



## Message from our President, Hubert Beaudry



Hello Everyone! As I write this, I can breathe a sigh of relief that this cropping season is finally over. I'm one of the lucky ones to be done, as many Ontario crops are still in fields and in the west many acres are unharvested due to rain and snow that cut the harvest season short this year.

Canola acres were down about 25% in 2019 in Ontario as many growers were unable to plant in the optimal seeding window and others reduced or avoided canola completely when canola futures prices dropped after China stopped importing Canadian canola.

The actions taken by the Chinese government have kept our association, the Canadian Canola Growers and the Canola Council of Canada very busy lobbying the Canadian government to resolve this trade issue. In September we learned of Dominic Barton's appointment as Canada's ambassador to China to help negotiate a resolution and get Canadian canola exports moving to China again. Canadian officials have also met with Chinese representatives at the World Trade Organization to address the issues China claims to have with our canola. However no resolution has been reached yet. It is good news that there is some action from the federal government now happening on this front.

We have also lobbied the Canadian Government to change the AgriStability program to improve support to farmers in these difficult times by moving from a 70% to a true 85% reference margin, to trigger a payment, that would otherwise not happen at the 70% margin. We have worked hard to ensure that the Canadian government understands that the Canadian Farm Business Risk Management model must be updated to alleviate the risk farmers are exposed to when trade disputes occur. The CN rail strike was another blow to western farmers as they learned elevators were full and would not accept their crop until rail cars were available. And in the east, the rail strike caused propane shortages for farmers trying to dry their crops.

Insect pressure in canola was variable throughout the province in 2019 with flea beetles problems in some fields in central Ontario as well as swede midge damage in some fields in the north. Field trials seem to show that canola can still produce great yields and overcome flea beetle and swede midge pressure when the plant receives adequate fertilizer and micro-nutrients such as sulfur. If canola gets out of the ground and grows quickly, it can outgrow and get ahead of flea beetle and swede midge damage and achieve maximum yield — something growers must keep in mind when growing canola.

Winter canola has been a recent focus for OCGA and this year we were happy to see winter canola acres grow. Two winter canola growers were the first and sixth place winners in our annual Canola Challenge. We hope to see more southern Ontario growers trying winter canola in their traditional corn, soybean and wheat rotations, so they see the benefits and potential that winter canola offers from a rotational diversity, soil health and economic perspective.

For many growers 2019 was a challenging and difficult year. However farmers are eternal optimists and we will put this hard year behind us, learn some lessons and look ahead to a better year ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and much better New Year. And I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our Annual meeting in January.

## Ontario Canola Growers Annual Meeting — Tues Jan 21, 2020

# Congratulations to Ontario's 2019 Canola Challenge Winners!



		Yield lbs/acre	Variety	Location
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Nathan Van Overloop</b> Mike Veenema, Agris Co-op.	<b>4199</b>	Popular Winter Canola	Chatham
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>JR McLaughlin</b> <b>McLaughlin Farms</b> Matt Rundle, Harriston Agromart	<b>3878</b>	InVigor 255PC	Harriston
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Mike Christie</b> <b>Chris Hill Farms</b> Jeff Kobe, Sprucedale Agromart	<b>3683</b>	InVigor L234PC	Tara
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Emily and Sean Helmuth</b> <b>Momentum Grain Farms</b> Luke Hartung, North Wellington Co-op	<b>3628</b>	InVigor L233P	Harriston
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Brian and Jon Wiley</b> <b>Fairmount Farms</b> Wayne Foster - Sprucedale Agromart	<b>3422</b>	InVigor L255PC	Meaford
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Harold and Wilma Fisher</b> Ilona Holliday, Harriston Agromart	<b>3412</b>	Mercedes Winter Canola	Harriston
1st prize – \$2,000 2nd prize – \$1,000		3rd prize – \$750 4th, 5th and 6th – \$500 each		

**Sponsors:**





# ANNUAL MEETING

**Tuesday, January 21, 2020 — 9:30 am to 3:30 pm**  
**Nottawasaga Inn, 6015 Highway 89, Alliston**

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## A G E N D A

9:30 am	<b>Welcome — President Hubert Beaudry</b>
9:40 am	<b><i>Making Sense of Today's Complicated Markets</i></b> Steve Kell
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	<b><i>OCGA Annual Meeting</i></b>
11:00 am	<b><i>Canola Challenge 2019 Winners Panel</i></b> moderated by Meghan Moran
11:30 am	Exhibitor Introductions
11:45 am	Lunch and Tradeshow
1:00 pm	<b><i>Our Experiences Growing Peola</i></b> Jennifer Doleman
1:30 pm	<b><i>Interesting Swede Midge Results</i></b> Dr. Rebecca Hallett, U of Guelph
2:00 pm	Break
2:15 pm	<b><i>Clubroot Insights</i></b> Mary Ruth MacDonald, U of Guelph and Meghan Moran, OMAFRA Canola Specialist
3:00 pm	Closing Remarks

**Pre-registration NOT required — \$20 cash at the door**



**1<sup>st</sup> place Canola Challenge Winner**  
**Nathan Overloop**  
**4199 lbs/ac — Winter Canola**  
**Agronomist: Mike Veneema,**



*"Growing winter canola was all new for me last year/this year. It had its challenges but also was a chance to learn about a new crop that may fit into our rotation well.*

*Planting small seeds and trying out a different planter meant population was not 100 percent accurate. Turned out to be close to goal population in the end, but had to source another bag of seed to finish planting because air seeder required more seed to keep the meter full enough to plant properly.*

*Going into winter it looked good. Then thought the crop was dead in the spring but in a few weeks more green showed up. We did lose about 3/4 of an acre due to standing water in the early spring, which I was surprised with considering our sandy loam soil and new tile system. However, I later found out there was a problem with the tile main shortly after thaw that probably was the cause of flooding. That and excessive rain in the spring.*

*I was able to apply nitrogen early and at the same time as winter wheat so it was just a matter of changing rates. My agronomist suggested the nitrogen rates and also upping the rate of sulphur, so I did.*

*I had some volunteer winter wheat throughout the field, so had to apply Assure to control it. After talking to Meghan Moran with OMAFRA about how wet the season was we also applied fungicide. Meghan was also out to test for insect pressure but we found this wasn't an issue, so didn't spray for that.*

*The crop grew about 5.5 feet but didn't fall over.*

*Desiccating was a learning experience. I went down to Harrow and learned from Eric and Sydney about timing to desiccate. I used Eragon and Merge to desiccate and 20 gallons of water at high pressure. The crop didn't dry down until almost exactly two weeks later! Tried combining one week after desiccating but the crop was nowhere near fit to combine. My next attempt was much better. I later found out I should have applied Eragon during the heat of the day instead of towards the end of the day. Combining went slow but well. Had some shatter loss at the header as well as through the machine but was happy with how it went. Took it off dry and delivered the crop to ADM Windsor.*

*Still trying to figure out rotations. After winter wheat is okay if you can control volunteer wheat. The only other options for planting in September are after snap beans or cucumbers. Tried my own test and seems like following cucumbers is the next best option.*

*We grow seed corn and have to isolate from commercial corn or neighbouring seed corn fields. So we are left with smaller fields for isolation. That's where I hope winter canola can fit into our rotations.*

*We hope by adding winter canola we can increase rotations and improve soil structure. I like the idea of it being a winter cover with a possibility of double cropping soybeans. This year I did plant soys after canola but still haven't harvested the beans. They were at 20% moisture as of writing this on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, but I still plan to harvest. Want to know the potential I guess.*

*I plan on planting winter canola in some clay soil we farm as well, to help with soil structure. The canola's root structure and adding to our rotation should benefit this soil."*

# Ontario Canola Challenge Winners

**2<sup>nd</sup> place winner**  
**JR McLaughlin**  
**3878 lbs/ac**  
**Agronomist: Matt Rundle**  
**Harriston Agromart**



**The 2019 season brought dry conditions around flowering time. How did your canola cope? Answer:** *"We owe credit to our Harriston Loam soil. The farm has great water holding capacity, which helped us pull through the drought with excellent pod set."*

**What other factors do you feel contributed to your high yield? Answer:**

*"Planting date was not in our favour as we couldn't plant until early June. When the crop finally went in, we made sure to spray for weeds as quickly as possible. We used hen manure, which provided the crop with enough fertility. Our starter contained slow release nitrogen, which I believe helped us during pod fill at the end of the season. We stayed ahead of insects by proactively scouting and spraying when necessary."*

**Will canola continue to have a spot in your rotation? What are your plans for canola in 2020? Answer:**

*"We typically grow around 200 acres of canola each season. It allows an opportunity to get an early start for spring wheat planting. Canola is also an excellent combine flush between the various IP soybean varieties that we grow."*

**Mike Christie**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> place winner**  
**3683 lbs/ac**  
**Agronomist: Jeff Kobe**  
**Sprucedale Agromart**



**Did you try anything new with your Canola Crop in 2019? Answer:**

*"Yes we experimented with substituting 50% of our regular urea (100 lbs) with 50% ESN. We ran this in two fields and were pleased with the results as both plots had a significant yield advantage."*

*I also tried an ALPINE mixture that Nick Cressman recommended that included a combination of a slow release nitrogen, liquid potassium and boron products. I think it made a positive difference but intend to do further testing."*

**Do you use pod shatter resistant canola seed? Answer:**

*"For a couple years now, I have been using seed with pod shatter resistance and find it makes quite a difference to both yields and my stress level during wet and windy weather stretches."*

**What is canola's role in your farm operation? Answer:**

*"Canola is a regular in our rotations as it provides diversity in rotations along with hay, corn, wheat and soybeans. We also use canola straw — chopped and blended with sawdust — in our dairy calf barn."*

**Harold and Wilma Fisher**  
**6<sup>th</sup> place winners**  
**3412 lbs/ac**  
**Agronomist: Ilona Holliday**  
**Harriston Agromart**



**Tell us about your experience growing this winter canola crop. Answer:**

*"My winter canola crop was planted Sept 12, 2018. After the winter, Meghan Moran with OMAFRA and I checked the crop, found it had survived the winter fairly well and thought it would be fine. In early May, Meghan checked again, but this time wasn't so hopeful as she thought the crop was too patchy and should likely be taken out. Rob McLaughlin and Tim Muelenstein with C&M Seeds checked the fields as well. It wasn't an easy decision, but together we decided that even though there definitely were large patches that were very poor, it would still be worthwhile to give the crop a chance."*

*Once the land dried up and the sun came out the crop took off. In the end I was very pleased with an overall average of 1.3 tonnes per acre."*

*I was really impressed with the size of the pods which were 3 to 4" long — roughly an inch longer than spring canola for more yield potential."*

*I will definitely try winter canola again when it comes up in the rotation."*



# How to Manage (Contain) a Patch of Clubroot

## by Jay Whetter, Canola Council of Canada

Canola plants yellowing pre-maturely could be infected with clubroot. The disease continues to spread and tends to be much worse in fields with excessive tillage, tight rotations and high spore loads. Pre-harvest disease scouting should include digging up plants to check for galls. Note that towards the end of the season galled roots will begin to rot.

If you find a patch of canola plants with clubroot galls, take action now to contain it. This is especially important (1) if clubroot is new to the farm or (2) if the field is seeded to a clubroot-resistant (CR) variety and the patch could have a new pathotype that you need to contain.

If the patch is small, dig up the infected roots and burn/destroy them. Then make sure to leave the patch untouched by tillage or any other operation that would move soil beyond the patch.



### Why is patch management important?

Spore loads will be very high in that patch and could reduce canola productivity in that area for years. Clubroot will often start in small patches and if a farm can identify those patches early and keep them contained, it can be an extremely important step in managing the disease. Discovery of a patch can also inspire a review of crop rotation to extend the break between canola crops to and encourage the farm to increase biosecurity practices to limit soil spread.

In areas of Alberta that have been battling clubroot for more than 15 years now, more than a dozen fields have so much clubroot, including pathotypes that can overcome clubroot resistant varieties, that canola is not a viable economic crop on that land. There are now 3 fields in Ontario identified as having clubroot pathotypes that can overcome clubroot resistant varieties. That is why identifying and containing clubroot patches is so important.



Once the patch is defined, a good next step is to seed the patch to a perennial grass. This could be done ahead of winter to establish the grass before freeze up. If conditions are not suitable (too dry or too cold) for establishment, the next best patch-seeding time is likely early spring.

### How to Establish a Patch of Grass

**Step 1:** Identify the patch dimensions by pulling plants in all directions until NO GALLS can be seen on the roots. At a minimum, extend the radius of the patch by about 50% from that point and seed the whole expanded area to grass. The grass-patch area should be approximately double the area where clubroot galls were determined to be present.

**Step 2:** Choose a grass species or blend. Although research is showing that certain grasses may be slightly better than others at coaxing spores out of dormancy and more quickly reducing spore loads (Fleet meadow brome and common smooth brome showed good results), the purpose of the grass is to establish a thick stand that holds soil in place.

**Step 3:** Seed the patch. Surface application (with a Valmar, for example) and a light harrowing is often enough for grass seed. Shallow seeding is optimal. Regardless of how the grass gets seeded and/or incorporated, make sure to not drag soil outside the patch. Clean off equipment before leaving the infested patch so contaminated soil is not transferred outside this patch.

**Step 4:** Once the patch is established, spray as needed to keep out volunteer canola and other clubroot hosts. Known clubroot hosts include canola volunteers, brassica weeds (yellow rocket, stinkweed, shepherd's purse, wild mustard), tame mustard, camelina and most other brassica crops and brassica vegetables. Leave the grass in place for at least three years before returning to annual crops. Five to seven years may be required if clubroot was so severe that plants in the patch were all dead in July.

# Intercropping Canola and Peas — Peaola

by Scott Banks, Crop Systems Specialist, OMAFRA



Jennifer and Mike Doelman farm near Douglas, Ontario where Mike spoke about their experience growing peaola at a recent Soil Network event. Growing peaola is the intercropping of peas and canola together in the same field, at the same time. The photo above shows the Doelman's 2019 peaola field when both crops were flowering.

Growing peas on their own can be challenging. Once the peas have matured, peas tend to lodge and lay on the ground where the stalks deteriorate quickly, leading to difficult harvesting conditions and poor quality. The concept of growing canola with the peas is to have the canola hold up the peas to avoid this problem.

## Background

Several advantages can be gained from growing two crops together. Traditionally barley and oats have been intercropped. Past research has shown that with barley-oat intercropping there is less disease, variability in soil and/or drainage, and greater yield than either crop alone. Growing canola is known to suppress the growth of mycorrhizae in the soil which can affect soil fertility, particularly phosphorus availability and nitrogen dynamics.

Dr. Jeff Schoenau, Professor of Soil Science at the University of Saskatchewan has initiated a study to look at pea-mustard and chickpea-flax intercropping. Dr. Schoenau has just started to analyze the 2019 field season samples, but has found the "biggest visual has been a reduction in the disease in the chickpeas when grown together with the flax."

Most of Canada's intercropped acres are grown in western Canada. Table 1 shows the intercrop mixtures and respective acres in 2019 insured by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance (does not include uninsured acres).

## Intercropping

There are a few things to consider before growing two crops together. First, most crops need to be separated to be marketed (obvious exception is mixed grain for feed, ie. barley and oats). Grain size needs to be different enough that a cleaner can separate out the two crops. This also requires the two crops to mature at about the same time to maintain quality. Other considerations are seed size, seeding date, seeding depth, fertility and weed control.

The Doelmans planted their forage peas at 75 lb/ac and canola at 3.75 lb/ac. The canola seed was BASF Invigor L233P with Lumiderm seed treatment. The canola-pea seed was no-till planted into soybean stubble. The canola was planted through the starter tank, forage peas in the other. No starter fertilizer was applied with the seed. Soil samples showed good to high soil fertility ranging between 17 to 32 ppm for Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K) over 230 ppm and organic matter (OM) averaged 4.6% for both fields. A broadcast fertilizer of 21-0-0-24% sulphur and 0.3% boron was applied at 150 lb/ac pre-emerge. A fungicide application of Priaxor at 0.12 L/ac was applied on July 12, 2019.

The peaola was combined and stored in flat storage, then run through a rotary screener to separate the canola from the peas. "The canola was fairly easy to remove and then shipped with other straight canola loads with no issues" said Jennifer.

## Results

After a wetter than normal spring, 2019 was a dry summer. Peas had a lodging score of 7 out of 10. "The peas were down fairly badly but canola allowed us to pick them up much easier than straight forage peas" said the Doelmans. "It was the easiest harvested peas we have ever done."

**Table 1: 2019 Acres of intercrop mixtures insured by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance**

Intercrops	Acres
2019 SCIC Intercrop Total	72,400
Canola/Peas	17,850
Lentil/Wheat	17,000
Oat/Pea	10,510
Chickpea/Flax (some w oats)	4,000
Barley/Pea	2,840
Flax/Oats	2,140
Must/Pea	1,543
Lentil/Must	1,340
Lentil/Oat	1,340
Flax/Lentils	515

# Audited Financial Statements

Ontario Canola Growers Association

Audited by BDO Canada, Owen Sound, Ontario

## Statement of Revenue and Expenses

REVENUE	Year ending June 30, 2019	Year ending June 30, 2018
License fees and research levy	155,870	136,901
Financial Protection Plan	8,204	7,205
Annual Meeting (Sponsorship & Registration)	4,935	4,727
Research Grant	1,200	
Canola Challenge Sponsorship	2,300	3,000
Interest	4,306	2,174
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>176,815</b>	<b>154,007</b>
EXPENDITURES		
Amortization	349	333
Meetings - Annual, Committeemen, District, Agronomy and Stakeholder	10,314	11,191
Audit	6,406	5,250
Canola Challenge	5,250	5,800
Conferences	2,812	5,766
Crop Production Centre	3,266	5,769
Director Expenses - Accommodations & Meals	1,007	303
Meetings - Per Diems	10,279	10,891
Travel	4,818	4,739
Financial Protection Plan	8,204	7,205
Insurance	2,135	2,077
Market Development	331	1,032
Memberships	3,350	3,350
Newsletters	2,642	3,332
Office, Postage	2,515	2,045
Rent	1,200	1,200
Research	17,500	25,452
Salaries	36,400	36,400
Employee Benefits	2,716	2,750
Staff Travel	276	736
Telephone/Internet	1,588	1,879
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>123,328</b>	<b>137,500</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>53,487</b>	<b>16,507</b>

## Balance Sheet

ASSETS	2019	2018
Cash & Short Term Investments	489,959	444,771
Accounts Receivable	8,080	7,599
Capital Assets (Furniture & Computer Equipment)	844	1,193
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>498,883</b>	<b>453,563</b>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	15,481	25,648
Deferred Revenue	2,000	
Reserve Fund (Internally Restricted)	139,949	109,202
Research Fund (unrestricted)	340,609	317,520
Invested in Capital Assets	844	1,193
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>498,883</b>	<b>453,563</b>