



Canadian
Horticultural
Council



HORT SHORTS

April 2015

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

HortCouncil.ca

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

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from CHC AGM

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Winning photo in 2015 CHC Photo Contest

by David Bianchi



HEADLINES

CHC elects Board and adopts seventeen resolutions at AGM

At the 2015 CHC Annual General Meeting held from March 10 – 12 in Québec City, Québec, CHC members elected the Board of Directors for 2015. The 2014 Board remains almost completely in tact with the exception of Louis Gauthier from St-Laurent d'Orleans replacing Jacques Demers.

Keith Kuhl was also re-elected for an unprecedented third time saying, "I look forward to working with (our new Board), our members and government on giving Canada's horticulture sector even greater value to Canada's economy and Canadians' health."



The 2015 CHC Board of Directors are: L to R - Fred Steele (BC), Ernie Van Boom (Prairies), Adrian Huisman (Ontario), Alvin Keenan, Vice-President (Atlantic), Keith Kuhl, President (Prairies), Claude Laniel (Québec), Peter Swetnam (Atlantic), Bar Hayre (BC), Brian Gilroy (Ontario), Louis Gauthier (Québec)

CHC members also passed seventeen (17) resolutions on a range of topics from the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to Reusable Plastic Containers. More information on the AGM, Board and Resolutions can be found [here](#). Check out [pictures from the AGM](#).

Marcus Janzen awarded 2015 Doug Connery Award

Congratulations to Marcus Janzen from Abbotsford, BC for receiving the 2015 Doug Connery Award. The award is given to a member of Canada's horticulture community who works to improve the sector through efforts at the local, provincial and national levels. Being a past CHC President (2006) and the President for the BC Greenhouse Growers Association from 2001 to 2008, as well as someone who works to educate his local community about growing practices and the importance of Canada's horticulture sector makes Marcus an ideal recipient of the award.



*Marcus Janzen (L) with
CHC President, Keith Kuhl*

Agriculture Growth Act receives Royal Assent

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announced on February 25 that the *Agricultural Growth Act* (Bill C-18) received Royal Assent. It is expected that this new legislation will modernize Canadian agriculture, increase trade opportunities, enhance oversight and contribute to Canada's overall economic growth.

[READ MORE](#).

David Bianchi wins 2015 CHC Photo Contest

Congratulations to David Bianchi from Sunny Acre Farms in Norval, Ontario for winning the 2015 CHC Photo Contest. His picture of a bee pollinating an apple flower, which can be seen at the beginning of this month's Hort Shorts, was chosen from many entries. A big thanks to all of those who entered.

CROP AND PLANT PROTECTION

2015 Canadian Biopesticides and Minor Use Pesticides Priority Setting Workshops

The 2015 Canadian Biopesticides and Minor Use Pesticides Priority Setting Workshops have concluded and priorities have been selected. The lists of selected priorities can be found at the following links:

[Biopesticides Priorities](#), [Entomology A Priorities](#), [Pathology A Priorities](#), [Regional Upgrades and Organic Priorities](#), [Weeds A Priorities](#).

BIOSECURITY

Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR)

Since June 2013, the CFIA has engaged over 10,000 external stakeholders regarding the various elements of its Agency Transformation initiatives, including the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* (SFCR). The CFIA

notes that have been received from stakeholders on the SFCR has been extremely valuable. The CFIA continues to review this feedback to inform the development of the regulations and to assess whether additional, targeted consultations are required at a later date. For more information contact CFIA-modernisation-ACIA@inspection.gc.ca.

COMMODITY CORNER

Health Canada and USDA approve Arctic apple

The Arctic apple has been approved for sale in Canada and the United States. The genetically modified apple was created in the Okanagan by Okanagan Specialty Foods, which has led to a multi-million dollar sales deal with Intrexon Corporation, an American company involved in Synthetic biology.



What makes the apple unique is that it does not brown because the genes that produce polyphenol enzymes have been silenced.

Okanagan Speciality Foods' goal is to get as many Arctic trees in the ground as possible. It is expected that Arctic apples won't be available to the public until 2016. [READ MORE](#). Read the press releases from [BCFGA](#) and [Québec Apple Growers Association](#).

Potato Inspection Manual updated

Section 12.3 and Appendix III of the Potato Inspection Manual have been updated to reflect the revised United States (U.S.) import requirements for quality of red-skinned round type potatoes. Round reds are exempt from inspection and minimum quality requirements (i.e. grade, size and maturity). As such, a Certificate of Inspection for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables attesting that round reds meet U.S. import requirements of 7 USC 608e-1 is not required.

Although a quality inspection for red-skinned round type potatoes is not required, all U.S. plant health requirements must still be met. An attestation of phytosanitary status, such as a Certificate of Origin or a Phytosanitary Certificate, must accompany the shipment to the U.S. [Read the Potato Inspection Manual](#).

BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT

Enhancements to the Advance Payments Program (APP) highlighted

On March 30, 2015 while in Saskatoon Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz highlighted major enhancements to the Advance Payments Program (APP) designed to improve and streamline administration, provide greater flexibility and more repayment options, and ease access to the program for producers.

The Advance Payments Program (APP) is a financial loan guarantee program that gives producers easier access to credit through cash advances. The program is designed to increase marketing opportunities for

eligible producers of agricultural products by improving their cash-flow. APP guarantees the repayment of cash advances issued to producers against their agricultural product(s).

Advances provide up to 50% of the average market price producers are expected to receive for their agricultural product. Producers can receive cash advances of up to \$400,000, with the first \$100,000 interest-free for up to 18 months. Nearly sixty producer organizations across the country deliver cash advances under the APP.

The *Agricultural Growth Act* (Bill C-18) introduced changes to the *Agricultural Marketing Programs Act* (AMPA) to improve and streamline administration of the APP, provide greater flexibility and more repayment options, and ease access to APP advances. Many of the changes to the APP will be in place for April 1st, 2015. However, a number of the changes cannot be implemented until amendments to the related regulations are completed.

New for 2015

- Producers can receive advances for all commodities through one application with a single administrator;
- No requirement for a producer to be principally occupied in farming;
- A repayment schedule in line with the perishable date of non-storable products thereby avoiding the need for proof of sale;
- Repayment of advances can be made without proof of sale without penalty:
 - When a producer waits to market the commodity until conditions are more favourable; or
 - If the agricultural product becomes unmarketable through no fault of the producer.

Improvements Targeted for 2016

The new *Agricultural Growth Act* also allows for future improvements to be made through regulations, targeted for 2016:

- New commodities to be eligible for advances, including specific classes of breeding animals intended for market;
- A new streamlined application process will reduce paper burden and treat farmers like returning clients;
- More options for producers to secure an APP advance;
- Additional flexibility for allowable repayment methods;
- Streamlined approach to obtaining guarantees for companies with many members.

POLLINATORS

Ontario asking for feedback on plan to reduce neonicotinoids use

The Province of Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs are proposing new regulations which, if accepted, would reduce the sale and use of neonicotinoids in Ontario by up to 80 per cent by 2017. The regulation was created by the government in an effort to save birds, bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects from the perceived threat of the pesticides. The proposal will be available for public comment until May 7, 2015. To read the draft regulation, click [here](#).



Industry members of bee health roundtable highlight progress

On March 5, 2015, the National Bee Health Roundtable (BHRT) held its third workshop since its inception in March 2014. The industry members of the BHRT were pleased to report on the achievements of the first year. The roundtable, a coalition of stakeholders with a direct interest in the health of bees, is taking action to improve bee health and has several areas of significant progress. This includes the development of a [National Bee Health Action Plan](#) which presents key objectives and factors that contribute to the health of bees. [READ MORE](#)

INDUSTRY INFO

BASF introduces a unique mode of action for Powdery Mildew control in pome fruit, fruiting vegetables, hops, cucurbits, peaches and cherries.

BASF Canada Inc. (BASF) has been granted a label expansion for Vivando® fungicide to include control of Powdery mildew on pome fruit, fruiting vegetables, hops, cucurbits, peaches and cherries in addition to grapes. [Read more](#)

Label expansion for Pristine helps apple growers control additional diseases

BASF Canada Inc. (BASF) has been granted a new label expansion for Pristine® fungicide for control of Bitter rot and Black rot in the pome fruit group. [Read more](#)

APPOINTMENTS

Samuel Godefroy leaving Health Canada for World Bank

Dr. Samuel Godefroy, Director General of the Health Canada Food Directorate has taken up a new a new role as Senior Partnership Coordinator with the Global Food Safety Partnership within the World Bank

Karen McIntyre will assume the position. Previous to this, Ms. McIntyre was Executive Director, Operations, Policy and Systems Directorate, Operations Branch, CFIA. Ms. McIntyre is returning to the Food Directorate where she has previously served as the Director of the Bureau of Food Policy Integration.

Dr. Stephanie Bloem selected as NAPPO Executive Director

The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) has selected Dr. Stephanie Bloem as NAPPO's new executive director. In this role, she will manage the NAPPO Secretariat's human and financial resources while leading the fulfilment of the NAPPO Executive Committee's strategic plan and priority goals for North America. Dr. Bloem has a licentiate degree in biology from Del Valle University in Guatemala City, Guatemala and a doctorate in entomology from the University of California at Davis. She is bilingual (English and Spanish), and she is a member of the International Plant Protection Convention's

Technical Panel for the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms. Dr. Bloem will assume the position of NAPPO Executive Director on July 1, 2015. Dr. Rebecca Lee will continue as Acting Executive Director until then.

University of Guelph names new Vice-President of Research

The University of Guelph's Board of Governors has appointed alumnus Malcolm Campbell as its new vice-president (research) for a five-year term, effective June 1. The announcement was made on March 24th by president Franco Vaccarino, who chaired the search committee. Campbell comes to Guelph from the University of Toronto, where he has been a professor since 2004. He currently serves as vice-principal research for University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC), a position he has held since 2009.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2015

APRIL	9	<u>PEI Wild Blueberries AGM</u> Charlottetown, PEI
	10 – 11	<u>Bleuets NB Blueberries AGM/AGA</u> Caraquet, NB
	15 – 17	<u>CPMA Conference and Trade Show</u> Montreal, PQ
JULY	17 – 19	<u>Potato Growers of Alberta AGM</u> Red Deer, AB

To list your event in HortShorts, please submit details to question@hortcouncil.ca