



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my first message as the president of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS). Born in Turkey, I never realized that one day I would become the President of the CSSS in this great country. I like the words expressed by our prairie farmers *"I am at home with my soils, it is my homeland. I want to know more about it that I may live more intelligently and in harmony with my surroundings."*

First I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Gary Kachanoski, former Past-President, who leaves Council after many years of involvement. He remains as a resource person and institutional memory. On behalf of the Council, he is also leading the formation of an Agricultural Science Societies initiative. My thanks also go to the organizers (Gary Kachanoski, David Chanasyk, and Barabara Kischchuk) of the excellent joint scientific meetings we had in Banff in May 18-21/2002 with the Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU). The joint meetings were attended by a record number of graduate students. They were encouraged as the Society has provided 12 Student Travel Awards to participate in the annual meeting. Second, I would like to congratulate Ed Gregorich, our new president elect. Ed is very energetic, enthusiastic, and ready to serve the Society. Everybody remembers him for the great job of leading the edition of the CSSS sponsored publication *"Soil and Environmental Science Dictionary"* together with Larry Turchenek, Martin Carter and Denis Angers. I would like to extend my congratulation to Frank Larney, our new Western Councilor, as he brings his rich experience from Europe and USA to the council. We are thankful to him for managing our webpage.

Holding meetings in the last few years with the national and international scientific organizations has brought a new perspective to our society. We are now exploring the possibility of holding joint CSSS meetings with the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) in Seattle, USA in 2004. Discussion on this issue is currently going on. Recently, the president of the Geological Society of Canada (Dr. Kevin Ansdell) expressed interest to initiate collaboration between our two organizations, since both deal with our planet Earth. In the last decades, the soil science culture has extended to many other fields; in addition to agriculture. There is a significant growth in the field of cycling of bio-geo-chemicals, buffering the hydrological cycles etc. Biogeochemistry is an area at the crossover between the Life and Physical Sciences, and a lot of that interaction takes place in the soil system. Multidisciplinary meetings would definitely help to open many eyes.

In August we had a very rewarding World Congress of Soil Science in Bangkok August 14-22. It is my pleasure to announce that I was elected as the Chair of the Division I, Soils in Space and Time. The next Congress will be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 10-15, 2006. I will be a liaison person and keep you informed of IUSS council meetings and organization of the inter congress meetings and symposia. I should mention that the IUSS received requests from various international scientific journals to become cooperating journals. The advantage of such association is that the journal is advertised to about 45,000 members around the world. There is a small fee that we need to pay to IUSS. We urgently need to look into this matter.

Our joint meeting (CSSS 2003) with the International Conference on Mycorrhiza ICOM4 in Montréal in August 10-15, 2003 is in preparation. Jim Fyles from McGill University is the Chair of the Organizing Committee and Eastern Councilor Denis Angers is also very much involved as Co-Chair and link with Council.

We all receive E-mail information from Steve Sheppard at the business office. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the very fine work that Steve does for the Society. (continued on page 2)

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(President's Message—continued from page 1)

As you may already know, it is with great sadness that I feel obliged to share with you the pain, due to the departure of our colleague and great friend Régis Simard. He was a real friend, truly a scientist, promoter of science nationally and internationally, a diligent, hardworking exceptional individual. He was our President in the year 2000, and Editor for Canadian Journal of Soil Science the last three years. Régis, you indeed left a large empty space in Canadian Soil Science and the Society. We salute you Régis.

Your Council is working hard and trying to tackle with various matters. Your advice and suggestions to the Council will be very much appreciated.

Ahmet R. Mermut

Canadian Society of Agronomy and

Canadian Society of Soil Science meet in Montreal in 2003

The Canadian Societies of Agronomy and Soil Science will meet jointly for three days (August 10-13, 2003) with the Fourth International Conference on Mycorrhizae (ICOM4) to be held on August 10-15, 2003, in Montréal, Québec, Canada. The International Conference on Mycorrhizae is hosted in Canada for the first time. Two joint symposia will be of particular interest to agronomists and soil scientists. A first symposium on mycorrhizae and agricultural practices will focus on the interaction between mycorrhizae and cropping systems, P nutrition, pest management, and crop rotation. The impact of mycorrhizae on soil quality will be discussed in a second symposium and will emphasize the role of glomalin on soil structure, and the significance of mycorrhizae to soil physical and biological quality. Both Agronomy and Soil Science societies will also have oral presentations and poster sessions on all disciplines of soil and agronomic sciences. The Conference will be held at the International Civil Aviation Organization Conference Centre located in downtown Montreal. Tourist excursions and field trips will also be offered. All information related to the program, registration, and oral and poster presentations will be posted on the web site at <http://www.congresbcu.com/icom4>. Contact Jim Fyles (514-398-7758) or Denis Angers (angersd@agr.gc.ca).

Alberta Soils Tour 2002

In mid-June about 50 members of the soils community in Alberta took part in a 2 day tour of the Parkland area of east-central Alberta. The tour covered about 700 km from Edmonton to Wainwright and Lloydminster with 6 stops exploring themes of soil variability, precision farming, soil reclamation on sands, hydrophobicity of oil spills, soil quality and benchmark documentation for soils and vegetation. The tour was well received by participants who represented industry, government and the consulting community in agriculture, environment and energy sectors.

These tours, sponsored by the Alberta Soil Science Workshop, have taken place periodically since about 1970 as a venue for our diverse and widely distributed soils people to share field experiences and explore new research initiatives.

A detailed itinerary and pictures can be seen at: <http://www.soilsworkshop.ab.ca/>

Wayne Pettapiece, P.Ag., FCSSS



In Memoriam

Dr. Régis Simard

Notre ami et collègue Régis Simard, chimiste des sols de grande renommée, professeur et directeur du Département des Sols de l'Université du Manitoba est décédé le 5 juillet 2002 à l'âge de 45 ans à Sainte-Foy, Québec. Il était né le 15 juillet 1956 à Chicoutimi, QC de Paquerette (Brisson) et Florent Simard et a grandi à St Fulgence, QC.

Régis a tout d'abord obtenu un diplôme en Bio Agronomie en 1979 et une maîtrise en Science du Sol en 1983 de l'Université Laval, QC. Il a ensuite obtenu un doctorat (Ph. D.) de l'Université de Guelph en chimie des sols en 1987. Régis a commencé sa carrière professionnelle en tant que pédologue à Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada. Après l'obtention de son doctorat, Régis est revenu à AAC, mais ses intérêts se sont tournés vers la chimie des sols, la gestion des éléments nutritifs et la qualité de l'environnement. Il a œuvré pendant près de 15 ans au Centre de Recherche sur les Sols et les Grandes Cultures à Sainte-Foy, QC. Il y a été Chef du programme de recherche sur les Ressources pendant plusieurs années.

Throughout his entire career, Régis was very active in the exchange of scientific knowledge with others. He was a popular and highly appreciated speaker. He was also able to listen to and understand the needs of agricultural producers, industrial partners, managers and fellow scientists and help them by proposing innovative approaches and solutions to address those needs. Régis' dedication to scientific education and discovery also translated into a prominent role as an advisor and mentor to young scientists. This dedication led to the training of more than fifteen graduate students under Régis's generous leadership in the last five years of his career with AAFC; this dedication also led Régis to shift his career to the University of Manitoba in the fall of 2001.

Régis a consacré l'essentiel de sa carrière à l'étude de la dynamique des éléments nutritifs majeurs en rapport avec la fertilité des sols et la qualité de l'eau, domaines dans lesquels sa renommée débordait nos frontières. Entre autre, il a largement contribué à l'amélioration des grilles de fertilisation des cultures au Québec. De plus, son travail remarquable sur le phosphore a remis en question l'approche traditionnelle de gestion des éléments nutritifs des résidus organiques basés sur l'azote et a permis de proposer avec d'autres collègues, un indicateur à critères multiples pour la gestion des fumiers au Québec.

Régis a été un membre très actif de plusieurs associations et comités scientifiques et techniques. Il a été Président de l'Association Québécoise des Spécialistes en Sols et Président de la Société Canadienne de Science du Sol. Sa grande implication dans la rédaction scientifique l'a conduit à devenir Rédacteur de la Revue Canadienne de Science du Sol.

The quality of his contributions to the discipline of soil science was recognized at numerous occasions. Even as a graduate student, Régis showed his potential as a soil scientist and his great interest for the CSSS by winning the Bentley Award in 1986. Other distinctions he received include the Auguste Scott Award from the Québec Association for Soil Scientists, the AgExcellence from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, an OCDE Fellowship and a Scientific Award for Leadership in Sustainable Development from the Canadian Government. In recognition for his outstanding contribution to soil science and in particular for his service to the Canadian Society of Soil Science as Eastern Councillor, President and Editor of CJSS, Régis was elected **Fellow of the Canadian Society of Soil Science** in 2002.

Régis's absence is a significant loss for his family, collaborators and friends and all those who were touched by his love for life, his concern for people and extraordinary energy and enthusiasm. However, his legacy will accompany and inspire us for years to come. Survivors include his life partner Lucie Vallée and his four daughters, Maria, Liisa, Saara and Léia. A celebration of Dr Simard's life was held at the Ste Ursule Church, Sainte Foy, Québec on July 10th 2002.

AWARDS

In 2002, CSSS has awarded three awards to help CSSS members to attend the World Congress of Soil Science. Reports by awardees follow. The Awards Committee for the year 2002 consisted of Drs. John Dormaar, Eric Beauchamp and A. R. Mermut (Chair).

Travel Reports

Thank you CSSS for the Overseas Travel Award

by Yash P. Kalra, Canadian Forest Service, Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5 (ykalra@nrcan.gc.ca)

The 17th World Congress of Soil Science was held in Bangkok, Thailand, August 14-21, 2002. I registered for the conference in December 2001. Due to the limited budget, I was not planning to take any tour. I registered for the B3 post-congress Southeast Thailand Tour after learning at the Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual Meeting in Banff last May that I was recipient of one of the three Overseas Travel Awards.

Throughout the congress I got the opportunity to promote CSSS to the scientists from around the globe. I was able to talk about our Society to all those who stopped by to view my poster paper on August 15. Steve Sheppard had emailed the CSSS membership form to me. So I was able to print and make several copies for distribution to the delegates. I also gave a few copies to Ahmet Mermut, Ed Gregorich, Sukhdev Malhi, and Jack Langlois. It was nice of Ahmet and Ed to visit me at my poster presentation. This gave me an opportunity to introduce CSSS President and President-Elect to some of the scientists. Ahmet gave me several copies of the AIC brochures and Jack gave me sufficient copies of the one-page CSSS flyer for distribution. Ahmet had also given me four issues of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science. Many delegates glanced through the journal. I was pleased to learn from several people that CJSS is considered one of the best journals internationally. At the end of the poster session, I gave the copies of the journal to four scientists (from Brazil, Denmark, India and the Netherlands) who indicated an interest in publishing in our journal.

Twenty three delegates from Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, and USA took the B3 tour on August 22-25. Leaving Bangkok, we traversed the Bangkok Plains where land-use on one of the most acid soils of the world was presented. The undulating granitic uplands present another major land-use problem. Intensive cassava cultivation is associated with some of the most extensive soil erosion problems. We stayed the first night in Pattaya, an unrivaled beach resort. Next day, further to the east, other aspects of land use and management on the granitic terrain were observed. Near the gem-capital of Chanthaburi, a sandy soil with spodic horizon challenged conventional theories on soil genesis. This was followed with a project on coastal zone management for aquaculture and mangrove conservation. Gem mining from the colluvial material derived from weathering products of tertiary basalt was visited along the trip to Chanthaburi. A variety of fruits (durian, longan, long gong, mangosteen, rambutan, salacca, santal, etc.) were presented for tasting at the Chanthaburi Horticultural Research Center. A visit to the Khao Hin Sorn Royal Development Study Center provided a background of the Royal (Rama IX, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's) "New Theory" for the management of land and water for small holdings. At the Kung Krabaen Bay Royal Development Study Center we observed the mangrove forest conservation, management of coastal fishery, and seawater irrigation system for shrimp culture. A totem pole in front of the main building signifies Canadian International Development Agency's contributions. The final night of the tour was at an island resort that required a short ferry ride. The Koh Chang National Marine Park provided a tranquil escape amidst idyllic surroundings. It brought us in contact with the natural beauty of Thailand amid the indigo sea, powdery white-sand beaches, and coconut trees dancing in the sea breeze. On this tour we discovered that Thailand is not only a kingdom of excellent fruits but also a kingdom of delicious seafood. Thanks to Prof. Buree Bunsompobphan and his team (Darunee Chairroj, Rattanachat Chuaybudda, Jintana Hasavayukul, Kriengkrai Imsompod, Supatcha Janson, Jet Lorjai, Sureerat Uangsriwong, Surin Vaicharoen, and Chairat Wanarak) for a memorable experience.

Thank you CSSS for the financial support that enabled me to participate in this tour. I congratulate CSSS for the Overseas Travel Awards that gave us an opportunity to represent and promote CSSS at the World Congress. I strongly feel that we should continue this momentum to promote CSSS and CJSS at the upcoming international meetings, e.g., the 18th World Congress of Soil Science in Philadelphia in 2006.

The Calendar - Forthcoming Meetings

October 10-12, 2002

Soil Erosion Patterns: Evolution, Spatio-temporal Dynamics and Connectivity

Muncheberg, Germany
khelming@zalf.de

October 16-18, 2002

Remediation Technologies Symposium 2002
Banff, AB

www.RemTech2002.com

October 26-29, 2002

3rd International Symposium on Sustainable Agro-Environmental Systems
Cairo, Egypt

www.agro.narss.org

November 6-9, 2002

Annual International Conference on Methyl Bromide Alternatives and Emissions Reductions, Orlando, FL

www.mbao.org

November 10-14, 2002

ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings - Uniting Sciences: Solutions for the Global Community,
Indianapolis, IN

www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/anmeet

November 10-14, 2002

67th Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Soil Science
Jabalpur, India

www.indiansocietyofsoilscience.org

November 26-30, 2002

Second International Agronomy Congress,
New Delhi, India

www.agrosoc.com

January 13-17, 2003

8th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis

Cape Town, South Africa
www.isspa2003.com

February 18-20, 2003

40th Ann. Alberta Soil Science Workshop
Edmonton, AB

www.soilsworkshop.ab.ca

March 25-27, 2003

British Ecological Society Annual Symposium, Biological Diversity and Function in Soils.
Lancaster, UK

www.britishecologicalsociety.org

May 12-15, 2003

International Conference on Irrigation and Drainage,
Phoenix, AZ

www.uscid.org

May 25-28, 2003

28th Ann. Meeting Canadian Land Reclamation Assoc. (CLRA)

Laurentian Univ., Sudbury, ON

www.sudbury2003.ca

June 15-19, 2003

7th Int. Conference on the Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements,
Uppsala, Sweden

www-conference.slu.se/7thICOBTE/index.htm or www.eom.slu.se

July 2-4, 2003

2nd International Conference on Soft Soil Engineering and Technology

Sibu, Sarawak, Malaysia

<http://eng.upm.edu.my/asset2/>

July 14-18, 2003,

16th International Conference of the International Soil and Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO)
The University of Queensland

Brisbane, Australia

www.aghort.uq.edu.au/staff/jtullberg/index.html

July 20-24, 2003

10th North American Forest Soils Conference, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

<http://www.fs.fed.us/forestsoilsconference>

August 10-13, 2003

CSSS Annual Meeting joint with the Canadian Society of Agronomy and the 4th International Conference on Mycorrhiza

Montréal, Québec

www.congresbcu.com/icom4

August 17-23, 2003

4th International Symbiosis Society Congress,

Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS
<http://people.bu.edu/dzook>

August 17-22, 2003

7th International Conf. on Diffuse Pollution

Dublin, Ireland

www.ucd.ie/~dipcon/dipcon.htm

September 14-17, 2003

8th Symposium on Biogeochemistry of Wetlands,
Gent, Belgium

<http://fltwww.rug.ac.be/isofys>

September 21-28, 2003

XII World Forestry Congress
Québec City, QC

www.wfc2003.org

October 21-24, 2003

18th Annual International Conference on Contaminated Soils, Sediments and Water,

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

www.UMassSoils.com

CSSS - Business Office

The CSSS Business Office: membership concerns, updated CSSS membership list, CJSS journal subscriptions, society publications. Contact **Steve Sheppard**, CSSS, P.O. Box 637, Pinawa, Manitoba, R0E 1L0, Canada; Telephone answering machine: (204) 753-2747; Fax: (204) 753-8478; Email: sheppards@ecomatters.com

CSSS - Online

See the CSSS web site homepage, <http://www.csss.ca> for Newsletters, Council, Business Office, Annual Report, Events Page, Careers, Student, CSSS '03, important Links, Information and details for application for CSSS Awards and CSSS Travel Awards and much more. Remember this is your Society's website. You can help keep it current! Send information via e-mail to Frank Larney, CSSS Western Councillor (larney@agr.gc.ca)

The CSSS Newsletter is published three (Fall, Winter and Spring) times per year. Contributions from members are welcome. Please send contributions by email to the Eastern Councillor.

World Congress of Soil Science - Bangkok August, 2002



CSSS President-Elect Ed Gregorich and Past President Yash P. Kalra at the 17th World Congress of Soil Science in Bangkok.

Jacques Langlois in Bangkok

CSSS Council



Some of the current and out-going members of CSSS Council just before the Banquet at the Annual Meeting in Banff. (From left to right: Vimy Glass, Barbara Kishchuk, Denis Angers, Martin Carter, Marie-Josée Garand, Ahmet Mermut, Craig Drury, Frank Larney). Absent from photo: Ed Gregorich.

INTERNATIONAL TRIP REPORT

S.S. Malhi

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Research Farm, P.O. Box 1240, Melfort, Saskatchewan S0E 1A0

The main purpose of this trip was to attend the 17th World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) which was held from 14-21 August, 2002 at Bangkok, Thailand. There were approximately 2000 delegates from about 100 countries. The main theme of the WCSS was "Role of Soils in Society". There were a large number of papers presented related to the theme in 65 symposia. I presented a paper on "Optimizing yield and quality of canola seed with balanced fertilization".

During the WCSS, I attended many technical sessions related to landscape scale research for soil and water quality, influence of biological activity on soil physical properties, effects of soil chemical and biochemical processes on global climate change, enhance carbon sequestration in soils, management of organic matter for soil fertility improvement, soil fertility as an ecosystem concept, matching indigenous and scientific knowledge systems, efficient nutrient use through integrated soil-water-plant management, use of natural nutrient sources and amendments, use and abuse of industrial and urban wastes in agricultural soils, and amelioration of degraded soils. There was a good exchange of information on soil fertility management for sustainable agroecological and environmental approach, combined use of chemical and organic sources for best crop production, economics and soil/water/air quality, wise use of waste products as nutrient sources and organic materials to improve soil fertility and quality, biological management in soil fertility for sustainable low input agriculture, and amelioration of degraded subsoil through perennial grasses. There was also an interesting discussion on "C sequestration as a temporary solution to global warming, but not the final sustainable solution". That is, we must reduce input of C or CO₂ (and other greenhouse gases) emissions to the atmosphere by using less fuels and increasing efficiency of energy use. This limitation of soil/land use in C sequestration should be explained to policy makers in order to find out a more sustainable solution. In addition, every effort was made to promote CSSS among international audience by distributing CSSS handouts and through discussions.

On August 18, I visited a vast area of acid sulphate soils north of Bangkok city. It was interesting to see that these poorly drained soils are used for agriculture to grow citrus trees, hot chillies and other vegetables. We also had a chance to visit a soil profile and demonstration project for sustainable production of food, fibre and fuel for Thailand farmers. This tour also included a visit to the ancient city of Ayutthaya, which was the Thai capital for 400 years until its destruction in 1707. This ancient city with ruins of numerous temples is one of the world heritage sites.

After the WCSS, I participated in the Post Congress Technical Tour to northeast Thailand and areas near Vientiane in Laos. During this tour, I was able to see different soils, topography features, agricultural and forest crops, and several historical places. From 22-25 August, I visited northeast Thailand including a citrus farm on a typical acid sulphate soil in Pakchong district in Nakornratchima Province; ancient khmer style stone temple, pasture, paddy rice and bare fields, Ubon Ratana Dam and amazing fossils of Dinosauruses in Khon Kaen Province; Ban Chiang Prehistoric Heritage Center, traditional salt farming from underground salt dome and Ultisols soil profiles in Udon Thani Province; and Alfisols soil profile near the bank of flooded Mekong River in Nong Khai Province. This river represents boundary line between Thailand and Laos.

From 26-27 August, I visited Laos including Vientiane City and Agricultural Development and Service Centre at Na Ngang village, Nasaithong District, Laos. This Service Centre is a demonstration project for community development and extension education for Laos farmers. The main aim of this project is to demonstrate farmers for self-sufficient production of food, fiber and fuel in their communities. This is a joint venture between the Thailand and Laos governments.

After the Post Congress Technical Tour, I visited India from 1-23 September. While there, I had an opportunity to visit the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab from 17-20 September, during my vacation. During my visit to PAU, I had discussions with several soil scientists on their research in relation to fertilizer management, nutrient cycling, soil testing, C sequestration, greenhouse gas emission, nitrate contamination of underground water and micronutrients. I also attended Kissan Mela (farmers fair being organized by PAU twice a year to exhibit new findings in agricultural research, machinery, food science, veterinary, etc.) on 19-20 September. Thousands of farmers throughout the Punjab state attend this event and ask direct questions from the researchers during question/answer sessions. This is one of the most important extension activities and PAU is very famous for this to transfer research findings to farmers.

In summary, during this trip I made many new contacts with international soil scientists at WCSS and with several researchers in Thailand, Laos and India. I learnt more about soils and cropping systems in south-east Asia. I gained some new information in relation to proper soil fertility management with combined use of chemical and organic sources for producing high sustainable crop yields and economic returns, enhancing soil quality and minimizing risk to the environment. This should be useful for future cooperative research to improve nutrient cycling from organic residues to increase availability of P to crops in low input organic farming systems and increase the sustainability of soil, water, and air quality. This new knowledge gained through discussions with international scientists and WCSS technical sessions will be useful to my future soil fertility research on efficient nutrient use, proper tillage and crop residue management, C sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions.

CSSS Student News

University of Guelph Captures Top Student Prizes in Banff

Welcome to new and returning student members. Banff was a success! It was really great seeing strong presentations from the students. On behalf of CSSS, I would like to congratulate the student winners at our annual meeting in Banff.

The winners of the **Bentley Award (Oral presentation)** were:

- 1ST PLACE: **MS. MAREN OELBER-MANN**
University of Guelph
- 2ND PLACE: **MS. SHAWNA MCMAHON**
Oregon State University
- 3RD PLACE: **MS. CLAUDETTE BOIS**
McGill University

Also, congratulations to the winners of the **President's Award (Poster Presentation)**:

- 1ST PLACE: **MS. P.H. DADFAR**
University of Guelph
- 2ND PLACE: **MR. A.D. THEEDE**
University of Saskatchewan
- 3RD PLACE: **MR. IVAN R. WHITSON**
University of Alberta

HONOURABLE MENTION:
DR. PIETER GROENEVELT

FEATURED STUDENT MEMBER PROJECT:

Rob Michitsch is an MSc student in the Dept. of Land Resource Science at the University of Guelph. Rob's research is dealing with the re-use of intra-process wastewater from anaerobic digestion of municipal organic wastes as a soil fertility amendment in turfgrass and horticultural crop production. Preliminary controlled and field trials have indicated suitability of the wastewater byproduct as a fertility amendment, specifically in turfgrass production and maintenance, due to its high nutritive content. The approaches developed will be applicable to other agricultural processes which generate nutrient-rich wastewater streams (eg. manure treatment, food processing, composting operations).

I would like to encourage all students members to stay in touch and to be involved in the Society. If you have any questions about student awards, career planning, or any other aspect of CSSS, please contact me by any means suitable. Enjoy the fall semester.

Vimy Glass
Graduate Rep, CSSS

CSSS membership increases by 20%!

Membership of our Society has increased by 20% from 2001 to 2002 (333 to 402 members). This is largely due to our decision of removing membership fees for the students. Note that regular membership has also significantly increased from 232 to 250.

Treasurer's note

First, on a positive note, the sales of the Soil and Environmental Science Dictionary and of the Soil Sampling and Methods Analysis have been excellent. They totalled a value of \$5440.00 in royalties since the beginning of the year.

It is common knowledge that stock market has not performed very well over the last year. As a result, our mutual funds lost around \$14 600 from January 1st to August 30th, a drop of 13%. Fortunately, the investment strategy devised by the 1998 finance committee (chaired by Gary Patterson) was planned to diminish the risks. It proved quite efficient in mitigating the impact of dropping markets since overall, the whole fund decreased by only 6%. It can be expected that once the current bear market subsides, our diversified portfolio will bounce back.

Finally, on the behalf of the CSSS, I would like to acknowledge the work of two of our members, John MacLeod and Delmar Holmstrom. For the second year, they graciously accepted to audit the books of the society for the fiscal year 2001.

Trip report to WCSS

by Jacques Langlois
Department of Natural Resource Sciences
McGill University

At the last CSSS meeting held in Banff, I received one of the Overseas Travel Awards in order to allow me to attend the 17th World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) in Bangkok, Thailand from August 14 to 22, 2002. The congress was divided into 65 symposia and around 1800 papers (oral and poster presentations) were on the program. I presented the fruits of my Ph.D. research in a symposium called "Landscape scale research: methodology, concepts and consequences for soil and water quality". This symposium included seven oral papers and 30 posters from which mine was selected as the second best. This symposium gave me the possibility to talk with a large contingent of international researchers in the domain of nutrient movements in agricultural fields. The resulting stimulating discussions gave me new ideas for future work.

In order to promote the CSSS within the International Union of Soil Science, I made a poster stating the aims of our society and listing its publications (CJSS and books).* At the convention centre, I made 500 copies of the poster (8 ½ x 11) and gave to Dr. Malhi, Dr. Kalra and Dr. Mermut around 100 copies each. I placed the remaining copies and other promotional materials at two information kiosks and on the tables of the Internet room so that people could read them while queuing up for computers. I also put copies of the CSSS poster and CJSS journals beside my own poster. At the end of the congress, about 50 copies of the CSSS poster were left on the table while other promotional materials had all been picked up. I would like to thank the society for giving me financial support to present the results of my Ph.D. research at the WCSS.

* *Editor's note. Jacques' poster is included with the Newsletter*

Water Erosion Prediction Handbook for Canada

A new handbook: RUSLEFAC, Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation for Application in Canada, has just been published. This handbook is intended to provide a reference document which describes methods for estimating soil loss from water erosion in conservation planning and to provide a compilation of material required to predict erosion rates in Canada. The methods used in this handbook are the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE), the Revised USLE (RUSLE) and adaptations of these models for regional and provincial application in Canada (RUSLEFAC). Applications of these models have been limited, partly because of lack of pertinent information for the different factor values used in erosion prediction.

Part 1 of the report presents background information on soil erosion prediction in Canada and explains the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) and its revised version, RUSLE.

Part 2 is a compilation of RUSLEFAC and USLE factor values for regional, provincial and Canadian conditions.

Part 3 contains case studies and provides step by step instructions for calculating soil loss using real data from various regions of Canada.

The handbook, a culmination of a decade of work by the National Soil Erosion Study Group, is published by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

To secure your CD-copy of the handbook, contact Valerie Kirkwood in Ottawa: kirkwoodv@agr.gc.ca.

For more information, contact Laurens van Vliet at the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre in Agassiz: vanvlietl@agr.gc.ca.

"Proceedings of the International Composting Symposium (ICS'99)"

The ICS'99 957 page two-volume set of books contains 115 papers (63 peer-reviewed) addressing all aspects of compost production and quality.

With this CSSS offer, the regular purchase price of \$129 Canadian will be reduced to \$119 and will also include all taxes, postage and handling. When ordering, please quote "CSSS Special Offer". Prepayment is required by cheque in the name of "CBA/ICS'99" and you can send your order to CBA/ICS'99, 12710 Highway 2, R.R.# 5, Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada, B2N 5B3 (cbaltd@fox.nstn.ca).

New book from one of our members

Léon-Étienne Parent from Université Laval and a colleague from Poland (P. Ilnicki) are editors of a new multi-author book entitled *Organic Soils and Peat Materials for Sustainable Agriculture*. Co-published by CRC and the International Peat Society, this reference is the first to integrate the physical, chemical, and biological aspects of organic soils and peat materials for sustainable agriculture and horticulture. It details the principles and indicators behind positive action in sustainable management. The book presents a complete analysis of how peat works chemically, physically, and ecologically. It quantifies the moorsh-forming, or peat degradation, process in tables and figures, provides conversion equations among pH determination methods, and supplies a novel diagnosis of N and P release. In addition, the book revisits water, pesticides, phosphorus, and copper sorption characteristics of organic soils.

For more information, please contact Dr. Parent at leon-etienne.parent@sga.ulaval.ca or visit www.crcpress.com

Soil and Environmental Science Dictionary

The Soil and Environmental Science Dictionary has received favourable reviews in several publications. A recent review in the Journal of Environmental Quality (Vol. 31, July-August 2002: page 1410) concluded that:

"This dictionary should serve as a valuable reference for anyone who deals with multi-disciplinary soil and environmental issues: scientists, students, teachers, environmental managers, regulators, consultants, and policy-makers."

The dictionary is published by CRC Press in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Soil Science is available to CSSS members at a 50% discount off the price (\$69.95 USD). Members can order the dictionary directly from CRC Press (see details below). To ensure they receive the discount CSSS members will need to mention the promotional code **281BC** no matter what method they use to order the book.

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THE NATURE AND PROPERTIES OF SOILS

by J.L.(Les) Henry P.Ag, 143 Tucker Crescent,Saskatoon,SK S7H 3H7
September 7, 2002

At the Soil Science Department, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon we have established a "Soil Science Classics" shelf in the departmental reading room. It contains such gems as Allison's "Soil Organic Matter and its Role in Crop Production", Jenny's "Factors of Soil Formation", Saskatchewan Soil Survey Reports # 12 and #13 and others.

A recent contribution to the collection is all 13 editions of "The Nature and Properties of Soils". Most of the 13 editions went through several printings so it is probably the most popular soils book in North America. Any CSSS member who has a bachelors degree in agriculture from a Canadian university likely used "The Nature and Properties of Soils" as a textbook at some stage. Don Rennie taught me introductory soil science from the 6th edition, 1960, by Buckman and Brady. I taught introductory soil science from the 7th (1969), 8th (1974), 9th (1984) and 10th (1990) editions of the same book.

By virtue of my student and teacher years I already had editions 6 through 10 and managed to scrounge 5,4 and 3. The 5th edition was donated to me by well known quaternary geologist Earl Christiansen who took a degree in agriculture before taking up geology.

Editions 1 and 2 were harder to come by but thanks to modern technology and BarnesandNoble.com I managed to assemble the complete collection. If any member of CSSS is in Saskatoon and has an interest in the history of our science, a day spent in the 13 editions of "The Nature and Properties of Soils" would be a good start. The 13 editions are all on one shelf of the Jim Ellis, Soil Science Reading Room on the 5th floor of the Ag building at the U of S. You are welcome to come and use them here, but they are not loaned out.

The 1st edition was in 1922 but there was actually a pre-cursor published in 1915. The 1915 book was " Soils, Their Properties and Management" by Lyon, Fippin and Buckman and edited by L.H. Bailey, all of Cornell university. It was pub-

lished as part of a rural text-book series. Thumbing through the 1915 book is a bit humbling , to say the least. Most of the nitrogen cycle was understood at that time. Nitrification, denitrification and nitrogen fixation were all known and Figure 61 shows the nitrogen cycle in much the same way as we present it today.

Soil fertility development is well documented in the 13 editions plus the pre-cursor. The 1915 book knew about N,P,K and S fertilizers and then talked about "catalytic" fertilizers which included manganese, iron, aluminum, zinc, lead, copper, nickel, uranium, boron, cerium and lanthanum. The catalytic fertilizers eventually became known as trace elements and then micronutrients , but it is interesting to note that nickel never appeared again until the 11th edition in 1996. In fact, I never taught nickel to be an essential nutrient and am embarrassed to admit that I only learned of it in preparing this article, which emphasizes the need for lifelong learning. When we quit learning we should quit, period.

By the 3rd edition in 1937 the essential plant nutrients as I taught them were all in place except Molybdenum and Chlorine. An interesting statement from the 1st edition in 1922 was "The conclusion that chemical analyses are of but little direct practical value as a guide to soil productivity is unavoidable". The history of soil testing would be easy to glean from the textbooks, except that the Americans were behind Western Canada in learning about the nitrate soil test.

One diagram that has lasted as long as I have been in the business is the wooden barrel with staves that illustrate Liebig's Law of the Minimum. It first appeared in the 6th edition in 1960 and is present in the 13th edition of 2002.

If one wishes to trace soil fertility or other areas of soil science through the years , there would be no easier way than spending some time in the 13 editions of " The Nature and Properties of Soils". I hope to meet some of you who drop in to soil science to have a look- and enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation. The U of S soils department has a cadre of old crocks who have quit collecting a pay cheque but still come in to argue soils - and learn.

Pedosphere.com Soil Science Test Center

Pedosphere.Com is pleased to announce its new public preview site and the launch of the Soil Science Test Center. The Soil Science Test Center provides interactivity for learning and exploring Soil Science at an introductory level. It also allows the user to custom design sample quizzes, practice mid-terms & practice final exams. Answers and explanations for each question attempted provide quick and precise feedback, and encourage learning. Performance is measured in terms of overall score, and scores for definitions, concepts and applications. This unique approach identifies competency as well as weaknesses in comprehension of the course material. All these resources have been designed to engage the user in learning the material and also help the instructors to deliver their courses.

Resources at the test center are organized at three levels: Guest, Registered User and Registered Instructor. You are welcome to take a 14-question sample test!

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