



Garlic Growers Association of Ontario

Annual General Ontario Garlic Convention

(the 24^{ish} year maybe)

Saturday Apr 17 2010

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

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

Becky Hughes - New Liskeard Research Station Univ. of Guelph:

Becky has clean garlic to sell so you can get some “seed” to put out this spring. (Give warren a call or email prior if interested) Becky will update us as to how the “baby bulbs” are doing, and what issues to consider in bringing them to the field.

3

John Zandstra - Research Horticulturist Ridgetown Campus Univ of Guelph

John has some of the 2nd & 1st generation of Becky’s clean seed and has also done work on the allacin as a value added proposition for Ontario Growers. He is a remarkable resource on all garlic production questions.

4

Gary Willsie – Garlic Equipment for the “Ail” Equipped

Machinery display and discussion

5

Garlic Slap-Chop Man - the man with the machine that slices and

dices your customers way to allium symmetry

6

**In 2009 Loblaws - Sobeys and A&P increased their local footprint
And it looks like there could be more to come.**

7

**Stratford Garlic fest vendors are selling out ...
So don't miss out on how to be a part of some of the best garlic dollars you
are likely receive**

8

Growers Forum & Questions

President's Garlic Blog

**It is mid March and some of the nicest March weather we have ever had.
Yesterday the temperature was pushing 20 degrees Celsius, warmer than we
had much of last summer!**

**Since we are in a classic El Nino weather pattern that would suggest a hot dry
summer, so make sure you consider the need to provide sufficient water for the
crop.**

**As I sit here looking ahead to the 2010 crop, and our AGM coming up
on Saturday April 17 at the OMAF building in Woodstock I try to reflect on
where the industry is and what role your organization has to play in it. Local
demand for our crop has never been stronger. Interest in growing Garlic is also
strong. The Ontario consumer is willing to pay a fair price for what we grow
and, knowing where their Garlic comes from. The backlash against all things
"China" is growing, and with good reason.**

**So how do we as growers go forward from here? The chain stores have shown
only a "token" willingness to carry fresh Ontario garlic on their shelves. Since
2001 the grocery chains have grown addicted to selling huge volumes of poor
quality Garlic that they have been able to purchase for 40 cents a pound and**

double and triple their money by selling it retail for 90 cents to \$1.29. Every week I receive e-mails and calls from consumers who want to buy Ontario but can not find any. When they contact Loblaws the reply they get is that the weather was bad last year so there is none available. What they do not admit is that they would not be willing to pay enough even if the crop was available. So I urge consumers to come to the markets and come to festivals and buy direct. We try to keep the information current on our website on the various festivals, stores that carry Garlic in season, and farmers who have crop for sale. We as a group of volunteers work to promote Ontario Garlic wherever we can. Working with our researchers Becky Hughes and John Zandstra we have research projects on the go working on a clean seed program and some improvements to storage. As an organization we were able to obtain funds thru the FIP (Farm Innovation Program) for the next 4 years to carry these projects out. We work to keep the website current as this is a very important source of information for consumers as well as growers. I sit on several committees with government to make sure that our members are legible for any government programs, and especially to try and get a workable crop insurance program for when the weather just does not co-operate. The media are always doing stories on Garlic and how great it is, but how frustrating it is for consumers. They are always willing to give us the opportunity to tell the Garlic story and promote our industry.

So that I guess that is what we do. As a volunteer board we work on behalf of our members to make sure that we continue to have the opportunity to grow and sell the best, freshest Garlic in the world.

So remember its membership renewal time. \$50 is the yearly cost to support the industry and the work we do. I hope to see you out at the AGM, our field day in June or one of the many Garlic festivals this summer.

Best wishers for a great growing season.

Regards Mark Wales

**See you out Saturday the 17 of April
Any questions your Executive is listed here:**

		85 Old Kingston Rd RR#1				
	Wayne Greer	Lombardy, On	K0G 1L0	613 267 4943	twinoakfarms@sympatico.ca	
	Simon Deboer	RR 2 Teeswater, On.	N0G 2S0	519 357 1919	sbdeboer@wightman.ca	
Treasurer	Allan Cowan	RR 2 Allenford, On	N0H 1A1	519 934 2119	acowan@bmts.com	
Pres.	Mark Wales	RR 2 Aylmer, On.	N5H 2R2	519 773 7352	walesfarm@hotmail.com	
	Gary Johnson	2002 Vandorf Rd Aurora,	L4G, 7B9	905-726-3356	cathgar@sympatico.ca	
	Allan Spicer	Port Burwell, On	N0J 1T0	519 657 8320	allan@cangrow.com	
Festival	Warren Ham	RR#2 Gadshill, On	N0K 1J0	519 393 5550	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 2010 -- # 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:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Promotions | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | | <input type="checkbox"/> OFA Lobbying |

Membership Fee is \$50 per year