

## President's Message

Roger Rimmer



**Please remember to bring the June newsletter with you to the Annual General Meeting**

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A number of issues that the Board of Directors addressed over the past year were related to the implementation of the strategic plan. An important decision was made recently not to hire a part-time assistant at the recommendation of a subcommittee consisting of the Treasurer — Peter Sholberg, Membership Secretary — Gayle Jespersen, Secretary — Lone Buchwaldt, Web Site Editor — Greg Boland, *CPS-SCP News* Editor — David Kaminski and Collator of the *Canadian Plant Disease Survey* — Robin Morrall. These individuals, who have periods of high workloads, considered the matter very carefully and decided that an expense of \$15-20,000 per year for an assistant could not be sustained by the Society over the long term, and that each person would be better off with local assistance either by more volunteers within CPS or by hiring help from local people or companies. The Board therefore decided that more part-time help could be hired by these individuals for specific jobs at the appropriate times, and that the annual budget should include these costs.

A large deficit had been budgeted at the last annual meeting in Victoria B.C. for this year. It seems unlikely that this will occur. A number of expenses relating to implementation of the strategic plan and to regional meetings have not been incurred. At this time, membership is currently quite similar to that of last year and may even end up higher (see the Membership Secretary's report elsewhere in this issue).

The Board is proposing some By-Law changes to be decided at the Annual General Meeting on June 12, and a notion of motion is printed in this issue of the *CPS News*. The changes are concerned with the duties of the Junior and Senior Directors, inclusion of Assistant Editors for both the *CPS News* and the Web Site, increased membership fees, and changes to the section on Awards.

As part of the review of the duties of the Board, as proposed in the strategic plan, it was felt that the duties of the Junior and Senior Directors are not well defined. The Board thought that these positions could be charged with providing direction and ensuring that the goals of the different subject matter committees are met. The specific committees that the Directors would be involved with will be determined by the Board based on the expertise and the wishes of the particular individuals. The position of Assistant Editor for the *CPS News*, to help alleviate the workload of the Editor, and the new position of Web Site Editor are formalized in the proposed By-Law changes.

The membership fees have not changed for a great number of years, and it was felt that an increase is now essential to cover rising costs to the Society. The *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology* is very inexpensive compared to other journals, but costs of production are increasing. The proposed changes will increase the fee from \$75 for

regular members to \$85, and for student and Emeritus members, who wish to receive the *CJPP*, it will increase from \$25 to \$35.

The Bailey Award no longer exists as of 1999. It is automatically removed from the By-Law and its funds have been transferred to the Best Student Presentation Award. The Graduate Student Travel Award and the Certificate of Appreciation Award are presented as new additions to the By-Law. Other new awards that the Board is considering is a Lifetime Achievement Award and an Industry Award. You will hear more about them at the annual general meeting.

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*"It is remarkable how quickly this year has gone by. I am very proud to have had the opportunity to serve as President, and I thank the many individuals who have volunteered their time for the benefit of the Society."*

Another task identified in the strategic plan is analysis of services that the Society provides to the membership including evaluation

of the annual meeting. A questionnaire will be mailed to the members to obtain this important information. As you know, the annual meeting is usually held in June to avoid the July/August family holiday period, and often on a university campus to provide inexpensive accommodation in the student residence. This timing is suitable for many members, those involved in teaching for instance, but it is inconvenient for members involved in field related work. We will therefore consider holding some future meetings in the fall in smaller conference centres using hotel accommodation.

It is remarkable how quickly this year has gone by. I am very proud to have had the opportunity to serve as President, and I thank the many individuals who have volunteered their time for the benefit of the Society. Thanks to Greg Boland and other contributors, members can keep up to date via the Web Site and via the new bi-monthly E-mail called "CPS-Update". Gayle Jespersion's work as new Membership Secretary is also greatly appreciated. The *CJPP*

is doing very well; Zamir Punja will take over as the new Editor-in-Chief, and three new Section-Editors have been appointed. I expect that the journal will be available in electronic format in the near future. Thanks to the Information Products Committee a new CPS-Membership brochure is available, and they have also done a good job promoting sales of the two books *Diseases and Pests of Vegetable Crops in Canada* and *Diseases of Field Crops in Canada*. I would also like to extend a warm thank you to the many people who serve on the Standing and Subject Matter Committees for their efforts, which are evident in their annual reports in this newsletter. I am confident that we have a relevant and viable Society, although we all need to work hard to maintain our membership and persuade more pathologists to join.

We will soon be gathering in London, Ontario, for the 67th Annual Meeting of our Society. I am very much looking forward to this meeting, as I have fond memories of London where I presented my first paper as a Ph. D. student at the University of Western Ontario. That was over twenty five years ago, and I feel honoured to return as President of the CPS.

## Mot du président

*Roger Rimmer*

Plusieurs questions que le conseil d'administration a abordées au cours de la dernière année étaient liées à la mise en place du plan stratégique. Une décision importante a été prise récemment à l'effet de ne pas embaucher un assistant à temps partiel à la suite d'une recommandation d'un sous-comité comprenant le trésorier, Peter Sholberg, la secrétaire à l'adhésion, Gayle Jesperson, le secrétaire, Lone Buchwaldt, l'éditeur du site Web, Greg Boland, l'éditeur du CPS-SCP News, David Kaminski et le coordonnateur national de l'Inventaire des maladies des plantes au Canada, Robin Morrall. Ces personnes, qui ont des périodes de charge de travail élevée, ont examiné la question très soigneusement et ont décidé que des

dépenses de 15 à 20 000 \$ par an pour un assistant ne pourraient pas être supportées à long terme par la Société et que chaque personne serait mieux servie par de l'aide locale soit par plus de bénévoles de la SCP, soit par l'embauche sur place de personnes, soit en faisant affaire avec des compagnies locales. Le Conseil a donc décidé que plus d'aide à temps partiel pourrait être payée par ces individus pour des travaux spécifiques, aux moments appropriés, et que le budget annuel devrait inclure ces coûts.

Un gros déficit pour cette année avait été prévu lors de la dernière réunion annuelle à Victoria, C.-B. Il semble peu probable que ceci se produise. Un certain nombre de dépenses concernant la mise en place du plan stratégique et des réunions régionales n'ont pas été faites. Actuellement, l'adhésion est tout à fait semblable à celle de l'année dernière et il se pourrait même que l'année se termine avec une hausse (voir le rapport de la Secrétaire à l'adhésion ailleurs dans ce numéro).

Le Conseil proposera certains changements aux Règlements lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle du 12 juin et un avis de motion est publié dans le présent numéro du CPS-SCP News. Les changements concernent les fonctions des directeurs juniors et séniors, l'inclusion de rédacteurs adjoints pour le CPS-SCP News et pour le site Web, l'augmentation de la cotisation de membre et des changements à la section des Prix.

En tant qu'élément de l'examen des responsabilités du Conseil, tel que proposé dans le plan stratégique, il a été estimé que les fonctions des directeurs juniors et séniors n'étaient pas bien définies. Le Conseil a jugé qu'on pourrait demander à ces directeurs d'orienter différents comités thématiques et de s'assurer que leurs buts soient atteints. Les comités spécifiques dans lesquels les directeurs seraient impliqués seraient déterminés par le Conseil en se basant sur l'expertise et les souhaits des individus. L'existence du



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poste d'adjoint au directeur du CPS-SCP News, dont le rôle est d'alléger la charge de travail du directeur, et le nouveau poste d'éditeur du site Web sont reconnus formellement dans les changements proposés aux Règlements.

La cotisation de membre n'a pas changé depuis plusieurs années et on estime qu'une augmentation est maintenant essentielle pour faire face à l'augmentation des coûts d'opération de la Société. Le coût d'abonnement à la *Revue canadien de phytopathologie* est très peu élevé en comparaison avec d'autres revues, mais les coûts de production augmentent. Les changements proposés feront passer la cotisation de membre régulier de 75 à 85 \$, et de 25 à 35 \$ pour un étudiant ou un membre honoraire qui souhaite recevoir la Revue.

Le prix Bailey n'existe plus depuis 1999. Il est automatiquement retiré des Règlements et ses fonds ont été transférés au prix de la meilleure communication étudiante. Le prix pour défrayer le coût du voyage d'un étudiant diplômé et le certificat d'appréciation sont présentés en

tant que nouveaux ajouts aux Règlements. D'autres nouvelles récompenses que le Conseil envisage sont la reconnaissance d'accomplissement de toute une vie et un prix pour réussite dans l'entreprise privée. Vous en entendrez parler en détail lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle.

Une autre tâche identifiée dans le plan stratégique est l'analyse des services que la Société fournit aux membres, y compris l'évaluation de la réunion annuelle. Un

questionnaire sera expédié aux membres pour obtenir cette importante information. Comme vous le savez, la réunion annuelle est habituellement tenue en juin pour éviter la période de vacances familiales de juillet et août, et souvent sur un campus universitaire pour fournir un logement peu coûteux dans des résidences d'étudiants. Cette date convient à beaucoup de membres, ceux impliqués dans l'enseignement par exemple, mais elle n'est pas commode pour les membres impliqués dans le travail sur le terrain. Nous envisageons donc tenir éventuellement quelques réunions en automne dans de plus petits centres de

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congrès en utilisant le logement hôtelier.

C'est incroyable comme l'année s'est écoulée rapidement. Je suis très fier d'avoir eu l'occasion de servir comme président et je remercie les nombreux individus qui ont offert leur temps au profit de la Société. Grâce à Greg Boland et à d'autres collaborateurs, les membres peuvent se tenir informés par l'intermédiaire du site Web et par l'intermédiaire du nouveau courriel bimensuel appelé le CPS-Update. Le travail de Gayle Jesperson en tant que nouvelle secrétaire à l'adhésion est également très apprécié. La Revue va très bien ; Zamir Punja en sera bientôt le nouveau directeur scientifique, et trois nouveaux directeurs de section ont été nommés. J'espère que la Revue sera disponible en format électronique dans un proche avenir. Grâce au Comité sur les produits d'information, une nouvelle brochure pour les membres est disponible, et ils ont aussi fait un bon travail pour favoriser la vente des deux livres *Maladies et Ravageurs des Cultures Légumières au Canada* et *Diseases of Field Crops in Canada*. J'aimerais aussi remercier chaleureusement les nombreuses personnes qui ont œuvré au sein des comités permanents et des comités thématiques pour leurs efforts, ce qui transpire dans leurs rapports annuels publiés dans le présent bulletin. Je crois que nous avons une Société importante et vivante, bien que nous ayons tous le besoin de travailler fort pour maintenir l'adhésion et pour convaincre plus de phytopathologistes de se joindre à nous.

Nous nous réunirons bientôt à London, Ontario, pour la soixante-septième réunion annuelle de notre société. J'attends cette réunion avec beaucoup d'intérêt car j'ai des bons souvenirs de London où j'ai présenté mon premier communiqué en tant qu'étudiant au Ph. D. à l'University of Western Ontario. C'est arrivé voilà plus de vingt-cinq ans et je me sens honoré d'y retourner comme président de la SCP.

## Contact the Editor

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## Editor's Report

The cost of production for the last 4 issue (June 2000 to March 2001) was \$5212.01. These individual contributions were mailing - \$2060.24, printing - \$1628.37, dedicated e-mail - \$567.18, stationery including reprinting coversheets - \$523.21, french translation - \$300.00, and envelopes - \$133.01.

Suggestions for editorial content and for improvements to the *CPS-SCP News* are always welcome.

Ever wonder what it takes to throw together a Society newsletter? Well in my case, here's the routine:

- Send an email *call for contributions* to more than 40 correspondents about one month prior to the submission deadline. The list includes the CPS Board and members, regular and emeritus, from all regions of the country, representing most institutions and faculties as well as the society's Regional Representatives. Transmit the President's Message to PaRi for French translation.
- Collect submissions and send receipt notices to correspondents. Read and do a rough edit, saving contributions in MS Word 6.0/95. 95% or more are sent in electronic format so there is not too much re-typing. The odd article is typed hard copy and is scanned with OCR. Communicate with the Secretary regarding items that **must** appear in specific issues.
- Assemble all articles and pictures using the desktop publishing software PageMaker 6.5. Re-read entire issue for grammatical and spelling errors (my wife usually does this unenviable task). Make final corrections and update page numbering and Table of Contents. The final product is larger than the capacity of a 3.5" diskette (2-5Mb) so it is saved on a ZIP disk to take to the printer.
- Contact the Membership Secretary to request up-to-date mailing labels.
- Purchase stationery, including envelopes, and periodically have cover page stock re-printed. Pay for the dedicated cable-internet connection every three months.
- Take the completed electronic copy to The Little Print Shop for direct-from-disk laser printing. Drop in later to examine a proof and pick up final product (two heavy boxes of newsletters, usually the number of address labels plus ~10 spare copies). Take the newsletter and mailing labels to the Early Mailing Service which applies labels, postage and return address to envelopes, stuffs (sometimes there are additional items), seals and mails them.
- Write a summary of expenses and directions for reimbursement to the Treasurer. Keep a summary of all expenses, usually included with a written report to the Board and the AGM.

## The Canadian Phytopathological Society, Inc.

## La Société Canadienne de Phytopathologie Inc.

### Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws

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#### NOTICE OF MOTION

“The Governing Board of the Canadian Phytopathological Society wishes to bring forward a motion at the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held in London, Ontario on June 12, 2001, to approve the attached amendments of the CPS By-Laws, in accordance with By-Law XVII, Section 1. Members are notified that they may vote in favour of or against adopting each of the proposed amendments at the AGM.”

The proposed changes to the CPS By-Laws are as follows:

#### I. DUTIES OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

##### DIRECTORS

##### General Responsibilities

##### Current By-Laws state:

2. As members of the Board, the Directors are expected to participate fully in the affairs of the Society, to attend meetings of the Board, and to be consulted on all issues requiring Board action between Annual Meetings of members.

##### Proposed addition:

3. **The Junior and Senior Directors shall assume an active role in providing direction to and ensuring that the goals of the various CPS Subject Matter committees are achieved. The specific committee responsibilities shall be assigned by the Board at the time of appointment.**

#### III. FEES

##### Current By-Laws state:

- i) Annual fees shall be \$75.00 for Regular members, including Fellows, and \$25.00 for Student Members and Emeritus Members who wish to receive the *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology*. Honorary Members and Emeritus Members who receive only *CPS-NEWS* shall be exempt from fees.
- ii) Fees for the year of membership are due on January 1 and must be paid within 30 days of receipt of notice. Renewal notices will normally be mailed to members beginning in November the previous year. Those who have not paid their membership fees by January 31 shall be removed from the roll and mailing list.

**Proposed changes:**

1. Annual fees shall be **\$85.00** for Regular members, including Fellows, and **\$35.00** for Student Members and Emeritus Members who wish to receive the *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology*. Honorary Members and Emeritus Members who receive only *CPS-NEWS* shall be exempt from fees.
2. Fees for the year of membership are due on January 1 and must be paid within 30 days of receipt of notice. Renewal notices will normally be mailed to members beginning in November the previous year. Those who have not paid their membership fees by January 31 shall be removed from the roll and mailing list. **A late fee will be assessed on members renewing after this date.**

**IV. PUBLICATIONS**

2. *The CPS-NEWS*

**Current By-Laws state:**

- i) The Board shall appoint the Editor for a renewal three-year term and may in consultation with the Editor, appoint an Editorial committee to assist the Editor.

**Proposed change:**

- i) The Board shall appoint the Editor for a renewal three-year term, and may in consultation with the Editor, appoint an **Assistant Editor for a renewal three-year term, to assist with the CPS-NEWS.**

**VII. WEB SITE EDITOR**

**Proposed addition:**

- i) **The Board shall appoint an individual for a renewal two-year term to serve as the CPS Web Site Editor and whose responsibility it will be to maintain a current Web site for the Society.**
- ii) **In consultation with the Editor, the Board shall appoint an Assistant Editor for a renewal two-year term to assist the CPS Web Site Editor.**

**General responsibilities**

1. The Web Site Editor will make the necessary arrangements with internet service providers and obtain technical assistance as needed to maintain the Web site.
2. The Web Site Editor will be responsible for assembling and posting information on CPS publications and activities to the CPS-Web site on a regular basis, including quarterly postings of the Table of Contents from the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology and the CPS News. Additional information may include annual membership renewal, annual meetings, selected articles from CPS News, position advertisements, plant pathology news, and related information.
  - i) The Web Site Editor will appoint an Assistant Web Site Editor for a renewal two-year term to assist with the above responsibilities.

## VIII. COMMITTEES

### 8. Financial Advisory committee

#### **Proposed addition:**

- viii) **The committee shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the CPS 5-year Strategic Plan.**

## IX. AWARDS

### 2. Fellow

#### **Current By-Laws state:**

- b) The number of Fellow awards is limited to a maximum of three each year and the total should not exceed five percent of the total membership of the Society.

#### **Proposed change:**

The number of Fellow awards is limited to a maximum of **one** each year and the total should not exceed **seven** percent of the total membership of the Society.

### 4. Dr. and Mrs. D. L. Bailey Award

#### **Proposed change:**

Delete By-Law IX Section 4 above as the award ceased to exist in 1999.

#### **Add the following new awards:**

### 7. Certificate of Appreciation

- a) The Certificate of Appreciation shall be given to individuals who are deemed to have made significant contributions to the Society, by donating their time and effort to further the cause of the Society.
- b) The nominees shall be approved by the Board.
- c) The award consists of a suitably inscribed certificate dated and signed by the President and the Secretary and shall indicate the specific contribution made.
- d) The certificate shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting or at an appropriate regional meeting by the President.

### 8. Graduate Student Travel Award

- a) The award is intended to provide outstanding graduate students in plant pathology funds to attend an Annual Meeting and present an abstract of their research work.
- b) There shall be a maximum of 2 awards presented annually, depending on the availability of suitable applicants, each valued at \$300.
- c) The student must be enrolled in a Master's level or Doctorate level program in any area of plant pathology.
- d) The selected awardees do not have to be CPS members at the time the award is given.

## Committee Reports:

### Standing Committees

#### *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology*

Volume 22 (2000) was printed as four issues with a total of 419 pages plus index, information to authors, and awards. The volume carried 58 articles including 1 *Fungi canadensis*, 1 "special topic", 6 notes, 1 obituary, 4 meeting abstracts, 3 review articles, 1 Anderson lecture, 2 awards and thirty-nine research papers. The manuscripts were mainly from Canada (44; 6 more than 1999), USA (10; 1 less than 1999) and one each from Colombia, Japan, Sweden and Czech Republic. Abstracts of regional meetings held in British Columbia (9), Manitoba (5), Maine (4) and the annual meeting held in Victoria (95) were published during the year. The volume 22-4 was distributed in Canada (338, 7 less than 1999), USA (171, 5 more than 1999) and in 36 other countries (138, 18 less than 1999) for a total of 647 (24 less than 1999). There were 644 members/subscribers at the end of the year 2000.

The editorial staff processed 128 manuscripts during the year including a lecture, abstracts and special topic papers, of which 82 were accepted, 7 rejected, and 39 were being revised when this report was prepared. The year 2000 was significant in that the Journal, as published by NRC Research Press, was timely. Articles accepted up to November 11, 2000 appeared in the December 2000 issue.

Since this is my last annual report for *CJPP*-related matters, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to contributors of papers to *CJPP* during the years when *CJPP* was not timely. I would also like to thank the Senior Editors for their diligence, perseverance and patience in communicating with the authors until a decision was made on a manuscript. Finally, thanks to Gayle Jespersen, membership secretary, for supplying the mailing labels, Bob Hall for man-

aging the account, my assistant Ms. Shelley Tucker, NRC staff, Ms. Suzanne Kettley and Ginette Fortier, who provided excellent service throughout the publication period, particularly when an urgent request or inclusion of a manuscript at the last minute was needed.

Sincerely,  
Rudra P. Singh  
Editor-in-Chief, *CJPP*

### Awards

A call for nominations for 2001 CPS Awards was published in the December issue of *CPS News*. This will be the second year that the Graduate Student Travel Award is being offered to provide financial reimbursement to selected graduate students to attend the Annual Meeting. Other awards are Honorary Member, Fellow, Award for Outstanding Research, and the Gordon J. Green Outstanding Young Scientist Award. The deadline for submitting nominations for the various awards this year was March 15. Applications are examined by all committee members and results are transmitted to those concerned as soon as possible. The committee members will also assess student presentations at the 2001 Annual Meeting to select the best oral and the best poster presentations.

Current members of the committee are Ron Knox (chair), Verna Higgins, Khalid Rashid, Sue Boyetchko and Brent McCallum. Committee members for the coming year (2001-2002) will be Verna Higgins (chair), Khalid Rashid, Sue Boyetchko, Brent McCallum and S. Jabaji-Hare.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Knox, Chair  
Awards Committee

## Membership Secretary

### 2001 Membership Totals

(as of May 5, 2001):

Regular members: 282

Emeritus: 51

Student: 34

Sustaining associate: 18

Honorary: 1

**Total members: 386**

Members who renew late can skew these numbers. As of May 1, there are about 60 members from 2000 who have not renewed their membership for 2001. It is probable that many of these memberships will be renewed over the next couple of months. In 2000 we had 406 members by the end of December.

By May 5, 2000 we had 353 members, so we are a bit ahead of last year to date for 2001.

### Members by geographic area:

Canada: 318; USA: 48; International: 20  
Canada by province: ON- 82; BC- 64; MB- 41; AB- 40; SK- 40; QC- 29; PE- 9; NS- 6; NB- 5; NF- 2

### Member Profile:

Gender: Male - 272 (70%); Female - 93 (24%); Unknown - 21 (5%)

Age Group: Less than 25 - 4 (1%); 26 to 40 - 79 (20%); 41 to 65 - 195 (51%); Over 65 - 33 (9%); Undeclared - 75 (19%)

### New members, including 8 regular and 14 students members:

Wenpin CHEN, Burnaby BC  
Mistianne FEENEY, Burnaby BC  
Char HOLLINGSWORTH, Laramie WY  
Howard K. LOVE, Saskatoon SK  
Kelvin LYNCH, Fredericton NB  
Guillermo I. MARCH, Cordoba Argentina  
Xiangqi MENG, Champaign IL  
Philip R. NORTHOVER University Park PA  
Yunjung PARK, Burnaby BC  
Monica PARKER, Port Coquitlam BC  
Mahfuzur RAHMAN, Vancouver BC

Harpinder RANDHAWA, Saskatoon SK  
Mohammad RAZAVI, Saskatoon SK  
Steve ROSE, Burnaby BC  
Cayetana SCHLUTER, Vancouver BC  
Antonet SVIRCEV, Vineland Station ON  
Asheesh Kumar SINGH, Saskatoon SK  
Jennifer WILKIN, Victoria BC  
Jinxu ZHANG, Winnipeg MB

The following **Sustaining Associates** have generously supported the CPS for 2001:

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B.C. Hot House Growers' Association,  
Surrey BC  
BASF Canada, Toronto ON  
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Busch Agricultural Resources Inc.,  
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Rohm and Haas Canada Inc., West Hill ON  
Saskatchewan Pulse Growers,  
Saskatoon SK  
Syngenta Crop Protection Canada Inc.,  
Guelph ON  
United Agri Products, Dorchester ON  
Westco (Western Coop Fertilizers Ltd.),  
Calgary AB

Submitted by  
Gayle Jespersen, Membership Secretary

### Local Arrangements, London - 2001

Most of the details for the Annual Meeting of CPS in London are complete. We have 125 pre-registrants and about 80 abstracts submitted. The program is now on the net. The abstracts are in press and we expect them to appear on time in the *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology*.

Much thanks to our hardworking local organizing committee Ken Conn, Kathy Dobinson, Diane Cuppels, Richard Gardiner, Jim Traquair, Pervaiz Abbasi, Mark Gijzen, Katerina Riga, Terry Anderson, Greg Boland, Michael Celetti, Annette Nassuth, Rick Reeleder and to Albert Tenuta, who has done an incredible job fund raising and ensuring that industry is well represented at this meeting.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.

George Lazarovits  
Local Arrangements Committee Chair

Agriculture & Agri-food Canada,  
Southern Crop Protection and Food  
Research Ctr.,  
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Email: Lazarovitsg@em.agr.ca

## Subject Matter Committees

### International Cooperation

We are all busy in our own affairs and were again unable to meet as a Committee during the past year. However, several things have been happening and need to be reported to the membership.

Requests were received from some institutions in P.R. China, Iran, and India for the *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology* and books on Plant Pathology, and the available publications will be dispatched in the near future. I would request that the membership let me know if they have journals and books available for donating to libraries in developing countries. Some developing countries have initiated major programs that are fostering international collaborative research through their sponsorship of visiting professors, scientists on sabbatical leaves, and graduate students. I will be happy to provide further informa-

tion on this subject. Also, Latin America continues to offer ample opportunities for international cooperation.

Last year, I had requested the CPS Board to consider "if we can offer free membership (duration 1 year?) to a few plant pathologists in developing countries." The request was apparently not approved and I am requesting the Board to reconsider it for the coming year.

J.P. Tewari, Chair  
International Cooperation Committee

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### Education and Public Awareness

Members of the committee met at the annual meeting in 2000 at Victoria, BC. Many of us continue to promote plant pathology in the schools and by working on Education Committees for other organizations.

In Manitoba the president of the Science Teachers Association of Manitoba and the organizer of the Study Area Group (SAG) conference days were contacted. The SAG conference is held in the third week of October and we have put forward an application to present plant pathology as a science option for teachers in the classroom. Our area of expertise seems to be most closely aligned with the Manitoba Senior 4 (Grade 12) Biology curriculum, but there are also opportunities to meet teachers of younger students. We have permission to put up a booth to display ideas for pathology in the classroom and science fair projects that teachers of elementary and junior high students can use. Several members have offered to help put together a presentation for the fall. Randy Kutcher is following up on a similar plan for a location in Saskatchewan. Kelly Turkington will contact the Central Alberta Science Network (CASN) regarding education and awareness of plant pathology. Volunteers

with the CASN can become involved in a variety of areas including: speaker, teacher workshops, science fair judge, field trips, etc. New science fair projects for elementary students will be written up and placed on the CPS web site.

Many pathologists are engaged in presentations to schools and as judges in the local science fairs, but much more could be done with a part-time person dedicated to promoting plant pathology among the general public and in the schools. I strongly urge CPS to provide funding to pay for part-time services so that the activities of the committee proceed on a regular basis.

Current members of this committee include Mike Celetti, Luc Couture, Julie Gold, Steve Haber, Randy Kutcher, Jean Liu, Simon Shamoun, Tony Sturz, Kelly Turkington, and Bernard Vigier.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeannie Gilbert

### **Information Products Marketing**

Marketing of CPS publications and increasing the visibility of the CPS continue to be the major goals of the IPMC. The new order form for *Diseases and Pests of Vegetable Crops in Canada* and the new CPS brochure will make an important contribution to these efforts. In the past year, the committee has prepared for a mail out of literature advertising DPVCC to selected libraries in Canada. We hope this will increase sales and make the publication more available to the general public. Sales of *Diseases of Field Crops in Canada* continue at a healthy pace, thanks to Karen Bailey and the dedicated work of CPS members in western Canada.

The committee is interested in pursuing new ideas for publications or other information products. We have had some suggestions for books and items such as CDs, slide sets and t-shirts. We would like to hear any and all ideas. Please forward suggestions to any of the current committee members.

I will be stepping down as Chair this year, at the end of a three year term, and wish to extend my heart felt thanks and appreciation to all of the committee members for their insight, hard work and creativity.

Committee members : Mary Ruth McDonald, (Chair), Karen Bailey, Marilyn Dykstra, Janice Elmhirst, Bruce Gossen, Gail Jespersion, Wendy McFadden-Smith, Robin Morrall, Jill Thompson

## **Ad Hoc Committees**

### **Industry Relations**

On the initiative of past-President George Lazarovits, the Industry Relations Committee (IRC) was established to identify and address the needs of members and non-members of the Society who are in private industry, and to enhance communication and linkages between the CPS and industry sectors that are involved with plant protection.

#### **Mandate**

The Committee will work toward closer relationships and a higher level of interaction between CPS and industry sectors that are involved with Plant Protection.

#### **Objectives**

The Committee will:

- identify the needs of various industry sectors (grower groups, companies, commodity sectors, consultants, etc.) that may be better served by CPS at the regional level;
- identify strategies and possible links with such groups and better methods of communication;
- develop methods to raise and promote CPS activities to such organizations;
- attract such groups to participate in areas of CPS interest by way of joint symposia and workshops.

## **Organization, Membership and Operations 2000 - 2001**

### **The Committee:**

- Ken Ng (B.C. Ministry of Agriculture) British Columbia
- Peter Burgoyne (Zeneca Agro) Manitoba
- Gary Turnbull (Dow AgroSciences Canada Inc.) Saskatchewan
- Mary Leggett (Philom Bios) Saskatchewan
- Serge Gagnon (Premier Peat) Quebec
- Mike Celetti (OMAFRA) Ontario
- Leigh Jenkins (Novartis) Maritimes
- Chairperson: Tony Sturz (PEI Department of Agriculture & Forestry) Prince Edward Island.

### **Report**

The IRC was polled only once this year past, by Karen Bailey. Karen requested information from the Committee members regarding their opinion on the issue of setting up a CPS Industry Award. In essence the survey was designed to determine whether Industry would be in favour of an award to recognize the contribution of individual Industry members, or Industry organizations, for a specific scientific research contribution, or some other combination of attributes. Subsidiary questions asked for suggestions on how such an award might be best structured. Survey results are being compiled by Karen.

Tony Sturz

### **Historic Resources**

Several donated collections of Historical Documents were deposited with Archives Canada during 2000-2001 and others have been received and await deposit. I wish to receive any documents, photographs, memorabilia, etc. relating to the professional lives of Society members. These

would include materials that relate both to Society (regional or national) and, to a limited extent, to the professional careers of Society members which could be valuable in piecing together a historical treatise of the Society and its members. I encourage all members to scan their files and those of their retired colleagues and send them to:

Denis Gaudet, AAFC Research Centre,  
Box 3000, Lethbridge, AB T1J 4B1.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denis Gaudet (Chair)  
Gayle Jespersen

## **Other Reports**

### **CPS Website**

The CPS website was redesigned in 1999-2000 and posted at the new internet address of [www.cps-scp.ca](http://www.cps-scp.ca). This redesign incorporated a wider mandate, and included several new features for providing, accessing and storing information relevant to the society. Following the launch of the site at the Annual Meeting in 2000, emphasis was placed on continuing to add relevant content and registering the site with as many internet search engines as possible.

Usage of the CPS website increased significantly throughout 2000-01. From August 2000 to April 2001: there were a total of 97,665 hits (any connection to the site, including inline image requests and errors); 40,468 requests (a hit that successfully retrieves content); and 11,705 visits (a series of consecutive requests from a user to the site). Visits to the site came from 18 countries, and the most prevalent use of the site originated from the USA. A detailed summary of user activity from August 2000 to April 2001 will be posted on the homepage of the CPS website in the near future.

Based on the experience of the past year, the CPS website is undergoing another

redesign, with emphasis on a new graphical presentation, and improved access to more frequently used pages. This new redesign will be made available by early June.

Technical and graphical design assistance for the CPS website is provided by Judy Prange, Vancouver, BC, and the site is hosted by Bennett Arts Ltd., Vancouver, BC.

Submitted by: Greg J. Boland

### **Canadian Plant Disease Survey – Disease Highlights**

#### **Inventaire des Maladies des Plantes au Canada – Aperçu Des Maladies**

Volume 81 of the *Canadian Plant Disease Survey (CPDS)*, reporting on disease highlights for 2000, was published on April 17, 2001 on the web (<http://res2.agr.ca/london/pmrc/english/report/repmenu.html>). Thanks are due for the excellent efforts of the section editors (Marilyn Dykstra, Paul Hildebrand, Tom Hsiang, John Muir and Andy Tekauz), and two people from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, London, Ontario, compiler Stephanie Hilton and webmaster Bruce Bowman. Fifty-four reports were published in Volume 81, a slight decrease from Volume 80 (57). While the majority of submissions were in the cereals (24 reports) or oilseeds and special crops (13) sections, it is gratifying to note that the forest trees section received 7 reports, an increase from five in Volume 80 and none in Volume 79. Other sections are diagnostic labs (5), fruits, nuts and berries, ornamentals and turfgrass (4) and vegetables (1). Unfortunately the forages section received no reports for 2000.

C'est un plaisir spéciale pour le coordinateur national de noter que deux articles en français ont été soumis cette année. Ceci marque, sans doute, la première fois depuis plusieurs années qu'un article en français a été publié dans l'*Inventaire*. Espérons qu'une nouvelle tradition sera établie.

This is the fifth year that *CPDS* has been published electronically. In addition to being available at the web address, it is also distributed to subscribers on diskette and a small number of hard copies are printed by the Society to send to libraries that prefer them for archival purposes. Comments about the format, editing or publication of *CPDS* are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Morrall, *CPDS* National Coordinator  
Department of Biology  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, S7N 5E2

### **Microbial Genetic Resources and Culture Collections**

Recognizing the need to conserve important microbial germplasm resources (fungi, bacteria, viruses) in Canada, the CPS is currently trying to establish an inventory of collections including the ones that are at risk of being lost. The problem of endangered microbial collections could be resolved by transferring them to existing organizations that have the expertise to verify the identity through molecular biology and bio-informatics, sort, maintain, store, and distribute this germplasm nationally and internationally.

At the annual meeting of the CPS held in Victoria in June, 2000, an *ad hoc* committee was approved by the board members to address the issue of endangered "orphaned" microbial collections and to develop a database to document all the existing microbial collections in Canada. At this point there are only three members in this *ad hoc* committee: James Chong (AAFC Winnipeg, [Jchong@em.agr.ca](mailto:Jchong@em.agr.ca)), André Lévesque (AAFC Ottawa, [LevesqueCA@em.agr.ca](mailto:LevesqueCA@em.agr.ca)) and Mike Bernardy (AAFC Summerland, [BernardyM@em.agr.ca](mailto:BernardyM@em.agr.ca)). Additional members are needed to accomplish this worthwhile cause. If you wish to join this committee please contact one of us.

André Lévesque attended the annual meeting of the Expert Committee on Plant and Microbial Genetic Resources (ECPMGR), January 25-26, 2001, on behalf of CPS. He and Carolyn Babcock, the curator of the Canadian Collection of Fungal Cultures, AAFC, Ottawa, presented a resolution to the committee regarding threatened collections. This resolution was very well received and this issue was seen as one of the top two priorities by the ECPMGR. This is significant as this committee has historically focused on preservation of plant germplasm. The Canada Crop Council (CCC) and the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council (CARC) will evaluate this issue against other issues raised by other expert committee. CCC and CARC are not granting agencies per se but we hope to be able to obtain the funding to sponsor a national workshop on microbial genetic resources for plant health.

Submitted by André Lévesque and James Chong

### **Resolution presented at the ECGPR meeting of January 25-26, 2001**

Be it resolved that the number of unique microbial collections (fungi, bacteria, viruses) for which maintenance has been terminated is growing at an alarming rate and action to prevent further erosion needs to be taken. The support of CCC and CARC is requested to lobby for maintaining and even increasing culture collection capability in Canada. Two steps are suggested to initiate this process:

The first step would be development of a long term genetic conservation plan for all AAFC collections. Letters should be written to AAFC research centres where collections are located requesting that each location identify microbial collections. These letters should encourage Directors to develop a plan for the collections that may be (are?) orphaned (e.g. when a scientist leaves, retires, or changes program) to ensure that valuable genetic resources are not lost.

Several key existing collections are already acting as repositories. Once all collections are clearly identified, funds should be allocated for development of a long term conservation plan. Additionally, expansion of the collections should be considered (e.g. willingness to accept orphaned material, within their area of expertise or as sites are designated as critical to the Agriculture community at large).

Examples of collections that are or should be recognized as national collections are:

- Canadian Collection of Fungal Cultures, AAFC, Ottawa, ON.
- Rust and Smuts Collections, AAFC, Winnipeg, MB.
- Virus collection, AAFC, Summerland, BC.

The second step would be to contact collections outside of AAFC such as in the University communities where expertise for bacteria, viruses, or fungi also exist (e.g. University of Alberta Micro-fungus Collection and Herbarium, Edmonton, Alberta). The directory of the Canadian culture collections held at ECORC, Ottawa, and a survey of collections being done by the Canadian Phytopathological Society could be used to assist with contact names, etc.

### **Background Information**

The potential for loss of genetic material is significant. This situation is mainly due to retirements (often without replacements), shifts in program priorities, and diminishing taxonomic expertise. This is resulting in permanent loss of valuable germplasm. Some of the consequences of no action will be that:

- (i) Canadian breeders will not have the proper pathogens to screen their new lines;
- (ii) Canada's ability to respond to new pathogens and re-emerging ones will be reduced as reference strains will have disappeared (see example below); and
- (iii) irreplaceable microbial germplasm for present and future bio-prospecting will be lost forever.

The Canadian Phytopathological Society is currently trying to establish an inventory of collections including the ones that are at risk of being lost. This problem of endangered collections could be solved by transferring them to existing organizations that have the expertise to verify the identity, sort, maintain, store, and distribute this germplasm nationally and internationally. Recent advances in molecular biology and bio-informatics will allow these collections to be identified and mined with unprecedented accuracy and efficacy.

### **A recent example of the importance of microbial collections to Canada**

#### *Potato Wart: The collections' use and value in developing a detection assay*

In November and December, 2000, following a request from CFIA on Nov. 10, 2000, the laboratory of André Lévesque, fungal taxonomist at the Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa, developed a molecular assay for detecting *Synchytrium endobioticum* directly from soil. This fungus is the causal agent of potato wart, a quarantine fungus found in P.E.I in October, 2000, that is severely affecting the economy of this province following a U.S. embargo. *Synchytrium* species are obligate parasites, *i.e.* they cannot be grown in culture, a major technical challenge as there was no molecular data on this genus available on Genbank. Scott Redhead, curator of the fungal herbarium collection at ECORC, provided over 30 species of *Synchytrium* within 24 hours after the CFIA request was made, including a specimen of *S. endobioticum* from the original outbreak in Newfoundland a hundred years ago. Carolyn Babcock, the curator of the culture collection at ECORC, provided overnight test tubes of several genera from the Chytridiomycota, including some closely related genera within the Chytridium clade to which the *Synchytrium* species belongs. Ten days later, she supplied some additional isolates that had to be revived from cryopreservation. Chytridiomycota

specific PCR primers were designed to amplify and sequence ribosomal DNA from herbarium specimens and potato wart samples from PEI. From the sequence database generated, PCR primers and oligonucleotide probes specific to *S. endobioticum* were designed. Because the culture and herbarium collections at ECORC had the key specimens readily available and, with the hard work of the ECORC team, it was possible to do in two months what would have normally taken at least a year. The first two to four months of that year would have been spent waiting for import permits and specimens from foreign collections. It is also worth mentioning that because of Dr. Donald Barr, the predecessor of Dr. Lévesque and the world expert on Chytridiomycota, the ECORC team working on potato wart was able to rely on well identified strains from the ECORC herbarium and culture collections. The molecular assay developed is currently being used at CFIA, Charlottetown, to detect sporangia of *S. endobioticum* directly from soil.

The above example illustrates how a collection (with samples up to approximately 100 years old) can be used to assist in dealing with disease outbreaks, which in this case had significant impacts on potato producers in the Atlantic region.

## Employment

### **Graduate Research Assistantship for M.Sc. Degree**

#### **Department of Plant Agriculture University of Guelph**

There is an opening for a Graduate Research assistantship for a M.Sc. degree in the Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph. Starting time is Sept, 2001 (or whenever a suitable candidate is found). *Applicants should have a B.Sc. degree in plant biology, microbiology or related field.*

Research will be conducted at the Vineland Station campus of the Univ. of Guelph (<http://www.oac.uoguelph.ca/hrio/>). This campus is located in the Niagara Peninsula, Ontario, the production centre of greenhouse ornamentals, tree fruit and viticulture. The campus is situated one hour by car from the main campus of the University. Applicants must apply to the graduate coordinator (Dr. A. Sullivan, Bovey Building, Room 4222, University of Guelph) and be accepted by Graduate Studies of the University.

#### **Project description:**

The research will include the following area: refine existing selective and semi-selective media for *Erwinia carotovora* subsp. *carotovora*; develop and/or adapt molecular techniques to differentiate species and subspecies of soft-rot bacteria and to monitor population dynamic with greenhouse forced calla lilies (*Zantedeschia* sp.); and use of bacteriophage for the control of *E. carotovora* subsp. *carotovora*. The student will be encouraged to conduct research in both basic and applied studies in the control of *Erwinia* soft rot calla lilies.

Annual stipend is \$15,500.

Instructions for applying for graduate studies at the University of Guelph can be found at <http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/academic.html>

#### **Inquiries:**

Dr. Theo J. Blom, Univ. of Guelph, Vineland Station, Ontario, L0R 2E0. Phone: 905-562-4141(x160)

Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza, AAFC, Vineland Station, Ontario, L0R 2E0. Phone: 905-562-4113 (x243)

## People & Travel

June 09-15, 2001, Dr. **Simon Shamoun**, Research Scientist- NRCan- CFS/PFC and Adjunct Professor- UBC & UVIC, will be attending, as an invited speaker, the NATO Advanced Research Workshop - *Enhancing biocontrol agents and handling risks*, in Florence, Italy.

Drs. Simon Francis Shamoun and **Bart van der Kamp**- Adjunct Professor & Professor, respectively- UBC-Department of Forest Sciences, received a research grant from Forest Renewal BC to continue their joint research project on "Biological Control of Western Hemlock and Lodgepole Pine Dwarf Mistletoes."

## Announcements, Etc.

### **New Flyers and Brochures for CPS**

To help promote our society and CPS products, two new brochures were printed this year. If any one would like help promote new memberships or products sales by taking these to meetings or putting them in display areas, please send me an email (BaileyK@em.agr.ca) requesting the brochures and the number of copies so I may send them to you.

Karen Bailey,  
AAFC-Saskatoon

**Report on Sales of *Diseases of Field Crops in Canada, 2000-2001***

Book sales of *Diseases of Field Crops in Canada* have been maintained at a fairly consistent level for the past couple of years. Sales records based on the remaining inventory in stock have been tracked from 1994 to the present year. The sales records were as follows: 1994 - 494 books, 1995 - 1097 books, 1996 - 1195 books, 1997-1019 books, 1998 - 1744 books, 1999 - 522 books, 2001 - 519 books. Our current inventory of books is approximately 1960 books. As of February 26, 2001, MOM Printing is no longer storing our inventory of books. The inventory for *Diseases of Field Crops in Canada* is being maintained by Terry Anderson, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Harrow, Ontario.

Respectfully submitted,  
K.L. Bailey

*My apologies to Rudra Singh, Jeannie Gilbert and Denis Gaudet for mis-spellings of their names that appeared in the Call for Annual Reports, last issue.*

*Ed.*

**Committee Reports contained herein:**

Journal Editorial Committee (CJPP)  
Awards Committee  
Membership Committee  
Local Arrangements Committee - London 2001

International Cooperation Committee  
Education and Public Awareness Committee  
Information Products Marketing Committee

Industry Relations Committee  
Historic Resources Committee  
Microbial Genetics Resources and Culture Collections Committee

CPS Web Site  
CPS-SCP News  
Canadian Plant Disease Survey

**Appeared in the March 2001 issue:**

Nominating Committee

**Not submitted at press time:**

Science Policy Committee  
Future Meetings Committee  
Local Arrangements Committee - Lethbridge 2002  
International Society of Plant Pathology



**Please remember to bring the June newsletter with you to the Annual General Meeting**