
MESSAGE FROM THE OIA PRESIDENT

Here it is June already while it seems just a short time ago we were all together at the end of March attending the OIA Conference and AGM in Barrie. Once again, I wish to thank the Huronia Branch organizing committee led by Doug Dickie, P.Ag., and also the OIA staff for a job well done. The event's activities were well run, interesting and on time. We received many positive and constructive comments afterwards and suggestions to maintain this success are always welcome.

I would like to thank the outgoing (2011/12) Board members for their support, contributions and putting up with my chairmanship. We started new initiatives, took stances, and moved the OIA forward. Lively discussions were always on tap. I'd like to also give a special thanks to outgoing Vice-President Lianne Appleby. She has given four years to the OIA Board, supplied meeting facilities and has been a welcome sponsor for our AGMs. I valued her opinion and thank her for her dedication of time for the betterment of OIA. Lianne's employment entails much travel, so please accept my thanks wherever you are!

The 2012/13 Board of Directors had its first meeting in May at which time the new and continuing Directors met each other and also "met" all the documents, responsibilities and more that Registrar Terry brought to them. The new Board is again committed to move the OIA forward towards legislative reform. By the way, the process outlined by Leonard Domino at the AGM is progressing on schedule. Again this year, minutes of our Board meetings will be posted on the OIA website.

I have already attended one Branch summer event and hope to visit as many of your Branch events as possible. The face-to-face is important.

Please wear your P.Ag. and/or member pin proudly and ensure you always add your Agrologist's designation whenever your name appears. We must ensure to keep Agrology front and centre.

I wish you all a great summer and enjoy your time with family and friends.

Respectfully Submitted



Frank Reddick, P.Ag.
President

CONFERENCE/AGM WRAP-UP

We appreciate the high praise received for our annual conference/AGM. The Huronia organizing committee, the OIA Board and staff contributed to a highly successful event in Barrie. Our keynote speaker, Jack Uldrich, delivered a thought provoking presentation and the uplifting speech from our banquet speaker, Ashley Chapman, served to provide us with lessons of perseverance and ingenuity to 'rise from the ashes'. It was a pleasure to award Chapman's Ice Cream Ltd. with the OIA's Corporate Award of Merit.

The recognition of long-serving members reminded us of our heritage of excellence. Excellence was also recognized in our award presentation recipients. Bryan Boyle, P.Ag. and Dr. Mary Ruth McDonald, P.Ag. were present to receive their Distinguished Agrologist awards. Also present to accept the Cheryl Somerville Distinguished Young Agrologist Award was Shawn Damen, P.Ag.

Our speakers, who were all designated professionals, made for an outstanding learning opportunity. We were certainly encouraged to have Leonard Domino and M.P.P. Ernie Hardeman present to speak to attendees about the progress achieved to date toward reform to the OIA's 1960 Act. Understanding the political system and working within the political system will be key to enhancing public interest protection within Agrology. We continue to build political and sector credibility.

As a reminder to all members, pictures of the annual Conference/AGM are available on the OIA website.



WORD CONGRESS OF AGROLOGISTS 2012 UPDATE



An Italian delegation will attend the World Congress of Agronomists and Agrologists this coming September. Most importantly, the Italian representatives will also be applying to organize the next world congress. In addition, members of the Italian delegation will be presenting to four of the workshops.

Additional speakers have also been confirmed for the program. These new speakers will tackle different sub-topics under the main theme of *Feeding the World* in order to enlarge horizons and expand discussion. Luis Herrera Estrella of the Langebio, the National Laboratory of Genomics for Biodiversity (Mexico), will be speaking about genetically modified organisms (private and public research and intellectual properties). John FitzGibbon, from University of Guelph (Canada) for his part, will tackle the agricultural models more in accordance with environmental and ethical rules. Continuing with the environmental theme, we will have the opportunity to hear Stéphane Jost of Food and Agriculture, Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Italy), speak on the topic of climate change. Then, Sean B. Cash, of Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University (United States), will discuss the impacts of agricultural policies on food and nutritional habits. Without a doubt, the program and the exhibitors area continues to grow!

Register now for the World Congress of Agronomists and Agrologists 2012.

OIA BRANCH EVENTS

It is exciting to see that OIA Branch events are happening all over Ontario.

Recently, OIA's President, Frank Reddick, P.Ag., travelled from Barrie to the joint Niagara/Hamilton Branch's golf day in Vineland. The Niagara Branch has also teamed with Hamilton and Long Point in a recent crop/orchard tour. More events are being planned by Branches. Branch events not only provide new learning opportunities but also the fellowship and the discussions amongst Professionals and leaders of our industry are always second to none. Be sure to make attending a Branch meeting a priority this summer. For more information please visit the Branch meeting link on the OIA's website.



TAKEN FROM OIA NEWSLETTERS OF THE PAST...

In the December 1965 issue of the OIA Newsletter an article discussed careers in agriculture and referenced the key connection between the OIA as a self-regulatory body and the Ontario Agricultural College as the producing the next generation of professional practitioner.

There is keen competition to attract the brighter students to fields other than agriculture. They are being directed elsewhere because they are being oversold on other so-called "glamour" fields and undersold on opportunities in agriculture. Therefore, the committee (OIA's Committee on professional communications) appeals for the help of every O.I.A. member to get this information across to high school students throughout the country by speaking engagements at 'careers night' in the schools, at young people's meetings in church or community and even to Service Clubs. As Dean N.R. Richards stated recently when addressing the Alumni Association, - "Within the O.A.C. I do not think we should be satisfied until we register at least 300 in the B.S.A. program (204 this year). With an intake of 300, we should be graduating 150 at the end of four years".



Dr. Ken Pretty, P.Ag. (right) tells a prospective employee about the variety of job opportunities available in agriculture. He was one of some 30 O.I.A. members who helped man a Careers Exhibit in the Careers Building at the 1965 C.N.E.

Will you as an O.I.A. member become an active recruiter? If you do, it will become a richly rewarding personal experience. There is nothing as effective as a personal recommendation by a graduate in agriculture. Let us put "Dynamic Opportunities in Agriculture" to work to ensure a healthy future for a great profession.