



REUNION

TIMES | YOUR CLASS
NEWSLETTER

OAC 79 Spring 2023 Newsletter

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Alumni Reunion Weekend
June 23-25, 2023

For information on events visit
alumni.uoguelph.ca

QUESTIONS?

Contact Cassandra Barden,
Engagement Manager, OAC
cbarden@uoguelph.ca
226-821-5466

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Update your contact info. Send
your updated email address to
alumnirecords@uoguelph.ca

Hello to fellow OAC 79's! The calendar and clocks have turned to spring; we hope this finds you well, and enjoying 2023 to date. This newsletter contains information on our upcoming summer reunion, a report on PEBUFA 2022, an update on the HBRC project and our HBRC fundraising campaign, news regarding OAC 150th Celebrations, and some classmate updates as well.

OAC 79 Summer 2023 Reunion

Date- Sunday June 25, 2023

Hosts- Ron and Wendy Marshall, 455259 45th Line, RR #3, Woodstock

Time- gather starting around 12:00 noon, with lunch at 1:00 pm and tour to follow.

Lunch- Ron and Wendy will supply meat/buns, plates etc. Please bring an appetizer/ munchies/salad or dessert for potluck. BYOB and lawn chairs. As usual, we will take up a collection to cover our host's costs.

RSVP- by June 11 to Barb at bm1parker@gmail.com or 519-856-9255

Ron and Wendy and their son, Laurence, and daughter-in-law, Marja DeBoer-Marshall operate Golspie Dairy, Oxford's newest cheese producer (2022). Cheesemaker Marja specializes in British-style cheeses and fresh dairy products, all made with milk from their family's dairy cows, and on offer from their store, on their 5th generation dairy farm. They also offer white and chocolate milk and cheese from vending machines.

Ron and Wendy look forward to welcoming OAC 79's to their family operation. Note-The store will be closed, but milk will be available from their vending machines. Tap or toonies accepted.

Check out the Oxford County Cheese Trail Map and perhaps make a weekend of it, enjoying the featured stops in the Ingersoll/Woodstock area.



IMPROVE LIFE.

PEBUFA 2022

An enthusiastic group of OAC 79's gathered at the Finkle Street Tap & Grill in Woodstock, on Nov 19, 2022, with many returning home through what would turn out to be the first of many snow storms of the winter of 2022-23! As usual, great food and conversation was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Hadley for organizing this gathering and to Kim and Sue for recommending the venue.

Let us know if you have any favorite restaurants you would recommend for our next PEBUFA.

OAC 150th Celebrations

OAC will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary, for a full year from May 2024 to May 2025. Mark your calendars for Alumni Weekend June 21-23 of 2024. Our class will join in the celebrations and as a feature year, mark the 45th Anniversary of our graduation. Hadley and I invite anyone interested to join us in planning this special reunion event.

Honey Bee Research Center Update

From Shannon Fawns, Development Manager, OAC Alumni Affairs & Development | University of Guelph

The planning for this new iconic facility started in 2017, with a design charrette - gathering over 30 individuals and stakeholders to consider what a dream facility for the Honey Bee Research Centre would include. While they have achieved great things in their antiquated bungalow, a purpose built facility would be dramatically different.

In 2018 a design competition was launched, and Moriyama & Teshima Architects were selected as the design firm. Since then 2 different sites, and many different design iterations were considered. They have landed on a beautiful design, and a optimal site that can be integrated with the renowned Arboretum on campus.



During this time a fundraising campaign was launched with events in Toronto and Montreal. Since then an incredible \$12.1M has been raised from over 380 unique donors. Including an additional verbal gift confirmation of \$800,000, a funding gap of just over \$3M remains.

Having raised over 75% of funding, approvals were sought from the UofG Board of Governors to move forward with the project. In Fall of 2022 the project was granted the green light. Within the last two weeks a construction management firm was awarded the build contract. The building permit application has been completed, site plan approvals are being considered and tree removal and site prep will start in the coming months. It's a tremendously exciting time for all involved.

A ground-breaking will take place in late spring or early summer, and the build is anticipated to take 18 months. The Ontario Agricultural College's will be celebrating its 150th anniversary, and we hope to integrate a grand opening event into our year long celebration.

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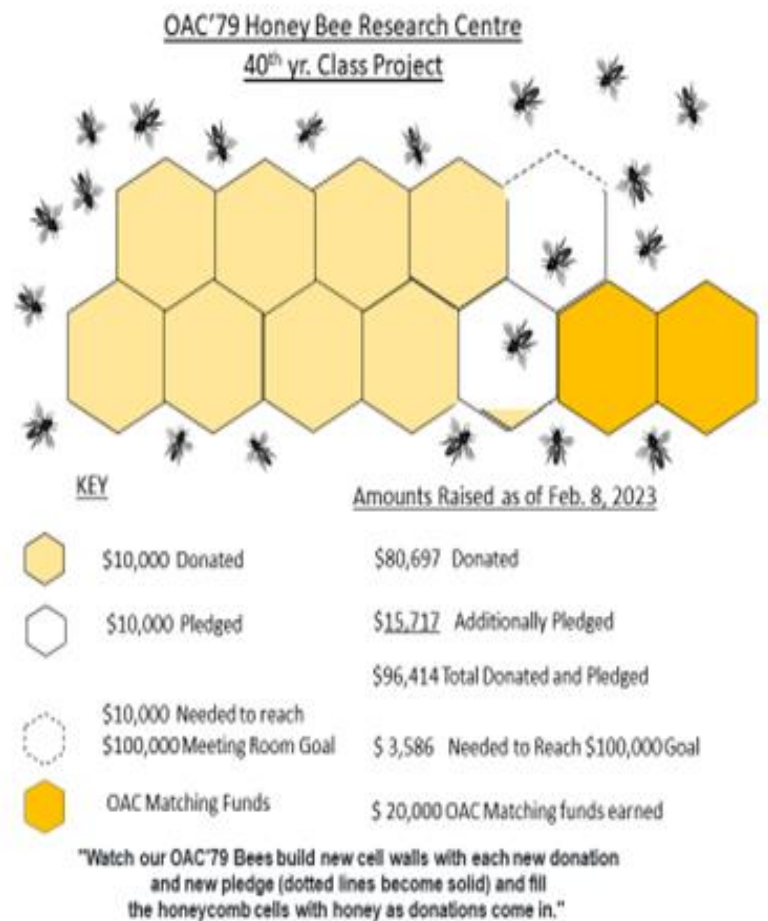
Signage on Stone Road near Victoria Road

OAC 79 HBRC Fundraising Campaign

We are “beelighted” to report that as of Feb 8, 2023 our class project has raised \$96,414 in donations and pledges, which is 96.5% of our \$100,000 target! We hope to reach our target over a year ahead of time, and to provide an exciting update at our summer reunion! Thank you to everyone for your contributions. We were able to 'harvest" all of the \$20,000 OAC matching dollars that "were on the table". We are just \$2,087 away from our \$100,000 goal so if you have been waiting to help us "go over the top" now is your time to shine with your donation!

Q Why did all the bees avoid the guy at the party who kept talking about himself?

A. He wouldn't stop droning on...



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Class Updates

Joel Bagg/Edgelea Jerseys

From the December 2022 Canadian Jersey Breeder magazine:



Joel Bagg receiving recognition on behalf of his family & Edgelea Jerseys for 100 years at the Royal. Presenting the award to Joel is Ari Ekstein, Co-Chair, RAWF Agriculture & Food Committee, Theo Elshof and Jersey Canada President, Guillaume Dumais.

Terry and Barb Laidlaw: “cows are gone, and grandchildren numbers are climbing (7). Terry is pastoring at a Georgetown Baptist Church. Laidlaw family is in our 76th year of selling apples at Guelph Farmers Market.”

Rod Lewis and Allison Murray-Lewis: “still in Mount Albert (The known centre of the Aggie Universe)”, and now producing honey and garlic!

Liz and Reg Samis: have 5 grandchildren, assisting son-in-law on farm, and living near Elmira. Involved in tree planting in townships, helping school kids learn how to plant trees. Had car accident in spring (2022) but both of us recovering. Thankful.”

Allan Cunningham and Lois Nolan: “2 grandsons, 2 &4, visited with Sarah in Calgary, sons Jessie and Drew are both in Ontario. Out of livestock and straight cash cropping, soybeans, corn and wheat”

Dave and Maureen Jenkins: “enjoying retirement, took trip of a lifetime to South Africa and Zimbabwe, saw and photographed the Big Five on Safari. Son Evan, still in Olds, Alberta and enjoying the Western lifestyle. We spent 2 weeks in October out west. Cash cropping soy/corn/wheat and with great neighbours (custom operator) can even be away during planting and harvest (not intentionally). Busy September with Childhood Cancer. Continue with Awareness Month, sponsored a lawn sign campaign as a fund-friend raiser for Child Can in London. Continue with flag raisings in Elgin, Chatham-Kent, Huron counties and gold ribbon pins worn by Ontario MPP’s in legislature”.

Paul and Diane Reeds: “20 years married (yes seem like a rookie to some of you). Enjoying our place on Sturgeon Lake, east of Lindsay. Diane is retired this past year and Paul is working part time to keep her liquor supply adequate. Paul is helping manage 25 large sheep operations to seek new markets and better organize. 4 kids are in Toronto, Guelph, Edmonton and St. Louis, so lots of great visits planned. 3 grandchildren to spoil. Wonderful to connect with OAC 79 and appreciate the many who stay connected and passionate about the agriculture industry. Don’t Ever Stop! It’s too important.”

Ivan and Brenda DeJong: “Nestleton, still farming, cash crops, transitioning business to next generation, finishing in Jan 2024. Brenda volunteers at church and helping out with grandkids. Looking forward to more travels, maybe new hobbies and volunteer opportunities.

That’s all for now
Barb and Hadley

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