



# 2018 Annual General Meeting



**April 25, 2018**

**Holiday Inn, Truro**

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## NSIA Council 2017-18

Name	Term Expiry	Position
Mike Devanney	2018	President
Carolyn Van Den Heuvel	2018	Past President
Dawn Miller	2019	President Elect
Maxine MacLean	2019	Chair, Membership Committee
Rosalie Madden	2019	Chair, CNMP Committee
Adam Cochrane	2019	
Jacqueline Hoyt	2020	Chair, Program Committee
Diane Dunlop	2020	
Tom Harz	2020	Secretary-Treasurer
Terry Prescott	2020	



# President's Report

I thank all members for the opportunity to serve as President of the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists during this past year. Over these twelve months, I have witnessed the continued progression of efforts to modernize the Institute and the profession of Agrology in Nova Scotia and nationally. Many of these efforts were started and continued by NSIA Councils of the recent past and it has been great to see this teamwork continue over the years.

As noted in the most recent Council communications, the NSIA is the organization authorized under the Agrologists Act to govern the professional conduct of its members in support of the public interest. This is an important role in an important industry. The efforts of this and recent Councils can be best categorized as seeking to effectively fulfill this mandate and to ensure adherence to the province's Fair Registration Practices Act.

The national education standard for Professional Agrologists approved by NSIA at the 2017 semi-annual meeting, the creation and oversight of a professional development policy, work on our disciplinary procedures, and the ongoing modernization of the Agrologists Act are all crucial initiatives of a self-regulating body. Work in these areas has been ongoing over the past few years and is above and beyond the normal workings of Council.

As you are likely now aware, this past year also saw a significant transition from our previous organizational structure. We are now settling into the new administrative relationship with the Agri-Commodity Management Association (ACMA). This has allowed NSIA to realize significant cost savings while ACMA has guided us through the transition admirably. My hope and expectation is that this relationship will continue to evolve in the coming years from the foundation that has already been established.

Despite these efforts, the Institute and the profession continue to face headwinds which include demographic challenges facing most sectors of the economy, fiscal capacity, and difficulties in engaging membership. I am hopeful that the efforts noted above, combined with continued focus on our professional development offerings, as well as some exciting work regarding regional collaboration are seeds that will grow and become an important part of a healthy and sustainable future for NSIA and Professional Agrologists.

One last time, I call on members to continue or enhance your involvement in NSIA. This can be as simple as attending our professional development events (including the AGM) or through joining a committee or applying to become a member of Council. The success of NSIA depends on its members: an impressive network of professionals spanning all facets of the agriculture industry and comprising a wide-breadth of knowledge and areas of practice.

Finally, thank you to all the Councilors and committee members who drove the work forward this past year. It was a pleasure working with you. I am happy to pass the role of President on to the very capable Dawn Miller.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Devanney, P.Ag  
President, NSIA

**Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists  
Semi-Annual General Meeting  
November 23, 2017  
Holiday Inn, Truro**

**Minutes**

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**Call to order**

President Mike Devanney called the meeting to order at 2:05pm and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. He also thanked the Dalhousie Graduate Students for presenting their research in advance of the meeting.

President Mike Devanney highlighted the progress of several NSIA initiatives since the Annual Meeting in April. Specifically, he noted that NSIA has signed an administrative services agreement with the Agri-Commodity Management Association as well the progress made on the changes to the Agrologists Act and the National Education Standard. He also thanked the Councilors for their dedication and work on all of the initiatives this year and their continued engagement going forward.

**Declaration of Quorum**

President Mike Devanney declared quorum was established for the meeting.

**Approval of agenda**

It was moved by Carolyn Van Den Heuvel and seconded by Karen Nelson to approve the agenda as circulated. Motion carried.

**Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was held for all colleagues who have passed away over the past year.

**Approval of April 26, 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Maxine MacLean and seconded by Kim Pennie to approve the minutes from April 26, 2017 as circulated. Motion carried.

**Business Arising from Minutes**

No business arising from the minutes.

**Presentation of Member Certificates**

Membership Committee chair, Maxine MacLean presented certificates to nine new members as outlined on page 11 of the meeting report.

**Financial Report**

Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Harz presented the NSIA September 30, 2017 financial report. Specifically he made note of increased revenues related to project delivery as well as the sale of assets under the new agreement with ACMA. He also noted that there have been significant cost savings related to the new administrative agreement. On the balance sheet, it was explained that due to administrative changes there were an abnormally high accounts receivable, some of which have been collected. Mike Devanney explained that Council is drafting a policy about delinquent payments.

It was moved by Andrew Kellock and seconded by Peter Burgess to receive the September 30, 2017 financial report as presented. Motion carried.

**2018 NSIA Operating Budget**

Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Harz presented the draft 2018 NSIA Operating Budget. Tom outlined some of the structural changes to the budget such as better tracking of membership fees and combining committee budgets. He also noted that the budget now includes a contingency fund line, which is 5% of membership fees which will be set aside for financial sustainability of the Institute. He also clarified the budget lines for regulatory compliance.

It was moved by Dawn Miller and seconded by Karen Nelson to approve the 2018 NSIA operating budget as presented. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

Committee reports were provided on pages 11 to 13 of the meeting report.

It was moved by Dale McIsaac and seconded by Peter Burgess to approve the committee reports as presented. Motion carried.

## **New Business**

Mike Devanney provided an overview of the NSIA HST Policy which will be implemented on January 1, 2018.

### **Agrologists Act Amendment Proposal and National Education Standard**

Carolyn presented the Agrologists Act Amendment Proposal which included the purpose of the Act, the definition of agrology, powers of the Institute and Council, admission standards, designations, complaints and discipline, offences and the addition of professional development.

There was an expression of concern from members to ensure that they are consulted throughout the process and specifically before the final submission of the Act amendment.

It was moved by Karen Nelson and seconded by Bill MacLeod that membership supports Council's effort to continue the Act Amendment proposal for submission. Motion carried.

Mike presented the National Education Standard

In mid-2017 the AAC Board approved the proposed new education standard. A 120-credit four year Baccalaureate degree in agrology and obtained from a recognized university is required for registration with the profession. In addition, the degree must consist of courses in specific course categories including foundational knowledge agrology and senior level courses.

It was moved by Peter Burgess and seconded by George MacIntosh to accept the revised national entry to practice standard as detailed in the Ad Hoc Committee report to Agrologists Canada. Motion carried.

It was moved by Jenn Haverstock and seconded by Rosalie Madden to actively contribute toward implementation by providing information about factors that should be considered (in implementation plan). Motion carried.

### **Closing Comments and Adjournment**

President Mike Devanney once again thanked all members for taking time from their schedules to attend the meeting.

Motion by Carolyn Van Den Heuvel to adjourn at 3:30 pm.

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**Mike Devanney, President**

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**Brad McCallum, Recording Secretary**

**Income Statement**  
**January 1 to December 31, 2017**

	2017 Actual*	2017 Budget	2017 % of Budget	2016 Actual	2015 Actual
<b>Note Member Revenue</b>					
Membership Fees- P.Ag.	34,918.34	36,125.00	96.66%	34,340.00	36,012.50
CNMP Membership Fees	600.00	600.00	100.00%	550.00	550.00
Awards Revenue	750.00	500.00	150.00%	25.00	0.00
<b>Total Member Revenue</b>	<b>36,268.34</b>	<b>37,225.00</b>	<b>98.67%</b>	<b>34,915.00</b>	<b>36,562.50</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>					
Program Revenue	1,420.00	2,000.00	71.00%	2,245.00	3,719.18
Interest Revenue	119.45	100.00	0.00%	172.86	0.00
1 Project Revenue	8,490.12	5,000.00	169.80%	10,141.16	2,149.23
2 Miscellaneous Revenue	1,000.00	100.00	1000.00%	0.00	1,617.08
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>11,029.57</b>	<b>7,200.00</b>	<b>139.52%</b>	<b>12,559.02</b>	<b>7,485.49</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>47,297.91</b>	<b>44,425.00</b>	<b>105.29%</b>	<b>47,474.02</b>	<b>44,047.99</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Advertising/Promotions	0.00	500.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00
3 Bank Charges/Pay Pal Expense	322.55	500.00	64.51%	418.07	304.50
NSIA Contingency Fund	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!	0.00	0.00
Council Expense	0.00	100.00	0.00%	85.10	114.43
Communications	0.00	500.00	0.00%	503.70	975.72
4 NSIA Staff	5,785.00	14,700.00	39.35%	15,718.50	14,790.58
4 Administrative Service Exp (ACMA)	4,444.52	0.00	#DIV/0!	0.00	1,150.00
4 ACMA Subscriber Expense	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!	0.00	0.00
4 ACMA Extra Hour Expense	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!	0.00	0.00
Photocopies/Printing	131.02	0.00	#DIV/0!	0.00	0.00
Office Supplies	580.90	700.00	81.83%	870.94	953.14
Travel	0.00	500.00	0.00%	220.00	599.08
Administrative Support	690.00	1,350.00	231.26%	1,380.00	0.00
4 Phone	321.34	600.00	53.56%	598.98	700.75
Program Expense	3,735.09	2,500.00	-149.40%	1,573.36	6,935.89
Agrologists Club	250.00	500.00	50.00%	0.00	500.00
Committee Expense	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!	0.00	0.00
Awards	95.34	1,500.00	6.36%	2,147.63	1,000.00
Insurance	1,614.00	1,615.00	99.94%	1,614.00	1,600.00
National Membership Fee	2,080.00	2,200.00	94.55%	2,190.00	2,350.00
Professional Services	528.30	600.00	88.05%	528.30	287.50
Strategic Initiatives	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%	0.00	966.00
Miscellaneous	1,256.95	0.00	#DIV/0!	0.00	0.00
1 Project Expense	6,059.95	4,000.00	151.50%	10,141.16	0.00
4 Rent	1,982.45	4,100.00	48.35%	3,921.08	3,821.48
4 IT Service	1,046.50	2,000.00	52.33%	2,001.00	2,001.00
Regulatory Compliance	2,440.00	2,440.00	100.00%	7,310.28	2,440.00
Website	0.00	500.00	0.00%	345.00	3,900.80
Ethics Course Exp	500.00	500.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>33,863.91</b>	<b>42,905.00</b>	<b>78.93%</b>	<b>51,567.10</b>	<b>45,390.87</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>13,434.00</b>	<b>1,520.00</b>	<b>883.82%</b>	<b>-4,093.08</b>	<b>-1,342.88</b>

**Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists  
Balance Sheet  
December 31, 2017**

	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
<b>ASSET</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
PayPal	0.00	37.50
Money Market Account	1,565.54	1,558.08
Chequing Bank Account	11,689.17	5,317.80
GIC - Regulatory Compliance	14,995.73	12,443.74
Total Cash	28,250.44	19,357.12
5 Accounts Receivable	2,782.49	400.00
Total Receivable	2,782.49	400.00
Purchase Prepayments	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	31,032.93	19,757.12
<b>TOTAL ASSET</b>	31,032.93	19,757.12
 <b>LIABILITY</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	260.65	0.00
Deferred Regulatory Compliance Fund	2,440.00	
Deferred Project Revenue	0.00	4,858.84
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	2,700.65	4,858.84
 <b>Long Term Liabilities</b>		
Bank Loans	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>	2,700.65	4,858.84
 <b>EQUITY</b>		
<b>Owners Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	14,898.28	18,991.36
Current Earnings	13,434.00	-4,093.08
<b>Total Owners Equity</b>	28,332.28	14,898.28
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	28,332.28	14,898.28
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	31,032.93	19,757.12

Notes:

1. Project revenue and expenses are related to phase one of the Atlantic Agrology Network project. There was a net income to the project because of the administrative oversight provided by NSIA.
2. Miscellaneous revenue accounts for the sale of physical assets sold to the Agri-Commodity Management Association as part of the new administrative agreement. The assets included a laptop, LCD project, filing cabinets and office supplies.
3. As part of the administrative agreement, NSIA is part of ACMA's preferred banking package for which there are no monthly banking fees or transaction. All fees are associated with PayPal transactions for membership payments.
4. In July 2017, NSIA entered an administrative services agreement with the Agri-Commodity Management Association for provision of services. This agreement is based on approximately 400 hours per year. As part of this agreement, NSIA did not renew their lease agreement with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture as physical and virtual space is provided for in the agreement with ACMA.
5. In 2017, NSIA held higher than normal accounts receivable which are directly related to outstanding membership fees. There is expected to be some bad debt expense related to these outstanding accounts receivables for the 2018 fiscal year. NSIA will also be fully implementing and adhering to the fee payment policy in 2018.

# Financial Statement Review Letter



March 19, 2018

To the Board of Directors of  
Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists  
Perennia Innovation Park  
60 Research Drive  
Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2

**Re: Financial Statements Review for the year ended December 31, 2017**

I have reviewed the financial statements of Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair representation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my review of financial documentation. The review involved verifying documentation of sample accounting entries, and in this regard no errors or omissions have been found.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Marie Mattie', written over a horizontal line.

Lynn Marie Mattie

## Agrologists/Agronomes Canada Report

AAC serves the provincial institutes by addressing the following three objectives,

1. Pooling of resources to maximize regulatory similarity;
2. Improve the agrology profession's exposure and brand;
3. Minimize challenges to labour mobility.

In 2017, Provincial Institute members of AAC adopted a new national education standard for entry to practice agrology and have agreed to work towards its implementation. A Steering Committee of AAC Board members is tasked with the development of a strategy to implement the standard over the next three years.

All of the provincial institutes have now provided input with respect to foreseen barriers to the implementation of the standard. This information will now be synthesized and then a draft strategy prepared for discussion at the AAC annual general meeting the fall.

Professional standards articulate education requirements and competencies, but not outcomes or how value is defined. To date, there has not been a method to capture or report on the value of the services a Professional Agrologist delivers. A common national approach to expressing the value of the service or advice provided will help to:

- Enable Professional Agrologists to better articulate potential value to clients;
- Enable the Institutes of Agrologists to better articulate value to stakeholders, including government, public and future professionals ;
- Ultimately, create and manage brand value.

To help with this endeavor, the consulting firm MNP, has been retained to conduct a project to demonstrate the value of Professional Agrologist advice or services. The results of approximately 25 projects across the country will be used to develop an information base and subsequently an approach for building the Professional Agrologist brand.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Harz, P.Ag.

## Committee Reports

### Act Committee

Committee Members: Carolyn Van Den Heuvel (Chair), Dawn Miller, Peter Burgess, Tom Harz, Jen Haverstock

The Act Committee continues to navigate through the process of amending our legislation. Identified as a priority a number of years ago, this process has been lengthy as we have encountered a number of hurdles along the way. However, over the last year we have made progress on engaging with the Department of Agriculture in this review, which is an integral part of the success.

As reported last year, a request was sent to the Department of Justice to have the Act assigned to a department. It was determined in early 2018 that the Act is indeed under the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture. Since receiving that response, representatives of the Act Committee met with NSDA to determine the path forward.

Natasha Power, Policy Analyst with the Department of Agriculture has been assigned to the file. We have established a small working group to meet bi-weekly to work through the amendment process. The larger Act Committee has also developed its action plan and is meeting on a monthly basis to progress it. Through the development of the action plan we also discussed the importance of consultation with the membership on the recommendations being submitted for review. We are committed to consulting with membership along the way as the propositions for the amendment are developed.

A policy on Self-Regulated Professions was approved by government in 2017. It is important that our Act and requests for amendments align with the policy on self-regulation. This policy will be considered throughout the development of the proposal for amendments.

The Committee will continue to work on this important initiative as it remains a priority of Council. We appreciate the opportunity to work on this on behalf of membership and look forward to consulting with you throughout the process.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, P.Ag.  
Chair, Act Committee

### **Agrology Club Report**

September 4th, 2017, I attended the Orientation Service Fair at the LAC, where I promoted the Agrology Club to gain more interest, where there was a draw for Dal AC Agrology Club hats. Here, I handed out stickers, club contact cards, and more.

The year started off with our first club meeting on September 19th, 2017, where we had introductions, defined Agrology, brainstormed events/activity ideas and main interests of the students for the year.

Our first event was on November 25th, 2017, when we had breakfast and a private tour at Sugar Moon Farms. This was a fun event which many students attended. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast and had a lovely tour of their facility, learning all about their farm and maple syrup production.

November 27th, 2017, Masters Student Sawyer Olmstead came in to talk about bees and honey production, as well as his masters' work.

February 2nd, 2018, the Agrology Club had a big farm tour day, where we had tours of Northumberland, Upperbrook Farm, and Charles Hill and Son Ltd. We had a quick tour of Northumberland, as no processing was done during the tour, although we were able to have a tour of the whole facility. We had a nice tour of Upperbrook Farm, where we were able to see their animals and their wool mill. Additionally, we had a nice tour of Charles Hill and Son Ltd. We got to see their farm, cows and new robots recently installed. At all the tours, we had the opportunity to talk with the owners and learn about their operations. We stopped at Tim Hortons for a mid-tour lunch. All participants seemed to enjoy the tours and the opportunity to learn how these operations worked.

February 10th, 2018, Agrology Club members joined Colette Wyllie, as well as other staff, to work stations at the Truro Library for children to learn more about agriculture.

March 3rd, 2018, we attended an Ag Awareness event at the Halifax Library. Colette Wyllie invited students to volunteer to participate within the event. Students paired up and worked within stations for children to learn more about agriculture.

March 19th, 2018, Jolene MacEachern gave a presentation discussing how she got into farming, challenges they experienced, succession planning, tips, and an outlook for the agriculture industry. That evening, we also had a pizza party as an incentive to encourage students to come out and also to celebrate the end of the year!

We had a really good year! I'm happy that the Agrology Club became more active this year and a bit more known about. I think the events went well and students seemed to enjoy the various events held. Additionally, we all learned a bit more about agriculture, specifically about a few local businesses around.

Thank you again to the NSIA for their generous funding to the club this year, it is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Brooke McNeil  
2017/18 Dal AC Agrology Club Chair

## **Atlantic Agrology Network Report**

The Atlantic Agrology Network (AAN) is a new regional initiative among the four Atlantic institutes of Agrology. The AAN has its roots in the recommendations of the report: Advancing the Profession of Agrology in Atlantic Canada, completed in 2017 and funded in partnership with Agrologists-Agronomes Canada.

The intent of the initial work was to seek opportunities to collaborate regionally to benefit the profession on multiple fronts, broadly encompassed by three strategic pillars:

- Working together on common goals;
- Harmonizing procedures and policies;
- Sustainability, efficiency, and capacity building.

The report includes an action plan listing specific opportunities for collaboration under these pillars.

In order to proceed in an attainable manner, a subsequent Sustainability Plan was prepared following the report and directs the institutes to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to progress the work through the completion of one project per year during 2018 and 2019 (total cost of each project not to exceed \$5,000).

The AAN worked to develop the MOU which was signed in October, 2017. The AAN has since held quarterly conference calls to share strategic information on institute priorities and to work towards advancing the two projects noted in the Sustainability Plan.

The AAN, through the mechanisms of each individual Council, are currently considering a proposal for the 2018 project which would bring representatives of each institute together this summer to work towards the development of an alternate "Technical Agrologist" designation.

This project is well-timed, following the agreement to adhere to the new national education standard for Professional Agrologists and considering the work ongoing to modernize the Agrologists Act. While the education standard has been adopted, there are concerns that its strict application of will lower the capacity of these relatively small institutes to adhere to their mandates. A Technical Agrologist designation, with accompanying education and experience requirements, would help to include those working in agriculture that are not able to attain P.Ag status but are still trained and experienced in the sector. This designation would not have national labour mobility which is afforded to P.Ags.

The AAN has also discussed working together to prepare a quarterly Atlantic Agrology newsletter.

It has been encouraging to work with this group of dedicated professionals towards tangible goals to benefit Agrology in the spirit of regional collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Devanney, P.Ag  
Chair, Atlantic Agrology Network Committee

## **CNMP Committee**

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture 2018-2019 Programs were briefly launched in mid-April, before being temporarily put on hold for consultation until mid-May. It is worth noting that cost-share for nutrient management planning, which has traditionally been part of such programs, was not listed as eligible for financial assistance in this rendition. This may be subject to change after the consultation period.

There has been discussion at Council about the future of the NSIA granting the CNMP (Certified Nutrient Management Planner) designation. As part of the Act revision, we are taking a look at Areas of Practice and the NSIA's role with CNMP. Preliminary discussions have taken place within Council and one possibility is to change the CNMP designation to an Area of Practice.

What are your thoughts about this? Do you want to be included in discussions around this change? If so, the CNMP Committee would welcome new members, please contact [info@nsagrologists.ca](mailto:info@nsagrologists.ca)

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Gillis-Madden, P.Ag.  
Chair, CNMP Committee

### **Honours and Awards Committee**

Each year, the NSIA Honours & Awards Committee recognizes life achievements, dedication and outstanding contribution to agriculture in Nova Scotia. Awards are presented at the Annual Meeting in the spring.

This years' awards winners are:

Distinguished Agrologist – Lise LeBlanc, P.Ag.  
Distinguished Life Member – Bill Thomas, P.Ag.  
Outstanding Young Agrologist – Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, P.Ag.  
Honourary Member – Reg Newell  
Distinguished Farm – Melvin Farms

The 2017 NSIA Scholarship recipients were:

- Ella Lentz from Ardoise, NS; enrolled in B.Sc. (Agriculture) Plant Science program  
- Mandy Smith from Nine Mile River, NS; enrolled in B.Sc. (Agriculture) Integrated Environmental Mgt program

Respectfully submitted,

Maxine MacLean, P.Ag.  
Chair, Honours & Awards Committee

### **Membership Committee**

Committee members: Maxine MacLean, Mike Devanney, Peter Burgess, Kevin Keys, Dale MacIsaac, Karen Nelson

Since streamlining the new applicant intake process and adopting the education standard at the 2017 Semi-Annual Meeting, the membership committee is on track to having an improved assessment process.

The committee is also dedicated to working with Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture to educate students on the profession of agrology as a means to recruit student members and highlight path to becoming an Agrologist.

Moving forward, the committee will be looking at ways to add value to the Articling Agrologist program, both for the A.Ag. and the mentor.

As members are aware based on this year's payment process, automatic with-draws are now an option for ease and continuation of membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Maxine MacLean, P.Ag.  
Chair, Membership Committee

### **Programs Committee**

Committee Members: Jacqueline Hoyt (chair), Diane Dunlop, Ross MacNeil, Daniel Muir, Janette McDonald, Brooke MacNeil (DASA member).

The role of the programs committee is to organize programs and activities of benefit to our members. It is our goal to provide our members with current professional development and networking opportunities throughout the year. Our committee worked hard to ensure programming was spread throughout the province and was not all centrally located.

#### NSIA Fall Tour:

The Annual NSIA Fall Tour was held on Thursday, October 5, 2017 in Pictou and Antigonish counties with 26 members in attendance. The first stop was in Pictou County at Knoydart Farms where Frazer and Angela Hunter and their son Adam

own an organic cheese production facility next to their dairy farm. The group sampled various flavours of cheddar cheese and we were given some to take home. Frazer and Angela were fantastic hosts!

Next on the tour, we proceeded into Antigonish County and stopped at Steinhart Distillery to learn how they craft their gin, rum and vodka spirits. Everyone enjoyed samples of their award-winning gin and vodka. A group favourite was the maple vodka! The tour group enjoyed pizza and salad catered by the Rolling Bricks for lunch with a charming view of Arisaig.

After lunch, we headed to Tony's Meats for a plant tour and an overview of the facility and business from its early beginnings. Lastly, the group visited our 2017 NSIA Distinguished Farm award winner West River Holsteins, hosted by owner Jack Thomson. For this event, \$20 was charged.

#### NSIA Semi-Annual Meeting:

The NSIA Semi-Annual meeting was held on November 23rd at the Holiday Inn, in Truro. Programs committee had invited 4 graduate students from DAL-AC to present their research. The four students who presented were as follows: Sean Esan spoke on his work on the biodegradation of plastics in compost, Ashley MacDonald's research focus is on commercial food waste. Omkar Kshirsagar spoke on his work looking for rhizobium-legume symbiotic interaction and finally Valene MacNeil spoke on the footpad health of broiler chickens.

#### Pizza, Pint and Policy:

A Pizza, Pint and Policy session was held on Monday, December 4th at the Pond in Bible Hill. The topic was Risk Mitigation related to Climate change. Speakers included: Dairy Producer, Andrew McCurdy, NSDA Land Protection manager, Kevin Bekkers, and Graham Gagnon, Civil & Resource Engineer and Professor, Dalhousie University. The panel was moderated by Kathryn Bremner, Environmental Farm Planner with NSFA. There were 23 Participants including the 4 speakers and 4 students. The event was free for students and \$20 was charged for members (not speakers) that attended, a profit of \$60 was made from the event after expenses were paid.

A second Pizza, Pint and Policy session was held on April 18th at Paddy's Brew Pub in Wolfville. The speaker was Dr. Anthony Zhaoguo, who spoke about the chemistry of foods and beverages. Dr. Zhaoguo spoke about his current research such as organic acids in cold climate wines. There was no charge for this event; twelve members attended.

#### Supper and Learn with the Council of Leaders:

NSIA members were invited to attend an evening supper and speaker session with the Federation of Agriculture's Council of Leaders on April 11th, 2018 at the Glengarry in Truro. A delicious roast beef supper was first enjoyed followed by invited speaker, Peter Nelson, Manager of Business Development Atlantic Operations, Farm Credit Canada. Peter spoke on Retail and Food Trends. The cost for this event was \$25; three NSIA members attended.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Hoyt, P.Ag.  
Chair, Programs Committee

#### **Professional Development Committee**

Professional development records for 2017 have been reviewed at a high level to ensure that all members recorded the minimum required number of hours for the year. Those who had not recorded sufficient hours were contacted by ACMA staff to submit hours. Following the April 1st deadline for payment of the annual fee, staff were proceeding with selecting members for audit based upon the current active list of members.

As part of preparation for the 2017 audit, ACMA staff and NSIA Council reviewed and clarified points related to the Professional Development Policy. Modifications to the Policy do not affect the substance of it. Changes include:

- 1) The addition of a section titled Scope, indicating that the Policy is applicable to all P.Ag. members not exempt under the Leave of Absence Policy. This new section is now section 1 with subsequent section numbering adjusted accordingly.
- 2) In section 8 Auditing (formerly section 7), the words "in the P.Ag category" have been added to clarify which portion of membership will be included in the pool for audit selection.
- 3) Section 10 (formerly section 9) has been modified to refer back to the Leave of Absence Policy as a matter of clarification.

Following a meeting between the NSIA Executive and Drs. Gray and Yiridoe from the Dalhousie Agriculture Campus, deficiencies in communication and understanding of eligible professional development activities have been identified. Additional follow-up and supporting documents, such as an FAQ are being looked at to clarify PD requirements for Dal AC staff and faculty and all other NSIA members.

Finally, upcoming PD events will be posted on the NSIA website. If you have information about any upcoming events, whether in person or via webinar, please pass along the information to ACMA staff or through [info@nsagrologists.ca](mailto:info@nsagrologists.ca).

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Miller, P.Ag.  
Chair, Professional Development Committee

### Nominations Committee

The Nominating Committee of the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists consists of Past President as Chair and the President and President-Elect as members. Members of the Nominating Committee are responsible to find qualified nominees for the Council.

The Nominating Committee makes an effort to ensure the Council is representative of the members, particularly relating to employment sector. The Nominating Committee put forward the following names as Councilors for 2018:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Years in Term</b>	<b>Term</b>
<b>Ross MacNeil</b> <i>Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Department of Agriculture</i>	3	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Jonathan Wort</b> <i>Beef and Sheep Specialist, Perennia</i>	3	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Chris Cutler</b> <i>Professor and Associate Dean Research, Department of Plant, Food and Environmental Sciences, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture</i>	3	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Adam Cochrane</b> <i>Environmental Manager, Crombie REIT</i>	1	1 <sup>st</sup>

As the number of nominations was equivalent to the number of vacancies, no election was required. The nominees presented above have been acclaimed to Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Van Den Heuvel (Chair), Mike Devanney and Dawn Miller

## NSIA 25 & 50 Year Membership Pins

The Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists in 2003, as part of their 50<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary, instituted a program of recognition by providing 50 and 25 year pins to those members who have served the industry for those periods of time.

For 2018, we are pleased to present the following 25 year pin:

- Dr. Kathleen E. Glover
- Loretta L. Robichaud
- Susan E. Simpson

For 2018, we are pleased to present the following 50 year pin:

- Arnold A. Rovers

## NSIA Membership Certificates

The following members will receive their Membership Certificate at this annual meeting.

### **Professional Agrologist:**

William Curry  
Geoff Larkin

### **Articling Agrologists:**

Ashley Anderson  
Alana Bent  
Negar Sharifi Mood

## Council Certificates

The following councilors have completed their terms on council and are presented with certificates of appreciation:

Carolyn Van Den Heuvel    2015 to 2018

## Past President's Plaque