

The Canadian Sweet Chestnut

-Newsletter of the Canadian Chestnut Council-

Issue # 80 – June 2021



<http://www.canadianchestnutcouncil.ca>

Council Mission - to help restore the American Chestnut to the areas of Canada it once occupied.

Current Priorities

- 1) Breeding resistance
- 2) Breaking Isolation / Establishing Gene pool Nodes
- 3) DNA Analysis
- 4) Survey of existing Chestnuts in the wild

In this issue:

- Breeding Resistance – plans for the 2021 growing season (Dragan Galic)
- Breaking Isolation / Establishing Gene pool Nodes update and plans for 2021
- Colin McKeen – Founder of the Canadian Chestnut Council (Greg Boland)
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- In Memory of Dorothy Collin (Ron Casier)
- Leaf Project (Terry Anderson)
- Notice - 33rd Annual General Meeting

Breeding Resistance – plans for the 2021 growing season (Dragan Galic)



The 2021 season kicked off in mid-March, about a month later than usual. Despite all challenges brought by COVID 19, we managed to complete seeding by the 1st April. In total we seeded 3284 nuts. Since, seeding started one month later, the transplant to a permanent location will be delayed for fall 2021 but no later than the Labour Day. We estimate that seedlings will have sufficient time to reconnect with natural soil and have very good chance for winter survival.

This year we are planning to continue with inoculation of F2 (second generation) trees which reached 5 cm in diameter. We plan, by the end of June, to inoculate over 200 trees and during the season to continue with screening previously inoculated trees. Since 2016, we have inoculated 748 F2 generation trees and selected 9 trees as parents of F3 generation. The requirement for a tree to be selected as parent for F3 generation is for it to survive for minimum three years with superficial blight canker and extensive callusing. As of fall 2020, all nine trees were alive.

The tree pollination season usually starts in the first week of July with bagging of flowers, about 12 days later pollen application will commence. However, with sudden daily temperature increase the pollination season could start earlier. This year, we are planning to continue with intercrossing of selected trees within F1 and F2 generations. For both generations we will focus on trees without sufficient number of progenies.

Breaking Isolation / Establishing Gene Pool Nodes update and plans for 2021 (Dragan Galic)



Breaking isolation in Ancaster Area

Important parts of the CCC breeding program are breaking isolation and gene pool conservation projects. The aim of breaking isolation project is to provide pollen source for isolated and flowering American chestnut. To do so, we plant about 7 to 10 trees around mother tree. As the pollen source, we use grafted native trees and native seedlings. The grafted trees were used around trees with sufficient sunlight. Currently there are 66 trees in our breaking isolation program. In 2021, ten more trees could be added subject to funding.



Gene pool node at Cactus Creek Conservation Area

The aim of the gene pool conservation project is to establish an isolated colony of American chestnut various genotypes. Based on self-sustainability model about 100 trees should be planted at a colony. Currently there are 38 sites and subject to funding, 10 more could be added this year.

Colin McKeen – Founder of the Canadian Chestnut Council (Greg Boland)



Greg Boland, long time member of the Canadian Chestnut Council, has written a brief biography of the Founder of the Canadian Chestnut Council. The article has been posted on the Canadian Chestnut Council website. Below is the link to the article.

[Our Founder - Dr. Collin McKeen \(canadianchestnutcouncil.ca\)](http://canadianchestnutcouncil.ca)

Stewardship Agreement for The American Chestnut (Ron Casier)

The CCC is currently working with the Species at Risk Branch of the MECP to establish a Stewardship Agreement for the American Chestnut under the Endangered Species Act 2007. A proposed agreement was submitted by the council this past February and is currently under review by the SAR staff. A Zoom meeting was held on June 22nd to work on definitions and terminology with more to follow this summer. The plan is to have the agreement signed by the end of this year. The Stewardship Agreement will be enforced for 15 years and replaces the annual B permits which have been used since 2008. Under the agreement, the council will be responsible for the protection and recovery of the American Chestnut by following the Recovery Strategy and permit specific activities normally prohibited under the act.

In Memory of Dorothy Collin (Ron Casier)

Dorothy, wife of the late George Collin (long time director and fund raiser for the CCC) passed peacefully at home this past Mother's Day. As their youngest daughter Martha wrote "She had a special spot in her heart for Canadian Chestnut Council - particularly given my dad's (George) passion for the research centre in Simcoe and his passion for the chestnut tree that he seemed to re-ignite in the later years of his life." During George's tenure as Director of the Simcoe Research Station, Dorothy and him lived on site actually, which demonstrated their dedication. They were both active and stalwart contributors to our Chestnut community. After George's passing, Dorothy

continued her involvement with the Chestnut Council and never missed the AGM, where it was always a pleasure to catch up with her. Dorothy was actively involved in the Fergus Food Bank, Probus, Elora Arts Council, Mississauga Potters Guild, Ontario Bed and Breakfast Association and her Melville United Church community. Dorothy will be sadly missed but fondly remembered as is George for their contribution in the restoration of the American Chestnut and dedication to the CCC. In the autumn, the CCC plans a memorial for Dorothy- to plant an American Chestnut at the Simcoe Research Station near the tree dedicated to George.



CCC Leaf Recipients 2020

White Leaf (\$30 - \$99)

Alex McPherson
John Foster
Patricia Baldwin
Jocelyn Clarke
Carl and Agnes Santoni
Dr Daniel LeBlanc
John Drain
Paul Faires
Neal Stein
Adolf and Anne Wynia
Art Welter
John McManiman

Green Leaf (\$100-\$249)

Brian Wheeler
Tony Jovan
Robin Cunningham
Charles Hooker
Stan and Clara Wortner
Janet Kellam
Peter Rice
Charles Beach
Judith Harris
Keith Johnston

Bronze Leaf (\$250-\$499)

Andrew Pate
Kerry and Laura Margetts
Hugh Garrioch
Brenda Elliot
Ron and Pauline Casier
Terry and Candace Anderson

Silver Leaf (\$500-\$999)

Christian Schroeder

Gold Leaf (\$1000+)

William Barnett
Peter and Anita Bergen
Walter Zimmerman

Reminder - Membership Dues – a reminder that membership dues for 2021 are due. It is the Foundation’s policy to remove members from the mailing list after three years in arrears. Dues can be forwarded to our Membership Secretary, Terry Anderson. His new address and contact information is below.

The fee is \$25.00 and your cheque should be mailed to **Terry's new address**.

Make cheques payable to: the Canadian Chestnut Council.

Please send to:

Terry Anderson

261 Sandy Brook Way,

Kingsville, ON. N9Y 0A4

33rd Annual General Meeting 2021 – Oct 23, 2021

Either in person at Onondaga Farms or virtually, the 2021 Annual General meeting will take place on Oct. 23rd, 2021. Further details to follow. **Please reserve this time on your calendar.**

Want more information:

Website - www.canadianchestnutcouncil.ca

Contact - Mr. Ron Casier Phone - 519-631-5279 Email - ronjcasier@gmail.com	Membership Secretary - Terry Anderson Address - 261 Sandy Brook Way, Kingsville, ON. N9Y 0A4 Phone - 519-733-3796 Email - andersonterry419@gmail.com
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Council Directors – Chuck Beach, Ron Casier, Tim Casson, Gord Chinnick, Heather Dover, Neil Dunning, Doug Fagan, Stan Furman, John Hill, Ken MacGillivray, Nathan Munn, Christine Vey.