

FROM THE GROUND UP



CFBA News

Newsletter of the Canadian Farm Builders Association

Fall Newsletter 2014



President news

This was another outstanding summer. The weather has been a bit of a challenge for those on holidays, but it has been great for those that work outside.

Our change with the GM position is now completed and all went well, Sally has settled in and is looking after the everyday tasks set out for her at the CFBA. Give her a call or send off an e-mail, she will respond promptly to your needs. Check out the website for up-to-date news and the changes to our contact information re: fax, address etc.....

I would like to reach out to Mike Parker and thank him from all of us at the CFBA for his honesty, hard work and dedication he put into the CFBA and in helping us move forward in building a stronger organization.

Thank you to the board of directors that pulled our golf day event together and to all who participated in our annual golfing tournament supporting the CFBA and charities. Congratulations to all prize winners.

It's not nice to say but time is slipping away fast and the push will be on to set up for fall work. Keep in mind our AGM conference coming in the New Year, Sally will be requesting your photos of your projects to be entered for all categories.

We are always looking for people that would like to be a member or take part on the board of directors for the CFBA. Again please call Sally or myself if you have any questions as we meet every 2nd month on a Friday at noon and usually set up for a one hour meeting.

Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going.



Mark Cook
President, Alstructural Handling Inc.





WE'RE MOVING!

*As of August 1st, 2014
our new mailing address is:*

Canadian Farm Builders Association
328 Speedvale Avenue, East, Unit # 31A,
Suite # 125,
Guelph, Ontario N1E 0J4

T (519) 824-0809 **F** (519) 824-2477





Mike Parker RETIRING.....

Mike, we cannot express enough our appreciation for all the hard work and dedication that you have given to the CFBA throughout your years as a member and a front runner for this association. Your vision for our association is vivid as we are still going strong today and your wisdom in what we represent is well aware within the industry.

Mike, we would like to reach out to you and thank you from the board of directors and past directors and presidents. For your dedication, motivation and heart you put into the CFBA. Along with keeping us on track with our meetings and all the events put on for the CFBA. You will be missed and your position will be hard to fill.

We just want to say that you are going to be missed, but we all wish you well in any new endeavours – including your family and grandchildren. We envy you, knowing that you can actually enjoy the long days of summer and relax while watching your fields fill up with snow.



Enjoy Mike,

From all your Family and Friends at CFBA, you'll be missed.



Canadian Farm Builders Association

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September 18, 2014

A Big Welcome to our New General Manager

Sally Akroyd Bombino,

Originally from Yorkshire, England, Sally Akroyd Bombino relocated to the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and subsequently returned to Ontario where she studied Business Management and Supervisory Studies at Conestoga College. She and her husband, Mike, have three teenage children, and since their elementary school days, Sally has been involved in a leadership capacity with school councils, a volunteer role she continues today at the secondary school level. This is but one area where Sally has utilized effective communication skills with a wide range of stake holders. Other areas of competency include a previous career in banking, and more recently, forays into Humans Resources, administration, and client service roles. Sally and her family live in Guelph, Ontario, but enjoy travelling.

A Message from the New General Manager:

Warm greetings to all CFBA members! I am very happy to be here supporting the Association and Board of Directors and intend to use my strong managerial, communication, and administrative skills to do an outstanding job for your Association.

As I embrace my new role, I look forward to communicating with you (our members) and perhaps meet you in person at one of our events, or speak with you on the phone or via email. My initial focus is to get an overview of the multiple responsibilities that Mike handled with ease over the years. Many, many thanks to Mike Parker, the former General Manager, for providing his tireless support in the transition to the Guelph office, and in providing assistance to myself as I assume the G.M. role.

The CFBA will continue to provide you with information on how your Association is working for you by communicating through our website and newsletter, and you may note a few changes as we work to enhance these modes of communication.

Please drop me a line any time you have a question or suggestion for the CFBA. I am particularly interested in knowing what topics or issues you would like to see in our newsletters.

Please note: this is the last newsletter you will be sent in paper version. Effective January 2015, your CFBA newsletter will be presented via email, with a link to the newsletter on our website. If someone wishes to continue receiving the quarterly CFBA newsletter in a paper format, please drop me a message at cfba@cfba.ca, and we will be happy to continue this for you.

Best regards,

Sally Akroyd Bombino
General Manager

cfba@cfba.ca

TOP REASONS TO BE A NEW DIRECTOR FOR 2015

Directors Input:

- *Exposure to the Farm Building community of suppliers and trades,*
- *Awareness of new regulations and legislation that impacts the Farm Building sector*
- *Meeting fellow Farm Building industry partners to discuss similar concerns and interest*
- *Building friendship and relationships within the industry I work in*
- *Presents a great opportunity to network with experienced colleagues*
- *Enables you to hear about issues and barriers in the industry, and how to overcome them*
- *You are kept up-to-date on regulatory and compliance issues*
- *Your participation makes the industry stronger and you feel like you are giving back*
- *You can make an impact with a relatively modest investment of your time*
- *It is an indication that you are a leader in the industry*

What one of the Directors says about being on the CFBA Board

'When I was asked to join the CFBA board I really did not know what it was about, but I did know that there were some very fine gentlemen on the board and they were enthusiastic about the CFBA board so that is probably why I joined. Being on the board has allowed me to meet some very intelligent people who are involved directly and indirectly with the construction industry especially the agricultural industry. Every meeting I go to I learn something new and it is because of this flow of knowledge that I receive, that I look forward to going to the meetings. It has also allowed me to network with people who can help me in my business and who I hope I can help in theirs. I certainly would encourage anyone who is interested to sit on this board as it is very proactive in disseminating very useful information to its members and ultimately to the agricultural community in general.'

TOP REASONS TO BE A NEW DIRECTOR FOR 2015

Continued.....

Why did I join the CFBA Board?

- *I was asked by an existing board member who thought it would be a good experience for me*
- *Allows me to develop stronger relationships with people in the agricultural construction industry*
- *Ensures that my firm is made aware of all the latest events that may affect the agricultural industry (things are only in the newsletter once they are final – you learn about proposed changes or big issues well before that when you are on the board)*
- *Provides an opportunity to take a leadership role in an important industry*
- *Allows me to give back to the industry that I make a living working in*
- *Provides an opportunity to expand my professional knowledge and skills*
- *It's a lot of fun working with good people*
- *Get to travel to Justin Bieber's home town every year for the annual general meeting – who can say "No" to that?*

So come join our team. If you are interested in a Director role for 2015, the nominations will be presented and voted on at the Annual General Meeting. Please plan to attend or indicate your interest to one of the Directors, or to myself (Sally), prior to the event.

*Sally Akroyd Bombino
General Manager*



www.cfba.ca



2014



CFBA Golf Tournament



Once again the staff at Grey Silo Golf Course provided us with a great day, with their world class golf course and exceptional club house facilities and service. The day was however a challenge for golfers with the wind but everyone had smiles on their faces by the end of the day and talked about hopefully seeing some sunshine on the course next year.

We want to thank all those who sponsored the tournament with hole sponsorships and prize table donations. This year's hole sponsors were:



Special thanks go out to Federated Insurance who sponsored the "Hole-In-One" contest on Hole #2 for a Harley Davidson Motor Cycle or a Ford F-150 pickup. There was no lucky person this year, but maybe next year someone will be the lucky winner.

This year's winners were:

Low Score - (we had a slight mix-up with the score cards, so two groups were awarded low score this year).

CFBA Member: Dufferin Concrete - 1st group

Winners: John Bell, Dave Baily, Brian Stere, and Bon Kalbfliesh

CFBA Member: Heritage Builders - 2nd group

Winners: Mark Harding, Paul Charlebois, Rob Beitz, and Dave Johnston

CFBA Member: H. Van Moorsel Insulation: **Longest Drive:** Mark Walker

CFBA Member: Williams Form Hardware: **Closest to the Crooked Line:** Tyler Worrall

CFBA Member: Frey Building Contractors: **Most Honest Golfers:** Ron Martin, Ryan Martin, Brian Martin and Duane Martin



We want to thank all those who participated in our golf day and we look forward to seeing you all again next year. Please feel free to bring out extras players as we always have room for more.

ATTENTION BUILDERS

Get those photos taken of this year's projects



Check the CFBA website
for the forms for the
PROJECT OF THE YEAR
registration

or contact Sally @ 519-824-0809

MARK YOUR CALENDARS.....



Canadian Farm Builders Association
29th CFBA Annual Conference
Arden Park Hotel, 552 Ontario Street, Stratford,
Ontario January 30, 2015



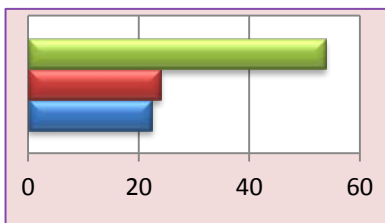
MORE INFORMATION TO COME VIA EMAIL, THE WEBSITE, AND THE NEXT CFBA NEWSLETTER




SURVEY SUMMARY

HOW DO YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE CFBA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER?

Answered: 67

Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
 An emailed "copy" attached to an email	53.73%	36
 Email notice with "link" to the current issue on the CFBA website	23.88%	16
 Printed copy mailed to your location	22.39%	15
Totals	100%	67

AS A RESULT CFBA WILL BE GOING PAPERLESS in 2015



“Horse Industry, Good News “

August 27, 2014

Guelph ON: Mr. Philip Olsson, chairperson of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLGC) announced that before the end of August, the OLGC will sit down with key members of the Horse Racing Industry

and that the different parties representing the racing industry and the OLGC will prepare a true integration of the two industries.

Two years ago, the fifteen year relationship between the OLGC and the Horse Industry was terminated by the Ontario Government and OLGC. This created an instant negative impact on the Horse Industry, especially for small community racetracks and determined the breeding verdicts for many owners. The Horse Industry was quick to react by galvanizing all stakeholders to speak out against the termination of the previous arrangements.

Mr. Gary van Bolderen, current Director, and former President of the Canadian Farm Builders Association (CFBA) reports that the Canadian Farm Builders Association was one of the many participants in this process. While the CFBA could not influence the government into action on its own, it was however part of the multitude of organizations and individuals, who, together were able to do so.

The Canadian Farm Builders Association is comprised of farm builders, engineers, building inspectors, and suppliers of farm building related products who work to:

- promote and advance the construction of structurally sufficient, environmentally sound, efficient farm buildings in Canada
- promote and advance the standards of farm structures through research, education and practical applications
- encourage high quality work and fair dealings by association members toward farmers and the general public
- represent the association in legislation proposals, codes, safety, labour and other matters administered by governments
- organize and support meetings for the exchange of information among the members

The announcement from Mr. Olsson is an indicator of the recognition of the importance of the Horse Industry to Ontario and many hope this recognition will energize and re-invigorate the relationship. The thousands of employees and small businesses that support the Horse Racing Industry, along with organizations and Associations like the CFBA will be watching to see what these meetings will produce.

Information regarding the Canadian Farm Builders Association may be obtained at www.CFBA.ca



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LOCAL FOOD NEWS - ONTARIO

Editor, Elbert van Donkersgoed
News, September & August, 2014

- ❖ **Developing the Value Chain of Ontario Quinoa**
- ❖ **Saoirse's latest role – promoting eco-friendly homegrown food**
- ❖ **The “Future is Food” secures its place on National Curriculum**
- ❖ **Taking account of shared and cultural values of ecosystem services**
- ❖ **Thumbs up for Ontario wine**
- ❖ **Map To Find Ontario Wine at Farmers Markets**
- ❖ **How Ontario's beef industry can learn from Australia's traceability program**
- ❖ **Renfrew County Local Food & Farming Forum**
- ❖ **Chatham-Kent Food Event Gathering Steam**
- ❖ **Ontario Farm Fresh presents “Farm to Fork University”**
- ❖ **Helping Decision-Makers Understand Rural Ontario**
- ❖ **Trade Agreements and Local Food Procurement**
- ❖ **Roaming Thunder Bay restaurant launches new mobile app**
- ❖ **Ontario Tofu Makes Its Debut at the Durham District School Board for Local Food Week**
- ❖ **Greenbelt Fund Fills the GAP**
- ❖ **Kawartha Lakes 100 Mile Dinner**
- ❖ **Taste Local! Taste Fresh! 2014**
- ❖ **Growing Food Resilience**
- ❖ **Archive of Agri-Environmental Programs in Ontario before 2000**
- ❖ **Globalization and Food Sovereignty: Global and Local Change in the New Politics of Food**

Information about Local Food News is available on the Local Food News [website](#). This includes an archive of past issues of Local Food News. You can also follow possibility thinking for local food systems by following the tweets about locally grown food and near-urban agriculture @RelocalizedFood.



Community Food Program Donation Tax Credit

Farmers who donate agricultural products to food banks and other community food programs in Ontario can claim a tax credit for those donations made in 2014 when they file their 2014 income tax returns. The Local Food Act, 2013 introduced a new non-refundable income tax credit for farmers who donate agricultural products to eligible community food programs in Ontario, including food banks. The credit is worth 25 per cent of the fair market value of the agricultural products donated and can be claimed for donations made on or after January 1, 2014.

Qualifying donations: A qualifying donation is:

- A donation of one or more agricultural products produced in Ontario
- Made to an eligible community food program in Ontario on or after January 1, 2014 by an eligible person.

An eligible person means:

- An individual (or his or her spouse or common-law partner), or sole proprietorship, who carries on the business of farming and resides in Ontario on December 31 of the tax year, or
- A corporation that carries on the business of farming in Ontario.
- A trust is not entitled to claim this tax credit.

An agricultural product means:

- Meat or meat by products, eggs or dairy products, fish, fruits, vegetables, grains, pulses, herbs, honey, maple syrup, mushrooms, nuts, or anything else that is grown, raised or harvested on a farm, and that may be legally sold, distributed or offered for sale at a place other than the premises of its producer as food, and
- Any of the items listed above that was processed, if it was processed no more than to the extent necessary for the product to be legally sold at a place other than the premises of the producer.
- An agricultural product also includes live animals suited for an intended to be processed as food.

An eligible community food program is a person or entity:

- That is engaged in the distribution of food to the public without charge in Ontario, including as a food bank, and
- That is registered as a charity under the Income Tax Act (Canada).

An eligible community food program must also be a person or entity:

- Whose primary purpose for distributing food to the public without charge in Ontario is to provide relief to the poor, or
- That oversees or operates one or more student nutrition programs that provide meals or snacks to students enrolled in an elementary or secondary school or an alternative learning program.

Calculating the tax credit:

- For individuals or sole proprietorships, the amount of the tax credit depends on how much you give and is calculated as:
- 25 per cent of the value of the qualifying donations. You must also claim the qualifying donations under the charitable donations tax credit in the same year.
- For corporations, the tax credit is equal to 25 per cent of the corporation's qualifying donations for the tax years ending after December 31, 2013, that the corporation claimed on Schedule 2, Charitable Donations and Gifts.

How do I get the credit?

If you are an individual or a sole proprietor:

- Claim the credit by filing a completed Form ON428, Ontario Tax, with your personal income tax and benefit return (T1 return).
- If you file your return electronically, you need to keep all your receipts and documents for six years. If you file a paper return, attach all official receipts for your qualifying donations to your paper return.

If you are a corporation:

- Claim the credit by filing a completed Schedule 2, Charitable Donations and Gifts, with your corporation income tax return (T2 return).

Note: It is important to file your return as a completed package. Incomplete returns generate delays in processing.

Get your Income Tax Packages from the Canada Revenue Agency

Ask an Engineer....

Q: What is a Shear Wall? How do they work?

In short, a shear wall is part of the lateral bracing system in a building. In order to explain how they work, it is best to take a step backwards first and look at an overview of building design.

When designing a building, there are many different considerations for loads that the building must support. The two biggest are gravity loads (including snow, rain and self-weight) and lateral loads (wind and seismic).

For lateral loads, the most common practice in design today is to utilize the roof steel as a very large, semi-rigid element (a.k.a diaphragm) to transfer the horizontal loads to the perimeter of the building. Lateral bracing elements then transfer the forces from the roof down to the foundations. Translated: Bracing elements prevent the building from “falling over”. The most common restraint elements are either diagonal braces or shear walls as illustrated in the figure below:

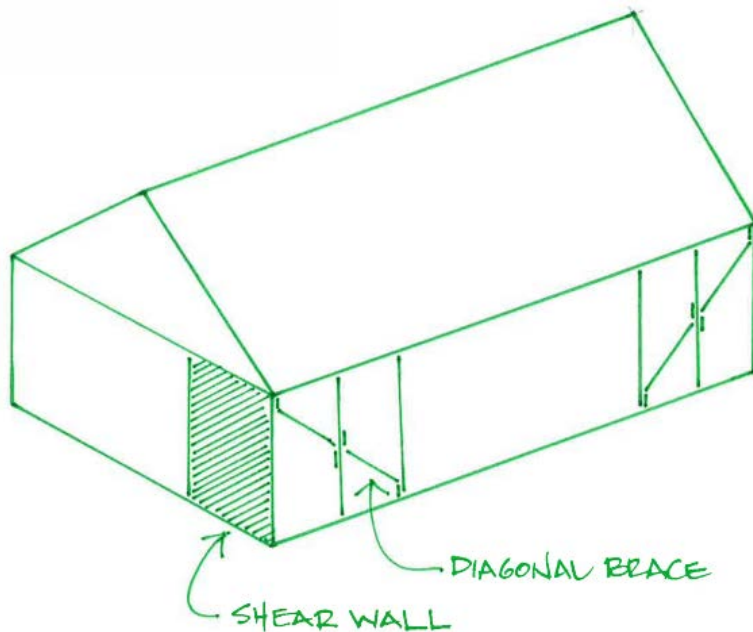


Figure 1: Typical Bracing Elements

Now back to the question... How do shear walls work?

It is best to start with a figure of what a typical shear wall looks like:

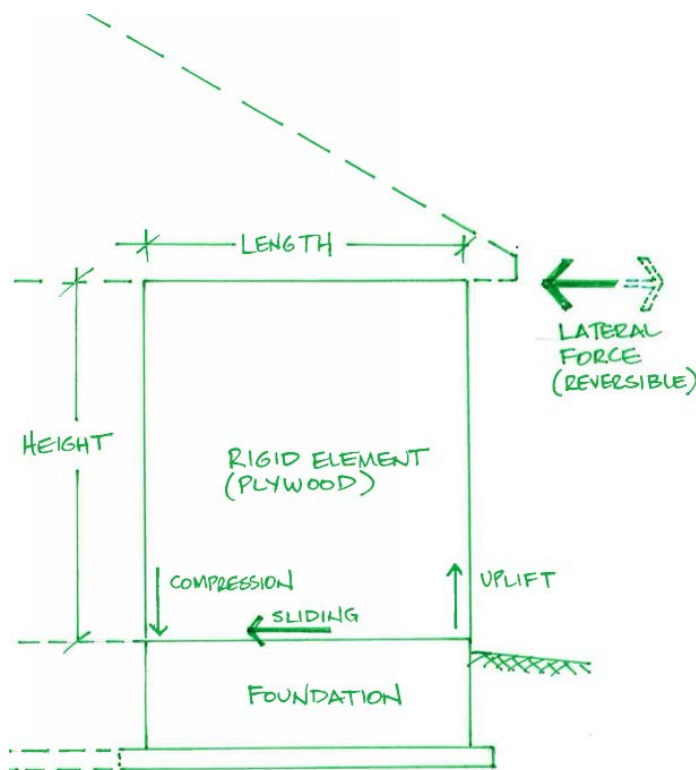


Figure 2: Typical Shear Wall

Shear walls are vertical rigid elements that resist a laterally applied force. A very simple “Do it yourself” graphic would be to take a cell phone (or any other rectangular shape) and stand it up on end. Now push on the top corner – two things want to happen: the phone will slide across the surface (if slippery) and /or the one corner will start to lift off the desk (if it “sticks”).

When you design a shear wall, you need to transfer the lateral force, down through a rigid element (most commonly plywood over wood studs), to a fixed anchor (foundation). Usually an uplift anchor is required at both ends of the wall with a built-up wood post to account for the load reversal

case, and a series of standard anchor bolts along the bottom to account for the sliding.

A few design considerations:

- 1) Plywood Shear walls work best when the length to height ratio is 1:1 or better (i.e. the length is at least as long as the height) but shorter walls can be designed also.
- 2) Stud framed walls with a concrete foundation work better than in-filling a post framed wall as the connections are easier to design and construct.

Another great article “Introduction to Lateral Design” can be found on the internet, which is available from www.apa.org

Have a question for an Engineer? Submit questions to cfba@cfba.ca and we will try and answer!

BY: Steven Adema P.Eng.



CFBA 2014 FALL NEWSLETTER- INSERT



We received the following summary from a CFBA board member regarding the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) initiative, related to the implementation of the Gaseous Fuels Code Adoption Document (CAD) for unvented heaters in Livestock and Poultry barns by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority. The details are contained in a Fuel Safety Program Advisory FS-214-14.

BACKGROUND:

- Barns containing certain animals (day old chicks, turkey poults, weaner pigs, veal calves, etc.) require the addition of supplemental heat. The majority of barns requiring heat in Ontario use natural gas or propane fired equipment for this purpose (e.g. hot water boilers, radiant tube heaters, box heaters, brooder stoves, etc.)
- The National Gas and Propane Installation Code (Code) CSA B149.1 allows for the use of unvented appliances inside a ventilated building provided a number of conditions are met. These include having a minimum amount of air exchange(s) in the room based on size of heater(s), interlocking controls between heater and ventilation fans to ensure fans operating before heater starts, etc. to avoid issues with carbon monoxide.
- Many of these appliances found in livestock and poultry barns in Ontario would be of the unvented type. The interlocking control system between heating appliance and ventilation equipment does not exist for many of these barns so they do not meet these requirements.
- In Ontario enforcement of the Code is the responsibility of Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA).

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- The Code Adoption Document was issued on August 1, 2014 and it will come into effect 60 days later on October 1, 2014.
- New installations using unvented heaters will be required to meet CAD immediately after October 1, 2014 while any existing barns with unvented equipment will have until January 1, 2016 to become compliant.
- Advisory FS -214-14 was issued on August 25, 2014 and provides specific details regarding the type of information that needs to be verified and the minimum information that must be posted in the barn.
- Technical Standard and Safety Authority (TSSA) has specified that the Ventilation Calculation form required to satisfy the CAD must be signed by a Professional Engineer, licensed in Ontario.
- Some CFBA members might be interested in providing ventilation design & evaluation services for livestock and poultry barns in Ontario - cost to provide this service is unknown.

Please review the FS – 214-14 document following.



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www.cfba.ca



Fuels Safety Program	Ref. No.: FS-214-14
ADVISORY	Date: August 25, 2014

Subject: Unvented heaters in livestock facilities - ventilation calculations (B149.1-10, 7.36.1)
Distribution: Posted on TSSA website and sent to Natural Gas RRG and Natural Gas and Propane Advisory Council, OMAFRA, CPA

The most recent amendment to the Gaseous Fuels Code Adoption Document (FS-212-14, dated August 1, 2014, effective October 1, 2014) includes specific requirements for natural gas or propane heating appliances installed in livestock and poultry barns that vent their products of combustion into the barn space (clause 7.36).

These requirements include that the ventilation system designer (who must be licensed as a professional engineer in Ontario, pursuant to the *Professional Engineers Act*) must verify the following two calculations and prominently display this information in the entrance area of each barn:

- 1) Minimum ventilation rate of the barn (mechanical or natural ventilation) when the heaters are operating is not less than 300 CFM / 100,000 BTUH (0.003 CFM/BTUH) of heaters input [clause 7.36.1(c)].
- 2) Maximum input of the heating appliances does not exceed 20 BTUH/FT³ of the space in which the appliance is located [clause 7.36.1(d)].

The calculations summary must show at minimum the following information:

- a) Barn address
- b) Barn ID
- c) Barn description
- d) Barn dimensions in feet
- e) Barn volume in cubic feet
- f) Description of heaters
- g) Heaters input in BTUH (total input of all heaters)
- h) Description of ventilation equipment
- i) Minimum ventilation rate in CFM
- j) Ratio of minimum ventilation rate to heaters input [shall not be less than 300 CFM / 100,000 BTUH (0.003 CFM/BTUH) as per clause 7.36.1(c)]
- k) Ratio of heaters input to barn volume [shall not exceed 20 BTUH/FT³ as per clause 7.36.1(d)].
- l) First/last name and company name of the professional engineer that verified ventilation calculations
- m) Date of verification

Notes:

- If additional unvented heaters are installed or removed the calculations required in items 1 & 2 must be updated to reflect the current status.
- All installed unvented heaters, whether operational or not must be included in the calculation.
- All heaters shall be approved.
- Attached are the following documents for your reference:
 - Ventilation Calculations Form
 - Ventilation Calculations Example



VENTILATION CALCUALTIONS - CLAUSE 7.36.1 (FORM)

- A) Barn address: _____
- B) Barn ID: _____
- C) Barn description: _____
- D) Barn dimensions: _____ ft x _____ ft x _____ ft (high)
- E) Barn volume: _____ ft³
- F) Description of heaters: _____

- G) Total heaters input in barn: _____ BTUH
- H) Description of ventilation equipment:

- I) Minimum ventilation rate: _____ CFM
- J) Ratio of minimum ventilation rate to heaters input (I/G) [min. 0.003
CFM/BTUH]:

- K) Ratio of heaters input to barn volume (G/E) [max. 20 BTUH/ft³]:

- L) Ventilation system verified by P.Eng. (first/last name, company name):

- M) Date of verification: _____



VENTILATION CALCUALTIONS - CLAUSE 7.36.1 (EXAMPLE)

- A) Barn address: 12345 Street Ave. Anytown
- B) Barn ID: Turkey barn#2
- C) Barn description: One storey brood/growoutbarn
- D) Barn dimensions: 50 ft x 300 ft x 8.5 ft (high)
- E) Barn volume: 127,500 ft³
- F) Description of heaters:
7 Radiant Tube heaters @ 100,000 BTUH each
- G) Total heaters input in barn: 700,000 BTUH
- H) Description of ventilation equipment:
3 - 24 inch variable speed fans – Model XXY operating at 0.10 inch static pressure at 40% of BESS test
- I) Minimum ventilation rate : 3600 CFM
- J) Ratio of minimum ventilation rate to heaters input (I/G) [min. 0.003 CFM/BTUH]:
3600 CFM / 700,000 BTUH = 0.00514 (more than 0.003 CFM/BTUH)
- K) Ratio of heaters input to barn volume (G/E) [max. 20 BTUH/ft³]:
700,000 / 127,500 = 5.5 (less than 20 BTUH/ft³)
- L) Ventilation system verified by P.Eng. (first/last name, company name):
John Smith, P.Eng, ABC Ventilation Inc.
- M) Date of verification: August 20, 2014



'Interview with Minister of Rural Affairs'

Mr. Jeff Leal

In early July 2014, Owen Roberts, Professor in agriculture communications at the University of Guelph, author of the Urban Cowboy blog, and Guelph Mercury columnist interviewed Mr. Jeff Leal, minister of Rural Affairs.

Thank you to Professor Roberts for providing approval for the Canadian Farm Builders Association to re-print the interview, as follows:

Q. Please talk about your perspectives on research and about the agreement between the ministry and the University of Guelph.

A. I'm a strong supporter of research and science that's been done in collaboration over many decades between OMAFRA and the U of G. It's been a great partnership that has produced unique research results, not only in Ontario and Canada but internationally too. Currently our ministry invests over \$75 million to support science in the agricultural sector - a significant amount of money - and we look forward to seeing the results of that research, particularly research that can lead to the next phase, which is commercialization. Commercialization is key to a growing economy and it will be critically important to meet the premier's goal of 120,000 new jobs in the agri-food sector by 2020. Last year, we invested \$20 million to build a world-class dairy research facility not too far from here, at the Livestock Research and Innovation Centre in Elora. This was an important investment; Ontario has been a leader in the dairy industry, nationally and internationally.

Q. You mentioned dairy. Do you have concerns about supply management when you talk about the dairy industry?

A. My position is this: supply management yesterday, supply management today, supply management tomorrow, supply management forever. There's never been a better economic model in terms of farming than supply management. [It would be good if] supply management was used around the world, particularly in countries that are evolving...in many ways we skewed their agricultural operations by dumping [commodities] on them over many years. Supply management allows a very orderly domestic agricultural sector to evolve and be strong...and supply management doesn't cost the treasury one nickel.

Q. Earlier you mentioned the minister's challenge to the agri-food community for exports...

A. I believe it has great potential and is doable. We know food grown and processed in Ontario has a brand reputation nationally and internationally and we should take advantage of it in the four corners of the world. A tentative trade mission is being scheduled in [the fall] to China; part of [MPP] Michael Chan's new responsibilities is international trade, and I've talked to him about how we might be able to profile and promote Ontario agri-food industries and explore opportunities in China and use that as a gateway to other countries.

Q. How do you balance the need to export, and support for local food?

A. Cooperatively. One of the positive results of the minority government was all three parties working together for the Local Food Act. We know right now many farmers markets are in full bloom right across Ontario...strawberries and asparagus have never been better. I frequent the farmers' market in my hometown of Peterborough every Saturday...I always tell people to read labels in a grocery store, find out where the food is coming from, and your food choice if possible should always be local food that's grown and processed right here in Ontario.

Q. Would you say local food is better, and what makes it that way?

A. I believe it is. In terms of food safety, we probably have one of the strongest frameworks for food safety in the world. We know when people are making a purchasing decision safety is paramount and that buying an Ontario food product is done in complete confidence.

Q. How would you feel about the Greenbelt expanding?

A. That's something we need to consider. There is a wide variety of interests and one of the things I've learned in politics is to listen carefully. As Minister of Rural Affairs, I received representation particularly from the Niagara Peninsula about ways to extend the Greenbelt. That will be something I will engage in and listen to very carefully.

Q. What commodities do you believe are on the rise in Ontario?

A. In my own riding of Peterborough, 10-15 years ago farmers didn't grow any soybeans. Today, I suspect the number of soybean acres in Peterborough rivals that of corn. Soybeans are an important cash crop and we export soybeans to international jurisdictions. Soybeans are being used to make biomaterials, which has tremendous potential for Ontario's economy.

Q. The Good Things Grow in Ontario campaign has been very successful. Are there further plans for it?

A. We need to keep promoting that. I don't have a particularly good singing voice so I will not sing Good Things Grow in Ontario [laughs]. But I remember reading a statistic that said next to McDonald's, the Good Things Grow in Ontario brand and slogan was the second most recognizable brand initiative [here], which goes to show you it's in the public conscience. I've witnessed more people going to my hometown market, and now they can access VQA wines. There's been a great deal of discussion about the distribution of Ontario wines and spirits: it's a very logical extension to offer them at farmers' markets. Many people would also like to see craft beer and fruit wines available at farmers' markets. The watchword is you go one step at a time, then review to see if it's had the intended success as originally designed.

Q. How about alcoholic beverages at corner stores?

A. The premier said very clearly that we have a distribution system that is working. For me, one of the great strengths of both The Beer Store and the LCBO is social responsibility. The number of people they refuse to buy beverage alcohol shows social responsibility and keeping people safe in their communities. That's a very strong part of our beverage alcohol distribution. I know from experience, people in my constituency who've had a loved one killed or severely injured at the hands of a drinking driver, and those stories are very compelling.

Q. How about the right to farm and what it means to urban sprawl? I saw the Farms Forever program in your election platform...

A. Yes, we're looking at ways we can keep in production our farming sector and ways to protect Class 1 & 2 farmland. Ontario is blessed as one of Canada's provinces with a significant amount of the best farmland. We need to make sure we find ways – we brought in the Greenbelt, for example – to protect Ontario farmland. We build on the shoulders of others, and when Mr. [Bill] Davis was premier, he brought in the Niagara Escarpment Act because he was concerned every square centimeter was going to be paved over. The natural extension of that was for us to bring in the Greenbelt. A variety of people would like us to extend the Greenbelt. I think there are other positive ways in terms of urban design where we can take advantage -- places to grow intensification, and the provision of public transit for urban developments to protect farmland in Ontario.

Q. What will be your biggest challenge?

A. Learning as much as I can about the agriculture sector as quickly as possible. Ontario's agriculture sector has individuals with a wide range of knowledge and I am anxious for them to share that with me.

Q. Back to farmers' right to farm? How do you balance the interests of farmers and the traits that are inherent in farming -- such as noise and smell -- with the concerns of their urban neighbours?

A. The reality is if you move from downtown Toronto to rural Ontario you're going to have to put up with the smells and activity that go on there. That's just a fact. When people make that kind of a move they have to understand they are moving into a lifestyle that is part of Ontario's history and there's a need to respect that history and tradition.

Q. Are there any commodities that are on the decline in Ontario?

A. Tobacco...there have been initiatives to buy farmers out of tobacco. We've tried to work on alternative crops for people growing tobacco. Crop research is going on right here in Guelph for hazelnut research because that's a main ingredient of Ferraro chocolates, that's a big operation in Brantford and they have to source hazelnuts from outside of Ontario.

Q. You are now the minister of the combined ministries of agriculture and food, and rural affairs. What are the implications to farmers of the ministries being combined?

A. I was the Minister of Rural Affairs for 13 months, and it was a real learning experience. I would meet with many agricultural leaders on the premier's behalf when she was doing other duties, and I got to know them quite well. The premier made a wise decision to combine the ministries because she wanted to know more about this sector of Ontario's economy -- \$34 billion GDP, 750,000 jobs, and I think that was the right decision for her to really get a thorough understanding of the sector.

Q. What really excites you about Ontario agriculture?

A. This sector has a great future. I think the agricultural sector has great potential to grow jobs and retain jobs. We look around the world and many countries have an evolving middle class and evolving consumption patterns for quality food and that quality can be filled by Ontario's agri-food sector.

Q. Last question: going forward, how will you manage the neonicotinoid issue?

A. Ours will be a balanced approach. Pollinators are so crucial to the agriculture sector and having healthy grain farmers being able to do what they do every day is paramount to the success of the agri-food sector. We'll base our decisions on sound science and bring everyone together in a common cause.

Labour Article – August, 2014
by LISA M. BOLTON

Article



Medical marijuana sparks a buzz for employers

Marijuana use for recreational purposes is currently illegal in Canada. However, for the more than 40,000 Canadians who legally use the drug for medical purposes, obtaining it has recently become a lot easier. Effective April 1, 2014, medical marijuana users no longer require a license from Health Canada and can secure the drug from an authorized distributor with only a doctor's prescription. According to Health Canada, this change is likely to increase the number of medical marijuana users across the country to more than 450,000 in the next 10 years. For employers this creates many new and challenging issues as marijuana use creeps further and further into the workplace.

Accommodating the user.

When marijuana is used to treat a disabling medical condition such as epilepsy, chronic pain or post-traumatic stress disorder, an employer has a duty under human rights legislation to accommodate the employee unless the accommodation would result in undue hardship for the employer.

This means an employer must permit an employee to use marijuana during working hours if it is medically necessary to do so.

However, an employer does not have to permit an employee to smoke marijuana while on the job or expose other workers to second-hand smoke. An employer may implement workplace rules regarding the use of medical marijuana so long as appropriate accommodation is provided to the employee. This may include requiring the employee to smoke in a designated area during scheduled breaks or meal periods, and restricting the employee from smoking while in uniform, in public view, in company vehicles, or in the vicinity of other workers or customers who may come into contact with the smoke.

Are there alternatives?

No duty to disclose pot smoking

How employers can navigate this new territory

For full details on the above article please see website www.dailycommercialnews.com.

Ministry of Labour – Prevention Council Announcement

The Ministry of Labour is pleased to announce that Derek Johnstone and David Musyj have been appointed to the Prevention Council. The 11-member council provides advice to the ministry on a wide range of workplace health and safety issues.

Derek Johnstone will serve as a labour representative on the council. He is the Ontario Regional Director of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Canada, where he works with local unions and industry stakeholders to improve the standard of living for retail, food and commercial workers.

David Musyj will serve as an employer representative on the council. He is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Windsor Regional Hospital. In 2012, the Windsor Regional Hospital received an award for excellence (Gold Certificate) from the National Quality Institute in the Healthy Workplace category and the Quality and Patient Safety category. In addition, Windsor Regional Hospital was the first Canadian hospital to present at the Mayo Clinic. Mr. Musyj holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Detroit and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Windsor.

CRUSHING AND FARM EQUIPMENT ADVISORY

MESSAGE FROM ONTARIO'S CHIEF PREVENTION OFFICER

Crushing hazards are a serious safety concern on farms throughout Ontario. There are many ways in which you could be at risk — hitching a piece of equipment can lead to fingers being crushed at the pinch point. You can also be at risk by standing close to moving equipment, working under elevated equipment, or stopping equipment on an incline. Crushing incidents can cause injuries such as damaged tissue, cuts, or broken bones, and can even be fatal.

Prevention is the key to safety when working with farm equipment. Employers/ supervisors can help farm workers avoid the risk of being crushed by:

- Advising workers of any health or safety dangers with the farm equipment
- Ensuring those using the equipment have been properly trained to use it safely
- Making sure that the equipment, materials and protective devices provided by the employer are maintained in good condition

Workers using farm equipment can avoid the risk of being crushed by:

- Reporting machine hazards and other workplace hazards to their employer
- Wearing and effectively using any required protective device provided by their employer
- Not operating any equipment in a manner that could endanger themselves or any other worker

More information is available from the Ministry of Labour and its [workplace partners](#). You can also learn about the [Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines for Farming Operations in Ontario](#).

Will you do the job for cash? It's a risky business

Before you begin a construction or renovation project, remember this: there are significant risks if you accept cash for the job without reporting your income.

Contractors caught not reporting cash income face serious consequences, such as penalties, court fines, and even jail time, in addition to having to pay the taxes they are trying to evade, plus interest.

Consumers may think they are getting a deal by paying cash and avoiding taxes, but it can leave them with no warranty, no recourse for poor workmanship, and the added risk of liability if an injury takes place on their property.

Enforcing tax laws

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) enforces the tax laws to make sure everyone pays the correct amount of taxes they owe. This means fair treatment for all taxpayers and protecting the social and economic wellbeing of all Canadians.

CRA auditors and investigators can find unreported income, even when cash transactions are involved and proper records are not kept, by:

- conducting a lifestyle audit when an individual seems to be living beyond his or her means;
- comparing an individual's reported income or expenses to industry or regional averages;
- following up on leads received from informants, enforcement agencies, and other tax authorities; and
- comparing the information on tax returns to information received from third parties.

See [Publication RC4406, Will you do the job for cash?](#) for more details.



2014 Edition

Construction in Ontario Newsletter

- **No Surprises Budget Introduced by Sousa**
- **What's Happening at the Legislature**
- **Success of WSIB's Appeals Modernization**
- **Fair Practices Commission Annual Report**
- **Monthly MOL Report - Tragedy Strikes the Construction Industry in June**
- **New Standard for Working at Heights Training**

Government Relations Update

Is the Construction Lien Act Review Back on Track?

The review of the Construction Lien Act, Bill 69, was put on hold for the June 12th Ontario general election but on August 22nd the notes of an initial stakeholder meeting, hosted jointly by both MAF and MOL (now the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure) on April 30th were circulated. This may signal that the review is getting back on track.

COCA's OCoT Committee in Action

COCA's College of Trades Committee met on August 17th to receive an update on College activities, to share their own experiences or those of their associations' members with the College and to review and amend COCA's Ontario College of Trades Position Paper.

What does ORPP Mean to You?

The ORPP was a marquis commitment of the government responsible for shepherding in the new retirement savings program for Ontarians by 2017. It's expected to be modelled after the Canada Pension Plan to augment the CPP and better prepare Ontarians for their retirements. Mandatory participation in is expected to begin in 2017

Enrolment is anticipated to be phased in starting with the biggest employers

Like the COO. It's not known what types of comparable retirement programs will qualify to be exempt from participating in the ORPP.

WSIB 2015 Rates and Rate Setting

On August 21st the WSIB announced that there will be no increase in premium rates for all construction rate groups for 2015. Because of the way the WSIB has dealt with rate setting over the last several years, relative premium rates have gotten significantly out of alignment. This has caused rates for various rate groups to get way "out of whack" and as a result, some employers are paying too much and subsidizing others who are paying too little.



CONNECTS

Resources for Agriculture and Rural Economic Development

September 16, 2014

TECHNICAL UPDATES

(1) Cover Crops Following Cereals and Late Summer Harvested Crops

Adam Hayes, Soil Management Specialist, OMAFRA

- When to Plant
- Nitrogen and Cover Crop Growth
- How to Plant
- Termination

(2) Summer Seeding - Joel Bagg, Forage Specialist, OMAFRA

- Summer Seeding Alfalfa
- Summer Seeding Oats For Double-Crop Forage
- Sulphur On Alfalfa

(3) Two Practices to Improve On-Farm Water use Efficiency - Rebecca Shortt, OAFRA

- Importance of Monitoring Water Use with a Meter
- Importance of Monitoring Soil Moisture with an Instrument

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- *Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E)*
- *Funding Program Intake Dates*
- *Newcomer and Youth Community Indicators*
- *Downtown Revitalization*
- *Local Food Featured in Eastern Ontario*
- *Supporting Infrastructure Needs of Small Communities*
- *Green Communities Canada*

RESOURCES:

Best Management Practices Series from OMAFRA

PUBLICATIONS:

- Pub 384 : Protection Guide for Turf Grass
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub384/p384order.htm>
- Pub 841: Guide to Nursery and Landscape Plant Production and IPM
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub841/pub841.pdf>
- Pub 360, Guide to Fruit Protection
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub360/p360toc.htm>

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