



Garlic Growers Association of Ontario

Fall Meeting Saturday Dec. 1

Interested in Garlic?

Season wrap up at the Woodstock OMAF office on highway 59, just north of Woodstock. Coffee will be on at 9 am and meeting starting at 9:30.

- A) *Dr. Becky Hughes and Dr. John Zandstra updating garlic projects research.*
- B) *Garlic festival and Recipe card projects.*
- C) *Discuss Interest by Loblaws on showcasing Ontario Garlic next season.*
- D) *Growers forum & Questions*

President's Garlic Blog

Well we have certainly had a much better fall planting season than last year. 12 months ago many of us were wondering if we would ever be able to plant. Somehow planting in the rain and mudding a crop in takes a lot of the fun out of it. Also some of the winterkill we experienced was no doubt traceable back to planting the '07 crop.

Anyhow looking forward the '08 crop is in the ground, the '07 crop had excellent size and quality and there is more demand than we have seen in a while for Ontario Garlic.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Warren Ham for working with the Stratford and District Kiwanis to organize and put on a very successful Garlic Festival on Saturday September 15. With plenty of vendors and customers the day was a celebration of local Garlic in all its many forms. The only thing missing was heat. The luck of the weather draw gave us the coldest day in September. So next year we can definitely look forward to a warmer day.

Consumers this past year have been asking chain stores "Why is there no Ontario Garlic available?". This has resulted in chains showing some renewed interest in

having a quality local product on the shelves, hopefully more to follow on this story.

The "100 Mile Diet" is gaining popularity. In short this involves buying only products that were grown or made within 100 miles of where they are sold. Someday soon look for a sizeable retail outlet on the edge of Toronto that will only stock "100 mile items". This would be a brand new marketing opportunity for those who grow Garlic, and other crops within that area, to sell to a dedicated customer base that are willing to buy because of what they believe in. This store would include both organic and traditionally grown products based on strict certifiable standards that consumers can trust, not the despicable "Product of Canada" labelling we have now on products.

Product of Canada - Who is it fooling? (Article from the Grower) by Mark

This year has seen lots of interest in where our food comes from and just how safe is it. This interest applies not only to food but also too many consumer products, including toys. Many Canadian consumers when they go to shop consciously try to purchase products that they assume were grown or made here.

They see meaningless titles in the produce aisle, such as "Canada No. 1". They see a label that says "Made in Canada" when, in fact, as much as 51 per cent of the cost of the product is created here, then, under existing legislation, it can be called made in Canada - even though the main ingredient comes from who knows where.

Now we would hate to pick on one particular country as a culprit in supplying tainted products to Canadian consumers, but for some odd reason almost every time there is a tainted product event or falsely labelled product, China seems to be where it originates. Which brings us to two recent investigative shows on Canadian television: W-5 and CBC Marketplace. If you go to <http://cbc.ca/marketplace>, you can catch a recent show on "Product of Canada". In this program, they looked at three products; ice cream, garlic in a jar, and fish products in a box. The milk in the ice cream came from New Zealand. The

garlic, after six months of trying to get Loblaws to admit it, turns out came from - you guessed it - China!

Now, they could have stopped there and done more on the whole garlic story and I would have been happy.

They went one product further and looked at fish products specifically "High Liner" from Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. It turns out the cod and haddock (hey, are they not Canadian fish?) were caught off the coast of Russia, processed in China, shipped thru the Panama Canal to hey, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, where they were put in a box and labelled "Product of Canada".

Even scarier, they also found that farm-raised shrimp and tilapia from China and Indonesia, which were banned as fresh products from North America because of contamination by bacteria and drugs, were put in a box and labelled product of Canada.

Returning to my title, "Product of Canada - Who is it fooling?", well the answer is every single Canadian consumer who wants to buy products that are grown by Canadian farmers, caught by Canadian fishermen, or made by Canadian workers.

You decide what should be done about it.

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I look forward to seeing many of you at the fall meeting.

Regards Mark Wales

See you out Saturday the 1st of December
Any questions your Executive is listed here:

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	Allan Spicer	Port Burwell, On	N0J 1T0	519 657 8320		allan@cangrow.com
Festival	Warren Ham	38 Centre St Stratford On.	N5A 1E3	519 272 1742		w.ham@bellnet.ca



Garlic Growers Association of Ontario

Membership Application & Renewal Form

Fill in and Print this form and mail it with your fee to the address at the bottom.

Farm or Company (Member) Name: _____

Name of the designated person representing
the farm or company (Member): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City / Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Email: _____

For Harvest in 2008 -- # Pounds Planted = _____ on _____ acres

I'm interested in Clean Seed: _____ Varieties Grown: _____

I would like to contribute to the Association by being involved in the following:

Promotions

Executive

Field Day

Research

Newsletter

Web Site

Membership

OFA Lobbying

Membership Fee is \$50 per year