



**Minutes of the 2nd Annual General
Meeting of the Ontario Hazelnut
Association**

Brantford, Ontario, March 24, 2015



NOTICE

is hereby given that the

**2nd Annual Members and
Directors' Meeting**

of the

Ontario Hazelnut Association

will be held in

Brantford, Ontario

at

***Best Western Plus Brant Park Inn and
Conference Centre
March 24, 2015***

Election of Directors of the Association will take place as well as dealing with resolutions and any other business that may arise.



OHA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 24th, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was opened by Dr. John Kelly, Chair of The Ontario Hazelnut Association (the “Association” or “OHA”) at 11:00 AM. The directors and officers of OHA welcomed members to this Annual General Meeting of Members that was held for the purpose of electing directors and officers, authorized the continuance of the Association and receiving the reports of the Chair, Executive Director, membership and Treasurer.

A notice of the holding of this Annual Meeting was duly and properly transmitted to all members of record.

A quorum was present and that this Annual Meeting so the AGM was lawfully convened and proceeded to transact business.

On all matters, each member had one vote. On all matters, the by-laws permit the members to decide by a show of hands generally, unless a poll is demanded.



ONTARIO HAZELNUT ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting Agenda

TUESDAY March 24, 2015

Best Western Inn and Conference Centre

Brantford, ON

Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
11:20 to 11:25 am	Call to order and welcome	John Kelly
11:25 to 11:35 am	OHA Year Overview	John Kelly
11:35 to 11:45 am	Executive Directors Report	Elliott Currie
11:45 to 11:50 am	Ferrero MOU Update	John Kelly
11:50 to 12:10 pm	Committees & Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treasurer• Membership• Research & Development• Education	Committee Chairs Martin Hodgson Linda Grimo Toktam Taghavi/Elliott Currie Karen Robinson
12:10-12_20 pm	Director Elections (1-1 yr to fill W. Flintoff and 6-2 yr positions)	Member as assigned
12:20 pm	Adjournment	
12:20 pm	Executive Elections	All Board Members
12:20 pm	Public Lunch	Enrico Carboni, Ferrero

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA Linda Grimo, Second Rob Haynes

Seconded

All in Favour

INTRODUCTION OF DIRECTORS

In attendance were the following directors and officers of OHA

(subject to attendance:

Directors:

1. Robert Haynes
2. Linda Grimo
3. Igor Rasic
4. Karen Robinson
5. Toktam Taghavi
6. Martin Hodgson
7. Francis Lo
8. Randy Wilson
9. John Kelly
10. Scott Deslippe

Officers:

John Kelly, Co-Chair
Robert Haynes, Co-Chairs
Martin Hodgson, Treasurer
Linda Grimo, Membership
Elliott Currie, Executive Director

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The first order of business to come before the Annual Meeting was to consider and vote upon the election of directors and officers. The proxy circular that was sent to all members before the meeting identifies nominees for the Board of Directors and officers. As set forth in the circular, the Board of Director and Officer nominees were as follows:

Directors:

1. Robert Haynes – to be re-elected
2. Linda Grimo – to be re-elected
3. Igor Rasic
4. Karen Robinson
5. Toktam Taghavi
6. Martin Hodgson – to be re-elected
7. Francis Lo
8. Randy Wilson
9. John Kelly – to be re-elected
10. Scott Deslippe

***New Nominees to the board**

1. Les High
2. Adam Koziol
- 3.

Officers:

John Kelly, Chair
Robert Haynes, Vice-Chair
Martin Hodgson, Treasurer
Linda Grimo, Membership
Elliott Currie, Executive Director

I will now entertain a motion that the proposed slate of nominees be elected. I recognize Martin Hodgson as a member. Martin Hodgson moved that each of the nominees be elected. Seconded Scott Deslippe. The Slate was carried and declared for the Board of Directors and Officers elected for 2015.

CHAIR'S REPORT

State of the business and Future direction

Summary of what happened in 2014 and issues facing OHA

Thank you all for coming to the 6th Annual Hazelnut Symposium. We chose the theme "The Hazelnuts Are Coming! The Hazelnuts Are Coming!" to emphasize that this crop is now. It is here. We want people to put trees in the ground. We need your help to do it!

First off I want to thank all the sponsors that helped make this gathering possible and I want to thank the founding sponsors who have been with us from the start.

They are: Ferrero, Grimo Nursery, Mori Essex Nursery, OMAFRA, OCE, OFVGA, U of G, Brant Co.,

I am sure we will all come away from this gathering with a better understanding of how the Hazelnut Industry is developing in Ontario. With Erie Innovation and Commercialization closing its doors, a lot of what that organization did fell directly on to the shoulders of the OHA.

This process has been ongoing for a minimum of several years and is very close to the next major step which is the planting out of the first orchards.

This last year saw many major steps taken in this development of the Hazelnut Industry in Ontario. These are reflected in the Symposia activities as well as many of the correspondences that go out.

The OHA Board of Directors met on a quarterly basis in 2014 and many individual meetings were held. With the development of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ferrero, much of the focus has been on getting working groups organized and working. We will report on this later this afternoon.

A great deal of effort has been put into research and development, with the preparation of grant applications to many different funding agencies. I am happy to report that we have been successful in many areas, including the Agri-

Innovation Program (AIP), Growing Forward 2, Ontario Centres of Excellence and the Ontario Genomics Institute

These grants mostly require matching fund, and it is through the partnership with many supporting organizations that the OHA is able to continue to develop this sector. We have intense work around cultivars, nursery and orchard management, agronomy, mapping and genetics.

We have had a presence at a number of events, and continue to grow the reputation and the enthusiasm for the sector. As examples, Karen Robinson was at the Southwest Agricultural Conference in Ridgeway, Robert Haynes at the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Niagara Falls, Scott Deslippe was on CBC radio and there have been many articles and releases concerning the OHA.

The website has been updated and can be accessed by members. We had successful meetings last year, and last year's Symposium was the highest attended symposium to date. I am happy to report that we have exceeded that attendance again this year!

We have, as of last count, around 250 growers interested to starting commercial orchards.

We are helping to develop the markets for hazelnuts from Ontario. Last year, Cocomira and Soyfusion presented unique market opportunities for hazelnuts. Natra, in London, is interested. And of course, Ferrero ultimately is expected to be the largest single customer of Ontario grown hazelnuts.

Everything is in place to start things rolling.

In order to do that the growers will need to take the final step and order the trees for their orchard. This continues to be our challenge. The end user market is there. We have a challenge with trees, and we have a challenge with convincing growers to put the trees in the ground. Your OHA is working hard to address these issues, and will bring forward ideas to get this moving.

We have proven that we can grow hazelnuts in Southern Ontario, EFB free, over the past 20 years.

Economic studies show that, once in production, hazelnuts are very profitable.

The demand for hazelnuts is increasing worldwide while the supply is not keeping up to this demand.

This is your association. I encourage you to become very involved. Karen Robinson is an excellent example of someone who has taken the initiative and has started some great things. She is now a director.

In conclusion, although we have a number of challenges before us, all the ground work is in place. Once this project takes off it could become one of the major non cash crops in the province

Respectfully Submitted
John Kelly, Ph.D.

Motion to Accept the Report From the Chair

MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORT FROM THE CHAIR Martin Hodgson

Seconded Linda Grimo

All in Favour

REPORT OF TREASURER

Martin Hodgson, who has been Treasurer to the Association for the past year presented his report
on the on the activities of the Association during 2014.

Ontario Hazelnut Association **Treasure's Report** **for year ending Feb. 27, 2015**

Balance on Hand March 1, 2014 **\$11,375.46**

Income

Sponsorships	Mori- Essex	\$1000
	Enterprise Brant	\$1000
	Grimo Nursery	\$750
	U of Guelph	\$200

Memberships

Expense	Attendance cost to OCE Toronto	\$695.83
	Attendance cost to SWAC	\$661.64
	Upfront deposit for 6th Symposium	\$800.00
	Trip to Chile for Rob and Linda	\$3,311.17
	(Outstanding debt of \$157.59 & \$406.84) just paid	

Balance on hand Feb. 27, 2015 **\$11,369.00**

Respectfully Submitted

Martin Hodgson

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURERS REPORT Linda Grimo

Seconded Robert Haynes

All in Favour

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Elliott Currie, who has been Executive Director to the Association for the past year presented his report on the on the activities of the Association during 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Executive Director for the year 2014-2015.

- ▶ Website retrieval from GoDaddy

2 years → John Kelly running so far, Need a formal arrangement

- ▶ Board of Directors

Regular meetings, communications, records

- ▶ Financial Management

Computerization required for research management

Bank relationship expanding, website payment etc.

- ▶ Past year Southwest Agricultural Convention (SWAC) , other agricultural events
- ▶ International and domestic relationships developed: Wisconsin, Minnesota, Oregon, Nova Scotia, Nebraska, Saskatchewan, PEI

Academic and commercial relationships developed

- ▶ Agricultural Innovation Program,

Negotiation on going with AAFC

Excess of \$850K 3 year.

Team of researchers ready to go

- ▶ Operations Manual → Expect End of May

Respectfully Submitted

Elliott Currie

MOTION TO APPROVE REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Martin Hodgson

Seconded Linda Grimo

All in Favour

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that this meeting be adjourned. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned. Meeting Concluded 12:30 PM