

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 1:30 pm
Grand York Ballroom – Convention Floor
Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Richmond Hill



Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 pm.

Introduction of the 2025 OAAS Board of Directors, O Canada and Land Acknowledgement

In Memoriam by 1st Vice President OAAS, Heather Owens

Staff Remarks: Kathryn Lambert

- Thank you to delegates and sponsors for supporting the 2025 convention
- Thank you to the staff, directors, and many volunteers; the convention would not have happened without you
- Welcome and thank you to the Young Professional delegates from the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies for attending our convention as part of the exchange program
- Just shy of 1200 registrations at the 2025 convention

Staff Remarks: Vince Brennan

- Welcome and thank you, members and service providers, for attending the 2025 convention
- Special thank you to those attending from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Quebec
- Thank you to the attendees who took part in the Building Community Leaders workshop, which has had 150 participants from 60 agricultural societies spanning all 15 districts over the past year
 - Maylee Olier, Ambassador from New Liskeard, provided a testimonial about the Building Community Leaders workshop
- Update on the Judging program launched after the 2024 convention
- Reminder to all agricultural societies to apply to participate in the Ag Careers program during your upcoming events
- Thank you to the over 70 Ambassadors for all that you do for your societies
- Thank you to the board of directors, Kathryn Lambert and Brenda Tipping for all of the work
- Thank you to Brenda for all the work that you have done on the Building Community Leaders program

Recognition:

- Kathryn Lambert's recognition of 20 years of service to the OAAS (Add Vince's comments that he would like to include)
- Liz O'Gorman-Smit, outgoing Past President
- Brenda Tipping, Administrative Assistant
- Vince Brennan, Executive Director
- Glen Syme, outgoing President

President's Address: President Glen Syme

- Highlights of successes during the 2-year term
- Thank you to all the Agricultural Societies for your hard work and dedication, and all that you do to promote agriculture
- Thank you to the Agricultural Societies that have invited me to attend your events over the past two years
- Thank you to the Almonte Agricultural Society and District 2 for your support
- Thank you to the board members, past and present, whom I have had the pleasure to work with during his time on the OAAS board
- Recognition of the Agricultural Societies that celebrate 150 and 175 anniversaries in 2025.

Greetings from the Honourable Rob Black, Senator for Ontario

- Thank you for inviting me to attend your convention and bring greetings at your annual meeting
- Thank you to the staff, delegates, volunteers, and agricultural societies for your continued support in promoting agriculture across Ontario.

Presentation of King Charles III Coronation Medals Vince Brennan and Meredith Brophy

Motion 1: Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as posted on our website and presented today to the membership. **Carried**

Confirmation of Quorum

With 232 voting delegates, the quorum was confirmed.

Motion 2: Approval, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes as circulated

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies held on Saturday, February 24, 2024, as posted on our website and presented today to the membership. **Carried**

Report for Review Engagement as circulated - Lynch, Rutherford, Tozer, Port Hope, Ontario

Areas highlighted:

- Review of the financials on pages 22 and 23 of the annual report book presented by Kerry Lynch of Lynch, Rutherford, Tozer

Motion 3: Accept the 2024 Financial Statements

Motion to accept the Financial Statements as posted on our website and presented today to the membership. **Carried**

Motion 4: Appointment of Auditor for 2025

Motion to appoint Lynch Rutherford Tozer to conduct an audit for the 2025 Financial Statements, **Carried**

Motion 5: Confirm Acts of Directors and Officers for the past year

Motion that all acts, made, done and taken by the Directors and Officers of the Association since the last Annual Meeting be hereby ratified and confirmed. **Carried**

Motion 6: Accept all District and Committee reports as printed in the Annual Report

Motion to accept all District and Committee reports as printed in the Annual Report. **Carried**

Motion 7: Confirm the Election of the OAAS Board of Directors

Motion to confirm the election of the 2025/2026 OAAS Board of Directors. **Carried**

Introduction of the 2024 OAAS 175th CCEA Scholarship winners

Videos of 2025 CCEA Scholarship Award winners.

Introduction of the OAAS Hall of Fame Award

Heather Owens introduced the OAAS Hall of Fame award, which will be presented starting at the 2026 convention.

Keynote Speaker – Chris Cummings

Closing Comments from Heather Owens, OAAS President 2025

- Heather highlighted her roots growing up in an agricultural community, her time visiting different communities over the past years as an Executive member of the OAAS Board. She highlighted the importance of volunteers in our communities and thanked them for the hours of hard work they put into making their agricultural society events successful.
- Looking forward to connecting with Agricultural Societies she has not had the opportunity to visit yet, over the coming year.
- Thank you to the board, staff, delegates, and service members for all of your contributions year-round and for helping to make the OAAS convention such a success.

Adjournment

Jessica Cook, Dundalk Agricultural Society

4:10 pm