



**Ontario Processing  
Vegetable Growers**

**MEMBER UPDATE**



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## **REGULATION/POLICY *update***

### **Board Member Elections For 2021**



Board member elections are in the final stage. Candidates for open positions in all 3 Districts were announced earlier. For District 1 and District 3, no voting is required as the number of nominees willing to stand matched the number of open positions in both Districts. For District 2, be sure to cast your ballot before voting ends on December 2 at 11:59pm. Announcement of the new Board members for all 3 Districts will be sent to growers and posted on our website on December 4.

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## **BOARD *update***

### **OPVG Review by Farm Products Marketing Commission**

OPVG had its first review in five years with the Farm Products Marketing Commission (FPMC) in October. The Board reported on its activities, promotions, Board governance, strategic planning, industry issues and COVID impacts. The Farm Products Marketing Commission stated they provide reviews for all of its boards to ensure that they are operating within the authorities delegated to them and that they are accountable to their producer members. On October 28, 2020, the Commission sat down with Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers' (OPVG) directors and staff for OPVG's board review to learn more about Ontario's processing vegetable industry and about the board's vision for the future. The Commission indicated they look forward to continuing to work closely with OPVG to maximize opportunities for growth in this important sector.

### **District Annual Meetings**

This year's District annual meetings will be held in a virtual format. OPVG is assisting each District to host the Zoom meetings. The schedule for the District Annual Meetings is as follows:

- District 1: December 11, 2020 at 1:00pm
- District 2: December 10, 2020 at 3:00pm
- District 3: December 9, 2020 at 7:30pm

Details of the meetings have been sent to each grower in an email with the link to join the Zoom meeting. The Agenda will include the local Chair's report, District financial update, Board report/crop update, and an AgriCorp update. Elections of the District representatives will also take place at these meetings.

### **OPVG Annual General Meeting - March 30, 2021**

OPVG is pleased to announce the date of our AGM for Tuesday, March 30, 2021. This AGM will see some changes from previous years, particularly due to COVID-19, and will be held in a virtual platform. Watch for details in the new year. No conference will be held for 2021.

### **Bursary Program**

An industry-wide committee is reviewing the 12 applicants for 2020 bursaries. The OPVG issues bursaries each year to students who have the interest, skills and abilities to further develop and grow the

vegetable industry. Since 2001, the Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry bursary program has provided more than \$185,000 to Ontario students.

## 2020 Photo Contest

Submit your photos for our 3rd annual Share Your Best Shot photo contest taking place now! Win a generous cash prize! The contest is open to everyone. Photo Contest closes February 15, 2021. Check our website for details.

[Click here to go to our website](#)



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## MARKET *intelligence*

### Pepper Trade Action

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has now formally requested that the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) launch its fact-finding investigation and monitoring process for imports of bell peppers. We expect that the USITC will formally initiate these investigations imminently. USTR has expressly requested that, as part of its monitoring process, the USITC collect and analyze information relevant to launch an expedited global safeguard investigation. The USITC fact-finding investigation and monitoring process can transition into an expedited global safeguard investigation following a minimum of 90 days of import monitoring. It is that safeguard investigation that could ultimately lead to the imposition of tariffs or a quantitative restriction (such as a quota), in as early as 28 days for preliminary relief (21 days for the USITC to issue a preliminary recommendation and seven days for the U.S. President to make a decision based on that recommendation), or as early as 180 days (for a final decision). The Government of Canada will be actively monitoring this investigation alongside our bell pepper industry.

At the November OPVG Board meeting, we received the research paper from a project we commissioned, through the University of Guelph, Ridgetown campus. The study was undertaken to gather information on the processing pepper industry, explore areas where the OPVG could be of assistance to the industry and assess the interest of industry participants in having the Board provide support. The Board Chair has also discussed areas of common interest with several processing pepper growers. The Board, after assessing all the information available, has decided to continue the exemption for processing peppers from OPVG Regulations for 2021. Thus, processing pepper growers continue not to be Board members as has been the case since 2012 when significant processing of peppers within Ontario ceased. Should growers wish to view a copy of the research paper, please contact our office to make arrangements.

### Onion Negotiations

OPVG and Cavendish have reached an agreement on Onions for 2021. Cavendish commended growers for their efforts this past season despite uncertainty regarding access to labour and challenging weather during harvest.

## 2020 Harvest update

**Green Peas** - 14,700 acres contracted and 14,559 acres/27,372 tons delivered

**Cucumbers** - 40,936 tons contracted and 36,931 tons delivered



**Tomatoes** - 476,445 tons contracted and 491,434 tons delivered

**Green & Wax Beans** - 5,020 acres contracted and 7,294 acres/26,345 tons delivered

**Lima Beans** - 3,807 acres contracted and 3,909 acres/6,025 tons delivered

**Sweet Corn** - 10,185 acres contracted and 11,246 acres/89,504 tons delivered

**Squash** - 5,550 tons contracted and 5,666 tons

delivered

**Onions** - Harvest data not available at this time

**Carrots** - Harvest data not available at this time

## Stay connected with OPVG 2020 Board

- **Dave Hope** (Chair) [dave.hope@opvg.org](mailto:dave.hope@opvg.org)
- **Michael Denys**, (1st Vice Chair, District 1) [ms\\_denys@yahoo.com](mailto:ms_denys@yahoo.com)
- **Ken Hamm** (2nd Vice Chair, District 1) [kenmhamm@gmail.com](mailto:kenmhamm@gmail.com)
- **Dan Froese** (Director, District 3) [danfroese@amtelecom.net](mailto:danfroese@amtelecom.net)
- **Ryan Leclair** (Director, District 1) [borncountry\\_2@hotmail.com](mailto:borncountry_2@hotmail.com)
- **Mike Lenders** (Director, District 2) [mikelenders3@gmail.com](mailto:mikelenders3@gmail.com)
- **Carl Merrick** (Director, District 2) [merrickcarl@gmail.com](mailto:merrickcarl@gmail.com)
- **Ron VanDamme** (Director, District 1) [ron.vandamme323@gmail.com](mailto:ron.vandamme323@gmail.com)
- **Henry Voth** (Director, District 3) [vothhenry@gmail.com](mailto:vothhenry@gmail.com)

