



CSSS Newsletter

February 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This my second message as the President of the Canadian Society of Soil Science. Every member of your council is working very hard to make sure that we have a strong and growing society. To encourage our membership, Council passed a motion to create a new membership category for post doctoral fellows. They will pay now 50% of the regular membership, for the term they maintain their position in their respective institutions. We are very pleased with Dr. Steve Sheppard as business manager and we thank him for the superb job he does. We are still far away from our ideal membership and a lot needs to be done in the future. I am obliged to mention my sincere appreciation for the hard work of Craig Drury, Denis Angers, Frank Larney, and our student representative Vimy Glass. Of course without Marie-Josée Garand, our Treasurer, we cannot run our business. It is great to working with you all.

As you know I acted as Editor for the Canadian Journal of Soil Science during Régis' illness. Régis asked me to act as Editor for his papers. He used to pump in about 10 papers a year, to prevent a conflict of interest I continued to help Régis as a 'shadow editor'. This is to inform you that we smoothly solved the problem. It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Martin Carter, our Past President, is now our new CJSS Editor for a three year term. Martin is very capable and experienced and I am convinced that our journal will grow in his expert hands. I encourage all of you to please support the CJSS by sending your paper to our journal. We also need to promote the journal internationally. We hope that we will be able to have Associate Editors from outside of our borders, as our members serve in other countries. CJSS is very important for the survival of soil science in Canada.

We are in the process of expanding the size of our Awards Committee to develop guidelines for each award category. Our sincere thanks go to our former Presidents Eric Beauchamp, John Dormaar, and Gerald Coen for their efforts. Ed Gregorich, President-Elect and I hope to have more objective guidelines to nominate our students and regular members for various award categories. Last year I had tremendous pressure when we were trying to make our decisions. I felt obliged that we should have better guidelines and a rather larger Committee when making decisions.

Preparation for our joint meeting (CSSS 2003) with the Canadian Society of Agronomy and the International Conference on Mycorrhiza (ICOM4) in Montréal in August 10-15, 2003 is going very well. Please see their website (www.congresbcu.com/icom4) and note the approaching deadline for Abstract submission (April 1). Following the discussions in Indianapolis with SSSA officials Council agreed that we will join the SSSA annual meeting in Seattle in 2004. We are also considering that we may join Plant Canada meeting in the year 2005 in Edmonton. Our contact with many other closer societies is going very well. Recently the Polish Society of Soil Science has expressed the desire for closer ties and cooperation with us. I think these are very positive signs. As member of the IUSS Council and International Association for the Study of Clays, I will be busy this summer and will inform you about any developments. As you know IUSS is going through structural changes and I am glad that I represent you on both these important councils.

Although we are all moved by the departure of our colleague and great friend Régis Simard, we were all quite happy to hear that he received the Canadian Society of Soil Science FELLOW award in 2002. Dear Régis, your legacy will remain in our heart, your efforts and contribution to soil science and our society will remain for ever.

Lastly, I invite you to have a close look at this Newsletter. You will find important details about the upcoming annual meeting as well as information about the awards and the election for President-Elect, Eastern Councillor and Student representative.

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CSSS Council

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In Memoriam

Rodney Colin McKenzie

Rodney Colin McKenzie, scientist, farmer, teacher and idealist who lived by quiet example and outspoken words, died on September 27, 2002 in a Calgary hospital after a seven-month long battle with cancer. He was 69. Colin leaves behind a loving and grieving family: Johanna, his wife and best friend of 34 years, daughter Paula, sons Greg and Glenn and his elder brother, Ron. The son of John Hector and Anna Woode McKenzie, Colin was born in Saskatoon on February 7, 1933.

He grew up on a farm near Hanley, Saskatchewan and was educated in a single-room country school where his mother was the teacher. Later he attended Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon. As a young man, Colin spent summers on geological surveys canoeing and portaging the waterways of northern Saskatchewan. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelors of Arts and Science. After stints as high school teacher in Barrhead, Whitecourt and Blackie, he completed his Masters and Ph.D in Soil Science at the University of Alberta.

In 1973, Colin joined the Alberta government as an agrologist in Brooks. Over the next three decades, his field and laboratory research on soils, water and salinity attracted local and international respect. Farmers often called him to exchange ideas and seek advice. Colin's desire to help others also took him to the underdeveloped world. He spent years working for CIDA and other organizations in Lesotho, Zambia, Egypt and Bangladesh where he taught and carried out research. Colin devoted his life to the pursuit of truth, no matter where it led him.

Sustainable agriculture conservation practises were increasingly important to him in recent years. He warned forcefully of the negative agricultural, health and environmental consequences of the intensive livestock industry, citing extensive scientific studies including his own. This despite disapproval from some government administrators who imposed, but eventually rescinded, a speaking ban on the subject. He retired on June 13, 2002. For much his career, Colin continued to work on his farm near Brooks and he managed another one in Saskatchewan.

He cherished and supported his family in a way rarely expressed in words. Whether it was cheering on his daughter competing at the Salt Lake City Olympics, or visiting his sons in Houston and Africa, he was always interested and involved. Colin's work and family consumed most of his time and energy. Yet he was active in the Rotary Club and the United Church. He was an avid reader and nature lover who enjoyed cross-country skiing and summer walks. Bird watching in his back yard provided him comfort during his final weeks, despite great pain. Rafting the Arctic with Johanna two summers ago was the fulfilment of lifelong dream.

With a dry wit and keen observation skills, Colin would entertain his family with hilarious Christmas skits, impressions of the Scottish Highland fling and unique commentary that left those around him gasping with laughter or just shaking their heads. "I always wanted to sing very badly. And I do," was his favorite way to explain his lack of vocal talent. It didn't stop him from trying. Colin's twinkling eyes, his improvised jokes, his integrity, his analytical mind and sympathetic view of the world will be sorely missed. So too will his devotion as a father, husband and friend.

Montréal 2003

The 2003 CSSS meeting will be held in Montréal on August 10-13. We will meet jointly with the Canadian Society of Agronomy and the 4th International Conference on Mycorrhiza (ICOM4). Preparation is well underway. We will be holding joint symposium and sessions with both CSA and ICOM4. So plan to participate in our annual conference in the beautiful and lively surroundings of Montreal in the summer-time.

Important dates:

April 1, 2003: Deadline for abstract submission

June 1, 2003: Deadline for registration

All details at www.congresbcu.com/icom4.

New Editor for Canadian Journal of Soil Science

As of January 2003, **Dr. Martin Carter** has been appointed to serve a three-year term as Editor of the CJSS. Martin holds degrees in Agriculture and Soil Science from the University of Alberta and obtained a Ph.D. in Soil Science from the University of Saskatchewan. He has held agricultural research positions with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and is currently a Research Scientist at the AAFC Research Centre, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Martin serves as Past-President of the CSSS. He has edited or co-edited several books, including *Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis* (CRC Press 1993) and *Soil & Environmental Science Dictionary* (CRC Press 2001) for the CSSS. Martin has gained extensive editorial experience with scientific journals serving as Editor-in-Chief for *Soil & Tillage Research* and *Agriculture Ecosystems & Environment*.

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

Call for Nominations

Nominations for CSSS Council positions should be sent to CSSS President Dr. Ahmet Mermut by **April 15, 2003**. Nominations are required for the following positions on council:

- **President-Elect** (The elected member serves a one-year term as President-elect, followed by one year as President and then one year as Past President for a total of 3 years. Please note that with the new Bylaw, nominations are open to all CSSS members across Canada)
- **Eastern Councillor** (2-yr term. Nominations are open to CSSS members in Eastern Canada)
- **Graduate student representative** (3-yr term. Please note that with the new Bylaw, nominations are open to all CSSS members across Canada)

Nominations are to be sent to:

Dr. Ahmet Mermut
CSSS President
Department of Soil Science
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, SK
S7N 5A8
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Phone: (306) 966-6839
Fax: (306) 966-6881
Email: mermut@sask.usask.ca

Please note that the job descriptions for these positions are posted on our web site at:
<http://www.csss.ca/jobdescription.html>

As usual, all CSSS members are eligible to vote for all three positions. Nominations must have the consent of the nominee and be signed by three CSSS members. Please send nominations to Dr. Mermut by **April 15, 2003** along with a brief (250 word maximum; via email) statement prepared by the nominee, containing biographical information and reasons for his/her interest in the position.

AWARDS

CSSS Fellow Award

Awarded to CSSS members, of at least 10 years standing, with a distinguished record of accomplishment in Soil Science and service to CSSS. Information on the regulations covering candidate evaluation, nomination procedure, and nomination documentation are given below. Four copies of the nomination must be received by the President-Elect, Chair of the Awards Committee, (below) by **April 15, 2003**.

Nomination Documentation (maximum 8 pages, 2-3 cm margins, 12 pt. type)

1. One page introductory letter signed by the nominator and three sponsors including:
 - a) Name, address, telephone number, email address of the candidate.
 - b) Name, address, telephone number, email address of the nominator and three sponsors.
2. One page summary by nominator outlining achievements of the nominee.
3. Nomination documents:
 - a) Personal achievements (e.g., degrees, memberships, service to CSSS)
 - b) Professional achievement (e.g., research, teaching, service to Soil Science)
 - c) Professional publications (number of books, papers, patents, products, etc.)
 - d) A list of the 10 most significant publications, products, achievements, etc.

CSSS Honorary Membership Award

Awarded to non-members who have rendered valuable or special service to Soil Science. All nominations, which are evaluated by a three member CSSS Awards Committee, must have the following documentation. Four copies of the nomination must be received by the President-Elect, Chair of the Awards Committee, (below) by **April 15, 2003**.

1. Name, address, telephone number, email address of the candidate.
2. One page letter briefly outlining the reasons for the nomination.
3. A brief resume (< 3 pages) of the candidate indicating their service to Soil Science.
4. One page letter from each of three individuals supporting the nomination.

Send to:

Dr. Ed Gregorich
Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee
Eastern Cereal & Oilseed Research Centre
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Central Experimental Farm
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6

Tel: (613) 759-1909

Fax: (613) 759-1926

E-Mail: gregoriche@agr.gc.ca

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 policymakers."

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.

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

CSSS - Business Office

The CSSS Business Office:

- membership concerns
- updated CSSS membership list
- CJSS journal subscriptions
- society publications.

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CSSS Student Travel and Presentation Awards

CSSS Student Travel Awards To support student travel to Montréal (2003), CSSS is offering a number of travel awards of approx. \$500 each. Available to any CSSS member graduate student. Membership in CSSS for students (i.e. Canadian students both in and outside Canada, and non-Canadian students studying in Canada) is free. The student must be prepared to present a paper/poster. Nominations should be sent by the student's Supervisor or Department Chair. Nominations should briefly summarize the student's academic and research achievements, and provide confirmation that she/he will be presenting a poster/paper at the conference. Applications must be received by the President-Elect, Dr. Ed Gregorich, gregoriche@agr.gc.ca, Chair of the CSSS Awards Committee, by May 15, 2003.

CSSS Bentley Student Presentation Award The C.F. Bentley Award was established to encourage and recognize excellence in oral presentations by students at the CSSS annual meeting. Students must be first author and indicate when they submit their abstract that they are competing for this award. The award consists of \$500 for the best presentation, \$300 for the first runner-up, and \$200 for the second runner-up.

CSSS President's Student Poster Award The CSSS President's award was established to encourage and recognize excellence in poster presentations by students at the CSSS annual meeting. Students must be first author and presenter and indicate when they submit their abstract that they are competing for this award. The award consists of \$500 for the best presentation, \$300 for the first runner-up, and \$200 for the second runner-up.

Student News

Welcome back! I hope everyone is settling into the new semester. Remember to take some time to relax and enjoy the winter activities.

If you are curious about other graduate programs, check out the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies website. It has links for schools across Canada that offer Graduate Studies:

<http://www.cags.ca/>

MONTREAL SUMMER '03

Remember to have your abstracts submitted by **April 1, 2003** for this year's CSSS Annual Meeting. The deadline for pre-registration payment and acceptance of abstracts is **June 1, 2003**.

GREAT NEWS FROM NATHAN BASILIKO

(PhD candidate, McGill U. Dept. of Geography and Centre for Climate and Global Change Research)

He has been awarded a Graduate Scholarship for Study and Research in Germany from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Nathan will be working at the Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology in Marburg under the supervision of Drs. Peter Dunfield and Peter Frenzel. He will examine the effects of commercial peat harvesting and restoration on methanogen and methanotroph microbial communities and their activities in peat sediments from sites in eastern Quebec and north-eastern New Brunswick. This work will compliment his PhD thesis, supervised by Dr. Tim Moore, investigating biogeochemistry and microbial ecology of northern peatlands.

On behalf of CSSS congratulations Nathan!

Enjoy the winter semester.

Vimy Glass
Graduate Rep, CSSS

The Calendar - Forthcoming Meetings

February 18-20, 2003

40th Ann. Alberta Soil Science Workshop
Edmonton, AB
www.soilsworkshop.ab.ca

March 6-7, 2003

Western Nutrient management Conference
Salt Lake City, UT
ajohnston@ppi-ppic.org

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 7-12, 2003

40th Annual Meeting Clay Minerals Society
Athens, GA
www.gly.uga.edu/cms2003

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

June 20-24, 2003

Plant Canada Annual Meeting
St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NB

June 22-25, 2003

14th International Symposium of the International Scientific
Centre of Fertilizers
Debrecen, Hungary
www.date.hu/szervez/mtk/foldmuv/ciec

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](http://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 Agron-
omy 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://fltbwww.rug.ac.be/isofys>.

September 21-26, 2003

2nd Int. Symp. on Phosphorus Dynamics in the Soil-Plant Contin-
uum.
Perth, Australia
www.agric.uwa.edu.au/soils/P_symposium/index.html

September 21-28, 2003

XII World Forestry Congress
Québec City, QC
www.wfc2003.org

October 6-10, 2003

Int. Conf. on Mechanisms and Regulation of Organic Matter Sta-
bilisation in Soils.
Munich, Germany
www.wzw.tum.de/bk/hk

October 21-24, 2003

18th Annual International Conference on Contaminated Soils,
Sediments and Water,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
www.UMassSoils.com.

September 26 - October 1, 2003

4th International Crop Science Congress
Brisbane, Australia
www.cropscience2004.com

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:

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