

# The Canadian Sweet Chestnut

-Newsletter of the Canadian Chestnut Council-

Issue # 89

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<http://www.canadianchestnutcouncil.ca>

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**Council Mission** - to help restore the American Chestnut to the areas of Canada it once occupied.

## Current Priorities

- 1) Breeding resistance
- 2) Breaking Isolation / Establishing Gene pool Nodes
- 3) DNA Analysis
- 4) Survey of existing Chestnuts in the wild

## In this issue:

- Breeding Resistance - F3's in the field
- Public Forum – Genetically Engineered American Chestnuts – A discussion of Risks
- Breeding Resistance - Fall planting at Onondaga Farms
- Annual Meeting notification – Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Annual Membership Fees

- **Breeding Resistance - F3's in the field (Dragan Galic)**

This past spring, 385 trees were planted representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of our breeding for resistance program.

The planting took place in Langton, Ontario. These are the first F3 trees planted off the Onondaga Farms campus.



(photo courtesy of Tony Jovan)

## **Public Forum – Genetically Engineered American Chestnut – the Risks**

The Canadian Chestnut Council partnered with the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network to provide a public forum on the aspects of the genetically engineered American Chestnut Tree and the ongoing efforts to bring back the American Chestnut without genetic engineering.

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, about 60 interested individuals attend the forum at the Simcoe Research Station located near Simcoe, Ontario. The guest speaker was Dr. Ricarda Steinbrecker, a biologist and molecular geneticist from the U.K.

Dr. Steinbrecker has been involved in United Nations led processes and has been appointed to international expert groups on the risk assessment of GMO's as well as synthetic biology.

The forum provided an opportunity to discuss the merits of various approaches.



Dr. Ricarda Steinbrecker (photo courtesy of Kaitlyn Duthie-Kannikkatt)

## **Onondaga Farms Fall Tree Plant**

Volunteers gathered at Onondaga Farms on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> for the annual tree planting event. Over 1745 F2 trees were planted. The Canadian Chestnut Council greatly appreciated the time and effort of our volunteers.



(Left to right – Len Bakkalar, Clarke Walker, John Hill, Patrick Dunlop, Jordan Holmes, Gordon Chinnick, Dragan Galic, Peter Poulton, John Wellhauser and Peter Vaughan. – picture courtesy of Christine Vey)



Patrick and Dragan record tree ID



Peter Vaughan, Gordon and John



(photos courtesy of Chuck Beach)

**2023 / 2024 Annual General Meeting** – the annual meeting of the Canadian Chestnut Council will take place on Sunday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00pm. **The meeting will take place both virtually and in person. Please mark your calendars.**

**In person attendance:** Tim Horton Children’s Foundation – Onondaga Farms, Science/ Eco-Centre, 264 Glen Morris Road East, St. George Ontario. Doors open at 12:30p.m.

Annual membership dues will be accepted at the meeting (see below).

**Virtual attendance** - Microsoft Teams meeting  
**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 254 148 349 523

Passcode: bBw9wD

Following the formal AGM meeting:

**Dr. Dragan Galic** will provide an CCC update on the projects undertaken in the last year.

**Sara Richer**, Senior Ecologist Species at Risk Program at the Royal Botanical Gardens will speak on “Chestnut Work at the RBG)

For those in attendance the popular raffle draw will take place following the meeting.

### **Annual Membership Fees**

Membership fees for the Canadian Chestnut Council are due as of the Annual Meeting in October. Only members in good standing have the ability to vote at the annual meeting, be apprised of events and receive the quarterly newsletter.

The 2023/ 2024 membership fee is \$35.00. Over the past couple of years, our expenses have increased as we added a number of new services such as DNA testing and online chestnut tree reporting. Additionally, within the next month we hope to reveal a new user-friendly website. A charitable receipt is provided for your fee. The Canadian Chestnut Council is now able to accept annual dues in person, by mail and by internet bank transfer.

**In Person:** annual membership fees will be accepted at the Canadian Chestnut Council Annual General meeting for those attending in person on Sunday Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. (see AGM details above).

**By Mail:** make cheque payable to “Canadian Chestnut Council” and send to:

Secretary, Canadian Chestnut Council

c/o Dr. Terry Anderson, 261 Sandy Brook Way, Kingsville, Ontario, N9Y 0A4

or bring it to the next meeting or special event.

**By Internet:** Please **send your e-transfer to** [ccc.membership17@gmail.com](mailto:ccc.membership17@gmail.com).

**Want more information:**

**Website -** [www.canadianchestnutcouncil.ca](http://www.canadianchestnutcouncil.ca)

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