

AGENDA

Ontario First Nations Agri-Food Conference

August 19-20, 2009

Wednesday, August 19

7:45 – 9:00 am Buffet Breakfast – Creelman Hall

Session One – Rozanski Hall, Room 103 Chairman William J. Brant

- 9:00 – 9:10 am **Opening Ceremonies** Elder
- 9:10 – 9:15 am **Welcome** Indian Agricultural Program of Ont.
University of Guelph
- 9:15 – 9:30 am **“In the Beginning”** William J. Brant, Chairman, Indian
Agricultural Program of Ontario
A brief PowerPoint review of history of First Nations agriculture in Ontario
- 9:30 – 10:00 am **“Unfolding the Future”** Phil Fontaine, National Chief
First Nations agriculture in Canada has a dynamic future with unlimited potential. This sector will be one of economic importance to all First Nations communities as resources are developed and utilized.
- 10:00 am **End of Session Announcements**

10:00 – 10:30 am Health Break – Foyer of Rozanski Hall
& Display Area Open

Session Two – Rozanski Hall, Room 103 Chairman **To be Announced**

- 10:30 – 11:00 am **Growing Your Own Food – Feeding Your Community** Lorne Jamieson, Ignatius Farm
Societal changes are placing importance on consuming local, fresh and quality food products. Ignatius Farm will discuss the need for growing your own food. The farm has projects that successfully involve the community.
- 11:00 – 11:30 am **Changing Consumer Preferences** Kenneth W. Knox,
Innovation Institute of Ontario
This speaker will be challenged to leave participants with the idea that today's traditional farm production system may not be the way of the future. Discussion includes a hands-on approach with specific examples of changes that have occurred or are in progress in mainstream agriculture. Farmers must be always thinking about the future of their own businesses.
- 11:30 – 12:00pm **Agri-Food – Agri-Forestry Biomass Developments** Ian McDonald, OMAFRA
Ian will provide a very basic introduction to new opportunities that are developing with the shift to green energy. This shift poses positive challenges for First Nations agriculture. The theme of this presentation will provide the basis for a more in depth discussion during the afternoon sessions.

12:00 – 1:15 pm Lunch Break – Creelman Hall

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Session Three – Rozanski Hall (Concurrent Sessions)

Chairman **To be Announced**

1:15 – 2:00 pm **Markets and Costs Affect Your Decisions** **Speaker – Colin Reesor**

Session will continue the morning theme of a changing world and consumer demand but will empower farmers how to implement change into their farm businesses in a profitable way. The presenter will incorporate the need for good records and business skills in his presentation. Colin Reesor is a farmer in the Walkerton area. His delivery and content is always thought provoking.

or

1:15 – 2:00 pm **Community Garden Concepts** **Lorne Jamieson, Ignatius Farm**

Session will provide details of starting and maintaining productive gardens both for community and personal use. The presenter will assess organic, pesticide free and conventional food production systems. The afternoon tour will provide in field support for this presentation.

2:15 – 3:00 pm **Adding Value – Beef Connections** **Brittney Livingston, Beef Improvement Ontario**

Agri-food producers need to consider opportunities of adding value to their products to improve the bottom line. Session will demonstrate an approach by several farmers to capitalize on new consumer needs and desires. Session will reveal successes and pitfalls of this venture.

or

2:15 – 3:00 pm **Biomass – How it Might Affect Your Community** **Ian McDonald, OMAFRA**

Presentation will provide detail about recent developments related to Biomass. The presentation will focus on potential for First Nations in regard to biomass products such as pelletization of wood and crop products. Presentation will present pitfalls to look out for such as lack of marketing infrastructure to date. This will be an interesting discussion of new cash flow opportunities.

3:00 – 3:15 pm **Health Break – Foyer of Rozanski Hall
& Display Area Open**

Tours (Four Concurrent Tours)

3:15 – 6:15 pm **U of G Campus Walking Tour**
To be organized for spouses and children and those not wanting to participate on one of the bus tours.

or

3:15 – 6:15 pm **Growing Your Own Food** **Tour Host – Marianne Karsh, Ignatius Farm**
Participants will be bused to Ignatius Farm and tour community garden projects. Tour will provide a general introduction to community garden concepts and community shared agriculture. This is a great tour for community food production and garden enthusiasts.

or

3:15 – 6:15 pm **Elora Research Station “Beef Focus” Tour** **Tour Host – Charlie Watson**
Participants will be bused to Elora research station for a tour focused on beef production. Pasture management and other beef management techniques will be viewed on this tour.

or

3:15 – 6:15 pm **Elora Research Station “Crops Focus” Tour** **Tour Host – Ian McDonald, OMAFRA**
Participants will travel by bus to Elora Research Farm for a crops focused tour that will include viewing biomass plots of switch grass and miscanthus as well as other selected practical sites of interest. University of Guelph is a leader in crop production system research in Ontario. You will experience and enjoy the cropping area.

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BBQ – Creelman Hall

- 6:30 – 8:00 pm **Reception and Dinner**
Weather permitting, the reception will be held outdoors at Creelman Hall with a cash bar available. Enjoyable entertainment from Six Nations will precede a delicious buffet style roast beef dinner.
- 8:00 – 8:45 pm **Keynote Speaker..... TED NOLAN**
Ted Nolan utilizes his skills as a mentor and motivational speaker to navigate between the aboriginal community and the corporate boardroom. Ted learned resilience and pride in his Anishinabek heritage. He envisions a world in which aboriginal youth will be empowered as leaders in the 21st century. **You will want to hear Ted Nolan's address!**

Thursday, August 20

7:45 – 9:00 am Buffet Breakfast – Creelman Hall

8:30 – 9:00 am Display Area Open

Session Four – Rozanski Hall, Rm 103 Chairman Amanda Peeling

- 9:00 – 10:15 am **Agri-Food Leaders of the Future – Intro by Rebecca Martin**
- 1. Wiky – Gardens/Fruit Genevieve Eshkibok**
Gen is coordinator of her community's growing your own food initiative at Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island. Gen's community has taken an innovative and long range approach to improve diets through locally grown food.
 - 2. Cultural Business Scott Hill**
As owner of Native Hill Foods Scott purchased and expanded the family business that grows and sells lyed Indian white corn products. This is a community based business that adds value and profitability.
 - 3. Carving Your Path Kyle Garlow**
Kyle is owner of Kyle Garlow's Truck and Farm Equipment Repair. After obtaining education and certification for equipment repair Kyle has proceeded to operate a profitable business which in turn has allowed him to develop an expanding farm cropping business in his community.
 - 4. Livestock Opportunity Joe Naokwegijig**
Mentoring from both a father and uncle has allowed Joe to follow the family history of beef production. Joe is able to use off farm income while the farm expands to a profitable level. Joe demonstrates patience and dedication in pursuit of his goal.

10:15 -10:30 am Health Break – Foyer of Rozanski Hall
& Display Area Open

10:30 - 11:00 am **Panel Discussion Moderator- Amanda Peeling**

11:00 - 11:15 am **Summarizing Our Future Barry Hill**
Barry Hill will summarize future agricultural opportunities.

11:15 - 11:40 am **Growing Foods for Our Future Carolyn King**
Speaker will summarize growing your own food themes discussed at the conference with reference to the future.

11:40 – 12:05pm **IAPO- final comments TBA**

12:05 – 1:00 pm Lunch – Creelman Hall