



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to start my first message as CSSS President, by thanking those who have finished their terms on CSSS Council: David Lobb as Past-President, Barbara Cade-Menun as Secretary, Lito Arocena as Western Councillor, Mervin St. Luce as Graduate Student Representative and Craig Drury as CJSS Editor. Your commitment and wisdom in serving CSSS is most appreciated. For 2013, we have had quite the “cabinet re-shuffle” with five new faces on our 9-member Council: David Burton as President-Elect, Sina Adl as Secretary, Bobbi Helgason as Western Councillor, Alison Murata as Graduate Student Representative and Joann Whalen as CJSS Editor. New Council member bios appear later in this newsletter.

Our next Annual Meeting will be a joint one with the Manitoba Soil Science Society and the Canadian Society of Agricultural & Forest Meteorology to be held in Winnipeg, July 22–25, 2013. Plans are well underway with a hard-working Organizing Committee, chaired by Don Flaten, making sure you won't want to miss “Soil Science: The Centre of It All” in The Heart of the Continent. In 2014, our Annual Meeting will again be a joint one, this time with the Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU), on May 4–7, 2014 in Banff, AB. We have had a number of successful joint meetings with CGU in the past, most recently in 2006. After two Annual Meetings scheduled in the west, it will be time to head east again for 2015. CSSS Council has received an invitation to meet with an International Symposium on Interactions of Soil Minerals with Organic Components and Microorganisms (ISMOM-7) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Inter-Congress of Commission 2.5, International Union of Soil Science “Importance of soil interfaces for sustainable development” to be held in Montreal, June 5–10, 2015. The option of a joint meeting with these groups will be put forward at our upcoming AGM in Winnipeg.

The Rules and By-Laws Committee, along with Steve Sheppard at the CSSS Business Office, have been busy getting everything in order for transition of our Society to comply with Industry Canada's new Corporations Act. With your 2013 membership renewal, you will be asked to vote “yea” or “nay” on this transition. We need >66% of members to cast votes in order to validate this exercise, so please vote!

Recently, I've been hearing and reading that soil science is at a “critical crossroads” with funding and identity crises. The identity issue may be partly due to the growth of our discipline beyond its traditional agricultural roots, hardly a crisis. Knowledge of soil science is an asset when dealing with all aspects of land use and environmental planning. As individuals and as a professional Society we need to spread the word that there is much more to soil science than meets the eye.

Word of the Day: argillaceous, *adj.* – of, relating to, or containing clay. In the children's movie *Akeelah and the Bee* the main character, 11-year old Akeelah, is asked to spell ‘argillaceous’ at the U.S. National Spelling Bee. The word brought me back to my early days in soil micromorphology and I impressed my kids by giving a definition. Akeelah easily spelled it in the movie so I was off the hook for that!

Looking forward to seeing you in Winnipeg in July!

Sincerely,

Frank Larney  
President, CSSS



## CSSS Council 2013

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## 2013 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 this contribution is recognized. You need to nominate an outstanding colleague for one of these Awards in order for them to be eligible. The process is not complicated and the information needed is described on the CSSS website at [www.csss.ca/index.php/awards](http://www.csss.ca/index.php/awards). Take the time to submit an Award nomination for a deserving colleague before the deadline of **May 1, 2013**.

#### ***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.

Please go to [www.csss.ca/index.php/awards](http://www.csss.ca/index.php/awards) for more details on the nomination process for CSSS Fellow, Honorary Membership, or Soil Science for Society Awards. All nominations must be submitted via e-mail (Word or pdf attachments) to David Burton ([dburton@dal.ca](mailto:dburton@dal.ca)), Chair, CSSS Awards Committee by **May 1, 2013**.

### **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 Meetings and is available to any graduate student CSSS member. The Student Travel Award is \$600 with a maximum of 12 awarded annually. Our 2013 Annual Meeting will be held jointly with Manitoba Soil Science Society, July 22-25, 2013 in Winnipeg.

Go to [www.csss.ca/index.php/awards](http://www.csss.ca/index.php/awards) for more details on the Student Travel Award and to download the application form. All applications must be submitted as e-mail attachments to David Burton ([dburton@dal.ca](mailto:dburton@dal.ca)), Chair, CSSS Awards Committee by **May 1, 2013**.

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

1. 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.

2. 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 (2nd Edition), published jointly by CSSS and CRC Press in 2007. Candidates are nominated by their University department.

#### ***2013 CSSS Awards Committee***

*David Burton & Gordon Price, Dalhousie University  
Ed Gregorich, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada*

## CSSS Election Results

Congratulations to our newest CSSS Council Members beginning their terms in 2013:

President-Elect:	David L. Burton
Secretary	Sina Adl
Western Councillor:	Bobbi Helgason
Graduate Student Representative:	Alison Murata
CJSS Editor:	Joann Whalen

### David L. Burton, President-Elect

David Burton is currently a Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences in the newly formed Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University (formerly the Nova Scotia Agricultural College). From 1993 to 2001 he held a faculty position in the Department of Soil Science, University of Manitoba. He holds adjunct appointments at the University of Guelph, University of Manitoba and University of Saskatchewan.



David's research examines the role of the soil environment in influencing the nature and extent of microbial metabolism in soil. His current research examines the production and consumption of greenhouse gases in natural and agricultural landscapes, the influence of soil and climate factors on soil nitrogen mineralization, and the assessment of the quality of the soil biological environment and its influence on overall soil quality. It is the aim of this work to better understand the factors that control microbial metabolism and to use this information to developing sustainable land management systems in a changing climate. He has authored/co-authored 80 peer-reviewed scientific publications and 11 book chapters.

David joined the CSSS in 1982 and has served as the Secretary of the CSSS (1995 to 2000), Chair of the CSSS Annual Meetings held in Winnipeg (2000) and Halifax (2005). He currently serves as an Associate Editor of the CJSS.

### Sina Adl, Secretary

Sina Adl is Head of the Department of Soil Science at the University of Saskatchewan. He moved from the Department of Biology at Dalhousie University in 2012, where he was also Associate Dean (Academic) for the Faculty of Science. His previous role with the Society was as Eastern Councillor from 2006 to 2008. His research interests are in soil ecology, nutrient cycling through the food web, protist diversity and classification. Sina obtained his PhD at UBC, followed by a postdoc at the University of Paris XI, and another at the Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia.



### Bobbi Helgason, Western Councillor

Bobbi is a Research Scientist with AAFC in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She has a B.Sc. in Applied Microbiology (1999) and an M.Sc. in Soil Science (2001) from the University of Saskatchewan. After a number of years working on greenhouse gas emis-

sions research as part of the Model Farm program at AAFC in Lethbridge, she returned to the U of S where she obtained a Ph.D. in Soil Science (2010). She studies how microbial community structure and diversity in agroecosystems affect transformations of carbon and nitrogen. Her current focus employs the use of stable isotope probing and long-term field experiments to study microbial adaptation to different management practices. Bobbi is an Adjunct Professor and Visiting Scholar in the Department of Soil Science at the U of S.



### Alison Murata: Graduate Student Representative

Alison has recently begun a Ph.D. with Dr. Anne Naeth in the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta. She is interested in studying the remediation and reclamation of disturbed land. Alison graduated with a B.Env.Sc. (Honours Coop) with a focus area in Land Systems and a minor in French from the University of Manitoba in 2010 and will receive a M.Sc. (Soil Science) from the same university in February 2013. Alison has been a CSSS member since 2010. Previously, she has served as the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association President (2011-2012) and Secretary (2010-2011) as well as the Department of Soil Science Website Committee Student Representative (2011-2012).



### Joann Whalen, CJSS Editor

Joann K. Whalen is an Associate Professor and William Dawson Scholar at McGill University. She received her Ph.D. from Ohio State University (USA) and worked as a research scientist for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada prior to joining the faculty at McGill. Joann is also a professional agronomist in Quebec, Canada. Her research focuses on soil fertility and soil ecology in agroecosystems. She has published more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers and supervised/co-supervised more than 40 students at the M.Sc. and Ph.D. levels. She teaches courses in soil fertility, organic fertilizer use, nutrient management planning and soil ecology. Joann is currently the Editor in Chief of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science, and has previously served as Editor and Special Issues Editor for CJSS. In addition, she is a Subject Editor for Soil Biology and Biochemistry and an Associate Editor for Agronomy Journal. She is senior author of the textbook "Soil Ecology and Management" and edited the book "Soil Fertility Improvement and Integrated Nutrient Management: a Global Perspective".



## CSSS/MSSS/CSAFM Annual Meeting

### "Soil Science: The Centre of It All" Winnipeg, Manitoba July 22-25, 2013

Plans are shaping up for the joint meetings of the Canadian and Manitoba Societies of Soil Science, as well as the Canadian Society of Agricultural and Forest Meteorology from Monday, July 22nd until Thursday, July 25th in downtown Winnipeg. The theme of the meetings, "**Soil Science: The Centre of It All**" will focus on the connections between soil science and water management issues such as nutrient loading as well as atmospheric/climate issues such as greenhouse gas emissions.

#### Overview of meeting agenda:

Monday, July 22 – daytime pre-conference tours & workshops; evening registration & welcome reception

Tuesday, July 23 – daytime oral & poster sessions; evening open

Wednesday, July 24 – daytime oral & poster sessions; evening banquet

Thursday, July 25 – morning oral & poster sessions; afternoon post-conference tours & workshops

**Call for abstracts:** The call for abstracts will be issued in February, inviting submissions for oral and poster presentations at special as well as open sessions. Deadline for abstracts: May 1, 2013.

**Pre/Post Conference Tours and Workshops:** Pre-Conference tours include a tour of subarctic soils and other sites near Churchill, Manitoba (July 16-21) and a greenhouse gas workshop focusing on techniques for measuring greenhouse gas emissions in the field (Monday, July 22). Thursday afternoon post-conference tours include a Southern Manitoba land and watershed tour and a workshop for researchers and other partners in the AAFC Agricultural Greenhouse Gases Program.

**Meeting Venue:** The meeting venue is the Fort Garry Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre, on the south east corner of downtown Winnipeg, adjacent to "The Forks" where the Assiniboine River joins the Red River. The "Fort Garry" is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2013 and, modelled after the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, this is the only surviving "grand railway hotel" in Winnipeg. For more information on the Fort Garry, check out their website at: <http://www.fortgarryhotel.com/> "The Forks" is a collection of parks, walkways, gardens, shops, and restaurants that is located adjacent to the host hotel. For more information on The Forks, go to: <http://www.theforks.com/about/the-forks> Deadline for conference rate discount: June 21, 2013.

**Registration Fees:** Regular members early registration \$400 (\$500 if after the early registration deadline). Student members early registration \$250 (\$350 if after the early registration deadline). Deadline for Early Registration: June 21, 2013.

**For more information:** <http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~tenutam/CSSS/index.html>

**Soil Science: The Centre of It All**  
*CSSS/MSSS 2013 in Winnipeg: The Heart of the Continent*

Joint meeting of the  
**Canadian Society of Soil Science**  
and the  
**Manitoba Soil Science Society**  
July 22-25, 2013

At the Fort Garry Hotel and Conference Centre  
in Downtown Winnipeg

Organizing Committee Chair: Don Flaten (don.flaten@ad.umanitoba.ca)  
Vice-Chair: Darshani Kumaragamage (d.kumaragamage@uwinnipeg.ca)

## Special Sessions Announced for CSSS/CSAFM/MSSS Annual Meeting

The call for abstract submissions will be sent out to CSSS members in February. Although the call for oral and poster presentations will be unrestricted, members have volunteered to lead a total of nine special oral sessions, so far, including:

Agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. This session highlights recent advances in our understanding of the processes contributing to agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and solutions to reduce these emissions. Convener: Brian Amiro ([Brian.Amiro@ad.umanitoba.ca](mailto:Brian.Amiro@ad.umanitoba.ca))

Nitrogen cycling across land uses and ecosystems. The main objective of organizing this special session is to bring together researchers from North America and China focusing on nitrogen cycling across landscapes. Convener: Scott Chang ([scott.chang@ualberta.ca](mailto:scott.chang@ualberta.ca))

Soil ecology, food webs and nutrient cycling. The session will draw attention to modern experimental approaches of how organic matter is mineralized into plant available nutrients. Convener: Sina Adl ([sina.adl@usask.ca](mailto:sina.adl@usask.ca))

Teaching and training in Soil Science: 1. Engaging students to meet future challenges. This session is devoted to innovative courses, learning experiences, and teaching approaches that contribute to the education of the soil and environmental scientists to meet the challenges of a demanding future. Conveners: Tom Yates and Fran Walley ([tom.yates@usask.ca](mailto:tom.yates@usask.ca); [flw766@mail.usask.ca](mailto:flw766@mail.usask.ca))

Teaching and training in Soil Science: 2. Emerging approaches in teaching and learning in Soil Science. The goal of this session is to provide a platform for learning from each other and also to allow graduate students to present their perspectives on soil science education. Hence, graduate student participation is greatly encouraged. Convener: Maja Krzic ([krzic@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:krzic@mail.ubc.ca))

Carbon cycling in permafrost regions. This session is in recognition of the globally relevant and potentially sensitive store of organic carbon found in permafrost affected soils, a substantial portion of which is located in Canada. We welcome contributions on this topic, especially studies examining carbon cycling processes, fluxes, and stocks within these soils and the ecosystems they support. Conveners: Elyn Humphreys and Krista Hannis ([elyn\\_humphreys@carleton.ca](mailto:elyn_humphreys@carleton.ca))

Measuring, modeling and managing soil carbon exchanges. This session will reflect the recent advances in measuring, modeling and managing soil carbon exchanges. Convener: Paul Bartlett ([Paul.Bartlett@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Paul.Bartlett@ec.gc.ca))

Soil quality gradients at the landscape level. The aim of this special session is to bring together researchers and practitioners looking into soil quality variations across landscapes for soil survey interpretations, which might include research in surficial geology, or near surface hydrology. Convener: David Hopkins ([David.Hopkins@ndsu.edu](mailto:David.Hopkins@ndsu.edu))

Environmental Footprinting and Fingerprinting. This session will focus on environmental "footprinting" to determine the impact of human activities on issues such as phosphorus loss to surface water, water consumption, carbon emissions, and overall ecological impact. In addition, the session will look at determining sources of environmental contamination using modern "fingerprinting" methods such as biomarkers to identify the sources of sediments and other contaminants in watersheds. Overall determination of cumulative effects impacts, ecosystem dynamics, and watershed scale modelling will also be discussed. Convener: David Lobb ([David.Lobb@ad.umanitoba.ca](mailto:David.Lobb@ad.umanitoba.ca))

If you are interested in contributing to one of these special sessions, please contact the convener.

## Canadian Journal of Soil Science Editor's Report

Greetings on behalf of the Editors, Associate Editors and staff at the Journals Office of CJSS!

I must begin by acknowledging our retiring Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Craig Drury, who has provided remarkable and tireless leadership during the past three years. Dr. Drury was responsible for a major restructuring of the CJSS Editorial Board so that we now have three Editors for our journal instead of one. This eases the workload, allowing us to handle papers and make decisions with greater speed. Following our example, the Canadian Journal of Plant Science also plans to appoint three Editors. Dr. Drury was at the helm during the transition to ScholarOne, the new (and easy!) manuscript submission platform, and promoted "open access" for articles, one year after publication, to boost accessibility of CJSS to an international audience. Recently, he discovered that some published papers from our journal were not appearing in Scopus; happily, the issue is now resolved and we expect greater visibility of articles and more citations as a result. Dr. Drury has been a tremendous proponent for CJSS and we are very grateful to him.

We welcome Dr. Francis Zvomuya as CJSS Editor, and thank Dr. Martin Chantigny (CJSS Editor) and Dr. Marie Boehm (Special Issues Editor) for their great help and support with our journal.

We have a dedicated team of Associate Editors who are responsible for soliciting reviews and making decisions about the suitability of manuscripts for publication. Very sincere thanks for all your hard work in the past year to: Dr. Lito Arocena, Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn, Dr. Nicolas Belanger, Dr. Jean-Philippe Bellenger, Dr. David Burton, Dr. Jean Caron, Dr. Richard Engel, Dr. Claudia Goyer, Dr. Newton Lupwayi, Dr. Paul Sanborn, Dr. Steve Siciliano, Dr. Bing Si, Dr. Myrna Simpson, Dr. Jeff Strock, Dr. Mario Tenuta, Dr. Bert VandenBygaart, Dr. Claudia Wagner-Riddle, Dr. Xueming Yang, Dr. Noura Ziadi, and Dr. Francis Zvomuya.

We are extremely appreciative for the service and commitment of our retiring Associate Editors: Dr. Bert VandenBygaart, who served for six years, and Dr. Jeff Strock, who assisted us for three years. A big thank you to the Associate Editors who have renewed their commitment to our journal for a second term: Dr. Jean Caron, Dr. Mario Tenuta and Dr. Xueming Yang.

We welcome four new Associate Editors this year: Dr. Nate Basiliko (University of Toronto, soon moving to Laurentian University), Dr. Miles Dyck (University of Alberta), Dr. Bobbi Helgason (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon Research Centre) and Dr. Richard Heck (University of Guelph). Thank you for your willingness to help the CJSS.

In the Journals Office, we have constant support from Tim Fenton and Laurie Scott from the moment manuscripts are submitted through to the typesetting and publication stages. They make an important contribution to the success of our journal.

There were 137 (139 less two duplicate submissions) manuscripts submitted to CJSS in 2012 of which 113 were regular issue papers, 13 were Special Issue papers, 9 were short communications and 2 were reviews. There were 78 manuscripts submitted from 26 countries outside of Canada in 2012 (i.e., 57%), which is similar to the percentage of papers (53%) submitted from outside of Canada in 2011. Of the 112 manuscripts where a final decision has been reached, 36% were accepted, 58% were rejected and 6% were withdrawn. This is similar to the acceptance/rejection rate for manuscripts submitted in 2011, where 44% of the 116 papers submitted were accepted, 48% were rejected and about 8% were withdrawn.

The 5-yr impact factor for 2012 is not yet available, but our 5-yr impact factor was reported as 1.21 (2011) and 1.20 (2010). We had a very high immediacy index in 2011 (0.481) as a result of having a high number of citations in 2011 for papers that were published in 2011. The yearly impact factor varies from one year to the next as it is based on citations received in a particular year for papers published in the previous 2 years. This value has ranged from 0.821 (2011) to 1.12 (2010) over the last 5 years. The half-life of the journal is consistently high (greater than 10 years).

I would strongly encourage you to consider CJSS as the venue for your next manuscript.

### Special Issues/Sections

In 2012, the following Special Issues were published:

Soil Quality and Management of World Mollisols (Guest Editors: Xiaobing Liu, Ted Huffman, Bing Si and Richard M. Cruse - 20 papers published).

Land Reclamation (Guest Editor: Anne Naeth – 21 papers published).

Special Issues in progress:

Freeze-Thaw Processes and Frozen Soils (Guest Editors: Barbara Cade-Menun, Martin Chantigny and Ymène Fouli – 13 Submissions).

Long-term field sites: past, present and future importance (Submissions open December 1, 2012 and close February 28, 2013).

Special Issues are an excellent forum for disseminating “hot topics” in soil science that may come from conferences, workshops and working groups. We have been fortunate to publish a number of excellent special issues/sections in the past years, which attracts attention to CJSS and boosts our profile and impact in the international soil science community. If you have any suggestions for future Special Issues, please contact Dr. Marie Boehm, the Special Issues Editor.

*Joann Whalen (CJSS Editor-in-Chief)*

### Venue for the CSSS/MSSS/CSAFM Annual Meeting



*The venue for the annual meeting is the historic **Hotel Fort Garry**, the last remaining "grand railway hotel" in Winnipeg. (Photo credit: Kirk Cumming, Panoramio)*



*Adjacent to the Hotel Fort Garry is "**The Forks**" ... where the Red and Assiniboine Rivers join together. "**The Forks**" has been an important cultural and commercial meeting place for over 6000 years and is Winnipeg's most popular tourist attraction (Photo credit: <http://www.theforks.com/>)*

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### **The 13th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis (ISSPA),**

April 8 - 12, 2013, Queenstown New Zealand

[www.isspa2013.com](http://www.isspa2013.com)

### **4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter Dynamics**

May 5-10, 2013, Nanjing, China

<http://www.ireea.cn/som2013/>

### **IUSS Global Soil Carbon Conference**

3-6 June 2013, Madison, USA

[http://www.iuss.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=407&Itemid=31](http://www.iuss.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=407&Itemid=31)

### **12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements**

16-20 June 2013, Athens, GA, USA

<http://icobte2013.org/>

### **Canadian Society of Soil Science and the Manitoba Soil Science Society (CSSS/MSSS 2013)**

22-25 July 2013, Winnipeg, Manitoba

<http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~tenutam/CSSS/index.html>

### **2013 Canadian Society of Agronomy meeting will be held in conjunction with the ASA-CSSA-SSSA**

3-7 November 2013, Tampa Florida, USA

<https://www.soils.org/meetings/am>

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