

HORTICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION - VINELAND
ALUMNI HOMECOMING AND COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE
A Retrospective of the Day



**HORTICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION – VINELAND**

100th Anniversary

August 26, 2006

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to the Department of Plant Agriculture of the University of Guelph and to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Horticultural Experiment Station – Vineland.

In today's global economy, knowledge is the key to success. That is why our government is committed to supporting and funding excellence in research and innovation.

I would like to take this occasion to recognize the invaluable work of the researchers and experts who have contributed to the Horticultural Experiment Station – Vineland's body of knowledge. This is not just a century of horticultural expertise — it is a valuable resource that will serve Ontario well into the future.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration and for many more years of excellence in horticultural research.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton McGuinty".

Dalton McGuinty
Premier

Speech given by The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky at the Vineland Centennial Open House

As we look back on the station's rich history and accomplishments, we have an opportunity to reflect on the role it can play in the future.

Your centennial milestone is a good time to step back and take an account of where Vineland has been, and identify the next steps to position the station for another century of success. To that end, my Deputy Minister, Bruce Archibald, has invited representatives of the agricultural, educational, research and economic development sectors, to join officials from the three levels of government in forming a steering committee to oversee this work.

I know Bruce has a personal history with the station. This connection gives him a special appreciation for both the history and the future potential the station represents for Ontario's agri-food industry. That appreciation extends to a much wider circle - one that includes a broad range of stakeholders from our agricultural sector; from research and education institutes, and from community groups in this region.

What we are hearing loudly and clearly is a strong voice in support of revitalizing agri-food research at Vineland. This consensus is the result of extensive consultations that have been underway since January. Over the past eight months, at meetings, discussions and focus groups, excitement has been building over the new vision to renew Vineland's role for the next century.

That vision will bring benefits to Ontario's horticulture industries.

I want to thank everyone involved in those discussions. Your work and valuable ideas have helped to generate interest in a renaissance, not only for Vineland, but for the potential the Niagara region has to contribute to the province.

Premier McGuinty also recognizes Vineland's achievements. As he recently said in his message to you, "This is not just a century of horticultural expertise - it is a valuable resource that will serve Ontario well into the future." The McGuinty government believes in investing in research and innovation. We want to promote a culture of new ideas and new discoveries that will improve the agri-food industry and the quality of life in Ontario. Generations before us have helped Vineland contribute to Ontario's success and reputation as an agri-food leader. It is up to us to write the next chapter.

That is why I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs will provide seed money to establish a Vineland Renaissance Advisory Panel. The panel will be tasked with developing a business case for the future of Vineland.

The Vineland Renaissance Advisory Panel will serve as a model for research stations in the province and help to build a strong research environment. The aim is to benefit Ontario's entire horticulture industry. The Advisory Panel will be led by Donald Ziraldo, whom many of you know as co-founder and president of Inniskillin Wineries, and as a strong advocate for Ontario's agri-food industry. Other members of the panel include James Ferrar, Dr. Cal Stiller, and Jamie Warner. I want to thank each of these individuals for sharing their expertise, leadership skills, and passion for the agri-food industry. I look forward to receiving their report.

As we celebrate the past, we can also anticipate the future with renewed enthusiasm. Vineland's mission — to advance and strengthen our horticulture sector — will surely continue. That is evident from the interest and turnout we have for today's celebrations.

On behalf of the Ontario Government, I would like to thank all of the individuals here who have been a part of this province's agri-food industry and who continue to work on its behalf. With today's announcement, I am challenging all partners in our agri-food industry who believe — and support — a renaissance for Vineland and for Ontario's horticulture industry.

It is in your hands to create a legacy of growth and success.

Congratulations on Vineland's Centennial birthday and best wishes for a bright, exciting future!

Leona Dombrowsky
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

A Review in Pictures



Cutting the Centennial Anniversary cake is (left to right): Dr. Bruce Archibald, Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; The Honourable Minister Jim Bradley, Minister of Tourism; The Honourable Minister Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; The Honourable Minister Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; and Dr. Alan Wildeman, Vice President Research, University of Guelph.



Left to right: Dr. Rene Van Acker (U of G), Dr. Craig Pearson (U of G), Dr. Alan Wildeman (U of G), MPP Tim Hudak, MP Dean Allison, The Honourable Minister Chuck Strahl, Dr. Danny Lee Rinker (U of G), The Honourable Minister Leona Dombrowsky, The Honourable Minister Jim Bradley, Mr. Donald Ziraldo, Mayor Bill Hodgson and Deputy Minister Bruce Archibald.

Getting Ready for the Crowds



We were ready for the 1,000+ visitors!

Alumni Homecoming



Some of the current and past Vineland staff get together for a picture under the Alumni banner.

Community Open House



A display of some of the over 150 varieties of fruit and vegetables introduced from Vineland.

Dahlia competition was held during the Open House along with a beautiful display for the public to view.

Right: Visitors enjoying anniversary cake that was served by the Beamsville Women's Institute after the speeches.



Left: Deborah Hilborn presenting Mr. Peter Proctor with the framed Vineland bridge picture won in the raffle held during the Open House. Peter was the Farm Manager in Vineland until his retirement in 1994.

All money raised from the raffle (\$504) will go toward the Vineland Centennial Scholarship Fund.

Thank You

We would like to extend our sincerest THANK YOU to the following for their help in making our Vineland Centennial Celebration Alumni Homecoming and Community Open House a success.

Plant Material and Mushrooms

- J. C. Bakker & Sons Ltd.
- Balfour Greenhouses Ltd.
- Quarry Ridge Greenhouses
- Westbrook Greenhouses
- Slappendel Greenhouses
- Cedarway Floral
- Penglard Farms and Greenhouses
- Peter Ravensbergen and Sons Ltd.
- Maple Crest Farms
- Midway Farm and Greenhouses
- Floral Expressions, Vineland
- Rol-land Farms - Campbellville
- Trinity Mushrooms

Displays

- Vineland Library
- Jordan Museum
- Horticultural Experiment Station - Vineland
- Rotary Club of Lincoln Lamplighter Tour
- Hamilton and District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society
- Rene and Eva Schmitz for Propagation Talk
- Golden Horseshoe Bee Keepers Association
- Mushroom Program (Plant Agriculture)
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

- Southern Crop Protection and Food Resource Centre (AAFC) - Vineland
 - Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph
 - Department of Plant Agriculture research poster display
 - Niagara Fruit Education Centre/E.D. Smith Cherry Farm
 - Master of Gardeners
 - Lincoln Garden Club and Horticultural Society
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- OMAFRA staff for all their help and encouragement
 - Fife and Drum Corp., Fort George National Historic Site of Canada
 - Jessie Reid
 - Samantha Piott
 - Neil Andersen
 - ALL the volunteers that put in so much time and effort to make this day a success
 - ALL our Vineland Centennial donors

A Word from the Centennial Celebration Committee Chair

A few weeks ago, the endless hours of preparation and the multitude of details associated with our Alumni Homecoming and Community Open House seemed almost impossible to manage. Now, looking back, we see that resounding success of the day was a testimony to the many hands involved in its organization and execution, and the willingness of everyone to help out far beyond the call of duty. The breadth of the speakers on the podium as well the community response to this event confirm that the committee's plan to make an event to transcend local borders was also a success. I want to extend my personal congratulations to everyone who took on unseen and exhausting jobs, (as well as less burdensome ones!), to help our Horticultural Experiment Station put its best foot forward. Let's look forward to being together once again on January 27th, 2007 as we celebrate the end of this centennial year and look toward Vineland's future.

Danny Lee Rinker

Horticultural Experiment Station Chronology



1906

Land donated by M.F. Rittenhouse was combined with land purchased by the Ontario Government to establish the 90 acre home farm as part of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Fruit Branch.

1908-16

Land developed, initial experimental plantings of fruits and vegetables undertaken; administration building, director's residence, barns and storage buildings constructed.

1916 -22

Dr. E.F. Palmer appointed as Director in 1916, a post he would hold for 40 years. Power plant and first greenhouses constructed and Victoria Farm land purchased.

1925-45

Federal Entomological Laboratory built on Station grounds in 1925; greenhouses expanded in 1928, and another 85 acres purchased in 1936. In 1945 the Horticultural Experiment Station became a separate Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture under the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario.

1946-58

Grape sub-station created by the purchase of 35 acres on Cherry Avenue. Horticultural Products Laboratory and a new Administration building constructed.

1960-69

Land purchased in Simcoe and a sub-station established. The Station's name changed to Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario in 1966. A new Federal building constructed on the Vineland campus in 1967 and the Muck Research Station sub-station came under the management of the Institute in 1968.

1970-83

Canada's first publicly funded mushroom research unit was constructed at the Station in 1970. In 1982 the Horticultural Products Laboratory was expanded with the addition of a new 'state-of-the-art' storage research facility.

1984-1997

In 1997 the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs transferred the operation of the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario to the University of Guelph and the Institute became part of the new Plant Agriculture Department. The Institute's name reverted to Horticultural Experiment Station.

1998-2003

In 2002 the Station's greenhouse, storage, and outdoor ornamentals research programs and staff were relocated to the University of Guelph campus.

2004-2006

Research programs continuing at the Vineland Horticultural Experiment Station include: viticulture, tree fruit breeding and management, and mushroom production. In 2006, the Horticultural Experiment Station celebrates 100 years of horticultural research and service to the Ontario agricultural community.

VINELAND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WEB SITE:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/vcc2006/>