

JULY 2017- THE NIB

PREZ SAYS

Summer has finally arrived and you've got to try to make hay while the sun shines. Heavy rain falls have been a challenge during spring planting season and seem to be lingering into the summer in some parts of the province of Ontario. (Including where we farm).

This fall CFWF will be hosting their AGM in Quebec City, offering attendees an opportunity to examine farming practices in Quebec -Vive la difference - discover what makes Quebec agriculture different.

I encourage you to sign up for the conference before July 15th to take advantage of the \$150 early bird rate. After July 15th the rate goes up to \$225 for members. Too often we get busy with day to day commitments and do not take time to recharge, to connect with others in the industry.

Attending the CFWF/ACRA conference offers opportunities for professional development and AG industry networking. Exploring Quebec with folks who have a common interest in agriculture is a great way to learn. Attending CFWF conferences in Alberta, and Saskatchewan I discovered you get quite a different perspective of each province when you travel with farm writers. So don't delay sign up today to attend!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new ECFWA board members Greta Chiu, Maggie Van Camp, Suzanne Atkinson and Erin Calhoun, (Comms Director). Returning to the board are Courtney Denard, Mary Feldskov (Secretary/ treasurer, Rachel Telford (2nd VP), Meaghan Ryersee (1st VP). We meet bi monthly via teleconference call. Our next meeting will be the first week of August. Feel free to contact any board member with any suggestions.

I look forward to seeing you all in Quebec City in September.

Sharon Grose

2017 ECFWA AGM: Innovations in Niagara

The 2017 ECFWA AGM was held on May 11 at the Vineland Research Station in Vineland, Ontario. Thirty members attended.

Following the meeting proceedings, where photo contest winners and the new executive were elected in addition to a review of financials and other business was discussed, members listened to Debbie Zimmerman, CEO, Grape Growers of Ontario speak about the grape and wine industry in the province. She gave insight on the many opportunities and challenges that Ontario grape growers and winemakers face, and shed light on their intrinsic partnership.

Lunch was provided by Grand Oak Culinary Market in Vineland. Executive Chef Jan-Willem Stulp answered questions on food preparation and food pairings as we enjoyed the meal.

Following lunch, the group toured Vineland Research and Innovations Centre, seeing the latest research on cultivating and promoting ethnic foods in Canada, learning about the Canadian Hardy Rose program, and breeding vegetables for Canadian production for global markets.

The day rounded off with a tour and tasting at Dillon's Small Batch Distillers where the group sampled locally-produced spirits and learned about production.

Thank you to all members that attended!

2016 Photo Contest Winners

Category: People

Winner: Bruce Sargent – Just like our ancestors

1st Finalist: Nicolas Mesly – D. Dubuc

2nd Finalist: Jeanine Moyer – Two Little Kids

Category: Places

Winner: Nicolas Mesly - Silos

1st Finalist: Nicolas Mesly – Night Seeding

2nd Finalist: Sharon Grose – Tractors in the Field at IPM

Category: Things

Winner: Rachel Telford – The Beetle

1st Finalist: Nicolas Mesly, Cell Phone View

2nd Finalist: Bruce Sargent – Jersey Calf

Congratulations to all our winners. Stay tuned for details on our next photo contest. To see the winning photos, visit www.ecfwa.ca.

2017-2018 ECFWA Board of Directors

President: Sharon Grose, Freelance Journalist/Photographer

First Vice-President: Meaghan Ryersee, Syngenta Canada Inc.

Second Vice-President: Rachel Telford, Grain Farmers of Ontario

Secretary-Treasurer: Mary Feldskov, Farms.com

Communications Coordinator: Erin Calhoun, Kahntact

Directors: Suzanne Atkinson, Freelance Writer

Greta Chiu, Kenna

Courtney Denard, Ontario Farmer Publications

Kelsey Johnson, iPolitics

Maggie Van Camp, Country Guide

Past President: Christina Franc, Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions

ECFWA Regional Social

By Suzanne Atkinson

Without leaving the country, ECFWA members were able to do a little touring at a Spring farm writers social when the chief editor of Russia's online publication "The DairyNews," visited Ontario in April.

Vera Mozgovaya, speaker at an event held at the Syngenta board room, was candid in her answers as she shared a little about life as an dairy industry journalist in Moscow.

Her first time in North America, Mozgovaya was particularly keen to share details of two annual events which the DairyNews organizes. The Summer Dairy Summit brings together producers, processors, legislators and policy writers from around the world to examine the global industry and where Russian farmers can fit into the conversation.

Mozgovaya was visiting Ontario for 10 days at the invitation of Leading Livestock Genetics, Grasshill Farms and Canada's trade commissioner in Russia. She attended the Holstein Canada annual meeting in Richmond Hill, CDX and visited farms in central Ontario.

Motor Rally, the second event organized by the DairyNews, is a four day, 2,000 kilometre car rally taking Russian dairymen to a different area of the country annually to learn and share. This year it is in the emerging cheese region of Siberia.

Mozgovaya said farmers rarely show cattle and they also rarely sell them; both because of bio-security concerns. A cow which leaves the farm, she said, is not permitted to return because of the fear of disease. Likewise, cattle are very rarely purchased.

Russia, she said, in very many ways is a primitive industry. No one knows, she said, how many cows there are in the country, and parent verification and traceability is non-existent. Most farms are supported by outside investors who both share the financial risk and hope to profit. They are usually directly connected to a processing business.

The number of family farms is increasing, and she said those farms get most of the credit for the country's increasing milk production.

"We believe the future is in family farms."

Mozgovaya shared a map showing the many regions in the country which have a milk deficit; they are unable to produce enough milk to feed their own populations. The cities such as Moscow were described as "black holes," because they produce no milk at all.

She also explained that there are government "authorities," which can come onto a farm and "shut it down," without really sharing the legislation which gives them authorization.

These people she described, to the amusement of our group as "Local McCains," named after former American presidential candidate John McCain.

Government subsidies, she said are provided to some farms, but "it depends on how close you are to the minister."

The DairyNews, she said, is a privately owned, independent “information agency,” supported by on-line advertising.

Since her return to Russia, and at her urging, The DairyNews has announced that it plans to hold its 2018 ‘Motor Rally,’ in Ontario/Quebec. It expects 50-100 Russian dairy farmers to visit Ontario in August, 2018.

CFWF17



The 2017 CFWF conference will be held in Quebec City from September 28 - 30, 2017. This year, the conference will be jointly held with the *Association des communicateurs et rédacteurs de l'agroalimentaire* (ACRA), making it a truly national event. The theme for our tours is Quebec – Land of Culture and Agriculture or *Québec – terre de culture et d'agriculture*.

Registration is now open, with a special early bird registration rate of \$150 for members in effect until July 15. This member rate is also being extended to the IFAJ community, so if you have any international friends who are looking to book their vacation, this is a great reason to visit Canada. Members can register at <https://www.regonline.com/CFWF2017>, where we also have a link to the hotel booking site <http://search.igrez.com/reservations/HotelConcordeQuebec/search/23297>.

Please visit <http://www.cfwf17.ca/> for the conference program that gives details about tours, professional development, and pre-tour options. You can view the teaser video shown at CFWF 2016 (also linked here <https://youtu.be/sQrT8JJaPfo>).

IFAJ NEWS

Hugh Maynard indicated at the CFWF board meeting that there was a lot of interest from IFAJ members to attend the CFWF conference in Quebec City. The conference organizing committee will be offering the same registration rate as CFWF members to IFAJ members.

Hugh also mentioned that there has been an interest from the Union des Producteurs Agricoles to pay IFAJ members from French speaking countries to attend the CFWF conference in Quebec City since there will be simultaneous translation.

IFAJ 2018: The Netherlands

Theme: Dutch Roots

Main congress: 12- 15 July 2018

The main congress will start in the region Food Valley and further visits are planned to a diversity of hotspots.

Facebook/IFAJ2018 DutchRoots

For more information: Esther Rozeboom – esther@catch-on.nl

ECFWA News

Three women join Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame as 2017 inductees

Three accomplished and talented women will join the prestigious Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2017. Robynne Anderson, Patty Jones and Jean Szkotnicki will be formally inducted into the national Hall of Fame at a ceremony on Thursday, November 30, 2017 in Calgary, Alberta.

“I am personally thrilled that more Canadian women are being recognized this year for their extraordinary accomplishments in the Canadian agriculture industry,” says President Herb McLane, Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame Association. “This year’s three inductees have contributed to the strength and health of our industry from very different perspectives – covering the animal health sector, publishing and consulting, and livestock photography. With more than 210 inductees in the Hall of Fame, and only five of them women, it is very heartening to be recognizing the outstanding contributions these three women continue to add to the Canadian agricultural industry.”

Robynne Anderson began her long and distinguished career in Canadian agriculture as a legislative assistant to the Deputy Prime Minister’s Office, working on the new Plant Breeder’s Rights Act. Her knowledge of agriculture and experience in government set the course for creating Issues Ink – her consulting firm that worked closely with the Canadian Seed Trade Association. Robynne founded and published several agricultural magazines including Germination, Spud Smart and CAAR Communicator (for the Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers). Robynne now operates Emerging Ag – a agricultural consulting firm. Throughout her career, Robynne has worked throughout the value chain in the agriculture and food sector, in Canada and internationally. Robynne Anderson lives in Calgary, AB and

was nominated by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, the Canadian Seed Trade Association, SeCan Association and Stokes Seeds.

Livestock photographer Patty Jones has built a world-renowned business with a seasoned skill for photographing dairy animals that has changed the way they are marketed in Canada and around the world. For more than 44 years, Patty has been expertly capturing a visual history for Canadian dairy breed improvement as one of the most respected and well-known livestock photographers in the world. Her library contains more than 70,000 animals from all breeds, and she's trained many aspiring livestock photographers to carry on the craft. Her official photographer status extends to major shows, including 4-H and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Patty's passion for the dairy industry includes her own Silvercap Holsteins farm where she buys, sells and breeds. Patty Jones lives in Puslinch, ON and was nominated by Semex.

For more than 25 years, Jean Szkotnicki has led the Canadian Animal Health Institute skillfully balancing the responsibility of advocating for Canadian veterinary pharmaceutical companies with livestock producers. A champion for antimicrobial stewardship, Jean has been instrumental in ensuring antimicrobials are used properly as part of a "one health" approach to human and animal antibiotic use in Canada. Jean labored exhaustively to close the regulatory gap on Own Use Importation legislation. She's passionate about building public trust in food and sits on numerous industry boards including the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity and as chair of the animal health product regulatory advisory committee to Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Jean Szkotnicki lives in Moffat, ON and was nominated by the Canadian Animal Health Institute.

For the first time, the 2017 induction ceremony will be held in Calgary, Alberta, hosted by the International Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee of the Calgary Stampede on Thursday, November 30.

EFCWA Member Making a Difference in Haiti

By Richard Phillips

Richard Phillips recently finished a 10-week stint in Haiti working on a UNDP program to help clean up post Hurricane Matthew. Last fall the hurricane devastated the SW region of Haiti, killing and injuring people, destroying the majority of homes and livestock, and knocking over vast swaths of trees. Many of these trees fell on agricultural land and are of significant size (1/2 metre or larger diameter) making it a labourious job for small farmers armed with nothing but a machete to cut the trees up so they can farm again.

Our project was called "debris removal" and was focussed on two things; cleaning up the farmland and utilizing the trees for lumber, timbers, furniture and charcoal. In the town of Dame Marie I had 10 Husqvarna 460's. I trained thirty people to safely operate the machines and everyday we went into the forest along with 250 day labourers. The labourers had machetes and were responsible for limbing fallen trees, removing any rocks or debris that might damage a chain, picking up all branches and small limbs and carrying all cut logs to a central location for the sawmill.

We cut 5 days a week from 7am - 3:30 pm. All operators were required to wear chainsaw safety chaps, cut proof gloves, helmets, goggles and a safety mesh to protect the face. In 8 weeks at Dame Marie, I never once saw a person with a running chainsaw without the full safety gear.

Our first priority in assessing each tree before cutting was to cut the tree to maximize the number of planks for rebuilding homes and schools. Secondly, we cut for support timbers which could be a little crooked, thirdly we cut for furniture makers to use for tables, chairs etc. and lastly the remainder of each tree was cut for charcoal making which is the only fuel source for cooking in the part of the world.

In the small town of Abricot I had another 8 chainsaws and trained 24 people who then went out every day like the teams in Dame Marie, except we had 360 day labourers every day due in part to the rugged country and the difficulty in moving the logs. Both towns received a 4 day course in chainsaw operations, maintenance and safety. I did all of the training in Creole which was greatly appreciated by the Haitians as it is their first tongue.

I am very pleased to report that after months of work and thousands of cubic metres of wood cut up, there has not been a single accident or injury. Any company in the world would be fortunate to be able to hire such a dedicated, safety orientated and yet highly productive group of employees.

I had two sawmills arrive and then trained some of the best chainsaw operators to run the sawmill which utilized a chainsaw on a track to cut planks. The sawmills are currently moving through the forests cutting up the logs into planks for reconstruction.

I should note that all of the trained people are at a level where they can also train others which ensures the skills remain permanently in the communities. It was an incredible project and may be extended for another year in which case I will likely just assist the current operators with the curriculum to train more Haitians and then stay out of the way! Please watch this 4-minute video with the sound turned on. It outlines the project and has interviews with many of the people I trained and worked with. Watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/220022294/4370f5b354>

Niblets

To include future Niblets in The Nib, please email Erin at ecalhoun@kahntact.com

On July 1, 2017 Canada celebrated its 150th birthday. It was also the 100th anniversary of the birth of George Atkins. During his life, Atkins was a proud, life member of ECFWA and CFWF. Atkins worked for the CBC for 25 years as a farm radio broadcaster. In his retirement, he founded Farm Radio International, a non-profit organization that was the realization of an idea he had while riding a bus in Zambia - to find a way to use radio to its full potential to help the world's most vulnerable people: small-scale farmers. Today, Farm Radio International (farmradio.org) works with nearly 700 radio partners in 40 countries across sub-Saharan Africa, sharing radio resources, providing broadcaster training and working with broadcasters to deliver programs that have been proven to increase farmers knowledge and practices.

Owen Roberts, under his @TheUrbanCowboy column byline, is penning a 22-week series called The New Farm for The Toronto Star and Metro News. The series, which reaches more than three million readers a

week, connects food, agriculture and ag technology, mainly from the University of Guelph. A recent topic stemmed from the world crops presentation at the ECFWA annual meeting in Vineland. Others include greenhouse strawberries, Millennium asparagus, ethical ranching and OAC 21 malting barley. Support for the series is provided by the Canadian Canola Growers Association. The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity is giving input on readers' poll questions.