

random thoughts

Welcome to the March edition of the NSIA newsletter!

As usual, March will be a very busy for most- annual meeting, workshops, conferences, making final planting decisions and so on.

Spring happens to be one of my favourite times of the year. The days are getting warmer and longer, new animals are born and there is an abundance of hope for the coming summer.

Remember to take part in as many events as you can, they are often fun, quite informative, and always a great opportunity for meeting new people and networking.

See you Saturday at curling- **Go MISB Go**

**Cheers,
Brad**

Coming Events

NSIA Curling Bonspiel
March 13, 2010 @ 8:45am
Truro Curling Club

NSIA Ethics and Professionalism
March 14, 2010
Haley Institute, NSAC

NSIA Annual General Meeting
April 15, 2010 @ 3:00pm
Best Western Glengarry, Truro

NSIA Honours and Awards Banquet
April 15, 2010 @ 5:30pm
Best Western Glengarry, Truro

National Group MOU Signed

Submitted by Bob Vair

A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ESTABLISH AND GUIDE A WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALL OF THE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTES OF AGROLOGISTS ACROSS CANADA HAS NOW BEEN SIGNED. THIS GROUP WILL BE CALLED "THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CIMC).

The purpose of CIMC will be to:

- a) Work cooperatively towards enhancing the profession of agrology across Canada.
- b) Prioritize issues and establish a "plan" to address the issues.
- c) Collaborate and cooperate to meet commitments.

The proposed scope and activities of CIMC includes but is not limited to the following activities:

1. Creation of a Terms of Reference (TOR) for CIMC, consistent with the MOU, subject to the approval of the Institute Councils;
2. Liaison between provincial Institutes to share information about registration procedures, professional development requirements and ways to improve such activities for each institute in Canada
3. Coordination and cooperation on disciplinary issues where such issues impact other Institutes across Canada
4. Harmonize "credential" requirements between CIMC members
5. Harmonize "In Training" requirements between CIMC members
6. Develop an evaluation tool and process that all Institutes can use to determine standards for entry to practice.
7. Identify nationally recognized areas of practice and advise on professional practice issues of mutual concern, recognizing unique circumstances may apply to specific Institutes.
8. Raise the profile of the profession of agrology provincially and across Canada.

For more information, you may contact Bob Vair at nsagrologists@eastlink.ca

Applications open for 2010 Farm Environmental Stewardship Award

Submitted by Kathryn Bremner

This annual award has been designed to showcase the outstanding stewardship efforts of farms and elevate public awareness of sustainable farming practices across the province. The award is worth up to \$2,000 (no cash value) for activities that further enhance the farm operation. Projects listed in Farm Investment Fund Guidelines will be supported.

If you know a farm that demonstrates environmental stewardship please direct them toward <http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/EFP> or call the NS Federation of Agriculture (893-2293) for more information about the award and for an application form.

Personality Plus!

Submitted by: Niki Petrie

“Lunch N Learn” participants enjoyed a fun filled day on February 9th thanks to the dynamic duo of Cheryl Phillips and Pol Vinctor. It began weeks before with a questionnaire designed to identify our personality profile. It ended with a better understanding of ourselves (some were shocked J), others and our natural preference for communication. Everyone left with an enhanced appreciation of how to work with other personality types and most importantly how to communicate effectively.

The feedback has been very positive from the 30 people in attendance! We would like to thank Cheryl Phillips for all of her hard work in preparing and delivering a successful “soft skills” professional development session. If anyone is interested in contacting Cheryl for their own work place session, please email her at cherylphillips@ns.sympatico.ca

The Professional Development committee is now very busy participating in the Atlantic Agrology Workshop planning. The first flyer has been distributed with additional information soon to follow. If any of you are interested in helping out or becoming part of the PD committee, please contact me at any time.

Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere. ~Chinese Proverb

Nuffield Farming Scholarship Accepting Applications

Nuffield Farming Scholarships are awarded to enthusiastic individuals, between the ages of 25 and 45, who wish to explore topics of their choice in agriculture, land management, horticulture or the food chain. Three scholarships of \$15,000 each are available for 2011.

"The Canadian Nuffield Farming Scholarship provides innovative Canadians with the funding to travel internationally to expand their personal horizons while exploring agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context," said Barry Cudmore, Chair and 2004 Scholar. "We are focused on developing the practical, managerial and commercial capacities of each scholar to enable them to be better farmers and business managers and to make a significant contribution to the future of Canadian agriculture."

Applications must be received by April 30, 2010. For more information on Nuffield Canada, visit www.nuffield.ca or on Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust (the United Kingdom site) – www.nuffieldscholar.org.

Atlantic Agricultural Forum
connect. innovate. renew.
April 22-23, 2010 Truro, Nova Scotia



If you are an agricultural professional, scientist, rural community activist, farmer, consultant, student or are simply interested in agricultural or rural life, join us this spring for the new Atlantic Agricultural Forum (formerly the Atlantic Agriculture Science and Technology Workshop). For more information please visit www.nsac.ca/aaf

Call for Speakers- 2010 Atlantic Agrology Workshop

Submitted by: Bob Vair

Before we finalize are speakers for the upcoming **Atlantic Agrology Workshop on November 04 & 05, 2010**, we would be very interested in hearing from you.

If you have a speaker that you would like us to invite to the Workshop **or** if you have a topic that you would like us to get a speaker for **or** if you are a speaker and would like to speak at the Workshop, please let us know.

In order for your suggestions to be considered, we would appreciate it if you would e-mail them to nsagrologists@eastlink.ca by no later than Wednesday, March 31, 2010.

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