



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a very busy time for the CSSS Council – the end of the field season for almost all of us (except perhaps lucky Gerry Neilsen in B.C.), and the start of the academic term for those of us in the University system.

The CSSS Council received a number of queries from other organizations about the 2011 Annual meeting. Council has decided to accept an offer from the Soil Science Society of America to meet jointly with them in 2011 (October 14-20) in San Antonio, Texas. At our AGM this year several members asked about our plans to meet with the SSSA again, and I am pleased that we were able to accept the invitation. Our first meeting with them in Seattle was a great success scientifically and Council will work closely with the meeting organizers to ensure a successful implementation of all parts of the meeting.

Don't forget as well our 2009 meeting which will be at the University of Guelph on August 5 to 7. We will be meeting jointly with the Canadian Society of Agronomy and the Canadian Society of Agriculture and Forest Meteorology.

This year sees the end of a number of terms on Council and I want to acknowledge the fine contributions made by those of our Council members who are leaving at the end of the year. Two of the Council members most responsible for the smooth operation are the Treasurer and the Secretary. Dr. Don Flaten has ably steered the financial helm of the CSSS for several years now, and always ensured that the shoals of insolvency were avoided (which often meant steering the Presidents away from grand but impractical voyages they wanted to embark upon). Dr. Paul Bullock of the U. of Manitoba Soil Science Department has agreed to take on the Treasurer's position for the next term on Council, and I know that Paul will bring the same fiscal probity and sound advice to the position that Don did during his term.

The role of Secretary may be under-appreciated by the CSSS membership at large but no President or Council members could be unaware of its great importance. It often falls upon the Secretary to keep the processes of administration moving along, and to issue gentle reminders to the President that perhaps time has come for this motion to be made or that letter to be written. Dr. Newton Lupawayi has been a very conscientious and hard-working Secretary and a great help to me during my term. Newton will be replaced by Dr. Barbara Cade-Menun, who re-

## CSSS Council

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cently joined AAFC in Swift Current. Barbara was an active CSSS member as a student, and I am very happy to see her return to a leadership role in the Society as Secretary of Council.

This is also the end of Dr. Jim Miller's term as Western Councillor, and Jim has been very active this year working on website renewal for the CSSS. Jim has also been a great help to me on Council, and provides sage advice on the full range of issues that arise during the year. Jim has kindly agreed to continue to guide the website renewal project, and we all look forward to seeing the fruits of his and his working group's labours.

Finally two CSSS members who have devoted considerable time and expertise to the Canadian Journal of Soil Science will be ending their terms this year. Dr. Frank Larney has been editor of the CJSS for the last three years, and has provided exemplary leadership of the journal during this time. During my term as President I have gained considerable insights into the complexity of the editor's role, and admire Frank greatly for his calm and steady leadership during this period. I think we end the year with a much clearer understanding of the role of CSSS in the publication of the journal, and this stems in no small part from Frank's efforts. An important part of Frank's role was to encourage the creation of Special Issues and Sections, and Dr. Denis Angers is finishing a term as Special Issues Editor for the CJSS. Denis has been indefatigable in his efforts to seek out special issues and to guide the papers associated with them through the (somewhat complex) system to publication.

We are very fortunate that two very well qualified CSSS members have agreed to take on the CJSS editorships. Dr. Gary Kachanoski of the University of Alberta will be assuming the Editor's position, and Dr. Joann Whalen of Macdonald College of McGill University will be taking on the Special Issues Editor's role.

I believe that the very high quality of our incoming CSSS Council members and CJSS Editors speaks very well to the commitment that our members have to the society and the great strength there is at the moment among soil scientists in Canada.

There is also notification elsewhere in the newsletter concerning the Council positions that need to be filled through the nomination and (hopefully) election process. Please consider offering your name for these positions

Finally I wanted to note the passing of one of the great figures of the first generation of Canadian soil scientists, Dr. Fred Bentley. We have included two remembrances of Dr. Bentley in this newsletter, which I hope will remind us of the great contributions of Dr. Bentley and his colleagues and of how much the world has changed since his early days in the field. His legacy lives on in the Bentley Awards that honour our outstanding student speakers at each scientific meeting.

*Dan Pennock*

## News from the *Canadian Journal of Soil Science*

### **Changes at the Helm for *CJSS***

My 3-year term as Editor will be completed on December 31, 2008. Denis Angers concludes his term as Special Issues Editor at the same time. We realize that the quality of *CJSS* depends on the commitment of people who contribute their time to the journal as Associate Editors, Guest Editors or reviewers. We would like to thank everyone we have had the pleasure of working with during our tenure. Special thanks to Tim Fenton and Laurie Scott at the Editorial Office who made our jobs easier in so many ways.

During our time at *CJSS*, we witnessed the changeover from manuscript submission and review via post or e-mail to an on-line system. *CJSS* continues to be strong with an ISI Impact Factor in 2007 of 1.007, which is our highest ever. The increase of 0.246 (from 0.761 in 2006) represented the 4<sup>th</sup> highest increase in a list of 24 soils-related journals.

I'm pleased to announce that starting January 1, 2009, Gary Kachanoski will be the new Editor of *CJSS*. Gary is very well-known in the Canadian soils community and beyond, and will bring a wealth of experience and new ideas to the Journal. He will be involved in continued enhancements to our on-line platform scheduled for early 2009. I am confident that *CJSS* will be in very capable hands.

The new Special Issues Editor will be Joann Whalen. Joann is currently a *CJSS* Associate Editor and she will do an excellent job in her new role. Our first Special Issue was in 2001, another followed in 2003, and since 2005 we have published one per year. They are being increasingly recognized as valuable contributions to the Canadian and international soils literature. Joann will also look after Special Sections (smaller group of papers within a regular issue).

Below are short résumés for Gary and Joann. Denis and I wish them well in their new positions!

### ***Special Issues/Sections***

Our next Special Issue *Forest Soil Disturbance* (Guest Editors, Doug Maynard, Mike Curran & Scott Chang) will be published in January 2009. This year's CSSS Annual Meetings in Prince George proved fruitful for Special Issues/Sections, as several are planned based on papers delivered at the Meetings.

### ***Associate Editors***

We say farewell and thank you to Xiying Hao (AAFC-Lethbridge) for almost 2 yr, and Richard Heck (Univ. of Guelph) for 1 yr of service as Associate Editors.

### ***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](mailto:larneyf@agr.gc.ca))  
Editor, *CJSS* ([www.nrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjss.html](http://www.nrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjss.html))  
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## **A Tribute to Fred Bentley by his Daughter-in-Law, Louise Bentley**

Fred was born on 1914 in Cambridge Mass. He moved with his family to Alberta where his parents hoped to become wealthy farmers. After several moves they settled for a period time on a small farm near Looma, Alberta where Fred lived until he was 14 years old. His writing on his various childhood homes is framed in the lens with which he saw the world for the rest of his life. He writes, the land quality was low, and the soil was poor.

At age 14, he moved with his family to Edmonton where he attended McCauley school for 3 months before going to high school at Victoria High. While at school Fred helped his family financially in a number of ways. At 14 he was sent to work on a road crew to provide services in lieu of taxes for the family farm. He lived by himself in a cabin on their land, and fed himself with his 22, hunting rabbits and other wildlife to provide his meals. In 1932 at the age of 18 he was the major care giver for his mother who was dying of cancer. This experience was to have a profound effect on his life, and he often mentioned what a special woman she was and how difficult that time was for him.

After High School in 1932 there were few options available for a farm boy without financial backing, but his father agree to give him the \$25.00 necessary to attend Normal School to receive teacher training. By living at home free of charge and working at various jobs in their boarding house as well at the Fur Traders building, he was able to support himself and finish the year. By this time, the province was deep in the depression, but Fred was lucky enough to get a teaching job at Ballater School which is near Fahler Alberta- 50 miles south of Peace River. He remained teaching in this community for three years, at times not receiving his full pay because the community was so poor they couldn't afford to pay him according to the contract. In his life account, Fred writes that he learned to live very frugally during this time, keeping track of his expenses carefully. Over a five month period one year he had total expenses of \$5.35. Most of those expenses were for shells for his 22 rifle so he could catch rabbits for food and also he did splurge on 3 cent stamps to correspond with some classmates from Normal School. This trait of frugality did not diminish with time. - Fred remained extremely careful with his money for himself for the rest of his life but he was always very generous with others.

During the time Fred was teaching at Ballater, he returned to Edmonton each summer to take summer school at U of A. In this manner, he was able to start University with three courses to his credit. This head start allowed him to finish his B.Sc. in agriculture in three years, rather than the standard four. During his summer breaks at University, Fred worked on an economic study of the arid farm region from Hanna to Medicine Hat. He was overwhelmed by the poverty that these farmers lived in and the challenges they faced working unsuitable land. This experience formed his life-long belief that government projects to put people on unsuitable land was unfair to the people and a poor use of funds.

Upon graduation with his B.Sc. he took a job in the field working for Agriculture Canada. While doing that work he started work on his Masters in Economics. Fred writes that he found both this job and his courses in Economics the most dull and monotonous experience he had ever encountered. He had decided to take a job with a farm machinery company when he received an opportunity to enter a Master's in soils which could also lead to a Ph.D. He jumped at the chance, and the future was set and so began his wonderful life. In typical Fred fashion, he crammed his MSc into the least amount of time possible, defending his thesis 5 hours after he finished the final version and then leaving for Minnesota to start his PhD just days after his defence.

It was during his 3 years in Minnesota working on his PhD that he met Helen Peterson. He fell in love, married her, and was in love for the rest of his life.

Before he had completed his PhD, In July of 1943, Fred accepted a position at the University of Saskatchewan, returning to Dike Iowa to marry Helen on September 16 and he brought his new wife back to Saskatoon. During their first year of marriage he was teaching during the day and conducting his own research as well as writing his thesis in the evenings. Smelling the daisies was not part of CF Bentley's repertoire

In 1946, with Ann as the new baby, it seemed prudent to move to Edmonton to accept a job at a higher paying salary in the Faculty of Agriculture. Housing was tight in Edmonton at that time and after several small temporary living quarters, Fred and Helen were lucky enough to take up residence in some row housing that had been built specifically for new faculty members where the Education Building now sits. It is here in Rabbit Row that Fred and Helen made some lifelong friends. He was especially delighted to have access to a garden plot which had "excellent black soil."

In 1952 Fred had an opportunity that set the direction for his career in International work. He became the “Director of Soils Conservation” in Sri Lanka, known as Ceylon at that time and Fred, Helen Ann and Ted moved to Kandy, Sri Lanka for a year. His position was sponsored by CIDA and part of the Colombo plan for assisting developing countries after the war.

When Fred and his family returned to Edmonton a year later and Fred progressed from Assistant professor, Associate Professor, Associate Dean and eventually assuming the role as Dean of Agriculture from 1958-67. He continued on as a professor at the U of A, but from this time on international work mostly in developing countries was an important part of his work. Fred was always very proud of the work Helen did and she was an expert in textiles. Through her travels with him, she was able to build an exceptional textile collection with artefacts from countries that they visited together which included – Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, China, Indonesia (including Bali), Malaysia, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Senegal, Burkino Faso, Niger, Ghana, Italy, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Austria, Hungary, Russia, Tajikistan, Sweden, Mexico and five Caribbean Islands. Fred worked in well over 40 countries in all.

By this time I was a member of the family and these adventures of Fred’s seemed like the ultimate life, and I longed to hear about the countries. As I grew to know and love him more, I realize that Fred was ... a pragmatic visionary who was dedicated to making a difference in the world. This was about hard work, not sunshine and beaches.

As I listened to Fred tell his stories, I realized he had earned a tremendous amount of respect internationally. However, he did not tell me about his many awards, I had to research that myself. His very humble beginnings framed his manner throughout his life and he was quite humble about his accomplishments. I counted that he has received over 45 awards. When you read Fred’s biography in Canada’s Who’s Who, the letters after his name summarize some of his awards. OC, AOE, Ph.D., D.Sc., FRSC- Order of Canada, Alberta Order of Excellence, Honorary Doctorates from U of A and Guelph University, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, I could go on, but the list is too long.

From his humble beginnings, Fred earned international stature and the respect of the global community. One man can make a difference. He was truly an amazing man and I will miss him deeply.

### **CSSS Soil Science for Society: Dr. Jim Robertson**

Dr. Jim Robertson (Dept. of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta) was the recipient of the CSSS Soil Science for Society award in 2008. This award was attributed in recognition of his many years of past professional contributions to Soil Science, as well as his continued commitment, after retirement, to the Breton plots and to mentoring young scientists and professionals.



*Dr. Jim Robertson and CSSS president-elect Dr. Gordon Price*

#### **Dr. Jim Robertson:**

Dr. Jim Robertson, a Fellow of CSSS and a professor emeritus in the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta, has been awarded the CSSS Soil Science for Society Award. Dr. Robertson received his BSA degree from the University of Manitoba in 1953, receiving the Lieutenant Governor’s Gold Medal in graduating class. His MSA degree was followed by an MSc degree from the same university in 1955. His PhD degree (1963) was from Purdue University. Dr. Robertson has made tireless efforts in promoting soil science to the general public and professionals alike. One of his most significant contributions to promoting soil science is his work with the Breton Plots Soil Conservation Society. The Breton Plots were established in 1929 by the pioneers (e.g., Dr. Frank Wyatt and J.D. Newton) of soil science in Alberta and today the Plots serve as a model of how diverse cropping practices affect typical Gray Luvisolic soils. With close to 80 years of history, this research has many roles to play in serving communities and for disseminating soil science results to the general public. Jim supervised activities at the Breton Plots from 1976 to about

2000, prepared and promoted an annual field day program until 1996, spoke at several of them and conducted a field tour at most of them, and arranged a “Proceedings” for distribution from 1985 to 1996. Attendance at field days ranged from 70 to 125 and included farm families and field agronomists. Another very noteworthy contribution Dr. Robertson made in promoting soil science to the society is his involvement in community outreach activities. Dr. Robertson made countless presentations to non-agricultural groups, including “career days” and enrichment programs to school and to college classes. Of note is Jim’s work with the Rocky Mountain House soils display for school kids in association with the Clearwater County Agricultural Services.

## Tribute to Fred Bentley by Dr. Jim Robertson

I have known Fred for 53 years and I know that there is much that could be said, much that should be said. But, I remember that Fred taught public speaking for years and one of the cardinal rules is to stick to the time limit. I am surprised that there is not a red light on the lectern that will flash when my time is up!

Fred's professional life is generally well known and Louise has outlined his life story for you. I want to spend my time saying something about the man, Fred Bentley.

My **first encounter**, and I use the term advisedly, was in 1955 when this newly minted M.Sc. graduate applied for a position at the University of Alberta. I came to the C.S.S.S. meetings at Edmonton to present the results of my research. The only thing I remember about that presentation was a question from Fred, and my answer to it. I would have been much more anxious about the experience had I known that the same Fred Bentley taught public speaking. In any case I got the position!

Fred Bentley was known to many by a pet **nickname**. He had a very firm, clear signature, C. F. Bentley, but for many it was his monogram, CFB, by which he was known. Many were the mornings that we found notes on our doors saying: "See me re:... CFB". On my first day back from educational leave I found such a note on my desk. John Toogood interpreted that monogram as "**C**ontinuous **F**ast **B**oil". In recognition of his constant activity Tom Peters, at his retirement, presented him with an old fashioned, spring-wound, alarm clock from which a gear had been removed so that the hands spun around furiously.

To me a defining characteristic of Fred Bentley was that he was a "**people person**". He respected and supported persons in all walks of life, of all nationalities, women and men. He was a person who lived by the golden rule, and to whom the Biblical story of the Good Samaritan applied well. I think Robbie Burns was thinking of someone like Fred when he wrote:

*Then let us pray that come it may---  
As come it will for a' that---...  
That man to man, the warld o'er,  
Shall brothers be for a' that.*

When Fred recognized potential in a student or staff member he **provided opportunity** and support. Many former students recall that they were given conditional admission to the University but they had to prove up in their first term... or else. He was even known to gently provoke students in order to elicit performance. Stories are also told of how he assisted secretaries and technicians who had personal problems or difficulties.

Fred was a great **humanitarian**, and you have heard of his many efforts in developing countries. He was much ahead of the times in his concern for the human condition on Planet Earth, the rapidly expanding population and the decreasing availability of essential resources, particularly for food production. He spent much effort tackling the problem from two sides. First, he was a passionate proponent of population control, for which he received many cynical and disparaging remarks. He once explained that part of the problem was that poor people could not afford commercial entertainment and that sex was their alternative! He was a strong supporter of, and contributor to, Planned Parenthood. On the other hand he worked hard to improve food production and quality in sustainable ways. Surely Jonathan Swift was thinking of him when he wrote in Gulliver's Travels:

*"And he gave it as his opinion, that whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together."*

Swift may not have thought of the sustainability aspects of his proposition, but Fred certainly emphasized its importance.

Fred was a very **diligent worker** and he put in long days at the office. But he was not above putting on his boots, taking a shovel or sickle in hand, and helping a graduate student get soil samples or the field crew to harvest plots. He expected all his students to get hands-on experience in the field. Overseas people were often astounded to see a Professor do such

menial tasks. It must be told, however, that after a few hours of such labour, he was known to fall asleep behind the wheel as he drove the crew to the next site! Curvy roads were not designed for that style of driving!

Fred was a **humble and modest**, not to say unassertive, person! For example, he co-founded Khon Kaen University in Thailand in the 1970s and I just learned of that this week. He quietly and anonymously made very substantial contributions to several charitable funds. Once he made a large donation to the Breton Plots Endowment Fund, through Kathy Fitzgerald of the Development Office, but without my knowledge. The three of us were driving somewhere when Kathy announced unexpectedly (for my benefit) that she had received a large grant from an anonymous donor. Fred, in all innocence, exclaimed “Holy Toledo”. I don’t know how long it was before I figured out who the donor was! In his many overseas activities he met comfortably with officials and dignitaries of many stripes but yet he was much at home in farmers’ fields. Kipling was thinking of his ilk when he wrote:

*“If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with kings---nor lose the common touch, ...”*

Fred was always the **educator**. I have mentioned the public speaking course. Students did not understand why they had to do it but years later admitted it was the most valuable part of their education. Anne and Ted could tell you that a drive in the country was always a lesson in geography, geology and soils; Myrna will confirm that. Fred was frustrated that urbanites had so little understanding of the food chain and that of the \$1.50 they spent for bread about \$0.10 went to the farmer and his soil. So, he helped to establish and fund a program, Agriculture in High Schools.

I want to conclude with a brief outline of his substantial support for a favourite project of his--- and mine, the long-term soil/agronomy **Breton Plots**. In the last decade he made major financial contributions to the Breton Plots Endowment Fund, he initiated the Breton Plots Soil Conservation Society to solicit support for the Plots, he did the leg work to have the Plots declared as a Registered Historic Resource, and he purchased an adjacent parcel of forest land to serve as an ecological preserve against which our agricultural activities on the Plots could be compared. No one comes close to matching that contribution!

Fred was an amazing man, a great humanitarian, and an extraordinary academic. He will be missed. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Bentley families.

## 2008 CSSS Awards

### Student Travel Award

This award was established in 1991 to promote student attendance at the CSSS Annual Meetings and is available to any CSSS member graduate student. The following 12 students received the award and attended the last meeting in Prince George:

Julie Guerin	Université Laval
Sebastian Lange	Université Laval
Mark Gervais	University of Manitoba
Amanda Bambrick	McGill University, MacDonald Campus
Thomas King	University of Saskatchewan
Maxime Pare	University of Saskatchewan
Dani Xu	University of Saskatchewan)
Jessica Turnbull	University of Guelph
Sarah Pattison	University of Alberta
Meiliana Dewi	University of British Columbia
Sarah Lamagna	University of British Columbia
Melissa Iverson	University of British Columbia

## CSSS 2008 Fellows - Dr. Caroline Preston, Denis Angers

This is awarded to CSSS members with a distinguished record of accomplishment in Soil Science and service to the Society. *Sincères Félicitations aux Drs. Caroline Preston et Denis Angers récipiendaires du Fellow en 2008.*



*Dr. Caroline Preston and CSSS president-elect Dr. Gordon Price*

### Dr. Caroline Preston:

Dr. Preston received her undergraduate and graduate training in chemistry from McMaster University (1970) and the University of British Columbia (1975), respectively. In 1991, she was elected a fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada. In 1992, Dr. Preston received the Barringer Award for Applied Spectroscopy from the Spectroscopy Society of Canada. In 2000, she received the Clara Benson Award from the Canadian Society for Chemistry for distinguished contribution to chemistry by a woman. Dr. Preston is an expert in soil chemistry and is considered one of the pioneers in applying the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR technique in the study of the complex structure of soil organic matter in both agricultural and forest soils. Her research program embodies the following aspects: improving the understanding of the cycling of C, N and P in the soil and use this understanding to enhance the storage of C (climate change implications) and to manage soil N and P and most significantly, pioneering the application of spectroscopic techniques ( $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR in particular) in soil science. Dr. Preston has served as an Associate

Editor and reviewer for the Canadian Journal of Soil Science. She also served as a co-editor for a special issue of the Canadian Journal Soil Science (April 2006) based on the Symposium on Below-Ground C Dynamics in Forested Ecosystems, part of the conference on The Science of Changing Climates - Impact on Agriculture, Forestry and Wetlands, July 19-22 2004, Edmonton, Alberta.



*Dr. Denis Angers and CSSS president-elect Dr. Gordon Price*

### Dr. Denis Angers:

Denis is a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 20 years now. He has a B.Sc. in agronomy (1983) from Université Laval, an M.Sc. in Soil Science (1985) from the University of Guelph and a Ph.D. in Soil Science (1988) from the McGill University. Denis' expertise in soil structure, organic matter cycling and C sequestration is renowned internationally as indicated by his long-term collaborative work with overseas colleagues and research groups. Denis has always been highly dedicated to the soil science community and he served on several committees and contributed to the national assessment of Canadian agricultural soils as C sinks. Denis has conducted a prolific research program with a total of 100 peer-reviewed scientific articles, 12 refereed review articles, and 13 book and book chapters. Denis has been also actively involved in CSSS for several years as former Eastern Councillor and Editor of the CSSS Newsletter, as Section Editor of *Soil*

*Sampling and Methods of Analysis* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 2008) and one of the Editors of *Soil and Environmental Science Dictionary*, both sponsored by the CSSS. He served as Associate Editor, and is currently serving as the Special Issues Editor for the CSSS. He chaired the program of the 2003 CSSS Annual Meeting in Montreal and the organization of the 2007 Joint Meeting of the CSSS and the *Association Québécoise de Spécialistes en Science du sol* (AQSSS).



## Student Presentations:

### Oral presentation- C.F. Bentley:

The C.F. Bentley Award was initiated in 1983 to encourage and recognize excellence in oral presentations by students at the CSSS Annual Meetings. It honours Dr. Fred Bentley who was CSSS President in 1956-57 and inducted as a CSSS Fellow in 1973. The winners for 2008 are:

- 1st Place: DeLisa Lewis (University of British Columbia, photo not available)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Michael Preston (Trent University)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Amanda Matson (University of Saskatchewan)



*2nd Place: Michael Preston and  
CSSS president-elect Dr. Gordon Price*



*3rd Place: Amanda Matson and  
CSSS president-elect Dr. Gordon Price*

### Poster Presentation-President's Award:

President's Award for Poster Presentation 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 is: \$500 for the winner, \$300 for the first runner-up and \$200 for the second runner-up. Winners for 2008 are:

- 1st Place: Zhidan Zhang (AAFC)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place : Aimé-Jean Messiga (Université Laval)
- 3rd Place: Ronald Chan (University of British Columbia)



*1st Place: Zhidan Zhang and CSSS  
president-elect Dr. Gordon Price*



*2nd Place: Aime-Jean Messiga and  
CSSS president-elect Dr. Gordon Price*



*3rd Place: Ronald Chan and  
CSSS president-elect Dr. Gordon Price*

## Call for Nominations for CSSS Council Elections

At the end of 2008, the following CSSS Council positions will become vacant:-

- Western Councillor
- President-Elect

These positions are filled by election (or acclamation if there is only one candidate). They each require the consent of the nominee and supporting e-mails from three CSSS members (nominator and two other members). The duties and responsibilities of these positions can be found on the CSSS website ([www.csss.ca](http://www.csss.ca)).

Please e-mail nominations by **November 21, 2008** to Newton Lupwayi at [lupwayin@agr.gc.ca](mailto:lupwayin@agr.gc.ca). Elections, if necessary, will be held after that date. For more information about these positions, please contact Dan Pennock, CSSS President at [dan.pennock@usask.ca](mailto:dan.pennock@usask.ca) or Gordon Price, CSSS President-Elect at [gprice@nsac.ca](mailto:gprice@nsac.ca).

## Upcoming Conferences

4th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture

4-7 February 2009. Innovations for improving efficiency, equity and environment. <http://www.icar.org.in/wccagri/index.html>

Integrated Assessment of Agriculture and Sustainable Development (AgSAP).

10-12 March, 2009. <http://www.conference-agsap.org/>

11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis, Santa Rosa, CA, USA. <http://www.spcouncil.com/symposium.htm>);

Western Society of Soil Science Annual Meeting. June 22-24, 2009. Fort Collins, CO, <https://www.soils.org/branches/western/>

The 16th Nitrogen Workshop will be held in Turin, Italy, from June 28th to July 1st, 2009. Connecting different scales of nitrogen use in agriculture. <http://www.nitrogenworkshop2009.org/>

CSSS 2009 Annual Meeting: Aug 5-7, 2009, University of Guelph, Ontario, 20-24 July 2009: <http://www.csss.ca/>

## CSSS – Business Office

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