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since 1954

# The CFFO Newsletter

*Published for members and friends of the  
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario*

Volume 2, No. 4  
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## Our 50-Year Mission Called to Serve



*Editor's Note: As 2004 draws towards a close, we offer you a couple of well-written nuggets from the CFFO's 50 years of archives. They have been selected because they illustrate well a key component of the CFFO perspective: namely, the need to be of service. Browsing through the decades of CFFO policy statements, briefs and media releases you will see the service principle highlighted again and again. Let's make it our prayer throughout 2005 that the CFFO remain faithful in pursuing this time-honoured conviction. J.C.*

"Christian farmers should organize because they have a common base, a common line of thought. Sometimes people get the idea that we are organizing as Christian farmers because of some supposed danger to our Christian principles, to protect ourselves, our common interest, or maybe even the church.

Our Christian community has realized its duty to protect the rights of individuals and certainly the CFFO has a duty here. But in the first place we organize because we have something to **contribute**. Because we feel that our approach is the right one to accomplish our goal --- which is to obtain a fair and just share of the wealth of our country for our agricultural producer and to help him find a meaningful place in the economy and society of our country."

### **CFFO Bulletin, March 1968**

"It is realistic to ask what you get for your membership fee. It is not our intention to give you a return on your investment. You will be well rewarded but not in cash.

CFFO will help you fulfill your responsibilities to society. You can't just accept the benefits that our society provides without accepting responsibility to keep our society free, open and just.

Membership in the CFFO will put you to work in this responsibility.

The CFFO will assist members with specific difficulties but our reason for existence is not that of the ombudsman. We exist to make the lordship of Jesus Christ relevant to agriculture. We all share that responsibility.

Why not work at it together?

The CFFO would like to be the vehicle by which we work at our shared responsibilities in agriculture. Will you join?"

### **The Christian Farmer, Autumn 1981**

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## Permanent Boundaries for Farmland

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario is calling on the province to institute permanent boundaries for farmland.

Ontario's farm families need confidence that the province is planning for the business of farming. However, the province's "Places to Grow" document paints a picture of cities only slowing down in their uptake of prime farmland. That's short sighted because the protection of prime farmland is an important ingredient in creating a prosperous agriculture for Ontario's farm families.

As a result, the CFFO believes the time is right to establish permanent boundaries for farmland. Our organization believes farmers need the confidence such boundaries will produce. Without such boundaries in place, farmers will be far less likely to invest in equipment, livestock facilities and in building the soil. Farm input suppliers will also be less willing to invest.

In its submission to the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal, CFFO recommends a new policy approach in which the provincial government should:

1. Map Ontario's prime farmland and put a boundary around it. The boundary should include specialty cropland, all Class I to III agricultural land as defined by the Canada Land Inventory and some lower classes of land in Eastern and Northern Ontario. This designation needs provincial consistency and should not be left to local planning.
2. Establish policies that make urban expansion into rural lands relatively easy, while expansion into farmland is possible only after municipalities have demonstrated full use of all other growth options, such as redeveloping existing sites to higher densities and cleaning up brownfields.
3. Require that changes in the farmland boundary be allowed only after a public hearing specifically for that purpose. The province should automatically declare a provincial interest in the change.

4. Designate the lands between farmland and urban boundaries as rural land, making these lands available for future urban expansion.
5. Establish a farmland infrastructure development charge on any lands taken out of farming's permanent boundaries. This levy should be a significant amount per acre and should be spent upgrading the infrastructure that sustains and improves the productivity of remaining farmland. The goal should be twofold: improving rural lands to good quality farmland and maintaining farming's productive capacity.

CFFO also proposes changes in other development policies:

1. No expansion of housing if new jobs are not being created in a community.
2. Providing higher levels of provincial support to those municipalities with a history of increasing densities, brownfield redevelopment and shortening the average travel distance to jobs .
3. Setting density and brownfield redevelopment targets for every municipality.
4. Turning over the conservation easements on the Duffins-Rouge Agricultural Preserve to the Ontario Farmland Trust.
5. Planning for a countryside that is a vibrant place to live, visit and do business.

### Housing Severances --- Maybe

For decades the Christian Farmers Federation has had a firm position on severing scattered lots for houses in areas of good farmland. Members have firmly rejected housing severances, citing that it's bad business for farming.

Historically, CFFO's members have viewed scattered severances so negatively that they also rejected the severing of surplus houses. At a recent Provincial Council meeting, the membership voted to modify that blanket rejection of severing surplus houses to one of support under unique circumstances, with specific guarantees.

1. Guarantees that the remaining farmland parcel will have no opportunity to have a house built on it through adding the property to the deed of an adjacent property or by putting an easement prohibiting the building of a house on the title of the property.
2. Guarantees that the existence of the severed house will have no negative impacts on the farming activities and on the use of the farm buildings on the remaining farmland parcel.
3. A local agricultural advisory committee must be convinced that severing houses considered surplus to farming operations is more important to the ongoing farming activities in their municipality than the negative impacts of a severed house on those farming activities.

In adopting the modification to the CFFO's historic position on severances, some members voiced caution because of the ongoing negative effects for farmers from a neighbouring residence in rural areas.

## Policy Briefs

The CFFO has spent a good deal of time developing policy responses to a number of farm commodity issues or consultations spearheaded by the provincial government. Here are some of the issues being tackled, plus the courses of action being pursued.

### Drainage

Earlier this year the provincial government announced it was cutting grants to municipalities to build and maintain municipal outlets for drainage. As a provisional statement, the CFFO pointed out that drainage serves as an essential element of the rural infrastructure and should not be undercut by a lack of investment from the provincial government. The CFFO maintains that the joint efforts of farmers, municipalities and the province has created a well-built web of private and public drainage connections that serves both private interests and the public good. The Federation continues to monitor the situation and will be revisiting it at its January Provincial Council meeting.

### Quota Concerns

The CFFO held a special meeting this autumn to discuss concerns and options regarding the supply

management system. One of the main agenda items for the meeting was a letter sent by the National Farmers Union to the Chicken Farmers of Ontario requesting quota exemptions for small producers. The proposal calls for "an exemption from requiring quota fixed or allotted by the Board of CFO for farmers raising a maximum of 2000 chickens per calendar year and marketing those chickens direct to consumers from the farm where the chicken was raised or from a farmers market stall." The CFFO meeting featured lengthy debates focused on health, safety and traceability, biosecurity concerns, HACCP and associated costs, mandatory regular facility inspections, and public relations with the consuming public. It was decided to refer the issue to the CFFO's poultry committee for further discussion, with the intent of developing a document for discussion at the Federation's Provincial Council. In addition to poultry concerns, the special meeting also featured a discussion on the possibility of using a portion of dairy quota to create a special fund for beginning farmers.

### Pork Countervail

At its autumn meeting, the CFFO pork committee reviewed a countervail action launched by the United States and the resulting anti-dumping charges placed against Ontario hog imports. At the time of this newsletter's publication, the CFFO had planned to participate in a hearing conducted by the Ontario Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal regarding a decision by Ontario Pork to place a fee on each marketed hog. However, the Tribunal decided that pork producers were already well represented by the pork marketing board. The CFFO will continue to monitor the situation and participate as opportunities present themselves.

### Greenbelt Task Force

The CFFO is working towards a response to provincial government recommendations on forming a permanent greenbelt around the Golden Horseshoe. As part of the process, the CFFO featured Mary Lou Garr as a speaker at its September Provincial Council meeting. Mary Lou provided significant input to the province's Greenbelt Task Force.

## Wildlife

The CFFO is working towards a draft policy statement on immediate actions needed to address wildlife issues.

## Framework for the Environment

The CFFO has been concerned for some time about a growing unrest in the countryside. This unrest is reflected in farmer reactions to a growing list of issues: nutrient management, municipal amalgamations, greenbelt legislation, new property assessments and taxation, and more. The CFFO has been calling for a "time out" since January 2003, arguing that Ontario needs a reassessment of the resource management approach it is currently pursuing. And to help provide some guidance on the matter, the Federation is developing a new framework for environmental stewardship. The framework is only in preliminary stages at the time of this newsletter but it will be launched for public review at the CFFO annual convention on November 25.

## CFFO SHIRTS FOR SALE



The East Central Christian Farmers Association has put together an impressive array of CFFO-related clothing for its membership to purchase.

And now it's making that clothing line available to any CFFO members.

Dress shirts are available for \$37.00, sweatshirts are available for \$30.00, golf shirts are available for \$27.00, and T-Shirts are available for \$15.00. Sweatshirts have 20 percent polyester and 80 percent preshrunk cotton, while the other shirts are heavy-quality, preshrunk cotton. All shirts come in sizes small to extra, extra large. The CFFO logo is prominent on the left shoulder of the clothing, while the colour is best described as sandy or earth tone.

If you are interested in receiving any of these items of clothing, please contact Jane Kapteyn of the East Central CFA. Her phone number is 905-342-3131, her fax is 905-342-2751 and her email is [kapteyn@eagle.ca](mailto:kapteyn@eagle.ca). For mailing, add \$7.50 to the order. If ordered on time, Jane will attempt to have clothing at the CFFO's annual convention, or can bring it to the CFFO's Provincial Council meetings.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD BUSINESS



The CFFO Executive Board regularly deals with a wide variety of items regarding the governance of the organization. Over the last few months those items have included:

- Approved a group insurance package for members. The package will be optional for members during 2005.
- Developed and approved a budget for the CFFO operations and activities. The budget moves on to the Federation's Provincial Council for comment and then on to the annual convention for final approval.
- Approved public policy recommendations from a standing Executive Board committee. The committee has been struck to help guide the larger Board on areas requiring CFFO attention regarding public policy development.
- Conducted a facilitated self-review of the Board's performance. The review allows board members to measure how well they are doing against previously agreed-upon performance standards and objectives.
- Agreed to write a letter to the provincial government requesting that the regulation of self-harvested animals on farms be moved to OMAF rather than the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Heard reports from Board members who serve as CFFO representatives to the various agricultural and rural coalitions in which the organization is involved. During discussion on these items, it was agreed to officially join the President's Council, a discussion group spun off from the Agricultural Odyssey Group.
- Heard a presentation from FarmGate5, a new coalition of groups formed to develop support for the maintenance of supply management as an effective tool for delivering stable markets and fair returns to farmers. After the presentation, the CFFO Executive Board officially endorsed FarmGate5.
- Reviewed correspondence from the farm community and heard reports on operational details from staff members

## DISTRICT NEWS



Over the next couple of months, district boards will be planning their meetings for the winter season. Our Manager of Field Services, Martin Oldengarm, will be sending out details about a series of leadership training sessions with district board members, planned for early December and January. The information should be in the hands of local board members shortly after the CFFO's annual convention.

**East Central CFA** will be hosting a meeting in Lindsay featuring Gwen Zellen, Director of OMAF's Food Safety Policy Branch, speaking on the Justice Haines report "Farm to Fork: A Strategy for Meat Safety in Ontario." The report was made public in July.

**Essex CFA** is planning increased activities following the appointment of Ernie Konrad as a Volunteer District Coordinator. Konrad, an apple grower, has extensive experience in the farming community. In addition to experience in facilitation, he is also a local program coordinator for the Environmental Farm Plan, and is involved in pesticide certification courses. Konrad's first task was planning strategy with the district association board for membership development and a more effective presence in Essex county.

**Elgin CFA** recently held its annual autumn banquet, catered by Stover's Cuisine. Those attending were treated to flaming crepes for dessert. They also had a chance to hear CFFO members Ken and Sharon Rounds tell of their first-hand experiences in successfully diversifying their family farm in Simcoe County. The Rounds were named Outstanding Farmers of the Year for 2000.

**Perth CFA** hosted a corn roast & barbeque in early autumn at Arend and Cherilyne Otten's farm, just south of Mitchell. More than 30 members and their families enjoyed good eating, fine fellowship, games, and made new acquaintances.

### **Waterloo-Wellington South-Halton**

A steering committee meeting is scheduled for later this autumn, aiming to develop plans for organizing a new district association for the nearly 150 members in the area.

**Wellington CFA** plans to invite a representative from OMAF to their upcoming autumn membership information meeting for a presentation on nutrient management regulations. The local district now has a newsletter, prepared by Volunteer District Coordinator Jenny Denhartog. In addition to her newsletter duties, Denhartog assists the board in planning events, keeps members informed about local and Federation meetings, and encourages the local membership to participate.

### **Farm Show Update**

Visitors to the CFFO tent at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show near Woodstock, and those who were at the Témiskaming Plowing Match & Farm Show, had fun putting their observation skills to the test by correctly identifying a dozen logos. Prizes included gift certificates for a garden centre, restaurants, hardware and film stores, as well as a woodcarving, a fleece blanket, an original painting, a jacket and binoculars. At the Woodstock show we asked participants to state how they felt about the recently announced cancellation of the municipal drainage grant program by the provincial government. For the Témiskaming show we asked participants to name the Prime Minister of Canada, the Ontario Premier, and the federal and provincial ministers of agriculture. A big thank-you goes to the 'small army' of CFFO member-volunteers. Kicking off the 2005 series of shows, you will see the CFFO booth at the Canadian International Farm & Equipment Show in Toronto, February 8-11.

### **Convention Invitation for New Members**

All first-time CFFO supporters receive a complimentary invitation to the CFFO Annual Convention in London. This is a one-time-only offer for first-time members and supporters. It is a great chance to meet new friends and learn what the CFFO is all about. Here's the deal: we do ask you to register and pay for your own travel costs and overnight accommodations. But the total registration fee of \$100 is on us, thanks in large part to our generous sponsors. Before you decide to pass up being part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, be sure to take another careful look at the convention program included in this newsletter. Call the CFFO office, or your local district president, to see if anyone else from your district plans to attend.



# FarmGate5

*From our home to yours.*

6780 Campobello Road  
 Mississauga, ON L5N 2L8  
 Ph: (905) 319-2434  
 Fax: (905) 319-0493  
 Web: [www.FarmGate5.org](http://www.FarmGate5.org)

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario has long supported the full range of marketing options open to farmers through government legislation. Some producer groups have chosen to utilize more of those options, other producer groups less.

It's in the spirit of honouring those choices that the CFFO has given its support to FarmGate5. The new group was formed by Ontario's dairy and poultry producers and seeks to ensure that the Canadian government secures a balanced international trade deal that benefits all farmers.

FarmGate5 seeks to build a coalition of farmers, agri-food partners, companies, financial institutions, consumer groups, unions, municipal governments, MPPs, MPs and individuals. If you would like to lend your support to the new group, you can do so online at [www.FarmGate5.org](http://www.FarmGate5.org).

## Help celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Donate 50 bushels for 50 years

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario heartily encourages each member to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by donating 50 bushels of corn or grain to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Although the prospect of feeding the world's hungry people is overwhelming, remember that 50 bushels of grain will feed a family of five for one year. In addition, the federal government will match donations on a 4:1 ratio.

You can make a difference through your donation! We plan to celebrate the donations of our members by announcing the total donations at the 2004 CFFO Convention.

#### Here's what you need to do:

1. On your Grain Delivery Ticket from your local elevator add: **'CFFO 50 for 50'** behind your name.
2. Fill in the NET WEIGHT OF GRAIN DONATION with the amount of your choice.
3. Problems with the elevator? Call Dave or Kathryn Mayberry, Ontario coordinators at **519-485-3642**.



### UPCOMING MEETINGS

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL GUELPH	Nov 3, 2004
EXECUTIVE BOARD GUELPH	Nov 10, 2004
STEWARDSHIP & Policy W. GENCOR, GUELPH	Nov 11, 2004
STEWARDSHIP & Policy E. NAPANEE LEGION HALL	Nov 12, 2004
CFFO CONVENTION FOUR POINTS SHERATON ~ LONDON, ON ~	Nov 25 & 26
POULTRY COMMITTEE GUELPH	DEC 9, 2004
SHEEP PRODUCERS MEETING GUELPH	JAN 18, 2005



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since 1954

## CHRISTIAN FARMERS FEDERATION of ONTARIO

### 2004 ANNUAL CONVENTION UPDATE

**DATE:** November 25, 26, 2004, (D.V.)  
**LOCATION:** Four Points Sheraton, London, ON  
**CONVENTION THEME:** "Celebrating 50 Years of Faithfulness"

#### Thursday Program

- \* A concise analysis of the past winter's CFFO seminars, "**Out of an Abundance of Caution**" by Elbert van Donkersgoed.
- \* Interactive Session on **Rethinking the Regulatory Burden Swamping Agriculture** with George Underwood. The draft document: **A Framework for Agricultural/Environmental Regulations** prepared by CFFO's think tanks, will be presented by the CFFO Executive or staff. It will serve as the basis for a facilitated conversation. The framework covers land use, standards of operation, environmental risks, farm plans and environmental payments. Bill van Geest will facilitate.  
**Taking the Next Steps** by Henry Stevens, CFFO Vice-President
- \* Dinner with John Fitzgibbon: **Your Message, My Evaluation**. Fitzgibbon will summarize the message(s) coming out of the afternoon session and reflect on their merits and possibilities.
- \* Evening **Mix 'n Meet** program with CFFO member John Verbinnen's PowerPoint presentation on the successful **Okanagan Gleaners** organization in B.C. The project is a praiseworthy recycling approach to excess farm produce aimed at aiding world hunger relief. An Ontario group has already been started.

#### Friday Program:

- \* Breakfast at 7:45 A.M. at the Hotel.
- \* Brief Business Session: President's Address, Elections for President and Vice-Presidents, Budget for 2005.
- \* Morning Keynote Speaker: Gideon Strauss, Research and Education Director, Christian Labour Association of Canada. Topic: **Christian Farmers have Organized to Engage this Culture. So What? Reflections on this culture and how Christians can be a blessing in the slow, hard, subtle work of cultural engagement.**
- \* **CFFO Moments and Flashbacks** with our Past-Presidents throughout the day.
- \* Spencer Henson: **Facts and Perceptions: Consumers, Food-related Risks and Trade Distortions.** Spencer Henson, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics & Business, University of Guelph. Afternoon Forum with two speakers ~ Spencer Henson & Gideon Strauss. Audience participation.
- \* **Entertainment:** Dean McKillop ~ Red/Green Impersonator
- \* **On Being a Blessing for 50 Years**, an overview by long-time staff member Elbert van Donkersgoed.

#### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet Program:

- \* Our Evening Banquet will help celebrate 50 years of serving farmers. Along with a delicious meal, music will be provided by local professional violinist **Trevor Dick**. Banquet Speaker: **(Rev.) Henry Lunshof**, New Life Christian Reformed Church, Guelph.
- \* Announcement on the status of the **CFFO 50 for 50 Campaign** ~ 50 bushels of corn or grain for 50 years, as donated this year by CFFO members from across the province to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Registration Form - CFFO Convention 2004

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday afternoon Session - NO FEE - Please Register  
 Thursday Evening Dinner \$20.00/person  
 Thursday Evening Social \$10.00/person  
 Friday Breakfast \$10.00/person  
 Friday Convention \$30.00/person  
 Friday Evening Banquet \$30.00/person

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Friday Breakfast \$10.00/person  
 Friday Convention \$30.00/person  
 Friday Evening Banquet \$30.00/person

*Please pre-register before Monday, November 22, 2004*

*Cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed  
Will pay at Convention*

**To pre-register for this year's Convention, please complete the registration form and mail to the CFFO office (address at the bottom of this page) or phone, fax, email or register on-line**

Ph: (519) 837-1620 Fax: (519) 824-1835 email: [cfomail@christianfarmers.org](mailto:cfomail@christianfarmers.org) On-line at [www.christianfarmers.org](http://www.christianfarmers.org)



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**RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO**

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