

November 22, 2019

To: Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers Members
From: Governance Solutions Inc., Elections Returning Officer for OPVG

Elections to the OPVG Board of Directors are held on a rotating basis with four positions up for election this year. Elections for Board Members in each of the 3 Districts will be held between November 22, 2019 and December 13, 2019 as follows:

- **Two Directors:** District 1 – comprising Kent & Essex Counties
- **One Director:** District 2 – comprising Bruce, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth, Hastings, Northumberland & Prince Edward Counties and the Regional Municipality of Durham
- **One Director:** District 3 – comprising Brant and Elgin Counties & the Regional Municipalities of Haldimand-Norfolk and Niagara

The procedure for conducting Board Member elections is detailed in the [Farm Products Marketing Act Regulation 441](#).

Nominations are now closed and OPVG is pleased to introduce the candidates for the 2019 Board of Directors Elections.

Voting will now take place during the period between November 22, 2019 and December 13, 2019. All votes must be placed **no later than midnight on December 13th, 2019**. If you are using the mail in option rather than voting electronically, please ensure your voter package is post marked no later than December 13th. You may want to place your vote early in the voting window to ensure enough time for Canada Post delivery during the busy holiday season.

Please complete and sign the Voter Certification Form and the attached ballot. Place the ballot in the “Ballot Envelope”, seal it and then put that envelope and this Voter Certification Form together in the postage-paid envelope addressed to the Returning Officer. Both the ballot and the Voter Certification Form need to be completed to be counted in the vote.

Here is the timeline for announcing election results:



Through a recent nominations process, members were invited to nominate candidates. Candidates were not recruited, and all candidates have been nominated by the members. Here are the nominees:

- 5 directors for District 1, including 0 incumbents
 1. Joe Anzini
 2. Tom Keller
 3. Ryan Leclair
 4. Chris Stewart
 5. Ron VanDamme

How will you be able to assess which nominees will make the best directors for OPVG?

1. Use the personal profile that each nominee has provided in this voting package. This will give you the insights into the experience and character of the individual, as well as a sense of why candidates want to serve on the board.
2. Take the time to ask them questions, and listen to them, ahead of placing your vote. Their contact information is provided in their candidate profile.

Candidate Profiles



Name: Giuseppe (Joe) Anzini BSc., MBA

Tell Us About What You Produce: We at Ardis Ranch Inc. are long standing producers of Onions, Peppers, Sweet corn, Peas, and Squash in the Chatham area. We have a distribution centre with warehousing capabilities and a very exclusive onion line. We have the ability to store our produce and with our two-bay facility ship anywhere.

Tell Us Why You Want to Serve on the Board of OPVG: I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the OPVG Board so that I can give small and medium size producers the ability to have their voices heard and their produce sold at fair market value. For too long have these producers been neglected, and therefore were never given their fair share of access to the existing local markets. My idea of this board is that it should serve all producers and not only the ones who control the Board. We must establish a free market access for everyone. I have witnessed first-hand the struggles that small and medium size producers go through to sell their produce without any concerted effort from the Board. The Board must lead by example and gain the full trust of all the producers it represents. Government intervention only happens when Boards become myopic or self-serving, the situation we find ourselves today. Let's not miss this great opportunity for "Real Change".

Tell Us What Experience You Bring to the Board: I am a dynamic, proactive and dedicated senior executive with an outstanding track record who is able to accomplish operational efficiencies and activities. Visionary, motivator, thrives on a challenge, demonstrates exemplary leadership in interpersonal relations. Articulate, fluently trilingual, university lecturer, tactful and diplomatic, who works well with all levels. I am deadline driven, multi-tasker, demands quality work in a timely, methodical and accurate manner. Organized and disciplined in approach; conceives and creates the framework and structure for new opportunities. My skills include project management, sales and marketing, cost containment, turn-around specialist, supply chain management, strategic planning, problem solving, leadership

You Can Contact Me Here: joe@anzini.com / 416-721-2676



Name: Tom Keller

Tell Us About What You Produce: I produce processing tomatoes, sweet corn, soybeans, corn and wheat.

Tell Us Why You Want to Serve on the Board of OPVG: I wish to serve on the board to help growers improve the marketing and growing of processing crops.

Tell Us What Experience You Bring to the Board: I have served as a committeeman and a past board member. I have an understanding of the industry and would work to keep the board functioning in the interest of the growers.

You Can Contact Me Here: tomkeller@live.ca / 519-324-2034

Name: Ryan Leclair



Tell Us About What You Produce: Ryan Leclair is a 3rd generation tomato farmer.

Tell Us Why You Want to Serve on the Board of OPVG: I want to serve on the OPVG board to be a part of growing the future and protecting what it represents on behalf of all growers.

Tell Us What Experience You Bring to the Board: I grew up on a farm where I have been involved with many different crops and processes along the way.

You Can Contact Me Here: borncountry_2@hotmail.com / 519-360-6971

Name: Chris Stewart



Tell Us About What You Produce: I am a tomato grower in District 1. I also grow seed corn, soybeans, wheat, and commercial corn.

Tell Us Why You Want to Serve on the Board of OPVG: The vegetable industry is very valuable to our area. I think we need a strong relationship between the producers and the processors in order to keep this industry alive and growing. That is why I am running for a director position on the OPVG board.

Tell Us What Experience You Bring to the Board: I am the past President of the Ontario Black Tobacco Growers Association, and I spent two years on the Seed Corn Growers of Ontario board. I recently spent a year on the OPVG board.

You Can Contact Me Here: jonern@xplornet.com / 519-365-3695

Name: Ronald VanDamme



Tell Us About What You Produce: Our operation main location is by Wallaceburg and we raise tomatoes for Con Agra foods in Dresden as well as machine harvest cucumbers and peas and sweet corn. We also grow sugar beets, corn, soybeans and wheat.

Tell Us Why You Want to Serve on the Board of OPVG: I feel very optimistic about the Ontario Processing Industry and feel that this area will become a premier growing area for the Great Lakes Region. I will work to represent all growers as we move forward. I believe in the importance of fair and reasonable contracts and will work to negotiate in the best long-term interest of growers. I have experience and understand the importance of research and government policy and crop insurance as it relates to our industry.

Tell Us What Experience You Bring to the Board: I have been involved in the OPVG for many years serving at the district level and attending the annual conference each year. I also have experience on other boards including the Ontario Sugar Beet Growers Association where I was the research chair for several years.

You Can Contact Me Here: ron.vandamme323@gmail.com / 226-627-3165