



## featured project **S.M.L. FARMS**

Don & Berniece Harris decided to start farming on a 50 acre farm that they purchased in 1955. This was a big step as Don grew up on Queens Ave in London with zero farming experience! It turned out to be a good fit and in 1959 they purchased a neighbouring 67 acre farm. Before farming fulltime, Don continued to work at his job at GM Diesel until 1967.

In 1961, the Harris family got their start in the dairy industry. After trying to find a buyer for 12 Holstein heifers and not being able to find anyone to buy them, Don decided he was going to milk them! He used two Surge milkers and sold the milk to Devize's Cheese Factory. In 1968, the Harris family entered the graduated entry program and started buying quota. By 1970 they were milking 40 cows and installed a swinging 3 milking parlour. After completing high school in 1983, Rick Harris, one of Don's sons, started working on the family farm fulltime with his dad and his brother Tom.

August 1, 1989 is a day they will never forget as they faced a devastating fire that completely wiped out the barn. Determined to move forward, the Harris family rebuilt a brand new barn that would hold 100 cows with a double 6 herringbone parlour. At this point they had grown to 60 milking cows. In 2004, they experienced another misfortune with a fire in their milk house which required them to replace their milking tank. By this time they were milking 130 cows and they upgraded to a D-8 herringbone parlour.

Don, like many farmers, dreamed of handing their life's work down to their sons. In 2011-2012, succession began and Rick took over the farm. As time went on, Rick realized the need for expansion and began planning for a new dairy barn. In 2018, ground was broken and construction started on a new dairy barn with 6 rows, 252 stalls, a large pack area and a DLS / GEA D-10 parallel parlour with vertical lift and individual indexing. The cows moved in and milking began in 2019.

Rick and his wife Deb are privileged to have their boys, Sean and Marc, working fulltime alongside them on the farm. Their daughter, Lauren, is currently attending university in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. To find out more about S.M.L. Farms, check out this video featuring their milking routine at [go.dairylane.ca/SML](https://go.dairylane.ca/SML).



**We're Social Too**



**Tradeshaw Season**  
[dairylane.ca/tradeshows](https://dairylane.ca/tradeshows)

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

## EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Grayson Stevens



Matt Woyce



Josh Hardy



Elizabeth Ion



*Look For DLS When You Are At*



**Outdoor Farm Show**  
September 10-12, 2019  
[outdoorfarmshow.com/guide](http://outdoorfarmshow.com/guide)



**PDO Tour**  
September 12-13, 2019  
Stops at Stonecreek Farms &  
Hogendoorn Dairy

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**John Walsh**

Joined DLS March 2015

John was hired on his 20th birthday into the DLS Biogas division and he has been with us for 4 years. The first biogas plant he built was Nine Mile Farms in Eastern Ontario. He has also worked with the Dairy Equipment Installation team mainly doing TIG welding, installing manure equipment and fusing HDPE pipe. He has recently transitioned into the office performing design work which is what he went to school for.

After winning the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists for Academic Excellence and Pursuit in Electromechanical Engineering Technician award (yes I know wow!!), at the end of grade 12, John attended Fanshawe College. He joined us right after he finished the Electromechanical Engineering program at Fanshawe. He previously worked at JJ Mann's Automotive and OK Tire in Delaware during high school. He also did 3 summers at the Grand Bend Township and then did a Co-op student position / worked part time for a year at Armotool.

John likes his toys and the outdoors, you will often find him dirt biking or ATViing on the family farm. He likes to skateboard, snowboard and mountain bike. Fishing and boating/sailing also keep him active. The family farm also keeps him busy, there are always improvements to be made and he likes building and creating things in the shop on the farm!

John aspires to expand his design skills and continue to help upgrade the shop at the family farm. John discovered DLS by visiting our booth at the Fanshawe College Job Fair. We're glad you stopped by John!!

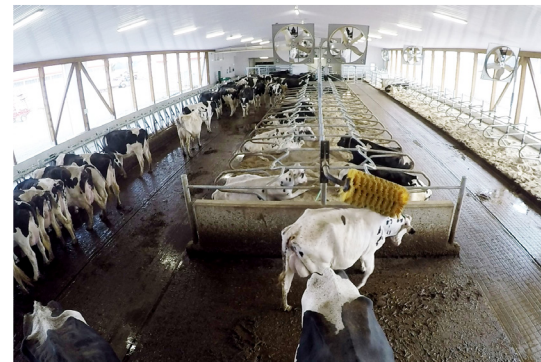


# SEPTEMBER'S product of the month

DLS is the Canadian partner for Easy Swing cow brushes. The Easy Swing cow brushes are unique in today's increasingly automated dairy industry in that they are keeping it simple—no motors or electricity involved.

The cows perform the work by rubbing against the brush and swinging it side to side in a way that the brush can sweep across the cow's back and sides.

At a fraction of the price of an electric brush, these brushes can be just as effective without the maintenance of an electric brush.



## JOB PROGRESSION HIGHLIGHTS



**1**

**Terpstra Farms**  
Brussels, ON

The foundation is set at Terpstra Farms, and we are getting the site ready to erect the steel structure in the coming weeks. This is another large cross ventilation project with a rotary.

**2**

**Evergreen Holsteins**  
Brussels, ON

The DLS Structure is coming along well at Evergreen Holsteins. The ACME fans for this large cross ventilated barn have been put in place, and all the Jourdain posts are set for this 12 row, 4 feed alley barn. We completed the plumbing work for the new rotary as well. GEA pumps and agitators are in place for the sand lane.

**3**

**Nulandia Dairy Farms**  
Mitchell, ON

The new 500 cow dairy barn at Nulandia Dairy Farms is nearing completion. The Jourdain headlocks and stabling are installed, DLS tip troughs delivered and GEA manure equipment in progress. A sand lane is in progress as well. Excavation work is starting for the parlour building that will house the upcoming GEA rotary.

## DID YOU MAKE IT OUT TO THE #DLSTOUR2019?



**Guntensperger Dairy Open House Recap Video**



**Rolling Lands Farms Open House Recap Video**

DLS was privileged to host the #DLStour2019 – an amazing event that took place on Friday, August 16, 2019.

This event comprised of a tour of two tunnel ventilated dairy barns with parlours, located only about 30 minutes from each other.

Neighbours, friends from the community, and dairy farmers all came out to visit and celebrate with the families on the completion of their new dairy facilities!

No one went away hungry thanks to a delicious meal by Chrissy's Catering from Tillsonburg, delectable scoops of Shaw's Ice Cream, Stonetown cheese curds, Gay Lea chocolate milk, and of course lots of coffee and doughnuts from Tim Hortons!

All in all, it was a wonderful day! DLS, the Guntensperger family, the van Hittersum family, and all the sponsors and vendors would like to express their appreciation to all those who were able to come out and tour these facilities!

Whether you made the event or not, be sure to check-out the recap videos shot for both Guntensperger Dairy and Rolling Lands Farms to see for yourself what a great day it was!



### FEATURED POST



**Steph Towers**

September 3, 2019 at 5:53 PM

Getting an ice cream cone while picking up parts for the barn is pretty hard to beat...

According to Cora, it's not quite as good as going to "big school", but she'll tackle that when she's four 😂👧



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