

The Messenger



July 31, 2017

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Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

130 Malcolm Rd
Guelph, ON N1K 1B1
Phone: (519) 836-0043 Fax: (519) 836-2531
www.OntarioSheep.org

Please send all submissions to Heather Hargrave at
hhargrave@ontariosheep.org, or call (519) 836-
0043 ex. 29 with any questions.

Upcoming events

Have an upcoming event that you would like help promoting? Send an email to hhargrave@ontariosheep.org.

August 1	Genetic improvement meeting – Elora http://bit.ly/2tiko2a
August 1	District 5 family potluck and AGM http://bit.ly/2nDPRZF
August 3	Genetic improvement meeting – Lindsay http://bit.ly/2tiQXwZ
August 12	District 10 potluck barbecue & farm tour http://bit.ly/2h5dNY2
August 23	Metzger Vet Services sheep producer meeting – Linwood http://bit.ly/2tNnlaq
September 5	District 3 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2rktfQo
September 6	District 4 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2ss64an
September 7	District 11 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2gd3l0K
September 9	District 10 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2rdDiKQ
September 11	District 6 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2s4C18i
September 13	District 7 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2s4z738
September 14	District 2 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2rkoZAs
September 20	District 1 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2vMDqIS
September 21	District 8 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2rjVl9e
September 25	District 9 annual general meeting http://bit.ly/2rzE0xl
September 26	Livestock emergency response training workshop – Listowel http://bit.ly/2u3lzUr
September 26 to 28	Sheep shearing school for beginners http://bit.ly/2jvlanJ
September 27	Livestock emergency response training workshop – Glencoe http://bit.ly/2sW07CE
October 26 & 27	Ontario Sheep Convention http://bit.ly/2oCEaa1
October 30	Livestock day with Dr. Temple Grandin – Elmwood http://bit.ly/2umZDae
October 30 & 31	Advancing Women in Agriculture conference – Niagara Falls http://bit.ly/2nXI8HT
November 21 to 23	Agricultural Excellence Conference – Ottawa http://bit.ly/2qDp6qY
November 30 to December 2	23 rd Annual Dairy Sheep Symposium – Quebec http://bit.ly/2sUpL8k

Out and about

July 17 to 19	Canadian Federation of Agriculture summer board of directors meeting and Federal Provincial Territorial agriculture ministers round table meeting and reception
July 25	Life Cycle Analysis project conference call
July 26	AgGrowth Coalition conference call
July 27	National Sheep Network conference call

July board meeting notes

The OSMA board of directors met July 11, 12 & 13, 2017.

The OSMA board had their summer meeting touring District 7. Our thanks to Albert Botha, Jenny and Luke Carnaghan, Simcoe Street Meat Packers, and Mike and Linda Thompson for their hospitality and opening their farms to the board. Thank you also to Kevin Hutchings for hosting the district dinner and for planning the tour.

Communications to producers

The board was updated on the issues that staff have been having with the auto dialer. The recommendation to the board was not to reinvest in new auto dialer software, but instead to continue to build the number of emails and cell phone numbers in the database so that mass email and text messaging can be used. If phone notification is necessary, there is web-based software available.

Sheep Industry Advisory Committee

The Sheep Industry Advisory Committee met in June. Bette Jean Crews is the new Chairman. Supply, or lack thereof, was identified as the biggest issue facing the industry.

Canadian Verified Sheep Program

Anita O'Brien provided the board with an update on the Canadian Verified Sheep Program. The program incorporates the National Biosecurity Program and the Codes of Practice with the Food Safe Farm Practices program. While online training is available for producers, there is no money available for in person training (which could take about seven hours). It was stressed that most of the record keeping requirements are legal requirements under the Health of Animals Act, the Ontario Food Safety and Quality Act, the Ontario Nutrient Management Act and the Ontario Pesticides Act. The board is supportive of a pilot project being undertaken in the province to identify gaps, deficiencies, and make recommendations for improvements.

2017/2018 OSMA budget

The board reviewed the circulated draft 2017-18 budget. Staff is projecting lower licence fee income in the next fiscal year. Expense items are still being estimated, with a finer point having to be put on expenses around membership and advocacy. Board and staff travel expenses were underestimated in the previous fiscal year budget, and so there is more money in those line items.

National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) meeting

Rob Scott spoke about the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC), where he sits representing the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Fred Baker has been a long-time sheep industry representative to NFACC. Rob spoke highly of the reputation that NFACC has developed with retail stores and the work that they are doing on the development of codes for practice for the transportation of farm animals. The sheep industry code of practice is up for review in 2018.

Federal Provincial Territorial Agriculture Minister's meeting

In preparation for the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Agriculture Minister's meeting in July in Newfoundland, Rob participated in a meeting with Minister Leal, where the discussion focused on the desire for the comprehensive review of the national business risk management (BRM) programs.

Committee updates

Governance

The governance committee reviewed the census data on the number of sheep farms and ewes in Ontario and discussed the intent of the District 5 resolution that the board size and consideration of directors at large be

reviewed. Given the information provided, the recommendation it is not necessary to make changes to board size and composition at this time.

There was some discussion on the need for stronger succession planning within OSMA and the need to ensure that the progress that has been made politically continues.

Programs

The program committee's June meeting focused on GenOvis and the recommendation was made to reinstate the GenOvis user committee.

Awards

OSMA will be expanding the people that can qualify for the long service award to include anyone who has made a positive impact on the sheep industry.

Sheep Finance Program

Wheeler Group Inc. came into give a presentation on results to date on the Sheep Finance Program. While there appears to be interest from Ontario sheep producers in the program, there are administrative costs associated with making it available that need to be taken into consideration. Additionally, in other jurisdictions and commodities, where a program like this is available, they have not seen substantial increases in production.

OMAFRA programs available to farmers

Matt Duffield and Jade DeVos from OMAFRA joined the meeting via teleconference to go over programs that are available to sheep producers who are suffering losses due to excess rain. These programs include AgriStability and AgriInvest. Additionally, there is a forage rainfall program that producers would have been sent information on back in March.

Nutrient run-off "timing matters" initiative

Agricultural organizations and OMAFRA have partnered on an education, awareness and behavioural change initiative called "timing matters", to reduce phosphorus loss from agricultural sources in the Lake Erie basin. A peer-to-peer response team is being established that will follow up with individual producers that are observed spreading at high risk times.

The next OSMA board of directors meeting is scheduled for August 16 & 17, 2017.

Ontario Animal Health Network small ruminant report available

The latest Ontario Animal Health Network report for small ruminants is now available.

The report can be accessed at this link: <http://oahn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OAHN-Small-Ruminant-Producer-Report-Q1-2017-FINAL.pdf>.

Highlights include why defining "alarm levels" for sick animals with your veterinarian is a good idea, and information about the small ruminant adult mortality project.

District annual meeting information

For the most up to date information visit the event calendar at www.OntarioSheep.org.

District	Date	Location	Meeting topic	Contact
1	**UPDATED** September 20, 2017 6:00pm dinner 7:00pm speaker 8:00pm annual meeting	Arrowwood Farm & The Harvest Table - 6460 Riverside Dr., Melbourne	Speaker: Marc Carere Topic: Building relationships – American Sheep Industry annual convention	RSVP by September 10 to: Dave Dekay – (519) 666-0626 Sandra Alblas – (519) 637- 0050
2	September 14, 2017 7:30pm	Sprucedale Agromart (between Walkerton and Hanover)		Barb Zettler (519) 392-6549
3	September 5, 2017	To be announced		Sandi Brock (519) 263-2325 brocksandi@hotmail.com
4	September 6, 2017 7:00pm	To be announced		Jay Mycroft (905) 957-1114 jay.mycroft@xplornet.com
5	August 1, 2017 6:30pm	The Raven's 072484 10 th Line East Garafaxa, ON	Includes a family potluck	Romy Schill (519) 669-4146 circle.r.livestock@hotmail.com
6	September 11, 2017	To be announced		Grant Cowan (705) 436-2236
7	September 13, 2017	To be announced		Kevin Hutchings (705) 437-4441
8	September 21, 2017 7:00pm	Napanee Secondary School	Ontario Sheep Update Guest Speaker: Rob Scott, OSMA	Linda Huizenga (613) 477-2314 fhuizenga@xplornet.ca
9	September 25, 2017 7:00pm	Rocky Mountain House, Renfrew		Lyndsey Smith (204) 807-5897 realloudlyndsey@gmail.com
10	September 9, 2017 7:00pm	Grenville Mutual Insurance Board Room 380 Colonndade Dr, Kemptville	Digital wiring for barns (tentative)	Laurie Maus (613) 527-1897 Lauriemaus@xplornet.com www.facebook.com/OSMAD10
11	September 7, 2017 7:30pm	Kerns Township Fire Hall 279279 Milberta Rd, New Liskeard		Amy Oriet (705) 563-8484 Jim Johnston (705) 647-7160

New Canadian Agricultural Partnership program announced

At the FPT meeting in Newfoundland last week it was announced that the next agricultural policy framework (previously called Growing Forward 2) will be known as the Canadian Agriculture Partnership.

Highlights

- It's a \$3 billion investment by federal provincial and territorial governments.
- It will be in place by April 1, 2018.
- There are 6 priority areas – science, research and innovation, markets and trade, environmental sustainability and climate change, value-added agriculture and agri-food processing, public trust, and risk management.
- Producers will still have access to AgriStability; AgriInvest; AgriInsurance and AgriRecovery.
- Continued support on the development of new risk management tools will be provided through AgriRisk funding.
- Below is more detailed information on the BRM programs and information on the BRM program review.

AgriStability and Reference Margin Limits

Under **AgriStability** the Reference Margin Limit (RML) will be capped to ensure a more equitable level of support for all producers:

- The change to the RML will ensure producers from all sectors will have improved access to support under the program, regardless of their cost-structure.
- It will guarantee all producers at least 70% of their Reference Margin.
- The RML will continue to target assistance to significant income losses threatening the viability of producers' farms and that are beyond their capacity to manage.

AgriStability and late participation

- A late participation mechanism has been added that provincial and territorial governments can trigger to allow producers to enter the program late in situations where there is a significant income decline and a gap in participation.
- The mechanism will only be triggered in response to significant events and benefits will be reduced by 20% for producers who enroll late, to encourage regular annual enrollment by producers.
- This measure is intended to allow governments to ensure all producers can access AgriStability support when a significant decrease in revenue threatens the viability of the farm, should provinces and territories choose to trigger it.

AgriInvest and AgriStability

- While AgriInvest continues to be an important part of the BRM suite, changes to the program were necessary to reallocate funding to ensure a more equitable level of support for all producers in the AgriStability program.
- Beginning in the 2018 program year, the maximum Allowable Net Sales (ANS) eligible under AgriInvest will be reduced to \$1 million, down from \$1.5 million.
- The annual government matching contributions will be limited to \$10,000 per AgriInvest account, down from \$15,000.

- Currently there is approximately \$2.2 billion in AgriInvest account balances, which provides producers with flexibility and quick access to funds to help manage their risks.
- Under AgriInvest, the minimum payment will be adjusted from \$75 to \$250.
- A \$250 minimum payment will also apply under AgriStability.

Business Risk Management program review

- Governments will undertake a review of Business Risk Management programs to assess program effectiveness and impact on growth and innovation. There will be an early focus on the ability of the programs to respond to market risk, with a specific focus on AgriStability.
- Based on the early findings of the review, options will be brought forward for consideration at the July 2018 Ministers' meeting to improve timeliness, simplicity and predictability, and that are cost-neutral.
- The review will recognize the importance of all programs (AgriStability, AgriInvest, AgriInsurance).
- An external expert panel including producers, academia, and global experts will be engaged to provide input throughout the review.
- Broader industry engagement will also ensure an understanding of the nature of risk faced by the sector and the effectiveness of the programs.

2017 OSMA undergraduate scholarship

2017 OSMA Scholarship Award

One \$500 scholarship available

To be eligible you must

- Be a registered producer or have a parent/guardian who is a registered producer with OSMA, or be a member of a 4-H Ontario sheep club.
- Enrolled in your first or second year at an accredited university, college or apprenticeship program.
- Complete and submit your application by September 8, 2017.

The awarding of the scholarship will be based upon school and community involvement, and quality of the applicant's article submission.



For an application form and complete details, visit
www.OntarioSheep.org.

Genetic improvement for the sheep industry meetings

Meeting dates and locations

August 1, 2017 - Elora OMAFRA office (6484 Wellington Rd 7, Unit 10, Elora, ON N0B 1S0)

August 3, 2017 - Lindsay OMAFRA office (322 Kent St. W, Lindsay, ON K9V 4T7)

The meetings will run from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

They are free to attend by pre-registration is required. To register, email Michelle Thompson (michelle.1.thompson@ontario.ca).

Note: The Elora meeting may be offered by webinar, if there is enough interest. Email Michelle Thompson if interested.

Genetics are an important foundation for the sheep industry. This meeting is hosted by OMAFRA (the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs) and CGIL (the Centre for the Genetic Improvement of Livestock). It is an opportunity to hear from students about genetic projects they are working on, talk about the needs of the industry, and opportunities for the future.

Draft meeting agenda

Current status of genetic improvement in Ontario - Delma Kennedy

Opportunities for carcass trait genetic improvement - Erin Massender

Genetic improvement of ewe reproductive traits - Mohammed Boareki

The value of collecting information on new traits - Michelle Thompson

Opportunities with FAMACHA scoring - Camille Hildebrandt, Sarah Hershoin, Avery Emond

Discussion - where are we going? - Delma Kennedy

For more information

Michelle Thompson

michelle.1.thompson@ontario.ca

Livestock tax deferral provision

The Livestock Tax Deferral provision allows farmers who sell part of their breeding herd (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/l-3.3/page-74.html>) due to drought or excess moisture and flood conditions in designated regions to defer a portion of sale proceeds to the following year. Each year, a list of designated regions prescribed as drought and/or excess moisture and flood regions is announced.

For more information visit: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/list-of-programs-and-services/drought-watch/livestock-tax-deferral-provision/?id=1463574780220>.

Is the Production Insurance Forage Rainfall Program right for you?

By Betty Summerhayes.

This article originally appeared in the ONsheepproduction blog.

The Production Insurance Forage Rainfall Program may be a good fit for your farm. The forage rainfall plan uses rainfall as an indicator of quantity and quality of forage. There are two coverage options available:

- Insufficient rainfall
- Excess rainfall

Insufficient rainfall

The insufficient rainfall option protects against insufficient rainfall only. If the measured rainfall at the station you choose during the insured period is less than 85 per cent of the long-term average rainfall for your area, a claim may be paid. The producer can choose the rainfall collection station data to use.

Excess rainfall

The excess rainfall option provides protection against excess rainfall during the chosen harvest period. The producer selects a rainfall threshold of 5 mm or 7 mm. If you do not have any consecutive five-day windows in your intended harvest period with less rainfall than your chosen threshold, a claim will be paid.

Visit Agricorp for full program details and information <http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/Programs/ProductionInsurance/ForageRainfall/Pages/Overview.aspx>.

BadgerWay is back for 2017

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) is pleased to announce that BadgerWay is now accepting applications for projects that support on-farm habitat for this species at risk.

Badgers make use of field edges, old fencerows, buffer strips, windbreaks, and other grassy areas on farms as habitat and travel corridors. The BadgerWay Program offers financial support to farmers in southwestern Ontario who wish to implement three Best Management Practices that create new or connect existing on-farm habitat: tree and shrub planting for windbreaks and buffer strips, establishment of perennial contour cropping or other in-field perennial grass strips, and native grassland restoration.

The BadgerWay Program includes another aspect which is unique to the Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) initiative: Conservation Agreements between funded producers and Environment and Climate Change Canada provide habitat protection for American badger habitat for 5 years. With up to 75% cost-share to support project implementation, producers can access up to \$20,000 per farm business through BadgerWay.

Projects initiated on or after April 1, 2017 may be eligible for funding, and the program will remain open until February 1, 2018. To apply, visit the OSCIA website (<http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarpal/badgerway>).

For more information:

Contact OSCIA: (226) 706-8668 or sarpal@ontariosoilcrop.org

www.ontariobadgers.org

2017 Ontario Sheep Photo Contest

WE'RE LOOKING FOR **THE BEST PHOTOS** OF SHEEP, SHEEP FARMERS, AND THEIR FARMS

Enter to win great prizes in the 2017 photo contest.

CATEGORIES

- **Farm Scenes** – capture the beauty of the scenery on the farm.
- **Farm Faces** – who takes care of the sheep. Photos must contain at least one person with sheep.
- **Show me your sheep** – photo must contain at least 20 sheep.

Cash prizes for top photos in each category plus the overall fan favourite photo.

Entry deadline: October 13, 2017

Winners will be announced in early November.

For full contest details and rules visit www.OntarioSheep.org.

Contest entrants do not have to be members of OSMA to be eligible for prizes. Any submitted photos become the property of OSMA, to be used and/or reproduced. Where possible, credit will be given to the photographer.



Mental health in agriculture

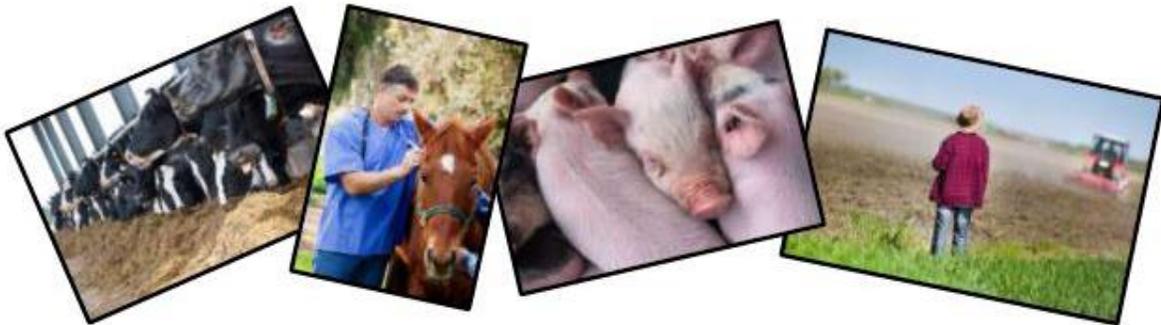
The Ontario Veterinary College is researching agricultural producer mental wellness. They are looking for agricultural producers, agricultural industry support staff, and veterinarians working with livestock producers to participate in a one-on-one interview. Interviews will last approximately 60 minutes, and the survey about 5-10 minutes. Participants will receive a \$100 honorarium. Additional details are contained in the flyer below.

For more information

Briana Hagen bhagen@uoguelph.ca or (306) 381-8927

Dr. Andria Bitton-Jones aqjones@uoguelph.ca or (519) 824-4120 x54786

The Ontario Veterinary College is researching agricultural producer mental wellness, and we need your help!



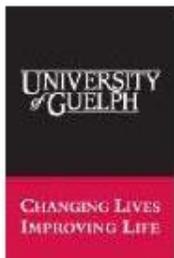
We are seeking agricultural producers, agricultural industry support staff, and veterinarians working with livestock producers to participate in a one-on-one interview. The interview will be conducted in a location of your choice.

You will be asked to discuss your thoughts and experiences with respect to mental wellness and resilience in the agricultural community and to complete a brief survey. Interviews will last approximately 60 minutes, and the survey about 5-10 minutes.

In appreciation for your time and valuable insight, you will receive a \$100 honorarium.

Interviews can be scheduled at your convenience.

Please contact Briana Hagen (bhagen@uoguelph.ca or 306-381-8927) or Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton (aqjones@uoguelph.ca or 519-824-4120 ext. 54786) if you are interested in participating



REB # XXXXX

Agricorp delivers programs to help

The 2017 growing season is underway, but there are regions where producers are facing significant challenges due to unseasonably wet, cool and stormy weather. While it's too soon to know the full impact, help is available.

Agricorp is reaching out to customers who have reported damage, and Agricorp adjusters have been at farms and in fields assessing individual situations. Agricorp is working with producers to answer questions about coverage and to help them through the claims process.

Producers facing challenging crop conditions should call Agricorp to report damage to their crops, or if they have questions about their coverage. Producers can contact Agricorp at 1-888-247-4999, Monday to Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Program options

Production Insurance covers yield reductions and crop losses due to insured perils, such as excessive rainfall, hail and flooding. Producers in Production Insurance who have potential damage to their crops need to contact Agricorp (<http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/ContactUs/Pages/Default.aspx>) to report the damage.

AgriStability protects farm income as a whole, instead of one commodity at a time. Producers receive a payment if their farming income falls below 70 per cent of their farm's recent average income. Producers with AgriStability coverage can request an interim payment if they find themselves in financial distress.

Program website: <http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/Programs/AgriStability/Pages/Overview.aspx>.

AgriInvest is a savings account that producers can use to cover income declines. Each year, producers can deposit up to one per cent of their allowable net sales into a bank account and receive a matching government contribution. Producers can withdraw funds at any time.

Program website: <http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/Programs/AgriInvest/Pages/Overview.aspx>.

Risk Management Program helps producers offset losses caused by low commodity prices and rising production costs. It's available for grains and oilseeds, cattle, hogs, sheep, and veal. Producers receive payments if the market prices fall below their chosen support level.

Program website: <http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/Programs/RMP/Pages/Overview.aspx>.

OSMA seeking awards nominations

Do you know an outstanding sheep farmer? Someone who has made a significant contribution to the Ontario sheep industry?

OSMA is now accepting nominations for its Outstanding Shepherd and Long Service Awards as well as the 2017 Pasture Award, presented in partnership with the Ontario Forage Council and MAPLESEED.

For more information, and nomination forms, visit:
<http://www.ontariosheep.org/AWARDSPHOTOCONTEST.aspx>.

**SEEKING NOMINATIONS
FOR**

2017 Awards

**OUTSTANDING SHEPHERD
AWARD**

Submission deadline:
September 29, 2017

**2017 MAPLESEED PASTURE
AWARD**

Submission deadline:
September 29, 2017

LONG SERVICE AWARD

Submission deadline:
September 29, 2017

ONTARIOSHEEP.ORG @ONTARIOSHEEP

Other organizations and reference information

Victoria County Sheep Producers

Third Wednesday every month starting at 7:30 Oakwood Elevators (Taylor Road, Oakwood)
 Membership is \$20 per farm per year. Contact: Peter Craig at pdcraig@outlook.com

Western Ontario Lamb Producers

District 2 and 3, for more information email westernontariolambproducers@gmail.com

Southwestern Ontario Sheep Farmers

Meetings 4th Thursday of the month: January to April
 Coldstream Community Centre; 10227 Ilderton Road, 519-666-2423
 Chair – Wendy McGowan, 519- 657-5197, Secretary – Geraldine Pennings, 519-764-2455

DISTRICT	CONTACT	INFORMATION
1	Dave DeKay at 519-666-0626 or dmdekay@isp.ca	http://osma_district_1.tripod.com/
2	Matt Zehr at 519-363-2029 zehr.matt@gmail.com	
3	Sandi Brock at 519-263-2325 brocksandi@hotmail.com	District 3 Facebook Page
4	Marusha Kostuk at 519-865-6874 or mushie.mk@gmail.com	Meetings tentatively to be held the 3 rd Wed. of the month at 7:30 at Ancaster Fairgrounds (630 Trinity Rd, Ancaster)
5	Lisa de Kleer at 519-994-1499 or dldekleer@gmail.com	Check out the District 5 Facebook Page!
6	John Hemsted at 705-487-2466 or sheep@vanam.com	
7	Jenny Carnaghan at 905-986-5120 or jenny@durhamlamb.ca	
8	Linda Huizenga at 613-477-2314 or fhuizenga@xplornet.ca	Meetings are normally held on the 3 rd Thurs of every month at 7 pm at Napanee High School. District 8 Facebook Page
9	Lyndsey Smith at 204-807-5897 or realloudlyndsey@gmail.com	
10	Christine Power at 613-686-1892 or christine.power@ic.gc.ca	Check out our Facebook page!
11	Amy Oriet at 705-563-8484 or gaoriet@hotmail.com	