



## Events & Happenings

### OAFT Semi-Annual Board of Directors & Members Meeting held at Trent University

Ontario Agri-Foods Technologies (OAFT) held their semi-annual Board of Directors and Members meeting at Trent University on September 19th. Hosted by the Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster and Trent University, the day began with the Innovation Cluster's quarterly breakfast at which OAFT President, Gord Surgeoner presented on the topic of innovations in agriculture. The remainder of the day consisted of the OAFT semi-annual Board of Director's meeting, a lunch for OAFT members, a series of presentations and tours of the DNA building lab facilities.

The Peterborough region is home to a rich agricultural sector and both Trent University and Fleming College are quickly on their way to becoming well known for their vast infrastructure and focus on agricultural research. The presentations consisted of a plethora of agriculture-related interests including talks from John Baker of Stonehenge Bio-Resources Inc. on the leveraging of Upper Canada hemp genetics, Peter Matthewman of Performance Plants on the harvesting of the sun for both food and fuel and from Trent University's own Barry Saville who presented his Genome Canada research proposal on the affects of fungal pathogens on crops.

The day was a fantastic opportunity to promote the exciting research currently underway at Trent University and in the Greater Peterborough Region. The majority of those in attendance came from agriculturally advanced hotspots in Ontario, including Kingston and Guelph. This event sparked the interest and excitement of those in attendance to the impressive infrastructure and advancements in agricultural being made here in our region.

### 2nd Annual Innovation Cluster Golf Tournament

With over 50 players and 15 sponsorships, the Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster's Second Annual Golf Tournament proved to be another successful event. Regardless of the chilly fall weather on September 29th, all players were ready to play at the scenic Wildfire Golf Course in Lakefield, Ontario.

Although there were no holes-in-one this year there was definitely a strong competitive spirit. The first place winners were from the Peterborough Region Angel Network (PRAN), John MacDonald, Tom Taylor, Sandy Campbell, and Dick Todd. Coming in a close second place was BrandHealth's Paul Hickey, Dave Madill, Paul DeMachi, and Chris White. The Chamber of Commerce team, Stuart Harrison, Jeff Dueck, Dan Stanford, and Greg Monti found themselves in third place. The closest to the hole prizes, a gift basket from Ontario Licensing and Gaming, and a photograph from Lockington, Lawless, and Fitzpatrick LLP, were awarded to Ed Arnold and Greg Monti. A door prize, provided by the Protectors Group, was awarded to George Gillespie.



*John MacDonald, Dick Todd, Sandy Campbell and Tom Taylor made up the Peterborough Region Angel Network foursome that took 1st place at the tournament*

The evening provided the opportunity for networking, a wonderful meal, and a brief address from Cluster President, Andy Mitchell.

Thank you to all the generous sponsors for ongoing support, to all private sector members, Board of Director members, and participants for attending the Second Annual Golf Tournament. Please see page 5 for more Golf Tournament photos and list of sponsors.

### Cluster Moving in Right Direction

The Innovation Cluster is continuously hard at work executing its mandate, establishing a regional knowledge-based economy, and promoting Peterborough as a centre for excellence in research and innovation.

On September 24th and 25th, the Cluster's Program Officer, Danielle Rocheleau, attended the Technopolicy Network's Fifth Annual International Conference titled "Implementing Regional Innovation Strategies". The conference focused on the development and implementation of various regional innovation strategies across the world.

Over the course of the two days, several international speakers provided insight and addressed topics including why a regional innovation strategy is essential, what kinds

of strategies have been developed, and how to organize the different elements of a successful region.

Having the Innovation Cluster represented at such a conference was essential in establishing Peterborough as a world leader in innovation, learning the successful best-practices in establishing clusters, ensuring that Peterborough is following a strong model, as well as learning how the Peterborough region fits within the large technology cluster's across the globe.

Strong connections were made with European, American and Canadian clusters, which may influence and assist in the Innovation Cluster's future development and direction.

*The Innovation Cluster's mandate is to facilitate an economic environment in which wealth can be generated, high paying jobs created, and an improved quality of life achieved in the GPA.*

## researcher profile

**Dr. Ralph Shiell,**  
Associate Professor,  
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy



Dr. Ralph Shiell is an associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. His research is in the area of experimental optical physics, he

investigates different ways to control novel materials using laser light.

After first studying Physics at the University of Oxford in the UK, and then carrying out his graduate work at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Dr. Shiell made the move to Canada and worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Waterloo, later arriving at Trent University in September 2004. When asked what he enjoys about Trent, Dr. Shiell's response was that, "Trent values both the high-quality of its teaching and the opportunity to advance knowledge through research."

The research that Dr. Shiell focuses on is in the particular field of coherent control: using laser light to manipulate, and store information in, different materials. An important part of his research also involves designing and building novel optoelectronic devices, usually driven by a need for measurement tools that are not commercially available.

He has recently started working with several people within the Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster, who have acted as a bridge between his highly specialized knowledge base and the desires and demands of the technical business sector. The Cluster has provided assistance to him in obtaining funding for device commercialization, and is also currently identifying potential industrial partners for him to work with.

Dr. Shiell's main research goal is to increase the understanding of the opportunities, and limitations, associated with controlling different materials using laser light. This field has a wide variety of potential applications, ranging from the development of low-waste manufacturing processes, to the creation of unique materials, to quantum computing.

# Research & Funding

## Dr. Barry Saville's Research Moving Forward

The Innovation Cluster has been working closely with Dr. Barry Saville, Associate Professor, Forensic Science at Trent University on a significant research opportunity. The proposed project, attracting upward of \$9.4 million of researching funding to the Peterborough region, has the potential to secure Canada with a means of detecting, preparing for, and responding to fungal pathogen threats to crops.

While developing significant research applications the need and interest in such a project as the collaborators list continues to expand has become clear. Current collaborating organizations include Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre (PARC), Cereal Research Centre (CRC), and Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre (ECORC), the

Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Natural Resources Canada, the United States Department of Agriculture, Operitel Corporation, Carleton University, and the New School for Social Research, totalling 15 scientific and social researchers.

Over the summer months, Dr. Saville and Cluster staff have submitted funding applications to Genome Canada's Competition for Applied Genomics Research in Bioproducts and Crops, the Ministry of Research and Innovation's Ontario Research Fund, and the Ontario Corn Producers Association. During the coming months, the Cluster's business development team will be identifying and establishing potential private sector partners for the proposed project.

## Eastern Ontario Community Futures Development Corporation Announces Funding for Cluster

On September 4th Peterborough MP Dean Del Mastro announced, on behalf of the Eastern Ontario Community Futures Development Corporation Network Inc., that the corporation would provide \$160,000 in support of the Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster. The funding was obtained thanks to the Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP), a Government of Canada economic development initiative.

The funding will be allocated to the following areas of activity:

- Commercialization of the International Consortium on Anti-Virals (ICAV) Development
- Establishment of enhanced agriculture research and the pursuit of related commercial opportunities
- The enhanced development of research opportunities related to water quality and relevant commercial opportunities
- Providing regional commercial interests with enhanced opportunities to partner with area research activities researchers

## Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture Tour

On September 3rd the Cluster hosted a tour for the Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture in order to provide an overview of the Cluster's programming and services, as well as the agricultural research initiatives and educational programming taking place at Trent University.

Presentations were made by the Cluster's President/CEO, Andy Mitchell, Program Officer, Danielle Rocheleau, and Dr. Barry Saville, Associate Professor, Forensic Science at Trent University.

The Cluster is looking forward to this year's upcoming familiarization tours, as they prove to generate great discussion, awareness, and growing relationships.

*The Innovation Cluster provides services for innovative initiatives in the area of wildlife, DNA, forensics, alternative wastewater treatment, health, water quality, agriculture, and biomaterials.*

# Business Development

## On the Road with Business Development

After a busy spring and summer, Business Development has focused on the follow-up from two key conferences: American Waterworks and BioInternational. Both of these events resulted in commercial leads specific to environmental diagnostics, materials science and agriculture (plant pathogens, crop yield and small ruminants).

Business Development will be working in Japan and Mexico during the month of October, and then on to Germany in November. Sarah Majeski, the Cluster's Business Development Officer, will be accompanying Dr. Neil Emery to Japan for a presentation at the Canadian Embassy and to consolidate the alliance formed last year with Dr. Sakakibara and the Riken Institute (#1 plant science institute in Asia). Following the Japan mission, Sarah will be joining the Women's Trade Mission in Monterrey, Mexico. Working with a South American trade consultant, she will be traveling to mining sites surrounding Monterrey, seeking out fee-for-service interest in our water related expertise at both Trent University and Fleming College.

November will begin with Sarah accompanying Professor Emeritus Tom Hutchinson on his visit to Germany. This trip includes attendance at an Ag-biotech conference and a tour specific to anaerobic digestion technology.

Since the hire date of the Cluster's Business Development Administrator, Amber Liberty, the Cluster has been able to increase outreach efforts. Amber has been instrumental in maintaining relationships developed over the past year, as well as assisting with preparation and organization to facilitate new opportunities. This has been key to maintaining momentum and enabling the Cluster to seek out new leads.

## Peterborough's National Biotech Breakfast

On September 19th, the Innovation Cluster was pleased to help kick off National Biotech Week by hosting its Quarterly Membership Breakfast under the same theme. Regions across the country participated in education and awareness activities about the Canadian Biotechnology industry the week of September 19 – 26th.

The early morning event had a biotechnology and agriculture theme, and opened with light breakfast, networking opportunities, and a brief update on the Cluster's ongoing initiatives. The audience spanned from University and

College administration and staff, to Innovation Cluster and Ontario Agri-Food Technologies (OAF) members.

Speakers included Dr. Phil Schwab, Vice President, Policy and Sector Affairs at BIOTECCanada, who provided insight to the cutting-edge biotechnology initiatives taking place across Canada. Gord Surgeoner, President, OAF spoke highly of agricultural biotechnology, and the progress of biomaterials and agricultural related innovation taking place here in Ontario.

## Funding Towards Establishment of Centre of Excellence for Dairy Goats & Small Ruminants

Towards the end of July the Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster, working together with Trent University and the University of Guelph, announced it was selected to coordinate a feasibility study for the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Dairy Goats and Small Ruminants research at Trent University.

The Innovation Cluster received \$31,500 in funding for this project from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through the Agricultural Adaptation Council's (AAC) CanAdvance Program.

The funding will be used to undertake a feasibility study in the area of dairy goat research. This will provide the opportunity to explore the types of processes, partnerships, and funding models in the context of dairy goat research, but would also be applicable to a range of small ruminants.

The funding provided by AAFC through AAC will cover 53% of the total project cost with the remainder being contributed by the Innovation Cluster and the following Project Partners: the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation, Trent University and Fleming College.

With the growing need for research and development and the existing expertise in the area of agriculture and small ruminants



in the Peterborough region, the discovery of how research results can be leveraged into market opportunities for dairy goat and other small ruminant producers is timely.

Furthermore, from August 12th to 14th, Vicky McPhail, GPA EDC Project Development Officer, attended the International Goat Symposium in Stratford, on behalf of the Cluster. Over 400 stakeholders in the goat industry attended the symposium. The first day was filled with tours of dairy goat farms, meat goat farms, and a goat cheese plant. Several international, national, and provincial experts conducted workshops on various topics and issues of interest to the goat industry. Vicky also had the opportunity to present to the symposium delegates the feasibility study on establishing a Centre of Excellence for Dairy Goat and Small Ruminants Research at Trent University.

The Innovation Cluster presents an opportunity to involve you and your company in building a knowledge-based economy in the Peterborough region. Contact [info@innovationcluster.ca](mailto:info@innovationcluster.ca)

# Members & Partners

## members

### Lifetime

Paul D. Scholfield

### Founding



BRANDHEALTH

Larry E. Seeley Paul Hickey

### Sustaining



ICAV

International Consortium on Anti-Virals

## the cluster

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## Membership Events

As part of the Cluster's 2008 programming, members can anticipate the following events throughout the year. Dates to be announced.

December 2008

MaRS Formal Agreement Anniversary

December 2008

Quarterly Event - Holiday Celebration

## Upcoming Community Outreach Workshops

Belleville, Ontario: November 3, 2008

Bancroft, Ontario: November 14, 2008

Cobourg, Ontario: November 20, 2008

Lindsay, Ontario: November 24, 2008

## 2nd Annual Innovation Summit

Peterborough, Ontario: March 12, 2009



# Clustered



GREATER PETERBOROUGH INNOVATION  
CLUSTER

## Q3 Snapshots



*2nd Place Golf Team. Chris White, Paul Hickey, Paul DeMachi and Dave Macill*



*3rd Place Golf Team. Stu Harrison, Greg Monti, Dan Stanford and Jeff Dueck*



*Closest to the hole prize winner, Greg Monti, is presented with a framed photograph donated by Lockington, Lawless and Fitzpatrick LLP*



*Closest to the hole prize winner, Ed Arnold, receives a gift basket donated by Ontario Licensing and Gaming*



*Door prize winner, George Gillespie, is presented with a gift donated by the Protectors Group*



*John Martin, Innovation Cluster Board Chair and his golf team: Dan Joyce, Ted MacCormack, and Lincoln Kim (from MaRS Discovery District)*