

# CSA Newsletter

CSA Spring Newsletter

April 2000

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# President's Report

## President's Report

I've just returned to Canada after a brief stint in Adelaide, Australia. One of the results of my transfer of work has been a renewed appreciation for the importance of cooperation in research and extension. In Australia, as in Canada, the most valuable studies grew from effective communication and cooperative work between scientists from different disciplines and different institutions. Results from those studies were put into practice when the scientists conducting the research worked closely with extension and industry people to deliver the information. Where communication and cooperation broke down, results were less than stellar.

As agronomists, our work becomes part of a system which weaves together subjects as varied as resource sustainability, genetics, crop management, product quality, economics, extension and sociology. Partnerships across disciplines and institutions provide us with the opportunity to expand the scope of the work we

do, to more fully determine its impact in an agronomic system, and to ensure that the results of our work end up in the hands of the people that will use the information.

We need to ensure that the CSA is active in fostering information exchange and cooperation among agronomists. That is why I welcome the appointment of Dr. Steve Sheppard as the Executive Director for the Canadian Society of Agronomy. A large part of Steve's role is to

enhance communication both within the society and between the CSA and the "outside world".

Our newsletter and homepage, CSA-sponsored technical meetings, and interactions with the CCA program are tools that we can use as agronomists to help us improve our interactions with our colleagues and clients. As members of CSA, I hope we all work with Steve to make the most of these opportunities.

*- Cindy Grant*

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## Cross Country Check-up

### Québec

The “Ministère de l’Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l’Alimentation du Québec” (MAPAQ) has reorganized its resources in research and development into non-profit research corporations. Two of those corporations are of interest to CSA. The “Centre de recherche sur les grains” (CEROM) focuses on aspects of grain production such as productivity improvement, diversification, and sustainable development. The “Institut de recherche et de développement en agroenvironnement” (IRDA) has for mandate the development of solutions for agriculture-related environmental problems. Both corporations have the mandate to work with public and private sectors.

The “Conseil des Productions Végétales du Québec” (CPVQ) holds many symposia every year on different aspects of crop production. In march 2000, it held a symposium on biosolids entitled “Les biosolides: une richesse pour nos sols” and a symposium on remote sensing and precision agriculture entitled “1<sup>er</sup> Colloque sur la géomatique agricole et l’agriculture de précision”. Information on those two symposia and proceedings can be obtained on <http://www.cpvq.qc.ca/cpvq/default.htm>.

### Atlantic Canada

Dr. Allan Kwabiah, a soil fertility and biochemistry graduate of the University of Guelph, has joined the St. John's Feed Crop Management research team. He will be working with David McKenzie on soil and crop management in direct seeded forage systems with high manure loads.

The second Atlantic Agricultural Sciences and Technology Workshop (AASTW) will be hosted by the Nova Scotia Agricultural College on October 26 and 27, 2000. The two-day program

will focus on Technology and Opportunities as a central theme. The gathering will be an opportunity for those involved in agricultural research, extension, and specialized services in the Atlantic region to meet with each other and with farm and food industry leaders. A similar workshop was held two years ago at which over 200 people registered for a program which included over thirty technical sessions. The success of this event highlighted the need in the region for a regular forum for discussion of new developments in Atlantic agriculture.

Although NSAC will take the lead in organizing the workshop, the four provincial departments responsible for agricultural services, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Atlantic Veterinary College have agreed to be cooperators. We are beginning to plan the program in earnest, and are soliciting suggestions for workshops from colleagues throughout the region.

For more information, please contact:  
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Organizing Committee

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Phone: (902) 893-6653  
[d.patterson@nsac.ns.ca](mailto:d.patterson@nsac.ns.ca)

*- Gilles Bélanger*

## **Report on Joint-Meeting of Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) Board of Directors, Full Member Organization (FMO) Presidents and Registrars and Associate Member Organization (AMO) Presidents or Representatives**

February 19, 2000 - Lord Elgin Hotel, Ottawa

### Attendees:

AIC Board of Directors; President and Registrar/Executive Director for most of nine provincial Institutes (BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince-Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador)

### Society Representatives:

Canadian Society Extension (CSE)  
- Angela Petersen  
Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association (CCAA) - Don Good  
Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA)  
- Lianne Dwyer  
Canadian Society of Agrometeorology (CSAM)  
- Lianne Dwyer  
Canadian Society of Horticultural Science (CSHS)  
- Merv Pritchard  
Canadian Society of Animal Science (CSAS)  
- John McKinnon  
Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS)  
- Regis Simard  
Canadian Agricultural Economics Society (CAES)  
- Robert St. Louis absent due to bereavement

Society Board Representatives: Mick Price and John Proctor

The meeting began with an unscheduled summary of deliberations by Provincial Institutes the previous day. Glen Hass (Executive Director, Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists) proposed a

new organization for AIC based on full member status for Societies and Provincial Institutes and a \$15/member fee for all. Board members would include 3 representatives of the 9 Provincial Institutes and 3 representatives of the 8 Societies. A short-fall in membership fees (compared to current fees) would be partially made up through fees for specific services requested by all (or a majority of) Provincial Institutes and/or Societies. With this in mind, much of the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was spent discussing and then supporting or rejecting individual items in the AIC action plan recommendations. The AIC office will attempt, over the next few weeks, to put together the budget implications of the various items. In principle, Provincial Institutes and Societies will then be asked which items they wish to support.

A proposal to discontinue supporting an annual conference in 2002 was rejected. The consensus was that changes be made in the format of the annual conference but an annual conference sponsored by AIC was a useful forum for both Professional Institutes and Societies. Some societies indicated, however, that they would not participate in the conference every year as their membership wanted opportunities to meet with non-agricultural organizations.

In short, the meeting clarified the positions of both Professional Institutes and society member organizations. It was clear that Professional Institutes were not satisfied with the current cost of their membership and services provided by AIC. There was also a consensus that if it was affordable, all member organizations (Professional Institutes and Societies) saw value in belonging to AIC as an umbrella organization.

## Note from the Executive Director

I am very pleased to be chosen as the new Executive Director of CSA. I have done this sort of work in the past, and what I enjoy most is creating upbeat attitudes and changes that are viewed by others as important and beneficial. I also enjoy keeping and making contacts throughout Canada. I co-own a professional business, and the CSA office will be in my business office at 24 Aberdeen Avenue, Pinawa, Manitoba, R0E 1L0, telephone 204 753-2474, fax 204 753-2170, email 'sheppards@ecomatters.com'.

I should say a bit about my background. My B.Sc. and M.Sc. were done at the University of Guelph, and my Ph.D. at the University of Manitoba. My specialty was soil-plant relations. I then worked for 16 years with a Federal Crown Corporation, where among other things I did research on seed vigour enhancement, seed vigour testing and plant uptake of essential and non-essential elements. Much of my commercial work now deals with effects of contaminants, including ammonia, on plants.

The CSA, like many professional societies, is under pressure to re-invent itself in order to remain relevant. I suspect that the society role as a networking and information conduit is perceived to be of less value now than it was before the internet became so powerful. At the same time, the internet provides opportunities for the societies, and we will pursue these for CSA as best we can. My long-term emphasis will be on services rendered to and on behalf of the members. Possible services include book purchase discounts and a clippings service. My immediate attention is to provide a smooth transition for the CSA office.

- *Steve Sheppard*

## Award Winners

**Lorraine D. Bailey,  
P.Ag**

**Fellow of the  
Agricultural  
Institute of Canada**



Dr. Lorraine D. Bailey, P.Ag, is a senior research scientist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Brandon Research Centre in Manitoba. His career has focused on applied agronomy directly addressing problems associated with soil and crop management and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.

A native of the West Indies Islands of St. Vincent and The Grenadines, Lorraine studied at the University of Manitoba where he obtained an MSc in soil chemistry and plant nutrition. He got his PhD in soil-plant relationships from the University of Guelph.

Dr. Bailey's areas of research include soil tillage, fertilizer efficiency, nitrogen fixation, on-farm waste management, composting and management of heavy metals in soils and crops. Technology transfer and training of visiting foreign scientists are important parts of his professional activity as is service to the overall agri-food industry. He was instrumental in establishing the Certified Crop Adviser Program (CCA) in the Prairie Provinces and is currently chairman of the board. He is a past president of the Canadian Society of Agronomy and has served as editor of the Canadian Journal of Plant Science. He is a member of the Manitoba

Institute of Agrologists and is currently chair of AIC's Scientific Journals Committee.

Dr. Bailey was named a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy in 1994 and the American Society of Agronomy in 1998. In 1995 he was awarded the Robert E. Wagner Award (Senior Research Category) of the Potash and Phosphate Institute.

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**Jerry A. Ivany,  
P.Ag**

**Fellow of the  
Agricultural  
Institute of Canada**



Dr. Jerry A. Ivany, P.Ag, works as a research scientist and Assistant Director of the AAFC Crops and Livestock Research Centre at Charlottetown. He led the potato research program in Prince Edward Island from 1991 to 1997, after which he was appointed Assistant Director.

A native of Shoal Harbour, Newfoundland, Jerry studied horticulture at Macdonald College of McGill University, before going on to Cornell University for his MSc and PhD degrees specializing in weed science. He joined the Crops and Livestock Research Centre as a weed control researcher in 1971.

Dr. Ivany has conducted an ongoing innovative research program on weed control and weed biology in many crops. His research formed the basis for many of the current recommendations for weed control in the Atlantic region for potatoes, vegetables and cereals. He is noted for his research on weed competition effects and development of effective weed control programs in potatoes. He

has also been very effective in communicating research results to producers, extension personnel and crop protection specialists. He has published more than 600 articles on technology transfer and has authored or co-authored 47 scientific papers.

He has served his profession well as president of the PEI Institute of Agrologists and a National Councillor, and President and National Councillor of the Canadian Pest Management Society. In 1991 he was named a Fellow of the Canadian Pest Management society, and in 1992 was awarded the Dow-Elanco "Excellence in Weed Science Award" by the Expert Committee on Weeds. He has also served his community through membership in the Rotary Club of Hillsborough as President and a leader in the Rotary Student Exchange Program, as well as through leadership in his church and as a minor baseball coach.

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**Dr. Lianne Dwyer**

**Fellow of the  
Canadian Society  
of Agronomy**



Dr. Lianne Dwyer has worked at the Eastern Cereals and Oilseeds Research Centre, Ottawa, for nearly twenty years. Her work has focussed on crop physiology and production, principally in corn, but also with other crops including soybeans, barley and potatoes. Her early work was in the area of climatic and growth models, and the effect of water stress on the growth of corn. She has provided valuable input into the corn breeding program at ECORC by determining photosynthetic

rates and other physiological traits related to the grain yield of corn hybrids. Dr. Dwyer worked in the team that recently developed leafy reduced-stature corn hybrids which show considerable promise for the expansion of corn production into short-season areas. Her work has focused on the carbohydrate production and export in these new corn types. Dr. Dwyer is recognized nationally and internationally as an authority in crop physiological response to the environment and management.

Dr. Dwyer has also played an important leadership role within her research group, having served as section head, program director and study leader at various times during her career. She is known for her productivity and enthusiasm, and her ability to work with others.

Dr. Dwyer has been and continues to be involved as an advisor in a number of graduate student theses at McGill University and the University of Guelph. She is an adjunct professor of both universities.

Dr. Dwyer continues to contribute significantly to Canadian agriculture. She is a worthy Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy.

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## **Dr. Donald L. Smith**

### **Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy**



Dr. Don Smith has worked at the MacDonald campus of McGill University since 1985. He is known as a creative, energetic, industrious and prolific scientist. Dr. Smith has created a top-

notch crop physiology lab at MacDonald. He is a leading scientist in whole plant physiology and is well known for his pioneer work in soybean nitrogen fixation under cool temperatures, technologies for investigation of carbon, nitrogen and other metabolic substances, applications of plant growth regulators, plant-mycorrhiza interaction, development of new crops and agronomic systems for the cool and short growing season regions, as well as many other innovative and original contributions to crop science. In addition to the sheer volume of basic and applied research conducted, Dr. Smith's research demonstrates creative reasoning.

Dr. Smith has supervised more than 34 students in 18 Ph.D. and 16 M.Sc. degrees and he has participated in the supervisory committees or thesis reviews of more than 90 others. The quality of his research is recognized in requests to speak nationally and internationally. He has received over 2000 literature requests from 51 countries. He has published over 120 refereed papers in national and international journals.

His sense of humour, enthusiasm, curiosity and capacity for work are much appreciated by his students and colleagues.

Student evaluation of Dr. Smith's skills as a teacher and communicator consistently rated him among the top faculty. Dr. Smith's emphasis on publishing research findings has provided a positive role model to his students. He receives requests from around the world to supervise students, and he is known internationally from his extensive publication record in nitrogen fixation, plant nitrogen metabolism and crop nitrogen fertility.

In 1996, Dr. Smith spun off a company, now called Bios Agriculture Inc., to commercialize some of his research findings. The products of this company are directly relevant to Canadian farmers and show how basic research can be successfully applied in the commercial world.

Dr. Smith has received numerous honours and awards, including the CSA's Young Agronomist Award in 1994. He is a worthy Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy.

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**Adrian M.  
Johnston, PAg**

**Young Agronomist  
Award of the  
Canadian Society  
of Agronomy**

**Outstanding  
Young Agrologist  
by the Agricultural  
Institute of Canada**



Dr. Adrian M. Johnston, PAg, is well known in Western Canada for his enthusiastic approach to directing his research towards the needs of producers and agrologists. A native of Prince Albert, Adrian studied at the University of Saskatchewan, obtaining a Bachelor degree in agronomy and a Master's degree and a Ph.D. in crop science. In 1992 he was awarded a Post Doctoral Fellowship and worked at the Lethbridge Research Centre.

He has been an active member of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists for 17 years, served as president of the Melfort Branch, and served on the SIA Education Committee. As a research scientist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Melfort Research Farm, he has developed research programs on sustainable cropping systems, fertilizer management and crop rotations in direct seeding systems. Results from his research have been widely used and he has played an active role in technology transfer through public meetings, seminars, workshops and

conferences, and by publishing numerous papers. Adrian has also worked directly with producer groups, serving as a director-at-large with the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association, and an on-farm research advisor with the Northeast Agricultural Research Foundation.

Dr. Johnston has been requested to act as a scientific authority on national and international agricultural research and development projects. He is a strong supporter of training and continuing education, serving as a reviewer of performance objectives for the International Certified Crop Advisor program.

Dr. Johnston's contributions are widely recognized by his peers. For this, he has been doubly honoured as Outstanding Young Agrologist by the Agricultural Institute of Canada, and the Young Agronomist Award of the Canadian Society of Agronomy.

## Final Call for Papers

**Canadian Society of Agronomy  
Annual Meeting  
AgriFood 2000  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
July 15-20, 2000**

There is still time to submit a paper (oral or poster) for the Canadian Society of Agronomy annual meeting this summer. The deadline has been extended to **April 30, 2000**. Graduate students in particular are encouraged to submit their work, and enter the Graduate Student Paper Competition, which has cash prizes. Please remember that at least one author must be a member of CSA for the paper to be accepted. Students competing in the graduate student competition must be, or become, a postgraduate student member of CSA, regardless of the membership status of coauthors.

The format for registering a paper is different than in past years. You have two options:

1. Submit your title and abstract on the web: [www.agrifood2000.mb.ca](http://www.agrifood2000.mb.ca). This is the preferred approach.
2. Submit your title and abstract by fax using the form in the fall 1999 newsletter. Fax the document to Dr. Martin Entz, U of Manitoba (204) 474-7528.

## Comments

**CommentsComments** If you have any comments or items for the next newsletter, please send them to:

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### **Canadian Society of Agronomy**

The Canadian Society of Agronomy exists to enhance cooperation and coordination among agronomists in Canada; and to provide the opportunity to report, exchange, and evaluate information pertinent to agronomy in Canada. The Society is a non-profit educational and scientific society. The elected executive consists of the president, vice-president, past-president, secretary-treasurer and two directors from each of Eastern and Western Canada. The Society is affiliated with the Agricultural Institute of Canada. The Society hosts an annual technical meeting, usually in conjunction with the Agricultural Institute of Canada.

## Organization of the Canadian Society of Agronomy 1999-2000

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