

CANADIAN HORTICULTURE COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUMMARY BY BRUCE HILL

The CHC AGM normally spans several days. Delegates from across Canada meet to consider resolutions presented to a general meeting Friday afternoon. During the week committees meet to consider the resolutions, suggest amendments, and move new initiatives. Then the resolutions go before the Committee of the Whole for action. Once passed the resolutions provide direction for the CHC to follow. The committees include: Trade & Industry Standards, Finance & Marketing, Crop Plant Protection & Environment, Research & Technology, Vegetable, Human Resources, Potato, Apple & Fruit, Greenhouse, and Food Safety. Under committees fall some working groups like the Science Advisory Committee (making Growing Forward suggestions) under the Research & Technology Committee and CanadaGAP under the Food Safety Committee. Some of these working groups are created as a direct result of resolutions passed at the AGM such as the Science Advisory Committee which was formed following the 2009 AGM and has representatives from each region of Canada.

This is the third CHC AGM I have attended supported by the Saskatchewan Fruit Growers Association which is a member of the CHC. I am a sitting member of the Executive & Finance Committee and chair the Research & Technology Committee.

The Executive and Finance Committee met each morning at 07:00.

Executive & Finance Meeting – Monday March 1, 18:00

Farm & Industry Tour – Tuesday March 2, 08:30-17:00

We toured several farms and the University of Lavel research greenhouses. We visited Demars which was growing and packaging tomatoes in a 8 ½ acre greenhouse. Their company also grows strawberries and raspberries. Their specialty is the “Bella” tomato. They produced several varieties; vine ripened, heritage varieties, cherry tomatoes, etc. We also visited a rutabaga operation that rotated oats, corn, barley on about 1300 acres and grows beets, carrots, and turnips. They had some 300 acres last year in rutabagas. These were stored in 1200 lb totes and cleaned, sorted, and packaged for the consumer market. They market about 11 million pounds of vegetables annually. The U of L tour included some state of the art research facilities. It employs 22 professors/researchers. Their projects were wide ranging including cereals and vegetables. They were announcing that they had isolated a molecule in Maple Syrup that may have positive implications for diabetics. U of L is the largest university horticultural research centre in Canada.

Provincial Caucus Meetings – Tuesday March 2, 18:00

The Prairie region caucus (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta) includes representatives from each of the prairie provinces. Saskatchewan was represented by Connie Achtymichuk, Ministry of Agriculture, Murray Gray, Vegetable Producers Association, and myself, SFGA.

During this meeting we review the resolutions and identify issues that may have impact on individual organizations or operations in the Prairie region.

Board of Directors (all members) – Wednesday March 3, 08:30

Annual Meeting & Opening Session – Wednesday March 3, 10:00

- President's report
- Election of Year 2010 Officers
- Other Business

Plenary Session – Wednesday March 3, 14:00

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Trade & Industry Standards – Thursday March 4, 08:00-10:00

Finance & Marketing – Thursday March 4, 10:15-12:00

Crop, Plant Protection & Environment – Thursday March 4, 13:30-14:45

Research & Technology – Thursday March 4, 15:00-17:00

Vegetable – Friday March 5, 08:00-10:00

Human Resources – Friday March 5, 10:00-12:00

Potato – Friday March 5, 08:00-12:00

Apple & Fruit – Friday March 5, 08:00-11:00

Greenhouse – Friday March 5, 08:00-09:45

Food Safety – Friday March 5, 10:00-12:00

Information on these committees and the CHC in general can be found on www.hortcouncil.ca. Members of SFGA can gain access to the members area by contacting the SFGA administrator. A quick view of the site's areas can be viewed by clicking on the "Site Map" on the home page. A newsletter, "Fresh Thinking" will be mailed soon. CanadaGAP information is available directly at <http://www.canadagap.ca/>

Committee of the Whole

- Committee reports
- [Resolutions Processing](#) (30 resolutions were considered this year)
- Appointments
- Major Policy Identification

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at lunch we had a guest speaker. Wednesday and Thursday a reception was sponsored by Bayer CropScience/MAPAQ (Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentaire Québec) and Syngenta respectively. Friday evening was a banquet.

I have provided a link from "Resolution Processing" which is a summary of the resolutions. Complete resolutions can be accessed by going to "2010 AGM Resolutions..." or by [contacting me](#).