

# Beanhaven is official cabbage supplier

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Thirty-five members and one guest (Walter Kropf), travelled to Beanhaven Farms outside of Embro for a tour for their monthly meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2014.

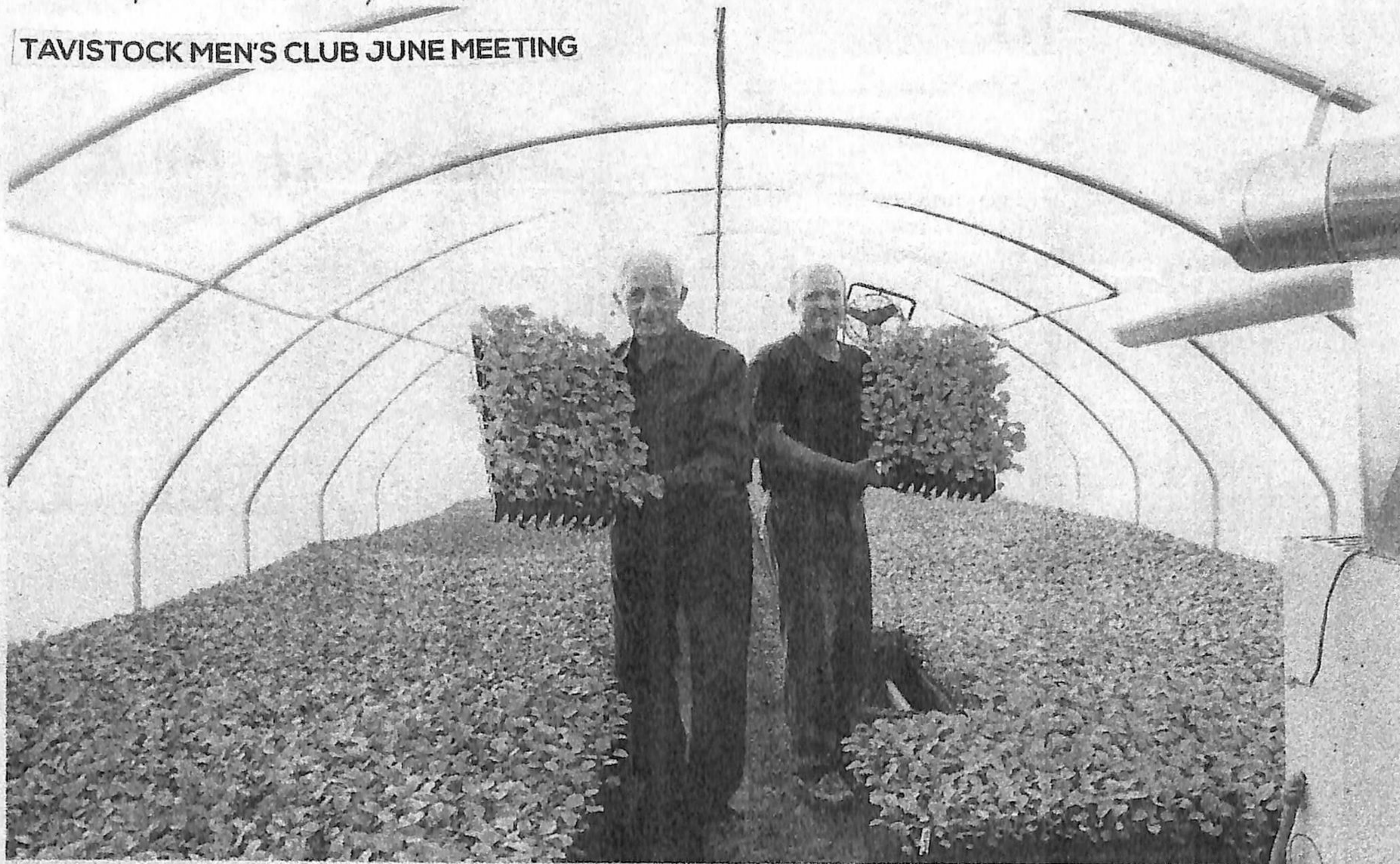
The members were impressed with the wide variety of production methods used by founder Peter Bess and his son-in-law, Roger Murray, in supplying vegetables for the Toronto Food Terminal.

Beanhaven Farms was founded by Peter and his wife, Agatha, in 1966. After 4 or 5 years, they were able to purchase their own 100-acre farm and started producing cabbage and rutabagas (turnips). Back then there were no machines, and everything was planted with a spade. Now they use a 4-row planter on 370 acres and grow their own plants from seed in nine greenhouses.

Since their daughter, Linda, and son-in-law joined the business, production has tripled.

The members were given a demonstration of the seedling planter for the greenhouses. It allows them to plant trays of 200 plants each in two hours to fill one greenhouse. They plant one green-house each week in order to stagger the 40-acre plantings and harvest times. Upon maturity, the plants are put in the ground with a 4-row planter guided by a GPS. A group of 12 Mexican workers live at the farm from June to November to

## TAVISTOCK MEN'S CLUB JUNE MEETING



**Beanhaven Farms' Peter Bess (left) and son-in-law Roger Murray display cabbage plants that are nearly ready to plant in the field. They will supply cabbage for the Tavistock Men's Club's Annual Sauerkraut Supper in November.**

BILL GLADDING / TAVISTOCK GAZETTE

assist with the planting and harvesting schedule.

Beanhaven grows crops of early cabbage, green beans, brussel sprouts, cauliflower and broccoli. He said they can have from 60 to 70 pickers at one time. They purchased a 10-row boom conveyor from Holland to aid in the harvest. Six wagons run continuously during harvest with 40 cases per skid and stacked 10 high.

The business started with no cold storage, but

today the company can store up to 3,000 bins of vegetables. To prepare for the coming harvest, they recently purchased 10,000 wax-coated boxes and 20,000 bushel baskets from Wellington Wood Products in Mount Forest. The company makes its own pallets from wood also purchased locally. "They're all put together by hand," Roger noted.

Beanhaven runs two 53' tractor trailers to the Toronto Food Terminal,

sometimes twice daily during harvest. Each truck holds 72 bins of cabbage.

This year the Men's Club is grateful to Beanhaven Farms who will be donating the cabbage for their annual sauerkraut supper. Men's Club members will slice, dice and press the cabbage into barrels, then ferment them for the exact length of time while being steeped in a secret mixture of herbs and spices. The results can be sampled at the Club's Annual Roast Pork and Sauerkraut

Supper held Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

During the business portion of the meeting, president Greg Pye welcomed everyone and a delicious ham and scalloped potato dinner was served by the St. Paul's Lutheran Ladies Guild. They were thanked by Ed Fellow on behalf of the Club.

Treasurer Roger Bender noted expenses for the month and gave a report on the Fish Fry. Secretary Bill

Gladding read the minutes of the May meeting. The 50/50 Draw was won by Jack Wettlaufer.

In correspondence, a thank you note from the Community 4-H Club was received. The Tavistock and District Historical Society submitted a letter regarding their support for restoring the Queen's Park gates.

The Club's Constitution was reviewed as amended and Al Calder made the motion to accept the new wording. Put to a vote, the motion was passed with 32 members in favour and no one opposed.

Discussion for the evening included the assurance that the Club will host an All-Candidates Meeting in October for the Municipal Election. Ron Wiffen announced that Steve Cahill received the Senior of the Year Award at the Senior's Picnic on June 18th.

Duane Kropf asked members to sign up on a sheet for duties on July 10th when members will cook breakfast for the North Easthope Antique Tractor Breakfast Club.

The Club's next meeting will be held on September 18, 2014.