

Cultivating connections:

Annual farm tour highlights supportive agriculture industries

Whitby, Ontario – The Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) successfully hosted its 23rd annual farm tour at Kubota Canada Limited Headquarters. The theme was “Agriculture Supportive Industries in Durham Region” and highlighted the importance of industries who support primary farming and agriculture. Attendees also gained a deeper understanding of how the industry contributes to the

economic success of the region through the production of crops and jobs on farms, as well as the industries that support farming and the technological advancements that are driving agriculture forward. The tour started with opening remarks from DAAC Chair Zac Cohoon, followed by Regional Chair John Henry. Ian Affleck, Vice President of Plant Biotechnology at CropLife Canada, delivered the keynote address and par-

ticipants toured the warehouse and enjoyed an agricultural equipment showcase. More than 120 participants attended this year’s event, including elected officials, representatives from various levels of government, the educational sector, and public and private agencies. “Durham Region’s agriculture industry nourishes our growing community and drives our local economy forward. The annual DAAC Farm Tour

showcases this vibrant industry and celebrates innovative and successful farming operations like Kubota Canada. This valuable opportunity brings industry professionals together to explore various sectors, including those that provide essential support to agriculture and agri-food production throughout the region.”

– John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Region of Durham

“The annual DAAC Farm Tour offers a unique and meaningful opportunity to hear directly from those working in the agricultural sector. We’re grateful for the ongoing support from the farming industry in Durham Region that makes this event possible each year.




– Zac Cohoon, Chair of DAAC

DAAC is a volunteer advisory committee that provides advice to the Region on agricultural and rural-related mat-

ters. Since the inaugural tour in 2003, DAAC has showcased more than 40 farms and other agricultural facilities to more than 1,600 participants.

Durham Region has a strong agricultural industry and is a leading agricultural producer contributing to more than \$350 million to Ontario’s total farm production. It is home to 1,200 farms with a total farmland area of 264,518 acres.

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NDP calls for emergency school safety plan as violence in schools rises by 77 per cent



Shadow Minister for Education Chandra Pasma (Ottawa West – Nepean) issued the following statement in response to an FOI obtained revealing that violence in schools rose by 77

per cent since the Ford Government was elected in 2018, with more than 4,400 incidents reported last year. “The numbers tell a clear story: we are seeing a crisis of violence develop as our

children’s needs go unmet at school. Unfortunately, this is only the tip of the iceberg as many incidents go unreported,” said MPP Pasma. “Our kids are bearing the brunt of Doug Ford’s cuts to

education, from larger class size to fewer EAs and support staff, to the lack of mental health professionals, and less supports for special needs students. Our education workers and teachers shouldn’t have to put up with injuries as a routine part of the job.

“The Premier has been busy listening to his developer friends about moving highways and building fantasy tunnels, but it’s about time he listens to concerned parents who just want their kids to be safe at school. We

have the solutions, the Government just needs to act – it must hire more qualified staff in classrooms so our kids have a safe place to learn.”

The Ontario NDP announced its Emergency Plan to End School Violence and is calling on the Ford Government to implement it. The plan includes:

Funding to hire additional qualified staff, including mental health professionals, education assistants, child and youth workers, and other education workers.

Funding for comprehensive training for all workers and supervisors.

A sector-specific regulation for education under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

A permanent provincial health and safety working group to review and adapt current policies regarding workplace violence in the education sector.

A single province-wide online reporting system for violent incidents and data collection to understand the full scope of the problem.

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