

## MESSAGE FROM THE OIA PRESIDENT

Each year as we enter the fall and winter seasons, our busy schedules start accumulating more events and meeting invitations. Between family, social, community and professional interests, it is easy to start feeling a little overloaded.

Most OIA Branches across our province are back into the groove again with gatherings scheduled this fall, and planning underway into the new year. Over the past year, branches have held about 20 meetings in Ontario, including industry tours and guest speakers from a variety of different scopes of practice for Agrology. Those who have participated have consistently told me how rewarding they have found the meetings to be, with interesting topics, speakers, and – in the OIA way – thoughtful questions and discussion on these same topics.



OIA Branch events are also an excellent forum for you as an OIA member to further your own professional causes.

- *Do you or a colleague have something to share with others in the industry?*
  - The OIA activities can be an effective conduit for that information.
- *Do you need quality feedback on a professional project?*
  - OIA events provide a fresh audience with a broad wealth of experience.
- *Do you want to expand your professional contacts in the industry in your geographic area?*
  - Meet agricultural professionals both inside and outside your own scope of everyday practice.
- *Do you have a professional friend, client, or colleague that would appreciate being invited to a special event?*
  - It's not a Leafs or Senators game, but they will learn more, and the food and conversations are typically much, much better.

Watch your email box and the front page of the OIA website at [www.oia.on.ca](http://www.oia.on.ca) to access a full list of upcoming Branch Events. Looking for something more in your own area of Ontario? Let your branch executive or the OIA office know, and together we will make it happen.

Consider the value in balancing your professional development with everything else challenging your calendar for space. You will appreciate it.

Sincerely



Drew Orosz, P.Ag.  
President

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## OIA COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING LAUNCH AT WOODSTOCK FARM SHOW

The OIA exhibit at this fall's Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock was a busy place. OIA accredited professionals are known across the province and the country for their commitment to public accountability, commitment to continuous improvement and ethical practice standards.

The OIA is working hard to professionalize Agrology practice and highlight its member practitioners who work every day to achieve public interest. OIA members were interviewed by Dennis Guy for our upcoming on-line portal and Country Guide articles (Doug Yungblut, P.Ag. seated); accredited members volunteered their time (Kyle Maw, P.Ag. standing) and staff were there meeting those who were looking for the farm to fork expertise that our members provide.



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## OIA MEMBER VALUE PROPOSITION



When the OIA is out at farm shows or staff/board members are representing the OIA in various venues, unaccredited people working in the Agrology sector often ask about the value proposition of being members of the Institute as a P.Ag. or a T.Ag. With the Institute's new Act this question has been never easier to answer.

- New Act and upcoming related by-laws demonstrate that accreditation in Agrology practice no less important than professional Agrology accreditation in most of Canada where licensure to practice is mandatory in the public interest.
- Labour mobility within Canada is achieved.
- A member of the OIA is proven current and up-to-date on professional development.
- Opportunities presented to allow members to stay current at the provincial and local levels.
- Opportunities to network among peers.
- Professional accreditation linked to value for money for clients and employer.
- Public accountability through ethical practice standards, code of conduct and complaints and disciplinary process.
- OIA promotion of accredited practitioner members.

The OIA, through our new agreement with Country Guide (including member receipt of each Country Guide issue) and our new website, will ensure that members have the opportunity to be featured in print, as well as in audio and video on the OIA's new website to be unveiled soon.

When you add the additional advantages of membership associated with discounted liability coverage, medical coverage, as well as discounted home and auto insurance rates, your OIA membership represents an obvious value proposition.

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## **OIA BOARD MEMBER RECOGNIZED BY WORLD COUNCIL OF CREDIT UNIONS**



OIA Board member Robin Blythe, T.Ag., Account Manager at Libro's Listowel Branch, was awarded the Young Credit Union People Scholarship at the recent World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) annual conference, held in Gold Coast, Australia.

Only five individuals receive this prestigious honour each year. The scholarship recognizes leaders under the age of 35, who have made a significant impact within their credit union, and who exhibit the greatest potential to contribute to the international credit union system. The scholarship will allow Robin to attend the 2015 WOCCU Conference, scheduled in Denver, Colorado.

"This is an important recognition that accredited professionals are making a difference in the Ag finance sector", said OIA President, Drew Orosz, P.Ag. Stephen Bolton, Libro Credit Union President & CEO, noted that "this recognition is a testament to Robin's strong leadership and outstanding contributions to the credit union industry".

Congratulations Robin!

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## **TAKEN FROM NEWSLETTERS OF THE PAST**

After paying tribute to retiring President R.J. Hilton, P.Ag. and other members of Council who have done so much to get the fledgling Institute 'off the ground', incoming OIA President, Gordon Skinner's address was highlighted for members in the August 1962 OIA Newsletter. Gord highlighted those areas for every member to consider:



- *Organization well established and the next step is expansion.*
- *Our Code of ethics must be upheld and nothing done individually or collectively that might reflect adversely on our profession.*
- *We must gain a place of equality with, and the respect of, other professions as well as with society in general.*
- *Watch that we do not fall into the sin of silence but keep the OIA and what it stands for, before the public at all times.*
- *Be proud to use the designation "P.Ag." after our name.*
- *Establish a reputation for clear thinking, sound and impartial judgment with appropriate and speedy action on matters pertaining to agricultural policy.*
- *Raise our sights to some of the larger issues affecting agriculture.*
- *Realize that the fundamental basis for our existence as an organization is the farmer on the land.*
- *All segments of agriculture – teaching, extension, research and allied industry – must be strongly represented in our membership.*

The OIA's new President concluded with this challenging appeal: "There should be no allusions. It will not be an easy path. However, if we establish ourselves as a useful and desirable adjunct to society, the problem will have been largely solved. I appeal for the fullest cooperation in the implementation of this program as being the only way to the realization of our ultimate goal."

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## **AGROLOGISTS CANADA**

Our Registrar, Terry Kingsmill, P.Ag., serves on the Board of Directors of Agrologists Canada. Agrologists Canada is a national body comprising 10 provincial regulators of agrology practice. As regulators, we license and accredit agrology professionals and govern their work to ensure safe, competent and ethical practice in our individual provinces.



As members of the Agrologists Canada team, we work together to:

- Meet our obligations for national labour mobility (i.e. harmonizing licensing requirements so that agrology professionals can efficiently become licensed with any regulator in Canada).
- Inform Canadians about the vital role of licensed/accredited agrology practitioners.

Agrologists Canada recently held their annual general meeting and registrars' meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland. Terry commented that, "each time we come together it is clear that we need a strong national body to ensure recognition of licensed and accredited practitioners. The work we do every day to protect the health of Canadians, to provide sustainable and science-based solutions, as well as bring sound business advice must be advocated".

For more information please visit the Agrologists Canada website and be sure to view the 2 minute promotional video on our profession.

<http://agrologistscanada.ca/home/>

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## IN MEMORIAM



**D. Murray Brown** – The OIA was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Murray Brown at the age of 86. Murray joined the OIA in 1961 and was a member for 45 years. Murray graduated Ontario Agriculture College with a Master of Science in Agriculture in 1953. He earned a doctoral degree in 1958 from Iowa State University before working for the Ontario Research Foundation.

Murray subsequently taught agricultural meteorology and climatology at what was then the Guelph University's Department of Land Resource Science, which later merged with Environmental Biology to create the School of Environmental Sciences. He is well known for developing a ground-breaking system (The Crop Heat Unit) that is marking this year half a century of helping farmers decide the best hybrid crops for growing conditions, particularly with Ontario's key corn crops.

Though retired for years, Murray continued to collaborate in research and remained interested in the advancement of the OIA. In his final correspondence to the OIA's Registrar, Murray concluded with, "May the OIA survive for the benefit of Ontario agriculture!!"



**Robert (Bob) Wilcox** – Bob passed away in August at the age of 89. A graduate of the Ontario Agriculture College in 1950, he retired from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food at Vineland in 1983. He had devoted his career to the fruit growing industry in Niagara.

Bob was a friend to many growers and valued the relationships he had with the people he knew and worked with. He was an active OIA member, also joining in 1961 and was a member for 45 years.

In recognition of his passion for the Niagara region and agriculture, his family asked that you remember Bob by purchasing a basket of Niagara fresh fruit.