

MOORE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
HOME OF THE BRIGDEN FAIR – APRIL 2020

# WHAT'S NEW!



In an effort to communicate better, we are working on producing a newsletter on a regular basis (minimum 4 times/year) to ensure that information is available to the MAS membership. We need your input. It has been suggested that the newsletter be emailed to available email addresses but also be available at the fair office to be picked up.



Life has been busy but during this time of self-isolation and physical distancing now is a good time to catch up with the news.

So let's meet the 2020 Board of Directors!

## Executives:

President:	Malcolm Rogers
Past President:	Orrie Wigle
1st Vice President:	Kathy Myers
2nd Vice President:	Jason VanEsse
Administrative Co-ordinator:	Nancy Brown
Financial Co-ordinator:	Rachel Roddick

Homecraft President:	Michelle Evanitski
Past President:	Connie Courtney
1st Vice President:	Cheryl McGuire
2nd Vice President:	Barbara Rogers
Secretary:	Marilyn Shaw
Treasurer:	Norma Jean White

## Directors:

Donna DeGurse	Alison Dion
Michelle Evanitski	Eldon Krohn
Kathy Myers	Lori Ouellette
Malcolm Rogers	Alvin Scott
John Scott	Jerika Shepley
Ken Taylor	Curtis Vandendool
Eric VanDommelen	Jason Van Esse
Tammy Warner	Orrie Wigle

## 2020 MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

\$10.00 – Deadline extended

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



### Welcome to 2020

#### What Lies Ahead?

About 4 weeks ago I started to hand deliver letters to our local businesses in Brigden telling them about bookings that the Fairgrounds had for this year. Our hope was this would bring a lot of people to town and hopefully boost our economy, and that of the Region.

Little did I know what was about to happen – COVID – 19. My hopes and aspirations about our growth for the next 4 months were to be shattered. Am I disappointed? YES! Am I broken? NO! This is a setback that has meant a change in lifestyle for all of us. Are we going to beat this? YES! Are we prepared to move ahead and address the challenges that face us? YES! We had to close the Fairgrounds office and lay off staff. Will they be back? YES! Once this has passed, they will be ready to face the work load, that will be ahead of them, in order to be prepared for the 170<sup>th</sup> Fair. Will there be a Fair? YES! YES! YES!

Where does it go from here? AHEAD! MAS had a very ambitious renovation program planned for this year. Some of it will be completed - not everything as planned. But a lot of the essential projects will be completed. One of these essential projects that had been started was the upgrading of the sewer line into to Ploughman's Kitchen. This will be completed as this kitchen is a very important part of the Fair. It feeds all our volunteers.

Now what about you. What have you been doing during your time in solitary confinement? Perhaps you put those hidden skills to work and prepared an item to exhibit at the Fair – good for you. Ever thought about volunteering? The Fairgrounds are a great place to do that, and for students, those hours can add up quickly. Maybe you thought about sharing your skills and running for the Board of Directors. It takes a team to run a Fair. Do you think you would like to be a member of such a team? If you haven't purchased your membership yet, don't be concerned as we have extended the shut off date by at least 2 months. Watch our website for updates on that. [www.brigdenfair.ca](http://www.brigdenfair.ca)

MAS has a Board of sixteen Directors who are all very ambitious, team players, dedicated and determined to put all their efforts into ensuring that we have a well-planned Fair. This pandemic has slowed

us down, but it can't be allowed to stop us. We have had snow, hail, rain, fog and great weather at Fair time. It didn't matter, the Fair went ahead as it will again this year.

"HAT'S OFF TO YOU BRIGDEN". You have been a great host community for 169 years.

This year won't be any different, 2020 will be a great year.

Stay safe – Stay healthy – Help flatten the curve.

I am looking forward to seeing each and everyone of you at the Fair.

Malcolm

### A Well Oiled Machine!

As Malcolm has stated, we have an ambitious, dedicated board of directors, but to top that off, we are blessed to have an amazing group of seasoned and experienced volunteers that can make miracles happen while embracing the energy and enthusiasm of our new volunteers.

Once the restrictions are removed and the virus has been controlled, we are well positioned to get back on track and make the upcoming fair fantastic. Each year we "tweak" our proven template of what works, what traditions are important and what innovations are affecting our industry. Covid-19 has handed us a blip on our planning schedule but as on many other occasions, we rise up as a team, working together to overcome adversity and ultimately achieving greatness.

Two years ago, we could not have imagined having a fair without use of the parking lot – but thanks to the community – we overcame this hurdle.

During this time of physical distancing, it has given us a chance to slow down and re-evaluate what is important in our lives – family and tradition! We are spending more quality time with our "household roommates" and using our hours to call or email family and friends to touch base. We are working on fair exhibits, finishing those procrastinator projects, pulling out "comfort food" recipes, and interacting with each other from a safe distance. I expect our entries to be higher this year with parents looking for things for their children to do and the rest of us having time to work on all those creative projects.

Through Social Media, we are seeing more acts of gratitude and photos of happy times. So with this in mind, stay safe, physical distance and together we will overcome this challenge and 2020 will provide us all with a new vision of family, community and the future.

Take care and thank you for being a part of our Well Oiled Machine!

Michelle

VOL NTEER  
all that's missing is U!



So since our last newsletter we have accomplished a lot and had a great time doing it! Here are some of our achievements thanks to all our volunteers! A picture is worth a thousand words!

Last May, we survived a huge celebration of mothers at the Mother's Day Brunch.

Unfortunately this year, the Brunch has had to be cancelled until 2021.



Along with scheduled fair planning, the Exhibition hall was the scene of a beautiful



wedding and the Brigden Public School Grade 8 Graduation.

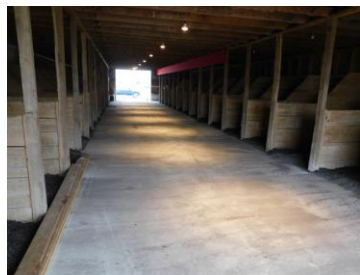
We also were busy preparing for our exciting July Event and for fair! With the assistance of a grant from the Judith and Norman Alix Foundation, many projects were completed to ensure accessibility for all our patrons!







Once again, thanks to our many volunteers, we were able to host the RCMP Musical Ride. Thank you to Dennis Robinson and Julie Maw for spearheading this.







Brigden Fair had the opportunity to celebrate Canada Day nine days late this year. Canada's World Renowned RCMP Musical Ride thundered into Brigden for two performances on July 10.

The event featured 34 horse and rider pairs, who demonstrated expert horsemanship while executing intricate maneuvers. These maneuvers included the wagon wheel, cloverleaf, pin wheel, demonstration in the use of the lance each rider carries and the crowd pleaser, THE CHARGE!

The group was led by S/M Martin Kohen and his horse, Brent. They have directed over 500 performances across Canada, North America and performed before Queen Elizabeth in England. The riders had representation from each Province and are on a two year assignment when they join the Musical Ride. After the two year tenure the constables return to active duty across Canada.

The riders took up positions around the show ring to greet members of the audience and answer questions. Many people inquired about the horses, which are bred at the Remont Detachment near Pakenham, Ontario. All the black horses chosen for the performance ring are 16 to 17 hands tall and weigh between 525 kg. to 635 kg. The stallions are thoroughbreds and the mares are part thoroughbred. The horses are raised and trained at Remont and usually join the Ride when they are 5 or 6 years old. The horses are matched with a rider for their two year tenure.

The 2019 Musical Ride Tour is appearing at over 40 locations in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and Northwest Territories, as well as Kentucky and Massachusetts. The riders travel by highway coach while the horses travel in three highway tractor trailers in tie stalls. The tack and equipment follow in one highway tractor trailer van. Brigden came alive when they rolled into town on July 9.

St. Clair Mechanical was the joint sponsor with Brigden Fair to present the RCMP Musical Ride as a family oriented community event, affordable to everyone. The two performances attracted 5300 people. S/M Kohen and the riders were pleasantly surprised at the size of the crowd. The RCMP were served a roast beef dinner with the trimmings by the Catering Committee between performances. They remarked that it was the first home cooked meal served to them on tour. Brigden Hospitality at its finest!

Two local Veterans of the Second World War took the salute from S/M Kohen at the afternoon performance, Mr. Donald Isaac, Walpole Island First Nation and Mr. Jack Adamson, Port Lambton. They were honored with the experience and Brigden Fair was honored to have them present and give back a thank you to them for their service to Canada and the Community.



Deb Vandendool and Family took the salute from S/M Kohen at the evening performance. Deb was a Cancer Victim and has been instrumental in raising funds for ACT NOW, a Charitable Organization based out of London raising funds for cancer patients that can not afford treatments. Deb and her family have helped raise funds at two local charity functions and have seen patients in London Hospital benefitting from the treatments. The crowd was canvassed for donations to ACT NOW and collectively with Brigden Fair a donation of \$5300.00 was made to ACT NOW. Deb Vandendool lost her battle with Cancer August 17, 2019. Thank you Deb for the memories and to the Brigden Community for your generosity!







There was not a lot of time to relax as before July was completed we were working on the many preparations for the Brigden Bluegrass and Country Jamboree spreading over August Civic Weekend. Volunteers were busy with close to 100 recreational trailers, Diner lunch counter, Beef Dinner, Nightly Jamborees, Banana Split Night, Arts & Craft Show, Brigden and Wilkesport United Church Yard Sales, Campout Breakfast and Gospel Sing.



## 2019 – 2020 Ambassador Contest



Two weddings were celebrated in August.

## Canadian National Exhibition



2018-19 Ambassador Eve Pettit represented Moore Agricultural Society at the Canadian National Exhibition on August 18.



The Ambassador contest is a way to spotlight the many future young leaders in our community. Please encourage individuals both female and male to be a part of this group. There are many activities for all to assist with during the year.





Melody Riedl was chosen as our 2019-2020 Brigden Fair Ambassador.



Melody was quickly put to work as she represented MAS at the Chatham-Kent Agricultural Safety Day at the Chatham Children's Safety Village only days after the crowning.



And the work began in earnest.... With soup and pastry making days, the fair kitchen was humming.... We had some adjustments to make with set ups with the retirement of Brenda and Mark of Par-Tee Rentals but persevered.



**BRIGDEN FAIR!!!! YEAH!!!!**



Mother Nature gave us some ups and downs but we all came together to make it happen.



Exhibitors responded favourably to the schedule changes.



Pies and Homemade Soup were big sellers as the ladies scrambled to replenish supplies.

There were lots of great events that took place and too numerous to document. Check out [www.brigdenfair.ca](http://www.brigdenfair.ca) for assorted pictures or the Brigden Facebook page. The Pie Auction was great success.



Our Ambassador was the Overall winner of the pie eating contest!



AND THE WINNER of the 2019 Brigden Fair Homecraft Division Quilt Raffle was Helen Rankin! Congratulations!

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Brigden Fair Harvest of Gold 50/50 Raffle Winner was Mike Smith.

## OBBA AWARD NIGHT



Moore Agricultural Society was proud to be a part of the Outstanding Business Achievement Awards presented by Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce. Our organization was chosen the 2019 recipient of the Outstanding Business Achievement Award for Agri-Business! Thank you to everyone who thru their dedication and enthusiasm helps us to work diligently all year long with many agriculturally based events to keep rejuvenating and expanding the agricultural side of the fair experience.

Moore Agricultural Society is very aware of its impact on the local community, both socially and economically, and strives to provide facilities and events for the area and the various demographics. Having the characteristics of a good friend, good neighbour, and good citizen is important to Moore Agricultural Society.

As an Agri-Business, our success comes from our ability to work, in combination with, and to support many of the other nominees in this category. By striving to buy local and to promote our neighbouring businesses across Sarnia Lambton, this makes us all stronger as we grow together and build our industry with passion. When we work together with a plan and clear vision, we are all winners.

MAS President Malcolm Rogers, Homecraft President Michelle Evanitski and Homecraft 2nd VP Barbara Rogers were on hand to accept this award. Honestly we were very surprised and honoured to be nominated by an anonymous individual and it was very exciting yet humbling to hear "Moore Agricultural Society" called out as the winner of this award.

## THANK YOU FARM CREDIT AGRI SPIRIT



Moore Agricultural Society received a grant from Farm Credit Corporation (FCC AgriSpirit) to help with roof repairs to the Administration Building.





A successful Demolition Derby took place the Saturday after Bridgen Fair.



Just because Fair is over.... It doesn't mean that things slow down.....

The Winter Series of the Country Jamborees started on Sunday, November 10.

Doors open at 12 noon and music starts at 1 p.m. Cash bar. Ham and Scalloped potato dinner at 5. Dinner tickets (\$12) at the door. \$5 cover charge if you are just coming for the music and fellowship. Bring your partner, your dancing shoes and your love of music. Musicians welcome.

#### APPRECIATION NIGHT 2019



Another great year with lots of youth volunteers.



President Malcolm Rogers presents the OAAS Meritorious Service Award to Jackie South.

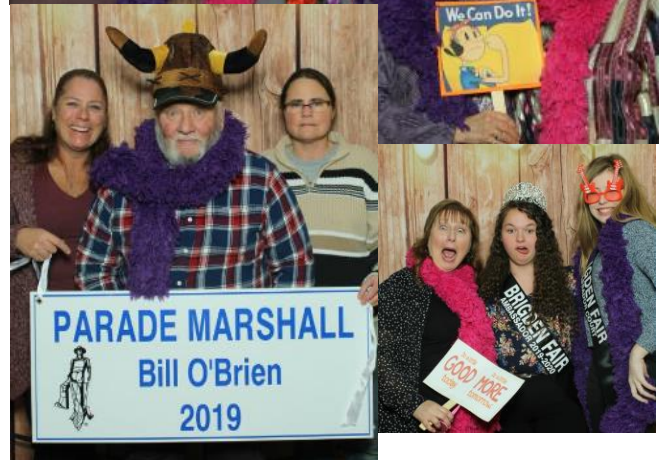
Parade Marshall Bill O'Brien receives a certificate of appreciation from President Malcolm Rogers.







Many of the volunteers took advantage of the Photo Booth.











Along with Appreciation Night, Moore Agricultural Society also sponsored the 4-H Achievement Night in November.



December was a little quieter in 2018 with the monthly Jamboree and then a break until after Christmas!



The start of a new decade and definitely a year of change and uncertainty!





Meetings, Meetings and more meetings!  
January always starts off with meetings.

January 16 - The **Homecraft General Meeting** was held in the Exhibition Hall with a fantastic meal served by the Black Goose. A fun activity took place with everyone involved to help choose the upcoming fair themes. The winning themes in order are 1) Aprons & Overalls; 2) Country Roots & Rubber Boots; 3) Homegrown, Homemade & Farm Fresh; and 4) Thru the Fair Gate. Next year's meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2021 in the Ex Hall and the Black Goose Restaurant will once again be asked to cater our meal.

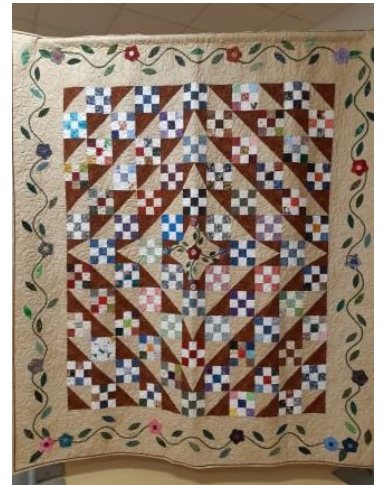
This year's quilt is called Stars in the Valley and was created from blocks made by many of our members and put together and quilted by Kathy Scott and Marie Gorton. Thank you Girls!

Tickets are now on sale - \$2@ or 3/\$5

2020 Convention Delegates included: Cheryl McGuire, Marie Gorton, Barbara Rogers and Michelle Evanitski.

It was also decided to sponsor Cooking Buddies for the January – April sessions. This is a club for our young people to learn how to handle themselves in the kitchen. At each session, they make an appetizer, main dish, drink and dessert.

January 18 – **Moore Agricultural Society Annual General Meeting** took place. This year it was decided to hold an afternoon meeting in order to beat any weather issues. Mother Nature likes to keep us on our toes!



hello february

Even though February had 29 days this year, it seemed like there weren't enough days to get everything done! Our great volunteers and flexible renters helped us to make it all happen!

Agris Co-op Farmers Meeting & Dinner attendees were amazed at the decorations for their event.

Thank you to the decorators for the Lambton County Development Services Valentine's Auction that would take place 2 days later for decorating early! They were also gracious and left the decorations up for the Valentine's Jamboree which took place the day after the Auction! Four days later, a contingent of delegates struck off for Richmond Hill to absorb new ideas for upcoming fairs at the OAAS Convention. Attendees included (Homecraft & MAS): Nancy Brown; Lacey Eramo; Michelle Evanitski; Marie Gorton; Brenda Maw; Devon & Taylor Maw; Cheryl & Peter McGuire; Melody Riedl; Malcolm & Barbara Rogers; Jerika Shepley, Harold & Mona May Thompson.

A surprise was in store for Brigden Fair when we were awarded the 2019 Fair of the Year by World's Finest Shows!

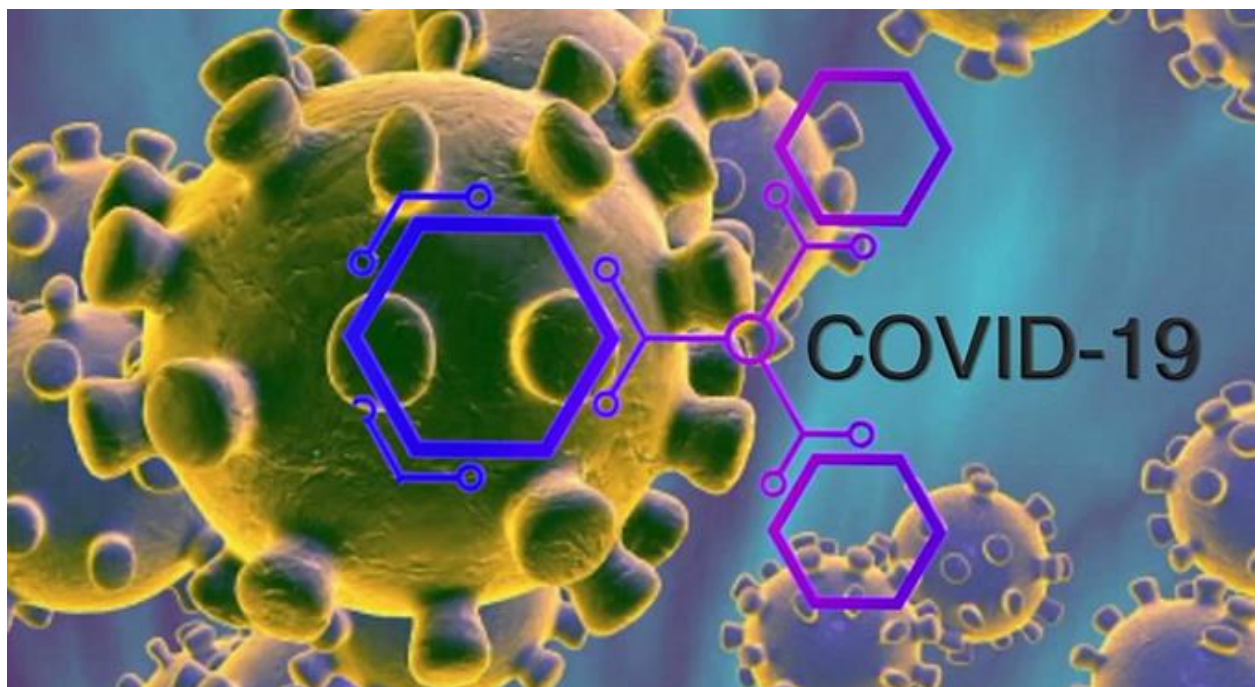






Well March started off with a great Quarter Auction supporting some local athletes. A successful Jamboree was celebrated for “everyone is a little bit Irish”. Annual Beef Dinner ticket sales were progressing well. Harvest of Gold 50/50 tickets were ready to go!

**AND THEN.....**





# Corona Virus Rocked Our World as we know it!

## But we have not panicked!

As you all know, workplaces were closed and all events were postponed or cancelled. Times are changing.....

The **Beef Dinner** has been cancelled until Further Notice and individuals have been asked to hold on to their tickets. Ticket money can be dropped off at the fair office Mail Slot. Currently Nancy is not in the office and Rachel is looking after our financial needs remotely. A decision will be made at a later when the dinner will be rescheduled to.

Prior to the Virus taking hold of our plans, we would like to thank the Homecraft Division for purchasing new chairs and racks for the Exhibition Hall. These are much more comfortable, easier to handle and we look forward to when we can debut them. A team came together of Peter & Cheryl McGuire, Jack Font, Bruce Brown, Malcolm Rogers, Ross Pettit and Michelle Evanitski to dismantle any of the chairs that were broken and dispose of the unusable pieces.

To keep you up to date, a few bookings including the two brunches, two banquets, Air Stream Campout, Ladies Night Quarter Auction have been cancelled. Some weddings and banquets are still in a "wait and see" mode and we are keeping in contact with them.

**Storage Removal** is going well with renters booking appointment times to pick up their items and social distancing being maintained.

**4-H Ontario** has gone online! During this time, they may not be able to participate in club activities as they normally would have but that doesn't mean they can't get the 4-H experience from home! Youth can continue to obtain project completion credits through our provincial online explore 4-H project but also through virtual clubs in their association.

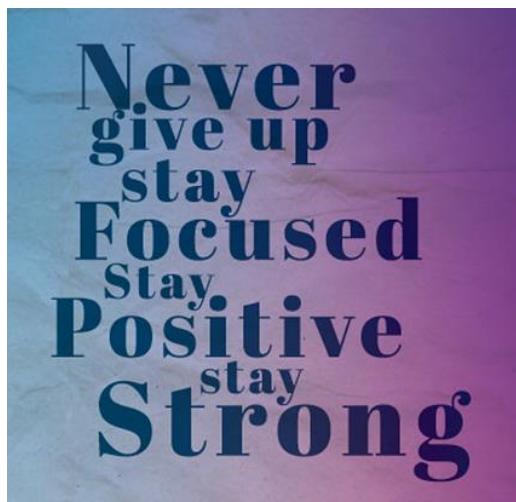
**The Beacon** has gone digital so you will need to check it out at the St. Clair Township webpage for upcoming events and cancellations.

Planning for the **Bluegrass and Country Jamboree Weekend** is still in place but again we are waiting to see what the Province and the safety of our volunteers and patrons will allow.

**Children's Safety Village** – As you all remember, we have had a number of membership meetings concerning the Lambton Children's Safety Village being built at the Brigden Fairgrounds. We regret to let the membership know that the Safety Village committee has advised us that they will be closing their doors. They feel that with the new regulations about the virus, it would be impossible for them to go further. As Mary Ann Buntrock stated, "we are going to be living in a different world and one that the priority of people will be changing. All avenues will be difficult for us from social distancing, busing and fundraising – all these we cannot do. Schools will be run different too and it will take time to make these changes." The decision was very hard for the committee and they would like to thank Moore Agricultural Society for our support. They would like to continue to be a part of the Brigden Fair Family.

Moore Agricultural Society would also like to thank them for all their work in trying to bring the project to fruition but understand the difficulties at this time.

### Additional Updates



Although things have slowed down at the fairgrounds and meetings have been cancelled, Presidents Malcolm and Michelle have been busy lobbying our government representatives including MP Marilyn Gladu, MPP Bob Bailey, Minister of Agriculture Ernie Hardeman, and Senator Rob Black on how lost revenues will be disastrous for the future of agricultural societies. They have been working with CAFÉ (Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions) and OAAS (Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies), completing surveys and providing financial projections. If you have been following the financial programs being provided by the Federal and Provincial Governments, many ag societies (especially those who own their own property) are not eligible. The Presidents are questioning whether grants will be available to supplement these lost revenues. Brigden Fair is very fortunate that we were able to postpone some maintenance projects that had been planned for 2020 but there are many fairboards across the province that are fearful of the future.

Major decisions have not been made at this time and we continue to hope that the virus curve will be flattened and life will return to a "somewhat" familiar place. We have continued to apply for grants.... Just in case!



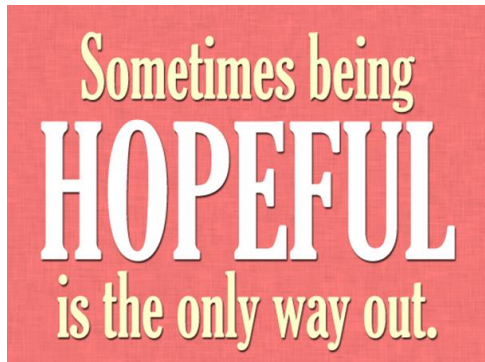


### THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!!!!

MAS appreciates all our volunteers and our sponsors. We recently received this great news from **Shell Community Service Fund**.

On behalf of the Shell Community Service Fund program, we are pleased to support the Moore Agricultural Society with a donation of \$1,000 in recognition of **Chelsea Jennings' & Devon Maw's** volunteer efforts at your organization.

At Shell, we believe supporting the communities where we operate is not only important to our stakeholders, but also the right thing to do as a responsible corporate citizen. That's why we encourage our employees and retirees to volunteer their time in their communities and apply for grants of up to \$1,000 for the not-for-profit organizations they care so much about.



**VENDORS WANTED for the Brigden Market** to be held at the Brigden Fairgrounds (2435 Courtright Line) on Saturday, Aug 1. For interested vendors, more details available by email at [finance@brigdenfair.ca](mailto:finance@brigdenfair.ca) or Alison Dion ([Alison.Dion@brigdenfair.ca](mailto:Alison.Dion@brigdenfair.ca)) Don't delay. Reserve your space now. We are hoping that this event may still take place!

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**Homcraft Quilt Raffle Tickets**  
**Are now on Sale but wait till social distancing is lessened to get your tickets! \$2 @ or 3/\$5**

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**While we are self-distancing,  
let's take a look back .....**

You might remember or recognize a lot of the scenes and people in this video from 1981. Lots of laughs to be seen!

You need to put the following in the "https line at the top of your computer screen to get the u-tube video to come up or if you have Facebook - go to the Brigden Fair Facebook page. See if you can spot one of our current directors.....

<https://youtu.be/9pRznNRCRMo>





**Stay Strong... we will get through all this uncertainty!!!  
It's gonna be OK!**







So there is your recap for the past year!!!

It has been busy and we are sure that we have missed something.

Moore Agricultural Society has lost a number of amazing volunteers over the past year and our condolences go out to their families and friends. They will be missed!!!!

Stay tuned as we weather thru this time of uncertainty.

