

"MFWBA Run for the Border" a Success

On June 15, the MFWBA Summer Tour for 2005 began at the Canad Inns Fort Garry with an early morning presentation by U.S. Consul to Manitoba Todd Schwartz. As a representative of the US government, a significant part of Todd's job is to explain and promote the U.S. position on issues to Manitobans.

Following Counsul Schwartz's presentation, the group climbed into two vans and proceeded to the border crossing at Emerson, MB. There, we were given an extensive tour of US Customs and Border Protection facilities, and spoke with USDA and other border officials.

From the border we proceeded to the cattle/grain farm of Randy Lemm near Hillsboro, ND, just south of Grand Forks. There we spoke with Randy, Peter Loughheed and John Jacobson of the North Dakota Farmers Bureau to get their opinions on farming, trade issues, and their neighbours to the north.

We overnighed in Grand Forks, where the tour group members got to know each other a bit better over dinner at Grizzly's and for some, drinks at Buck's Roadhouse.

The next morning started

off with a presentation from Leland "Judge" Barth of the North Dakota Wheat Commission. He discussed the NDWC's stand on trade and policy issues, including their view of the Canadian Wheat Board.

We then headed to the farrow-to-finish hog operation run by Kevin Zikmund, near Conway, ND. He is in the process of expanding his operation from 300 to 600 animals. He supported Canadian hogs being transported into North Dakota, because the slaughter facilities that he relies on for his farm would not be able to operate without the supply of animals from this side of the border.

We then headed back to Canada to end our trip with a horse-drawn tour and presentation at Topeaka Farms, a 5,500 ISO-wean operation and 1,000 head cattle herd owned by Loren and Nancy Wiebe.

The farm is in a restricted livestock zone, due to its proximity to a provincial park, so the Wiebes are expanding into new opportunities instead. They are building the first facility in Manitoba to gather the energy created by the pig barns and sell it back to the Manitoba Hydro grid.



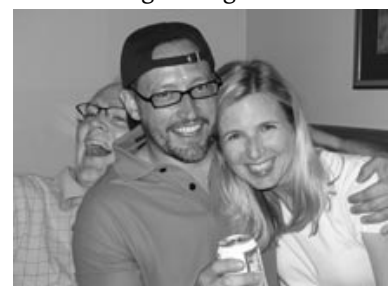
Judge Barth (ND Wheat Commission) speaks with the group in Grand Forks.



Kevin Zikmund's farm, near Conway ND



Ron Friesen inspects a load of hogs travelling through the Pembina crossing.



MFWBA ambassadors after an official "goodwill" mission in Grand Forks.

MFWBA executive members

Barbara Adams
 President
 bladamsassociates@shaw.ca
 832-4232

Crystal Jorgenson
 Membership
 c_jorgenson@umanitoba.ca
 474-9435

Lenore Smaldon
 Secretary-Treasurer
 communications@kap.mb.ca
 697-1140

Val Ominski
 Event Coordinator
 vominski@gov.mb.ca
 945-2754

Richard Phillips
 Event Coordinator
 phillips.richard@tbs-
 sct.gc.ca
 983-7096

Ed White
 Event Coordinator
 ed.white
 @producer.com
 943-6294

Canadian Farm Writers' Federation News

The CFWF 2005 conference is fast approaching - are you registered yet?

Featuring great tours, professional development, great food, and an awards ceremony, the event in Lloydminster is not one to miss. This year is the 50th anniversary of the CFWF as well as the centennials of both Saskatchewan and Alberta. The conference runs from September 22 - September 24.

Registration for CFWF members (which you are if you're a member of the MFWBA) is only \$100. Forms & all other details

can be found online at www.cfwf.ca. Or, contact one of the co-chairs: Janet Kanters (janetkanters@shaw.ca) or Karen Briere (karen.briere@producer.com)

Manitoba traditionally cleans up at these national awards, so best wishes to all who have sent in entries. A listing of local winners will be posted following the conference.



CFWF 2006

Manitoba will be hosting the CFWF 2006 Convention next fall. We're currently scouting out locations, speakers, and tour sites.

If you have any suggestions, or would like to assist on a planning committee, please contact Barb Adams at bladamsassociates@shaw.ca.

We're looking forward to a great convention, filled with unique Manitoba sights & spectacles, great food, and another year of Manitobans winning top honours for their journalistic and communications prowess.

MFWBA Member News

The MFWBA is saddened to lose executive member, friend, and (occasional) partner in crime **Richard Phillips** (incriminating photo at right).

He is moving to Ottawa where he will continue to manage Reg Alcock's Canadian Wheat Board portfolio and other Treasury Board files that are related to agriculture. Best wishes, Richard, from all of us at the MFWBA!

David Elias has also been on the move recently, and has left the Canadian Wheat Board to take on a communications position at the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council.

Lyndsey Smith is now the Associate Editor of *Country Guide* and Editor of *Wheat, Oats & Barley* at Farm Business Communications.

Congratulations to **Dallas Ballance** who was recently named the 2005 Manitoba Woman Entrepreneur of the Year!



Seed Sector Review

Science and history met on June 3 when MFWBA hosted Dale Adolphe, president of the Canadian Seed Growers Association.

Dale was able to provide us with an overview of the Canadian Seed Sector Review which addresses many of the technology issues currently facing the seed sector and the entire agriculture industry. The meeting took place at Red River College's Princess Street Campus, which stands on the site of Winnipeg's original grain exchange and uses many of the materials from that earlier building.

Submit Your News Tips and Stories to the

MFWBA wire

Contact Lenore at communications@kap.mb.ca

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