



CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy

July 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Serving as President of the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) wasn't too challenging and was enjoyable! This is because, CSA Executive (<http://agronomycanada.com/about-the-canadian-society-of-agronomy/executive-members/>) has been a very cohesive and goal oriented team; everyone was so supportive! I am grateful to all of them. Our Past President, Dr. Brian Beres, was always willing to cover an extra mile and didn't take offense if I mistakenly crossed his path. He didn't miss even a single teleconference and acted as a Moderator for all our meetings. Thanks Brian! I guess my pay back would be to become as good a Past president as Dr. Beres and support our very capable incoming President Dr. Alireza Navabi. I also wish to convey my appreciations for some other Past Presidents (Drs. Derek Lynch, Gavin Humphreys, Malcolm Morrison, Rigas Karamanos, Shabtai Bittman and Yousef Papadopoulos) who were readily available for consultations.

After the sale of Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS) to the Canadian Science Publishing (CSP), we have enjoyed cordial relations with CSP. Funding support from both the CSP and the AIC has been invaluable. Suzanne Kettley, Executive Director CSP, will address a joint session of the CSA-CSHS. Your executive offered free membership to all CJPS editors. Some of whom had already paid their membership, generously opted to donate their membership amount to the CSA.

Thanks to Dr. Steve Sheppard our Executive Director for (i) timely communication to our members on CSA matters, (ii) his efforts to increase CSA Students membership, and (iii) also for coordinating with Dr. Caroline Halde who translated CSA web contents into French. The task is almost completed. Thanks Dr. Halde for your time and efforts. We probably need to do more on promoting CSA Membership; not only among students, but also among universities, Provincial and Federal Organizations, not for profit corporations and the industry. Many of our industry colleagues aren't our members. I would request all members to add CSA Website (<http://agronomycanada.com/>) to their contact information for emailing and other communication. Benefits of being a CSA Member (<http://agronomycanada.com/membership/benefits-of-membership/>) could be shared widely.

By the time you see this Newsletter, you will only be a week or two ahead of the CSA-CSHS July 24-26, 2016 Conference. Please take time to thank members of the Local Organizing Committee (Drs. Jaswinder Singh, Philippe Seguin, Valerie Gravel and Marie Therese Charles) who put a tremendous amount of time and efforts in organizing the conference, getting some sponsorships and making it a success! Your President attempted promoting the conference to ASA, ESA, INI and universities/and research organizations in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. We need to take this step further to make our future conferences truly international. We have over 88 registrants and 104 abstracts; some more registrations from Agronomists overseas are expected at the conference. We have an excellent group of key note speakers (Drs. Anja Geitman, Bill Deen, Fred Stoddard, Maurice Mulroney and Paul Fixen) this year. In addition, we will also listen to special talks by our award winners; Dr. Malcolm Morrison-Distinguished Agronomist Award, Dr. Dean Spanner-CJPS Best Paper Award and Mr. Gurcharn Singh Brar-Pest Management Award and a Plenary Session talk by Dr. Gilles Saindon. I am grateful to Drs. Deen, Fixen and Saindon who agreed to meet their expenses for presentations at their own.

It was a bit of challenge to get sponsors this year. Help from Drs. Rigas Karamanos and Alireza Navabi for bringing in sponsorship monies for the CSA is very much appreciated. Take a minute to thank them at our AGM at lunch time on the first day of the conference. I thank all sponsors for their financial support; details will be seen in the budget 2016. We will have our 2017 annual conference jointly with CPS; brief details may be seen in a note by Dr. Yvonne Lawley in this Newsletter that also has minutes of the AGM and financial statements of 2015. Your President is also working with other societies on our Joint Annual Conferences in 2018 and 2020; in 2019 we will have our conference jointly with Plant Canada at Guelph, Ontario.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Montreal!

Tarlok Singh Sahota
President

Helen Booker acclaimed for President Elect

Helen Booker is a flax breeder developing cultivars for production in Western Canada. Her research program centres on understanding the genetics of traits of economic importance in flax. She co-developed a course on Tropical Crops of the World and coordinates a course on Global Plant Genetic Resources.



Helen Booker was raised in Southern Ontario. She received a BSc and an MSc from the University of Guelph and a PhD in plant science from the University of the West Indies, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Canada's seed bank, Plant Gene Resources Canada (PGRC), Saskatoon Research Centre (AAFC). She then worked as a Research Associate in Cereal Breeding at the University of Alberta. Her move to the University of Saskatchewan in 2009 brought the opportunity to apply her training in plant breeding and experience with other self-pollinating crop plants (legumes and wheat) to the only university-based flax breeding program in Canada. Helen Booker as co-breeder with Gordon Rowland has released five new flax cultivars, including CDC Glas (registered in 2012), CDC Neela (registered in 2013), CDC Plava (first Northern Adapted variety; registered in 2015), and CDC Melyn (first high omega-3 yellow linseed variety) and CDC Buryu (both registered in 2016). Moreover, she coordinates regional pre-registration and Saskatchewan provincial variety testing for flax.

Helen Booker has authored or co-authored 19 published peer-reviewed papers, 2 published cultivar descriptions, and contributed to a book chapter. Since 2013, she has worked as an associate editor for the Canadian Journal of Plant Sciences. She has been a member of the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) since 2010 and was the Western Director CSA 2012-14. She was also on the committee for CSA Awards in 2013. She holds the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SMA) Strategic Research Program (SRP) Chair for the Flax Program and, since her appointment, has served as a director at large on the Board of the Flax Council of Canada (FCC) and as a Scientific Advisor to the SaskFlax Development Commission (SFDC).

Douglas Cattani acclaimed for Western Director

I have been involved primarily with perennial horticultural, forage and now perennial grain and oilseed crops over the past 30 years. I completed my undergraduate and Masters degrees at the University of Manitoba and PhD at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. I have been employed in academia, government and private industry and have worked in both Canada and the United States. I am 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 I am 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. I am also interested in the utilization of native plant materials for agricultural purposes, both as food crops and for ancillary purposes (e.g. N₂-fixation). I have been involved with the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba since 2008 and am currently the vice-chair for 2016-2017. I was formerly the community leader (2013-2014) for the Perennial Grains community of the Global Agronomy section of the American Society of Agronomy. 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.



New CSA Executive (continued)

David C. Hooker newly elected Eastern Director

David is an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph, based at Ridgetown Campus. David acquired his B.Sc.(Agr) in 1991, M.Sc in 1993 and Ph.D. in 2000 at the University of Guelph. David is a cropping systems specialist, with research interests that include genetics (interactions with management), plant nutrition, soil management and pest management. The goal of his lab is to improve production and economic efficiencies and sustainability of corn, soybean, and wheat production using an applied systems hypothesis-driven approach. David has published 28 peer-reviewed manuscripts (8 authored by former graduate students), and in the past 5 years, he has given 15 scientific conference presentations, and co-authored one book chapter on cropping systems diversity. Since 2011, David has advised two graduate students and co-advised another to completion of their M.Sc. As of May 2016, David advises or co-advises five graduate students, plus he is on the committees of five other graduate students. David has taught over 2,300 diploma students through five courses since 2009. David founded the Ridgetown Campus Soil and Crop Club in 2014. David received the Distinguished Extension Award from the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) in 2015. David is a member of the Ontario Corn Committee (OCC), Ontario Cereal Crop Committee (OCCC) and the Ontario Soil Management Research Sub Committee (OSMRSC). During the past 5 years, David has spoken at dozens of field day presentations, was the lead speaker in more than 20 media productions, and he has given over 100 scientific presentations to industry and grower groups. David likes to use Twitter to disseminate information. As of May 2016, he has over 4,900 followers with a reach of over 850,000 per year. David's effectiveness in research, teaching and extension is augmented with extensive on-farm experience, as he continues to farm approximately 600 acres in Elgin County in SW Ontario.



Why I would like to serve on the Executive: I am highly interested in enhancing and moving the bar forward in cropping systems and agronomic efficiency (my career mission), but I desire to have a broader impact across Canada. Serving on the executive of CSA would enable me to build the network to facilitate my career mission and also the mission of CSA.

Gucharn Singh Brar newly elected Student Representative

I was born and raised in the most fertile region of India, Punjab, also known as 'bread basket' of India. Being raised in a farming family, my interest was sparked in agricultural sciences while I was in my higher secondary grade. After qualifying and clearing a competitive exam, I was able to pursue my Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (honors in Crop Protection) from Punjab Agricultural University, India with highest distinction as a result of which, I was awarded 'ASPEE' Gold Medal. After, Bachelors degree, I moved to the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) for pursuing my Masters in Plant Science (expertise: host-pathogen interaction and resistance breeding) with Dr. Randy Kutcher. During my M.Sc, I served as Social Coordinator and Faculty Liaison on the Plant Sciences Graduate Student Executive (PSGSE) at U of S, where I was involved in organizing various social activities, attended all faculty/staff meetings to represent graduate students. In March 2015, I started my Ph.D in at U of S in wheat breeding and genetics (expertise: resistance breeding for FHB) with Drs. Pierre Hucl and Randy Kutcher. Presently, I am serving as Industry Liaison in the PSGSE, and was able to raise a total of \$8,500 for travelling to a graduate student symposium from industries/agencies. In addition to serving on PSGSE, I am serving as a Student Rep on the Canadian Phytopathological Society's (CPS) Strategic Planning Committee since August 2014, where I played an important role in framing the working plan of the society from student perspective. I am also serving as a Rep on the Education Committee of CPS, and for the first time in society, I organized graduate student educational video competition and introduced award in the society. I am actively involved as a member of organizing committee, scientific program committee, fundraising committee for 2016 Annual CPS meeting in Moncton, NB. Other than societies, I served as member and judge of the organizing committee of the Saskatoon Regional Science Fair for 3 years. I am also serving as a peer-reviewer for various journals namely 'Plant Disease' (reviewed 6 papers/disease notes), 'Journal of Plant Registrations' (reviewed 2 papers), and 'African Journal of Biotechnology' (reviewed 3 papers). For my excellence in academics, research, leadership, and service, I was able to get 16 different scholarships (4 major worth >\$200,000; but I had to decline two because of University policy) and 'Outstanding M.Sc. graduate student award'. Given the track record of successful experience from various societies and organizations, I think I am the best candidate for CSA Student Rep position. I am capable of planning, leading various activities and duties assigned, and fundraising. I am highly interested in this position, because I have experience from other societies and many ideas that I want to implement if elected, and my experience will make me a successful CSA Student Rep in future.



2015 CSA Annual Meeting Minutes—for Review and Approval at Conference

CSA Annual General Meeting

July 20th, 2015

At Botany 2015 in Edmonton, AB

26 members present

1. Welcome – Brian Beres to reside, Steve Sheppard to take minutes
2. Additions to Agenda. None arising.
3. Move to accept agenda by Pat Juskiw, second Ali Navabi, passed
4. Correction and approval of minutes from last meeting (Lethbridge AB)
 - a. Move to accept minutes by Sheri Strydorhst, second Mike Schellenberg, passed
5. CJPS Editor' report – Ali Navabi
 - a. 2014 data not yet available, in 2013 there was a ~50% rejection rate
 - b. 36 countries led by Canada, China second
 - c. 98 papers from government agencies, led by Lethbridge then Swift Current
 - d. 58 paper from other agencies, led by U of Guelph then U of Saskatchewan
 - e. Impact factor from 0.54 in 2010 to 0.91 in 2014
 - f. Steve to obtain report from Ali and distribute to members
 - g. CSA needs to nominate 2 Associate Editors, one in organic farming and one crop physiology, 3 year term with chance of one renewal
 - h. Ali move that Brian Beres be nominated by CSA for Editor, second Joseph Nyachiro, passed
 - i. Pat J thanked Ali for his work, Ali will finish as Editor with the last the papers submitted in 2015
6. Treasurer's report and budget – Yvonne Lawley given by Steve Sheppard
 - a. Budget available to members in July newsletter and as a handout at the AGM
 - b. Deficits this year because of no conference income and one-time legal fees and web site rebuilding fees
 - c. Steve move to accept 2014 financial report and budget for 2015, second Yosef Papadopoulos, passed.
 - d. Steve move to reappoint Anita Drabyk as financial reviewer for the CSA for the coming year, second by Pat J., passed.
7. President's report – Brian Beres.
 - a. Update on the dealings related to the sale of CJPS, including prospect of some income from the new publisher
 - b. Reasons for not renewing CSA membership in AIC were explained, including that CSA now has Officer's liability insurance independently from AIC
 - c. The retiring Executive members were named and thanked
 - d. We all need to help recruit members, it would be good if each member could bring in one or two new members
8. Past President's Report – Derek Lynch given by Brian Beres
 - a. Named the incoming Executive
 - b. Named student oral, poster and travel award winners and gave cheques to those present
 - c. Named Distinguished and Fellow awards and gave certificates to the Fellows (Distinguished certificate already given)
 - d. Named best Associate Editor and Best Reviewer awards and gave certificates
 - e. Gave cheque for Pest Management Award
9. Adjourn

2016 CSA Annual Meeting - Agenda

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY

AGM Agenda Sunday, July 24th 2016, 12:30 – 1:30pm

HOTEL La Plaza, MONTREAL, QUEBEC

1. Welcome
2. Additional items added to agenda
3. Acceptance of the agenda
4. Correction and approval of Minutes from last meeting
5. CSA Editor's Report including Journal Update – Dr. Brian Beres
6. Treasurer report and budget – Dr. Yvonne Lawley
 - a. Vote on auditor (re)appointment.
7. President's Report
 - a. Recognition of past executive/and Local Organizing Committee
 - b. BOD insurance (?)
 - c. Future conferences - Dr. Yvonne Lawley and Dr. Tarlok Sahota
 - d. Passing of gavel –Tarlok to Ali
8. Awards and elections – Dr. Brian Beres
 - a. New executive
 - b. Awards presentation
9. Adjourn

Dr. Harpinder Singh Randhawa receives the Gold Harvest Award

Dr. Harpinder Singh Randhawa received the Gold Harvest Award for Innovation, Collaboration and Service Excellence from the Assistant Deputy Minister, Science and Technology Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The Gold Harvest Award (Prix Moisson D'or) honours exceptional and significant contributions made by AAFC employees and partners through the excellence of the work they perform, the exemplary behaviour they demonstrate, and the positive results they achieve.

It is a great honor and privilege for any one to receive this award. Please join me in congratulating Harpinder!



CSA Financial Report

In this newsletter you will find the Profit/Loss statement and the Balance Sheet for CSA. The Balance Sheet shows net assets of about \$72,000. This is despite the loss in 2015 of \$11,305. That loss was largely because of lawyer fees related to the sale of the Canadian Journal of Plant Science and a fully revamped web site. The Profit/Loss shows our budget for 2015, the actual values for 2015, the year to date for 2016 and the budget for 2016. The most notable change is the \$11,500 sponsorship money related to the conference, which nearly matched our expenses for awards and travel costs for some of the award winners. CSA has done the registration for the Montreal conference, and this money is expected to pass to the Local committee and so is not included in this report. We project a zero profit from the conference as a conservative estimate.

Note from Secretary Treasurer about 2016 Budget:

Last year brought some big changes to the CSA and strategic investments made last year (seeking legal counsel about the sale of CJPS, website redeveloping) have been paying off in 2016. With the sale of CJPS from AIC to CSP, CSA entered into new MOU agreements with both organizations that have brought additional funding to support our annual conference. We are using these funds to enhance the quality and member participation in our annual meeting. The trend of declining membership continues to be an issue for our society. The executive has been discussing strategies to strengthen our membership renewal campaign for next year.

Yvonne Lawley

Balance Sheet for Canadian Society of Agronomy end of FY 2015

ASSETS

SUNOVA Credit Union Chequing/	\$6,645
Common Shares in Credit Union	\$160
SUNOVA Saving account	\$43,313
Pest Man Award Fund	\$21,453
Petty Cash	\$688
TOTAL ASSETS	\$72,258

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Retained Earnings	\$83,563
Net Income for 2015	-\$11,305
Total Equity	\$72,258
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$72,258

CSA Website Update

We are continuing to improve the quality of the CSA website. Dr. Caroline Halde (CSA Eastern Director) generously offered to translate key portions of the website so that content could be available in both French and English. Thank-you Caroline!

Do you have interest in helping to make further improvements to the CSA website? Please contact Yvonne Lawley at Yvonne.lawley@umanitoba.ca if you are interested in helping with this or other website development projects.

CSA Financials for 2015/2016

Item	Budget	Actual	Year to date	Budget
	Jan - Dec 2015	Jan - Dec 2015	Jan 1-May 31 2016	Jan - Dec 2016
Income				
Conference surplus from previous year	\$0	\$0	\$1,452	\$1,452
Member fees and subscriptions	\$10,000	\$10,716	\$8,712	\$10,000
Sponsorship for awards ^a	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Sponsorship of CSA aspects of conference ^b			\$2,000	\$11,500
Total Income	\$14,000	\$14,716	\$16,164	\$26,952
Expense				
Awards at conference including travel ^c	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$0	\$11,750
Bank service charges	\$12	\$9	\$0	\$10
Book keeping & registrar	\$500	\$140	\$0	\$150
Business license	\$20	\$20	\$0	\$20
Conference expenses on behalf of CSA ^d	\$2,800	\$4,005	\$0	\$2,985
Copying and reproduction	\$200	\$55	\$0	\$100
Insurance	\$815	\$815	\$846	\$846
Internet website	\$2,571	\$2,571	\$0	\$500
Office supplies	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$25
Postage and shipping	\$200	\$4	\$0	\$100
Professional fees (lawyer)	\$1,694	\$1,736	\$0	\$0
Fee for Executive Director	\$8,728	\$8,728	\$2,182	\$8,728
Subscriptions sold on behalf of CSP	\$2,000	\$1,473	\$2,528	\$2,550
Total Expense	\$26,065	\$27,056	\$5,555	\$27,764
Net Ordinary Income	-\$12,065	-\$12,340	\$10,609	-\$812
Interest Income	\$1,035	\$1,035	\$383	\$1,000
Net Income	-\$11,030	-\$11,305	\$10,992	\$188

Comments

^a AIC, SeCan and Monsanto

^b CSP, SeCan, GFO, Agrium, C&N Seeds

^c includes travel for Best Paper and Distinguished Agronomist Award winners

^d guest speakers specific to CSA

Save the Date for CSA's 2017 Conference

Plans are already underway for the CSA's annual meeting in 2017. A joint conference will be held with the Canadian Phytopathological Society **June 18-22, 2017** at the **Delta Hotel**, 350 St. Mary Avenue, Winnipeg. Save the date in your calendar and watch for more details this coming fall.

CSA EXECUTIVE

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