2026 OAAS Board of Directors and Staff

Heather Owens, President
Heather will be serving as President for a second year. She has been involved with the Campbellford-Seymour Agricultural Society for over 40 years and is a long-standing Director. Having been an exhibitor at her home fair and several surrounding fairs for years, she started attending judging schools and plans to become an OAAS-certified judge in the future. The past year, Heather was actively involved in the delivery of the Building Community Leaders Program and also chaired the OAAS awards committee. Heather has been employed with the Highland Shores Children's Aid Society for the past 33 years, supervising a Permanency team for Adoption. Heather was raised on a dairy farm and participated in 4-H, Junior Farmers and the Northumberland Holstein Club.

Jessica Cook, 1st Vice-President & District 10
Jess Cook has been heavily involved with her local agricultural society in Dundalk for the past 15 years, but her love for the fair began as a small child through calf club and 4H. Jess currently lives outside of Dundalk with her husband, Jordan, and two girls, Audrey & Mackenzie. The fair is a family affair, and they all participate in volunteering at events. Jess is the practice manager at a rural veterinary clinic in Markdale, which keeps her tied to both small and large animal medicine. Jess was honoured to be the recipient of the 2023 Tommy Cooper award. Jess is passionate about her leadership role and mentoring of youth. Jess is looking forward to continuing her role as 1st VP for the OAAS over the next year.

Michelle Molloy, 2nd Vice-President & District 4
Being raised on a farm in Orono, Ontario, agriculture has always been a part of Michelle's life. Her introduction to the fair world began at a young age when her mother began volunteering with the Orono Agricultural Society. Through this influence, Michelle also started volunteering and became the Secretary of the OAS in 2021. Along with this role, she also works full-time in Corporate Finance as a Senior Payroll Administrator at Fleming College. Now living in the Kawartha Lakes, she enjoys fishing, boating, geocaching, and spending time with her two sons. Michelle is passionate about promoting youth volunteerism and proudly Chairs the OAAS Provincial Youth Committee.

Glen Syme, Past-President
Lives besides the village of Appleton in Eastern Ontario, which is part of District 2. He has been a dairy farmer all his life, Bred and milking purebred Holsteins in a tie-stall barn. Their herd has achieved the prestigious master breeder Shield and shows Holsteins at local fairs.
In Glen's pass time, he is an old-time square dance caller and has taught 4-H ers square dancing for several years. Glen is also a director of the North Lanark Ag Society in Almonte and has a passion for Agricultural and Ag Societies.

Amy LeRoy, District 1
Amy is proud to be part of the District 1 family and her home fair is the Vankleek Hill Fair. She has been on that board for many years and especially loves co-chairing the heavy horse committee with her dad and working with the sound and lighting crew. Growing up, Amy spent most fair seasons showing her family's Percheron horses all across Eastern Ontario and now she enjoys judging produce and supporting local fairs. She has also been a volunteer at the OAAS convention for many years and enjoys meeting fair friends from all across the province. Amy always knew she wanted a job where she could help people and now works with youth as a Recreation Therapist at The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre.

Angie Robinson, District 2
Angie was born and raised in the small rural community of Beachburg, near the Ottawa River, where her family owned a small dairy farm and then a beef farm. She grew up raising purebred Hereford cattle, competing in 4h shows and open shows in eastern Ontario and several times at the junior show at the Royal. She has been a long-time volunteer and supporter of the Beachburg Agricultural Society, carrying on a family tradition of several generations, and is currently a director on the board. She also enjoys volunteering with other organizations, such as the Canadian Cancer Society and other fundraising and non-profit initiatives in her community. She is entering her 3rd year as District 2 Provincial Director.

Jeremy Solmes, District 3
Jeremy has been a lifelong resident in a small hamlet of Springbrook, which is about 30 minutes northwest of Belleville. Jeremy was a member and past president of the Marmora Agricultural Society before he joined the Stirling Agricultural Society in 2013. He is a very passionate director, especially to the annual flea market, which was originally organized by his Grandpa. Jeremy was President of the Stirling Agricultural Society in 2019-2020. He has also served as a district representative for District 3 since 2017 and was just recently appointed to be our Provincial Director.

Lorna Wilson, District 5
Lorna Wilson, District 5. Lorna brings a wealth of ag awareness, volunteer, and fair knowledge to the board table. Retired from her role as Volunteer Coordinator for Country Heritage Park, her work history also included 28 years as a retail banker and 7 years for a non-profit organization, working with fairs' ag education programs. She is currently in her second year on the CNEA board of directors. Lorna served on the OAAS board previously as Speakers and Seminars Chair and has delivered many workshops and seminars herself, including 3 separate years at IAFE AGMs in Indianapolis, Phoenix, and Denver. In 2025, she chaired the education area at the IPM in Grassie. Lorna resides on retirement acreage with her husband, Lorne, and currently serves as her church's treasurer. Ag awareness is her passion!

Ian Thompson, District 6
Ian is a first-generation member of the Caledonia Agricultural Society. He joined the Society in 2008 as a Junior Member, later becoming the youngest director in the history of the organization. He graduated from McMaster University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours. After a brief career in the aerospace industry, he was appointed General Manager of the Caledonia Agricultural Society in 2019. Ian has worked diligently to expand and enhance the Caledonia Fair, growing the organization during the difficulty of the COVID-19 pandemic, and overseeing the completion of an $8 million facility renovation project and capital campaign. He is currently Treasurer of Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO), Chairman of Caledonia's Canada Day and Victoria Day celebrations, and the creator of the popular 'Creepy Caledonia' Ghost Tours- a fundraiser for the Fair. Ian has previously served as a director for the West Haldimand General Hospital (WHGH), President of the Caledonia Old Mill Corporation, and as Canadian President of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) during which time he was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award. He was previously Secretary-Treasurer for District 6 and has enjoyed visiting the Fairs of District 6 and nearby Fairs in Districts 5 and 7. Ian is a member of the Ancaster Agricultural Society. He looks forward to continuing to support the Fairs of District 6 and Fairs across the province through the meaningful work of the OAAS Board.

Mona Eichmann, District 7
Mona was first introduced to the Tavistock Agricultural Society as an exhibitor in the Homecraft Division. Shortly thereafter, Mona joined as an Associate Director, and in 2001-2002 served as the Homecraft President. Over the years, Mona has been a Convenor for the Display Competition, Pet Show, Fine Arts, Plants and Flowers, and also convened the Amateur Photography class along with her mother Gertrud. Mona served as President of the Tavistock Agricultural Society in 2017-2018, and currently convenes the Display Competition, Amateur Photography and Pet Show classes together with her daughter Heidi. Mona has been a member of the District 7 Executive for several years and is honoured to represent the District as their Provincial Director.

Mona is a Regular Member with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Over the past 37 years, Mona served several communities including Portage la Prairie, Toronto, Ottawa, London, Milton and Kitchener. Mona's career with the RCMP focuses on General Duty or Federal Policing duties, as well as providing peer support for RCMP employees and their families. Mona volunteers as the Treasurer for the RCMP London Veterans Association, and is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Anna P. Lewis Women's Institute and the Concordia Club.

Spencer Dunsmore, District 8
Spencer is happy to step into his new roll of District 8 Provincial Director! Spencer has been heavily involved from a young age with the Mitchell & District Agricultural Society as a long family tradition. His grandfather had been an associate director of the board for over 50 years and ran the crops section, as well as helping in many areas of the fair. His mother was named the ambassador of the fair 40 years before he was named president of the Agricultural Society. He is starting his second term as president, as well looking after the beef show, 4H pancake breakfast, set up, and anything else that gets thrown at him. When growing up, he was in 4H, showed beef cattle from his family's herd of Herefords, and many other clubs. He is now a leader of many clubs and vice president of the Perth County 4H Association. In 2023, his family's beef operation moved from Perth County to Saskatchewan and now run 250 head of cattle. Spencer has also been involved with his local beef farmers association, local Farm and Food Cares breakfast on the farm events and many other fairs. In his free time from volunteering, his full-time job is a butcher.

District 9 - Vacant

Terry Whitmell, District 11
Terry has been a volunteer with the Dunchurch Agricultural Society for more than forty years, contributing as an exhibitor at the Dunchurch Fair and becoming more involved following her retirement in 2019. Her retirement initiatives included completing a PhD at OISE/UT, becoming a qualified OAAS judge, and taking on leadership roles both locally and provincially.

Her passion is community engagement, and she is working hard to recruit new volunteers, exhibitors, judges, and District 11 leaders. A highlight of her Homecraft career has been winning the Viewer's Choice at Convention for her hand quilting. She and her husband have recently completed the building of a new home on his family's farm in "Sunny Slope".

Debbie Beilhartz, District 12
Debbie is entering her second three-year term with the Bruce Mines Agricultural Society and her second consecutive year as its secretary.

She is a very process-driven person, organized, and has strong attention to detail. She is very personable, open to trying new ideas, not being afraid to ask the questions that people are afraid to ask, as she believes in the saying, 'What's the worst they can say - No?"

She is proud to be representing District 12 and is looking forward to working/learning with the executive of the OAAS and to see where this path takes her over the course of the next few years.

Lauren Armstrong, District 13
Lauren Armstrong has always had a passion for volunteering and giving back to her community and communities around her. She advocates and encourages the youth of today to grasp into every opportunity, because you never know where it may lead you in life. The Plympton Wyoming Agricultural Society is where it all started for Lauren, volunteering at a young age, and then in 2012, she was the Fair Ambassador for the Society. Following, she continued being involved Chairing the Ambassador Program, the advertising committee, becoming a director, executive member, president for 4 years, and now Past President of the Society. Lauren is currently in her 6th year as Provincial Director and has enjoyed working with her District. In her spare time, she enjoys running, playing sports, and spending time with family and friends.

Sylvie Rioux, District 14
Sylvie lives in New Liskeard with her family and is a dedicated community volunteer and active contributor to the local area. With over 20 years of volunteer experience with the New Liskeard Agricultural Society and other organizations, Sylvie is passionate about building strong connections, making a positive difference, and supporting community growth. She is committed to lifelong learning and approaches every opportunity with a focus on collaboration, growth, and meaningful results. Outside of her volunteer work, she enjoys knitting, sewing, and quilting, and aspires to become a judge.

Tracy Doherty, District 15
Tracy was born in Calgary and spent much of her childhood in both Calgary and Okotoks, Alberta. She later moved to Burlington, Ontario before relocating to Thunder Bay in 2002 to attend college. Since then, she has proudly made northwestern Ontario her home. She has been an active and dedicated member of the Dryden and District Agricultural Society for the past four years. She is currently serving her third year as Treasurer and is a strong supporter and advocate for Dryden and District Agricultural Society.

In addition to her fair work, Tracy is a 4 H leader with the Kenora 4 H Association, where she supports youth development and agricultural education. She lives in Oxdrift, Ontario with her husband and their two children. As a family, they enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, and spending time with their two horses and two dogs. Tracy also raises Cornish Cross chickens during the summer. Her children are enthusiastic exhibitors and volunteers at the Dryden and District Fall Fair. Professionally, Tracy has served her community as a paramedic for 22 years.

Vince Brennan – Executive Director
As a former dairy farmer, Vince brings over 50 years of involvement with his local agricultural society as an exhibitor, director, and committee member. Strong organizational and governance skills have been gained from working with the Hastings Federation of Agriculture as a 4-H volunteer and serving as President of the Ontario 4-H Council during a time of significant change. Vince has been an official dairy livestock judge for most of his life and has had the opportunity to judge livestock shows in many countries around the world. He is also an avid curler who actively supports several local clubs in the area. Vince has been with the OAAS since the spring of 2016.

Kathryn Lambert – Convention Manager
Over a decade and a half of working with the OAAS, first as the Board Secretary and Convention Coordinator, has provided Kathryn with a wealth of knowledge about this association. She also works with 4-H Ontario for over nine years in various positions, including Event Coordinator; she is involved with her local agricultural society in Glencoe and the local minor soccer association and Holstein Club. Her current role as Convention Administrator is a perfect fit as she literally knows someone in every agricultural society in Ontario!

Brenda Tipping – Administrative Assistant
Brenda Tipping, based in Thorndale, Ontario, brings with her over 30 years of providing senior administrative support to executives and the Board of Directors in public, not-for-profit, and private sectors. Having served the Thorndale Agricultural Society for the past 13 years as Treasurer, a past District Director, and a past Provincial Director of District 13, she brings her administrative skills to the OAAS and a strong knowledge of the workings of our Agricultural Societies and the OAAS.