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# OSCIA NEWS

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

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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

## Message from the President - Max Kaiser



Greetings from your President...

It's been a rather nice summer after all. Some of us were too dry or too wet at times, but I think that in the end, if we end up near average or better, then we have much to be happy about. Certainly, the rains gave us time to catch up on tasks, or with family, perhaps.

Our summer meeting in Blue Mountain was much enjoyed by all. Such scenery! Thanks to James, Joan and Robert McKinley for hosting us in such a beautiful resort and treating us to some very memorable sights and sounds. Oh, yes, and of course there was business done by our Board. While it is an opportunity for social time for the Board and families, the full Board of Directors met on the Monday for a full day's agenda; from finances, to communications, to programs, to new opportunities.

Communication was a key focus for a recent training session for our Regional Communications Coordinators (RCCs) when they met in Toronto for two days. Building on the strength of the individuals within, they shared experience and knowledge in a very open and informal setting. I, for one, was very pleased to see the opportunity taken and put to good use; leading to the growth of the skills in each member of that team. I am certain more of our members will be seeing the RCC presence in the newer media and networking sites increasing as time goes by.

I am never quite sure what to share about the Office activities. To be sure, we have a very dynamic and busy team in Guelph, constantly evolving, constantly endeavouring to provide more service not just to our members, but also, to the rest of Ontario Agriculture through programs with government and/or non-government partners. Every month at our Executive Committee meetings there are new opportunities laid on the table for our input and consideration.

So, fall is approaching, there is silage corn coming off in eastern Ontario, at least. The beans have a ways to go before we can think about planting fall wheat, though it is good to know the seed is on it's way! Perhaps a little more time can be used to our advantage!?! Environment Canada is forecasting a warm dry fall (... when I see it!) and I know many of us are hoping for that.

Something to remember: Super glue is FOREVER!  
Cheers!

*Max*

### **OSCIA Staffing Changes**

**Roxane Legault** - GYFP workshop leader and program representative for Prescott, Russell, Stormont and Glengarry

Roxane was raised in Eastern Ontario. She studied Health Science at Ottawa University from 1983 to 1986 and obtained a diploma as a computer programmer in 1994 from La Cité collégiale. Roxane started her career working at Statistics Canada providing computer training for executives. She also worked 14 years with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade developing computer applications used by Trade officers in Canadian embassies and consulates.

In 2007 she and her husband adopted two young children and purchased a 64 acre farm in Eastern Ontario where they have cattle and goats, and have plans to grow spelt. Roxane looks forward to working with producers in her counties to deliver the Business Development for Farm Businesses program.



**Claude Péloquin** - GYFP workshop leader and program representative for Nipissing, Sudbury, Temiskaming, Cochrane and Parry Sound.

Claude was born and raised on a dairy/cash crop farm in St. Pierre Jolys, Manitoba and received a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics from the University of Manitoba. He worked as an assistant and associate agricultural representative for OMAFRA in Russell County for 13 years, as an agricultural representative in Nipissing District for nine years and as the Regional Director for Northern Ontario for 12 years.

Prior to the Regional Director position Claude specialized in farm business management and assisted producers with various government programs. Since retiring from OMAFRA, Claude has worked on a part-time basis with Ridgetown College delivering Nutrient Management Act and Ontario Pesticide Safety Program courses. Claude looks forward to working with producers in his region to deliver the Business Development for Farm Businesses program.



**Katie McNamee** - Program Assistant for the Business Development for Farm Businesses program (maternity leave position for Bridget Greb)

Katie is from London, Ontario and currently resides in Guelph. She completed an undergraduate degree in International Development with a focus on Economic and Business Development at the University of Guelph and most recently finished a Certification in Environmental Conservation, also from the University of Guelph. She is interested in various aspects of economic and environmental development. Katie is currently training with Bridget so that she will be ready to take on her role later in September. She is excited to be a part of OSCIA and looks forward to working with staff and participants in the program.



**Amber Van De Peer** - Administrative Assistant for OSCIA & OSGA in the Provincial Office

Amber grew up on a farm near Perth in Eastern Ontario, has a Bachelor degree in Biological Science from the University of Guelph and has worked for several years as a buyer and inventory control at Sheridan Nurseries Ltd. She is looking forward to learning the in's and out's of OSCIA over the next few months.

## **Exciting Changes in the Business Development for Farm Businesses Program**

The Business Development for Farm Businesses (BDFB) program is launching several initiatives September 15 to make it easier for participants to apply for cost-share funding. Our objective is to make all forms and documents easier to complete and understand, improve producer satisfaction with the application and claim process, and increase overall participation in the program.

Some of the changes include:

- The project application form and 13 project proposal forms have been replaced with 4 types of applications. There is one application for each type of cost-share opportunity:
  - Farm Financial Assessment Cost-share Application Form
  - Agriculture Skills Development Cost-share Application Form
  - Advanced Business Planning Cost-share Application Form
  - Business Plan Implementation Cost-share Application Form
- Cost-share application forms will be available online at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/bdfbapplications](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/bdfbapplications).
- All forms and supporting information have been rewritten so they are easier to understand.
- All applications have been re-designed so that they are easier to fill out.
- The Program Eligibility Policy and Procedures has been replaced by the Program Guide, which will be available at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/bdfbhome](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/bdfbhome)
- To increase awareness of training activities eligible under Agriculture Skills Development, examples of previously approved training activities will be available at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/bdfbresources](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/bdfbresources).
- Producers who have completed a farm financial assessment will automatically be approved for the one-year follow-up with their advisor, provided cost-

share funds are available. Producers no longer need to apply for the follow-up review.

We are looking forward to implementing these initiatives so that Ontario producers can more easily get involved in cost-share opportunities to put their plans into action.

## **Seed Bytes - Speaking Up for Agriculture**

Hamilton Ontario was the site of the annual conference for the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA). This annual event was hosted by the Ontario branch, an honour that comes to Ontario every seven years. The growers' program was built around the theme: 'Speak Up for Agriculture'.

Keynote speakers included:

Jay Bradshaw, President, Syngenta, Canada  
Wallace Pigeon, President, Brick and Ball Media  
Shaun Haney, President, RealAgriculture  
Chet Boruff, Executive Director, Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA)

Check out these speakers' presentations at:  
[http://www.seedgrowers.ca/news/current\\_news/news\\_AGMpresentations2011.asp](http://www.seedgrowers.ca/news/current_news/news_AGMpresentations2011.asp)

## **OSCIA 2012 ANNUAL MEETING**

**Mark the Dates NOW  
February 7 & 8, 2012**

**Best Western Lamplighter Inn &  
Conference Centre  
591 Wellington Road South  
London, ON N6C 4R3**