

# CSGA Seed:SCOOP

## The 2008 AGM in Quebec City

A cross-cultural experience at its finest.

Quebec City's charm, restaurants and cultural tours were a big draw to this year's July AGM. In fact, according to Danielle Bernier, who co-chaired the event with Daniel Lanoie, over 400 people were in attendance. Of these, 110 came from AOSCA to meet CSGA growers and take in the rich cultural life that characterizes Quebec City.

"We were honoured to have AOSCA members with us for the 'Seed, the Basis for Life' AGM," says Danielle. "We share many of the same concerns and were pleased that they came to visit Quebec City. They held their own AGM when we held ours, but we had plenty of time to share ideas about the seed industry."

Danielle says, "We also learned a lot from some very interesting speakers, among them agricultural producer Laurent Pellerin, President of the PQ Hog Association and Michel Morissette, President-Director of the Groupe, AGEKO." The AGEKO Group provides expertise in economic studies, and market research for the agri-food industry.

"Their rousing presentations were very much appreciated by the growers," says Danielle. "We enjoyed their sense of humour and also their wide knowledge. Michel Morissette is widely travelled and spoke to us about Indian agriculture. Many growers asked for the PowerPoint presentation from Michel Morissette."



When asked how attendees and their families got along with the French language, Danielle says, "We made sure that the people responsible for the 70 kids were bilingual. Being in Quebec City gave people a good opportunity to practice their French and many did."

A trip to Île d'Orléans, an agricultural island with close to 7,000 permanent residents, was very well attended as was the tour to Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Basilica, which until recently was off limits to visitors. A family evening was held at the Manoir Montmorency, which stands on the historic Parc de la

Chute-Montmorency site, an area of stunning natural beauty with one of the highest waterfalls in Canada.

Food and more food! "Quebec City's restaurants and the food were a big part of the experience," says Danielle. "People seemed to really enjoy themselves. The BBQ drew 430 people. It was great fun!"

Quebec City's culture, food, sights and accommodations at the Hilton Quebec offered CSGA growers and the AOSCA contingent a cross-cultural experience at its finest.

## 2008 Award Recipients

The Honorary Life Membership Awards are always a moving and motivational experience. The awards are presented to persons who, by distinguished services to the Association, have contributed to the betterment of Canadian agriculture. This year, CSGA President Ed Lefsrud presented the award to Jacques Dion, Melbourne, QC, M. André Lemonde, Saint-Hyacinthe, QC and Dr. Duane E. Falk, Guelph, ON.

The Robertson Associate Award was presented to seed growers who have fulfilled, with commitment and success, their obligation to the association. Recipients of the award are Jean-Denis Aumont, St-Alexis de Montcalm, QC, Rosaire Gagnon, Ste-Elizabeth, QC, Bruno Laquerre, Saint-Casimir, QC, Barry Reisner, Limerick, SK and Lawrence Trepanier, ON.



Guests enjoyed the family evening with a performance by the Famille Painchaud (traditional Québécois music) and magicians

## No More Variety Fees in 2009

During the 2008 CSGA Annual Meeting in Quebec City, the Board of Directors proposed a change in the fee structure for 2009 and beyond. The change, which was approved by members at the 2008 Annual Meeting, will result in the elimination of variety fees. To provide the necessary off-set from this loss in fee revenue, an increase in acreage fees will occur in 2009 to effectively make the change in fee structure revenue neutral for the CSGA office. In 2009, acreage fees will increase from 55 cents per acre to 71 cents for conventional varieties and from 55 cents to 73 cents per acre for hybrid varieties.

The impact of this change varies from seed grower to seed grower, depending upon the number of varieties they typically produce and depending upon the number of acres they apply for in any year. There is positive rationale for this change from both the Association's perspective and the perspective of our members. The current structure of the variety fee does not allow CSGA to provide growers with the total fees due on each particular field because the variety fee can only be computed

once all fields have been applied for inspection. Sometimes growers also find the variety fee difficult to calculate correctly since it is calculated on his/her total grower account and not per acre or per plot like other inspection fees. Frequently, calculation errors lead to delays in issuing crop certificates, often after a grower's account has gone into arrears.

Some of the advantages of dropping the variety fee and correspondingly increasing the acreage fee are:

- Dropping variety fees will allow CSGA and the grower to calculate all fees immediately and to determine the fees due on each particular field. Neither the grower, nor the CSGA office, will need to be concerned about whether, or not, the variety being produced on that field has also been produced on another field in that year.

- Increasing acreage fees should simplify the calculations by growers and the CSGA office.

- The reality of this fee structure change is it treats a given acreage the same whether the acreage is in one variety, several varieties, several fields or one field.

- Reducing errors in grower calculations of fees owing will reduce the number of accounts in arrears and reduce the delays in issuing crop certificates against those accounts.

- CSGA will be able to improve its on-line member services by providing real time, up-to-date, accurate information. Growers will have access to more accurate and up-to-date account status information via the upgraded CSGA members' area. Assignees that remit the fees will also receive more accurate fee estimates from their contract growers.

- Dropping the variety fee in favor of an increase in acreage fees does not influence grower decisions about the number of crop kinds or varieties to be produced – only the total acreage of pedigreed crops to be applied for inspection.

- The CSGA office has, in the past, needed to wait until all fields applied for inspection by a grower are reported before calculating the variety fees payable. This will no longer be the case with an acreage fee increase replacing the variety fee.

## Resolutions from the 2008 Annual Meeting

Those attending the 2008 CSGA Annual Meeting in Quebec City were active this year when it came time to propose and debate resolutions. The standard courtesy resolution recognizing speakers, organizers and sponsors was passed unanimously. Everyone recognizes the success of the annual meeting is built on the volunteerism of organizers, the expertise of speakers and the support of our sponsors. We are truly thankful for our sponsors, our speakers and our local Quebec organizing committee.

Four other resolutions were also considered. Two passed easily, one passed by a narrow margin and one was defeated. Through the resolutions, CSGA was asked to:

1. investigate the potential of a nationwide errors & omissions/damages policy for its members;
2. develop a protocol to license seed growers; and
3. amend Circular 6 to allow, without a land use inspection, production of pedigreed cereal crops at the Certified level on land that produced a pulse crop in the previous year.

A resolution to have the CSGA meeting held in November to coincide with the Branch Board meetings and the inter-provincial seed grower meeting was defeated.

Some progress has already been made in response to these resolutions. In particular, we already have a proposal for a national errors & omissions insurance package from an agency

that has been offering this type of insurance in Saskatchewan and Manitoba in recent years. The CSGA Board of Directors, when it convenes in November, will be giving the proposal consideration and, if endorsed by the Board, a nationwide errors & omissions package should be available for 2009. The proposal is a stand alone errors & omissions insurance coverage for CSGA members. A premium discount will also be offered if property insurance coverage is also taken out but it will not be a requirement. Hopefully we can report more in the next issue of *Seed Scoop*.

The concept of a professional seeds man, licensing seed growers, or developing some type of designation/recognition for seed growers has been a concept floated around the Alberta Branch for the past few years. This year a resolution was presented to the CSGA Annual Meeting. Because it passed by only a narrow margin of 3 votes, there appears to be considerable uncertainty, or hesitation, around the merits of the resolution. The resolution asked CSGA to develop a protocol to license seed growers. Although no protocol has been developed to this time, further investigation and discussion of the concept are taking place this fall/winter. Again, any progress made in this regard will be reported in future issues of *Seed Scoop*.

The third resolution related to breaks crops in Circular 6 and, more specifically, to recognize non-pedigreed pulses in a manner similar to canola as break crops for the production of Certified cereal seed crops (not for the production at Registered or higher generations). Effectively what this means, if developed and implemented, is crops like

peas, beans and lentils would be treated as break crops between different varieties of the same cereal crop kind. CSGA's Circular 6 Committee will be considering this proposal this fall/winter. If any changes are proposed, they will be outlined and discussed during the Branch Annual Meetings over the winter of 2008-2009. Because this is a proposal for consideration, seed growers, for now, need to remember that they should not deviate from the current provisions of Circular 6 when planning for the 2009 production year.

The resolution that was defeated was proposed to the membership in an effort to reduce travel for Branch Directors, reduce costs of operating the national and Branch Associations and move the Annual Meeting out of the summer production period. It was also felt timing of the Annual Meeting in the fall/early winter might attract better grower attendance at the Annual Meeting. Because the CSGA Board and staff are always looking for ways to improve our communication and service to members, any comments you have for continuous improvement would be welcomed. What do you feel would attract more members to the CSGA Annual Meeting? Send your comments to Dale Adolphe, Executive Director by fax (613-563-7855) or email [adolphed@seedgrowers.ca](mailto:adolphed@seedgrowers.ca).

## Nominating Committee Results

Edmund Lefsrud of Viking, Alberta will serve as President for the upcoming year. David Mol will serve as Past President. Neil Shanks was declared as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Gerald Girodat as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

In accordance with the by-law 5:03 (a) the Honorary President is elected at an annual meeting as a vacancy occurs. Cameron Henry of Oak River, Manitoba has completed the three year term. The committee nominated Lorne Fell of Staffa Ontario as the new Honorary President. With no new nominations Lorne Fell was declared Honorary President.

One of the Provincial Directors is elected to the Executive. Danielle Bernier was nominated and continues as a member of the Executive Committee.

Executive Director, Dale Adolphe is a member of the Executive Committee and the National Board.

The Grower Directors for the 2008/2009 year are:

British Columbia: Gordon Hill  
Alberta: Ed Lefsrud, Norman Lyster and Larry Kitz  
Saskatchewan: Donna Edwards and Gerald Girodat  
Manitoba: Robert Wiens and Robert Stevenson  
Ontario: Bob Hart and Neil Shanks  
Québec: Daniel Lanoie  
Maritimes: Leonard McCardle, James Baillie and David Mol

The Provincial Ministers of Agriculture have designated the following as Directors for 2008 - 2009 as per By-Law 7:03 (c):

British Columbia: Harvey Glasier  
Alberta: John Brown  
Saskatchewan: Blaine Recksiedler  
Manitoba: Dr. Patti Cuthbert  
Ontario: Brent Kennedy  
Québec: Danielle Bernier  
Nova Scotia: Dr. Claude Caldwell  
New Brunswick: Mike Price  
Prince Edward Island: Peter Boswall

Dr. Bryan Harvey is an advisor on the national Board.

### Executive Committee



Left to right: David Mol, Ed Lefsrud, Danielle Bernier, Neil Shanks, Dale Adolphe, Gerald Girodat

### National Board



Back Row *left to right*: Robert Stevenson, Dr. Patti Cuthbert, Harvey Glasier, Gordon Hill, Blaine Recksiedler, Robert Wiens, Daniel Lanoie, Peter Boswall, Brent Kennedy, Bob Hart, Norm Lyster, Gerald Girodat, David Mol

Front row *left to right*: Mike Price, James Baillie, Larry Kitz, Donna Edwards, Ed Lefsrud, Danielle Bernier, Neil Shanks, John Brown, and Dale Adolphe  
Regrets: Dr. Claude Caldwell, Dr. Bryan Harvey and Leonard McCardle

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# Technical Updates

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## Changes to CSGA's Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production (Circular 6)

### Recent Changes Already in Effect

Growers are reminded that regulation changes were recently made in CSGA's *Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production (Circular 6)*, as they relate to the previous land use requirements for the production of Foundation, Registered and Certified Durum and Soybean. These changes which came into effect in 2008 have been described in detail in recent editions of *Seed Scoop*. They can also be found on the CSGA website at [www.seedgrowers.ca](http://www.seedgrowers.ca)

### Proposed Changes

At the recent Annual Meeting in Québec a resolution was passed to review previous land use regulations as they relate to the production of Certified cereal crops (not Registered or higher generations) following non-pedigreed pulse crops. Should pulses be considered a break crop similar to canola? You are invited to participate in the discussion at your local branch annual meetings over the winter. Note, this is only a proposal for consideration at this point.

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## CSGA Now ISO Registered

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 CSGA completed ISO 9001:2000 Registration of its seed crop certifying operations. This registration required CSGA operations related to the issuance of seed crop certificates to be documented in quality management procedures as well as an independent audit by an ISO auditor. CSGA now joins a very short list of seed certifying agencies worldwide with this quality assurance distinction.

So what is ISO 9001:2000 and what does it mean for CSGA members? "ISO" refers to the International Organization for Standardization which is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It has thousands of international standards for manufacturing, trade and communication. The 9000 series focuses on the process by which the product (goods or services) is produced; not the end product itself.

For CSGA members, the end product is the crop certificate. The registration includes all of the steps required from the time of application for inspection until the issuance of a seed crop certificate. This includes not only the application, inspection and appraisal but also communication and response to customers – our members.

The objectives of a good quality system include customer satisfaction, cost effectiveness, reduction in errors and delays and increased productivity. For many of the same reasons, a number of CSGA members have also completed ISO registration of their business operations.



# ONLINE MEMBER SERVICES

With the launch of its new Members' Area website this summer, CSGA started to realize its goal of delivering crop certification services to its members in electronic format. The Members' Area website is a secure site which provides growers and crop certificate assignees with online access to the current status of their crop production, account, and contact information records. For 2009, it will also provide members with an option to apply for inspection online.

The Member Info section of the site provides CSGA members with the ability to maintain and update their contact information. Members can update their mailing address, select their language preference for communications, and change their password and email address. The email address listed in the Member Info will be used to implement more timely communications regarding the status of crop applications.

The Crop Search section of the site is the growers' pipeline to their crop

production records. Not only are members able to access the status of their most current crop applications but they are also able to access almost 20 years of historical seed crop production records. The records are listed in a grid format that can be searched, sorted and filtered online or exported to either PDF or Microsoft Excel format for use offline. During

## CANADIAN SEED GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Members Area Login

[English](#) / [Français](#)

Grower #:	<input type="text"/>
Password:	<input type="password"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Remember me next time.	
	<input type="button" value="Login"/>

<b>Forgot Your Password?</b>	
Enter your Grower Number to receive your password.	
Grower #:	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>

Phone: (613) 236-0497 Fax: (613) 563-7855

E-Mail: [seeds@seedgrowers.ca](mailto:seeds@seedgrowers.ca)

Web: <http://www.seedgrowers.ca>

English (Canada)

Version: 0.90

the busy inspection season, seed crop production records are updated on an ongoing basis as crop inspection reports are received and processed by the CSGA staff. Members now have access to the live dataset for the most current information on their seed crop production records.

The [Accounts](#) section of the site provides members with a link to financial transaction information related to

their current seed crop production. In this section members can view their applicable membership and crop certification fees as well as any payments made on their account.

Finally, for the 2009 crop season, members will be able to use the [New Crop App](#) section of the site to apply for crop inspection online.

If you would like to access your account information and crop production records online, please contact the CSGA office. We will set up your account credentials and get you started. If you are interested in learning more about the online member services, please join us this winter at your provincial seed grower association annual meetings.

## The Need to Use Organic Seed

CSI's on-line organic listing provides a useful tool to facilitate organic seed sales.

The new Canadian regulations for the labeling of agricultural production as "organic" will soon be implemented. The new regulations deal with the issue of seed in the same way as previous organic regulations in that the preferred source of seed is certified as "organically grown".

Due to the sometimes limited supply of organic seed of new varieties and some crop kinds, an exception has been built into the regulations to allow the use of untreated, non GMO seed, from conventional agriculture. However, the exception for the use of conventional seed requires that the organic operator demonstrate that an organically produced variety is not available from its enterprise or other sources. The exception requires that the operator obtain approval from the certification body **prior** to use of conventional seed or the production and land could lose its organic status.

Organic standards worldwide have started to interpret that availability does not take distance into consideration as a determining factor, so if organic seed of the variety is available it must be utilized. This interpretation can have a beneficial impact on the seed industry

and the organic pedigreed seed sector in particular because growers who currently produce pedigreed seed in an organic system will no longer compete against claims of distance or price. "If seed of the required crop and variety is on the CSI organic listing we will not allow the use of seed sourced from conventional sources," says Jim McCullagh, Executive Director of CSI.

To help connect organic producers with organic seed vendors, CSI has an on-line list of organic seed that is searchable by crop kind or variety name. The organic seed vendors include both CSI and non-CSI clients.

You can access the listing on [www.csi-ics.com](http://www.csi-ics.com) or obtain a hard copy of the listing from the CSI office. The list will be updated after harvest so if you have organic seed that you want to sell please contact Carli Marsh at (613) 236-6451.

For more information on organic certification or implementing other quality management systems through CSI, please call (613) 236-6451 or visit [www.csi-ics.com](http://www.csi-ics.com).



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## Seedlings

### Passages

*Valerie Sisson* of AAFC and CFIA in Ottawa, Ontario passed away at the age of 54 following a short battle with cancer. Val worked for over 30 years in the federal public service, with most of that time spent in Plant Breeders' Rights. Together with Wilf Bradnock, she was involved in the drafting and introduction of the PBR bill which was eventually passed by Parliament in 1990. She worked tirelessly in the implementation of the Act and was strongly committed to the Canadian Plant Breeders' Rights system.

*Aarne Luoma* of Trochu, Alberta passed away in June of this year. Aarne started growing seed in 1958 and received a 45-year Long Service award in 2003 and an Outstanding Service award in 1992.

*Karl Vadovic* of Dover Centre, Ontario has passed away. Karl started growing seed in 1979 and received a 20-year Long Service award in 2003.

*Albert Rohl* of Rohl Farms in Gypsumville, Manitoba passed away in June this year. He started growing seed in 1988 and received a 15-year Long Service award in 2003.

*Martin Kaufmann* of Lacombe, Alberta has passed away. Martin was a prominent Plant Breeder and received an Honorary Life Membership Award in 1981.

*Lenora Newman*, daughter of the late Dr. Leonard Newman, CSGA Secretary from 1905 – 1923 has passed away. Lenora was always interested in CSGA and gave many of her father's books and records to the CSGA office.

*Alex Skoworodko* of Spirit River, Alberta has passed away. Alex started growing seed in 1986 and received the 20-year Long Service award in 2006.

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### New Québec Branch Secretary and office:

**Julie Robert**  
Secrétaire-trésorière  
Syndicat des producteurs de semences pedigree du Québec  
3800 boulevard Casavant Ouest  
Saint-Hyacinthe Québec J2S 8E3  
Téléphone: 450-774-9154 poste 216  
Télécopieur: 450 778-3797

### Congratulations on 30 Years of Service

René Daoust joined CSGA in November of 1978. Over the course of his 30 year career with CSGA his responsibilities have varied. Today he remains an integral part of the operations staff with responsibilities which include appraising applications for crop inspection and crop inspection reports, maintaining variety description files, processing applications for variety certification eligibility and processing variety verification seed samples. René is able to carry out his duties in English or French which is a great asset for CSGA and our members in Québec. Please join us in congratulating René for his dedication and hard work for the CSGA.

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### New Manager, Finance & Administration

We are pleased to announce that Pam Coles joined the CSGA staff at the beginning of August. A native of Smith Falls, Ontario, Pam brings with her a strong background and knowledge of accounting. She has completed the 5<sup>th</sup> level of the Certified General Accountants Program. She also has a diploma in Business Administration. Pam will be a great addition to our staff as she helps us deliver pedigreed seed production programs to our members across Canada.



### It's a Girl!

Our Administrative Coordinator, Caroline Lafontaine and her husband Bruno Pinheiro became the proud parents of a baby girl on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Her name is Daphnée Emmanuelle Lafontaine Pinheiro. Caroline plans to return from maternity leave in the spring. In the meantime, Latona Nicholson has been doing a great job filling in for Caroline during the busiest time of year for CSGA operations.

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