



June 2018

President's Message:

A busy spring and fairly cooperative weather has kept planters in the field and spring workload steadily moving forward. A few things to remember as you complete your applications for seed inspection. First, read the changes to Circular 6. There are a few and some may impact your seed production fields. Every seed grower should consult the Rules and Regulations for Seed production, whether you are a contract grower or not. It is your responsibility to ensure that your seed production fields meet the requirements. Also, the Ontario board implemented an acreage fee increase to \$0.40 / acre. This increase is used to support the work of your board in representing you and assisting in policy development, supporting research and providing excellent education opportunities (like our upcoming Field Day).

The OSGA Field Day will be held on **Tuesday, June 26, 2018** at Curtis Seeds in St. Thomas. Once again this year, organizers have planned an event that will be informative and enjoyable. Take note of the details in this newsletter regarding times, agenda, registration and event location. There is no cost but we do ask each participant to **register online** for arranging the luncheon numbers. We encourage you to attend and invite your neighbor who may be contemplating becoming a seed grower.

The annual general meeting of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association will be held in Montreal from July 10th to 12th. Attend the whole meeting or consider a one day registration. There is lots underway with the seed industry's Seed Synergy Collaboration Project and Circular 6 Modernization as well as other key initiatives. Take a look at the fabulous, very cost-effective family program and consider making this a family get away opportunity. Full registration details can be found on the CSGA website: <http://seedgrowers.ca/csgas-annual-general-meeting/> Register **before June 28**.

Read in this newsletter a farewell message from our long serving Secretary Manager Harold Rudy. We will miss Harold's extremely valuable insight and tremendous organizational skills, but wish him well in his retirement. We also welcome our new Secretary Manager – Colleen Acres. Colleen will be working from a home office in the Ottawa Valley and she looks forward to working with the OSGA board and its' members.

We wish you all a safe and prosperous summer and hope to see you soon at one of the organized events.

Peter Szentimrey
President

Colleen Acres
Secretary Manager

Ontario Seed Growers' Association
6830 Belmeade Rd Osgoode ON K0A 2W0
info@seedontario.ca
613-716-7348

Harold Rudy's Message

A Salute to the Pedigreed Seed Industry

Upon my retirement at the end of June, I am very pleased that Colleen Acres will be taking over the duties of Secretary-Manager for the Ontario Seed Growers' Association (OSGA). Colleen's fifteen-year involvement with the seed industry ensures our transition will be smooth and seamless. Colleen is very well connected to the agricultural industry with their sheep and cash crop farm in the Ottawa Valley. I personally wish Colleen all the best in her new duties and I will assist as required to facilitate the transfer.

I have been very fortunate over the past fifteen years to have played an administrative role for the OSGA. There continues to be opportunities for expanding the pedigreed seed acres and increasing the number of registered growers to accommodate an expanding demand for the growing world population. It became evident to me shortly after joining the OSGA, that Canada has one of the best regulatory systems in the world. Our blue tag registration system guarantees quality and purity of seed to ensure the variety's traits provide consistency and value. Of course, the strong commitment of growers themselves, along with dedication of industry and the staff administering the regulations, all contribute to the seed industry's excellence.

Over the last few years, I have also been quite involved with a group of industry leaders on behalf of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), envisioning how Canadian agriculture can organize and comply to ever increasing international demands for sustainable food production. Our Ontario efforts coined the term 'Sustainable Farm and Food Initiative' but we soon concluded that Ontario could not work in isolation but required the collaboration of other provinces and territories. Further, there is growing opportunity for greater collaboration among the many commodity groups as they adjust to increasing marketing demands for verification of sustainably sourced products. At the heart of verification is the requirement for certified seed. Our 115-year-old pedigreed regulatory systems makes this requirement easy to achieve for our sustainable food verification requirements.

I have a multitude of great memories from the many meetings across Canada. There is a strong fraternity of growers who have always been welcoming. The branch staff and Ottawa staff have also been very positive and helpful. Thank you immensely for your kind assistance when required to make my job easier. I also wish to thank the Ontario board members and the Executive members and collegial past-presidents along this journey. There was never a dull moment and I am very appreciative of their support.

Retirement is a relative term. With five grandchildren, the fortune of good health, a farm property to maintain, and a bit of travel, I anticipate the next chapter of my life will be enjoyable and productive. I have indeed been fortunate in my career experiences. I am documenting the past 30 years for the OSCIA in a book entitled 'The Soil Fixers'. I have included a very important section entitled 'Sorting Seeds for the Twenty-First Century. Stay tuned for full details later this summer.

Harold Rudy



CSGA Annual Meeting
Sheraton Centre Montreal Hotel
July 10-12, 2018

Delegate program

Tuesday, July 10

Dinner - Wienstein & Gavinos's Located in the heart of Downtown Montreal

Wednesday, July 11

- Morning Seed Synergy Collaboration Project – Joint CSTA-CSGA Session
- Lunch President's Address
- Afternoon Circular 6 Modernisation and Opening Business Sessions
- Dinner – Ambroisie Located in the Chateau Saint-Ambroise

Thursday, July 12

- Morning Emerging Issues Session and Continuing Business Sessions
- Lunch Feature Speaker
- Afternoon Regulatory Partners Forum and Closing Member Sessions
- Dinner Closing Awards Dinner

Friday July 13

Optional Tour exploring production in the Montreal area

Companion Program

Wednesday, July 11

Montréal Sightseeing Tour on an Electric Scooter

Thursday, July 12

Cooking Class at La Guilde Culinaire

Youth Program

Pirate Ship Adventure
Pointe à Caillière Museum
La Ronde Amusement Park

Please visit the CSGA Website for a full agenda
www.seedgrowers.ca



The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a five-year federal-provincial territorial initiative to strengthen the agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector and increase its competitiveness, prosperity and sustainability.

OSCIA is delivering cost-share funding programs to producers and associated other agri-business operations.

Upcoming Intakes

August 7 to 28, 2018 and January 9 to 30, 2019

Note: Not all project categories will be available in every application intake period.

Is your farm business located within the Lake Erie or Lake St Clair watersheds? Check to see if you are eligible for enhanced cost-share funding opportunities in this priority, target area.



Ontario Seed Growers' Association Field Day Itinerary Tuesday, June 26/18

Location: Curtis Seeds 38723 Fingal Line, St. Thomas, ON

- 9:30 am Arrival, Coffee and Registration
- 10 am Tour Bioflora, Canada's largest agent for ornamental verification and protection of Plant Breeder's Rights
 - Ashley Balchin, Examiner, Plant Breeders' Rights Office, CFIA
 - Brenda Cole, Bioflora Owner



- 10:45 am Tour of seed plant and seed treatment facilities
Featuring a state-of-the-art Tri-Flow automated seed treatment system
 - Dan Curtis, Curtis Seeds Owner

11:30 Field Plot tours

12:00 BBQ Lunch (Beef-on-a-Bun, Salads and Pies)
Sponsored by SeCan and Bayer Crop Science



Canada's Seed Partner

- 1:15 Update on Cereals Research
 - Dr. Alireza Navabi, Wheat Breeder Univ. of Guelph
- 1:45 pm Update on Field Crop Agronomic Research
 - Dr. Dave Hooker, Field Crop Agronomist
Ridgetown Campus



2:15 pm Panel of Select Seed Growers
Involvement and Benefits of becoming a Select Seed Grower

3 pm Adjourn

Please register at: www.seedontario.ca/field-day by **June 22/18**