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Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario)

FALL 09

A Publication of the North Eastern Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (NEOSCIA)

Temiskaming IPM a Huge Success

by Darlene Bowen and Bob Norris



The first ever International Plowing Match held in Northern Ontario thrilled organizers when 80,000 visitors passed through the gates during the five day event. Before opening even arrived, a record 2100 RV sites were full to overflowing with RV's and motor homes of every size and description from all over Canada and Northern USA . In addition to being the first fully bilingual IPM, this was the first event not administered by a regional government. It was instead; a board of volunteers made up of both Agri business and commercial business people who had the foresight to envision the opportunities possible from hosting this international event. While there was no government infrastructure in the organization, the event brought together the district of Nipissing, Temiskaming, Cochrane and Abitibi – Temiscamguein a collaboration to showcase and promote the lifestyle and culture of Northeastern Ontario and Northwestern Quebec

The army of volunteers numbered 1500 from all walks of life. The board of directors cannot thank everyone enough for the spirit, commitment and pride shown by volunteers from across the north and around the province as we put our best foot forward to display the north as we opened our doors to everyone who visited.

One of the constant remarks from those attending was the strong organization and positive attitude of our volunteers. There was no question that our volunteers lived by and delivered our motto of "A warm

Continued on page 4

NOTE: **Sponsors/Advertisers needed for coming year. \$500 for 4 issues!**

This newsletter is published 4 times per year. Articles can be submitted in either English or French and should be submitted to the Communication Coordinator (see below). Please supply translation, if available.

Material in this newsletter is based upon factual information believed to be accurate. Action taken as a result of this information is solely the responsibility of the user. We reserve the right to edit articles.

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FedNor Minister Tony Clements and NEOSCIA President Janet Parsons Announce Funding for NEOSCIA "Intern" Position

By Graham Gambles



NEOSCIA recently received approval to hire a "Youth Intern" with support of \$27,500 provided by the Government of Canada under the FedNor program. NEOSCIA received additional support from the Temiskaming Agricultural Development Agency (TADA) to the level of \$3000, to complete the package.

The FedNor program is designed to provide meaningful full-time work experience for recent post secondary school graduates. The goal is to assist young people in finding gainful employment in the north, and encourage them to become long term members of the northern workforce.

After a province-wide search for the most appropriate candidate, the NEOSCIA search committee chose Kelly Bird as our Intern for a 12 month period, starting in early August of 2009. Kelly graduated

from McMaster University in Hamilton this spring. Her career goal is to work in communications, preferably doing PR and promotions.

Since her arrival, she certainly has had the chance to expand on her interests! After a rapid introduction to northern agriculture, Kelly was put to work in the development of the

NEOSCIA and adjoining Temiskaming Crop Coalition (TCC) displays for the Earlton IPM. These displays featured a weather station, provided by Nipissing University, that promoted the new partnership between these organizations. Also featured was a limestone display that enhanced the link between Miller Minerals and the TCC. The partnership between TCC and Temiskaming OMAFRA was highlighted with a 2009 research project that evaluated the use of calcium chloride on forage fields as a preventative for "Milk Fever" in dairy cattle. The display was rounded out with a feature on the 3 regional projects that NEOSCIA has undertaken over the past decade. (Alternative forage species, the Canola-Sulphur fertilizer relationship, and Bedstraw control.)

Kelly is now working on a display to be

presented at the Royal Winter Fair. She will also be developing the NEOSCIA Trade Show and Agricultural Conference in Earlton come April. She will be the primary co-ordinator for the next 3 issues of Breaking Ground. She is working with TCC in the development of a "Blog" and is assisting in a TCC "remote sensing" research project. (She is available to assist ALL District executives in developing projects for their areas.)

Her largest project will have 2 main thrusts. She will be trying to telephone ALL people who receive Breaking Ground in order to develop a "Customer Profile" of our readership. The call should take 5 or 10 minutes. As part of the call, she will be asking questions on the potential for providing underused farm products such as excess hay, straw, and forest resources as a source for pelletized biomass for the developing "Alternate Energy" industry.

We are sure that you will enjoy meeting Kelly, either in person or by telephone. Remember, she is working not just for the NEOSCIA but for all Northern farmers. In return, let her know about upcoming employment opportunities in YOUR area. That is the payoff for her coming year of promoting our northern agricultural industry. She requires full time employment after completing her term, and you may be able to help.

Contact Kelly at the New Liskeard OMAFRA office at 705-647-2089, or by internet at internneoscia@ntl.sympatico.ca



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Approved By OMAFRA'S "Growing Forward" Program

Temiskaming IPM 2009



John Rowsell and Becky Hughes of NLARS select stone for site landscaping.



Northern College sets up its Diamond Drill in the Mining Display area.



NLARS Horticultural Technician, Candy Keith, enjoys the excellent floral display in the Cochrane District tent.



Nipissing University students Autumn Gambles and Kelly Snobelen erect a weather station as the center piece of the NEOSCIA display.



Carol Duke of Terza Farms displays her flour mill.



Inside the Temiskaming District tent.



ONR's unique "IPM Express Train" from North Bay offloads its first passengers at the edge of the exhibition site.



Break time in the traditional horse ploughing competition.



Welcome to the Temiskamingue First Nations display tent.

COMING EVENT

The Temiskaming Crop Coalition (including the Grain Growers, Wheat Growers, and Soil & Crop associations)

will hold their annual meeting on Friday, Nov. 20/09 at the Grand Blvd. Restaurant in Earlton, starting at 9:00am.
For more info, call Morley Shepherdson at 705-647-7108.



The Kirkland Lake Horticultural display.

Breaking Ground (in Northeastern Ontario)

Temiskaming IPM a Huge Success

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welcome awaits". We again want to thank the farmers and farm organization from across Northern Ontario for their support and contribution towards the feeding of our volunteer army.

Attendance at the IPM 2009 created startling realizations for many people. We heard from hundreds of visitors who came over the hill at New Liskeard that they had no concept of what agricultural industry lay before them. Many of these were first time visitors, others were folks who had not been north for 25 years and they could not believe the development that has transpired in the interim. All in all the IPM 2009 accomplished its mission of showcasing Northern Ontario to the rest of the world.



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Breaking Ground (in Northeastern Ontario)

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Canola Council and TCC Crop Tour

by Chandel Gambles, Crop & Agriculture Project Research Assistant. - OMAFRA, New Liskeard

In an effort to provide time efficiency for the farm community, the Temiskaming Crop Coalition (TCC) chose to join with the Canola Council in providing a double tour of crop test projects in the Earlington area. The event was held on Friday, July 23, and was attended by about 60 canola farmers from the south and a wide range of farmers from the North. There were lots of industry and government reps mixed in.

As any good farm event should, this tour started with a huge luncheon that took place in one of Dave Schill's drivesheds. Then it was off to the Canola fields.

Schill North-Land Farms, located just north of Earlington, is the Canola Production Center for the Ontario Canola Growers Association. The purpose of the site is to evaluate and determine the economics of the different technology systems and varieties within these systems that are available to the canola producers of Ontario. Plots include three Bayer Invigor varieties treated with the Liberty system, four Dekalb varieties treated with Glyphosate, and three Pioneer va-

rieties, also treated with Glyphosate. Another Pioneer variety was evaluated for Sclerotinia resistance. All varieties were twice replicated in 1.3 acre plots. Speakers from each company addressed the crowd.

Other speakers also addressed the afternoon gathering. One of these represented "ONTRACE", an industry-led, not for profit organization that exists to deliver integrated, flexible and affordable traceability systems for the agriculture and agri-food industry. The benefit for the farmer is that formal traceability allows a producer as well as an entire sector of the industry to avoid misplaced liability for a public issue. It also allows government to more effectively and efficiently deal with emergency management within the industry.

Prior to the evening TCC crop tour, an excellent BBQ was held at Koch Grain Elevator Inc. The bus tour then started with a stop at Ferguson Farms, where host Kevin Pratt showed off a huge trial of Canola that had been sprayed with Liberty and Assure. Koch Farms was next where Pioneer reps showed a number of

varieties of sclerotinia resistant canola.

Dave Schill grows more than just Canola, and he gave a tour of a spring wheat field that had been planted in mid November last year to determine the viability of fall dormant frost seeding, designed for early germination in the spring of /09. The goal is to reduce the spring work load while producing higher quality wheat. We can't wait to see the results of this one!

Matt Bowman showed off a number of varieties of soybean and Kevin Runnalls compared Jordon and Nice oats. Huge corn trials were viewed at Ferme Loranlee and at IPM host Ferme Rivadale.

Although the bus did not make it to the last two sites, OMAFRA staff spoke about the NEOSCIA Regional test plot into the control of Bedstraw by the use of "Milestone", and representatives of Nipissing University addressed their partnership with NEOSCIA in the placement of two weather stations, one in mid-Temiskaming and the other near Verner.

The evening ended with - you guessed it - a little more food!

Temiskaming IPM 2009

Continued from page 3



A log and stump mulcher in the forestry exhibit demonstrates new technology that turns a forest into a field in 3 passes.



Manitoulin waterways display.



Temiskaming silage corn trial at IPM



New Invention; wind energy turbine for smokestacks and communication towers.

OFA Report

by Neil Tarlton

On behalf of the Nipissing West-Sudbury East FA, as well as the Manitoulin FA, the following resolutions were presented at the recent OFA convention, encouraging the initiation of a hunting season for sandhill cranes.

From Nipissing west Sudbury east FA. Oct 1st 2009

Whereas the population of Sand hill cranes in the Verner area has gone from about zero 10 years ago, to a very substantial number now.

And whereas the population of Sand hill cranes west of us is of an even higher number and for a greater period of time.

Be it resolved that the OFA lobby the MNR of Ontario and the Canadian wildlife service that the time has come to launch an open hunting season for sand hill cranes.

From Manitoulin North Shore FA Oct 2nd 2009.

Whereas the population of migrating Sand hill cranes traversing the north shore and Manitoulin is very large.

Whereas the flock is clearly large enough to be self sustaining even with some population culling by hunting.

And whereas the now very high population of sand hill cranes does cause significant damage to seeded crops.

Be it resolved that the OFA lobby the MNR of Ontario and the Canadian Wildlife Service to institute a hunting season and bag limit for the hunting of sand hill cranes.



Rotational Grazing

Continued from page 13

both the livestock and the grass. Think of the pasture field as a feed bunk. Would you expect livestock to perform well if the feed bunk was only filled every five days? Fresh feed encourages consumption and increased consumption means increased performance.

Number of Paddocks Required

For each group of livestock that you have on pasture, there should be a minimum of 10 paddocks to give the grass an opportunity to recover from the grazing. Twenty paddocks will go a long way to encouraging increased animal intake. Thirty paddocks will allow you to realize the full potential of both the pasture and the grazing livestock. This may seem like a lot of paddocks, but with the use of electric fence, including some temporary or portable fence, it does not need to be insurmountable.

Cattle trained to electric fence and accustomed to moving every 1-2 days to

fresh grass will meet you at the gate for their next move. Increased Season Long Carrying Capacity Grass growth varies during the season. Rapid growth occurs in May and June. Much slower growth happens during July and August, when temperatures tend to be higher and moisture is less available. Pasture managers who use an effective rotational system find that they have increased grass growth and carrying capacity throughout the season and a dramatically reduced need for feeding hay.

Rotational grazing means fresh grass every 1-3 days and a sufficient rest period for the grass to grow to the optimum grazing height (20-40 cm). Rotational grazing at this level will provide the most high quality forage at the least cost.

Refer to the following websites:

www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/forages.html

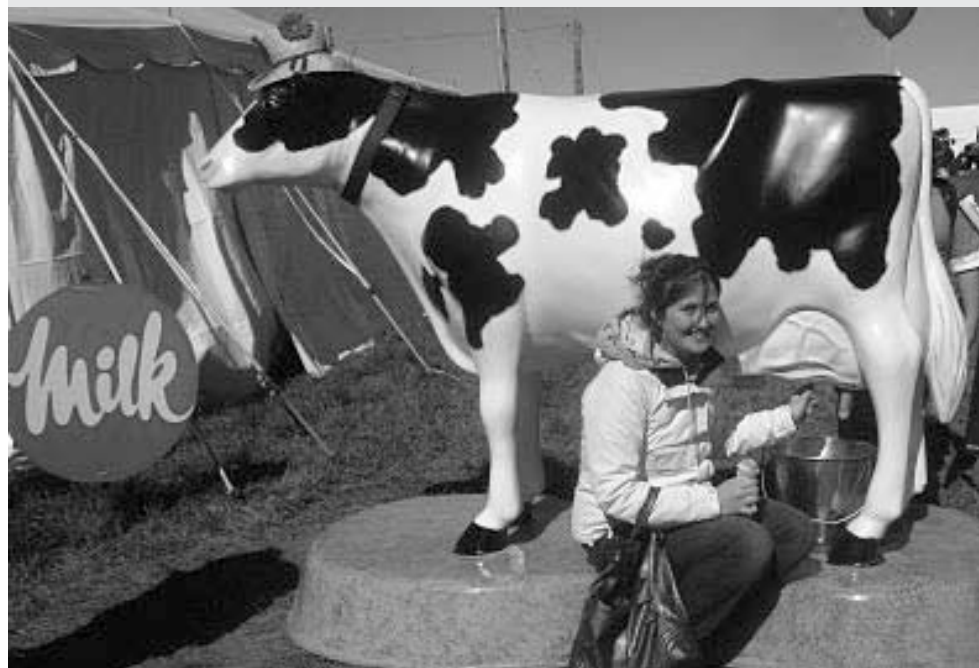
www.ontarioforagecouncil.com

www.foragebeef.ca

“Northern MAPLE”

NEOSCIA Intern, Kelly Bird, meets “Northern MAPLE”, the NOAFEM cow at the 2009 IPM.

Book Maple to be part of your local event by calling 705-694-4396.



NOAFEM plans *Quest for New Farm Value – Value Plus Workshop!*

Are you looking, or do you have a business idea, for your farm? Not sure how to make your idea a reality? Local stakeholders along with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) are offering up to 10 *Quest for New Farm Value* workshops throughout the province this fall/winter.

Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education & Marketing Inc. (NOAFEM) is pleased to be the host for the Quest for New Farm Value Value Plus™ workshop on November 27 and 28 at Days Inn (corner of Elm and Lorne Streets) in Sudbury .

Over two days, the participants will identify their specific value-added idea, put their idea into action, explore market channels, build a business plan, explore how to finance the stages of the business, price the product properly and manage risk. Workshop leaders include Ontario farm business owners, entrepreneurs and advisors who will share lessons learned and best practices.

Since launching the workshops in 2007, the Quest for New Farm Value workshops continue to receive positive feedback from participants who are looking to implement business ideas that are marketable, profitable and contribute to the long term viability of the farm operation,” says Dorene Collins with the Business Management Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Limited to only 25 registrants, interested participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Through the generous sponsorship of the Canadian Farm Business Management Council, OMAFRA, FedNor, and The Ontario Trillium Foundation (The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario), the two-day course is being offered at \$75 per person. Registration includes two fun-filled days of learning, work-book, related print resources, refreshments and lunch.

This training opportunity is eligible for cost-share funding through the Growing Forward Business Development for Farm Businesses program. For more information on program requirements, please visit www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/growingforward/busdev.htm or call 1-877-424-1300.

To register, contact Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education & Marketing Inc., 1540 Hwy. 17E, Wahnapiatae, ON P0M 3C0, www.norontagrifood.org, e-mail noront.agrifood@sympatico.ca, phone 705-694-4396, or fax 705-694-2030.

Here are just a few testimonials from the last year's workshops:

“Invaluable – well worth the investment – very supportive and nourishing opportunity being with experienced like-minded people”

“Great information on planning your business from start up to exit including growth opportunities”

“Wow, this was really well done ... One of the best seminars I've been to”

“Great course and many valuable contacts and ideas were gained”

St. Joseph Island resident grows 2009 Giant Pumpkin



Siegfried (Siggy) Hecker poses with his Giant Pumpkin, which weighed in at 462 pounds.

DESBARATS – Desbarats Farmers' Market, one of four weigh-in centres for Northern Ontario Agri-Food Education & Marketing Inc.'s Giant Pumpkin Contest only had one entry but it proved to be a winner. Siegfried (Siggy) Hecker R.R. 1, Richards Landing on St. Joseph's Island brought in a pumpkin weighing 462 pounds.

New Liskeard Fall Fair had a huge increase over 2008, with 16 entries total, including the second largest pumpkin (258 pounds) which belonged to Hal Brown, RR 1, New Liskeard. The other weigh-in centres were Central Manitoulin Public School Fair, Mindemoya, and Anderson's Farm Museum, Lively.

International Plowing Match

By: Kelly Bird

On a gray and cloudy Wednesday September morning, at approximately 8:20 A.M., I was one hundred and fifty feet above the ground, hovering in the sky, harnessed onto the Hyrdo One Bronto Arm looking over the 2009 International Plowing Match held in Temiskaming. As I glanced over the vast area of landscaped terrain, that was covered with massive wedding size tents, over two thousand motor homes, farm equipment, livestock and a variety of antiques, I came to realize how massive the IPM is, and more importantly, how significant the IPM was to Northern Ontario.

The International Plowing Match is not just a plowing competition, it is a cultural and community event, bringing friends and family together, that often only come together for the one week the IPM is held every year. Specifically, the Temiskaming IPM, brought eighty thousand visitors from all over Ontario, Quebec, and the Northern States. Personally, I met countless people from the Kitchener, Orangeville, and London area, who have never been farther north than North Bay. They were in awe over the flat land, rich soil and beauty of the Temiskaming area, the main comment being



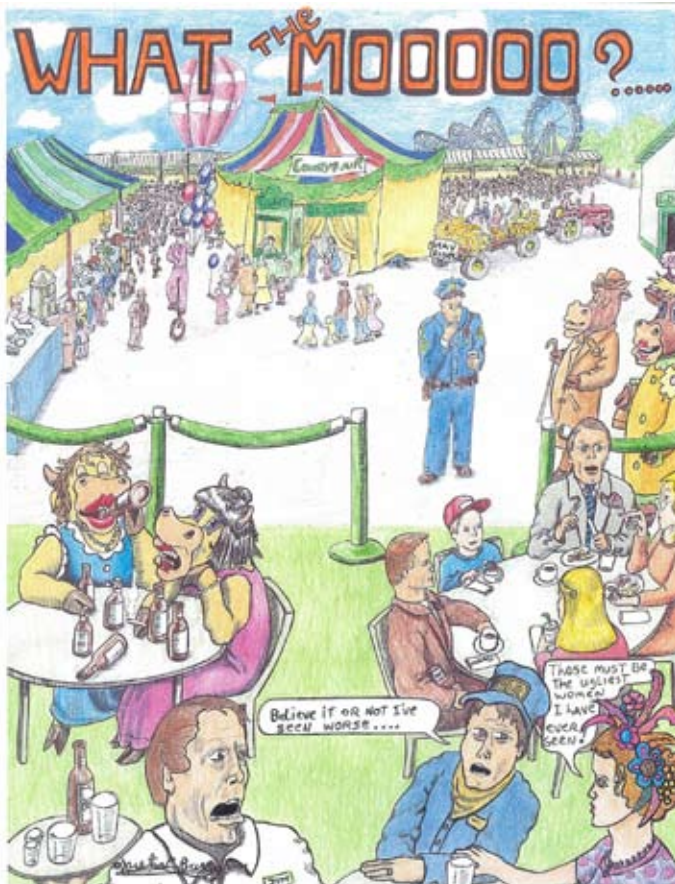
"It looks just like down south. Who knew?"

The International Plowing Match, is also a time to reminisce and partake in an activity I recently have come across, that I refer to as "Farmer Talk". I met many people who grew up in the North and moved to southern areas of Ontario and just happened to take their holiday the exact week of the IPM. In addition, I heard countless beautiful stories about being a farmer, owning a farm, growing up on a farm, and although being a farmer is challenging and requires a great amount of time, the joy it brought to their lives is unforgettable.

Though I spent the majority of the five days in the NEOSCIA booth, I had some time to check out the IPM grounds. My personal highlights from the 2009 IPM, were the square dancing antique Massey tractors, Tiny the thirty-four thousand pound Steer (I was told not to call it a cow), the piglets in the educational tent, and the quilt tent. As well as the mini horses, milking "Maple" the Northern Cow, the antique cars, the antique steam operated equipment and it must be mentioned, two dollar, two scoop, moose track, ice cream cones in the dairy food tent. To be honest, the list could go on and on, however, the IPM offered so much to see, and I did not have enough time to see it all.

My favourite antique car, had to be the Austin 1931 Saloon, blue in color, and comes with a sun roof, it is owned by Marcel And Sylvie Corriveau in North Bay. It is important to note, that the Austin cars appear to be always made very small. I also had the opportunity to assist in the operation of 1922 Chalifoux, steam operated Drag Saw. The saw is owned by Andrea Boileau.

Overall, the Temiskaming 2009 International Plowing Match was a true reflection of the North; warm and friendly people, environment and atmosphere. The three years of planning by far paid off; the IPM surpassed all my expectations and thousands of others. It was a fabulous bilingual event and will hopefully bring back visitors from the south and all over Canada to further explore what Northern Ontario has to offer in agriculture, mining, forestry and tourism.



This month's artwork comes from Justin Burre of Englebart. View more of his work at <http://justin-burry.tripod.com>