

*Robert Bator, 1st Vice President
presented a scholarship to
Amanda Comfort and Mike DeBoer*



NIAGARA NORTH FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

QUARTERLY

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

BY ALBERT WITTEVEEN, PRESIDENT NNFA

Welcome to our
WINTER QUARTERLY

Well here we are entering a new year with new plans and goals. Setting goals are good in helping us with a direction but it only counts for 5% of the process. Setting goals can sometimes be the easy part, you sit down and think about them, or if you are advanced, you take a piece of paper and write them down. So after this exercise, if there is any form of accomplishment, a couple of things must happen. First, you need to focus on the goal, and second is to move in one direction with purpose. (full steam ahead). We need to complete a picture of what we are getting into and do it. Sometimes a change in attitude will have to take place. Gaining further knowledge is always helpful in decisions that are made along the way. "Your success will be greatly determined by your ability to focus on something and see it through to the end". So with all this said, our agricultural societies have joined forces to become the new West Niagara

Agricultural Society. Excitement of a new fairground was seen on January 21, 2013 with a record attendance at their Annual General Meeting. Young and old are excited about what can and will be on the new site (100 acres of clean slate). I see this as a renewal for agriculture in West Niagara, coming together in support of creating a site for the next 100 years that will help showcase agriculture. The Niagara North Federation of Agriculture looks forward in working with the new Agricultural Society as it moves forward in these exciting times. So I would like to leave you with a quote:

"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great ones make you feel that you, too can become great" Mark Twain

Have a safe winter
Albert Witteveen

NIAGARA NORTH UPDATE

NIAGARA AGRI EDUCATION DAY

Niagara North organized the 6th annual Niagara Agri Education Day which was held at the Lincoln County Fair on Friday, September 7th. Each year grade 3 and 4 students are invited to participate in the program. Students visit 8 different stations and learn about agriculture. This year we highlighted goats, pigs, chickens, nuts, culinary, horses, sheep shearing and a milking demonstration. Approximately 220 students participated. Next year the new fair will be at a different location. Niagara North will work with the West Niagara Agricultural Society to develop a new agriculture program.



Chef Greg Willis shows students how to make a healthy snack

REGIONAL MEETING

The Niagara North regional meeting was held on Wednesday, October 10th at Rittenhouse Hall in Vineland. This year the guest speaker was Mark Wales, President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Mark gave an update on the issues the OFA has been working on including the Local Food Act, Hay East, Growing Forward II, Agri Stability, risk management plan and the Premier's Summit. He also gave an update on the accreditation progress. Since this meeting the OFA has been accredited but must now follow a two-step membership process as described in this Quarterly. Robert Bator and Mike Chechalk were elected as Niagara

North representatives on the OFA Policy Advisory Council. Delegates for the OFA convention were also elected at this time.

ANNUAL MEETING

Niagara North held their annual banquet and meeting on Saturday, November 17th at the Wellandport Community Hall. This year the Niagara Agriculture Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Pieter D. Buis Sr. Pieter and his wife Margaret purchased their first farm, Glenlake Orchards in 1957. Over the years they have grown and expanded. They started off growing a variety of commodities including cherries, peaches, tomatoes, strawberries and pigs. Grapes were planted on the farm in the early 1980's beginning a whole new career for Pieter as an award winning amateur wine maker. Pieter is an entrepreneur. He worked at growing and marketing his produce and embraced new technology and best farming practices. He brought a lot of the technology they used on the farm from Europe. Pieter has never been afraid of moving forward and improving. He realized there is more to life than just farming and that it is important to be involved in farm organizations and your community. Pieter was vice chair and later chair of the Niagara Peninsula Fruit and Vegetable Growers – Virgil Unit. He later became vice chair and chair of the Niagara Peninsula Fruit and Vegetable Growers. He worked on several committees for the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers and held the position of Vice Chair. Pieter also realized the importance of representing agriculture as a whole and served as president of the Niagara North Federation of Agriculture for 3 years. He also was the local federation representative in Toronto at the Ontario Federation

of Agriculture. Pieter was the vice chair of the Fresh Fruit Board. When the Fresh Fruit Board amalgamated with the processing board forming the Ontario Tender Fruit Marketing Board, Pieter was elected to the board and later became Chair. Pieter has served as a member of the farm credit appeal board and the grape pull out program. Because of his involvement and dedication to agriculture, Pieter has received many awards including becoming an honorary member of the Ontario Institute of Professional Agrologists. Niagara North is proud to honour dedicated farmers such as Pieter. Niagara North also presented two scholarships at their annual meeting. The recipients were Amanda Comfort and Mike DeBoer. Joe Pillitteri was the entertainment for the evening. This year Niagara North has two new directors – Ken Dyck and Ian Johnston. Ken is a grape farmer from Niagara on the Lake. He and his wife Renate own Cattail Creek Estates Winery. Ian Johnston is a grape grower in Lincoln. Niagara North would like to welcome Ken and Ian to the team.



Albert Witteveen presented the Niagara Agriculture Lifetime Achievement award to Pieter D. Buis with his wife Margaret

PROMOTIONAL PROJECTS

Niagara North is in the process of developing several agriculture promotional projects. The mandate of these projects is to promote the importance of agriculture in Niagara and to remind consumers the importance of buying locally. These projects will be completed this year.

MEMBER SERVICE REPORT

PROVIDED BY HENRY SWIERENGA

Coming out of the deep freeze, the mind is starting to wander towards the warmer weather of Spring with high hopes of a good and dare I say “normal” crop year --- and lots of hay.

Many members will have received their 2013 Farm Business Registration Forms or will beshortly. As a result of the Tribunal ruling last December, there is an important change for 2013. Just follow the simple two step process outlined below and your membership in OFA will be maintained in good standing. We appreciate your support. Choosing OFA means

- **Continuous lobbying on your behalf at all government levels**
- **Access to OFA member service representative (Henry Swierenga)**
- **Local county representation**
- **Special discounts and promotions exclusive to OFA members (ie: TSC)**
- **Better Farming Magazine**
- **Meeting participation and voting rights for local county and OFA leadership**



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 Agricorp.

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



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. Once OFA receives your payment from Agricorp, an OFA membership agreement will be mailed to you. Sign and return the agreement, or complete the on line form by visiting our website

www.ofa.on.ca/driveforward/signup-fbr.aspx
Your OFA card and membership package will arrive shortly after. If you have questions, email driveforward@ofa.on.ca



CONFIRMED OFA 2013 MEMBERS WILL BE ENTERED FOR A CHANCE TO WIN:

- A 2013 Can-Am Outlander ATV
- One of three \$1,000 vouchers towards the purchase of a new Chrysler Dodge Jeep fleet vehicle
- One of ten \$200 gift cards from your choice of TSC Stores or Mark's

FULL CONTEST DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE HERE.

www.ofa.on.ca/driveforward/contest-rules.aspx

FARM SECURITY

We have recently received several disturbing reports of unauthorized entry onto farm premises and research facilities. In some cases there was significant damage to equipment, structures and indirectly, to livestock. A number of the unlawful entries were initiated by extreme animal rights organizations and unfortunately we have our share of such groups here in the Niagara GTA area. Below is a summary of a number of such groups working under the common banner of Niagara Animal Defense League led by Dylan Powell.

These groups are working together on different causes, but towards the common goals of animal protection and indoctrinating the public with their extreme views on animal rights. Included in this group are: The Live Free Collective, Fur Free Niagara, Niagara Vegan, the Niagara Vegan Baking Militia, Friends of Kanonhstaston, Queer Action Niagara, Brock Animal Rights Collective (BARC) and CAT”.

Your local Federation of Agriculture encourages everyone to report all suspected unauthorized entry cases to police. They are fully aware of these organizations and have the jurisdiction to deal with them properly. I would also like to be notified as the information is used to gather intelligence on these groups. All information would be held in strictest confidence. I can be reached at henry.swierenga@ofa.on.ca or 905-957-4280.

I would also encourage our farm families to seriously consider installing CCTV cameras as part of their security program. The price of CCTV equipment has dropped sufficiently to warrant consideration when rationalized against your farm/home investment. Also remember to always ask for identification when confronted by persons who are demanding access to your barns or storage facilities etc. You have the right to ask them to leave if they cannot properly identify themselves with photo ID.

And a final note, we have blitzed the various townships over the past two years delivering and installing OFA gate signs. If by chance, we missed you or your sign has been damaged, please contact me and a new sign will be delivered.



**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 at the Annual Niagara North Federation of Agriculture Banquet in November
8. Deadline for nominations is October 18, 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



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<i>Executive Director</i> Arden Vaughn.....	905-688-4570
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