

The Blonde Banner

The Official Publication of the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association

February 2005

Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine
Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 9th 2005

at the Rock Haven Motel & Convention Centre
1875 Lansdowne St. West, Peterborough

Registration 1:00 p.m. • Meeting @ 1:30 p.m. • Buffet supper
\$5

Door prizes • Guest speaker • Social to follow

Everyone welcome — Plan to attend!

For more info: Murphy Baker (905) 985-0563

ONTARIO BOARD of DIRECTORS

Sheryl Blackburn

President

R.R. #1 Eldorado, ON K0K 1Y0

(613) 473-4914

E-mail: sblackburn.welch@bellnet.ca

Murphy Baker

Secretary/Treasurer

1050 14th Line, R.R. #5

Sunderland ON L0C 1H0

(905) 985-0563

E-mail: bakerblondes@sympatico.ca

Darren Dunham

Director

R.R. #4 Campbellford ON K0L 1L0

(705) 653-2428 Fax 653-3608

Laverne McGee

Vice President

R.R. #1 Campbellford ON K0L 1L0

(705) 653-3160

E-mail: lavelainefarm@sympatico.ca

Sharon Machina

R.R. #1 Clifford ON N0G 1M0

(519) 327-8646

E-mail: sharon@mbrheocattle.com

Sheila McNeven

Director

R.R. #3 Hastings ON K0L 1Y0

(705) 295-6208 phone/fax

E-mail: mcnevan@nexicom.net

John Vink

Director

40 Gazley Road

R.R. #1 Wooler ON K0K 3M0

(613) 397-1890

E-mail: jiv@reach.net

Important Information:

Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Assoc.

116, 2116-27 Ave. N.E.

Calgary AB T2E 7A6

(403) 276-5771

www.airnet.com/candianblondes

Canadian Livestock Records Corp.

2417 Holly Lane

Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7

(613) 731-7110 / 731-0704 (fax)

Lisa Ext: 312 Betty Ext 310

www.clrc.on.ca

Saskatchewan Research Council

15 Innovation Rd.

Saskatoon SK S7N 2X8

(306) 933-7700

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

www.agr.gc.ca

Newsletter Editor:

Ilse Vink

40 Gazley Rd.

R.R. #1 Wooler ON K0K 3M0

e-mail: jiv@reach.net

2005 Advertising Rates (GST extra)

Per Issue:

1 full page \$40

3/4 page \$35

1/2 page \$25

1/4 page \$15

Business cards \$5

Four Issues:

1 full page \$120

3/4 page \$105

1/2 page \$75

1/4 page \$45

Business cards \$15

Upcoming Events:

February 8 – 11

Canadian International Farm

Equipment Show

International Centre, Toronto

Internet: www.torontofarmshow.com/

March 2 – 3

East Central Farm Show

Peterborough

March 9 – 11

Western Ontario Farm Show

London

Internet: www.westernfair.com

March 15 – 17

Ottawa Valley Farm Show

Lansdowne Park, Ottawa

Internet: www.ottawafarmshow.com

April 9 @ 1:30 p.m.

Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Assn.

Annual General Meeting

Peterborough ON

Aug 20 – 21

Hastings County Plowing Match

Hastings County

September 13 – 15

Outdoor Farm Show

Woodstock

Internet: www.outdoorfarmshow.com/

September 20 – 24

International Plowing Match

Listowel

Internet: www.plowingmatch.org

September 21 – 25

Lindsay Exhibition, Lindsay

<http://www.lindsayex.com/>

November 4 – 13

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

National Trade Centre

Exhibition Place, Toronto

Website: www.royalfair.org

Letter to the Editor:

"The Meeting is held in Peterborough." as stated in the December 2004 OBdA Newsletter

In reading the December 2004 Newsletter, the President states "The first one (of two very important issues) relates to where the Annual General Meeting for the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association is held. ... The meeting is held in Peterborough. ... Peterborough was selected as a half way point in Ontario. ... In holding the AGM in Peterborough there is 54.65% of our members who would have to travel 2 hours or less to attend the AGM."

In reviewing the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings from 2004, Peterborough was not discussed as a potential meeting place for the 2005 AGM. In fact, the only proposal mentioned in the 2004 minutes was to have the 2005 AGM in Guelph! How can the President dictate where the AGM will be held? Is it not a Board decision?

I want to bring to the membership's attention that this will be the fourth year out of five that the Ontario AGM will be held in Peterborough. The AGM used to rotate across the province. This rotation provided an opportunity for members to run for the Board and bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the Board! Have you noticed new ideas or enthusiasm from the current Board? On the contrary, I've noticed poor communication to the membership, a lack of deadlines being met and the inability to take initiative! This Board continues to segregate themselves from potential volunteers across the province by not acknowledging them when offers are made and doing a poor job of communicating necessary information.

The President suggests that Peterborough is the "half way point in Ontario" for the membership. Why doesn't she use this same argument with Board meetings? In 2004, the Board held most of their Board meetings in Campbellford. If one looks at the "half way point" of the Board's homes, one might suggest that Sunderland would meet this criteria. In addition, this Board scheduled meetings on week nights (in Campbellford) when one of the Directors had to travel over eight hours to attend? This further exemplifies this Board's inability to accommodate members outside the Peterborough area!! This is the consideration the Board shows a fellow Director!! For those of you living more than 2 hours East and West of Peterborough, how can you be certain that issues and concerns that pertain to you are addressed?

Concerned, Rheo Machina

Editor's Response:

Whenever I come across criticism, whether it is directed at me or elsewhere, I look for two things: validity and intent. Is there a valid cause for complaint? In this case, yes, I think there are valid points in your letter that need looking into, communication and promptness with deadlines being two of them. I am also quite sure the board agrees with me on that, and is fully aware that improvement is needed in several areas. I then look at the intent of the one doing the criticizing. Is the intent here an honest attempt to bring problems to the surface, to be helpful to the organization, or is the intent an attempt to undermine the board for one's own reasons, whatever they may be, possibly in order to get one's own way in things? Rheo, I don't know you very well, as far as I remember I've met you only twice. I therefore do not feel I can judge the intent of your criticism fairly. I would like to believe your intent is the former, however, the hostile tone of your letter suggests the latter. I do know it is possible to so demoralize and harass the board with petty complaints, that the board's energy that should go into the real work of promoting the Blonde breed is instead put into defending itself against further attack. If I look at the members of the board, I see that most of them have young or growing families, and most have off-farm jobs in addition to their farmwork. Others are dealing with less-than-perfect health in either themselves or their spouses. Directorship is therefore at least fourth on the list of possible expenditures of energy. I think the directors are to be commended for their work at promoting the Blonde breed across Ontario. Are they doing a perfect job? Of course not, we already agree on that. But as any good teacher or employer can tell you, encouragement as opposed to discouragement goes a long way to achieving the desired goals of an organization.

I invite further discussion on the subject, from you or the rest of the readers out there.

Respectfully yours,

Ilse

Response to President's Message

I'll be blunt! As a director of the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association, I was disappointed with the manner in which the President's Message was used to influence the opinion of other Board Members and

the membership. Her message states that "the Board has received complaints about the meeting (AGM) always being held in EASTERN Ontario." When asked directly at a recent board meeting to clarify the number of complaints received, it was discussed that I was the only one voicing my concerns about this in the form of a proposal made at the September 30th Board Meeting to hold the AGM at the Gencor facility in Guelph (facility free of charge)! My concern is that she states "Peterborough was selected as a half way point in Ontario.", implying that this decision had already been made by the board, when in fact two proposals (Guelph and Peterborough) were only voted on at the last Board meeting on January 8th, 2005. It bothers me that the President would use the newsletter as a vehicle to express her opinion on a proposal brought before the board without allowing the presenter to state their reasons for the proposal. As to the issue of Peterborough being central, Guelph can't be that far off the beaten path, as it boasts headquarters for a number of Ontario based companies and businesses!

Another concern is in the area of communication! Response time to email from the membership and fellow directors is terrible. The Board's track record thus far in responding to requests on behalf of members, is three months!! Email that I send out to directors tend to receive the same blind eye! I have an email that was sent to board members a week ago requesting mileage for meetings attended in Campbellford that has yet to be acknowledged.

An effort has been made to send out newsletters in a more timely fashion. A suggestion was made at the National in Quebec that the Canadian board send out newsletters quarterly to the membership. The Ontario Association has agreed in principal to adhere to this same timeline in response to a grievance that was received by the board. Hopefully this will be noticed as we head in to the year 2005!

The Annual General Meeting for Ontario is being held on April 9th, 2005 in Peterborough!

If you have concerns that you would like to bring before the board and the general membership, please make every effort to be in attendance on April 9th! The direction of this breed rests on the shoulders of the entire membership!

Director,
Sharon Machina

Performance Report

In speaking with Scott Bothwell of BIO, he informed me that there are 40 Blonde or Blonde cross bulls on official test with BIO. Eighteen of these are being tested in Alberta (Westwind Blondes). As I looked through the Evaluation reports listed on the BIO web site, I was pleasantly surprised to see a couple of other centres listed in Manitoba that were using BIO as their official information headquarters. Members testing bulls in Ontario this year (as of January 15th listing) are: Mal-Lar Acres, Coffinhill Polled Blondes, Sandy Grant, Michel Bougie, Maple Valley Farms, MBRHEO Blondes, Van Bakel Blondes, Jessup Farms, Ferme A & L Cyr, LRB Blondes and Crystal Farms. In addition to the bulls, there are 12 Blonde or Blonde cross heifers on official test this year as well. Members testing heifers in Ontario this year are: DJ Farms, Van Bakel Blondes and MBRHEO Blondes.

In general, stronger than expected calf prices this fall have prompted a number of bull consignors to choose that option rather than performance testing. They have been more critical and selective in the animals they have sent to test.

It should also be noted that BIO's toll free number has been canceled as part of the cost reductions. To reach the office, you will need to dial the 519-767-2665 number. BIO is the "vehicle" for beef producers to order their BSE Feeder Cattle Set Aside Program tags for their enrolled cattle. Ontario Farmer has written a good article on trying to inform applicants on the "how to, how much and when" of the program.

As of January 15th, no Open House Dates or sale Dates were confirmed. Check the BIO Website for up-dates: www.biobeef.com

Submitted by,
Sharon Machina

CEDARVIEW

Blonde d'Aquitaine

Gary & Anne Hadwyn

2111 County Road # 10 Cavan

(705) 944-5842

COMPLETE SALES MANAGEMENT

Blonde d'Aquitaine Sales our Specialty

Production • Dispersal • Farm Sales

Consider us for your next sale!

Dave & Sheila McNeven

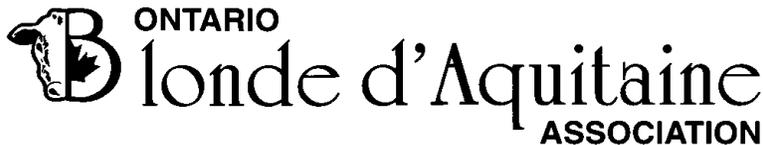
(705) 295-6208

SEMEN FOR SALE

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE ONTARIO BLONDE D'AQUITAINE ASSOCIATION
(BUYER PAYS ALL TRANSFER COSTS)

The following semen has been donated to the Ontario Blonde Association and is priced to sell accordingly as a fund raiser.	# of Units	Price
MARMACS CAGNEY 27C R9021(P) 129N	1	\$25
BEAU BOIS AIME 26A R6614- 129N	10	\$20
MAPLE VALLEY BAXTER 19H R14004 129N	3	\$20
BEAU BOIS CAFÉ R8616 129N	5	\$20
SANDBROOK VINCENT 440S R2255 129N	5	\$20
DJ YANKEE 38Y R5752 129N	5	\$20
GELSTAR 801 XT R4339T 129N	5	\$20
WIW MISTER CORBY 1R R4575T 129N	3	\$30

Contact Murphy Baker, Secretary/Treasurer @ (905) 985-0563



2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PROXY

Proxy eligibility: All members in good standing are entitled to vote at the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association's Annual General Meeting. If you are unable to attend you may request another member in good standing to represent you and your vote. Each member is entitled to carry three (3) proxy votes. (Maximum 4 votes)

I, _____, am unable to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association on Saturday, April 9, 2005 and hereby designate

_____ of _____ (address)
to represent me at this meeting.

Signature

Date

Shows

Rules for Point Shows to determine Overall Champion Female, Overall Champion Male & Premier Exhibitors

In order for a show to be considered as a point show, there must be at least 3 exhibitors and 18 head of cattle. Any Blonde d'Aquitaine Show that meets these requirements will be considered towards the show points.

An exhibitor must show at four shows with one being the Lindsay Fair. The Lindsay Fair will be considered the final show for the show year. (The show year will run from the day after the Lindsay Fair show to the day of the Lindsay Fair Show day. Points earned at shows after the Lindsay Fair will be accumulated towards the next season. Points earned in 2003 at Roseneath and The Royal will be included in the calculation for the 2004 Champions and Exhibitors.)

Method for determining Overall Champion Female and Overall Champion Male:

- Points per class per show are awarded as follows:

1 st	8 points
2 nd	7 points
3 rd	6 points
4 th	5 points
5 th	4 points
6 th	3 points
7 th	2 points
8 th	1 point
Grand Champion	2 points
Reverse Grand	1 point
- Points are accumulated from 4 shows with one being the Lindsay Fair.
- If a tie occurs, the animal with the most points earned at the Lindsay Fair will be selected as Overall Champion.
- Points earned during the year remain with the animal in cases when the animal is sold.

Method for determining Premier Exhibitor:

- Points for Premier Exhibitor are calculated using the 1st to 8th placings as above on their best 5 animals at 4 shows with one being the Lindsay Fair.
- Points accumulated by an exhibitor remain with the exhibitor in cases when the animal is sold.
- Awards are given to the top three exhibitors.

Rules for Jackpot Heifer

- Entry fee is \$100.00 per entry.
- The heifer must be shown at the designated shows as determined by the Board of Directors as a calf, yearling and two year old with her natural calf at side.
- Points are awarded based on the number of entries in the class as calves and will continue for year 2 and 3. The 1st place heifer will earn points equal to the number shown in the calf class; the last place heifer will receive 1 point in the calf class. Each year with the heifer calf class, a new point schedule will be determined which will carry into years 2 and 3 for that group of heifers.
- The entry with the highest points will win.
- All entry fees will be paid out in full.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - Name and Objective

1. The name of the organization shall be "The Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association" (herein call the "Association").
2. The aims and objectives of the Association shall be:
 - a) to promote and encourage the breeding of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle in the province of Ontario;
 - b) to arrange for, and promote shows and sales of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle in the province of Ontario;
 - c) to assist, where possible, the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association in their promotion of the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed.

ARTICLE II - Membership

1. The general membership shall consist of:
 - a) persons, firms, partnerships, organizations or corporations who shall have submitted an application for membership, paid the requested membership fee, and be approved by the Board of Directors.
2. There shall be a membership fee which shall be established by the Board of Directors and approved by the general assembly.
3. The Board of Directors shall have the power to enact by-laws establishing classes of memberships similar to those of the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association.
4. Membership is not transferable and shall lapse automatically:
 - a) upon the wind-up, liquidation or surrender of charter of a member;
 - b) at the end of the Association's fiscal year, but subject to the right of renewal on payment of requisite fee;
 - c) upon resignation at any time from the Association, and not from the Board of Directors..
5. Membership fees are not refundable in whole or in part.

ARTICLE III - General Assembly and Board of Directors

1. There are hereby established as the principal organs of the Association a General Assembly and a Board of Directors.
2. General Assembly:
 - a) the general assembly shall consist of all members of the Association.
 - b) each member shall be entitled to one vote at all meetings of the General Assembly, with provisions made for the permission to use a maximum of three proxy votes.
 - c) the General Assembly shall meet at least once a year at such time and place as the Board of Directors shall determine, and upon three weeks written notice.
 - d) a quorum of the General Assembly shall be ten members present in person or by proxy.
 - e) decisions of the General Assembly, except where otherwise expressly provided to the contrary, shall be by majority vote of those present in person or by proxy and voting.
3. A member is arrears in the payment of membership fees shall not be entitled to receive the benefits and privileges of membership, nor to representation in the General Assembly.
4. Board of Directors:
 - a) the property and affairs of the Association shall be managed by a board of seven directors, one being the President elected by the members from the general membership of representatives thereof.
 - b) the president shall be elected by the general membership. The president's term of office shall be from the meeting at which he/she is elected or appointed until the annual meeting next following or until his/her successor is elected or appointed. Six directors shall be elected by the general membership. The directors' term of office shall be from the meeting at which they were elected or appointed until the 2nd annual meeting following or until their successors are elected or appointed. Three directors shall be elected or

appointed each year.

- c) the president and the directors shall elect from amongst themselves a vice-president and a secretary-treasurer or a secretary and a treasurer.
- d) a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings of the Board of Directors shall be by majority.
- e) any vacancy occurring in office of directors shall be filled by appointment by the directors remaining in office for the remainder of the term of the retiring director.
- f) a director must be a member of the Association in good standing.
- g) any director or executive officer may be removed from office for failure to perform properly his duties on the vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors then holding office.
- h) all meetings of the Board of Directors shall convene at the call of the president and notice thereof shall be given to the members of the Board at least one week prior to the date of the meeting, provided, however, that the directors may meet on regular dates without notice or may by unanimous consent meet at any time or place without notice.
- i) the Board of Directors shall establish by-laws as it shall require and these shall govern the board of directors when they are consistent with the provisions of the Constitution.
- j) the directors may hire, retain or appoint such employees as may be required to achieve the objectives of the Association and shall assign duties to them.

- k) the president shall perform all duties of the chairman at meetings of the Board of Directors and of the General Assembly and be responsible for the initiation of policies. In his absence, the vice-president shall act in the place and stead of the president. The secretary-treasurer or secretary and treasurer shall do such things as are normally carried on by a secretary-treasurer or secretary and treasurer.

ARTICLE IV - Committees

1. The Board of Directors may appoint such committees as may be necessary for achieving the objectives of the Association, but there shall be the following standing committees appointed by the Board:
 - a) Nominating committee - this committee shall present to the Annual General Meeting a list of members to be considered for the election to the Board of Directors. Additional nominations shall be received from the floor and if voting is necessary, it shall be by ballot.
 - b) Show and Sale Committee - this committee shall make arrangements for the showing of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle at various shows and shall be responsible for arranging and holding periodic sales of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle.
 - c) Publicity Committee - this committee shall be responsible for publication and distribution of materials that may be necessary to promote the sales and shows arranged by the Show and Sale Committee and, in addition, shall carry out such matters and activities as will promote the Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle breed.

ARTICLE V - General

1. Any elected person to the Board of Directors or any appointee who by virtue of his failure to fulfill his duties of office or failure to conduct himself as befits his office, may be removed from office. The person in question having been advised of such failure, and having been unable to resolve his dereliction, shall be removed, after a prior notice to that effect of seven days, two-thirds of the Board of Directors concurring.
2. This Constitution may be amended in the following manner: proposed amendments must be submitted to the Board of Directors 60 days prior to the Annual General Meeting with members being notified at least 45 days prior of the Annual General Meeting date. All proposed amendments shall be included with the written notice of the annual meeting of the General Assembly, at which such amendments are to be dealt with. Two-thirds of those members present, in person or by proxy, at the General Assembly meeting aforesaid concurring, this proposed amendment shall be deemed to have approved and it shall be entered into this constitution.