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Brad Reid Memorial July 16, 2013



It is with great sorrow that we must let the COABC membership know that Brad Reid passed away suddenly from heart complications on July 5, 2013.

Brad was a great farmer, a staunch supporter of organic certification and of other farmers. He put all his great thoughtfulness, wit and drive into the COABC while serving on the Board and as Chair, and was an elemental force in our meetings. Brad held the position of COABC President from 2009-2011.

His commitment and presence will be sorely missed in the organic community. We shall also miss his trumpet.

The memorial for Brad is set for Tuesday July 16th at 2 pm in the Aldergrove Alliance Church 26291 28th Ave in Aldergrove (south of Fraser Highway and just west of 264th St).

There will be a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Covenant House.

Our hearts and thoughts go out to the Reid family and all of Brad's many friends.



Investment Agriculture Foundation Grant

The Organic Resource Toolkit Project will create online resource tool kits for the organic sector.

A resource tool kit is a collection of resources related to a specific topic that enables the user to quickly and easily access required documents. The Organic tool kits will consolidate and enhance existing resources within the sector, focusing on four main areas:

- Farmers markets and vendors
- Organic Certification Bodies
- New organic entrants
- Organic Retailers

The creation of these toolkits will mean members of the organic sector are better able to utilize current resources. These resources will also be more accessible to potential members interested in entering the sector.

These resources will enable individual producers to provide a consistent message to consumers regarding the benefits of healthy local organic food and sustainable farming practices.



COS Review: Prioritization of Work List items underway

The Canadian General Standards Board and the Standards Council of Canada are finalizing the workplan for the complete review of the Canadian Organic Standards. In the meantime, the 400 items on the work lists to be addressed by the working groups are being priority sorted and submitted by the SIC members. This first exercise will help determine the workload for each working group. Each group will submit amendments to the COS at meetings of the voting members of the OTC.

The OFC application under the AAFC Agri-Marketing program to fund 75% of the cost of the review is still waiting for approval. Many interesting exchanges of information took place with AAFC officers about the nature and the budget of the review project.

OFC is organizing the fundraising campaign to match AAFC potential funding; 25% of the review cost must be covered by industry.

Participation in Working Groups is voluntary and not paid; the WG meetings are held by toll-free teleconference. With a time commitment of up to one 2 hours per call every second week, depending on need.

Are you interested in continuing your participation on a COS Review Working Group, or are you interested in applying to join a WG?

We are still recruiting!
Please contact the OFC:
Email: info@organicfederation.ca
Phone: 514-488-6192.

EVENTS



2013 Kids Farm Camp

Dates: July 22nd to July 26th or July 29th to August 2nd, 10am to 3pm.

Location: Fraser Common Farm, Aldergrove, BC

Contact: info@gloriousorganics.com

Cost: \$200/camper, additional siblings \$185/week

A great opportunity for the next generation of farmers to sink their hands into the earth and learn about ecologically sound food production. We will explore soils, forests, fields, edges, and the ways in which they interact through insects, water, and weeds. Children will experience food production, from natural soil amendments, to seeding, planting, harvesting, and finally selling produce to the public.

The Salt Spring Island Apple Festival 2013

Date: Sunday September 29, 2013 from 9-5

Location: Fulford Hall, 2591 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island

Contact: harryburton@shaw.ca

Featuring: •304 apple varieties displayed in 2011 at Fulford Hall •Historical reenactments 2013: Henry Ruckle, Maggie & Capt. Apple (new SSI superhero) •16 farms on the Apple Festival tour •Apple Luscious Organic Orchard will have about 100 of the best apple varieties for tasting at their farm •Apple baking, orchard tours, apple ID, educational info, apple history and apple sales •Leading experts in orchard bee pollination and fantastic lunches by some great island chefs.

Info at www.saltspringmarket.com/apples

Strong demand for organic food

(From Global News)

The market for organic food is growing rapidly. The latest data shows organic sales in Canada have tripled since 2006 to 3.7 billion dollars a year.

Matthew Holmes, Executive Director of the Canada Organic Trade Association said, "What we often deal with in the sector is not enough supply to meet that demand. We're constantly trying to find new organic farmers and suppliers."

The biggest demand is for organic fruits and vegetables followed by organic beverages. The demand for organic grains and cereals are also strong. Organic beef is relatively low at one to two percent of total organic sales however it has the fastest growing demand of any sector.

"There's certainly a strong consumer for organic meat," Holmes said, "Meat that's been raised without hormones or

antibiotics in the feed, meat that's been pastured and has access to the outdoors."

He said an increasing number of consumers want to know where their food was made, how it was made, how the livestock were treated and what inputs or amendments were used in growing the produce or raising the livestock.

"Organic offers that transparency and an audit trail so consumers know every ingredient in the process has met the organic standards, has been inspected and certified and can be tracked back to its origin," Holmes said.

In 2009, at the industry's urging, the federal government implemented national standards and label requirements to uphold consumer confidence in organic claims.

Read the entire story at <http://globalnews.ca/news/614660/strong-demand-for-organic-food/>



NEWSLETTER LINKS

BC Agriculture Council COABC is a member under the Community Agriculture seat:

<http://www.bcac.bc.ca/>

OFC info-bio:

www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter

BCSPCA:

<http://www.spc.bc.ca/>

REMINDERS

ISO operators are fortunate to be able to use the Canada Organic label AND the BC Checkmark side by side.

The logo of the BC Certified Organic program is a key tool to identify certified organic products in BC. It is important that the symbol is used correctly; here is a quick reminder, especially for websites and the exclusion zone (white space.)



The Program Symbol is enclosed by a black border. The border ensures that the appropriate white space or exclusion zone is provided around the composite mark. The Program Symbol must be enclosed by the

border if the Symbol is applied against colored or complex backgrounds. However, if the background is white or off-white, it may be desirable to omit the border while ensuring the appropriate exclusion zone.

Complaints Submission Form

Canada Organic Office complaint submission form can be found at www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php.

For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COO complaint form at certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php "www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php"

Complaints on this form are to be directed to the Canada Organic Office directly <mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca>

Social Media

COABC is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Certified-Organic-Associations-of-BC/208548192519986 and on Twitter, username [coabccanada](https://twitter.com/coabccanada). Join our online community.

Remember...

Got an Organic Question? Try Cyber-help www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.

If you change your address or contact information send it to your CB office as soon as possible so that you don't miss out on receiving a BCOG and other materials.

