



Garlic Growers Association of Ontario

Annual AGM Saturday April 5 2008

Woodstock OMAF office on highway 59, just north of Woodstock.

Coffee will be on at 9 am and meeting starting at 9:30.

Interested in Garlic?

- A) *New garlic projects research & promotion possibilities.*
- B) *Garlic festival year 2 and Recipe card available*
- C) *Discuss Interest by Loblaws on showcasing Ontario Garlic this season.*
- D) *Growers Forum & Questions*

President's Garlic Blog

GETTING THE LABELLING RIGHT!

The keynote speaker for the recent Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting was Wendy Mesley of "CBC Marketplace". She explained to everyone how the "Product of Canada" show came to be and the impact it was having with Canadian consumers.

The research for the show was done last summer, with the last of the taping being done at the Stratford Garlic Festival, and the show was aired last fall and again last month during reruns. This was the highest rated CBC Marketplace show ever! It just goes to show that something that is important to us as growers is actually important to Canadian consumers. I can tell every time the show airs, because within days I am receiving e-mails from people asking where they can source local Garlic.

At the CFA annual meeting it was agreed thru the resolution process that the organization would focus on getting the federal government to accept and move forward

with the concept of having a "Processed in Canada label", and a separate "Grown in Canada label". It was agreed by all that the current Product of Canada label is so tainted that no producer or consumer could ever trust it. No amount of tinkering with the percentage of value added, during processing in Canada would ever be able to guarantee that the main ingredient was actually produced by a Canadian farmer!

Canadian consumers are more than willing to support Canadian farmers at the store level, but they need the guarantee that the product is clearly identified as being produced by a Canadian farmer. Therefore a label identifying the main product in the can, jar, or package as being "Grown" by a Canadian farmer would accomplish this. For example a can of peas, the peas were grown in Canada, a can of apple juice, the apples were grown in Canada, and so on, of course not forgetting a jar of Garlic, the Garlic was grown in Ontario. Okay for a moment I put my Ontario hat on, but you get the picture!

Consumers do not really care where the can or the label etc came from, what they really want to be guaranteed is that the main ingredient was grown or raised by someone they can trust who is farming to the highest standards.

We look forward to the federal government finally dealing intelligently with an issue that is important to farmers and consumers alike. When you have a moment please remind your elected representatives that they need to do the right thing for Canadians.

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

Regards Mark Wales

**See you out Saturday the 5th of April.
Any questions your Executive is listed here:**

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	Simon	Deboer	RR 2 Teeswater, On.	N0G 2S0	519 357 1919	sbdeboer@wightman.ca
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Pres.	Mark	Wales	RR 2 Aylmer, On.	N5H 2R2	519 773 7352	walesfarm@hotmail.com
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	Allan	Spicer	Port Burwell, On	N0J 1T0	519 657 8320	allan@cangrow.com
Festival	Warren	Ham	RR#2 Gadshill, On	N0K 1J0	519 272 1742	warren@augustsharvest.com



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