

# Brookville School to hold garage sale and spring fair

*Teachers, students busy planning events before school year's end*

By **ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER**

*Special to The Champion*

Brookville Public School is busy planning two major events — a garage sale and spring fair, before the end of the year.

The school will hold the garage sale Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Long Lane Orchards on Second Line in Nassagaweya.

"All the items for sale have been donated by the parents from our school," said Nancy Johnston, principal.

"The garage sale will be run by members of our school council and the money will be coming back to Brookville School."

Donations are always welcome from the community and residents are being asked to drop saleable items off at Long Lane Orchards during their business hours.

Most items for sale will be used household goods, electron-

ics, books and sports equipment and likely a few "treasures."

## Spring fair June 5

"The Brookville Olympics' is this year's spring fair theme. Scheduled for Saturday, June 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the fair promises to have something for everybody.

"The Kids Alley will be set up again this year," said Donna Danielli, chairman of the Parent Council and Spring Fair Committee.

"The gym will be full of games with prizes for the kids. We will also have our giant raffle table, many vendor tables, and our cake walk where kids win cakes that they have baked themselves."

Conservation Halton will bring the birds of prey from Mountsberg Conservation Area to the event for the crowd's enjoyment.

There will also be hair and face painting, a barbecue, performances by The Bengalos student choir, a karaoke machine and inflatable structures for bouncing fun.

"We are a JK to (grade) 8 school so we are trying to have something that appeals to all ages," said Ms Danielli.

Any donation of prizes for the giant raffle table would be greatly appreciated and vendor tables are still available.

"We are very fortunate because we live in an incredibly supportive community," said Ms Danielli.

"Through the support of our community, we are able to find ways to better support our student community."

If you would like more information or to donate items for Brookville's garage sale or the spring fair, call the school at (905) 854-2424 or Donna Danielli at (905) 854-2469.

# Still many unanswered questions in budget for farmers: reports OFA

The recent budget from the Ontario government provided a mixed bag for Ontario farmers.

Many of the items the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) asked for in its pre-budget submission to the government have been addressed, but there are still a number of unanswered questions.

The OFA is pleased that a number of its issues were incorporated into the budget, either in whole or in part. Something we've been working on for years — the use of the OFA membership card to achieve Provincial Sales Tax exempt status on farm-related purchases — was approved in the budget.

Getting the list of exempt items expanded to parallel the list in other provinces hasn't happened, yet.

Finance Minister Greg Sorbara confirmed in his budget address that within-family farm sales will no longer face the land transfer tax, previously imposed by the province. The OFA has worked on this issue for years and feels the \$5 million it will save farmers each year will be a major boost to young farmers taking over the family farm.

Farmers will benefit from the \$20 million announced to help them comply with regulations under the Nutrient Management Act. Farmers have a long history of making environmental investments on their farms.

Future investments made to ensure compliance with the regulatory framework will be made at a pace determined by available government support.

The Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC) has a set of principles it wants the government to follow as it develops a cost-share program for compliance. One of those principles calls for up to 90 per cent funding of compliance costs — something to ensure Ontario farmers receive the same treatment as their trading competitors in other jurisdictions.

The OFA and its OFEC partners will meet with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) in the near

## OFA Ron Bonnett Commentary

future to set out details for allocation of the \$20 million.

Because the technical support OMAF will be expected to provide farmers as they upgrade their facilities to meet Nutrient Management Act requirements, the OFA will closely monitor any plans for funding or staffing changes at the ministry. We can't afford to lose any of the technical expertise OMAF staff can provide during this critical period.

Farm families will find the return to health-related premiums an additional living cost. The OFA will encourage the province to ensure that a proportionate amount of those premiums is used to improve health care facilities and delivery of health services in rural Ontario. Farmers and their families have watched their rural health care suffer from funding cuts for too long.

Ontario farmers are still reeling from the effects of BSE and the high Canadian dollar. The budget mentions the signing of the Agricultural Policy Framework as a means of securing long-term funding for Ontario farmers.

The OFA is committed to ensuring that the new Canadian Agricultural Income Support program responds to the income declines that have hit our farmers.

The OFA continues to be involved in the province's source water protection agenda. The new budget provides in excess of \$400 million to support the source-to-tap water initiatives.

This includes \$250 million to help municipalities bring their water treatment facilities up to standard — all welcome news as everyone's role in delivering safe drinking water comes under more intense scrutiny.

The OFA will work with the provincial government as it deals with its financial situation, but every effort must be made to ensure equal benefits for Ontario's rural population.

Ron Bonnett is president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

# Area groups seeking to gauge residents' thoughts on growth

Many citizens are forming grassroots organizations in an collective effort to put a halt to what people view as uncontrolled, unmanaged growth.

In rural Halton/Milton, the Milton Rural Residents' Association (MRRRA) has been recently formed.

The group is inviting area residents to visit its Web site at [www.miltonrra.org](http://www.miltonrra.org) and to com-

plete a survey question about responsible growth.

The MRRRA believes taxpayers are paying for politicians' mistakes.

"Uncontrolled and unmanaged growth in our communities will cause large tax increases to thunderously cascade down to the already overtaxed residents," said Bob Beyette of the MRRRA.

He said many instances of

growth stem from political aspirations and a desire for more political control.

"The shame of it all is that democracy appears to have been kidnapped by those pretending to care, but in reality only care about their growing circle of power and a desire for a greater degree of profit," Mr. Beyette said.

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