

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE PROFILES

Ron VanDamme

Wallaceburg, ON

Crops Grown: processing tomatoes, machine harvest cucumbers, peas and sweet corn; sugar beets, soybeans, corn and wheat

Experience: 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. Have served the past 2-year term on the OPVG Board, with the last year as Vice-Chair. Seeking re-election.

General Information: 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.

Ryan Leclair

Dresden, ON

Crops Grown: processing tomatoes; corn, soybeans, wheat

Experience: In 2019, I served as Vice-Chair on the OPVG District 1 Committee and was elected as a Director for the Board in 2020. I am seeking to be re-elected to the Board.

General Information: I am a 3rd generation tomato farmer. I grew up on a farm and have been involved with many different crops and processes along the way. I graduated in 2006 from the Mechatronics Program at St. Clair College, where I continue to work during the winter months. It has always been a dream of mine to take on a full time farming position and I took on this role in 2016.

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE PROFILES

Tracy Gubbels

Mount Brydges, ON

Crops Grown: processing squash; cash crops, watermelon

Experience: I have been on the District 2 Committee for several years. This is my first time seeking election to the OPVG Board of Directors.

General Information: I farm in Mount Brydges with my husband Pete, just west of London. This year the farm employed over 50 people including 14 temporary foreign workers (TFWs). I realize the challenges with seeking help, both local and offshore.

District 2 cont'd

Eric Allaer

Port Lambton, ON

Crops Grown: processing tomatoes, sweet corn, peas, peppers, cucumbers; seed corn, field corn, soybeans, wheat; turkey producer

Experience: My experience includes 2 years as District Board Chair, 1 year as Provincial Board Director and 37 years as a vegetable grower.

General Information: I wish to work with our growers and processors to continue to grow the vegetable industry in Ontario.

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATE PROFILE

Dan Froese

Straffordville, ON

Crops Grown: fresh and processing vegetables including cucumbers, peppers, corn and beans

Experience: I serve as a Councillor in Ward 2 for the Municipality of Bayham. I have served on the local District 3 Committee for 10 years and was elected to the Board as a Provincial Director for the 2018-2019 term. I was re-elected to the Board for the 2020-2021 term and am seeking re-election.

General Information: I grew up on a farm and have lived in Southwestern Ontario for most of my life. I have been farming with my family for 20 years.