



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello CSA members,

I feel honoured to serve our community of agronomists and field crops researchers in this role. Our society provides a forum for professional interactions, supporting new careers, and celebrating the achievements of our members. I am excited to be continuing this work.

As I take on the role of president, Sheri Strydhorst moves into the Past President role. Thank you Sheri for all the work you have put into the CSA in the last several years. You have left big shoes to fill and I look forward to continue to work with you. Our departing executive members, Jaswinder Singh and Caleb Niemeyer, also deserve many thanks for the time and effort they gave. And a hardy welcome to the new members: Mumtaz Cheema, the President-Elect, Amy Mangin, the Student Representative, Ben Thomas, The Canadian Journal of Plant Science Representative and Logan Skori, in the new position of Industry Representative. In the coming year we will work together with the other members of the CSA executive to support and improve our society.

This year we have all lived through unprecedented events. The realities of COVID-19 have rocked the foundations of many of our personal and professional lives and impacted each of us. In a normal year, the highlight for the CSA is our joint conference and Annual General Meeting. Last month we would have met in Saskatoon for the 8th International Crop Science Congress. Like all public gatherings, the congress was necessarily but unfortunately cancelled. Our AGM was moved on-line and was a success thanks to the diligent and careful preparation by Nancy Zubriski and Sheri Strydhorst. We had 43 attendees and no technical glitches!

A highlight of the AGM was the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS) and Canadian Science Publishing update presentation by Brian Beres and Josephine Sciortino, the Editor in Chief and Managing Editor, respectively, of CJPS. As CSA members we have a strong interest in the success of the CJPS. We can have an important impact by maintaining and increasing the Canadian content in the CJPS. Please try hard to submit at least one manuscript to CJPS in 2020 and continue to make it a habit every year.

Another highlight of the AGM was our award presentations. The Distinguished Agronomist award went to Bruce Coulman, the Early Career Agronomist award went to Bill Biligetu, and the Pest Management Award went to Matthew Wengler and are all very well deserved. What impressed me the most was that we received several nominations in each category; this shows that we have an impressive depth of superb researchers in our society. Without a conference venue to host presentations from Bruce and Matthew, we weren't able to fully honour them. We hope that this can be rectified at the 2021 CSA meeting in Ottawa. This meeting will be held June 12-17, 2021 as a joint meeting with the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science and the Canadian Phytopathological Society.



President's Message (Con't.)

In these unusual and rather uncertain times, the CSA will adapt. Our meeting in 2021 will hopefully be in person, hopefully face to face but maybe wearing masks, hopefully vaccinated and ready to re-enter the world. There will be posters and student presentations, and CSA awards given out. We are optimistically planning for this, but will also work towards a virtual congress, if that becomes necessary.

Certainly this year will be one we remember for the rest of our lives. I think that these times of radical change are also times for reflection. We have a chance to re-examine the priorities for our personal and professional lives. If we take time to pause, we can ask ourselves how we want to move forward. I think as a society it behooves us to ask how we want our CSA to look and what we want to do in the future – this year, next year, and beyond. We are a small society with plenty of room to grow. We are run by volunteer executive members. Each of us can get more out of this society as we contribute more into it. So I encourage you to be engaged with your CSA. Help your executive know where you want us to be, and how we should steer the society to get us there. Help us grow: encourage your colleagues to become members, to renew their memberships, and importantly encourage your graduate students to become members. This is our society and it will be what we make it!

Warm regards,

Andrew Burt, CSA President

Save the Date!

Upcoming Canadian Society of Agronomy Annual General Meetings and Conferences:

- The 2021 CSA Annual Meeting and Conference will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science and Canadian Phytopathology Society on June 12-17, 2021 in Ottawa.
- The 2022 CSA Annual Meeting and Conference will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Weed Science Society on November 21-24, 2022 in Halifax.

Please plan to attend these future CSA meetings.

2020 International Crop Science Congress

If you registered for the ICSC in Saskatoon and have not yet requested a refund, please submit your request to icsc2020.registration@mci-group.com. MCI group is managing the refunds. They have told us that they are working through the cancellation process and will be processing the cancellations as soon as possible. We will keep you up to date with any more information as they provide it.

Canadian Journal of Plant Science Associate Editors and Manuscript Submissions

The Canadian Journal of Plant Science is looking for Associate Editors and manuscript submissions. If you are interested in becoming an Associate Editor contact Dr. Brian Beres at brian.beres@canada.ca. For information on submitting a manuscript visit <https://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/pdf/10.4141/cjps74-034>

Meet the 2020-2021 CSA Executive

President - Andrew Burt



Andrew Burt is a research scientist and spring wheat breeder working with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada based at the Ottawa Research and Development Centre. Andrew's research program focusses on developing spring wheat cultivars for Eastern Canada, from Prince Edward Island to North-Western Ontario, with good agronomy, excellent disease resistance, and good quality for the end user. Andrew obtained his MSc Biology from the University of Ottawa and his PhD in Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph in 2011. He was trained in a maize breeding program that focused on inbred development and later worked as a research associate in a dry bean breeding program before joining AAFC in 2014 in Brandon MB to direct spring wheat breeding programs for the Northern and Eastern Prairies. In 2018 Andrew

relocated to Ottawa to focus on breeding for Eastern Canada. To this point of his career, Andrew has participated in the release of 44 maize inbred lines, five dry bean cultivars, and gained support to register seven wheat lines; he has authored and co-authored 24 peer reviewed research papers, and six published cultivar descriptions. Since 2014 he has worked as an associate editor for the Canadian Journal of Plant Science.

President-Elect - Mumtaz Cheema



Dr. Mumtaz A. Cheema, is a Professor – Agronomy in Boreal Ecosystems and Agricultural Sciences Program, School of Science and the Environment, Memorial University of Newfoundland, NL, Canada. He has approximately thirty years experience in agricultural research, teaching, and outreach activities. His research focus is to develop productive and sustainable cropping systems to combat the challenges of food security amid climate change. Integrated nutrient management practices that conserve or enhance soil quality and health through efficient nutrient cycling is also focus of his research program. He is collaborating with three industry partners to develop and test growth media formulations (wood ash, paper sludge, dairy digestate, rock dust, etc.) to improve soil physiochemical and biological properties, and their effects on growth and quality of horticultural and field crops. Recently, he earned \$1.3

Million research grant from Agricultural Clean Technology Program, Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation (TCII), Fisheries and Land Resources (FLR) and Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), to investigating the effects of crop rotation and nitrogen fertilizer stabilizers on soil quality and health; greenhouse gas emissions, nitrogen losses, growth, yield and quality of forage crops in boreal climate. Dr Cheema has developed innovative seed priming techniques to induce vigor and stress tolerance in crops under abiotic stresses. He has established very strong research collaborations with the industry, Provincial and Federal organizations, and with colleagues in the Memorial University and other Universities nationally and internationally. He has published 120 peer reviewed research articles and authored four book chapters/monographs. He regularly participates and presents his research work in professional societies meetings, national and international conferences, symposiums and workshops. He also presented his research as an invited **Keynote speaker** in many international conferences. He is actively involved in teaching of undergraduate and graduate courses and training of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and lab assistants. Dr. Cheema has supervised/co-supervised 44 Master, and 10 PhD students. Currently, he is supervising 3 postdoctoral fellows, supervising or co-supervising 10 MSc and three PhD students. He is Program Chair and Graduate Officer of Boreal Ecosystems and Agricultural Sciences Program. Dr. Cheema is actively involved in community services, editorial boards and a member of provincial research advisory committee. Before joining Memorial University, he was a visiting Professor at Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus Truro, and Professor of Agronomy at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

He has served the Canadian Society of Agronomy as an Eastern Director during 2017 & 2018.

Meet the 2020-2021 CSA Executive (Con't.)

Past-President - Sheri Strydhorst



Sheri Strydhorst is an agronomy research scientist with the University of Alberta - Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science; Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences.

Her work focuses on enhancing the profitability and competitiveness of Canadian agricultural crop producers. Her research program centres on maximizing the genetic potential of cereal cultivars by using cultivar specific agronomic management.

She completed her BSc, MSc and PhD at the University of Alberta. Her MSc work centered on developing agronomic practices for low tannin faba bean production and her PhD studied rotational benefits of pulse crops. She then worked as the Executive Director for the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission. Sheri returned to agronomic research in 2013 where her research activities focused on cereal crop agronomy. She works on advanced agronomic practices including: nitrogen fertility, plant growth regulators and foliar fungicides. Her most interesting work involves studying different responses of these agronomic practices on various wheat cultivars. Sheri Strydhorst focuses on extension of her applied research so that it can be implemented on-farm. She has strong partnerships with industry and is currently collaborating with SeCan, BASF and Syngenta. Sheri authored or co-authored 12 peer-reviewed papers and has made over 100 invited presentations at producer meetings to over 7800 producers, agronomists and scientists. She supervises graduate students, sits on graduate student committees and serves as an external examiner for numerous graduate student defenses.

She is a member of the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Prairie Grains Development Committee (PGDC), Alberta Regional Variety Advisory Committee, Wheat Initiative – Agronomy Expert Working Group Member, and Breton Plots Management Team. She has been a member of the organizing committee for CSA annual meetings in 2014, 2015, 2018 and 2020.

Sheri Strydhorst was raised in St. Albert, Alberta, but now farms with her husband, Shane and daughter Sarina, in Neerlandia, Alberta.

Secretary/Treasurer - Douglas Cattani



Doug has been involved primarily with perennial horticultural, forage and now perennial grain and oilseed crops over the past 30 years. He completed his undergraduate and Masters degrees at the University of Manitoba and PhD at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. He has been employed in academia, government and private industry and has worked in both Canada and the United States. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba with teaching responsibilities at the diploma, undergraduate and graduate levels in the areas of genetics and breeding, and agronomy of forage production. The areas of research that he is currently involved in are: herbaceous perennial crop development and agronomy (food, feed and forage); genetics as related to perennial crops; plant developmental morphology as it relates to both crop establishment and productivity; seed production and quality of herbaceous perennial crops; and the utilization of herbaceous perennials in the both agricultural and non-agricultural environments. He is also interested in the utilization of native

plant materials for agricultural purposes, both as food and feed crops and for ancillary purposes (e.g. N₂-fixation). "I believe in strong professional societies to foster professional development, for networking and to provide for the development of the next generation of agricultural professionals in Canada."

Meet the 2020-2021 CSA Executive (Con't.)

Western Director - Laurel Thompson



Laurel Thompson is an agronomic research scientist in North East Alberta. Her work focuses on agronomic solutions to increase cereal production and profitability, and has recently grown to include pulse crop research. Laurel explores interactions between cereal genetics, agronomic management practices, and the environment to assist producers in making targeted agronomic decisions. She has also taught the fungicide physiology component of the PISc 470 undergraduate course at the University of Alberta since 2016, and she provides teaching support for faculty in the Crop Technology program at Lakeland College.

Laurel Thompson was raised in Slave Lake, AB, and now farms grain and cattle with her husband, Duncan, in Mannville, AB. She completed her BSc and MSc at the University of Alberta. Her MSc work centered on assessing advanced agronomic practices for maximizing feed barley production, and on the interactions between feed barley genetics, advanced agronomic management, and the environment. Laurel has been in the Crop Research Scientist role at Lakeland College for four growing seasons, where she has grown and developed the agronomic research program in Vermilion, AB. Laurel's work at Lakeland College focuses on agronomic solutions to increase profitability and efficiencies for producers at the farm-level, and she works on cereal, pulse, and oilseed crops. Since 2016, Laurel has developed the new research program to include cereal and pulse agronomy and varietal performance, and a strong extension component to local crop producers and industry. Recently, her work has focused on wheat and malt barley responses to various mixtures of plant growth regulators.

Laurel Thompson has developed strong partnerships both university and government researchers, and with industry. Current industry collaborators include Mosaic, Syngenta, SeCan, Engage Agro, and Anuvia. Laurel is the lead author on 3 peer-reviewed papers and is a member of the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) and American Society of Agronomy (ASA).

Western Director - Gurcharn Brar



Gurcharn Brar is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at The University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver. He obtained his PhD from the Crop Development Centre of the University of Saskatchewan in March 2019. Originally from Punjab, India, Gurcharn came to Canada to pursue an MSc after obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Honours in Crop Protection) degree from the renowned Punjab Agricultural University, India. Gurcharn's graduate training focused on the study of plant pathogens, genetics/genomics of pathogen populations, genetics of host-pathogen interactions, resistance breeding, and plant imaging obtained through the University of Saskatchewan, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, National Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Light Source, and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre.

Currently, Gurcharn is working in the areas of crop pathology, resistance breeding, cereal genetics, and functional pathogenomics with collaborators from across Canada, the USA, the UK, and Australia. In the past, Gurcharn has served on several positions and committees in the Canadian Phytopathological Society, Canadian Society of Agronomy, Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Grain Crops, Plant Science Graduate Student Association of University of Saskatchewan, and Saskatoon Science Fair Committee. Gurcharn is a regular member of several professional societies including Canadian Society of Agronomy.

Meet the 2020-2021 CSA Executive (Con't.)

Eastern Director - Jamie Larsen



Dr. Jamie Larsen received his Ph.D. in Plant Agriculture with a focus on wheat breeding from the University of Guelph in 2012. From 2011 to 2018, his research at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Lethbridge Research and Development Centre focused on developing perennial wheat, perennial cereal rye, fall rye, winter durum and winter triticale for grain and livestock producers with the goal of maximizing the sustainability of cereal production systems through breeding, agronomy and molecular genetic approaches. In 2018, he transferred to the Harrow Research and Development Centre to revitalize the AAFC dry bean breeding program for Eastern Canada. The focus of his research program at Harrow is to breed for resistance to fungal, bacterial, viral and nematode pests. The program also places a large emphasis on method development in dry bean breeding, including speed breeding and incorporating near infrared reflectance spectroscopy and other high throughput methods to assess dry bean cooking and canning quality.

Eastern Director - Kathleen Glover



Dr. Glover completed a degree in agricultural science from the University of Guelph where she majored in Crop Science. She then did a M.Sc. at the University of Guelph specializing in forage agronomy and quantitative genetics. Dr. Glover went on to do a Ph.D. in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at Dalhousie University studying the genetic origins of tRNAs in plant mitochondria. Following her Ph.D. she worked in private industry conducting applied research in both field and horticultural crops and was subsequently employed as a research chair/associate professor at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College where her research focused on using nutrigenomic approaches to understand the effects of fresh forage and lipid supplementation on ruminant animal metabolism and productivity. She also worked with government and industry partners to

help improve pasture management for grass-fed beef production. Dr. Glover joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Kentville Research and Development Centre (co-located in Truro) in May 2017, as a forage agronomist. She has over 30 years experience in Plant Science Research including both basic and applied sciences.

Student Representative - Amy Mangin



Amy Mangin is currently a PhD student in the Department of Plant Science at the University of Manitoba under the supervision of Dr. Yvonne Lawley and Dr. Anita Brule-Babel. Her project focuses on intensive spring wheat agronomy for reducing lodging risk while maximizing yield and protein.

She was raised on a family farm near Mariapolis, MB, and obtained her bachelor's degree in agriculture at the University of Manitoba in 2013, majoring in agronomy. She worked as an agronomist for Pembina Coop where she obtained her Certified Crop Advisor designation. She completed her master's degree at the University of Alberta with Dr. Linda Hall focused on the efficacy of soil applied herbicides for herbicide resistant wild oat populations. After completing her masters, she went on to work for Dr. Don Flaten at the University of

Manitoba leading a project as a research agronomist, working on updating N recommendations for spring wheat in Manitoba.

Amy has attended and presented her research at many annual conferences, such as Canadian Weed Science Society and the American Society of Agronomy. Additionally, Amy is very active in extension activities in Manitoba as well as across the prairies at such events as Top Crop Manager's Plant Health Summit and Crops-a-Palooza.

Meet the 2020-2021 CSA Executive (Con't.)

Industry Representative - Logan Skori



Logan Skori is currently a Ph.D. candidate (expected completion – June 2020) specializing in the field of plant development and biotechnology at the University of Calgary. Prior to graduate studies, Logan completed his B.Sc. in Botany at the University of Calgary and worked as a Crop Production Advisor for Nutrien at the Killam, Alberta location. Logan grew up on a 1,600 acres grain farm near Kinsella, Alberta and has actively been involved in farming operations for 15 years.

Logan's research focuses on Canola pod development and understanding the genetic pathways that can be exploited to develop novel methods for pod shatter tolerance. His research also investigates the improvement of value-added traits (seed protein content) and the development of plant cultivars less susceptible to abiotic stress (frost, drought). Logan and his colleagues employ a biotechnological approach to investigate important research questions that involve the development of gene-edited and genetically modified plant cultivars. During his Ph.D. studies, Logan has been heavily involved in four peer-reviewed publications. He was a co-lead on a project which focused on the development of a green seed tolerant Canola variety, which was published in the *Plant Biotechnology Journal*. Following his proposed thesis defense in summer 2020, Logan plans to pursue opportunities in the agriculture research and development sector, under his agriculture biotechnology consulting company 'Skorbio'. His company will focus on the development of gene-edited traits and helping other companies establish successful gene-editing programs.

CJPS Representative - Ben Thomas



Ben is a Research Scientist in Agassiz, British Columbia with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, where he started as a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in Lethbridge, Alberta in 2016. Since then, Ben has authored or co-authored more than 30 peer-reviewed scientific publications. His recent research has mostly involved carbon, nitrogen and/or phosphorus cycling in response to organic amendments, cover crop management, land use changes and cattle grazing, as well as soil health and edaphic microbial responses to long-term intensive management practices. Ben received his Ph.D. from McGill University, where he studied labile soil organic matter and nitrogen mineralization in manure-amended soils of the Saint Lawrence Lowlands in Quebec,

while also studying nitrogen dynamics in poultry manure-amended soils as a Visiting Scholar at Trent University in Ontario. Ben completed his Master of Resource and Environmental Management at Dalhousie University where he studied how compost and fertigation interacted to effect fruit yield and quality in strawberry plasticulture in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia. Ben earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of Prince Edward Island where he focused on plant science, food production and philosophy. After a term as an Associate Editor between 2017 and 2019, Ben is now the Technical Editor of the Agronomy Section of the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science*. Ben is also an Associate Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Soil Science*. Ben would like to hear your questions, concerns, or suggestions for improving the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science*. Please feel free to contact Ben.

CSA Photo Contest Winners

Category 1: Agronomy in Action

Thank you to our contest sponsor.



First Place - **Malinda Thilakarathna**
Starving for Nitrogen

Second Place - **Andrew Hamermeister**
Checking seeding depth in field plots



Third Place - **Naqib Ullah Khan**
Wheat winnowing to separate the wheat grains and straw on the threshing floor

CSA Photo Contest Winners

Category 2: Crops and Biological Interactions

Thank you to our contest sponsor.



First Place - **Andrew Hammermeister**
Ladybird beetle protecting canary
seed from aphids in SE Saskatchewan

Second Place - **Anjan Neupane**
Winter wheat susceptible line with stem rust
pathogen pustules (*Puccinia graminis f. sp. tritici*)



Third Place - **Gurcharn Brar**
Bleeding Yellow - Wild Wheat Infected
with Stripe Rust Fungus

CSA Photo Contest Winners

Category 3: Landscapes and Fieldsapes

Thank you to our contest sponsor.



First Place - **Andrew Hammermeister**
Buckwheat grown in PEI potato
rotations for wireworm control

Second Place - **Malinda Thilakarathna**
Perennial Forage Mixtures



Third Place - **Gurcharn Brar**
Glittering Gold on Land of Living Skies - A
View of Wheat Crop in Saskatchewan

Canadian Society of Agronomy

Reviewed Financials for the Year Ended December 31, 2019

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
Year Ended December 31, 2019

	2019	2018	2017
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash	\$ 77,548	87,813	90,847
Accounts Receivable	1,000		
Grants Receivable	<u>8,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>\$ 86,548</u>	<u>87,813</u>	<u>90,847</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 0	1,845	54
SURPLUS			
Surplus	<u>86,548</u>	<u>85,968</u>	<u>90,793</u>
	<u>\$ 86,548</u>	<u>87,813</u>	<u>90,847</u>

Canadian Society of Agronomy

Reviewed Financials for the Year Ended December 31, 2019 (Con't.)

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
 Year Ended December 31/19

	2019	2018	2017
INCOME:			
Award Sponsorships	5,000	1,000	2,000
Conference		0	3,067
Corporate Sponsorships	625	11,000	
Grants	8,000		10,000
Interest	1,754	1,697	1,119
Member Fees & Subscriptions	<u>9,588</u>	<u>7,174</u>	<u>14,938</u>
Total Income	24,967	20,871	31,124
EXPENSES			
Advertising	500	543	
Awards & Grants	6879	5108	8141
Bank Service Charges	0	30	2
Bookkeeping Services		4678	
Business Licenses & Permits	20	20	20
Conference/Event Costs	300	3,868	2,126
Executive Director Fees	9,825	5,857	8,918
Honorarium	1,500		
Insurance	961	918	877
Miscellaneous	21	186	0
Office Supplies	906	441	255
Professional Fees	0	158	158
Subscriptions	1,669	1,571	2,241
Telephone	0		94
Travel	919	1,733	
Website	<u>887</u>	<u>585</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	24,387	25,696	22,832
NET INCOME	580	(4,825)	8,292
RETAINED EARNINGS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>85,968</u>	<u>90,793</u>	<u>82,501</u>
RETAINED EARNINGS - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 86,548</u>	<u>85,968</u>	<u>90,793</u>

Canadian Society of Agronomy Executive Committee 2020/2021

CSA Executive - Appointed at 2020 Annual General Meeting

PRESIDENT

Andrew Burt

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