



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After an unnaturally (and endlessly) cold spring field work is finally under-way in Saskatchewan – a time to gladden the heart of any soil scientist.

In my report to the membership in this newsletter I want to concentrate primarily on issues that will be discussed as part of the Annual General Meeting in Prince George.

Proposed Fee Increase for CSSS

The following motion has been circulated to CSSS members for discussion and resolution at the Annual meetings in Prince George.

Motion: The CSSS Executive recommends to the membership that the fee for Regular Members be increased to \$80.00 per year and a fee of \$25.00 per year be established for student members.

The rationale for proposing a fee increase is the unsustainable financial position of the society at this time. The key points to take from the CSSC budget (and Treasurer Flaten's comments at our last AGM) are:

1. The CSSS has two trust funds: the Bentley trust and the Publications trust. The terms these trusts are administered under are on p. 4-5 of the Financial Policy Manual.
2. Returns from the trusts have been modest in the past few years (consistent with lower interest rates).
3. The intention is that the CSSS awards (Bentley Student Speaking Competition (\$1000/yr), President's Poster Competition (\$1000/yr), Undergraduate Book Awards (approx. \$1000 in 2007), Student Travel Awards (\$6000/yr), Member Travel Awards (no longer awarded), and Visiting Scientist Awards (no longer awarded)) would be funded by income from the Bentley trust after meeting the terms and expenses of the Bentley trust.
4. Because of the modest returns from the combined trusts they cannot fully fund the student awards and approximately \$3500 per year of operating funds must be allocated to maintain the awards at their current levels.
5. The allocation of operating funds to the student awards and the decreasing income from memberships eliminates any opportunity for even modest projects related to renewal of the CSSS. The financial situation has already led to the loss of membership building events such as the annual Presidents Tour.

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A number of possible solutions were discussed by the Executive:

- Reduce the number and amount of student awards.
- Reduce other operating expenses.
- Increase the membership.
- Increase income from membership fees.

After thorough discussion by the Executive the following points were agreed to:

1. The proposed fee increase is the most palatable way to increase the income of the CSSS.
2. The proposed increase should be consistent with that of other scientific societies (see Table 1). For guidance, the mean for regular members in the list below is about \$78.00; for student members it is about \$24.00 (approximately 1/3 of regular on average).
3. We need to enhance what we offer to members for this fee increase. The website is a good place to start (and the sooner the better). As well, differential fees for members and non-members at our annual meeting should be considered.

Currently we charge non-student members \$68.00 per year for membership and student memberships are free. Compared with other national societies our regular member fee is on the low end of the scale and we are one of the few societies that does not charge a fee for student memberships (Table 1).

Table 1: Fees charged by comparable national societies (all currencies have been converted to CDN \$).

Soil Science Societies	Regular Member	Student
Canada	\$68.00	\$0.00
United States	\$75.00	\$30.00
Australia	\$99.60	\$39.80
Great Britain	\$85.10	(Reduced for students)
New Zealand	\$45.93	\$26.79
Canadian Society of Agronomy	\$90.00	\$0.00
Canadian Society Animal Science	\$85.00	\$15.00
Canadian Agricultural Economics Society	\$115.00	\$55.00
Canadian Geophysical Union	\$30.00	\$15.00
Canadian Association of Geographers	\$117.00	\$45.00
Canadian Land Reclamation Association	\$50.00	\$15.00

Based on this review the executive unanimously passed the motion at the head of this discussion.

Dan Pennock

Renewal of CSSS Website

The survey of the other national sites for their membership fees brought home to the Executive that the CSSS website is (gravely) in need of a re-design. This project has been hanging fire for several years, primarily because of lack of funds. As a first step in renewing the products we offer to the membership the Executive has committed \$5000 from the Publication Trust to re-design of the CSSS website. We will discuss this in more detail at the AGM.

In related news, Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn and I have secured funds for the CSSS Soils of Canada website, which will be developed through the CSSS Pedology Sub-committee. This project has again been hanging fire for two years, but we will have a full site by our 2009 meetings in Guelph. Dr. Bedard-Haughn will be presenting the concept as part of the Special session on Dynamic Disciplines, Static Taxonomies at the Prince George meetings.

Dan Pennock

Venues (and Possible Venues) for Upcoming Meetings

As discussed in the last newsletter our colleagues at the University of Guelph have agreed to host the 2009 Annual Meeting and they are in discussions with several other societies that may join us at those meetings.

I have had a lengthy conversation with Ian McIlreath (Chair of GeoScience 2010) about our possible participation in the GeoScience 2010 meetings in Calgary (May 10 to 13, 2010). The meetings will be a very large gathering of earth science societies but with a particular focus on those involved with oil and gas exploration. The organizing committee will be composed of societies who have made a substantial financial commitment to the meetings (in other words not us) and they had an initial organizing meeting in April to decide on themes and directions. We (and other academic societies) could hold our annual meetings as part of the GeoScience 2010 umbrella. The CGU has decided not to go with the GeoScience 2010 meeting.

We have also received an invitation from the Department of Soil Science at the University of Saskatchewan to host the 2010 meetings as a stand-alone (at this time at least) meeting.

Dr. John Pomeroy, President of the CGU, has invited us to join with them for the 2011 meeting, which will probably be held in Banff. We have successfully collaborated with them in the past.

If you are aware of any other possible groups we could meet with please let me know and we can discuss these options more fully in Prince George.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Prince George meeting.

Dan Pennock

CSSS Financial Report and Proposed Increase to Membership Fees

The overall, short term financial situation for the CSSS is healthy, primarily because of receiving substantial net income from three conferences within one financial year and a very conservative investment strategy for the CSSS Trust Funds, which has recently allowed the Trust to keep up with inflation.

Income in 2007 was \$17,000 higher than in 2006, primarily due to receiving nearly \$20,000 in net income from three financially successful conferences (Edmonton 2004, Banff 2006, and Duchesnay 2007) within one financial year (please refer to income and expense table). However, although the Society benefited greatly from these conferences, membership income was \$5,500 less than budgeted for, \$800 lower than received in 2006, more than \$6,000 lower than received in 2005.

From an expense perspective, the CSSS Council and office staff have attempted to keep the routine operating costs for CSSS to a minimum and have not invested in any special projects for several years. Continuing that tradition, expenses were \$4,500 lower than in 2006, due mostly to not having to advance funds for the upcoming 2008 annual meeting, as had been done for the 2007 meeting. IUSS dues were \$400 higher than in 2006, but newsletter expenses were lower and would be \$751 further lowered if the contribution of two companies toward mailing costs were accounted for on this particular line (their contribution is listed as "other income" in the income section). Most other costs in 2007 were similar to or lower than in 2006 and less than budget estimates (e.g., Council does almost all its business by e-mail and conference call with most Council members not charging any travel expenses to CSSS).

However, membership fees for CSSS are not keeping pace with the routine operating costs for the organization. For example, if the 2009 operating budget were established without a fee increase and we maintained current commitments, while implementing a modest upgrade to the CSSS website (\$5000) we anticipate a \$7400 deficit. Although the outstanding financial success of recent annual meetings can offset such a deficit in the short term, this type of financial situation is not affordable in the long term.

Therefore, in order to keep our regular sources of income in line with routine operating costs, we must either increase income or reduce costs even further. CSSS Council believes that our current level of investment in programs such as newsletters and awards and travel assistance for graduate students who are attending the annual meeting are modest, but vital for our organization; we should also set aside some funding for special projects such as upgrading and maintaining our website. Therefore, CSSS Council is proposing to increase regular membership fees from \$68 to \$80 per year and graduate student membership fees from \$0 to \$25 per year (please refer to President Dan Pennock's message for more information about this issue). Over the long term, such an investment by our members will not only improve our long term sustainability of the CSSS, it will also increase our capacity to attract new members and better serve existing members in the future.

The proposed increase in fees will be officially voted upon at our next annual meeting, at Prince George in July. Please come to the business meeting, participate in the discussion and vote. If you are not able to join us at the meeting in person, please contact any member of Council to express your views

Don Flaten
Treasurer

CSSS Income & Expense Statement for Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2007 and Historical Years

(Draft - May 22, 2008)

	2005	2006	2007	2007
	-----	Actual	-----	Budget
Income				
Membership Fees				
Members' Fees (after deducting journal fees)	\$20,566	\$14,826	\$14,009	
SPORG expenses (deducted from fee deposits)	-\$843	-\$592	-\$572	
Net Membership Fees	\$19,723	\$14,234	\$13,437	\$19,000
Conference Income				
2005 Annual General Meeting (Halifax - income paid in 2006)	\$ -	\$5,000	\$ -	
2004 Climate Change Conference (Edmonton - income paid in 2007)	\$ -	\$ -	\$2,563	
2006 Annual General Meeting (Banff - income paid in 2007)	\$ -	\$ -	\$5,560	
2007 Annual General Meeting (Duchesnay - loan repaid in 2007)	\$ -	\$ -	\$4,000	
2007 Annual General Meeting (Duchesnay - income paid in 2007)	\$ -	\$ -	\$7,708	
Total Conference Income	\$ -	\$5,000	\$19,831	\$1,000
Publications Fees Collected (CJSS, CJAS, CJPS, Agri-week)	\$6,853	\$5,422	\$4,544	\$7,000
Income from Trust Received into Operating Account				
CSSS Trust investments, CNH Trust, publ'n royalties	\$6,097	\$2,753	\$5,814	
Total Income from Trust	\$6,097	\$2,753	\$5,814	\$5,500
Other Income	\$238	\$714	\$944	\$200
Charitable Donations	\$674	\$607	\$791	
Interest Earnings on SICU Chequing Account	\$ -	\$1	\$14	
Interest Earnings on SICU Savings Account	\$440	\$789	\$1,154	
Transfers from Trust and Retained Publications Earnings				
Bentley Trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Publications	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000
Total Transfers from Trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000
Total Income	\$34,024	\$29,519	\$46,528	\$33,700
Expenses				
Operating Expenses				
Office Contract/Expenses	\$9,093	\$7,700	\$7,190	\$9,500
Newsletter/Proceedings	\$3,283	\$3,206	\$2,616	\$3,500
Conferences (e.g., CSSS annual mtg.)	\$942	\$4,000	\$ -	\$ -
Council Travel	\$ -	\$209	\$ -	\$1,000
AIC Dues	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
IUSS dues	\$1,517	\$1,270	\$1,631	\$1,700
Other Operating Expenses	\$98	\$60	\$124	\$1,000
Student Travel Awards	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
SPORG internet payment fees for students, fellows	\$109	\$101	\$176	\$ -
Total Operating Expenses	\$19,042	\$21,046	\$16,237	\$21,200
Publications Fees Paid (CJSS, CJPS, CJAS, Agri-week)	\$5,876	\$5,832	\$5,465	\$7,000
Expenses Payable by Trust				
Bentley Trust				
- Bentley Speaking Award	\$1,100	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
- President's Poster Award	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
- Student Travel Award	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,531	\$2,500
- CSSS Conference Travel Award	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
- Undergraduate Book Award	\$677	\$176	\$785	\$1,000
Total Bentley Trust	\$5,277	\$4,676	\$5,317	\$5,500
Publish & Commun Trust Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses Payable by Trust	\$5,277	\$4,676	\$5,317	\$5,500
Total Expenses	\$30,195	\$31,555	\$27,019	\$33,700
Net Income Over Expenses/(Loss)	\$3,829	-\$2,036	\$19,509	\$ -

News from the *Canadian Journal of Soil Science*

CJSS Statistics, 2007

In 2007, our submission numbers (116) were up on the previous 5-yr (2002-06) average of 101. Submissions from outside Canada comprised 33% of the total, identical to the previous 5-yr average.

In 2007 (Volume 87), *CJSS* published 43 regular papers and 10 Special Issue papers (*Canadian Agri-Environmental Indicators*) for a total of 53 which is slightly down on the previous 5-yr average of 61. In 2007, only 6% of our published papers originated outside Canada, which was lower than the 5-yr average of 17%. While we are attracting papers from outside Canada (33% of our submissions) very few of these passed our peer review process to reach publication in 2007.

Our ISI impact factor in 2006 (0.761) was down slightly on the previous 5-yr average (0.819).

Special Issues/Sections

Our latest Special Issue, *N₂O Emissions from Agricultural Soils in Canada*, (12 papers with Guest Editors, Philippe Rochette & Sean McGinn) was published in April 2008. Our next Special Issue *Forest Soil Disturbance* (9 papers with Guest Editors, Doug Maynard, Mike Curran & Scott Chang) is almost complete. Special Sections on *Integration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions-Removals from Canadian Agroecosystems*, (Guest Editors, Bert VandenBygaart, Brian McConkey & Dan Pennock) and the *Régis Simard Symposium* (Guest Editors, Michel Nolin and Philippe Rochette) are well underway. The commitment of our Guest Editors toward Special Issues and Sections is very much appreciated.

CSSS members with ideas for Special Issues or Sections (e.g. manuscripts emanating from a Symposium or Workshop) are asked to contact the Special Issues Editor, Denis Angers. (angersd@agr.gc.ca).

Associate Editors

I am thankful for the continued commitment of our 18 Associate Editors. We say farewell and thank you to François Courchesne (Université de Montréal) who finished his 3-year term at the end of 2007. We welcome new Associate Editors, Martin Chantigny (AAFC, Ste-Foy) and Lito Arocena (University of Northern British Columbia) to the team. Thanks also to Sue Grayston (University of British Columbia) who is continuing for a second term.

New Submissions

New manuscript submissions are the lifeblood of the journal. Why not make *CJSS* your #1 choice when submitting your next manuscript? Canvass your colleagues to do likewise. Your continued support will ensure that *CJSS* stays vibrant.

Frank Larney, (larneyf@agr.gc.ca)

Editor, *CJSS* (www.nrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjss.html)

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Lethbridge, AB

CSSS 2008 Annual Meeting:

Frontiers of Soil Science

Hosted by the University of Northern British Columbia
Prince George, British Columbia
July 6 - 10, 2008

Pour la version Française, veuillez consulter l'adresse suivante : <http://resweb.res.unbc.ca/csss2008/frenchindex.htm>

Important Registration and Program Information:

Registration and on-campus housing reservation information and forms are available through the conference web site:

<http://resweb.res.unbc.ca/csss2008/index.htm>

Please note the following important date:

June 25: deadline for conference registration and UNBC housing registration

Visit the conference Web site for complete details on title and abstract submission, and housing options.

We welcome oral and poster presentations on all aspects of soil science. In addition, members have proposed several theme sessions or symposia. Visit the conference home page for specific information on these sessions:

- **Forest Soil Carbon from a Pedological Viewpoint**
- **Frontiers in Soil Microbial Ecology and Processes**
- **Measurement and Instrumentation in Frozen Soils**
- **Dynamic Disciplines, Static Taxonomies**

We've planned an exciting array of field trips for July 10th, with soils and landscapes that will appeal to a wide range of interests. Full details, including pictures, are available on the conference Web site.

- **Challenges of an Agricultural Frontier**
- **The Inland Rainforest – BC's Best-Kept Secret**
- **Science and History at the Aleza Lake Research Forest**
- **Shaping the Plateau Landscape - the Natural Disaster Tour!**

Upcoming Conferences

June 29 – July 5, 2008

XXI International Grassland Congress/VIII International Rangeland Congress
Huhhot, Inner Mongolia, China
www.igc-irc2008.org or secretariat2008@hotmail.com

July 13-16, 2008

Joint meeting of the Canadian Society of Agronomy and the Northeastern Branch ASA-
CSSA-SSSA
McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada.
www.montreal08.org

25-29 August 2008

EUROSOIL 2008 “Soil - Society – Environment”
Organised by the European Confederation of Soil Sciences Societies (ECSSS). Vienna,
Austria
<http://www.ecsss.net/web/frontend/view.php?MENUUEID=230>

25-29 August 2008

12th International conference on integrated diffuse pollution management, Khon Kaen,
Thailand.
<http://www.envicenter.com/iwa2008/web/index.php>

September 18–22, 2008

5th International Conference on Land Degradation
Valenzano, Bari, Italy
www.iamb.it/5ICLD or pandi@iamb.it

October 5–9, 2008

ASA–CSSA–SSSA Annual Meetings (Joint Meeting with the Geological Society of
America
Houston, TX.
www.acsmeetings.org

29 October- 1 November 2008

International meeting on soil fertility and management and agroclimatology
Kusadasi, Turkey.
<http://www.soilscience2008.org/index.html>

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