

OIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM A HUGE SUCCESS!

As all members who attended the OIA's Annual Conference and AGM will attest, this year's efforts by the Western Branch of the OIA resulted in a huge success. From the sold-out tour of Orgaworld, the ICFAR facility and Stanton's; to the Friday night Awards Banquet including the preview of our new "OIA Song"; and the high quality of speakers that crossed scopes of practice and taught the audience so much, it was an incredible professional development and networking experience. The photos from the event are posted on the OIA website.

We can never achieve excellence without the dedicated leadership that many members demonstrated. Steve Redmond, P.Ag., must be singled out for his incredible contribution. But we shall also recognize our sponsors. Without sponsor financial support, participation and donations we have no celebrations, no tour and no event. I hope all OIA members remember those companies and individuals who support us and patronize those who made our gathering possible.

2011 OIA Conference/AGM Sponsors

We are very grateful for the support of the following sponsors:

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MEMBERS REPRESENTING PROFESSIONALS IN PRACTICE

The previous issue of *the POST* identified a number of OIA professionals out and about representing their companies and professionals in practice. Over the past couple of months many more have been seen in action throughout Ontario.



*Jacqueline Reynolds, P.Ag.
at the Western Fair Farm Show
in London*



*Jorge Acevedo, A.Ag.
at the East Central Farm Show
in Lindsay*



*Kalima Mwange, P.Ag.
at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show
in Ottawa*



*Martin Harry, P.Ag.
at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show
in Ottawa*



*Jeremy Schul, T.Ag
at the Canadian International
Farm Show in Toronto*



*Drew Orosz, P.Ag
at the Western Fair Farm Show
in London*



*Rob Hill, P.Ag. & Brian Woolley, P.Ag.
at the Western Fair Farm Show
in London*

PHONE SCAM – BE ON ALERT!

Recently, the OIA was alerted by a Bell long distance operator that possible fraudulent activity was taking place through use of our phone number to make long distance calls overseas. An investigation resulted in the determination that our phone line was hacked into from outside the office via an office extension and persons were successful in using this access to make long distance calls overseas. OIA staff alerted the fraud department of Bell Canada and filed a police report. There is a lead that the police are currently investigating.

We have been told that this fraudulent activity is “an epidemic”. The advice we have received is to go beyond changing phone line extension access codes to more difficult 4 or 6 digits. It is very simple to set up an internal security access code for your place of business that would not limit the ability for staff to make an overseas call; just the ability to make fraudulent access impossible without knowledge of the access code.

NEW OIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Listed below are the members of the OIA's new Board of Directors for 2011-12:

OIA Member Representatives:

- Frank Reddick, P.Ag. **(President)**
- Lianne Appleby, P.Ag. **(Vice-President)**
- Ahmed Bilal, P.Ag.
- Igor Dimkoski, P.Ag.
- C. William (Bill) Gunn, P.Ag.
- Waseem Safdar, P.Ag.
- Rene Van Acker, P.Ag.
- Daniel Vautour, P.Ag.
- Ross Wilson, P.Ag.

Public Representatives:

- Ozair Chaudhry, Ph.D., OCT
- Jan Gupta, MBA
- Lynn Perry, CHRP

At the first meeting of the new OIA Board of Directors on April 28th, the Board was briefed on all governance matters and a number of important decisions were made that OIA members will be pleased to learn. First of all, a commitment to transparency was deemed vital and efforts will be committed in this regard. Specifically, in-camera meetings will only be utilized in selected instances. Creating the groundwork for a productive and collaborative relationship with staff, a number of operational issues were addressed. Committees have been formed around the OIA's five Strategic Objectives. Members should also know that the OIA is committed to take action on the priority held by most members and serve the public interest of the citizens of Ontario – to seek qualification assurance standards for practitioners in Ontario as exist in most of Canada. At the meeting, Frank Reddick was elected OIA President and Lianne Appleby Vice President.

IN MEMORIAM

LAKING, Leslie – Leslie passed away peacefully at the Carpenter Hospice, Burlington, Ontario on April 16th, 2011. Born in 1916, Leslie spent the majority of his career as Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens. Upon retirement in 1981 he was appointed as Honorary President of the RBG Auxiliary, and more recently as Director Emeritus of the RBG. Leslie received many accolades over the years, including Honorary Doctorate Degrees from the University of Guelph and McMaster University. He was particularly proud to have received the Order of Canada in 1979. Leslie joined the OIA and became a Professional Agrologist in 1961 and remained an OIA member and proponent of professionals in practice throughout his life. In 1992 Leslie was granted Distinguished Agrologist status by the OIA. A celebration of Leslie's life will be held at the Royal Botanical Gardens on May 17th, 2011.

