



Ottawa Valley FARM SHOW

Official Ag Business Partner



SEED GROWERS APPROVE \$50,000 FOR KEMPTVILLE CAMPUS MAKEOVER

October 9, 2012.

At their recent regular meeting, directors of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association voted to donate \$50,000 to help with ongoing infrastructure improvements at the Kemptville Campus of the University of Guelph.

The decision came about two years after the OVSGA invested \$100,000 in Kemptville's new dairy research centre. The association sees the agricultural college as an important influence in sustaining and enhancing farming in Eastern Ontario.

Members unanimously backed a motion from director John Joynt to award the money after campus director Dr. Claude Naud described his ongoing efforts to spruce up the campus. Naud's goal is to create a more professional look with such projects as an \$800,000 upgrade of the cafeteria and revamping the main public meeting rooms in the W.B. George Centre.

One of the rooms is being transformed into the Eastern Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame displaying certificates of regional residents honoured in the central H of F at Milton. The OVSGA will be recognized with signage for establishing and funding the eastern hall.

Naud told the meeting the campus has to modernize in order to build and maintain enrolment. He talked about new programming involving food processing, alternative energy, and opportunities provided by climate change.

Both OVSGA president Bruce Hudson and director John Roosendaal expressed concern that the campus could wander too far from teaching the nuts and bolts of primary agriculture. Naud insisted that won't be the case.

In other business, directors approved a donation of \$5,000 – the highest level – in support of an Alfred College Foundation fundraising event Oct. 25 with the objective of establishing student bursaries. They also decided to buy a table for \$375 at the annual Kemptville College Foundation Harvest Fest Oct. 27 that also raises funds for bursaries as well as other initiatives.

As they do every year at this time, directors confirmed committees responsible for various aspects of the Ottawa Valley Farm Show to be held next March 12-14 at the CE Centre across from the Ottawa International Airport.

This will mark the second edition of the OVFS at the new centre boasting 150,000 square-feet of exhibit space under one roof.

General Manager Tom Van Dusen is predicting a tight fit with almost all existing exhibitors indicating they plan to return. Several are requesting increased space and new applications to be part of the show are arriving almost daily.

“Some might say it’s a great position to be in when demand for your product outstrips availability,” Van Dusen said. “But we hate to disappoint our customers and that’s going to happen in some cases because there’s no way we can fill all the requests.”

While the CE Centre is considering expansion, it’s not expected to happen any time soon. Van Dusen estimated the OVFS could fill another 20-40,000 square-feet based on current demand.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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