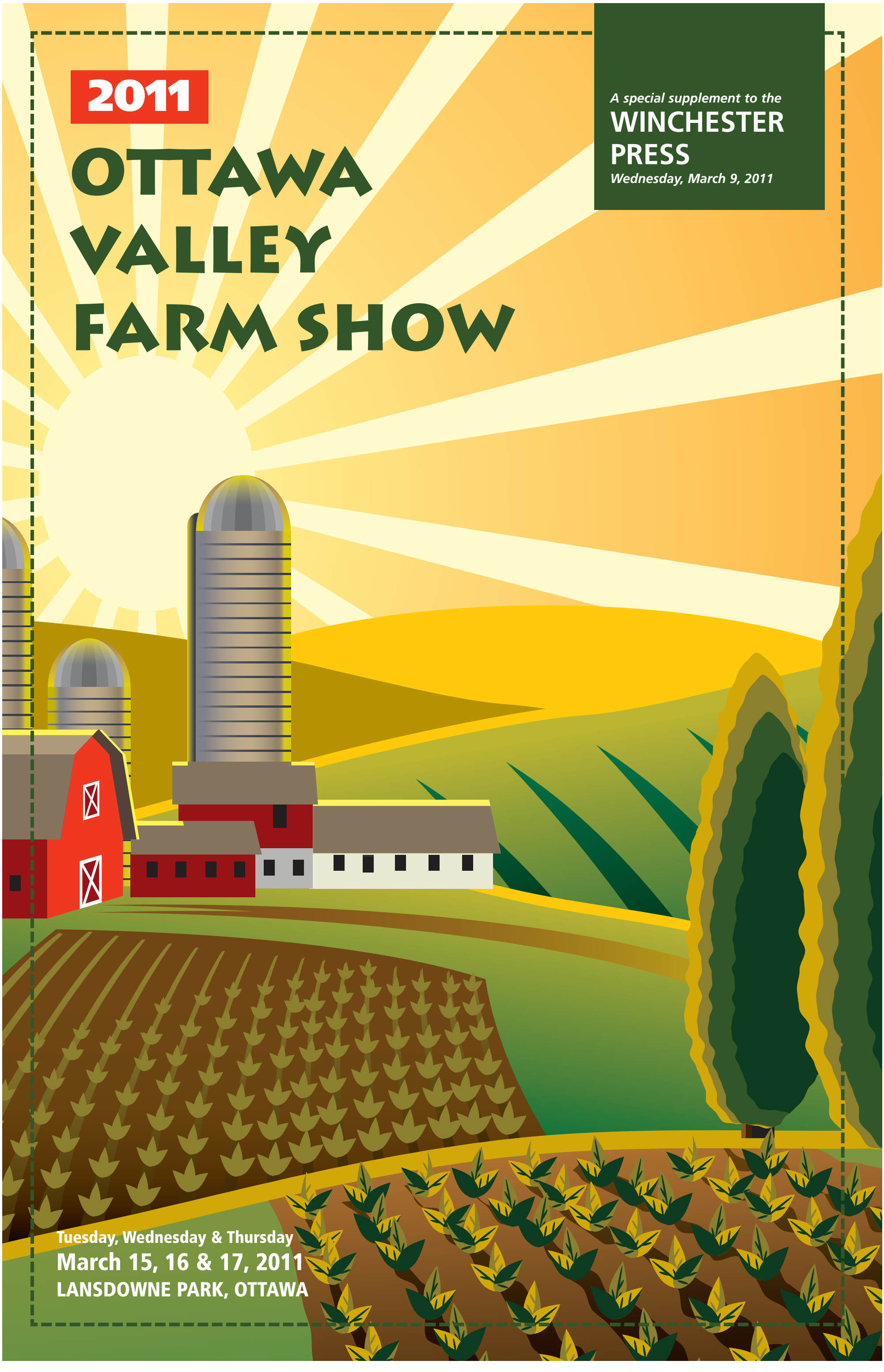
2011

OTTAWA VALLEY FARM SHOW

A special supplement to the
WINCHESTER PRESS
Wednesday, March 9, 2011



Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
March 15, 16 & 17, 2011
LANSDOWNE PARK, OTTAWA

Change of venue next year

Farm show moving on from Lansdowne in 2012



Lansdowne Park has been the Ottawa Valley Farm Show's home for years. Young and old alike have flocked to the venue, but the event is set to switch locations in 2012.

by Matthew Uhrig
Press staff

OTTAWA – For better or for worse, the Ottawa Valley Farm Show (OVFS) has been forced out of its current home.

After 52 years at Lansdowne Park, located on Bank Street, the eastern Ontario agricultural event is scheduled to pack up and move to the yet-to-be constructed Capital Exhibition Centre at the Ottawa International Airport. The change in venue is, at the moment, planned to take effect in time for the 2012 show.



Tom Van Dusen, OVSGA board member and OVFS general manager

The move has been brought on by the Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG)'s desire to redevelop the Lansdowne location.

Through a partnership between the City of Ottawa and the OSEG, both sides would like to add more green space to the Lansdowne area, revitalize Frank Clair Stadium and the Civic Centre, while also making room for retail development.

The decision has been met with swift opposition from many residents on both sides of the Rideau Canal, in the neighbourhoods of Old Ottawa South and the Glebe. Heritage experts have also come forward to object to the plan to move some of the buildings on the site; namely, the Aberdeen Pavilion.

At the moment, the plan is up for review by the Ontario Municipal Board. While that process takes place, many of the site's mainstay attractions have had to find new places of operation or cease to exist in 2011, and perhaps longer.

> ***"We see it [the move] as an opportunity to make the show even better.... It's a chance for exhibitors to be extremely well served in a bright new facility."***
>
> *— Tom Van Dusen, OVSGA board member and OVFS general manager*

The most recent casualty is the Central Canada Exhibition, also known as Ottawa SuperEx. Since 1888, the summer festival took place at Lansdowne, but this year, the event's board of directors decided to cancel because of the ongoing fighting between developers and opponents.

Members of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association (OVSGA) were faced with the same decision, but rather than pause the event for a year or more, they decided a new location would be the best remedy.

"We see it [the move] as an opportunity to make the show even better," said Tom Van Dusen, OVSGA board member and OVFS general manager. "It's a chance for exhibitors to be extremely well served in a bright new facility."

Since 1959, the OVFS has made its permanent home at Lansdowne, with the board at the time opting for a place to grow the show. When the event began in 1927, it was hosted by different communities throughout the Ottawa Valley each year.

• **continued on next page**

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Now and then?

The 2012 Ottawa Valley Farm Show is scheduled to take place at the yet-to-be constructed Capital Exhibition Centre at the Ottawa International Airport. The event, like many trade shows, is leaving its current location due to the proposed Lansdowne Park redevelopment. Shenkman Corp photo illustration

Lansdowne

• continued from previous page

With the 2011 event being the last at the central Ottawa location, the OVFS board has big plans before it goes into transition mode.

Van Dusen said more than 300 exhibitors will take part this year, occupying space inside all available buildings. As well, about 20 new additions will be part of the show, he added.

"In terms of space occupied, we're the largest show held annually in the nation's capital, which is kind of ironic when you consider we're all about rural products and services," said Van Dusen.

The 2011 event is scheduled to take place Tues., March 15 to Thurs., March 17 at Lansdowne Park.

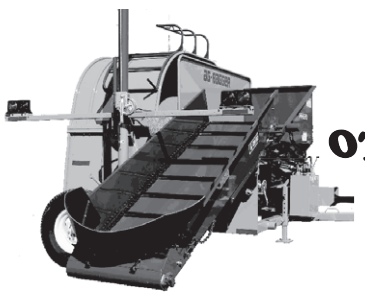


This year's 84th edition of the OVFS will be the last at the Bank Street facility in central Ottawa.

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OVFS applauds nomination

Albert M. Barr named to Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame

KEMPTVILLE — The Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association (OVSGA) directors were pleased to learn that a nomination to the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame which they co-sponsored has been approved.

Albert M. Barr will be inducted into the hall of fame during a ceremony at Milton in June. OVSGA director John Joynt joined with Robert Aumell in nominating Barr, a past principal of Kemptville Agricultural School, now Kemptville Campus of the University of Guelph. Born in 1904, Barr died in 1979.



Albert M. Barr will be inducted into the hall of fame during a ceremony at Milton in June.

"Albert Barr left a legacy for Ontario agriculture that included hundreds of well-educated rural youth, and research and extension work that led the way to great advances in agricultural productivity in Ontario," the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame said of the successful nomination.

OVSGA president Jim Arbuckle and director Garnet Ralph — himself a member of the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame — wrote letters of support for the nomination, and the association joined with Kemptville College Alumni in covering the $750 nomination fee.

"We would not have been successful without the support of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers," said Barr's daughter-in-law, Margaret. An active financial backer of the Hall of Fame, the association has over the years advanced several nominations.

The OVSGA is finalizing preparations for its 2011 Ottawa Valley Farm Show to be held at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa from Tues., March 15 to Thurs., March 17. Along with 350 machinery, equipment, seed, and agricultural services exhibitors, what's expected to be the last show at Lansdowne ahead of relocation in 2012 to a new trade centre at Ottawa International Airport will feature a 4-H judging competition, best booth prize for the cattle breeds, antique displays, farm safety presentations, hearing tests, organ transplant information, the Prestigious Pedigreed Seed Sale for CHEO, and a seed awards ceremony.

"It's shaping up as one of our best shows ever," said OVSGA president Jim Arbuckle, "a fitting way to wrap up a half century at Lansdowne Park. Equally fitting is that the show will be celebrating its 85th anniversary when we open next year in the new Capital Exhibition Centre."

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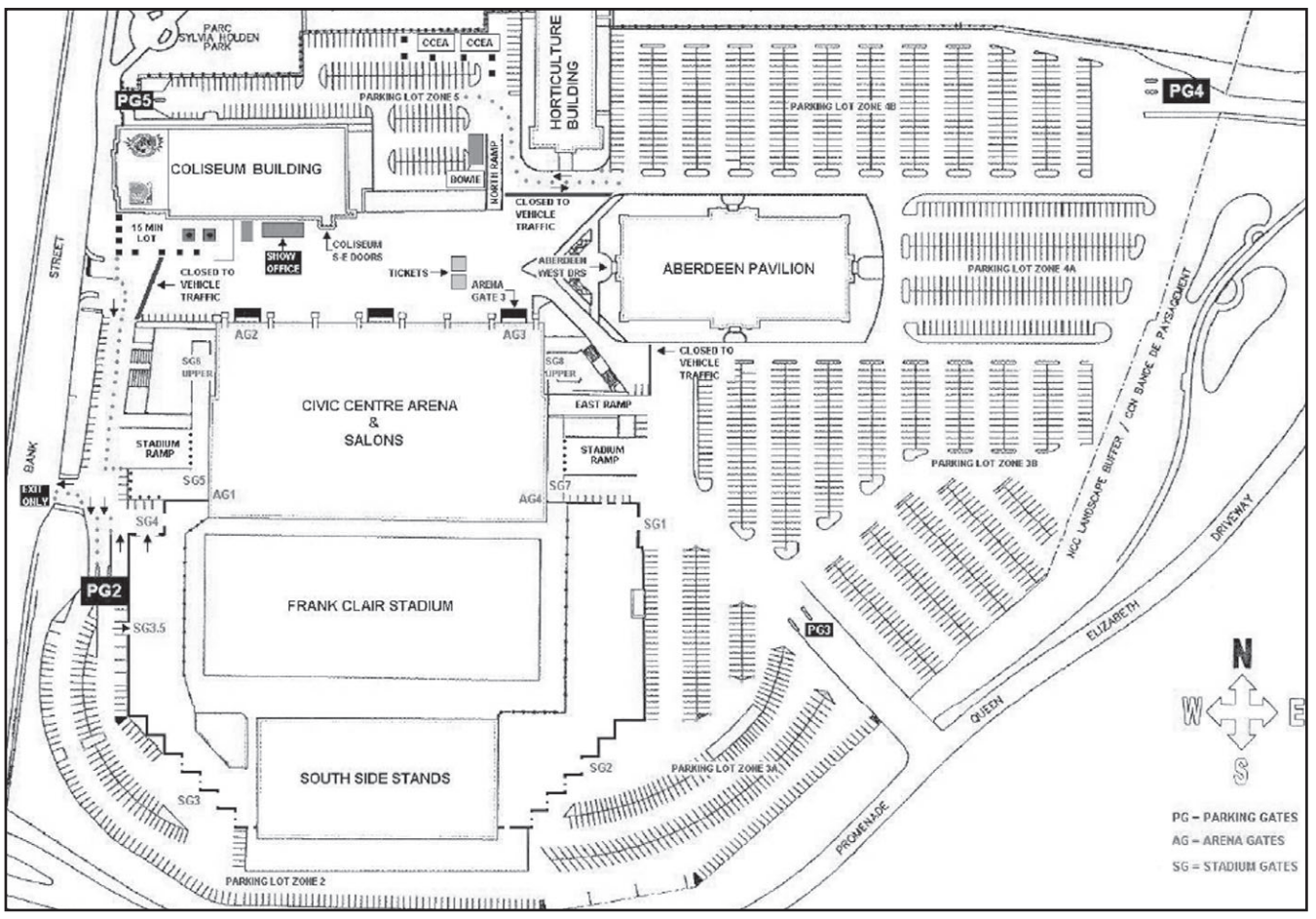

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Site plan for the 2011 Ottawa Valley Farm Show, scheduled to run Tues., March 15 to Thurs., March 17 at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa.

Hundreds of vendors highlight farm show schedule

OTTAWA — The 2011 Ottawa Valley Farm Show is scheduled to take place Tues., March 15 through to Thurs., March 17 at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa.

The 84th edition of the eastern Ontario agricultural event will feature more than 300 vendors inside five different indoor areas, as well as machinery set up outside.

Other events include:

- Official opening ceremonies at noon on Tuesday
- Seed Growers Hall of Honours at the main entrance of the Civic Centre concourse, along with the Livestock Breeder Association information booth at the west end of the concourse
- Seed Growers Awards ceremony at noon on Wednesday
- Annual Prestigious Pedigreed Seed Sale at noon on Thursday, with proceeds directed to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
- Sheila James, a workplace safety and prevention service field officer with the Ministry of Labour, will present farm safety workshops each day of the show
- Hearing test and organ donation information booth

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OVSGA donates $5,000 to Queen of the Furrow banquet

KEMPTVILLE — Prescott-Russell International Plowing Match (IPM) chairman Gary Barton was successful in obtaining a $5,000 co-sponsorship from the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association (OVSGA) for the annual Queen of the Furrow banquet.

Part of every IPM, the banquet has been funded in the past to the tune of $10,000 by one corporate supporter. However, as Barton told OVSGA directors in Kemptville, that backer withdrew this year, leaving the local IPM organization with a major funding vacuum to fill.

Expected to draw 500-600 people, the banquet is scheduled to be held on Thurs., Sept. 22 at the Vankleek Hill Arena.

Sponsored by the Ontario Plowmen's Association, as is the IPM, the Queen of the Furrow program dates back roughly 50 years. The purpose is to encourage young women to become involved in agricultural activities in their communities.

Chosen on the basis of appearance, deportment, interviews, public speaking and plowing ability, each queen presides over the next IPM. This year's queen is Tammy Fischer, a University of Guelph graduate from Bruce County.

The $5,000 donation puts the Seed Growers association in the Friends of the Match category in terms of special considerations such as promotion, and parking and admission passes, granted by the IPM organization.

Sponsors of the annual Ottawa Valley Farm Show coming up at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa from Tues., March 15 to Thurs., March 17, the Seed Growers are also considering a $1,500 sponsorship of the plowmen's breakfast during the IPM to be held from Sept. 22 to Sat., Sept. 24 just east of Hawkesbury.



International Plowing Match Prescott-Russell IPM chair Gary Barton.

The OVSGA uses proceeds from the farm show to support 4-H programs, agricultural research, local fairs, the IPM when it's staged in eastern Ontario, the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, and other causes.

In briefing association directors on the status of IPM preparations, Barton said the organizing committee continues to round up a requirement of 1,200 volunteers to get the event ready for an expected 600 exhibitors.

As a small example, he said, 50 tractor drivers will be needed every day during the IPM, along with 40 people working the gates.

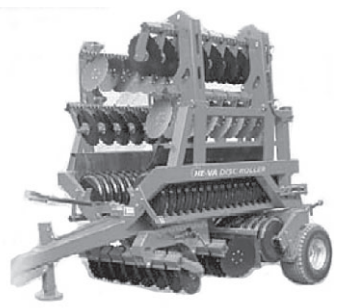
One drawback organizers have encountered is a lack of guest rooms, Barton revealed, noting there are only two major hotels in the immediate area, both in Hawkesbury. With those fully booked during the show, as well as area Bed and Breakfast homes, the committee is appealing to residents to billet IPM visitors. Meanwhile, about half of 2,300 available IPM campsites have been booked.

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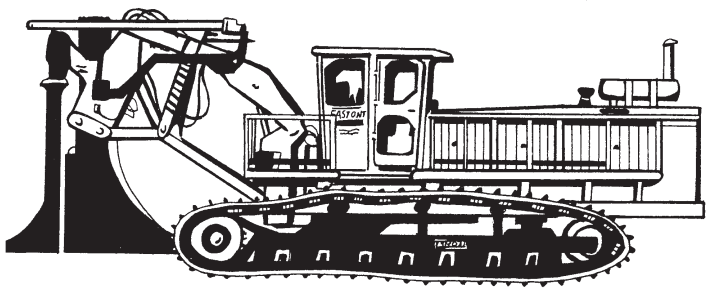
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Anthony Bencic, 5, of Smiths Falls preferred to get inside and play with the controls of the tractor at the Topline Trailer and Equipment booth.





Centre:
Francis (left) and Sebastian Guibard of Rockland decided they needed a better look at this tractor at the display from New Holland Canada (whose tractors were from Weagant Farm Supplies).

Left:
Greg Knops (left) and Cliff Metcalfe of Winchester's Hyland Seeds were continually busy greeting the crowds.

A LOOK BACK

Welcome to the Winchester Press' *pictorial review of recent years of the Ottawa Valley Farm Show. In this photo series, readers may recognize many local names and faces. For a number of years, many of them have been loading up supplies and travelling down the highway to Ottawa, ending at Lansdowne Park, home to the annual agriculture trades fair. This year will be no different, as more than 300 vendors, both local and from abroad, will be taking part in the 84th edition of the farm show scheduled to take place from Tues., March 15 to Thurs., March 17.*



Right:
GreenTech Ag and Turf employees Peter VanderPoel (left), Randy Strader, Will Briscoe, John Vanderspank, Stephen Holmes, and Steve Cooper were ready to serve the customers.

Far Right:
Chuck Preston of Weagant Farm Supplies spoke with customers who dropped by the booth.



Press Photos — Uhrig



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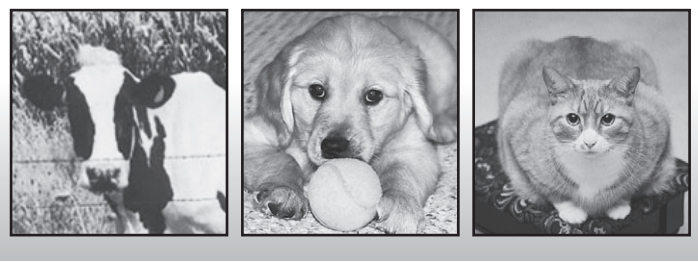
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A LOOK BACK



Several pieces of farm machinery were set up outside the Civic Centre at Lansdowne Park.

Below: *Audrée Brisson, 5, of Embrun made the most of her time on the New Holland pedal tractor, as part of the New Holland Canada display (whose tractors were from Weagant Farm Supplies).*



Lezlee Byers-Smith represented Byers Farm Equipment.



David Guy (left) and Michael Staebler of Hendrick Seeds in Inkerman were ready to talk about soybeans.



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Above: *Ringmaster John Joynt called out a bid during the seed auction.*

Right: *Jim Arbuckle, president of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers (OVSG), welcomed guests to the annual Pedigreed Seed Auction in support of CHEO.*





OVSG director Kathy Hardy showed off the sheep hide blanket that was up for auction.



Ringmaster Ivor Williams watched closely for bids during the seed auction.



Left: *Rob Lefebvre (left), area manager for Pioneer Hi-Bred, presented a $1,000 cheque to Bruce Hudson, OVSG vice-president, during the auction. The money was added to the total raised for CHEO during the annual event.*

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Farm show history

• The Ottawa Valley Farm Show (OVFS) is Ontario's longest-running agricultural trade show.

• From the beginning, it has been organized by farmers for farmers on a non-profit basis.

• The OVFS traces those humble beginnings back 84 years to 1927 to the Town of Renfrew. It was there that the newly formed Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association sponsored its first local seed fair at Renfrew Collegiate. The primary objective of that first show was consistent with today's main purpose: to assist in producing, grading, selling and distributing high class and registered seed.

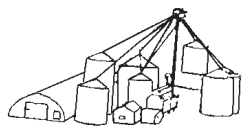
• In the early days, the Seed Fair rotated each year from community to community throughout eastern Ontario and west Quebec. Much later, after it had grown too big for rural venues, what became the Ottawa Valley Farm Show found a permanent home at Ottawa's Lansdowne Park near the centre of the urban core where it has remained until 2011. (Next year, the show is scheduled to move to the Capital Exhibition Centre on the Ottawa International Airport property.)

• The idea caught on, transforming the annual event into the biggest seed and machinery show east of Toronto; it gradually grew out of one building into six display areas accommodating more than 300 exhibitors. Association directors decided to expand the show in 2002 by taking over the Civic Centre arena floor and, in 2003, continued the expansion by adding the Civic Centre Concourse.

• The Prestigious Pedigreed Seed Sale for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario continues to be a highlight of the three-day show. Over 19 years to 2010, the sale has raised nearly $100,000. In 2001, the Seed Growers initiated a new tradition of also auctioning off a piece of rural art as part of the fundraiser.

• The show continues to improve its offerings to the regional agricultural community. In addition to seed and machinery, the OVFS traditionally includes livestock displays, 4-H exhibits, arts and crafts, farm toys and books, tools, equipment, associations, financial institutions, and just about every other product and service of special interest to the farm and rural community. On top of the Pedigreed Seed Sale, other highlights include the annual awards banquet and first-day official opening.

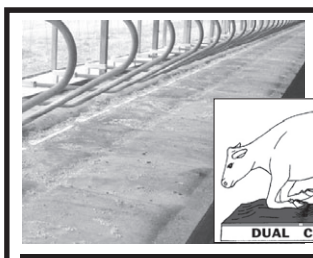
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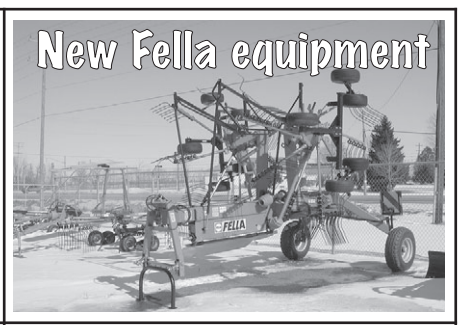
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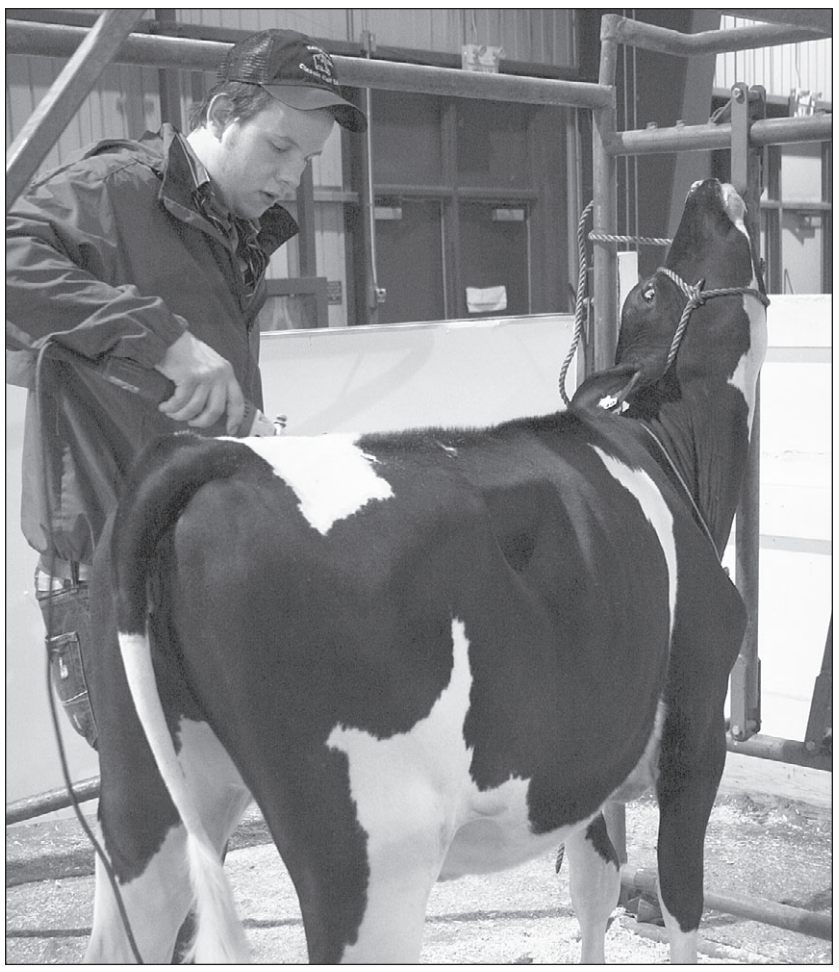
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Marty Hazeleger, pictured here in this file photo, trimmed some excess hair off his calf before the calf sale during the 2010 Kemptville College Royal. Press Photo – Uhrig

College Royal set for March 11-12

KEMPTVILLE — For the eighth year in a row, the Kemptville College Foundation will host a fundraising pancake breakfast inside the campus' Agroforestry Centre as part of the annual College Royal celebration (Fri., March 11 and Sat., March 12).

The Saturday morning breakfast is scheduled to take place from 7:30 am to 1 pm. Each donation made upon entry will get the participant a ticket for breakfast, with proceeds raised used by the foundation in carrying out its work at the college.

On the breakfast menu will be pancakes, sausages, tea, coffee, and juice. Co-ordinated by foundation director Ian Carley, members of the foundation will be providing their time to prepare and serve the meals.

"The breakfast is very popular and one of our major fundraisers," said Carley.

Formed more than a decade ago, the foundation is dedicated to raising funds in support of college programs and scholarships for deserving students.

Organized by students, the College Royal features the Kemptville College Calf Sale on March 12 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm inside the A.M. Barr Arena. The evening before, March 11, the open house prior to the sale takes place from 6 to 9 pm, allowing purchasers to look over the available content.

A polo demonstration, celebrity milking contest, horse and livestock shows, clipping competition, power and equipment games, a hockey tournament, various displays, and awards banquet are also scheduled to take place during the two-day event.

For more information, visit www.kemptvillec.uoguelph.ca/royal.

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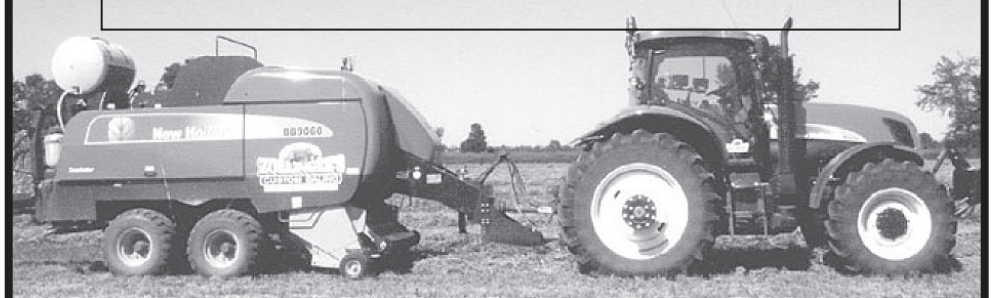
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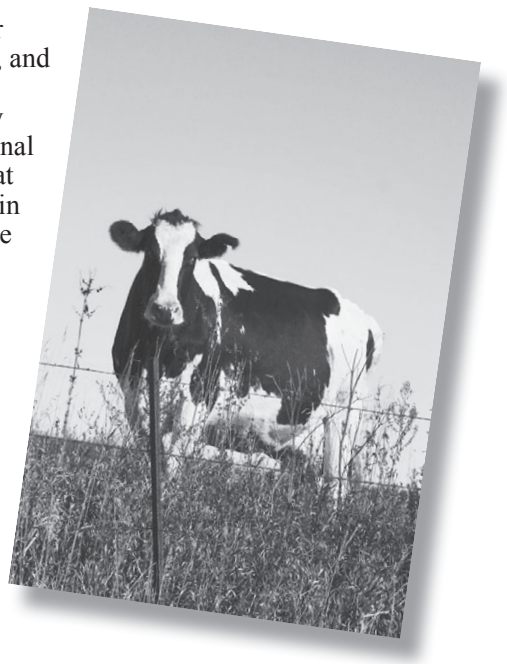
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Conference season wraps up

KEMPTVILLE — 'Tis the season for agricultural conferences, trade shows, and fairs.

As far as the conferences go, every year, industry specialists run educational seminars – most of which take place at the W.B. George Centre, located within the University of Guelph – Kemptville Campus complex. Events held at the centre this year included: the second instalment of Eastern Ontario Dairy Days on Thurs., Feb. 17 (after the first one took place in Maxville the day prior); the Kemptville Winter Woodlot Conference on Wed., Feb. 23; and the Thurs., Feb. 24 Eastern Ontario Crop Conference.

Eco Farm Day 2011 wrapped up the conference spree on Fri., Feb 25 and Sat., Feb. 26 at the Ramada Inn in Cornwall.



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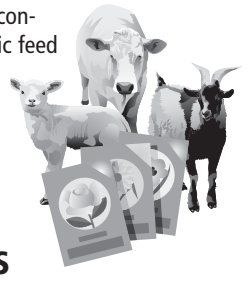
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Two organic food activists win awards

Former politician honoured for efforts, including Eco Farm Day

BERWICK – Tom Manley has been recognized for his commitment to eco-agriculture through the first-ever Ontario Organic Awards.

Manley, an organic food processor in Berwick, was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering involvement in the sector through the family business — Homestead Organics — as well as his commitment to Eco Farm Day and his volunteerism with the Canadian Organic Growers.

Eco Farm Day sees approximately 300 farmers and organic sector participants gather for a day and half of education, networking, and information sharing. The most recent event took place on Fri., Feb. 25 and Sat., Feb. 26 at the Ramada Inn in Cornwall.

Manley is in the middle of three generations of organic farmers. In 1997, he took over the grain and feed processing at Homestead Organics and moved it to the feed mill in Berwick.

His political involvement raised awareness about organic issues. He served as a candidate for the Green Party of Ontario provincially in 2003 and again in the federal election in 2004. Later, in 2005, he resigned from the Green Party and announced his intentions to seek nomination for the Liberal Party of Canada. While unsuccessful in the 2006 election, Manley remained active in politics after that point.

Manley sits on the Community Advisory Committee at Alfred College, and is a past recipient of the Tri-Valley Conservation Award. He is currently champion of the Organic Central project — an effort to create an industry cluster for organic processing and distribution in eastern Ontario.



Tom Manley has won an Ontario Organic Award recognizing his lifetime dedication to eco-farming, including Eco Farm Day (the last conference was held in Cornwall on Fri., Feb. 25 and Sat., Feb. 26). Colleen Ross, a farmer in Iroquois, won a volunteerism award.

South Dundas farmer wins volunteer award

Three people won an Ontario Organic Award for volunteerism, including Colleen Ross, a farmer in Iroquois and first vice-president of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

Ross began her farming life in Australia, where she first became aware of the impacts of industrial agriculture on farmers. Returning to Canada in 1995, Ross and her family bought a 200-acre farm and converted it to a certified organic, mixed farm.

Through her work with the NFU, Ross collaborates with farmers in Canada and internationally, acting together to promote global food sovereignty.

An International Organic Inspectors Association inspector with degrees in agriculture and agriculture business management from the University of Guelph and biosciences from the University of Tromso, Norway, Ross has trained numerous future farmers. Through her ongoing involvement with the Via Campesina Movement, she aims to achieve a fair, sustainable international food system.

About the awards

The Organic Council of Ontario (OCO) presented the First Annual Ontario Organic Awards to celebrate the caring, credible, and committed people and businesses within the organic sector.

OCO honoured outstanding achievement across the full organic value-chain, including awards categories for sector pioneers and volunteers. The awards celebrated the contributions of 20 individuals and businesses.

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Research key to future prosperity: director

Dr. Claude Naud sees bright future in Kemptville

by Matthew Uhrig
Press staff

KEMPTVILLE — The newly installed director of the University of Guelph's Kemptville Campus said he sees continued prosperity as the college moves toward the future.

Dr. Claude Naud made the comment in his featured address during the annual Eastern Ontario Crop Conference on Thurs., Feb. 24.





Keynote address
Dr. Claude Naud provided the featured address during the 2011 Eastern Ontario Crop Conference held at the University of Guelph – Kemptville Campus on Thurs., Feb. 24. Naud took over as the institution's director this past summer.
Press Photos — Uhrig

The former Canadian Armed Forces commander took over this past summer, being chosen following a 15-month selection process.

According to Dr. Rob Gordon, dean of the university's Ontario Agricultural College sector, Naud has an understanding of the opportunities available in agriculture.

"He is a strategically-minded, team-oriented, and passionate educator who brings an outstanding record of academic and administrative leadership to his new role," Gordon said in a press release issued at the time of Naud's hiring. "That expertise will be tremendously valuable as we work towards the continued development of our regional campuses through this period of transformation and growth."

During his crop conference speech, Naud touched on the qualities that brought him into the position he holds.

"I'm really impressed by your industry," he said to the assembled audience, many of which were members of the local agricultural industry. "It's very dynamics changing."

The main focus of his talk was, as he put it, "where we are today, where we're going, and where we'd like to be."

"It's all about how we see the world unfolding from our perspective," said Naud. "As well as making the training and education relevant to the young folks today."

The four areas, Naud said, requiring the most emphasis are agriculture, environment, food, and rural communities.

"These areas seem to be getting a renewal," he said. "It's enriching, and adding variety to our [educational] approach, as well as our experiential opportunities."

Currently, emerging research trends include the use of biomaterials, as well as finding foods that lead to superior health and well being, said Naud. But, the biggest stream receiving the most interest is the global food sector, as well as food safety.

"This [food security] is very much an issue and an area of considerable interest," he said. "Right now, we're working at returning quality to food and ensuring it remains healthy."

To be successful, said Naud, the college, namely the staff and students, must take a lead in being adaptive in various research fields.

"We'll be taking advantage of opportunities as they arise, while setting environmental priorities," he said. "Our goal is to come up with innovative ideas for the value chains."

Aside from his duties as director at the Kemptville Campus, Naud also oversees the institution's research stations in Winchester, New Liskeard, and Emo.

And the rest

Other highlights from the Eastern Ontario Crop Conference included: concurrent sessions involving: soybean weed control; improving water quality in agricultural landscapes; making quality hay; fertilizer for new yield levels; safety with grain storage systems; and much more.

"A full-day event like this allows us to bring in diverse presenters, providing diverse topics," said Gilles Quesnel, crop specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and one half of the event organizing team.

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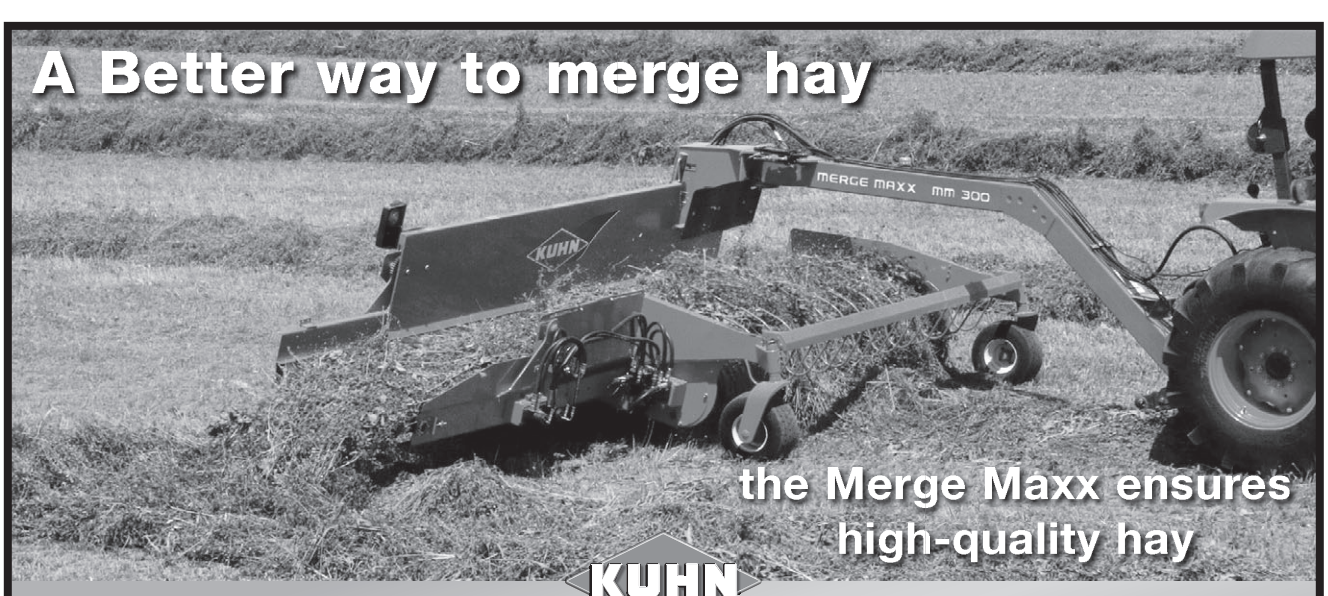
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Marketing issues to remain hot topics at future Eastern Ontario Dairy Days

by Amanda Smith-Millar
Press staff

KEMPTVILLE — The organizers of the annual Eastern Ontario Dairy Days anticipate that industry marketing and standardization issues will continue to be hot topics in years to come.

Blair Murray, a dairy specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), is a key organizer when it comes to the yearly conference that takes place over two days. (The first was held on Wed., Feb. 16 at Maxville's sports complex; the second, on Thurs., Feb. 17 at the University of Guelph — Kemptville Campus.)

Murray and his crew have had some time since then to review participant feedback forms about the conference. By and large, he noted, while there was broad interest in the various topics this year, attendees were certainly interested in marketing-related issues. A popular discussion this year in Kemptville included a "mini summit" with Alain Bourbeau, general director of the Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec (FPLQ), and Bill Emmott, chair of the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. (Marcel Groleau, chair of the FPLQ, served as the guest speaker in Maxville instead of Bourbeau.)

Groleau and Bourbeau addressed issues related to the controversial Agreement on All Milk Pooling (also known as the P5 Agreement), which aims to share risks and opportunities in dairy markets of the eastern Canadian provinces. Meanwhile, Emmott spoke about Canada's milk marketing system. His talk addressed two key issues: the Agreement on Internal Trade and the Dairy product blends and modified milk ingredients that are affecting Canada's food processing system and farmers.

> ***"There are going to be issues [regarding] the marketplace for some time."***
>
> *— Blair Murray, dairy specialist with OMAFRA*

"They're not entirely new issues," noted Murray. "It keeps coming back."

However, he said that marketing subjects will continue to rear their heads, as producers want to learn more about efficiencies and standardization when it comes to Canada's dairy policies.

"There are a whole bunch of issues there," said Murray.

The dairy specialist noted that bringing in experts from Quebec to Eastern Ontario Dairy Days allowed local Ontario producers to learn more about the approach from leaders in the neighbouring province. The conferences also allowed producers to ask questions directly after the talk was over.

"There were pretty wide-ranging questions," reflected Murray.

He noted that the people who plan the dairy days — as well as various agricultural groups that provide feedback — still have to review 2011's successes and identify room for improvement. But issues like product blends and modified milk ingredients, the P5, the Agreement on Internal Trade, and other marketing issues will continue to be of interest to local farmers aiming to keep up with the trends and improve their businesses.

The interest in marketing most likely will continue to be a focus at future instalments of the Eastern Ontario Dairy Days, he agreed.

"There are going to be issues [regarding] the marketplace for some time," said Murray.

Other highlights from the Kemptville conference included a succession planning seminar called "Your Farm, Your Family, Your Future" with Patrick Gilmour of Assante Financial Management. Gilmour kicked off Thursday's proceedings, followed by talks from Dr. Jodi Wallace of the Ormstown Veterinary Hospital and Walter Oeggerli of Lancaster's Heidi Farms about control strategies for somatic cells — a common problem for dairy producers. (Osgoode's Alexerin Farms delivered a somatic cell talk in Maxville.) An assistant professor at the university — Trevor DeVries — also discussed ongoing research at Kemptville Campus.



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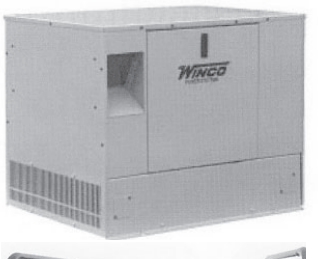


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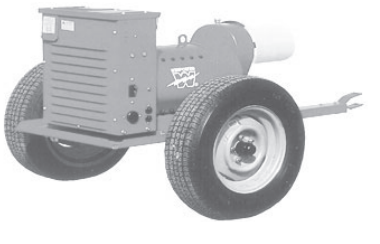
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The emerald ash borer has four life stages: adult, egg, larva (above), and pupa.



When the larva feeds between the bark and sapwood, it makes an S-shaped gallery.



As a new adult exits the tree, it chews a D-shaped hole in the bark.

Photos and information courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources publication, A Visual Guide to Detecting Ash Borer Damage, *and the Canada Food Inspection Agency's website, www.inspection.gc.ca.*

How do I know if I have eastern ash borer?

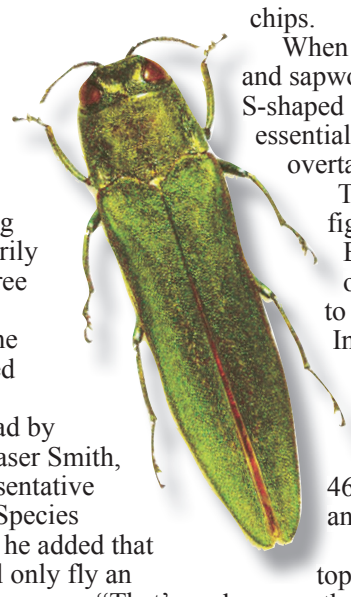
Check to see if there's tree decline by following the tips below, courtesy of the Canada Food Inspection Agency. However, if you think you have the eastern ash borer, don't panic. These may be signs of another problem entirely. Instead, call the Invading Species Awareness Program at 1-800-563-7711 or the Canada Food Inspection Agency at 1-866-463-6017.

Watch for:
- thinning crown
- diminished density of leaves
- evidence of adult beetle feeding on leaves
- long shoots growing from the trunk or branches
- vertical cracks in the trunk
- small D-shaped emergence holes
- S-shaped tunnels under the bark filled with fine sawdust

Don't move that firewood!

The creepy crawly future of the emerald ash borer lies – largely – in human hands

by Amanda Smith-Millar
Press staff



KEMPTVILLE — The emerald ash borer is threatening to take over portions of North America.

However, the asian invasion is a slow-moving critter that won't necessarily kill off the emerald ash tree population — providing humans don't facilitate the spread by moving infested firewood.

"It [the bug] will spread by itself," acknowledged Fraser Smith, an outreach liaison representative with Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program. But he added that the little green insect will only fly an estimated 10 kilometres per year. "That's why it's so important to gather firewood locally and support local businesses."

The borer is a highly destructive insect pest. The species calls eastern Asia home and was discovered in Canada and the U.S. around 2002 — although it's probable the bug arrived in North America through shipments long before that time.

Since its arrival, the borer has killed millions of ash trees in areas like Michigan and the surrounding states, as well as southwestern Ontario.

Humans must avoid moving firewood, logs, lumber, nursery stock, trees, wood with bark attached, and wood or bark chips.

When a larva feeds between the bark and sapwood of the ash, it can make an S-shaped zig-zag and, in the process, essentially suck the tree dry while overtaking its host site.

There's no single answer to fighting the emerald ash borer. But experts stress that woodlot owners shouldn't feel pressured to have their ash trees cut. Instead, they should call the Invading Species Awareness Program at 1-800-563-7711 or the Canada Food Inspection Agency at 1-866-463-6017 for more information and help.

The ash borer has been a hot topic lately. In fact, the emerald bug was the subject of the first morning discussion at the most recent Kemptville Winter Woodlot Conference on Wed., Feb. 23. About 200 people attended day-long seminar sessions about various woodlot topics at the W.B. George Centre (University of Guelph – Kemptville Campus).

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