



Important Dates:

Jan 15 – E-Symposium ‘So you’re a 4-H volunteer, what next?’

Jan 19 – Square Dance mtg 2

Jan 20 – Registration deadline for FLIA

Jan 22 – E-Symposium ‘Looking at the Bigger 4-H Picture’

Jan 24 – Oxford County 4-H Association AGM

Jan 27 – Skating Social at Tavistock Arena for 4-H

Jan 28 – Oxford Cloverbud 4-H Club mtg 1

Feb 3 & 11 – CPR First Aid 4-H Project dates

Feb 12 – E-Symposium ‘Debunking Local Events’

Feb 14 – Association mtg

Feb 21 – 4-H Ontario Volunteer Conference early bird registration

4-H is 4U

Oxford 4-H Informer
Jan/Feb 2024

Oxford 4-H Informer

Oxford County 4-H Association Jan/Feb 2024

Oxford County 4-H Association AGM

January 24, 2024

7:30pm

Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84387670276?pwd=mdhYKozKYx8RZ7Xgvf1wc5z8BOjsxP.1>

Meeting ID: 843 8767 0276

Passcode: 418139

Openings for Directors to continue the work of the 4-H program in Oxford County. This is your opportunity to become involved—volunteers will need to become screened, if not already, within 3 months after AGM.

All interested invited to attend!!

Help plan for 2024

Be part of Oxford 4-H by becoming a Director

4-H Ontario 2024 Resource Guide—

Have you checked it out yet??

Opportunities—page 13-15 AND page 22-26

Competitions—page 16-18

Online & coming by mail

Check out Oxford County 4-H Facebook  for updates!

Or on the web at <https://4-hontario.ca/association/oxford-4-h-association/>

Oxford 4-H Contacts

Dwight Hargreaves

(519) 456-6520

Past Chairperson / Director

Cate McCorquodale

(519) 282-1030

Chairperson / Director

cate.mccorquodale@gmail.com

Christy Brekelmans

(519) 285-3015

Vice Chairperson / Director

c_brekelmans@hotmail.com

Shonna Ward

(519) 854-6919

Secretary / Director/ Oxford

4-H Awards Coordinator

wardshonna@hotmail.com

Jack Danen

(519) 655-2865

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oxford4htreasurer@gmail.com

Sarah McIntosh

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mcintoshsarahe@me.com

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(519) 497-5455

Asst Secretary / Director /

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odie3591@gmail.com

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(226) 920-5559

reinstonefarms@gmail.com

Director/ Livestock Coordinator

Mel Bergsma

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Emily Grieve

(519) 608-4285 Director

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(519) 272-5605

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Geoff Innes

ginnes@xplornet.ca

Classic Coordinator:

Communications

Coordinator: Shonna Ward,

oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com

c/o 885313 Oxford Road 8

Woodstock, ON N4S 7W2

4-H Ontario website:

<http://www.4-hontario.ca>

Oxford webpage: <https://4-hontario.ca/association/oxford-4-h-association/>

Region 6 Coordinator,

Volunteer Services,

Melinda Scott

1-877-410-6748 x 487

region5@4-hontario.ca

The Oxford 4-H Informer is published in January, March, May, July, September and November. Submissions are welcome!

All editions of the Informer will reach you by email, unless you specifically request receiving a print copy by mail.

OXFORD COUNTY 4-H ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

In-person meetings with zoom/call-in option, 2nd Wednesday of each month
7:30PM

Feb 14, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug 14, Sept 11, Oct9, Nov 13, Dec 11

Meetings held in-person with zoom/call-in option, attended by the Board and Association Contacts & Coordinators. Location: 677140 16th Line, Tavistock

It is very important for posting on Facebook and any social media that Oxford 4-H have permission from the parents/guardians of our 4-H youth. If 4-H youth and/or parents/guardians has not given permission for their photo or name to be published - please inform the Communications Coordinator at oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER TRAINING – 4-H ONTARIO POLICY

All registered volunteers must attend a training workshop offered locally, regionally or provincially a minimum of every 36 months or more frequently according to local Association policy. Please keep your training current – BEFORE leading a club.

KEEP YOUR TRAINING CURRENT - Volunteer re-engagement training is every three (3) years, police checks are every three (3) years, Commit To Kids every three (3) years

Oxford County 4-H Association AGM – January 24, 2024
Via Zoom at 7:30pm

NOTE: Age of participant for membership & opportunities is based on age as of December 31

4-H News

4-H Ontario Youth Participant Registration will all be done online. The online registration form can be found on the 4-H Ontario website <https://4-hontario.ca/youth/become-a-member/>

In-person Meetings

4-H Ontario has lifted the requirement to submit Activity Plans for club meetings and local activities. It is important to keep in mind that Activity Plans will continue to be required for the following events and programs:

Multi-club or regional events (including but not limited to livestock shows, Regional Go for the Gold, Judging Competitions)

4-H organized transportation and/or accommodations (i.e. field trips, livestock shows including the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair)

High-risk activities (i.e. skiing, water activities, paintball, woodsmen competition, operation of recreational vehicles)

Services from third-party providers requiring a waiver (i.e. archery or shooting range, trampoline park, etc.)

Contact Melinda if you have any questions about Regional or Provincial events
region5@4-hontario.ca

Volunteers—all volunteers required to complete the online Participation Form annually – form on the 4-H Ontario website <https://4-hontario.ca/2022-4-h-volunteer-participation-form/>

2024 Volunteer E-Symposiums – 7-8pm

Contact Melinda to register for E-Symposiums at region5@4-hontario.ca

Date	Topic
Monday, January 15, 2024	So You're a 4-H Volunteer, What Next?
Monday, January 22, 2024	Looking at the Bigger 4-H Picture
Monday, February 12, 2024	Debunking Local Events
Monday, April 15, 2024	The Many Methods to Deliver Club Content
Monday, May 13, 2024	Rocking, Respecting, and Representing the 4-H Brand
Monday, June 03, 2024	So You're a 4-H Volunteer, What Next?
Monday, June 17, 2024	3 T's on Livestock Clubs and Events; Tips, Tricks and Tools

4-H Ontario Future Leaders In Action (FLIA)

For youth ages 15-21 (as of December 31, 2023)

Date: March 9-13, 2024

Location: Camp George, Parry Sound

Cost: \$400 (+HST)

Registration Deadline: January 20, 2024

Registration form link <https://4-hontario.ca/youth/4-h-events/camps/>

2024 4-H Ontario Youth Participant Registration

4-H Ontario is excited to welcome 4-H'ers to the program for 2024! The 2024 4-H Ontario youth participant registration is available online.

How: The 2024 online registration form is available on the 4-H Ontario website and can be accessed by clicking the 'Register' button at the top of the website or link <https://4-hontario.ca/youth/become-a-member/>

Cost: Each 4-H youth participant will be responsible for paying their \$100 provincial participant fee using the online registration on the 4-H Ontario website. The online registration form can be found on the 4-H Ontario website.

Subsidy: The Oxford County 4-H Association passed a motion at the Oct 11, 2023 Association meeting to subsidize the provincial youth participant fee by \$25 for Oxford 4-H youth for 2024. Therefore, Oxford 4-H youth will pay \$75 to join 4-H in 2024.

Reimbursement: The Oxford County 4-H Association will reimburse Oxford 4-H youth participant fee at the beginning of each month. Example, if you pay your participant fee in January, a reimbursement payment will be sent to you in the early part of February.

If you have any questions or need help with registration, please contact the Oxford 4-H Communications Coordinator oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com or 519-854-6919

*****Before registering, please confirm the club/project will be available—
contact club volunteer or Oxford 4-H Communications Coordinator
oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com or 519-854-6919.**

Oxford County 4-H Association Constitution Review

There are no changes to be made

Oxford 4-H Club Virtual Meetings

Oxford County 4-H Association has zoom accounts for use by 4-H clubs if your club is planning to have virtual meetings. Please contact the Oxford 4-H Communications Coordinator to make arrangements to set up your virtual club meetings

Oxford County 4-H Association 2024 Special Class for Oxford Fairs

Create a word search or crossword puzzle pertaining to 4-H, minimum 20 words, 8½" x 11" sheet of paper, provide answer sheet.

Conflict Resolution:

All conflicts or related concerns within 4-H in Oxford County must be submitted in writing, signed, and addressed to the Association Chairperson. All matters will be addressed confidentially by the Association Executive (see Oxford County 4-H Association Constitution, Article V F.)

**Join Oxford
County 4-H
Facebook to see
what's
happening in
the world of
4-H**



Mark your calendar for Jan/Feb/Mar events

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Feb 3 & 11 – CPR First Aid 4-H Project dates
Feb 12 – E-Symposium ‘Debunking Local Events’
Feb 14 – Association mtg
Feb 21 – 4-H Ontario Volunteer Conference registration

Mar 1 – Oxford Beef 4-H Club mtg 1
Mar 9 – 4-H Pancake Fundraiser starts
Mar 13 – Association mtg
Mar 22 & 23 4-H Ontario Volunteer Conference

Thank You! Thank You!

Thanks to Oxford Agropuro Ltd for
printing this newsletter (as requested)
for us!!

Thank you to Corteva/Pioneer for the
\$600 donation to Oxford 4-H!!

Thank you to all the families for
enrolling into the Oxford 4-H program!!

The Oxford County 4-H Association
appreciates all the donations and
support from businesses, organizations
and community supporters to make the
4-H program available to youth in our
communities!!

You are invited to the 2024 4-H Ontario Volunteer Conference ‘Building Connections 4 Brighter Horizons’

When: March 22-23, 2024

Where: Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel, 600 Highway 7 Richmond Hill, ON

Conference Host: Region 1

<https://4-hontario.ca/volunteers/conferences-agms/volunteer-conference-annual-meeting/>

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION – ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 21: \$225

REGISTRATION – FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 8: \$275

SATURDAY ONLY – \$150

Keynote Speaker:

Andrew Campbell, the *Value of Making A Connection*

Oxford Beef 4-H Club

1st Meeting

Friday, March 1st 7pm

Deslippe Farm

922580 Road 92, St Marys

Contact Amy for information

reinstonefarms@gmail.com



Oxford 4-H Mugs \$8

Contact CC to buy

oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com

Oxford 4-H CLUBS

Oxford Quilting 4-H Club-

Club volunteer-Linda Humphrey
oxfordquilting.4hclub@gmail.com

Mt Elgin 4-H Club-

Contact Carolyn Wilson
crwilsonj@xplornet.ca

Brooksdale 4-H Club-

Club volunteers Kaitlyn McKay,
 Laura Green
lauracgreen77@gmail.com

Thamesford 4-H Club

Contact Christy Brekelmans
c_brekelmans@hotmail.com

Oxford Cloverbud 4-H Club-

Contact Oxford 4-H
 Communications Coordinator
oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com

Square Dance 4-H Club-

Club volunteers Jane Danen, Jack
 Danen, Kirsten Dill
jjdanen@netflash.net

Community 4-H Club-

Rhubarb Jam & Grape Jelly
 for sale (\$3.50) with
 proceeds to Canadian
 Cancer Society for club
 2024 Relay for Life team.
 Contact Shonna Ward to
 order 519-854-6919 or
wardshonna@hotmail.com.

**Club also collects year
 round** used electronics—
 TV, computer items,
 printers, microwaves,
 Christmas lights,
 telephones



Hickson 4-H Club-

Club volunteers: Marilyn
 Lichti, Elizabeth Bruce,
 Jane Danen, Shonna Ward,
 Karen Witmer
wardshonna@hotmail.com

Oxford Beef 4-H Club-

Contact Amy Reinhart
reinstonefarms@gmail.com

Fancy Feathers 4-H Club-

Club volunteers Val Jones, Geoff Innes
ginnes@xplornet.ca

Bonds Dairy 4-H Club-

Contact T-J Richardson
tj_hargreaves@yahoo.ca

North Oxford Dairy 4-H Club-

Contact Jack Danen jjdanen@netflash.net

Oxford Swine 4-H Club-

Contact Christy Brekelmans
c_brekelmans@hotmail.com

Ingersoll Kiwanis Dairy 4-H Club-

Contact Karen Karn kkarn@xplornet.com

The **George Thornton Bequest**, received in 2014, is governed by the George Thornton Gift Agreement, and managed with advice from the Finance Committee. Oxford County 4-H is guided by George Thornton's request that funds be used to support 4-H in Oxford County. It is the policy of the Oxford County 4-H Association to withdraw from the principal of the bequest annually and to spend those funds on (a) project(s) that benefit(s) all 4-H youth in Oxford County, or on the work of the Association in support of Oxford 4-H youth.

2023 projects—reimburse each project \$250 registered between July 1/22 – June 30/23; subsidize Oxford 4-H youth registration by \$20; AND catered dinner for 4-H youth/volunteers/families in Oxford 4-H projects at Oxford 4-H Awards Night in November.

**Looking for ideas for 2024 projects
 send to oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com**

OXFORD COUNTY 4-H ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2023

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Via Zoom at 7:30 p.m.

Call to Order, Welcome and 4-H Pledge

Elect AGM Chairperson:

Elect AGM Secretary:

Establish Voting Procedure:

Approval of Agenda:

Minutes of 2022 AGM:

2023 Financial Report:

Constitution:

Association Representative Report:

Elections:

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Old Business:

Finance Committee Update:

Thornton Bequest Update and Planning:

Events Organized by Oxford County 4-H Clubs:

New Business:

4-H Club fund reporting

Adjournment:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84387670276?pwd=mdhYKozKYx8RZ7Xgvt1wc5z8BOjsxP.1>

Meeting ID: 843 8767 0276

Passcode: 418139

All 4-H volunteers whose status is current with 4-H Ontario, and who are registered with the Oxford County 4-H program, or who reside in Oxford County are members of the Association and have voting privileges at meetings where the membership votes

Square Dance 4-H Project

Started Jan 5th – next mtg Jan 19 on Friday nights at 7pm in Tavistock

Contact jjdanen@netflash.net to register and more information



OXFORD JUNIOR FARMERS INVITES
OXFORD 4-H FAMILIES TO OUR

SKATING SOCIAL

SEE YOU AT THE RINK!
JANUARY 27TH
1-2 PM
TAVISTOCK ARENA

**JOINT SOCIAL WITH OXFORD 4-H AND
NEIGHBOURING JF CLUBS!**

Ice time will be paid by Oxford JF

Community 4-H Club

Want to be part of the 2024 Relay
for Life Team in June supporting
the Canadian Cancer Society?

Meeting activities will be social
recreation

Contact Shonna

wardshonna@hotmail.com

First Aid-CPR-AED Level C 4-H project

Saturday February 3rd & Sunday February 11th
9-4pm

Tavistock Men's Club Hall

Youth ages 12-21

Cost \$30/person

Instructor: Ben Lindner

Lunch provided

If you are interested in taking the First Aid-CPR 4-H project
please let Shonna know by January 23rd
email wardshonna@hotmail.com or text 519-854-6919

Oxford 4-H Quilting Club – Magic Blocks! – by Grace Piper

The first meeting of the Oxford Quilting 4-H club took place at Ye Olde Fabric Shoppe in Stratford. At this meeting we learned about fat quarters, fabric lines, and colour theory. We then purchased our fabric for our projects. The club provided us each with gift cards to help cover some of the cost. For our projects we could either make a wall hanging, table runner or lap quilt out of the “Magic” blocks we created throughout the project. The next 5 meetings took place at the Village Manor in Tavistock on Monday nights. At meeting two we sorted all the fabric we bought at Ye Olde Fabric Shoppe by colour and shade. Next, we cut up the fabric using an outline given to us by our club leader, Linda. We learned how to properly use a rotary cutter, quilting rulers and cutting mats and how to cut straight at this meeting. At meeting three we made two blocks for our quilt. One was simple and tested our ability to follow directions while the other was more difficult and taught us to match seams. They both turned out very beautiful and look great on our finished projects. At meeting four we sewed more blocks including an arrowhead block and a disappearing four patch block using 2 different methods. we also learned how to square blocks to make them easier to work with in the future. At meeting five we learned about parliamentary procedures from Katherine. Specifically, about motions. It was very informative, and I learned a lot about why we have motions in 4-H. We then practised by making motions on what we should have for lunch at meeting six Sewing Day which would take place from 10-3 pm. We learned how to make the last of our blocks and took the ones we didn’t finish home with us. At meeting six we wrapped up the Oxford Quilting 4-H project. At this meeting we learned how to sandwich our quilt blocks, connect our blocks and finish our quilt projects. We stopped for lunch midway through when the meeting took place from 10-3pm. We had decided to have Subway for lunch, and it was very good. We then finished the club and whatever we hadn’t completed we took home to finish and show our families. Thanks to our club leaders – Linda Humphrey, Katherine Grieve, Marilyn Lichti and Janice Kyle (who shadowed our meetings).



**AMAZING!!
Great Job!!**

Youth Adventure Camp (YAC)—report by Grace Piper (presented at Oxford 4-H Awards Night)

Hello everyone, my name is Grace Piper and this past summer I took part in the incredible 4-H opportunity Youth Adventure Camp or YAC. Youth adventure camp is a four-day three-night camp that is run by Ontario 4-H facilitators and takes place at a different camp each year. This past year camp took place at camp Winnebago in Huntsville Ontario. The camp is specifically for 4-H youth in Ontario between the ages of 12-15 who want to learn about leadership, teamwork, goal setting, and problem solving in a safe and exciting environment with other youth their age. Tonight, I will be sharing my own personal experience at Youth Adventure Camp and how it has benefited me. I will also attempt to not bore you to death as just saw about half of you look to the door with longing in your eyes.

When I first signed up for Youth Adventure Camp, I was very nervous as I had never been to a sleep away camp or taken part in a 4-H opportunity like this one. However, I became less nervous and more excited as the time for camp came closer and I received more information about what to expect and pack for camp. When the first day of camp finally arrived my parents and I packed up the car and made the four-hour trip up to Huntsville. Looking back on it now, I wish I had taken the charter bus that was offered at the time of registration. Not only does it save money but it allows time to get to know the people you will be spending the next four days with. and after four hours in the car with me, who loves to talk on normal days and double when I'm nervous, I think my parents were wishing they spent the 80\$ for the bus too.

When I arrived at camp around 2:30 I was greeted by two of the 4-H facilitators and given a name tag. One of the first things they tell you is that you must protect your name tag with your life. On your name tag which is attached to a certain colour of lanyard is your first and last name, the county you're from, the cabin you're in, an animal sticker, a smiley face sticker and a fruit. After I received my name tag, I waited for a few other people to arrive and then I was shown to my cabin by two different facilitators. Once I got into my cabin, I chose my bunk and set my things down before I was brought back outside and taken to a main field in the middle of the camp where I met the rest of the campers. I joined in the icebreaker games they were already playing as I arrived towards the end of the drop off time and the charter bus had already gotten there. After a few icebreaker games we were called by cabin down to the water for our swim tests. This was a good time to meet our cabin mates and find out where they were from. The swim test consisted of us swimming from one side of an enclosed area of the lake to the other and back. I would say it was probably 50 metres. We swam in our cabin groups all at once and had no time limit. We were also able to use any type of swimming stroke we wanted to. After that we had a chance to catch our breath before going to another enclosed area and treading water for two minutes. If we were successful in doing both those things, we were given red wristbands to indicate we had passed the swim test. However, the wristbands became a little irrelevant as we found out everyone had passed the swim test. After that we went back to our cabin to change into our regular clothes. Then we headed back to the lawn to play more games while we waited for everyone else to finish their tests.

Next, we were put into groups based on our animal sticker on our name tags and headed down to the dining hall. We lined up in front of the dining hall in our groups. Before every meal for the rest of camp we would be sorted into groups based on the three stickers we had, randomly, with our cabin or sometimes we would get to choose. The dining hall was set up with big long picnic tables that fit 10-11 people which were how many people were in each group. That night the meal was spaghetti and meatballs. Throughout the four days we had a variety of other food like fried chicken and mashed potatoes with grilled vegetables, soup, pancakes, eggs, toast, and on the last night we had a cookout with burgers, sausage, curly fries and juice. On the last morning we had a big buffet style brunch with lunch and breakfast foods. After dinner we had dessert which was a chocolate lava cake and it was delicious. We got dessert after both lunch and dinner for the next three days as well.

After dinner we would head down to the theatre or somewhere else around camp and play fun games. My favourite one we played was clothespin tag. On the last night there was a camp wide talent show that along with the YAC campers and facilitators some of the Camp Winnebago staff took part in. There was soccer, there was magic, there was square dancing, there was harmonica, there was piano and there was probably the worst performance of single lady's that I have ever seen. There was also an extremely dangerous game involving balloons and staples guns that I won't go into detail about.

YAC report continued--

After we would have an awesome campfire on the second night we got to just hang out in the theatre and play games. That night I learned 2 things 1) I'm a natural at the game spoons and 2) some people just don't have the raw talent for spoons that I do.

In the mornings we got the opportunity to take part in a polar plunge which was one of my favourite parts. Overall, the water was my favourite part of camp. Which is the moment I have been most excited about. The lake we were on was separated into an area of open water and a boardwalk with different sections like where we took our swim tests. In the biggest area there was a GIANT inflatable slide that had a landing within it you could jump off of, an inflatable trampoline and an inflatable volleyball court. All the inflatable things were connected by inflatable walkways which were so much fun just on their own. Now I am not exaggerating when I say I genuinely believe playing on those inflatables was the most fun I have ever had in my entire life. There was also a dock that you could jump off of but I personally didn't enjoy it that much because it made me feel like my head was going to disconnect from my body every time, I hit the water. We had the opportunity to play on these inflatables during our adventure stations after lunch each day or during delicate determination time after adventure stations if the group we were in didn't get to go down to the water.

Our adventure station groups were determined by the smiley face sticker on our lanyard and the first day 2 smiley face groups would do land activities and the other would do water activities then the next day they would flop. Land activities consisted of archery, high ropes and rock climbing. The water activities were paddle boarding or kayaking, canoeing, and playing on the inflatables. The other big aspect of camp was the different stations. At these stations we took part in different activities that helped us learn about goal setting, leadership skills, teamwork, problem solving and communication. We would be split into groups to go to these stations based on the colour of our name tag lanyards. We would do this after breakfast and before lunch. Some of the things we would do in these groups were obstacle courses, blindfolded challenges, puzzles, life sized board games, drawings and frisbee throwing. My favourite activity we did at one of these stations was building a tent blind folded. It was especially interesting for me as I've never built a tent before so now, I feel more confident constructing one blind than I do with vision.

One thing that made my time at camp very enjoyable was the actual camp we were at. Camp Winnebago was beautiful and had amazing basketball, pickleball and tennis courts, a big lawn with a baseball diamond and a gorgeous dining hall. The cabins were very big and had very sturdy bunks. There was a lot of storage and a bathroom with 2 toilets in the cabin. There were also shower houses that were very modern and had very warm water. All the water at the camp was safe to drink other than the water from the lake of course. Overall, I think it was a great venue and it really added to the camp experience.

The last day of camp was bittersweet as we were all sad to leave. We were given camp t-shirts and a few other goodies before we left and took the last 20 minutes of camp to sign each other's t-shirts. We had a big brunch on the last day as well and said goodbye to all the facilitators and staff.

Youth adventure camp helped me step out of my comfort zone, become more confident, and make new friends. It helped with starting high school as it eased me back into a learning environment in a fun way and being in such a positive environment made me more comfortable and outgoing. At camp I made friends from all over Ontario that have the same interests and hobbies as me which is something I will cherish forever. So, when January comes around and the Resource Guide comes out, if you're between the ages of 12-15 please be sure to register for Youth Adventure Camp and I promise you, you will come back from camp with lifetime memories and new skills.

2024 Resource Guide -- <https://4-hontario.ca/about-4-h/4-h-magazine/>

**Oxford 4-H hosting 'In The Know' Mental Health
More details when available**

Cloverbuds 4-H Club—

The Oxford Cloverbud 4-H Club first meeting is Sunday January 28th at the Norwich Curling Club; then Feb 25th at Sweaburg United Church doing 'Mad Science'. Others activities for 2024 are 'Community Heroes & Safety', 'Horses', 'Fruits & Vegetables', Discovery Days, 'Water & Bubbles', 'Poultry' and helping at the 4-H Pancake Fundraiser in March.

Cloverbud program is for youth ages 6-8 (by Jan 1st). If you are interested in learning more about the Oxford Cloverbud 4-H Club or joining, please contact oxfordcounty4h@gmail.com before registering for the 4-H program.

4-H Pancake Fundraiser

Jakeman's Maple Products

454414 Trillium Line, Sweaburg

9am-1:30pm -- Starts March 9th

Weekends -- March 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 and April 6 & 7

AND Wednesday March 13

**Pancake meals made & served by Oxford 4-H youth/volunteers
with proceeds to Oxford 4-H projects**

Cash only for pancake meals



Impact Conference Report – Jade Dill

I had the opportunity to attend the first ever 4-H Impact conference held in October in Oakville at the Holiday Inn. Friday night when we arrived, we were greeted by many familiar 4-H faces and had introductions. Saturday morning started with breakfast and our first session of the day with the key note speaker Drew Dudley who spoke about different kinds of leaders individuals can be. Next was the smaller group sessions: two before lunch and one after. We had 2 sessions to choose from each time. The options I chose were agriculture and the government, FCC and programs they offer and RBC launching your career. Then we networked with community partners and speakers from the session to learn about their career. We had a panel discussion with people who are involved with 4-H about their careers and favorite 4-H memories. We then enjoyed a formal 3 course meal followed by a magic show, fellowship, line dancing and square dancing. Sunday morning, we had breakfast and a conclusion presentation. Next, we did focus groups from 4-H to give our feedback on a range of topics that involve youth. Lastly it was time to go home. But before we left we gave a big thank you to the volunteers who organized the weekend and chaperoned. It was a really great experience!! I would go again and would recommend it to everyone.

**Have you joined the Facebook page
for Oxford County 4-H or Oxford
Clover Buds to keep informed??**

4-H Youth Participant Fee for 2024

\$100 with subsidy of \$25

for Oxford 4-H Youth

See page 4 for more details

Oxford County 4-H Association in Review for 2023

148 Oxford youth 9-21 (106 returning, 42 new) and 11 border jumpers plus 18 Cloverbud 6-8 (10 returning, 8 new) with 52 Volunteers completing 17 projects

Clubs in Oxford—Mt Elgin, Brooksdale, Hickson, Community, North Oxford, Thamesford, Quilting, Beef, Swine, Bonds, Ingersoll Kiwanis, Cloverbuds

Projects completed in-person/virtually—Swine, Cloverbud, Dairy, Pumpkin, Pizza Niche Crops, Crocheting, Breakfast, Canine, Community Involvement, Sewing with Knits, Magic Blocks, Six by Sixteen, Best of the Bakery

With the changes of delivering the 4-H program in 2023, Oxford 4-H supported clubs with virtual meeting platforms.

Oxford 4-H Clubs organized Food Drive donations, Oxford Go For The Gold, Awards Night, Judging & Critical Thinking event, 4-H Classes at Woodstock Fair, Open Dairy & Beef Shows at Woodstock Fair, Ingersoll Harvest Festival 4-H Booth

Members participated in 4-H events and opportunities beyond Oxford County at Regional & Provincial levels. These included

- Provincial Virtual Art Show
- Provincial Virtual Judging
- Provincial Leadership Camp
- Discovery Days
- Dairy Sense
- Region 6 Go For The Gold
- Provincial Go For The Gold
- RAWF Beef & Dairy Shows

Oxford County 4-H Association special class “Outdoor/nature scene” at 4 Oxford Fairs

Members also participated in various projects across the province virtually or online

Volunteers participated in many of the above events as coaches & chaperones, and also volunteer obligation trainings and events for leader training and development, including:

- Oxford County 4-H AGM and 4-H Ontario re-engagement learning
- 4-H Ontario teleconferences
- 4-H Ontario Conference, E-symposiums, webinars
- Police Checks, Commit to Kids, Re-engagement learning

Awards Presented at Oxford 4-H Awards Night

Graduating members from 4-H—Emma Finch, Emily Spek
Longstanding Graduate Youth Award—Emma Finch

Gay Lea 24 Project Achievement Award presented to Megan Ball and Grace Piper.

30 Project Completion— Megan Ball, Julia Brekelmans, Lexi Dill Emma Pullen, Grace Piper
36 Project Completion— Lexi Dill
42 Project Completion—Lauren Ball
48 Project Completion—Lauren Ball, Jacob Bergsma
60 Project Completion—Erin Shrigley
78, 84 Project Completion— Connor Tree
114, 120, 126 Project Completion—Jade Dill

Janet Wilson Memorial Awards
Novice—Charlotte Ball/Logan Brekelmans
Junior—Grace Piper/Mathew McLeod
Intermediate—Jade Dill/Nathan Bean

Oxford County 4-H Association in Review for 2023 -- continued

Ontario Plowmen's Association Outstanding Agricultural Senior 4-H Member Award —Amanda Witmer

Your Neighbourhood Credit Union Outstanding Overall Senior 4-H Member Award—Jacob Bergsma

Oxford Project of the Year Award—Pumpkin 4-H Project

Norman Dickout Memorial Judging Awards

Novice—Sophia Doan

Junior—Brynn Doan

Intermediate—Nathan Wilker

Senior—Flynn Reinhart

Overall—Flynn Reinhart

Oxford County Junior Farmers 4-H Scholarship—Nicole Danen

Oxford District Women's Institute 4-H Scholarship—Lily Pullen

Embro Fair 4-H High Points Award—Jade Dill

Youth Leader Award—Lauren Ball, Jade Dill, Erin Shrigley

New Volunteers in Oxford—Julie DeBruyn, Sarah Pletsch, Terri Muir

Volunteers receiving 5-year pin—Amy Brekelmans, Jane Danen, Frances Campbell, Susan Reda, Taylor Karn, Laura Langford

Volunteer receiving 10-year pin—Jack Danen, Mardine Pelders

Volunteer receiving 15-year pin—Melvin Bergsma

Volunteer receiving 25-year recognition—Katherine Grieve

Volunteer receiving 40-year recognition—Dwight Hargreaves

George Thornton Bequest Project—each project registered between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 given \$250.00. 2022 funds were used towards the Oxford 4-H youth membership fee with a subsidy of \$20 each for 2022. Oxford 4-H Awards Night catered dinner was supported with funds from the George Thornton Bequest along with matching Food Drive donations for distribution.

Promotion and Fundraising:

Fundraisers: Pancake Meals at Jakeman's Maple Products & Brunch at Embro Fair. Promoting 4-H at Zorra Highland Public School Open House, Ingersoll Harvest Festival, Highland Games, Thamesford Lions Breakfast, Plattsville Community Connect and the Woodstock Recreation & Leisure Fair were done. Six editions of the Oxford 4-H Informer were produced, emailed and mailed along with update emails bi-monthly by Communications Coordinators Shonna Ward.

4-H Clubs supported the Food Drive by donating cash/food. With the generous donations totaling \$691.00, support was provided to Tavistock Assistance Program, Helping Hands (Tillsonburg), Operation Sharing (Ingersoll) and The Inn at Old St Pauls (Woodstock).

A donation was made to the Oxford 4-H Endowment Fund in memory of the 4-H families who lost a loved one.

Oxford 4-H would like to thank their 2023 sponsors: George Thornton Bequest Fund, Oxford Agropuro Ltd, Corteva Agriscience Woodstock, Rotary Club of Tavistock, Ayr Farmers Mutual, Knoop's Farm Service, Benevity, Ontario Mutuals, Oxford County Plowmen's Association, Your Neighbourhood Credit Union, ADM, TD Bank, South-West Oxford Township, Ross Wilson & Family, Russell & Bernice Dickout & Family, Richardson Family and every family involved with the Oxford 4-H program!!

OXFORD COUNTY 4-H ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2022

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

by Zoom virtual platform with call-in option, 7:30 p.m.

Attending Annual meeting: Linda Atkinson, Melvin Bergsma, Christy Brekelmans, Jack Danen, Jane Danen, Kirsten Dill, Clair Doan, Kathryn Doan, Laura Green, Jim Grieve, Katherine Grieve, Dwight Hargreaves, Linda Humphrey, Geoff Innes, Val Jones, Cate McCorquodale, Sarah McIntosh, Terri Muir, Sarah Pletsch, Amy Reinhart, Melinda Scott, Shonna Ward, Carolyn Wilson

1. Call to Order, Welcome and 4-H Pledge: Oxford County 4-H Association Chair Cate McCorquodale called the meeting to order at 7:35pm, welcomed those attending and led the 4-H pledge.

2. Elect AGM Chairperson: Cate McCorquodale was nominated. **Motion to close nominations, M/S/Carried.**

3. Elect AGM Secretary: Shonna Ward was nominated. **Motion to close nominations, M/S/Carried.**

4. Establish Voting Procedure: Chair Cate outlined the voting procedures:

Voter eligibility: all members as defined by the Oxford County 4-H Constitution may vote.

Casting votes: voting will be virtual with raising of hand. Melinda Scott & Linda Atkinson will manage virtual voting.

Tie-breaking: chair will cast deciding vote in case of a tie

Motion to accept voting procedures, M/S/Carried

Nominate scrutineers (2): Melinda Scott and Linda Atkinson will act as scrutineers.

5. Approval of Agenda: **Motion to approve agenda as presented and emailed, M/S/Carried.**

6. Minutes of 2021 AGM: **Motion to approve minutes emailed, included in January/February 2023 Oxford 4-H Informer, M/S/Carried.**

7. 2022 Financial Report: **Motion to approve financial statements as included in the AGM package emailed, M/S/Carried.** New for 2022—set up a Junior Beef Show account with a deposit of \$2000.00 as seed money. There was no bank statement received to have an official statement reviewed, there was one deposit and one withdrawal of \$100. There will be an account review for 2023.

8. Constitution Update: Changes emailed in December & January, in January/February Oxford 4-H Informer. Cate reviewed the change of 'November' to 'January' for the position of Association Representative. **Motion to accept revision to Constitution, M/S/Carried.**

9. Association Representative Report: submitted by Geoff Innes

Each 4-H Association elects/appoints an Association Representative (AR). This role acts as a liaison between the local 4-H Association and 4-H Ontario Board of Directors.

There are 2 Association Representative meetings a year via Zoom. At these meeting we receive updates from the Ontario 4-H Foundation, Ontario 4-H Council President and Ontario 4-H staff informing of us what has happened and is coming up in each area of 4-H Ontario.

There was a special AR meeting to bring the Constitution and by-laws into compliance with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). This was passed unanimously by the AR's.

The 4-H Ontario website has been updated.

I had the privilege to be co-chair of the 2022 Volunteer Conference and Annual Meeting with Laurie Farquharson from Middlesex 4-H. Region 6 was the conference host. Laurie is the current Ontario 4-H Council President. I attended the conference in March 2022. The theme was "Fuelling 4-H for the Future" held at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel. The Region 6 planning committee did an incredible job putting together a great program that fuelled your mind and got you ready for another amazing 4-H year across the province. The conference was well attended after being virtual in 2021. We look forward to another great year in 4-H.

Motion to receive AR report, M/S/Carried.

10. Elections: Chaired by Melinda Scott

Nomination Report: Report as emailed. **Motion to accept the Nomination Report, M/S/Carried.**

Nominations from the meeting: in addition to nominees from the Nomination Report of Christy Brekelmans, Amy Reinhart, Emily Grieve(1 year), Sarah McIntosh (1 year), Sarah Pletsch, Shonna Ward; Kirsten Dill (1 Year), Terri Muir were nominated
Directors elected are: One Year Term: Kirsten Dill, Emily Grieve, Sarah McIntosh

Two Year Term: Christy Brekelmans, Terri Muir, Sarah Pletsch, Amy Reinhart, Shonna Ward

11. Business Arising from the Minutes: none

12. Old Business:

1. Finance Committee Update: Dwight reported there will be a meeting in February with the committee.
2. Thornton Bequest Update and Planning: 2022 projects & activities included subsidy of 2022 memberships of \$15 each, dinner at Oxford 4-H Awards Night, each project received \$250, matched funds collected for Drive Away Hunger campaign.

3. Events Organized by Oxford County 4-H Clubs 2022

Go For The Gold
Drive Away Hunger Campaign
Oxford County 4-H Association Awards Night
Judging/Critical Thinking Event
Ingersoll Harvest Festival
Open Dairy Show at Woodstock fairgrounds

Events To Be Organized by Oxford County 4-H Clubs 2023, volunteer clubs as noted

Judging/Critical Thinking: Beef
Go For The Gold:
Food Drive:
Oxford County 4-H Association Awards Night: North Oxford Dairy
Open Dairy 4-H Show August 26th at Woodstock Fairgrounds:
Ingersoll Harvest Festival: Thamesford

13. New Business:

1. Can there be a place or event to do 'fair classes' as done in the past at Woodstock Fair?—will investigate if Woodstock Fair will have regular fair classes this year; find alternative event to do fair classes—doesn't have to be a fair; to be discussed at Oxford 4-H Association monthly meeting.

14. 4-H Ontario update—Melinda reported—online member registration, volunteer participant form online, E-symposiums, Commit To Kids, police checks & volunteer renewal every three years starting in 2023—all with the same expiry date, new project releases & opportunities in resource guide for members & volunteers. New Volunteer Award criteria has changed to less than 5 years for volunteer to be nominated.

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting, 8:56 p.m. Cate thanked all for attending.

To all the 4-H families who have lost a loved one



Oxford County 4-H Association make an annual memorial donation
to the Oxford 4-H Endowment Fund held by 4-H Ontario Foundation