



Perth County Federation of Agriculture

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Gala kicks off Perth Holstein Club's 100 Anniversary celebrations



One hundred years ago, a group of progressive Holstein dairy cattle breeders in Perth County got together to form the Perth County Holstein Club. In 2017 this historic milestone will be celebrated throughout the county, beginning with the Perth County Holstein Club's 100th Anniversary Gala. This semi-formal event is taking place on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at the Stratford Rotary Complex Community Hall, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford.

Past and present Holstein enthusiasts, dairy farm business suppliers, and agricultural dignitaries are encouraged to attend. The wine and cheese social begins at 6:30 p.m., and a buffet dinner will be served at 7:45 p.m. A unique anniversary program and entertainment will follow. Organizers are expecting 450 to 500 people will attend this evening of socializing, reminiscing and browsing historical displays in a vintage décor setting.

Tickets are \$50 per person (advance sales only – deadline is Friday, March 10, 2017). If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact the Perth County Holstein Club Secretary Sandra Jordan: 519-272-2385 or infopchc@gmail.com.

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DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, February 15
7:30 p.m.
Rostock Hall Board Room
Rostock

The Perth County Holstein Club currently consists of 347 members throughout the county. An active non-profit consisting of nine directors and a secretary-treasurer, the club organizes annual social, educational, and competitive events. These activities focus on encouraging and supporting progressive Holstein breeding, farm management and

youth in the dairy industry. Members also benefit from programs and services offered by their affiliation with the Holstein Ontario and Holstein Canada organizations.

For more information contact Tara Reynolds, 2017 Perth County Holstein Club President, Cell: 519-444-4635
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CRTC gets it right: farmers need high speed internet access

**By Pat Jilesen, Director
Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

Broadband internet access is a fundamental necessity for conducting business today, no matter where you are located. The recent Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) ruling couldn't have come at a better time for Ontario farmers, rural residents and business owners. In December 2016, the CRTC ruled that broadband access internet service is now considered a basic telecommunications service for all Canadians. The evidence used by the CRTC included the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's (OFA) 2015 survey of members on internet requirements.

OFA has been saying rural Ontario needs reliable high speed internet for years, advocating for equal access to broadband for Ontario's rural communities and are pleased with the announcement.

The CRTC ruling also included a solution to extend broadband access across the country. The commission announced a new funding program of up to \$750 million over five years on top of existing government programs to extend services to rural and remote areas across Canada. These new funds will go a long way to bring Ontario rural residents, farms and businesses the basic telecommunications services necessary to be a part of today's digital economy. The CRTC also set a minimum standard, ruling that broadband internet with download speeds of at least 50 megabits per second (Mbps) and upload speeds of

at least 10 Mbps will now be considered a "basic telecom service."

Here in Ontario, the provincial and federal governments have already committed \$180 million to fund the SouthWestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) program, expanding high speed internet across rural Ontario. The SWIFT program was a start, and the CRTC's new funding program will secure the extension of broadband across the province.

Healthy, thriving communities – rural and urban – rely on broadband access for economic development, communication and knowledge sharing, searching for employment, access to resources, health information and so much more. In its report, the CRTC stated 82 per cent of Canadians already have access to high download and upload speeds, but they aren't common in rural and northern areas.

The new ruling on access and minimum high speed standards will deliver a vital service to Ontario communities, residents, businesses and farmers. Access to high speed internet and the implementation of expansion across Ontario and Canada requires infrastructure development. It will take time before everyone is able to benefit from the CRTC's new ruling. We know our members have been patient and are now eager to see this new program roll out. OFA will continue to work with the government to formalize this plan and see Ontario farmer's access the necessary high speed broadband we need. ◇

* The Rural Voice is provided to OFA Members in Perth County by the PCFA.