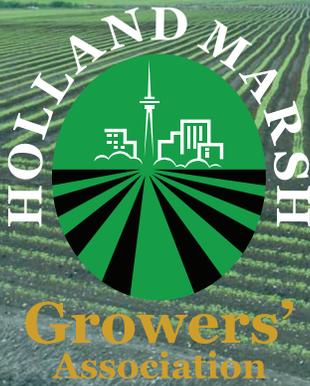


February 2017



MuckerNews

Monthly Articles & Updates For HMGA Members

CONTACTING THE ASSOCIATION

Please note the following for contacting Jody:
Email: hmgexec@gmail.com
Phone: 905-251-6786
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

At this time the Office will remain at 481 West Canal Bank Road (Gro Pak). The Association was looking to relocate to the Bradford Coop. But due to some restriction, we would not be able operate on a day to day basis.

OFVG AGM

Several members of the board attend this two day event. They were able to have input to the needs going forward for this area. Hot topics discussed: Energy Prices, Foreign Work Programs and Washwater. We encourage everyone to attend next year. This is a great learning tool to see what is happening throughout Ontario. As well as what changes will come to our industry.

HMGA AGM

We would like to thank everyone who came out to our AGM. Thank you as well to those who signed on to be a member at this time. We now have 34 active members. Topics discussed that night included: Hydro, Property Taxes, Pesticides and Membership. Through our newsletters we will continue to update you on these issues and more. As well anyone wishing to sign on to the Association can contact Matt or Jody. For those who were unable to make this event, we have attached our Yearly Report. Remember, our door is always open to conversation. Please feel free to bring your concerns to any board member or Jody. We will do our best to get back to you with answer within a timely matter.

A special thank you to Doug Weening for all his time and dedication on our board. Welcome to our 2017 HMGA Board Members: *Domenic Riga (Chair), Quinton Woods (Vice Chair), Tim Horlings (Treasurer), Doug Van Luyk (Coop Liaison - King Liaison), John Hambly (Greenbelt Liaison - CHC Liaison), Ian Smith (Minor Use Liaison - Sustainable Farmer Liaison), Dan Sopuch (LSG Water Liaison - Drainage Board Liaison), Herman Gasko (Greater Golden Horseshoe Liaison), Mike Ferragina (MOECC Liaison), Jason Verkaik (Ex official - OFVGA Liaison), Alex Makarenko (Ex official - BWG Liaison)*

CANADIAN HORTICULTURE COUNCIL UPDATE:

Back on November 21-22, Tim, Jody and Jason attended CHC /CPMA Fall Harvest in Ottawa. Two days were spent meeting with MP's with specific asks. One of these being "That the four-year cumulative duration rule no longer apply to temporary foreign workers in Canada." We can successfully report that the group was heard. This shows that our association being at the table makes a difference for our area.

On December 14 the following update was given from CHC:

"The four-year cumulative duration rule will no longer apply to temporary foreign workers in Canada, effective immediately. Producers will no longer need to train new employees every time a temporary foreign worker hits the cumulative four-year ceiling. The cumulative duration rule, known as the "four-in, four-out" rule, was put in place in April 2011, limiting work for some temporary foreign workers in Canada to four years who then became ineligible to work in Canada for the next four years. Removing this restriction also helps foreign workers who wish to apply for permanent residency.

In addition to this change, the exemption on the cap for seasonal industries seeking temporary foreign workers for up to 180 days during the 2017 calendar year will be extended until December 31, 2017. Although this is good news, the needs of our sector must be addressed in the longer term. CHC will continue to advocate on behalf of its members on this issue.

Click for more information: [Government of Canada takes early action to improve the Temporary Foreign Worker Program](#)"

If you are an HMGA member and want to receive these updates by email? Send a message to HMGEXEC@gmail.com to be added to the list.
Jody Mott 905-251-6786