



Our House to Yours

Many people in Ontario, Canada, and around the world are far removed from where the food that they purchase from the grocery store is grown. Living in a big urban center or city, it's very possible that when the thought of a farm comes up, the image that gets generated is not too far off from "Old MacDonald and pitchforks". But living in a strong agricultural community we know better. OGVG member farms employ over 14,000 across Ontario, many right here in Windsor-Essex County. Today's modern greenhouse farms employ a wide range of people with a huge spectrum of talents and skills. You may think of those roles on a farm that directly involve the planting, harvesting, and packaging of vegetables, but there is so much more needed to bring fresh local vegetables to market, and make sure that they arrive fresh to stores and restaurants, and can be enjoyed

by families looking to make healthy choices. Not only do our greenhouse crop technicians work extremely hard to ensure all plants are taken care of throughout the growing cycle, but we have team members who supervise for quality and food safety. There are food scientists and pest scouting professionals. We have warehouse staff and supervisors, forklift and truck drivers, and logistics professionals who coordinate the delivery of vegetables to stores and restaurants. There are also lots of administration needs on the farm, so Human Resources, accounting, and IT professionals all help to support the growers and their operations.

Many of our larger growers also take on the role of marketing the produce grown and ensuring it is delivered to retail stores, wholesalers, and foodservice companies. Sales, procurement, and

commodity managers work with buyers to ensure the right amount of product is shipped for sale and arrives fresh and on time. We have packaging professionals that have been working on innovative and sustainable options that keep product safe in transit but are also better for the environment, and graphic designers who ensure that Ontario grown tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers stand out and compete for customers attention in the produce department of stores near and far.

It takes an incredible amount of people and skills to work in the greenhouse farming sector, and there are many opportunities for people in our community to work on a farm in ways that you might not have thought about before. Feel free to reach out to farms close to you should you be interested in such opportunities.

THE ADVENTURES OF Lady Bug

Today, the Ontario greenhouse sector employs over 14,000 people in a wide range of roles to bring fresh veggies to your table. Most are living and working in the communities we serve.

14,000 employees!

- LOGISTICS
- GROWER
- ENGINEER
- SALES & MARKETING
- TECHNOLOGY
- PLANT CARE



Charity Spotlight:

The Bridge Youth Resource Centre, located in Leamington, ON, provides resources and support to youth through a variety of programs and services, including for those who are facing homelessness or precarious housing situations within the Essex County community. In partnership with Peter Quiring, President and CEO of South Essex Fabricating and Nature Fresh Farms, this organization in 2019 was able to support the development of a supportive housing facility named The Quiring Family Fresh Start Housing building. It currently provides youth ages 16 to 24 with an opportunity to receive case management

support and programming to facilitate a youths movement to independent living, family re-integration or more permanent housing with supports programs. The general Resource Centre for youth ages 14-24, that is utilized by the supportive housing youth, has a recreation area (equipped with computers, games, and leisure activities), a nightly meal program, showers, laundry facilities, a homework area, and a chapel, and opportunities for education and job programs, as well as health and wellness supports.



The Bridge has also developed a Youth Leadership Committee. The purpose of the Youth Leadership Committee is

to enhance leadership skills of young people so that they can build on positive personal development and be empowering representatives of The Bridge Youth Resource Centre. The committee ensures that its members are engaged towards using their experiences as an active voice in enhancing The Bridge Youth Resource Centre's programming for all youth ages 14-24.

There are many ways you can get involved and support The Bridge, including monetary donations, as well as donations of essential hygiene and pantry items. They are also hosting their third 'SleepingOUT' fundraising event coming up on October 1st, 2021. Look for ways to get involved at: <https://thebridgeyouth.ca/>

Back to School Special Commodity Spotlight: SNACKING VARIETIES

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers have been instrumental in bringing a variety of new snacking varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers to grocery stores for your family to enjoy.

Grape and cherry tomatoes, mini cucumbers, and peppers are all wonderful nutritious options for healthy, tasty, snacks in lunches or after-school bites for kids.

OGVG and its member growers want to wish well all the parents, teachers, and kids heading back to school this week, and encourage everyone to have a safe and healthy school year!

Also, a reminder, that both OGVG and many of our member farms have wonderful websites full of fun recipes that are great for the whole family!



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