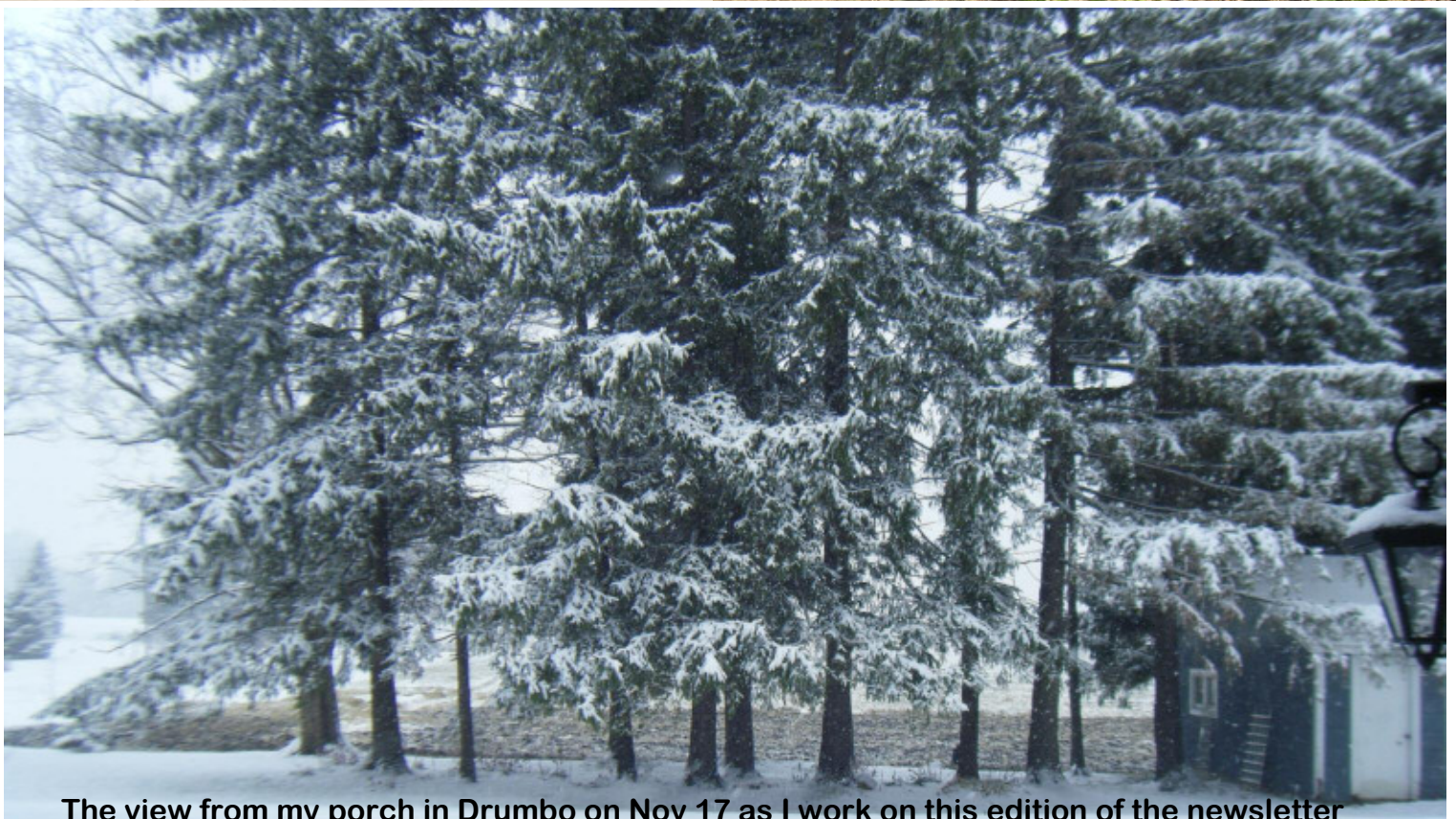


HEARTLAND

SOIL & CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Thanks to Thelma Smith (Perth SCIA) for these photos from the twilight meeting held in July



The view from my porch in Drumbo on Nov 17 as I work on this edition of the newsletter



Regional SCIA Contact Information

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The Heartland SCIA Newsletter is distributed four times a year to members of the local Soil and Crop Improvement Associations of Huron, Perth, Wellington and Waterloo counties.

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you need to change an address, please contact the editor, Cathy Dibble 519-463-9737

Comments, ideas, sponsorships and articles are welcome.

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FROM THE DESK OF STUART WRIGHT

HEARTLAND'S PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR

I m sure everyone is enjoying the harvest season .Not really? Actually me neither. But let's persevere and think about the upcoming Soil and Crop events to make ourselves feel better. Looking forward to seeing you at the Local AGM's where there will many great speakers to enlighten us. It's not to early to start planning to attend the OSCIA AGM either as the speaker line up is starting to look quite impressive. And while we're on the subject You will be informed of some constitutional amendments that will be discussed in London and I encourage you ask questions at the Local AGM's. Hopefully I can answer them for you. We were very sorry to see RCC Jessica Hamilton move on but work on her replacement is underway. Here's some good news .I would like to congratulate Simon Signer, a good Wellington boy from right here in Heartland for winning the provincial Forage Master Award. Well done Simon! And finally in this tough harvest season work hard but work safe.

Hello everyone! Just a quick hello, and to introduce myself. I'm the Regional Communication Coordinator for the Thames Valley SCIA (Oxford, Middlesex & Elgin), and filling in to get this newsletter completed while the Heartland directors search for a new RCC here. Please see the job description on page 7 - perhaps you or someone you know would be perfect for the job! We wish Jessica the very best in her future endeavours! Meeting season is ramping up, as you can see by the annual meeting notices in this edition. Hopefully, the weather turns around and we can all get harvest wrapped up first. It seems this year has been a challenge from start to finish. Work safe, and best of luck – Cathy Dibble

John Poel, Heartland SCIA President

Well this certainly has been a challenging growing season for many of us. At the time of writing this, our corn fields are just showing signs of the hanging snow dissipating at least somewhat so it looks hopeful that we can proceed with the harvest soon. I'm sure there will be lots of second looks on corn and bean maturity ratings as the time for seed sales is now well underway.

Throughout this past year, there have been many successful events within our Heartland Region. From the early spring production day information meetings to the summer events like the twilight meetings in Wellington, Waterloo, and Perth Counties and the Soil Workshop & Tillage Demonstration in Huron County, there certainly were fine opportunities to learn and share lots of relevant farm practices and valuable information! I would like to encourage you to participate in not only to attend these events from your own county, but also those from other counties as well. A fair amount of effort goes into planning these functions, so it is nice to see them well utilized. The Soil Health presentation featuring Dan Towery held in Broadhagen was a highlight of this past winter that was billed as a regional event. The positive responses that we received on such a feature speaker is prompting us to follow up with more of these production type meetings. Endeavours are underway to draw farmers from wider areas for such feature events whether they be hosted by a county and/or region!

Be sure to look for the program contained with this newsletter for the upcoming SoilSmart & FarmSmart conference. If you are reading the digital version of this how about tapping on: <http://farmsmartconference.com> register right now!

So once you've attended at least one, and hopefully several, of these fine events, you will most certainly come home with ideas that hold the potential to significantly improve some aspects of your own operation. While it's easy to



be at the listening end and get somewhat excited about whatever the new cutting edge practices or products are, but when it comes time to actually change your system, experience has often revealed to us that stuff happens that we weren't necessarily expecting. This reality can be less than positive and sometimes even downright discouraging. Why not take full advantage of your membership in soil & crop and become involved in a project that trials or demonstrates what you have in mind. There is a good chance that a trial close to what you have in mind will be happening, if not in your own home county, then perhaps in another area county that will be more than happy to include you as a co-operator! Often, there is help and encouragement from the county directors, members, staff as well as OMAFRA and/or University of Guelph program leads along with suppliers to make the most of your efforts. By getting involved and working together, we all stand to reduce our costs and risks associated with trying and implementing new practices, products and/or techniques! Moving forward together, we can improve the quality and resiliency of not only our soil, water, air and crops, but also our farms and communities as well. If it's not already all wrapped up, have a safe and happy rest of harvest!

Perth county Soil & Crop Improvement Association

Annual Banquet & Meeting

Thursday, January 22nd, 2015

Social time 5:00 p.m.

Program/dinner 5:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker - TBA

Tickets \$20

Contact Thelma @ 519-271-5190

OR email - eandtsmith@golden.net

Thanks to Thelma for sending this along..

Perth SCIA JULY 3RD, 2014 –BBQ & TWILIGHT MEETING DEMO FARM/HURON TRACTOR

=====

The annual twilight meeting of Perth County Soil & Crop Association was held on July 3rd, 2014 at the Demo Farm Site. Special Thanks to Brian McGregor and crew for graciously hosting facilities for bbq and guest speaker.

At 5:30 p.m. Rollin Roaster began serving “beef on a bun” there were approximately 65 plus, and as we had ordered meals for 100, many did have 2nds. It was very good and we supplied water, pop and chips. Everyone mentioned that it was very good. Thanks to Scott Saunders it was a great meal.



Guest were divided into two groups and ½ way through, the two groups switched positions.

Crop Tours of Wheat, Soybeans and Corn crops were conducted by
OMAFRA Cereal Specialist Peter Johnson –

It went very well and everyone always appreciates and enjoys Peter’s candor while talking about crops/how planted, fertilizers used etc.

Soil Pit Demo – Advancing our Soils were conducted by soil team of
Bonnie Ball OMAFRA Soil Fertility Specialist
Adam Hayes OMAFRA Soil Management Field Crops Specialist
Nicole Rabe OMAFRA Land Resource Specialist

It was a very interesting presentation by all three team members, educational, informative and interesting to see what the soil is made up of at the demo farm.



At 8:15 guests were invited back to Huron Tractor building - Bill Miller introduced guest speaker Jim Wheeler.

Jim has had an interesting career as a Former Policy Assistant Deputy OMAFRA, Former Policy Assistant Deputy Minister OMAFRA and also held several other senior positions in the Ministry including Chair of Farm Products Marketing Commission.

Jim's Topic "Challenging Traditional Thinking" was very thought provoking, informative for sure and also educational and interesting. It was an excellent presentation.



Refreshments were enjoyed before and after guest speaker (donuts, cookies, pop and water) Again, we really could have used a cup of hot coffee! We are pleased with all those who came and participated with us for our Annual Twilight Meeting. Thanks to all directors who helped with clean up of site and who attended and helped with clean up at end of evening. It was another successful even for Perth County Soil & Crop Association!

Waterloo Soil and Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting

**Wednesday December 17th 2014 at
the Floradale Mennonite Church**

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Registration starts at 9:30
a.m.)

Feature speaker: Ian McDonald
“What’s in your farming future Bio-
Crops, Water, and Sustainability”

Other topics: Growing forward 2- What it
can do for Waterloo Farmers

Panel Discussion: Peter Johnston,
Stewart Cressman and Pat Lynch.

Special presentation by Pat Lynch
Please join us for a hot meal Cost: \$35 includes
annual membership or \$20 for the day only
Be sure to register to guarantee a meal –
Online – www.oscia.wildapricot.org
Call: Lynn Strenzke - 519-648-2436 OR
email <mailto:wl.strenzke@hsfx.ca>

Wellington SCIA Annual Meeting

Friday December 5, 2014
Alma Bible Chapel, Alma
Registration 9 am

Feature speakers
Jerry Winnicki ~ Clark Agri Service
in Brazil
Mike Dougherty ~ Making Human
Waste into Fertilizer.

Pre-registration is required by calling Linda
McFadden at 519 846 5215 or email
linda.mcfadden@wightman.ca

Don't forget to check out the OSCIA
News portion of this newsletter,
featuring information on the OSCIA Soil
Champion Award – Nominate someone
you know!

Also included is information on how
OSCIA is making it easier for you to
renew and pay for your memberships

Huron SCIA News

HSCIA has rented ~40 acres from the County of Huron known as the Huronview site. We have levelled this field and planted a cover crop of cereal rye, rape and tillage radish to help hold soil in place over the winter and in to the spring. We plan to no-till soybeans on this field next year and rotate back to wheat. This then gives us the opportunity to address some drainage issues on the farm. We hope that this farm will be able to showcase some of the changes that can be made on farms around Ontario and show them being out in to place on a very challenging farm. We also started a program called Cover Huron which is a program to help farmers experiment with new cover crops or try cover crops for the first time. This program was run as a pilot project as this year has been a bit of a challenge with the weather and some of the rules need to be changed to make this easier, and also more attractive for the growers/participants. We hope to continue this program next year, and also ramp it up a bit. Our AGM will be in the new year but uncertain of an exact date. We do know that we want to focus on cover crops and try and really get a more local, "Ontario" perspective than the info coming from the US on the internet. ~ courtesy Stefan Zehetner.

Contact: President Stefan Zehetner
519-902-4203
theyoungfarmer@live.com

Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Devine
519-868-8946
sharondevine@tcc.on.ca

Regional Communication Coordinator (RCC) – Heartland SCIA

The Heartland Region of the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) consists of 4 local associations including Huron, Perth, Waterloo and Wellington Counties. The Regional Communications Coordinator (RCC) is a part time position working from a home office for a not for profit organization. OSCIA has eleven RCC positions across the Ontario for each of the Director regions focused on coordinating communications within each of these regions.

Duties include:

- Responsible for creating, publishing, formatting, printing and distribution of a quarterly newsletter consisting of leading agriculture technology and significant events throughout the region.
- Establish electronic linkage using current technology and software with the OSCIA provincial office for information exchange
- Cooperate and assist with key regionally-significant events, encouraging inter county networking
- Access grant funding and encourage sponsorship and financial contributions from local industry partners
- Assist in recruitment of members through local associations, and maintain online membership database
- Provide reports, both to the provincial office and HSCIA executive, at least annually on the activities for the grants, sponsorship and event income etc. that are being administered locally and regionally.
- Itemized and timely invoicing for expenses and salary
- Regional travel required, attending field days, crop tours, annual meetings and training sessions, to take pictures, develop content for the newsletter, and report activities occurring across the region, potentially 20-30 meetings per year, days and evenings included averaging approximately 10 hours/week
- Maintain communication presence via HSCIA website/blog, Twitter and other social media promoting news and activities across the region
- Includes secretary and treasurer duties for the association, monthly balancing and yearly reporting to be submitted for review
-

Skills and Technology:

- Proven experience and ability to work cooperatively within the local volunteer agricultural community throughout the Heartland Region
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Proven word processing, creative design and progressive investigative abilities
- Equipped with computer hardware and software to efficiently manage newsletter production, email and electronic information transfer
- Newsletter design and development plus experience with websites and social media an asset
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to work within prescribed budget independently and within group environments
- High visibility and credibility in the agricultural community

The RCC is responsible for working with the regional board with members representing their local associations. Compensation to be negotiated based on performance activities and funds available. Additional opportunities exist to work in cooperation with other related organizations and projects not directly connected to the RCC position. Transportation for travel while conducting duties of the position is to be provided by the successful candidate and will be reimbursed based on mileage.

Please reply with your cover letter and resume to careers@ontariosoilcrop.org with Heartland SCIA in the subject line. Deadline to apply is December 1, 2014. Only those candidates invited for an interview will be contacted.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!



Growing Forward 2

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Growing Your Farm Profits *Planning for Business Success*

Start the business planning process by attending this FREE two-day interactive workshop.

- You will:
- Assess business management practices
 - Determine priorities and key goals
 - Develop realistic action plans
 - Learn about cost-share funding opportunities

Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

- Producers are invited to attend free EFP (Fourth Edition) Workshops to learn more about:
- Best management practices
 - Develop an action plan for their farm
 - Learn about cost-share funding opportunities

All Workshops are from 10am to 3pm

Tentative workshop dates & counties for Heartland and Georgian Central Regions

Most of the workshop locations will be determined closer to the workshop dates and the registered producers will be notified of the location.

If you can gather 8 producers together and would like an EFP in that specific area – please let me know and we will do our best to accommodate. At least 12 producers are required for a GYFP workshop.

Lois Sinclair - Regional Program Lead
519-955-3139 email: lsinclair@ontariosoilcrop.org

January

January 15 & 28	Creemore	GYFP
January 13 & 20	Stratford	EFP

February

February 12 & 19	Exeter	GYFP
February 18 & 25	Oro-Medonte	EFP

March

March 3 & 10	Brodhagen	EFP
March 5 & 12	Mount Forest	GYFP
March 18 & 25	Markdale	EFP

April

April 2 & 9	Wingham	EFP
April 15 & 22	Angus	GYFP
April 14 & 21	Maryhill	EFP

May

May 5 & 12	Fergus	GYFP
May 13 & 20	Utopia	EFP

June

June 2 & 9	Linwood	EFP
June 17 & 24	Oro-Medonte	GYFP

Register Online at www.ontariosoilcrop.org



Huron County SCIA
Perth County SCIA
Waterloo County SCIA
Wellington County SCIA

FarmSmart AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE



Saturday, January 24th, 2015

Rozanski Hall, University of Guelph



PIONEER

Presenting Sponsor

Feature Speakers:

Paul Uys



The Food Institute,
University of Guelph

Don Schiefelbein



Schiefelbein Farms,
Kimball, Minnesota

Ray Archuleta

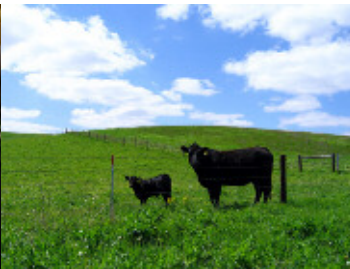


NEW! Introducing SoilSmart

Friday January 23, 2015 RIM Park, Waterloo

A full day in-depth focus on soil health and management with Ray Archuleta

"the Soil Guy", Conservation Agronomist,
USDA Natural Resource Conservation
Service and Jeff Rasaweher, Farmer,
Birmingham, Michigan.



Bayer CropScience

CountryGuide
STRATEGIC. BUSINESS. THINKING.



syngenta



JOHN DEERE

www.farmsmartconference.com

1.877.424.1300

Proudly presented by the Golden Horseshoe and Heartland Soil & Crop Improvement Associations in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, the Ontario Agricultural College, the Ontario Beef Producers and our agri-business partners.

FarmSmart Agricultural Conference
Presents

SoilSmart 2015

Friday January 23rd, 2015

A full day, in-depth focus on soil health to support viable and responsible crop production now and in the future, featuring:

- Ray Archuleta, Conservation Agronomist, USDA-NRCS, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA
- Jeff Rasawehr, Farmer, Brimingham, MI, USA
- Bill Deen, Prof. of Cropping Systems, UofGuelph, Guelph, ON

OSCIA members \$75

Non-members \$110 (includes 1 year membership)

Registration closes January 21st, 2015

Pre-registration only, NO WALK-INS!

Information, Registration & Program Details @

www.farmsmartconference.com

1-877-424-1300

RIM Park, Manulife Financial Sportsplex, Forbes Hall

2001 University Ave E., Waterloo, Ontario