



2015



Hello CFBA Members,

I trust all Builders, Merchant and Affiliate members are in full swing for this building season. I also hope that everyone takes the time to appreciate the warm weather with friends and family. Why else do we do what we do?

*On Thursday April 23rd 2015, **Tacoma Engineers and the CFBA** invited all CFBA members to a complimentary Lunch and Learn at the office of Tacoma Engineers. The topic for presentation and discussion was the **Evolution of Farm Structures** – a historical review of agricultural buildings, building codes, and an open forum discussion on the future. A lively discussion ensued and the CFBA came away with some potential action items to move forward on to benefit both our Members and their Customers - please watch our website for new information.*

The presentation may be viewed

here: <http://www.cfba.ca/pdf/Evolution%20of%20Farm%20Bldgs%20April%202015.pdf>

As President of the CFBA, I'd like to sincerely thank Tacoma Engineers for designing and delivering the presentation, for hosting the event, and for providing lunch for the attendees.

*Our **new CFBA website** is currently in development and we are looking forward to seeing it go live within the next couple of months.*

*On behalf of the CFBA Board, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the **August 12th CFBA Golf Tournament**. Thank you also to those who provided prizes and sponsorship.*

Best wishes for success in all you do through these busy summer months.

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

Thomas A. Edison



Dan Reymer

Middlesex Concrete Forming Ltd.

Hello CFBA Members,

I love turning off the air conditioning and opening the windows to the warmer temperatures and the sounds of summer.....feeling more connected with nature and aware of the weather is a good thing. ☺

I have a few items to remind or inform members of, as follows;

We welcome new members: **All Season Concrete Forming Inc.** of Watford ON., and **R.J. Burnside & Associates** of Guelph, Ont.

The CFBA has hired a provider to create a new website for the Canadian Farm Builders Association. **We excitedly look forward to announcing the launch of our new site** within the next couple of months.

We've recently added all our 'Affiliate' members (**Township, Cities, Counties, Municipalities**) to the 'Member' listing on the CFBA website: <http://www.cfba.ca/members.htm> .

Correction: the **Engineering firm** on the **CFBA Builder Awards - Project of the Year for 2014 - 'The Black's Barn'** should have been indicated as **R.J. Burnside and Associates Limited**. My sincere apologies for publishing the incorrect information.

WSIB Transformation - Read the summary in this newsletter and the full story at: <http://www.cfba.ca/pdf/WSIB%20Transformation%20Story.pdf>

Reducing the Risk of Fire on your Farm – OMAFRA Publication #837 – has been added to the CFBA website, for easy reference and accessibility. Please provide the information to members of the farming community. The CFBA will be working with OMAFRA to create a reference sheet for this publication. We will keep you informed when this will be available. <http://www.cfba.ca/pdf/Ontario-837.pdf>

OCOT Enforcement Officer Visit - Best Practices – This document is easy to reference and understand, outlining what to expect and do when an OCOT Enforcement Officer visits a job site. Keep this document handy, or print a copy when needed. <http://www.cfba.ca/pdf/OCOT%20Enforcement%20Officers%20Authority%20CFBA-1.pdf>

Enjoy our brief but lovely summer!

Best regards,
Sally

Sally Akroyd Bombino
General Manager



Canadian Farm Builders Association
328 Speedvale Ave. E., Unit 31A, Suite #125
Guelph, Ontario N1E 0J4
Phone: (519) 824-0809
Fax: (519) 824-2477

www.cfba.ca

CAFA Conference

Gary van Bolderen was a speaker at the Canadian Association of Farm Advisor (CAFA) in Woodstock ON June 4th, 2015, presenting on behalf of the Canadian Farm Builders Association.

CAFA members provide information and guidance to farm owners and their families and advice on financial matters specifically for farm owners. This may include estate planning, cash flow, investments, selling farm properties, change of ownership, etc.

Gary presented information on some proposed new regulations and codes that will impact the farmer who wants to invest in new facilities or major renovations. The most significant change will be the final results of the ongoing review of the Canadian Farm Building Code. This is a National Code that has very specific design criteria for "farm buildings". The present NFBC allows the designer of farm buildings to accommodate the fact that farm buildings are classified as low human occupancy structures. The NFBC will be updated from its present form and is expected to look at changes in fire and safety issues. It is almost a certainty that this review will result in more stringent codes, especially for fire safety. It is expected that the updated NFBC will be produced within a year or two. These changes to the code will most definitely mean higher construction costs and possibly the freedom of building design.

Other issues that will impact the Ontario farm construction industry and the farming community include; the Ontario College of Trades review, the Workers Safety and Insurance Board, the Provincial Pension Plan, the Construction Liens Act review, and the continued impact of ever changing environmental legislation. In all cases these changes will increase the time it takes to obtain the required permits and approvals to design and construct new farm buildings.

The infrastructure for farmsteads will continue to improve to meet changing needs of a diversified agricultural industry.

Change, improvements, upgrades, and the constant evolution of farm buildings and the farmstead has been a constant challenge for farmers and the way they work, invest and live. The tag of being called RURAL or FARM no longer means remote. Technology adaptation has been one of agriculture's strengths in meeting the needs of its consumers and rural life. From horse power to internal combustion power, to the power of the microchip, the farmer has never shied away from accepting change and meeting the challenge to adapt.

The evolution in the construction of rural infrastructure is something the CAFA members will have to address in their engagement with farm families. The investment in new facilities requires the support of expertise in financial planning. As these investments grow in size, in production capacity, and in cost, it is critical that CAFA members are knowledgeable and aware of significant changes within the construction industry.

It was a pleasure to meet and interact with the membership of CAFA at their annual meeting.

Gary van Bolderen





Hello CFBA Members,



It's that time of year, and thankfully the rain held off for the *Annual CFBA Golf Tournament* held on August 12th, 2015, at the beautiful *Grey Silo Golf Club* in Waterloo. An exciting day was had by all. We would like to sincerely thank the generous sponsors and prize donors. We very much appreciate the financial support and wonderful prizes that were donated by these generous members of the farm building community. We thank our members and their guests for participating and make the event a resounding success.

DINNER SPONSOR:

Harris Rebar

**HOLE IN ONE INSURANCE
SPONSORSHIP & SUPERVISOR:**

Federated Insurance

50/50 CHARITY HOLE SPONSOR:

McCann Redi Mix

APPETIZER SPONSOR:

Insta-Insulation

LOW SCORE PRIZE SPONSOR:

Alstructural Handling Inc.

VEHICLE/HOLE SUPERVISOR:

Battlefield Equipment

HOLE SPONSORS:

Lafarge
Davon Sales
Dufferin Concrete
Grey Silo Golf Course
Agway Metals Inc.
Ready Mixed Concrete Association of Ontario
Middlesex Concrete Forming
Form and Build Supply
H. Van Moorsel Insulation
Stubbe's Precast
Total Laminating Products
Moffatt and Powell RONA
Harris Rebar

GOLF PRIZES:

Lafarge
Tacoma Engineers
Davon Sales
Leathertown Lumber
St. Mary's CBM
Williams Form Hardware & Rockbolt
Leland Industries
Insta-Insulation
Dufferin Concrete
Agri-Urban Buildings
Agway Metals Inc.
Ready Mixed Concrete Association of Ontario
Form and Build Supply
H. Van Moorsel Insulation
Grey Silo Golf Course
John Ernewein Ltd.
Faromor Ltd.
Perth Concrete Products
Battlefield Equipment

CONTEST WINNERS were:

The **50/50** (Closest to the Pin) Charity Hole Winner (Hole #11) was **Duane Harmer of Lafarge**. Duane received a \$200.00 cheque for winning this hole, and we have matched this with a \$200.00 donation to a charity of his choosing. Hole and prize sponsored by McCann Redi Mix.

The team from **R.J. Burnside, Stratford** were the Low Score winners. Hole and prize sponsored by Alstructural Handling.

Matt Reitzel from Frey Building Contractors was the Longest Drive winner (Hole #13). Hole and prize sponsored by Battlefield Equipment.

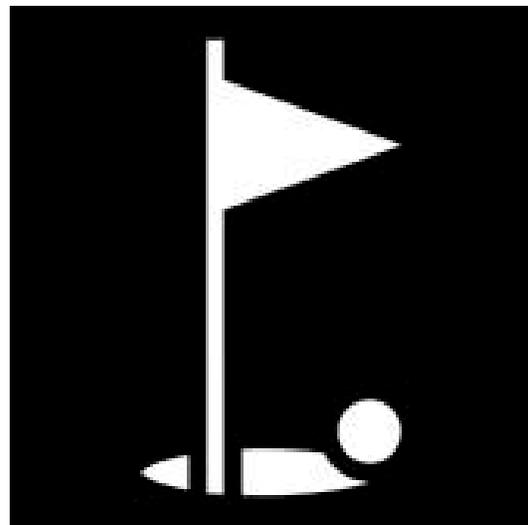
The team from **Form and Build Supply** was the Closest to the Keg winner (Hole #4). Hole and prize sponsored by Grey Silo Golf Club.

No one won the “**Hole in One**” contest (Hole #2). Hole supervision and “Hole in One” insurance sponsorship by Federated Insurance. Hole supervision and Ford F-150 provided by Parkway Ford Lincoln.

Dave Brubacher from Mar-Span Home Hardware Building Centre won the business card draw/prize sponsored by Federated Insurance.

We thank our generous contest sponsors, and participants, and look forward to planning this event again next year. We had a few more participants this time around, and would ask that you email Sally(cfba@cfba.ca) with any feedback you may have, as we are always looking to make this event even better for our members.

CFBA 2015 Golf Committee



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AGRICULTURE?



Cucumber Grading – Not in a Pickle!

Meet Kelly Deline: Along with other family members she owns a pickle grading station. They bring in cucumbers in season, grade them and ship them off to other places, like the United States to be made into pickles. At one time those pickles were pickled in Ontario, but that's another story. Today Deline and her relatives have their own line of pickles, and as she explains the situation, it just sort of happened. **Local Food News / Blackburn AgriMedia [story](#).**

Cheese Please - New Ontario cheese production facility in the works

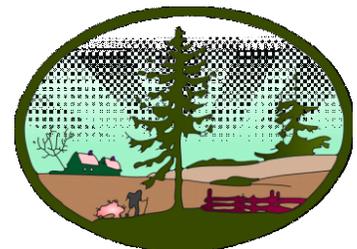
Vaughan-based Quality Cheese Inc. has received a grant of \$1.2 million to help it buy leading edge cheese making equipment, the Ontario government says in a June 3 news release. The funding will help the company improve competitiveness and meet increasing consumer demand for its specialty cheeses and convenience products. The project will enable the company to retain 22 full-time and temporary jobs and create an additional 70 jobs, the release says. **Local Food News / Better Farming [story](#).**

Having a stake in steak - Tracing the origins of Ontario's best steaks

The province gave nearly \$950,000 at the beginning of this month to family-owned meat processor VG Meats and quality food retailer Longos, to work together to further develop Ontario's beef market. The announcement, made during Local Food Week, served as yet another reminder that this province values the homegrown products that consumers want and can easily understand. VG Meats believes quality and traceability are intrinsically linked. So does Oakville-based Value Chain Management International. **Local Food News / Guelph Mercury [story](#).**

'Buy Local' Hot Among 61% of Canadians

As retailers gear up for the peak "buy local" season, a recent survey reveals that six in ten (61%) Canadians say purchasing local food and beverages is important to them, and nearly half are willing to pay a 15-30% premium for them. Furthermore, among these shoppers, 87% report they would increase their monthly grocery spend if local alternatives were more readily available. When asked what prevents them from buying more local goods, higher price, surprisingly ranked as the lowest obstacle at 23%. This compares with 60% who say the largest impediment is the fact that large chain retailers are not stocking a wide enough selection of local goods. **Local Food News / Yahoo Finance [story](#).**



Video: Drones Create Precision Ag Buzz In Rural America:

<http://www.farms.com/expertscommentary/video-drones-create-precision-ag-buzz-in-rural-america-92840.aspx>

Continued....

Working Together to Help Feed Honey Bees

June marks the launch of Buzzing Gardens, a national program spearheaded by [Bees Matter](#) that provides Canadians with free seeds to plant pollinator-friendly gardens. Farmers, beekeepers, and several agricultural organizations, including the Canola Council of Canada (CCC), have come together in support of honey bee health and are taking action to help improve access to nutritious food sources. **Local Food News / Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development [post](#).**

This Floating Solar Farm May One Day Grow 8,000 Tons of Veggies Every Year

One architecture firm has an innovative idea to stave off a possible food security crisis — grow fresh vegetables at sea. Designers at Barcelona-based Forward Thinking Architecture put together an eye-catching proposal for a solar-powered floating farm to grow food and raise fish near some of the world's biggest cities. The concept leans on vertical farming technology, a new-age agricultural method of growing food in soil-less greenhouses. They're stacked high with planter beds filled with nutrient-enriched water. **Local Food News / Huffington Post Canada [story](#).**

Look to Ontario farmers for local food

When it comes to food, it's increasingly clear where Ontario is headed. The province believes local food is what consumers want, and it's reacting accordingly. Its current course is not the way a lot of modern mainstream farmers want it to proceed. They feel their needs aren't being met by the province, and that consumers see them as environmentally insensitive. But unfortunately for farmers, when it comes to this issue, the horse has left the barn. They now need to find ways to coexist with a movement that is seeing them differently. **Local Food News / Guelph Mercury [post](#) by Owen Roberts.**

McDonald's Canada Running Sustainable Beef Pilot Project

A McDonald's Canada spokesman says the restaurant chain is committed to buying sustainable beef from Canadian producers. But Jeff Fitzpatrick-Stilwell says the company has no plans to set up its own sustainability standard. He says he expects McDonald's globally will be make its first purchases of sustainable beef from Canadian producers. McDonald's spokesman Jeff Fitzpatrick-Stilwell says they want to work with the industry to come up with a definition of sustainable beef that works in Canada. **Local Food News / Blackburn AgriMedia [story](#).**



Summary - Livestock Research Innovation Corporation (LRIC) Seminar

On June 16th 2015, CFBA Directors Alex Schuts and Terry Rothwell, along with CFBA General Manager Sally Akroyd Bombino attended a seminar in Guelph ON hosted by the Livestock Research innovation Corporation on the topic of **Tackling Climate Variation in the Ontario Livestock Sector** addressing the question - Are Ontario Livestock Buildings up for it? Focus on infrastructure, engineering, building codes, bylaws, design, insurance and policy. All CFBA members were invited. In addition to the speakers, participants included (amongst others) representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), Food and Farm Care, and the Farming community.

A presentation was made by Glenn McGillivray from **the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR)** that outlined their research on weather and the impact on the Building and Insurance industries in Canada. Their research showed that many residential building losses are incurred by the simple fact of the Builder missing the joists by using a pneumatic nail gun, roof tie-down inadequacies...not enough (or in some case, no) toe-nails, and in some instances nails used where hurricane/wind tie-downs are called for in the analysis/design due to larger spans/uplift forces. They have embarked on a program to have modifications made to the Ontario and Canadian National Building Codes to reduce the impact of severe weather on structures (mostly detached homes). Their first 'win' included a change to the way plywood roof sheathing is fastened to joists for all new homes built in Ontario (this involves an increased number of nails in roof sheathing), and they are currently working on five proposed changes to the National Code with the understanding that if these are approved, they will filter down to provincial codes. The recommendations include getting the Ontario roof sheathing nailing requirements into the National Code, requiring hurricane straps in all new builds (particularly where higher winds prevail) and a couple of other fastening requirements for posts/pillars and overhanging roofs.

A presentation was made by Scott MacRitchie of the **Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change** outlining that the average annual temperature is increasing slightly, however the increase is four times faster in the Arctic than lower latitudes. This is important because this very significant change is being underestimated due to the fact that it's not as large in our backyard. There are more pests, bugs, combined with additional wind to contend with and industry and agriculture need to use the information to plan for the future.

A thought-provoking video was shown - Joe Loewith from **Joe Loewith & Sons Ltd., Summitholm Holsteins** was interviewed and showcased their new barn (not mentioned in the video, but we know it was: designed by Post Farm Structures Inc., engineered by Tacoma Engineers, with the materials supplied by (among others) Agway Metals, Mar-Span Truss, Stubbes Precast, Voisins Equipment Rentals, (all CFBA members) and won in the 2014 Builder Award 'Dairy Facility' category). The barn is a leading example of an innovative dairy farm that has incorporated features to recycle rain water that comes off the roof for use with livestock.



Continued.....

The LRIC presented the following questions on the topic of 'What research is needed for climate variation preparedness in the Ontario livestock sector?', and the responses from participants follow.

- a) What research will help in formulating appropriate new building codes to mitigate storm damage?

Participants recommended that existing codes should be followed, that the industry should look at chronic problems and what actually causes barns to fail, analyzing, quantifying, and communicating the risk and recognizing the importance of Lessons Learned, and learning from innovations in other countries/provinces that may be useful in Ontario.

- b) How do we engage the industry with new technologies and applied practice?

No government funding exists for storm preparedness for farms. The 'stick' approach works – for example – a farmer must meet certain requirements in order to acquire insurance. Some industries are more proprietary, therefore more difficult to share information within the industry

- c) What are the policy requirements?

Discussion took place on the effectiveness of incentives and subsidies – and contrary to popular belief, they are not always effective. Suggestion was made by OFA reps that it would be worthwhile to offer an assessment to accompany the incentive, and that there should be incentives for older barns renovations, not just new builds. Would appreciate knowing 'why' a policy is being implemented. Outline the rationale. Global competition needs to be considered – Ontario farmers need to be able to compete.

- d) What does the Insurance sector need to know?

The Insurance sector should be sharing information with industry on barn collapses so that government and builders can make improvements. There should be a process in the industry to work with insurers to identify risks and to protect farms and minimize losses. The industry should share lessons learned on collapses. Educate on properly designed and built farms to prepare for climate change. We need better enforcement as opposed to tougher standards, as we are sometimes not building what has been engineered.

Tim Nelson, CEO, LRIC advised: we will write a report that we'll circulate outlining what we heard at the meeting and what issues/questions that raises. We'll then look at those and see where we believe we can impact by some investment in research. Certainly some of the points raised by your table warrant further discussion. We'll keep you in the loop on this process - as you have a huge knowledge base and will certainly be important partners in any work we undertake going forward.

Sally Akroyd Bombino
General Manager



Canadian Farm Builders Association
328 Speedvale Ave. E., Unit 31A, Suite #125
Guelph, Ontario N1E 0J4
Phone: (519) 824-0809
Fax: (519) 824-2477

www.cfba.ca



FROM DEFENCE TO OFFENCE – POSITIONING CANADA’S DAIRY SECTOR & THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR GLOBAL TRADE STRATEGY

A COMMENTARY BY CAPI¹

2015

Supply management polarizes opinions: defend the status quo or dismantle the system. Unfortunately, this masks important strategic choices with implications for the dairy industry and, by extension, Canada’s agri-food sector as a whole.

Canada’s internal debate keeps the country on a defensive footing. It is time to get offensive by focusing on other countries’ agricultural subsidies – that are to date, largely out-of-sight, out-of-mind and entirely detrimental to our long-term competitiveness.

All eyes are now focused on the timelines to conclude the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). But, we need to look at the long game and the evolution of Canada’s trade agenda. Global subsidy practices affect beef, pork and many other Canadian sectors. Still, we need to start with dairy.

WHITHER CANADIAN DAIRY?

Canada’s dairy sector is being seriously squeezed and faces a growing trade deficit. We’re importing large volumes of various milk proteins² (known as concentrates and isolates) and our dairy exports are restricted. This is hardly a growth formula for one

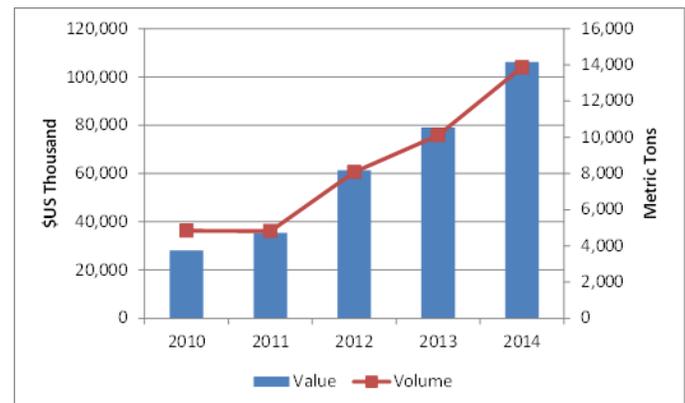
¹ This essay draws on a longer paper published by Agri-Food Economic Systems, with the permission of the authors, entitled “Canadian Dairy Exports: The Knowns, Unknowns, and Uncertainties”, by Kamal Karunagoda, Douglas Hedley and Al Mussell: <http://www.agrifoodecon.ca>.

² Milk protein isolates are composed of over 85% milk proteins; concentrates have lower levels of milk proteins.

of Canada’s largest agri-food sectors³ but more importantly is a significant threat to the current system.

Imports from the U.S. of such proteins are up some 300% since 2010 (see chart). This import pressure is likely to continue once the Canada-EU trade deal (CETA) comes into force and possibly also under the TPP.

This trend prompts the commentators from Agri-Food Economic Systems to state: “in the face of growing imports, increasing exports will be necessary in order to avoid shrinkage in the Canadian dairy industry.”



Canadian imports of milk protein substances from the U.S. (HS 3504; USDA-FAS GATS)

Chart: Agri-Food Economic Systems

Dairy proteins are important to food processors in order to develop innovative and healthy products, such as yogurts and high-protein beverages – and consumers are lapping up these new products (here and abroad).

Canada’s supply management system keeps the price of milk products above “the world price”. This makes lower cost imports very attractive to food processors. Lower-priced and uncontrolled imports

³ In terms of net farm receipts, the dairy sector is the second largest agri-food segment after meat, at \$5.9 billion (2012, AAFC).

of protein concentrates and isolates displace demand for Canada's skim milk powder which results in growing surpluses domestically, some of which are diverted into lower value animal feed – at significant cost to Canadian producers.

Simply labeling supply management as unfairly “protectionist” (and thus deserving dismantling) misses a critical point. Canada can't unilaterally expand its dairy exports. While the Canadian dairy sector's primary concern is to replace these imports, proponents of change largely ignore how we can actually export more dairy products, even if that is desired within the sector.

Under Canada's free trade agreement with the U.S., milk protein concentrates and isolate imports are allowed into Canada “tariff-free” (and it's reciprocal). The problem is that Canada's export potential is restricted based on Canada's 1995 World Trade Organization (WTO) commitment. The export limits were confirmed in the results of the challenge by New Zealand and the U.S., on butter, skim milk powder, cheese, and other products.

Technically-speaking, Canada can export milk products under supply management provided that there is no subsidy on dairy product exports. However, the current structure of our production and pricing arrangements was found to create an export subsidy on dairy products. Canada can only export dairy products up to the limits allowed for in Canada's WTO commitments.

While we debate the need for reform within our dairy sector, our competitors' tactics are designed to keep us on our heels by critiquing the milk supply management system. This is distracting us from assessing just what it would take to export. Time is conspiring against us. Taking the offensive requires a longer time frame to bear fruit. Yet, the domestic system faces immediate pressures. CETA imports will likely begin in 2016, and increase for the following 4-5 years. Larger results of the TPP could

begin a few years after that. Domestically, the need to confront change is pressing and real.

Meanwhile, our competitors produce and export milk products by utilizing a complex array of direct and indirect subsidies. We argue that the so-called world price for milk is, therefore, not a true reflection of the real cost of producing these products – and our competitors are taking full advantage of it.

Yet, within Canada, we debate supply management without this larger context in mind. Nor are we fully considering how expansion in export access would actually occur.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The foreign subsidy issue is immediately relevant to the dairy issue. But, we need to bring to light the destructive effect of agricultural subsidies particularly in the U.S. and Europe as a whole.

Legitimate support is given to agriculture here and abroad for good reason, such as to compensate for crop failures and for research. However, widespread use of subsidies in certain countries creates unfair competition. These agricultural subsidies drive down prices. The CEO of a global seed company, Limagrain's Daniel Chéron, noted: “The U.S. Government funds the gap between market prices and objective prices, which includes production costs.”⁴ In part, this enables American agriculture to achieve scale. Food processors avail themselves of these lower-cost ingredients, helping them to export so successfully. Yet, we sit on the other side of the border and wonder how we can compete against this.

⁴ “Europe will become vulnerable”, by Daniel Chéron, Chief Executive Officer, Limagrain; an interview by Dominique Diogon for Momagri provided to La Montagne, April 13, 2015.

Subsidies can encourage deleterious behavior. Dairy production in the American southwest is successful in part because it draws down on the region's aquifers – a “natural capital” benefit that is not factored into the price.

Such practices create a hidden market failure and it's a global phenomenon. They can encourage (at little cost) a broad array of environmental impacts from polluting surface and groundwater, such as what has befallen many European Union (EU) rivers⁵, to degrading soils and putting biodiversity at risk. Just recently, an Irish professor of European agricultural policy declared that Ireland's beef farms “are not financially viable without EU subsidies”; Trinity College's Alan Matthews goes on to state that the added costs of greenhouse gases generated from these ventures makes beef farming even more uneconomic.⁶

For its part, Canada's dairy supply management has not created significant surpluses at the expense of eco-systems. Our country's wealth of water and land confers certain comparative advantages (if we manage them correctly). The other issue is about understanding how international subsidies constantly place Canada's agri-food sector at a disadvantage.

SHIFTING FROM DEFENCE TO OFFENCE

We need to consider the merits of opening up a new front – on environmental and resource sustainability – as a basis to help take the offensive. Extended drought is reshaping the U.S. and Australian dairy industries. Soil quality and availability for expansion of the dairy industry in

⁵ The OECD has documented where pesticide concentrations in surface water and groundwater exceed recommended national drinking water limits, which is higher in the EU, among other countries, than in Canada in *Compendium of Agri-Environmental Indicators*, figure 9.9, 2013.

⁶ “Ireland would profit from opting out of beef, says expert”, by Eoin Burke-Kennedy, *The Irish Times*, June 5, 2015.

New Zealand may limit future growth there. Canada's water and soil resources are not facing similar pressures, although there are some pressures in certain regions of ours.

Improving sustainable production is not going unnoticed. Global supply chains are now procuring many products, such as palm oil, fish and coffee, only from sustainable sources. But, is there a role for Canada's agri-food sector as a whole to better leverage the sustainability card?

Becoming a global advocate for the elimination of foreign government-subsidized agricultural practices (including their environmental impacts), may be in our national interest. This would be a big step beyond driving down tariffs or increasing market access. But doing away with subsidized production and raising the environmental bar even slightly for our competitors would be a calculated strategic move. Ultimately, it may eliminate some highly inefficient competitors and those requiring massive investment to meet even the most minimal sustainable requirement. However, prices would better reflect real costs which would bode well for our agri-food trade.

Taking a proactive stance on sustainability requires, in part, putting more sophisticated information systems in place to track and trace the origin of food and the impacts of its production steps. While Canada is a food safety leader, its performance on *farm to fork* traceability is uneven. We would need to be a leader in traceability to demonstrate our sustainability footprint on a comparative basis.

With much of the trade access groundwork having been laid, our next trade agenda could assume a three-pronged approach. Unravelling these indirect subsidies and demonstrating Canada's comparative advantages on sustainability performance could become key planks in our future global trade strategy, benefitting the agri-food sector as a whole.⁷ And, with the clock ticking for our dairy sector in mind, taking concerted action on dairy export rules may allow Canada to be more competitive on dairy than is commonly appreciated.

⁷ CAPI is going to be considering Canada's strategic options and what can enable change at a major event on November 3-4, 2015, in Ottawa, *The Forum for Canada's Agri-Food Future*.

CONNECTS

Resources for Agriculture and Rural Economic Development

Ontario Releases First Annual Local Food Report

Ontario has launched its first-ever Local Food Report, which measures the province's progress in bringing local food to more tables across the province.

In 2013, Ontario passed the Local Food Act, 2013 which aims to increase awareness of local food, nurture local food markets and foster vibrant food-based economies across the province.



Farmers' Markets at ONroute Service Centres

Beginning on July 3, 2015, farmers' markets will be operating at three ONroute Service Centres across Ontario: Be sure to look for the signs as you drive along the 401!

New Signs at Farmers' Markets to Show Where Local Wines Are Sold

This year, the province celebrated its second annual Local Food Week by reminding Ontarians to sample and support local food, including Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) wines that are available at farmers' markets across the province. Now that the pilot project is in its second year, Ontarians can find world class VQA wines at their local farmers' market by looking for a purple VQA sign, or by using the mobile-friendly map to find a market participating in the pilot. For more information on Ontario wines go to: **Find Ontario wines**

Ontario Expanding Eligibility for Agricultural Insurance Program

New Legislation Passes to Help Protect the Agri-Food Industry

On May 27, 2015 Ontario passed the Agriculture Insurance Act, 2015 which will allow more types of agricultural products to be covered by the province's production insurance program.

For more information on Ontario production insurance go to: **Ontario production insurance**



Ontario Technological Skills Competition: An Inspiration

One of the great experiences in my recent association with the construction industry was witnessing the showcase of talent at the Waterloo RIM Centre at the Ontario Technological Skills Competition, hosted by Skills Canada Ontario.

The displays were too numerous to see in a single day. The variety and quality of skills demonstrated the interdependence of skills needed by industry to be a cornerstone of a productive and successful society. The genuine desire by individuals to participate in gaining knowledge and training was inspiring to observe. The acres of displays were impressive.

The range of skills included sewing, food preparation, automotive, masonry, aviation, wood working, machine tooling, power line work, solar energy, high tech instrumentation, and more. The sheer size of the event was confirmation of the great opportunities that industry has for people with skills. Talent is always in demand, no matter what industry it is. This is especially true for the construction industry where the need for these skilled individuals will only increase in the years to come.



Gary van Bolderen (COCA Chair and CFBA Director) and Ian Cunningham (COCA President)

This event also showed the power of cooperation of industry, labour and government. All three sectors worked together to make this showcase a reality. This could only be done on such a massive scale, by everyone working together. It is the culmination of a financial commitment, volunteer participation, and a dedication to the goal for positive outcomes through education. The community colleges of Ontario were a key part of this highly successful event. The promoters, supporters, and organizers should be proud of their contribution to the growth of our communities, and the men and women who wish to achieve success in the skilled trades of Ontario. Well done.

I was very proud, as a COCA member, and as chair, to know that our President, Ian Cunningham, is part of this successful program at Skills Canada Ontario. Ian has a sincere interest in the promotion and sustainability of the Skilled Trades in Ontario. This is especially true regarding the opportunities for young people entering the workplace. Sue Ramsay, COCA's operations and communications manager, was in attendance, as well as our past Chair, Don Gosen, who has been a strong supporter of this program.

The experience only reconfirms the importance of COCA to continue its commitment to be proactive in supporting our industry at all levels, especially helping to create the infrastructure to create more opportunities for new people to learn.

Gary van Bolderen

CFBA Members, you may be interested in viewing the following articles in a recent COCA newsletter:

http://WWW.coca.on.ca/Page.asp?PageID=376&ContentID=2816&SiteNodeID=418&BL_ExpandID

What's New

2015 | Issue #61

[Ontario Creates Construction Health And Safety Advisory Group](#)

Ontario has established an advisory group to assist the government in the development and implementation of a Construction Health and Safety Action Plan. As set out in the Ministry of Labour 2014-15 mandate letter, the Action Plan will strengthen workplace injury and illness prevention for construction workers across the province.

[Learn More >](#)



[Working At Heights Summer Campaign](#)

On April 1, Ontario implemented new mandatory training standards to ensure certain workers on construction projects who use fall protection complete a CPO-approved Working at Heights training program. This summer, the government is running a campaign in 12 languages to inform Ontarians about these new standards. This builds on previous initiatives to ensure safer construction workplaces, including another radio campaign, a digital residential roofing campaign, and the Construction Health and Safety Action Plan.

[Learn More >](#)



[Protecting Outdoor Workers](#)

As summer arrives, many Ontarians are welcoming the warmer days. But working outdoors presents many hazards such as heat stress, Lyme disease, the West Nile Virus and common hazardous plants in Ontario.

Learn more about:

- [Heat Stress >](#)
- [Lyme Disease >](#)
- [West Nile Virus >](#)
- [Hazardous Plants >](#)



IHSA Network e-News

The Voice of the Labour-Management Network



Lack of Construction Site Emergency Preparation Can Lead to Confusion



Every construction project must have emergency response procedures in place. The Construction Projects Regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act requires that the constructor must establish written Emergency Response Procedures for every project. Emergency preparedness helps to ensure workplace parties react appropriately in an emergency to minimize the human suffering and economic losses that can result from emergencies.

Constructors should review and revise their emergency response procedures on an ongoing basis to ensure they continue to meet the changing conditions of projects. Being unprepared, slow response, lack of resources or the absence of trained workers can lead to chaos in an emergency. Also remember that circumstances may change during the course of an emergency. To ensure workers react appropriately and to minimize human suffering and financial losses, all workers on a project must know their responsibilities under the emergency response plan.

To prepare for an emergency, constructors should:

- prepare written emergency plans and review those procedures with the joint health and safety committee or the health and safety representative for the project
- ensure that the emergency plan procedures are followed at the project site
- ensure appropriate access and egress points are available in case of emergency
- ensure emergency procedures are posted in a visible place at the project site

Workers should also be prepared to:

- know the procedures in the emergency response plan
- report emergencies to their supervisor
- know they have the right to refuse unsafe work

To learn more about Emergency Response Planning for Construction Projects [click here](#).

For emergency preparedness information click [here](#)

To report unsafe work practices, please contact the Ministry of Labour Health & Safety Contact Centre toll-free at 1-877-202-0008.

Message from the Chief Prevention Officer:

WORKING AT HEIGHTS ADVISORY

TRAINERS ARE READY

As of April 1, 2015, employers must ensure that certain workers complete working at heights training that has been approved by the Chief Prevention Officer. The list of approved training providers can be found at [Working at Heights Training](#).

Issues to consider in the workplace include:

- Will work be performed at heights, including from ladders?
- Are the hazards understood and have measures been taken to avoid them?
- Has proper training taken place?
- Is there proper fall protection equipment on site and in use?
- Are rescue procedures in place?

We all need to get the message out to employers, supervisors, and workers. We also need to reach out to educators, parents, and students who work part-time or in summer jobs.

Information to help protect you when working at heights is available from the [Ministry of Labour](#) and its [Health and Safety System Partners](#).

Work safe – prevent injuries and illness.

Working at Heights Training on Construction Projects

There are new working at heights training requirements in the [Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training Regulation](#), for workers who work at heights. As of April 1, 2015, workers who are required by O. Reg. 213/91 (Construction Projects) to use fall protection methods, including a travel restraint system, fall restricting system, fall arrest system, safety net, work belt or safety belt, will need to successfully complete CPO approved working at heights training through an approved training provider.

There is a two-year transition period for workers who, prior to April 1, 2015, met the fall protection training requirements set out in subsection 26.2(1) of the Construction Projects Regulation. These workers will have until April 1, 2017 to complete an approved working at heights training program.

Information about required working at heights training and approved training providers is available from the [Ministry of Labour](#).

Message from the Chief Prevention Officer:

ADVISORY ON LADDER SAFETY

Improper Ladder Use Is a Major Cause of Workplace Injuries

Improper use of ladders on construction projects can pose a hazard and continues to be a major cause of workplace incidents in Ontario.

Falls from heights due to unsafe work practices are one of the main causes of critical worker injuries and fatalities on Ontario construction projects.

All workplace parties — employers, supervisors and workers -are responsible for ensuring compliance with Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations. There are many factors to consider for the safe use of ladders on construction projects. Here are just some of them:

- Ladders should only be used if other work methods are impractical and a hazard assessment has been completed before using a ladder.
- Ladders must be kept in good condition.
- Safe distance from energized electrical equipment and overhead power lines must be maintained when positioning ladders.
- Employers must ensure that appropriate fall protection equipment needed for the job is used by workers and maintained in good condition; workers must be adequately trained on the use of equipment.
- Supervisors need to ensure that workers are aware of the written emergency procedures – and that these procedures are visibly available on site.
- The user of the ladder must maintain three-point contact at all times while on the ladder.
- Workers standing on a ladder while performing work must wear fall protection equipment if working at a height of more than three metres.

Constructors are responsible for ensuring that every employer and worker on the construction project works in compliance with the requirements in OHSA and its regulations, and they must always ensure that the health and safety of workers on the construction project is protected.

Information to help protect workers when working at heights is available from the Ministry of Labour and its [Health and Safety System Partners](#).

To report unsafe work practices, please contact the Ministry of Labour Health & Safety Contact Centre toll-free at 1-877-202-0008.

To stop receiving emails, please reply with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

Message from the Chief Prevention Officer:

WHMIS IS CHANGING

Since 1988, the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) has been Canada's national hazard communication system for workplace chemicals. It is supported by interlocking federal, provincial and territorial legislation and regulations.

WHMIS is changing to adopt new, United Nations endorsed international standards that are part of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

Adopting New Standards into WHMIS

To adopt the GHS standards, federal, provincial and territorial governments must amend their WHMIS legislation and regulations. The federal government has already done so.

Provinces and territories are amending their WHMIS requirements to reflect the federal changes. On April 2, Ontario introduced proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) to implement WHMIS 2015. Amendments to the WHMIS regulation would be proposed following passage of the OHSA amendments.

While Ontario is updating its requirements, the Ministry of Labour:

- will enforce the existing OHSA and WHMIS requirements for labels, material safety data sheets and worker training, and continue to do so for as long as these requirements remain in force.

Transition to WHMIS 2015

WHMIS 2015 is being phased in across Canada between February 2015 and December 2018. Suppliers (manufacturers, importers and distributors) will have time to deplete their stocks of hazardous products with WHMIS 1988 labels and safety data sheets. Employers and workers will have time to become familiar with the new chemical classifications, and the design and content of WHMIS 2015 labels and safety data sheets.

By December 1, 2018, the transition to WHMIS 2015 must be complete for all parties.

More information about the new federal WHMIS requirements is available at <http://WHMIS.gc.ca>. General information for suppliers, employers and workers is available at <http://whmis.org>. WHMIS 2015 Questions and Answers (<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/faqs/whmis2015.php>).

Message from the Chief Prevention Officer:

ADVISORY ON CONSTRUCTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES

Lack of Construction Site Emergency Preparation Can Lead to Confusion

Every construction project must have emergency response procedures in place.

The Construction Projects Regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act requires that the constructor must establish written Emergency Response Procedures for every project.

Emergency preparedness helps to ensure workplace parties react appropriately in an emergency to minimize the human suffering and economic losses that can result from emergencies.

Constructors should review and revise their emergency response procedures on an ongoing basis to ensure they continue to meet the changing conditions of projects.

Being unprepared, slow response, lack of resources or the absence of trained workers can lead to chaos in an emergency. Also remember that circumstances may change during the course of an emergency. To ensure workers react appropriately and to minimize human suffering and financial losses, all workers on a project must know their responsibilities under the emergency response plan.

To prepare for an emergency, constructors should:

- prepare written emergency plans and review those procedures with the joint health and safety committee or the health and safety representative for the project
- ensure that the emergency plan procedures are followed at the project site
- ensure appropriate access and egress points are available in case of emergency
- ensure emergency procedures are posted in a visible place at the project site

Workers should also be prepared:

- know the procedures in the emergency response plan
- report emergencies to their supervisor
- know they have the right to refuse unsafe work

Information to help protect you is available from the [Ministry of Labour](#) and its [workplace partners](#). Learn more about [Emergency Response Planning for Construction Projects](#).

To report unsafe work practices, please contact the Ministry of Labour Health & Safety Contact Centre toll-free at 1-877-202-0008.

CFBA Members, please see the following reports from the Ministry of Labour to the Provincial Labour- Management Health and Safety Committee.

MOL Reports to PLMHSC – Construction Sector – 3 June 2015 Meeting

Section 1

Reporting Month Statistics – Quick Overview

Reporting Month	Fatalities	Critical Injuries	Total
May 2015	1	6	7

Provincial Coordinators Comments

June 2015 PLMHSC Meeting

Each year I see wonderful opportunities for improved safety in workplaces missed, because it is “someone else’s” job. Workplace parties often believe safety is the supervisors job, or the Owners job, or even the government’s job. A true safety culture is more than doing the minimum or meeting the requirements of a regulation, A workplace must develop a positive safety culture where everyone plays a role in workplacesafety.

The following cultural behaviours can, create a positive safetyculture:

- 1: Communicate Company Values - indicating what is rewarded serves as a direct indication to supervisors and workers, as well as their subcontractors, about what is expected. If safety is not paramount as a company value than safety in the workplace will not follow.
- 2: Demonstrate Leadership - by exhibiting safety leadership behaviours this will increase the likelihood of copied and reciprocated safetybehaviours among company employees.
- 3: Clarify Expected Behaviours - in the most basic and understandable terms outline what are the expected behaviours, what are the rewards for safe behaviour and what are the consequences of unsafe behaviour. This needs to be repeated frequently.
- 4: Personalize Safety Outcomes - every person in the organization needs to understand the personal and emotional impact of unsafe behaviour that may result in injuries or fatalities. These are life-changing events for everyone who is involved.
- 5: Develop Positive Safety Attitudes - frequent opportunities to engage in conversations with staff at all levels in the organization to gain insight and have open conversations about the reasons for safe and unsafe behaviour. It is only when these open dialogues occur, and trust is demonstrated onboth sides, that safety can evolve in an organization.
- 6: Engage at All Levels Safety Responsibilities and Accountabilities - each person who works for an organization needs to understand their level of involvement and their obligations to make the system work. If safety is driven from a safety manager downwards, safety engagement will be limited.
- 7: Increased Hazard Awareness - the more workers and supervisors know about behaviours and hazards in the workplace, and the more comfortable they become talking about gaps in their awareness and knowledge, the more improved the corporate safety culture will be.
- 8: Effective Implementation of Safety Systems - safety systems cannot be a “flavour of the month”, for a system to be effective - it takes time, and requires honest evaluation of the effectiveness of the approach. Too many new systems can confuse and overwhelm the organization’s ability to implement them.
- 9: Reflection on Personal Effectiveness - this should be a recognition for each individual to get feedback on their effectiveness, and staff should seek and give feedback themselves from regular consultations, walk around activities and toolbox talks.

Safety culture takes time, but the results are worth it. Let us make this past year for safety that the province of Ontario is seen and bring everyone home safely eachday.

MOL Report to PLMHSC – Construction Sector – July 2015 Meeting

Section 1

Reporting Month Statistics – Quick Overview

Reporting Month	Fatalities	Critical Injuries	Total
June 2015	1	9	10

Provincial Coordinators

Comments

July 2015 PLMHSC

Meeting Trenching Blitz

The Ministry's trenching blitz started at the beginning of July. Inspectors will be auditing projects where digging is taking place for compliance with all safety precautions associated with trenching which include but are not limited to ensuring there are up to date locates to avoid striking underground utilities, adequate shoring to ensure workers who need to enter a trench are protected from being crushed by a collapsed trench wall and safe material storage and placement to ensure construction materials are not falling on top of workers while they are working inside the trench.

During the trenching blitz inspectors will also focus on musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). MSD is not a medical diagnosis but it is an umbrella term for a group of injuries such as Back Pain, muscle Strain, carpal Tunnel Syndrome, tennis elbow and shoulder pain to name a few. Workers are more likely to suffer an MSD if they perform jobs with MSD risk factors that include repetitive movements, forceful efforts, and fixed or awkward postures, all of which may be associated with trenching work. From 2003-2007, Ontario's workers compensation system approved more than 187,000 musculoskeletal claims that resulted in time lost from work. This equates to approximately, 37,500 MSD claims per year. These claims meant over two and a half million days when workers were off and direct costs of more than \$314 million. During the same time period Ontario's employers paid more than \$1 billion in direct and indirect costs related to MSDs. Examples of indirect costs include overtime, equipment modifications, administration, retraining and lost productivity.

The Economy

During times of economic downturn worker health and safety, especially in small businesses, can drop to the bottom of the priority list. In addition, based on historical trends the result of a decline in the economy and the subsequent reduction in new construction tends to drive work, especially in the repair and renovation sector, underground. Small contractors lay off their paid workers and resume employment as independent operators and the growth of self-employment combined with the intensification of competitive conditions result in workers feeling the need to take work on whatever terms are available.

WSIB data suggests that recessions are associated with a reduction in the risk of work injury due to the decline in claim frequency due to job layoffs and fewer hours worked. This is especially true in the construction sector where there tends to be more substantial employment loss, than in the health-care sector, where hours of employment are largely unaffected. However, the data may not be a reliable indicator of what is really happening due to under reporting by workers and their employers. Workers may not report a work related injury for fear of losing their job or may defer filing claims out of concern about the likelihood of successfully returning to work. Employers, rather than risk an increase in insurance rates may not report a lost time injury and instead may offer to compensate the worker until they are ready to return to work.

It is imperative that at this time the Ministry, along with our health and safety partners, continue to promote health and safety in the workplace through public messaging and through targeted enforcement, especially in high risk workplaces and ensure employers provide information, instruction and supervision to protect the health and safety of workers as well as ensure workers aware of their health and safety responsibilities under OHSA.

MOL Report to PLMHSC – Construction Sector – August 2015 Meeting

Section 1

Reporting Month Statistics – Quick Overview

Reporting Month	Fatalities	Critical Injuries	Total
July 2015	1	17	18

Provincial Coordinators Comments

August 2015 PLMHSC Meeting

This month the ministry of labour continues its trenching blitz, and I thought it would take this opportunity to clarify some of the biggest concerns MOL has with respect trenching.

One of the first issues is with identification of the type of soil. The Construction regulation provides guidance with respect to identifying soil types, but what many users do not understand is that when there is more than one type of soil in the trench the type of soil for the whole trench will be classified as the highest number. For example a trench with type 1 and type 3 soils is always classified as being in type 3 soil. This has real implications with respect to sloping, shoring, access and egress and the stability of the trench as a whole.

When working in an excavation that will contain a building, it is possible that once the foundation wall has been erected the space between the foundation wall and the excavation wall may become a trench if the depth of the excavation exceeds its width as measured from outside of the foundation wall. Special attention must be taken to protect workers who must enter this space.

Often injuries occur while using heavy equipment involved in excavation and I have created a list below of the most common situations where workers may be injured using heavy equipment of this type:

1. Getting on and off the machine

This is the No. 1 cause of injury to equipment operators, forklift drivers and truck drivers. Clean off mud and use hand and foot holds to reduce this risk

2. Loading/unloading equipment

Even on level ground, there is a risk of machine roll-over during loading or unloading. Make sure to be centered on the ramps when loading or unloading machinery and remain straight. Use a signal person for guidance.

3. Crowding of the work area

Any backhoe operator will tell you without hesitation - people on the ground crowding the machine is their biggest headache. Usually there is little reason for them to be there, so why create an exposure to injury when none needs to exist?

4. Machine swing radius

Swing radius accidents are common. It's important to isolate the swing radius around the machine or otherwise secure it. Allow no spectators, keep all people clear.

5. Operation of equipment on slopes

Caution is always required, and while you make it up the slope with a load, coming down is another story! Know the limits of the machine.

6. Overhead/buried obstructions

Be aware of overhead obstructions, including electrical powerlines, and make sure you have stakeouts of underground utilities, including electrical lines, water, sewer, gas, telecom, etc.

7. Reversing equipment

Reverse motion on any equipment in construction is a very high risk activity for workers in the area. Backup alarms on construction machinery cannot be relied on to ensure that the area is clear behind a vehicle. Operators must be assisted by a signal person at all times when they are reversing. As much as possible plan work to avoid reversing equipment.

The use of rear-mounted cameras and/or rear-mounted presence-sensing alarms is a developing technology and while these devices may enhance protective measures they cannot be relied on in the absence of a signal person.

8. Machinery overturning

If a piece of equipment overturns the roll over protection device and seat belt becomes a lifesaver.

Always use a seat belt. A professional operator should not have to be reminded of this bed-rock rule. Wear the seat belt even with the cab door closed.

9. Instability or loss of load

Moving soil or bulk materials is fairly straightforward. It becomes more complex when using a backhoe to lift pipe into the hole. Be sure to utilize:

- positive locking attachments
- safety latches on all hooks
- correct lifting angles on chains or cable bridles
- spreader beams to provide correct lifting geometry

Keep all workers well clear of a load being lifted or handled and never lift a load over workers.

Many serious accidents also occur when trying to use one machine to do multiple functions. Plan for the work that you intend to do and make sure the equipment is available to do it safely.

Let's work together and bring everyone home safely.

Mike Chappell

Provincial Coordinator

Construction Health and Safety Program

Ontario Ministry of Labour

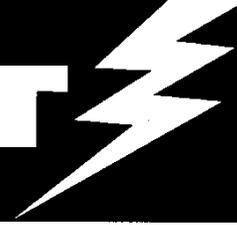
Health & Safety At Work
TODAY

Health & Safety At Work
TODAY

Health & Safety At Work
TODAY



ALERT



MAST-CLIMBING WORK PLATFORM SAFE USE, MAINTENANCE & INSPECTION

Disclaimer: This resource has been prepared to help the workplace parties understand some of their obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and regulations. It is not legal advice. It is not intended to replace the OHSA or the regulations. [FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE FULL DISCLAIMER](#)

The purpose of this alert is to provide important information regarding mast-climbing work platform safety. The recent death of two Ontario workers who were on a mast-climbing work platform when it collapsed prompted Ministry of Labour Inspectors and Engineers to undertake a review of similar mast-climbing platforms. Any serious defects in the structural elements of mast-climbing work platforms could, if not addressed, significantly increase the likelihood of failure.

Suppliers and employers, including those who own, use, or allow such equipment to be used at a workplace or project are advised of the significant potential for these structures to collapse if they are not properly inspected and maintained in accordance with good engineering practice and manufacturer's instructions.

Hazard summary

Welds in the structural components of the work platform may have cracks, and in some cases may be missing. Weld defects may not be detectable by visual examination and non-destructive testing may be required to determine if cracks in welds are present. Critical welds may not be readily accessible for inspection and non-destructive testing without partially removing the deck and partially dismantling the platform.

Any structural deficiencies identified during an inspection of a mast-climbing work platform in load carrying members, including mast sections, platform sections and ties, will require the platform to be taken out of service immediately.

Corrective action to address structural deficiencies must be taken before the equipment is placed back in.

Background

Mast Climbing Work Platforms (MCWP) have become a common type of access equipment in the construction industry primarily in the restoration, masonry and related sectors, replacing traditional scaffold systems. Under the OHSA, employers and supervisors are required to take

every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of workers (OHSA, clauses 25(2)(h) and 27(2)(c)). Parties must also comply with the requirements of the *Construction Projects Regulation* (O Reg 213/91).

Users of MCWP platforms should ensure that:

- A MCWP issued only in accordance with the written instructions of the manufacturer.
- A MCWP is not overloaded or used in a manner that would affect the platform's stability or endanger a worker.
- The rated working load of the MCWP is indicated on a sign visible to the operator at its controls.
- A MCWP is maintained in such a way that the safety factors of the original design are maintained.
- A MCWP is inspected each day before use, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The OHSA imposes the following requirements regarding the maintenance of equipment:

- Employers must ensure that the equipment, materials and protective devices are maintained in good condition.
- Suppliers of machines, devices, tools or equipment under any rental, leasing or similar arrangement must ensure that the items are maintained in good condition, if it is the supplier's responsibility under the rental, leasing or similar arrangement to do so.

2. Best Practices

CSA standard B 354.5-07(R2011), Mast-Climbing Work Platforms, provides current best practices for the design, manufacture, maintenance and testing of MCWP. However, based on the Ministry's recent observations of mast-climbing work platforms currently being used on construction projects, in addition to the annual inspection recommended in section 7.5 of CSA standard B354.5-07 it is recommended that:

- The person doing the inspection be an engineer or be designated in writing as competent for the task by a professional engineer.
- Critical welds be appropriately inspected, including using non-destructive testing in accordance with applicable methods recognized by the Canadian General Standards Board.

For more information contact:

- [Infrastructure Health and Safety Association](#)
- [Ministry of Labour Health & Safety Contact Centre](#)
- [Canadian General Standards Board](#)
- [Canadian Standards Association](#)

Please photocopy Ministry of Labour Alerts, distribute them widely and post them where people will see them.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORKPLACE SAFETY AND INSURANCE BOARD

The WSIB is undergoing an historic turnaround, becoming a sustainable organization that is responsive to the needs of injured workers and employers.

But at the outset, it was obvious that the organization's business model was broken: In 2009, the Auditor General reported that costs had vastly outstripped revenues. In fact, by 2012 the system had amassed a \$14.1 billion unfunded liability (UFL) that threatened to collapse the system.

THE STAKES

After a century of upheaval in the world of work, the WSIB is today one of North America's largest insurance organizations, providing workplace injury insurance for over five million workers and 290,000 employers. A system this big demands that every dollar be wisely spent, because poor management brings the risk that benefits, or an employer's ability to maintain and create jobs – or both – would be compromised.

THE DIAGNOSIS

The WSIB had adopted a passive posture: It was sent the bills for hundreds of millions of dollars for medical care for injured workers, and just paid them. The WSIB wrote benefit cheques for workers without regard to whether they got back to work or not. The funds collected were not sufficient to pay expenses, so the organization drew down from its investment fund to cover the gap. In short, the business required a complete overhaul.

CHALLENGING THE OLD WAYS

Experts long believed that injured workers required lengthy, passive rehabilitation. But studies have proven that activity hastens occupational recovery while inactivity delays it, and that if a worker doesn't get back to work within 90 days, chances they would ever get back dropped by half. These findings became the drivers for innovations aimed at getting workers safely back on the job as quickly as possible. Through investments in Return-to-Work and faster access to quality medical care, health outcomes have improved and the number of workers requiring wage loss benefits has declined. Benefit costs are down – even though we have not reduced benefit levels. And overall health costs have come down, even though we're spending more on health care per worker. The result? The WSIB now has one of lowest costs of new claims, and the best return-to-work outcomes, of any province.

FIXING OUR FINANCES

The new management of the WSIB promised a balanced approach: a slight increase in employer premiums and further investments in improved health and return-to-work outcomes for workers. The results of this approach meant we did not have to increase premiums for 2014. In fact, if it weren't for the UFL, the WSIB would have among the lowest premiums in North America. And the UFL has fallen from \$14.1 billion in 2012 to a forecast of less than \$9 billion by the end of 2014.

CONCLUSION

In short, the WSIB is in a far better place today than in a generation or more. We're not out of the woods yet though: There's still a lot of work to do to become fully funded by 2027 as required by law.

But we've made a good start...

THAT WAS THEN

wsib
ONTARIO

THIS IS NOW



Ontario workplaces are getting safer:
LOST TIME CLAIMS (2009 vs 2013)

50,667

41,987



Workers are getting their claims approved faster:
DECISIONS MADE WITHIN 2 WEEKS (2008 vs 2013)



Workers are now getting on-site help to get back on the job:
NUMBER OF VISITS BY WSIB RETURN TO WORK STAFF (2009 vs 2013)

0

26,000



We're getting injured workers to more specialized and timely medical care:
PERCENTAGE OF INJURED WORKERS IN INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS (2009 vs 2013)



18%



The number of workers not back at work after one year has dropped by *half*:
PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS STILL ON BENEFITS AFTER 1 YEAR (2009 vs 2013)

9%



4%



Revenue is now covering costs:
EMPLOYERS ARE CONTRIBUTING \$1.2 BILLION MORE A YEAR IN PREMIUMS (2009 vs 2013)



\$3.2B



\$4.4B



The shortfall to care for injured workers into the future is getting smaller:
UNFUNDED LIABILITY (2012 vs PROJECTED YEAR-END 2014)



\$14.1B



Under \$9B



PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS.....



Jay Riegling, CIP
Commercial Account Executive

jay.riegling@cowangroup.ca
519-271-1183 or 1-877-578-6030 ext 41383
Fax: 519-271-7758

618 Huron Street, Unit 1, Stratford, ON N5A 6S6

www.cowangroup.ca



Proudly serving the CFBA

Call us today at
1.800.387.5953
www.federated.ca



Kirby Ramsay
Area Manager – Oxford & Huron Ready Mix

Tillsonburg – 519-842-8491 Woodstock – 519-456-6000
Listowel – 519-291-41320 Arthur – 519-848-5878

Lafarge Canada Inc.
#594728 Hwy 59. PO Box 1694, Woodstock, ON N4S 0B1
Cell: (519) 533-3598
Kirby-ramsay@lafarge.com
www.lafareg-na.com



Robertson Building Systems
An NCI Company

GAIL S. READ
Marketing Manager

1343 Sandhill Drive
Ancaster, Ontario L9G 4V5
Main Line: 905.304.1111
www.RobertsonBuildings.com

Direct: 905.304.2403
Cell: 905.869.2233
Fax: 905.304.2423
Email: Gail.Read@RobertsonBuildings.com



JOHN MARCHETTI
Manager, Metal Depots

1343 Sandhill Drive
Ancaster, Ontario L9G 4V5
Main Line: 855.644.9141
www.RobertsonMetalDepots.com

Direct: 905.304.2377
Cell: 905.929.2623
Fax: 905.304.2423
Email: John.Marchetti@RobertsonBuildings.com

How to get in touch with the CFBA:

Mailing Address only:

328 Speedvale Avenue, East, Unit# 31A
Suite# 125, Guleph, Ontario N1E 0J4

Contact Sally Akroyd Bombino

Tel: 519-824-0809 Fax: 519-824-2477

Email: cfba@cfba.ca



**Proud Supplier of
Metal Fabrications**

**AGWAY METALS INC.
ANDEX METALS**

Easier to do Business with...

170 Delta Park Blvd. • Brampton, ON L6T 5T6
800-265-7070 or 800-268-2083 • www.agwaymetals.com

Agricultural Ventilation Systems



Tel: (519)527-2470 Email: sunnorth@sunnorth.com
92 Railway St. Seaforth, ON N0K 1W0

www.sunnorth.com



GARY VAN BOLDEREN
President

51 King St., Unit #3
BARRIE, ON CANADA L4N 6B5
EMAIL: horsebarns@dutchmasters.on.ca
www.dutchmasters.on.ca

BUS: (705) 737-3392
FAX: (705) 734-1810
CELL: (416) 254-0697



SPECIALIZING IN FARM TRUSSES SINCE 1988

Toll Free: 1-877-379-5828
Phone: 1-519-638-3086 Fax: 1-519-638-3955

We're tops for your buildings!



STONECREST
ENGINEERING

toll free
855.625.8025

Site Planning • Facility Design • Consultation
Manure Storage Design • BioEnergy Solutions
Project Management • Inspection Services

www.stonecrestengineering.com  

DAIRY POULTRY SWINE EQUINE SOLAR BIOGAS



DESIGN/BUILD

- * Arenas
- * Pole Barns
- * Custom Stalls
- * Field Run-ins
- * Implements Buildings
- * Indoor Ice Rinks
- * Log Cabins
- * Renovations & Repairs

MARK COOK

Phone: 905-939-4500
Fax: 905-939-4501
Cell: 905-716-4327

16870 12th Concession Schomberg, On L0G 1T0

mark@alstructural.com

THIS AD COULD BE YOURS FOR
\$200.00 PER YEAR FOR 4 ISSUES.
PLEASE CONTACT cfba@cfba.ca



1175 FRANCES STREET, LONDON, ONTARIO N5W 2L9

Jeremy Hansen

519-649-8554
1-800-265-1075
FAX: 519-453-5298
jhansen@formandbuild.com

Windsor • London • Kitchener • Mississauga • Hamilton



DAVON SALES INC.

DAVID KAY
President and CEO

1-800-561-1706
B: 519-537-2375
F: 519-537-7991
C: 519-532-5995
davidkay@davonsales.com

50 Lansdowne Ave.,
Woodstock, ON N4T 1S3
www.davonsales.com