

Down to Earth

Eco Farm Day 2013

BY CORDELIA D'AMBOISE

Editor's Corner

Hello COG OSO members and organic enthusiasts,

In this issue of *Down to Earth*, please draw special attention to our revised logo and name change as we make the transition from COG-Ottawa to the more accurate, Canadian Organic Growers Ottawa St. Lawrence Outaouais Chapter. This month's newsletter contains several important announcements and updates from our chapter chair, Susan Preston. In this issue you will also find informative articles regarding helping children make healthy food selections, a look at the recent Eco Farm Day 2013 and insight from Colin Lundy on accessing organic extension information.

We are now accepting articles and photos for the June issue of *Down to Earth*. Thank you to all of our members and volunteers who make this publication possible and from all of us as COG OSO, we wish you a happy growing season in 2013.

Matthew Irving

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The 33rd annual Eco Farm Day (EFD) occurred on February 23rd & 24th, 2013 and was held once again at the Ramada Inn in Cornwall, Ontario. Hosted by Ottawa-St. Lawrence-Outaouais Chapter of Canadian Organic Growers (COG OSO), we are pleased to report the success of this event for yet another year! This year, the main focus of the event was on *Water Management in Organic Agriculture*. Attendees, speakers and organizers traveled from across Ontario and Quebec (some even venturing from the Maritimes!) in order to participate in this educational, informative and interactive event. EFD is an excellent way to unite farmers, gardeners and people interested in healthy foods and environments from across the region to share their knowledge and innovations



within the sustainable agricultural industry. The event attracted families, students and elders alike, allowing for involvement from all generations. Throughout the main event, 243 participants listened to speakers, were involved in workshops, toured the tradeshow, and enjoyed fully organic foods and beverages.

We were thrilled to have Maude Barlow as our keynote speaker, especially considering the theme of *Water Management*. Maude Barlow is the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and chairs the board of Washington-based Food and Water Watch. She is one of Canada's leading academics surrounding water rights and the global water crisis. She has been involved in many international campaigns including being one of the primary leaders to have water recognized as a human right by the UN. Her inspiring speech was filled with personal experience, facts, as well as anecdotes, and was received with a generous standing ovation.

The workshops were led by excellent speakers who covered a wide array of different areas of organic agriculture. For example, Ken Taylor gave an exciting talk on *Permaculture Agroforestry and the Fight for Water*, Roger Rivest shared new technologies in his talk on *Controlling Weeds in Organic Cropping Systems*, and Anne Verhallen explained new managerial approaches to utilize cover crops in her talk on *Pushing the Envelope with Cover Crops*. The workshops were a great way to promote a



discussion between people from various backgrounds in order to delve deeper into many subjects ranging from zero carbon lifestyles, rotational grazing, and LED-lights!

The tradeshow was filled with over 30 exhibitors representing companies, products, and organizations alike. In between the workshops and the speakers, attendees ventured into the tradeshow to network and chat with



one another about the goings on of the day. There was a vast assortment of exhibitors focusing on many subjects including vermicompost (The Worm Factory), tree nurseries (Green Barn Nursery), new products (Clear-Flow Hose, Cowpots), and much more. Once the tradeshow packed up, 36 participants remained at the venue to enjoy the evening Gala event where they were able to enjoy good (organic) food and good company.



For the Saturday evening Gala dinner our keynote speaker was Dr. Ralph Martin, the Loblaw Chair in Sustainable Food Production at the University of Guelph. Dr. Martin spoke to an audience of nearly 40 people about managing water in the context of climate change.

Author Richard Wiswall was the featured speaker for the Sunday morning workshops hosted by the Organic Council of Ontario and the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario.

Without the sponsorship of the organizations who support EFD, this event would never happen. We appreciate everything they had to offer! Our Golden Sun sponsors (\$2000) were Homestead Organics and Eastern Ontario Training Board. Silver Star sponsors (\$1000) were Centre for Systems Integration and Ontario Natural Food Coop. Blue Sky sponsorship for \$500 was the largest group consisting of: Organic Council of Ontario, National Farmers Union, Campus d'Alfred, University of Guelph, Joël's Coffee, and Organic Meadow. Green Earth sponsors (\$100) were Harland Veinotte Transport and Field Gate Organics Inc.

COG OSO would like to thank all of the speakers and exhibitors for their contribution and participation in Eco Farm Day 2013. This event relies on the passion of individuals and their wealth of knowledge. We would also like to thank the volunteer organizing team: Tom Manley, conference chair; Arn Snyder, speaker coordination; Bill Barkley, trade show; Lisa Brazeau and Christine Estermann, food supplies; Sarah De Jong, registration and Gary Weinholt, treasurer. Finally we would like to give a special thanks to Liza, Christine, and Sarah who have volunteered for EFD for several years but are moving on to other activities. If you are interested in volunteering with next year's EFD (especially within the food and registration activities), please contact Tom Manley at tom@homesteadorganics.ca. We hope that all attendees enjoyed themselves this year and hope to see you all and many new faces at Eco Farm Day 2014!



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Steering Committee Report

At our first few meetings of the new year, the COG OSO Steering Committee welcomed many returning and new members. Our new SC roster can be seen on our website at <http://cog.ca/ottawa/governance/>. We took a bird's eye view of the organization, and of our chapter's programs, activities, and policies. Through their updates on activities, our program leaders continue to demonstrate ongoing advances in Growing Up Organic, Farmer Outreach, Senior Organic Gardeners and more. We welcomed two Carleton University students who are completing a fourth-year volunteer Practicum in Environmental Studies and Geography with us this semester, Audrey Baran and Cordelia d'Amboise. The SC is currently focusing attention to our chapter finances, and will meet for a full day financial planning retreat at our chairperson's house in March. We hope you will enjoy our new Facebook page where we frequently post announcements of all COG OSO events, photos, and news: www.facebook.com/cogosochapter.

Thanks to Beth McMahon

COG OSO extends heartfelt thanks to Beth McMahon for her service this last year and a half as the Executive Director of COG at the national level. While she is taking on a new professional position, we are thrilled that she will continue to be very active in COG both nationally and locally as a member of the Ottawa-St. Lawrence-Outaouais Chapter. Under Beth's leadership, COG has made great strides in updating many facets of the organization including developing a fabulous new website for *The Canadian Organic Grower* magazine <http://magazine.cog.ca/>, launching a national fundraising campaign, and numerous other activities that will have lasting benefits to our members across Canada. Maybe we'll get her to join our chapter's steering committee!

Recognizing a Talented and Dedicated Volunteer Coordinator

Heidi Monk came to COG OSO in 2011 as Volunteer Coordinator working closely with our team in building better communications and planning for our many volunteers.

A talented young woman, Heidi has studied and worked in the field of International Development with a major interest in green initiatives including Greening McGill University in Montreal.

Her work with COG OSO included developing plans for an Outstanding Volunteer Award for our chapter which was first awarded in December 2012 with Heidi and Susan Preston – Chapter Chair – at the podium.

Thank you Heidi for your contributions to COG OSO. Having you on the team has been both effective and lots of fun!

Organic Gardening in the City Workshops

There are **four new topics** addressed in the Organic Gardening in the City Workshops in 2013, in addition to the four workshops offered previously, which have been so popular. The new topics were gleaned from suggestions of former participants and instructors. **The new location at the National Archives** (395 Wellington Street, Ottawa) has allowed us a reduction in fees charged and special discounts for students and seniors. The registration from the COG OSO Chapter Website is working very well.



To register, please visit

<http://cog.ca/ottawa/organic-gardening-workshops/>

We invite everyone to use the most practical promotion tool: word-of-mouth! Please help us to spread the word by circulating the information below.

Tuesday, April 2: Organic Backyard and Allotment Gardening
– Principles of Organic Gardening & All About Organic Soil

Wednesday, April 3: Designing Your Urban Organic Garden to Attract Pollinators and Pest-eaters and to Discourage Pests

Tuesday, April 9, 2013: Organic Backyard and Allotment Gardening
– Seeds and Transplanting & Storage of Fruits and Vegetables

Thursday, April 11, 2013: Organic Vegetables in Containers Part 1 – Getting Started: Planning, purchasing, planting, maintaining, harvesting, and recycling

Tuesday, April 16, 2013: Organic Backyard and Allotment Gardening
– The Organic Approach to Veggie Growing, Weeds, and Insects

Thursday, April 18, 2013: Organic Vegetables in Containers Part 2 – Caring for Your Plants: Positioning, feeding, controlling, protecting, and prolonging

Tuesday, April 23, 2013: Organic Principles and Practices in Yard Management

Thursday, April 25, 2013: Organic Herbs in Containers and Composting

SENIOR ORGANIC GARDENERS PROGRAM

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UPDATE ON

SENIOR ORGANIC GARDENERS

MARGARET TOWNSON

The Senior Organic Gardeners website has been reviewed and updated for 2013 thanks to SOG volunteers Rob Danforth and Sara Holzman. The SOG website was reviewed and posted by our chair, Susan Preston.

A cooking demonstration on cooking veggie soup with herbs was a request from some seniors at Unitarian House where Senior Organic Gardeners has been active in the 2012 growing season. Lori Nichols-Davies, chef and owner of Holistic Cooking Academy of Canada, has volunteered to do this splendid event, including an herbal tea-tasting in mid-March!

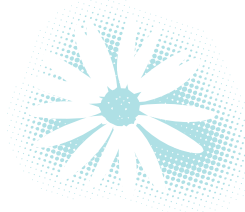
Fundraising for a Program Coordinator for SOG in 2013 has taken considerable time during the winter season. We are delighted to report having received two sponsorships from **Awesome Ottawa** and **Gardening by Design**. Their logos are featured on the SOG website: www.cog.ca/ottawa (Programs: Senior Organic Gardeners).

We were thrilled to be invited by two local health food stores, Pantry Plus in Orleans and Rainbow Natural Foods in west Ottawa, to do an Organic Seed Fundraiser Sale in favour of SOG. We are pleased with the total raised from both sales (\$399) and we do thank Rainbow Natural Foods and Pantry Plus for their hospitality, local promotion, and much more.

A few more sponsorships may be forthcoming. We have applied for several grants. One has been denied and we are waiting for news on the others. We hope that it will not be necessary to revert to a “bare bones” budget for 2013. Margaret made a pitch for financial support on CBC radio in November:

Greening the golden years: [Listen](#) to the CBC interview, which aired November 30, 2012, with Margaret Tourond-Townson about a new project to get seniors flexing their green thumbs.

We have not yet begun the process of recruiting retirement homes for 2013, however we have had spontaneous expressions of serious interest from two new retirement homes to add to Unitarian House and Longfields Manor, where we worked in 2012. Word-of-mouth has proved an effective tool in both fundraising and recruitment.



GROWING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

A Forum on Children, Youth and Food in Ottawa

On February 28th teachers, parents and community organizers gathered at Heritage Academy for Growing Healthy Communities, a forum on children, youth and food, hosted by COG OSO's Growing Up Organic Program. Alissa Campbell, Growing Up Organic's Project Manager prefaced the evening by highlighting some of GUO's achievements in 2012. She introduced the evening's theme: Ontario's new School Food and Beverage Policy, by expressing hope that we have a unique opportunity today to re-engage students in their food environments, re-empower them to be part of creative solutions, and actually rethink food education in our schools.

Laurie Dojeiji, Manager of Health Promotion at the Champlain Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Network, set the tone for the evening, providing attendees with background information regarding recent changes observed in school food environments across the Champlain region. Meeting the demands of the new policy has been challenging in Ottawa and across the province, and changes in school cafeterias have been met



with noticeable resistance from students. But Dojeiji was optimistic for the years of implementation ahead, observing that changing youth food culture takes time, and that when elementary students arrive in high school now, healthy cafeterias will be the norm. Kent Van Dyk, Culinary Arts teacher at Longfields Davidson Heights, spoke after Laurie and talked about his experience starting the culinary arts program at LDH. "Our school system strongly emphasizes numeracy and literacy, and rightly so, but I tell my students, listen: You eat three meals a day, every day, from day one, and for the rest of your lives," said Van Dyk. His enthusiasm for making cooking and gardening cool for youth is contagious; since beginning at LDH, Van Dyk has established a sprawling organic vegetable garden and a new orchard, allowing his students a field-to-plate experience that elicits reflection on where food comes from and the impact of our food choices every day. If the treats Van Dyk's students provided during the break are any indication, there are more than a few budding chefs growing out of the program



thanks to his mentorship. Finally, Cheryl Boughton, Headmistress at Elmwood private school, shared Elmwood's inspiring story of cafeteria transformation. Disgusted with her saucy-reconstituted chicken stir fry one day, Boughton decided she had had enough, and so began her journey to transform the school cafeteria. Elmwood now works on a self-operated model, with its own executive chef and food service staff. In the "Elmwood Bistro" kitchen, they prepare delicious meals for the 350 girls at the school. They have connected with organic farmers, and local sustainable purveyors of fish and seafood, and most remarkably, have reduced their costs from their previous third-party catered service. Of course they still serve the favourites, Boughton says, but the ingredients are fresh, organic, and nutritious. Candice Butler, Elmwood's new chef, brought a testament to the new kitchen's creativity and talent in her oatmeal-apricot chocolate chip white bean cookies that were gobbled up by everyone in attendance after Boughton's presentation. In the second half of the evening, participants had a chance for some more intimate conversations in facilitated break-out sessions covering topics from school composting programs to connecting schools with local organic farms. How difficult it was to wrap up conversations at the end of the evening! Hopefully, these conversations will indeed continue and inspire even greater transformation in Ottawa's school food environments.



How Can Organic Farmers Access Organic Extension Information?

BY COLIN LUNDY, COG OSO FARMER OUTREACH AND TRAINING COORDINATOR, COLIN@COG.CA

I have been delivering “Farmer Outreach” from COG OSO since 2008. As many of you know that has involved a lot of workshops and other training and information events. Thankfully, I get to interact with farmers on a one-on-one basis, too. Some of what farmers tell me is that workshops and such are fine and all, but to get to the next level they need more rigorous extension services – what government axed 20 years ago.

It is pretty clear that government is not going to get back into providing extension – in the traditional sense – not even for an emerging and knowledge-intensive sector such as organics. So it will continue to fall on the creativity of the organic sector to get extension information to organic and would-be organic farmers.

At the Guelph Organic Conference in January, there was a three-hour session titled, “Canada Organic Extension – A major forum for developing LOCAL organic farm info transfer.” This session was an attempt at stimulating “Canadian Organic Extension Network” (COEN) into action. Organic Alberta spear-headed the inauguration of COEN in Banff a few years back. It was a good start, but it does not yet have much momentum. You can see COEN’s work to date at organicalberta.org/organic-extension, including vision and mission statements, regional extension situations, and a hodge-podge list of extension personnel nationwide. Our local Tom Manley of Homestead Organics took a good stab at consolidating extension services in Ontario at a reception at the 2012 Guelph Conference (Let’s hope the third time’s the charm!)

The COEN meeting at Guelph this year was intended to build momentum and to move forward. The three-hour session was packed with about 60 people to learn from about 7 presenters.

Becky Lipton from Alberta Organic started us off by helping to define what we mean by “organic extension.” An extension professional facilitates

the transfer of information, knowledge, and training to farmers to help farmers troubleshoot and improve their operations. The “Six Pillars” of organic extension are:

- Policy – developing and interpreting policy with regards to organics
- Research – creating and affirming new knowledge
- Organics 101 – the basics and fundamentals of being an organic producer
- Business development and profitability – to help organic farmers succeed
- Value chain development – to complete the cycle from field to fork
- Standards/certification/record keeping – interpreting and advising for farmers

(If anyone reading the list above is thinking, “I do that!” please contact me).

Becky’s introduction was followed by a series of presenters, each of whom provides organic extension creatively, innovatively, and differently from the other. I wish I could highlight each presentation, as each is unique, but there was so much information, I’ve been forced to summarize.

ORGANIC PRIVATE SECTOR

The private sector includes businesses that provide inputs such as feed, seed, and amendments (e.g. Homestead Organics) as well as independent consultants (e.g. Ruth Knight). This type of organic extension mirrors how extension is delivered to conventional farmers. However, the businesses providing organic extension are not multinational conglomerates with flashy publications that can easily absorb the cost of providing free extension by the other services and products they sell to farmers. Therefore, in the case of an input provider like Homestead Organics, the cost of providing extension

has to be factored into the mark-ups on the inputs being sold. The result is that Homestead Organics does not provide inputs at the cheapest cost. Hopefully farmers recognize they are buying extension through handbooks, agronomists, nutritionists, etc. and not just a bag of seed or feed.

For a consultant like Ruth Knight, it is hard because she is only selling her knowledge and expertise. This can be to her advantage since she is not viewed as someone trying to sell a product, but farmers are often reluctant to pay for something as abstract as knowledge and advice that they are not sure will work or pay for itself.

Both Homestead Organics and Ruth Knight are genuine and sincere in striving to improve the sustainability of organic farmers. They have money invested in extension and so need to be paid for extension provided, but they are not exploitative. Their success is tied to the success of organic farmers. They need organic farmers to invest in themselves and their farms so that farm profitability and sustainability increases. They do that by investing in knowledge and technologies often via organic extension services.

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The power of this network cannot be understated; it means not only consolidated knowledge, but also a mechanism for peer review to ensure the knowledge is consistent and of high quality.
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NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

This perspective was offered by Jodi Koberinski at Organic Council of Ontario (OCO) and Roxanne Beavers at Atlantic Canada Organic Regional Network (ACORN), but very much reflects the experience of COG too. Jonda Crosby from the International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA) added some perspective from the USA to this discussion.

Interestingly in the USA, NGOs were the primary source for organic extension until the 1990s. The reason was Cooperative Extension Personnel could not discuss organic methods because there was no scientific research to back it up. Luckily, that is changing and now there is a network of over 1000 organic extension professionals (farmers, agronomists, researchers) offering free organic extension en masse through the multiple resources at eOrganic.info. The power of this network cannot be understated; it means not only consolidated knowledge, but also a mechanism for peer review to ensure the knowledge is consistent and of high quality. If you are a farmer, I strongly encourage you to check out articles, past webinars, and “Ask an Expert” at eOrganic.info.

While in the USA state cooperative extension and university researchers receive funding for organic extension, community of practice networks such as [eOrganic](http://eOrganic.info) are still dependent on grants and thus lack stability. In Canada, we struggle to find grant money to even develop and perform organic extension, let alone to consolidate and disseminate it through a unified network.

For the NGO sector, funding is increasingly scarce, competitive, and project-oriented. Providing extension is not something funders want to put money toward since it would be considered “normal operations” (that is, not project) and results are hard to measure. Variable funding results in variable regional NGO capacities, which makes it hard to deliver consistent support to farmers over time across Ontario, let alone across Canada.

Somehow, though, some extension work gets done with little or no funding. NGOs develop and deliver webinars, workshops, conferences and print resources. They have developed conduits of online knowledge sharing such as www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/. They facilitate farm visits, production clubs, kitchen table meetings, and other knowledge-sharing opportunities.

ACORN has been fortunate to secure steady funding from the National Research Council’s (NRC) Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP). The program funds two part-time staff (including Roxanne Beavers) to provide technical support to organic and transitioning farmers. They provide agronomic advice as well as support in understanding organic standards, developing organic plans, and sourcing permitted substances. Covering four provinces, Roxanne can travel only so much. So she creatively engages farmers as much as possible online – including through Facebook networks.

GOVERNMENT AND UNIVERSITY

The history of extension from government and universities is very similar. Historically, agricultural extension from these sources was important because most people had a direct interest in food production. Plus, farm technologies

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The starting point is updating the national list of organic extension providers. The list needs to be categorized to identify what sector each provider is working within as well as to identify the types of organic extension each person is providing.

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— especially machinery — were quickly evolving to increase productivity and efficiency.

Times have changed; farming and associated technologies are different, and fewer people are involved with it. This and other socio-economic factors pulled government and universities out of extension work and pushed the private sector into it (for better or for worse).

However, it is wrong to say government and universities no longer provide extension. Government agricultural ministries provide business development support and cost-share programs for infrastructure. Extension is disseminated as general resources to be accessed by anyone, anytime, but it is largely up to the farmers to collect it. In addition, OMAFRA and other provincial agriculture ministries have an organic specialist on staff to help inform farmers of OMAFRA resources available to them and to represent the organic sector within the broader ministry of agriculture.

In the university setting, industry has provided researchers to develop very specialized knowledge for industry. The farmer is far removed from the research as it is intended to benefit the developers of technology as opposed to the users of the technology (farmers). The Organic Science Cluster II, a partnership of Dalhousie University and the Organic Agriculture Centre for Canada, is developing organic-oriented research balancing scientific inquiry with practical knowledge intended for farmers to apply on farm.

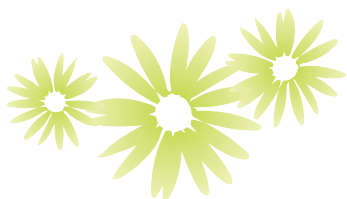
As a final note, provinces such as PEI and New Brunswick are providing direct financial support to organic farmers, helping to cover the costs of soil amendments, organic certification, and so on.

THE WAY FORWARD

It was very inspiring to listen to the creative ways in which extension is being delivered in Canada. It was useful for us to all discuss the challenges we still face, but at least we are aware of them. Unfortunately, this session was not able to carve out a path forward to overcome these challenges.

Luckily, a group of us continued the conversation over burgers and beers (how often have I seen this happen?)! We worked on next steps, which focused on identifying all that is already being done. The starting point is updating the national list of organic extension providers. The list needs to be categorized to identify what sector each provider is working within (NGO, private, government) as well as to identify the types of organic extension each person is providing. The second step includes consolidating, assessing, vetting, and then disseminating public extension information such as cyberhelp (www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/), YouTube videos, etc. These are starting points to tell us what we already have and improve farmers’ access to it nationwide. Then we can find the gaps and begin trying to fill them.

There is a lot of extension information available, especially on the Internet. The first challenge for farmers is finding it. The next challenge is then knowing whether it is useful information or not. A Canadian Organic Extension Network can vet that information so that farmers know what they get through the network is useful.



Save the Date!

Canadian Organic Growers Annual General Meeting

May 4th, 2pm EST

Location: In the comforts of your own home! COG will provide a video link for members to join in.

If you are in the Ottawa area, there are a limited number of seats available to attend in person (let us know if you want to come to the office).

Call for Nominations — 4 board positions available. All members in good standing are invited to submit their candidacy for a three (3) year board term. Nomination deadline is March 26th.

If interested, please send the following to the COG Elections Officer (ecolita@me.com):

- Name and address
- 150-word (max) statement on your candidacy (please sign it)
- 3 letters of reference from other COG members

If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Ashley at office@cog.ca

COG OSO Gets a New Facebook page — “Like” Us!

Canadian Organic Growers – Ottawa St. Lawrence Outaouais Chapter has recently expanded its social media network through the creation of a Facebook page. Updated weekly, and often daily, the aim of the page is to spread our message to a greater demographic of the region's population. We frequently advertise our events as well as other activities that we feel our followers would enjoy. We also post articles, blogs, and videos that we believe are excellent tools for expanding knowledge about organics! Whether you wish to find out about the goings on of COG OSO, learn some new facts, or post your own ideas, please “Like” our page! You can find us at <http://www.facebook.com/cogosochapter>. The page was created and managed by Cordelia d’Amboise, a fourth-year Environmental Studies student at Carleton University. Thanks Cordelia!

COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS, COG OSO

The Ottawa St. Lawrence Outaouais chapter of Canadian Organic Growers (COG OSO) is seeking a new “Coordinator of Volunteers”. We are a regional chapter of a national charity, whose mandate is to **lead local and national communities towards sustainable organic stewardship of land, food and fibre while respecting nature, upholding social justice and protecting natural resources.**

We are a lively and enthusiastic group based in Ottawa, and we offer numerous events and programs year-round to support knowledge and skills for farmers, gardeners, educators, children, seniors, and anyone who is interested in eating healthy food and living in healthy environments. Details of our activities are available at our new website: www.cog.ca/ottawa. Nearly all of our activities are coordinated by volunteers, and are sponsored by many different organizations.

COG OSO is currently seeking a new “Coordinator of Volunteers” to join our volunteer team.

This role is best suited to someone with good organizational skills and good communication skills (English is essential, French would be a wonderful asset). It would involve an estimated minimum average of 3 hours per week, but could be developed into much more depending on the interests of the person selected for the role. For more details and to arrange an interview, please contact Margaret at **613-244-4000 ext. 2** or at ottawachapter@cog.ca.

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Ottawa St. Lawrence Outaouais Chapter

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Deadline for next *Down to Earth*: **June 1, 2013**

Submit all articles to Editor.

Advertising: Advertisements are accepted in accordance with the current advertising policy, which is revised periodically. Please request the most recent version at the time of your request.

Organic growers with produce for sale can be added to the Organic Food Directory for a small fee. COG members enjoy some discounts. COG OSO does not necessarily endorse products and services advertised in *Down to Earth* and assumes no liability resulting from their use. Please contact the Advertisement Co-ordinator for further information.

Advertising deadline: **June 1, 2013**

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