



JENNIFER GAUTHIER The London Free Press

**MORE CIRCLES:** Lawrence Holland of Fingal stands in his wheat field yesterday where a crop circle was discovered Monday afternoon.

# Circles crop up for third time in area

BY MARISSA NELSON  
Free Press Reporter

IONA — Crop circles have become some sort of fad in Southwestern Ontario, as a third set appeared this week in Elgin County.

And while the farmer who owns the field west of Iona thinks it is beautiful, he can't explain it.

"It's a beautiful pattern," 81-year-old Lawrence Holland said in the farmhouse where he and his wife Grace have lived for 55 years. "It's as neat as a pin."

Earlier this month a crop circle appeared near Hensall.

A week later a second appeared on a farm near Brussels.

Holland had a neighbour head out on his field, behind his home on Willey Road, on a combine on Monday. The neighbour came back to report the circles.

The field has two circles, one 20.7 metres in diameter and the

other 12.9 metres in diameter, joined by a pathway.

The wheat is flattened in an anti-clockwise direction in both circles.

Each circle is perfect. The formation has become an attraction for neighbours.

Yesterday afternoon the Blaney family, who live nearby, came to have a look.

"It's a little close to home," Patty Blaney said as her four sons roamed the field.

"You know he's normal," she added, motioning to Holland. "I don't think it's the weather and I know it's not Lawrence."

"It couldn't have come to a more honest guy," said husband Don Blaney. "It's really strange."

Joanna Emery, a volunteer who investigates crop circles for the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network, was heading to Holland's farm late yesterday.

She's seen what she calls real

and fake crop circles.

"My initial reaction was maybe it's a hoax because they've got so much coverage recently," she said.

"But they often have hot-spot areas."

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"It's a beautiful pattern.  
It's as neat as a pin."

*Farmer Lawrence Holland*

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Holland figures it's some "freak of nature" like the whirlwinds he's seen on fields.

Neither Lawrence nor Grace saw anything unusual in the field and say they would have seen people working in the field from their back window.

"There are no footprints and we'd have seen someone," Lawrence Holland said.

It would also take a lot of effort to bend the wheat hard

enough to make sure it didn't spring back up, he said.

"It's still a mystery."

Holland isn't concerned about the damage — he'll harvest the remainder of the field in a few days, once everyone has had a look.

Imants Baruss, a psychology professor at the University of Western University who studies anomalous phenomena, said until academics study crop circles no one can discount them as hoaxes.

"I have no idea what they are," he said.

"No one has proven it's a hoax. I think at this point it really is a mystery, which is nice."

Academics aren't likely to study the formations, Baruss said, because they would be shunned by the scientific community.

And that's a shame, he said, because phenomena like crop circles interest the public.

# Crop circle the real deal, says researcher of event

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

There are crop circles that are hoaxes and legitimate crop circles that defy explanation and remain a mystery as to their formations.

The formation appearing in Lawrence Holland's wheat field last week is the real thing, said a specialist who came to the field Aug. 13 to investigate.

The wheat was bent over, bearing ring-shaped marking suggesting a heat source, a common attribute of legitimate crop circles, said Joanna Emry of the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network.

The organization she works for investigates and documents crop circles, determining which are hoaxes, deliberately made by someone, who which are real and remain unexplained as to their formation.

While the source of crop circles remains a mystery and little scientific research is done, thousands of the formations have appeared around the world.

In the past month, there have been circles appearing in the Hensall and Brussels area in Huron County and now one in Holland's field at Erin Line and Willey Road.

Holland has farmed there for 55 years and has never seen anything like it.

It was discovered last Tuesday while the wheat was being harvested and Holland left the area



Lawrence Holland stands at the edge of the largest of two crop circles that appeared in his Wallacetown wheat field last week while, below, a steady flow of spectators came to check out the formations.

*Chronicle photo*

around the circles untouched to give investigators and spectators a chance to check it out.

One circle in the field is 21 metres around, connected by a narrow, 18-metre path that leads into a second, smaller circle that measured 13 metres.

Some theories say crop circles are formed by UFOs but Holland doesn't believe that.

He said it's difficult to break wheat stalks with anything but machinery but can't explain how they could have been laid down

and matted in perfect circles.

"Whatever laid the wheat down did a beautiful job. It's just like a mat, a perfect mat," he said.

He speculates a whirlwind, a naturally occurring wind pattern farmers are familiar with, could cause such a phenomenon.

"It's not the case of spirits or kids," said Holland.

The circles attracted a steady flow of spectators last week, wearing a path into the field to be able to stand in the circles and check them out.

Calls also came to the Holland household, including one from a man in eastern Elgin County who attested to seeing UFOs in Elgin County and was certain their formation was caused by one.

Most calls were from media or family and friends.

People visiting had different theories but also leaned toward not really understanding what could cause the formation.

Whatever causes them, Emry said the Wallacetown circles were not a hoax.



Aug 16<sup>th</sup> 2003.



Lawrence Holland wheat fields.



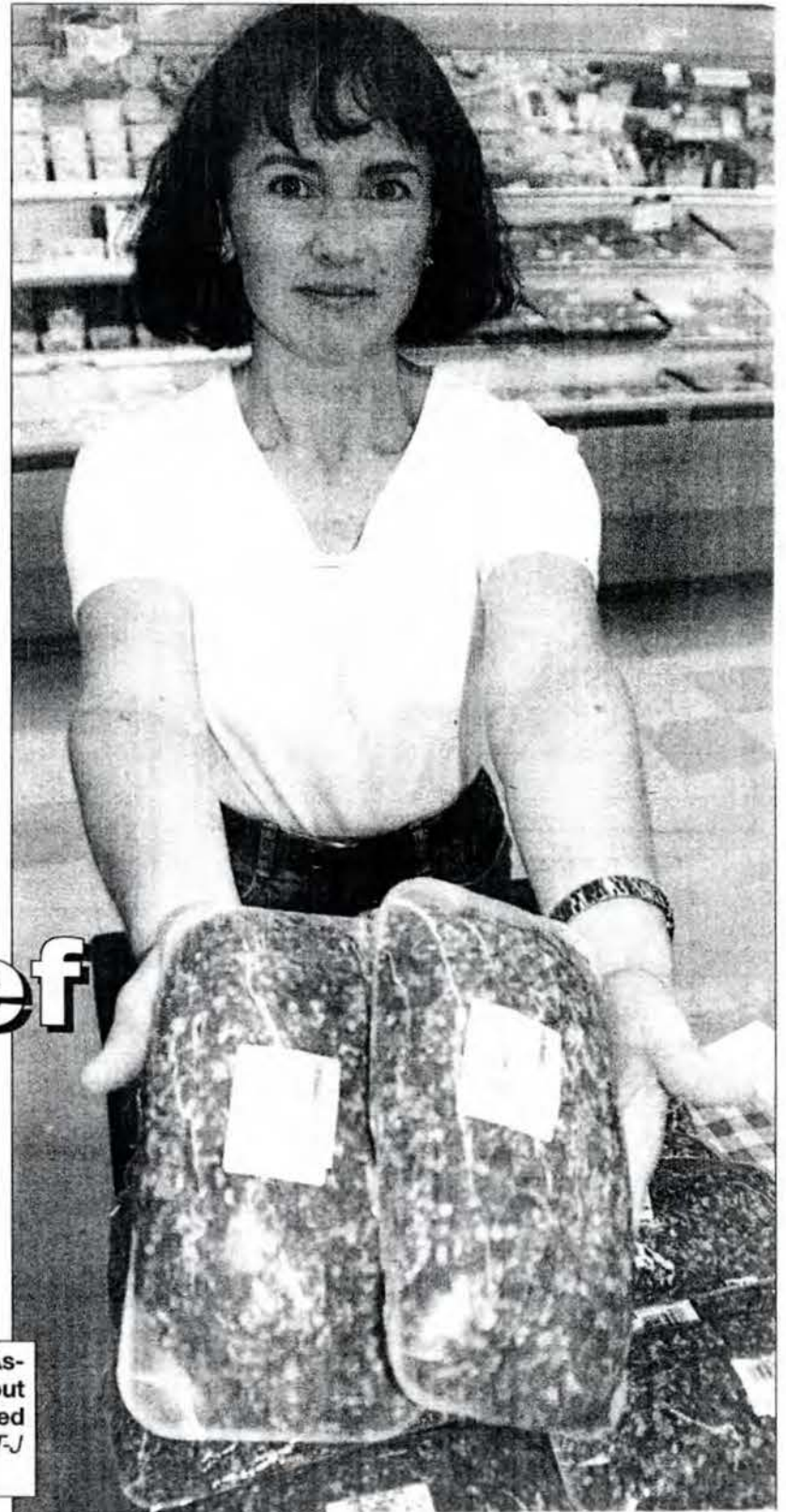
# St. Thomas Times-Journal



Chance of T-showers, 25

Monday, August 11, 2003

75¢ (incl. GST)



## No beef with beef



▲ MCKILLOP

By TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

DUTTON — Elgin County Cattlemen said thanks Saturday — one customer at a time

Their local association gave away 1,200 pounds of lean Ontario ground beef to shoppers at Dutton Foodland.

The producers were saying thanks for continued consumer loyalty to beef

which has helped sustain the industry through a mad cow disease (BSE) scare.

Canada is the only country in the world with BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) where beef consumption has been unaffected, said Ian McKillop of Dutton, vice-president of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association.

SEE EXTREMELY, PAGE 3

Nancy McKillop, Elgin Cattlemen's Association event co-ordinator, hands out some of the 1,200 pounds of beef slated for giveaway Saturday in Dutton. (T-J photo)

Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 2003

# 'Extremely grateful'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We're extremely grateful."

With prices down \$300 to \$400 for each animal following the collapse of exports, the impact of BSE on cattlemen has been devastating, McKillop said.

"But if we couldn't move the beef as well as we have for the last few months, it would have been just awful."

Customers who lined up for the Dutton market's 8 a.m. opening said it would take more than one cow with BSE in the Canadian herd to scare them away.

"As far as I'm concerned, there was nothing wrong with beef," said Helen Jones of Rodney.

In fact, Dutton Foodland owner Luis Leonardes, a sponsor of Saturday's giveaway, said that if anything, demand for beef is up.

"The consumer confidence in Ontario beef hasn't diminished. Our sales probably have been stronger."

McKillop said Friday's announcement that the U.S. border is to be partly reopened to Canadian beef is good news.

But, he also said, it's only a first step toward a return to normalcy.

"It's a major step, but by no means are we out of the woods. There's still a major crisis."

In the meantime, he said government must continue support programs.

St. Thomas  
Times-Journal  
**Business**

# Mad Cow woes continue for beef producers

Aug 21, 2003

BY MICHAEL JIGGINS  
TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF  
Mad cow disease.

Remember those three words?

Forgotten in the avalanche of coverage of last week's massive black-out is a crisis that continues to have a devastating impact on the Canadian beef industry.

And while a light is on the horizon for Ontario electricity users that life will soon be back to normal, there is no such luck for beef producers.

"There's a lot of people who won't make it in the industry," is Talbotville Livestock Exchange manager Bob Lethbridge's bleak assessment.

"They can't pay their bills, it's a pretty sad situation."

Cash has run out in a federal support payment plan to offset some of the huge losses producers are taking.

Agriculture Canada did inject \$36 million more in emergency funding to get the industry through to Aug. 31, but even with that Lethbridge wasn't sounding hopeful.

Already business at the Talbotville exchange is about two-thirds of normal, with the 435 cattle sold last weekend fetching between 35 and 60

cents a pound. Normal prices are \$1.05 to \$1.10 per pound.

"I don't know what this week is going to bring. I would think a lot less cattle. Everybody is in a turmoil thinking the border would have been open to live cattle by now, but it isn't," said Lethbridge.

Since a single cow in an Alberta herd tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease) on May 20, the Canadian beef industry has lost an estimated \$1 billion.

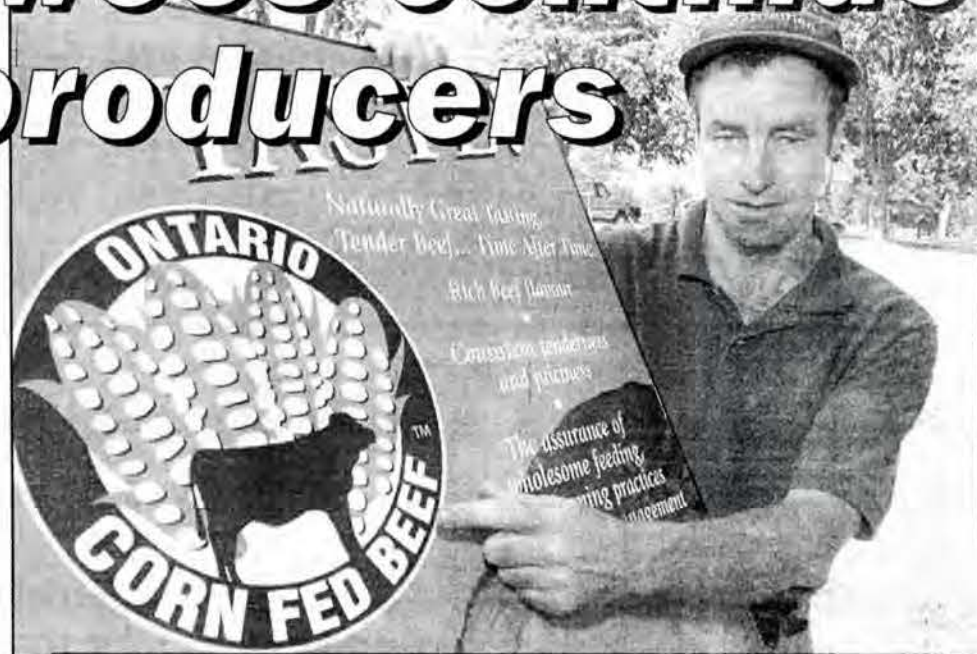
That figure doesn't include losses due to the drop in price at livestock sales or the spinoff to other rural businesses.

Elgin Cattlemen's Association president Ken McCallum said there was "a blip" of excitement when the U.S. announced Aug. 8 that it was partially reopening the border to some Canadian beef.

"People got excited, but it seems to have fallen back almost to where (the mood) was before," said McCallum.

The reason for the lost excitement? Little, if any, movement toward full access to the U.S. market.

Beginning Aug. 31, shipments of "boxed beef" (boneless meat from cattle under the age of 30



Ian McKillop, a Dutton-area beef producer and vice-president of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association, says it could take up to six months for the U.S. border to fully reopen. (T-J photo\*)

months and veal from calves 36 weeks or younger at slaughter) can cross into the U.S.

That means a reinstatement of about 40 per cent of the total U.S. market, which accounts for 75 per cent of Canadian beef exports, said Ian McKillop, vice-president of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association.

"There's a lot of concern. But at the same time with the recent announcements, people are cautiously optimistic that we're going to see more improvement down the road," said McKillop as he helped set up Wednesday for the Elgin cattlemen's annual beef barbecue in

Pinafore Park.

The best-case scenario for a full reopening of the border is six weeks, said McKillop, although six months is more likely.

Until then, it's a struggle to survive.

Ironically, even the good news regarding partial access to the U.S. came with a cruel twist.

Farmers scrambling to get their young animals slaughtered for export are finding Canadian processors don't have the capacity to meet demand.

And, if they opt to keep the animals over the winter, that, too, creates problems.

"It's sort of a snowball effect, the longer they're

held, the more meat there is to use at a later date," said McCallum. "It has to be dealt with at some point and the Canadian market will eventually get saturated."

Adds McKillop, "There's still a lot more government support needed to get us out of this mess. We're a long way from being out of this mess."

All of which explains Lethbridge's pessimism.

"There's lots of people talking, but that's all it is is ... talk," he said of efforts to re-open the border.

"It looks to me like we're going back to where we were before — maybe even worse off."

## Headline News

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 2007



### Medals return home

War medals belonging to William Harold Jacques, left in his uniform before leaving for the First World War where he was killed in action were returned to his youngest son Earl, from Dutton, right and on lap (left 1915) this month. After hearing the medals were recently sold on the Internet, grandchildren tracked down the medals and found them in England. A Birmingham England collector had bought the medals but agreed the medals belong with the family and sold them back for the cost he purchased them online. The Jacques family were delighted to get the British War Medal, Victory Medal and Memorial Cross back for future generations to enjoy.



**DUTTON / DUNWICH**

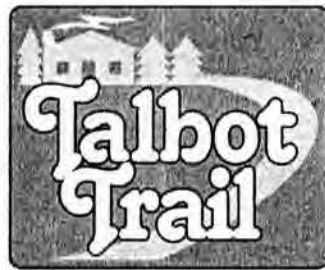
# Origins of the Talbot Trail sign in Elgin County

The cabin represents the homesteads the pioneers of the Talbot Settlement had to build along with 1/2 of the road in front of their property as part of their settlement duties.

This was a condition Talbot imposed... no road... no land. The trees represent the thick woods that the settlers had to cut down to make their grain fields etc.

The Emerald green represents Ireland - Talbot's birthplace and the colour of the forests of Elgin, the amber colour represents the hundreds of acres of

maize that the neutral Indians grew here before the advent of the Europeans and the amber field of wheat that followed. The white lettering and smoke call to mind the plumes of smoke arising from the felled trees being burnt to accommodate the wheat fields and the roads. The fires were used to create potash, black salts for cash. These new reflective signs of amber, green and



white are installed along the Talbot Trail. The Talbot Trail begins in Dutton/Dunwich at Port Talbot and extends east along Fingal Line (Cty. Rd. 16) into St. Thomas past the Military and Pioneer museums and the Jumbo statue and on to Talbot Street, through St. Thomas easterly through Aylmer to Heritage Line (Cty. Rd 38) through Richmond to Straffordville on (Cty. Rd.

19) Plank Road, south into Port Burwell where the Elgin County signage program ends but the historical trail continues east along Lakeshore Line to Longpoint.

Back at Port Talbot the trail extends westward along the Fingal Line to Currie Road to Wallacetown, East on Hwy. #3 through Eagle and New Glasgow to the Kent Line where the Elgin County signage program ends but historically the trail continues to Amherstburg. (Old Fort Malden).

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## The Backus-Page House Museum

The Backus-Page House Museum is one of the few remaining historical landmarks along the northern shore of Lake Erie open to the public. The Tyrconnell Heritage Society is restoring this historic Georgian style brick house and the property to the 1850 period in which it was built. Here in the heart of the Talbot Settlement, one may enjoy the beauty and peace that this rural setting provides.

Visitors are welcome to have a guided tour to learn about the original construction of this home, the role of the first settlers in the Colonel Thomas Talbot settlement,

and the local history of the Colonel, several of his men and its industry.

Attractions nearby are John E. Pearce Provincial Park, St. Peter's Anglican Church built in 1827, and St. Peter's Cemetery, the resting-place of Colonel Talbot.

The museum provides picnic tables, three nature

walks known as the Spicer Trails with plaque-identified trees on the Trans-Canada Trail, Carolinian forest for bird watching, a resource centre, meeting room, toilets and wheelchair accessible buildings. Museum Hours - June 1st to Labour Day, Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4:30, Saturday and Sunday

noon to 4:30 Closed Monday. Weekends September to Thanksgiving, Saturday and Sunday noon to 4:30. Other times by appointment for group tours -Admission by donation Backus-Page House, 29424 Lake View Line, 10 km. south of the 401 Interchange 149, Dutton Currie Road, Elgin County Road #8 Follow the signs



For further information contact: Tyrconnell Heritage Society, P.O. Box 26, Wallacetown, ON, N0L 1J0 (519) 762-3072 E-Mail: tyrconnell@execulink.ca





- Tyrconnell
- Wallacetown

# Dutton/Dunwich

## Colonel Talbot got us started...

Reality based T.V. shows are everywhere today... but we all know that if push came to shove the producers would stop in, rather than risk the death of one of their participants.

When Col. Thomas Talbot landed at the mouth of a creek on the north shore of Lake Erie, in what was later called Dunwich Township, in 1803, there were no producers, directors or cameramen! The settlers that followed were totally dependent on themselves. No big box store for lumber needs, no associates to assist you, no power tools... nothing but muscle, bone and ingenuity.

Part of the entitlement duties each settler was obligated to do to get clear title to his land was to clear 10 acres, build a dwelling/or barn, plant a crop, and clear the road allowance in from their property... or no land!

Imagine, no chain saws, no log splitters, only a handful of horses and oxen in all of Canada West (Upper Canada - Southern Ontario)... so most had to chop with axe or a two man saw... many trees were sweet chestnut, ash or oak... some bigger than several men could span linked arm to arm.

This road built by these men was later referred to

as the Talbot Trail. The very beginnings are here in Elgin on the Fingal Line just west of Burwell's corner (at Iona Road) at the top of the hill at Port Talbot where a stone chair now stands.

Today that trail is

hike a few kms. In a Carolinian Forest, or... challenge yourself to walk the Talbot Trail on the grassy road allowances.

Start at Port Talbot, walk what you can... mark where you ended and begin there next time. How

after the Yankee's raid in the War of 1812? Don't forget... you must keep the wheat/flour dry and you have no plastic. Interested in hearing more about the settlers and their hardships? Visit the Tourist Association website [www.elgintourist.com](http://www.elgintourist.com) or any local library. There are several books on the Talbot settlement.

Backus / Page House is a living museum in the heart of the Talbot settlement, Dutton/Dunwich. It's a great place to learn about Elgin's beginnings and see some of the lifestyles of bygone days... or take the family on the Spicer Trail for a more sedate hike where the

various tree specimens are labeled... so it too is a learning experience. Now that's life!



blazed through Elgin with eye catching emerald green and amber reflective signs going east to the county line outside Port Burwell and west to the Elgin-Kent Line on Highway 3. The westerly route then led to Fort Malden (Amherstburg) and in the east to Longpoint and the settlements and Fort at Niagara and Fort Erie.

Want to experience even a portion of what these settlers had to deal with? Park your car and hike the Trans Canada Trail in Dutton/Dunwich and see what it's like to

long will it take you? Can you do it? What if you had to carry a 30 pound sack of wheat to the mill at Longpoint... the only mill left

### The Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich

#### The Heart of the Talbot Settlement

- Heritage Sites: Backus/Page House, Historical Churches & Cemeteries
- Artisan Studios & Galleries
- Antique & Gift Shops
- Farm Markets
- Bed & Breakfast
- Camping Facilities
- Golfing & Cycling
- Theatre: WEDS Performing Arts Centre
- Parks & Trails: John E. Pearce Provincial Park, Buttermilk Bog, Spicer Trail, Trans Canada Trail

Located 20 Minutes West of London on Highway #401

Aug 13 / 2004

# New board for apple growers

**BY PATRICK BRENNAN**  
*TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF*  
**DUTTON/DUNWICH** —  
 Representatives for Ontario's apple growers were all smiles

Thursday with the announcement of a new marketing board unveiled at an orchard by Steve Peters, agriculture and food minister and Liberal MPP for Elgin-

Middlesex-London. "This is a significant industry that needs support," Brian Gilroy, vice-chairman of the newly created Ontario Apple Growers marketing board said after Peters made the announcement. "Having a unified voice will answer that support need."

SEE EXPANDING, PAGE 3



Rien VanBrenk, left, an apple producer in Dutton/Dunwich, and Steve Peters, Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food and Liberal MPP for Elgin-Middlesex-London, enjoy an apple break at VanBrenk's farm Thursday where Peters announced the creation of the Ontario Apple Growers marketing board. (T-J photo)

## 'Expanding opportunities': Peters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
 Peters, speaking to media and industry representatives at the 90-acre apple orchard owned by Rien VanBrenk, former mayor Dutton/Dunwich, said the board was created as the result of a vote taken in 2003 by the Farm Products Marketing Board.  
 In that vote, where 65 per cent of producers cast ballots, 72 per cent of apple growers said yes to creating a new marketing plan.  
 Apple growers were previously part of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable

Marketing Board, but only had one seat at the table.  
 "Growers now have a chance to take advantage of expanding opportunities," Peters said.  
 Peters paid tribute to the work of Gilroy in helping to create the board.  
 "That seed you planted is going to help growers," he said.  
 "Apple growers are committed to meeting the many challenges we face," Peters aid.



▲ GILROY

The board will have 10 members, two chosen from five districts covering the province.  
 Peters said the creation of the board reinforces the government's commitment to the industry.  
 Gilroy said the board will focus on issues such as research, education for growers, and government relations.  
 On the business side, it will concentrate on hard issues such as setting a price for juice, and improvements to crop insurance plans.  
 Peters said Ontario apple producers account for

50 per cent of the apples grown in Canada.  
 Ironically, the announcement was made during a growing season orchard owners say will yield only a moderate harvest.  
 Early frost and the lack of many long, hot days are factors, VanBrenk said.  
 "We're lacking the heat," Gilroy said. "As long as we get the heat, the apples should store well."





Rien , Steve Peters mpp Brian Gilroy.



Fruit Growers.



Fruit Growers