



Grassroots Innovation
Since 1939

OSCIA NEWS

A NEWSLETTER TO UPDATE
OSCIA MEMBERS, PRESIDENTS,
SECRETARIES, TREASURERS, DIRECTORS,
AND OMAFRA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT
CONTACTS

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**OSCIA 2012
ANNUAL MEETING**
Mark the Dates NOW
February 7 & 8, 2012

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.ontariosoilcrop.org

Message from the President - Max Kaiser



Greetings from your
President...

It seems rather difficult to stay focused this spring with the weather largely conspiring against agriculture in the southern parts of the province.

While the North-East and North-West are mostly on-track, a lot of the rest of us find ourselves struggling to catch up to

our normal timelines. Just remember: Nature thrives on adversity. Of course that usually means that as the old or out-dated dies out, it makes way for new life to take over and flourish. Perhaps, instead, we can think of it as an off-time at our "casino", where we go to gamble every day!

Communication stays on our front burners with a will to move to newer trends in information sharing. Of course, we strongly encourage networking in whatever format or arena you prefer; we are taking a little time in supporting moves to "social networking" sites. Our own website (www.ontariosoilcrop.org) is alive and well, offering support to members as well as links to the programs we deliver to all Ontario farms. And while the directors have some tools to better communicate within, we are trying to make sound choices about other services like Twitter and Blogs for our Regional Communication Coordinators (RCCs) and beyond. We just want to make sure our efforts are well invested and not over extending our resources.

Networking goes on in Guelph, too, where our fantastic staff continue to deliver the programs we do on behalf of various partnerships. Yet, there is

always new opportunity, new partners, new interests to explore. Balancing member benefits, strategic directions, and meeting the ever changing climate of our industry is quite challenging, and we are always pleased with how well Provincial Staff accomplish that act.

Plans are no doubt beginning to solidify for our Annual Summer meeting. This year we travel to Grey County, the hosts being Joan (1st VP) and James McKinley and their son Robert. This is always a highly anticipated event for the directors as it takes us to new parts of the province every summer. Also, it is a great opportunity for the hosting county to showcase its many splendours.

So, try to keep your chin-up, don't miss a rainbow because you were looking down! It is sunny as I write this (Yet here I sit at my desk!), so, perhaps, summer is finally on it's way!!!

Max

**2011 Annual Meeting Speakers:
Carol Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs
-Krista Gladstone, RCC St. Clair Region**

Carol Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs was one of the presenters at the 2011 OSCIA Annual Meeting held in Niagara Falls on February 8 & 9.

Carol Mitchell was elected as Member of Provincial Parliament in 2003 and re-elected in 2007. She was appointed Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in January 2010. Minister Mitchell was born in Clinton, Ontario and raised in Goderich Township located in the heart of Huron County. She attended Fanshawe College in London, Ontario and upon graduation from college, she started her own business and ran that for 10 years.

Minister Mitchell commented that 'you can take the girl out of the country but you can't take the country out of the girl'. She thanked the OSCIA delegates for inviting her to the meeting and for their ongoing support of agriculture. She discussed the history and excellent working partnership between the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association for the past number of years. She stated that these two organizations have worked together to protect and manage soil, water, air and crops.

Minister Mitchell also spoke about the very popular Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). With over 35,000 participants since the program began in 1993, this internationally recognized program has been very successful in helping Ontario farmers adopt more environmentally sustainable practices. An additional \$3,000,000 was recently provided into the program to help even more farmers take part in this excellent program. Minister Mitchell was pleased to report that they were also able to partner with the Growing Your Farm Profits workshops where 2,500 farmers were offered assistance and resources to maximize their long-term farm business goals. Workshops are available free of charge for all Ontario producers, as well as farm families and farm management teams. After the two-day workshop, farmers and their management team are able to clarify an Action Plan for the farm business, start the planning process and begin to access the resources needed to achieve those goals. These skills help Ontario farmers to develop strong business plans and compete in the challenging market place.

Minister Mitchell encouraged the ongoing, good working relationship between OSCIA and OMAFRA. She asked the delegates to continue to work with OMAFRA to build a strong, sustainable future for agriculture in this province. She acknowledged the excellent reputation that Ontario farmers have and advised the group to keep up the good work. On behalf of OMAFRA, Minister Mitchell thanked the group for its hard work and dedication and thanked them for inviting her to speak this evening. Joan McKinlay thanked Minister Mitchell for attending and stated that we look forward to working together in the future.

Possible Solutions for Agricultural Bale Wrap Recycling?

At most Environmental Farm Plan workshops, the topic of agricultural bale wrap recycling is raised. Evolution Biopolymers Inc. (EBI) is a Kitchener-Waterloo region based manufacturing company that has a unique agricultural film recycling method for recycled Ag silage film. This is expected to come on steam by September 2011. Trials will begin in early July 2011.

What differentiates EBI is:

- ▶ unique washing process
- ▶ market access to end-use applications of reprocessed Ag film

- ▶ proven track record in producing Agri Biocomposite resin formulated by the Bioproducts Discovery and Development Center (BDDC), University of Guelph, for consumer product applications (bio-bins now available in Home Hardware, and soon at Canadian Tire).

EBI will be consulting with Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) to coordinate a practical collection logistics process. Bruce Kelly at OSCIA will be monitoring progress as he liaises with EBI during its start-up trial.

Attention Seed Growers!
CSGA Annual Meeting
July 6-9, 2011

Sheraton Hamilton Hotel
Book your room NOW!

**Seed Bytes - Harold Rudy , Secretary
 Manager, OSGA**

Setting the Standards for Seed Testing

Quality assurance is increasingly important for global food security as well as for the production and trade of certified seed. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) works with the seed sector in Canada to maintain the infrastructure for seed certification, including the accreditation of private laboratories. See full details at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/agen/liaison/2011/vol1-3e.shtml#a5>

‘**Liaison**’ is the name of the CFIA magazine, which is published quarterly with many interesting and relevant articles on safeguarding the food supply. See ‘Liaison’ at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/agen/liaison/2011/vol1-3e.shtml>

VIP Invitation To OSCIA Members



Presented by
Farm Credit Canada
 Canada



Grassroots Innovation
 Since 1939



Free Brunch

8:30 – 11:00 am*
 September 13 & 14, 2011
 (First two days of show only)
 Canada's Outdoor Park
 Woodstock, Ontario

New for 2011! Breakfast vouchers will be by e-invitation only.

To ensure your place at this event, please forward your email address to your county OSCIA secretary by August 1, 2011. To reduce costs this year, paper tickets will no longer be sent by mail.

Watch for more details soon!

*Quantities limited.

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