



For immediate release

Inaugural “OAAS 175th - Central Canada Exhibition Association Scholarship” awarded to four Ontario students involved in their local agricultural societies

Stirling, ON (October 18, 2022) The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) is pleased to announce the awarding of the inaugural OAAS 175th Central Canada Exhibition Scholarships.

Congratulations to Patrick Duffin (Thorndale), Hailey Marsh (Forest), Miria Pelletier (Moore) and Jocelyn Taylor (Metcalf).

The launch of the “OAAS 175th - Central Canada Exhibition Association Scholarship” took place at the Official Opening of the 2022 Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) Convention, in February. The OAAS, in partnership with the Central Canada Exhibition Association (CCEA), created a scholarship program recognizing youth who have been actively involved in their home agricultural societies and fairs.

Twenty (20) applications from eleven (11) districts throughout Ontario were received for the inaugural year. Evaluation criteria for the scholarship included local agricultural society, community and school involvement, letters of reference, proof of post-secondary enrollment and an essay outlining “their future plans for contributing as a volunteer within their current or future community.”



Patrick Duffin grew up on the family farm in Thorndale, Ontario, as the 7th generation involved with laying hens, cash crops, and commercial grain elevator operation. Patrick is in his second year of the agriculture program at the University of Guelph’s Ridgetown College. He is currently the Student Council President for the Ridgetown Campus. After being chosen as the 2019 to 2021 Thorndale Fall Fair Ambassador, he has now taken on a director position and is the Chairperson of the Field Crop Committee for the Thorndale Agricultural Society.

Hailey Marsh resides in Lambton Count on her family’s third-generation farm and is an active volunteer for many local organizations as well as her post-secondary institution, including the co-chair of Lambton College’s first Relay for Life. Hailey is a member of the Forest Agricultural Society supporting various committees including; admissions, entertainment, social media, and commercial vendors. Hailey is also the current Forest Agricultural Society Ambassador for 2022-2023. Currently in her second year at Lambton College and The University of Windsor for her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree.



Miria Pelletier is a volunteer and member of the Moore Agricultural Society (M.A.S.), home of the Brigden Fair in Brigden, Ontario. Born and raised in St. Clair Township, Pelletier has always been an avid community volunteer and began volunteering with M.A.S. when she was around ten years old. Miria’s commitment to community involvement allowed her to graduate high school with over 400 volunteer hours where she received the Lieutenant Governor’s Community Volunteer Award and the Wallaceburg Kinsmen Community Volunteer Award for her volunteer efforts. Miria is pursuing her studies at Brock University in St. Catharines, ON in the Concurrent Education program with a major in history and a second teachable in math.

Jocelyn Taylor is studying Public Affairs and Policy Management at Carleton University with a specialization in Public Policy and Administration, in the economic policy stream. Jocelyn grew up on a dairy farm in Osgoode which inspired her to pursue dairy sustainability policy research with her education. Jocelyn has been involved with the Metcalfe Agricultural Society since a young age with a passion for agriculture and her community. In addition to her involvement with the local agricultural society, Jocelyn is an active Carleton County 4-H member and volunteer in the community.



The four scholarship winners will be invited to and recognized at the 2023 Ontario Association of Agricultural Society Convention, on February 16-18, 2023.

About the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies

The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) provides leadership, guidance, education, and resources for its 212-member Agricultural Societies.

For more information on Ontario agricultural societies and their fairs visit www.ontariofairs.com

For more information contact:

Vince Brennan
Manager
Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies
613-395-2465
manager@oaasfairs.com