



## featured project **ELLIOTDALE HOLSTEINS**

The Elliott family dairy farming legacy began in 1947 when Andrew Elliott's grandparents bought their farm in Thorndale, Ontario. It started out as a mixed farm with dairy cows, pigs and chickens. When they purchased the farm, much work was needed to fix up the buildings and property. The Elliotts have been a loyal Surge/Westfalia/GEA customer for about 70 years! They started with Surge dealer Piet Verheul, and continued with DLS when the van Logtensteins bought the Surge dealership in 1990.

Over the years they operated with a Surge pipeline in a tie stall set-up. In 1981, Andrew's parents, John and Yvonne, put an addition on the original tie stall barn to allow them to milk more cow. In the early 1990's, after Andrew committed to staying on the farm, a One Touch system was installed. Andrew and his wife Nicole were married on August 19, 2017 and they have a son named Corey who was born in July 2018.

The equipment in the tie stall barn, the One Touch system, stabling cleaner and TMR mixer was getting tired and the Elliotts started looking forward to the future. They were excited to plan and build a new facility for themselves, with hopes of providing a future opportunity for their son. They didn't want to limit themselves, they wanted to build a barn for growth that would allow them opportunity to milk more cows if the future demand permits.

There were two major influences on the type of barn that they chose to build. First, Andrew worked for the Weber family at Scenic Holsteins and he enjoyed the experience of working in a parlour. He noticed how the Weber children helped with milking and he desired to create a similar experience for when his son is older. Second, in 2017 Andrew visited Thomadale Farms on the DLS car tour. **Article continues on page 4**



**We're Social Too**



**Tradeshow Season**  
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**DLS Is Hiring**  
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## SECURING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNTS

A simple way to protect yourself from hackers.

## EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

DLS is pleased to welcome the following people to the Dairy Lane team:



**Jordan Danks**  
Construction Labourer

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Owen Gray**  
*Dairy Equipment/Robotic Service Technician*  
Joined DLS March 2019



How far are you willing to go to protect your data? In this day and age where hacking your accounts can lead to financial loss, and identity theft, protecting your data is vital.

A good start in protecting your security and preventing your accounts from being hacked is to enable two factor authentication (2FA). This method of verification is combining something you know (password), and something you have (typically your phone).

An example of 2FA is when you go to login to your online bank portal. After entering in your username and password, the website will request you to enter in a code they have texted to your cell phone, or enter in a random generated code from an authentication app on your phone.

This process helps minimize the risk that a hacker who is trying to access your account can breach the security as it is unlikely they will have your phone to get the random code even if they were able to somehow compromise your password.

Most popular online websites such as Facebook, Amazon, and banks already have this built in and make it very easy to setup. Keeping your accounts secure is a step to ensure your online safety.

[Find out More >>](#)

Owen has been with DLS for just over 10 months. Prior to joining the DLS team, Owen worked at a refinery in a few different positions, and before that he worked at Two Wheels Bicycles. He is an avid and competitive cyclist, and is involved in the international BMX community where he maintains a position as a head mechanic for an internationally recognized freestyle BMX team. In high school, Owen took part in FIRST Robotics, an international design and engineering competition. His team made it to the FIRST world championship in their debut year. Nice work Owen!!!

Owen is enjoying his new role and wants to continue learning and developing his skills and knowledge at DLS.



# JANUARY'S product of the month

The DLS fabricated Two Bar Self-Centering Gate has been a great gate to guide traffic flow for many of our dairy projects over the last several years. When a cow enters the gate it will move over for the cow to pass, and once the cow has passed the gate goes back to the center to allow the next cow to move into the area from either side.

This gate is most commonly seen at the entrance of a milking robot. It allows for a cow to enter the robot from either the main free stall area or the special needs area behind the robot. It is also used quite often at the exits of parlour farms, where cows from either side of the parlour are sorted through one lane to return to their free stalls. This is the case for our featured project Elliottdale Holsteins. Elliottdale Holsteins has also used this gate at the entrance of the parlour stalls. It is our first install like this and they have found it to be very beneficial in keeping the "boss cows" in line. The gate length is available from 5'4" to 9'7".



## JOB PROGRESSION HIGHLIGHTS



**1**

**Avonview Farms**  
Saint Pauls Station, ON

Avonview Farms currently milks in a D-6 herringbone parlour. We are currently retrofitting two GEA R9500 milking robots into their existing 3 row dairy barn.

**2**

**Kellercrest**  
Shedden, ON

This jersey cow farm will feature tunnel ventilation, and will be a 3 row barn with mats. A used D-8 WestfaliaSurge parlour will be installed with room to grow to a D-12.

**3**

**Vandenbraak Farms Ltd.**  
Gowanstown, ON

Vandenbraak Farms is building a perimeter feed robot barn. Jourdain octoposts are set and DCC Waterbeds are installed. The barn will also be getting Big Ass fans. They currently have DCC Waterbeds in their existing dairy facility.



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continued from page 1

He liked the design of the barn and his barn design and layout is a very close resemblance to Thomadale Farms. Andrew said that he chose to continue working with DLS for his new facility because he liked the DLS parlours and equipment, and really liked how simple everything was. Other key partners on his project include West Wind Enterprises (structure), M&M Farms Ltd. (excavating), and Kirby Electric.

The new facility provides the Elliotts with many benefits that they did not have in the tie stall barn. They said "the new barn gives us more options to improve herd health with better stabling, foot bath and hoof care alternatives, and improved ventilation options. The new barn is more labour efficient and animal friendly".

Some of the key features in the Elliotts new barn include a DLS/GEA D-10 parallel parlour with vertical lift and individual indexing, DLS crowd gate, Jourdain headlocks and free stalls, a large pack area with DLS rollover gates, ACME panel fans, GEA manure scraper system, an Easy Swing cow brush and DLS tip troughs.

On November 20, 2019, the Elliotts moved into the new barn with 80 cows. In the tie stall barn they had a 33L average and in just two months in the new barn and parlour, they have increased to a 37L average. Over the past month, they've also been working to improve their feed to ensure more balance and consistency by chopping hay.

The Elliotts current herd classification includes: 9 ME, 6 EX, 39 VG, 45 GP, 2 Good, 0 Fair. The current here BCA for 88 cows is 22-240-221. All EX cows are homebred except for one, Valleylane Goldwyn Rachel.

Congrats and thank you to the Elliott family for over 70 years of partnership with Surge/Westfalia/GEA! Stay tuned for a milking video highlighting this new facility!



## FEATURED POST



**OJB Industries Inc.**  
@OJBIndustries

Cleaning out @lintfield pack barn of his @dairylanesystem structure barn with @OJBIndustries Industries spreaders and forward tilt bucket. @WstrnStarTrucks



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