

DUFFERIN FARM TOUR

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2025



YOUR TOUR PASSPORT

Rain or Shine! from 9:00am to 4:00pm we welcome you to our host farms! Inside you will find a map and bio on each of our farms. Feel free to start at any farm you wish and follow the recommended tour route.

Throughout the day take lots of photos and share! Please **tag Dufferin Farm Tour @dufferinfarmtour** and **use the hashtag #dufferinfarmtour** for **your chance to win a pair of BLUNDSTONE shoes!** Share and support your agricultural community!



ADMISSION WITH DONATION

If you haven't already made an online food bank donation, please bring a donation of a non perishable food item that will go directly to the local food banks. Donate at the first farm you visit.

THE FARMERS

- Our Tour Hosts are committed to sharing information regarding their passion for their craft, and meeting the challenges of farming today.

THE FARMS

- Today you have the opportunity to see how the agricultural industry operates through the lives and businesses of several different farm families. We hope this exchange will enhance public awareness and efforts to meet emerging challenges. **Please DO NOT bring your dog** out of respect for all the other farm animals...your dog may stress them out.

A NOTE FROM THE LIVESTOCK

- Hay! (that's what we eat sometimes) Thanks for coming...our barn is clean and healthy. If you have germs remember to wash or sanitize your hands before and after visiting us....and watch your step. You never know what you might step into....sorry



#DUFFERINFARMTOUR

ROCKVIEW FARMS - MITCH AND KATE MCREAVY **754532 2ND LINE EHS** **MONO CENTRE**

Settled in 1822 by the Turnbull family, Rock View Farms was one of the original homesteads in the Town of Mono. After many generations of farmers in the late 1970's, the cattle and most of the farmland was sold. Although they are the 7th generation on the farm, this makes Mitch and Kate 1st generation farmers.

In 2017 the decision was made to bring the farm back to life, and make it a place to bring animals home too. They now have a growing herd of Speckle Park Cattle that are raised for beef as well as raising 300 White Rock chickens every year for meat.

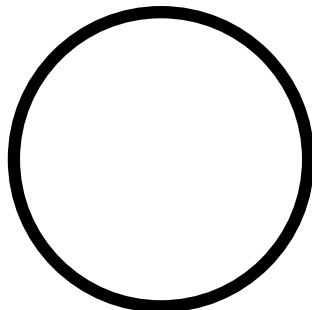
At Rock View Farms they direct market all of their meat straight to consumers; providing families with meat fresh from the farm. Bringing life back to a once thriving farm has been hard work, but a life that has been rewarding in many ways.

The Farm Store will be open on Tour day - cash purchases (preferred) or e-transfers.

DID YOU KNOW

- Dufferin produces over \$25.6 Million in beef.
- There are over 695 working farms in Dufferin.

STAMP



CHECK OUT...

- Wagon Rides!
- Learn about the importance of bee keeping
- Farm products for sale on tour day. Rest of the year products sold by appointment only

THERE ARE 157,389 ACRES OF FARMLAND IN DUFFERIN COUNTY!

#DUFFERINFARMTOUR

HOCKLEY VALLEY FARM **307509 HOCKLEY ROAD** **MONO**

Hockley Valley Farm is 93 acres of pasture, Christmas tree fields and maple sugar bush on the Niagara Escarpment. Settled late in the 19th century the farmland served to raise sheep and cattle. The bank barn was raised in 1905 and the house was constructed on the property shortly after. Christmas tree planting began on the farm in the 1990's and during the 2000's the farm was opened during the Christmas season to customers. The Huck family and Percheron horses arrived in 2016.

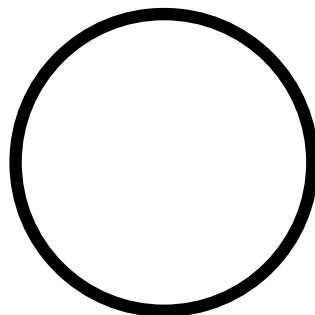
The primary use of the 93 acres is the ongoing cultivation of Christmas trees. Seedlings are planted twice a year, one planting in the spring and one in the fall. Later in the spring, the trees are fertilized and throughout the summer months, grass is cut between the rows so as not to compete with the trees for nutrients or sunlight. Late summer pruning is done to shape the trees and ensure uniform growth. Fall planting takes place in September and tree sales begin the 5th Saturday before Christmas.

The Percheron horses enjoy pulling wagons or sleighs and are an integral part of creating an old fashion Christmas experience for customers. Each horse is over 18.0hh and weigh approximately 2,000lbs.

DID YOU KNOW

- That Christmas tree farms make up a \$55.2 Million industry in Canada?
- Percherons are known for their intelligence and willingness to work.

STAMP



CHECK OUT...

- Hungry? Food booth!
- Horse drawn wagon and Tractor Rides!
- Willow Brook water fowl and alpaca fibres
- NVCA Nottawasaga Conservation

There are approximately 70,000 acres dedicated to Christmas Tree farming in Canada.

#DUFFERINFARMTOUR

SKY RIDGE CLYDESDALES **386191 20 SIDEROAD** **MONO**

The property consists of 50 acres of plantable land, pasture, treed area with house, barn and a pond. The barn was built in 1888 and has housed numerous animals over the years; most recently beef cattle, horses and a farrier. The farm was purchased in 2014 and extensive work has been done inside the barn to make it suitable for Clydesdales.

The main focus is breeding and showing registered Clydesdale horses. They currently have 20 Clydesdales, 2 quarter horses, 1 quarter horse/Clyde Cross, 1 mini pony, 3 donkey(s) and chickens. Usually they try to have 3 to 5 foals a year. There were 3 stud foals born this year and the most recent foal was born on August 1st - named Sky Ridge River's Prince Eric.

One of the main features that sets the Clydesdale apart from the other two breeds of heavy horses (Percheron and Belgian) is the fact that they have "Furry" feet. These are called their feathers.

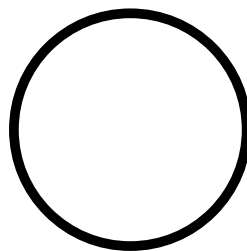
Clydesdales were introduced to Larry and Patti by Larry's Dad, Jim Braiden, who passed away in 2009 and have basically picked up where he left off. Larry's grandfather also used Clydesdales to log the bush on the family farm.

Today the horses are used mainly for showing at fairs in Ontario, with the final show being the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. They are also used to pull the wagons in local parades such as the Alliston Potato Festival Parade and of course in the Santa Claus Parades in Orangeville, Shelburne, and Holstein. Larry and Patti try to spend a lot of time with the foals when they are born to make sure they are comfortable to people being around them. A number of the foals have been sold all over North America. They are in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Texas, Illinois and Indiana.

DID YOU KNOW

Clydesdales were traditionally used for draught power, both in farming and in road haulage.

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CHECK OUT...

- Barrel racing demonstrations
- Green and Bloom
- Marlies Garlic

#DUFFERINFARMTOUR

SEVENHILLS HOLSTEINS - THE OVERGAAUW FAMILY

334104 7TH LINE

AMARANTH

The Overgaauw family operates two dairy barns; the building being toured today plus the home farm across the road. This high-tech barn was built in 2018 and took almost 8 months to complete. The barn is set-up with two robotic milkers which can each milk up to 60 cows per day. The barn has a capacity to have a third milker added and the barn could accommodate up to 160 cows.

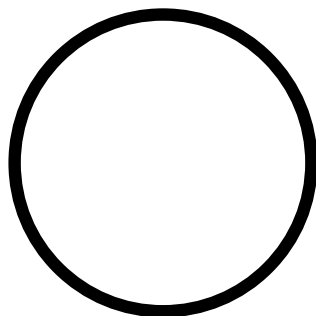
Paul and Marion Overgaaw immigrated to Canada from the Netherlands in 1993 and purchased the home farm. Paul had previously experienced farm life in Canada as he did a summer coop term with a dairy farm near Ingersoll Ontario. Both Paul and Marion's families had dairy farms in Holland, however there were challenges starting or expanding farms in Holland and there was an opportunity in Canada to purchase land and start a dairy herd of their own.

Paul and Marion have 3 sons, David, Kevin and Mark, and together with their families they farm together approximately 700 acres of corn and hay for feed and cash crop.

DID YOU KNOW

A cow that is milking will eat up to 100lbs of feed a day and drink approximately 40 gallons of water.

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CHECK OUT...

- Tour the dairy barn and talk to some of our dairy experts
- Sheep shearing and lamb kebabs
- Grand Maple Products

The average size farm in Dufferin is 226 acres.
The average dairy cow weighs approximately 1,500 lbs.

#DUFFERINFARMTOUR

BESLEY COUNTRY MARKET - THE BESLEY FAMILY **3716 VICTORIA STREET** **SHELBURNE**

The Besley family has farmed on this corner of Dufferin County since 1939, making it a 4th generation family farm. Initially operated as a dairy farm, Brian and Debbie decided to pivot towards a focus on field crops and building a farmgate market that would provide fresh, locally-grown food to the community. Their son Evan was very interested in the science and sustainability of hydroponic production, resulting in the addition of a 6,500 sq ft greenhouse that has produced local, vine-ripened tomatoes since 2012. The greenhouse holds 1,900 plants which yield up to 35,000 lbs of tomatoes per season (from May to October). Each plant is tied to a crop string for support, and is fed nutrients through a water system which enables the plants to grow up to 30 feet in length and produce fruit with maximum sweetness and flavour over an extended season. Over the past 13 years, the Besley's tomatoes have become renowned across Dufferin County and other areas of Ontario due to their high quality and flavour, and are used by a number of local restaurants and food banks.

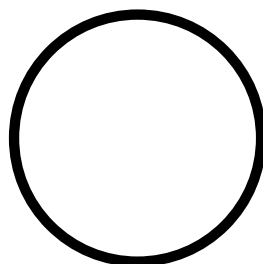
With a sustainable greenhouse operation established in 2012, the Besley family simultaneously opened a farmgate market, supporting the community in accessing locally grown food directly from their farm. Besley Country Market has become known for their homegrown tomatoes, sweet corn, pumpkins and squash, as well as their homemade salsas and preserves. But they also carry products from other local farmers and producers across Dufferin County and surrounding areas, in order to expand their offerings for a one-stop shop. As the market has continued to grow, Evan's wife Amy has assumed a more active role as the Market Manager, where she's discovered her passion for connecting with the community through food.

Beyond the greenhouse and market operations, the Besley's also grow over 2,000 acres of cash crops each year – consisting of wheat, soybeans, navy beans, cranberry beans, and corn. At harvest time, a 90-foot elevator moves the grains into the large storage bins built on site, where they are stored and marketed throughout the season. The Besley family is passionate about supporting a healthy and vibrant community through quality, local food.

DID YOU KNOW

- Tomatoes originally come from Peru, where their Aztec name translates into “plump thing with a navel”

STAMP



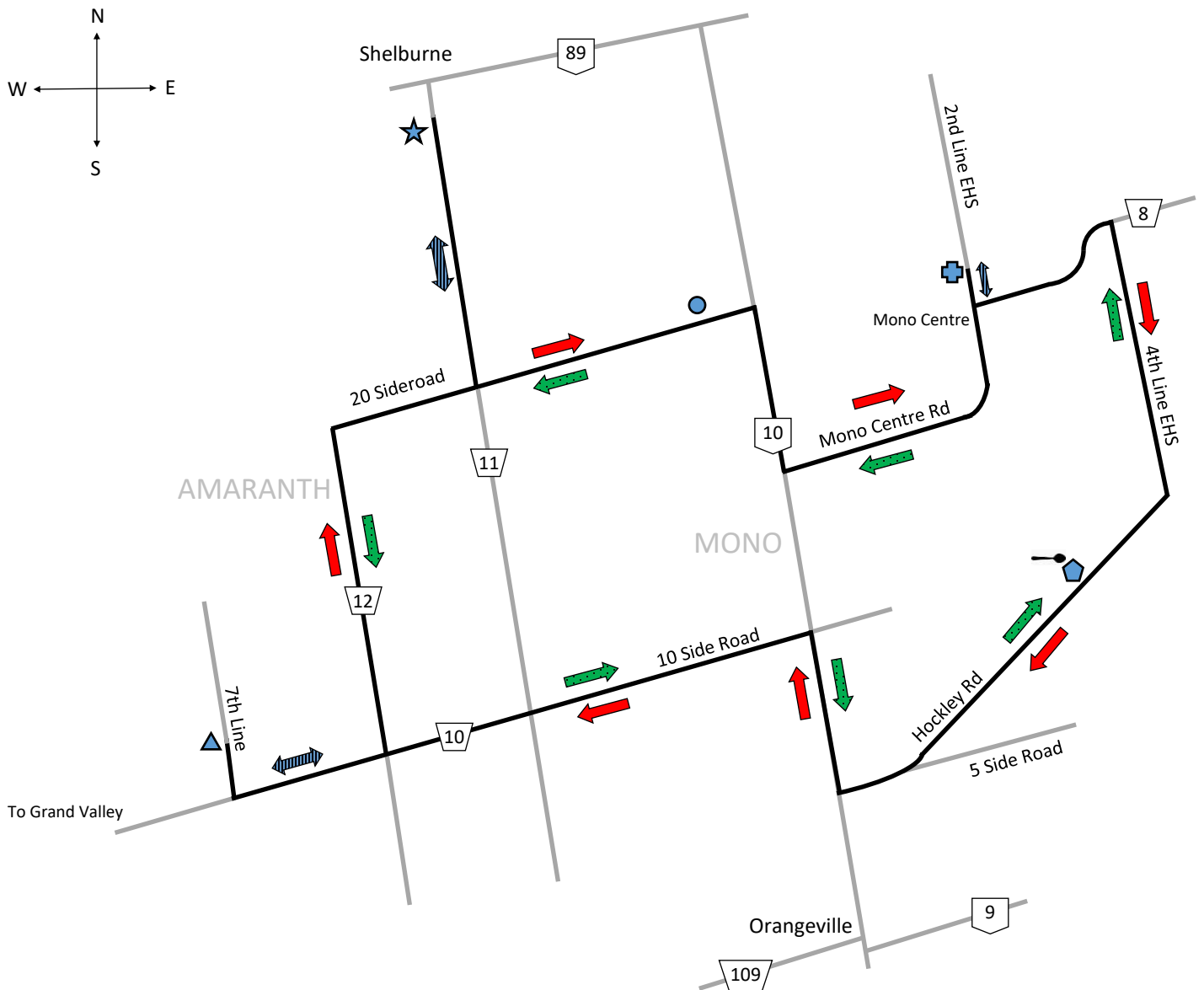
CHECK OUT...

- Tour the greenhouse
- Have a coffee or ice cream from Make it Sweet
- Fun peddle tractors for kids
- Taste Iron Kettle Tea

Thank-you to all our farm hosts, volunteers and sponsors! Without your generosity of time and effort the Dufferin Farm Tour would not be possible.

***PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE ROAD.**

HAVE FUN, TAKE PHOTOS, AND ENJOY A DAY ON THE FARM!



Dufferin Farm Tour 2025

Host Farms (Approx GPS location of farm or parking entrance):

-  **Rock View Farms** (44.03208, -80.07372)
754532 2nd Line EHS, Mono ON
-  **Besley Country Market** (44.06920, -80.20140)
716 Victoria Street, Shelburne ON
-  **Sevenhills Holsteins** (43.95373, -80.24675)
334104 7th Line, Amaranth ON
-  **Hockley Valley Farm** (43.98180, -80.04668)
307509 Hockley Road, Mono ON
-  **Sky Ridge Clydesdales** (44.02561, -80.13606)
386191 20 Sideroad, Mono



Not all roads, curves, features represented on the map. Use map at own risk. Drive safely and according to road and weather conditions.

Legend and Tour Tips

Start at any farm you wish and follow the marked  tour route.

Take red  or green  arrows. Generally the red arrows take you clockwise and green arrows take you counter-clockwise.

Double Arrow,  both green and red in same direction.

If you have brought Food Bank Donations,  they are accepted at any of the host farms. Drop your donation at your first farm visited.

Food booth  located at Hockley Valley Farm

Bring cash \$ for on farm and vendor purchases.



Thank you Sponsors!



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of Agriculture



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