

# Ecological farmers plan organic farm tour

Heard a lot about organic farming but never had a chance to see it up close? Well, this summer the EFAO, (Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario), the largest organic agriculture organization in the province, is hosting farm tours at several members' farms who allow fellow farmers, consumers, educators and families to see it up close, in the barn and in the field.

This Saturday, July 7, there are tours in eastern and western Ontario. Children are welcome, but not pets. Be prepared to walk in the sun or rain.

In western Ontario, there is a tour at the farm of Martin de Groot and Ineke Booy, who have an organic dairy farm and on-farm ice cream processing plant (Mapleton Organics) north of Elora, just off Wellington Rd. 7 close to Teviotdale.

The tour begins at the processing plant at 11 a.m. and after a break for lunch (bring your own) the farm tour resumes at 1 p.m. The organic field crops include spelt, soybeans, rotational grazing, grains, open pollinated corn and specialty crops like potatoes, squash, carrots, and sweet corn.

Phone (519) 638-3481.

In eastern Ontario, the tour is at the cash crop farm of Marlyn and Josephine O'Conner at 10925 Van Camp Rd., Mountain, Ontario. Phone (613) 989-2652. The O'Connors have been certified organic since 1991 and grow corn, soybeans, spelt, winter rye and buckwheat.

Next Saturday, July 14, there is a farm tour at the farm of Ike and Beatrix Enter, who raise beef, sweet corn, peas, alfalfa, soybeans, white beans, and spelt on 600 acres southwest of Parkhill. This tour is at 1343

Elm Tree Dr., northwest of London. Phone (519) 232-9458. This tour starts at 1 p.m.

On Saturday, July 21, there is a tour at the sheep and cash crop operation of Chris and Gabrielle Boettcher, near Brussels, 44046 Moncrieff Rd. They have a 200-ewe herd of sheep and crops include grains, beans, hay, buckwheat, red clover and fodder rape. This farm is Demeter certified by the Biodynamic Society. The tour starts at 10 a.m., bring your own lunch.

The Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario is a voluntary

not-for-profit association that educates people about organic methods of farming. EFAO brings together people who are concerned about ecological/organic agriculture so they can learn from each other.

The organization's mission is to maintain and enhance the health of soil and crops, livestock and the community. The 500 members of EFAO include commercial farms, backyard gardeners, researchers, journalists, academics and consumers and are spread across Ontario. They have a web site at [www.gks.com/efao](http://www.gks.com/efao)

## Wingham hospital bd. meets for last time before summer

By Jim Brown

Wingham Advance Times

The Wingham and District Hospital Board held a brief meeting last Thursday evening before taking a break for the summer.

Chairman Judith Gaunt said the past three board chairmen have guided the Wingham hospital through the biggest challenges faced by the board.

Noreen Gnay led the hospital when there were threats of possible closures among Huron and Perth hospitals.

George Underwood led the hospital during the formative years of the

Huron Perth Hospitals Partnership.

And, Bob Pike as chairman of the Wingham board was instrumental in the development of the joint executive committee with all eight hospitals of the partnership.

Gaunt noted Pike was a strong leader during the past two years.

Although a number of issues have been dealt with, there are still a number of upcoming issues, including the clinical plan, accreditation and rectifying the budget.

She added if everyone works together, the board should be able to present another successful report to the 95th annual meeting next June.

### COMACK'S REPORT

Site Administrator Margrét Comack said the staffing and week-ends for the summer have been worked out.

She noted the leadership team members had already started their vacation schedules with Pat Pietrek the only member in attendance at last Thursday's meeting.

Comack indicated they have planned things for the staff for the next two months, as those who are working will try and make the workplace more enjoyable by creating games for the staff to do while working.

There will also be rewards such as popsicles.

She noted these games will make a difference in the workplace by making it a better place to be.

Comack said the partnership has \$1.7 million to spend in the repatriation program.

She added that Stratford will begin its program immediately, while Wingham works on its program.

She pointed out new consultants have come on board for the hospital. Also, a new general surgeon and a new radiologists will be starting in the fall.

At the provincial level, the hospital has not heard if its operating plan for 2001-2002 has been approved.

She hopes the Minister of Health and Long Term Care listens to the various hospital boards in regards to hospitals being under funded.

One proposal was that this year be a 'wash out' in regards to an extended operating plan as the first quarter of the year is already complete.

The hospitals can then proceed with their two or three year plans beginning next year.

Unless the same amount of money is put into health care this year as was put in last year, health care is still under funded.

According to Comack, adjustments to the budget will be worked on over the summer.

## Safe food legislation pleases Ontario's pork producers

Ontario's pork producers were pleased to hear of the new proposed safe food legislation announced by the Ontario government earlier this week.

The new safe food act will aim to consolidate existing food safety and quality requirements that are currently found in six different pieces of legislation. These acts include the Dead Animal Disposal Act, the Edible Oil Products Act, the Farm Products Grades and Sales Act, the Livestock and Livestock Products

Act, the Meat Inspection Act and the Fish Inspection Act.

"Pork producers in this province take pride in producing a safe, wholesome product and we support the consolidation of safe food legislation," said Ontario Pork Chair Clare Schlegel. "Ontario has one of the safest food supplies in the world and this new legislation will help maintain the high level of consumer confidence in our product."

As part of their ongoing commitment to the production of safe pork,

Ontario producers are active participants in the Canadian Quality Assurance® (CQA) program. CQA® is a national on-farm food safety program based on HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) principles, and over two million hogs in Ontario are produced under this program annually.

Ontario Pork represents the 4,400 farmers who market hogs in the province in many areas, including hog marketing, consumer education, research, government representation,

environmental issues, animal care and food quality assurance. It is estimated that the total industry output from farm gate sales is worth \$4.2 billion to the Ontario economy. Visit Ontario Pork's website at [www.ontariopork.on.ca](http://www.ontariopork.on.ca)

**Check out The Citizen's WEBSITE at [www.northhuron.on.ca](http://www.northhuron.on.ca)**

## 3 winners announced in Walk to Win challenge

Three lucky winners in the Walk to Win Challenge have been announced.

Ten-year-old Travis Carrick from Goderich won a scooter, Carleen Lawrence from Huron Park won a prize package from the Maitland Trail Association, Brenda Blair from Bayfield is the winner of a Heart Smart cookbook and Wendy Gozzard from Goderich has won a prize package from the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.

The Walk to Win Challenge kicked off in May and continues until Oct. 28. By walking three different trails from the Let's Get Active Trail Guide, or conservation areas in Huron County, you can enter the contest.

Ballots and trail guides are available at all Huron County library branches as well as at the Huron County Health Unit, Falls Reserve

Conservation Area and Morrison Dam Conservation area. Prizes for children and adults will be given away in October including another children's scooter, camping equipment, book packages and frisbees.

"We're really pleased with the response to the contest so far," reports Wendy Hoernig, chair of the Maitland Trail Association. "The Walk to Win Challenge has been developed to encourage people to use walking trails located close to home. Huron County has a wonderful network of trails just waiting to be explored."

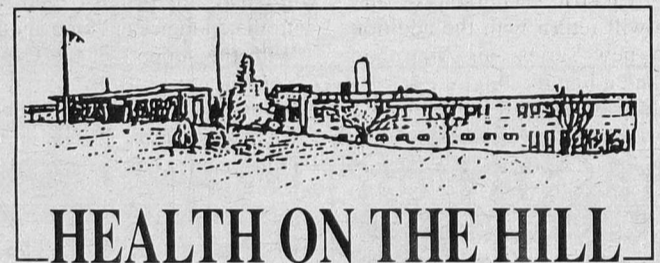
The Walk to Win Challenge is sponsored by Take Heart Huron, the Maitland Trail Association and the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Conservation Authorities. For further information call 335-3557 or 482-3416 or 235-2610.

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Email: [habitat@habitat.ca](mailto:habitat@habitat.ca)  
[www.habitat.ca](http://www.habitat.ca)



### HEALTH ON THE HILL

A Review of activities at SEAFORTH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION** the community may have noticed the beautiful tent on the lawn June 25th. This was part of the celebration to honour our Volunteers who include: Board and Auxiliary members, Student Volunteers, Huron Hospice Volunteer Service members, Spiritual/Pastoral Care Volunteers, Activation musicians, Foundation members, Morning Out Volunteers, Care Team and Centre of Excellence community representatives. We value the many hours of service and commitment.

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS** we have a designated Palliative Care room with tasteful furnishings and a calming atmosphere. It has recently been enhanced with a lovely framed print - a serene fishing scene - a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Frank Elliott donated by his wife, Claudette. Our sincere appreciation for this very thoughtful gift.

**SEAFORTH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION** gratefully acknowledge recent donations received in loving memory of the late: Fred Glanville, Ann Lansink, Elma Jewitt, Mary Scott, Wes Coombs, Harold Turnbull, Mabel Handy, Jean Ross, Eric Doig, Sean Clark, Annie Staffen, Dorothy Munro, Gordon Miller, Jean McNaughton, Don Crowley, John Patrick, Frank Elliott, Delmer Erb, Spence Scott, Lloyd Riley, Mae Habbkirk, Luella Regele, Isabel Chesney, Mary Nolan, Durl Hopper and Norman Kramers.

**BOSTON "WALK-A-LONG" WINNERS** congratulations to the following staff who are winners of Boston Detroit Red Wings prizes donated by Boyd Devereaux: Pauline Linton, Leona Sharpe, Carol Hunt, Mary Barnes, Kelly Gillis and Sheila Feeney. This was a staff initiative in the "Running for Excellence" Campaign to raise awareness of and funds for the Comprehensive Seniors Health Centre of Excellence planned for Seaforth. Watch for further Centre of Excellence updates in the future.

**CPR/FIRST AID/BABYSITTER COURSES** if you require Standard First Aid certification/recertification, Basic Rescuer CPR or Babysitter Course, please contact the Canadian Red Cross Society, (519) 273-9339.

"Have a safe and happy summer everyone."

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