

Maizex Seeds Inc. Announces \$150,000 Gift to Ridgetown Campus In Support of Reek Building Rejuvenation Campaign

January 6, 2011, RIDGETOWN, ON: Dave Baute is a true believer and active contributor in supporting youth and agricultural advancement. Joined by a crowd of over twelve hundred farmers and agribusiness leaders attending the Southwest Agricultural Conference, the Maizex Seeds Inc. president announced a \$150,000 donation to Ridgetown Campus' Reek Building – New East Wing capital campaign.

"We are a Canadian seed company with a passion for innovation in serving farmers and on behalf of the entire team at Maizex I'm very pleased to support this important project at Ridgetown Campus. This gift is made possible because of the support of growers from across Canada, and I invite my colleagues in the Canadian seed trade and related agribusiness to join me in supporting this capital initiative too," stated Baute.

Baute, a class of 1977 graduate and current chair of the campus' Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation, also added that "the campus makes a big impact in our agricultural community, and its continued growth and success is critically dependant on partnerships and support from alumni, governments and rural stakeholders."

This leadership gift is a stellar indication of support for the campus and will greatly help the Foundation's fund raising team on their way to meet their private investment goal. Money raised will be used to remove the current Reek Building gymnasium and build a new student and recruitment services facility.

"Dave is showing us the type of leadership in giving that has been a strong tradition in the agriculture and food community. He is an example for all of us in seeing opportunities to give back to projects that will make a difference now and in the future. Dave's leadership gift on this project is a tangible way of helping to make this a better planet by supporting long-term infrastructure for students who will train in programs to improve our environment, grow our food supply, enhance our communities and sustain our agriculture," stated Rene VanAcker, OAC Associate Dean, Communications and Corporate Affairs.

“Dave’s exemplary alumni leadership shines in his commitment to growth at Ridgetown Campus and he brings his passionate and creative character to every project at our Foundation Board,” says Liz Meidlinger, Manager, Communications and Advancement. “We’re very fortunate to have his dedicated leadership, and the volunteer efforts of our entire Foundation Board working for the campus’ betterment.”

Celebrating its largest student enrollment in history, Ridgetown Campus is a regional campus of the Ontario Agriculture College (OAC), University of Guelph. The campus’ vision; ***advancing society through agri-food research and science-based learning***, is conveyed through a continued commitment of service excellence in the areas of food, agriculture, environment and communities. This very generous gift also supports the University’s BetterPlanet Project; an opportunity to invest in University programs to make our world a better planet through innovation in teaching and research.



L-R: **Art Schaafsma** (Director, Ridgetown Campus), **Dave Baute** (President, Maizex Seeds Inc.), **Rob Gordon** (Dean, Ontario Agriculture College), **Gary Paling** (Vice-Chair, Ridgetown Agri-Food Foundation)

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