



NEWSLETTER

CANADIAN SOCIETY for HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE SCIENCE HORTICOLE

Your executive / *Votre exécutif*

President	<i>David Percival, NS</i>	<i>Président</i>
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Eastern representative	<i>Vasantha Rupasinghe, NS</i>	<i>Représentante de l'est</i>
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January 2008

Volume 3 No. 1

Janvier 2008

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Colleagues

Greetings from your CSHS Executive. We hope you had a safe and relaxing holiday season. We're looking forward to an exciting and active year ahead.

Plans are now underway for upcoming CSHS meetings including the Montreal 2008 Meeting, a joint meeting with the Canadian Society of Agronomy in Guelph, and the 2011 Plant Canada Meeting in Halifax. Efforts were made to have a joint meeting with ASHS, but with a less than favourable exchange rate, the Canadian locations and venues examined were not price competitive from ASHS's perspective. Therefore, as it presently stands, the ASHS Annual Meetings are scheduled to occur in Orlando (2008), St. Louis (2009), Palm Springs (2010), Hawaii (2011) and Miami (2012). If there is interest in CSHS sponsoring a colloquia, please contact your CSHS Executive or CSHS's ASHS rep (Blanche Dansereau: blanche.dansereau@fsaa.ulaval.ca) for input and direction.

As the Montreal 2008 meeting approaches, please be aware of CSHS's Merit Award, Graduate Student Travel Awards, and Graduate Student Competition. Information on these awards are present on CSHS's web site. While preparations are underway for the Annual Meeting, please use the opportunity to engage fellow horticulturalists to become CSHS members.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Dear colleagues:

This missive arrives with best wishes for the New Year and with the hope that your holiday season was a joyful and relaxing one.



There was an Executive Conference Call of the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS) on December 19, 2007. The highlights of the meeting are as follows:

Halifax 2006 Meeting Financial Update

David Percival reported that Yousef Papadopoulos and Derek Anderson are now at a stage to finalize the finances for this meeting. Problems were encountered with HST and also recouping the revenue obtained from the various funding agencies. However, the meeting will finish with a healthy surplus (~\$15,000) that will be divided among the participating societies on an

attendance basis.

Plant Canada 2007 Meeting Financial Update

Shahrokh Khanizadeh reported that no new information pertaining to this meeting has come as of this week. He will further pursue this with the organizing committee.

Proposed CSHS 2009 Meeting

A proposal from the Canadian Society for Agronomy to join their meeting at the University of Guelph in late June of 2009 has been received. This will be circulated to the CSHS Board for input. Although ASHS will be holding a meeting in July, it was felt that this meeting may attract more students, and is separated by sufficient amount of time not to pose a direct conflict.

Plant Canada 2011 Update

The tentative dates and location for the next Plant Canada meeting has been set for July 18 to 22, 2011 at Saint Marys University in Halifax. Input is now being sought from the various participating societies to ensure that no scheduling conflicts occur, and also for organizing volunteers.

ISHS Country Membership Fees

A proposal from ISHS to significantly reduce the country membership fee was received. However, there has been no further input regarding this. David Percival will explore in more detail with Robert Prange.

Membership Database

CSHS presently has a good individual membership directory but no industry directory. Denis Charlebois, CSHS' vice-president, will initiate creating this database along with another database containing the coordinates of contacts from as many Canadian schools teaching horticulture as possible. Such a database will be of great help to disseminate information about our Society and its symposia. Members are encouraged to send relevant information directly to Denis (charleboisd@agr.gc.ca). Your participation is essential to the success of this exercise and we hope that you will be numerous to answer the call.

Awards

Efforts will soon have to commence on the 2008 CSHS awards. In addition to publication awards, CSHS has also provided student travel and best oral and poster contribution awards. It is anticipated that the student travel and contribution awards will be in place for 2008 (ability to offer them is dependent upon membership revenue, investment returns, and individual contributions). More information is available in the CSHS web site and also will be available in upcoming newsletters and e-mails.

Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS)

An international peer-reviewed journal, shared with the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA), is the Society's principal scientific publication. The CJPS is published 4 times per year (January, April, July and October) and features sections in Vegetables, Ornamentals and Fruit and Pest Management. An Application of Technology section provides an excellent vehicle to publish results of applied studies in all aspects of horticulture. Review articles are published in all areas of plant science and ensure a continuing high profile for the Journal. CSHS members serve as Associate Editors, and the Editorship of the journal alternates between CSA and CSHS. Why not take advantage of your CSHS membership

to obtain special discounts on either paper or electronic Internet subscriptions to CJPS? Electronic-only subscription is a special privilege available only to members and represents a 70% discount on the non-member rate. Consult the [Journal Web site \(http://pubs.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjps.html\)](http://pubs.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/aic-journals/cjps.html) for further information.

Scientific Meetings Related to Horticulture

2008 - [Joint Meeting of the Canadian Societies of Agronomy and Horticultural Science, and the Northeastern Branch of ASA-CSSA-SSSA](http://www.montreal08.org), Montreal, QC, Canada from July 13–16, 2008 (www.montreal08.org).

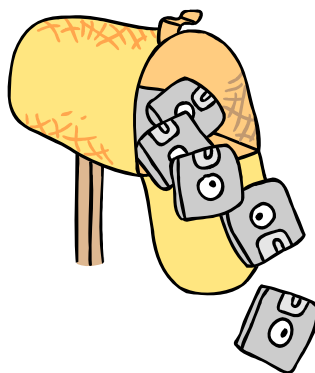
[35th Annual Meeting of the Plant Growth Regulation Society of America \(PGRSA\)](http://www.pgrsa.org/) (http://www.pgrsa.org/), Hotel Whitcomb, San Francisco, California, August 3–7, 2008.

2009 - International Symposium on Sustainable Greenhouse Systems Greensys 2009, Hotel Loews Concord, Quebec City Canada from June 14–18, 2009 (www.greensys2009.com). For more information contact Dr. Martine Dorais (Doraism@agr.gc.ca) or Dr. André Gosselin (Andre.Gosselin@crh.ulaval.ca), Tel. 1-418-656-2131 Ext. 2068 or Fax 1-418-656-7871.

We encourage all active members to do their best recruiting new members. Please send us your: job offers, published papers, posters, presentations, questions, suggestions, nominations and any other relevant information that could be of interest to our members. The CSHS web site and Newsletter are there for you.

Thank you.

Samir Debnath, Ph.D.
Secretary-Treasurer of CSHS
debnaths@agr.gc.ca



Please, do not forget to send your information to Denis Charlebois

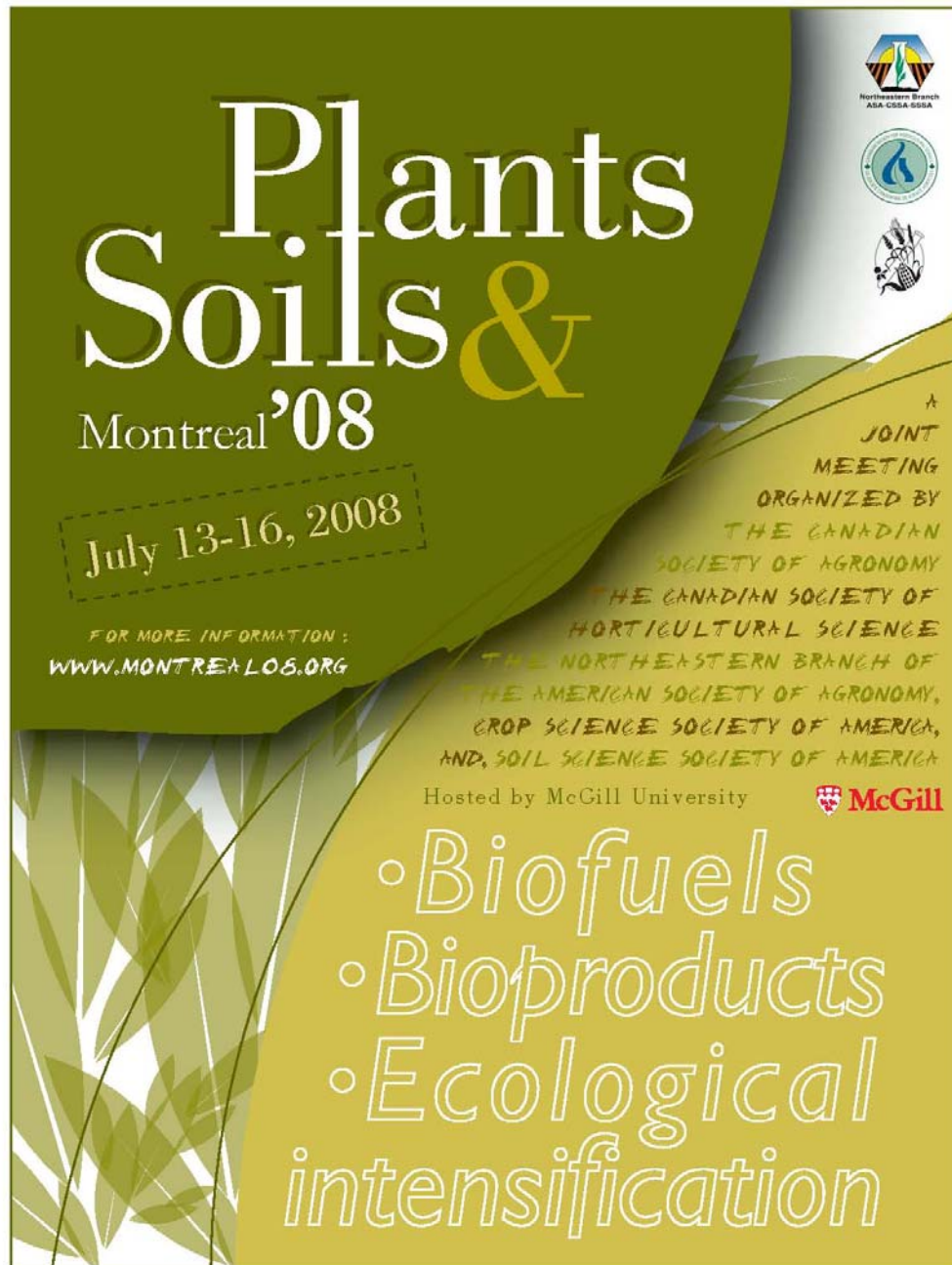
Name and contact information of potential corporate members
Name and contact information of teaching institutions (college, university)

Upcoming CSHS Activity Highlights

(i) **2008 CSHS Annual Meeting.** An opportunity exists for CSHS to partner with the Canadian Societies of Agronomy and Soil Science for an annual meeting that is tentatively scheduled to be held at the campus of McGill University (i.e., downtown Montreal) in 2008. Although an understanding exists that CSHS would partner with ASHS in years when the Plant Canada conference is not present, it was felt that the recent trend of ASHS having their annual meetings in southern locations with high associated airfares was not conducive for significant CSHS involvement. Subsequently, the ability of CSHS to partner with CSA and CSSS on a 2008 meeting appeared to be a better option.

(ii) **Next Plant Canada Meeting.** At the Plant Canada Board meeting before the onset of the Saskatoon Plant Canada meeting, it was observed that there appeared to be an increasing reluctance for the various societies to hold to a 2 year cycle for scheduled meetings. Combined with the Canadian Society of Phytopathology opting out of the 2009 Plant Canada meeting (resulting in a very significant reduction in registrants) which was to be co-sponsored by CSA and CSHS, it was proposed that CSHS endorse a move for Plant Canada meetings to change to a 4 year cycle starting with the CSA/CSHS sponsored meeting in Halifax in 2011. This motion was subsequently approved.

Plants & Soils: Montreal '08 - Mark your calendars!




The poster features a green and yellow color scheme with a stylized leaf pattern on the left. The title 'Plants & Soils & Montreal '08' is prominently displayed in white and yellow text. A dashed box contains the dates 'July 13-16, 2008'. The bottom right section lists the organizing societies and the host, McGill University, along with a list of topics: Biofuels, Bioproducts, and Ecological intensification. Logos for the organizing societies are shown in the top right corner.

**Plants
& Soils &
Montreal '08**


July 13-16, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.MONTREAL08.ORG

A
JOINT
MEETING
ORGANIZED BY
THE CANADIAN
SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY
THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF
HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE
THE NORTHEASTERN BRANCH
OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY,
CROP SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA,
AND, SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Hosted by McGill University 

- Biofuels
- Bioproducts
- Ecological intensification



A joint conference *between*

The Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy
Crop Science Society of America
Soil Science Society of America
&
The Canadian Society of Agronomy
&
The Canadian Society of Horticultural Science

is planned for

13-16 July 2008 in Montreal hosted by McGill University at the downtown campus.

Members of the Joint Steering Committee are:

- Tom Bruulsema, Gilles Bélanger, Rigas Karamanos (CSA)
- Shahrokh Khanizadeh, David Percival, Denis Charlebois (CSHS)
- Dick Weismiller (UMD), Sid Bosworth (UVT), Dave Hansen (UDE) – Northeastern Branch
- Donald Smith, Philippe Seguin, Joann Whalen, Magali Merckx-Jacques – McGill University

Input & Volunteers welcome!

Please contact:

Tom Bruulsema, President, Canadian Society of Agronomy International Plant Nutrition Institute 18
Maplewood Drive, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 1L8 519-821-5519

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Or any of your Society's representatives

Do not hesitate to visit the conference website. Please print the poster and post it.

Canadians and Ghanaian Dry Season Vegetable Project Partners Benefit from Professional Exchange

October and November were busy months for Canadian and Ghanaian project management team members of the joint CSHS/GhIH Dry Season Vegetable Project funded by CIDA through AIC's International Twinning Partnership Program.

While the two visiting Ghanaian horticulturists, Mr. Patrick Kumah and Mr. Gustav Mahunu, prepared their papers and arrangements to travel to Canada--the first North American visit for either one--Canadian team members pulled together an ambitious itinerary for a diverse tour of agricultural sites to showcase Canadian horticultural field, greenhouse and post-harvest practices.

Patrick and Gustav arrived in Toronto on Sunday, October 21, and spent the following days with Dr. Mary Ruth Macdonald, touring southern Ontario. On Monday, Mary Ruth bought more winter clothing to augment what they had brought from home. Arriving in Canada in mid-October was a shock to the system for Gustav and Patrick, who experience "very cold" nights only in northern Ghana where temperatures sometimes dip from usual daytime temperatures of 34°C to as low as 17°C.

Once Gustav and Patrick were warmly dressed, Mary Ruth guided them for four days around southern Ontario to see the Muck Crops Research Station, carrot production, harvesting and storage on the Holland Marsh, a greenhouse operations specializing in cucumbers, and to the University of Guelph's Department of Plant Agriculture, where they each delivered a presentation to an audience of about 25 interested Canadians. The following day, they saw the University of Guelph's mushroom research facility, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Vineland research station and orchards. Before heading to the east coast, they visited an organic farm specializing in field vegetable production.

On October 25, Gustav and Patrick flew to Moncton and spent the following four days with Josée Owen, touring sites in south-eastern New Brunswick and Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. Though field crops are scarce at this time of year, Gustav and Patrick were shown a cranberry bog and cranberry handling facility, a small organic greenhouse greens operation, orchards, as well as strawberry and raspberry transplant production for southern markets, and some high bush blueberry. In addition, Gustav and Patrick were guided through numerous post-harvest, wholesale and retail facilities, such as the apple and onion storages of Nova-Agri Inc., and the Co-op Atlantic Hub in Moncton. A real highlight for Patrick and Gustav was enjoying the farm stands in New Minas, all decorated for Halloween, and the scenes of pumpkin people that populate the town of Kentville. Gustav was particularly captivated by our orange pumpkins. Though pumpkins are grown in Ghana, they are always green.

Gustav and Patrick made presentations to groups of about twenty interested people each at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Research Farm in Bouctouche New Brunswick and the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre in Kentville Nova Scotia.

Gustav and Patrick often remarked on differences they saw between Canadian and Ghanaian Horticulture. While certain crops such as cocoa and pineapple are grown on a large-scale in Ghana, and some large farms exist, most often, areas under cultivation are extremely small (compared with farm

sizes in Canada), particularly in the poor, hot, dry Upper West region of Ghana. In villages where the dry season may last seven months with the only water coming from dam sites and wells, and where there is virtually no infrastructure such as paved roads or electricity, crop production limited to the small areas that can be irrigated by hand. Even when produce exceeds the household needs, it frequently spoils in the hot weather before it can be taken to market.

In the villages of Ghana's Upper West region, people are often malnourished, and during the dry season it is not uncommon to eat only once a day. Touring the massive controlled-atmosphere cold storages of Nova-Agri Inc in the Annapolis Valley was a thoughtful moment. Patrick took photos of two apples, one of which he had picked the same morning, and the other straight from cold storage where it had been since September 2006. The apples were indistinguishable in quality, and both Patrick and Gustav were amazed. But Patrick had difficulty imagining a situation in Ghana in which giant rooms of apples could be stored for more than a year. "People are hungry. They would eat them." he commented.

Patrick and Gustav's presentations were well received. Patrick described the growth and development of the GhIH, while Gustav spoke more about the specific activities that CSHS/GhIH has accomplished with farmers in the Upper West region of Ghana. They spoke first of challenges...the hot dry season, soil erosion, wild fires, collapsing wells and animals hungry for anything green munching their way through vegetable crops unless great mud barricades protected the gardens. They also told of social structure challenges to vegetable production in the very different roles and responsibilities of women and men within the family and household.

But the messages of success were clear as well. Train the Trainer workshops and farmer field schools inform farmers of sustainable cropping practice. As a result, vegetable production has increased, household income for vegetable growers has increased, introductions of some technologies such as bucket irrigation kits have been introduced to make more efficient use of water, and micro-credit efforts have begun to enable wells to be concreted for a more reliable source of water. New plans include extending the project to a new village, and taking new approaches toward community care for valuable mango tree seedlings to encourage protection of crop land. Partnerships are also being explored with another AIC International Twinning Program project in Ghana, the Ghana Society of Animal Production Project which is being carried out in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Animal Science.

Following the tours around Ontario and the Maritimes, Gustav and Patrick traveled to Edmonton, where they attended the International Partners Meeting, along with Canadian partners Dinah Cepelis, Merv Pritchard, and Josée Owen. The International Partners Meeting (IPM), held every two years provides an opportunity for Canadian and overseas project representatives from all of AIC's ITPP projects to get together to share experiences and acquire skills from one another. In addition to the CSHS/GhIH, representatives from projects in Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Ghana and Ethiopia attended.

The first day of the IPM began with introduction and presentations on each project delivered by overseas representatives. The afternoon session was an energetic and excellent workshop delivered by consultants on Results Based Management, the approach used by partners to report on the projects.

On the morning of the second day, project representatives and AIC members attended a Gender Equity Roundtable, where invited speakers spoke on their experiences in working toward Gender Equity in agricultural projects and organizations both abroad and here in Canada. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and discuss as a group, but also to record their questions and thoughts in a participatory method that will carry their input forward into future gender equity discussions within AIC.

Gender Equity is an important topic because CIDA requires that each project will make progress toward gender equality and report on that progress. AIC has also taken on the task of addressing gender equity within its own organizational structures.

The gender equity agenda continued in the afternoon, with a session facilitated by gender equity consultants, with the goal of familiarizing AIC executive and project representatives with approaches to understanding gender equity and the language surrounding it, and the manner in which it is socially embedded in our day to day contexts.

The CSHS/GhIH dry season vegetable project has actively promoted the participation of women, and encouraged women to take on decision-making roles. Women are the main growers of vegetables in the Upper West region of Ghana and are responsible for the welfare and nutrition of the family through the vegetable growing, while the entire family is often involved in growing field crops. The project reports sex-disaggregated data in order to track progress.

The third day of the IPM involved greater discussion about individual projects on aspects such as micro-credit and working with multiple donors. The day wrapped up with an energizing session facilitated by Mona Cornock and Cathey Day (Tanzanian project) on participatory extension methods. This session had everyone up and about, brainstorming, voting, crafting, singing, dancing, and learning all sorts of methods designed to draw out information from even the shyest members of the group.

The IPM was followed by AIC's annual conference, this year entitled Making Choices: consumers and their Impact on Canada's Agriculture and Food, which Gustav, Patrick, Dinah and Merv all attended. The CSHS/GhIH dry season vegetable project was represented at the poster session by a poster "Strengthening the Impact of Horticulture on Social Development" prepared by Merv.

During the IPM, the committee members from Ghana and Canada had the opportunity to plan the next phase of the project's activities for 2008-2011. More information will be provided in an upcoming issue of the CSHS newsletter.



Figure legends:

A: Patrick holds apples of equal quality, one stored since 2006, and the other harvested in 2007. Photo: Gustav Mahunu.

B: Patrick and Gustav at a cranberry facility in New Brunswick. Photo: Josée Owen.

C: Gustav with pumpkin people band in Kentville, Nova Scotia. Photo: Gustav Mahunu.

D: Gustav Mahunu at Ferme Canisto in New Brunswick. Photo: Josée Owen.

E: Patrick Kumah picking apples in Southern Ontario. Photo: Mary Ruth Macdonald.

F: Patrick Kumah and Gustav Mahunu picking grapes in Southern Ontario. Photo: Mary Ruth Macdonald.

G: Patrick stands next to the project poster at the AIC conference. Photo: Gustav Mahunu.

H: Patrick makes a presentation at the International Partners' Meeting in Edmonton. Photo: Josée Owen.

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MEMORIAL

It is with sadness that the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science has learned that Dr. Aleck Hutchinson passed away on Sunday, January 20 in St. Catharines. He was 93. He was a scientist at HRIO conducting world recognized research on apples and rootstocks for fruit trees. He developed the Vineland series of clonal rootstocks for apples and was instrumental in bringing Bailey rootstocks to Ontario for use in propagating peach nursery trees.