
MESSAGE FROM THE OIA PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all registered Agrology professionals in Ontario, I wish to extend congratulations to our new Premier. We look forward to meeting with her soon in her additional role as the Minister of Agriculture, as well as meeting with the new Minister of Rural Affairs. There are a wide range of issues and concerns for agriculture/Agrology, including updating the Premier on our Bill which is to be presented in the Ontario Legislature in the near future.



The Ontario Institute of Agrologists is prepared to assist the Ontario Government to resolve the challenges facing the agriculture/Agrology sector. The importance of agriculture/Agrology as an employment and economic prosperity driver in the province is well established.

- Largest single sector in Ontario (includes agriculture, food and food processing).
- Provides one in five jobs in Ontario.
- Single greatest driver in Ontario's bio-economy.

In addition, the OIA will continue to advocate for the provision of a very successful bridging-to-employment initiative funded by the province and federal government. The OIA has enjoyed a positive rapport with previous Ministers of Citizenship and Immigration and the new Minister will be similarly briefed by the OIA's Registrar on how the only program of its kind, operating province-wide within agriculture/Agrology, has contributed positively from an economic and social perspective benefiting Ontario.

Respectfully Submitted



Frank Reddick, P.Ag.
President

OIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM

As members are aware registration has opened for our annual conference. The two-day event will be taking place in Kitchener on April 5th and 6th. Our Awards Banquet on Friday, April 5th will again include a presentation of service pins for our long-serving members. In addition, Mr. Rob Saik, P.Ag., CAC – CEO of Agri-Trends Group of Companies – will inform and entertain conference delegates as well as accept the OIA's Corporate Award of Merit.

The OIA is also proud to present its Distinguished Agrologist Award to two very worthy members. Barry Fraser, P.Ag., and Tom Prout, P.Ag., will receive their awards. Present to receive their Honourary P.Ag. designations will be Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford, and Joseph Rider.

OIA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Ontario Swine Improvement Inc. (OSI) announced the appointment of Ted Oke, P.Ag., as General Manager commencing January 7th, 2013. Ted is a graduate of the University of Guelph and has held various positions in the Agricultural Business field for the past 25 years. He has been a Director on the OSI board since 2007 and has more recently held the position of Vice Chair. As General Manager, a significant amount of Ted's time will be working with the staff and the board, as well as personally interacting with producers, genetic suppliers and industry partners.

OSI is a not-for-profit organization, run by an elected Board of Directors with a vested interest in pursuing world class genetics through the use of the national swine genetic improvement program. With Ted at the helm OSI will undoubtedly continue to exceed industry standards in biosecurity protocols, testing procedures and quality control measures. Congratulations Ted!

Lianne Appleby, P.Ag., recently communicated that her career has again progressed. She is now the new Editor of Canadian Poultry magazine with Annex Business Media. Lianne says that "I travel throughout Canada and the US at a frequency that is just perfect for my lifestyle and the best part is meeting Canadian poultry farmers and helping to tell their story and promote the industry". Congratulations Lianne!

NOT TOO LATE TO COMMENT ON NEW ACT

Members continue to ask staff at conferences and Ag shows to learn the progress on our new Act. The Board and staff are hopeful that with the Ontario Legislature reconvening following prorogation our new Act will move forward quickly. Many registered Agrology professionals saw our required notice in October in Ontario Farmer. Each member still has the opportunity to comment on the need for a modern and updated Act. Comments should be directed in writing care of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills. You should address your comments, in writing, to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2.

PROMOTING LEGISLATIVE REFORM



Meetings with the Liberal, Conservative and New Democratic parties continue as our new Act gets closer to presentation in the Ontario Legislature. Terry Kingsmill, P.Ag., OIA's Registrar, recently met with NDP Agriculture Critic and MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane, John Vanthof. Terry also had the opportunity in January to speak with six additional NDP caucus members.

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR SHORT-TERM INNOVATIVE CAAP PROJECTS

Terry Thompson, P.Ag. and Executive Director of the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC), has circulated within the agriculture sector notification of the last opportunity to apply for Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) funding. AAC is looking for short-term, innovative projects that fit the project objectives. The final CAAP application deadline is March 14, 2013. Board review of applications will take place in April. All CAAP projects must be completed by October 31, 2013.

CAAP funds projects that help the sector remain competitive and adapt to:

- Seize opportunities: means to take advantage of a situation or circumstance in order to develop a new idea, product, niche, or market opportunity to the benefit of the sector.
- Respond to new and emerging issues: means to address issues that were not of concern previously or were not previously known. Issues vary considerably throughout Canada because of soil conditions, climate and the sector's level of development.
- Path-find or pilot new solutions and opportunities to on-going issues: means to test ways of dealing with new issues or find new ways to deal with existing issues.

For complete details about CAAP or for more information please visit the AAC website, www.adaptcouncil.org.

FUTURE PROFESSIONAL AGROLOGIST

We are pleased to announce that Kristy Nudds, A.Ag., recently had a baby girl. Abigail Kathleen Pickard weighed in at 6 lb. 12 oz. Mom and baby are both doing well.



IN MEMORIAM



Russell Johnston, P.Ag. Sr. – A resident of Ridgetown and long serving Professional Agrologist, Russell passed away suddenly on Friday, December 28, 2012. Russell retired from Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology in 1995 after serving 33 years as a soil management specialist and agricultural chemist. During his career, Russell conducted a six-year study that showed that tomato yields could be increased 15%-40% depending on limiting soil conditions. In addition to being a member of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists, he demonstrated an active desire to give back to his profession and community. Russell served with the Ridgetown & District Horticultural Society, and was a Past-President and Director of the Ridgetown Senior's Centre. Russell also assisted with the Outreach Breakfast Program at First Presbyterian Church, Chatham. Our condolences go to the entire Johnston family.



A. Macdonald Burka, P.Ag. Sr. – A. Macdonald passed away on Monday, December 31, 2012 in his 93rd year. Born in Calgary Alberta, Mac was a graduate of the University of Alberta, B.Sci. Ag. Following overseas service with the Canadian Military Headquarters during WWII, he joined Canada Packers Limited in Edmonton and in 1947 moved to Toronto as advertising manager. He joined the Governor General's Horse Guards Militia Regiment where he reactivated the Regiment's pre-war historic ceremonial mounted squadron and commanded the royal escort for Queen Elizabeth at the Queen's Plate in 1958. He retired with the rank of major, continuing as a member of the Regimental Board of Trustees. Mac was a long-time supporter of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair as volunteer and judge; Grand Knight and former Commander of the Toronto Commandery of the Order of St. Lazarus; member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, the Canadian Armoured Corps Association and the Eglinton-Caledon Hunt. Members will recall that Mac, though he could not be in attendance, received his 50 year OIA service pin in 2012 at the OIA's Awards Banquet in Barrie. Mac's contribution to Canada and the profession of Agrology will be remembered.



David Pallett, P.Ag. – David passed peacefully surrounded by loved ones on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 in his 71st year. In 1967 David received a B.Sc. from the University of Guelph in Agronomy and was a wealth of knowledge to many customers at Pleasant View Farms in Mississauga. As a mentor to many and a contributor to the OIA, his professional certification began more than 25 years ago. David was dedicated to community as he was recognized by his Rotary Club as a five-time honouree. David, we will miss you.



Eugene F. Whelan, P.Ag. Hon. – It is with great sadness that Former Federal Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Eugene Whelan, has passed away on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at the age of 88. Eugene was a proud Canadian who devoted his life to public service and agricultural community. He served in the House of Commons 1962-1984; was appointed Federal Minister of Agriculture in 1972 and held office until 1984 with a brief break in 1979; and was summoned a Senator 1996-1999. Known as “the Great Canadian Farmer”, during his administration, Eugene was instrumental in establishing Canadian agricultural policy, supporting the growth of supply management system, as well as developing friendly agribusinesses relationship with other countries. Eugene was inducted into the Canadian and Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2001 for his commitment, leadership and remarkable contributions to agriculture on a national and international level. Eugene will be greatly missed.

