



# Canadian Racing Pigeon Union Inc. Newsletter – May 2015

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## President's Message

Dear CU Member,

It is that time again; I am sure most of you will have started old bird racing by the time you read this. I would like to wish everyone a great season and enjoy your birds. This is really what this sport is all about.

As most are aware the avian flu has affected some of our members which live in the quarantined zones, but hopefully it will be lifted soon, as per writing of this, there has been no new cases. Fingers crossed that this will be the end of this serious problem.

Denise has been very busy at the store. Product is moving well, which is a good thing for the membership. Please continue to support the CU store.

We are asking that all members please sign up giving the CRPU permission to send any correspondence by email. There is a sign up on the website. The Canadian privacy laws are very strict in regards to any company or corporation sharing any personal information of its members or sending correspondence without their permission. This can also be a problem with the band registration. We are not allowed to share this information unless we have written permission to post anyone's information. There is a fine associated with this, if the CRPU does not follow protocol. Please let the members know they need to give us permission and sign up.

The CU website is looking better every day. I would like to thank Sue Wiltshire for her many hours getting this website going. We are going to add a social page to our website through a Facebook page. Please bear with us until this massive project is complete. As most know the old website was in dire need of upgrades.

Thanks to all the board members for their hard work and dedication as we move forward with new ideas and a better tomorrow. Also, I would like to thank all members who have renewed their membership. Your support is greatly appreciated. Let's work together to continue to make the CRPU a great organization.

Yours in the Sport,

Sincerely,  
Brad Foster  
CRPU President



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## Meet Your New Directors

*Director – Mike Taylor – Barrie, ON*

[mdtaylor@sympatico.ca](mailto:mdtaylor@sympatico.ca)

Hello CRPU Members,

After thoughtful consideration, I applied for one of the open CRPU Director positions. I believe my business experience and passion not only of our sport, but the CRPU will be an asset to fellow board members and the membership as a whole.

My business experience can be viewed on LinkedIn: [Ca.linkedin.com/pub/mike-taylor/2b/b4b/90/en](https://ca.linkedin.com/pub/mike-taylor/2b/b4b/90/en)

As most flyers, I was introduced to the sport in my early teens, left and re-entered the sport after establishing a family and career. I joined the Barrie RPC in 1991, and I am currently a member of the Borden RPC which is located closer to my residence.

I currently serve as Borden Racing Pigeon Club Delegate to the Up North Pigeon Racing Combine.

CRPU priorities will continue to focus on By-Law and Health issues and guidance, with a strong emphasis on Communication to the membership and pigeon community. This communication will develop as we work on website, Facebook, Twitter, Blog, and/or Instagram options. However, a stumbling block has been working through the Canadian privacy laws, and is currently interrupting our reporting of lost birds and our ability to send out Newsletters. The Newsletter sign-up request can be found on the front page of the CRPU website. We cannot send out Newsletters without permission. Please pass this information along to fellow club and combine members, and your Facebook friends. The Newsletters are also posted on the CRPU website and can be found by clicking on the Members link at the top of the main page.

After almost 100 years, the CRPU is still the most effective National Voice for Canadian pigeon flyers. Vision, commitment, and strong business like leadership will help penetrate and secure the next generation of flyers. I believe and hope that I can be of some leadership value to the CRPU and its membership.

Mike Taylor

[www.tccloft.com](http://www.tccloft.com)

*Director – Tom Longhurst – Codrington, ON*

[tom-narda@hotmail.com](mailto:tom-narda@hotmail.com)

Hello members allow me to introduce myself. I have been married to the same wonderful lady for 39 years. I have three grown daughters, six grandchildren and one great grandchild. I have been involved with pigeons and poultry my whole life. I have raced pigeons for the last twenty five years. I became a director to do my part to re-establish the CRPU as the great icon it was when I started. With the support from the membership this group can accomplish this. Remember the CRPU can only be strong with the support of its membership.



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## Financial Update

The CRPU store has remained busy since the last Newsletter in January.

We currently have over 650 memberships renewed for 2015 and bands continue to be shipped out almost daily.

2016 Band orders are now due. The Band Order Form is included with the newsletter. Please fill it out and forward with payment to the office by May 31, 2015. **\*\*\* Absolutely No Exceptions \*\*\***

Regards,  
Allan Gauvin  
CRPU Treasurer

## 2015 CRPU Schedule of Fees

### Memberships

Individual Membership	\$50 (tax included)
Family Membership	\$75 (tax included)
Junior Membership	Free

### 2015 CU Bands

Sold in lots of 10                      \$0.60 each + tax

### CU Loft Registration

Includes Loft Certificate                      \$20.00 + tax

### CU Store Hours

Monday – Friday                      9am – 5pm

## KM-1 - Paratyphoid (Salmonella) Vaccine

The new vaccine is now available through the CRPU store.

The cost is \$168.00 for a 100 dose bottle.

Call the office to confirm shipping arrangements and costs.



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## 2016 Band Order Form Order Deadline May 31, 2015

### Club Bands - Personalized

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Band Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

City, Province, Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Letters (maximum 16) \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Starting No. \_\_\_\_\_ Ending # \_\_\_\_\_

Please be specific with the numbers. (Example #1 or #001)

### Individual - Personalized

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Letters (maximum 16) \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Starting No. \_\_\_\_\_ Ending # \_\_\_\_\_

Please be specific with the numbers. (Example #1 or #001)

**Shipping Cost must be included with payment.**

Traceable Package Cost / ON - \$10.95+tax

QC, NS, PE, NB - \$12.95+tax / AB, MN, SK - \$13.95+tax / BC, NL - \$14.95+tax



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## 2016 Band Order Form Order Deadline May 31, 2015

### Regular CU Bands

Name	_____	Membership #	_____
City, Province, Postal Code	_____		
Phone #	_____	Cell #	_____
Email Address	_____		
Quantity	_____		

### Club Bands - Personalized

Regular CU Bands (First 250 Bands)	\$150.00 plus tax
Regular CU Bands (Any Additional Bands Ordered)	\$0.60 each plus tax

### Individual - Personalized

Regular CU Bands (First 250 Bands)	\$150.00 plus tax
Regular CU Bands (Any Additional Bands Ordered)	\$0.60 each plus tax

### CU BANDS MUST BE IN LOTS OF 20's

Regular CU Bands	\$0.60 each plus tax
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Any member or Club Secretary can order less than 250 Individual Personalized or Club Personalized Bands but the minimum charge is still \$150.00 plus tax. This is because of the cost of creating the template for each person or club.

### PAYMENTS: VISA / MASTERCARD or CHEQUE

Visa	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mastercard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Card Number	_____		Expiry Date	_____
Cheque	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque Number	_____	

All orders must be accompanied by payment in full or the order will not be placed!

Please be advised that no orders will be placed after the deadline!



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## Health Issue

The avian flu has quarantined members in the Waterloo and Oxford area. We are monitoring this on a daily basis. If there are any changes to the quarantine we will post it on our website. Our sympathy goes out to our members who are in these zones. This is a very difficult time for these fanciers especially now flying season is upon us. Please make sure that all members vaccinate your birds against PMV. This is a virus that can affect the pigeon and we want to make sure that we are proactive to keep healthy birds. We have posted Dr. Chalmers's report in regards to the avian flu and the bio security we received from OMAFRA. Please read these articles. Please stay informed and follow the recommendations laid out by the CFIA and OMAFRA. We need to make sure that we are responsible backyard flock owners. We need to work with these departments as they have the power to close down any lofts who they feel might be a threat or breach of the quarantine. We will continue to keep our members updated as information becomes available.

## Dr. Chalmer's Report

**Brief Note: Avian Influenza in Pigeons and Doves**  
**Gordon A Chalmers DVM - Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada**  
**And Tommy E Erskine Charleston, South Carolina, USA**

An important scientific publication (see Reference) that reviewed over 80 previously published investigations related to Avian Influenza in pigeons and doves, appeared in 2014. This review examined the facts derived from these scientific investigations, and summarized several important topics that would be of interest to other researchers. It also offered several notable comments and conclusions that could offer more encouraging news for pigeon fanciers. Readers should note that the following points are several of those that appeared in a list of observations and conclusions by the author of this review, as follows:

1. Pigeons and doves can and do become infected with Avian Influenza viruses in natural situations, as shown by the presence of antibodies and the recovery of the virus.
2. Experimental studies show that infection in pigeons and doves can be produced by the inoculation of low to medium doses of virus. However, these birds usually would not develop clinical signs of illness, even when they are infected with Highly Pathogenic strains of the virus. "Resistant to infection" is a phrase that should be used with caution. Instead, pigeons and doves are susceptible to infection, but they do not effectively transmit and spread this virus. Thus, according to the author of this review, a more appropriate description would be that these birds are "dead end" hosts.
3. In pigeons and doves, virus will be shed for a short time in minute quantities from both the oral cavity and in the droppings, however, the amount of virus shed is below the minimum level required to infect other species of birds.
4. Inborn means of viral resistance in pigeons and doves are at play. These processes represent inviting avenues of research.



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5. When Avian Influenza is suspected, the brain is the best sample for testing even though the birds may not be ill or shedding virus.

6. The use of excessive doses of Highly Pathogenic virus in challenge experiments will produce clinical signs and death in pigeons and doves, but this is likely due to tissue damage as a result of the inflammatory reaction caused by these large doses of virus.

7. Transmission of virus through the egg in pigeons and doves has not been investigated experimentally, but this subject should be explored to exclude eggs as a route of infection.

8. Any significant role that pigeons and doves may play in spreading Avian Influenza is more likely to be by the mechanical route - that is, on their feet and feathers from contaminated environmental sources, or when dead pigeons are scavenged. As a pathogen, Avian Influenza virus is notorious for evolving to adapt to new hosts and means of transmission. Because of this fact, pigeons and doves should continue to be included in surveillance programs.

## Reference

Abolnik C. 2014. A current review of avian influenza in pigeons and doves (*Columbidae*). *Vet Microbiol* 170: 181-196.

## **OMAFRA's Report**

**Industry Advisory - Animal Health and Welfare Branch  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**

**Biosecurity Advisory**

**April 24, 2015**

**Avian Influenza Advisory for Pigeon Fanciers and Pigeon Racing Groups**

As of April 24, 2015, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed the presence of a highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza virus (HPAI) on three commercial poultry farms in Oxford County Ontario. This virus has been spreading across North America along the migratory pathways of wild waterfowl, so the risk is not confined to Oxford County.

Avian influenza (AI) can infect domesticated and wild birds, including chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese, pigeons and guinea fowl. HPAI can cause severe illness and death in domestic birds. Birds become infected when they have direct contact with the secretions or feces of infected birds, or with contaminated surfaces or infected food and water supplies.

Although pigeons are susceptible to infection with avian influenza, they are not generally effective at spreading the virus. However, fanciers should be aware of the possibility that pigeons can transfer the virus mechanically from their feet or feathers. Since HPAI can remain viable for long periods at low environmental temperatures, this is a very real scenario.

In addition, under the trade conventions in place with our trade partners, pigeons are defined as poultry. Since the control zones currently in place in Ontario are for the control of poultry, it is necessary to quarantine known



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premises with pigeons. Within the Avian Influenza Control Zones, there is no movement of poultry allowed, unless with a licence issued by the CFIA. For additional information, please contact your local CFIA district office.

At this time, pigeon fanciers are being strongly advised to take the following precautions:

- Do NOT attend shows, sales, and swap meets.
- Do NOT allow people who have recently been in contact with other birds (e.g., their own or attending a bird sale or show) near your birds.
- Do NOT share equipment with other bird owners.
- Do NOT add new birds to your flock until the outbreak has ended, since this is the number one means of bringing in disease.
- Do NOT race pigeons.

“Small flock owners, including pigeon fanciers, have an important role to play in minimizing the spread of HPAI. If the virus continues to spread within Ontario, the consequences to Ontario poultry owners could be severe, in terms of reduced markets for birds, eggs, poultry products and genetics.” (Dr. Greg Douglas, Chief Veterinarian for Ontario)

Be extremely diligent in observing your birds. Monitor mortalities and track feed and water consumption. Watch for any signs of disease, such as depression, decreased feed consumption, sneezing, gasping, a discharge from the nose or eyes, diarrhea or sudden death.

Early detection is critical.

**Should you suspect any signs of health concerns in your flock, contact your veterinarian immediately, or call the CFIA Avian Influenza Diagnostic and Surveillance number: 519-691-0615.**

**Additional information is available at:**

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/poultry/smallflock.html>

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/poultry/facts/12-039.pdf>

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/news/2015/2015-02a2.htm>

<http://inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/bird-health-basics/eng/1323643634523/1323644740109> Agricultural

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## Website Update

Our new website is still a work in progress, but we are moving along and hope to have it all complete by the first of June. Our biggest setback is the band registration. Due to our privacy laws in Canada, we need to get permission from each member to allow us to post members personal information such as name, address, and phone number. As this was a new law which came into effect July 2014 the CRPU did not have written permission from every club member. We are asking that members please sign up for us to send correspondence. The sign up is on the website. We are still working on how we are going to obtain permission from every member who is registered with bands. Hopefully we can come up with an arrangement that will allow us to keep our band registration without breaking the privacy laws. We will have a lost bird registry; it will just take time to get the permission that is required.

The online store is now working. We are updating some of the products soon and hope anyone who uses the online store find it simple to use.

The board has decided to have a social media page. We will be adding a Facebook page to our website. Mike Taylor, Sue Wiltshire, Tom Longhurst and Ken King will be the administrators. We are asking that if any members wish to share their stories or pictures please post them to our page. Keep a watch on our website for the launch.

We are asking that all club race secretaries send in their race results each week for posting on the website. There will be directions for sending the results to us. Please watch for the email account on the website for where you should send your results.

Thanks for your patience while the website is under construction.

Sue Wiltshire  
CRPU Secretary / Website Administrator



The following Beyers Plus products are available at the CRPU Store;

- HERBA ZYMA, conditioner
- AMINO Plus, amino acids and vitamins
- VITAMIN Plus, multi-vitamins
- MINERAL Plus, extra minerals
- BELVIMIN, vitamin and mineral mix
- ENERGY OIL, energy impulse
- E-VITOL, wheat germ oil
- GRIT EXTRA, mineral mix with red stone
- URTICA CHLORELLA MINERAL MIX
- DELI MULTIMIX, mineralen mix with herbs



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## Foundation Charity Auction

This fall, Robert Rotiroti plans to run another Foundation Charity Auction for the benefit of Toronto Sick Kid's Hospital. Details are being worked on now. Watch the next CRPU newsletter and Facebook for updates.

**Don't wait to be called on. Give Robert your support now.**

Contact Robert Rotiroti at 289-264-3416 or 905-478-4556 or email at: [robrotiroti@hotmail.com](mailto:robrotiroti@hotmail.com)

Or Contact Mike Taylor at 705-321-3333 or 705-722-3807 or email at: [mdtaylor@sympatico.ca](mailto:mdtaylor@sympatico.ca)



**Last event was held in 2010.**

Robert and Steven Rotiroti successfully ran a Foundation Charity Auction for the benefit of Toronto Sick Kid's Hospital at the Vandorf Community Hall (Ontario, Canada) on November 13th, 2010.

This event was supported with a LIVE-ONLINE by [Choicepigeon.com](http://Choicepigeon.com) and 100% of the proceeds raised (less auction expenses) was donated DIRECTLY to the Toronto Sick Kid's Hospital. Robert and Steve raised \$10,864.00.

Approximately forty birds were donated by local and out of area flyer's including birds from: Tony Alves, Rotiroti Bros, Big Andy, Chris Mitsiou, Jim McInnes, Ken Foster, Steacy Family Loft, Ron Hastie, Bruce Mathers, and Mario Rea.

Robert writes, "This is a great way to get a positive outlook on our great sport...The pigeon sport teaming up with charity can be very key to our success in getting GOOD NEWS into the media and into the public eye."

