



# CFBA News

Newsletter of the Canadian Farm Builders Association

Summer 2009

## **CFBA President's Report**

2009 is providing challenges and opportunities for the CFBA and our industry. We have not faced such a dramatic economic downfall in many years. During times like these, our Association and Members are facing extraordinary financial pressures, not to mention having to closely examine expenditures and set priorities. This is definitely not an enjoyable time and times such as these require a strong, unified voice for our industry. The CFBA continuously monitors its operations to provide the best value for your membership dollar.

Gone are the days when contractors could virtually hide behind the barn doing their thing! Lack of knowledge in matters of safety, accident prevention and accident reporting is a thing of the past.

As a contractor, are you aware that one employee lost day claim to the *WSIB* will result in costs of 10's of thousands of dollars assessed to your company. This and not providing a safe working environment can result in huge fines and possible job closures.

The Board of the CFBA is investigating every option to provide educational programs, services and solid information to their members to assist them with the day-to-day operation of their business. The pressure on contractors by owners to reduce costs is intense, but they should *not* be allowed to undermine accepted practices and protocols in our industry. We must continue to strive to provide final durability and value in all that we construct.

One recent example of the CFBA listening to their members occurred when contractors expressed concerns when dealing with Municipal Building Officials. The matter was put forward at our next Board meeting and **Sean Henry, P. Eng. Tacoma Engineers** offered to host a presentation for the City of Hamilton, Building Officials. He approached **John Johnson, P. Eng. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs** to assist him in setting up and presenting a suitable program. The content was so well received two sessions had to be arranged to accommodate all that wished to attend. Each presentation (a 2 hour morning and afternoon session) was well attended by many of the plans examiners and building inspectors (approx. 25+ people per session).

The following topics were covered:

- a. NFBC/OBC issues
- b. Commonly seen issues with farm structures (current hot topics)
- c. Wind bracing options and issues in farm structures
- d. Issues with manure storage tanks, use of liners and using proper pipe connections for transfer systems.
- e. Mixed occupancy issues on farms and truss bracing

Sean commented that the presentations went well and it was good to get some face time with the building department, but it was difficult to get questions/discussion going.

**"Again many thanks" to Sean Henry and John Johnson** for taking time from their busy schedules to assist our members by putting on this educational program. The next time plans are put forth to the City of Hamilton; Planning Department time will be saved for our members because of the better understanding of terminology and designs relating to agricultural work.

Have a profitable summer and work safe...it's a jungle out there. Joe

Huron - Bruce  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
June 2009

**COMING EVENTS AND DATES OF INTEREST**

- July 2 & 3, 2009 – Farm\$mart Exposition
- July 8 & 9 – Southwest Crop Diagnostic Day
- July 10 – 12 – Ontario Family Fishing Weekend.
- July 25 - 27 – Zurich Fair
- Aug 7, 8, 9 – Dungannon Fair
- August 11 – 13 – International Goat Symposium
- Aug 14 & 15 – Bayfield Fair
- Aug 16 – 19 – AMO – Association of Municipalities of Ontario - Ottawa
- Aug. 21 & 22– Zurich Bean Festival
- Aug. 24 - 30 – Tastes of Huron Food Festival
- August 24 – 28 – Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario 2009 Bus Tour
- Aug 27, 28 - The Annual Huron County Plowing Match
- September 8, 2009 – Swine Liquid Feeding Association Fall Producer Meeting.
- Sept 11, 12, 13 – Seaforth Fair
- Sept. 12 – Stratford Garlic Festival
- Sept 15 / 16 – Brussels Fair
- September 15 – 17 – Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show
- September 22 – 26 – International Plowing Match and Rural Expo
- Oct 2, 3, 4 – Howick Fair
- Oct 15 – Women’s Institute London Area Convention,
- Oct. 16 – World Food Day
- Oct 30 – Bruce County Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting
- Nov. 6 – 15 – Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto
- February 2 – 3, 2010 – Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting

**AREA NEWS & INFORMATION**

- LOCAL FAIRS - [www.ontariofairs.com](http://www.ontariofairs.com)
- HURON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- HURRAY HURON COUNTY!!!
- LOCAL AGRI-FOOD INNOVATORS CELEBRATED – CONGRATULATIONS!
- Enviro Mushroom Farm Inc. – Milton
- Jim Shea – Dublin
- Bert Fisher Farms Limited – Listowel
- Hilton Soy Foods – Staffa
- Oakridge Acres Country Meat Store – Ayr
- Best Baa Farm – Conn

**AREA NEWS & INFORMATION - Continued**

- Lawrence Brubacher – Harriston
- Ontario Farm Animal Council – Guelph
- 2009 SOUTHWEST CROP DIAGNOSTIC DAY
- GROWING FORWARD INFORMATION SESSIONS HAVE BEEN PLANNED FOR GROWERS AND • FOOD PROCESSORS.
- THE FCC AGRISPIRIT FUND
- ETHNIC & SPECIALTY FOOD EXPO
- PROTECT YOUR HORSE FROM THE WEST NILE VIRUS!
- AWARD-WINNING CBC BROADCASTER BOB MCDONALD COMING TO OUR REGION TO SPEAK ON WATER, AIR PROTECTION
- LIVESTOCK HANDLING TO REDUCE STRESS
- ANNOUNCING THE FIRST CLINIC TO BE OFFERED BY REACH
- NEW SERIES OF WORKSHOPS FROM HURON SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE
- ONTARIO MARKET INVESTMENT FUND
- PROMOTE LOCAL FOODS WITH THE ONTARIO MARKET INVESTMENT FUND

**Factsheets / Publications**

- Windrow Composting of Poultry Carcasses
- Nutrient Management Act, Incineration of Dead Farm Animals
- Garlic Production
- Downy Mildew in Greenhouse Cucumber
- Field Pocket Guide (revised)
- Agronomy Guide for Field Crops
- Ontario Crop IPM
- Crop Pest Newsletter
- Horse News and Views
- Animal Health Newsletter
- Vegetable Newsletter
- Ontario Berry Grower
- Pork News and Views Newsletter
- Hort. Matters Newsletter
- On Organic
- FoodlandOntario

## New Sound Advice Reports

[http://www.omBlack Rot Cankers in Apples](http://www.omBlackRotCankersinApples.com), by Michael Celetti ([michael.celetti@ontario.ca](mailto:michael.celetti@ontario.ca))  
Plant Pathologist, Horticulture Crops Program Lead, OMAFRA, Guelph

- Phosphorus Management on Muck Soils, by Donna Speranzini ([donna.speranzini@ontario.ca](mailto:donna.speranzini@ontario.ca)), Nutrient Management Specialist – Horticulture, OMAFRA, Vineland
- Scout Training, cropIPM and Pest Deregulation, by Jennifer Allen, Provincial Vegetable Crop Specialist, OMAFRA ([jennifer.allen@ontario.ca](mailto:jennifer.allen@ontario.ca))
- It Pays to Learn about Nitrogen, by Janice LeBoeuf, Vegetable Crop Specialist, OMAFRA, Ridgeway ([janice.leboeuf@ontario.ca](mailto:janice.leboeuf@ontario.ca))
- Integrated Pest Management And Monitoring, by Margaret Appleby, IPM Systems Specialist, OMAFRA, Brighton ([margaret.appleby@ontario.ca](mailto:margaret.appleby@ontario.ca))

## OMAFRA INFORMATION

Ontario Proposes New Rules For Green Energy Projects; *McGuinty Government Invites Public Input*  
Ontario Market Investment Fund; *Promote local foods with the Ontario Market Investment Fund (OMIF)*  
Growing Forward – Food Safety and Traceability Initiative Information Meetings

## OMAFRA RESOURCES

Many new web and printed factsheets  
Field Pocket Guide, 2009 Field Crop Budgets, Agroforestry Series Volume 2 – Establishing Tree Cover  
Field Crop Protection Guide 2009-2010 (\$15.00)  
June Horse News and Views  
Keeping Your Birds Healthy Free Resource Kit  
NMAN 2.1 Released

## TRAINING/EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Livestock Handling to Reduce Stress and Preventing Behavioural Problems in Your Horse  
Hay & Straw Buy/Sell Services  
FarmSmart Farming Systems Expo 2009  
FarmSmart Youth Expo 2009  
OMSPA Summer Tour, Conference & Trade Show  
36<sup>th</sup> Annual Pork Congress  
2009 Southwest Crop Diagnostic Day  
New Memorial Scholarship Announced by Canadian Outstanding Young Farmers Program  
Dateline...

## OXFORD COUNTY INFORMATION

Oxford Farm Safety Association Family Safety Day  
Nomination Forms Available for 2010 Agricultural Awards of Excellence  
The FCC Agrispirit Fund  
Norwich Farmers' Market Has It All!

## AGRICULTURAL ARTICLES

Farm Safety Resources  
New On-Farm Dead Animal Disposal Regulations in Ontario

## OTHER RESOURCES

Productivity Improvement Using Microsoft Outlook  
Working Smart With Blackberry

By: Kim DeKlein  
Regional Information Coordinator  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
401 Lakeview Drive, Unit A  
Woodstock, ON N4T 1W2  
Telephone: 519-537-8078  
Fax: 519-539-5351  
Email: [kim.deklein@ontario.ca](mailto:kim.deklein@ontario.ca)  
Website: [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)

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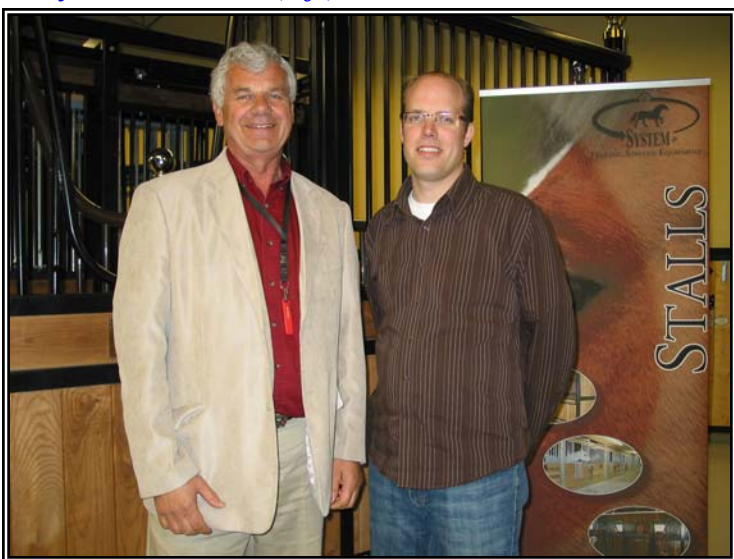
Head Office:  
226 Boida Ave Ayr, ON N0B 1E0  
Phone: (519) 624-8267  
Email: [info@concretepumping.ca](mailto:info@concretepumping.ca)

## **System Fencing Open House Features Farm Builders**

*Karen Dallimore - Words For Hire*

CFBA members Gary Van Bolderen of Dutch Masters Construction and Herman Post of Post Construction teamed up in a seminar to review the recommended steps for the building a horse barn, from permits to interior barn design considerations, as part of the Spring Open House and Education Days at System Fencing in Rockwood on May 1 & 2. Both builders emphasized the need for thoughtful planning to keep projects on time and on budget. As Post says, there's lots of kitchen table planning that goes into a good barn. The two-day event offered seminars on horse health and barn ventilation by guest speakers Gayle Ecker and Susan Raymond from Equine Guelph, who also brought their well-known Equimania interactive horse education display for the kids. "It's a long-term investment in education," says Dwayne Job, owner of System Fencing, who wanted to include something for different age and interest groups in the open house agenda. "In 20 years those kids will be our customers." To add some excitement Job also converted part of the System Fencing yard into a Bull-pen with specially built fencing and chutes, to host a Dodge Rodeo Bull Buck Out, on Saturday afternoon, where cowboys from Canada, Brazil and Argentina, rode some tough bulls to compete for a \$1,000 jackpot.

***Gary Van Bolderen (left) and Herman Post***



***Cowboys compete for \$1,000 Jackpot in the Dodge Rodeo Bull Buckout at System Fencing in Rockwood.***

*Karen Dallimore is a freelance writer based in Orton, ON. If you need any writing assignments done - stories about unique projects, advertising and promotional material, portfolios, writing for your website, or even just a 'Dear John' letter you don't want to pen yourself - she can be reached by e-mail at [wordsforhire@sympatico.ca](mailto:wordsforhire@sympatico.ca) or by phone at 519-855-1127.*

Construction in Ontario - June 2009 Edition

COCA Developing New Strategic Road Map for the New Reality

Recognizing the new economic reality of today and further to a motion passed at the April 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting regarding the development of a new strategic plan for COCA, on Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> a representative group of nine dedicated, experienced and knowledgeable COCA members and the COCA staff met at the Centre for Health and Safety Innovation to lay the ground work for a new road map into the future for COCA.



New Tory Leader to be Announced at Convention

The quest for the leadership of the Ontario PC Party will conclude at a convention on June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at the Markham Convention Centre. On June 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> party members have the opportunity to cast their ballots at polling stations in ridings across the province and the winner will be announced at the convention in Markham.

WSIB developing Mandatory Coverage operational regulations

The WSIB Revenue Divisions has established a working group and has begun developing operational regulations legislated to come into effect in 2012 as part of Bill 119, an *Act to amend the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*.

New President Takes Over at TTMGO

The Board of Directors has elected Rick Giacomini as President and Director of the Terrazzo, Tile & Marble Guild of Ontario, Inc. (TTMGO), effective May 12, 2009. Mr. Giacomini, Vice-President of Toronto-based Gem Campbell Terrazzo & Tile Inc. and President of Gem Campbell (Eastern) Inc., joined the company as Controller in 1995 and was promoted to VP in 1999. He has a strong management and financial background and brings over 26 years of industry experience to the table.



April Building Permits Erase March Gains, stimulus funding remains a novel notion

After a one month reprieve, April building permits declined 5.4% from March to a value of \$4.3 billion. Lower demand for commercial construction permits in Ontario and institutional permits in British Columbia were largely responsible for the total value of non-residential permits to decline 14.4% to a value of \$2 billion, easily outpacing a modest 4.1% increase in residential permits valued at \$2.3 billion.

Rollout of WSIB New Service Delivery Model Complete

The WSIB completed its rollout of its *New Service Delivery Model* at the end of April. Now that the program has been fully implemented, the WSIB will be contacting various industry stakeholders seeking user feedback on the performance and effectiveness of the program.



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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

CFBA's ANNUAL GOLF DAY

Wednesday August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Grey Silo Golf Course

Registration Form Attached

## HST'S IMPACT ON CONSTRUCTION



Although the new Ontario Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) comes into force July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, it could affect current and upcoming construction projects much sooner. Here's why.

### **General Impact**

The decision to remove the Retail Sales Tax (RST) benefits

construction and related service companies, as well as their customers who are involved in commercial activities. Because many companies can claim tax credits for real-property purchases. HST should not affect these businesses. Individuals, financial institutions, private health-care providers, public-sector bodies and many other groups, however, will bear most of the new tax's burden. These groups will not be able to recover the cost of the new fully, and will pay more for services as a result.

### **Implications for project timing**

While the HST will not come into effect for another year, it may have an immediate impact on construction-project planning. GST-taxable goods or services (such as engineering, landscaping, architectural design, environmental assessments, project management, and legal and accounting services) are not currently subject to RST. Buyers of these services will therefore incur increased tax costs after July 1, 2010. To avoid paying additional amounts of non-recoverable tax, purchasers may consider moving up the start dates of their real property construction projects or prepaying for related services. Conversely, consumers of construction or renovation projects who will be able to fully recover the HST may delay the start of new projects to realize the financial benefits of the new tax.

### **What Can Your Business Do Now?**

Although HST's introduction seems a long way off, you should start to consider the tax's effects on your business. Some questions you may want to address include:

- What is HST's financial impact on current projects and upcoming bids?
- How will the tax affect project timing?
- Will the transition from the RST to HST lower or increase my costs?
- Are my current client contracts on a tax-included or a tax-excluded basis?
- Are my suppliers' contracts on a tax-included or a tax-excluded basis?
- How will my clients be affected if they cannot fully recover the HST?
- How will my financing arrangement be affected?
- What is the impact to holdbacks and prepayments?
- What systems changes do I need to institute?
- What planning opportunities are available to minimize the impact of the new tax?

*This article was written by Michael Matthews, an associate partner at Deloitte. He may be contacted at [Mikmatthews@deloitte.ca](mailto:Mikmatthews@deloitte.ca)*



## An update on WSIB's new return-to-work regulation

In a previous issue of *Construction Comment*, area contractors learned that the 10 year wait for a return-to-work (RTW) regulation under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act* was finally over. *Ontario Regulation 35/08* came into effect last year, and it applies to all workplace injuries occurring on or after September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

The regulation should be looked at as consisting of two main components. The first pertains to the employer's RTW obligation, the other deals with the re-employment obligation.

These two obligations – related, but distinct – have different histories and consist of very different requirements. However, since both apply to the same situation – the period of time following a workplace injury – employers must consider the conditions for each obligation as distinct.

### **RTW Obligation**

The RTW obligation – also known as the duty to co-operate in early and safe return to work – has been around for more than 10 years, but this branch of the regulation is not well known or well understood.

Part II of the new regulation, which pertains to the RTW obligation, explains little about employer and employee obligations in this regard.

Once the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) releases its new RTW policies, however, we can expect to have more detail both on requirements and the penalties for failure to comply.

These RTW policies are said to be finalized and ready for release, however, they are apparently being temporarily held back to allow the dust to settle following the WSIB's recent switch to the New Service Delivery Model.

### **Re-employment Obligation**

The re-employment obligation dates back nearly 20 years, and its requirements have become more or less a part of the landscape of an employer's do's and don'ts following a workplace injury. The new RTW regulation, however, has significantly rewritten the previous version of the re-employment regulation, with some significant changes.

Part III of the new regulation sets out, among other things, the duration of the obligation, the employer's duty to accommodate the work or the workplace, as well as the circumstances in which employers will be presumed to have breached the obligation.

Part IV covers the obligation when dealing with unionized workers, while Part V sets out the obligation when dealing with non-union workers.

Given the complexity of the obligation, as set out in the new regulation, a careful reading of the provisions prior to a workplace injury being reported is strongly advised. At the very least, employers should have a sense of the obligation as it applies to them. This should help avoid innocently running afoul of its requirements and incurring costly penalties.

And while the following is not written in the new regulation, or on the WSIB website, it is understood that the WSIB has agreed to defer levying re-employment penalties under the new regulation – which can amount to a cash penalty of up to one year of the worker's net average earnings for the year proceeding the injury – until September 15 of this year. All the more reason for employers to make the time to familiarize themselves with the new regulation.

*Written by John Russell is certified by the Law Society as a specialist in Workplace Safety and Insurance Law. He can be reached at [john@wsiblwyer.com](mailto:john@wsiblwyer.com)*

**2009 CANADIAN FARM BUILDERS ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Joe Matthews – CFBA President**  
**Ready Mixed Concrete Association of Ontario**  
365 Brunel Road, Unit # 3  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L4Z 1Z5  
905-309-1688  
905-890-8122 Fax  
905-875-5800 Mobile  
Email: [jmatt@rmcao.org](mailto:jmatt@rmcao.org)

**Bryan Law – CFBA Vice President**  
**Ande x Metal Products**  
97 Thames Road, East  
Exeter, Ontario  
N0M 1S3  
519-235-2901  
519-235-1343 Fax  
Email: [bryanlaw@andex.ca](mailto:bryanlaw@andex.ca)

**Gary Van Bolderen**  
**Dutch Masters Construction Services**  
51 King Street, Unit 3  
Barrie, Ontario  
L4N 6B5  
705-737-3392  
705-734-1810 Fax  
Email: [horsebarns@dutchmasters.on.ca](mailto:horsebarns@dutchmasters.on.ca)

**John Post Sr.**  
**Post Farm Structures Inc.**  
RR #1  
Alma, Ontario  
N0B 1A0  
519-846-5988  
519-846-2225 Fax  
519-766-7178 Mobile  
Email: [ejpost@everus.ca](mailto:ejpost@everus.ca)

**Harry de Vries**  
**Roof Trusses & Components**  
R. R. 5  
Rockwood, Ontario  
N0B 2K0  
519-856-4623  
519-856-1183 Fax  
Email: [rooftrusses@execulink.com](mailto:rooftrusses@execulink.com)

**Dwayne Job**  
**System Fencing Stalls & Equipment**  
R. R. # 2  
Rockwood, Ontario  
N0B 2K0  
519-856-9959  
519-856-4141 Fax  
Email: [dwayne.job@systemhorse.com](mailto:dwayne.job@systemhorse.com)

**Robert D. Fyles – CFBA Past President**  
**Simcoe Block (1979) Ltd.**  
P.O. Box 250  
Barrie, Ontario  
L4N 2N3  
705-726-6543  
705-725-7195 Fax  
705-790-1956 Mobile  
Email: [r.fyles@simcoeblock.com](mailto:r.fyles@simcoeblock.com)

**Will Teron, P. Eng.**  
**Tacoma Engineers**  
176 Speedvale Ave, West #1  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1H 1C3  
519-763-2000  
519-824-2000 Fax  
519-837-5910 Mobile  
Email: [wiltt@tacomaengineers.com](mailto:wiltt@tacomaengineers.com)

**Stephanie Stone**  
**Dutch Masters Construction Services**  
51 King Street, Unit 3  
Barrie, Ontario  
L4N 6B5  
705-737-3392  
705-734-1810 Fax  
Email: [horsebarns@dutchmasters.on.ca](mailto:horsebarns@dutchmasters.on.ca)

**Robert Chambers**  
**Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**  
Wellington Place, R. R. 1  
Fergus, Ontario  
N1M 2W3  
519- 846-3406  
519- 826-3259 Fax  
Email: [robert.chambers@ontario.ca](mailto:robert.chambers@ontario.ca)

**Sean Henry, P. Eng.**  
**Tacoma Engineers**  
176 Speedvale Ave, West #1  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1H 1C3  
519-763-2000  
519-824-2000 Fax  
Email: [seanh@tacomaengineers.com](mailto:seanh@tacomaengineers.com)

