



# BLONDE BANNER

DECEMBER 2004

## President's Message:

On behalf of the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Board, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a great 2005.

There are two very important issues I want to address. The first one relates to where the Annual General Meeting for the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association is held. The Board has received complaints about the meeting always being held in EASTERN Ontario. The meeting is held in Peterborough. When I look at how far Marcel Lachance who lives in Vankleek Hill compared to Byran Durst who lives in Clinton has to travel to Peterborough, Marcel actually has further to come by almost 50 km as the crow flies. Peterborough was selected as a half way point in Ontario.

Here is a break-down of estimated travel times from residences to Peterborough:

Of 2005 members, four would have travel time of 1 hour or less and one would have travel time of 2 hours or more.

Of 2004 members, 28 would have travel time of 1 hour or less, 15 would have travel time of 1 to 2 hours, 12 from Eastern Ontario would have travel time of 2 hours or more, 6 from Northern Ontario would have travel time of 2 hours or more, and 24 from Western Ontario would have travel time of 2 hours or more.

If this meeting is held in Guelph or points in Western Ontario, we are then talking about 65 members who would have travelling time of 2 hours or more.

In holding the AGM in Peterborough there is 54.65% of our members who would have to travel 2 hours or less to attend the AGM.

The second issue relates to the 2004 Royal Winter Fair Blonde d'Aquitaine Show. This year The Royal cancelled our show due to the lack of numbers. Last year, by error, our breed was put on "warning" that if we did not have 50 registered entries by the entry deadline, our show would be cancelled. Murray McVety had addressed this issue with the then Beef Committee and there was an agreement the notice was issued in error. Unfortunately a new committee is now in place and there was no written withdrawal of notice.

Laverne McGee had requested a deadline extension because of the Cream of the Crop Sale. He was advised that we would have until the Thanksgiving Weekend for our entry deadline. Again unfortunately there was a lot of confusion around this deadline being given to us.

In the end there were only 48 entries, and the decision was made to cancel our Show.

The Board would like to thank all the sponsors of the past Royals and ask for your continuing support in the direction the Board decides to go in. I would like to thank Murray McVety for all his time and effort he has put into The Royal all these years along with Mike Henry and Doug McVillie.

Also to all those who did submit entries and who have shown in the past years, thank you for your support in promoting the breed at various shows.

## ROSS DIX

The Blonde Association was saddened to learn about the loss of Ross Dix, Peterborough, ON. For most of you, as recently as our last club sale, you would have seen Ross checking out the Blonde genetics as he strolled the alleyways observing the pens. For some, and myself personally, we talked to Ross as recently as the National in Victoriaville, Quebec in October. In our Blonde family, it was a common occurrence to see Ross, whether accompanied by John, or at the sale himself, to place the first bid and set the sale off to a rolling start by purchasing his choice of a selected semen lot. In most cases it should have been announced Ceader Valley Farms, but normally, it was announced, Mr. Dix. If you were talking to Ross personally, "Mr. Dix... who's that?" he would say. "Just Ross." Around the sale barn he was always a willing hand to help. Whether it was to open a pen gate, hip tag, or to put up a stall card, he would pitch right in. Ross's soft-spoken voice, big smile, and friendly manner will be missed, whether it is at a sale, the National, or the Royal Winter Fair, he always made time for a friendly visit. Our deepest heartfelt sympathy goes out to John, Cathy and family. *We will miss Ross, but never forget him!!*

Dave McNeven

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## 2004 Raffle Winners:

1st Prize: \$1,500

won by Rick Kiriluk, Burlington, Ont.

2nd Prize: Print by James Tanton

won by Robert Eade, Lansdowne, Ont.

3rd Prize: \$200

won by Scott Arnold, Colborne, Ont.

4th Prize: \$100

won by Archie Kerr, Picton, Ont.

Congratulations to all winners, and Thank-You  
to all those who sold tickets!

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## Performance Report

by Sharon Machina

With the winter season approaching, it is refreshing to have some positive news that negotiations are once again underway to re-open borders to Canadian Beef. News that embryos can once again be sent to New Zealand was met with enthusiasm from this household! This, at least, provides that glimmer of hope that we as cattle producers need so desperately. In these trying and difficult times, it is even more important to have as much data and information on our animals as possible. Not only do we need to see their performance within our own herds, but also within the breed and in comparison with other breeds.

I'm sure most of you are already saying, "Yeah, yeah! I've heard this all before! Why should I spend my time and energy weighing my calves, sending information to BIO, and spending money to send bulls and heifers to Evaluation Centres and get nothing in return?" I'd like to remind you that wars do come to an end, seasons do change, hurricane season ends, droughts and depressions do come to an end AND THE BSE CRISIS WILL ALSO TURN AROUND!

It reminds me of the movie "Field of Dreams". In this movie, a farmer is inspired to build a baseball field in the centre of his cornfield. Throughout the movie, he hears a voice saying, "Build it and they will come!" Despite all the negative pressures and influences, he does build it and they (great baseball legends) do come!

There are a number of Blonde Breeders who, despite the beef industry crisis, see the benefits of sending their bulls and heifers to BIO Evaluation Centres. Scott Bothwell has reported that there are a number of Blonde bulls on test this year around the province. He also reports that a breeder from Alberta is doing an official bull group through BIO this year. This is exciting, as it will increase the predictability of the data. There are also a number of Blonde heifers on official test this year as well. I will have a breakdown of Breeders and numbers for the next newsletter, as information is still coming in to BIO from the consignment centres.

Remember: *"Those who prepare today for tomorrow will be one step ahead of those who wait until tomorrow."*

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### **Trivia Question:** (answer at the end of the newsletter)

What are the names of the first two Blonde bulls imported into Canada from France in 1971?

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## Quebec Hosts 2004 National

*submitted by Rheo and Sharon Machina*

Coloured leaves, warm weather and rolling countryside provided an amazing backdrop for the National Blonde Meeting, Show and Sale held in Victoriaville, Quebec on Thanksgiving weekend. The hospitality shown by the Quebec Breeders was second to none!

Experiencing an annual meeting involving a translator and headsets for everyone in attendance is something that I was proud to be a part of. All of that high school French paid off; and I was impressed with the amount of information I could understand.

L'Expo Boeuf, the event in Victoriaville that the National was held in conjunction with, was much like the Royal, but for beef cattle only. The facility was top notch, with meeting and luncheon facilities on the L'Expo Boeuf grounds. Quebec Breeders did an excellent job of promoting the Blonde Breed and exhibiting their animals. A number of high quality animals caught our eye! There were also a number of other cattle breeds in attendance as well, and I was impressed with the number of breeders who had traveled from Ontario and parts of the Maritimes to show their cattle. I ran into a number of people that I know from the show circuit in Ontario. It was obvious that this show held as much prestige as The Royal, Agribition, etc.

Despite the confusion during the Sale and lack of exhibitors, the Quebec Association is to be commended for "Building it and they will come!" Those in attendance will agree that Quebec Breeders know how to be hospitable. There were a number of friendships and acquaintances made that will continue for years to come. Merci Beaucoup, L'Association du Quebec! Your cheese curds are the best!

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## Ontario's Turn to Host 2005 National

*submitted by Sharon Machina*

The Ontario Board is currently investigating possible venues for the 2005 National and will need the support and assistance from its membership to make this event into something that we will be proud of. This is Ontario's turn to show the beef industry what Blondes have to offer the industry. Any ideas and suggestions for the format of this event can be forwarded to Ontario Board members.

The slogan, "Build it and they will come!" definitely applies to this event as well!

## Important Information

### Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association

116, 2116-27 Ave N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 7A6  
(403) 276-5771

[www.airnet.com/canadianblondes](http://www.airnet.com/canadianblondes)

### Canadian Livestock Records Corporation

2417 Holly Lane Ottawa, Ontario K1V 0M7  
(613) 731-7110

[www.clrc.ca](http://www.clrc.ca)

### Saskatchewan Research Council

15 Innovation Road Saskatoon, Sask S7N 2X8  
(306) 933-7700

### Agriculture And Agri-Food Canada

[www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca)

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## Newsletter Advertising Rates

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	per issue	4 issues
1 full page	\$60	\$200
3/4 page	50	160
1/2 page	35	115
1/4 page	20	65
Business cards	10	35

(If you are interested in advertising in our next newsletter, contact Ilse and she will reserve space for you). If you have any articles or information that you would like to contribute to a newsletter we would be glad to receive them.

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**Butternut Blondes** (Murphy and Judy Baker) would like to thank Steve Hoddenbagh for the purchase of 12 animals. Wishing him good luck with his Blonde Cattle.

**Trivia Answer:** The names of the first Blonde bulls imported into Canada in 1971 are "Fantome" and "FlonFlon." Since the records at the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation go back to French animals, it should be possible for you to do some research at [www.clrc.ca](http://www.clrc.ca), and find out whether any of your animals can be traced back to these two bulls!

## SHOW RESULTS

Lindsay Exhibition

Sunday, September 26, 2004

Class	Placing	Exhibitor
Bull calves born in 2004	1st	Lavelaine Farms
	2nd	Franmar Blonde Farm
	3rd	Knox Innovations
	4th	Donaleen Blondes
	5th	Knox Innovations
Bull calf Champion		Lavelaine Farms
Bull calf Reserve Champion		Franmar Blonde Farm
Junior yearling bulls:	1st	Lavelaine Farms
Senior yearling bulls	1st	Donaleen Blondes
	2nd	Knox Innovations
Yearling Champion		Donaleen Farms
Yearling Reserve Champion		Lavelain Farms
Two year old bulls		None shown
Grand Champion Bull		Lavelaine Farms
Reserve Grand Champion Bull		Franmar Blonde Farm
Female calves born in 2004	1st	Maple Valley Farms
	2nd	Lavelaine Farms
	3rd	Maple Valley Farms
	4th	Lavelaine Farms
	5th	Donaleen Blondes
	6th	Donaleen Farms
	7th	Franmar Blonde Farm

	8th	Knox Innovations
Female calf Champion		Maple Valley Farms
Female calf Reserve Champion		Lavelaine Farms
Junior yearling heifers	1st	Lavelaine Farms
	2nd	Rockwood Farms
	3rd	Knox Innovations
	4th	Franmar Blonde Farm
Senior yearling heifers	1st	Holburn Farms
	2nd	Maple Valley Farms
	3rd	Knox Innovations
	4th	Franmar Blonde Farm
	5th	Franmar Blonde Farm
Yearling heifer Champion		Lavelaine Farms
Yearling heifer Reserve Champion		Holburn Farms
Two year old with 2004 calf	1st	Lavelaine Farms
	2nd	Murphy Baker
Mature cow with 2004 calf	1st	Holburn Farms
	2nd	Maple Valley Farms
	3rd	Knox Innovations
Senior female Champion		Holburn Farms
Senior female Reserve Champion		Lavelaine Farms
Grand Champion Female		Holburn Farms
Reserve Grand Champion Female		Maple Valley Farms
Breeder's Herd	1st	Lavelaine Farms
	2nd	Franmar Blonde Farm
	3rd	Knox Innovations
	4th	Donaleen Blondes
Get of Sire	1st	Lavelaine Farms
	2nd	Franmar Blonde Farm
	3rd	Donaleen Blondes
	4th	Knox Innovations

