



*Professionals Serving Agriculture*

# Member Communication

## Message From the President

It is the beginning of another new Council year. We have three new Councilors joining us and are pleased to say that we continue to have representation from government, Perennia, Dalhousie Agriculture Campus and private industry. New Councilors Jonathan Wort, who works with Perennia, Ross MacNeil, who is with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, and Chris Cutler, who is a professor and researcher at the Dalhousie Agriculture Campus are sure to contribute fresh perspectives and ideas around the table.

As we set out in our new year, we continue to work on the review of the Agrologists Act, an endeavor that has been challenging and one which has now gained firm traction and is progressing through regular meetings of the Act Committee. We continue to provide representation to Agrologists/ Agronomes Canada in the next phase of implementation of the National Education standard and to work regionally with Atlantic Institutes in identifying opportunities for cooperation that will provide value to Agrologists across the region.

In the spirit of relationship building, the Executive has had a second meeting with Drs. Gray and Yiridoe from Dalhousie Agriculture Campus. We have agreed to meet quarterly to discuss items of concern and to cultivate the relationship between Dal AC and the Institute from the perspectives of staff and faculty as well as the relationship that the Institute might have with the students who will one day be fully fledged Professional Agrologists in their own right.

At our first meeting of the year, new and returning Committee Chairs were named and discussions on direction and priorities for the coming year were outlined.

As incoming President, I look forward to working with the group of talented and knowledgeable professionals around the table. I would like to thank Mike Devaney for his contributions in the past year as President of NSIA through a transitional time from an administrative perspective and for his on-going commitment to Council activities. And to Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, who has served as President and past-president, thank you for your time and dedication, I look forward to continuing to work with you on the Act Committee.

Dawn Miller, P.Ag

President, NSIA

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*Past President Mike Devanney passing the gavel to President, Dawn Miller*



*President Dawn Miller presenting the Past President plaque to Mike Devanney*

## **Professional Development Committee Update**

At the first meeting of Council for this year, the Professional Development Committee, which had been established to create a Professional Development Policy, was discontinued. Council members agreed that the Committee had fulfilled its assignment and on-going Professional Development monitoring was largely an administrative task.

Please continue to monitor the NSIA web site for upcoming PD activities, both those offered by the Institute and others available in the region and through on-line courses and webinars. If you are aware of any opportunities, please forward them to the NSIA office to be included on the web site.

Dawn Miller, P.Ag

*Chair, Act Committee*

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## **Programs Committee Update**

The first Programs Committee meeting to discuss 2018-2019 events will be late June 2018.

If you are interested in joining the Programs Committee, please contact:

- ◆ Jacqueline Hoyt, [Jacqueline.Hoyt@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jacqueline.Hoyt@novascotia.ca)
- ◆ Ross MacNeil, [brossmacneil@gmail.com](mailto:brossmacneil@gmail.com) or
- ◆ NSIA Administrators, [info@nsagrologists.ca](mailto:info@nsagrologists.ca)

Jacqueline Hoyt and Ross MacNeil, P.Ag's

*Co-Chairs, Programs Committee*

## Notes From NSIA Administrators

- ◆ The NSIA website is frequently updated and therefore is an excellent resource for current information, such as upcoming events, news items, agrology related job postings and PD Resource links, as well as providing further explanation on items like policies, membership, and CNMP, among much more.

All this material can be found at: <http://nsagrologists.ca/>

- ◆ Similarly, within the “*Members Only*” option of the website, you have the ability to make your profile public if you wish to, which would list you as a member within the “*Find an Agrologist*” list. This list is comprised of your contact information, languages, areas of practice and expertise.

A full list of members with public profiles can be found at: <http://nsia.online-compliance.com/Members.php>

- ◆ We ask that members who are utilizing a “Leave of Absence”, meaning you are on leave from your employer for reasons such as parental leave, medical leave, sabbatical, etc., to please notify us so we can adjust your status accordingly.

Please note: PD hours do not need to be met while you are on leave, however, those which were completed for the part of the year prior to your leave still need to be reported. This can be done at anytime. For example, if you were on leave for six months of the year, the only PD hours which need to be reported would be for the other six months, in which you were employed full time.

Further information relating to “Leave of Absence” can be found at: <http://nsagrologists.ca/policies/>

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If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact NSIA directly at:  
902-895-0581  
[info@nsagrologists.ca](mailto:info@nsagrologists.ca)  
60 Research Drive Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2

**\*The next Application Intake deadline is August 31, 2018\***

For more information, please visit <http://nsagrologists.ca/becoming-a-member/>

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## 2018 Environmental Stewardship Award

**Do you know of a farm that has adopted new practices or technologies or has undertaken projects to protect soil, water or wildlife habitat?**

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) and the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program are seeking nominations for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Stewardship Award. The award showcases the outstanding stewardship efforts of farms and elevates public awareness of sustainable farming practices. The winner will receive a framed painting of their farm by a local artist, as well as a \$2000 cash prize. The deadline for receiving applications is August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Award application forms are available at [www.nsfa-fane.ca/EFP](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/EFP) or by calling 893-2293. If you require help with the nomination process, or have any questions, EFP staff are available for assistance.

## Honours & Awards Winners 2018

*We would like to congratulate the 2018 Honours & Awards recipients:*



**Richard and Jacqueline Melvin (Melvin Farms Ltd.),  
nominated by Carolyn Van Den Heuvel,  
for Distinguished Farm**



**Bill Thomas, nominated by Rosalie Gillis-Madden,  
for Distinguished Life Member**



**Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, nominated by Maxine  
MacLean, for Outstanding Young Agrologist**



**Lise LeBlanc, nominated by Tom Harz, for  
Distinguished Agrologist**



**Reg Newell, nominated by Kathryn  
Bremner, for Honourary Member**