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THE AGMAG

C-K's Premier Agriculture and Outdoor Living Magazine

SPRING 2013



WELCOME

Welcome to our budding first issue...
The AgMag 2013

Spring is here and soon the farmers will be out on their tractors in full force planting their first crops of the season, while many of us will be planning our home gardens and outdoor living spaces. The ground is now workably soft, the days are longer and the car windows are coming down...tis the season!

Welcome to our budding first issue of "The AgMag". When we think of Chatham-Kent we think Agriculture and how lucky we are to live in a community that cultivates such a diverse and abundant range of crops. As you read through some of the articles in this publication, you'll be amazed to learn what our farming community harvests and how we in Chatham-Kent are top producers for our province and country in much of our favourite produce.

As you turn the pages I hope you'll also be reminded that we have so many great businesses and services available right here at home that can provide us with whatever we are looking for to make our life easier on the farm, in business, and in pleasure. By investing in Chatham-Kent we truly are investing in our future.

We hope you enjoy this publication; it has been a pleasure to put together and we thank all of our advertisers for making it possible.

**We wish everyone a safe, healthy and bountiful season....
let the farming begin!**

Sincerely,

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(left to right) Hilco Tamminga (Truly Green),
John Goetz (GreenField Ethanol), Greg Devries (Truly Green)

Photography provided by:
Mark Requena Photography
www.markrequenaphotography.ca

The Art of the Outdoors. Naturally

Wayne Michaud and Nature's Pride Landscape Group

Since 1999, Wayne Michaud, Owner of Tilbury's Nature's Pride Landscape Group, has been proud to oversee the marriage of art and nature, one client at a time. A Pain Court, Ontario product, Wayne has seen area backyards as his canvases since high school, when he built on his carpentry and construction background while working alongside a local landscaper. In the years since, Wayne – now a certified horticulturist – has continued to perfect a meticulous attention to detail. "Anybody can landscape," he often says, "but the difference is in the detail."

Today, Nature's Pride's business ethos reflects a commitment to maintaining strong one-to-one customer relationships. A happily married father of three, Wayne sees Nature's Pride as an extension of the values that he holds dear in his family life. After all, "It does become very personal when you have somebody working on your property. It's all about client relations," he elaborates. "We take things to heart and pride ourselves on our relationships with our clients." To this day, Wayne still counts his very first client as one of his regulars.

Over the past decade-plus, Wayne has observed a number of homeowners across Chatham-Kent and Essex County expressing a desire to expand their living spaces into the areas outside of their homes. "People are looking for resort-type vacations in their own backyards," he explains. To this end, Nature's Pride regularly performs start-to-completion design-build projects that incorporate livable, luxurious pieces like outdoor kitchens, decks and fences, and tranquil water features. As much work as possible is always done in-house.

True to its name, Nature's Pride makes every effort to proudly use natural products and sustainable methods, whenever possible. On any given day, this could mean using real, naturally sourced rocks, mulches, and other materials, or battery-powered equipment to eliminate noise and harmful emissions. "We're trying to have less of a footprint," Wayne emphasizes.

Wayne's staff also, and perhaps most importantly, prides itself on its professionalism. "Integrity is a big, big thing," Wayne stresses, numbering fairness and regular communication among his company's core values. Of course, in landscaping, professionalism always also means cleanliness – both after and during the job. "We won't leave your property looking like a war zone," Wayne promises, at any time during a project, no matter its size.

Wayne's flexible, highly skilled staff can accommodate virtually any landscaping project in a way that is sensitive to any homeowner's budgetary and aesthetic concerns. Importantly, this staff still includes Wayne, who regularly finds the time to do hands-on work himself. Although his growing team is currently comprised by a number of exceptional landscape professionals, Wayne stresses that "Nature's Pride is always looking for even more new talent."

If you are considering expanding or beautifying your living spaces, a more comprehensive list of Nature's Pride's services is available on its website, at www.naturespride.ca.

Wayne Michaud
owner



Your Farm and...

Your Future

Article submitted by: Stanley G. Mayes

Wealth planning is sometimes difficult to contemplate but procrastination is always expensive. An experienced lawyer provides the knowledge and wise advice that is imperative to help you thrive and to prepare you for the future.

Selling your farm by tender is the most cost effective way when you want to dispose of your major asset. A law firm charges a lower percentage than a real estate broker and provides comprehensive, complete service. A skilled lawyer ensures a proper tender process, arranges advertising, receives offers, provides unbiased advice, drafts all documents and closes the transaction.

A lawyer usually works closely with your accountant to prepare your farm succession and life plans by using tax saving strategies. Trusts, wills, powers of attorney and a myriad of other legal tools are important to protect you and your family. A lawyer who will listen to what you really want is paramount; he can also assist you by co-ordinating a family meeting to discuss your plans in order to avoid problems after your death.

If a spouse dies and the survivor remarries, the survivor's will is revoked by law and a new one must be drawn up by a lawyer. New wills are also required after a divorce. When a second or subsequent marriage is contemplated, a marriage contract should be negotiated



and signed well before the wedding date. Marriage contracts protect children and assets. They also clarify the expectations of all parties. Co-habitation agreements can be prepared by a lawyer in such a way that they can become marriage contracts in the future.

The best advice about divorce is to avoid it. Marriage counseling – rather than divorce counseling – should be your first pursuit. If divorce is inevitable, no one will “win”. Correct valuations are essential; a farm is an expensive property asset and it is separate from the issues of support and custody. The recipe for resolution is: to make a fair settlement your goal; to retain two experienced family lawyers; to find the best mediator available; and to recognize that compromise by both parties will be necessary.



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Care and Quality will always direct our wines...

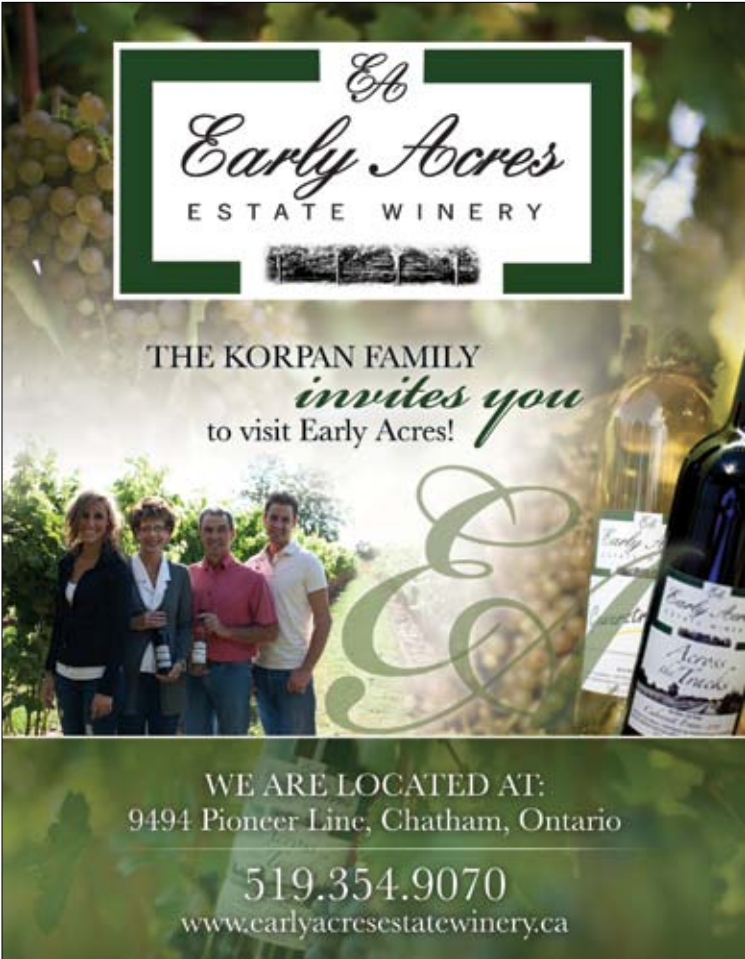
"Wining Is Our Business!"

We, at Early Acres Estate Winery, are very excited to have started our new endeavour. We (Mike, Sue, Kristen and Bryce Korpan) enjoy meeting new people, talking about our wines and sharing our journey to getting to this place in our lives.

The name "Early Acres" came from the early settlement at the location of our retail store, where our grandparents once lived and called home. The home that they built in 1949 is very near and dear to us and has given us the perfect location and atmosphere for our winery. The vineyard sits on ninety-seven acres of sandy loam which is perfectly suited to the success of our grapes. The warm summers and cool fall weather help to provide the perfect combination of flavour and body to our wines. Our seven and one-half acre vineyard has nine different varieties of grapes – some of which were harvested for the first time this past fall and we are very pleased with what we see for the year to come!

We believe in enjoying life's special moments with family and friends and invite you to stop by and share in a glass with us.

Cheers,
From our Family at EA



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Service is "Top Notch" performed by factory trained technicians who look out for our customers. In a smaller market the labour rate for service is lower than a bigger city. We take care of our customers and will not recommend any work that is not required.

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A well designed landscape means a homeowner will enjoy spending countless hours in their newfound paradise. But where does one begin? Rural Roots Landscape and Design Inc. will help you plan and create the perfect outdoor escape. As the one who will be enjoying the new haven, there are a few things to consider.



What do you envision using the space for? Will you be entertaining, relaxing, perhaps gardening? Maybe all of the above. Having an idea of how you want to use the area will determine some initial direction.

The soothing sound of water amid lush gardens; maybe a warm evening fire with romantic

lighting- these are all common and important elements to consider for your dream yard. Other elements that complete a landscape include rockery, shade structures and privacy fences, to name a few.

Everyone has a favourite flower or plant. Colours, textures, height – these are all important in creating a striking landscape. If there are any specific plants you want to include, be sure to tell your designer so they can be incorporated into the design.

Choosing a designer you feel comfortable with will make the process more enjoyable. Rural Roots Landscape and Design always makes use of a client's ideas and creates a space they truly enjoy.



Rural Roots Landscape and Design specializes in unique landscape design and professional construction. The team installs outdoor living spaces, water features, ponds, interlocking pavers, garden beds and more throughout Chatham-Kent and surrounding areas.

Individual dreams are realized after meeting with clients and assessing their site, ideas and objectives. At Rural Roots Landscape and Design we strive to build lasting relationships with our clients for years to come.



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ABOUT THE COVER

Ground Breaking Venture

We all hope when we move into a neighbourhood that we'll be blessed with good neighbours. Fortunately for the **Truly Green** greenhouse development underway on Bloomfield Road, their neighbours, **GreenField Ethanol** (located directly across the road), are also their partners in a ground breaking venture. The revolution of this partnership/project will allow **Truly Green** to channel the CO₂ that is released in the ethanol process of the **GreenField Ethanol** plant to grow food in their greenhouses, up to 22 million kilograms of tomatoes yearly!

The construction of the **Truly Green** greenhouses will be completed in four phases, ultimately with greenhouses covering 90 acres, resting on 120 acres of land. Phase 1 is well underway now which will result in a 22 ½ acre greenhouse projected to be completed in July of this year. This first phase of the project will create up to 90 direct and indirect jobs which will grow towards the 400 mark at the completion of phase 4.

Together this partnership can only strengthen the local economy, while creating jobs and helping the environment. It really is a "win-win-win" - for **CK**, **GreenField** and **Truly Green**!



Greg Devries (pictured here), owner of **Cedarline Farms** and CEO and part owner of **Truly Green**, said together with their new neighbours they are "**Truly GreenField**."

Our cover picture (left to right)
Hilco Tamminga, Greg Devries (Truly Green) John Goetz (GreenField Ethanol)

Photography provided by:
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*Profota's Farm Equipment Inc.
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Since 1949, Profota's Farm Equipment Inc. has been a family owned and operated business. The late Charles T. Profota started the business which repaired vehicles and farm equipment while also selling gas and food. It was not until 1955 that Profota's began to offer a wide variety of agricultural equipment and service, when they expanded by including a David Brown tractor dealership.

In the late 1970's Profota's Garage became Profota's Farm Equipment Inc. and has been owned and operated by Bill Profota ever since. Growing up in the family business, this has always been a part of Bill's life and he has continued to maintain it as a dependable family operated business.

Through the years, Profota's Farm Equipment Inc. product lines have grown to include McCormick and Landini Tractors, Farm King/Allied, Gregson and Hardi Sprayers, Bush Hog, Krause, Kongskilde, RJ Equipment, Brute, Unverferth and Penta as well as other product lines. Bill's family not only services the rural farming community but the urban community as well with a line of reliable Husqvarna Garden and Forestry products.

Profota's is a proud supporter of many and a staple business in our community.

From corn to beans to peppers to pickles...

TVF Farms Inc. focuses on the importance and diversity of vegetable crops

TVF Farms Inc. is a family owned and operated farm that's been rooted in Chatham-Kent since incorporating in 1964. A third generation farm operated by Don VanRoboys and son Jeff, TVF works approximately 1,600 acres of land growing a diverse mix of crops that range from your conventional corn/soybean/wheat mix; seed corn and seed beans; to an array of processing vegetables that includes cucumbers, peppers, peas, sweet corn and green beans. You could say that cucumbers, or "pickles" as they like to call them, are the core piece of their farm as TVF is the largest pickling cucumber producer in Canada.



"Our strategy has always been crop diversification with a focus on processing vegetables," says Don VanRoboys, who leads the farming side of the business. "As corn and beans fluctuate in price, processing vegetables like cucumbers and peppers have relatively stable pricing. It takes the risk out of the marketing and lets us focus on what we're good at – growing crops."



While farming is a core piece of what makes this operation thrive, they also provide post-harvest grading and receiving solutions to some of the biggest processing vegetable buyers in the province. Jeff manages this end of the business which operates under the

name The Pickle Station and their facility on Prince Albert Road has been a receiving point for cucumbers for 48 years.

"Walter Bick, founder of Bick's Pickles, bought a load of vegetables from my grandfather, Norm VanRoboys, under the condition the he set up a cucumber grading station in Chatham the following year," says Jeff. "He was able to contract out 2 million pounds of cucumbers in 1965 and we've never looked back."

After aligning themselves in 2009 with Hartung Brothers Inc, the biggest pickling cucumber handler in the United States, The Pickle Station now handles 35 million pounds of cucumbers annually. The company's core operation is to grade cucumbers by size and ship the raw product to processors like Vlasic and Heinz, all over Eastern

and Central USA. Hartung Brothers contract with 37 growers in Chatham-Kent and over 100 growers in Ontario. Sixty-five percent of all the cucumbers grown in Ontario make their way to VanRoboys' facility.

The Pickle Station has been a major employer of high school, college and university students since inception. A typical cucumber season starts the second week of July and ends September 1st. This works out well for cash-strapped students who just finished school and are looking to make some money in the summer. The Pickle Station hires over 200 students and has been a fun place to work for thousands of students over the years.

The Pickle Station also receives eight million pounds of bell peppers from August to October for Can-Am Pepper Company, the largest processing pepper buyer in Ontario. This is a new relationship as of 2010 and Jeff says Can-Am is picking up traction in Chatham-Kent. "Three years ago, I signed up 3 growers for 60 acres, and now have 12 growers for 200 acres. Our growers have found this to be a profitable, alternative crop and I'm excited to see where it's headed."



** Photographs by: Krystle VanRoboys*

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Also being offered is the award winning MKX Crossover (built and assembled in Oakville, Ontario) and later this year watch for the all-new 2014 MKC, a smaller SUV recently showcased at the Detroit, Michigan auto show.

If you're looking to accommodate a large family, the MKT (also built and assembled in Oakville, Ontario) is a large crossover and can comfortably seat seven adults! If you're looking for a more traditional SUV, then how about the Lincoln 2013 Navigator? It gives you a traditional feel with modern luxury. The Lincoln product line is simply incredible!

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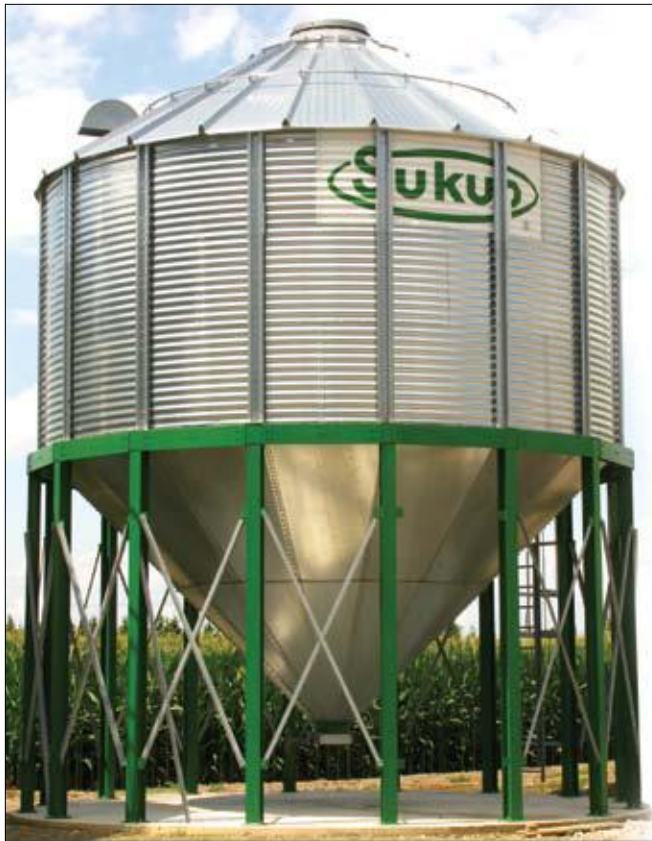


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Farming a prominent part of life for...

Devolder Farms

Agriculture is not only a prominent part of Chatham-Kent and the surrounding area but it is also a prominent part of the Devolder Family. Growing up in a farming family, Bob Devolder knew that his future would be to continue to cultivate his passion and expertise in farming.

Understanding the needs of other farmers in the area, Bob and his wife Diane founded **Devolder Farms Seeds** in 1988. Since then, **Devolder Farms** has continued to grow, process, and package quality pedigreed seed, along with retail sales of Dekalb brand soybeans and corn. **Devolder Farms** consistently processes and packages seed that meets the quality standards for purity, germination, appearance and regulatory requirements in Canada.

In more recent years, Bob and Diane have shifted the focus of their own farming operation towards growing new pedigreed seed for the Ontario agricultural community. The prime growing conditions and productive land in Chatham-Kent have provided many opportunities for success and innovation in agriculture. The Devolder Family takes great pride in working closely with companies that continue to provide new seed opportunities for Ontario and, as a result, Bob has continued to maintain his pedigreed seed grower status since 1974. This has served **Devolder Farms** well as they continued to expand their growing capabilities to include experimental varieties and select pedigreed seed plots.

In early 2005, Bob and Diane Devolder diversified their growing business with the acquisition of the farm equipment business, Lachine Farm Equipment. By 2009, the two companies were officially merged and were operating as **Devolder Farms Inc.** The Grain Handling and Equipment division of **Devolder Farms** specializes in knowledgeable and service-oriented sales and installation of grain storage, drying and handling equipment.

Devolder Farms can design, supply, fabricate and install both farm and commercial developments. The sales team at **Devolder Farms** is available to provide cost effective, performance based solutions including site consultation and computer aided design layout. The dedicated staff at **Devolder Farms** work closely with each customer to design a complete system, expansion or retrofit that best fits the needs of each individual agricultural operation.

Devolder Farms has been a growing family owned and operated business in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and has had an active presence within the farming community for over 25 years. Together, Bob and Diane Devolder have built a reputation of knowledgeable and reliable agricultural service to their customers throughout the years and plan to for years to come.

Overwinter Carrots...

Delicious and Sweet!

Editorial and photographs submitted by: Nature's Finest Produce

It is that time of year again when we are ready to harvest something so delicious and sweet - our overwinter carrots.



If you can picture a vegetable that is equal to your favourite candy, then you have to taste our carrots that have been nestled in our fields over winter.

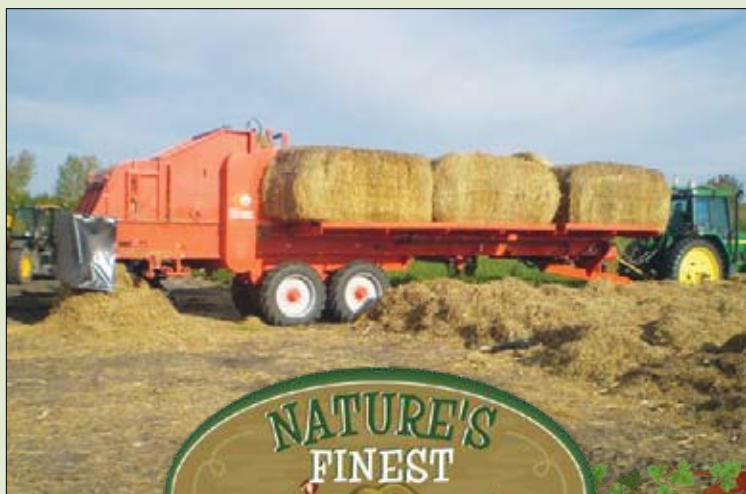
While this particular process is not new in Europe, it is still relatively new in our area. Kejay Farms has a patent pending process in order to achieve this delectable treat.

The process starts in the spring when the carrots are planted. During the fall our team starts insulating the carrots with beds of straw and biodegradable

plastic. This creates a natural cold storage for the carrots. As the tops of the carrots start to decompose under the plastic and straw the sugars start to pull back into the root of the carrot allowing them to become super sweet.

The carrots are uncovered when it is time to harvest, usually during the months of March and April.

Be sure to look for these tasty treats in your local Loblaw's market under our brand, Nature's Finest Produce, packed here in Pain Court, Ontario.



www.naturesfinestproduce.ca



CARROTS

They are great raw, steamed & boiled or how about...grilled on the BBQ

What you will need:

2 ¼ tsp. kosher salt

12 medium sized carrots (6 to 8 inches long and about 1 inch wide at the stem) cleaned and trimmed

3 tbsp. unsalted butter

2 tbsp. honey or maple syrup

The zest of ½ of a large orange

2 tsp. balsamic vinegar

2 tbsp. fresh chopped parsley

Fill a large pot with water and add 2 tsp. of kosher salt; bring to a boil. Add the carrots to the boiling water and cook 4 to 6 minutes. Carrots should still be a bit crisp. Remove from water and place in an ice bath, then let them drain.

It's now time to get your BBQ ready – when the time comes, you will want to grill the carrots on direct medium heat (350°F to 450°F) for approximately 5 minutes.

While waiting for your grill to get to temperature, combine your butter (melted), honey, orange zest, vinegar and ¼ tsp. of kosher salt. Add your carrots and toss to cover them evenly. Using your tongs let the mixture drip from the carrots and then lay them directly on the prepared grill, and keep the remaining sauce to one side.

Keep your lid closed as much as possible (open only to turn the carrots occasionally). After approximately 5 minutes (give or take a minute) remove from grill and put the carrots back into the remaining sauce, toss, garnish with fresh parsley and serve immediately!

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Chatham-Kent Communities in Bloom

Communities in Bloom (CiB) is about far more than just flowers and Chatham-Kent's volunteer committee would like to use this AgMag opportunity to especially thank those that live and work in our rural areas for their contributions to our 2010 National CiB Win and therefore also CK's qualification into this year's international competition.

CiB takes into consideration activities of the entire community on their achievements in eight categories which ultimately characterize a flourishing or blossoming community.

1. Tidiness
2. Environmental Action
3. Heritage Conservation
4. Urban Forestry
5. Landscaped Areas
6. Turf and Groundcover Areas
7. Floral Displays
8. Community Involvement

Marked on what a municipality, its citizens, businesses, and service groups are collectively doing, the efforts of our farming operations and rural homes add to both our residential and our business scores in virtually all the judging criteria.

The national judges have been specifically impressed by:

- "the high level of road side maintenance in rural areas"
- how our "crops are beautiful ground cover"
- the people they met "in the agricultural industry and...how seriously they take the responsibility of being good stewards of the land"
- the "overriding perception" that this is "an extremely tidy municipality"

Some further examples of what CiB proudly relays to the judges is our use of cover crops, crop rotation, no-til planting, nutrient management, participation in the Ontario Environmental Farm Plan, our natural restoration and reforestation projects, and CK's Buy Local, Buy Fresh Campaign.

Whether at your home or business, in town or in the country...**won't you help us commemorate the War of 1812 by adding a splash of Red Geraniums, CK CiB's Flower of the Year**, to your front yard?

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Together, we can grow a stronger agricultural community.

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fly the flag



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Help support local programs through the Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise by purchasing a flagpole and "Fly the Flag". Your purchase will not only show that you are a proud Canadian, it will also benefit your community since the funds raised will go into local programs such as literacy, environmental and youth programs.

Beautify your yard, your farm or your business with one of our high quality aluminum anodized flagpoles. There are several lengths from which to choose from, and we can assure you that there will be a style that will fit every application. If you have always wanted to "Fly the Flag", but thought that it was too difficult to install, don't worry because we can install it for you. Our experienced installer will visit your location, assist you in deciding on the best location and arrange the installation.

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or email - info@rotarysunrise.com

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Bob Kennedy has built his successes on honest, reliable service. "We won't simply sell you equipment," Bob states, but rather "make you feel a part of the Water Elite family." We are small enough to care yet large enough to have buying power so you always get the best value for your money.

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Rob Murphy has been installing and servicing equipment for over 15 years with Water Elite so you can feel secure in knowing that if or when your system needs servicing that a seasoned veteran is there for you. His knowledge and expertise is a huge asset to Water Elite and ultimately to YOU!

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Chatham-Kent and Agriculture...

Did you know?

From the desk of:
Mr. Kim Cooper
Economic Development Officer
Agriculture Specialist
Municipality of Chatham-Kent



Chatham-Kent and agriculture. What's the big deal? What is agriculture all about, anyway? Well, agriculture is a fast moving, quickly changing, innovative sector in every part of the world. Here in Chatham-Kent, agriculture is a \$3 billion sector. That is huge!

Agriculture is about growing crops and raising livestock. But agriculture is also about Integrated Pest Management, variable rate application, GPS systems, and so much more.

Many Chatham-Kent citizens, especially younger ones, have no rural roots. Born and raised in the city leaves little opportunity to explore or understand how agriculture impacts our daily lives. Here in Chatham-Kent, we

have a rich farm heritage. Our growers are the best anywhere in the world in terms of knowledge, expertise, experience, and care for the food products they bring to us and the land they farm. We have some of the best soil in Canada, capable of growing anything from soybeans to sour cherries, corn to cucumbers, or raising anything from cattle to sheep, or pork to quail.

Our Chatham-Kent producers are continually taking courses and attending workshops to make sure they're up to date with the latest technologies and farming practices. We are privileged to have the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus as a hub of agricultural research and learning, both for our local producers and those across our province.



One of the many advantages of living in Chatham-Kent is all our communities are surrounded by farmland. In fact, 84% of Chatham-Kent is used for farming purposes. So wherever you live, you just need to drive a few minutes into our beautiful countryside to see first-hand our agricultural sector in action.

So just how important is agriculture in Chatham-Kent? Did you know that Chatham-Kent is:

- NUMBER ONE in tomato production in all of Canada?
- NUMBER ONE in seed corn production in all of Canada?
- NUMBER ONE in pumpkin production in all of Canada?
- NUMBER ONE producer of carrots in all of Canada?
- NUMBER ONE in black tobacco production in all of Canada?
- NUMBER TWO in Brussels sprouts production in all of Canada?
- NUMBER ONE in sugar beet production in all of Ontario?
- NUMBER ONE in green pea production in all of Ontario?
- NUMBER ONE in broccoli production in all of Ontario?
- NUMBER ONE in lavender production in all of Ontario?
- NUMBER ONE in cauliflower production in all of Ontario?
- NUMBER ONE in quail production in all of Ontario?
- NUMBER TWO in cucumber production in all of Canada?
- NUMBER TWO in field pepper production in all of Ontario?
- NUMBER TWO in banana pepper production in all of Ontario?
- NUMBER TWO in sweet potato production in all of Ontario?



Photo submitted by: CK CiB

Photo submitted by: CK CiB



Did you know that Chatham-Kent:

- Is home to Wheatley, the world's largest commercial fresh water fishing port in the world?
- Produces approximately 20% of all vegetables grown in Ontario?
- Produces approximately 25% of all green peas grown in Ontario?
- Produces approximately 25% of all cucumbers grown in Ontario?
- Is 90% rural by area, but only 30% of the population of 104,000 live in rural areas?
- Now accounts for 5.4% of Ontario's total greenhouse area?

Agriculture is a leading economic driver here in Chatham-Kent and continues to not only grow crops, but also to grow jobs. In fact, agriculture creates over 16,000 jobs throughout Chatham-Kent.

We are fortunate in our community to have many great sectors and leaders, including those in agriculture, manufacturing, commercial enterprises, research and innovation, and so many more. Chatham-Kent agriculture has a valued history, and with our innovative producers, agriculture will continue to have a valued future here in our community.



Photo submitted by: Krystle VanRoboys

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New For Fall 2013



New Academic Program available...

At OAC's Ridgetown Campus

Career opportunities in Ontario's greenhouse sector are growing and OAC's Ridgetown Campus has developed a new academic program to address the growing need for trained greenhouse growers and assistant growers, as well as additional professional jobs in this expanding global agribusiness market. Ridgetown Campus is encouraging applicants and general inquiries about their new Greenhouse Production Management Certificate.

Individuals considering further training or a career change can find program details at www.ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca/future/programs_cgpm.cfm. The first offering of the 16-month program is planned for delivery this September.

The new academic program will focus on students learning the practical skills and latest techniques to manage greenhouse vegetable production of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and other specialty greenhouse vegetable crops. The program will allow students to complete industry certifications that will make them more "job ready" for employers. Students will also have the opportunity to learn while earning during the two four-month paid greenhouse work-placement semesters. Interested parties are encouraged to apply to Ontario Colleges at www.ontariocolleges.ca as soon as possible.

Farmer, Innovator, Explorer, Family Man...

A Legend Passes On

Many times you hear someone being referred to as a "Giant." To say that Brian Fox was a giant of the agriculture industry in Ontario is completely true, but one of the most interesting facts about this man is that he was a giant in so many aspects of his life. It did not matter if it was farming, family, travel, or life in general – this man led a "giant's" life.



Most people knew Brian as the President of Fox Farms, an operation that farms 4,000 acres in Southern Ontario. Few people can remember when sugar beets were not commonplace in Chatham-Kent, but it was not that long ago that Brian and three other local growers started growing 350 acres of sugar beets for the Michigan Sugar Company. Today there are over 90 farmers working more than 10,000 acres in our area.

When the news of his passing circulated it was confirmed that he was in Athens, Greece. This seemed only appropriate given that Brian travelled to over 50 countries across the globe. One trip that was truly memorable was taken with his son Jason where they drove from Chatham-Kent to the end of the road in Central America, a round trip of about 15,000kms and the first leg of a drive to the tip

of South America. Brian always embraced any new culture or concept.

As with any farmer, Brian was more than what appeared on the surface, and had some interesting past experience. Brian was a professional engineer, who at one time or another during his career, was the President of Waltec Engineering, Waltec Plastics and EMCO Door and Windows and was Chairman of the Board for TNR Doors.



This Agriculturist of the Year and his wife Jeanne raised three children in Chatham-Kent and got to see them all get married and have children. According to the family, even as busy as life kept him, he always had time for them and enjoyed travelling with them whenever he could.



We want to dedicate this first issue of The AgMag to not just an extraordinary farmer, but an exceptional human being. We think our thoughts were best said by the first comment on Brian's funeral tribute, by his son Jason: "You will be sorely missed, but you taught us well and were a shining example of who we should be."



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