

Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers

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NEWSLETTER

N^o 9 - 2002

November 13, 2002

GROWER COUNT

DISTRICT (COUNTIES)	GROWERS		DISTRICT REPRESENTATION*	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
1 (Essex, Kent)	387	383	20	20
2 (Bruce, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth, Hastings, Northumberland, Prince Edward and the Regional Municipality of Durham)	265	253	14	13
3 (Brant, Elgin and the Regional Municipalities of Haldimand-Norfolk and Niagara)	<u>225</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>
TOTAL	<u>877</u>	<u>849</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>44</u>

* Based on 1 representative for every 20 growers or part thereof.

DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETINGS

The dates of the upcoming district annual meetings are as follows:

DISTRICT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
DISTRICT 1 (Essex, Kent)	Friday, November 29th	1:30 pm	Wheels Inn Chatham, ON
DISTRICT 2 (Bruce, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth, Hastings, Northumberland, Prince Edward and the Regional Municipality of Durham)	Thursday, November 28th	12 Noon (Lunch will be provided)	Four Points Sheraton 1150 Wellington Rd. S. London, ON
DISTRICT 3 (Brant, Elgin and the Regional Municipalities of Haldimand-Norfolk and Niagara)	Wednesday, November 27th	6:00 pm Supper 7:00 pm Meeting	Simcoe Research Stn. Simcoe, ON

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<p style="text-align: center;">PROCESSING VEGETABLE INDUSTRY EDUCATION BURSARY WINNERS ANNOUNCED</p>

Six young people from southwestern Ontario have been awarded education bursaries from the Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry. The winners are:

- **Kurt Allaer** is from Wallaceburg, Ontario and currently in the Agriculture Program at Ridgetown College. Kurt has been employed at Serkka Farms Inc. since 1998, working mostly in tomato production.
- **Mandy Kicksee** from Scotland, Ontario is enrolled in the Horticulture Program at Ridgetown College and has been employed on the family farm operation.
- **Jason Lenders** from Ilderton, Ontario is studying for his B.Sc., majoring in Agronomy and spent this past summer working in the Agriculture Department at Strathroy Foods Ltd.
- **Maggie Martin** from Kitchener, Ontario attends University of Waterloo and is in Honours Biology. This past summer Maggie was employed at the H.J. Heinz Company of Canada with the Agricultural Research Department.
- **Shawn Palichuk** from Leamington, Ontario is studying Agriculture at the University of Guelph and has had 10 years experience with a processing vegetable operation at Palichuk Farms.
- **John Taves** from Wheatley, Ontario currently attends Ridgetown College in the Agriculture Program and has been employed for the past four summers at Rudy Driedger Farms Inc.

Each of the winners will receive a \$2,000 grant toward their educational pursuits and will be invited to attend the annual Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry Conference, January 28-30, 2003 in London, Ontario.

The bursary fund was established by the Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers (OPVG) and the Ontario Food Processors Association (OFPA) to support and encourage individuals pursuing a career in any aspect of the processing vegetable industry. Ontario's processing vegetable industry is competitive and vibrant. There are a variety of options for those seeking career opportunities; everything from on-farm production to sales and marketing to managing a processing facility. With the existence of this bursary fund, the OPVG and OFPA are working together to ensure there are new individuals who will have the interest, skills and abilities to further develop and grow this sector of Ontario's agri-food economy.

SUN-BRITE CANNING LTD. TO EXPAND

On October 31st, the Ernie Eves government announced that they are investing \$2.9 million in technology at Sun-Brite Canning Ltd., that will lead to an increase in demand for Ontario-grown tomatoes, provide processors with "home grown and processed" inventory and help retain 250 jobs while creating 118 new jobs in rural Ontario.

The project involves bringing European evaporation technology to Ontario, resulting in the capability to process 15 per cent more harvested tomatoes over the next five years. The total value of the project is approximately 9.6 million dollars.

The Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers entered into a price incentive program for tomatoes with Sun-Brite Canning Ltd. based on incremental contract volumes. The program is modeled after the BILD Program of the early 1980's and the recent agreement with the H.J. Heinz Company and is consistent with board efforts to expand acreage and production in Ontario in an effort to generate efficiencies through economies of scale.

Grower participation was contingent on provincial government support from the Ontario Small Towns and Rural Development (OSTAR) program. The board considers this agreement as an important step in continuing to expand Ontario tomato production. As such, the board is prepared to partner with any other tomato processor who meets the same program criteria. Should you have any questions, please contact the board office.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry Conference

January 28th - 30th, 2003

Hilton Hotel, London, Ontario

The Conference Committee is quite enthusiastic about the excellent line-up of speakers for the next industry conference. Please mark your calendar and watch for further details in upcoming newsletters.

**52nd ANNUAL ESSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATED GROWERS
BOUNTY OF THE COUNTY TRADE SHOW**

NOVEMBER 19TH - 20TH, 2002

LEAMINGTON KINSMEN RECREATION COMPLEX

249 SHERK STREET, LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO

Tuesday 9:00 am - 9:00 pm AND Wednesday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

~ Everyone Welcome - Free Admission ~

TUESDAY MORNING

VEGETABLE PROGRAM

- Potato Update
- Season Recap: What's New, What Worked and What Didn't
 - Weed Control Strategies: Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant
 - Irrigation Research

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

GRAPE PROGRAM

- What You Always Wanted to Know About Grape Growing & General Meeting for Grape Growers
 - Award Winner Reception

TUESDAY EVENING

GREENHOUSE PROGRAM

- Introduction/Industry Update
- Water Use, Water Supply Update on New Main
 - Nutrient Management Plan
 - Food Safety
- Greenhouse & Processing Crops Research Report on Pest/ Disease Management Research Recent Findings in Chemical & Biological Control
 - Use of Trap Crops in Vegetable Greenhouses
 - Root Disease Management

WEDNESDAY MORNING

FRUIT PROGRAM

- What's New in Small Fruit Production... Advances in Matted Row Systems & Other Small Fruit Crops
 - Post Harvest Practices Affecting quality
 - Water Management in Tree Fruits

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

"WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW" PROGRAM

- Thirty Cost Saving Strategies for Greenhouse Growers
- Tomato Bacterial Canker... Root Transmission & Control
- Your Exit Strategy... Family Farm Succession, Farm Sale & Off-Farm Investing