



PRESS RELEASE

ONTARIO HAZELNUT ASSOCIATION 6th ANNUAL HAZELNUT SYMPOSIUM A GREAT SUCCESS: More than 130 participants!

Simcoe, ON, April 6, 2015 – Over 130 participants made the Ontario Hazelnut Association (OHA) hosted 6th Annual Ontario Hazelnut Symposium with the theme “The Hazelnuts Are Coming, The Hazelnuts Are Coming!” a great success. In a packed room, growers, academics, industry and others were informed of the new developments and opportunities for hazelnuts in Ontario, developments of new cultivars, tools and assistance to get the business rolling.

“The energy and enthusiasm in the room was tremendous” said Karen Robinson, Chair of the symposium and Director on the OHA Board. “It is exciting to see the prospects of this new industry developing from the ground up, and to see the engagement of growers, manufacturers and academics all moving in the same direction”.

A key interest was the release of the OHA / MoriEssex Nurseries / Ontario Centres of Excellence sponsored web-based tool which evaluates the financial implications of starting a hazelnut orchard. “This tool will lead to farmers making very informed decisions on what it takes to grow hazelnuts in Ontario” said Robert Haynes, General Manager of MoriEssex Nurseries and Vice Chair of the OHA. “We at MoriEssex are very pleased to be a part of these developments and this tool will give anyone who is interested an opportunity to evaluate their own situation using their own numbers”.

The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Shawn Mehlenbacher, who brought forward the latest research results from his work at Oregon State University (OSU). Dr. Mehlenbacher discussed the need for new cultivars, how OSU is releasing new varieties and the latest technologies in hazelnut development. Information was also provided on the latest cultivars that have been tested in Ontario, how to choose pollinating varieties, those varieties that are Eastern Filbert Blight tolerant, and are cold tolerant along with mapping Ontario for hazelnut production.

Interested people are encouraged to become members of the Ontario Hazelnut Association. With this membership, they can access a lot of information on the Members Only part of the OHA website (www.ontariohazelnuts.com), receive discounts on the purchase of hazelnut trees from member nurseries and also future events, receive correspondence from the OHA on new developments and help direct the future of this sector in Ontario

About The Ontario Hazelnut Association

The Ontario Hazelnut Association, established in 2013, is encouraging planting of hazelnuts in Ontario to serve new markets. This new crop for Ontario has enormous potential, with interested growers, strong suppliers and engaged buyers. The Ontario Hazelnut Association will continue to develop new markets for Ontario hazelnuts and their products through agronomic knowledge, cultivar development, economic analysis and public advocacy. For more information about the Ontario Hazelnut Association, see www.ontariohazelnuts.com.

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