

CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy

May 2013



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I agreed to take on the position of President of the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA), I knew the position would require some of my so called "spare time". I was concerned that the position might take more time than I could afford to give. However, I knew that someone had to step-up and take on these positions and responsibilities. Participation of volunteers is an essential nutrient so that organisations like the Canadian Society of Agronomy can continue to flourish and provide an avenue for those involved in agronomy research to get together and discuss the challenges for crop production. To my delight, the CSA President experience has proven to be enjoyable largely thanks to the outstanding people I have had the pleasure to work with this year. The society is very fortunate to have such a great group working for us on the CSA executive and I want to personally thank them all for their efforts: **Malcolm Morrison**, Past President; **Derek Lynch**, President- Elect; **Pat Juskiw**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Yvonne Lawley and Helen Booker**, Western Directors; **Tarlok Sahota and Elroy Cober**, Eastern Directors; **Vijay Bhosekar**, Student Rep. I also want to acknowledge the invaluable support and assistance of **Steve Sheppard**, the CSA Executive Director, and **Barb Sanipelli** who keep us organised and are instrumental in making sure the business of the society gets done. It is again the time for "election" of new members to positions on the CSA executive. I would ask all members to consider joining the executive or nominate a colleague for an executive post. Only through active participation by the membership can we ensure the CSA will survive and grow as an organisation.

For 2013, the CSA has arranged a unique venue for its annual meeting, **The CSA 2013 Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the American Tri-Societies (ASA, CSSA, SSSA) meetings in Tampa, Florida, November 3-6.** The CSA has planned one day of CSA sessions; thus, CSA membership can attend both the Tri-Societies meetings as well as the CSA meeting on the same trip! I hope everyone will be able to join us in Tampa for the CSA and the Tri-societies meetings!

As CSA members who work for Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) know, the department has recently implemented Treasury Board (TB) approval requirements (directive 6.5) regarding total expenditures for functions attended by AAFC employees. For events where the cost of attendance by AAFC employees exceeds \$25,000, approval of Minister of Agriculture is required. The attendance of AAFC employees at annual meetings of scientific societies, such as the CSA, would most likely exceed the \$25,000 cap and require ministerial approval. Larger meetings of plant scientists, such as Plant Canada, would definitely exceed the cap. As a result, the CSA joined 12 other scientific societies in signing a letter to the Minister of Agriculture, Gerry Ritz, requesting "*that the annual meetings of the Canadian scientific societies be exempt [from directive 6.5] to allow the full participation of AAFC scientists.*" We sincerely hope that the message in the letter is heard by Minister Ritz because reduced attendance at society conferences will initiate a course of events which could result in reduced membership in Canadian scientific societies, and eventually result in the demise of the society and all of the benefits they bring to Canadians.

Lastly, I imagine that much of the CSA membership are either seeding or finishing up seeding plans for the 2013 field season. In Manitoba, a particularly, frigid spring has set us back a week or two but the cool weather resulted in a slow April snow melt. Consequently, the spring flooding threat for the Red River valley has been reduced and it appears that our seeding regime will soon be back on schedule. On behalf of the CSA executive, I wish you good fortune and success in all your research activities for the coming season!!

Gavin Humphreys
CSA President 2012-2013





Awards—Nominate a Colleague!

One of the nicest jobs of being Past-President is that you Chair the Awards Committee. It is a rare thing these days that anybody says thank you for the efforts we make for the industry and the nation, so it is good that we recognize the accomplishments of our colleagues. Our awards are based on service to the CSA and to Canadian agriculture. The four awards can be found at the web site: <http://www.agronomycanada.com/awards.html>.

We are changing the “Young Agronomists Award” to the “Early-Career Agronomist Award” which has as criteria that the candidate is making outstanding contribution to the industry and their science, and they are working within 10 years of the date of their terminal degree (B.Sc, M.Sc, or Ph.D.). To nominate one of your hard working colleagues, please go to the web site and click on an appropriate award to find the criteria. Send all of the required information to me at Malcolm.morrison@agr.gc.ca by **MAY 31, 2013**.

Appreciate your peers -- honour their efforts -- nominate them for CSA Awards.

Malcolm Morrison



Nominations for CSA Executive 2012

Your Canadian Society of Agronomy is run by volunteers who serve on the Executive. The Executive represents you, plans and organizes annual meetings, publishes newsletters, and grants awards to our colleagues. Serving on the executive is good for your career development, takes very little time and is quite rewarding. This year we need to find candidates for the position of Secretary Treasurer (2 years), Western and Eastern Directors (2 years), Student Director (1 year) and President Elect (3 years). The President Elect becomes the President the following year and then the Past President the year after.

To nominate your colleagues for the position, send the candidate's name and a brief (200 words, no publication lists) *CV* stating their position, interests, and why they would be great in the position to: Malcolm.morrison@agr.gc.ca by **MAY 31, 2013**. Please consult your colleagues before nominating them or nominate yourself.

I have always found it much more fun to be involved than to sit on the sidelines and watch as others do the work. Volunteer when asked, and give a little back to your society.

Malcolm Morrison

\$3000 in prize money
available to CSA student members!

Split among the 3 top oral and 3 top poster agronomy presentations
at the conference in Tampa.

Co-sponsored by SeCan and CSA

CSA 2013: Hey let's go to Tampa!

Water, Food, Energy & Innovation for a Sustainable World!

Tampa, Florida
November 3-6, 2013



Why? What for?

To participate in the Joint Meetings/Conferences of the:

Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA),
American Society of Agronomy (ASA),
Crop Science Society of America,
Soil Science Society of America and
International Society for Terrain-Vehicle Systems.

When and where?

The Meetings will be held at:

Tampa Convention Center,
333 South Franklin Street,
Tampa, Florida 33602

and

Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel
700 South Florida Avenue,
Tampa, Florida 33602,

Can I submit abstract(s) of the papers for presentation at the Meetings?

Abstracts needed to be submitted by May 14, 2013.

Let me know about Registration and Housing:

Registration opens on Tuesday, May 14, 2013. Registration fee increases after September 17; visit <https://www.acsmeetings.org/register> for details. Housing (<https://www.acsmeetings.org/housing>) too will open on May 14, 2013 at 11:00 AM EST.

Do I make my own travel arrangements?

Yes! For travel to and transportation within Tampa, visit <https://www.acsmeetings.org/travel>.

Any other details?

Find program details at <https://www.acsmeetings.org/program>, and for information on paid Tours/Workshops, visit <https://www.acsmeetings.org/tours-workshops>. Also visit Annual Meetings Home Page at: <https://www.acsmeetings.org/home>.

See you at Tampa in November 2013!

Tarlok Singh Sahota
Eastern Director CSA

CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, SASKATOON

Crop production is the basis for agriculture, by providing ingredients for food, feed and fibre. More than half of Canada's grain crop production comes from the prairies. Saskatchewan accounts for nearly half of the arable cropland in Canada.

The **Crop Development Centre (CDC)** was founded in 1971 as a field crop research organization which seeks to increase the diversification of crops and their products by improving existing crops, creating new uses for traditional crops and introducing new crops. In 2011 the CDC celebrated 40 years at the **Kernen Crops Research Farm** near **Saskatoon**. Located close to the center of the grain belt in Saskatchewan, today the CDC includes nine research scientists (seven plant breeders and two plant pathologists), and several professional, associated technical and administrative staff and graduate students within the Department of Plant Sciences, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, University of Saskatchewan. The CDC provides the genetic research and breeding platforms to provide improved crop varieties of most of the major crop kinds and classes grown in the Canadian prairies.



To conduct this research the CDC has access to a land base of 3,000 acres; 12,000.ft² of greenhouse space, field laboratories; seed storage facilities and a seed cleaning plant; a controlled-environment facility and the Canadian Light Source synchrotron. The CDC's contribution is one of the major factors for the changed agricultural landscape that we see today – a diversity of crops that include pea, lentil, flax, barley, chickpea, wheat, canaryseed and oats from the CDC enriching Canadian agriculture.

Through various projects funded by various stakeholders, CDC scientists also conduct and collaborate in agronomic studies, and carry out basic research into such important factors as winter-hardiness, nutritive quality, development of breeding tools, genetic basis of quality, agronomic and disease resistance, and many other disciplines. CDC is proud to have registered 395 crop varieties since 1971 demonstrating its contribution to agriculture on the Canadian prairies.

The CDC exemplifies a successful model for partnership between public and private sector, with core funding from Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, indirect funding and infrastructure supplied by the University of Saskatchewan, and operational funding provided through a myriad of research agreements with public and private sectors, as well as royalties from variety licensees. Over the course of the past year, CDC Scientists and the Managing Director met with several private sector companies and non-profit organization to discuss collaborative research initiatives, yielding new collaborative research agreements with a number of private sector companies.

Helen Booker

CLOSURE OF NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS IN ONTARIO

Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station (TBARS) Thunder Bay, where I am based was a part of the **University of Guelph**, as one of the three northern agricultural research stations in northern Ontario till October 2002, when the University decided to close the station probably due to lack of adequate funding from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.



Area producers resented the closure of TBARS, because they knew that the research done elsewhere would not be applicable on their farms with a relatively short/cool growing season. They organized themselves into the Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association, a not for profit corporation, and managed to reopen TBARS in April 2003 with five year funding (2003-2007) from the Northern Ontario Heritage Funds Corporation (NOHFC), wherein member farmers would contribute 25 % in kind/or cash and 75 % cash funding would come from the NOHFC. The second funding term was reduced to three years with NOHFC demanding more cash than in kind of the 25 % farmers' share of contribution. In the third/and current funding term only ~52 % of the total research station budget is funded by the NOHFC.

TBARS during its current funding term has been surviving because of the research income earned from the other collaborative research projects in and outside Ontario in previous years. However, it is certain that TBARS cannot sustain itself with this type of funding! After the retirement of John Rowsell, in charge Northern Stations, from New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station (NLARS with field and horticultural crops and livestock research components), no researcher was hired in his place. NLARS and its branch in Emo (Emo Agricultural Research Station or EARS) would have been closed but for timely intervention of area growers lead by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. NLARS has been given a lease of two years, for the community to prepare a Business Plan to sustain the research station at their own. From my experience at Thunder Bay and examples elsewhere, I can say that no regional research station could survive without adequate public funding support!

Another research facility, in the northern Ontario, that was announced in April 2012 to be closed is the Federal Experimental Farm at Kapuskasing with no researcher left on site. The locals there were able to push the closure to March 29, 2013. This past winter, the Economic Development Division of the City of Kapuskasing was undertaking a Feasibility Study and a Business Plan to explore ways and means to keep the show going. TBARS is looking for funds to undertake such studies as well. Closure of research stations is happening despite proven benefits from agricultural research. According to Keith Degenhardt, chairman of the Western Grain Research Foundation, every \$1.00 invested in agricultural research generates \$20.00 in benefits. Will people at the helm of affairs pay attention to such reports?

Tarlok Singh Sahota
Eastern Director

NEW EDITORIAL STRUCTURE OF CJPS

As you may already know the editorial structure of CJPS changed to a three-editor system including one Chief Editor, one 2nd year Editor, one 1st year Editor. Each year, the editor moves ahead by one position: from 1st year to 2nd year and 2nd year to Chief. This change should help accelerate the process and help us manage the large volume of MS that we presently receive.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Robert Nurse and Dr. Alireza Navabi who have accepted the position of Editor. The assignment of the MS will be as usual but you may receive MS either from me or Dr. Nurse or Dr. Navabi.

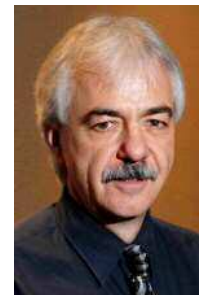
When assigning manuscripts to AEs, we try to match the subject area with the AE's area of expertise (keywords) as closely as possible, while also taking into account the need to approach, as well as feasibility, an equity in distribution of papers among AEs. On occasion, you may receive a paper that you think does not fit well with your research focus. In such cases we hope you will be able to find appropriate reviewers and work with them in reaching a decision on the paper.

Once again please join me in welcoming Dr. Nurse and Navabi for their commitment.

Shahrokh Khanizadeh
Editor-in-chief

IN MEMORIAM—DR. GUY LAFOND 1953-2013

Guy Lafond, aged 59, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 26, 2013 in Regina Saskatchewan. He leaves to mourn his beloved wife of 32 years Enid Oddleifson, his son Éric (Jessica Parker), and daughter Gaétane. Guy loved people. Nothing was more important to him than to connect with family and friends whom he would visit on his many travels. He also established strong friendships with many of the people of Indian Head and surrounding areas where he has lived and worked for 30 years.



Guy was an academic at heart. With a Masters from the University of Manitoba and a Ph.D from the University of Saskatchewan, he shared his research and knowledge in agriculture all over the world.

He was an active member of many associations in addition to the CSA, many dedicated to the advancement of agriculture. He had a passion for the better management of soil, plant, and water resources for future generations and the growing world population. Keeping abreast of innovations initiated by farmers, Guy would often be seen with them in a field or on a combine in the evening and on weekends. He loved the farmers and the farmers loved and respected him.

Guy was a visionary. He was instrumental in establishing the Indian Head Agricultural Research Foundation (IHARF). Farmers of Western Canada have credited Dr. Guy Lafond for changing the way they manage their land by embracing the zero till concept. Many profited from his expertise and tireless unbiased research which he eagerly shared all over the world including USA, China, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Australia and many European countries.

Family and friends are comforted by Guy's strong spirit, love and energy that is with us forever. Donations can be made to the Indian Head Agricultural Research Foundation (IHARF) Box 156, Indian Head, SK. S0G 2K0 in Guy's memory.

THE “NEW” CSA REGISTRATION SYSTEM AND OUR BY-LAW VOTE

Well, what a fiasco, as you all know. We decided in early 2012 that the registration and on-line payment system we were using was causing us too many problems. It was a Canadian company that was bought out by a US company, and in the process seemed to forget things like the names of the Provinces. We were also having major problems with mass emails using their system. We researched several alternatives and opted for a new system that seemed ideal.

Coupled with this was the need for us to get a large number of people to vote on CSA's transition to the new Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, governing our By-Laws. By-Laws bore most of us silly, but if they lapse then CSA does not exist. So we linked the vote to the renewal process.

For various reasons, the new renewal system was a disaster. The on-line form was complex and did not really serve our needs in the way we had anticipated. Due to some glitches in the data retrieval, the service provider took months to deliver the data files (who had registered) to us, and we can only hope they are complete. Their 'Help' desk took several days to respond to each inquiry. In April we decided to cut our losses and go back to the old system. In retrospect that old system now seems wonderful, and many of you have responded positively and used the system. Thank you for that.

At the same time, we started to use MailChimp to send our mass emails (this was one of the problems we set out to solve). MailChimp worked well except that some institute servers would not accept these messages. We devised a workaround and eventually the institutes solved their problem with MailChimp.

As a result, we are back to the old renewal system but with a new mass emailing system. The whole process cost CSA money that we did not need to spend, which is unfortunate, but we thought we had done the right level 'shopping' and 'due diligence'.

I thank all CSA members for their patience and understanding while we went through problems with the new system, and for responding to our requests for information. Your continuing support was very much appreciated. It made our jobs much easier and less stressful while we dealt with all the registration system issues.

For anyone who has not yet renewed for 2013, the online registration link is:

<https://www.regonline.ca/csamembership2013>

Steve Sheppard

CSA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Gavin Humphreys
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
195 Dafoe Road
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2M9
Phone: 204-984-0123
Fax: 204-983-4604
gavin.humphreys@agr.gc.ca

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Steve Sheppard
P.O. Box 637
Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0
Phone: (204) 753-2747
Fax: 204-753-8478
sheppards@ecomatters.com

PAST-PRESIDENT

Malcolm Morrison
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
960 Carling Ave,
K.W. Neatby Building, Floor 2, Room 2008
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6 Canada
Phone: 613-759-1556
Fax: 613-759-1701
Morrisonmj@agr.gc.ca

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Derek Lynch
Dalhousie University
Nova Scotia Agricultural College,
Dept Plant and Animal Science
50 Pictou Road
Truro, NS
B2N 5E3
Phone: 902-893-7621
derek.lynch@dal.ca

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Patricia Juskiw
Agriculture and Rural Development
5030 50th Street
Lacombe, AB, Canada T4L 1W8
Phone: (403) 782-8691
Fax: 403-782-5514
patricia.juskiw@gov.ab.ca

WESTERN DIRECTORS

Yvonne Lawley
University of Manitoba
Rm 222, Agriculture Building
66 Dafoe Road
Winnipeg, MB R3T2N2
Phone: 204-474-6504
Fax: 204-474-7528
ylawley@gmail.com

Helen Booker
University of Saskatchewan
51 Campus Drive
Saskatoon, SK
S7N 5A8
Phone: 306-966-5878
Fax: 306-966-5015
Cell: 306-260-1464
helen.booker@usask.ca

EASTERN DIRECTORS

Tarlok Sahota
Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station
B012 435 James St. S.
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7
Phone: 807-475-1373
Fax: 807-475-1313
tarloksahota@tbaytel.net

Elroy Cober
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, ECORC
960 Carling Ave
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0C6
Phone: 613-759-1610
elroy.cober@agr.gc.ca

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Vijay Bhosekar
University of Guelph, Dept. of Plant Agriculture
C310- Crop Science Building
Guelph, ON
N1G 2W1
Phone: 519-824-4120 ext. 54084
Fax: 519-763-8933
Cell: 647-831-1733
vijaybhosekar@gmail.com

Canadian Society of Agronomy

Steve Sheppard, Executive Director

P.O. Box 637, Pinawa, Manitoba, R0E 1L0
Ph: 204-753-2747 Fax: 204-753-8478
E-mail: sheppards@ecomatters.com
Website: www.agronomycanada.com