FALL FARM

Police warn area farmers beware of scam artist

by Lori Roberts
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Police are warning farmers to be on the look-out as a Chesterville area farmer was the recent target of a scam know as the Nigerian Fraud.

It all started when Dennis Buckle and Angela Billharz, Chesterville area farmers, placed an ad in the Agrinews in hopes of selling their tractor. As Angela explained to The Chieftain, "There was nothing special about our tractor, it wasn't an antique or anything, just a regular farm tractor." What happened next made the couple very leery right from the beginning. In response to the ad the couple received an e-mail from a gentleman in Scotland hoping to purchase the tractor for a farm he claimed he owned in the state of Idaho. "He didn't want to see the tractor, he was satisfied it was what he wanted and agreed to the price of $7000.00," explained Angela. The man went on to tell the couple that another person owed him $10,000.00 and that the man would send them a cheque in that amount which they were to cash, keep the $7,000.00 to cover the cost of the tractor and then forward the remaining $3000.00 to the buyer in Scotland.

It was at this point that Angela began to worry and told her husband to forget the whole deal, but he wanted to continue on just to see how far it would go.

"We were in touch with the man from Scotland constantly through our e-mail, sometimes up to ten times a day," Angela said.

The couple explained that they wanted cash for the tractor but the purchaser assured them that the deal was on the up-and-up and that everything would be fine.

A week later the couple received a cheque through a courier service and were immediately contacted by the purchaser who knew exactly when the cheque had arrived. Strangely enough the cheque was from a bank in West Virginia with the senders address given as Panama City, Panama. The couple immediately went to their bank to see if the cheque was any good, the bank then referred them to the bank in West Virgina, where the cheque came back NSF. Meanwhile they received yet another call to see if the cheque had arrived and when Angela called the operator to find out where the call had originated she was surprised to discover the call came from Liberia.

The original purchaser from Scotland then e-mailed to find out when he could expect his $3000.00 cheque which he wanted sent to London, England, it was at this point that Anglea told him that the cheque was no good and all contact with him then ceased.

Angela then contacted the local OPP to report the incident and was shocked to find out that this scam has been going on in Toronto and that they had a file on hand and that the scam has something to do with stealing identities. They also warned Angela that since this is an international scam the local police could do little to get any lost money back.

The police then contacted The Chieftain hoping that the story could be reported and help other farmers recognize the fraud and not lose any money.

"We're very lucky, we didn't lose any money but we could have lost $10,000.00," Angela said. "You expect something like this to happen in the big cities, not to some unsuspecting farmer in small town Chesterville. We hope in telling this story we can help some other farmer recognize the scam and not lose their hard earned money."



Mural Pays tribute to Farming

Agricultural support for the latest mural which depicts the history of farming came from the farming community. Among those taking part in the unveiling were, Kirsten Gardner, Carol McDermott (DFA), Mayor Johnny, Charlie Farlinger (jury), Glen Cunningham (Initiated murals), David Pemberton (Jury), Tim Moore (Pres. Dundas Soil and Crop Imporvement Association) and Mark Smith (Dundas holstein Club) all of whom lent their support.

Mural features history of agriculture

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Featuring the history of agriculture in South Dundas from its humble beginnings in 1784 carrying through to 1940, the latest mural to be unveiled adorns the east side of the Williamsburg I.O.O.F. Hall. Along with the mural a granite plaque was presented, the first of many that will be placed at each mural throughout the Township at the various mural locations. This one is etched (by Crowder Monuments) with: "The first settlers had to clear the forest. Break the land. Plant crops and make a home. This new land proved to be harsh and challenging. Their survival depended on their successes. Although agricultural practices have changed, its' importance remains." This pretty well sums up what the mural is all about, "The Progression of Agriculture fro 1784 thro'1940."

A good sized crowd gathered to check out the latest addition to the South Dundas Mural Tour on Saturday morning in Williamsburg.

Charles Farlinger spoke on behalf of the Mural Jury (David Pemberton, Carol McDermid, Pat Coyne and Robert Byvelds) as he noted how proud they were of the outcome. "Our bad luck turned into good luck as things progressed," noted Charlie as he explained how the original artist did the sketches, incorporating what the jury wanted to see evolve from their ideas and then was unable to complete the mural due to personal reasons. This task befell John Ellenburger (same artist that did Iroquois Legion mural) who came to the locale with an extensive farming background. "His minor variations

Please turn to page 7



Fall Plowing

Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston

A farmer is caught in the act of plowing this fall. A cash cropper, he had a lot of field ahead of him on this autumn day. A pile of Seagulls follow a rig like this and at times the turned, black earth was almost white with birds. Sea gulls seem to travel quite far north when the plows start to turn sod. This big Ford tractor does a great job and short work of a lot of acres.

OFA is preparing to work with new government

by Bill Mailloux, V-P
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario Agriculture is getting ready to take its agenda to the new provincial government led by Premier-Elect Dalton McGuinty. Many of the items on the agenda are not new, but the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and its partner commodity organizations are hoping for serious consideration of the things that are important to farmers, their families and the economy of rural Ontario.

As farm organization leaders met at Queen's Park to launch the celebration of Ontario Agriculture Week, they also reviewed and prioritized the issues requiring action by the McGuinty government. Not surprisingly, problems created by the BSE crisis and the subsequent border closures topped the list. The longer this crisis goes on, the more serious the consequences.

There is hope that working with provincial and federal political parties of the same stripe might bring the livestock sector closer to solutions faster. A partial border opening does nothing to solve the worsening crisis. We must investigate ways to replace non-NAFTA imports with domestically-produced meats.

Our governments have to line up together and decide to take action. Steps must be taken to alleviate the economic, emotional and community stress in all parts of the province.

Consumer confidence in our entire industry is at risk if our governments fail to take action to prove to society that the food inspection system is performing its responsibilities, Government silence, if it continues, will result in growing consumer concern with food safety.

OFA and its commodity partners also want to see a more co-ordinated government effort to resolve the concerns Ontario farmers have with the proposed Agricultural Policy Framework and its Business Risk Management program. While the provincial government has changed, the partners in the Ontario Agricultural Commodity Council have reaffirmed their position of Ontario not signing onto the APF as it now exists. We plan to prepare an information package for Premier-Elect McGuinty and his government that will demonstrate the weaknesses in the proposed federal plan.

Planning continues within Ontario's commodity organizations to take a one-on-one approach with federal members of parliament to illustrate the deficiencies within the proposed APF-from an Ontario perspective. While the recent promise of a yearly review of the APF program offers encouragement, Ontario farmers insist the program doesn't meet the needs of such a diverse agricultural industry.

Because the creation of a workable and comprehensive farm safety net program is so important to Ontario farmers, we want to be sure we have the best possible program right from the beginning. We need the provincial government to quickly distribute its 40 per cent share of the Year Two bridge-funding, just as it did for Year One.

OFA's President, Ron Bonnett told the recent meeting of Ontario farm leaders that it remains important for Ontario agriculture to avoid a softening of the industry's demands as we prepare to start work with the new McGuinty government.

Our meeting of leaders dealt with a wide variety of farm-related issues-everything from energy costs to government red tape and implementation of nutrient management regulations. It was agreed that agriculture needs to know soon what the new government plans to do with energy costs and the freeze imposed on electricity rates.

We also need to know how the new government will treat nutrient management compliance costs. It is essential that the provincial government provide cost-sharing conditions in the regulations.

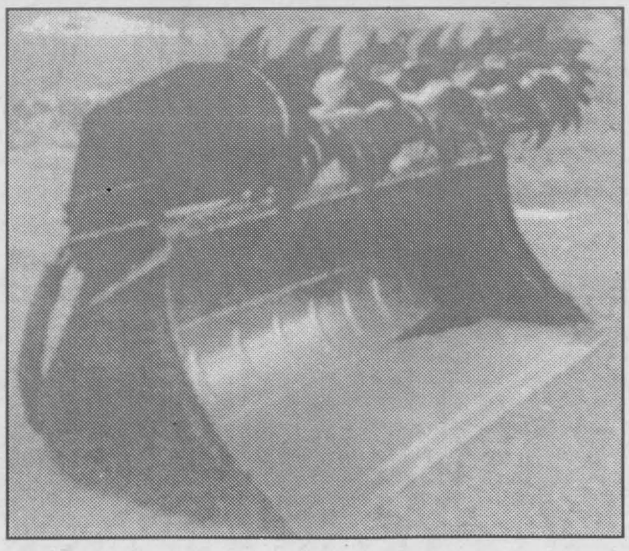
The Ontario Federation of Agriculture and its partner organizations look forward to working with the new government, but realize there is a lot of issues requiring serious consideration.

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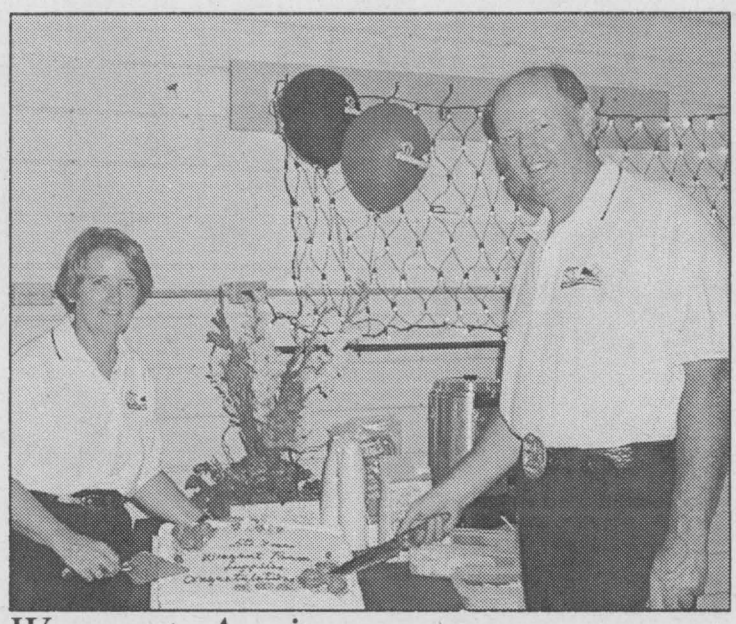
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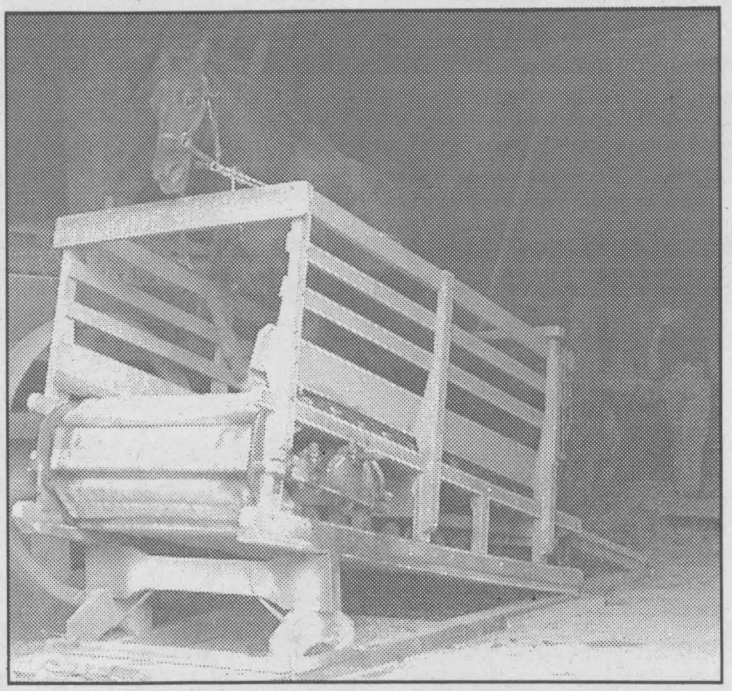
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Weagants Anniversary

Sandra and Bob Weagant cut the cake at the 50th Anniversary of the family business earlier this fall. Started by Bob's father, Fred the business has flourished under the guidance of sons Laird and Bob and son-in-law David with help from the enrire family,

Chieftain Photo by S.L. Johnston



Threshing with Horsepower

This Canadian horse was walking to make the treadle operate the threshing machine. Creating the grain and straw, leaving the chafe was a big job and local Denzil Prunner was explaining it to tourists as we stoped by at UCV.

The Dairy Industry in Canada

Canadian Milk and dairy products are recognized internationally for their superior quality. Strict quality standards at both the farm and the processing levels contribute to this reputation.

Next to grains and livestock, dairy is Canada's most important agriculture sector, with net farm cash receipts of $4.1 billion in 2000. Nearly 26,000 people work on dairy farms and more than 20,000 others work at the primary processing level.

Canada exports higher-value dairy products such as aged cheddar cheese, some of the finest specialty cheeses, ice cream and dairy beverages to traditional and new markets. Canada also exports easily stored products such as butter, milk products and condensed and evaporated milk to developing countries. In the 2000-2001 dairy year, exports totalled close to $395 million.

Canada also imports dairy products, $510 million worth in the 2000-2001 dairy year. Cheeses were the major import. The European Union is Canada's main supplier of imported dairy products followed by the USA and New Zealand,

The Canadian dairy sector has developed a cattle population of the highest genetic level in the world. This is based on strong milk recording and genetic evaluation programs which have been in place in Canada since 1905. Canadian dairy cattle recognized for their ability to produce high quantities of milk over many lactations are exported to more than 50 countries. Exports of Canadian dairy genetic material are valued at more than $128 million annually. Major export markets include the USA, Mexico, European Union, Japan, SA, Australia and the Middle East.

The industry has excellent research and development capabilities, both at the production and processing levels. Impressive research facilities, government, universities and private sector contribute to the long-term competitiveness of the sector as well as the safety and quality of dairy products through the development and transfer of innovative technologies.

Canada's dairy sector functions under a supply management policy framework. This orderly marketing system is designed to encourage the production of sufficient volumes of industrial milk and cream to meet domestic demand for dairy products as well as certain planned exports.

There are two markets for domestic milk in this country, the fluid market (table milk and fresh cream) and the industrial market (manufactured dairy products like butter, cheese, yogurt and ice cream).

Did You Know???

* About 80% of Canada's dairy farms are in Ontario and Quebec, the remainder in the Western and Atlantic provinces.
* In 2000-2001 1.16 million cows on 19,411 dairy farms produced 75.1 million hectolitres of milk.
* Canadian Cheddar Cheese production continued growing to 123,457 tonnes, while specialty cheese production decreased to 201,028 tonnes. Mozzarella led the way, accounting for 59% of all speciality cheese production. We produce over 300 different varieties of fine cheeses including raw milk cheeses, goat and sheep cheeses. Butter production topped 81,002 tonnes.
* Producing 416 million litres of ice cream and ice cream products hard and soft ice cream and ice cream mixes and 6.1 million litres of frozen yogurt, we saw the yogurt production grow to 50 million kilograms.

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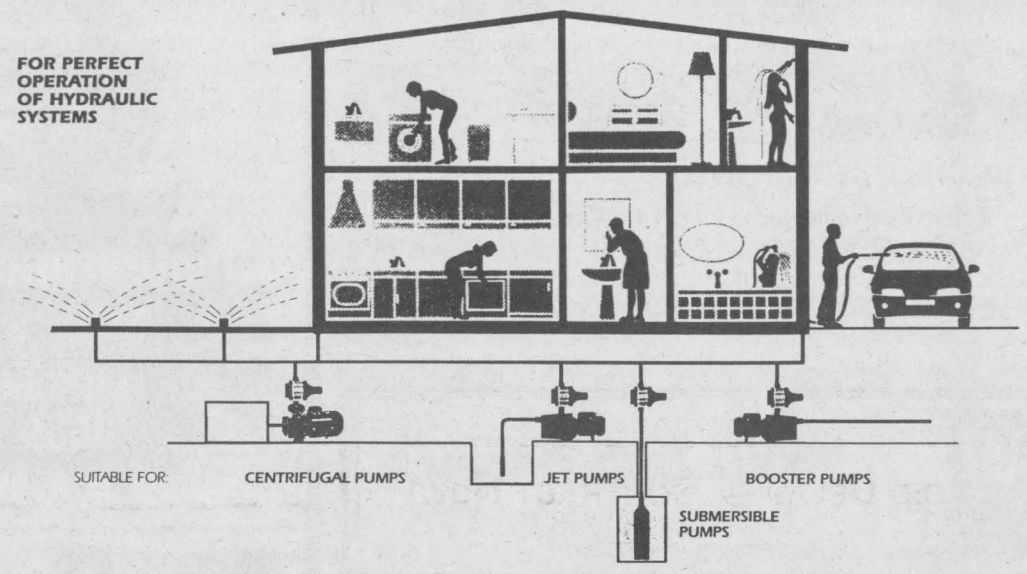
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Grains and Oilseeds Industry

Canada produces wide variety of grains and oilseeds, which are used in breads, pasta and breakfast cereals, cooking oils and other food products. In addition, innovative Canadian technology has created new products and markets for many grain and oilseed by-products.

Grains include wheat, corn, oats, barley and rye, while oilseeds include canola, soybean, flaxseed, safflower and sunflower seeds. Coarse grains, such as barley and corn, are used both for human consumption and as livestock and poultry food. Oilseeds are used in the production of cooking oils and other food products, such as margarine.

Canadian farmers are also growing more specialty crops than ever before, such as mustard, lentils, peas, beans, chick peas and canary seed.

Canadian scientists have been able to discover many important sugars, organic acids and pharmaceuticals from grains. These include antibacterial compounds, antihistamines, antioxidants, steroids, vitamin E and anti-cancer agents, food and feed ingredients such as surfactants, sugars, sweeteners and emulsifying agents, and cosmetic co-products such as ultra-violet light barriers, cleansing agents and waxes.

The Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) maintains a quality control program that includes varietal control, licensing of elevators, product inspection and weighing, and sanitation and quality monitoring programs. The Commission is the major centre for applied and basic research on the quality of a variety of grains. Its Grain Research Laboratory also conducts studies using its pilot-scale malting plant, flour mill and bakery, noodle processor and small-scale pasta press. For more information of the CGC visit http://www.cgc.ca.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency supports the Canadian grain sector through its quarantine, pest and phytosanitary certification programs.

Additional Information:

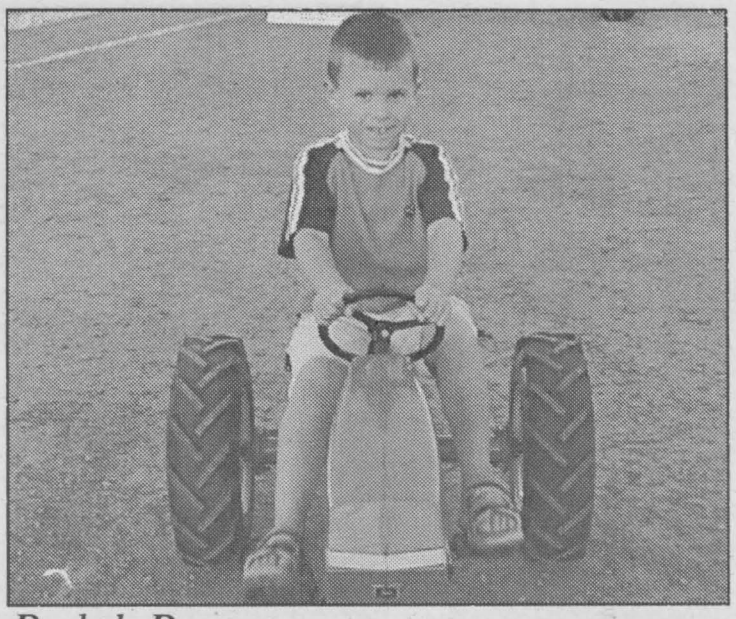
~Canada produced 61.7 million tonnes of grains and oilseeds in 2000-2001 including 26.8 million tonnes of wheat, 13.5 million tonnes of barley and 7.1 million tonnes of canola.

~In 1999-2000, Canada produced 1.6 million tonnes of vegetable oil, mainly canola oil and soybean oil. Flaxseed, mustard seed and sunflower seed oils made up the difference. A significant portion of the canola oil used in the United States is either imported from Canada or produced from Canadian-grown canola seed.

~In 2000, Canada exported $9.2 billions worth of grains, oilseeds and related products representing 40% of total agri-food exports. Canada exported $4.3 billion in bulk grain, $3.7 billion of which was in the form of wheat.

~There are four major categories of wheat grown in Canada, spring wheat, winter wheat, durham wheat and feed wheat.

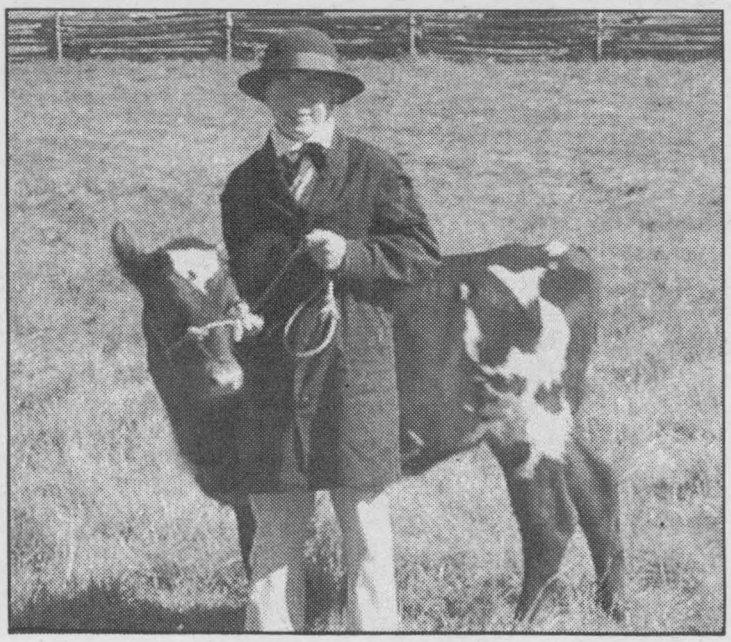
~In 2000 Canada exported $1.7 billion worth of grain products such as flour, pasta and malt.



Pedal Power

This young man was showing his pedal power as he prepared for the tractor pull. Each event, fair or anniversary has been featuring this for the younger set and it is popular. Just like the real thing the children do their very best.

Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston



A winner at the Fair

This young man was at Upper Canada Village's Fall Fair showing his calf, vying for a ribbon. This was a popular thing for young people from the farming community. Today the 4-H Clubs ensure that future farmers learn how to show livestock.

Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston

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Wide variety of fruit grown in Canada

Canada is a world leader in producing, storing and processing a wide variety of fruits in innovative and environmentally responsible ways. Increased consumer awareness of the health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables has contributed to an increase on consumption in recent years.

Fruits have a variety of end uses. They can be enjoyed fresh or processed for use as juice, sauces, wines, ciders, dried fruits or jams and jellies. Fruits can be dried, canned or frozen for preservation. Many are used by the bakery trade, and by ice cream and yogurt manufacturers.

Many fruits are also used in flavourings, oils, dyes and cosmetics.

In 2000, this country produced 794,000 tonnes of fruit worth about $510 million at the farm gate. Exports of fruit reached $269 million in 2000. Between 1990 and 2000, exports of fresh fruit more than doubled to $131 million.

In 2000, Canada exported:
*$90.3 million worth of fresh wild blueberries and $29.7 million worth of cultivated blueberries.
*40,548 tonnes of cranberries
*$53.8 Million worth of fresh apples.

There are about 16,300 fruit growers in Canada, about 20% of these growers account for 80% of Canada's production. Apples by far account for the largest production, followed by blueberries, grapes, cranberries, peaches, strawberries and raspberries.

The Canadian fruit industry has adapted to Canada's cool northern climate and short growing season. It has become a world leader in improving farm management and storage techniques. Canadian apples, for example, can be supplied virtually year-round using controlled atmosphere storage,

As well, Canadian scientists continually develop and enhance technology such as plant breeding to maximize production. In the last decade, a number a new fruit varieties and production techniques have been adapted to the Canadian climate. For example, Vinifera grapes used in wine making, are doing very well and as a result, have created a boom in the Canadian wine industry. New varieties of peaches, cherries, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, kiwis, blackberries, currants and gooseberries have also been developed through breeding programs.

Pesticide use in Canada is already significantly lower than in many countries, due in part to our climate. However, in response to consumer demand for reduced pesticide use, scientists are working to find alternative ways to control pests and diseases. More producers are using integrated pest management programs, where pest populations are closely monitored and pesticides and precisely times and applied to maximise effectiveness and minimise usage.

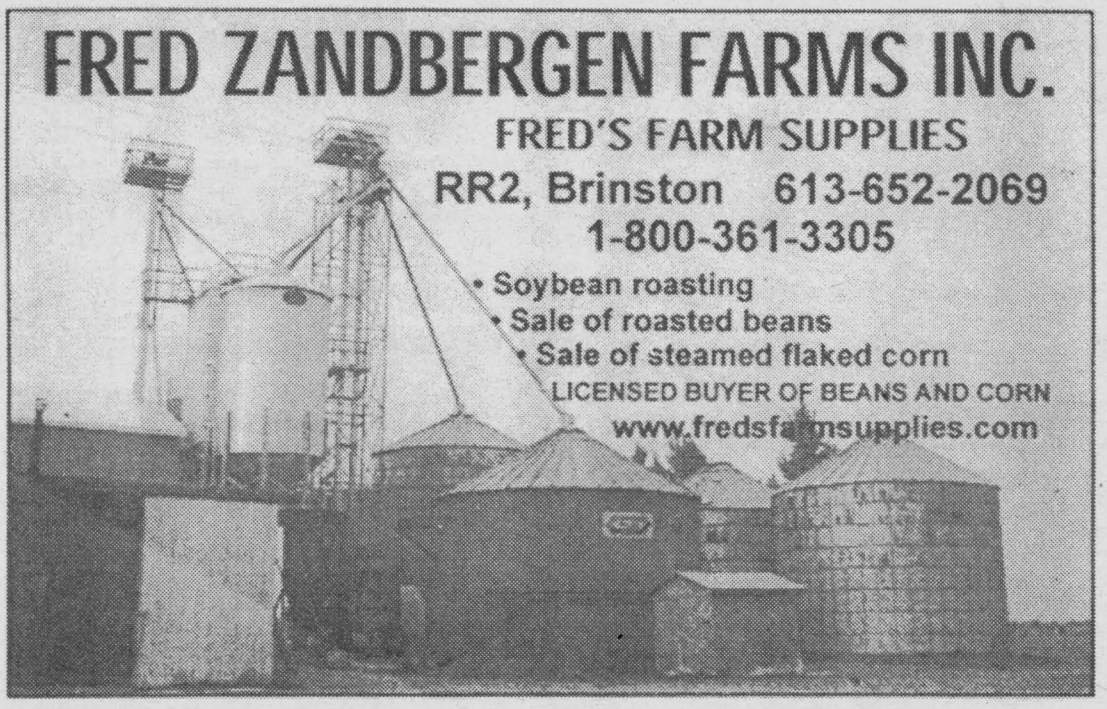
A number of fruits are native to Canada, including cranberries, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, black raspberries, saskatoons and the labrusca grape.

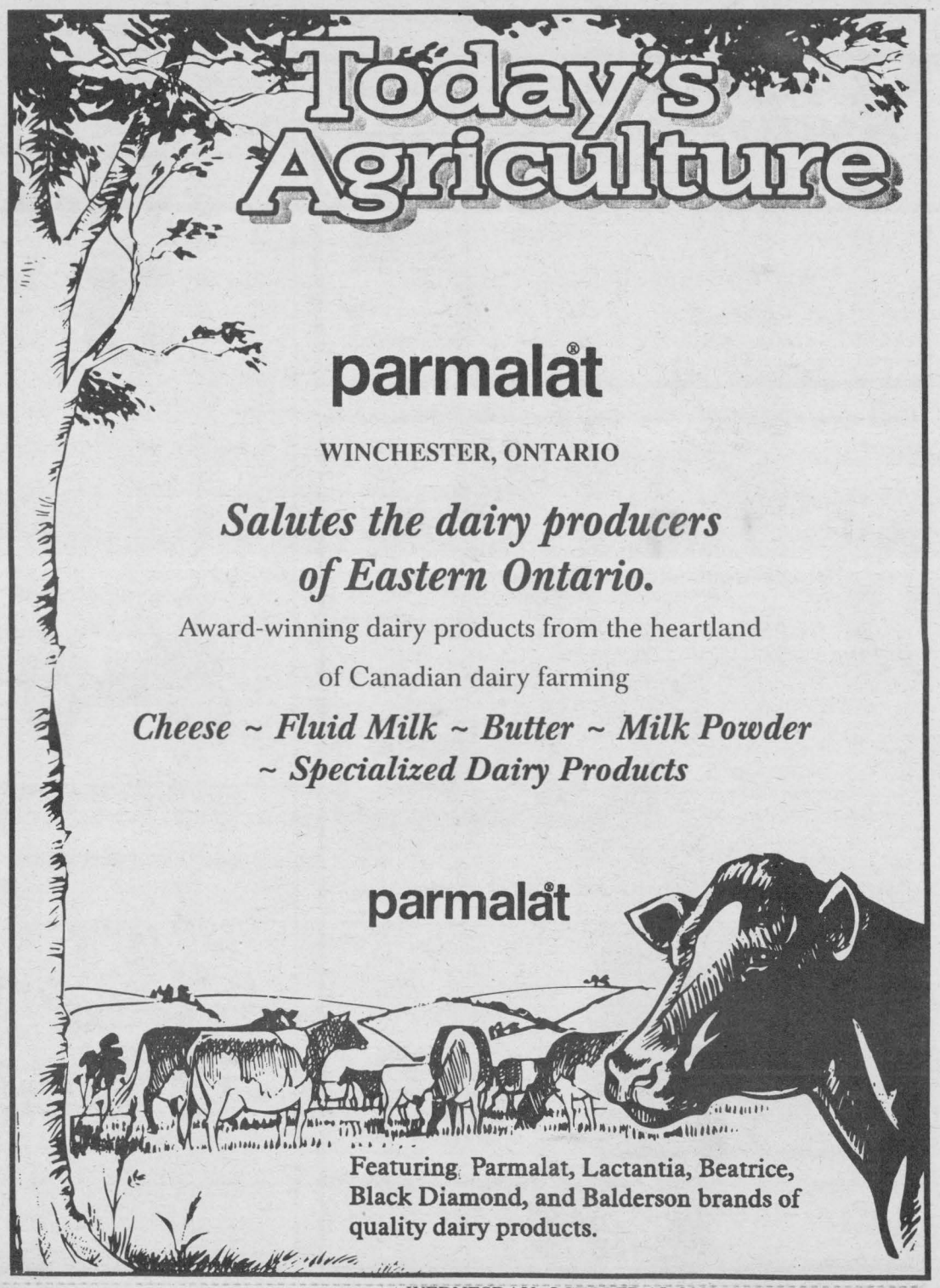
Southern Ontario and southwest British Columbia have the longest growing season, with about 180 frost-free days per year. Regions of Quebec and the Maritimes also have significant fruit production despite having only about 120 frost-free days.

Apples are Canada's largest fruit crop, with about 542-859 tonnes grown in 2000. Commercial apple production was worth an estimated $186 million at the farm gate in 2000. About two thirds of Canada's apples were shipped fresh, while the rest went to processing markets for uses ranging from pressing for juices and ciders to peeling and slicing for the canning and baking industry.

Canada is the world's largest producer of wild blueberries with 37,000 tonnes produced in 2000, worth almost $57 million at the farm gate.

Most fresh picked fruit is hand-picked to reduce bruising. However, sour cherries, blueberries, grapes and cranberries are harvested mechanically.





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Organic Farming becoming more popular

Organic agriculture is a holistic system of production with a principle goal to develop productive enterprises that are sustainable and harmonious with the environment. Organic foods are produced without the use of chemical fertilizers or synthetic pesticides, processed without the use of irradiation and are not derived through genetic engineering. Livestock are provided ethical animal industry that promoted good health and prevents disease.

Canada is an ideal country for producing organic food because of its large and varied land base and its cooler climate, which reduces pest and disease problems. Canadian farmers support for the organic way of life is growing. Currently there are approximately 3,100 certified organic producers working about 340,000 hectares, more than 320 processors and handlers and about 45 certification bodies, many with accreditation from various foreign accreditors. Organic grain production is the fastest growing sector and also represents by far the largest export commodity.

Most of Canada's organic products are exported, primarily to the United States where much of it is processed and resold to other markets. Canada also exports organic products to Europe and Japan. Worldwide sales of organic products are estimated at $20 billion, mostly in the United States, Europe and Japan. The Canadian organic sector is positioning itself to increase and diversify its market share in these and other markets.

The National Standard of Canada for Organic Agriculture was published in June 1999. The Standards Council of Canada is an internationally recognized accreditation body that accredits organic certification bodies in Canada in accordance with International Standards Organization guidelines.

FUN FACTS:

~Regional organic farming organizations exist across Canada and a national grower organization, Canadian Organic Growers (COG), represents grower interests at a national level.

~The Organic Agriculture Centre for Canada was recently created to provide broad support for organic farmers and those in transition, through the development of new research programs, courses and deployment of effective methods for disseminating information.

~Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia are the main exporting provinces.

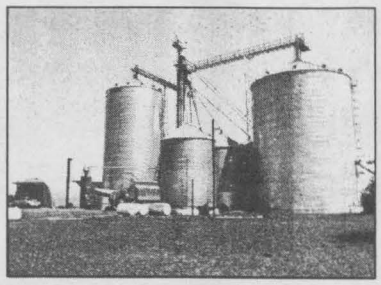
~Approximately one in twenty fruit and vegetable farms in Canada consider themselves to be organic producers.

~Canada is among the top five world producers of organic grains and oilseeds, with an estimated retail/food service value between $700 million and $1 billion, including processed and non-processed products.

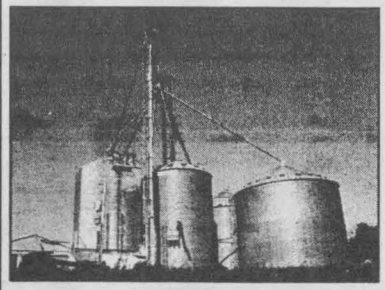
~Canadian organic retail sales growth is expected to increase 20% a year to $3.1 billion in 2005.

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Corn Harvest Time

This massive 6 row self propelled harvester was seen busy at work on the farm of Ed and Jim Cooper. Owned and operated by Dwight Foster Custom Farming of North Gower is a John Deere and touted as the "biggest and the best in the business"

CONTINUED

Mural

(Continued from the front)

seemed to create an outstanding mural from what was a good one at the start. His attention to detail is amazing, like the grain drill in the barn for instance. His colouring certainly make the mural standout." John was unable to attend the unveiling as he had prior business commitments to attend to.

Introducing the Jury, Charlie noted how agriculture has developed through the years and includes lifestyle, cattle (note the shorter necks on the Holsteins in the mural) and practices. Chairman David thanked his fellow jurists, the public for their support and contributions, the Oddfellows for allowing the use of the building, the artist and Kirsten (Gardener) and Glen (Cunningham) for their guidance and the Township Council for their support.

Mayor Johnny congratulated the jury as well as Glen and Kirsten thanking them for their efforts and time, "This is a good one! It and the others not only preserve our heritage, encourages tourism but also beautifies the Township."

Dennis Whitteker, Noble Grand of the IOOF mentioned how proud the organization is to be involved in this mural, "Thanks for choosing our building to display this masterpiece."

This is the twelfth mural to be on display in South Dundas, by the time winter blows in there will be fifteen, created by ten different artists, a great accomplishment in itself.The next two are in Morrisburg on Giant Tiger and are almost set to be properly unveiled to the public.

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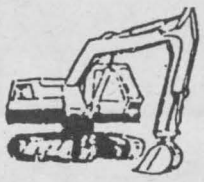
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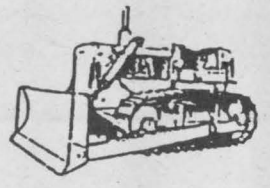
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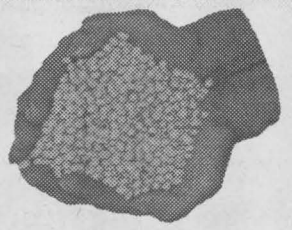
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• Maximum Soluble Protein	19.82%
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• Maximum Moisture	8.03%

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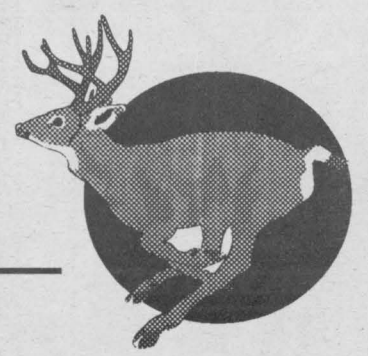


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