

## AT PRESS TIME...

### Kestrels are tops as crop cops

Eight nesting pairs of kestrels, most with maximum clutches of five eggs are exciting growers and researchers this summer in Ontario's Niagara peninsula. Larger than a robin and smaller than a hawk, the kestrel is making a tentative comeback.

"Ian Frensch has a nesting box kit for sale and we want to get the word out to increase the uptake of them," says Brian Gilroy, chair of the property section for the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association.

Kestrels are a predator of starlings and other birds which poach fruit in their prime. Having kestrels nesting in proximity of orchards and vineyards is a natural way to control not only pesky birds but insects, mice and voles.

Last year, the project was honoured with a Regional Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence. The \$5,000 is reinvested this year to continue bird deterrent research with Brock University.

Nesting box kits are available for sale at a cost of \$55 through C. Frensch Company, Beamsville, Ontario. Contact: 905-563-4774 or cfrensch@idirect.com.

### Wanted alive!

Colorado potato beetles are what Dr. Ian Scott has in mind for a national survey on tolerance



levels to selected registered insecticides. He's a research scientist with the London Research and Development Centre at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

He is looking for approximately 150 "live" beetle adults per sample. If you have a few you can spare, please contact him and he will arrange for someone to come immediately to your farm and take some beetles off your hands. If you are outside of southwest/south central Ontario, a collection kit will be sent that can be returned by overnight courier (pre-paid) to AAFC London, Ontario.

Contact: Dr. Ian Scott at (519) 953-6682 or ian.scott@agr.gc.ca

### Impact of wage hikes

Farmers and small business owners are urged to testify at public hearings regarding the Ontario government's intent to raise the minimum wage to \$14/hr by January 2018 and \$15/hr by January 2019. That's an increase of 32 per cent in 18 months.

One family has already gone public with an open letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne. The story of Jackie Fraser and chef

husband Derek Roberts, owners of Fraberts Fresh Food in Fergus, Ontario, made its way to the *Toronto Sun* on June 11. See link: <http://ow.ly/azDX30cBpaQ> "Putting us out of business is an unintended consequence of this proposed policy," Jackie Fraser said in an online post.

"Maybe our story — our one small business — is insignificant to you, but think of the cumulative impact of thousands of us closing up and each of us putting a dozen people out of work," wrote Fraser.

"Please don't make us roadkill on the political highway."

It's a hectic time of year for farmers to consider attending a hearing. The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs will be holding hearings during the week of July 10 to 14 in Thunder Bay, North Bay, Ottawa, Kingston and Windsor-Essex. The second week of hearings will be July 17 to 21 in London, Kitchener-Waterloo, Niagara, Hamilton and Toronto. Presenters who can not appear in person can make a presentation via teleconference.

The application deadline for the first week of hearings is July 4. Those wishing to present on the second week must apply by July 10.

Interested presenters must contact Eric Rennie, the Clerk of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs at: Eric Rennie  
Tel. 416-325-3506  
Fax: 416-325-3505  
erennie@ola.org

## NEWSMAKERS

The United Fresh Produce Association has honoured **Peter Quiring** with its FreshTEC Achievement award for his contributions to the greenhouse industry over the last 20 years. Originally a fabricator of greenhouses before becoming a grower, Quiring has pioneered many technology advancements in controlled environments. NatureFresh Farms is based in Leamington, Ontario with another greenhouse in Delta, Ohio.



Peter Quiring, NatureFresh Farms

Nova Scotians have re-elected a Liberal government including **Keith Colwell**, minister of agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture (Preston-Dartmouth). Formerly from a New Brunswick farm which dates back to the 1700s, Colwell is well respected for his support of the horticultural industry, specifically a replant program.

The Ontario Hop Growers' Association has elected its new board including **Albert Witteveen** as president. Joining him are: **Hugh Brown**, past president; **Steve Kitras**, vice-president; **Rob Rombouts**, secretary; **Ian Chester**, treasurer; **Kathy Dingwell**, director; **Dean McConkey**, director; **Dean Workman**, director; **Catherine Crawford**, director. Current membership stands at 103 members.

The U.S. secretary of agriculture **Sonny Perdue** has announced the creation of an undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Perdue made his first trip to Canada on June 5 to meet with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada minister **Lawrence MacAulay**.

Brothers **Duffy** and **Jordan Kniaziew** were profiled in the *Toronto Star* and *Metro News* on June 5. Their greenhouse-grown strawberries are perfect for date night. **Owen Roberts**, director, research communications for the University of Guelph and a columnist for *The Grower*, is authoring a 22-week series called *The New Farm*. Here's a link to the story: <http://ow.ly/41td30cp8Wc>



Duffy (L) and Jordan Kniaziew

Peak of the Market has announced two new hires. **Bethany Alards** joins the team at Winnipeg head office as quality control manager, bringing a background in quality assurance in various roles in meat, bread and cheese production and processing facilities. **Duane Hood** joins the team as Calgary distribution centre manager, with more than 25 years of warehouse, logistics and distribution management experience.

**Bridget Visser** has joined Stokes Seeds as a sales representative in the Bradford, Ontario area. She was formerly responsible for communicating the water project results for the Holland Marsh Growers' Association. She is also a blogger for *The Grower*.

Condolences to the family and friends of **Denton Hoffman**, 77, who passed away June 16, 2017 in Guelph, Ontario. He was the former executive director of Asparagus Growers of Ontario and Ginseng Growers of Ontario from 2005 to 2009. Previously, he led Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers from 1991 to 2002, playing a leadership role in food safety standards. A memorial service is planned for July 8 in Guelph.



# NORSECO

A team of experts  
**Top-notch seeds!**




**Customer Service**  
order@norseco.com  
☎ 514 332-2275 | 800 561-9693  
☎ 450 682-4959 | 800 567-4594

**Our Team of Experts**

**Warren Peacock**  
Ontario  
Warren.peacock@norseco.com  
☎ 519 426-1131 | ☎ 519 426-6156

**Michel Gratton**  
North & South Shores of Montreal  
michel.gratton@norseco.com  
☎ 450 781-6045

**Gilliane Bisson**  
South Shore of Montreal and Manitoba  
gilliane.bisson@norseco.com  
☎ 450 781-6049

**Yves Thibault**  
Central, Eastern Quebec & Atlantic Provinces  
yves.thibault@norseco.com  
☎ 418 660-1498 | ☎ 418 666-8947



2914 Curé-Labelle Blvd., Laval (Quebec) H7P 5R9

[norseco.com](http://norseco.com)