

## **Ontario Shorthorn Association (OSA) — Annual General Meeting**

**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 1pm**

**Douro Community Centre**

**Douro-Dummer. ON., K0L 2H0**

**Called to order at 1:13pm.**

### **Guest Speakers**

The OSA welcomed Nick Martin and Bernard Leahy as guest speakers to commence the meeting. Both Nick and Bernard market their herds for beef/consumers and spoke about their experiences with their respective businesses.

### **President's address**

Steve welcomed special guest James Rummerfield for attending the meeting. Explaining to attendees James' recent involvement and generous donation of \$20,000 to the association in memory of the Brown Family. Thanks to James the OSA has introduced the All-Star Conformation Series competition. Exhibits that have accumulated the greatest number of points at announced point show will receive:

All-Star Shorthorn Bull — \$250

Reserve All-Star Bull — \$150

All-Star Shorthorn Female — \$250

Reserve All Star Female — \$150

The OSA presented James with a gift as a token of their appreciation, which included a Scottsdale Shorthorn herd book. Doug Brown also expressed his gratitude to James and the OSA, stating the series is a nice remembrance to his parents.

### **President's report**

Steve announced the busy year that the association had this year naming the OSA Picnic, the impact the donation from James made had, the Emerson Clarke Show, and the creation of the OSA constitution. His remarks were followed by a moment of silence for fellow Shorthorn breeder Bob Riviere, Uluru Shorthorns, and 2023 Legends of the Breed recipient who had passed away. The present board members, treasurer and secretary were then introduced. To which Steve thanked them for being a great group to work with. Additionally thanking Maurice Verstraete for his years spent as treasurer before Mike Andison took on the role recently.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda for the meeting was made available via the OSA's social media accounts and in person for the meeting. There was no discussion with the agenda provided for the meeting.

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**Motion:** Mike Ormiston moved to accept the agenda for the meeting.  
Seconded by Doug Brown. **Carried.**

**Approval of 2023 Minutes**

The minutes from the previous AGM held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the North Dumfries Community Complex, Ayr, Ontario was handed out to attendees. There was no discussion arising from the previous meeting's minutes.

**Motion:** Frank Byrne moved to approve the minutes from the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Shorthorn Association.  
**Seconded** by Pat Thibodeau. **Carried.**

**Treasurer Report**

Mike Andison gave a brief introduction of himself to attendees noting his involvement at Glenrothes farm and his career in finance. He shared a copy of his financial report with the group, stating that the bottom line is that the OSA is in good condition financially. In the statements provided both OSA and OJSA were combined for simplicity/readability. He emphasized that the main goal in mind for the donation commemorating the Brown Family is to support local fairs, promote Shorthorns as a breed, recognize quality cattle, and touch as many breeders as possible. The principle for the donation will stay the same, the interest will fund the All-Star Series prizes (\$860/yr, \$800 is dedicated to point series, \$60 for cost associated with it). Mike went through the report with attendees, noting the greatest expense the OSA has is the Junior show and advertising/promotion expenses.

**Motion:** Mike Ormiston moved to accept report. **Seconded** by Gary Evans. **Carried.**

- Questions:

- **Why have levies gone down?**
  - **Answer:** Levies have not gone down in 2023. The levies were overstated (one was clerical error from the CSA), while in the second quarter the levies were not deposited at the right time. Registration numbers have not changed just timing difference with deposits.
- **Why are there no wages included in 2024 Budget (secretary/treasurer positions)?**
  - **Answer:** Volunteer board besides small wages paid to Barn Boss and Ringman at RAWF. There was uncertainty previously if OSA would be able to afford to pay such positions, possibility of a yearly donation for said positions was mentioned by Steve Bartlett.

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## **Committee reports**

### **Social media/website**

Goal for the past year has been to try to keep the OSA's Facebook page active on a weekly basis. It was encouraged for members to follow the OSA's page if they do not already and share photos to be featured. Emphasizing that the more content the page has the more relative it will be, as opposed to fewer posts in the past. In terms of the OSA's website it was explained updates are more difficult to make, since they must be sent to an individual outside of the board to make changes. The board would like to consider changing the website to a more user-friendly platform. Suggesting connecting the OSA's Facebook page with the website, so when one is updated the other will also be simultaneously. The OSA's Facebook following increased over the year from 900 to 2,200 followers.

### **Show**

Frankie announced the winner of the 2023-point shows. Recipient: Don Jack (Coldstream Farm) Champion Bull, Female and Breeder's Herd.

It was announced that there is a new Shorthorn show at Barrie Fair (one of the biggest in that area's history). Barrie exhibit numbers will be monitored to see if it would be worthwhile to add to the point show list. RAWF (Royal Agricultural Winter Fair) numbers were up from 78 in 2022, to 90 in 2023. The Emerson Clarke memorial show reportedly also had an increase in participants over the past year as well.

#### **- Joanne from RAWF committee**

- Thanked everyone for everything they do at the fair and for all sponsors. She reported the committee is doing their best to move forward with suggestions/feedback received. Which includes trying to limit the amount of people in the marshalling area for the event. Joanne's words were echoed by Julian Brown, adding that Shorthorns are well supported on the board at RAWF.

### **Advertising**

Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) advertising has been looked after by Dave Banbury over the last couple years. Martin commemorated Dave on his ability to acquire new stories and testimonies in the magazine that has led to more recognition for Shorthorns in the commercial industry. Gaining more recognition for Shorthorns in the commercial industry has been the main goal for these advertisements. The OSA runs 5 advertisements per year, which takes up a large part of the budget. The committee welcomes new ideas, new breeders, or contact information of individuals past bulls have been sold to. Furthering it

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essentially leads to free advertising for self/farm if featured. The OSA has committed to another year of advertising for 2024.

It was also reported that the OSA decided to occupy a booth at BFO's annual general meeting to further Shorthorn influence in commercial industry amongst other breeds. OSA directories and cost effective paraphernalia were handed out at the event.

- Questions:

- **How do you know the kind of feedback you are getting from these advertisements in Ontario Beef?**
  - There was a discussion that emphasized the instant gratification that arises from some of these advertisements. While some breeders remarked that they had many inquires after being featured. Which brought up the idea that breeder's information should be included in BFO advertisements like they were in the past. Steve emphasized this is something the board is considering. While Pat noted doing the same for the OSA's website is something the committee is also looking into. The OSA's 2024 Directory which presently includes all Ontario members (including Juniors) was also mentioned.

### **Sale**

According to Ross Laycock the OSA sale in 2023 was really good, with a \$300 higher average than in 2022 despite fewer lots. DLMS online bidding helped increase the number of bidders at the sale as well in 2023. Further details were provided in the financial report.

### **Canadian Shorthorn Association report**

Martin Mason disclosed that 2023 was big year for the CSA with lots of changes (no more office, Shayla works from home, records are kept in storage). Reporting that it was a positive year, and Shayla is happy with the changes and only goes into Regina if she must. Animal enrolment is down slightly, while new member registration slightly increased in 2023. The CSA's biggest expense is Shayla's contract (she is contact for everything CSA), with two separate emails for the registry and CSA. Digital Beef and IGS (EPD calculator) cost 30k/year individually, while 20k/year is dedicated to advertising.

The association also has 3 new directors. Noting the resignation of Bob Merkley as the reason why the upcoming AGM will not be in British Columbia. Martin emphasized that Ontario in comparison to other provinces is lucky to have as many members as it does. The association plans to run its AGM alongside the Junior show (first weekend in August) to see how it goes. The 2025 AGM will be in the Maritimes, while 2026 will return to British Columbia.

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Martin further explained not that the CSA wants to be an enforcement agency, it was mentioned there has been some issues/complaints with members registering animals from semen that should not be in the Canadian registry. Martin is hopeful it will not be a significant issue that the association will have to address but said, if need be, can be done. Emphasizing respect to all members is important, but the association is prepared to ask for how semen arrived in the nation if seems suspicious.

- Question: **Why are we not policing 100%?**
  - o Answer: If brought to attention it will be investigated, but it is not currently feasible to investigate every bull that goes through the system.

CJSA Youth Forum for the last 3 years has been successful and is gaining momentum, thanking Jim Murry for his efforts and assistance last year in Manitoba. Stars Align Conference in conjunction with the Limo association was also successful and received a lot of praise for the junior event. The junior events costs roughly 10-15k per year but is something the association hopes to continue with. Ultimately more junior members equate to more individuals registered, which leads to increase cattle enrolment as well. Martin emphasized to attendees to consider supporting the National Junior show.

The 2025 World Shorthorn Congress plans to run July 4-20<sup>th</sup> 2025. Starting in western Canada (Calgary) before participants fly into Toronto on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The congress will include an evening hosted by the Banbury family who have attended many congresses (Joe's attended 8 of the last 9), a tour at Hill Haven and Coldstream Farms, before ending at the Junior show in Lindsey. The plan is to hopefully have enough space at the event to allow for senior member cattle to also be displayed. Contact Martin if you are interested in attending or would like to help with the event.

### **Junior Report**

Elizabeth Lockhurst stood on behalf of the Junior board. Mentioning the positive success the OSA picnic and field day was, and was thankful to anyone who helped make the event possible. With special mention to Don Jack for hosting, the Lasby family for the fitting demonstration, and Martin Mason for judging the junior show that day with 23 juniors participating.

Speaking in detail of the Star Leadership Conference, where there were 34 participants, 6-8 from OJSA, with 17 Shorthorns of the 36 cattle in attendance. Highlights included exploring the Dairy & Beef Research Centre in Elora, the University of Guelph and touring Semex to learn about EPD's, market and vaccinations.

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While thanking Don Jack for his sponsorship of the Emerson Clarke Memorial Shorthorn Show, she noted that there were 61 participants in the event. The 2024 show will commence on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Results for 2023 show:

Junior: Josie Crawford (Champion), Carly Watson (Reserve).  
Intermediate: Brody Blenkiron (Champion), Emily Hartle (Reserve).  
Senior: Sydney Martin (Champion), Carson Blenkiron (Reserve).  
Grand: Carson Blenkiron, Reserve Grand: Sydney Martin.

Lastly mentioning the OSA Junior show in Erin which had 44 participants, thanking all sponsors including the OSA. Results were:

Grand Champion Purebred Female: Elba Glen Wynnona 20K (Kiera Wallace).  
Reserve: Hill Haven Verona Violet 5K ET (Logan Hargrave).

Grand Champion Purebred Bull: Hill Haven Wildwind 3L (Logan Kinsley).  
Reserve: Coldstream Soggy Dawg 22L (Hunter Perkes O'Neil).

Grand Champion Showperson: Logan Kinsley  
Reserve: Elizabeth Lockhurst.

**Award presentations:**

- **Foundation Award (50 plus registered)**
  - Byrne boys (91)
  - Crawford Farms (53)
  - Hill Haven (51)
- **Point show awards**
  - Coldstream Farms won the leading bull, female and breeders herd award for the 2023 points.
- **Aspiring breeder awards**
  - Brad Height from Arthur, Ontario.
    - Brad was recognized for all his efforts promoting the Shorthorn breed amongst the past show circuit, judging multiple shows, and his involvement in 4-H for over 10 years. Brad is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation livestock producer/exhibitor and has even started his own seed stock.

**Election**

Joanne Currie took over for elections. Liz Mason and Mike Andison were scrutineers.

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**OSA Board Directors**

Directors with 1-year left in their term include: Steve Barlett, Martin Mason and Ralph Cooke.

Directors with terms expiring are Ross Laycock, Frankie Byrne, and Nick Mason.

The floor was opened for nominations for the 3 available positions. Nominations included: Ross Laycock, Nick Martin, Don Jack, Jessica Currie-Stevens, Frankie Byrne. After being called 3 times there were no further nominations. Frankie, Jessica, Don, Nick, and Ross all let their name stand. Each nominee gave a brief introduction about themselves. Results were calculated and were very close, the leading nominees were Frankie, Jessica, and Nick.

**Nominate OSA rep to CSA**

Floor was opened for nominations. Martin Mason was nominated for the position.

**Motion:** Dave Currie moved for nominations to be closed. **Seconded** by Frankie. **Carried.**

**Motion:** Martin Mason moved for ballots from nominations to be closed. **Seconded** by Pat. **Carried.**

**New Business**

○ **Voting on constitution**

- Pat emphasized that the goal of the constitution is to not necessarily change operations, more so to add guidelines and structure going forward. The constitution was sent out to members approximately 1.5 months ago for everyone to have a chance to look it over, copies were also provided in person for attendees.
- Changes included: defining Juniors to anyone 21 and under, pronouns for directors were changed from “he” to “the director.”
- The association was very appreciative of all the hard work Carol Verstrate and Dale Asser put into making the constitution the document it became. Dale emphasized that there is nothing different from the CSA (both must be the same).

**Motion:** Jessica Currie-Stevens moved to approve the constitution as written. **Seconded** by Gord Crawford. **All in favour/Carried.**

**Online election presentation Julian Brown**

Julian Brown gave a presentation to the board and all present showcasing how online elections could take place for future AGM's moving forward. Allowing for members who are not able to make it to meetings going forward in person, to still have an opinion for electing

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board members and CSA representatives. If members would prefer to still vote in person, they are welcome to as well. Julian explained that to make an open call for nominations could start as early as 60-90 days prior to an AGM date. There were no questions after Julian's presentation that lead to a discussion.

**Motion:** Pat Thibodeau moved for online voting to be available for the 2024 AGM. **Seconded** by Gary Evans. **All in favour/Carried.**

**Motion:** Doug Brown moved for the adjournment of the meeting. **Seconded** by Gary Evans. **All in favour/Carried.**