girl!

*It was too much fun!*



"Business of Farming", "Family Farmer", and "News Now" programs at a cost of \$2000.00. Stable funding for OFA and the money that flowed through to LFA had created a need for this unprecedented meeting, to decide what to do with the money. Having enough money had always been the problem up until now.

Feb. 10, 1995. This was an LFA executive meeting. Rob Johnston had committed to the OFA television ads. The rest of the meeting dealt with budgeting.

Feb. 13, 1995. A request for \$500.00 from the Lambton County Jr. Farmers to enable them to host a Jr. Farmer Winter Games was approved. Many of the committee budgets were finalized.

March 13, 1995. The scholarship committee chaired by Dan Young presented a list of recommendations changing deadlines, eligibility, and the creation of two new scholarships. Joyce Anderson reported that 18 farmers had attended the preliminary meeting for setting up the Local Training Board as the former Lambton Industrial Training committee was defunct. She was confident that farmers would have a place on the new Local Training Board. The LFA passed a resolution at this meeting designed to help deal with federal cutbacks, and the impending provincial cutbacks. The resolution asked OFA to ensure that there were no new taxes, that there would be efficient use of the tax dollars being spent, to assist members in finding alternatives to lost services, and to make sure that farmers and rural areas do not suffer more than the rest of society.

April 10, 1995. Grant Reynolds and Lavern Wray from the Lambton Farm Safety Association came to the directors meeting. They explained the purpose and history of their association and its' activities. The LFA had already funded some SMV warning signs in the county and was anxious to continue helping. The Farm Safety people agreed to consult with the LFA about project funding prior to commencing new ones. Steve Clemens commented on the recent Lambton Mall display he had organized as the Public Relations chairman. Sixteen other groups had participated and it was well received by consumers. The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority sent a thank you letter for including them in the display. Joyce Anderson and Robert Johnston talked about things that were happening on the Vision 20-20, Economic Development Committees.

May or June, 1995. The LFA held a well attended and informative Candidates meeting for the provincial election. There was very good press coverage. Dona Stewardson ran as a candidate for the NDP party.

Marcel Beaubien was elected for the Progressive Conservatives.

Sept. 11, 1995. The LFA donated \$600.00 to the Forest Agricultural Society to purchase livestock gates for the show rings. They will be in use during the fair, 4H meetings, and agriculture in the classroom events. The gates were to have a sign with the LFA name stencilled onto them. It was decided at this meeting that the two new scholarships offered by LFA would be named in honour of two of the most active and dedicated directors on the board. Dona Stewardson and Joyce Anderson had both been great advocates for farmers and rural people at the local level and at provincial levels. They had both been involved in a variety of other organizations. Joyce had died suddenly in May of this year and her absence was still felt on the board. Dona had risen through the ranks to become Vice President of OFA. Lambton County was beginning to revise the official Plan for the county and the LFA resolved to be prepared for a long process of protecting farm interests.



Joyce Anderson

Dec. 11, 1995. The Lambton Milk Committee asked LFA for a \$1000.00 donation to help pay for the educator they had hired to go into schools. The money left in a special account from the Ottawa bus trip in 1992 was used to make this donation as the Milk Committee had been active in raising this money. The LFA donated \$5000.00 to the Ontario Agri-Food Education, trust fund. This donation was to trigger a government donation of 2 dollars for each 1 dollar donated until the end of the year. A controversial resolution on "Returning the Bank of Canada to its' Mandate" was passed. NOTE: See the pages about this from OFA and a copy of the letter from Paul Martin.

Feb. 12, 1996. Marie Veroude stated she would be attending the meetings to plan for the Agriculture in the Classroom days at Hiawatha Horse Park on April 10 and 11. Guest at this meeting of LFA directors were George Belango and Nancy Bourgeois from Lambton County Planning Dept. An

# MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 10, 2001  
TO: Darrell Randall - Lambton County  
FROM: Doreen Ames, Executive Assistant  
OFA Board and Executive

Hi Darrell:

Robert Johnston phoned yesterday and asked me to send you background information pertaining to the Resolution from Lambton County re **Returning The Bank of Canada To its Mandate**.

This first came to the OFA Board on January 17, 1996 - was referred to Executive Committee - who referred it to Farm Finance Trade & Taxation Committee. A working group was set up and the resolution was brought to OFA's 1996 Convention where it was referred back to Executive to forward to CFA.

At the February 27-28, 1997 CFA Annual meeting it was amended to read:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture monitor impending changes to the Bank Act as to how it affects Canadian farmers.

This amended resolution passed.

Enclosed is some background correspondence, including letter from Paul Martin. Hope this is helpful. If you need anything further, please let me know.

The mission of the OFA is to improve the economic and social well-being of farmers in cooperation with county, community and local farm groups.

Minister of Finance  
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G5



Ministre des Finances

SEP 2 0 1996

Mr. Ed Ketchabaw, P. Ag.  
Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
40 Eglinton Avenue East, 5th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4P 3B1

Dear Mr. Ketchabaw:

I am writing with respect to your Federation's resolution about the Bank of Canada. As I understand it, the core argument of the resolution is that high interest rates have been the primary cause of Canada's debt problem, and that the solution to the problem is for the federal government to finance its debt by borrowing from the Bank of Canada at low rates of interest.

I would first like to point out that interest rate pressures were not the cause of Canada's debt problem, but are a consequence of it. As you may know, Canada's debt is the total of past annual deficits. Historically, operating deficits have made the largest contribution to annual budgetary deficits and to the accumulation of total debt. Persistent operating deficits resulted from a structural mismatch between program expenditures and revenues, with program expenditures consistently exceeding revenues. The only durable way to address the structural imbalance between revenues and program expenditures is to implement fiscal reform. To this end, recognizing that Canadians already have a high tax burden, this government has reformed and reduced expenditures.

More recently, the compounding effect of interest on the accumulated stock of federal debt has replaced program spending as the factor responsible for persistent deficits. However, the impact of compound interest on the deficit does not mean that lower interest rates alone can solve the debt problem. For example, even though we expect a decline in the effective interest rate in 1996-97, debt servicing costs will still increase due to the larger debt that is being serviced.

As a result of fiscal actions taken in recent budgets, the debt-to-GDP ratio - which provides a measure of the country's ability to service the debt - is projected to decrease in 1997-98 to 73.7 per cent, the first meaningful decline since 1974-75. These actions will reduce the burden of government borrowing in financial markets; indeed, financial requirements are projected to fall from \$25.8 billion in 1994-95 to \$6 billion by 1997-98. Our contrasting strong inflation performance and reduced borrowing requirements will result in lower interest rates which will, in turn, increase economic growth and spur on job creation. Indeed, we have seen significant declines in interest rates over recent months. It is also important to recognize that, by reallocating expenditures to areas of highest priority, recent fiscal actions preserve those programs that Canadians most want and need.

Let me turn now to your Federation's proposal that the federal government finance its debt by borrowing from the Bank of Canada at low rates of interest. This would result in expansion of the money supply. Such a policy would be inflationary and would surely erode the impressive performance Canada has achieved on this front. I note that international experience has demonstrated that other nations which have relied extensively on low-interest credit extended by central banks have experienced very high inflation and its costs.

Unfortunately, as a result of resource constraints at present, a representative of the Department of Finance will not be available to participate in your working group. However, I thank you for your offer to participate and for informing me of the views of your Federation. I hope that my comments have been helpful.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Paul Martin, P.C., M.P.



- agricultural strategy was discussed for the new Official Plan. Many aspects of the strategy were discussed but these were just preliminary talks.
- March 11, 1996. Visitors to this month's meeting were Sue McLarty, General Manager of the Kent Federation of Agriculture, along with President Ron Cox and Vice President Mark Richards. They had come to invite the LFA to participate in the CFCO radio weekly comment spot, with Lambton getting one spot per month. It was reported that an attempt to organize a mall display had been dropped because all the groups were deeply involved in the Ag in the Classroom days at Hiawatha Horse Park.
- June 10, 1996. An alert from OFA was discussed, that warned farmers that an independent film producer was requesting interviews with farmers for a documentary, "Meat and Western Culture". In response to a request from Grey County Federation of Agriculture the LFA sent \$500.00 to their Tornado Relief Fund. Correspondence from Laidlaw Environmental Services Ltd. expressed their sincere thanks to LFA for participating in the public consultation process.
- July 8, 1996. Marie Veroude gave a report on the "Ag in the Classroom" days at Hiawatha Horse Park. The Public School Board was very pleased and indicated that more schools would participate next year. The Separate School Board had also expressed interest in taking part.
- July 10, 1996. OFA President Tony Morris was in Lambton to meet with farmers at Lakeside Grain & Feed at 8am and at Hazzard's at Becher at 11am.
- Sept. 9, 1996. Marion Clouse from Lambton Mental Health spoke to the LFA directors about the Workshop for Farm Couples and her hopes to keep it going. LFA supported her work with a \$1000.00 donation for a speaker and hall rent. A resolution from Mac Brown was sent to OFA about European rendering companies being allowed to export meat meal and to render dead sheep. North American companies can not use dead sheep because of scrapie (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies). For health reasons imports of all meat meal and offal products should be stopped. NOTE: The Ontario Sheep marketing Agency and the OFA both requested that LFA withdraw this resolution, which LFA did. The situation where European rendering companies can use dead sheep and then export to North America still exists. In light of the current Mad Cow Disease scare this resolution should have been pursued at the provincial and federal level, instead of being quickly dropped.
- Oct. 7, 1996. George Belango, a Lambton County Planner working on the Official Plan was present discuss the natural heritage aspects of the plan. He showed some slides of riparian areas, upland woodlots, former shorelines, glacial moraines, and man made formations such as utility corridors.
- Nov. 11, 1996. Lambton Farm safety Association was granted a \$2000.00 donation to assist with a campaign for better lighting on farm wagons. Darrell Randell brought a concern from Sombra Township about large bales stored along roadsides. They are an easy target for arson and when they are set on fire it takes an enormous amount of fireman hours to extinguish. Sombra Township was considering regulating the number of bale in a pile and how close the piles could be to the road.
- Nov. 29, 1996. Newly elected President of LFA, Janet Mater, called an executive meeting after receiving a request to assist the committee working to maintain all the services at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital. The executive recommended a donation of \$300.00 to assist with postage and photocopying so that the committee could appeal to a large number of rural citizens.
- Dec. 9, 1996. Eileen Jackson from the CEE Hospital addressed the LFA Directors and asked for their support of the hospital. The board passed a resolution supporting CEE and sent a resolution to OFA asking for support for rural hospitals. The LFA also created a committee to work on the potential hospital closing. Janet Mater and Robert Johnston had attended the Warden's Banquet in Nov. where they accepted the honour of LFA having been selected as the rural organization of the year.
- Feb. 10, 1997. The LFA had planned to host a meeting with the executives of the Essex, Kent, Elgin, and Middlesex Federation of Agriculture on March 4, 1997. Earl Morwood suggested and it was agreed to that the invitation be extended to Huron, Perth, and Oxford as well. At this meeting a motion was sent to OFA and a committee was formed to work on updating the "Compare the Share" pamphlet originally done by Ralph Ferguson. Four directors had attended the "Right To Farm" meetings in Ridgetown.
- Mar. 10, 1997. Bill McGuire gave an update on pipeline issues. Landowners should be extremely cautious before signing agreements because they may face eventual liability.
- Mar. 11, 1997. Adrian VanEnglen and Janet Mater met with MPP Marcel Beaubien at 11am and with MPP David Boushy at 1:30pm to discuss LFA issues.
- April 10, 1997. Randy Molzan raised a question from a member about having purchased, partially filled containers of Pursuit during the 1996 planting season. The LFA sent a letter to Cyanamid and the local press. Steve Wilkinson explained the Jr. Farmer plans to pick up old batteries on May 2.
- June 24, 1997. A delegation of planners from Lambton County led by George Belango addressed the directors. They were seeking any final comments on the new Official Plan and support for it. This was the end of a long process which saw regular consultation with the LFA on planning issues that could affect farmers. Some contentious issues remained but a consensus was reached and LFA supported the new official plan. Don Williams from the Farm Safety Association had requested a donation from LFA for more SMV warning signs. He was contacted and told that the donation for that purpose was already budgeted and to proceed. Tom Perkes, the OFA field Service Supervisor was also at the meeting. He announced that Earl Morwood's employment by OFA had been terminated. Until a replacement was hired Gayle Bogart would be covering Lambton and Middlesex.
- July 14, 1997. Several members of the Lambton Soy Bean Committee attended this directors meeting to discuss their projects and some joint activities with the LFA. Randy Molzan gave an update on plans for an Agri-Tour. The LFA donated \$500.00 to the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund.
- Oct. 6, 1997. A new group had formed to assist landowners affected by pipelines. To show support for their efforts the LFA took out a membership in GAPLO- St. Clair. The LFA also supported a proposal to put internet service and computers into all county library branches. Dave Smith offered to see if a recycling program for used oil could be set up in Lambton.
- Nov. 10, 1997. Randy Molzan reported on the Agri-Tour held Sept. 21. Each of the host farmers explained their farm operation to the 400 people who took the tour. Randy thanked his committee, John Young and Janet Loosemore. A number of delegates to the OFA convention were present at this meeting and took part in a discussion of the resolutions to be decided there.
- Jan. 12, 1998. Tim Williams from the Environmental Farm Plan informed the directors that Lambton County had the highest participation rate of any county. There had been 630 farmers take the two day course and 459 had been approved for funding. Tim asked the LFA for some financial support to advertise and continue to run the workshops. He received \$1200.00 from LFA.
- Feb. 9, 1998. Gayle Bogart reported that all western Ontario service representatives had been sent to areas in Eastern Ontario to aid in the disastrous ice storm that had struck in January. A mission statement which concisely set out the goals and activities for the LFA, was adopted at this meeting. "To be an advocate for agricultural producers through networking, education, and communications with the community and governments."
- Mar. 9, 1998. Our new field service representative was introduced to the directors. Maria Van Bommel will be working out of an office in Mt. Brydges with an 800 phone number to stay in touch with members. Ruth Bycroft was invited to speak about a Middlesex project to deal with used oil. This attempt at a solution had been disappointing. Because of the need to find a way to recycle this product, several directors volunteered to investigate the issue further.
- April 13, 1998. Calvin Fowler talked about the Agriculture in the Classroom event on April 8 and 9, at which 16 schools sent 879 grade 4, 5, and 6 students. The questions were good, which indicated that the teachers had done a good job of preparing their classes.
- June 8, 1998. The LFA had participated at the Envirofest in Sarnia in May, and felt it was a worthwhile effort and a good show. The Executive had met with MPP Marcel Beaubien and MPP David Boushy recently. East Sombra School was being studied for closure again and LFA once again sent a letter opposing such action.



1997 LFA executive  
V.P. David Smith,  
President Janet Mater,  
V.P. Earl Morwood.

Jan. 13, 1997. At this meeting a motion, moved by Robert Johnston and seconded by David Smith called on OFA and CFA to include the legalization of industrial hemp when lobbying for rural economic diversification. Debbie Coke had agreed to become the LFA Radio spot reporter once per month on CFCO. Debbie was also appointed to be a director at large for the LFA.



July, 13, 1998. David Smith and Janet Loosemore moved and seconded a motion to donate \$500.00 to the building fund for the North Lambton Health Centre and it was carried. The LFA was considering preparing an economic impact study of agriculture in Lambton County. Gayle Bogart presented some of the items to consider in such a study and the LFA resolved to continue planning for one. Bill McGuire had attended an open house in Wilkesport about another proposed pipeline in Moore, Sombra, and Dawn Townships. David Smith had attended a Lambton County Nutrient Management Meeting where a number of different ideas were discussed and questioned. Should new rules apply only to livestock farmers? Should new and expanding operations be treated more stringently? Should there be requirements to have soil tests done to determine saturation? Maybe we should have Pork Production Parks similar to Industrial Parks? Don Stewardson reported on a Public Liaison meeting with Warwick Council and Canada Waste to discuss expanding the Warwick Landfill. Maria Van Bommel talked about a meeting she and Robert Mater and David Smith had in Queenspark at the office of MPP Peter Preston to discuss the Gas, Oil, and Salt Resource Act. Landowners who had abandoned wells and no longer had leases might have to plug these wells at their own sizable expense.

Sept. 14, 1998. A \$500.00 donation from LFA was made to the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Renewal Council on which David Smith is the LFA representative. John Young reported on the Farm Tour held the day before with about 300 people touring a variety of farms. Comments were all very positive.

Oct. 5, 1998. There were an unusual number of visitors invited to speak at this month's director's meeting. Dr. Harry Cummings from the University of Guelph talked about the economic impact of agriculture study he had done in Huron County. He explained that in Huron in 1996, direct sales generated \$512 million of economic activity. The indirect sales would reach \$1.5 billion. This should be a mighty tool in dealing with political representatives and competing stakeholders. He gave some broad figures as to what the report should cost and ideas to get help with those costs. Malcolm Boyd and George Belango from the Lambton county Planning Dept. addressed the meeting on the subject of "lots of record" and other zoning issues. Nothing was decided but the directors were left with lots to think about. President Janet Mater then introduced Dr. Lawrence Prevost who specialized as a consultant in dealing with group dynamics. There

## Earl Morwood, OFA Field Representative, 1980-1997

I was the field representative for the Lambton Federation for seventeen years beginning in June 1980. My first LFA president was John Core. Agriculture was my chosen profession and like many young farmers I needed a second source of income and the federation provided that source.

The Federation was the voice of the farmers and continues to fill that role. I especially enjoyed helping members with their service problems as I became a mediator / negotiator for the Federation. Over the years I was able to help thousands of members deal with a host of issues. We were lucky enough to make real inroads into hydro and pipeline corridor negotiations and many positive improvements were made over the years to help landowners with pipeline issues in Lambton County.

I also remember the very successful membership drives that we had every year in the county and all the wonderful friends that I made as we drove up and down the roads looking for the next new member. Lambton was always near the top of membership in OFA and the directors and members made for a strong organization.

The highlight of my career was initiating and helping to bring to fruition the stable funding proposal that is the current funding vehicle for OFA. It took many years after Jim Johnson moved his motion to create this funding proposal and it took lots of lobbying in the backrooms to get the concept approved but the wait was worth it and OFA and the LFA have become stronger because of having more money and more staff to help the farmers on the concessions.

Good luck to the LFA on this anniversary and good luck for the future.

had been some unresolved conflicts among the directors and issues around duties and responsibilities.

Nov. 9, 1998. Tim Williams updated the directors on the success of the Environmental Farm Plan in Lambton. He requested financial assistance with the costs of advertising and hosting meetings. Dan Caron informed the directors that he was on the peer review committee for the St. Clair Stewardship Initiative, an environmental grant process for landowners in Moore and Sombra Townships. It was administered by the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network and would be funded by the Great Lake Clean Up Fund.

Dec. 14, 1998. There was a discussion on the current collapse of hog prices and the still sketchy details about the announced assistance, and the strike at Quality Meats. There were actions discussed on the issues of the Warwick Landfill, the closing of East Sombra and Euphemia Elementary Schools, and the Watford High School.

Jan. 11, 1999. President Earl Morwood requested members to bring to him copies of property tax and assessment notices from 97 and 98 for comparison to determine a rise in total, out of pocket tax dollars, now that the rebate is gone. The LFA donated \$1000.00 to the Lambton County Pork Producers to offset the cost of the two buses to the pork rally in Toronto. Concerns have been expressed about the length of trains blocking traffic in Wyoming. Allen Shaw and Steve Wilkinson volunteered to pursue this complaint further. The LFA decided to send Earl Morwood and Don McGugan to a 3 day conference on Nutrient Management in Niagara Falls.

Feb. 8, 1999. The LFA nominated Scott Helps as the Lambton candidate for Outstanding Young Farmer of the Year. Bill McGuire stated that a lot was happening with gas leases and pipelines and how affected land owners were organizing for their own protection. After some recent press, the Gas Landowners of Ontario had request for information from Wardsville, Clinton, and Tilsonburg. It was also noted in the minutes that for some unexplainable reason, Darrell Randell had volunteered for the history committee to plan for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LFA.

March 8, 1999. It was announced that GALLO was having information meetings for property owners affected by gas leases and pipelines. LFA fully supports GALLO and the land committee was directed to meet people from GALLO to assist them in hosting a meeting in Alvinston. Tony Beernik presented the report for the Economic Impact Study Committee. Human Resources Development Canada will assist funding this LFA project with a \$20,000.00 grant. When finalized this study will clearly demonstrate the multiplier effect of agriculture on the Lambton economy.

Mar. 13, 1999. The LFA political awareness committee hosted a breakfast at the Oil Rig restaurant in Petrolia. The MPs and MPPs as well as the Mayors from throughout Lambton County, were invited. There were presentations from commodity groups and from farmers involved with gas and pipeline and abandoned well issues. It was a very good and informative meeting.

## Earl Morwood, LFA President 1999

Being president of the organization was an interesting adventure. After having served some very good presidents for the last seventeen years as the staff person it was nice to try and put place some policies that would better serve the membership in the county. My term was very busy and I was pleased that the County asked the LFA to take the lead in putting together a nutrient Management proposal that would serve and protect the farmers of the county. In many ways the Nutrient management bylaw was ahead of its' time and the current Ontario proposal is similar in many ways to the proposal and bylaw that is in Lambton.

I very much enjoyed working with the commodity boards and other individuals and in getting to know the County Councillors by attending the meetings every month, in Wyoming. Lambton has a history of working together and my term showed me the success that can be had when many groups work together.

Thank you to the members for allowing me to make my mark as president of this great organization that is the Lambton Federation of Agriculture.

April 12, 1999. Janet Loosemore presented recommendations from the consumer relations Committee about the annual 4-H awards. She also stated that the AG in the Classroom program will move this year from Hiawatha to the Bridgen Fair Grounds. She informed the directors that planning had begun for a Farm Tour on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Don McGugan gave a report on what he had learned at the Nutrient Management Conference. An information meeting had been set up with GALLO in Alvinston with 350 people attending. GALLO signed up more members.

June 14, 1999. Don McGugan reported on the provincial election. An all candidates meeting was held in Alvinston put on in part by the Lambton, Middlesex, and Kent Federations of Agriculture. Another meeting had been planned in Bridgen for the Sarnia-Lambton Riding but it had to be cancelled when the Liberal leader was visiting that same night. Don had sent a letter to David Boushy, thanking him for his help in the past term and had also sent letters congratulating Marcel Beaubien and Caroline Di Coco. The Presidents per diems and expenses, \$6006.60 for six months, were submitted sometime earlier and had been considered excessive. This had become a very divisive issue on the board and was settled at this meeting by secret ballot. The motion to pay the president \$6006.60 was carried. 17 directors voted yes, 2 directors voted no. The LFA then passed changes to the per diem schedule as an interim measure and struck a new committee to revise and make permanent changes.



Aug. 31, 1999. An emergency meeting was called to discuss some constitutional changes and the procedure to do that, prepare a draft budget for the next year, and to deal with another large per diem and expense claim from president Morwood. Lois Wakefield was not at this meeting so Chuck Baresich was asked to take minutes. Brian Boyle was in attendance and tried to facilitate some productive discussion. This meeting consisted of frank and heated debate over the question of per diems for directors, especially executive directors. There were two clearly delineated sides to the debate. One side felt that the amount of time contributed by directors should be generously reimbursed to them. The other side felt that the LFA was a volunteer organization that paid out of pocket expenses and token stipends. There was no question about the work being done by LFA or individual directors. These problems were all referred to committees.

Sept. 13, 1999. Discussion took place on the current draft of the Lambton County Nutrient Management Strategy. LFA approved it in principle. There were only 3 farms on the farm tour planned for Oct. 3 and the question was put to the LFA on whether to continue or not? The LFA stated it was a positive event so the tour was on. Prior to the regional meeting on August 25, the political awareness committee invited the MPs and MPPs to an afternoon meeting with Dr. William Hefermans and his wife Judy. They explained their information on the corporate concentration in the agri-food sector.

Oct. 4, 1999. Leonard McMurphy made a presentation on behalf of GALLO. The main thrust of his presentation was on environmental responsibility of abandoned wells. The fear of GALLO was that the companies liability may expire with the lease and the land owner would have to pay to plug these wells. Janet Loosemore reported that with only 4 farms to visit attendance on the farm tour was up to 600 people. LFA sent two resolutions to the OFA convention. The first was in regard to vertical integration and the second was on the expropriation laws of Ontario. Don McGugan informed the directors of a recent meeting with Bryan Boyle and Staff Sgt. Wade La Croix of the OPP. The OMAFRA building in Petrolia will be converted to an OPP station and Bryan will be moving to an office in the county building in Wyoming.

Nov. 8, 1999. A delegation of representatives from the various Lambton Commodity Boards addressed this meeting. It was stated that cooperative efforts in the past had been of benefit to all farmers in the past. There was a fundamental disagreement

now on whether or not the Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance Program, AIDA, should cover negative margins. The grains and oilseeds groups felt that doing so would undermine crop insurance enrolment, while livestock and vegetable growers have no other such program. Despite the differences the consensus remained that all groups must continue to work together.

Nov. 12, 1999. At a meeting of the LFA Per Diem committee, Jim Duffy presented some basic principles for the LFA executive and directors to use when claiming expenses. The committee established a maximum budget and a procedure for submitting claims and making payments.

Dec. 13, 1999. A delegation from Gas Lease Landowners of Ontario, (GALLO) Association made a strong presentation to the directors on their concerns about abandoned wells and the need to plug them, but not at the expense of the landowner. They also brought forward a resolution on underground storage of natural gas and the long term implications for landowners such as liability, abandonment and environmental safety. The motion asked for support for the Lambton County Gas Storage Association at an Energy Board Hearing. It passed in Lambton and was sent to OFA where it was carried at the Jan. OFA meeting. Darrell Randell gave an outline of the activities of the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network, some of the goals, and suggestions for new projects.

Jan. 10, 2000. At the request of the executive, Maria Van Bommel made a presentation to the directors on dealing with conflict of interest situations. The LFA contributed \$2000.00 towards the legal costs of the landowners case to intervene in the Century Pools at the Energy Board Hearings.

Feb. 14, 2000. The Land and Environment Committee presented three resolutions to the LFA directors and asked that they each be sent to OFA. The first one asked OFA to explore any risks and liabilities to landowners who have pipelines and hydro towers on their property, the second one asked for OFA and CFA to seek representation for farmers on safety and standards agencies dealing with pipelines due to the thinner wall thickness allowed in rural areas where most pipeline explosions take place. The third resolution asked OFA and CFA to lobby for clearly established property rights.

Mar. 11, 2000. The political Awareness committee hosted a brunch at the Oil Rig Restaurant in Petrolia. MPs, MPPs, Mayors, and commodity board chairmen attended. There was good discussion on a wide

variety of farming and rural concerns. At this meeting the Economic Impact Study of Agriculture on Lambton County Economy was presented for the first time.

Mar 13, 2000. OFA Vice President, Ron Bonnett, made four stops on a Lambton tour. He met with neighbours of Safety Kleen, toured Paul Backx's farm at Grand Bend, toured Bruce Miner's farm in Warwick Township, and Munro's Honey at Alvinston. Topics discussed at this directors meeting included an updated Compare the Share, proposed regulations for making medicated feeds, future meeting locations, biotechnology, preparations for the Drainage Act review hearings, school closings and gas storage.

April 10, 2000. Bill McDonald, area supervisor for Crop Insurance, was present to explain the commodity loan program which provides interest free loans to farmers to help with spring planting costs. Lisa Alderman from the OFA executive addressed the directors on a wide scope of issues.

June 12, 2000. Quinton Lang from the Lambton County Library led a discussion on internet use and availability for Lambton farmers. A group of citizen's from Brooke Township have noted the high number of cancer victims in Brooke, Alvinston, Watford, and Euphemia. Brooke Council has agreed with them that the MOE should do air monitoring for an extended period of time. The LFA sent a letter to the MOE supporting this request. President Don McGugan reported that the Nutrient Management Bylaw had been passed by county council. There was discussion on the e coli tragedy that had taken place in Walkerton. It was noted in the minutes that after adjournment everyone was served strawberries and ice cream by the presidents wife, Anne McGugan.

July 10, 2000. President Don McGugan reported on a tour of the Safety Kleen facility. LFA sent a resolution to OFA asking for a clearer definition of "Public Interest" with regard to pipelines and storage facilities.

Sept. 11, 2000. Bryan Boyle, OMAFRA's rural information officer for Lambton talked to the directors about a manure treatment project in north Lambton. Bryan was trying to coordinate funding sources and principal stakeholders to create a workable demonstration project here in Lambton. Don McGugan and Don McCabe reported on a meeting in Guelph with Prime Minister Jean Chretien, and how unimpressed they were with the proceedings. Two resolutions were passed, one calling for a farm safety and repair grant program and the other asking OFA to form a strong alliance with USA farm organizations.

## Message from the President



With a major depression behind them and with rationing of provisions during World War II, food producers realized that with a united voice they strengthened their buying power of flour, coal, seed, and fertilizer. Promoting social and economic welfare for rural people by hosting social functions and collectively pooling their buying power; these "buying clubs" were later to be known as "co-operatives". From these buying clubs, came the same spirit of cooperation and working together that prompted the Lambton Farmers Association (later known as the Lambton Federation of Agriculture) to meet and organize in 1941.

Leaders then were instrumental in the organization of many farm organizations that we recognize today.

Many of the challenges food producers worked on many years ago are still issues that are with us today, such as pipelines and easements, landfills, and urban encroachment.

As the face of the community changes due to school closures and amalgamated municipalities, farms becoming larger, competition between processors and suppliers diminishing because of takeovers and mergers, the role of the primary food producer is confronted with change also. As food producers we will continue to need a strong voice to represent us as only about 1.5% of the nation's population carries the immense task of producing good quality, inexpensive food for our families.

It's been a pleasure, a privilege, and an honour to have served as your President for the past two years. Some of the challenges confronting the LFA have been school closures, declining farm incomes due to competition from Brazil, the EU, and the USA support systems, environmental issues with regard to water and air quality, urban encroachment onto agricultural land, and increasing consumer awareness of the complexity and cost of food production.

Thanks to all the Directors of the LFA over the last 60 years in the role they played in promoting and improving the quality of rural life.

Thanks to Darrell Randell and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee for their time and commitment in making this book and the other celebrations a memorable event.

Special thanks to our secretary, Lois Wakefield, for 45 years of dedicated service to the LFA.

Together, we have all worked towards "farmers working for farmers".

Don McGugan



Oct. 2, 2000. Janet Loosemore talked about the Agri tour held Oct. 1. There were 130 cars with 3 to 4 people per car. Other issues discussed include hydro deregulation, Drive Clean emission testing, Toronto garbage, and nutrient management plans.

Nov. 13, 2000. With a fresh mandate after the LFA Annual meeting on Nov. 10, and some new directors, new committees were set up and plans started for the next year's activities. A candidates meeting had been scheduled for Alvinston on Nov. 22, for the federal election. There had been a rally for farmers in Ottawa, but it had been called on very short notice early in November and organizers could not fill a bus out of Lambton, Kent and Middlesex. Only 13 farmers from Lambton participated. Livestock farmers in the city of Sarnia felt that the environmental surcharge to them based on water usage was unfair and they should be exempted. This was costing them \$2000.00 a year.



2001 LFA Board of Directors

Seated: Lois Wakefield, Don McGugan, Jim Duffy, Maria Van Bommel-OFA field staff.  
Standing: Steve Wilkinson, Robert Johnston, Joan King, Robert Mater, Janet Loosemore, Tony Beernik, Debbie Coke, Bill McGuire, Joyce Forbes, Jim Wilson, Dennis Bryson, Duane Winter.

Jan. 8, 2001. Kevin Bechard, a representative of Canada Waste talked to the directors about the expansion process at the Warwick Landfill, and explained how the terms of reference for the enlarged landfill site would take two years to establish and would involve extensive community input. A letter was received from Earl Morwood in which he resigned his seat on LFA. It was moved by Robert Johnston and seconded by Dennis Bryson to accept Earl's resignation and send him a note of thanks for his efforts and contributions in the past, as OFA fieldman, director, and president. There was some discussion about Dawn-Euphemia Township's appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board of the Official Plan.

Dawn-Euphemia felt that the minimum severance of 100 acres was too large and should remain at 50 acres. Don McGugan had been warned that he may be subpoenaed to testify about the LFA position (100 acres). Two resolutions were passed, one calling for a deposit and return system to be used on plastic and glass bottles to encourage greater reuse or recycling. This resolution was sent to OFA and to Andrew Brandt as chairman of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. The second resolution asked OFA to lobby the provincial government to do more to promote recycling and reduce the amount of material going to landfills.

Feb. 12, 2001. President Don McGugan thanked the directors who had helped in the phone blitz to MPs and the Prime Minister to draw more attention to the farm crisis. A resolution was passed that asked for the withdrawal of restrictions put on pipeline landowners by the NEB and the MNR. A 30 metre restriction zone had been declared on both sides of existing easements without any compensation. Any work being done more than 1 foot deep would require pipeline permission. It may require permission to cross pipelines with combines and tractors. This resolution was sent to OFA, CFA, NEB, and the Minister of Natural Resources Canada. Another resolution was passed calling on OFA to change its name to the Ont. Federation of Food and Agriculture, so that more consumers will understand where their food comes from. This last motion was the first one from LFA defeated at OFA in a long while. There had been a long series of very good resolutions from Lambton.



## Gas Storage and Pipeline Issues in Lambton by Bill McGuire

NOTE: Bill McGuire is a former OFA Director from the early 1980's. Farming in Lambton could not be properly characterized without trying to convey the difficulties that many farmers face due to the exploration, storage, and transportation of energy. Many of these activities are forced onto privately owned lands, often without adequate compensation, because it is deemed to be for the public good. The energy companies then make huge profits. Farming in Dawn Township, Bill McGuire has been forced to become an expert on these issues due to the numerous pipelines across his property. In 1997, he rejoined the LFA board of directors and the lands committee at the invitation of President Janet Mater because of the increase in the number of pipelines in the works. The following are two reports he has written and I hope they demonstrate the sort of persecution farmers can face as a result of the unique geology in Lambton that makes it so attractive for these activities.



### A Presentation to LFA, by Bill McGuire, March 10, 1997.

I would like to make a statement as to why I accepted the invitation to go on the lands committee. I want to tell you my experience with natural gas pipelines. We have three of them through two of our farms, one in Dawn and one in Enniskillen.

In 1958 we had surveyors come onto our property without even asking permission. The president of LFA at the time, John L. Anderson came and advised us not to sign the agreement the Gas Company was bringing around. If we had it would have given them freedom to go anywhere on our property and put pipelines anywhere they wished, forever. As a result we were taken to expropriation. The Gas Co. asked for 60 ft. easement and permission to build two pipeline. They were given the right to build one pipeline per easement. We asked that lines run parallel with lot lines instead of angling through our farms but were refused. We also asked to have tile run on each side of the line and have all field drains tapped into them instead of reconstructing the drains back across the pipeline trench. We were again refused. The expropriation was allowed because it was for the "good of the public". No consideration was taken for the harm it did to farmer's property.

When the line was completed in the fall of 1958 we received all of \$62.00 per acre of easement with no money for damages or future crop loss. We have been expropriated twice since then in 1964 and in 1974.

A 34" line was put through in 1964. Again we asked to have tile run parallel with the pipeline and again we were refused. During the construction of the 34" line they discovered that the drains across the 26" line, installed back in 1958, had settled almost a foot but the repairs were still made across the trench. We received no money until the line was completed and had to sign off for any damages, crop loss or future crop loss. We received \$84.24 an acre of easement.

In 1974 we were expropriated for a 75 foot easement running beside the other lines, for a 42" line. This time they did agree the tile drains had to run parallel to the lines. Construction began in the fall of 1974 and the crews were using much more than the 75' easement allowed. In some places they used as much as twice the area they were allowed. An injunction was issued which ordered the construction stopped. Since the company did not want to buy more easement they agreed to measure up all land that was used outside the 75' easement and pay \$600.00 an acre plus crop loss. The original offer had been for \$350.00.

They were using a new type of pipe and could not get the welds to hold. The pipes had already been strung across our farms and were there from 1974 until the summer of 1976, with one length of pipe removed so we could get from one end of the field to the other. We were informed that this was not an inconvenience for us. We settled for easement in 1975 but did not settle for crop loss because they would not pay for inconvenience. This issue was finally settled in 1989. The gas company wanted to build storage facilities on neighbouring land and our neighbours would not negotiate with them until they settled with us.



In 1990 Union Gas wished to negotiate for a 48" pipeline beside the other 3 with a 90° easement. A committee was set up for the Dawn to Enniskillen valve site portion of the line. After the fifth offer and the sixteenth meeting with Union Gas Officials they announced, on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1994, their final offer and there would be no further negotiations.

The committee went to the landowners and explained the offer was the best they could achieve but they did not approve of it. The landowners were advised that they could sign on their own but that several concerns that had not been resolved. When the company was asked who would be responsible for environmental cleanup of these pipelines they said that was no problem. They would release the easement back to the landowner and the landowner would have to do all the cleanup. It cost \$700.00 per foot to install the line so cleanup would be that much or more. This has a direct effect on our credit rating. We have been told that banks and Farm Credit will not give a mortgage on these farms. The company has been asked to put a paragraph in the Transfer Deed that Union Gas or it's successors be responsible for the removal and environmental cleanup when the lines are no longer used. To date they have not complied with this request. The 48" line has been postponed until further notice.

Union Gas bases all their costs of a line on a 30 year service life. We now have a 39 year old line, a 33 year old line, and a 21 year old line. We are greatly concerned about the risk factor of living and working around these aged pipelines. Furthermore, in rural areas the pipe that is used is half the thickness of pipe used in urban areas. There was a gas line explosion south of Winnipeg on April 16, 1996 that had been built in the past three years. Enniskillen Township Council sent a resolution to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario requesting the Chairman of the Canadian Standards Association draft standards for the abandonment of petroleum pipelines. They have had no reply as yet. There have been 24 explosions in North America since Jan. of 1994, most of them in rural areas. We are put at risk when these lines are put through our farms and I think there should be an annual reward for taking that risk. The land these easements go through will never grow as good a crop as the rest of the field again. Before you sign any easement agreement or gas lease know what your risks, liabilities and responsibilities are. When you sign, you and your successors will be held to the agreement.

I am told that expropriation is a two year process now instead of two weeks like it used to be but it is still a legal right to steal, and intimidate. We may have human rights in this country but we also need to have property rights enshrined as well.



Pipeline under construction in 1999.

It is my feeling, that through all negotiations the Expropriations Laws are held over our heads. Any agreement signed under expropriation threats is signed under duress. I think that all future negotiations should have the actual cost to landowners and all potential costs to landowners, including the eventual decommissioning, clean up and removal of the pipeline, included and clarified at the outset. These cleanup costs should be paid by the owners of the pipeline or by the public who gave them the right to expropriate. The landowners should never be at risk for any of these costs.

#### For The LFA Newsletter, March 2001. By Bill McGuire

Since my last submission to the LFA Newsletter there has been a lot of activity concerning pipelines and storage areas. Being the LFA representative on Lambton County Storage Association, LCSA, Gas Pipeline Landowners of Ontario, GAPLO, and Gas Lease Landowners of Ontario, GALLO, means a lot of meetings. All of the above groups are members of the Canadian Alliance of Pipeline Landowners Association, CAPLA, which tries to get fair and just treatment for landowners since it was founded in May of 2000.

CAPLA is growing and has started class action proceedings against pipeline companies and the Attorney General of Canada for imposing a 30 metre restricted zone on both sides of pipelines without consulting or compensating landowners or getting permission from Cabinet in 1990. In 1998 an amendment to the control zone regulation created a restricted area that could include whole farms. In these restricted areas the landowner has to get permission to do anything over a foot deep from the pipeline company. If the landowner does not get permission there are fines up to one million dollars. This class action wants all landowners to be relieved of all liability for public safety and the abandonment costs to name only a few. The feeling is that these restrictions are drastically reducing the value of the affected farms.

The LCSA has been involved in the Mandaumim, Clearwater, Oil City storage hearing which LFA and OFA supported. The hearing was held in Sarnia on Feb. 8-10 of 2000 and is now designated storage area. The Gas Storage Landowners have now applied to Ontario Energy Board under section 38 of the Energy Board Act for fair and just compensation. This is moving slowly.

The Millennium pipeline or the St. Clair pipeline that is to run from the Dawn Compressor Station to Port Stanley and across Lake Erie is on hold because they do not have permission to go across the lake.

The 48" Union Gas Trafalgar Pipeline from the Dawn Compressor Station to the Enniskillen Valve site started construction in June of 1999. We did not get as thick a pipe wall as we understood we were supposed to get. The wall thickness was 11.7 mm. And we thought it was to be 15.6 mm. The Energy Board and the Safety Board have allowed the pipeline companies to put lighter walled pipe through rural areas than is allowed through urban areas. They are now considering regulations that landowners must get permission to cross pipelines with combines, tractors, etc. This pipeline is not yet complete.

The Vector Pipeline which runs from the Dawn Compressor Station to the St. Clair River was built in 2000 with many complaints.

The pipelines from the compressor to Mandaumim, Clearwater, and Oil City Storage Pools were completed in 2000. Most of these pipelines were constructed along roadways.

The last two years has seen a lot of pipeline placed underground in Lambton and there are plans for many more. The LFA has sent a number of resolutions to OFA and CFA trying to address pipeline and storage concerns. The hassle with pipelines seems never ending.



## *Annual Farm Management and Tax Seminar*

The Lambton Federation of Agriculture, in co-operation with BDO Dunwoody Chartered Accountants and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has sponsored an annual farm management seminar for the last two decades. The first seminar was held in February of 1980 at the Wyoming Legion Building and it filled the room to capacity by attracting 240 participants.

After the success of the first seminar, another was held in November of 1980 with annual seminars being held each November or December since that time. The seminars were held in Alvinston for several years and recently have been held at the Wyoming Fair Board Building. The attendance has ranged from 220 to 350 in attendance each year.

The first seminar focused primarily on tax planning for farmers. Over the years the topics have been expanded to include a wide range of farm management issues as well. In reviewing the agendas over the past years, topics have included commodity trends and outlook, financing alternatives, farm legal issues, workers compensation updates and GST issues. Other topics included conservation program updates, non-conventional farming alternatives, dealing with spray legislation and a comparison of U.S. and Canadian farm subsidies.

The afternoon speakers have usually handled more interest-oriented topics such as predicting weather changes and a slide show commentary about what it is like to go on a cattle drive.

The final speaker of the day is generally referred to as the keynote speaker and has included presidents of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture such as Jack Wilkinson, Harry Pelissero, and Roger George. Other keynote speakers have included farm business reporter, Ross Daly and Broadwater Market Letter editor, Robert Mercer.

Burton McKinlay



Burton McKinlay, 1981.

## *Maria Van Bommel*

Congratulations to the members and directors of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture on the occasion of 60 years of service to the farmers of Lambton. I read with interest Theses 40 Year - History of Lambton Federation of Agriculture. It is a wonderful tribute to the dedication and longevity of the directors and most of all staff in the person of Lois Wakefield. This current updating of LFA history demonstrates that again.

On these occasions we stop to look at our past and reflect on the events that have shaped our community today. The adage about 'the more things change the more they stay the same' comes to mind when I read about the issues that the LFA has dealt with over those 60 years including an ongoing history with pipelines and commodity prices. The technology we use now may be more advanced but the results we need to achieve are not so different. We no longer use "night letters" to lobby the Minister of Agriculture as they did in 1942. Now we have 'Phone Blitz Campaigns' and other strategies for lobbying. Regardless of how we go about it, we are still working hard to improve not only each farm family's situation but that of the entire community.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members for their support of LFA and OFA. Your assistance has made my job as OFA's Member Services Representative for Lambton County a real pleasure.

Yours in Farming:  
Maria Van Bommel.



## Presidents of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture

Barrett Forbes	Plympton	1941
Murray Smith	Sarnia	1942
Chancellor Hebden	Dawn	1943
Robert Morrison	Brooke	1944
Kenneth Janes	Warwick	1945
Clayton Frey	Sarnia	1946
George Reid	Sombra	1947
Arnold Steven	Plympton	1948
George McCormick	Warwick	1949
Shepherd McCallum	Sombra	1950-51
George Jones	Dawn	1952
John L. Anderson	Dawn	1953
Bert Logan	Sarnia	1954-55
Roy Jardine	Plympton	1956-57
Frank Miller	Enniskillen	1958-59
Wm. Blain	Warwick	1960-61
Ken Ferguson	Brooke	1962-63
Gordon King	Plympton	1964-65
Ray Milliken	Sarnia	1966-67
Bert VandenDool	Sombra	1968-69
Howard Huctwith	Warwick	1970
Peter Hennaert	Plympton	1971-75
John Billson	Dawn	1976
Laverne Wray	Moore	1977-79
John Core	Plympton	1980
Neil Miner	Enniskillen	1981-82
Ian Lehrbass	Brooke	1983-84
Mac Parker	Warwick	1985-86
Dona Stewardson	Bosanquet	1987-88
John DeVet	Bosanquet	1989-90
Darrell Randell	Sombra	1991-92
Robert Mater	Euphemia	1993-94
Robert Johnston	Sombra	1995-96
Janet Mater	Euphemia	1997-98
Earl Morwood	Brooke	1999
Don McGugan	Brooke	2000-01



*Rose-Marie Ur, M.P.*  
*Lambton - Kent - Middlesex*

OTTAWA, ON

### LAMBTON FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE'S 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Dear Friends,

I am honoured to have this opportunity to express my warmest best wishes to all the current and past members of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture, as you join together to celebrate your Federation's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Your efforts over the years have served our local farmers very well indeed. The Federation has a proud history over the past 60 years. I am confident that the LFA will also continue working for the betterment of our agriculture community for many more decades to come.

On behalf of the Government of Canada and your local Member of Parliament, please accept heartiest congratulations.

Sincerely yours,

*Rose-Marie*

Rose-Marie Ur, M.P.  
*Lambton-Kent-Middlesex*

RMU:mf

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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
OTTAWA, CANADA

Roger Gallaway, M.P.  
Sarnia-Lambton

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2001

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Government of Canada, to convey congratulations and best wishes to all those associated with the celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture.

The farming industry in Lambton County has long been an important part of our economy. The contributions of your members in the stewardship of our natural resources should be commended.

As you celebrate 60 years of dedicated service to the community, I sincerely wish each of you continued success.

Have a joyous celebration!

Yours truly,

Roger Gallaway, M.P.  
Sarnia-Lambton



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY WARDEN

789 Broadway St.  
Box 3000  
Wyoming, Ontario  
N0N 1T0  
Phone: 519-845-0801  
Fax: 519-845-3160

March 6, 2001

Lambton Federation of Agriculture  
R.R. #2  
Wyoming, Ontario  
N0N 1T0

Dear Darrell:

On behalf of the County of Lambton I am very pleased to offer you congratulations on your organization's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. What an accomplishment!

The Lambton Federation of Agriculture should be extremely proud of the progress it has made and the impact its members have had over the past 60 years. Your membership is a very vital part of our community of Lambton and I personally thank you for the direction and input that your association has provided to the County.

Again, congratulations on your 60 years and the very best wishes to the Lambton Federation of Agriculture in the future as you continue to promote and strengthen agriculture in Lambton County.

Sincerely,

Patricia Davidson  
Warden  
County of Lambton





Ministry of  
Agriculture, Food  
and Rural Affairs  
789 Broadway St.,  
Box 3200,  
Wyoming, Ontario N0N 1T0  
Tel: (519) 845-0809 Ext. 408  
Fax: (519) 845-3909



**Agricultural & Rural Division**

June 19, 2001

Dear Lambton Federation of Agriculture Members:

On behalf of both myself and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs, I would like to congratulate Lambton Federation on 60 years of valuable service to Lambton's rural community.

Our work in the ministry has always been based on strong working relationships with individuals and rural organizations. Our ministry staff, past and present, always truly valued the support and involvement of the Lambton Federation in addressing issues of the day facing our mutual clients.

As new and complex issues develop and evolve, I challenge Lambton Federation to maintain their strong history of working on behalf of the agricultural community.

I personally appreciate the support of your directors, staff and members, as we all strive to strengthen agriculture and the rural community in Lambton.

Sincerely,

  
Bryan Boyle



Ontario, there's no taste like home  
Un bon goût de chez nous



Minister of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs



Queen's Park, Ontario  
M5S 1B3

Ministre de l'Agriculture,  
de l'Alimentation  
et des Affaires rurales

**A Message from the  
Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**

Congratulations to the Lambton Federation of Agriculture on 60 years of dedicated service to the agricultural community. As the new Minister for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, I am pleased to have the opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation for the important work of your organization and its members in Lambton County.

The fact that your organization is passing its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the United Nations International Year of the Volunteer is a happy coincidence. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture and its county affiliates are excellent examples of the power of voluntary service.

As one of the more agriculturally diverse counties in the province - producing soybeans, corn, beef, dairy and much more - Lambton has a lot to offer. I know that your members work very hard with local commodity groups, the media, representatives from all levels of government and many others to ensure that the interests of Lambton farmers are heard and advanced.

Through six decades, your organization has distinguished itself by being able to respond swiftly to the needs of your membership, at a time of rapid evolution in Ontario's agri-food industry and our rural communities. Your leadership in advancing a nutrient management strategy that was passed last year by county council is just one of many shining examples of your foresight and resolve to successfully reach your goals.

Once again, all the best on your anniversary and for many years to come.

Sincerely,

  
Bryan Coburn  
Minister



Queen's Park Office  
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M7A 1A4

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Caroline Di Cocco*

MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT FOR  
SARNIA-LAMBTON

Constituency Office  
150 North Christina Street  
(Bayside Mall)  
Sarnia, Ontario  
N7T 7W5

Tel: (519) 337-0051  
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Dear Members of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture,

Congratulations on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of your founding.

Your organization plays a tremendous role in creating and supporting the farming community in Lambton County. As you well know society would simply not exist if it were not for your dedication to providing sustenance for our citizens.

I also want to applaud you on your advocacy on behalf of rural schools, the environment and other local issues.

Your commitment to rural Ontario and Lambton County is invaluable.

Congratulations on your 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and continued good work in the future.

Sincerely,

*Caroline Di Cocco*

Caroline Di Cocco, M.P.P.  
Sarnia-Lambton

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