



Certified Crop Adviser Program™

39 William Street, Elmira, Ontario N3B 1P3 ~ (519) 669-3350 Fax: (519) 669-3826 susan.tfio@sympatico.ca

Spring 2009 Newsletter

CCA Award of Excellence Winner

A tradition at our CCA Conference and Annual Meeting is the recognition of the nominees for the CCA Award of Excellence and the announcement of the year's winner. The winner for 2008 was John Hussack.



The 2008 CCA Award of Excellence was presented to John Hussack on January 14, 2009 at the CCA Conference and Annual Meeting in Cambridge before many of his peers. John is shown above with Wayne Myers of CropLife Canada-Ontario Council (left) and Jim Anderson of Syngenta Crop Protection, co-sponsors of the award. Photo courtesy of Adam Hayes

John Hussack was nominated for the CCA Award of Excellence by Ron Shoup of Clark Farming Ltd. John has been employed as a sales agronomist by Clark Agri Service-Wellandport since November 1996.

John graduated from Cayuga Secondary School with Honours. From there, he went on to attend the University of Guelph and obtained an Associate Diploma in Agriculture. By 1998 he had obtained his Certified Crop Adviser designation.

John is very active in his role of CCA. He attends many courses throughout the year to keep up-to-date with the advances in the agricultural industry. At the end of December 2008, John had logged an impressive 106 CEU credits; well above and beyond the required 40.

John is very involved with his community. He is the first vice-president of the Agricultural Society where he has held many positions over the past 34 years. He is a director of the local Soil and Crop Association and is the Agricultural Crop Input Industry Director on the Golden Horseshoe Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association.

John has been presented with many service awards for his dedication, service and participation in agricultural associations in and around Caledonia; for his active role in advancing technology in agriculture and assisting farmers in his community. John is a very positive and enthusiastic individual who enjoys farm groups and is highly regarded and well respected by his peers.

In addition to John's \$1,000 cash award, \$1,000 was donated to Ralph Hedley Memorial Scholarship fund. Ralph was a well-known and respected farm leader in Haldimand who tragically passed away in 1995. The Ralph Hedley Memorial Scholarship fund is available to a worthy student from Haldimand County attending their second year at an agricultural university or college. A minimum of a \$1000.00 is given out annually. Emphasis is not solely placed on academics but also on community involvement.

The other 2009 nominees were:

- **Don Mclean**, Agronomist/Crop Sales, North Wellington Co-Op
- **Merv Carter**, Field Marketer Manager, Hensall District Co-Op

Start thinking now about who you are going to nominate for this award in 2009! Contact the CCA office or visit the website (www.ccaontario.com) for nomination forms.

2010 Ontario CCA Conference and Annual Meeting

The date has been tentatively set for our 2010 Ontario CCA Conference and Annual Meeting.

January 13 & 14, 2010
Location to be determined

Based on the feedback received from this year's conference, we are currently looking at several different venues. The Kitchener-Waterloo area appears to attract more attendees but the selection of hotels able to accommodate our group is limited. We are also open to suggestions for presentation topics. If there is a topic of interest you think would be beneficial for all CCAs, please forward it to the CCA office for consideration.

Despite the gloom and doom of the economic situation and the fact that many other events were taking place at the same time, we still managed to attract over 230 people for the two-day conference. This confirms that the Ontario CCA Conference and Annual Meeting is valued by the CCA membership and is an event worth maintaining.

So, mark these 2010 dates in your calendar now. Further details regarding the location, speakers and agenda will be circulated in June.

CCA Crested Clothing – Mark's Work Wearhouse

We are pleased to inform you that you can now enter any Mark's Work Wearhouse location and have your clothing crested with the Ontario CCA logo.

To do so, all you need is an ImageWear card. Not only do you save 10% on your initial purchase, you can add the CCA logo to the garment for a small fee (approximately \$5.00). What a great way to promote not only yourself as a CCA, but the CCA program as well.

If you attended the Conference and Annual Meeting, your card was included in the presentation folder you received at registration. If you did not attend the conference, don't worry, your card is included with this newsletter. If you have lost or misplaced your card, contact the CCA office for a replacement (quantities are limited).

2009 Ontario CCA Board

As of December 31, 2008 there were three seats up for election on the Ontario CCA Board of Directors designated for Ontario CCAs duly elected by the CCA membership in Ontario. Jim Anderson had served the maximum number of consecutive terms on the Board and therefore was not eligible for re-election and Steve Redmond decided not to run for another term. There were five other candidates nominated and who agreed to let their names stand; Laura Neubrand, Deb Campbell, Anne McCordick, Terry Phillips and Charlene Whattam-Dick. **The three elected directors are: Deb Campbell, Laura Neubrand and Terry Phillips.**

Brent Kennedy has been re-assigned within OMAFRA and will no longer serve on the Board. His replacement to the CCA Board has not yet been announced.

Term ends December 31, 2009

Chris Kowalski, AGCare Farm Community
Rob Templeman* Agribusiness/Crop Input Sector
Brad Glasman Environment (Cons. Authority)
Ross Stone* Agribusiness/Crop Input Sector
Tom Welacky Agriculture and Agri-Food

Term ends December 31, 2010

Bill Deen Agricultural Research
Adam Hayes* OMAFRA Extension
Charlie Roland* Ministry of Environment
Paul Sullivan* Agribusiness/Crop Input Sector
Dale Cowan* Ontario Agri Business Association

Term ends December 31, 2011

Terry Phillips* Agribusiness/Crop Input Sector
Craig Chapple* Agribusiness/Crop Input Sector
TBA OMAFRA Management
Laura Neubrand* Agribusiness/Crop Input Sector
Deb Campbell* Agribusiness/Crop Input Sector

*CCAs

CCA Executive for 2009 and 2010:

Chair: Craig Chapple
Vice-Chair: Ross Stone
Past Chair: Paul Sullivan
Secretary- Treasurer: Susan Fitzgerald

Student Poster Contest Winners

An ongoing feature at the CCA Conference is a Scientific Poster Competition to give university students the opportunity to display their research and receive recognition for their work. This year only saw two entries.

Kelsey O'Reilly took first place with her poster: "Cover Crops Before Sweet Corn: Does This Mean Less Weeds?" and Cynthia Rougoor took second place with her poster: "Tarnished Plant Bug Damages Raspberry Fruit".

Cash awards were presented to both participants.

Posters were judged on three criteria: research and science excellence; presentation and communication of message; and potential contribution to Ontario agriculture. Visit our website (www.ccaontario.com) to view these posters and those from previous years.

Thank you to the judging committee of: Chair Ross Stone, Tom Welacky and Steve Redmond.

Conference Draw Winners

Any CCA whose business card contained the CCA logo or designation could use it as a ballot for the CCA Marketing Committee's annual draw. The following CCA was the lucky winner this year:

Cain Templeman – CCA three-in-one jacket

Other winners were:

Tarlok Singh Sahota – CCA shirt

Tim Welbanks – Fertilizer History Book

Congratulations!!!

Write an Article and Win a Coat and earn a CEU Credit!

Since 2007, the CCA Marketing Committee has been rewarding one lucky CCA who took time to write an article for the CCA column in the Ontario Farmer. For every article submitted, your name is automatically entered into a draw for a CCA 3-in-1 jacket. The draw is made at the CCA Conference and Annual Meeting every January.

This year's winner was: **Tom Bruulsema.**

We will be running this contest again so don't miss out. Articles should be 500-700 words in length, deal with any agronomic topic or issue, and not contain any company or product specific promotion. Don't worry about format or grammatical errors; we can edit that for you! You may view or download previously printed articles from our website: www.ccaontario.com. If you would like to write an article for the Ontario Farmer, contact Susan or Tina at the CCA office.

New for 2009: Your article could be worth 1.0 CEU credit.

We have discussed within the CEU Committee offering authors of CCA articles the opportunity to submit them for 1.0 CEU credit. It is not a lot of credit but at least provides some acknowledgement of the time spent in preparing the material. The stipulation is that the article must first pass the Review Committee which is our CCA Marketing Committee to ensure the content meets the agronomic criteria for our CCA column (original article, technically accurate, not product promotion, etc). Then, the author must complete a CEU application form to officially request the credit. The CEU Committee will review the article and application form to ensure the content meets the CEU Standards Guidelines for qualifying topics. If so, the author is provided with a standard CCA sign-in sheet to certify they spent at least one hour on preparing the article.

This is just another incentive to get you writing. The CEU application can be completed online or printed from the website (www.ccaontario.com).

We are in desperate need of articles suitable for June to December publishing.

CCA Exam Results

The results are in!

On February 6, 2009, 56 people gathered to write the Ontario and International CCA Exams at either Woodstock or Kemptville.

A total of 35.7% of those who wrote the Ontario exam managed to pass and 66% of those who wrote the International exam passed.

The passing exam score for Ontario was 78/120 (65%) and the International exam was 142/188 (75.5%).

In a survey conducted after the exam, those who participated in the Pre-exam Workshop in January noted that the Crop Management and Nutrient Management sections of the exam were most difficult. They also conveyed that attending the workshop was a great benefit to them in preparing for the exam.

CEU Reports and Renewals

Everyone should now have received a CEU report as at December 31, 2008 and also received your renewal notice for 2009.

Anyone whose two-year CEU cycle ended in 2008 and who did not meet the CEU requirements has been notified. Once these out of compliance reports are run through the Madison database, they will recycle the system which will bring all CEU reports up to date.

As well, you should have paid your 2009 renewal by now. If you did not receive a notice or can not remember if you paid your fee, contact Tina Hanley at 519-669-3350 or tina.tfio@sympatico.ca for assistance.

If you are attending an event for which the organizer has not applied for CEU credits, you can apply for these credits yourself by filling out an application. You will need to include a copy of the agenda and an outline of the content of the session. Applications can be retrieved off the website: www.ccaontario.com or by contacting Tina Hanley.

CEU and CCSC Reciprocity

There have been some inquiries from current CCAs who also hold the CCSC designation regarding the collection and sharing of CEUs between both organizations. We have had

some preliminary discussion on finding ways to incorporate both credits. At this time, the only components which could be shared between the two would be Crop Management (CM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). It was suggested that an additional column be added to the sign-in sheets asking for the holders' CCSC number if they wish to collect those credits. These sheets could then be faxed directly to the University of Saskatchewan for processing.

No final decision has been made, but we look forward to working out an easy process for joint CCA/CCSC holders to receive dual credit.

Signing In and Out of Events

The signing in and out of CEU accredited events operates on the honour system. You are required to sign-in before attending a session and sign-out after the session is completed or at the end of the day; whatever the case may be, to earn the credits assigned to it.

There have been several recent events where CCAs are taking advantage of this system and are signing in and out at the same time or are arriving late or leaving early.

By falsifying the sign-in sheet in this manner, you are in direct breach of the Code of Ethics you signed when becoming a CCA.

There are ways to work around this problem. If you arrive to an event late, record the time you are signing in beside your name; if you have to leave early, record the time to left beside your name.

It has also been discussed that random audits may take place during the CEU credited events. If you fail to document the sign-in sheet properly and are caught, you will not receive any credits for that event. Repeat infractions could see you faced with a Code of Ethics complaint.

New Window Decals

A re-designed window decal is now available for your vehicle. They are repositionable so when you sell you car or truck, you can remove it and place it on your new vehicle. To get yours, please contact Tina at the CCA office.



Incorporation

The CCA program has been in existence in Ontario for 12 years now. In the past year, the Executive recognized it was time to review our mandate and consider the future direction of the Ontario CCA Program.

At the April meeting, the Board approved preparation of a multi-year business plan to provide a document outlining options for future structure and activities. The Board spent time at the November meeting reviewing the plan.

The Board identified the first step in moving forward would involve incorporating the organization as many advantages would be realized in doing so. The Executive has gathered background information on proceeding with incorporation and are discussing the details with ICCA. The Ontario Board feels it is prudent to consider how we can continue to deliver exceptional value to our members, remain financially viable and continue to grow and expand the scope of the program.

The Ontario CCA Program has been a leader within the International Certified Crop Advisory (ICCA) program in terms of setting high certification standards and has strived to raise the bar to the highest level of professionalism.