



Minister Cathers presenting at the 2012 YAA AGM



# The Plough Boy

A quarterly newsletter of the Yukon  
Agricultural Association

August 2012

## YAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA) Annual General Meeting was held on May 5, 2012 at the Gold Rush Inn and was well attended.

In addition to an address from outgoing president Warren Zakus and report from executive director Sylvia Gibson, the AGM included presentations from Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Brad Cathers, the newly formed Yukon Young Farmers (YF), and Kent Mullinex of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Minister Cathers announced that the YAA will receive an increase in funding from \$45,000 to \$70,000 and that the re-zoning of the YAA-designated Mayo Road land is complete. This good news supports the development of infrastructure to increase the agricultural industry's ability to access retail markets and tackle food security concerns.

The Yukon Young Farmers took a few minutes to introduce their group and share the highlights from their participation in the National Canadian Young Farmers Forum in Halifax.

Over lunch Kent Mullinex, who has been working with YAA on a food security

project, introduced a potential Food Systems Design and Planning project for Yukon Territory.

Lastly, a new YAA Board of Directors was established. Fifteen members were elected to the board, representing a mixture of both old and new faces.



Listening to presentations at the 2012 Yukon Agricultural Association Annual General Meeting.

## THE 2012 YAA BOARD:

President: Cain Vangel

Vice-President: Warren Zakus

Treasurer: Wayne Grove

Regional and Directors at Large: Dave

Andrew, Mike Blumenschein, Moya van Delft, Barbara Drury, Bill Drury, Treharne Drury, Rachel Grace, Chad Gubala, Ralph

Mease, Dallas Schaber, Al Stannard, and Tiana Zakus.

Congratulations to the new board members and all the best with the management of YAA activities in the coming year.

## BLOG

Producers are reminded to take advantage of the new YAA service listing farm products each week on the blog section of our website. It is free to all current YAA members to have products and services listed.

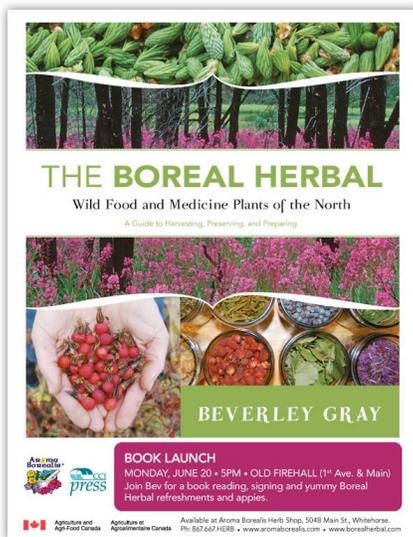
The list will be updated weekly on Fridays so information is current. You will need to send in your information about available farm products, including price, contact and pickup details, to the YAA office by Thursday (at the latest) of each week to be included on the Friday product listing.

The farm product listing and a link to our website for details will be sent out to the YAA mailing list. A print copy will be available on the bulletin board at the office and the YAA table at the Fireweed Community Market. Our blog also allows interested folks to sign up to be updated via RSS feed.

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

If members haven't paid up their dues for 2012, they are reminded to please do so. Fees are \$10 for one year or \$100 for a 10-year membership. By joining the YAA you are supporting local farms, gaining access to previous agricultural research done in the Yukon and will receive regular agriculture news and updates.

Those who were active-status members as of Feb 9 2012 are entitled to a copy of 'The Boreal Herbal – Wild Food and Medicine Plants of the North', a book supported by the YAA/CAAP Council through Agriculture Canada's previous ACAAF program. The YAA is donating copies of this book to educational institutions, Yukon agriculture affiliate organizations, past YAA presidents and various other individuals.



The author, Bev Gray, is a well-known herbalist and owner of Aroma Borealis, a very successful business located in Whitehorse. The book describes a host of plants, their medicinal properties, herbal remedies for a wide range of needs and conditions, recipes for using wild plants for food, plus all sorts of other interesting and valuable information.

If you were a member in Feb 2012 and haven't yet acquired your Boreal Herbal, please stop by our office (Mon to Fri, 11am-1pm) for a chat and a copy of this lovely book!

## NEW YAA STAFF MEMBER

Kirsten Scott joined the YAA as the part time Executive Assistant on July 9. Kirsten was raised on a mixed sheep, dairy and horse farm in Eastern Ontario and spent many of her earlier years competing in equestrian sports.



Kirsten on her family's Connemara stallion at the 2001 Ontario Training Level Horse Trials Championships.

She has just returned to Canada from an 8-year stint in Australia where she worked on a racehorse breeding property, finished a degree in environmental science and spent some time in the public service dealing with water policy issues. Kirsten is looking forward to being involved in agriculture again and meeting YAA members. She can be reached in the YAA office at [office@yukonag.ca](mailto:office@yukonag.ca)

One of the projects Kirsten is currently working on is compiling a library and history of the YAA. Do you have a story about the YAA to share? We would love to hear from you! Please contact Kirsten via e-mail, phone or stop by the office in person.



## CAAP PROGRAM ENDING

On April 11, 2012 the CAAP Council of Yukon (a subcommittee of the Yukon Agricultural Association) was verbally informed by senior manager at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) that after 2014 there will be no role for any provincial or territorial council in the delivery of a federal program administered by AAFC.

The federal government is moving toward centralized federal delivery of all future programs and industry Councils (such as the Yukon Agricultural Association) will no longer have a role in the process.

Notwithstanding the decision of AAFC, the Yukon CAAP Council will continue to administer the program until March 31, 2014 in the same manner:

**This means that any applications for CAAP funding need to be received in the YAA office by December 31, 2012 to allow time for project review, implementation and administration prior to the March 31, 2014 CAAP project end date.**

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact Sylvia Gibson, Executive Director, Yukon Agricultural Association / Yukon CAAP Council at 668-6864 or [admin@yukonag.ca](mailto:admin@yukonag.ca).

**Invitation for proposals**

**The Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP)** is a 5 year, \$163 million national Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) initiative to help the agricultural sector adapt to new issues as they emerge, and remain competitive. In Yukon, CAAP is delivered by the Yukon Agricultural Assn. (YAA).

Eligible projects could be in the areas of capacity development, traceability, environment, climate change and more. Anyone at any level of Yukon's agriculture and food industry is eligible for funding - industry organizations, aboriginal groups, for-profit companies, individual producers, processors and retailers.

For more information, call the YAA-CAAP Council office at 867.668.6864 or Email us at [admin@yukonag.ca](mailto:admin@yukonag.ca).

You may also call AAFC toll free at 1.877.290.2188, or visit AAFC's website at [www.agr.gc.ca/caap](http://www.agr.gc.ca/caap) for additional info in French or English.

Call us, and let's talk.

## NORTH OF 60° BANQUET

Mark your calendars - the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the North of 60 Agriculture Conference and Banquet is scheduled for November 2 & 3, 2012. The banquet will celebrate Yukon Farmers, with a delicious Yukon grown meal prepared by chefs at the Westmark Hotel.

The Agriculture Branch (Yukon Government) is currently working on the details for the conference and banquet, with the full intent of making this anniversary year something special, including bringing back some activities from the past, such as the live auction. The Agriculture Branch is seeking industry input for the milestone event. If you have any ideas for a speaker, or activities you would like to see be a part of the North of 60 Agriculture Conference and Banquet, please forward your thoughts to the Agriculture Branch (Elijah Smith building).

The banquet will include the annual Farmer of the Year award, and address from the Minister, and a Keynote speaker. If you have someone, or a farm family, in mind for Farmer of the Year award please submit a nomination to the Agriculture Branch.

Tickets for the banquet will go on sale approximately a month before the conference. For more information or to provide input, please contact the Agriculture Branch: Room 320, Elijah Smith Building, 300 Main Street, Whitehorse. Phone (867) 667-5838 or 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5838. E-mail [agriculture@gov.yk.ca](mailto:agriculture@gov.yk.ca)

## LEASE AGREEMENT SIGNED TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Government of Yukon has signed a 30-year lease agreement for a 65 hectare parcel of land on the Mayo Road to enable the Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA) to proceed with planning for a central agricultural facility to serve the industry and the Yukon public.

'The Yukon government is pleased to set aside this land for central agriculture infrastructure as part of continuing to fulfill our commitment to support the development of agriculture infrastructure that improves food security, facilitates access to market and encourages local production of food,' said Minister of Energy Mines and Resources Brad Cathers. 'This lease agreement will facilitate the development of infrastructure to support continued growth of Yukon's agricultural sector by helping industry take steps to address current needs and opportunities, as well as looking to the future by enabling long-term planning of shared infrastructure.'

The lease agreement will enable the YAA to use the land to promote and support growth of the agricultural sector of Yukon's economy by working with producers to develop infrastructure that improves access to market for locally grown food products.

'The Yukon Agricultural Association is very happy that the lease agreement has been signed,' said YAA president Cain Vangel. 'This positions the YAA one step closer to achieving our vision of creating the infrastructure required for the Yukon agriculture industry to grow and supply more local food to Yukon residents.'

## INVITATION TO THE YUKON AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION AWAY MEETING

**What:** YAA Annual Away Meeting

**When:** Saturday Sept 15, 2012, 10:00-1:00

**Where:** Mayo Road Land (Km 206 of the Mayo Road... there will be a sign and the YAA tent will be set-up on the land)

The annual 'Away' meeting is open to all YAA members. Come and find out more about the YAA Mayo Road land lease, and enjoy a 'pot-luck' lunch...please bring a dish to share!

Please send questions to [office@yukonag.ca](mailto:office@yukonag.ca)

### PLEASE JOIN US!



### Advertising in The Plough Boy Classifieds:

1/8 page - \$20  
1/4 page - \$30  
1/2 page - \$55  
Full page - \$100

Contact the YAA office for details

## Contact Us

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Office Hours (until September 17):

Monday - Wednesday 11:00 am-1:00 pm  
or by appointment (or chance!)