



HMGA News

The newsletter of the Holland Marsh Growers' Association - Volume 10 - October 2010

It's Municipal Election Time ... You can't complain if you don't vote

The Board of Directors of the Holland Marsh Growers' Association would like to remind all of its members that voting in this upcoming municipal election (October 25th). Municipal governments, either county or region, and local municipalities that impact the farming in the Holland Marsh and area (from New Tecumseth through to East Gwillimbury and all parts in-between) are very important for its residents. YOU are deciding who will represent YOUR best interests over the next four years. That is correct – FOUR years. That means it will be 2014 before you will be able to invoke change. What municipal issues would be relevant to you, as a muck farmer? Frankly, the list is long and extensive – from fire burning to canal rebuilding, from taxation and the uses of those taxes to smart planning and development perspectives, from bylaws that unfairly burden farmers to Official Plans that are no longer in sync with the realities of farming. Voting gives you the right to have your voice heard at a time of declining voter turnout for all elections. Your one vote can make the difference!

Therefore, the HMGA encourages ALL of its members to attend the various candidates meetings over the next couple of weeks to get an idea of where each candidate will best provide you with the best representation from both a taxpayer and farmer going forward.

In Bradford-West Gwillimbury, the HMGA is involved with both candidates meetings:

MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES EVENING

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

7 pm - 9:30 pm

Bradford and District

Memorial Community Centre

125 Simcoe Road

WARD CANDIDATES EVENING

Thursday, October 7th, 2010

7 pm - 9:30 pm

St. John's Presbyterian Church

2940 10th Sideroad

In King Township, The Concerned Citizens of King Township (CCKT) is hosting the all-candidates meeting:

MAYORALTY CANDIDATES; WARD CANDIDATES FROM WARDS 4 (SCHOMBERG) AND 6 (HOLLAND MARSH)

Monday, October 18th, 2010

Holland District Christian School

18955 Dufferin Street, Ansnorveldt



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Municipal Election – Candidates meetings in the area

In East Gwillimbury, an interesting meeting should take place thanks to the East Gwillimbury Chamber of Commerce:

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

York Trillium Room

Holland Landing Community Centre

19513 Yonge Street

Holland Landing, ON.

In New Tecumseth, there are still two meetings you can attend:

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING, INCLUDING MAYORS

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

6:30 pm - 10 pm

Gibson Centre

63 Tupper Street

Alliston, ON.

MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR, AND RURAL CANDIDATES

Thursday, October 7, 2010

7 pm - 10 pm

Rich Hill United Church

Unfortunately, the all-candidates meeting for Innisfil was held on October 1 – and the HMGA did not get an update on any other meetings taking place in the near future. Our apologies for not getting the information out to you sooner.

Municipal Election . . . Part Deux

As some of you may be aware, Avia Eek is running for a council position of King Township, Ward 6. Avia is a board member with the Holland Marsh Growers' Association and has been an outspoken advocate for change, especially regarding the peaker plant. We wish her only the best of luck.

HMGA Annual General Meeting

The Holland Marsh Growers' Association is holding its Annual General Meeting on:

Thursday, December 3, 2010

Bond Head Community Centre

1 – 3:30 p.m.

More details to follow next newsletter.



What's Up Coming . . . Soupfest

As many of you are aware, the Holland Marsh Soupfest is happening:

Saturday, October 16th
Springdale Christian Reform Church
Right in the Holland Marsh
9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

This is being brought forward by the HMGA and the townships of Bradford-West Gwillimbury and King. Last year the event was held in King Township. This year, there will be a small tour of the marsh on the Friday, with the main action taking place on Saturday.

Farmer participation continues to something we actively encourage. We have some of our members creating soups for the public day but we would like to have much more. The reason for that is because there is a special category established for farmer soups this year, as well as one for restaurants and another for colleges/institutions. The reason we would like to know if you have a soup coming for the event is because we want to get the farm and farmer names on the tables identifying where the soups came from.

In addition, we are looking for a few folks to run a “community” farmer’s market in the main tent that day, similar to what was done last year. The mix of products is a great draw for consumers.

The entire focus of Soupfest is this – putting out the Holland Marsh name into the public realm, reminding folks of where the Holland Marsh is (it is slowly sinking in for most), and more importantly, showing them where their food is grown, perhaps complete with harvesting going on, what their food looks like (farmer’s market), and a recognizable finished product that they can understand (soup). If you have a soup you’d like to showcase, or participate in the farmer’s

market, contact Jamie at 905-251-6786 or via e-mail at jreaume@rogers.com as early as possible.

Peaker Plant Update . . .

What can be said? Work has begun on the site, test pillars are going in – which explains the trucks moving up and down the road, shaking the houses to the foundation and yet there appears to be little action on behalf of residents and farmers. There is movement afoot to get more attention to this matter, and the legal challenge continues for now as another venue. The HMGA continues to explore political options at the provincial level since municipal venues have all but shut down with the election looming.

As an aside, the company that started this situation, the “proponent” was sold in the last week of September, creating yet another problematic situation for the entire situation. The HMGA keeps wondering, what, if anything, was the township going to get from this flawed exercise in futility?

The Fresh Life – The Second Season

Farmers and the Holland Marsh Growers’ Association were involved in a second season of a television show called The Fresh Life. This time around, the farmers and the Holland Marsh location were involved in much of the television show. Scenes were shot using 13 different farmers in and around the marsh, than those farmers worked with a variety of chefs for the cooking feature as well, using the product from the marsh. In addition, all of the b-b-q shots were set in the Holland Marsh as the backdrop. All in all, the show is much better than the first season. It airs beginning October 16th, on SunTV and all the Rogers Television stations throughout the GTA, Barrie, and Newmarket (included). This is all about getting the message out there – working with others, and working to make a difference. Thanks to everyone for their time, efforts, and enthusiasm.