



## featured project

# LIDDLEROCK HOLSTEINS

Liddlerock Holsteins started in 1939 when Percy Liddle purchased the home farm just south of Aylmer. Shortly after this, Percy married Hazel, and in 1942 they bought their first purebred Holstein heifer from Marshall McKnight. Since this purchase, Liddlerock Holsteins has been a closed herd making this purebred Holstein heifer the foundation dam for the entire Liddlerock herd.

In 1968 Percy and Hazel built a new tie stall barn, and in 1979 a new pipeline was installed. Percy and Hazel's daughter Carole, along with her husband Wray Bowen started the transition to take over the farm in 1974 by buying the cattle and renting the land, and then completed the transition in 1981 by purchasing the farm.

The original Surge brand and now GEA milking equipment has always been the choice brand of milking equipment installed at Liddlerock Holsteins. First, with Piet Verheul, followed by the van Logtensteins with DLS. The Bowens specifically remember buying 4 new milker units in 1988 for \$1,253.50! They also fondly recall many positive relationships through the years, including with their route drivers, Henry Helder, Frank Helder and now Rick Pruder.

In 2007–2008 Wray and Carole's son Bob desired to stay on the farm and milk cows, and the family decided to build a new free stall barn with a parlour. On April 7, 2020, the new GEA R9500 milking robot started up in the existing free stall barn! The Bowen family said, "We can't believe how well the cows adapted to the robot, there are very few fetch cows in the morning—cows are going into the robot every 10 minutes or less throughout the night. We only "pushed" one cow into the robot one time. The GEA R9500 robot sure has made life a little easier. For us, it was a wise decision to transition to a milking robot. We have always said with equipment where electronics are..." **Article continues on page 4**



We're Social Too



Tradeshow Season  
[dairylane.ca/tradeshows](http://dairylane.ca/tradeshows)

DLS Is Hiring  
[dairylane.ca/careers](http://dairylane.ca/careers)

## EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



**Keith Robson**  
Equipment Repair  
Technician



**Sydney Thain**  
Timekeeping  
Coordinator



**Brent Hammett**  
Robotic Systems  
Technician



**John Luc Currie**  
Designer



**Adrian Harris**  
Welder/Fabricator



**Brett Seaman**  
Welder/Fabricator



**Nick Wilkinson**  
Fabrication Production Manager

## RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

### Grant Milmine

*Warranty & Fleet Coordinator*

Joined DLS October 28, 2013



It is with best wishes that we announce Grant's retirement from DLS. Grant had worked with us since October 28, 2013, when he started in the shop as a labourer and then transitioned into the position of an Inventory Coordinator. From there, he moved into the role of Warranty Coordinator, which involved the warranty of our equipment as well as coordination of the DLS Fleet, which included vehicle maintenance, licensing, etc.

We want to wish Grant all the best in his retirement and thank him for 6 ½ years of service with DLS.

Congratulations Grant, we appreciated the work you have done and wish you a relaxing and enjoyable retirement!

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Matt Bily-Marr**  
*Construction Labourer*  
Joined DLS December 2018

Matt has been with the DLS Structures team for about 1 ½ years. Over this time, he has been developing his knowledge and skills continuously. Matt enjoys working with the Structures team and is learning new things every day!

Before joining DLS, Matt worked at Collards Dairy Farm in Frome, Ontario. He was putting in some pretty long days – milking 3 times a day! Matt has also worked as a Yard Supervisor and a CNC Plasma Operator.

Matt enjoys riding his Kawasaki Ninja when not working as well as hanging out with his wife of almost 3 years, and his best pal Gatsby, his 5-year-old Newfoundland.

Matt intends to plant solid roots at DLS with the aspiration to run a crew and oversee jobs one day. Currently, Matt's transitioning into a Lead Hand position on the Structures team, and it has been great to see him learning, growing, and building a career at DLS!





# JUNE'S product of the month

The GEA R9500 milking robot features an open, cow-friendly design with adjustable place dimensions to suit different cow sizes and breeds. There is easy access to the udder for special need cows. A G5 Time-of-Flight (TOF) camera on the MilkRack detects the position of the cow's teats to automatically and precisely apply the teat cups on the teats. This TOF principle allows for maximum attachment reliability in a matter of seconds.

The GEA R9500 is the only robot that performs everything in the liner – teat preparation to milking to post-dip. This creates the most gentle and consistent milking possible for robotic milking. See how this works @ [go.dairylane.ca/GEA\\_In-Liner](https://go.dairylane.ca/GEA_In-Liner).

A 12" touchscreen displays all the milking data. Complete management and monitoring tools are available, including FarmView, a program designed to provide complete and accurate data on the daily operating costs of the GEA R9500. Check out this great video detailing the GEA R9500 features @ [go.dairylane.ca/GEA\\_R9500](https://go.dairylane.ca/GEA_R9500).



## JOB PROGRESSION HIGHLIGHTS



1

### Nulandia Dairy Farms Mitchell, ON

Nulandia Dairy Farms features a 40 stall GEA rotary with a Biolyink flush system, a 500 cow dairy barn with GEA manure equipment and Jourdain stabling, and a sand lane with GEA pumps. The barn and sand lane is ready to go, and the rotary and holding area are in progress.

2

### Hayfield Jerseys Clinton, ON

Hayfield Jerseys is an all Jersey herd transitioning to robots next week! Two GEA R9500 robots were retrofitted into the existing dairy barn. The center feed alley and feed system are being taken down. Be sure to watch out for future posts of the GEA robots in action with the Jersey cows!

3

### Nagelhaven Farms Springfield, ON

The recent barn addition at Nagelhaven Farms is our first hybrid of a natural and cross-ventilated barn! It features ACME fans, is skid steer scraped, has GEA manure equipment, and is complete with Jourdain stabling. The Jourdain free stalls are a newer system featuring a dog bone loop mounted to a twin rail.



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"... concerned, whether a tractor or a robot, 50% of the decision is the equipment itself, and the other 50% of the decision is the people that service and back you up. Another reason we chose GEA was that it is quiet, and it does not have a lot of moving parts that the cow can see. Over the years, we have realized that the cows pay the bills, and our goal has been to minimize stress by handling them as quietly as possible."

The robot started on April 7, and by April 14, they were at 2.25 visits and 35.7 kg milk average, and on May 15, they were at 3.23 visits and 38kg milk average. The classification at Liddlerock Holsteins is 3 ME—IEX—13 VG—33GP—5G—11 NC. Alongside Wray and Carole, their son Bob and his wife Mandy operate Liddlerock Holsteins. Bob & Mandy have three children, Claire, Emma and Jack.

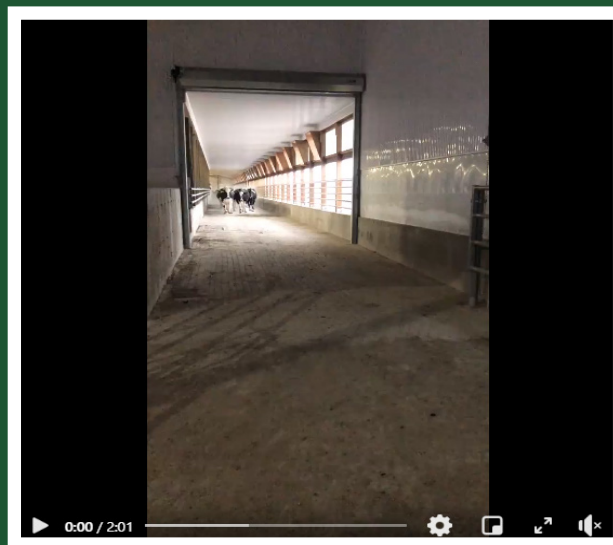


## FEATURED POST



**Nagelhaven Farms**  
@nagelhaven farms

Today was the day that we could finally open the gates to our new 408 stall barn. Sand bedded and cross ventilation. We're all excited to see how the cows will perform with more space on sand and with lots of air movement.  
#farm365 #dairybarn



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