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Canadian Angus Association 2024 Convention and AGM Highlights

June 10, 2024: for immediate release

Rocky View County, AB—Over the weekend, more than 100 Angus enthusiasts gathered in Toronto, Ontario for the Canadian Angus Association (CAA) National Convention and Annual General Meeting. Highlights include:

- Ronnie Ford of Oyster Bed, PEI was elevated from the position of President Elect to President. Tom deWaal of Prince George, BC moved into the Past President position, and Greg Pugh of Edgerton, AB was chosen as President Elect. In addition, the Board welcomed Paula Cornish of Indian River, ON who replaces retiring director and Past President Graham MacLean of Watford, ON.
- CEO Myles Immerkar presented the 2023 audited financial statements at the AGM. He reported a successful year. The CAA posted a positive income of \$265,757 of revenue over expenses for the 2023 calendar year, taking on market challenges head on. He also reported 50,590 registrations, memberships increasing 2.5 percent over 2022 and totalling 2,646; and 18,638 transfers, an increase of 10 percent over 2022. The Association's annual report can be viewed online at <https://www.cdnangus.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023-Annual-Report.pdf>
- After announcing at the 2023 Convention that the CAA would explore the market value for Angus Central through an active market listing, no offers acceptable to the CAA were presented over the past 12 months due to the softer current commercial real estate market in the Calgary area, higher interest rates and CAA expectations. The CAA board is more comfortable with our firmed-up interest rates and business activity so Angus Central will be taken off the market at the expiry of the listing term and will remain our home for the foreseeable future. The CAA board will remain open minded to all opportunities that are presented in the future.
- The CAA board will explore a more aggressive strategy and options to further pay down long-term debt quicker providing the best return on investment on active revenue.
- The Canadian Angus Association's commitment to research was highlighted. In March, it was announced that Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) awarded \$3.8 million to the Canadian Angus Association to increase Canadian cattle producers' ability to make data-driven decisions based on genomics to economically benefit their commercial livestock operations. ([Click here to view the press release.](#)) The investment will be used to develop a genetic selection tool to equip producers with breeding data to select the best replacement heifers to improve their herds. On June 7, it was announced that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

(AAFC) through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) will support the Canadian Angus Association on a four-year \$4.2 million project in collaboration with Holstein Canada to develop new long-term phenomic systems to collect information on traits that impact producer profitability, animal health and welfare, and environmental sustainability. ([Click here to view the press release.](#)) These two projects are the largest research projects awarded to a Canadian breed association.

- Immerkar announced the launch of AngusWORKS, a white labelled form of Telus Agriculture's HerdTrax farm management program. Later this year, CAA will launch AngusHOME, a new database program for managing the Canadian Angus Association herdbook. More information on both programs will be shared this summer.
- The CAA board moved to change the commercial and member transfer fee for under 30 days to the same fee to prevent market confusion. This is the same fee that existed between 2014 and 2022.
- At the Convention banquet, three awards were presented for 50 years of continuous CAA membership to Harprey Farms and Melmac Angus Farms of Ontario and to Justamere Farms of Saskatchewan.
- CAA Past President (1996) Gary Harron was posthumously inducted into the Canadian Angus Hall of Fame.
- The Board of Directors made a surprise presentation to Betty Lou Scott of Upper Mount Thom, NS of a special lifetime achievement award in recognition of her nearly 50 years volunteering with the Nova Scotia and Maritime Angus Associations.
- The Certified Angus Beef Canadian Commitment to Excellence award was presented to Gilchrist Farms, Grant and Denise Gilchrist; Brad and Kristie Gilchrist; and Jess and Neil Froats of Lucknow, ON.
- The Ontario Angus Association arranged tours of western and eastern Ontario that included the Elora Beef research station, cattle displays and social time at Walkerbrae Farms, Kawartha Ethanol Plant and Drain Bros feedlot, cattle displays and social time at Whiskey Lane Livestock, which also included the second annual Verified Angus Barbecue Competition on Friday, June 7. The competition featured five teams that paired a barbecue pitmaster and a cattle producer or industry program representative that generously supplied the beef. A team of secret judges and attendees voted, and in a very close race, chose team In It To Win It that paired Gilchrist Farms/Beefway and Rusty's Smoke.

More Information

Canadian Angus Hall of Fame

Gary Harron and his father started their Angus herd in 1954 with the purchase of the Angus heifer Pride Morvette of Kincardine, a direct import from Scotland. Gary owned and bred Angus his entire life and still owned six purebred Angus females when he passed away in January 2023. Gary was Canadian Angus Association president in 1996. He and his daughter Tammi are the only father and daughter to serve as presidents of the Canadian Angus Association and chairs of the Canadian Angus Foundation. Gary's contribution to the Angus breed in Canada was his ability to promote the breed everywhere and

to everyone. He always wore an Angus shirt and hat so he was recognizable as an Angus breeder. Even waitresses at every restaurant that served Gary were educated about the quality and benefits of Angus beef.

The Canadian Angus Association Hall of Fame launched at Convention in 2023. Designed to recognize members who have made significant contributions to the Angus breed in Canada, the Canadian Angus Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have invested time, energy and resources promoting the Angus breed in Canada; who have served as a role model and encouraged youth to participate in Angus activities; who have invested in genetics and/or research to improve the breed; who have in any way improved the position of the Angus breed in Canada and left a legacy.

Lifetime Achievement Award

For nearly 50 years, Betty Lou Scott has volunteered in the Canadian Angus community and has attended countless events, including every annual general meeting. After 35 years of service, Betty Lou recently retired from her position as the Maritime Angus Association Secretary-Treasurer. She also held most executive positions for the Nova Scotia Angus Association including serving as president and for 39 years as secretary-treasurer. She volunteered as a director for the Canadian Angus Foundation for 25 years.

Verified Angus Barbecue Competition

Five teams competed in this year's event: finishing in second place was team Carnivore Cowboys, Heatherlea Farm Shoppe and Mean Moe's BBQ. In third place, team Keeping it Lit paired Ontario Harvest Farms and Stuttering John's Smokehouse. Finishing fourth is team La Chinas Con Gauchos, pairing Fancy Farm Girls and BBQ Worx, and in fifth place is team The Feast and the Furious, a pairing of Deacan Ridge Farms and Broken Antler BBQ.

Certified Angus Beef Canadian Commitment to Excellence Award

Certified Angus Beef will share an article and feature video on the Gilchrist family this fall.

Long-Term Recognition Award Recipients

Harprey Farms—the Hargrave families: Harprey Farms is owned and operated by the Hargrave families: Laura, Don and Cindy and family and Allan and Dianna and family. Don and Allan's great-grandfather purchased his first Angus bull in 1947 to breed commercial cows and the progeny topped the fat cattle sale at the Ontario Stockyards in 1949. The first purebred Angus cows were purchased in 1972 as 4-H projects from the Colbeck Brothers in Grand Valley, Ontario, and from John Willmott. The family took out a membership with the Canadian Angus Association and the first home-bred animals were registered under the name of GW Hargrave and Sons. Members of the Hargrave family have served on the Ontario Angus Association Board of Directors and Heather and Michael both served as Canadian Junior Angus President. The family has joined provincial Angus and 4-H clubs and have attended as many Angus events and sales as possible. Through 4-H, showing cattle became a hobby and interest that led to many successes in the show ring.

Justamere Farms—Jon and Shelly Fox and family: Justamere first started in the Angus business when Jon's father Lyal purchased the famous Waco females from the legendary Lloyd Pickard in 1975. At that time, Justamere was a dominant force in the North American Polled Hereford scene. Lyal selected Angus as the next breed to add to the Justamere portfolio. Starting with those 30 Waco females, the

Justamere Angus herd developed slowly over the first 20 years. Over the last 25 years, the Angus business has been the main focus at Justamere. The Fox family at Justamere believes in promoting and exhibiting cattle across North America. They have dedicated many hours, days and months to showing, leading to much success in the show ring. The fifth generation is playing a huge part in day-to-day operations at Justamere Farms. John says that they will continue to market Angus at Justamere because, quite simply, there is no other breed that can compare to this one. The dominance is everywhere, from the pasture to the plate.

Melmac Angus Farms—Graham and Murray McLean and families: Graham and Murray McLean operate Melmac Angus Farms near Melbourne, Ontario. Their father Ronald K. McLean started the herd after selling his Holstein herd in 1974. Ronald loved his Herefords as he had Champion Hereford Steer in the Queens Guineas in the early 1950s but he thought there was more opportunity in the Angus breed. Ronald bought a few cows and a herd sire, Early Sunset 80E. He loved supporting the local fair circuit. One year, he hit 26 fairs to show his cattle. Murray and Graham became partners in 1996 and today they have 40 cows with a small cash crop enterprise. They both have full-time jobs off the farm. They also grow corn and soybeans. Murray has three children, Taylor, Rachel and Ryan, who are all employed with Burnbrae Farms. Karen and Graham have two girls, Shauna and Jenna. Graham has also dedicated many years volunteering for both the Ontario Angus Association and Canadian Angus Association boards of directors.

About the Directors

Paula Cornish along with her husband Scott and their two children Jason (16) and Shelby (14) own and operate Whiskey Lane Livestock, a 90 cow/calf operation in Indian River, Ontario consisting of both Angus and Hereford cattle. Paula grew up on a farm that background fed stocker calves and got into the Angus business in 1992. She attended the University of Guelph and graduated with a bachelor of commerce specializing in ag business. She works as a relationship manager for TD Bank.

Tom deWaal of Prince George, BC was raised on a dairy farm. He attended the Reich World Wide College of Auctioneering in Mason City, Iowa and started his auctioneering career selling livestock. In 2003 he purchased his first registered Angus cattle which has grown into today's Harvest Angus herd consisting of 150 mother cows. Tom and his wife Carolyn also run Central Interior Auctions Ltd.

Ronnie Ford farms with his father, Glen Ford, on Wheatley River Farm in Wheatley River, PEI. Ronnie, Glen, nephew Kyle Younker and son Logan have a herd of 35 Black and Red Angus influenced females. Ford is a past president of the Maritime Angus Association and has been involved in the Maritime Angus Association for 20 years. Each summer he exhibits his Angus cattle at different livestock shows in the Maritimes. Ford also works as the accountant at Phillips Agri Services in Charlottetown. Graham McLean and his brother Murray operate a purebred Angus cow herd, Melmac Angus Farms near Melbourne, Ontario with 40 cows. Their father Ron started the herd in 1974. They also grow corn and soybeans. McLean has served as president of the Melbourne Fair Board, Lambton County 4-H Association, Watford Optimist Club, Watford Silver Stick Hockey Tournament, Western Ontario Angus Association and Ontario Angus Association.

Greg Pugh with his wife Amanda and parents Jim and Linda operate Pugh Farms in the Battle River Valley north of Edgerton, Alberta. They run Black and Red Angus, Hereford and Charolais purebred cows as well as commercial cattle and background their commercial production.

The Canadian Angus Association (www.cdnangus.ca) is a not-for-profit association incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act. The Association represents 2,600 members across Canada for the purposes of registering and recording the pedigrees of purebred Angus cattle and promoting the breed across Canada. Its member-approved mandate is to maintain breed registry, breed purity and provide services that enhance the growth and position of the Angus breed.



2023-2024 Canadian Angus Association Board of Directors

Front row, left to right: Dallas Johnston, Manitoba; Myles Immerkar, CEO; Darren Ippolito, Saskatchewan

Second row, left to right: Tom deWaal, past president; Paula Cornish, Ontario; Ronnie Ford, president; Greg Pugh, president elect

Third row, left to right: BJ Scheirlinck, Alberta; Robbie Garner, Saskatchewan

Back row, left to right: Blake Morton, Alberta; Mona Howe, Alberta; Roger Reynolds, Saskatchewan; David Sample, Quebec

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For more information, please contact:

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