
WELCOME

I would like to thank everyone for their kind comments and the positive reception that the first issue of The Post received. In fact, one of the most frequent questions I am asked is, "When is the next issue of The Post coming out"? Well, here it is! I also want you to know that I have passed on to the Board your encouraging remarks regarding the operational policy changes approved by the Board of Directors. And staff continues to improve and streamline administrative processes to ensure the OIA is managed responsibly and we meet member, partner, industry, government and sector expectations. On a personal note I am humbled by my appointment by the Board of Directors. The OIA has indeed changed a great deal in a relatively short period of time and your feedback is always appreciated. It is a fresh and exciting start in many respects. For example, we have begun to reconnect to the Ontario Agricultural College and to our valued partners; but especially in light of our recent move to a new office (Suite 108) within the AGRICentre. I am also proud to have been approved to join such a distinguished group of individuals who share the Professional Agrologist designation. Most professions have an affiliated professional body for those who practice. If you work in agriculture, agri-food or agri-life science your professional body is the Ontario Institute of Agrologists. We look forward to growing the recognition of the Professional Agrologist and Technical Agrologist designations as the gold standard for excellence in the practice of agrology.

Kindest Regards,



Terry Kingsmill, M.A., P.Ag.
Acting Registrar, OIA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Saturday May 3rd, the OIA will hold its 49th Annual General Meeting here in Guelph at the AGRICentre. Recognizing that many Agrologists cannot commit a full day away from their work, the AGM has been organized as a half day event, beginning at 8:30 a.m. We have arranged for Dr. Alejandro Marangoni from the University of Guelph to speak on the "Emerging Technologies in the Food Industry", and Dr. Craig Crawford from the BioAuto Council will present on the "Use of Plant-Based Materials in Cars". In addition, two recently approved Internationally Educated Professional Agrologists, Igor Dimkoski, P.Ag., and Ahmed Bilal, P.Ag., will speak to the importance of achieving their P.Ag. designations. For those unable to attend, a proxy is available on the OIA web site. Please print, sign and provide to a member in good standing who will be in attendance.

AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA AND OIA PARTNERSHIP

Chief Executive Officer of AIC, Myles Frosst, recently met with the Board of Directors of OIA and new Registrar (Acting) of OIA, Terry Kingsmill, P.Ag. An agreement was reached to explore an exciting new partnership of benefit to both organizations and their members. While the details remain to be finalized, preliminary plans call for AIC to enhance services that grow the professional capacity of OIA members (i.e. networking opportunities, conferences, and workshops). Terry will also collaborate with AIC on the November 2008 AIC Conference to be held in Toronto. "Crossing the Barriers" will provide a unique opportunity for professionals to gather insights from leaders and colleagues within academic, business and government engaged in contemporary agriculture.

CONNECTING WITH OAC STUDENTS

Lianne Appleby, P.Ag., of the Ontario Cattleman's Association and Dr. Doug Yungblut, P.Ag., OIA Board member and from Yungblut & Associates Consulting, recently met with a class of 4th year OAC students at the University of Guelph. Both spoke to the evolving role of designated professionals in the practice of Agrology in Ontario. They also highlighted to the next generation of practicing Agrologists the value of OIA membership and the fact that if they planned to work in agriculture, agri-food or agri-life science, their Professional Agrologist designation is only available through joining the Ontario Institute of Agrologists.

CONNECTING WITH ALFRED COLLEGE

Terry Kingsmill recently met with Dr. Renee Bergeron, Director of Alfred Campus of the University of Guelph. Terry outlined the Internationally Educated Professional Agrologist program along with the various component services to help individuals to obtain domestic agricultural knowledge as part of current articling and mentoring requirements. OIA's collaborative partners, including Alfred College, play a vital role in improving the capacity and ability of individuals to contribute to excellence in the practice of Agrology. New brochures in the French language describing the articling process information for new OIA Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.) and Technical Agrologist (T.Ag.) candidates are already in place. Building on the OIA and Alfred College's year-long planning process to achieve common objectives with French-speaking internationally educated professionals in rural Ontario, our new partnership will result in a positive impact on agricultural and farming enterprise in Ontario in general and, Eastern Ontario Region in particular.

MEETING WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESHI AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES IN CANADA

On March 19th Pat Joannie, OIA IEPA Project Manager and Terry Kingsmill met with nearly 50 Bangladeshi agricultural graduates in Toronto. It is estimated that there are approximately 300 Bangladeshi agricultural graduates in Canada. Unfortunately, like many who have immigrated to Canada, the realities of life involve a struggle to obtain professional employment. Most of the Bangladeshi agricultural graduates present have the benefit of excellent experience and Ph.D. credentials, and possess the potential to contribute to the economic growth of Ontario and the profession of Agrology. The OIA, through the IEPA program, is in a position to bridge the gap between global experience and the Canadian experience employers' desire.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Congratulations are extended to long standing Professional Agrologists Dr. Emil Andersen and Mr. David Pelletterio. They have been selected for induction into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame. Dr. Andersen, recognized as one of the leading horticultural scientists in North America, is being recognized primarily for a career as Chief Research Scientist at the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario. Mr. Pelletterio is being honoured for his distinguished career with United Co-operatives of Ontario and his active participation in many agricultural organizations.

The Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame serves the sector by acknowledging and recording the contributions made by leaders to the growth, improvement and development of Ontario's Agriculture/Food Industry. Since 1980, 153 individuals have been honoured with induction. The induction ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 8, 2008 at the Country Heritage Park in Milton.

COMMENTS FROM NEW AGROLOGISTS

It is very pleasing to receive appreciation from our new Agrologists. From a recently approved P.Ag: "I am delighted to know that the OIA Board of Directors decided to approve me as a Professional Agrologist. It is a dream come true situation for me. My sincere thanks to you and to the Board of Directors of OIA. My special thanks are for Ms. Pat." We are also hearing that candidates feel welcome and encouraged, as well as more supported in the articling process. Further, our new Professional Agrologists are very willing to provide their guidance to an Articling Agrologist. Adding to this excitement is when we hear about your career success. Another recently approved Professional Agrologist has found that the designation helped land him a position with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Professional Agrologists work to protect the public interest and utilize their skills and knowledge to benefit the diverse scopes of Agrology. This is important work that is being recognized.

PHILLIS IS BACK!

Our Executive Director, Phillis Chang, has returned from her 5 week trip back home to Taiwan and Hong Kong. This is cause for much celebration by Pat and Terry. Phillis has assumed greater responsibility and accountability for administering office operations and processes, as well as overseeing the financial aspects of the organization. Typically, this includes providing logistical guidance and technical support in the areas such as:

- Management of office staff regarding office operation and maintenance of Register database and website;
- Production of publications, communications and marketing materials and liaison tools;
- Co-ordination and execution of OIA initiatives and activities;
- Establishment and implementation of administrative controls, as well as financial policies and procedures; and
- Preparation of interim reporting to the Board including membership and financial status.

Phillis was very pleased to return to the positive impacts of recent OIA policy changes approved by the Board of Directors and is excited to hear about the success of our professional Agrologists.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Board of Directors of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists extends congratulations to the following Agrologists for achieving their professional Agrology designations over the past 6 months:

Our New and Reinstated Articling Agrologists

Samuel Cuevas
Krishna Kandel
Etienne Avouampo
Shabeg Briar
Muhammad Azhar
Kalima Nkoma Mwange
Timothy Arueyingho
Zabun Naher
Zhumei Kang
Zeena Alzubaidy
Behailu Mengistu (Wendimagegn)
Alexander Madrigal
Teresa Romero-Schwartz
Joseph Tomecek

Miguel Padron
Pradeep Kumar Nampoothery
Jagtar Singh Gahla
Todd Parry
Dumitru Stanescu
Marvin Castillo
Amararathna Harigalayalage
Arvinder Tiwana
Amalia Garceac
Mary Jane Kelly
Kristy Nudds
Zafar Mahmood
Qigao Fu
Rahulkumar Patel

Our New Technical Agrologists

Felix Weber

Francois Beaudry

Our New and Reinstated Professional Agrologists

Marsha King
Rebeca Baca-Diaz
Neil Mitchell
Lianne Appleby
Ahmed Bilal
Sara Brown
Carla Reynolds
David Kuypers
Keith Ardiel
Stephen Thurtell
Carolyn Singer
David Riley
Barbara Yates
Sajjad Noor
Raj Sandhu
Ricardo Magno
Igor Dimkoski
David Otalora
Jaafar Bouanane
Carlos Mendoza
Andrew Welden
Robert Alton
Veda Contram Seetanah
Susy Kilby

John Warner
Terry Kingsmill
Jennifer Haley
Dael Bierworth
Sean Colville
Kay Grulich
Brad Ewankiw
Richard Cressman
Jim McComb
Aaron Breimer
Tim Moyes
David Smith
Shawn Damen
Tanya Turk
Rachelle Lalonde
Jacqueline E. Reynolds
Ammar Issa
Claudia Escandon
Adriana Ocampo
Victor Lemay-Rios
Zahidul Alam
Daniel Gutierrez
Jaisankar Maruthaiyan

IN MEMORIAM

The profession of Agrology has lost a true leader. Dr. Aleck Hutchinson, P.Ag. Retired, passed away in January. The vast majority of his professional and scientific career was accomplished at the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario where he gained worldwide recognition for his pioneering research on apples and rootstocks for fruit trees. He also is credited for introducing Bailey rootstock to Canada, the leading rootstock for peach orchards in Canada. Aleck was a founding member of the Niagara Branch of OIA and a regular contributor to Branch activities. Our sympathies extend to Doreen and the Hutchinson family.

