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C-K's Agriculture and Outdoor Living Magazine | Summer 2017 - Issue 6

FOR ALL OF CANADA Pg.6 Fish is Local Food Pg.12

Growing

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Chatham-Kent's IPM 2018 Update

Only 14 months to go...Mark your calendars!

To start, we would like to thank all of our sponsors and volunteers to date for stepping up and helping to make this event a reality!

You've probably already seen the Ford F150 (donated by Victory Ford) that is used to transport the souvenir trailer (donated by the local family of Leon & Colette Leclair) and the Badder Bus (a platinum sponsor of the event) rolling around town and beyond.

If you haven't already...take a drive out to Pain Court and you'll see the IPM 2018 sign now in place, marking the spot where the event will be. As a community we are grateful for the seven landowners from five area farm families: the Laprise's, Pritchard's, Faubert's, Crowe's, and Gable's, for providing approximately 900 acres so that Chatham-Kent can host this event!

An event of this magnitude takes many months and many hands to pull off. So however you can get involved by either volunteering or planning to attend, remember this is our home...please show your support any way you can for Chatham-Kent as we work towards hosting the 2018 IPM!





IPM 2018 - Badder Bus

IPM 2018 - Truck and souvenir Trailer

IPM 2018 - Sign Unveil



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To The AgMag "July 2017"... our premier summer issue! With the kind feedback we received on our first "five" yearly issues of The AgMag, we were encouraged by our readers to publish a summer magazine. And so, with the support of our contributing writers, our photographer, our advertisers, and our team here at Abstract Marketing...here it is!

Summer is the time of year when we can start to see the blossoming of the seeds that were planted in the spring. With the warmth and moisture that Mother Nature has provided, our farmers will soon see the fruition of their hard work. It is the best time of year for us to apply the "Eat Local" rule and, as you will read in Kim Cooper's article, let's not forget that fish, too, is local food!

Our cover story is all about "Brussels sprouts," and how our growers featured on the cover are the largest producers in Canada. "All Brussels sprouts produced for processing and freezing in Eastern Canada are produced by the Laprise / Vansegbrook joint venture in Chatham-Kent." What an accomplishment to have that title! And...not only are Brussels sprouts full of good nutrients and vitamins, but the way they grow is fascinating.

BIG THANKS again to everyone who made this publication possible and we hope you, the reader, will enjoy this issue, and when you put it down you'll say, "I didn't know that about Chatham-Kent!"

Sincerely,

Andrew Thiel, President Mark Requena, VP / Website Development Andrew Fraser, I.T. Specialist Lisa Persyn, Graphic Designer Candice Cottingham, Graphic Designer Nancy Schlereth, Sales Manager Karen Gore, In-House Content Writer Renee Tulloch, In-House Content Writer <u>Regular Contributors</u> Krystle VanRoboys, Photographer www.krystlevanroboys.ca

Kim Cooper, Agricultural Specialist Municipality of Chatham-Kent's Economic Development Services





If you have any comments, an interesting local story, or a family recipe that you would like to share... Please send it along to us for consideration for one of our future issues to:

216 King St. W., Upper Unit, Chatham ON N7M 1E6 or info@abstractmarketing.ca

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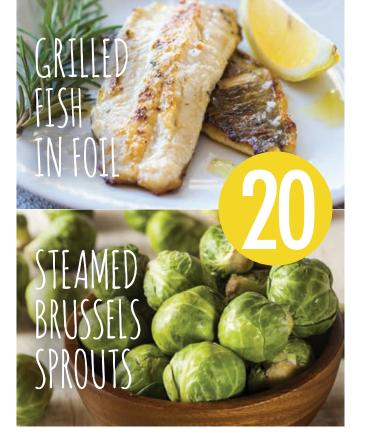
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RBC Talks About...

The Surprising 5% Rule that Leads to Higher Farm Profits



This article was submitted by: Lorna McKercher, Vice President Agriculture Southwest Ontario, RBC

Just like anything in life, it's the little things that count when it comes to the farming business—where even small changes can have a big impact on output and revenue. By following the 5% rule, a philosophy of making small logistical or logical changes to an operation, farmers can add net profit to their bottom line and ensure business is sustainable in the long term.

There's an important mental shift for farmers to make, and that's adopting more of a management role where they are really working on the business rather than in the business.

Adopting a holistic management strategy is a great way to start. This can be as simple as reframing the cost per acre to cost per bushel, considering input costs rather than just revenue, or incorporating new habits and ways of thinking. But farmers also need a solid

financial management strategy, one that's easy to develop and follow.

HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL TIPS:

1. Write it down: Put pen to paper and jot down the goals you need to achieve each quarter. For example, in the first quarter finalize your budget. In the second quarter, analyze your repairs and maintenance. Take a course on futures puts and calls for your marketing strategy. And in the fourth quarter consider meeting with your accountant to discuss ways to improve things next year.

2. Do the numbers: Ensure your internal accounting system is on an accrual basis. Compare your actual results to your budget quarterly.

3. Prioritize: Make a list of which tasks need to get done to achieve your goals each quarter and identify what's really important versus what just makes you busy.

While it's easy to hope for success, hope is not a plan. Even small changes can help ensure your business is sustainable for the long term.

Find more information at:

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FOR ALL OF CANADA

rowing

Jean Marie Laprise began producing Brussels sprouts commercially in Chatham-Kent in 1992 in spite of OMAFRA stating that it could not be done successfully due to our climate. Brussels sprouts are normally grown in temperate climates along the Atlantic or Pacific coasts in Canada and the US.

By 1998, Laprise Farms Ltd had become the largest producer of Brussels sprouts in Canada. In 2000, Dave Vansegbrook partnered with Laprise and eventually, they more than doubled the business



to the point that all Brussels sprouts produced for processing and freezing in eastern Canada are produced by the Laprise / Vansegbrook joint venture in Chatham-Kent.

This operation is also by far the largest fresh market supplier of Brussels sprouts in eastern Canada. Since the closing of the two Brussels sprout freezer plants in British Columbia, the reduction of acreage in that area, and the increase in production by this partnership, Chatham-Kent has become the Brussels sprout capital of Canada. You may find these Brussels sprouts fresh in most chain stores from September to November.

Frozen Brussels sprouts in stores labeled "Product of Canada" under all major brands and store brands were most likely grown right here in Chatham-Kent.

M. S.M.

The health benefits of Brussels sprouts have often been noted in magazines and other publications. Food safety is a priority in this operation. It is Canada Gap Certified which means it is third party audited annually to ensure that all food safety protocols are followed and that there is traceability on their product from the seed to the finished goods going to the market.

Many people locally have never seen Brussels sprouts grown and have no idea of how much impact they have in our community. Approximately 105 to 110 seasonal jobs are created locally from the greenhouse production of transplants in March, to the transplanting of the crop, to hoeing and topping. The harvest is from September to November.

The Brussels sprout business is very capital intensive and high risk. Furthermore, it is very labour and management intensive which makes it a very tough business to get into.

The balance between processing and fresh market volume is also important to maintaining viability in a very competitive business where the sale price in 2017 is the same as in 1991.

On the Cover: Jean Laprise & Dave Vansegbrook

Photography by: Krystle VanRoboys, Photographer www.krystlevanroboys.ca

Cover shot taken on Broad Line in Tupperville, ON.

Belgium and California are the two largest competitors. Their main advantages are the temperate climate as well as the much longer growing season. Growth, efficiency, and economies of scale have allowed us to provide a quality product at a competitive price while keeping the business in Canada.



The packing shed operates from mid-September to late November starting with one shift, then moving to two shifts after Thanksgiving, operating seven days per week with 35 people per shift. The field staff of approximately 35 operate 24 hours per day to supply the packing shed for 16 hours of operation per day. An additional nine field staff operate on an eight to ten hour shift as required. The five harvesters and 20 delivery units along with all the packing shed equipment and other supporting equipment require full time maintenance staff to be available 24 hours per day.

The Brussels sprout test plots planted annually are an important part of the program. The process ensures the best quality and best tasting product possible available to the customer in the size that will meet market demands for both the freezer and fresh market customers.

One thing that is clear with both Dave and Jean is that neither of them would want to take on this task on their own.

It takes an enormous amount of qualified, responsible, dedicated, as well as foodsafety and quality-minded staff to get this job done.

Being a dependable supplier to customers who depend on them exclusively for their supply of quality raw product is a responsibility that this operation takes very seriously. They treat their customers with great respect as partners in the business.

The Laprise side of the partnership currently has five family members involved in ensuring continuity of supply and the stability of this operation to our customers as well as for Dave long term. The eventual succession planning and transition of responsibilities is inevitable in all businesses. Change often brings new opportunities and we will be ready for change as always!

> This article was written and submitted by: Jean Marie Laprise - Laprise Farms Ltd. (Pain Court, ON) and Dave Vansegbrook - DVS Farms Ltd. (Tupperville, ON)



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Rick Nicholls...

MPP Nicholls Continues to Fight on Issues that Affect You

Many issues have come to light over the last few months that will affect each and every farm in my Riding and in Ontario. Specifically:

- 1. Hydro Rate Increases
- 2. Bill 148

3. Regulation 441

Firstly, Hydro One is currently applying to increase their distribution rates to assist in better supplying hydro throughout the province. OEB (the Ontario Energy Board) has been hosting meetings throughout Ontario to gather feedback from the public regarding this application. I was pleased to attend the Leamington area meeting to speak on behalf of my constituents about how this will impact them. Enough is enough, Hydro One needs to take a look within their own business operations to find this additional money. People and business cannot afford to pay any extra, already they are choosing between "do I heat or do I eat?"

Next, Bill 148, otherwise known as the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, is going to affect everyone. Some of the proposed changes in Bill 148 include:

- Increasing the minimum wage to \$14/hour on January 1, 2018, and to \$15/hour on January 1, 2019;
- Ensuring that casual, part-time, temporary, and seasonal employees are paid equally to full-time employees when performing the same job for the same employer;
- Ensuring Temporary Help Agency (THA) employees are paid equally to permanent employees of the THA client when performing the same job;
- Ensuring that employees are entitled to three weeks of paid vacation after five years of service with the same employer;
- Increasing Family Medical Leave from up to 8 weeks in a 26-week period to up to 27 weeks in a 52- week period;
- Establishing card-based union certification for the temporary help agency industry, the building services sector, and home care and community services industry;
- Allowing unions to access employee lists and certain contact information provided the union can demonstrate that it has already achieved the support of 20 percent of employees involved; and more.

In addition to these changes, the province plans to hire up to 175 more publicly funded employment standards officers and will be launching a program to educate both employees and employers of small and medium-sized businesses to teach them about their rights and obligations under the new Employment Standards Act.

These proposed changes are still being discussed by the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs and will go to be voted on for a second reading when we return to Queens Park in September.

Lastly, the Minister of Agriculture announced on June 20th 2017, proposed changes to Regulation 441/400 regarding the vegetable sector, and specifically to the Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers' governance structure. Growers and interested parties were given a 45 day period (until July 31st) to provide feedback on the proposals. Last year, approximately the same time of year, a proposal to Reg. 440 was advertised with a 45 day window for comments. Unfortunately, this time allotment for comments is coming when growers are busy and working on their crops; this is not only an inconvenience but a blatant offence to Ontario Farmers.

As your MPP for Chatham-Kent-Essex, I continue to watch for issues that affect my constituents and speak out against those that will impact adversely. With the next provincial election less than 12 months away, our goal is to continue focusing on the economy, red tape, and rising hydro rates.

This article was submitted by:

Rick Nicholls, MPP, Chatham-Kent-Essex phone: 519.351.0510 | email: rick.nichollsco@pc.ola.org

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Applied Research a Win-Win for Students and Industry

It is said that necessity is the mother of invention. And according to Dr. Peter Wawrow, Professor in the Biomedical Engineering Technology program at St. Clair College, providing students with an outlet and opportunity to explore the applications linked to their studies in class is a necessity. Partnering with industry in research projects is where the magic of invention happens.



Above Image: Dr. Peter Wawrow with third year Biomedical Technology student Marirose Mazza

Wawrow gets quite excited when you talk about the wealth of opportunities for students to learn and grow. "Participating in research projects gives the students a unique and exciting perspective to seamlessly integrate the learning environment into a real-world application."

Wawrow has been meeting with numerous community partners in order to develop projects for his third-year class. One of those organizations is the John McGiveny Children's Centre here in Windsor. Elaine Whitmore, CEO of the Centre, says it is through the willingness and commitment to engage in novel partnerships across diverse fields such as education, health care, industry, and technology, that the full potential of individuals can be realized. "Any research project aimed at improving the quality of life for children and youth with disabilities are areas we are passionate about."

Third year Biomedical student Marirose Mazza has been involved in a research project in the past but is excited about the opportunities in her final year of the program. "If the material in the class is abstract to us, seeing how it applies in real life is priceless. Working through concepts and ideas with the help of our peers and teachers puts us at a great advantage when we enter the field."

The college is currently involved in a handful of applied research projects, most of which cannot be discussed openly due to the proprietary and confidential nature of the research. However, students are eager to take their newfound knowledge and skills and apply them to industry challenges. Jonathan Azzopardi, President of Laval Tool and Mold in Windsor believes that industry education partnerships are essential, especially for companies who don't have the depth of resources to research and innovate on their own. "We are full of good ideas but when you are dealing with day-to-day operational issues, having the time to explore those great ideas can be a challenge," says Azzopardi. He goes on to say that being part of the educational process for students is a real benefit to both sides of the equation. "Students are the next generation of workers for our industry. When they get involved in applied research projects they gain a greater appreciation for what happens in real world applications."

Daniele DeFranceschi, Professor in the Mechanical Engineering Technician – Industrial program is also involved with local industrial manufacturers on research projects. "It is the student who wants to accelerate his or her career chances who typically gets involved in a research project," says DeFranceschi. "These projects give students the chance to work with the employees in the company and receive instant feedback about their research." DeFranceschi also points out that one project can often involve a number of programs at the college from Industrial Millwright and CAD/CAM to Automotive Product Design and Robotics.



Above Image: Professor Daniele DeFranceschi with Automotive Product Design student Feras Antar

Feras Antar is a third year Mechanical Engineering Technology – Automotive Product Design student and he has been working with DeFranceschi and he values this kind of experience. "It is so exciting to feel part of a project that may contribute to a company's future growth. The experience of generating ideas, getting feedback in meetings, and being enthusiastically embraced by the company is highly motivating."



This article was submitted by:

St. Clair College
www.stclaircollege.ca

Photos for this article submitted by: Jane Graham<u>, Executive Director</u>

R.

The Ontario Commercial Fisheries Association Blenheim, ON CAPTO-SALE Fish is something we don't normally think of when it comes to food. In early June, we celebrated Local Food Week, but how many of us think about fish when we think about local food?

Fish is local tood! DID YOU KNOW THAT? Here in Chatham-Kent, we have an amazing sport fishing sector, but we also have a huge and overlooked commercial fishing sector. Did you know that Wheatley is the largest fresh water commercial fishing port in the world?

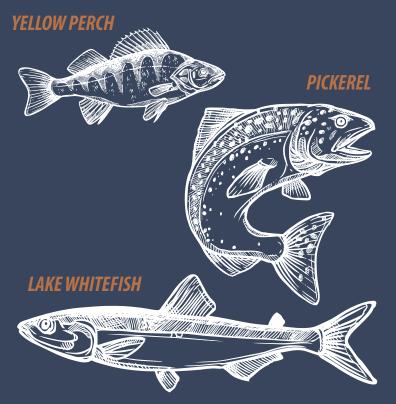
Did you also know we have the head office of the Ontario Commercial Fisheries' Association (OCFA) in Blenheim? The OCFA represents an industry that has been a part of the history, culture, and economy of our part of the world for a very long time. There was a recognizable commercial fishery before Europeans colonized what we now call Ontario. Fishing was one of the first industries established in new communities that sprang up as Europeans pushed up the Great Lakes in the early years of Canada's founding.

The OCFA interacts with many government and non-government organizations with the purpose of ensuring resource sustainability and sound fisheries science are the key to the long-term success of the commercial fishing sector in Ontario. The OCFA is proud of their history and proud of their modern role as purveyors of nutritious, wholesome fish products sustainably harvested from Ontario's waters.



There are an estimated 78 freshwater fishing establishments operating in Ontario, largely comprised of owner-operated businesses or businesses with a relatively small number of staff. Over 80% of commercial fishing in Ontario occurs in Lake Erie, which is the warmest and most productive of the Great Lakes.

Yellow perch, pickerel and lake whitefish account for over 80% of the fish caught in Ontario lakes.



There are currently 16 fish processors located in various regions throughout Ontario. Here in Chatham-Kent, we have six of these processors: A & A Marine (Blenheim), Great Lakes Food Company (Chatham), John O's Foods (Wheatley), Loop Fisheries (Wheatley), Presteve Foods (Wheatley), and Taylor Fish Company (Wheatley).

Ontario's licensed commercial fishery operates in the Great Lakes on Lakes Erie, Huron, Superior, and Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River. In addition, licensed commercial fisheries operate in Lakes Nipigon, Rainy, Lake of the Woods, and a few smaller inland lakes under the auspices of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).

Prior to 1984, Ontario commercial fishermen did not have limits on the total annual harvest that could be made under a licence. The MNRF controlled the fishery by regulating the amount of effort establishing a total number of nets for each licence.

The industry began to modernize in 1984 with the introduction of individual transferable quotas (ITQs) for quota-designated species – species that MNRF feel require special harvest limits to ensure the long-time viability of the population. ITQs are a modern form of fishery regulation, governing size and quantity of a fish that may be taken, that is a form of resource rental and allows the licence holder access to a share of the resource. The licence holder may choose to lease some or all of their ITQ to another licence holder. This system allows for close regulation of commercial harvests and creates a market for the quota.

Quotas are allocated in Ontario by the MNRF. Allocations are allotted to the following areas:

- RESOURCE CONSERVATION
- ABORIGINAL FOOD AND CEREMONIAL FISHERY
- COMMERCIAL FISHERY
- ANGLING FISHERY AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

In order to assign annual harvest limits to each commercial fishing licence, Ontario's fishery management and scientific personnel analyze data derived from various assessment and sampling programs.

The MNRF is responsible for issuing commercial fishing licences. They enter and maintain the licence data and approve the licence and quota adjustments.

Most commercial fishing licences are issued subject to a number of terms and conditions which provide details on the fishing operation such as:

- WATERS FROM WHICH THE FISH MAY BE TAKEN (INCLUDING LAKE AND QUOTA ZONE)
- SPECIES, SIZE, AND QUANTITY OF FISH THAT MAY BE TAKEN (SPECIES AND QUANTITY OF FISH THAT MAY BE TAKEN IS REFERRED TO AS THE QUOTA)
- FISHING GEAR THAT MAY BE USED
- PERSONS WHO MAY ENGAGE IN FISHING UNDER THE LICENCE
- THE LOADING, LANDING, HANDLING, AND TRANSPORTATION OF FISH
- THE PERIODS AND TIMES OF DAY DURING WHICH FISHING OPERATIONS MAY BE CONDUCTED



Commercial fishing licences in Ontario are limited to specific geographical areas referred to as Quota Zones. Each of the Quota Zones has natural attributes which dictate the common fish species and relative productivity of the waters in that particular area. Commercial fishing licences authorize each licence holder to harvest specific amounts of quota species. Quota species can differ from area to area.

Ontario's licensed (non-aboriginal) commercial fishery is regulated by a series of Federal and Provincial Legislative Acts. The most prominent Acts governing the industry are the:

- ONTARIO FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT
- FEDERAL FISHERIES ACT
- ONTARIO FISHING REGULATIONS
- PROVINCIAL FISH INSPECTION ACT
- CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION ACT
- FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACT
- PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

In addition, the industry is governed by a series of "Conditions of License" which vary from Quota Zone to Quota Zone and lake to lake.

All fish landed in the Province of Ontario by a non-aboriginal commercial fishery are subject to inspection prior to offloading the day's catch. This is accomplished by two methods. On Lake Erie, the bulk of the catches are scrutinized by a government appointed dockside monitor and sample weights are taken which must correlate to the Daily-Catch-Report (DCR) filed by the Captain of the fishing vessel. Where a dock-side monitor is not available, the Captain must file the DCR report at a lock-box station prior to off-loading his catch. When utilizing this method, the Captain and the DCR's are subject to random audits by Conservation Officers.

Processed fish, which are exported from Canada, are regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

The OCFA membership has actively supported independent Research & Development since the early 1990s. Since 2003, the Ontario Lake Erie fishing industry has provided on-going funding to a team of researchers at the University of Guelph and at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. Funding agreements with these researchers are specified to be "arm's length" grants in aid of their research. Consequently, the fishing industry has relinquished any control over the research and the publication of results arising from the research.

In August 2015, the Lake Erie Yellow Perch and Walleye (Pickerel) fisheries became the largest freshwater fisheries in the world to achieve Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. MSC is the global "gold" scientific standard certifying that a fishery is well managed and environmentally sustainable. Lake Erie Yellow Perch and Walleye are the first in the Great Lakes to achieve MSC certification. Sustainability is the hallmark of the commercial fishing industry ensuring that the local industry can stay productive and competitive for this and future generations.

In addition to MSC certification for the fishery, three Ontario-based supply chain processors – John O's Foods and Presteve Foods, both out of Wheatley, and LaNassa Foods out of Kingsville – have also achieved MSC Chain of Custody certification allowing them to purchase and sell Lake Erie Yellow Perch and Walleye as MSC certified.

The economic impacts of Lake Erie's commercial fishing sector are significant. It plays a major role in the economic and social welfare of many communities that depend upon the commercial fishing industry for their viability. For the fishing sector on Lake Erie, it accounts for over 700 direct and indirect jobs with a GDP of over \$28 million. The Lake Erie fish processing sector accounts for close to 800 direct and indirect jobs, with a GDP of over \$77 million.



Ontario has a superb worldwide reputation as a purveyor of the very finest quality freshwater fish. In fact, a significant amount of the catch from Ontario's commercial fishery is exported to the United States and Europe. Ontario's commercial fishery provides the non-fishing public access to Ontario's superb quality fish through restaurants, dining rooms, grocery stores, as well as local and dock-side outlets.

The Ontario Commercial Fisheries' Association is dedicated to the growth and continued strength of a responsible, competitive, and sustainable commercial fishery in Ontario.

So the next time you are looking for something local to eat, remember that fish is food. Enjoy the many fish products right from our local lakes. Buying local is good for our fishermen, fish processors and retailers, and is great for the economy of Chatham-Kent.

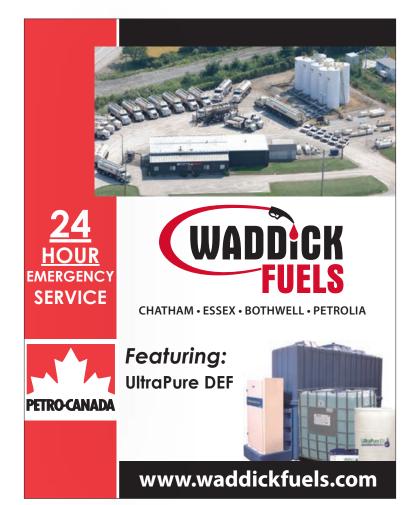
This article was submitted by:

Kim Cooper Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Economic Development Services, Agricultural Specialists.

phone: 519.351.7700 x 2030 email: kimco@chatham-kent.ca

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Our cucumber operation, called 'The Pickle Station' is a proud employer to over 150 students every summer. 65 percent of all cucumbers grown in Ontario make their way to our facility. 2014 was a big milestone for the VanRoboys family farm, as we celebrated our 50th year in the cucumber industry, and introduced our own brand of pickles. If you love pickles, be sure to try all four varieties from one of these local retailers:

Roesch Meats, Schinkels', Sarah's Farm Market, The Glasshouse, Park's Blueberries, Dresden Meat Packers, The Bread Depot, Wyoming Foodland, The Paper Pickle, Remark Fresh Markets, (London & Windsor) Thomas Bros, Market Fresh (Guelph)

Proud Employer of Thousands of Local Students Since 1964

www.thepicklestation.ca (519) 351-0677

FamilyLending.ca Inc. Shares the Benefits of an Agricultural Land Mortgage

A common error that first time buyers often make is borrowing a residential mortgage on rural property. This simple mistake can cost thousands of dollars in interest payments. This is why it's important to talk to a mortgage broker to make sure you're getting the right mortgage for agricultural land. They will also help you with your agricultural mortgage refinance by connecting you with appropriate lenders.

Agricultural mortgages aren't just for purchasing farms. These can also be applied to rural properties, such as gardens, nurseries, ranches, and pastures. Mortgages for agricultural land can be used for any type of improvement related to rural land.

We Provide Financing For:

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- Farmland Purchases
- Land Tiling and Improvement
- Equipment Storage, Feed Storage, and Grain Storage
- Livestock Buildings for Beef, Dairy, Poultry, Swine, and Equine
- Greenhouse
- Agri-business Financing

Contact Robb Nelson today, and let his family take care of your family! Phone 519.351.7283 | Toll Free 1.866.941.6678





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Pebbles Gravel & Topsoil Inc.

We're Open to Contractors and the Public!



September 2017 will mark "5 Years" since Paul and Karen Koomans became the proud owners/operators of "Pebbles Gravel and Topsoil Inc." You'll find Pebbles located on the north side of Richmond Street (across from The Brick) between Bloomfield Road and Keil Drive in Chatham.

Open to contractors and the public, Pebbles fills the local need for sand, gravel, topsoil, stone, mulch, and flagstone, as well as offering many other landscaping options for all of your outdoor and garden projects. With more than 20 different types of aggregate, they provide the perfect mix for your driveways and landscaping.



Pebbles also offers three different sizes of trucks for all your delivery needs! They are equipped with a drive-on scale for easy measurement, and materials can also be purchased in bulk or by the

bag....no orders are ever too large or too small!

Find us on F

Pebbles Gravel & Topsoil is a member of the Chatham-Kent Home Builders' Association





United Way and Farmers

Keeping Ontario School Children Healthy and Ready to Learn

United Way helps families and children grow, just like farmers. We both work hard so families can survive.

Operation BackPacks is one way we team up to impact local families when farmers are at their busiest. United Way thinks like farmers: we need your help to make sure the food you're creating powers the learning of our Chatham-Kent students.

With your donations, we'll make sure kids have what they need to start the new school year, and you won't have to think about anything else during your busy season.

At United Way, we know behind every life changed is someone who helps to make it happen, and for as little as \$25, you too, can sponsor a backpack and fuel a child's education this fall.

Please give generously. Donate to United Way today by calling (519) 354-0430 or visit us online at www.uwock.ca



KENT & ESSEX MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Protecting our Policyholders for Over 129 Years

Kent & Essex Mutual Insurance Company in Chatham, Ontario is a local Canadian insurance company owned by it's policyholders. Since we are a mutual insurance company we do not have shareholders.

Kent & Essex Mutual is one of over 40 mutual insurance companies in Ontario that make up one of the strongest insurance networks in the world and we are a proud member of the Ontario Mutual Insurance Association.

We are one of the largest mutual insurance companies in Ontario specializing in home, auto, farm, and commercial insurance that is available through a network of independent insurance brokers. We are able to offer our policyholders high quality insurance products at competitive prices.

Premiums stay in the communities of our policyholders. We support local projects and charitable organizations. We have a team of experts at Kent & Essex Mutual who are familiar with the unique insurance needs of the communities we serve.

Our in-house adjusters will guide you through the claims process. We provide a 24 hour emergency claims service. For a home or auto quote or to find a broker in your area visit our website at: www.kemutual.com

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WE ARE LOOKING FOR **VOLUNTEERS!**

NTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH

CHATHAM-KENT 2018

Anyone interested in volunteering for the 2018 International Plowing Match & Rural Expo committees or at the event itself can do so by going to **www.plowingmatch.org/volunteer2018** and filling out the volunteer application or by emailing directly to **ipm2018volunteers@gmail.com**



Len Davies CFP, CLU, EPC, CAFA, CDFA Farm Succession Specialist Email: len@davieslegacy.ca



We are your Family Business and Succession Planning Specialists



Jeff Davies CAFA, FEA, EPC, KCC Family Facilitator / Mediator Email: jeff@davieslegacy.ca

www.davieslegacy.ca

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We're also available for Speaking Engagements!

GRILLED FISH IN FOIL

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb fresh fish fillet
- 2 tablespoons margarine
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1 teaspoon dill weed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced
- sprinkle of paprika
- sprig of rosemary

DIRECTIONS:

On 4 large buttered squares of heavy-duty aluminum foil, place equal amounts of fish. In small saucepan, melt margarine, add lemon juice, parsley, dill weed, salt and pepper. Pour equal amounts over fish. Top with onion slices and sprinkle with paprika. Wrap foil securely around fish, leaving space for fish to expand. Grill 5 to 7 minutes on each side or until fish flakes with fork. Garnish with rosemary.

STEAMED BRUSSELS SPROUTS

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 pounds small or medium
 Brussels sprouts, trimmed
- Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons fresh chives, finely chopped

DIRECTIONS:

Fit a large pot with a steamer insert. Fill with water to bottom of insert. Cover, and bring to a boil. Add Brussels sprouts, and season with salt. Steam, tossing halfway through, until bright green and tender, 6 to 8 minutes. Transfer to a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Toss with butter and chives. Serve immediately.

Gillier Drainage Contractors In the Drainage Tile Industry for 48 Plus Years!

Gillier Drainage has been in the drainage tile industry for over 48 years. Since its inception over four decades ago, we have grown from a small private business to a reputable company within the farm drainage community. We perform our drainage services for private and commercial jobs alike as we provide farm drainage for individual land owners all the way up to construction services for large scale projects. Over the last decade in particular, Gillier Drainage has contributed to the renewable energy sector as we provide water-redirection, reinstatement, and reclamation for several different major wind farms spread across Southern Ontario.

We aim to provide our clients with efficient and time-saving work practices by using the best equipment and materials available. For design, mapping, and site planning, we utilize Trimble navigation products for all our GPS procedures. This has allowed us to collect GPS data quickly while maintaining sub-centimeter accuracy. This technology goes hand in hand with our in-field equipment as we utilize two Bron drainage plows to help us save time and increase production. When it comes to the tile we put in the ground, we take advantage of ADS products as they have helped us create efficient drainage networks that meet our expectations and keep the customer satisfied.

Technology and effective work procedures mean nothing without proper safety procedures – and we abide by that philosophy with no exceptions. All our employees are trained on proper safety etiquette

as we believe the health and safety of all personnel on a work site should be the number Furthermore, priority. 1 Gillier Drainage is a certified member of both ISN and Avetta (formerly Pics Auditing). Combined, our effective work practices, dependable equipment, and dedication to safety has enabled us to stand out in the drainage industry as we can offer our clients increased production yields while decreasing their costs.



Above all, Gillier Drainage aspires to be at the forefront of the drainage industry. We guarantee our customers the most efficient drainage networks at a price they can be satisfied with.

Call us now and we will get things flowing!



Looks like issues of The AG MAG continue to "sprout up" in unique destinations!

Let's continue to promote our community to the world by taking along a copy of this issue where ever you travel and pass it forward ... It's a great way to let everyone know who we are and what we grow!

L'Auberge Resort in Del Mar - california



Grand canyon - Arizona



GMAG

Volcani Research Institute - Israel

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When we earn a profit we give back an annual refund. Though refunds are never guaranteed, Howard Mutual has provided a refund to our policyholders for over 25 years! Become a policyholder and discover the Howard Mutual difference by calling or stopping by one of our branches or simply visiting our website, *www.howardmutual.com*

Ridgetown Branch

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Local Pro Fleet Care Franchisee...

Celebrates 10 Years!

Pro Fleet Care Chatham-Kent is a locally owned and operated mobile rust control franchise based out of the Ridgetown area. Our goal at Pro Fleet Care is to help our clients protect their vehicles and equipment from the effects of corrosion while reducing their down time, liability of moving equipment, and expenses of repairs.

We have found that we can save companies in the region of \$4-\$6 on vehicle repair bills (associated to issues caused by corrosion) for every \$1 spent on our rust control service.

Our system has a unique two-step process that has been designed to coat all exposed surfaces while penetrating those hard to reach areas such as brake lines, wiring, and connections. Our application consists of a unique two-step process using the ROC 40 and ROC 50 products. ROC 40 is a light product which migrates into the vehicles' fenders, doors, body panels, and cab areas. It also does an excellent job of protecting wiring and other important vehicle components. The ROC 50 is a heavier but also pliable product with re-healing properties, and is used in areas where wash off is a concern such as frame rails and other areas on the underside of the vehicle.

The local franchisee with Pro Fleet Care is Justin Weaver and family and 2017 marks the 10th year of business for them. Please contact us if you would like to set up a service date, a demo, or for a quote to have Pro Fleet Care service your vehicles.

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