



# Info Holstein

A Holstein Canada publication providing informative, challenging, and topical news.

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## **The Seed Has Been Planted**

*Although the current amalgamation proposal is off the table, the idea of future change has been planted.*

**T**he recent announcement made by the Boards of Holstein Canada and Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) to discontinue amalgamation talks between the two organizations may come to some as a surprise.

Progress had been made over the course of the past year and a half after Board discussions surrounding a proposed amalgamation were first initiated in 2010. While the process was criticized along the way, many Holstein Canada members agreed on the idea of joining the two organizations to experience efficiency and

streamlined services — realizing that the two organizations were serving the same on-farm customers.

The concept of Holstein Canada amalgamating with another industry organization had never before been brought to the membership of the Association.

Holstein Canada prides itself on its history and tradition within the Canadian dairy industry. But, the Board has also recognized in recent years that change is needed in order to ensure the Association continues to move forward and remain a leader in dairy genetics worldwide.

**Continued on page 2...**

# Many Positives Came Out of this Process

## Valuable Member Input was Shared

The member input sessions held in October 2011 proved to be a successful consultation process. The sessions provided a chance for the Board to go out, meet the members, and hear what members had to say surrounding the proposed merger. Members had a first-hand chance to hear the facts, figures, and proposed structure and discuss the many challenges and opportunities they recognized in this process. This type of consultation process is rare in most organizations.

## Understanding the Role of CDN

While at the member input sessions, Holstein Canada members also had the opportunity to learn more about the intricate details surrounding CDN and its vital role to Holstein Canada members. Holstein Canada members learned more about the governance, mandate, and budgetary items at CDN, which helped provide a greater

understanding for the efficiencies that could be achieved.

## Understanding More About the Association Itself

Not only did members learn more about CDN, they were provided the opportunity to learn more about Holstein Canada and how it functions and operates day-to-day. Many great questions were brought forth surrounding governance, structure, and marketing and promotion of our organization — and these comments were not taken lightly by the Board. Members' concerns and questions regarding the daily operational needs of the Association will continue to be addressed for what is best for staff and its members.

## Cooperation and Synergies were Achieved

The two teams at Holstein Canada and CDN experienced tremendous synergy and cooperation over the past

year and a half. The joint management team has proven to be a success — accomplishing many mandates and goals they had set out to achieve. This joint management team will continue under the direction of the current CEO.

## Business Development Division Created

A new department was created in 2011 known as *Business Development*, managed by Peter Brand, as a member of the joint management team. This department will continue with the main goal of defining the business needs of the Association and translating them into effective information technology development initiatives.

*For details regarding the findings from the member input session report developed by Independent Facilitator Ann Louise Carson, please visit page 6-7.*

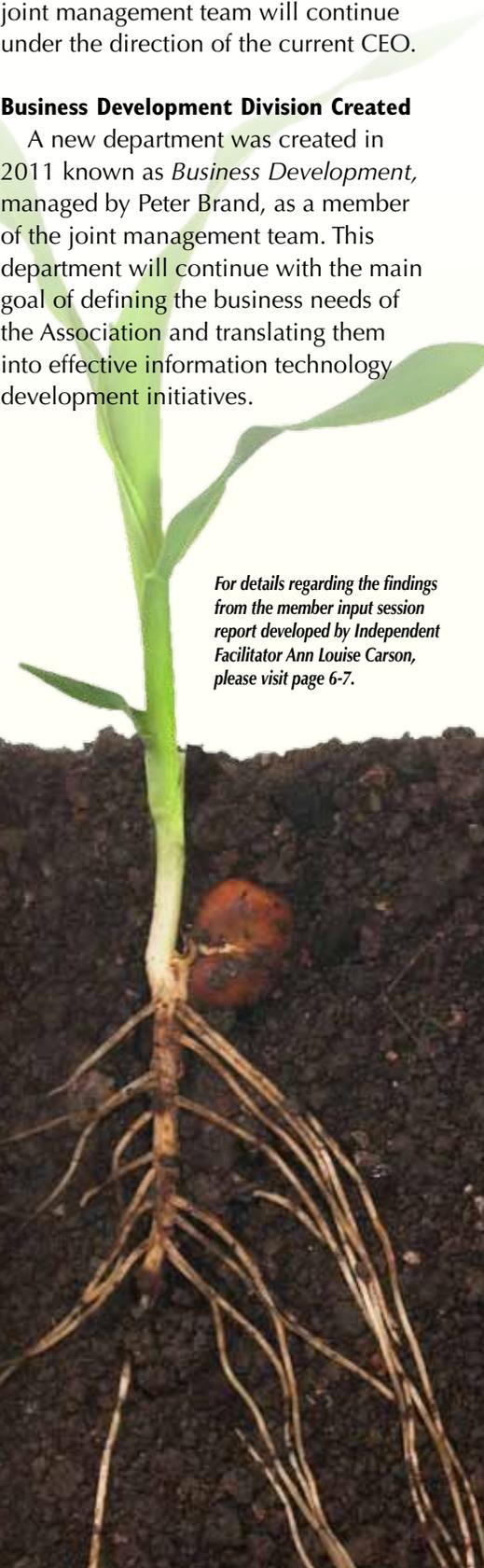
## Examining Process and Timing

Many valuable lessons surrounding process and timing were learned and were vital for future discussions, when they present themselves again one day. The same challenges faced this time will be turned into opportunities next time to inform members at a more appropriate pace and in a more appropriate manner — ensuring that the Association engages members at an initial stage to ensure complete transparency throughout the entire process.

While the time is not now for a proposed amalgamation, the Holstein Canada Board of Directors will continue to explore future options as change in the industry is inevitable. The Board will continue to be visionary as status quo is not an option. The energy that was used for the proposed amalgamation will now be harnessed and focused on projects at Holstein Canada for the betterment of the Association and its members.

The Board thanks Brian Van Doormaal, current CEO, for leading both companies over the past 18 months. He will continue to lead Holstein Canada throughout the transition period during 2012 while the Holstein Canada Board proceeds with recruitment of a new CEO. At that time, Brian will continue his 16-year appointment as General Manager of CDN.

The Board is proud of its members for remaining passionate about this industry and the Association — what would our Association look like today without its members who truly CARE? This entire experience has been nothing but promising for the future and what lies ahead for this Association. The seed that has been planted will stand as a strong foundation as the Association continues to grow and flourish as a key partner within the dairy cattle improvement industry. 🍁



# The Champions of 2011

**C**anadian Champions are awarded to Holstein cows (75% pure or higher) that surpass the previous all-time highest performance for milk, fat, protein, or total BCA in her age at calving category.

If more than one animal in a given year exceeds the previous highest level, only the top individual will be recognized as a new Canadian Champion.

*Congratulations to the breeders and owners of the new Canadian Champions for 2011!*

**New Canadian Champion as a 4-Year-Old for Fat.**

**Lilliesdale FBI Charmed (EX-92-CAN)**

CANF7826845

**Born:** 2006 Mar 7

**Breeder & Owner:** Leo Baumann,

**Lyn, ON**

**Robert D. Mallette, Lyn, ON**

Milk Fat Protein Total Production (kg)

04-05 305 21498

1274 5.93 661 3.07

**BCA (Deviation) 429(+146) 678**

**(+390) 411(+131) 1518(+667)**

**New Canadian Champion as a 8-Year Old for Milk.**

**Arla Jolt PA Pouse**

(GP-83-3yr-CAN)

CANF100487382

**Born:** 2002 Jan 7

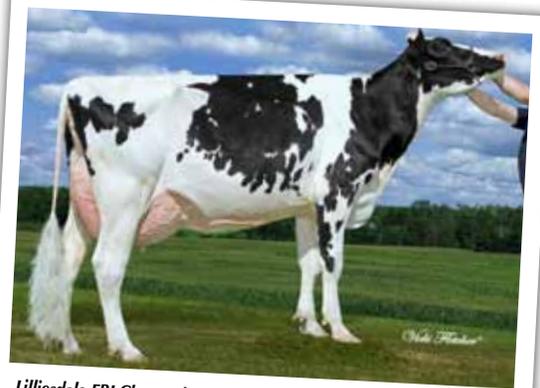
**Breeder & Owner:** Conrad Riendeau, St. Cesaire, Qc

Milk Fat Protein Total Production (kg)

08-05 305 21586 883 4.09 706 3.27

BCA (Deviation) 431(+117) 483(+147)

450(+126) 1364(+390)



*Lilliesdale FBI Charmed (EX-92-CAN)*

If you wish to view the current list of the all-time highest production Canadian Champion cows, visit:

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

> Awards and Shows

>> Cow Award Lists

>>> Award Search → Select

'Canadian Champions' from the

Award drop-down box. 🇨🇦

## Changing for the Members of the Future

*by Paul MacLeod, Holstein Canada President, Woodstock, ON*

**W**ith the recent announcement of the proposed amalgamation being taken off the table, a situation like this brings to light the many positives that came out of this entire process.

The member input sessions were exactly what we set out to achieve — to listen to the members. It has been interesting to hear the different perspectives from people of all ages and different generations on how they perceived the proposed amalgamation. Many young people took a concerned interest in the future of the Association and this was exciting to see!

It is exciting because these youth are the future of this Association. The Board knows that we cannot remain status quo. We need to always be considering and thinking

about change and how we can transform for the needs of our next generation — our future members. The 'blueprint' of this Association is the young people who will be our leaders and members of tomorrow.

We have an outstanding group of young people in our dairy industry that we should be very proud of and very confident of going into the future. We must acknowledge that the speed at which we accept change varies for each generation.

Older generations appreciate tradition and process. Younger people crave change and want it to take place quickly. I have two sons at home that constantly remind



*President Paul MacLeod with sons Jared and Kyle on their farm Darcroft Farms Ltd.*

me of how fast young people are accepting of change. It is just the dynamics of different generations.

A balance of tradition, process, innovation, and change will continue to help our Association be successful. The Association didn't make it to where it is today, 128 years later, without appropriate change for all of its members, no matter what age. 🇨🇦

# Passion and Drive Characterize

by Stephanie Williams (Gregson), Young Adult Program Coordinator, Holstein Canada

*The 37 applicants vying for this year's Holstein Canada Education Awards made for the toughest selection process yet. The Young Adult Advisory Committee (YAAC) chose six \$750 winners from across Canada. It cannot be said lightly that Holstein Canada has an impressive future based on the passion of today's youth, which was evident in each applicant's package.*

## Alan Nanne



**Pakenham, ON**  
**Prefix: Reddal/**  
**Nandale**  
**University of Guelph**  
**Bachelor of Science**  
**(Agr)**

Alan screams enthusiasm for the dairy industry and plans to manage his own *Reddal* Holstein herd after his worldly travels when he completes his degree in 2014. His desire to network and gain valuable insight on different dairy farming practices will further compliment his passion for sire selection and breeding on the *Nandale* home farm.

Leadership roles are held on both the College Royal Executive and his Class Executive at the University of Guelph, which rounds out his involvement in 4-H, showing, Junior Farmers, church, and sports teams. Alan was also a member of the 2010 Ontario 4-H team, which attended the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Competition in Madison, WI. This experience helped to further hone his judging skills at Intercollegiate competitions, while experiencing outstanding results.

## Alex Mackinnon



**Montague, PE**  
**Prefix: SandyRae**  
**Nova Scotia**  
**Agricultural College**  
**Bachelor of Science**  
**(Agr)**

Crop work during summers, hoof health, vaccinations, and clipping on weekends during school, make Alex one hard working student — and all this while holding a 25 hour a week job at a local dairy farm. His motivation to gain invaluable experience in the barn and at shows while working for other Holstein herds will aid in Alex's dream of taking over the *SandyRae* home farm.

In his third year, Alex feels his Animal Science Major will complement his Minor in Agricultural Business — providing him with a well-rounded approach in genetics and business management. In 2008, he was selected to represent the PEI Holstein Branch at the US National Dairy Conference held in Madison, WI. His role as a 4-H Junior Leader has evolved to become a rewarding experience of mentoring a special needs family member to participate in the show ring the past two summers.

## Lorene Vanderwal



**Abbotsford, BC**  
**Prefix: Cedarwal**  
**University of Guelph**  
**Bachelor of Science**  
**(Econ)**

Lorene's determination to graduate in 2012 with her classmates' speaks to the perseverance that Lorene demonstrates, after an accident that left her with catastrophic brain injuries in November 2009. Against doctor's orders after months of hospitalized rehabilitation, she returned to not only excel in her academic courses, but continues to be involved in executive roles on College Royal, the Judging Club, and her Class Executive at the University. She further continued to compete successfully in both 4-H and the **Western Canadian Classic (WCC)**.

Her passion for the dairy industry drives her responsibilities on the *Cedarwal* home farm to include registrations, DNA sampling, data entry, and she has further taken an interest in accounting and employee management. She also taken on the task of completing all the administration and communications for organic certification at *Cedar Valley* farms.

# 2011 Education Award Winners

Youth program involvement, work experience, and farm involvement account for 60% of the total grading when selecting the winners. Career choice and scholastic record equally split the remaining 40%. 2011 winners were very well-rounded — going above and beyond with leadership roles and community involvement. It was evident that they are able to balance their academic courses with work and volunteering. A common thread of all applicant's this year was the strong passion they have for the Holstein breed and the role their influential parents play in their young lives.

## Peter Spruit



**Woodstock, ON**  
**Prefix: Spruit**  
**University of Guelph**  
**Bachelor of Science**  
**(Agr)**

Peter really loves to learn. He completed two credits at the University of Western Ontario during his Grade 12 year, completed the Advanced Dairy Nutrition course through the University of Illinois, and has a 83.6% average after his first year at the University of Guelph. He's eagerly considering Veterinary school, but also wants to utilize his animal science degree and experience various dairy farming practices, while continuing to learn the business side of the operation in order to return home as a valuable asset to the family farm.

A dairy enthusiast who has always worked on the home farm after school, Peter has also experienced other jobs off the farm. These include working as an agronomist assistant, a relief milker, and as an assistant herdsman. Peter also finds the time for 4-H, Junior Farmers, and various clubs at the University.

## Christine Breton



**Norberville, Qc**  
**Prefix: Martinclerc**  
**Université Laval**  
**Baccalaureate**  
**Agronomy**

This spring, Christine's degree will round out her College Diploma in Animal Production from l'ITA, Saint-Hyacinthe Campus, Qc. Her studies have focused on animal production and her work experience has been rounded out by spending a summer furthering her English at *Willdina Holsteins* in ON.

After winning the 2008 Holstein Québec Young Breeder School, Christine represented Canada for a 13th place finish out of 131 competitors at the European Young Breeder's School held in Battice, Belgium. Christine's broad perspective of the industry leads her to strive for a career as a Dairy Operation Advisor for an industry partner with long-term plans to own and manage her own herd of high quality Holstein cows.

## Annick Michaud



**St-Philippe-De-Néri, Qc**  
**Prefix : Val D Espoir**  
**Institut de technologie**  
**agroalimentaire Campus**  
**de la Pocatière**  
**Livestock Production**  
**Technology**

Upon graduation from l'ITA in 2012, Annick has plans to pursue her Agronomy degree at Laval Université, after maintaining a successful 86% average. She is currently Student Council President and holds other leadership roles in many different organizations at l'ITA.

Annick's love for the show ring has been complimented by her involvement in Holstein Québec's Young Breeder School and Dairy Cattle Fitting School. She speaks fluent English and her work experiences are very diversified. As a result, she has plans to work for Holstein Québec or an industry partner, before starting her own farm with her future partner.

*Continued on page 8...*

# Report: Findings from Member Input Sessions

After gathering feedback received at member input sessions held throughout the month of October, independent facilitator Ann Louise Carson was tasked with preparing a report for the Holstein Canada and CDN Boards of Directors.

This comprehensive report included not only the specific questions and comments from members attending each meeting, but it also incorporated results from the questionnaire that each person was asked to fill-out if they attended one of the nine sessions.

As promised to members, the following is an overall summary of the report that Carson delivered to both Boards. The aim of sharing this summary with members is to ensure integrity and transparency in this process. It is the hope of the Board that all members — those who were present and those who were unable to attend a member input session — will be informed as to the key concerns that were brought forth by members. This report was one of many aspects considered by the two Boards to reach their recent decision to discontinue the current talks surrounding the proposed amalgamation.

**The following are six areas of concern that were expressed by groups of members at various input sessions:**

## Process of Change

Discussions associated with the proposed amalgamation were initiated in June 2010, in conjunction with the appointment of the common CEO with CDN. While this action demonstrated great Board leadership, the concept of amalgamation was new to the membership. The process

ultimately provided members their first formal opportunity for input only in May 2011 at the AGM in Halifax, NS. Many members had the perception the amalgamation was a “done deal” although the Board clearly understood it as a “proposal”.

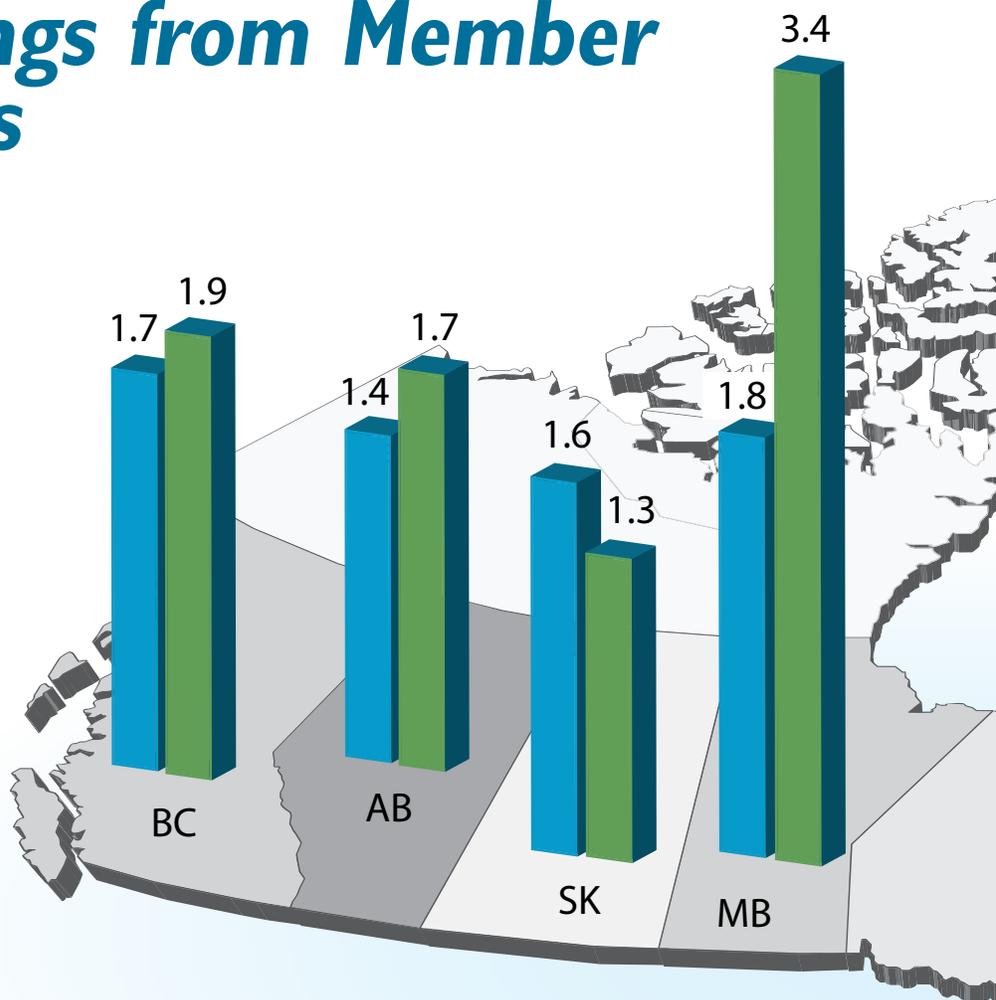
## Governance

Some members felt the proposed Board structure needed to be reconsidered. The mix of 10 Directors elected by Holstein Canada members and 5 appointed by industry sectors was not well understood and gave a perception of loss of authority and/or control by the members. It was

frequently suggested that the Board consider having CDN as a subsidiary or division of Holstein Canada, which is a reverse of the current situation whereby Holstein Canada is a member organization of CDN. On the other hand, some members expressed concern that genetic evaluations needed to remain “at arms length” and independent from Holstein Canada as the breed association.

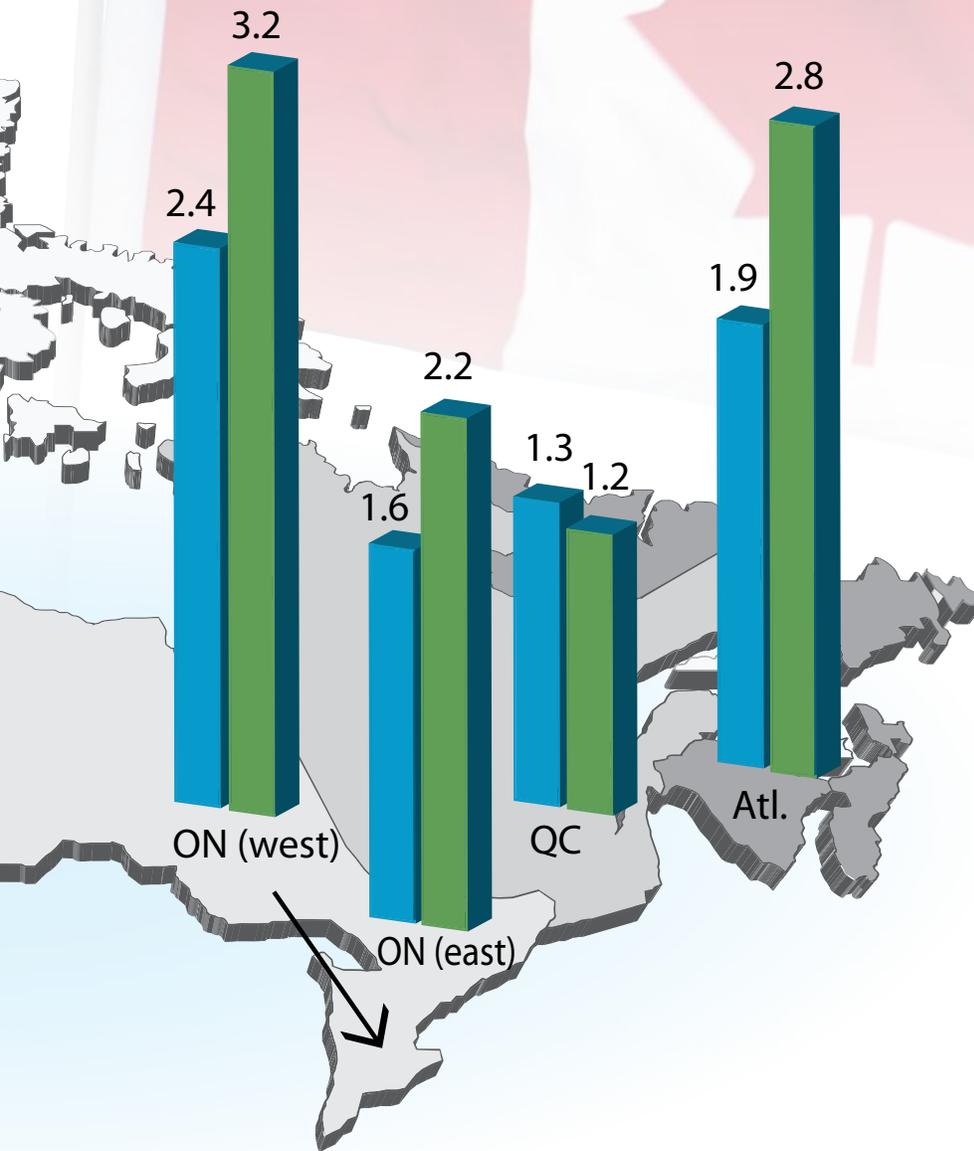
## Holstein Canada Identity

The long history and tradition of Holstein Canada as a member-based Association is at the core of many members. Any organization that has



*300 members in total attended the nine member input sessions across Canada.*

The following map depicts the questionnaire results by members attending the member input session(s) in each province:



**Please Note:**

\*Due to similarity in results from the two member input sessions held in Québec, results were combined and depicted as one on the map.

\*\*Average scores close to 1 represent areas highly favouring the proposed amalgamation whereas areas with higher average scores had more mixed opinions of members attending the input sessions.

The following two questions were asked by confidential hand-out ballot with possible responses ranging from 1 = "Stongly Agree" to "5 = "Strongly Disagree"

**■** Based on the information I received today and the subsequent discussions, I understand the proposed amalgamation.

**■** I support an amalgamation between Holstein Canada and Canadian Dairy Network.

been successful for as long as Holstein Canada risks becoming complacent and even reluctant to change. Members feel such a strong link to the Association's name, logo, office location and structure that it is hard to accept any change, however slight it may seem to others.

**Genomics**

The timing of these amalgamation discussions was confounded with the uncertainty by some members of genomics for improved genetic selection. Since CDN delivers genomic evaluations to industry partners,

the fear of genomics indirectly created uncertainty of the proposed amalgamation.

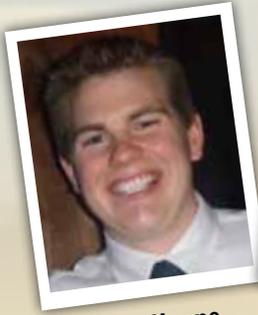
**Financial Analysis**

The analysis of costs and efficiencies associated with the proposed amalgamation received a full spectrum of opinions. To some, the estimated annual savings of \$468,300 was a secondary reason to pursue the amalgamation – synergies and increased business opportunities were seen as more important for the future. To others, the accuracy of the financial assessment was questioned and more

details were requested.

**Leadership**

It was the opinion of members in some regions that the Holstein Canada Board was not in charge of leading this proposed change. The sharing of CEO with CDN contributed to this confusion. Members learned, however, that it was the Holstein Canada Board that initiated the proposed amalgamation discussions with CDN, which began by the appointment of Brian Van Doormaal as joint manager of both companies. 🇨🇦



Alan Nanne



Peter Spruit



Lorene Vanderwal



Annick Michaud



Christine Breton



Alex Mackinnon

## Question Period with the Education Award Winners

Continued from page 5...

**What is the most valuable thing you have learned that will help you succeed ?**

**Peter:** Time management. It has enabled me to complete six courses every semester, while being involved with many clubs and helping out at home.

**Alan:** Never give up. Many goals and aspirations that at one time appeared to be impossible have now been achieved through hard work and by focusing on the steps required to get there.

**What do your youth experiences mean to you?**

**Lorene:** Being able to be a part of 4-H and WCC were great experiences. Not only was I able to learn a lot about showing calves and about the breed, but also able to make friends and connections in the dairy industry.

**Christine:** Discipline, planning and resourcefulness.

**Alex:** 4-H has provided a good opportunity to travel and meet new people. Now as an older member, it is a good way to help junior members learn to show.

**Where do you see the dairy industry in 20 years and how do you fit into the future?**

**Christine:** Despite the many dairy producers who are quitting the business, the herd size will increase. As for the dairy cow, she will continue to evolve. In fact, things such as genomics, the unbelievable proofs of newly-arrived bulls, the many genetic improvement tools that are available to breeders, and the requirements that are more and more important compared to the cows' dairy performance lead me to believe that the dairy cow can only improve from generation to generation. One wonders if there is a limit.

**Annick:** I believe that large industrial businesses will diminish and family businesses will resurface or be present in large numbers. My desire is to have an average size business (60 milking cows) and a good quality of life, while having an occupation that I am passionate about. I would also like to have an outside job part-time to see other things and enrich my knowledge.

**If you could spend a day with one dairyman/woman past or present, who would that be and why?**

**Annick:** Richard, at Ferme Blondin. He is the cowman and looks after show

cows. He is passionate about Holsteins and I could certainly learn a lot from him.

**Alan:** Bert Stewart. He has had a very rewarding career and has always been an incredible role model for many keen young dairy people. His hard work, good cheer, and wise advice has shown how an individual can positively affect so many youth aspiring to be successful in the dairy industry.

**What is the importance of the Holstein leaders of today mentoring young people?**

**Alex:** It is important for Holstein leaders today to pass on their experience and their knowledge to the future generation and inspire them to keep advancing the breed.

**What accomplishment are you most proud of?**

**Lorene:** I am most proud of being able to get back on track to graduate in the spring of 2012 with my classmates. Missing so much time and having such an adjustment getting back to school proved difficult, but if this coming semester goes as planned, I will graduate in May. I am so humbled by all the help and support I've gotten from family, professors, and friends. 🍁

# 2012 World Holstein Conference

## Deadline for Early-Bird Discount Approaching Soon



The 2012 World Holstein Conference promises to be the experience of a lifetime for Canadian breeders and industry partners to savour the international flair that will accompany a Conference of this calibre.

Set to begin on Sunday, November 4, 2012, Conference attendees are expected from countries around the world and since this is the first time Canada is hosting this international event, it is expected to be nothing but spectacular.

With a tremendous schedule planned, a huge draw for Conference attendees will be the Symposium on November 6-7, 2012. The Symposium agenda has a thought-provoking and educational line-up of internationally acclaimed speakers who will discuss timely topics for all breeders. The Symposium's schedule, themed *Holstein's Today for a Better Tomorrow*, has speakers discussing topics such as genomics; improving reproduction using new technologies; cow health and animal welfare; farm sustainability through both farm succession planning and the role of breed societies; and getting more out of milk.

Another large attraction for Conference

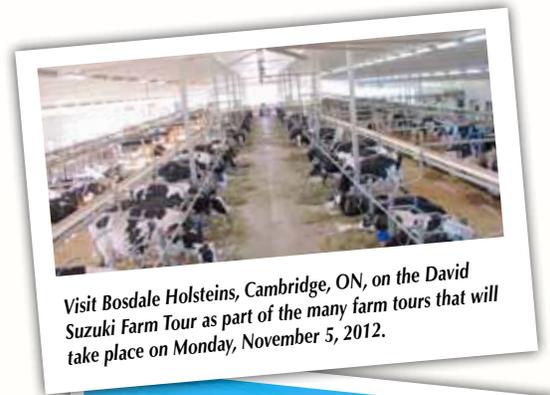
participants will be the many farm tours planned throughout east-central and southwestern Ontario on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Each tour has been featured in videos now posted on the 2012 World Holstein Conference website, or alternatively, you can scan the QR code below to watch one of the farm tour videos available.



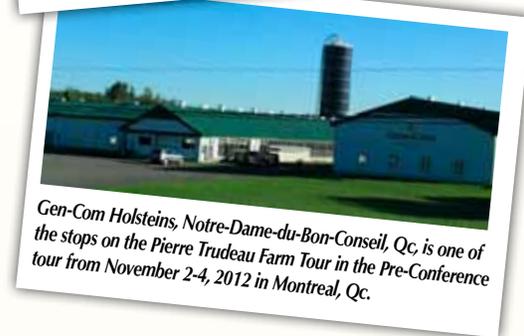
This QR Code features the Terry Fox Tour including an interview with the Walker family of J & L Walker Dairy/Futurecrest Holsteins, Aylmer, ON.

In true Canadian fashion, fun and internationally authentic social events have been planned throughout the week of the Conference to allow for Conference attendees and Canadian breeders to meet, mingle, and market Canadian genetics and the Canadian dairy industry.

The early-bird discount expires **May 1, 2012** so be sure to visit [events.holstein.ca](http://events.holstein.ca) to save your spot for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! 🇨🇦



Visit Bosdale Holsteins, Cambridge, ON, on the David Suzuki Farm Tour as part of the many farm tours that will take place on Monday, November 5, 2012.



Gen-Com Holsteins, Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil, QC, is one of the stops on the Pierre Trudeau Farm Tour in the Pre-Conference tour from November 2-4, 2012 in Montreal, QC.



Gert Pedersen Aamand from Demark will be one of the many internationally acclaimed speakers at the 2012 World Holstein Conference Symposium on November 6-7, 2012. Gert will speak on the "Selection for Disease Resistance (in cows)." Lucy Andrews, United Kingdom, will also be a speaker on the agenda discussing the "Roles of Breed Societies in Sustaining the Industry for Future Generations."



## HOLSTEIN ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

### 129th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB Saturday, April 21, 2012 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA		7	Address of the President: Paul MacLeod
1	Welcome	8	Introduction of Guests
2	National Anthem	9	Century of Holsteins Award Presentation
3	Minutes of 2011 Annual General Meeting of Members	10	Consideration of Resolutions (Resolutions must have been submitted to the Secretary by March 22, 2012)
4	Consideration of Reports from the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer	11	Members' Input (Question Period and New Business)
5	Finance Report	12	2011 Cow of the Year
6	Appointment of Audit Firm	13	Adjourn

Guest Speaker: Andrew Brash discussing "The Profound Impact of Commitment and Compassion."

## The Core of the Association

by Holstein Canada Chief Executive Officer, Brian Van Doormaal

The December 2011 joint meeting of the Holstein Canada and Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) Boards of Directors led to the pivotal decision to discontinue discussions regarding the current amalgamation proposal.



Holstein Canada Staff at their annual summer event in 2011.

This decision is met with mixed feelings by Holstein Canada members but as CEO, my primary responsibility is the interest of staff. To many, the proposed amalgamation represented an opportunity for growth and diversification of services to Holstein Canada, which translates into possible career advancement as an employee.

By discontinuing the current amalgamation discussions, the Boards agreed that I will be returning to manage CDN as a vital industry organization. I will remain as the CEO of Holstein Canada until a new replacement is recruited in the coming months and I will assist with this transition. I cannot overstate the great progress **your** staff and management team have achieved in the past 18 months. There are many people working on your behalf that are dedicated to the success of the business with focus on high quality customer service. With my arrival in 2010 and the impact of genotyping services and genomics on our industry, these people who are *'the core of the Association,'* have taken change by the horns and managed it so well.

As the Board of Holstein Canada bring forward a new CEO and continues to strive for future efficiencies, I am confident that your staff will continue to embrace change for the better! 🇨🇦

## Disease Resistant Cows — a Possibility for the Future

Research from University of Guelph Professor proves that we may be one step closer in identifying disease resistant cows.

**A**n on-farm test has been developed by University of Guelph Professor, Bonnie Mallard, with the hope of helping farmers to select cows with better disease immunity.

The test, known as **High Immune Response (HIR)**, specifically aims to combat diseases such as mastitis, which costs dairy farmers across Canada millions of dollars each year in decreased milk production and treatment costs. According to the **Canadian Bovine Mastitis Research Network (CBMRN)**, mastitis alone costs Canadian dairy farmers more than \$4 million a year.

The HIR test would help farmers test and recognize animals with better immune response and disease resistancy and breed from these animals.

Blood or milk samples are tested to gauge high, average, or low immune responses. As Professor Mallard explains, "It allows farmers to pinpoint resistant

and susceptible animals in order to calculate breeding values and make decisions about breeding, management, and culling." Mallard says that between 20 and 30 percent of variation in immune response stems from inherited factors rather than things such as housing or nutrition.

Tested samples were completed from 500 cows on more than 50 farms. Researchers discovered that cows with low immune response have about twice the disease rate of high responders.

In 2012, testing will be focused on sires and early adopter herds before the test is available on a larger scale in 2013.

**Researchers discovered that cows with low immune response have about twice the disease rate of high responders.** 🇨🇦



# Twins, Triplets, and Quadruplets — a Rare Find

**É**ric Couvrette of Ferme Coulap, Mirabel, Qc was quite surprised when his cow, *La Sapiniere September Retarde* (EX-90-CAN), achieved a very rare feat of having quadruplets in November, 2010. Because of the colour variation in the calves, all four calves were DNA tested and validated to be from the same sire, *Rockymountain Mackinaw*. Unfortunately, the animals no longer exist in the herd as two calves were females and twins to the remaining males and therefore not eligible for registration.

The best part is that this isn't the first

time *Retarde* has had multiple calves at birth — In her previous calving, *Retarde* had triplets!

According to Holstein World, the chances of a cow having triplets, all female, and all alive are about one in eight million. The odds of having triplets are one in 105,000, and even more surprisingly, the odds of having triplets where all are females — is one in two million.

Based on Holstein Canada records, the following chart below shows the number of animals that were registered as a twin and/or triplet. 🇨🇦

Year	Twin	Triplet
2006	6935	9
2007	6775	13
2008	6775	19
2009	7249	11
2010	7074	25
2011	6681	17



*La Sapiniere September Retarde (EX-90-CAN) with her quadruplets from the same calving born in 2010.*

# Classification Schedule

MR mid-round

Month	Classification
February	<b>ON</b> – Niagara, Wentworth, Prescott, Carleton <b>ON</b> – MR Huron <b>QC</b> – Québec, Montmorency <b>QC</b> – MR Abitibi, Témiscamingue <b>BC</b> – MR
	<b>ON</b> – Russell <b>ON</b> – MR Leeds, Grenville, Lanark, Renfrew, Bruce, Grey <b>QC</b> – Dorchester, Lévis, Bellechasse <b>QC</b> – MR Drummond, Bagot, Saint-Hyacinthe, Richelieu, Verchères, Rouville
	<b>ON</b> – MR Halton, York, Peel, Simcoe, Dufferin, Ontario <b>QC</b> – L'Islet <b>QC</b> – MR Labelle, Papineau, Gatineau, Argenteuil, Pontiac, Deux-Montagnes, Terrebonne <b>AB</b> – South/Central
March	<b>QC</b> – Montmagny <b>QC</b> – MR L'Assomption, Montcalm, Joliette, Berthier, Maskinongé <b>AB</b> – Northern <b>MB</b>
	<b>ON</b> – Lambton, Middlesex, Essex, Kent <b>QC</b> – Kamouraska <b>QC</b> – MR Saint-Maurice, Champlain, Laviolette, Portneuf, Lapointe, Dubuc, Charlevoix, Chicoutimi
	<b>QC</b> – Rivière du Loup, Rimouski
April	<b>ON</b> – Elgin, Oxford <b>ON</b> – MR Peterborough, Northumberland, Victoria, Durham, Waterloo <b>QC</b> – Matapédia, Bonaventure, Matane, Arthabaska <b>QC</b> – MR Lac Saint-Jean, Roberval, Vaudreuil, Soulanges, Huntingdon
	<b>ON</b> – MR Lennox, Addington, Frontenac, Hastings, Prince Edward <b>QC</b> – Témiscouata <b>QC</b> – MR Châteauguay, Beauharnois, Laprairie, Napierville, Saint-Jean, Iberville, Shefford, Richmond, Missisquoi <b>PE, NB, NS, NL</b> – MR
	<b>QC</b> – MR Compton, Brome <b>QC</b> – Mégantic, Wolfe

## Top Sires According to Average Final Score of 1st Lactation Daughters

Based on 1st Lactation Classifications from November/December 2011

Top 10 Sires with 100+ Daughters Classified in Two-Month Period				Top 10 Sires with 30-100 Daughters Classified in Two-Month Period			
Sire	Daughters Classified <sup>▲</sup>	Avg. Daus. Score	Avg. Dam Score	Sire	Daughters Classified <sup>▲</sup>	Avg. Daus. Score	Avg. Dam Score
Sanchez	147	82.24	82.39	Lheros	40	81.43	81.30
Goldwyn	612	81.74	81.76	Promotion	73	81.08	81.42
Mr Sam	150	81.03	80.75	Altaminister	51	80.98	79.39
Bolton	101	80.98	81.28	Million	51	80.86	80.88
Shaquille	119	80.83	81.39	Mleader	54	80.80	80.67
Denison	311	80.76	80.71	Spirte	88	80.39	80.07
Talent	188	80.74	79.90	Magot	85	80.33	80.40
Howie	133	80.74	80.34	Altawildman	65	80.31	79.15
Final Cut	103	80.59	80.50	Matson	33	80.27	79.00
Re Design	220	80.35	80.60	Kingly	98	80.23	79.80

Note: <sup>▲</sup> Daughters are included in the statistics only if both the daughter and her dam calved for the first time before 30 months and were both first classified within the first six months of lactation. Sires listed must have > 50% of daughters that improve in score over the dam.

# Best of Breeders

*Congratulations to the following 21 breeders, who were announced as the select group of Master Breeders for 2011.*

## Beaucoise

Les Fermes Turmel Enrg  
Ste. Marie de Beauce, Qc  
Clement, Louis, Benoit &  
Nicolas Turmel

## Bridgeview

Bridgeview Holsteins  
Brantford, ON  
Brian & Joan Coleman

## Canado

Ferme Canado  
St. Bernard de Lacolle, Qc  
Claude, Nicole & Josée Couture

## Cityview

Cityview Holsteins  
Woodstock, ON  
David Innes

## Cobequid

Cobequid Holsteins  
Upper Onslow, NS  
Brian & Linda Yuill  
Beverly Austin

## Doral

Doral Farms Inc.  
Teeswater, ON  
Wayne & Cindy Whytock  
Tom Whytock

## Dubeau

Dubeau  
Ste. Elizabeth, Qc  
Pierre Dubeau

## Dupasquier

Oscar Dupasquier  
Guelph, ON  
Oscar & Eric Dupasquier

## Fraeland

Fraeland Farms  
Fergus, ON  
Steve Fraser

## Micheret

Ferme Micheret Inc.  
St. Zépherin, Qc  
Mathieu Lemire, Martial Lemire  
& Guylaine Laroche

## Millbrooke

Ed & Kerry Meulendyk  
Badjeros, ON

## PDF

Prairie Diamond Farm  
Balgonie, SK  
Dale & Arlyce Strudwick  
Harlen & Jennifer Strudwick

## Peartome

Peartome Holsteins  
Hagersville, ON  
Douglas & Mary-Ann Peart

## Penlow

Penlow Farms  
Almonte, ON  
Allan, Donna & Brad Lowry

## Rosiers

Ferme Des-Rosiers  
St.-François du Lac, Qc  
Luc Desrosiers, Jacinthe  
Lafleur & Pier-Luc Desrosiers

## Savedale

Savedale Farm  
Bradford, ON  
John & Anne Savage

## Selbyvale

Selbyvale Holsteins  
Selby, ON  
Harold, Carolyn & Kevin  
Robinson

## Skipper

Schipper Farms Ltd.  
Aylmer, ON  
Rudolf & Sharon Schipper

## Stanbro

Jeff Stanton  
Ilderton, ON  
Jeff, Jim & Laurie Stanton

## Valleycrest

Valleycrest Farms  
Milton, ON  
Harold & Diane Patteron  
Scott & Penny Patterson

## Weeksdale

Elmer Weeks  
Breadalbane, PE  
Elmer & Sandra Weeks  
Blair Weeks



Read more about each of these breeders in the April/May *Info Holstein*.

*Join Holstein Canada in congratulating the above 21 breeders at the upcoming National Holstein Convention in Brandon, MB! The Master Breeder Awards Banquet, which recognizes the achievements of these breeders, will be held on Friday, April 20, 2012.*



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