

## President's Message

*Roger Rimmer*



It is my intention to attend Regional meetings of the CPS whenever possible during my term as President. This past week I went to the meeting for Saskatch-

ewan, held in Saskatoon on November 27 and for Manitoba, held in Winnipeg on November 29.

The Saskatchewan meeting was well attended again this year and sixteen talks were presented. A number of students made presentations, and an award for the best presentation went to Mohammed Razavi who is studying pathogenic variation at different sampling levels of *Mycosphaerella graminicola* in wheat. Although I moved to AAFC in Saskatoon two years ago, I am still getting to know the plant pathology community. It was there-

fore very interesting for me to learn about the many diverse research projects going on here. We had a very enjoyable evening afterwards at Boffins restaurant in Innovation Place. The Manitoba group started early in the morning and finished with lunch. I missed the first few talks, but those I did listen to were very good, too. In Winnipeg, I presented an award for best student paper to Sarah Sawchuk, who is studying biocontrol methods for *Sclerotinia*. Being at these meetings is personally very rewarding as it enables me to get acquainted with members I didn't know before and, of course, to renew old friendships. Unfortunately, a conflict prevented me from going to the meeting of

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the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta in Edmonton a couple of weeks ago. However, Karen Bailey, the Vice-President, was able to represent the CPS Board there.

Regional groups and the meetings they hold are a very important part of our Society. It is at this level that most interactions take place between plant pathologists and colleagues from other disciplines such as plant breeders, entomologists, agronomists and people from the industry in general. At the annual meeting in Victoria this year the membership agreed on an increase in the budget for Regional meetings. There is now additional money available for Regional groups to improve their meetings, for instance by bringing in guest speakers. Any time during the year, a request for funds with a brief justification can be submitted to a Board Member, and the Board will try to make a quick decision via email. A financial statement regarding the expenditures needs to be provided after the event.

Lately, I have been impressed with the great range of interests and diversity of talents within our membership and the creativity and commitment to provide excellent services and conduct exciting research within the broad encompass of our discipline. I am especially impressed with the quality of work being done by our younger members and students. Who knows where the science of plant pathology will be in twenty years from now, but I am confident that it will be in capable hands.

In December there will be a teleconferencing amongst the nine Board Members which usually takes up a substantial part of a day. Some of the main issues this time are electronic publishing of the *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology*, a revision of the book 'Diseases of Field Crops of Canada', spearheaded by Karen Bailey,

Bruce Gossen and Robin Morrall, and whether the CPS needs to hire a person to look after time consuming tasks such as membership renewal, web site maintenance and maybe some committee work.

The Board will also discuss whether or not we should be involved in an organisation called Plant Canada. Currently it consists of two societies, the Canadian Botanical Society and the Canadian Society of Plant

Physiologists. Briefly, the purposes of Plant Canada are to organize and sponsor regular, scientific meetings and workshops under a national umbrella for plant science

and related disciplines in Canada, to operate and maintain a strong communication network among the member societies and their individual members, and to be an effective source for public education and advocacy in plant sciences. I think that joint meetings with these two societies would be of interest to us.

Finally, I'd like to wish all of you a happy holiday season and a prosperous and successful new year. January 1<sup>st</sup> 2001 is, of course, the real start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium, bringing to a close the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is no doubt that the future will be challenging for mankind and that plant disease problems will continue to be a major constraint on plant production. I wish you all well and hope you are looking forward to the challenge of the future as much as I am.

### Mot du président

J'ai l'intention d'assister aux réunions régionales de la SCP aussi souvent que possible durant mon mandat présidentiel. La semaine passée, je suis allé à la réunion régionale de la Saskatchewan, qui a eu lieu à Saskatoon le 27 novembre, et à celle du Manitoba qui a eu lieu à Winnipeg le 29 novembre.

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La participation à la réunion de la Saskatchewan fut bonne cette année encore, et seize communications y furent présentées. Plusieurs étudiants ont fait des présentations et un prix pour la meilleure communication a été attribué à Mohammed Razavi qui étudie la variation pathologique en fonction du niveau d'échantillonnage du *Mycosphaerella graminicola* dans le blé. Même si j'ai été transféré à AAC à Saskatoon il y a deux ans, il me reste encore beaucoup à connaître sur le groupe de phytopathologistes. Ce fut donc très intéressant pour moi d'en apprendre sur les projets nombreux et diversifiés en cours ici. Nous avons ensuite eu une soirée très agréable au restaurant Boffins à Innovation Place. Le groupe du Manitoba a commencé tôt le matin et a terminé pour le dîner. J'ai raté les premières communications, mais celles auxquelles j'ai pu assister ont été très bonnes aussi. À Winnipeg, j'ai présenté le prix pour la meilleure communication étudiante à Sarah Sawchuk qui étudie la lutte biologique contre le *Sclerotinia*. Je trouve personnellement gratifiant d'assister à ces réunions parce que je peux ainsi connaître des membres qui m'étaient jusqu'alors inconnus et, bien entendu, renouer avec de vieilles amitiés. Malheureusement, un conflit d'horaire m'a empêché d'assister à la réunion de la Société de phytopathologie de l'Alberta à Edmonton il y a une couple de semaines. Cependant, Karen Bailey, vice-présidente, fut en mesure d'y représenter la SCP.

Les groupes régionaux et les réunions qu'ils organisent jouent un rôle très important dans notre Société. C'est à ce niveau que se situent la plupart des interactions entre les phytopathologistes et les collègues d'autres disciplines tels que les améliorateurs, les entomologistes, les

agronomes et les gens de l'industrie en général. À la réunion annuelle à Victoria cette année, les membres se sont mis d'accord pour augmenter le budget pour les réunions régionales. Il y a maintenant plus d'argent pour les groupes régionaux afin de leur permettre d'améliorer leurs réunions, en invitant des conférenciers par exemple. N'importe quand durant l'année, une demande de fonds accompagnée d'une brève justification peut être soumise à un membre du Conseil d'administration, et le Conseil essaiera de prendre rapidement une décision par courriel. Après l'événement, un état financier des dépenses encourues doit être produit.

Dernièrement, j'ai été impressionné par la grande variété des intérêts et la diversité des talents de nos membres, et par la créativité et l'engagement à fournir d'excellents services et à effectuer de la recherche emballante dans les champs de notre vaste discipline. Je suis particulièrement impressionné par la qualité du travail effectué par nos plus jeunes membres et par les étudiants. Qui sait où sera rendue la phytopathologie dans vingt ans, mais je suis sûr qu'elle reposera entre des mains expertes.

En décembre, nous tiendrons une conférence téléphonique entre les neuf membres du Conseil, ce qui prend habituellement une bonne partie de la journée.

Parmi les principaux sujets figurent la publication électronique de la *Revue canadienne de phytopathologie*, la révision du livre « Diseases of Field Crops in Canada », chapeauté par Karen Bailey, Bruce Gossen et Robin Morrall, et la question à savoir si la SCP a besoin d'embaucher une personne pour s'occuper de tâches fastidieuses comme le renouvellement de l'adhésion des membres, l'entretien du site Web, et peut-être des travaux reliés aux comités.

***“Je suis particulièrement impressionné par la qualité du travail effectué par nos plus jeunes membres et par les étudiants. Qui sait où sera rendue la phytopathologie dans vingt ans, mais je suis sûr qu'elle reposera entre des mains expertes.”***



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Le Conseil discutera également de la pertinence d'une implication dans l'organisme appelé « Plant Canada ». Actuellement, il est constitué de deux sociétés, la Société botanique du Canada et la Société canadienne de physiologie végétale. En gros, les buts de « Plant Canada » sont d'organiser et commanditer, dans un cadre national canadien, des réunions et ateliers scientifiques courants pour les sciences végétales et autres disciplines connexes au Canada, de gérer et soutenir un vigoureux réseau de communications entre les sociétés et leurs membres, et de constituer une référence pour l'éducation du public et un plaidoyer pour les sciences végétales. Je crois que des réunions conjointes avec ces deux sociétés ne seraient pas dénuées d'intérêt pour nous.

Pour terminer, je veux vous souhaiter de joyeuses vacances et une nouvelle année prospère remplie de succès. Le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2001 est, bien sûr, le vrai début du 3<sup>e</sup> millénaire, mettant fin au 20<sup>e</sup> siècle. Sans aucun doute, l'avenir sera plein de défis pour l'humanité et les problèmes phytosanitaires continueront d'être de sérieuses contraintes pour les productions végétales. Je vous souhaite une bonne santé et j'espère que vous désirez autant que moi vous mesurer aux défis de demain.

## **People & Travel**

Dr. **Prem Kharbanda**, research scientist at the Alberta Research Council (ARC), was honored in October at the 2000 Alberta Science and Technology (ASTech) Leadership Awards gala in Edmonton, Alberta, as this year's recipient of the AVAC/ASTech Innovation in Agricultural Science prize.

Since joining ARC in 1983, Dr. Kharbanda has been instrumental in preventing the spread in Alberta of blackleg disease in canola, utilizing an innovative combination of applied research involving cultural, chemical and biological methods, disease monitoring and technology development strategies.

Blackleg is one of the most destructive diseases of canola. In fact, it almost wiped out the Australian canola industry in 1972. Over the past 10 years, it has cost Saskatchewan producers about \$500 million in lost revenue.

His most recent accomplishment is the development and validation of an immunoassay kit—Blackleg Alert™—for rapid diagnosis of blackleg in canola. This kit is now commercially available to agricultural producers. Currently, Dr. Kharbanda is working on developing new methods for biological control of blackleg and other diseases, using suppressive compost.

## 10<sup>th</sup> European Cereal Rusts and Powdery Mildews Conference

James Chong, Tom Fetch, and Brent McCallum from the Cereal Research Centre AAFC in Winnipeg attended the 10<sup>th</sup> European Cereal Rusts and Powdery Mildews Conference in Budapest, Hungary from Aug. 28 to Sept. 1, 2000. Dr. Chong presented a paper entitled "Inheritance of resistance to two *Puccinia coronata* isolates in a partial resistant oat line MN841801". This meeting was a good opportunity to meet with leading scientists from around the world that work with cereal rusts and powdery mildew. Approximately 120 people attended the meeting and the eastern European researchers were well represented. Topics ranging from Genetics of Resistance and Population Dynamics to Molecular, Biochemical, and Physiological aspects of Host-Parasite interactions were presented. The meeting included a visit to the Agricultural Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences at Martonvásár located 30 km west of Budapest. This institute is situated on the grounds of the Brunszvik mansion and was very impressive. Dr. Roy Johnson, from the UK, gave a very nice tribute to Dr. Peter Dyck and his contribution of the Thatcher near-isogenic leaf rust differential lines that are now being used worldwide. This meeting is held every four years, and will be held in 2004 at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, UK. The main organizer for the next meeting is Dr. James Brown.

## International Conference on Biotechnology in Agriculture

Greenhouse pathologist, Dr. Raj Utkhede, participated in the International Conference on Biotechnology in Agriculture at Al-Salt, Jordan from September 5 to 7, 2000. The conference was attended by more than 100 scientists from 27 countries. Dr. Utkhede presented an invited talk on "Genetic transformation of *Pantoea agglomerans* to improve its efficiency for apple production". The conference provided

an important forum for networking with colleagues, keeping up to date with latest developments in biotechnology and developing new collaborative projects. After the conference, he had discussions with the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Head of the Department of Biotechnology, on a collaborative research project between the Al-Balqa University, Al-Salt, Jordan and the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre - developing biological control for diseases of crop plants that are of economic importance to both countries.

**Kan-Fa Chang** and **Sheau-Fang Hwang** were invited by the Heilongjiang Academy of Sciences, Institute of Applied Microbiology (IAM) to travel to Harbin, People's Republic of China to discuss cooperative projects between IAM and Alberta Agriculture's Crop Development Centre South (CDCS), and to give seminars, workshops and lectures. En route, they stopped at the National Chung Hsing University at Taichung, Taiwan to attend the Third International Symposium on *Rhizoctonia* from 17-20 August, 2000. The symposium was attended by 212 delegates from 28 countries and included 33 oral presentations and 41 posters covering *Rhizoctonia*-induced diseases on more than 28 crops. Sheau-Fang, co-author with K.F. Chang, B.D. Gossen, G.D. Turnbull and R.J. Howard presented a paper on "Etiology and chemical control of *Rhizoctonia* seedling blight and root rot in chickpea". They also stopped in Beijing to attend the First Asian Conference on Plant Pathology on August 25-28 and visited the Tianjin Institute of Plant Protection, southwest of Beijing. Researchers from Brazil, Canada, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom and United States also attended the conference and Dr. Chang gave a presentation entitled "Major diseases of herbal crops in the prairie provinces, Canada".

**Mr. Xiao Xiang Zhao**, Head of Biotechnology Laboratory at the Institute of Applied Microbiology Institute (IAM), Heilongjiang Academy of Sciences, Harbin, China was

invited by Dr. Ron Howard to visit CDCS for six months to study biological control of soil-borne diseases on *Echinacea* crops, under the supervision of Dr. Kan-Fa Chang. Mr. Zhao arrived at CDCS on September 5. CDCS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IAM in 1999 to facilitate joint research projects and staff exchanges such as Mr. Zhao's visit to CDCS.

### Vanterpool Award

Congratulations to Ms. **Cheryl Cho** of the AAFC Saskatoon Research Centre, who is the first graduate student to win the Vanterpool Award for two consecutive years. This prize, valued at \$1,200, is awarded to the University of Saskatchewan plant pathology graduate student who has achieved the highest proficiency in terms of academics, publications and presentations. Dr. **Bruce Gossen** is Cheryl's graduate supervisor.

**Jeannie Gilbert** traveled to Berlin in September 2000 to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> European Fusarium Seminar. This international meeting takes place every two years (or three if a major congress such as the ICPP coincides). This year's meeting was hosted by the institutes of the BBA and FU, which in English translate to Institute for Plant Virology, Microbiology and Biological Safety, and the Free University. The sections of the meeting, with oral presentations and posters, were divided into Taxonomy and Genetics, Plant Pathology, Plant Breeding, Plant Protection and Toxicology, of which the first two were best represented, a bonus for plant pathologists. It was an opportunity to meet old friends and acquaintances and even plan some work with a friend from Germany. Another plus was arriving on Sunday morning and having a few hours (somewhat jet-lagged) to discover the old centre of Berlin and trace the remnants of the wall. Randy Clear and Jeannie visited Potsdamer Platz and viewed all the major construction underway. The Brandenburg Gate was

dwarfed by the new buildings, but later in the week we were able to walk down Unter den Linden to view the gate in all its elegance. The banquet was held at the historic Schloss Cecilienhof in Potsdam, a Tudor structure amidst a lovely park-like setting which provided a wonderful opportunity to wander for an hour or so before dinner was served.

**Michèle Heath** (University of Toronto) visited the Plant Pathology Department at the University of California at Davis at the beginning of October to give a seminar on "Cellular signalling and interactions between plants and biotrophic fungal parasites". In return, she was treated to a quick and alcohol-free tour of the historic wineries in the nearby Napa Valley.

Dr. **Greg Martin** (Boyce Thompson Institute, Cornell University) visited the Botany Department at the University of Toronto at the end of October to talk with the plant - microbe and plant - insect interactions group. He presented a departmental seminar entitled "Recognition and signalling events involved in resistance to bacterial speck disease in tomato" and imparted the news that the genome of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* was sequenced by a group of collaborators in the US in about 6 weeks, and will soon be available on the web.

The Western International Forest Disease Work Conference was held at Waikoloa, Hawaii, in August. Four CPS members from the Pacific Forestry Centre attended - **Abul Ekramoddoullah** presented a poster "Characterization of a defense responsive PR-10 gene in sugar pine" in a poster session chaired by **Rona Sturrock**. **Simon Shamoun** chaired a panel on "Application of biological control to vegetation management in forestry" and presented a paper "Development of biological control strategy for management of forest weeds in Canada." Rona also presented a paper "Infection of roots of coastal Douglas-fir by

*Phellinus weirii*.” **Rich Hunt** chaired the rust committee lunch. **Kathy Lewis** from the University of Northern British Columbia also presented a poster “Impacts of partial cutting in sub-boreal spruce forests on stand structure and spread of tomentosus root disease.”

Dr. **Gene Van Arsdel**, who is currently working as a volunteer on white pine blister rust with the USFS in New Mexico visited **Rich Hunt** on Nov. 27. They viewed resistance selections of western white pine at the Cowichan Lake Research Station and discussed blister rust pathology.

## Employment

**Position available** at Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre (Agassiz) for a molecular plant pathology technician. This is a term position for 6 months-full time. The salary is from \$34,236 - \$41,652 per annum (EG-02). The selected candidate will perform standard Plant Pathological techniques, such as isolation of plant pathogens, preparing pure cultures of pathogens and biological agents, testing Koch's postulate *in vitro* and *in vivo*. They will also be performing molecular techniques such as restriction fragment length polymorphisms, hybridizations by dot blots, and polymerase chain reaction to identify unique sequences of DNA in different fungal and bacterial species. The sequences will be used for diagnostics, detection and population dynamic studies. University graduation with B.Sc. Degree in Plant Pathology, Molecular Biology, microbiology, Plant or Biological Sciences or an acceptable combination of education, training and/or experience is required.

For details check <http://www.psc-cfp.gc.ca/jobs/p014601e.htm>

Send your application to:

Public Service Commission of Canada,  
Sinclair Centre,  
210-757 West Hastings Street,  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 3M2

FAX: (604) 666-6808

## Research Plant Pathologist / Weed Technologist

Eco-Care Technologies Inc. (Sidney, B.C., Canada) is seeking a person with expertise in Plant Pathology and/or Weed Science to work on developing ecologically responsible pesticide products for the home garden market.

Eco-Care is an innovative R & D company with a long-term partnership with one of the leading European companies in environmentally friendly plant care. It has a well-established track record in discovering, developing and delivering products to the market place. Products developed by Eco-Care are currently being sold worldwide by several marketing companies.

The position involves all aspects of product research, from innovative ideas for new actives, to bioassays and developing suitable formulations. Candidates must have a minimum of a B.Sc. degree in a pertinent field. Ideally, applicants should also have experience in growing plants and pesticide usage. Key desired attributes are flexibility and the ability to learn new skills. Tasks done on a typical day may include spraying tests, recording and analyzing data, plot maintenance, formulation development and general clean-up. The position is full time, with a starting date of February 1, 2001, if a suitable candidate is found by that date. Salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Please submit a resume or curriculum vitae with 3 references and publications to:

Dr. Fred Sedun,  
Eco-Care Technologies,  
10555 West Saanich Road,  
Sidney, BC, V8L 5L6

For further information, contact Fred at:  
phone: (250) 656-5555

email: [fred@ecocare.bc.ca](mailto:fred@ecocare.bc.ca)

## Call for Nominations: 2001 CPS Awards

The CPS Awards represent an important means of acknowledging the contributions of our members to our society, to the science of plant pathology and to the community in which we live. Please take time to consider and discuss with your CPS colleagues worthy candidates for the awards listed below. A list of previous recipients of these awards is displayed on page v of the Membership Directory.

Awards Committee members: Ron Knox (Chair), Sue Boyetchko, Verna Higgins, Khalid Rashid and Brent McCallum.

### 1. Honorary Member

The nominee can be any person who has rendered eminent service to plant pathology and shall normally not be a member of the Society.

### 2. Fellow

Nominees shall be regular members of the Society who have rendered outstanding service to the Society and to the profession of plant pathology.

### 3. Award for Outstanding Research

This award is intended to recognize outstanding research in plant pathology in Canada. As the Society's most prestigious award, consideration is given to research involving new concepts, the discovery of new phenomena, or principles in plant pathology or novel application of existing principles.

### 4. Gordon J. Green Outstanding Young Scientist Award

The award is intended to recognize the contribution of a junior scientist, judged to have had a major impact on plant pathology in Canada. Nominees for this award must be under 45 years of age throughout the calendar year in which the award is both announced and made. Nominees need not be members of the Society, nor need they be domiciled in Canada. Recipients shall be judged to have made an outstand-

ing contribution to plant pathology in Canada on the basis, not only of demonstrated competence, but also of one or more of the following special criteria:

1) superior research accomplishment, either as a single contribution or as a series of associated endeavours, in plant pathology or in a related field,

2) meritorious contribution to plant pathology scholarship or literature, whether or not this is based upon the recipient's own original research, and whether or not it be based upon predominantly Canadian material,

3) unusually valuable practical application of scientific or technological expertise, and

4) significant leadership in plant pathology.

### 5. Graduate Student Travel Award

This is a new award initiated by the current board in 1999. The purpose of this award is to provide reimbursement to selected graduate students to attend the Annual Meeting of the CPS.

### Instructions

If you wish to nominate someone for the Graduate Student Travel Award, please read the terms of reference for this award [next item] in this issue of *CPS-SCP News*. If you wish to nominate someone for any other award, please send me 5 copies of:

1) a short letter of nomination indicating why this candidate should be considered for the award,

2) a citation prepared according to the style of previously published citations in the *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology*, and

3) a recent curriculum vitae of the nominee before March 15, 2001 deadline. If you do not receive confirmation that I have received your material, please contact me immediately.

### Reminder

As to the Dr. and Mrs. D.L. Bailey Award, it ceased to exist in 1999 according to CPS

by-laws. Money in the Bailey award fund has been assigned to the Best Student Presentation Awards. Finally a notice for registration to the contest for the Best Student Presentation Awards will be posted in the March issue of *CPS-SCP News*.

Ron Knox

Chair, CPS Awards Committee

Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Box 1030, Swift Current SK S9H 3X2

Phone: (306) 778-7262

FAX: (306) 773-9123

Email: [knoxr@em.agr.ca](mailto:knoxr@em.agr.ca)

Graduate Student Travel Award -Terms of Reference

Canadian Phytopathological Society

Purpose

To provide financial reimbursement to selected graduate students to attend the Annual Meeting of the CPS.

Guidelines

1. There shall be 2 travel awards given annually by the CPS, each for a value of \$300 per student.
2. Applications for awards should be ranked by the Awards Committee of CPS, and a recommendation made to the President of CPS no later than 8 weeks prior to the meeting.
3. The financial reimbursement shall be used to offset travel, accommodation, registration, or other related meeting costs.
4. The travel award applications can be made from any postsecondary institution (in Canada or elsewhere) and the student need not be a member of CPS.

Application procedure

1. The student shall provide 5 copies of the application (an original and 4 photocopies) and forward them to the Chair of the CPS Awards Committee by March 1 of

the year of the CPS annual meeting.

2. The student must be registered in a Master's level or PhD degree program at the time of application and undertake a research project in the area of plant pathology.

3. The application must include:

- a) A copy of the abstract of the presentation to be published in the *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology*

- b) A one-page statement from the student outlining the significance of the research to be presented and its scientific, economic and/or societal implications.

- c) A letter of support from the senior supervisor outlining the student's research and academic abilities and other evidence of scholarship.

- d) A brief (2-page) resume of the student's background and relevant experience.

- e) Academic transcripts inclusive of undergraduate and graduate training (one original copy should be attached, if available).

Criteria for selection

Applications will be ranked based on scholastic performance, significance of the research conducted, and other evidence of contributions to the field of plant pathology. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the committee's deliberations 6 weeks prior to the annual meeting. The successful students will be presented with a cheque at the CPS Banquet. All travel and other arrangements are the responsibility of the student.



## CPS Regional Meetings

### Plant Pathology Society of Alberta

The twenty first Annual meeting of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta (PPSA) was held in Edmonton on November 6-8. Sixty-two delegates attended the two-day sessions featuring 19 paper and poster presentations. Mr. **Alireza Navabi**, a PhD student at the University of Alberta, was the recipient of the 2000 Plant Pathology Society of Alberta Scholarship. Mr. Navabi and Ms. **J. Yang** (University of Alberta) shared the prize for the best student paper. Ms. **Therese Despina**, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada - Lethbridge, received the prize for the best presentation by a technician. Dr. **Karen Bailey**, Vice President of CPS, attended the PPSA meeting and addressed several key concerns of CPS. The next annual meeting of the PPSA will be meeting in Waterton, Alberta.

Submitted by K.I. Mallett

### 2000 Manitoba Regional Meeting

On November 29, 2000, 36 people attended the Manitoba regional meeting of the CPS. The meeting was held at the AAFC Cereal Research Centre in Winnipeg. The meeting began at 8:30 and ended at 2:00 PM. We had the honour of CPS president, Roger Rimmer, attending the meeting as well as the luncheon. Immediately following the meeting, many of those in attendance proceeded to Gary Platford's retirement party at the Irish Club. The retirement celebration was put on by his colleagues with Manitoba Agriculture and was a roaring success.

The meeting began with the disease situation report. A summary follows:

#### **Wheat**

Brent McCallum found leaf rust more often on later seeded crops. Tom Fetch reported that there was not much stem rust

on wheat. Steve Haber believes that WSMV may be on the rise. Jeannie Gilbert reported leaf spot levels were moderate to severe, with *S. tritici* high and spot blotch high. Early seeded spring wheat affected most by FHB. Most fields were at 20-30% FHB index. Jim Menzies did not find much smut in wheat in 2000. Andy Tekauz found winter wheat mostly escaped FHB this year.

#### **Barley**

Andy Tekauz noted that this was an epidemic year for FHB. On average in Manitoba, there was 5% damage to barley from FHB. Some areas, such as the Red River Valley, were much higher. Jeannie Gilbert mentioned that some barley fields were even higher than the wheat in the FHB index. Steve Haber found that BYDV was much less than last year, when it was severe. The difference was attributed to earlier seeding in 2000. Tom Fetch stated that QCC stem rust was the most common race on barley, but levels were low. Jim Menzies found that although smut levels in all cereals were low in 2000, barley had the highest amounts.

#### **Oat**

James Chong reported that conditions were not good for crown rust infection. However, 50% of oat varieties grown are susceptible.

#### **Pulses**

Jollin Charest reported that *Mycosphaerella* blight was widespread on peas, but levels were low. Powdery mildew was late this year, and there was not much *Sclerotinia* in the peas.

#### **Flax**

Khalid Rashid found 50% of fields with *Fusarium* at trace levels to 5%. Pasm common towards the end of the season, and *Sclerotinia* stem infection only seen on 2 fields due to little lodging occurring in 2000. There was also much less powdery mildew this year, although aster yellows was above average.

#### **Sunflower**

Khalid Rashid reported that *Sclerotinia* was once again the most important disease of sunflower, but unlike last year *Sclerotinia* head rot was more important than wilt. Rust was severe in some locations. Presently, 90% of sunflower hybrids in Manitoba are for confectionary purposes. These have little resistance to *Verticillium*, and none have resistance to *Sclerotinia*.

### Potatoes

Ross McQueen found late blight was severe in areas of Manitoba, light in others. Late blight damage in storage is bad this year. Emerging diseases are powdery scab, common scab, dry rot, and *Verticillium*. (Editors note: It is interesting to hear that this week the J.R. SIMPLOT CO. announced it will build a \$120 million potato processing plant near Portage la Prairie, MB. Facility will have initial capacity of about 300 million lbs and will need 20,000 acres of potatoes. Construction is set to begin next year for completion for '02 harvest. With 2 other plants in the area, project will make Manitoba the biggest potato province.)

Many of these reports will be available in the Plant Disease Survey.

### Formal Presentations

Presentations and their authors were as follows:

- 1) The appearance of wheat stripe rust in Manitoba and Saskatchewan in 2000. Brent McCallum and Tom Fetch, CRC, Winnipeg
- 2) Update on the 2000 disease situation for vegetable crops and potatoes, and issues and research needs of these crops. Tracy Shinnars-Carnelley, Soils and Crops Branch, Manitoba Agriculture and Food
- 3) New sources of resistance and/or tolerance to wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV) in bread and durum wheat. S. Haber, AAFC-CRC; D.L. Seifers, KSU, Hays KS; and J. Clarke, AAFC-SPARC, Swift Current.

4) Components of powdery mildew resistance in field pea. Barbara S. Dyck, Allen G. Xue, and Herbert Tuey, AAFC, Morden, Manitoba

5) Genetics of resistance to crown rust in a partially resistant oat line MN841801. James Chong, Cereal Research Centre, Winnipeg.

### Student Paper Competition

For the second time, a student paper competition was held. Participants were as follows:

- 1) Modeling Phenological and Disease Development for *Amelanchier alnifolia*. Holtslag, Q. A., Remphrey, W. R., Fernando, W. G. D., St-Pierre, R. G., and Ash, G. H. B., University of Manitoba.
- 2) Potential for biocontrol of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. Sarah C. Savchuk, Dilantha Fernando & Paula Parks, University of Manitoba.
- 3) Genetic variation in Loose smut of wheat using Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism (AFLP). Zlatko Popovic and James G. Menzies, Cereal Research Centre.

Congratulations to Sarah Savchuk, and thanks to all the students and their advisers for contributing to the program.

### Business

Our president, Roger Rimmer, handed out the student paper award and discussed a number of the current issues facing the CPS.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Clear

*The December 2000 issue of the ISPP Newsletter is now on the web-site at <http://www.isppweb.org/nldec00.htm>*

## Announcements & Coming Events

"Plant Protection and the Environment," has been selected as the theme for the 2001 CPS Meeting in London, Ontario. If you have driven across this continent from east to west, or north to south, you could not have failed to notice that the climax forests and prairie grasslands have given way to soybeans, corn wheat, and other interspersed crops. Agriculture has become the dominant environment. The new era of plant protection must have a focus based on agro-ecology. This meeting hopes to provide a opportunity to discuss how new technologies in plant protection meet the continuing demand to make agriculture the leader in the environmental movement. On behalf of the local organizing committee I invite you to attend this important event, to be held at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, June 10-13, 2001. More detailed information is now available at the CPS website <http://www.cps-scp.ca>.

I extend a special invitation to colleagues from industry to come and report to the scientific community as to how your company is contributing to plant protection and to a better environment. We need to hear from you about new products, new approaches, and new initiatives toward solving issues of plant protection. All of June 13 will be devoted to 2 colloquia on issues from industry, government, and academia that relate to new technological approaches and products for plant protection. If you are interested in giving a paper in this session please let me know as soon as possible so that we can ensure a spot for you on this program. We are looking for novel areas of plant protection using biological control, soil amendments and organic processes, new chemicals and protectants, induced resistance processes, novel germplasm and genetically modified material, etc. I ask colleagues from CPS to pass this message to any companies or organizations (including grower groups) that would not normally receive CPS news. If you know of some one that has a good story

and should be on this program please ask them to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

On behalf of the 2001 Organization Committee - George Lazarovits

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phone: 519-457-1470 ext. 293

Several societies are co-sponsoring a symposium "**Risks of exotic forest pests and their impact on trade, an online workshop**". APS is the main lead sponsor. The web site for this April 16-29 workshop is accessible through our CPS web site, or <http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/ExoticPests/>. There will be about 42 papers presented by leading authorities from around the world. Each paper can be discussed by you online. At the 2001 annual meeting of APS there will be discussions considering a follow-up for the online symposium which will cover all plant pests and their impact on trade. - CHECK IT OUT!

Rich Hunt

**Richard Hamelin**, Service Canadien des Forêts-Québec, est présentement en détachement à Genevision, une compagnie de biotechnologie de la région de Montréal qui développe des systèmes moléculaires de diagnostic des microorganismes pour les applications environnementales et agro-alimentaires. Il travaille sur le développement d'une trousse commerciale pour le diagnostic rapide et efficace des pathogènes forestiers. Le projet devrait déboucher sur des applications commerciales pour l'inspection des semis par les ministères provinciaux et l'agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments.

**Jean Bérubé**, Service Canadien des Forêts-Québec, est un pathologiste forestier qui ne s'intéresse pas qu'aux champignons néfastes, mais aussi aux champignons bénéfiques, telles les moisissures nobles. Il vient de publier un livre sur les vins italiens, intitulé "Tutto Italiano". Ce livre a été inspiré des

commentaires récoltés pendant les dégustations du club de vin italien de Québec auquel participent d'autres pathologistes tels **Louis Bernier** et Richard Hamelin. Décidément, la pathologie mène à tout!

## Renew Your Membership for 2001

Membership renewal applications have recently been mailed to all CPS members. Please return your application as quickly as possible to avoid delays in receiving your journals and newsletters. Please keep the membership secretary informed of any changes in your mailing address, phone, fax and e-mail address at any time during the year.

If you did not receive your membership renewal forms, please contact Gayle Jespersion:

phone: 250-861-7228

fax: 250-861-7490

e-mail: [gayle.jespersion@gems1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:gayle.jespersion@gems1.gov.bc.ca)

An application is also available on the CPS website.

Gayle Jespersion

*Membership Secretary*

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## The Editor's Prerogative

It's the eleventh hour in the pre-Christmas rush and, as usual, I'm still scrambling to get the newsletter out the door and on its way to you. Does it seem to you as it does to me that, though the ease of communication has increased, the frequency and quality of

communication is diminishing?

One of my favorite aspects of the revamped CPS-SCP website is **Find a Plant Pathologist**. Even if the person I'm looking for is not a CPS member, they might belong to APS or ISPP. I've had great success with it in tracking down people I need to speak to or email. Today for example I was able to update the email address of an *entomology* contact by looking up three pathologists from the same institution. However, ready access via the web can have its downside. I become so dependent on it that when my computer crashes, or my internet service provider has a hiccup, or, perish the thought, the website is off-line temporarily for updating - I don't know where to turn.

I still consider the telephone my most reliable communication tool. If you are fortunate enough to "reach the party to whom you are speaking" (as Lily Tomlin's operator used to say), you can be sure that what you've said has been heard. You have instant feedback and the nuances of the human voice to convince you of that. And if you're not certain, you can always ask another question to verify. Email, on the other hand, wonderful as it might be, is another matter. Though you can request a receipt verification to assure you that your mail has been received, unless the other person shares the same email system as you, you're unlikely to get one. Maybe you'll get one of the "handy" out-of-office auto-replies.

Before this degenerates into Digital Dave's pet peeves with email, let me acknowledge that I am equally frustrated by the many means the phone companies provide us to "facilitate" communication. Voice mail is OK and its effectiveness depends primarily on the person that employs it (do you tell your callers, when you are away, when you'll be back or alternative ways to reach you?). It's the menu system for answering "customer service" calls that really sends me over the edge. A *toll-free* number is a red flag; expect to find yourself *on hold* and listening to Muzak (or dead air) once you have navigated the labyrinth of the less-than-succinct "choices." Since you're not *paying* for the call, you have entered a tacit agreement to wait an indefinite length of time to "preserve your place in the queue." This is my rationale for having a cordless phone with a belt clip and an earpiece - I can go and make a cup of coffee while I let my voice mail pick up all the messages from people trying to reach me. [your preferred ironic emoticon here]

Don't get me wrong. I'm a big fan of effective communication, especially when it relies heavily on *listening* and striving for mutual *understanding*. That might be my Christmas wish for you - that you'll have a little time to unhook from the digital world and enjoy some analogue interaction with those closest to you. Or, if you find yourself far from those you love, put the technology to its highest calling and reach out to those who'd love to hear from you.

David Kaminski, Editor - CPS-SCP News