



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all CSSS members! It is a real pleasure to write my first President's message at the beginning of the new year that follows the International Year of Soils (IYS) and a very successful 2015 CSSS annual meeting that was co-organized with ISMOM and AQSSS. As indicated by the increasing quality of our Journal, continued success of our annual meetings, and ongoing initiatives spearheaded by our Society, the CSSS is well and thriving.

As the IYS, last year was a busy one for soil science community. The United Nations' decision to inaugurate 2015 as IYS is an important step in raising public awareness about importance of soils and their irreversible vulnerability to mismanagement. This culminated in the release of the first-ever *Status of the World's Soil Resources Report* by the UN-FAO and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils on World Soil Day in December 2015. Dan Pennock was one of the lead authors of the report and had the honour of formally presenting the report to the UN in New York on World Soil Day (Dec 5). A number of other CSSS members were contributing authors to individual chapters of this monumental text.

During 2015, a number of activities saw the enthusiastic engagement of CSSS members to help improve the visibility of soils and to explain their properties and functions. In addition to activities carried out by the CSSS IYS group that organized the Soil Movie Night during joint CSSS-AQSSS-ISMOM meeting in Montreal and produced the CSSS 2016 calendar, CSSS members organized numerous workshops, seminars, field days, and World Soil Day celebrations in their local communities. Please continue to carry the momentum created during the IYS, since it is essential that soil science remains at the forefront of the scientific agenda, on the agenda of policy makers and in public consciousness.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have finished their terms on CSSS Council: David Burton as Past-President, Bobbi Helgason as Western Councillor, and Francis Zvomuya as CJSS Editor. Their hard work and commitment in serving CSSS is most appreciated. I would also like to welcome the new members on Council: Joann Whalen (President-Elect), Wole Akinremi (Western Councillor), and Xueming Yang (CJSS Editor).

This year, the CSSS will be holding its annual meeting with the Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science in Kamloops, BC during May 14-19, 2016. Preparation for the upcoming meeting in Kamloops is well underway and more information can be found later in this newsletter. The annual meetings of CSSS are very important part of our Society. The excellent participation of graduate students at several of our past meetings demonstrates the vitality of CSSS and remarkable contribution of our Society in the training of young scientists. As the Chair of the Organizing Committee for this year's annual meeting in Kamloops, I would love to see a strong participation of the graduate students and their more seasoned colleagues. I encourage graduate students to take advantage of the available travel awards through their institutions and through CSSS.

Looking forward to seeing you all in May in Kamloops, which is located in a small, but extremely diverse grassland region of British Columbia.

*Maja Krzic*  
President, CSSS



## CSSS Council 2015

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## CSSS PRESIDENT'S REPORT: JANUARY - DECEMBER 2015

### CSSS Registration (as of Jan 5, 2016):

Emeritus:	10
Fellow:	12
Fellow Emeritus:	8
Honorary:	1
Post-Doc:	16
Regular:	125
Student:	111
Total:	282

2014-2015 (with David Burton): I participated in many discussions with the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) and CSP (Canadian Science Publishers), plus the Canadian Society of Agronomy, Canadian Society of Weed Science, Canadian Society of Animal Science and the Canadian Society of Horticultural Sciences about the sale of journals owned by AIC to CSP (Canadian Journal of Soil Science, Canadian Journal of Animal Science and the Canadian Journal of Plant Science).

2014-2015: I served on the planning committee for the joint CSSS-AQSSS-ISMOM meeting

### April:

Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CSP about the sale of CJSS from AIC to CSP. Terms of the MOU: same conditions as we currently have with AIC

Submitted a letter of support for the commemoration of John Dormaar, CSSS Fellow, through the naming of a lake after him in Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta.

Signed MOU with AIC about the sale of CJSS to CPS.

July: I chaired a luncheon celebrating the Year of the Soil at the International Stewardship Symposium in Calgary.

October: I gave a presentation on soil at the Café Scientifique in Saskatoon.

November: I met with SSSA president at the SSSA meeting in Minneapolis to plan for the joint North American Soil Science meeting to be held in San Diego January 6-9, 2019. SSSA will not meet with ASA and CSSA in autumn 2018, but will meet jointly with other soil science societies in January 2019 instead. I will serve as the CSSS representative for the planning committee for this meeting. I also attended Agronomic Science Foundation reception and President's Dinner at the invitation of the SSSA President.

December: I attended the Celebration of the 2015 International Year of Soils in Vienna, Austria that was jointly organized by the International Union of Soil Sciences, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and participated in discussions on future challenges in Soil Science.

*Barbara Cade-Menun*  
*Past President*

## ELECTION RESULTS AND THANKS TO OUTGOING MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

It is with great please that we announce and welcome our new **President-Elect (Joann Whalen)**, **Western Councillor (Wole Akinremi)**, and **CJSS Editor-in-Chief (Xueming Yang)**. Brief biographies of the new members are below. We express our appreciation for council members **David Burton (Past-President)**, **Francis Zvomuya (CJSS Editor-in-Chief)** and **Bobbi Helgason (Western Councillor)** whose terms ended in December and thank Barbara Sanipelli and Steve Sheppard for their assistance with the election.

### **Dr. Joann K. Whalen, President Elect**

Joann is an Associate Professor and William Dawson Scholar at McGill University. Her research focuses on nutrient cycling and soil biological activity in agroecosystems, and she teaches courses in soil fertility, nutrient management planning and soil ecology. She has supervised/co-supervised more than 50 graduate students and published more than 140 peer-reviewed scientific publications. She served as Associate Editor (2007-2009), Special Issues Editor (2009-2011), Editor (2012), and Editor-in-Chief (2013) of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science. She was co-Chair of the joint conferences of CSSS, the AQSS, and ISMOM in 2015. Joann has been a CSSS member since 1994 and served as the Eastern Councillor from 2003-2005.



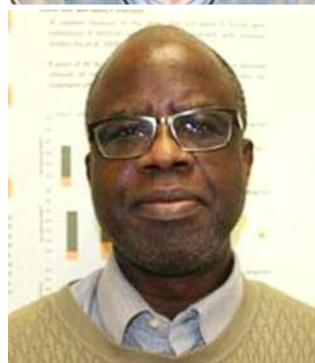
### **Dr. Xueming Yang, CJSS Editor**

Xueming Yang is a Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at the Harrow Research and Development Centre (Ontario). His research focuses on understanding how agronomic practices, including tillage, rotation, cover cropping and amendment application, affect soil organic carbon and nitrogen dynamics and sequestration in agroecosystems. Xueming has authored over 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications and 10 book chapters. He joined the Canadian Society of Soil Science in 2000 and has served prior as an Associated Editor (2008 to 2013) and an Editor (2013 to 2015) of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science.



### **Dr. Wole Akinremi, Western Councillor**

Wole is a Professor of Soil Physics and Chemodynamics at the University of Manitoba. His research interest is in the transport and transformation of nitrogen and phosphorus in soil. He has written two book chapters and published more than 65 peer-reviewed papers. He was a member of the CSSS as a graduate student in the 1980s and rejoined the association in 1999.



*As of January 1, 2016*

*the Council for the Canadian Society of Soil Science is as follows:*

President	<b>Maja Krzic</b>	University of British Columbia
Past-president	<b>Barbara Cade-Menun</b>	AAFC Swift Current
President-elect	<b>Joann Whalen</b>	McGill University
Secretary	<b>Amanda Diochon</b>	Lakehead University
Treasurer	<b>Kent Watson</b>	Thompson Rivers University
Student representative	<b>Carolyn Wilson</b>	Dalhousie University
Eastern Councillor	<b>Nathan Basiliko</b>	Laurentian University
Western Councillor	<b>Wole Akinremi</b>	University of Manitoba
Journal Editor	<b>Xueming Yang</b>	AAFC Harrow

*Amanda Diochon*  
*Secretary*

## 2016 CALL FOR CSSS AWARD NOMINATIONS

### ***FELLOW, HONORARY MEMBERSHIP, SOIL SCIENCE FOR SOCIETY AWARDS***

We all know someone who has made a significant contribution to Canadian soil science. The CSSS Fellow, Honorary Membership, and Soil Science for Society Awards represent your opportunity to make sure that their fine accomplishments are recognized. It is easy to do - the simple nomination process is described on the CSSS website at [www.csss.ca/index.php/awards](http://www.csss.ca/index.php/awards). Please take the time to submit an Award nomination for a deserving colleague before the deadline of **March 4, 2016**.

#### **CSSS Fellow Award**

This Fellow Award is bestowed upon CSSS members with a distinguished record of accomplishment in soil science and service to CSSS.

#### **CSSS Honorary Membership Award**

This Award honours non-members who have rendered valuable or special service to soil science.

#### **CSSS Soil Science for Society Award**

This Award is open to members or non-members who have made a significant commitment toward promoting soil science to the general public. The Award winner receives a plaque or certificate recognizing their contribution.

#### **CSSS Pedology Travel Award**

This award provides travel funds (up to \$4000) each year to allow for at least one soil scientist (regular member only) to attend a conference, workshop or meeting related to Pedology.

### ***STUDENT AWARDS***

There are a number of Awards aimed at promoting student participation in CSSS.

#### **CSSS Student Travel Award**

This Award was established in 1991 to encourage student attendance at the CSSS Annual Meeting. This year, the CSSS Annual Meeting will be a joint scientific conference of the CSSS and the Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science (PRSSS) in Kamloops, British Columbia from May 14-19, 2016.

Graduate students who are CSSS members are eligible to receive this award. The Student Travel Award is \$600 and a maximum of 12 awards are given each year.

Details and the application form for the Student Travel Award can be downloaded from [www.csss.ca/index.php/awards](http://www.csss.ca/index.php/awards). Please send your complete application as an e-mail attachment to Joann Whalen at [joann.whalen@mcgill.ca](mailto:joann.whalen@mcgill.ca), Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee by **March 4, 2016**.

#### **CSSS Student Presentation Awards**

The *C.F. Bentley Award* was initiated in 1983 to encourage and recognize excellence in oral presentations by students at the CSSS Annual Meetings. The Award honours [Dr. Fred Bentley](#) who was CSSS President in 1956-57 and inducted as a CSSS Fellow in 1973. The C.F. Bentley Award winner receives \$500, the first runner-up \$300, and the second runner-up \$200.

The *President's Award* was established in 1992 to foster excellence in student poster presentations as a means of disseminating research results at the CSSS Annual Meetings. The President's Award winner receives \$500, the first runner-up \$300, and the second runner-up \$200.

When submitting an abstract for the CSSS Annual Meetings, graduate students should indicate that they wish to be considered for a Student Presentation Award.

#### **CSSS Undergraduate Book Award**

This Award recognizes students at Canadian universities who demonstrate excellence in Soil Science at the undergraduate level. Award winners receive a copy of [Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), published jointly by CSSS and CRC Press in 2008. Candidates are nominated by their University department.

*Joann Whalen  
President Elect*

## APPRECIATION OF A LONG TIME (THE LONGEST??) CSSS MEMBER

Congrats to Mr. Lykle deVries (Scarborough, ON) who has been a member of the Canadian Society of Soil Science for nearly 60 years! This is truly impressive. If you or someone you know has a similarly long membership in CSSS, we'd be keen to hear from you.

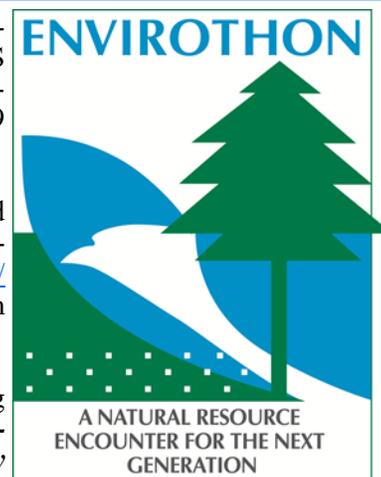
*Steve Sheppard, CSSS Business Office*

## 2016 NORTH AMERICAN ENVIROTHON, PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO (JULY 24-29, 2016)

Envirothon is an environmental challenge where high school students compete at regional, provincial/state and North American levels in core subject areas: 1) SOILS AND LAND-USE, 2) forestry, 3) aquatic ecology, 4) wildlife, and 5) annually-changing current environmental issue. About 500,000 students from 45 US states and 9 Canadian provinces/territories participate in the competition each year.

From July 24 to 29, 2016, top teams of students from over 50 states, territories and provinces will compete in the North American Envirothon Competition at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario (<http://www.ontarioenvirothon.on.ca/index.php/2016competition>). CSSS is sponsoring the Soils and Land Use testing station at this event, which is organized by Forests Ontario.

During fall 2015, an enthusiastic group of 15 CSSS members developed the following four soil science educational resources: (1) *Soils, Land-Use and Invasive Species lesson plan*, (2) *Soils, Land-Use and Climate Change lesson plan*, (3) *Pedology activity sheet*, and (4) *Soil fact sheet*. This material will help students prepare for Envirothon competitions and once final formatting is complete will be posted at the Soil 4 Youth website (<http://soil4youth.soilweb.ca/>). The CSSS members who developed those educational resources included: Carolyn Wilson, Jessica Arteaga, David Kroetsch, Paul Hazlett, Daryl Dagesse, Richard Heck, Lindsey Andronak, Alison Murata, Mathew Swallow, Edith Olson, Eryne Croquet, Emma Holmes, Maja Krzic, Katie Neufeld, and Lesley Dampier.



CSSS members will also be able to help out at the 2016 Envirothon Competition as volunteers as testing buddies, trail escorts, presentation supervisors, judges, workshop leaders and chaperones. If you are interested in volunteering at the competition please contact **Allison Hands**, Education Coordinator, Forests Ontario ([ahands@forestsontario.ca](mailto:ahands@forestsontario.ca)) by March 1, 2016.



## CSSS FELLOW PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATION OF IYS

For the last several years, Dan Pennock, CSSS Fellow from the Department of Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan has been serving as Canada's representative on the UN-FAO Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS). Canada's representative is nominated by the CSSS Council. The ITPS is responsible for the oversight and implementation of the Plans of Action under the Global Soil Partnership initiative <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/intergovernmental-technical-panel-on-soils/en/>

There were two key products generated by the ITPS for the International Year of Soil, a revised World Soil Charter <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/highlights/detail/en/c/330570/> and the first ever Status of the World's Soil Resources Report <http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/news/news-detail/en/c/344666/>. Dan has served Canada well on the Panel over the last two and one half years and was instrumental in providing technical leadership in the preparation of both documents.

In recognition of his leadership in these efforts, Dan was asked by the FAO to present the Status of the World's Soil Resource Report as part of the closing ceremonies for the International Year of Soils at the UN in New York in December 2015 (on World Soil Day). Congratulations to Dan on the publication and your recognition from the UN for your hard work!

*Scott Smith (AAFC- Summerland Research and Development Centre)*

## UPDATE ON THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF SOIL SCIENCE

First, please join the Editorial Board in expressing our appreciation of the following retiring members of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science (CJSS) Editorial Board for their dedicated service to the journal: Dr. Francis Zvomuya (Editor-in-Chief), Dr. Richard Angel (Associate Editor, AE), Dr. Nicolas Belanger (AE), Dr. Jean Caron (AE), and Dr. Mario Tenuta (AE). We also extend a warm welcome to new members of the Editorial Board: Dr. M. Anne Naeth (Editor), Dr. Lori Phillips (AE), Dr. Ren Tusheng (AE), and Dr. Judith Nyiraneza (AE). The full current Editorial Board is presented below.

As many CSSS members now know, CJSS was acquired by Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) effective October 1, 2015. A few changes have been implemented or planned since the acquisition was finalized.

1. The Scientific Journals Committee (SJC) has now been dissolved as this was an AIC committee. Most responsibilities of the SJC are now handled by CSP. CSSS will likely have to make changes accordingly, e.g., if there are any bylaws requiring SJC to vote on editorial appointments. To make changes to the Editorial Board, Editors should send an email to the editorial assistant at SCP. According to the new procedures, Editors will decide on whether to apply term end dates for their Board members. In spite of these changes, the current Editorial Board has continued consulting with the CSSS Council when nominating new members of the Board.
2. Open Access embargo: As you will recall, under AIC ownership, CJSS articles became open access after a 12-month embargo. CSP will end this, i.e., the papers will not become open access unless authors pay for open access. Instead, manuscripts will become freely available via the University of Toronto's TSpace Repository within 10 days of online publication if the authors opt in. This likely means that readers will not know if a given paper is in the repository unless the author or someone else knowledgeable advises the readers. To address this, CSP is investigating TSpace accessibility and will advise us on how users will be able to find content deposited in TSpace and how articles are labelled in the depository. This change will only affect the 3 former AIC journals; the other 18 journals owned by CSP do not have a similar model. See also 9 (f) below.
3. Page charges: CSP is in favor of maintaining the current model for CJSS and the other two former AIC journals if the societies feel this is best for the journals. Their other 18 journals do not have page charges.
4. Former AIC journal office personnel: Laurie Scott has been retained as Editorial Assistant at CSP and will be the first point of contact for CJSS Editors. This is a welcome move to the Editorial Board since we have a long working history with Laurie and she is an excellent person to work with. Tim Fenton had a brief contract with CSP following the journal acquisition but is now retired effective December 31, 2015.
5. The turnaround time for reviewers to complete reviews has been reduced to 21 days from 42 days. CSP had proposed a turnaround of 14 days but Editors argued that it would make it extremely difficult to find reviewers. The time given authors to complete minor revisions will be reduced to 14 days.
6. Manuscript improvement, including for language, is available to authors from Editage and can be accessed at a discount via CSP.
7. CSP can sponsor journal awards for societies, e.g., student awards. CSP can also sponsor symposia in exchange for publication of the presented papers in the journal.
8. CSP is proposing a peer review mentorship program that would pair graduate students with seasoned reviewers. The format is still being worked out, but mentees will not decide the fate of a manuscript as this would be a concern to many authors.
9. Author charges: While most journal business and pricing policies will remain status quo for 2016 as per CSP's agreement with CSSS and the Editors, CSP has made "a few minor changes". Here are the details distributed by CSP to Editors:
  - a. Page charges will remain the same, \$30 per page for members (and for Special Issues) and \$90 for non-members. The word limit for full paper abstracts has been increased to 250 words instead of 200 words per page for non-members, except that all table and figure charges will be included in the page charge fee.
  - b. Colour charges for print journals will remain the same, \$750/article.

## UPDATE ON THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF SOIL SCIENCE (cont'd)

- c. All open access fees remain the same (\$750 for regular articles, \$250 for special issue papers, and free for review articles).
  - d. Pay per view rates will remain at \$30/article.
  - e. French translations will be \$50 for all abstracts, regardless of length.
  - f. PDFs of the articles will now be available for free immediately (no embargo) for personal use through CSP's author services tool. Authors get 50 free e-prints that they can send out to colleagues.
  - g. At some point in early 2016, reprint ordering will be done through a CCC product called RightsLink. This "tool" is used by most of the large scholarly publishers (<http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/page/authors/services/reprints>). Prices will jump significantly. However, most authors print off the PDF from the website and will not need to order reprints. RightsLink is also used by authors to obtain an automated license to reuse parts of the article. Many of the large publishers charge for reuse, but CSP does not, reuse is free of charge. CSP, however, asks that the user acknowledge the item through a note or citation. Here is a link to the authors' rights policy page: <http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/page/authors/information/rights>.
10. The word limit for full paper abstracts has been increased to 250 words instead of 200 words.
  11. The new CJSS website is expected to be ready by the end of January. CSP is currently processing a backlog of papers for CJAS, CJPS, as well as CJSS and they are committed to publishing the journals on time.

### Special Issues/Sections

The following Special Issues are currently in progress. Special issues remain an important component of your journal as they contribute significantly to improvements in journal impact factor.

1. Sustainable management of cow pastures: case studies in the Maritimes and New England  
Guest Editors: Drs. S. Adl, D. Neher, R. Martin
2. Soil interfaces for sustainable development  
Guest Editors: Drs. J.-P. Bellenger, Dr. J. Whalen
3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Sources and Sinks in Canadian Agro-Ecosystems  
Guest Editors: Drs. S.X. Chang, J. Whalen
4. Precision Agriculture and Soil-Water Management in Cranberry Production  
Guest Editors: Drs. S.J. Gumiere J. Caron, S. Pépin, W. Bland, C. Kennedy

### Updated CJSS Editorial Board for 2016

Editor-in-Chief: Xueming Yang (final year of 3-year term)

Editor: Newton Lupwayi (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

Editor: M. Anne Naeth (1<sup>st</sup> year)

Special Issues Editor: Scott Chang

Assistant Editor: Roger Cue

Associate Editors (3 year term):

Nathan Basiliko  
Angela Bedard-Haughn  
Jean-Philippe Bellenger  
Asim Biswas  
David Burton  
Woo-Jung Choi  
Miles Dyck

Claudia Goyer  
David Burton  
Richard Heck  
Bobbi Helgason  
Aimé Jean Messiga  
Judith Nyiraneza  
Richard Heck

David Pelster  
Lori Phillips  
Tusheng Ren  
Yong Sikk  
Paul Sanborn  
Mehdi Sharifi  
Andrew VanderZaag

*Francis Zvomuya (former Editor-in-Chief)  
and Xueming Yang (Editor-in-Chief)*

**REPORT ON 4TH WORKING SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL PANEL  
ON  
SOILS (ROME, ITALY, 14--18 SEPTEMBER 2015)**

This was the first meeting of the ITPS since the appointment of new members at the 2015 Global Soil Partnership plenary. In all there were 17 new members on the 27-member panel. Canada and the U.S. are in a unique position insofar as our region has only two members and hence both countries are always represented on the ITPS. For most regions there are many more countries that spaces available and considerable competition for seats on the ITPS. The official report is available at the Global Soil Partnership website (<http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/en/>). A considerable amount of time was spent on orientation of new members, and my report will concentrate on the major items of business.

***Item 7: Review and finalization of the draft concept note on “Voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of soil resources”***

- This initiative stems from requests from some FAO members to “flesh out” the general principles on sustainable soil management (SSM) in the 2015 World Soil Charter (WSC). The model for this is the “Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Land Tenure”, which the FAO recently completed after a lengthy process.
- The definition of sustainable soil management in the WSC is based on an ecosystem services model, which is a major departure for the FAO. Previously the FAO had a very strong focus on degradation of soil resources. The new definition is that SSM is a set of activities that maintains or enhances the supporting, provisioning, regulating, and cultural services provided by soil without significantly impairing the soil functions that enable those services. These services and functions are developed at length in the forthcoming Status of the World’s Soil Resources report (discussed below).
- The new definition allows scientific assessment of the progress towards (or away from) achievement of sustainable soil management, which is important for the work of the ITPS and the GSP in the five pillars discussed below.
- The revised concept note was discussed at length and re-drafted several times, with the timetable for its production being a particular issue. The final version of the note is going forward for discussion and review through the FAO.

***Item 8: Follow up on the “Status of the World’s Soil Resources” report***

- This report is one of two major products from the 2013–2015 ITPS (the other being the World Soil Charter). There are three parts to the report: Summary, Main Section, and Regional Summaries. The report will be released on December 4th (World Soil Day) at the U.N. in New York.
- The major discussion at the ITPS meeting was around the communications strategy associated with the release of the report. The FAO communications staff has subsequently worked with the two lead authors of the report (Neil McKenzie of Australia and myself) to develop communication materials for the release.

***Item 9: Follow up on the GSP Plans of Action and the Regional Implementation Plans***

- This item was easily the most contentious item on the agenda. As a brief background, the work plan of the GSP is embodied in five pillars of action, each of which has an implementation plan associated with it. The work of implementation is meant to be done through the Regional Soil Partnerships (RSP), which draw together representatives from many groups to further the work of the GSP. At this time, however, there is a circularity to the discussion – the RSP need to develop concrete implementation plans for their region but without concrete implementation plans (and associated funding) it is difficult to get participants interested in participating in the RSP process. This is certainly true in North America – the North American Regional Soil Partnership (NA RSP) was formed at end of 2014, but without a program of work there has been no reason to convene a meeting of the partners. Progress needs to be made on the work of RSP if the work of several of the pillars is to advance.
- The most advanced pillar is pillar 4: “Enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines”. The implementation plan for pillar 4 has been under development by a consultant (D. Rossiter)

and C.A.S. Smith of AAFC has been very involved with this process. The next step in this process is a workshop entitled “Establishment of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions”, which is being held in Rome at FAO headquarters from December 8th to December 10th. I believe that there will be a Canadian representative at this meeting, and I have commented in an earlier email that I believe Canada could play an international leadership position in pillar 4 as it develops.

- The ITPS decided to form working groups to assist with the scientific and technical aspects of the work under each pillar. It is unclear at this time how the working groups will interact with the implementation process for each pillar.

***Item 12: Discussion about the SDG process and support to its implementation***

- Three of the Sustainable Development Goals recently adopted by the UN explicitly mention soils:
- SDG Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
- SDG Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.
- SDG Goal 15: Sustainably manage forest, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.
- Target 15.3: By 2020, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world
- A working group was formed to summarize how the ITPS could contribute to the SDG process into the future.

Overall the meeting lead to progress in several areas, and certainly the World Soil Charter and the status of the World’s Soil Resources report are major successes for the ITPS. As well, there is no doubt that the declaration of 2015 as the International Year of Soil by the UN has lead to an unprecedented visibility for soils. As outlined above, there are major challenges facing the ITPS and its parent organization, the GSP. Despite these I believe that the ITPS and GSP together are the best opportunity the global soils community has to apply our knowledge about soils to the betterment of human society and the global environment.

*Dr. Dan Pennock,  
Canadian Representative to the ITPS*

## 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CSSS

The date for **CSSS AGM** in Kamloops (please see the conference notice at the second-last page of the newsletter) is **May 16, 2016 (6-7:30 pm)**.

Any new business from members for the AGM agenda should be brought to the attention of Amanda Diochon, Secretary of the CSSS ([adiochon@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:adiochon@lakeheadu.ca)).

One point of business to be discussed is the continued membership of CSSS in the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC). This was briefly discussed at the 2015 AGM, but was tabled until after the sale of CJSS. With the sale now complete, and with AIC membership fees significantly increased in the past year, our membership in AIC has been questioned. We plan to put our continued membership to an electronic vote, but will discuss the issue at the AGM. If you are unable to attend the AGM but wish to submit information to be considered for the discussion, please send it to Amanda Diochon.

*Maja Krzic, President*

## THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT NUTRITION INSTITUTE SELECTS DR. CYNTHIA A. GRANT AS SCIENCE AWARD RECIPIENT

The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) has named Dr. Cynthia A. Grant (AAFC, Brandon, MB) as the winner of the 2015 IPNI Science Award. The IPNI Science Award recognizes outstanding achievements in research, extension, or education; with focus on efficient management of plant nutrients and their positive interaction in fully integrated cropping systems that enhance yield potential. A committee of noted international authorities selects the recipient. Dr. Grant receives a special plaque along with a monetary award of US\$5,000.

Dr. Grant received her B.S.A. from the University of Manitoba in 1980; her M.Sc. from the University of Manitoba in 1982; and her Ph.D. from the University of Manitoba in 1986. Since 1986, Grant has worked as a research scientist at the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada.

Throughout her decades long career, Grant has earned respect and recognition from her colleagues and the industry for her valuable research on soil fertility, crop nutrition, as well as the trace element contaminant Cadmium.

Since the 1990s, Grant has worked to assess the usefulness of Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizers (EEFs) in cropping systems and in Canada. She has published 17 scientific papers, two review articles, a chapter on EEFs, and has prepared dozens of technology transfer articles and presentations on the topic in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Dr. Grant also worked to develop and assess beneficial management practices (BMPs) for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, and chloride to improve nutrient use efficiency, becoming one of the first Canadian researchers supported by the international Fluid Fertilizer Foundation. She has published 165 journal articles on nutrient management, co-authored chapters on soil fertility management in dryland agriculture and sulfur management, and co-edited a book on Integrated Nutrient Management. Her research has been recognized with several awards including, the International Fertilizer Industry Association Award, The Robert E. Wagner Award, the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation Researcher of the Year Award, and the Manitoba-North Dakota No-Till Non-Farmer of the Year Award. She also served on the editorial board of several scientific journals and as Associate Editor of the Journal of Environmental Quality, Canadian Journal of Soil Science, and Canadian Journal of Plant Science.



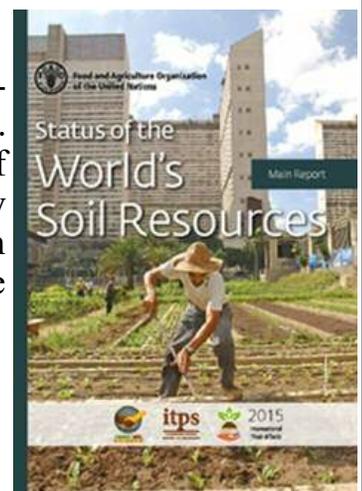
*Barbara Cade-Menun  
Past President*

*(modified from IPNI Press <http://www.ipni.net/article/IPNI-3413>)*

## PUBLICATION

The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils and the UN-FAO published the first **Status of the World's Soil Resource Report** in 2015. Dr. Dan Pennock (Professor Emeritus, U Saskatchewan) was one of the lead authors of this report, which was released on World Soil Day in December, 2015 (the International Year of Soil). The report (both the Full 650p Main Report and a briefer Technical Summary) may be found here:

<http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/highlights/detail/en/c/357163/>



## REMEMBERING LITO AROCENA (MARCH 5, 1959 – DECEMBER 20, 2015)

Family, colleagues, friends, and students are still coming to terms with the recent loss of one of UNBC's founding faculty members, Dr. Joselito (Lito) Arocena. He is survived by his wife, Josefina, two sons and a daughter, a grand-daughter, two sisters and a brother.

At UNBC, we're trying to imagine what our young institution will be like without someone who has been so central to its early growth and rapid maturation. Canadian and international soil science, and the CSSS, have lost an accomplished researcher and an effective advocate for our discipline.

I first crossed paths with Lito in the spring of 1988 at the University of Alberta when I was finishing up a postdoc with Dr. Steve Pawluk. Born in the Philippines, Lito had come from graduate work in Belgium to do a PhD under Steve's supervision. We managed to have one field trip together as he was getting acquainted with his research sites in western Alberta. At the time, I couldn't have imagined that this was just the beginning of an enjoyable and productive 27-year association.



Employment opportunities took us both to Prince George, British Columbia, a few years later, with Lito arriving in 1994 as a founding faculty member and the first soil scientist at UNBC. Over the rest of that decade, we had some enjoyable field trips together, and it was most satisfying to watch Lito's career blossom.

In recognition of his accomplishments and considerable promise as a researcher, Lito became UNBC's first Canada Research Chair in 2001. Lito used this significant boost to benefit not only his own career but also to nurture the development of broader interdisciplinary research with many of his UNBC colleagues. And it was this generosity and unselfishness, along with his genuine enthusiasm, that we all remember so fondly.

When I joined UNBC the following year, Lito became one of my most important colleagues, and his advice and assistance greatly eased my career transition. One of the highlights of those early days was our 3-week Yukon field trip with Scott Smith (AAFC) in July 2002. It was a great adventure for both of us, and was made all the more stimulating by Lito's lively curiosity and great sense of fun.

In terms of service to CSSS, Lito served two terms as an Associate Editor with the Canadian Journal of Soil Science, which was the outlet for more than a dozen of his 100+ peer-reviewed publications. Along with Dan Pennock and Scott Smith, he served as a guest editor of the benchmark October 2011 special issue on "Soils of Canada".

We feel particular sadness at losing such a fine colleague when they are at the peak of their accomplishments, with so much promise for future achievements. Beyond his scientific publications and the application of his research findings, Lito leaves the lasting legacy of many outstanding students who have benefited from their training with him. And we are supported and inspired by our rich memories of his example of unselfish collaboration in research, teaching, and community service.

Friends and colleagues of Lito may wish to support the establishment of a scholarship in his memory. Donations can be made via [www.unbc/giving](http://www.unbc/giving) and should be earmarked for the Dr. Joselito (Lito) Arocena Memorial Fund.

*Paul Sanborn (University of Northern British Columbia)*

## 2016 CSSS – PRSSS CONFERENCE, KAMLOOPS, BC (MAY 14-19, 2016)

### 2016 CSSS/PRSSS Annual Meeting

May 14-19, 2016. Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC



**PRSSS**  
Pacific Regional  
Society of Soil Science

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Program ▾

Registration  
and Abstracts

Field Tours ▾

Accommodation  
and Travel

Organizing Committee

## Registration & Abstracts

Online registration and abstract submission are now open. The deadline for abstract submission is Feb 15, 2016

[Read More](#)

The joint scientific conference of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) and the Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science (PRSSS) will be held May 14-19, 2016 in Kamloops, BC. The annual conference aims at bringing together scientists, professionals and students, to provide a forum for the dissemination of original research results, new ideas and practical development experiences that concentrate on soil science. The following 6 session themes (with total of 14 sessions) are planned for the 2016 CSSS-PRSSS conference: Spatial/Digital Soil Science, Soil Nutrient Management, Climate Change and Soils, Soil Management, Soil Science Education, and General Soil Science. All conference attendees are welcome to submit abstracts to any session. **The deadline for abstract submissions is February 15, 2016.**

- The conference will open on Monday (May 16) with talks from keynote speakers – Dr. Ray Weil (University of Maryland, College Park, MD) and Dr. Mark Liebig (USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, ND).
- Scientific sessions will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- Field trips are planned for May 14 & 15, 2016 (Okanagan Valley), May 17 (half day field trip to Lac du Bois Grassland Protected Area), and May 19 (Cache Creek area).
- A banquet will be held on Wednesday (May 18) evening, which will include the CSSS awards.

The banquet (and breakfast and lunches each day and the Lac du Bois tour fee) is included in the registration fee.

**STUDENTS PRESENTATION AWARDS AT 2016 CSSS-PRSSS CONFERENCE:** Students competing for the Bentley (oral) or President (poster) awards are encouraged to submit to any session that is topically appropriate. Student presentations may be moved to different sessions, to allow judging to be completed before the awards banquet on Wednesday May 18, 2016. Students may submit as many abstracts as they wish; however, please note that only one presentation (oral OR poster) per student will be submitted for judging. Students submitting multiple abstracts will be asked to indicate which is to be judged. If this is not clear, none of the abstracts from that student will be judged.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The 2016 **Kirkham Conference** (held once every 4 years), *The Root Zone: Soil Physics & Beyond* will take place April 10-14 at the Sede Boqer campus of Ben-Gurion University in Israel. The event highlights the root zone and features some of the leading soil/root/plant scientists as speakers. Interested individuals are encouraged to register as soon as possible, as only a limited number of registrations will be accepted: <https://www.fee.co.il/kirkham16/0/en>

The topic for the 2016 Kirkham Conference is *The Root Zone: Soil Physics & Beyond* and will include distinguished speakers who will be presenting on the following themes: water flow and uptake, root and soil respiration and aeration, nutrient uptake by roots, root morphology, architecture and growth, root-soil interface and noninvasive measurements, rhizosphere heat regime, and rhizosphere microbiome.

Kirkham Conferences are meetings in which informal discussions encourage scientists to make seminal, in-depth explorations of disciplinary and interdisciplinary subjects of soil physics. Generally attended by less than 60 people, they provide timely development of newly emerging research ideas. One of the primary goals of a Kirkham Conference is to inspire graduate students and early career members to study soil physics by providing opportunities for them to meet and discuss their ideas with leaders in an informal setting.

The conference is supported by funded by the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) through the Agronomic Science Foundation's Lena and Maria van der Ploeg Fund and the Kirkham Fund. For more information on the 2016 Kirkham Conference, including the program, accommodation information, and a listing of the invited speakers, visit:

[www.soils.org/membership/divisions/soil-physics-and-hydrology/kirkham-conferences](http://www.soils.org/membership/divisions/soil-physics-and-hydrology/kirkham-conferences)

**The 15th International Peat Congress** will take place Aug 15-19 2016 in Sarawak Malaysia. More information may be found at: <http://www.ipc2016.com/>

**The 2016 Organic Phosphorus Workshop** will be held September 5-9 in the Lake District, England. The theme will be "Organic Phosphorus in the Environment: Solutions for Phosphorus Security". For more information, visit: <http://www.OP2016.com>

**The 8<sup>th</sup> International Phosphorus Workshop (IPW)** will be held September 12-16 in Rostock, Germany. The theme this year is Phosphorus 2020 – Challenge for Synthesis, Agriculture and Ecosystems. More information: [www.scicampus-rostock.de/ipw8.html](http://www.scicampus-rostock.de/ipw8.html)

**The INI 2016 7th Annual Nitrogen Conference** will be held in Melbourne, AU December 4-8, 2016. More information may be found at: <http://csss.ca/wp-content/uploads/INI-2016-Sponsorship-Prospectus.pdf>

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