



OSCIA News...

September 2007

A NEWSLETTER TO UPDATE OSCIA MEMBERS,
PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES, TREASURERS, DIRECTORS,
AND OMAFRA CROP TECHNOLOGY CONTACTS —

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Association**

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OSCIA 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Date: February 5 & 6, 2008

Place: Sheraton Fallsview
Niagara Falls

Message from the President

Our OSCIA Summer Directors' Meeting was hosted by Pat and Margaret Lee. A big thank you for their hospitality and introduction to Oxford County. The Directors' meeting included updates on the various programs and project activities as well as a review of the strategic planning priorities that were identified at a previous meeting. *Frank Hoftzyer*



Priorities include: continuation and expansion of research partnerships; participation in a farm business management pilot project; realignment of provincial Director boundaries with regional boundaries; strengthening of membership, and; continuation and expansion of environmental programs including more focus on the bio-economy.

Important Information on Director Boundary Realignment -

At the August 27, 2007, meeting of the OSCIA Board of Directors, recommendations were put forth to realign the provincial Director boundaries with the existing regional association boundaries. In the past, there has been considerable overlap, duplication and confusion between the boundaries for provincial Directors and the regional associations. The new scenario will improve the communication abilities considerably – from the local associations, through to their regional association and their provincial Director who sits on the provincial board.

The realignment will result in eleven provincial board members who will work closely with their Regional Communications Coordinator. The local associations will benefit greatly from this streamlined approach. One of the strengths of OSCIA is its grassroots connection and the provincial Directors wish to put in place a more effective infrastructure to better service and strengthen the local associations.

Provincial Directors are currently elected by their local association delegates; however, the new procedure would require an election by the regional associations.

At the February 2008 OSCIA Annual Meeting, delegates will be asked to support constitutional changes necessary to implement this new infrastructure. The realignment would come into effect by the February 2009 annual meeting. As part of the process change, provincial Directors will be elected by their regions to

come into effect for the 2009 annual meeting. It will be business as usual for delegates to elect their provincial Directors for the 2008 annual meeting.

Provincial Directors will be communicating the proposed boundary realignment to the membership in their areas over the next weeks and months.

The proposed Director regions appear on the following chart:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Associations</u>	<u>Current Directors</u>	<u>Assumed Feb '08 – Feb '09</u>	<u>Feb '09 onward</u>
St. Clair	Lambton, Kent, Essex	Williams, Denotter	Williams, Denotter	One Elected by Region
Thames Valley	Middlesex, Elgin, Oxford	Williams, Lee	Williams (Lee – Pres '08)	One Elected by Region
Heartland	Huron, Perth, Waterloo, Wellington	McKinlay, to be named	New to be named	One Elected by Region
Georgian Central	Bruce, Grey, Dufferin, Simcoe N & S	McKinlay, Pridham	McKinlay, Pridham	One Elected by Region
Golden Horseshoe	Niagara N & S, Haldimand, Wentworth, Halton, Peel, Brant, Norfolk	Davis, Brooks, Hill	Davis, Brooks, Hill (Hill – Pres '10)	One Elected by Region
East Central	York, Durham, Peterborough, Victoria, Haliburton	Kinghorn, Brooks, Hoftzyer	Brooks	One Elected by Region
Quinte	Pr Edward, L & A, Hastings, Northumberland	Kaiser, Hoftzyer	Kaiser	One Elected by Region
Eastern Valley	Prescott, Russell, Glengarry, Stormont, Dundas	Haerle, Kruszel	Haerle, Kruszel	One Elected by Region
Ottawa Rideau	Grenville, Leeds, Lanark, Renfrew, Carleton, Frontenac	Kruszel, Kaiser, Cotnam	Kruszel, Kaiser, Cotnam	One Elected by Region
NE Ontario	Parry Sound, Muskoka, Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Temiskaming, Nipissing	Parsons, Cochrane, Muggler	Parsons, Cochrane, Muggler (Cochrane – Pres '09)	One Elected by Region
NW Ontario	Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Kenora	Mol	Mol	One Elected by Region

**OSCIA WEBSITE
VISIT US AT
www.ontariosoilcrop.org**

Ontario Forage Masters Program - Provincial Competition Added

OSCIA is pleased to announce a final provincial competition this fall to select the person to be named the **2007 Ontario Forage Master**.

First place winners from each local association will be invited to apply to the provincial competition with a short list invited to participate at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November 2007.

This winner will go on to represent Ontario at the Forage Spokesperson Competition held as part of the American Forage and Grasslands Council conference in January in Kentucky.

Details for entry have been mailed to all provincial Directors, local associations, OFM contact persons, and to all known winners to date.

Any entrant who has not heard the results in their own county are encouraged to get in touch with the organizer for their local association. The deadline for entering the competition is October 1, and is strictly voluntary.

Prizes announced in the spring will be awarded to the local winners as previously outlined in the guidelines.

This year's sponsors include Agri-Food Laboratories and Pickseed Canada, in cooperation with the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. ♦



Promotional Material Available to Local and Regional Associations

NEW! Promotional material is available to local associations on a cost-recovery basis by contacting the provincial office. Durable double-sided fleece vests with the OSCIA name and logo embroidered, and embroidered OSCIA hats have been purchased.



Local and regional association secretaries can order these items for their association to use at upcoming winter meetings as gifts for a special member or speaker, or as fundraising items at upcoming local annual meetings.

Please visit the OSCIA website at www.ontariosoilcrop.org and look under Tools on the Members page for pricing and ordering information. ♦

OSCIA Membership Committee

The Membership Committee's purpose is to identify opportunities for OSCIA to strengthen its membership base, and add value for our members.

OSCIA Contact List

A master list providing the phone numbers of all local presidents and secretaries across Ontario has been prepared and will be mailed to each local secretary and president in order for you to pass on contact information as requested at your local associations.

OSCIA Membership base remains strong!

The Membership Committee has been reviewing membership numbers from the past five years. We have had an increase in membership to a high of over 3,800 reported members in 2006. This is an 8% increase in memberships since 2005, and keeps our membership numbers similar to the 4,000 members from 2002-2003! The 2007 membership numbers will be tabulated shortly.

The increase in membership numbers are due to your locals' strong organization, and events which continue to attract producers across Ontario. Thank you for being a part of our goal of increasing membership across the province. Your hard work continues to make this Association active and vibrant for upcoming generations.

Summary of OSCIA Membership Committee Survey

During recent OSCIA Annual Meetings and Provincial Directors' Meetings, the issue of OSCIA membership was a top priority. Below are the results of a survey sent to local OSCIA secretaries in June 2007. (20/55 counties responded)

The majority of respondents felt that:

- there should not be different classes of membership
- there should not be one set membership fee across the province
- memberships should be renewed annually
- like to have the Regional Communication Coordinators attending local events to sell memberships. ♦

Information Packages Available for Local Events

If your local association is planning a special tour or event, and would like to distribute timely technical information sheets, please contact Deanna Deaville at the provincial office. Please ensure any request is made at least three weeks in advance to accommodate sending out folders for your event. (cont'd)

Information that could be included if available are:

OMAFRA/OSCIA Crop Advances: Field Crop Reports - 2007-09-04

OSCIA Brochure

OMAFRA Infosheets

Biodiesel Use On-Farm?

Considerations and Opportunities for Building a Farm- Based Anaerobic Digester System in Ontario

Energy Audits

Energy Yields from a Farm Based Anaerobic Digestion System

Introduction to Energy Crops

Being *Energywise* for the *Future* (Farm Profiles)

Swine Farming – *Improving Creep Heat Conditions and Reducing Energy Use*

Tie Stall Dairy Farming – *Improving Barn Environment and Reducing Energy Costs*

Free Stall Dairy Farming – *Improving Barn Environment and Reducing Energy Costs*

Poultry Farming – *Improving Poultry Environment and Reducing Energy*

Dependency ♦

EFP Celebrates Milestone

On June 26, 2007, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada announced that 7500 EFPs have been completed in Ontario with Agricultural Policy Framework funding.



Keith Black, 2006 OSCIA President, presents a farm gate sign to Kristen Ego of Ego's Farm Market and Greenhouses (Coldwater), who was the 7500th producer to complete an EFP under the current program.

"EFP is spurring positive environmental change on the agricultural landscape," said Frank Hoftzyer, President of the OSCIA. "Having 7,500 producers through the program with peer reviewed and deemed appropriate action plans is a significant milestone that signals a clear commitment by Ontario producers to incorporate environmental beneficial management practices into their farm production plans." ♦

OSCIA Summer Directors' Meeting

The OSCIA Directors' Summer Meeting was hosted this past August by Pat and Marg Lee of Oxford County.

Thanks go out to the Lees and to the Oxford SCIA for their hospitality and introduction to Oxford County. While the Directors attended to business, their families, along with former presidents of OSCIA, enjoyed the sites and activities offered in the area.

Tuesday the whole group visited dairy, mink, ginseng, and fruit farms that are located in the county. ♦



Presentation at the ginseng farm of Les and Bertha Gehring.

EFP Reminder!

Are you one of the many thousands of producers who want to take advantage of the cost share programs associated with the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)? If so, you need to act now! The deadline for completion of approved projects is November 30, 2007.

- If your approved project is completed and the bills have been paid, call the OSCIA Program Representative immediately to get the claim process started.
- If you have final approval from OSCIA to proceed, get going on the projects if you have not already.
- There are still opportunities to apply for cost share, if you can meet the November 30, 2007 deadline.

Call your local OSCIA Program Representative for more information. ♦

EFP and the associated cost share programs are supported through the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) a federal – provincial - territorial initiative.