



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As incoming president I am pleased to thank several people for their hard work in serving the CSSS. Denis Angers, Marie-Josée Garand, Craig Drury and Martin Carter recently ended their terms on the CSSS council and are to be commended for their commitment and dedication to helping promote CSSS activities for the last few years. I would also like to congratulate and welcome the new members to council: Joann Whalen (eastern councilor), Don Flaten (treasurer) and Gary Parkin (secretary). Martin Carter will continue to serve on council as editor of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science.

The CSSS annual meetings held in Montreal in August were a great success. This meeting was held jointly with the International Conference on Mycorrhiza and the Canadian Society of Agronomy. On behalf of the CSSS I wish to congratulate and thank Denis Angers and the rest of the organizing committee for their hard work in putting together a well-coordinated programme of science and social functions. Joann Whalen and Jim Fyles of McGill University were other CSSS members who helped organize the various conference activities. There was good interaction and linkages between the different scientific groups at the meeting. The CSSS provided funding for 11 students to attend the conference, and a corporate sponsor, Jacques Whitford Consulting, provided funding to cover one student travel award.

A question from the floor at the CSSS business meeting in Montreal was: "Where is Canadian soil science heading?" In some ways the future of soil science in Canada looks good, because many of the emerging environmental issues require more research in various areas of soil science. Issues such as carbon sequestration, climate change, greenhouse gas emissions from soil, manure management, water quality, and effects of genetically modified plants on ecosystem processes are being discussed in the lay press and getting coverage on national and local news programmes. Soil science will play a key role in answering some of these environmental questions, and the CSSS could contribute to the dissemination of information that contributes to increasing the awareness of the importance of soils in environmental science.

Another dimension of the question of where soil science is heading is the role that CSSS plays in conjunction with other organizations in promoting science. The very successful joint scientific meetings the Society has had with other like-minded scientific organizations in recent years supports the multi-disciplinary approach that is needed today to advance our science, promote the cross-fertilization of scientific ideas, and make the best use of resources. Over the last year the Agriculture Institute of Canada has been planning and discussing ways to restructure its organization. An AIC representative presented various models for restructuring at our annual business meeting. CSSS will need to decide over the next year how this new structure will help serve to promote soil science in Canada and abroad. If we are serious about planning where Canadian soil science is heading, then we will need to carefully evaluate where we contribute our time, energy, money, and ideas to AIC's plans.

The CSSS can influence the direction of soil science in Canada by supporting and sponsoring publications related to soil science. Royalties from recent CSSS publications have been accumulating in the Publication Fund, and these funds are available to develop new publications (e.g. a soil education kit for grade school science, a Soils Atlas of Canada). I encourage members to consider taking a lead in developing such publications, and, if needed, apply to the fund to support publication.

The next CSSS annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the Soil Science Society of America meetings in Nov. 2004 in Seattle, Washington. This will be the first time that our society has met outside of Canada and it should be a good venue in which to promote Canadian soil science. Frank Larney, our western Councillor, is the CSSS liaison with the U.S.



## CSSS Council

### President

Ed Gregorich  
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C6  
Tel: (613) 759-1909  
Fax: (613) 759-1926  
Email: gregoriche@agr.gc.ca

### Past President

Ahmet Mermut  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W0  
Tel: (306) 966-6839  
Fax: (306) 966-6881  
Email: mermut@sask.usask.ca

### Secretary

Gary Parkin  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1  
Tel: (519) 824-4120  
Fax: (519) 824-5730  
Email: gparkin@lrs.uoguelph.ca

### Treasurer

Don Flaten  
University of Manitoba  
Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2  
Tel: (204) 474-6257  
Fax: (204) 474-7642  
Email: don\_flaten@umanitoba.ca

### Eastern Councillor

Joann Whalen  
McGill University  
Montreal, QC H9X 3V9  
Tel: (514) 398-7943  
Fax: (514) 398-7990  
Email: whalenj@nrs.mcgill.ca

### Western Councillor

Frank Larney  
Agriculture & Food Canada  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4B1  
Tel: (403) 317-2216  
Fax: (403) 317-2187  
Email: larney@agr.gc.ca

### Graduate Student

#### Representative

Vimy Glass  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1  
Tel: (519) 824-4120 ext.6671  
Fax: (519) 824-5730  
Email: vglass@lrs.uoguelph.ca

### CJSS Editor

Martin Carter  
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7M8  
Tel: (902) 566-6869  
Fax: (902) 566-6821  
Email: carterm@agr.gc.ca

organizing committee. Several joint symposia and sessions are being planned in which Canadian and U.S. researchers will present papers on a particular theme or topic.

The CSSS business office will be adding a new service that we think will help make it easier to sign up and pay for membership, vote, and register for conferences. This feature will be a secure, online internet service, which is expected to be up and running early next year. Look for Steve Sheppard's article in this newsletter describing some of the features of this new service. We will be using this new online service to poll members for advice on present and future developments in the CSSS. Please help us by offering your suggestions and comments. They will be much appreciated.

*Ed Gregorich*

## Provincial Soil

About a decade ago «The Dirtman» (Taumey Mahendrapa – a CSSS member, Fredericton NB) initiated a campaign to have soil scientists in each province select a specific soil to be nominated for official provincial government designation as the « Provincial Soil ».

In spite of continuous promotion, naming of Provincial Soils in each province has progressed but very slowly. To date only New Brunswick has officially designated its Provincial Soil; the Homesville Soil

In P.E.I. the Charlottetown Soil has been selected and its nomination for designation as the P.E.I. Provincial Soil has been made. Action by the Provincial Government is awaited. *Perhaps some lobbying for action is needed?*

Alberta agrologists have selected the Brenton Soil as its Provincial Soil. The nomination of the Brenton Soil is to accompany an Alberta Government required submission of proposed amendments to the act regarding the Alberta Institute of Agrologists – because the Alberta Government is restructuring all professional acts so as to have general similarities to some aspects of all such acts.

Two years ago Manitoba selected the "Newdale Soil" to be the Provincial Soil but the nomination has not yet been made.

Nova Scotia is considering what soil should be nominated as its Provincial Soil.

As a proud Soil Scientist I think our profession lacks an adequate program of public education to impress ordinary citizens about the importance of soils and soil science for enduring security and well being of our country – and of the world!

I feel that soil science, and soil scientists, lack needed programs of public information and education. We need to in-

form the general public about the fundamental importance of SOILS to all who consume foods. Most of those successfully engaged in and /or dependant on natural resources have carefully crafted, and widely disseminated programs for education of the general citizenry regarding the importance to the public of their resource/activity. Soil science, and soil scientists, need similar public education programs. Without such our identity and contribution will wither and decline in public awareness, recognition and support.

I think that soil scientists need to embark on, and maintain, some enduring ways to publicize the importance of soils. One way to begin doing that is to persuade all provincial governments to officially designate A PROVINCIAL SOIL!

There are numerous officially designated provincial icons such as flowers, birds, trees, animals and so forth. Special involved interest groups have prepared the nominations that have resulted in those designations.

I think soil scientists in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec, should select a soil to be designated The Provincial Soil and then the nominations should be made promptly thereafter. It would be logical to involve each provincial Institute of Agrologists in supporting, or making, the nominations.

As a proud soil scientist I think we owe it to our profession to make selections and nominations to provincial governments for official designations of provincial soils. It is up to us: others will not do it for us!

*Fred Bentley*

## AIC AWARD TO THAI PHIEN

## ADVENTURES FOR 2004

Members of the CSSS are involved with several projects under the International Agriculture Development Program of the Agricultural Institute of Canada. I have represented the CSSS in coordinating one of these projects, in Vietnam. This past year the AIC initiated an International Partners Award. I, along with several members of the CSSS (Julian Dumanski, Marie Boehm and Bob Eilers) nominated Prof. Thai Phien, the in-country coordinator of the project in Vietnam, as the first recipient of this award. The nomination was successful.

The AIC held their annual Award Ceremony in Ottawa on October 8, 2003. In that we considered it inappropriate to use project funds to support Thai Phien's travel to this function, we opted to have me accept the award for him, and make an official presentation to him in Vietnam at a later date. It was a good function, with Dave Chanasyk in the Chair and Hon. Lyle Van Clief making the presentations.

Prof. Phien has travelled to Canada on three occasions. He has attended annual meetings of CSSS in Truro and Winnipeg, including paper and poster presentations respectively. A few CSSS members in addition to those mentioned above have had first hand exposure to our project work in Vietnam.

Also, the project is planning Forum 2004, an exchange in Vietnam aimed to provide an opportunity for Canadians with experience or interest in agriculture and rural development in developing countries in the humid sub-tropics and tropics to better appreciate and to appraise current efforts by Canada in Vietnam and to assist partners in this country in planning future programs. The intent is to invite the President of the CSSS or his designate to participate in this activity.

*Don Acton*

It is cliché to say, but change for CSSS seems to be the most reliable constant. We have at least two adventures underway. One is that there are 2 CSSS conferences in 2004: the official conference with ASA in Seattle where we will have our business meetings and most papers, and another topic-meeting in Edmonton with CSA and CSAS on greenhouse gas issues. This will be potentially confusing.

Another adventure this year is on-line membership renewal. Please give it a try, if you are comfortable with on-line purchases. If not, you can still register on-line and send a cheque, or simply register entirely by mail. With luck (and management) this will be seen by many as a benefit.

We continue to look for services to pass along to members. This year we offer a discount on email delivery of "Agriweek". The agronomy content seems very relevant for those in that area. The political opinions on the last page are pretty controversial. In no way does our providing this service represent an endorsement of these views by CSSS! But they are fun to read, if you keep an open mind. The level of discount we get depends on the number of you who subscribe. What we've done this year is to apply the least discount, and if by virtue of many subscribers we qualify for a larger discount, then this year the extra money will be attributed to you as a tax deductible donation to CSSS. It will only be \$79.00 (plus tax) each. In future, if Agriweek is popular, we will be able to apply larger discounts at the 2005 renewal time.

If you have ideas of other services we can offer, or if you have material to distribute to all CSSS (and CSA) members, please let me know.

*Steve Sheppard,  
Registrar and Office Manager*

### **Call for nominations AIC 2004 Honours and Awards Committee**

AIC's Honours and Awards Program recognizes members of AIC's Member Organizations who have been outstanding in their field of endeavour. It is an important way to recognize the accomplishments and achievements of your peers in agrolgy and agricultural science. The guidelines and nomination forms for awards for 2004 are posted in PDF format on the AIC website at <http://www.aic.ca/outreach/program.html>.

Scroll down the page for the complete listions of honours and awards. If you need the files in Word or WordPerfect, or in hard copy please contact Jean Sullivan, PAG at [news@aic.ca](mailto:news@aic.ca)

It is important that the nomination are detailed and fully completed in order for the Honours and Awards Committee to fully evaluate the nomination. For all Honour and Awards, an AIC Member Organization or any five members of a Member Organization may make nominations. Nomination forms and all documentation must be received at the AIC office in Ottawa by January 31, 2004.

# 2003 CSSS Student Award Winners





# **“The Science of Changing Climates— Impact on Agriculture, Forestry and the Ecosystem”**

At the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta,

**July 19 to 23, 2004**

## **Joint Plenary Session July 20-21:**

- Henry Hengeveld (Env.Canada): overview of climate change
- Stewart Cohen (UBC): overview of impact of climate change on systems
- Gerrit Hoogenboom (U Georgia): Plant/soil interface
- Gary Waghorn (DRO, NZ): Livestock
- Mike Apps (CFS): Forestry
- Dale Vitt (U S Illinois): Wetlands
- Les Fuller (UA): Knowledge gaps in GHGs
- Dave Layzell (BIOCAP, QU): Knowledge gaps in climate change effects
- Cornelius van Kooten (U Victoria): Policies of climate change
- Richard Adams (OSU): Economics of climate change for agriculture and forestry
- John Stone: summary speaker

## **Concurrent CSA , CSAS and CSSS Forestry Sessions on:**

- Below ground C dynamics in Forested Ecosystems
- Implications and Benefits of Genomic Research; Refining diet formulation (Poultry and Swine); Pasture Sustainability

*For further information please contact:*

Pat Juskiw (403-782-8691, [patricia.juskiw@gov.ab.ca](mailto:patricia.juskiw@gov.ab.ca))

OR

George Clayton (403-782-8123, [claytong@agr.gc.ca](mailto:claytong@agr.gc.ca)) .

# Report on Planning for SSSA/CSSS Joint Meeting

## Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2004

We represented CSSS at 2004 Program Planning Meetings during the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings in Denver, CO. On Nov. 3, 2003 we met with Dave Kral and Keith Schlesinger from ASA Headquarters in Madison, WI and Mike Singer (Past-President, SSSA) and Tom Sims (President, SSSA). Here are some of the points discussed:

1. SSSA will handle Title Summary Submissions. CSSS will be identified as a Division like all the other Divisions in the current web-based submission form (e.g. Division S-1, Soil Physics).

2. CSSS e-mail addresses (Ed Gregorich, Frank Larney and Alain Plante) will be added to the ASA ListServ for Division Chairs so that we will receive all correspondence related to program planning and be included in the web-based planning procedure.

3. In the January edition of CSA News, there will be an announcement of the joint meeting in Seattle.

4. There will be stickers with our logo for CSSS members to put on their name tags similar to those already used for ASA, CSSA and SSSA. These will help raise our profile and make us more visible among the other attendees. Our logo will also appear on the program cover.

5. We have a large number of student presentations. The program planners will try and make sure that these are completed by noon on Wed. so that all student winners can attend the CSSS Awards Banquet on Wed. night.

6. Registration fees: Dave Kral confirmed that CSSS members who are not members of SSSA will be charged the SSSA member rate (this year early bird was US\$300) and not the non-member registration which this year was US\$400

On Nov. 5, we attended a 2004 Program Planning Meeting with all the ASA/CSSA/SSSA Division Chairs. Tom Sims spoke of the current meeting. There were 4,100 attendees and 2800 posters/

papers. 2200 papers were volunteered, 600 invited. The submission date for submission of Title Summary Forms is likely April 15 which is a bit later than last year (March 27).

After the break we broke into ASA, CSSA and SSSA groups. John Havlin (NC State Univ.) is President-Elect of SSSA and as such is SSSA Program Chair for the 2004 meetings. He met with us (as CSSS reps) plus the 11 incoming chairs of the S-Divisions. He solicited topics for Symposia for 2004. John will compile and send to Keith at ASA before Nov. 15. The idea then is to look at the list and see if there is pooling that can be done to co-sponsor Symposia.

On behalf of CSSS we presented ideas for co-sponsored Symposia: Carbon Storage, Solute/Microbial Transport, Environmental Quality Impacts Manure/Compost Management, Soils in Cold Regions, Forest Soils, Wetlands and Climate Change, Soil Classification (Canadian/Russian system vs. US system).

John Havlin mentioned that we should go through him if we have suggestions for CSSS co-sponsored Symposia for ASA Divisions of mutual interest. These are A-3 (Agroclimatology and Agronomic Modelling) and A-5 (Environmental Quality).

In summary, we both felt very positive about our meetings with ASA Headquarters staff and SSSA Program Chair and Division Chairs. We heard comments like "What a great idea!", "Why wasn't this done before now?" etc. So all in all, we want to emphasize the very positive reaction and support for a Joint Meeting that we encountered.

If you require any further information on Program Planning for our 2004 Joint Meeting in Seattle, please get in touch with one of us via e-mail:

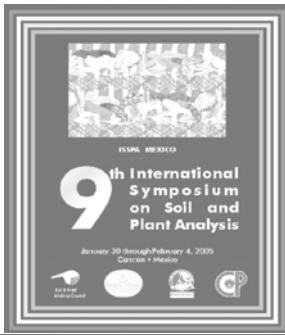
**Frank Larney: [larney@agr.gc.ca](mailto:larney@agr.gc.ca)**

**Alain Plante : [plante@nrel.colostate.edu](mailto:plante@nrel.colostate.edu)**

## 9TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOIL AND PLANT ANALYSIS

January 30 through February 4 2005

'Soil, plant, and water analysis: quality analytical tools for an era of ecological awareness'  
Hyatt Regency Cancun, Mexico



### PLENARY SESSIONS

- Role of National Metrology Institutes for comparable measurements. Dr. Yoshito Mitani
- Organic matter and soil fertility and amelioration
- Biosolids and soil fertility
- Soil Mapping and Sampling (GPS mapping, software, sampling "zones")
- Modelling soil chemical phenomena

## Henry's Handbook of Soil and Water

by Les Henry

An 'easy read' book about soil and water in the Prairie Provinces

- Soil Science made easy - full color - 218 pages
- 158 color photos, 4 color illustrations
- Major chapters :soil fertility :soil salinity :groundwater.
- Water analysis for rivers, lakes and aquifers from Lake Winnipeg to Lake Minnewanka near Banff
- Full color map of "Soil Zones of the Canadian Prairies" with Thick Black, Grey Black and Grey zones separated
- Equations relating wheat, barley and canola yield to water use
- 21 Figures, 43 Tables and 59 references (embedded in the text)

### Special Features:

- "Figuring in the Box" calculations made easy
- "Practical Notes" theories put in to practice
- "Rules of Thumb" for easy recall of facts and figures
- "Thinking Outside the Box" to stimulate and challenge keen young minds of the future
- Appendix- Henry's Handy Facts for ready reference to units and conversions

**Price \$54.52** per book- GST and mailing included

Order to: Henry Perspectives  
143 Tucker Crescent  
Saskatoon, SK S7H 3H7

## Book Advertisement

**The Soil and Environmental Science Dictionary** published by CRC Press in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Soil Science is available to CSSS members at a 50% discount off the list 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.

*CRC Press*  
2000 N.W. Corporate Blvd.  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431-9868  
Tel: 1 800-272-7737  
Fax: 1 800-374-3401  
email: [orders@crcpress.com](mailto:orders@crcpress.com)

## The Calendar – Forthcoming Meetings

### January 25–28, 2004

12th Annual Conference of the US Composting Council,  
Las Vegas, NV  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

### February 3–4, 2004

47th Annual Manitoba Soil Science Society Meetings  
Theme: Manure and Nutrient Management in the Environment  
[www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/afs/soil\\_science/msss](http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/afs/soil_science/msss)

### February 16–20, 2004

International Erosion Control Association Meeting,  
Philadelphia, PA  
[www.ieca.org](http://www.ieca.org)

### February 17–19, 2004

41st Annual Alberta Soil Science Workshop  
Lethbridge, Alberta  
[www.soilworkshop.ab.ca](http://www.soilworkshop.ab.ca)

### February 19–20, 2004

Soils and Crops Workshop  
Saskatoon, SK  
[richard.farrell@usask.ca](mailto:richard.farrell@usask.ca)

### March 8–10, 2004

34th Biological Systems Simulation Group,  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/bssg>

### March 18–19, 2004

10th International Congress Soil Science  
Hyderabad, Pakistan  
[soilchem@fsd.paknet.com.pk](mailto:soilchem@fsd.paknet.com.pk)

### April 18–24, 2004

International Symposium on Impacts of Soil Biodiversity  
on Biogeochemical Processes in Ecosystems/International  
Workshop on Molecular Methods in Soil Biological and  
Biochemical Diversity in Terrestrial Ecosystems  
Taipei, Taiwan  
<http://botany.sinica.edu.tw/soil/index.html>

### April 25–28, 2004

European Symposium on Environmental Biotechnology,  
Oostende, Belgium  
[www.eseb2004.be](http://www.eseb2004.be)

### June 7–10, 2004

International Soil Congress on Natural Resource Manage-  
ment for Sustainable Development  
Erzurum, Turkey  
[www.toprak.org.tr](http://www.toprak.org.tr)

### June 14–18, 2004

Sustainable Agriculture on Tropical Steeplands,  
Merida, Venezuela  
[www.cidiat.ing.ula.ve/sats2004](http://www.cidiat.ing.ula.ve/sats2004)

### June 19–24, 2004

Gorges, Clays and Coulees, 41st Annual Meeting of The  
Cay Minerals Society  
Richland, WA  
<http://www.pnl.gov/cms>

### June 28–30, 2004

Riparian Ecosystems and Buffers: Multi-scale structure,  
function, and management  
Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley, CA  
[www.awra.org](http://www.awra.org)

### July 5–9, 2004

12th International Conference and Exhibition Mechaniza-  
tion of Field Experiments  
St. Petersburg/Pushkin, Russia  
[www.iamfe.org](http://www.iamfe.org)

### July 11–15, 2004

8th European Society of Agronomy Congress: European  
Agriculture in a Global Context  
Copenhagen, Denmark  
[www.esacopenhagen2004.kvl.dk](http://www.esacopenhagen2004.kvl.dk)

### 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: (204) 753-2747; Fax: (204) 753-8478; Email: [sheppards@ecomatters.com](mailto: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, important links and much more.

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