



Holstein Canada

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Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Holstein Canada's Annual Meeting

Brantford, ON May 17, 2011— Holstein Canada members from across Canada attended Holstein Canada's 128th Annual Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia on May 14th.

Elected officers of Holstein Association of Canada for 2011:

President, Paul MacLeod, Woodstock, ON

Vice-President / Board Chairman, Glen McNeil, Goderich, ON

Directors:

BC	Richard Bosma, Abbotsford	QC	Robert Chabot, St-Patrice de Beauvillage
AB	Orville Schmidt, Rollyview	QC	Jean-Albert Fleury, Victoriaville
SK/MB	Dale Strudwick, Balgonie, SK	QC	Elyse Gendron, Saint-Polycarpe
ON	John Buckley, Lindsay	QC	Mario Perreault, Saint-Esprit
ON	Ron Sleeth, Battersea	Atlantic	Harry Van der Linden, Antigonish, NS

Holstein Canada reported a net Operating Fund surplus of \$597,323 for the 2010 fiscal year. Total revenue increased by 10.8% and exceeded \$12 million at year end. This favourable performance reflected the increase in activity for registration, classification, and genotyping services. New records were achieved, for the second year running, in both animal registrations and classifications. Holstein Canada registered 280,158 Holsteins for a 1.7% increase, while 255,901 dairy cattle were classified, showing a 6.4% growth over 2009.

Total operating expenses of \$11.4 million increased 3.5% compared to 2009. The Association incurred additional expenses related to increased tag sets sold and laboratory costs were higher due to increased genomic testing. Holstein Canada's Reserve Fund consists of a \$6.6 million investment portfolio.

President Germain Lehoux spoke of the proposed amalgamation with Canadian Dairy Network (CDN). The main benefits listed, gaining efficiency, reducing costs, and proactively positioning the new organization to provide a stronger and more unified voice in the Canadian dairy industry. Germain presented an estimated cost savings of \$559,000 per year, achievable within three years after the proposed amalgamation is completed. This estimate was based on moving all staff into the Holstein Canada Brantford office which is the preferred option at this time. Germain stressed that no decisions had been finalized and that the Board will be seeking member input throughout 2011.

Board Chairman Paul MacLeod presented the finance report and budget for 2011. Holstein Canada had a very positive year setting new records for activity in both registration and classification. The outlook for 2011 remains optimistic with an expectation of a small surplus for the Operating Fund.

Chief Executive Officer Brian Van Doormaal reviewed the performance in the core service areas. Brian credited the classifiers for their efforts in the new herd recruitment program and achieving record breaking activity. The successful launch of GenoTest and significant growth in genomic testing services was also discussed. Brian thanked the Board for their leadership and confidence in him and also thanked Holstein Canada staff for their dedication.

Twenty eight By-law amendments were presented and approved by membership. There was significant discussion around the proposed amalgamation with CDN. Membership passed a motion by a vote of 84 to 26:

“That the Board of Holstein Canada revisits their decision to amalgamate Holstein Canada with Canadian Dairy Network. If the Board of Holstein Canada still see the necessity of the amalgamation, that the Board consider hiring a qualified independent consulting firm to conduct an in-depth analysis of the socioeconomic impact of said amalgamation. Further that full disclosure of the consultant’s report is made available to the membership of Holstein Canada, enabling them to make an informed vote at a Holstein Canada annual general meeting.”

Three prestigious Holstein Canada awards were presented during the general meeting:

- Marc Comtois of Comestar Holsteins was presented with the Certificate of Superior Accomplishment. This prestigious award has only been granted nineteen times in the past 128 years.
- Lindenoord Rudolph Lilac, owned by Ferme Rolandale Enr. was declared Holstein Canada’s 2010 Cow of the Year. Rolland ‘Rolly’ Dubois and Christiane Lauzé from Saint-Flavien, QC accepted this award.
- The Century of Holsteins Award was presented to Grillsdale Holsteins of Campbellford, ON.

A highlight for many attending the convention was the Master Breeder banquet recognizing twenty Holstein breeders from across Canada. Achieving Master Breeder status is one of the most coveted awards in the dairy industry today.

Thirty three young adults from across Canada participated in the Young Adult program. The highlight for many included the Master Breeder panel with Marc Comtois (Comestar), Bloyce Thompson (Eastside) and Curtis McNeil (Heather Holme). These Master Breeders each generously provided a free embryo draw for the young adults attending the program.