

Vision

Ontario Tender Fruit- Your orchard of choice, your partners in quality.

Mission

To succeed as the Tender Fruit supplier of choice through innovation and competiveness by applying the best marketing, technology, and management.



Chair's Report ONTARIO TENDER FRUIT GROWERS 2015 In Review

February 2016

After a very late spring frost in 2015, many in the industry expected significant damage to tender fruit crops. Even at the first estimate in July we projected far less of a peach crop than we ended up with. The main producing area in Niagara had a good sized crop with some damage in the outer areas, but at the end of the season fresh and processing crop volumes were up overall by 9% vs. 2014 and I am pleased to report gross values were up 15%.

2015 was the last year of our promotional funding through the Local Food Fund and with this we were able to execute a number of in-store campaigns as well as social media and traditional advertising on television, in subway cars and magazines. This funding, combined with the additional advertising and in-store support provided by Foodland Ontario, was greatly appreciated and, we believe, crucial in increasing consumer awareness of locally grown fruit.

Sales data by commodity are included in the following pages. The numbers are only a small indication of the overall success of the season. Great quality and support from consumers and retail partners alike resulted in a brisk sales cycle.

Research and access to new varieties continues to be an important part of our board's mandate, with emphasis on results that growers can implement on farm to help increase tree health, productivity and efficiency of operations. Government funding through Growing Forward 2 and Partnerships with Vineland Research and Innovation, Universities of Guelph and Brock, as well as extension support through our OMAFRA specialists, make these initiatives possible. Our research activities for 2015 included:

- Expansion of the FruitTracker management system to include worker health and safety programs, cost of production, automated soil moisture monitoring, and quality and cold storage tracking modules;
- Tender Fruit Alert provides industry with current weather, alerts for potential bud damage, bud hardiness and survival information. www.tenderfruitalert.ca;
- Black knot evaluation of fungicides, variety susceptibility and environmental influences on infections (temperature, wetness duration):
- Reducing chilling injury in peaches and nectarines investigating effects of temperature and harvest maturity on main varieties;
- New variety development continuation of evaluation and commercialization of varieties through the Tender Fruit Evaluation Committee in partnership with Vineland Research and Innovation Centre and University of Guelph;
- Cost of production in partnership with Ontario Apple Growers developing a system for growers to track production costs in FruitTracker and benchmark with industry average;
- Cold chain management investigating various cold chain systems and effects on quality of peaches;
- Biosecurity initiative establishing an elite mother block of virus-free plant material for existing and new varieties; and
- Worker health and safety in partnership with Ontario Apple Growers and Grape Growers
 of Ontario development of a comprehensive health and safety program for growers
 including downloadable customizable manuals and holding workshops for growers to obtain
 their mandatory supervisor awareness training certificates.

Crop insurance is a crucial risk management tool for our growers. We have been working with Agricorp over the past few years on analyzing coverage and implementing changes that make crop insurance plans more effective for our growers. These changes to date include:

- Yield buffering to lessen impact of extreme yields;
- In-season pricing for sour cherries;
- Fixed claim prices for peaches/nectarines, pears, plums, and sweet cherries using a 3-year average instead of a 5-year;
- Separating peach and nectarine plans to allow for separate claims; and
- Working towards a tree mortality plan for 2017.

I express my thanks to Sarah Marshall, Larissa Osborne and the staff of Grape & Tender Fruit for their continued support and dedication throughout this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Tregunno

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ONTARIO TENDER FRUIT GROWERS

Table 1 provides detailed information on crop volumes through appointed shipper-dealers and licensed growers. Values are based on gross FOB.

TABLE I
Tonnage and Gross FOB Value of Ontario Tender Fruit
2013 – 2015

	2013	2014	2015		2013	2014	2015	
	Volume	Volume	Volume	% Change	Value	Value	Value	% Change
	Tons	Tons	Tons	'15 vs. '14	\$	\$	\$	'15 vs. '14
Fresh Market								
Peaches	18,388	17,422	18,951	9%	27,491,431	27,875,200	31,838,011	14%
Pears	3,054	2,074	3,201	54%	3,811,464	2,626,734	4,639,863	77%
Plums & Prunes	2,506	1,913	1,928	1%	5,641,296	4,628,791	4,826,665	4%
Nectarines	2,574	2,537	2,736	8%	4,761,626	5,331,800	6,397,543	20%
TOTAL	26,522	23,944	26,817	12%	41,705,817	40,462,525	47,702,082	18%
Processing								
Sweet Cherries	16	16	10	-38%	29,117	27,451	17,848	-35%
Tart Cherries	6,039	4,325	4,070	-6%	9,898,272	7,515,136	7,413,618	-1%
Peaches	1,662	799	982	23%	994,827	551,419	688,460	25%
Pears	496	273	193	-29%	297,771	163,880	134,791	-18%
TOTAL	8,213	5,413	5,255	-3%	11,219,987	8,257,886	8,254,857	-
COMBINED	34,735	29,357	32,072	9%	52,925,804	48,720,411	55,956,799	15%

PROCESSING SALES

Tart Cherries – There were 4,070 tons of tart cherries sold to processors in 2015 (4,325 - 2014). Growers received \$7.4 million for their 2015 crop (\$7.5 million – 2014). The negotiated price for 92 score cherries was \$0.92 per pound including a processing fee (\$0.87 - 2014). 24 growers delivered tart cherries to processors in 2015 (28 in 2014).

TABLE II
Reported Tart Cherries Sales Volumes for Processing
2011–2015

MARKET SEGMENT	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Processed and Distilled	2,190	1,233	6,039	4,325	4,070

Sweet Cherries - In 2015, 3 growers delivered 10 tons of sweet cherries for processing (16 tons - 2014).

TABLE III Reported Sweet Cherries Sales Volumes for Processing 2011 – 2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
MARKET SEGMENT	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Freezing	35	-	16	16	10

Processing Peaches – Processors purchased 982 tons of clingstone peaches in 2015 (799 – 2014). The minimum price for sales in Ontario was set at \$750 for 2 ¾", \$600 for 2 ½" per ton and splits for \$200. **Processing Pears** – Processors purchased 193 tons of pears for processing in 2015 (273 – 2014). The minimum price was set in Ontario at \$0.35 cents per lb. including a processing fee.

TABLE IV
Reported Peaches and Pears Sales Volumes for Processing
2011 – 2015

	2011 Tons	2012 Tons	2013 Tons	2014 Tons	2015 Tons
CLINGSTONE PEACHES	1,471	801	1,662	799	982
PEARS	-	-	496	273	193

TABLE V
Minimum Delivered Prices – Processing Crops
2011 – 2015

CROP	2011 \$/ton	2012 \$/ton	2013 \$/ton	2014 \$/ton	2015 \$/ton
Sweet Cherries	·	•	•		•
Freezing (Chilled Pitted Market)	1,800	n/a	1,500	1,700	1,800
Distilling	600	n/a	600	1,700	1,800
Tart Cherries*					
97-100 Score	505	3,745	1,705	1,785	1,885
92 Score	460	3,700	1,660	1,740	1,840
69 & Under Score	390	3,630	1,590	1,670	1,770
Peaches (2 3/4")	600	600	600	700	750
Pears*	-	-	600	600	700

^{*}The 2012 -2015 tart cherry and pear price per ton includes a processing fee. The processing fee for 2015 was set at \$0.53/lb. (\$0.53- 2014). Processing fee for pears was set at \$0.23/lb.

FRESH MARKET SALES THROUGH APPOINTED DEALERS

2015 sales of fresh market crops (including grapes) through appointed dealers were up 10% to 27,064 tons.

Average net returns to producers selling through appointed dealers are shown after deducting shipper commissions, board fees and container costs. Packing or production costs have not been deducted.

TABLE VI
Average Net Returns for Sales through Ontario Appointed Dealers
2011 - 2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Crop	\$/ton	\$/ton	\$/ton	\$/ton	\$/ton
Peaches	1,018	1,340	1,120	1,220	1,241
Nectarines	1,500	1,720	1,320	1,640	1,755
Pears					
Bartlett	1,046	1,200	860	980	1,220
Bosc	1,196	1,520	1,360	1,360	1,571
Plums					
Early Golden	1,530	2,760	1,860	1,920	1,870
Shiro	1,514	2,760	1,860	1,920	1,870
Blue Plums & Prunes	1,600	2,740	1,640	1,960	2,160
Grapes					
Coronation	1,310	1,440	1,463	1,560	1,542

TABLE VII
Reported Fresh Fruit Sales Volumes through Ontario Appointed Dealers
2011 - 2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change
Crop	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	'15 vs.'14
Peaches	18,150	15,188	17,330	16,633	17,887	8%
Pears						
Clapp	30	11	19	14	11	-20%
Bartlett	1,350	746	1,627	1,316	1,982	51%
Bosc	1,020	243	1,103	531	799	51%
Other (Flemish & HW)	40	33	101	55	145	165%
Pears Combined	2,440	1,033	2,850	1,916	2,937	53%
Plums						
Early Golden	800	609	1,712	1,275	1,215	-5%
Shiro	300	92	36	62	54	-13%
Total Yellow Plums	1,100	701	1,747	1,337	1,269	-5%
Red	25	3	15	3	25	839%
Blues & Prunes	375	284	552	417	473	13%
Plums Combined	1,500	988	2,314	1,757	1,767	1%
Nectarines	1,800	1,552	2,506	2,430	2,626	8%
Grapes	1,952	1,483	1,915	1,861	1,847	-1%
TOTAL FRESH	25,842	20,244	26,916	24,597	27,064	10%

TOTAL REPORTED SALES VOLUMES

TABLE VIII Reported Peach Sales Volumes for Fresh Market 2011 – 2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change
Marketer	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	'15 vs. '14
Niagara Dealers	17,620	15,057	16,876	16,633	17,711	6%
Southwestern Ontario						
Dealers	530	131	454	-	176	>100%
Other*	1,050	388	1,058	789	1,064	35%
TOTALS	19,200	15,576	18,388	17,422	18,951	9%

^{*}Other includes reported sales other than through appointed dealers.

TABLE IX Reported Pear Sales Volumes for Fresh Market 2011 – 2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change
Marketer	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	'15 vs. '14
Niagara Dealers	2,440	1,033	2,847	1,916	2,930	53%
Southwestern Ontario						
Dealers	-	-	3	2	7	250%
Other*	270	141	204	156	264	70%
TOTALS	2,710	1,174	3,054	2074	3,201	54%

^{*}Other includes reported sales other than through appointed dealers.

TABLE X Reported Plum & Prune Sales Volumes for Fresh Market 2011 – 2015

Marketer	2011 Tons	2012 Tons	2013 Tons	2014 Tons	2015 Tons	% Change '15 vs. '14
Iviai ketei	10115	10115	10115	10115	10115	15 VS. 14
Niagara Dealers	1,500	989	2,309	1,757	1,765	0%
Southwestern Ontario						
Dealers	10	-	5	-	2	>100%
Other*	110	89	192	156	161	3%
TOTALS	1,620	1,078	2,506	1,913	1,928	1%

^{*}Other includes reported sales other than through appointed dealers.

TABLE XI Reported Nectarine Sales Volumes for Fresh Market 2011 – 2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change
Marketer	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	'15 vs. '14
Niagara Dealers	1,800	1,552	2,550	2,430	2,624	8%
Southwestern Ontario Dealers	-	-	1	-	2	>100%
Other*	40	28	68	107	110	3%
TOTALS	1,840	1,580	2,619	2,537	2,736	8%

^{*}Other includes reported sales other than through appointed dealers.

TABLE XII Members of the Local Board 2011 – 2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Producers Selling to Processors					
Sweet Cherries	9	-	6	7	3
Sour Cherries	33	19	28	28	24
Pears	-	-	37	20	16
Peaches	20	9	20	7	10
Total Number of Producers	257	200	274	077	257
Fresh and Processing Combined	357	296	274	277	257

TABLE XIII Licence Fees- Processing Crops - 2011 - 2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Crop	\$/ton	\$/ton	\$/ton	\$/ton	\$/ton
Peaches	10.00	21.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Sweet Cherries	10.00	21.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Sour Cherries**	10.00	21.00	15.00	20.00	22.50
Pears	-	-	-	10.00	10.00

^{**}Rates do not include the 25¢ per ton chilled pitted cherry promotion check-off grower and processor. For 2015, the \$22.50/ton licence fee for sour cherries includes fees for participation in the North American Tart Cherry Promotion Initiative of \$12.50/ton.

TABLE XIV Licence Fees- Fresh Market Crops - 2015

Crop	Adminis- tration \$/ton	Research & Food Safety \$/ton	Promotion \$/ton	Incentives \$/ton	Total 2015 \$/ton	Total 2014 \$/ton
Peaches	16.00	3.00	8.00	56.00	83.00	79.00
Nectarines	16.00	3.00	8.00	56.00	83.00	30.00
Yellow Plums	16.00	3.00	8.00	21.00	48.00	36.00
Blue Plums	16.00	3.00	8.00	1.00	28.00	38.00
Red Plums	16.00	3.00	8.00	0.00	27.00	24.00
Pears - Bartlett	16.00	3.00	8.00	11.00	38.00	27.00
Pears - Bosc	16.00	3.00	8.00	9.00	36.00	28.00
Pears - Other	16.00	3.00	8.00	0.00	27.00	27.00
Pears - Cold Snap	16.00	3.00	38.00*		57.00	27.00

^{*2015} promotion fee for Cold Snap was used for a specific market development initiative

PRODUCTION INSURANCE

TABLE XV Ontario Production Insurance Results 2015

Commodity	Number of Accounts	Total Premium (\$)	Grower Premium (\$)	Total Approved Claims (\$)
Peach & Nectarine	80	758,371	310,101	500,234
Pear	31	105,856	42,342	45,486
Sweet Cherry	17	38,506	15,403	12,865
Sour Cherry	23	373,864	149,546	397,032
Plum & Prune	26	367,417	146,967	378,887

Note: Data is as of January 22, 2016 and subject to change.

2015 PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES



2015 promotion initiatives were made possible through the Local Food Fund which provided a 50/50 cost share on the following activities:

- 1. Celebrate the Bloom launch of the season with stakeholders to bring together growers, shippers, and retailers to hear about promotional programs and status of crop;
- 2. Display bins and retail sales kits that included care and handling posters and recipe cards;
- 3. Partnership with Robin Hood for summer baking brochure and promotion in store tender fruit featured in 4 recipes;
- 4. In store sampling at all major retailers;
- 5. Advertising in subway cars and on the backs of buses in the GTA;
- 6. TV appearances in partnership with Foodland Ontario and OPMA;
- 7. Participation in the Foodland Ontario retail display contest 396 entries (up 15% vs. 2014); and
- 8. New recipe development.

MEMBERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS

The Board is a contributing member and/or sponsor of a number of agricultural and trade organizations.

Memberships Agricultural Adaptation Council 150 National Peach Council 115 Ontario Agricultural Commodity Council 1,000 Ontario Federation of Agriculture 500 President's Council 300 *CHC CPMA 1,235 OPMA 350 The Food Institute 590

^{*} The OFVGA pay CHC fees on behalf of their member organizations through container tolls.

Sponsorships	\$
OF&VC Sponsorship	1,000
*OPMA Sponsorship	1,500
*CPMA Sponsorship	2,500
QPMA Sponsorship	1,500
Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair	500
West Niagara Agricultural Society Sponsorship	63
N-O-T-L Peach Celebration	2,500
CiderFest Sponsorship	1,000
NG & WF Celebrity Luncheon Tickets	122
**OPMA 5 to 10 a Day Peach Program	37,062
**OPMA 5 to 10 a Day Nectarine Program	7,682
**OPMA 5 to 10 a Day Pear Program	2,778

^{*} Cost-shared with the Ontario Fresh Grape Board and appointed dealer-shippers in Niagara ** Cost-shared with Metro, Loblaw, Sobeys and Walmart – Ontario Divisions

RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES

The following are the current tender fruit research priorities:

- 1) Increase labour and operational efficiencies:
 - Improved processes and systems that reduce impacts of and/or costs for:
 - o Pruning, thinning, harvesting and packing;
 - Pest and disease management;
 - o Adverse weather management.

Top 3 Diseases:

Fire blight

Black Knot

Bacterial Spot

- 2) New variety acquisition, development, and best management and commercialization processes that result in:
 - Higher value varieties suited to Ontario growing conditions and marketplace needs;
 - An increase in organic production;
 - Fast tracking of commercial production of promising varieties; and
 - Disease resistance especially to Fire blight, Black Knot and Bacterial Spot.
- 3) Increase post-harvest quality:
 - Optimal harvest timing, packing, and cold chain management systems and practices to increase quality and shelf life.
- 4) Irrigation, Water and Nutrient Use:
 - Processes and systems to maximize efficiencies.
- 5) Invasive Species Management:
 - Strategies to combat new invasive species such as BMSB and SWD.

Crop Protection Report 2015

In 2015, the tender fruit industry obtained registration on a number of pesticides through the efforts of Jim Chaput - Minor Use Coordinator OMAFRA, and the PMRA. Wendy McFadden-Smith represented tender fruit at the Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop in Gatineau during the annual meetings in March. This workshop provided an opportunity to highlight priorities for tree fruit. Wendy also represented tender fruit at the Fruit Technical Working Group which is responsible for the inclusion of products in Publication 360 "Guide to Fruit Production", and assisted with various pest management issues as they arose.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug was caught in Niagara in the same spots as last year and in some additional locations. Breeding populations have been identified in Windsor, London, Hamilton, St. Catharines, and Newboro and it is likely the pest is established throughout tender fruit and grape production areas in the Niagara Region. Spotted Wing Drosophila continues to be reported throughout Ontario. Neither pest has caused documented economic losses to tender fruit to date. OMAFRA continues to monitor for the presence of these pests and collaborative research projects among OMAFRA, University of Guelph, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada continue to investigate the biology, economic impact, and management of these invasive species.

Re-evaluation continues to be on-going on Sevin (carbaryl) and Linuron. Diazinon is scheduled to be phased out December 2016. Neonicotinoid insecticides (Admire, Actara, Assail, Clutch) are also under review for their potential impact on pollinators and water. OTFG defends current uses of these products.

The following table lists new product registrations, label expansions, and emergency registrations for Tender Fruit in 2015.

	<u>gistrations for Tender Fru</u>		·
Product	Active Ingredient (Pesticide Group)	Pest	Crop
Disease management			
Aprovia	benzovindiflupyr (7)	Pear scab	Pear
Bravo ZN (replaces	chlorothalonil (M)	Brown rot, leaf spot, black knot,	Sweet cherry, tart
Bravo 500)		peach leaf curl	cherry, peach
Cueva	copper octanoate (M)	Peach leaf curl, bacterial spot, bacterial canker, blossom blight, brown rot, cherry leaf spot, fire blight	Sweet cherry, tart cherry, peach, pear
Double Nickel	Bacillus amyloliquefaciens (44)	Fire blight (suppression)	Pear
Fracture	BLAD polypeptide (NC)	Blossom blight (suppression)	Sweet cherry, tart cherry, peach, plum
Sercadis	fluxapyroxad (7)	Brown rot, pear scab	Apricot, sweet cherry, tart cherry, peach, plum, pear
Serenade OPTI (replaces Serenade Max)	Bacillus subtilis (44)	Blossom blight, brown rot. pear scab, fire blight (suppression)	Pear
Syllit (replaces Equal 75 WP)	dodine (U12)		Tart cherry
Vivando	metrafenone (U8)	Powdery mildew	Sweet cherry, tart cherry, peach
Insecticides/Miticides			
AGRI-MEK® SC	abamectin (6)	Two-spotted spider mite European red mite Pear rust mite Pear Psylla	Pears
Closer	sulfoxaflor (4c)	Black cherry aphid	Sweet cherry, tart cherry
Delgate	spinetoram (5)	Cherry fruit fly (suppression), Spotted wing drosophila	Sweet cherry, tart cherry
Semios OFM Plus	mating disruption puffer	Oriental fruit moth	Peach, plum, pear
Imidan 70-WP Instapak	phosmet (1b)	Spotted wing drosophila	Sweet cherry, tart cherry
Mako (replaces Ripcord)	cypermethrin (3)		Peach, pear
Herbicides			
Lontrel	clopyralid	Broadleaf weeds	Apricots, sweet cherry, tart cherry, peach, plum, pear
Deletions			
Isomate M,	Peach, plum		
Isomate M Rosso	Peach, plum		
Vangard	Peach, plum		

PPV MONITORING PROGRAM

In 2015, the CFIA continued sampling orchards and residential areas within a 10 km radius outside the perimeter of the Niagara quarantine area. A total of 8,920 samples were collected and tested with zero detections of Plum Pox Virus (PPV).

The movement restrictions and propagation ban within the Niagara quarantine area remain in effect and will continue to be monitored by the CFIA. A "Notice of Prohibition" or "Restriction of an Activity Notice" is issued when evidence of propagation is found on a property. Individuals who have been issued such notices will be visited at an increased frequency to ensure they are in compliance with the propagation ban. If there is evidence to indicate they have violated the notice, enforcement action will be taken.

Penalties for violating notices range from \$1000-\$10,000

2015 TENDER FRUIT RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATES

Tender Fruit Alert - Ker Crop Management/Brock University/Weather Innovation Network (2014-2017)

- Utilizing existing WIN network and additional towers added with inversion kits to monitor wind speed;
- Tenderfruitalert.ca provides industry with current weather, adverse weather alerts, historical and ongoing bud hardiness, and survival information;
- · Growers sign on to receive alerts specific to their own location and crops; and
- Improved sampling and bud hardiness protocols for 2016 were established sampling information from October until mid-April on peach, nectarine, plum, apricot, and sour cherry at locations across Niagara, Simcoe and SW Ontario.

Chilling Injury Evaluations - Dr. Jennifer DeEll (2014-2017)

- Evaluation of 8-10 varieties to classify by susceptibility to chilling injury; and
- Samples held at 0 and 5 degrees, removed and allowed to ripen to 2-4 lbs pressure and then evaluated for mealiness, internal breakdown, discoloration, etc.

Cold Chain Management - Dr. Jennifer DeEll, Vineland Research and Innovation (2015-2017)

- Establish commercial harvest maturity standards for peach and nectarine varieties, and investigate pack line treatments (wax [2 types] vs. no wax treatments);
- Evaluate harvest process and develop harvest process cost benefit model current orchard picking /packing systems and processes vs. using vented plastic totes;
- Evaluate usage of gentle dumping systems;
- Conduct forced air cooling trials on commercially ripe vs. tree ripe product and corresponding consumer sensory panel on results;
- Design, pilot, and launch quality and cold storage modules in FruitTracker; and
- Investigate transport and handling of Ontario stone fruit to retail.

Additional support for this project has been received through Niagara Peninsula Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association and N.M. Bartlett Inc.

Plant Health and Biosecurity (2015-2017)

- Establish an industry controlled elite mother block of virus clean nursery stock, including new varieties as well as existing; and
- Monitor, evaluate, and test new block plantings for 2 seasons.

Worker Health and Safety - Worker Safety Prevention Services in partnership with Apple and Grape Boards (2014-2015)

- Completion of 5 on-farm hazard assessments interviews (2 apple, 2 tender fruit, and 1 fresh grape);
- Development of a Hazard Assessment Report for tree fruit and fresh grape;
- Development of the Health & Safety Program for Members customizable versions are available on website and in FruitTracker;
- Workshops for awareness training held in 5 districts across Ontario; and
- Workshop demonstrating customization of hazard assessment, health & safety policy, and violence & harassment policy held in Niagara in November 2015.

Improving Irrigation Efficiency - Rebecca Shortt, Deanna Nemeth, Kathryn Carter (2015)

- Continued evaluation of soil moisture monitors; and
- Incorporation of automatic (WIN & Decagon) monitoring system into FruitTracker to allow growers to see real-time soil moisture levels and information presented such as: ideal irrigation trigger, permanent wilting point, and field capacity, to assist them in determining timing and need for irrigation.

These projects were funded in part through *Growing Forward 2* (*GF2*), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The Agricultural Adaptation Council assists in the delivery of *GF2* in Ontario.









New Variety Development - Tender Fruit Evaluation Committee (Growers, University of Guelph, Vineland Research and Innovation) (2014-2018)

- To develop / bring in new varieties of tender fruit and fresh grape and to continue evaluation of University of Guelph material, including new interspecific crosses for plums with concentration on black knot resistance
- 6 varieties of fresh grape from Arkansas planted in 2014 (seedless green, blue and red varieties) 2 blue seedless being prepped for commercial trials in 2016
- 5 fresh grape varieties from Spain targeted for 2016 planting and commercial trials in 2017
- 2015 TFEC tours resulted in several varieties of nectarines and early season peaches being sent for clean-up and budded for grower testing plots. Several promising apricot selections were also sent for clean-up



Tender Fruit Tree Grant Program - Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation (2015-2016)

- Pilot program to revitalize the tender fruit industry by providing cost-share funding to growers for tree plantings
- Goal is to plant up to 130,000 trees and help growers update their product mix to be more competitive in the market place



Black Knot – Dr. Wendy McFadden-Smith, Dr. Deena Errampalli and Dr. Jay Subramanian (2013-2015)

- Evaluation of fungicides (Indar, Thiram, Bravo, Senator, Fontelis);
- Evaluation of variety, growth stage, temperature, spore release, and wetness duration effects on black knot infections; and
- · Evaluation of transmission by pruning.

FruitTracker - Dragonfly IT/Grower Focus Groups (ongoing)

- Expansion projects continue from initial traceability project which included GPS mapping, Canada Gap record keeping, harvest packing and shipping modules
- Current expansion projects include:
 - Worker health and safety program (in partnership with Ontario Apple and Grape Growers);
 - Cost of production (in partnership with Ontario Apple Growers) labour and production practices tracking, survey, and COP reporting;
 - Soil moisture monitoring automation to soil moisture monitoring systems (Decagon probes, WIN System and Hipple hubs); and
 - Ontario Stone Fruit Harvest & Cold Chain BMP Design, pilot, and launch quality and cold storage modules.



Independent Auditor's Report

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To the Members of Ontario Tender Fruit Growers

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ontario Tender Fruit Growers, which comprise the statement of financial position as at January 31, 2016, and the statements of restricted net assets, operations and unrestricted net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

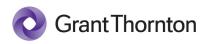
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the organization's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ontario Tender Fruit Growers as at January 31, 2016, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

St. Catharines, Canada February 24, 2016 Chartered Professional Accountants Licensed Public Accountants

Grant Thornton LLP

Ontario Tender Fruit Growers Statement of Operations and Unrestricted Net Assets

Year ended January 31 2016 2015

Revenues Licence fees, fresh market (Note 3)	\$ 1,965,121 \$	1 543 801
Appropriated to marketing incentive program (Note 4)	(1,254,815)	
		565,430
Repayment of 2013 licence fees	710,306	(8,349)
	740.000	
Licence fees, processing (Note 3)	710,306 52,694	557,081 55,443
Government and industry funding	32,034	55,445
Research activities	433,641	326,568
Promotion activities	194,652	162,881
Interest and other income	<u>32,046</u>	28,789
	1,423,339	1,130,762
Expenses		
Directors' fees, honoraria and benefits	53,948	58,688
Salaries and benefits (Note 5)	270,909	236,219
Travel	28,036	28,236
Meetings and conventions	5,622 25,252	6,482 29,069
Office supplies and expenses Postage	4,219	4,269
Dues and subscriptions	5,371	5,049
Labour Issues Coordinating Committee	4,200	4,200
Research (Note 6)		40.007
Ontario Tender Fruit Growers funded portion Government and industry funded portion	76,885 433,641	48,837 326,569
Promotion (Note 6)	433,041	320,309
Ontario Tender Fruit Growers funded portion	148,524	108,192
Government and industry funded portion	194,652	162,881
Professional fees (Note 7)	15,513	12,437
Utilities and maintenance Telephone	33,840 8,229	33,083 7,810
Insurance and taxes	12,252	11,788
Amortization	11,936	11,781
Expense recoveries from other associations	<u>(31,920</u>)	(31,339)
	<u>1,301,109</u>	1,064,251
Excess of revenues over expenses	122,230	66,511
Fund balance, beginning of the year	1,602,469	1,535,958
Fund balance, end of the year	\$ <u>1,724,699</u> \$	1,602,469

Ontario Tender Fruit Growers Statement of Restricted Net Assets

Year ended January 31		2016	2015
Marketing incentive program (Note 4)			
Revenues			
Licence fees, fresh market Repayment of 2013 licence fees	\$ 1,2 	254,815 \$ 	978,371 (13,278)
	1.2	254,815	965,093
Expenses	-,-		000,000
Incentive program	<u>1,3</u>	29,099	<u>1,246,925</u>
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	((74,284)	(281,832)
Fund balance, beginning of the year	1	93,452	475,284
Fund balance, end of the year	\$ <u> </u> 1	<u>19,168</u> \$	193,452
Sour cherry chilled pitted promotion program			
Revenues Sour cherry promotion fees	\$	2,035 \$	2,162
Expenses Cherry promotion program		1,472	2,446
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses		563	(284)
Fund balance, beginning of the year		487	771
Fund balance, end of year	\$	1,050 \$	487
Red tart sour cherry market development			
Revenues			
Grower fees	\$	50,877 \$	43,247
Expenses North American cherry initiative		<u>50,000</u>	50,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses		877	(6,753)
Fund balance, beginning of the year		10,868	17,621
Fund balance, end of the year	\$ <u></u>	<u>11,745</u> \$	10,868
Fruit testing research program			
Revenues	\$	- \$	_
Expenses	*	Ψ	
Fruit testing research		7,670	8,035
Deficiency of revenues over expenses		(7,670)	(8,035)
Fund balance, beginning of the year		49,047	57,082
Fund balance, end of year	\$	<u>41,377</u> \$	49,047

Ontario Tender Fruit Growers Statement of Financial Position

January 31	2016	2015
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 462,031	
Guaranteed investment certificates (Note 8)	1,009,475	988,723
Accounts receivable (Note 9)	45,826	52,486
Research and promotion contributions receivable (Note 6)	146,481	208,906
Prepaid expenses	<u> 19,687</u>	7,302
	<u>1,683,500</u>	1,769,230
Long-term Due from related parties (Note 10)	113,982	116,420
Investments (Note 11)	286,408	<u>286,408</u>
investments (Note 11)		
	<u>400,390</u>	402,828
	\$ <u>2,083,890</u>	\$ <u>2,172,058</u>
·		
Liabilities Current Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 36,037	
Government remittances payable	14,413	8,215
Deposits, licence fees	1,700	2,352
Deferred research and promotion contributions (Note 6)	<u> 133,701</u>	<u>147,503</u>
	<u> 185,851</u>	<u>315,735</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	1,724,699	1,602,469
Restricted		
Marketing incentive program (Page 4)	119,168	193,452
Sour cherry chilled pitted promotion program (Page 4)	1,050	487
Red tart sour cherry market development (Page 4)	11,745	10,868
Fruit testing research program (Page 4)	41,377	49,047
	<u>173,340</u>	253,854
	1,898,039	1,856,323
	\$ <u>2,083,890</u>	\$ <u>2,172,058</u>

On behalf of the board

Director

Director

Director

Ontario Tender Fruit Growers Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended January 31		2016	2015
Decrease (increase) in cash			
Operating			
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year:			
Unrestricted net assets	\$	122,230 \$	66,511
Marketing incentive program		(74,284)	(281,832)
Sour cherry chilled pitted promotion program		563	(284)
Red tart sour cherry market development		877	(6,753)
Fruit testing research program		(7,670)	(8,035)
Changes in non-cash working capital		0.000	04.044
Accounts receivable		6,660	81,214
Research and promotion contributions receivable Interest receivable		48,623 (5,926)	(121,327) 496
Prepaid expenses		(12,385)	(2,620)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		(121,628)	114,394
Government remittances payable		6,198	(19,679)
Deposits, licence fees		(652)	(395)
2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	_		
	_	<u>(37,394</u>) _	<u>(178,310</u>)
Laure Com			
Investing		0.420	40.000
Advances from related parties Purchase of guaranteed investment certificates		2,438 (749,000)	12,829 (984,174)
Proceeds of guaranteed investment certificates		734,174	1,181,108
Proceeds of guaranteed investment certificates	-	734,174	1,101,100
	_	<u>(12,388</u>)	209,763
(Decrease) increase in cash		(49,782)	31,453
Beginning of year	_	<u>511,813</u>	480,360
End of year	\$_	462,031 \$	511,813

January 31, 2016

1. Nature of operations

The board was established to regulate prices and conditions of sale for tender fruit, as well as for the purposes of marketing and promoting tender fruit. It is incorporated by Letters Patent as a corporation without share capital under the laws of Ontario, and is exempt from income taxes under the Income Tax Act.

2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations in Part III of the CICA Handbook and include the following significant accounting policies:

Financial instruments

Measurement

The board initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value, except for certain non-arm's length transactions.

Financial assets or liabilities obtained in related party transactions with a person or entity whose sole relationship with the board is in the capacity of management are accounted for in accordance with financial instruments.

The board subsequently measures all of its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are not quoted in an active market which are measured at cost less any reduction for impairment.

Financial assets and liabilities measured at amortized cost include cash, guaranteed investment certificates, accounts receivable, contributions receivable, amounts due from related parties, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, government remittances payable, deposits and deferred contributions.

Impairment

Financial assets measured at cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. Previously recognized impairment losses are reversed to the extent of the improvement provided the asset is not carried at an amount, at the date of the reversal, greater than the amount that would have been the carrying amount had no impairment loss been recognized previously. The amounts of any write-downs or reversals are recognized in excess of revenues over expenses for the year.

Fund accounting

The board follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions. Revenues and expenses related to the Marketing Incentive, Sour Cherry Chilled Pitted Promotion, Red Tart Sour Cherry Market Development, and Fruit Testing Research Programs are reported in these restricted funds. All other revenues and expenses are reported in the unrestricted fund.

January 31, 2016

Revenue recognition

Restricted contributions related to marketing operations are recognized as revenue in unrestricted net assets in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in restricted net assets.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in unrestricted net assets in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Investments

Investments in joint ventures and significantly influenced investees are accounted for using the equity method.

The equity method is a basis of accounting for investments whereby the investment is initially recorded at cost and the carrying value, adjusted thereafter to include the investor's pro-rata share of post-acquisition earnings of the investee, computed by the consolidation method. Profit distributions received or receivable from an investee reduce the carrying value of the investment.

Amortization

Property and equipment which are shared with other related marketing boards are capitalized by Grape and Tender Fruit (Ontario) Limited. The amortization charge for property and equipment is reported according to the cost sharing arrangement by each benefiting board.

Use of estimates

Management reviews the carrying amounts of items in the financial statements at each statement of financial position date to assess the need for revision or any possibility of impairment. Many items in the preparation of these financial statements require management's best estimate. Management determines these estimates based on assumptions that reflect the most probable set of economic conditions and planned courses of action.

These estimates are reviewed periodically and adjustments are made to excess of revenue over expenses as appropriate in the year they become known.

January 31, 2016

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	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Licence fees, fresh market		
peaches	\$1,540,667	\$1,341,718
pears	112,999	56,001
plums and prunes	81,523	69,206
nectarines	229,932	76,876
	\$ <u>1,965,121</u>	\$ <u>1,543,801</u>
Licence fees, processing		
sour cherries	\$ 40,746	\$ 43,247
sweet cherries	99	162
peaches	9,822	7,992
pears	2,027	4,042
	\$ <u>52,694</u>	\$ 55,443

January 31, 2016

4. Marketing incentive program

The funds raised for this program in 2016 in the amount of \$1,254,815 (2015 - \$978,371) were generated by a levy on producers included in licence fees. The \$1,329,099 (2015 - \$1,246,925) marketing incentive expenditures were paid out to qualifying retailers in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic and Western Provinces to encourage sales through additional features.

A summary of the incentive program by crop as reported on the statement of unrestricted and restricted net assets is as follows:

	<u>Peaches</u>		<u>Nectarines</u>			<u>Pears</u>	<u>Plums</u>		<u>Total</u>
Balance, beginning of year Transfer from licence fees,	\$	102,590	\$	250	\$	54,648 \$	35,964	\$	193,452
fresh market		1,043,951		152,638		29,742	28,484		1,254,815
Incentive program expense	_(<u>1,089,779</u>)	_	(103,751)	-	<u>(96,548</u>)	(39,021)	(<u>(1,329,099</u>)
Balance, end of year	\$_	56,762	\$_	49,137	\$_	(12,158) \$	25,427	\$_	119,168

5. Salaries and benefits

		<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total salaries and benefits Recoveries:	\$	320,189 \$	295,144
Ontario Apple Growers Ontario Fresh Grape Growers Marketing Board Traceability Foundations Initiative		(25,530) (12,000) -	(25,000) (12,000) (10,175)
Advancing the tree fruit & fresh grape sectors	_ \$_	(11,750) 270,909 \$	(11,750) 236,219

January 31, 2016

6. Deferred contributions, research and promotion activities

	(Deferred) Receivable Contributions February 1, 2015	Government/ Industry Contributions 2016	Expenses 2016	Board Funded Expenses 2016	(Deferred) Receivable Contributions January 31, 2016
Grant funded research projects					
AIP - Advancing the tree fruit & fresh grape sectors Elite motherblock & secondary block assessment fund	\$ 62,430 (10,404)	\$ 163,209 20,948	\$ 111,835 31,352	\$ 25,000	\$ (13,944) -
GF2 - Automated weather alert system GF2 - Business plan development	49,666 4,651	149,007 4,651	111,472	12,131	-
GF2 - Expanding fresh market potential of Ontario pears GF2 - Reducing the incidence of chilling injury	(2,480) 11,877	14,582 27,515	16,885 21,802	2,303 6,164	(2,480)
GF2 - Ontario stone fruit cold chain best management practices		10,000	104,476	18,787	75,689
GF2 - Ontario tender fruit new variety plant health initiative OFIP - Evaluation of dwarfing peach rootstocks	(4,000)	31,352 (4,000)	73,301	-	41,949 -
OFIP - Improving irrigation efficiency of tender fruit OFIP - Tree fruit & fresh grape worker health & safety	(10,895)	10,087 2,974	10,087 9,398	-	- (4,471)
Pesticide initiative Post-harvest initiatives	(19,692) (100,032)	- -	- 6,918	-	(19,692) (93,114)
WAMQI - Soil moisture monitoring	68,153 \$ 49,274	<u>68,653</u> <u>498,978</u>	<u>500</u> 498,026	64,385	<u> </u>
Less board funded expenses Government and industry funded portion	·		<u>(64,385)</u> 433,641	·	·,
Other research project contributions			<u> </u>	12,500	
OTFG portion of research activities				76,885	
Grant funded promotion projects Local Food Fund	12,129	151,713	316,235	147,808	28,843
OFVGA Promotion - Local Food Fund initiatives Cold snap pear promotion program	<u> </u>	23,220 3,005	3,005	(23,220)	<u> </u>
Less board funded expenses	<u>12,129</u>	<u>177,938</u>	319,240 <u>(124,588</u>)	124,588	<u>28,843</u>
Government and industry funded portion Other promotion expenditures			<u>194,652</u>	<u>23,936</u>	
OTFG portion of promotion activities				<u></u>	
Reported as:	\$ <u>61,403</u>				\$ <u>12,780</u>
Research and food safety contributions receivable Deferred research and food safety contributions	\$ 208,906 (147,503)				\$ 146,481 (133,701)
	\$ 61,403				\$ 12,780

January 31, 2016

7. Professional fees

		<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Audit Legal Consulting	\$ _	10,516 \$ 3,074 1,923	10,675 1,437 <u>325</u>
	\$_	15,513 \$	12,437

8. Guaranteed investment certificates

The board has guaranteed investment certificates that mature between 2016 and 2018 and earn interest between 1.65% and 2.30% (2015 - 1.75% and 2.00%)

9. Accounts receivable

<u>2016</u> <u>2015</u>

Producer licence fees - Net of allowance of \$0 (2015 - \$2,568)

\$ 45,826 \$ 52,486

10. Related party transactions

The board is related to Grape & Tender Fruit (Ontario) Limited (GTFOL), a jointly controlled enterprise who operates the marketing boards' shared offices and who owns the shared land and building.

The boards proportionate share of GTFOL is as follows:

	<u>2</u>	<u>)16</u>	<u>2015</u>
Assets Liabilities	134	<u>913</u>	423,331 136,978
Net Assets	\$ <u>286</u>	<u>353</u> \$	286,353

Expenses include a \$137,438 (2015 - \$135,327) charge for the board's share (50% (2015 - 50%)) of management operation costs incurred during the year by Grape & Tender Fruit (Ontario) Limited. These costs have been allocated to the relevant individual expense accounts.

Amounts due from related parties:

2016 2015

January 31, 2016

11. Investments

		<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>
Ontario Fruit-For-Processing Co-Operative Limited: 12 common shares	\$	55	\$	55
Grape & Tender Fruit (Ontario) Limited: 106 common shares (53% interest)		53		53
2,863 special shares (60% interest)	_	286,300	_	286,300
	\$_	286,408	\$_	286,408

The investment in Grape & Tender Fruit (Ontario) Limited represents the board's share of the equity of Grape & Tender Fruit (Ontario) Limited whose primary purpose is to operate the marketing board's shared offices and whose major asset is the land and building shared by the marketing boards.

12. Financial instruments

The board is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the board's risk exposures and concentrations at January 31, 2016:

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The board's main credit risk relates to its accounts receivable. The entity provides credit to its growers in the normal course of operations.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or expected future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The board is mainly exposed to interest rate risk.

(i) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The board is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to its fixed rate guaranteed investment certificates. Given the composition of financial instruments, the board is subject to a fair value risk.

13. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified from those previously presented to conform to the presentation of the 2016 financial statements.

Notes

MEMBERS AND STAFF OF THE ONTARIO TENDER FRUIT GROWERS April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016

CHAIR Phil Tregunno Niagara-on-the-Lake VICE-CHAIR John Thwaites Niagara-on-the-Lake

DIRECTORS

Leo DeVries Fenwick

Dave Enns Niagara-on-the-Lake
David Hipple Beamsville

Fred Meyers Niagara-on-the-Lake
Brock Puddicombe Winona
Ken Porteous Port Dover
Russell Smith Blenheim

MANAGER Sarah Marshall Email: sarah@ontariotenderfruit.ca

TREASURER Maureen Connell
PROJECT MANAGER Larissa Osborne

OFFICE STAFF Sylvana Lagrotteria Office Manager
Kelle Neufeld Administrative Assistant

OFFICE Ontario Tender Fruit Growers
P.O. Box 100
Vineland Station, ON, L0R 2E0
Phone: (905) 688-0990
Fax: (905) 688-5915

Website: www.ontariotenderfruit.ca

DELEGATES

Canadian Horticultural Council – Phil Tregunno (John Thwaites – Alt.) F.A.R.M.S. – Ken Porteous

Labour Issues Committee- Ken Porteous (Phil Tregunno - Alt.)

NPF&VGA – David Hipple/Sarah Marshall

NAPAC – Phil Tregunno/Sarah Marshall

OACC – Phil Tregunno, Ken Porteous, Sarah Marshall

OACC Technical Committee – Phil Tregunno, Sarah Marshall

OFA – Ken Porteous

TFEC –Jamie Warner, Leo Devries, Torrie Warner, Ryan Tregunno Rusty Smith, John Thwaites, Jim Juras, David Enns, Brock Puddicombe, Jim Meyers OFVGA – John Thwaites (Dave Enns – Alt.)

OFVGA – Safety Nets Committee – Phil Tregunno / Sarah Marshall Presidents' Council – Phil Tregunno