

**Provincial Directors Report  
Andrew Iceton  
District 4 Spring Meeting - April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



On behalf of your entire District 4 Executive I would like to thank each and every one of you for all of your hard work during this very difficult time. It has been great hearing all the amazing ideas from our Agricultural Societies with what you are planning for 2021. It has been a pleasure serving as your Provincial Director for the last 6 months and I am looking forward to all of the amazing events you have planned in the coming months. Below I have made a few notes from the Provincial Board that I would like to share with everyone.

**1. Convention Review:**

- 639 Registered Delegates (700-800 Participants)
- Delegates attended over 5,100 live and recorded seminars since February 15<sup>th</sup>; over 1,200 Quick Talk & Tips and viewed over 3,600 Entertainment Showcase videos.
- Comments from the Virtual Convention were very positive and many people commented on how much they liked the option to go back and see the recorded versions later.

**2. 2022 Convention:**

- Room reservations will be available starting May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 from 8:30am – 4:30pm. The time frame is due to the current staffing levels at the Sheraton Parkway hotel. Remember to watch the OAAS Website and Facebook page for more details.
- 2022 Convention Dates: February 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Location: Sheraton Parkway North Hotels & Suites. For hotel reservations please call (905)-881-2121.

**3. District Zoom Account:**

- District 4 has renewed our Zoom Account for 2021. The zoom account can be used by any of our District 4 Agricultural Societies. To set up a meeting please contact your District Director and they will be able to set up and start the meeting for you.

**4. Spring OAAS Webinars:**

- The OAAS is planning on holding a series of webinars similar to the ones that were held last spring. We are looking at offering a similar webinar to a couple of the most popular Convention webinars around “COVID 19 Risk Management,” “Re Opening Plan for Fairs and events and “ Safe processes and procedures to hold your fair competitions”
- If you have any other ideas for topics please email them to the OAAS Manager or myself.

**5. Provincial Competitions:**

- Since not all fairs will be able to compete in the District and Provincial Competitions again this year, the board made the decision to cancel the OAAS Competitions at the 2022 Convention.

**6. Delay Judges Requirements deadline until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023:**

- With the continued public health stipulations due to the pandemic, we don't expect that any judging schools will be held before the fall. Because of this, the OAAS will again modify the "Requirements for OAAS Certified & Apprentice Judges Policy" and update the December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 deadline to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, so judges don't need to worry about recertifying during the pandemic.

**7. Judges and Judging Schools:**

- The OAAS will look at providing virtual webinars or meetings on various topics over the next few months to re-engage current and potential judges (i.e.: Judges Toolkit, Best Practices, Etiquette recruitment of judges, etc)
- The OAAS will also be posting the "Homecraft Judging Standards Handbook" on the OAAS website for a limited time to help keep judges engaged as well as a complimentary updated "Homecraft Judging Standard Handbook" will still be provided at Judging Schools as per a previous OAAS policy.

**8. Fair Passports:**

- The Board decided at the recent Board meeting to defer the printing of the Fair Passports. It was felt that Agricultural Societies holding fairs in 2021 required all potential income, so they did not need to lose revenue due to the use of the passports

**9. Ontario Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions Directory:**

- We will be posting a digital version of the "Ontario Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions Directory" on the OAAS website but do not plan on distributing a printed version of it this year.

**10. Fair Date Brochures:**

- We will post a digital version of the Fair Date Brochures on the OAAS Website, but we have decided to defer the decision on whether or not to print the "Ontario Agricultural Fairs & Exhibitions Fair Dates Brochures" until our May meeting. We print over 20,000 copies annually, and they are distributed to Agricultural Societies and Ontario Tourism Centers to promote our annual fairs and exhibitions.

### **11. Printing a small number of Annual Reports:**

- There is a digital version of the 2020 Annual Report on the OAAS Website. If you are interested in a printed copy of the “2021 Annual Report” we will look at printing enough to cover the demand. There will be a charge to cover the cost of mailing and more information on how to order will be available on the OAAS website.

Thank you again everyone. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me directly by either phone or email. I hope everyone has an awesome summer and I look forward to seeing everyone in person very soon.

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