



ONTARIO SMALL RUMINANT VETERINARY CONFERENCE - PRECONFERENCE TOUR

JUNE 9-16, 2019

HOSTS: DR. CHRIS BUSCHBECK AND JOCELYN JANSEN, SMALL RUMINANT VETERINARIANS OF ONTARIO

DAY 1 - SUNDAY JUNE 9

We will meet at the hotel in Toronto for an evening wine and cheese, tour orientation, and an opportunity to meet your fellow travellers.

DAY 2 - MONDAY JUNE 10

We begin the tour in Toronto with a visit to the CN tower to enjoy the sights and the brave can step out onto the glass balcony high above the city. We might be able to fit in a harbour cruise before boarding the bus eastward to lunch and our first sheep farm visit. John and Eadie Steele run 2000 ewes and are amongst the most innovative shepherds in Ontario. We end the day in Prince Edward County, home to some lovely wineries and beautiful beaches.

DAY 3 - TUESDAY JUNE 11

We first head to the Sandbanks National Park for some spectacular vistas, and after lunch take the ferry to tiny Amherst Island to visit two sheep farms in this unique setting in Lake Ontario. Overnight we stay in Kingston, home of Old Fort Henry (built to protect Canada from the invading Americans in 1812) and the Tragically Hip (an iconic Canadian rock band, not an old arthritic sheep vet).

DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY JUNE 12

"The Wilderness Day" - we head north to enjoy a day of rocks, trees and lakes. Along the way we will check out huge lift locks part of the Trent-Severn waterway, ancient petroglyphs carved over a thousand years ago by the Algonkian First Nation peoples, a chance to paddle a canoe and an overnight stay in the Kawartha Lakes, Ontario's cottage country.

DAY 5 - THURSDAY JUNE 13

After a leisurely start to the day, we will see several sheep farms near Lake Simcoe. Our first stop will be at a farm that is involved in breeding for parasite resistance and innovative use of forages. In the afternoon we visit a farm that has recently added milk as a second income stream in their operation. In the evening we will have food, fun and a possibility of gambling when we stay at the Casino and resort in Orillia.

DAY 6 - FRIDAY JUNE 14

We travel to the Collingwood area on Georgian Bay (Lake Huron) and visit the scenic caves and outlook suspension bridge. Lunch is at the Village at Blue, a ski resort that offers shopping, dining and lots of activities in all seasons. In the afternoon we stop at a small farm that has been milking sheep since 1995 and imported the first East Friesians into Canada. There we will have a BBQ before driving to our hotel in Kitchener/Waterloo.

DAY 7 - SATURDAY JUNE 15

We will spend the morning in Mennonite country, visiting the iconic village of St. Jacobs and Picard's, the Ontario peanut company. You will see plenty of Old Order Mennonites in horse-drawn buggies driving down the highways and may also see teams of draft horses cutting hay in the fields. After an authentic Mennonite lunch we will visit a goat dairy featuring a rotary parlour and end the day in Niagara Falls.

DAY 8 - SUNDAY JUNE 16

We will visit the Niagara Falls and take a ride on the 'Maid of the Mist', a boat that drives up to the bottom of the falls. Raincoats are provided. We continue on to Niagara-on-the-Lake where we will start our leisurely wine tour that will deliver us to Guelph and the various hotels by the end of the day.