

Re-Elect Louis Roesch



I am a 3rd generation farmer in Chatham- Kent in the former township of Harwich. In 1969, I married my wife Clara and together we raised 8 children. We are now the proud grandparents of 22 grandchildren and have celebrated 54 years of marriage.

I cash crop 150 acres, have a farrow to finish hog operation, a small laying flock, a CFIA egg grading station, an on-farm retail outlet for our own processed pork, free run chickens and eggs. I also sell poultry products and aged beef, and offer pig roasts and a complete catering service for the Windsor, Sarnia and London area.

I have been an OFA member for over 30 years, served as PAC member and a past president of the Kent Federation of Agriculture. Presently, I am the Director for Zone One of the OFA, Essex and Kent Counties.

I was an OFA representative on the provincial Ontario tax committee to reduce duplication and streamline paperwork. I was on the HST committee, representing OFA's agriculture and small business sector. I spearheaded the resolution brought forward by the KFA to challenge labeling clarification on Ontario and Canadian products. I have spoken in Toronto, at Queen's Park, at the OFA workshop "Open for Business and Reducing Red Tape".

In 2009, I was invited to address the Agricultural Standing Committee in Ottawa about the competition levels in various agricultural sectors and solutions to improve farmers' and industries' competitiveness at home and in global markets.

I am a past director on the Kent County Pork Producers Board; a past member of the Chatham-Kent Buy Local Buy Fresh; a past member of the Grain Farmers of Ontario for District 2.

With the support of OFA and Ben Lefort, we in Chatham-Kent were one of the first municipalities to push back farm taxes from 25% to the current 22%.

In 2014, Clara and I were the recipients of C-K Chamber of Commerce award as Agriculturists of the Year.

In conjunction with the OFA, I had the first phosphorus project on our farm, for measuring and reducing phosphorus output from their field drains into the Lower Thames watershed. The levels obtained from this monitoring were much lower than government projections. This is a plus for agriculture in general.

I am currently on the Chatham-Kent municipal drainage board and have been involved with the infrastructure committee for roads and bridges.

I have been involved with making sure fairness is occurring for farmers on pricing of agricultural building permits.

There are many issues currently needing to be very carefully watched such as Bill 97 and Hydro Battery Storage Systems.

At present, I am on the negotiating team for OFA working with Hydro One and landowners on the new Hydro St. Clair Corridor. This team has already negotiated the Hydro Chatham to Lakeshore Corridor. This first corridor was negotiated without expropriation and with a significant landowner compensation. These negotiations for fair and equitable settlements for landowners have been at much higher compensation levels than previously negotiated packages. The third and largest project from the London area to Windsor has been started. These negotiations can be tough and take a lot of time. I feel I now have the experience needed.

With the current and future issues, the OFA will be dealing with, will have a major impact on agriculture. Now more than ever, we need an individual with experience and valuable contacts as your zone director.

Currently, I am working with Spirits Canada for equal access for Spirits to be sold wherever beer and wine are sold. The 400-acre processing and storage plant for Crown Royal in St. Clair township is also part of this project. All grains for this project will be locally grown.

I have many contacts: municipal, provincial and federal governments that are required to move projects forward or to show why they will not work.

I also have a good working relationship with OFA research team to help resolve your issues as they arise.

I ask for your support to represent you for another term as Zone One Director for the OFA. Please vote when you receive your information from OFA. All votes count. I can be reached at 519-351-7711.