



NOTA BENE

Niagara Branch Newsletter Ontario Institute of Agrologists

MEETING NOTICE

November 23, 2009

6:00 p.m. Gathering time

6:30 Dinner

7:15 Program

8:15 Annual General Meeting with election of executive for 2010

| Speaker : Dr. Hielke De_Jong, Retired Scientist, AAFC, Fredericton, N.B.

Topic : *THE HUMBLE POTATO*

| Dr. De_Jong, a scientist for 30 years at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Potato Research Center who currently is co-authoring a book on potatoes for home gardeners, will discuss some aspects of the potato.

Location : The Orchards [guest dining room], 3421 Frederick Ave., Vineland

Cost : \$20.00 [Dinner + wine]

Directions : Exit 57 of QEW [Vineland/Victoria Ave./Hwy 24 exit], south ~3 km to second Frederick Ave [first past the stoplight], right 1 ½ blocks to The Orchards which is on the right/north side of Frederick Ave. Additional parking behind the building.

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Vineland&state=on&address=3421+Frederick+Avenue>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

| The 2009/2010 NB-OIA season started with Ken Slingerland, who gave a contemporary view of the tender fruit industry, which was highly appreciated. This will be followed by our program chair, namely Dr. Hielke De Jong. The November meeting will also include the annual meeting of the branch. Hopefully, we can get a few volunteers, who are willing to help the Executive. The meeting schedule will be followed by a number of topics throughout the fall/winter season and possibly a tour. Input from the members and other interested agriculturalists will be appreciated.

In April-2010, the OIA-Annual General Meeting and Conference will be organized jointly by the Niagara Branch and the OIA head office. See later in the newsletter for details. A number of volunteers are looking at different venues, but the Theme for the conference has not been cast in stone.

OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting was held in Lotus Blossom restaurant in Grimsby with 14 members and guests present. Ken Slingerland, Tender Fruit and Grape Specialist, OMAFRA presented the topic,

What is New with Niagara's Peaches. Ken emphasized advances being made with new technology such as mechanical blossom thinning. New and upcoming varieties of peaches were discussed and Ken reviewed the 2009 Tender Fruit Census Report. After discussion, the speaker was thanked by Hielke De_Jong.

JANUARY MEETING

Our January 28, 2010 meeting will feature Dr. Danny Lee Rinker, retired professor from the University of Guelph who had responsibility for the mushroom research program at Vineland.

2010 OIA CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OIA President, Bruce Hobin, P.Ag. indicated that the Board of Directors had requested that the Niagara Branch host the 2010 OIA Conference and Annual General Meeting preferably on April 16 and 17. The Branch would take responsibility for the venue and program for the conference while the OIA Board and office would take responsibility for registration and the AGM. Both would share responsibility for publicity and for obtaining sponsors. President Blom suggested that the Branch should not take responsibility for financial risk and thus would not share in the profit. After discussion, Drew Orosz, Ashok Ghosh and Neil Miles volunteered to be on the committee. Thus the Branch can look forward to hosting this event in April 2010.