

*"Spring is here"
(Corn Planting in Niagara)*



NIAGARA NORTH FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

QUARTERLY

VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

BY ROBERT BATOR, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our SPRING QUARTERLY

In advance of the 2015 provincial review of the Greenbelt Plan, Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Niagara Region is undertaking a review of the Greenbelt Plan and its impact on Niagara Region. During the past months many of us took part in Community Consultation Forums where participants provided their feedback on the benefits, obstacles, challenges and opportunities for change associated with the Greenbelt Plan in Niagara. The Region will submit a report to the Province of Ontario in advance of the 2015 review process. The Niagara Greenbelt Review consultation process brought together a range of interests including agriculture, natural heritage, planning, culture, development, recreation and tourism, economic development, elected officials and the public.

The majority of the comments received during Round One of the consultation related to the obstacles and challenges related to Greenbelt plan policies, the interpretation and implementation of these policies, and the 2015 provincial review of the Plan.

The Greenbelt Plan fails to address agricultural viability. Setback requirements from Natural Heritage features have limited the ability of farmers to expand farming operations or make the best use of their agricultural land. Greenbelt mapping in Niagara has designated many woodlots as wetlands. A buffer strip of 120 meters [400 ft.] is required around these woodlands, many of which are not wetlands at all. Normal Farm Practices may be restricted within the protected lands. The Greenbelt Plan does not address the need for additional opportunities

Continued on page 2 ...

VICE PRESIDENT’S REMARKS *Continued from page 1*

for value added agriculture. It fails to promote and /or understand agriculture as a business and industry. It did not mitigate the loss of processing infrastructure, like Can Gro, which signals a lack of Provincial commitment to a viable agricultural sector. The Plan seems to have conflicting objectives, Natural Heritage protection taking precedence over agricultural objectives. Environmental restrictions are eroding the agricultural land base and agricultural viability. There is conflict between agriculture and tourism. There is the “Urban-Rural divide” and the problem of trespassing on farmers’ property. There is a general lack of awareness by the public and the Province of the realities of farming.

In order to promote agricultural viability in Niagara, the Greenbelt Plan should include the word “farmers” and

recognize their role in the plan. The Plan should introduce and strengthen policies to support agricultural viability and farm-related infrastructure/ support services. It should recognize the special characteristics and needs of specialty crop areas and provide flexible policies to meet those needs. It should include flexible setback provisions to recognize small farm parcels. The Plan should provide for and support incentives such as a Rural Community Improvement Plan and Ecological Goods and Services. It should modify the definition of hydrological feature to distinguish between man-made features and naturally formed features. It should adopt definitions from the Watercourse Mapping Update based on the Region’s new digital terrain model. It should provide incentives to encourage agriculture, support farmers and enhance value added policies. It

should recognize that the agricultural land, including orchards and vineyards, provide wildlife habitat and linkages and include a policy that would protect existing farms from the negative impacts of naturalized farmland. It should recognize the value of ongoing Best Management Practices (BMP) and environmental benefits of agricultural land. The Greenbelt Plan needs to be a living plan. It cannot be static and only regulate agricultural lands, but be flexible to meet the needs of farmers in the 21st century.

NIAGARA NORTH UPDATE

At the April board meeting of the NNFA, a presentation was made by the Niagara Community Foundation, an organization that connects donors in the community to causes and charities important to their donors. This is done through the creation of endowment funds, the earnings on which are granted to charities. Since its launch in 2000, over \$21 million has been raised supporting causes as diverse as the environment, culture, education, health, social services, animal welfare, community development and recreation.

Donors have a variety of options from which to choose when creating their funds. They can establish a donor-designated fund naming one or more charities to receive an annual grant. The Lincoln Agricultural Society benefits from a fund established by a local donor. Instead of creating a private foundation, a donor-advised fund can be created, where the foundation takes care of all the legal, regulatory and administrative work leaving the donor to annually select which charities to

support. Donors can setup a fund to support a particular field of interest such as health, children and youth, culture or the environment. Donors also have the option to contribute to one of the local community funds, giving the donor the assurance that their fund will support charities serving their home town.

The Foundation has granted more than \$5 million, funding projects as diverse as purchasing commercial kitchen equipment for local social enterprises,

enabling children in financial need to attend sports, recreation or cultural programs, constructing a board walk to protect environmentally sensitive land to purchasing computers and equipment which increase a charity’s effectiveness at delivering their programs and services.

Further information is available on the website at www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org or by calling 905-684-8688 ext.22

ELECTION TIMELINE FOR 2013	
June 1	Nominations Open for Zone Director
June 28	Nominations Close
August 19	Voting Opens
September 13	Voting Closes

ZONE 5 ELECTIONS

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture Zone 5 election for a Director is this year. Niagara North, Niagara South, Hamilton Wentworth and Halton are all part of Zone 5. It is a three year term. At this time we would like to encourage you to consider being part of the team. You will be part of the policy making for Ontario agriculture, part of the team that promotes and protects the agriculture industry in Ontario and Canada and part of the team that speaks with one voice at meetings, conferences and political functions. Concerned that you do not have the training and experience for this job? The job comes with training in governance and communication so you will be prepared to fulfill your responsibilities. If you decide that you are not interested in being nominated for this position there is still a role for you to play. It is up to you to vote for the best candidate who will effectively and professionally represent Zone 5 at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture board table. Niagara North will have an all candidates evening highlighting each of the nominees. Be sure to attend so that you can hear what each has to say and decide who you feel would best represent you at the provincial level. For those of you who are considering running for this position, below is the election timeline and the job description so you have an understanding of the time commitment and responsibilities. Is it your time to step up to the plate and be part of the largest general farm organization?

ROLE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Generally, the Board of Directors overall role is to assume responsibility for the stewardship of the corporation, including:

- Adoption of strategic planning process
- Identification of risks to the corporation and risk management strategies
- Appointment, training and monitoring of senior manager
- Adoption of governance policies
- Integrity of internal controls and information systems

This stewardship role involves three basic functions

- 1) Hire and retain a capable senior manager
- 2) Approve the direction of the corporation
- 3) Monitor the operation of the corporation

More specifically, the OFA Board’s responsibilities include:

- Adoption of the annual operating plans and budget
- Monitoring and approval of financial statements and operational performance
- Regular communication with members and affiliates
- Set policy direction based on staff input and consultations.

The Board of Directors meets at least 10 times per year, typically in Guelph or Toronto. Meeting materials are sent in advance of the meeting and Directors are expected to familiarize themselves with the material. Duties are assigned to Directors including liaison with a commodity organization and becoming the Board lead on a particular subject matter. Directors may run for a position on one of the three Standing Committees (Pension, Budget and Audit) or be assigned to a Task Team to make recommendations to the Board on a particular issue of interest.

Time commitment for Directors can range from 30 to 60 days per year for OFA meetings. However, this may not include meeting preparation time nor other meetings attended due to the demands of the position. Per diems and expenses are paid for Directors on approved OFA business.

NEW OFA MEMBERSHIP PROCESS JOIN A.S.A.P.

There are many great reasons to join the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the voice of Ontario farmers, and enjoy the benefits that membership brings.

- Access to OFA Member Service Representatives
- Special discounts and promotions exclusive to OFA members
- Voting rights for OFA leadership
- Your OFA member card

STEP 1

REGISTER YOUR FARM BUSINESS

Choose OFA as your accredited farm organization on the Farm Business Registration form, and return the annual fee of \$195 plus HST (payable to OFA) to Agricornp.

If you have not received your 2013 renewal notice from Agricornp by February 15, 2013, please call 1.866.327.3678

STEP 2

SIGN THE 2013 OFA MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

Effective January 2013, to officially become an OFA member, you must complete and sign the 2013 OFA membership agreement. Complete, sign and return the agreement that was mailed to you after completing your FBR form, or complete the online version. If you have questions, email driveforward@ofa.on.ca



**Niagara North
Federation of Agriculture**

11TH Annual Niagara Agriculture

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The intent of this award is to annually recognize a Niagara farmer or farm family for their lifelong outstanding contribution to improving agriculture in Niagara while running a successful farm operation. This award will enable farmers to take pride and glory in their accomplishments. The guidelines are as follows:

1. Be farm operators, deriving at least 2/3 of their income from their farming operation.
2. Have been or currently are farm operators for at least 20 years.
3. Resident living in Niagara.
4. Be recognized by peers as providing unselfish service through the nurturing, education or innovation of ideas for the next generation.
5. Have a vision for agriculture that was directed into action.
6. Nominations by an organization or individual. Nominating group to provide a letter of reference. More than one organization or group of individuals can make nominations for a farmer or farm family.
7. The award will be presented in the spring of 2014 at a social gathering.
8. Deadline for nominations is October 30, 2013. Nomination forms are available by calling Cathy at 905-957-3044 or email c.mous@sympatico.ca

If you would like the Quarterly emailed to you please **send Cathy an email** at c.mous@sympatico.ca and you will be added to the email list.

NIAGARA NORTH FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE



NNFA 2013 EXECUTIVE

<i>President</i> Albert Witteveen.....	905-957-1438
<i>1st Vice President</i> Robert Bator	905-684-4251
<i>2nd Vice President</i> Mike Chechalk.....	905-386-6412
<i>Past President</i> Norman Vaughan.....	905-386-6878
<i>Executive Director</i> Don Kouri	905-563-1835
<i>Executive Director</i> Arden Vaughn.....	905-688-4570
<i>Executive Director</i> Torrie Warner	905-562-5637

NNFA 2013 DIRECTORS

Grimsby

Don Kouri 324 Thirty Rd, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B2905-563-1835

Lincoln

Ian Johnston 2995 7th Ave, Jordan, LOR 1S0905-359-6976

Jim Morrison 3381 Twenty First St, Jordan, LOR 1S0905-562-4866

Alex Pijl 4079 Thirteenth St, Jordan Station, ON L0R 1S0905-933-1011

Torrie Warner 4045 John St., Beamsville, ON, L0R 2J0905-562-5637

Niagara on the Lake

Ken Dyck 359 Line 4, Niagara on the Lake, L0S 1J0905-682-4923

Linda Grimo 979 Lakeshore Rd, NotL, L0S 1J0905-708-9219

Kai Wiens 905 Concession 2, NotL, ON L0S 1J0905-468-4179

John Wiens R.R. # 2, NotL, L0S 1J0905-682-4976 Fax: 905-684-1284

St. Catharines

Arden Vaughn 1226 Reg. Rd. 8, R.R.#1, St. Cath., ON, L2R 6P7.....905-688-4570

West Lincoln

Ken Durham R. R. # 3, Smithville, ON, LOR 2A0905-957-7279

Mike Chechalk 6472 Silver St., St. Ann's, LOR 1Y0905-386-6412

Les Klodnicki 9481 S. Chippawa Rd., Canfield, N0A 1C0905-774-7831

Albert Witteveen 2853 S. Grimsby Rd 7, Smithville LOR 2A0905-957-1438

Secretary-Treasurer

Cathy Mous R.R. # 1, Smithville, LOR 2A0

Phone: 957-3044 • Fax: 957-1886 • Email: c.mous@sympatico.ca

Member Service Representative

Henry Swierenga 131 College St., Gen. Del., Smithville, LOR 2A0

Phone: 957-4280 • Fax 957-4281 • Email: henry.swierenga@ofa.on.ca

Policy Advisors to OFA Toronto

West • **Mike Chechalk** 6472 Silver St., St. Ann's, LOR 1Y0905-386-6412

East • **Robert Bator** R.R. # 2, Niagara on the Lake, L0S 1J0905-684-4251

OFA Zone 5 Director

Larry Freeman905-308-1351

farmers working for farmers since 1935



www.ofa.on.ca

Ontario Agri-Centre

100 Stone Road West, Suite 206
Guelph, ON N1G 5L3

Telephone (519) 821-8883

1 (800) 668-3276

Fax (519) 821-8810