



NEW BRUNSWICK INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS L'INSTITUT DES AGRONOMES DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Newsletter

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Upcoming Events:

The North America Cranberry Research and Extension Workers Conference will be held in Moncton from August 9 – 12, 2009 at the Delta Beauséjour Hotel in Moncton, NB. Meet the Sector Program will be held from 12:00pm Aug 11 till 12:00pm Aug 12.

The 93rd Annual Potato Association of America (PAA) meeting will take place in Fredericton, NB from August 9-13, 2009. For more information visit www.paa2009.org

NBDAA Potato Field Day will be held on Wednesday, August 19th in Florenceville. Contact Janet McLaughlin at 392-5199 for more details and exact location.

The New Brunswick Cranberry Growers Association is planning a field day for August 29, 2009 in the Maugeville area (starting at Sunberry Cranberry Producers Inc.). Contact Mel Goodland for more information (bayview@nb.sympatico.ca)

Note from NBIA President



For those that do not know me, my name is Gavin Graham and I will be the president for the next few years. My day job is with the Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture as the Weed Management Officer. I would like to thank everyone who attended the NBIA AGM in New Maryland on April 24, 2009, including the professional development sessions, business meeting and the awards banquet. I am looking forward to working with the new council members and would like to thank all council members, both new and old, for their dedication to the society. I would like to thank Rita and all the volunteer members who make the work of NBIA possible. I can be reached via email at gavin.graham@gnb.ca or by phone at (506) 453-3486 if anyone has issues or suggestions on activities over the next few years.

Thanks,
 Gavin Graham, P.Ag

Updated NBIA Website

Check out our newly designed NBIA website, complete with information about NBIA, its history, current events, Professional Development sessions and much more.

www.nbagrologists.nb.ca



Questions regarding NBIA? Contact Rita at nbia@nbagrologists.nb.ca

2009 NBIA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 49th annual meeting of the New Brunswick Institute of Agrologists (NBIA) took place at the New Maryland Centre, New Maryland on Friday the 24th of April 2009. From all accounts, the location and material was of the highest quality. The format for the day was professional development sessions in the morning and afternoon, with the business meeting over lunch and the awards banquet in the evening with entertainment provided by Greg Sweetland and friends.

AGM - Institute Business

Sixty members were in attendance for the 2009 annual meeting. The various reports including that of President Jennifer McDonald, P.Ag. were distributed, including an update on Professional Development Standardization. Other business included the financial report, the Registrar's report and the budget statement, presented by Michel Melanson, Duncan Fraser and Rita Rattray. The committee structures were revised with new members added. As the North-west Branch is celebrating its 25th anniversary next year, the 2010 annual meeting will be in the Grand Falls area.

AGM - By-law changes

One by-law change was made to section 3.3 to comply with the inter-provincial agreement on labour mobility.

3.3. Any person who is a registered member in good standing in a provincial professional agricultural organization, recognized by the Institute, and with which the Institute has a reciprocal agreement, may be granted membership in the Institute provided he or she is lawfully entitled to work in Canada.

AGM - NBIA Officers for 2009-2010

The slate of officers for 2009-2010 was presented. President **Gavin Graham, P.Ag.** is in the first year of his term, Vice-President, **Pat Toner P.Ag.**, is in the first year of his term, and Past-President **Jennifer McDonald, P.Ag.**, is in the first year of her term.

Registrar **Michel Melanson, P.Ag.**, and Secretary/Treasurer **Duncan Fraser, P.Ag.**, were reappointed.






Councillors **Bonnie Robertson, P.Ag.**, is in the second year of her term, **Cedric MacLeod, P.Ag.**, is in the second year of his term, **Heather Scott, P.Ag.** is in the first year of her term, and **Shaun Pelkey, P.Ag.**, is in the first year of his term.

Andrew Currie from Douglas, NB is our independent layperson on Council.

Rita Rattray continues as our Office Administrator.



Professional Development Sessions

Topic	Speaker	Overview
Help... For Taxes		Roger Haineault of Help 4 Taxes, provided an overview of the Canadian taxations system, with a specific focus on recent changes to the taxation legislation which may be helpful for the membership. He also answered questions from the floor, which was much appreciated during the busy season for his business.
The Rising Cost of Fertilizer		Dave Bell, P.Ag., outlined the manufacturing process of different fertilizer components and how market conditions are influencing current pricing on a global and local level.
Organizing your Office		Carole Denis, P.Ag., President of En toute simplicité! presented an overview of some tips and tricks to have a more organized office space.
GHG Calculator		Cedric MacLeod, P.Ag. outlined a Greenhouse Gas Quantification Protocol and Calculator Software for the Canadian Dairy Industry. These tools will allow dairy producers to quantify greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for their operations and estimate potential GHG emissions reductions that may result from various management changes on the farm.
From Citizen to Leader: Discovering and channeling the talents that will help YOU change the world		Carl Duivenvoorden, P.Ag., a speaker, writer, green consultant and “ <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i> ” global warming messenger was the keynote speaker for the session. His presentation focused on how our day to day life can differ from the goals and aspirations that we hold dear. His presentation helped to re-align these two things, with some much needed self-reflection and facilitated thought.



NBIA Award Presentation

Presentations of the NBIA awards were made at the annual banquet. They were:

Agricultural Leadership Award

The Agricultural Leadership Award is to officially recognize outstanding achievement by a New Brunswick farmer as a leader in the industry. The Louis Hébert Trophy, a sower wood carving named after the first farmer in Canada as recorded in history (1604), is presented to the winner.

The 2008 NBIA Agricultural Leadership Award was presented to **Jack Wetmore, P.Ag.** at the 2009 Annual Meeting in New Maryland.

Jack established one of the first commercial turf sod farms in Atlantic Canada in 1973 which grew to become the 3rd largest sod producer in the region. The business was one of the first to utilize environmentally sustainable production methods successfully incorporating the use of biosolids as a nutrient source. In addition, in 1976 he introduced the first hydroseeder which has now become the most efficient methods to apply and establish grass seed in landscape areas. Jack's initiative expanded the horticultural enterprise into landscaping, nursery crop production and retailing. They produce 75% of the plants sold in their garden center and are well known in the Fredericton area for their gardening experience and expertise. The business reigns have been handed over to Jack's son Rod Wetmore who continues to expand the farming and horticultural legacy.

Jack has also shown a dedication to industry development and growth that went well beyond his personal ambitions and business success. He was always patient and generous with his time and willing to contribute and share his knowledge. He strived to work together with other horticultural businesses locally, provincially, regionally and globally. He led the way on several topsoil conservation issues in New Brunswick and coordinated numerous research trials related to soil, turf and pest management. He developed and authored the Sustainable Turf Management for Atlantic Canada which is still the primary industry study reference for turf growing in the region. Jack held numerous positions on agricultural associations and boards. He was a founding member of the Landscape New Brunswick Horticultural Trades Association and Landscape Atlantic serving many years as a Director both provincially and nationally. He has also served with NB Soil and Crop Association, the Turfgrass Producers International, Communities in Bloom, Co-p Home and Farm Supply, and the Capital Credit Union. Jack has shown exemplary leadership by dedicated participation and consultation at many levels both personally and professionally. In acknowledgement of this effort, Jack has received numerous awards including: LNB Awards of Appreciation for efforts in Topsoil Conservation and the NBIA Environmental Stewardship Award.

Environmental Stewardship Award

This award recognizes producers who have contributed to New Brunswick's agricultural sustainability by adopting or developing environmentally responsible production practices.

The 2008 NBIA Environmental Stewardship Award was presented to **Fraser & Helen McCallum** at the 2009 Annual Meeting in New Maryland.

The couple manages Cowassaget Brook Farms a vibrant family operation in Tabusintac committed to careful environmental stewardship. Over the years stream banks and crossings have been improved to establish healthy riparian areas. Water is piped from a well to meet the herd needs in all 20 plus paddocks. The paddocks are in-



Environmental Stewardship Award (cont.)

seeder to maximize the feed value and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The McCallum's have also participated in joint projects with the Eastern Canada Soil and Water Conservation Centre.

Fraser served as president of the NB Soil & Crop Improvement Association and for a short time was on the board of the Soil Conservation Council of Canada. The McCallum's have been involved with the Miramichi Soil & Crop Improvement Association for many years and are also a member of the North

Shore Agri-Conservation Club. One of Helen's responsibilities is to carefully check the strawberry fields for damaging insects as part of the IPM process.

The McCallum's continue to pursue innovative ideas for farming efficiently while reducing their environmental footprint. Last summer a field of barley was part of a cooperative zero N research project with Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada. Plans for this year include composting and solar power.

Distinguished Service to New Brunswick Agriculture Award

This award is given to members of the NBIA who have provided more than 25 years service to the province and who have not received an AIC national award.

The 2008 NBIA Distinguished Service to New Brunswick Agriculture award was given to **David Frost, P.Ag.** at the 2009 Annual Meeting in New Maryland.

David received his bachelor of science in agronomy from the University of Maine in 1963 and his Masters in 1965. He began working in Fredericton at the Agriculture

Canada Research Centre in 1965, working on potato fertility. He worked with Nutrite from 1968 to 1977, and McCain Foods in Florenceville from 1977 to 1986. Since 1986, David has been a private consultant working in New Brunswick with potato producers. He has been a long standing member of NBIA. With over 40 years experience in New Brunswick Agriculture, David has, and continues to help many potato producers with good sound agronomic advice to protect their viability and the potato industry in general.

Agricultural Initiative Award

This award is given to a member of the NBIA for contribution to New Brunswick agriculture in any field (private or public sector), who is less than 40 years of age, and who has not received an AIC national award.

The 2008 NBIA Agricultural Initiative Award was presented to **Kevin Shiell, P.Ag.** at the 2009

Annual Meeting in New Maryland.

Kevin currently works at the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural and Biotechnological Sciences (CESAB), a component of CCNB-Edmundston, as an instructor in the biotechnology and medical laboratory assistance programs.



He is involved in establishing research and development projects and contract lab services with industry and other research institutions, as well as in the development of project proposals and involved in marketing of CESAB and developing short courses for the agricultural industry. During his classes, Kevin discusses with the students the relevance of certain notions to agriculture. He has also been highly involved in the development and delivery of short courses for agricultural producers such as potato storage, crop scouting, and safe pesticide use. During these short courses, he maintains a practical component, where students are able to examine weeds, diseases, insect pests, perform potato bruise tests as well as potato fry tests, etc.

Though his main responsibility at the college is teaching, he has found the time to manage 8 different research projects since 2002 and is constantly looking for more opportunities. Many of these projects are related to bioenergy (i.e. using agricultural waste products to produce new products such as ethanol). These projects are important for the advancement of the agricultural industry as they are directly applied to the farm. Through his research, he is able to link students with the practicality of what they are learning. Besides his work, Kevin has a family which consists of his wife and three children. Thanks to his wife's support, Kevin is able to contribute so much to the agricultural community.

Honorary Life Members

An honorary life member is given to a retired member who has reached the age of seventy-five or any member of the Agricultural Profession who has rendered signal service to the profession. To receive this membership, the honouree must be approved via unanimous vote of the NBIA council. Five honorary life memberships were given at the 2009 NBIA annual meeting.

Melvin Barclay, P.Ag. was a NSAC grad in Class of 1962 after a period as a teacher at the Southern Victoria Regional High School. Melvin worked closely with the potato industry and was probably best known for developing and operating the Bon Accord Potato Seed Centre. After retirement to his farm, Melvin remained involved with his community and was actively involved in establishing the Potato Museum in Florenceville.

Franklin Johnson, P.Ag. After a career in livestock advisory services with NB agriculture, Franklin maintained his interest in agriculture through livestock fairs and exhibitions. Franklin is active in his community and is a recent President of the Golden Club in Fredericton. Frank Johnson was

one of the founding members & signed the original documents for the NBIA act in 1960. He still is the NBIA Auditor

J. Armand Lavoie, Agr. is probably best known as a Swine Specialist for NB Agriculture. In his retirement he is active in his community and is the director of a renowned choir in North-Eastern NB that has travelled widely.

Jim Nicholson, P.Ag. developed a career in animal nutrition research at Nappan, NS and Fredericton, NB. After retirement became very involved with the development of the Fredericton Botanic Garden and is active with community groups.

Ray Scovil, P.Ag. is probably best known as the Deputy Minister of NB agriculture, but worked as an economist with the department prior. Upon retirement Ray started his own consulting business and maintained his interest in national professional associations. Ray was active in his church.





2008 NBIA Award Winners – April 24, 2009 in New Maryland



From L to R: Gavin Graham, P.Ag.(President NBIA); Melvin Barclay, P.Ag.; Kevin Shiell, P.Ag.; Franklin Johnson, P.Ag.; J. Armand Lavoie, P.Ag.; Fraser & Helen McCallum; Jack Wetmore, P.Ag.; James Nicholson, P.Ag.; David Frost, P. Ag.; Raymond Scovil, P.Ag.

Suggestions for articles, upcoming events and changes for the newsletter are welcomed. Please forward your suggestions or comments to Rita—nbia@nbagrologists.nb.ca.