

NEWSLETTER



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Prof. Gary Ablett

Well, my time as acting Chair of Plant Agriculture is coming to a close and this will be my last “Message from the Chair.” I have a few comments that I would like to share with your indulgence.

I have enjoyed working with you all immensely. It has been a tremendous experience for me and getting to know many of you much better has been very rewarding. I do want to say a special thanks to both Beth and Jenny. I have worked most closely with them and their good humour, talents and foresight have been greatly appreciated and will be missed. And thanks also to Deb, who edits this newsletter, for her great patience with me. I didn’t make one deadline for any of the newsletters - may you have better luck with the new Chair.

This is truly a great and unique Department at the University of Guelph, a fact not recognized often enough. Your educational, research and service programs make a difference and are incredibly important to Ontario and Canada. No other department brings in as much research funding every year as Plant Ag, in fact we exceed many Colleges in total research revenue generated. Diploma, undergraduate and graduate teaching programs are all very effective and targeted. Our students get good jobs every year. And in terms of service, in my opinion, no other department really compares to Plant Ag for overall service to the industry.

My wife will attest to the fact that I have never worked harder at a job, even as Director of Ridgetown College. I really have given you all that I could, not enough at times and not effective enough on other occasions, but it wasn’t for the lack of trying. I say this for two reasons. I now have a greater appreciation of the tremendous job that Clarence Swanton did as your chair for over six years. External (to the Department) pressures make this job difficult, not internal ones and he did a great job in navigating through them. Your new chair, Rene Van Acker will need your full support and I know he will have it. But the job is not easy and there will continue to be tiresome challenges that he will need to deal with. Don’t add to these challenges, but rather work hard to help him be the most successful Chair this department has ever had. The rewards will be obvious.

[Continued on Page 22...](#)

food • life • leadership



l'alimentation • la vie • le savoir



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**WELCOME
NEW GRADS
TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT AGRICULTURE**

Golsa Samii Saket, MSc (I. Rajcan)
Renuka Subasinghe, MSc (B. Micallef)

CONGRATULATIONS

NSERC

Andrew Burt
Shuhua Zhan

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) scholarships represent a very significant achievement. They are awarded based on a national competition based on marks, references and project proposals.

OGS

Ben Chapman

The Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) program is designed to encourage excellence in graduate studies at the master's and doctoral levels.

Taffy Davison Memorial Travel Grant

Chuthamat Atnaseo
Rachel Campbell
Shawn Clark
Renée Cloutier
Jason McCallum

The Taffy Davison Memorial Fund provides financial assistance to students in PhD programs or in the final year of master's programs to attend scientific or professional meetings.



Sarah Stephenson

I was born and raised in tobacco country just outside of Tillsonburg, Ontario on a beef and cash crop farm. Here I developed a love and interest for all aspects of agriculture. On my parent's farm we have a vegetable garden and an English cottage garden which my family and I

enjoy. We have a crop rotation of corn-soybean-oats/winter wheat as well as a few alfalfa stands. We are currently conventional; however we are thinking of planting the workable land into pasture and make the transition to organic beef.

On the Stephenson farm, we have had many pets from horses to hedgehogs. We also have property which is surrounded by a conservation area and is protected as a Carolinian forest. In our bush, there are flocks of wild turkeys, deer, bald eagles, coyotes and other cool creatures of south western Ontario.

I am the second generation at the University of Guelph where both my parents are graduates of the OAC and my father is also a graduate of the OVC. I am proud to say I am also a graduate of the OAC where I completed my undergrad in horticultural science. I started my MSc degree in the fall of 2005 in postharvest physiology with Dr. Jennifer DeEll (OMAFRA), Dr. Dennis Murr (Plant Agriculture) and Dr. Rick Yada (Food Science). The focus of my MSc project is to determine if a postharvest treatment of the product SmartFresh™ (1-Methylcyclopropene) improves the quality and extends the shelf-life of Ontario greenhouse tomatoes. I have completed three experiments to date and have entered a poster in the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Conference and I will be attending the American Society for Horticultural Science meeting held in New Orleans in July. I enjoy doing my masters because it has allowed me to meet many unique people, develop some awesome friendships and interact with the greenhouse growers of Leamington, Ontario.

In my spare time I love to go to the cottage, mud-running on ATV's, snowmobiling, attend NASCAR races and help out on both my parent's and boyfriend's farms. I also enjoy hiking, swimming, cross country skiing and spending time with family and friends.

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Andrew Burt

I don't know if I should start with my childhood, it was spent mostly in the suburbs of Ottawa. I don't think that I ever really thought about plants except, for a time, I was captivated by the uncanny ability of the buttercup (*Ranunculus flammula*) to predict whether or not one liked butter... It really wasn't until I started university that I became interested in plants and plant science.

I began my undergraduate studies enrolled in the Faculty of Science at the University of Ottawa (U of O) without much direction. I think it was a course in "Tropical Ecology" that won me over – topics ranged from Plant Exploration to Phytochemistry and Ethnobotany to Tropical Agriculture – but what it all boiled down to was people and plants interacting – and I think that was what got me hooked. I'm still hooked on what I now call Economic Botany – a field that I think encompasses Agriculture as well as medicinal plants and Ethnobotany.

I stayed at the U of O to work with Drs Bernard Philogène and "Thor" Arnason to complete my MSc thesis. It was a great experience that allowed me the opportunity to collaborate with the entomology group at CIMMYT¹. After my masters' I had a short contract with Agriculture Canada, and then returned to my former lab to work as a research assistant and de facto lab manager. During my two years in that position I was able to work on and collaborate in many interesting projects. To name a few: designing and scaling up food grade ginseng extraction and purification for clinical trial work; looking at traditionally-used Cree plants for anti-diabetic compounds; and, everyone's favourite, extracting and analysing shrimp oils.

I enjoyed the position and the people, but looking at my long-term career goals and deciding that I was more interested in agriculture than medicinal plants, I decided to return to my studies. I was thrilled to be accepted into Liz Lee's program to work on the accumulation of carotenoids in maize grain.

This past year has been very exciting. My wife and I moved to Guelph and discovered the unique blend of rural and urban character offered by the Ward neighbourhood: a quick walk to downtown and a chicken coop in the backyard. I've enjoyed settling into the department and getting to know many of my fellow grad students. I've discovered the joys of field work and have recently spent a few days counting seed and riding the planter, both for the first time. There is more excitement to come both at school at home, as we're expecting our first child in late June.

In my spare time I like to cook, eat at restaurants I can't afford, upset my cat, travel when possible, and pretend that my hairline isn't receding. I look forward to being part of the interesting and exciting times that are sure to come for our department and for research in agriculture.

¹The abbreviation "CIMMYT" derives from the Spanish version of name: Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo.



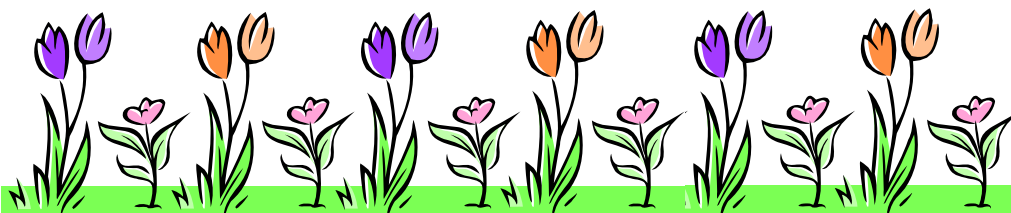
Mary Jane Clark

Hi! My name is Mary Jane Clark and I grew up on a family farm outside of Blenheim, Ontario, about five minutes from Lake Erie, just south of Chatham.

On the farm we grow traditional corn, soybeans, white beans, and wheat, and as part of Ontario's 'banana belt' we also grow, sweet potatoes. Beside producing field crops, we raise Border Collie dogs and train them for sheep herding. However, from this diverse agricultural experience, my interests were inspired not from the crops or the livestock, but from maintaining the gardens around the farm property. My horticultural interests include gardening, growing orchids, and flower arranging, and other interests include photography, baking, jogging, playing volleyball, and going on nature hikes. However, I've always been one to plant seeds and pick flowers, and this has developed into a lifetime passion of mine.

After working at nurseries and garden centers for many years, I became interested in perennial flowers, especially the new plants and cultivars on the market each year. Realizing that some people had a career developing these new flower types inspired me to learn more about the area of plant breeding. I completed my BSc in Plant Biology at the University of Guelph, where I developed my interests in botany, genetics, native Canadian plants, and plant breeding. During my fourth year I completed a research project focussing on the pollination biology and floral longevity of fireweed, a native Canadian wildflower. Enjoying the research, and becoming intrigued with plant breeding and pollination biology, I applied for a position, and was fortunate to be accepted this past September, as a Masters student to study ornamental flower breeding with Dr. Al Sullivan.

The project involves breeding drought tolerant native Canadian wildflowers for improved aesthetic appeal, to be used in low input greenhouse production, and low maintenance landscapes. I'm excited about working on this project because it combines my interests of botany and genetics in developing new ornamental perennials; as well, it addresses the increasingly important global issue of water conservation. Plant breeding is always a long-term project, and I hope my work will be the beginning of the initiative to develop new drought tolerant ornamental perennials.



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Dr. Ashraf EL-KEREAMY

My story starts in 1991 when I completed my undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, Cairo-Egypt, with an Excellent and honour degree. I was classified the first over the horticulture department and the university offered me a permanent position to teach undergraduate courses.

In 1996, I finished my master's degree in fruit tree physiology that allowed my promotion to an assistant lecturer position. At that time I fell in love with my colleague (Maha Afifi), so we were married and she became my campaigner in this life.

In 1998, I obtained a scholarship to study my PhD in France. I finished my PhD from the Fruits Genomic and Biotechnology laboratory, INP-Toulouse-France, successfully in 2003. In my thesis it was the first time the existence and the importance of ethylene biosynthesis during grape ripening as a non-climacteric fruit was shown. I also studied the possibility of using ethanol as a natural product to enhance ethylene production and its role in flavonoid pathway regulation. So, in 2004 I got the award of « Léopold Escande » from the same institute for an excellent PhD. During the same period my wife also finished her PhD at the same institute, working on grapevine dieback caused by *Eutypia Lata* and its toxin (Eutypine).

In France, we had a very good time, we supported each other during our studies, we both successfully finished our PhD, and we also had our first lovely daughter (Yomna). We then returned back to Egypt and I became assistant professor in the Horticulture department, Ain Shams University - Cairo.

After having a very nice experience in western Europe and after catching some sun from the Middle East, I joined the Plant Physiology and Breeding Laboratory, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Québec as a Scientific Visiting Fellow in the summer of 2004.

Late in 2004, I started my postdoctoral research at the Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba to work on ABA binding proteins. During my post-doc we discovered the first ABA receptor in plants which has a very important impact in plant biology. This discovery as a part of our patent was published in "Nature" early in 2006. We enjoyed our time in friendly Manitoba and experienced the Canadian winter!

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Presently, I am working as a post doc in the Tree Fruit and Genetics Breeding Laboratory, Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph-Vineland Campus with Dr. Jay Subramanian.

I am trying to discover Ontario with my adorable wife Maha and my lovely daughter Yomna. In August we are expecting the birth of our second child.

Ashraf is located at the Vineland Campus and can be reached by telephone at 905-562-4141 ext. 156 or by e-mail at aelkerea@uoguelph.ca

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RSS The online tool for information junkies by Jim Hoare, IT Technician

In the [December 05 Plant Ag. newsletter](#), I discussed what's a Blog and briefly mentioned about RSS. Now RSS feeds are the latest IT advancement for you "information junkies." Have you noticed the ' **RSS** ' or ' **XML** ' symbols on a web page and wondered what it was all about? For example check out:

- CBC: <http://www.cbc.ca/rss/>
- New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/services/xml/rss/>
- Yahoo News: <http://news.yahoo.com/rss>

What is RSS?

RSS (Really Simple Syndication¹) is used to provide an updated list of web content to the user to download onto their web browser or portable device. The content is read by the web browser or portable device as an XML file called an RSS feed/stream/channel and could be anything from a summary of news stories for that day, weblog posts, or podcasts.



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¹ Syndication is the process of telling others that you have content for them to consume.

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How to use RSS feeds?

There are several browsers that have built-in support for RSS feeds such as Macintosh's Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Opera. There are also standalone programs such as RssReader (see more complete list on the following page) for those that do not have the aforementioned web browsers to download RSS feeds. Portable devices such as the Apple iPod and Sony Playstation Portable have built-in support for RSS feeds.

In order to receive RSS feeds, you first must have an aggregator (feed reader). There are a number of standalone aggregators online, many of them free, so with a little bit of searching you should be able to find an interface that appeals to you. In addition to being available on your computer, RSS feeds can also be read on PDAs and cell phones that are connected to the Internet.

When you come across a website you would like to add to your aggregator, you can do so in one of two ways. Most sites that offer an RSS feed have an "RSS" or "XML" button on their homepage that you can click on and it will instantly add that feed to your aggregator. Depending on your aggregator, you may instead need to copy and paste the URL of the feed into the program.

An alternative to downloading a dedicated news reader is to use a Web-based news reader. For example, My Yahoo! users can now add RSS feeds directly to their personal page.

RssReader (or other aggregator) monitors your defined web sites in the background at user configurable intervals and warn with a little popup in the system tray that there is new content available. You can click the headline to see a short description of the content and click/open the original web page in an RssReader browser or default browser window.

Finding which pages have RSS feeds can be done with a web service 'Feedster' <http://www.feedster.com/> which advertises it as "the largest and richest archive of indexed feeds on the web."

How do I get a News Reader?

There are many News Readers available on the web. Some can be downloaded for free, while other programs will charge for more customizable options. Furthermore, certain readers will work better on different operating systems. You will need to take these factors into account when you choose your software.

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Microsoft Windows	Apple Mac OS	Web	GNU/Linux
RSS Reader Sharp Reader Feed Reader AmphetaDesk NewsGator RSS Bandit Mozilla	FeedTicker Tickershock Thunderbird	Bloglines My Yahoo	Liferea SnowNews Straw Syndicator RSSOwl Thunderbird

Please note that these links are provided solely as a convenience to you and not as an endorsement.

For developers of web pages that want to get in deeper, here is a great reference: http://developer.mozilla.org/en/docs/RSS:Getting_Started
 It guides you, step-by-step, through the basics of RSS and shows you working examples in action.

References

- <http://www.cbc.ca/rss/>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS_\(protocol\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS_(protocol))
- <http://www.feedster.com/help/rssopml.php>
- <http://www.rssreader.com/rssreader.htm>
- <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-rss.htm>

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Publications

McDonald, M.R. 2006. Advances in conventional methods of disease management. Can. J. Plant Pathol. 28:S239-S246.

Westerveld, S.M., M.R. McDonald, C.D. Scott-Dupree, and A.W. McKeown. 2006. Assessment of a nitrate meter for nitrogen tests in mineral and organic soils. Journal of Vegetable Science 11(3)17-32.

Westerveld, S.M., M. R. McDonald, and A. W. McKeown. 2006. Carrot Yield, Quality, and Storability in Relation to Preplant and Residual Nitrogen on Mineral and Organic Soils. HortTechnology.16(2): 286-293.

United States Patent
Saxena , et al.

7,005,298
February 28, 2006

Micropropagation and production of phytopharmaceutical plants

Abstract

The development of an in vitro regeneration system that utilizes a plant growth regulator having cytokinin activity for the induction of de novo shoots or somatic embryos on explants of phytopharmaceutical plants is provided. Transfer of the regenerated shoots or somatic embryos into a solid or liquid medium with no plant growth regulators results in the rapid and prolific growth of viable plantlets. The method and its modifications are intended for application to all phytopharmaceutical plants, in particular St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum* cv. Anthos), Huang-qin (*Scutellaria baicalensis*), *Echinacea* sp., Feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*), garlic (*Allium* sp.) and the like. Furthermore, a process for the uptake of nutrients, minerals or additives from the growth medium and accumulation of these in the consumable biomass of plants, hereafter referred to as phytofortification, is also described. This process provides additives within a bioavailable form within plants and renders nutrients and additives amenable for easy assimilation by the human or livestock digestive systems.

Inventors: **Saxena; Praveen K.** (Guelph, CA); **Murch; Susan J.** (Cambridge, CA); **Krishnaraj; Sankaran** (Guelph, CA); **Slimmon; Tannis Y.** (Guelph, CA)
Assignee: **University of Guelph** (CA)

Dr. John Proctor was an invited guest April 3rd and 4th at his alma mater, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, where he visited with faculty, graduate students and staff and gave a lecture "Ginseng: ancient crop, modern perspectives."

JOSH SEGEREN



PFIZER CANADA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE Chatham-Kent Regional Science Fair



CONGRATULATIONS JOSH!

Josh Segeren at the Chatham-Kent Science Fair with his project investigating the phenomenon of imbibitional chilling injury (ICI) in soybean - the effect that planting into cold soil can have on emergence and early vigour of seedlings.

Josh Segeren, an 8th grade student at St. Ursula Catholic School, won “best in show” at the Chatham-Kent Regional Science Fair in March for his project [i] ICI - Glycine max [/i]. The project investigating the phenomenon of imbibitional chilling injury (ICI) in soybean - the effect that planting into cold soil can have on emergence and early vigour of seedlings.

After completing a first phase of his experiment and finding only minor treatment effects, Josh contacted Dr. Hugh Earl in the Department of Plant Agriculture for advice.

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“I told Josh that based on our recent observations, newer soybean varieties appeared to be much more resistant to ICI than older varieties grown in Ontario. He was basing his protocol on experiments conducted in the 1980s, by Ed Gamble and others. After reviewing his data, I advised him to repeat his work using much more extreme temperatures: 3.5 °C instead of the 6.5 °C he had been using,” recalls Hugh.

“In the end, he ended up with some very interesting results regarding the timing of the cold stress relative to the stage of imbibition. I had a chance to comment on his conclusions and discussion before he prepared his final project, and I have to say that I was very impressed with his ability to interpret his data objectively. Truly outstanding work considering the grade level,” said Hugh.

Josh’s win at the regional science fair has earned him a paid trip to the Canada-wide fair in Saguenay, Québec which was held in May.

Let’s hope that this bright young scientist retains an interest in plant agriculture—perhaps one day we will see him enrolled in the Ontario Agricultural College.

CONGRATULATIONS

Josh Segeren
Wins Three Awards at the 2006 Canada-Wide Science Fair
Saguenay, Québec

Silver Medal - Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Sciences Junior
Medal, \$700 cash & Certificate

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Award Junior
\$500 cash & Certificate

University of Western Ontario Scholarship Silver Medalist
\$1,500 Scholarship



**College Royal –
An Annual Tradition Since 1925**

CR College Royal is the largest university open house event of its kind in North America. Each March, the University of Guelph is opened to the general public in a campus-wide open house that attracts over 30,000 visitors every year. Held during the last weekend of March Break each year, Open House Weekend is a chance to explore the university campus and see what the professors and students are up to. College Royal is a free event for the entire family. Each display includes plenty of hands-on activities. More information can be found at: <http://www.collegeroyal.uoguelph.ca/>

This year’s open house awards within OAC were:

Displays: 1st: Land Resource Science Graduate Student Council

Exhibits: 1st: Environmental Science Student Executive, 2nd: Horticulture Club, 3rd: Food Science Club.

Within the Crop Science building, rooms 116 and 117 were transformed into our open house venue. Various lab groups, with mainly grad student involvement, put together material suitable to explain their research to the general public, prospective undergrads, and parents of current undergrads visiting the campus.

College Royal provides Plant Agriculture with a great promotional opportunity. Even though it is a ‘student event’ faculty and staff were involved to promote our excellent department.



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55TH MUCK VEGETABLE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS



Interested growers at well attended speaker programs.

Farmers, scientists, hucksters, government workers, charismatic visionaries and interested locals gathered together on March 22nd and 23rd in Bradford. The occasion was the 55th Annual Muck Vegetable Conference, Trade and Equipment Show.

To Ontario growers on marsh soil this was an opportunity for education and fellowship. To the many companies who were there to sell everything from seed to cartons, this was an opportunity to have their customers all together under one roof. Chemical companies pitched new products with slide presentations, trades people set up attention grabbing displays to both inform and promote and in the parking lot outside the hall, equipment dealers tempted farmers with the newest and shiniest tractors and implements.



Carrot Trial Display

Carrots from the variety trials at the station are brought out of storage and displayed at the conference.

Over the two days of the conference, the first devoted to carrots and the second to onions, research data was presented by grad students and researchers from the Muck Crops Research Station, Cornell and Washington State Universities. Many seasons of field work were summarized for an interested audience. Carrots and onions grown in field trials at the Muck Crops Research Station were on display and the results from the 2005 trials were presented. This information will be put to good use by growers who know they must use the newest methods in order to maximize their productivity.

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Since farmers are part of the global economy, whose livelihoods are influenced by the whims of both federal and provincial governments, no conference would be complete without a presentation on the Future of Agriculture. It was encouraging to hear that marsh grown vegetables will be promoted to an increasingly health conscience public because of their disease preventing properties. Growers were told that fresh vegetables are the solution to our health problems which include obesity, heart disease, diabetes and cancer and that increasing the consumption of fresh vegetables can relieve the burden of our increasing health care budget. This will be done through new signage in grocery stores and information posted on a yet-to-be-unveiled Internet website.



Onion Trial Display

Different onion varieties on display are the end result of extensive variety trials done at the station.

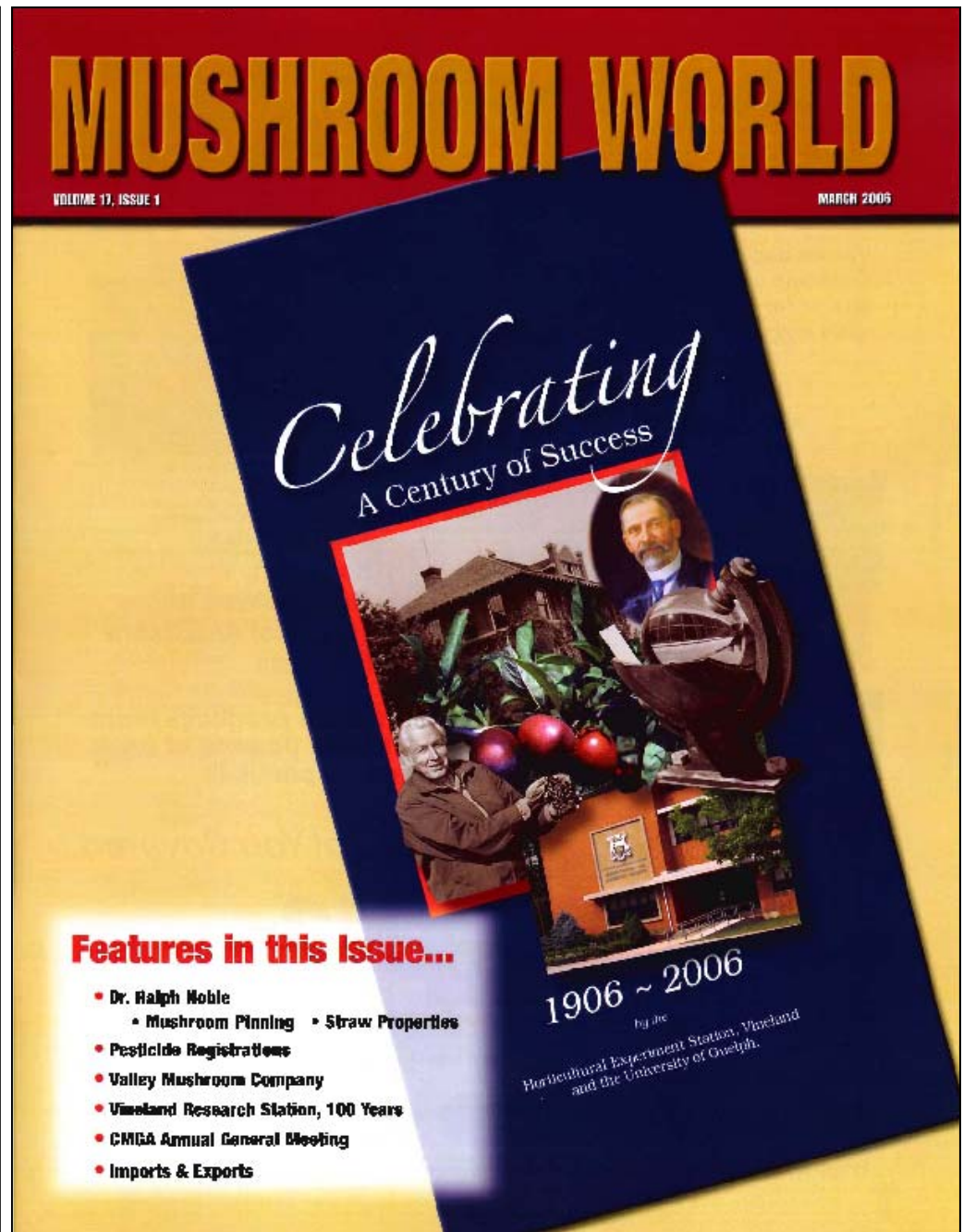
The Muck Vegetable Conference is unique in that all the expenses associated with the two day event are covered by close to 100 sponsors. The conference is organized by the Holland Marsh Horticultural Advisory Committee, Chairman Ross Belfry and assisted by the staff at the Muck Crops Research Station. This year's conference was a great success and a valued event on the calendar of everyone involved with growing onions and carrots on muck soils in Ontario.



Mary Ruth McDonald (left) in conversation with conference guest speakers Lindsey de Toit from Washington State University and Beth Guigino from Cornell University.

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The cover of the Vineland Centennial book *“Celebrating A Century of Success”* was featured on the March 2006 issue of the trade journal (Mushroom World) of the Canadian Mushroom Growers’ Association.

Order your Vineland Centennial book *“Celebrating A Century of Success”* today! Only \$15 each. Check out the Centennial web site for book ordering forms, information about the Open House on Saturday, August 26, 2006, and the Centennial Celebration Dinner on January 27, 2007.

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


SATURDAY, AUGUST 26TH, 2006


(mark this day on your calendar)

We are having a "BIRTHDAY PARTY" and **YOU** are invited.

The Horticultural Experiment Station-Vineland (Department of Plant Agriculture-Vineland Campus) is celebrating 100 years of service to the horticultural industry!

Saturday, August 26 has been established for two major events:

 **Alumni Homecoming** will occur in the morning (10 am to 2 pm) for former and present Station staff and their families. This will provide an opportunity to renew friendships and reminisce about "Station" life and will end with lunch.

 **Open House** for the general public will occur in the afternoon (2 pm to 6 pm) which will feature self-guided orchard tours, fruit and vegetable displays, displays of historical artifacts regarding the station as well as the surrounding community, various horticultural groups will be here with their displays and to answer questions, plant propagation demonstrations, opening of the time capsule which will be a media event attended by many dignitaries, and many more surprises!!!



Tulips planted near the entrance of the Vineland Campus that were donated by the Lincoln Garden Club and Horticultural Society. The tulip, named "Loyalty," is the centennial flower of the Ontario Horticultural Society which is celebrating their centennial along with Vineland in 2006.

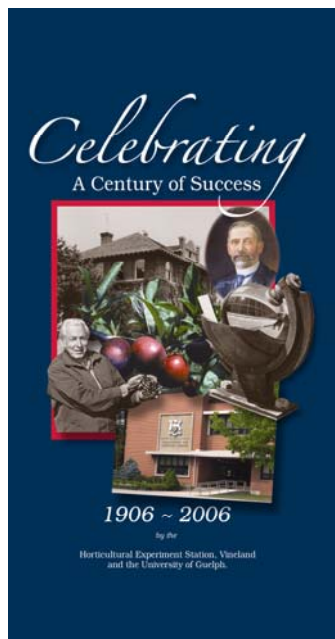
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2nd Annual Blossom Festival

Judy Wanner staffing the Vineland Centennial booth at the Niagara Fruit Education Centre's 2nd Annual Blossom Festival on May 13 in Winona. Bruce Zimmerman from 610 Newstalk Radio was on site to kick off this special event with live on air broadcasting. Harry Jongerden (RBG) and David Flanagan (HGTV) were each giving seminars at the festival.



Niagara Community Foundation Reception

The Vineland Centennial Celebration booth was on display at the Niagara Community Foundation (NCF) reception in Niagara Falls on Tuesday, May 23rd. The reception was for donors, volunteers and recipients of grants from NCF. The Vineland Centennial Celebration secured a \$4,000 grant from the Foundation to assist with publication costs for the 100-year history "Celebrating a Century of Success." The booth consisted of the same materials and information shown at the Blossom Festival above. One of the NCF directors said "it was easy to give money toward the book." Helen Fisher and Danny Rinker represented the Vineland Centennial Committee and the University of Guelph at the event.

COMING EVENTS

2006

Halifax 2006 - A Joint Colloquium - August 1 to 4, 2006, at the Westin Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia. This will be a joint meeting of the Canadian Societies for Agronomy, Animal Science and Horticultural Science. For more information go to: <http://nsac.ca/pas/conferences/default.asp>

27th International Horticultural Congress - August 13 to 19, 2006, COEX Convention Center, Seoul, Korea. For more information to: <http://www.ishs.org/>

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show - September 12 to 14, 2006, at the University of Guelph Research Station, Woodstock, Ontario. For more information go to: <http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com/>

International Plowing Match and Rural Expo 2006 - Peterborough County September 19 to 23, 2006. For more information go to: <http://www.plowingmatch.org/>

Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show - October 3 to 9, 2006, at the Simcoe Fair Grounds, 172 South Drive, Simcoe, Ontario. For more information go to: <http://www.norfolkcountyfair.com/>

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair - November 3 to 12, 2006, at the National Trade Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ontario. For more information go to: <http://www.royalfair.org/>

**Farewell Reception**

Monday, June 12, 2006 @ 3:30 p.m.
Guelph Turfgrass Institute

**Guests of Honour**

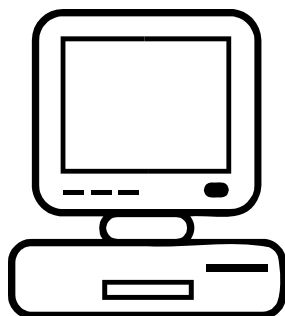
George Lin
Glen Lumis
Jaideep Mathur
Doug Powell
John Proctor
Lisa Skog

Tickets are \$20 per person which includes hors d'oeuvres and donation to gifts for all our Guests of Honour. RSVP to Beth Livingstone at blivings@uoguelph.ca

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NEWS



by Judy Wanner
Plant Agriculture Liaison Librarian

SUMMER IN THE LIBRARY



Take advantage of quiet summer days to use the library and catch up on the new materials in your area of interest – enjoy line up free computers and reference staff with plenty of time to assist you. This is a great time to take advantage of the library’s new comfortable seating on the first floor and browse the new book acquisitions displayed right next to the coffee service area. Summer hours for the McLaughlin Library are in general from 7am to 10pm weekdays and noon to 10pm on weekends. For holiday hours and times for specific library service areas check “Hours” in the middle of the Library Home Page.

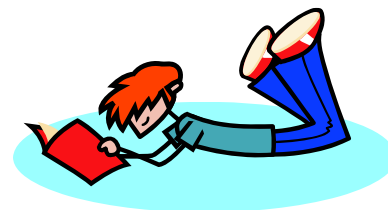
Summer Library Workshops and Courses

The Learning Commons is offering the course ***Writing a Literature Review*** on Thursday, June 22nd. There is a limit on the number of students who will be allowed to register so don’t delay registering if interested. Grad students can visit the Learning Commons website and check out the services and resources available this semester at:

<http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/ByAudience/index.html#GradStudents>

RefWorks classes continue through the summer. Sign up now and get a head start on searching and organizing references for papers and theses. Classes are held in the computer lab in the library basement in the government documents area. The schedule is posted at

<http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/help/research/events/index.htm>



Sign up for any of these courses at the Learning Commons desk on the first floor of the library or call ext. 52320.

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Data Resource Centre: Movin' on up

As usual in the summer there is construction and movement in the library. Work is presently being done behind the oak wall on the first floor of the library to make room for the Data Resource Center (DRC). The centre will move up from the basement to integrate its services with the Learning Commons. This will create options for one-on-one and small-group consultation with students. The DRC is a collaborative effort of the Library and Computing and Communications Services. If you have a need for help with large data sets, or Graphical Information Systems the DRC is the place to go.

<http://tdr.tug-libraries.on.ca/>

New Electronic Resource

The *Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)* delivers country, industry and management information from the publisher of *The Economist*. It is the world's foremost provider of country, industry and management analysis. The University of Guelph has access to three products. *EIU ViewsWire* is updated daily with highlights of the business implications of major economic, political and market developments worldwide. *Country Reports*, updated monthly, provides in depth reports on how national, regional and global events will affect business in 200 countries. Detailed two-year forecasts are included. *Country Profiles* updated annually, put an annual perspective on the long-term political and social issues affecting each country, providing a complete introduction to all international markets. These three information products include agricultural production information. To view this resource, choose "Journal Indexes" on the Library's home page: <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca> and put *Economist Intelligence Unit* in the search box.

Library Stats and Facts

The number of people entering the McLaughlin Library in 2004/2005 was 1,850,000, the increase from fiscal year 2003/2004 was 115,000!

Scholars Portal is a co-operative project of the Ontario Council of University Libraries. Many of the databases and electronic journals available through the Library's website are loaded there. Last year, from January to December 2005, Guelph users conducted more than 710,000 database searches at the Scholars Portal and downloaded more than 335,000 journal articles.

For more information about Scholars Portal, see:

<http://www.scholarsportal.info/>

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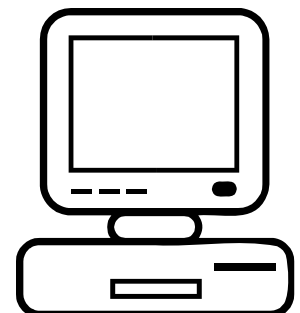
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NEWS



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**We are on the
WEB!**

Check us out at:

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

"Research, Education & Service"



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SEPTEMBER 2006**

**Submission Deadline:
August 16, 2006**

Please forward items
and announcements for
publication to the editor,
Deborah Hilborn at
email address:

dhilborn@uoguelph.ca



WEB SIGHTS

by Judy Wanner, Liaison Librarian

Standards

The University Library, as part of its Electronic Reference Collection, has a wealth of links to Standards and Standardization Bodies. The collection of links points to not only nine central standard agencies, including those of Canada, the U.K. and the U.S., but also 56 specialized societies that create standards. In addition there is a separate collection of links devoted to computer standards. This information can be reached by going to the Library Home Page – choosing the section All Research Resources and Collections – E-Reference and selecting Standards: <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/resources/e-reference/>



Some standards that are of particular interest to those working in Agriculture and Food are:

- The American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) Standards
- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Marketing Service Quality Standards (A searchable database of full text agricultural commodity standards)
- The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standards
- American Water Works Association Standards
- Official Analytical Chemists Standardized Methods
- A complete listing of the International Standards Organization (ISO) standards with 132 fields related to agriculture and food

Message from the Chair

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Finally, let me close with just one challenge for you all. Take heed and take to heart our vision "To become the Department that redefines Plant Agriculture by taking it to new frontiers in science and society." Collectively we need to redefine Plant Agriculture or someone else will and I can guarantee the result will not be what we wish. I say this not as a warning, but as a challenge and my personal belief of the importance of acting on that vision statement swiftly and strategically.

So, time to conclude. Thank you all for this opportunity. It has been an honour and privilege and one that I will treasure always. And if you are ever in Ridgetown, please stop by.