

# The Founding of the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science – La Société Canadienne de Science Horticole

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The first thirty-five years of the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science – La Société Canadienne de Science Horticole (CSHS–SCSH) is rather typical of an organization of a specialist nature that attempts to represent the entire country (as the saying goes) “from coast to coast”.

Considering that our regional society, the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture (WCSH), had been going strong for 14 years before the CSHS–SCSH held its first meeting, the national society was long overdue. In fact, it was the WCSH in the mid 1950s that got things started.

As certain members of the WCSH worked to establish a Canadian Diploma in Horticulture, they were advised by the Agriculture Institute of Canada (AIC) that such a venture would best be handled by a national horticultural society, a body that could represent all of Canada<sup>1</sup>.

Consequently, a committee of three members of the Horticulture Section of the AIC was appointed to study the idea of organizing scientific horticulturist in all regions. This first attempt took place in Saskatoon at the 1953 annual meeting of the AIC. All three AIC members were also members of the WCSH<sup>2</sup>. Their recommendation was that an Eastern Canadian Society for Horticulture be formed on the lines of the Western group.

Some horticulturists from eastern and central Canada did not concur with this conclusion, preferring to remain as a section of the AIC so that they might continue to benefit from the strength of this larger organization. Others felt that there should be one national body to represent Canadian scientists in horticulture, rather than maintain two distinct societies, east and west.

The following year (1954), the Horticulture Section of AIC appointed an

eight-man committee chaired by Dr. T.H. Anstey<sup>3</sup> to provide input from all regions. They came up with four main objectives, worded as follows:

- A. **To strengthen** the position of horticulturists as a professional group within the AIC.
- B. **To provide** a recognized organization qualified to represent Canadian scientists in horticulture.
- C. **To develop** national policies with respect to improving publication outlets for scientific contributions.
- D. **To encourage** and direct the establishment of a Canadian Diploma in Horticulture, as a qualifying measure of proficiency in broad fields of sub-professional horticulture<sup>4</sup>.

These guidelines were accepted by the general membership of AIC, and a third ad hoc committee was formed to draft preliminary bylaws. The resulting guidelines were discussed and refined during 1955, Society organization took place in 1956, and the first meeting of the CSHS–SCSH was held (in Vancouver) in 1957.

Professor G. Howell Harris of UBC served as the first president and Mr. J. A. (Jack) Freeman of the Agassiz Station was named secretary-treasurer. Freeman conscientiously wrote to every eligible horticulturist<sup>5</sup> to whom he could find reference, inviting membership in the new Society. He must have been convincing for the charter membership of 33 in 1956 increased the following year to 221. During the following three decades, however, the membership roll never again expanded as fast and often would stand at less than 200.

In time, the few truly active members were rather overwhelmed by the constant challenge of communicating and organizing over vast distances. The situation was further aggravated by

restrictions on travel funds to attend meetings.

Although the annually elected President of the Society was indisputably the head of the organization, it was the person who undertook the position of Secretary-Treasurer-Newsletter Editor who evidently took the driver's seat. For example, Eugene J. Hogue carried those duties from 1975 to 1978, and during that period his evident wit and wisdom in the bilingual pages of the CSHS–SCSH Newsletter did much to hold the membership together.

After 20 years the loyalty of the membership was put to a test when the parent organization, the AIC, went through a restructuring phase. Commencing in 1977, all CSHS–SCSH members were required to also maintain a membership in AIC.

At that time, some CSHS–SCSH members considered that the CSHS–SCSH might break away from the AIC and stand alone. The risk of such a move was that the small Society of scientific horticulturists would be quite insignificant by comparison with 5,500 or more professionals of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, busy promoting the broader field of agriculture. In the end, the CSHS–SCSH membership overwhelmingly opted to remain affiliated with AIC, even though they would still be overshadowed by the larger organization. (It seems that, historically, Canadian horticulture has always lived in the shadow of agriculture.)

Meanwhile the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture (now officially designated as the prairie region group of CSHS–SCSH) continued to outperform the CSHS–SCSH in membership, meeting attendance and project participation. However, both the CSHS–SCSH and the WCSH were facing a critical situation with the reduced government involvement

in research, and limits placed on business travel<sup>6</sup>.

The workload on the few was heavy when added to their regular duties of teaching or research. For example, Dr. W. T. (Bill) Andrews, reporting on his year as president noted that "Since September 1977, in addition to regular CSHS-SCSH business, 85 communications have been received from AIC central office." He continued, "If the pace keeps up or increases in the future, I would suggest that incoming presidents should plan to spend at least one-half to one day per week on CSHS affairs."

By the close of the 1970s, CSHS-SCSH committees included the following:

*Editorial Committee*, responsible for publishing the Proceedings of the annual meeting.

*CDH Committee*, to study the relevance of the Canadian Diploma in Horticulture.

#### List of CSHS-SCSH Secretaries

1956	J. A. Freeman
1957	J. A. Freeman
1958	R. P. Longley
1959	J. R. Almay
1960	L. F. Ounsworth
1961	S. Sheard
1962	D. F. Cameron
1963	C. E. McNinch
1964	C. E. McNinch
1965	C. E. McNinch
1966	W. D. Evans
1967	W. D. Evans
1968	E. W. Toop
1969	W. D. Evans
1970	W. B. Collins
1971	W. B. Collins
1972	W. B. Collins
1973	W. B. Collins
1974	W. B. Collins
1975	E. J. Hogue
1976	E. J. Hogue
1977	E. J. Hogue
1978	E. J. Hogue
1979	E. W. Toop
1980	E. W. Toop
1981	E. W. Toop
1982	I. V. Hall
1983	I. V. Hall
1984	I. V. Hall
1985	D. J. I. Buszard
1986	D. J. I. Buszard
1987	T. H. Haliburton
1988	T. H. Haliburton
1989	T. H. Haliburton
1990	T. H. Haliburton
1991	J. B. Price
1992	J. B. Price
1993	J. B. Price
1994	J. B. Price
1995	J. B. Price

*Historical Committee*, to accumulate and preserve CSHS-SCSH materials for archival use.

*Scientific Journal Committee*, associate editors of the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science*.

*Plant Gene Resource Committee*, to promote the preservation of horticultural crop gene resources, and represent CSHS-SCSH on the Canada Committee on Plant Gene Resources.

*Education Committee*, to promote improved academic training, and review career opportunities in horticulture.

*Honours and Awards Committee*, to make recommendations for Honourary Life Membership in CSHS-SCSH as well as for selecting the best horticulture paper in the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science*. This committee was established in 1971 (L. H. Lyall, chairperson of the steering group) to assist in the screening of nominations for AIC and CSHS-SCSH awards and to ensure that an adequate number of nominations was received by the secretary-treasurer. A new committee was proposed by R. E. C. Layne in 1978 and accepted at the annual meeting. Responsibility for Honourary Life Membership, Outstanding Cultivar and best horticultural paper in the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science* was assigned to the new committee. The best horticultural paper became the C. J. Bishop Award in 1986. Honourary Life Memberships commenced in 1960 from a motion presented by C. J. Bishop and the first recipient that year was M. B. Davis.

For many years, the number of young people taking up scientific horticulture as a career declined, largely as a result of reduced government participation. With this in mind, the CSHS-SCSH Education Committee produced a brochure outlining the rewarding opportunities of a career in horticulture in Canada<sup>7</sup>.

In 1988, CSHS-SCSH President John Proctor summed up the accomplishments of the Society as including "the establishment of a mechanism to recognize and honour outstanding contributions to horticulture in Canada; co-sponsorship of a research journal, the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science* (CJPS) . . .; and representation on

many national committees, including the prestigious Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council." Dr. Proctor concluded. ". . . Probably the greatest benefit of CSHS-SCSH has been the opportunity afforded members to meet annually to share knowledge and experiences, and to communicate ideas relating to the profession and the industry on a national and international level<sup>8</sup>."

The other side of the coin showed a weakness in membership activities — especially in the eastern (Ontario/Quebec) region; a lack of faith evidenced by a membership that needed to be urged to publish in their own scientific journal rather than in the USA equivalent; and a financial strain on a small membership in paying the annual dues required to maintain the necessary affiliation with the Agriculture Institute of Canada and the

#### List of Past Presidents

1957	G. Howell Harris
1958	C. J. Bishop
1959	C. C. Strachan
1960	William D. Evans
1961	Robert H. Anderson
1962	A. William S. Hunter
1963	I. L. Nonnecke
1964	Roderick G. White
1965	Ian C. Crane
1966	H. Blair Heeney
1967	Charles Walkof
1968	Everett W. Franklin
1969	P. Joseph Moran
1970	Lloyd H. Lyall
1971	P. Duncan Hargrave
1972	Charles A. Eaves
1973	A. Charles Carter
1974	E. C. (Sam) Lougheed
1975	William A. Cumming, A. C. Ferguson
1976	Donald L. Craig
1977	Richard E. C. Layne
1978	William T. Andrew
1979	William B. Collins
1980	Eugene J. Hogue
1981	Emil Anderson
1982	Joseph M. Molnar
1983	A. David Crowe
1984	A. R. (Fred) Maurer
1985	John A. Cutcliffe
1986	Cecil Stushnoff
1987	Jim Tsujita
1988	John T. A. Proctor
1989	Deborah Buszard
1990	Michael Meheriuk
1991	Evans N. Estabrooks
1992	Evans N. Estabrooks
1993	Edward Kayler
1994	Edward Kayler
1995	Edward Kayler

International Society for Horticultural Science.

As the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science enters 1995, there will be more soul searching. Has the Society set itself the goals that will improve

scientific horticulture in Canada? Has it approached those objectives with suitable policies? Could more have been achieved?

Change will not come easily. The original challenge and excitement of

creating the Society has passed, the CSHS-SCSH now faces some plain hard work as the members evaluate their successes and failures, and plan to take the organization into the next century.

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**CSHS-SCSH Honorary Life Members**

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1960	M. B. Davis	Ottawa, Ontario
1968	E. F. Palmer	Vineland, Ontario
1969	W. A. Cumming W. L. Kerr John Walker	Morden, Manitoba Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Winnipeg, Manitoba
1970	R. J. Hilton A. S. W. Hunter P. O. Roy	Guelph, Ontario Ottawa, Ontario St.-Jean, Quebec
1971	C. A. Eaves G. H. Harris Charles Walkof	Centreville, Nova Scotia Vancouver, British Columbia Morden, Manitoba
1972	W. H. Upshall G. C. Warren	Vineland, Ontario Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
1973	J. H. Crossley T. O. Graham	Sidney, British Columbia Guelph, Ontario
1974	P. D. Hargrave K. O. Lapins T. W. Whitaker	Brooks, Alberta Don Mills, Ontario LaJolla, California
1975	E. W. Chipman E. W. Franklin	Kentville, Nova Scotia Guelph, Ontario
1976	O. A. Bradt C. M. Collins L. H. Lyall	Vineland Station, Ontario Port Williams, Nova Scotia Manotick, Ontario
1977	B. J. E. Teskey G. M. Ward	Guelph, Ontario Kitchener, Ontario
1978	A. C. Ferguson D. V. Fisher	Winnipeg, Manitoba Summerland, British Columbia
1981	Stanely Sheard H. B. Heeney	Regina, Saskatchewan Belleville, Ontario
1982	R. M. Adamson S. W. Porritt	Victoria, British Columbia Summerland, British Columbia
1983	T. H. Anstey D. L. Craig	Ottawa, Ontario Kentville, Nova Scotia
1984	E. T. Anderson A. C. Carter	Beamsville, Ontario Victoria, British Columbia
1985	J. A. Freeman Ernie Kerr	Agassiz, British Columbia Simcoe, Ontario
1986	D. H. Dabbs W. T. Andrew	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Edmonton, Alberta
1987	W. D. Evans	Guelph, Ontario
1988	J. K. Muehmer I. L. Nonnecke	Ridgetown, Ontario Guelph, Ontario
1989	Jean David	Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec
1990	R. E. Harris	Victoria, British Columbia
1991	E. C. (Sam) Lougheed	Guelph, Ontario
1992	Robert A. Cline Sherwood Miller John Wiebe	Vineland, Ontario Smithfield, Ontario Calgary, Alberta

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**Awards for Papers Published in the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science***

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<b>Charles Bishop Award</b> best horticultural paper published in CJPS	
1986	André Gosselin and Marc J. Trudel
1987	W. D. Lane and F. Cossio
1988	Luce S. Bernard, M. A. Dubuc-Lebreux, J. Vieth
1989	N. Tyler and C. Stushnoff
1990	P. R. Hickleton
1991	H. A. Quamme, F. Kappel and J. W. Hall
1992	N. S. Nehra, K. K. Kartha, C. Stushnoff
<b>Hoechst Award</b> best paper on pest control on a horticultural crop in CJPS	
1986	C. S. Tan and B. N. Dhanvantari
1987	J. A. Freeman
1988	A. Liptay and P. Vandierendonck
1989	R. S. Utkhede and H. A. Quamme
1990	K. I. N. Jensen, E. R. Kimball and C. L. Ricketson
<b>Westvale Award</b> best fruit crop paper published in CJPS	
1987	H. A. Quamme
1988	S. H. Nelson
<b>Graduate Student Paper Award</b> (Supervisor in parentheses)	
1986	G. M. Ivanochko (P. Pagan, W. T. Andrew)
1987	Bev A. Marie (D. P. Ormrod)
1988	J. M. Rutherford (N. R. Knowles) Narender Nehra (C. Stushnoff)
1989	Marie Helene Michaud Linda Champagne
<b>Graduate Student Poster</b>	
1989	Marylaine de Chantal (B. Dansereau)
1990	Mary Margaret Gaye (P. A. Joliffe, A. R. Maurer)
1991	Aline Grenier (Valentin Furlan, Katrine Stewart)
1992	Geoff Norrie (A. Gosselin) Dian Edwards (M. A. Dixon)

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**Notes**

<sup>1</sup>See *Whatever Happened to the Canadian Diploma in Horticulture?* in the May 1991 issue of *Kinnikinnick*.

<sup>2</sup>John Walker and W. H. (Bill) Cram of the Forest Nursery Station, Indian Head, Saskatchewan, and R. J. (Bob) Hilton, of the Department of Plant Science, University of Alberta.

<sup>3</sup>Dr. T. H. (Tom) Anstey was then Superintendent of the C.D.A. Experimental Station, Summerland, British Columbia.

<sup>4</sup>The term "professional" applied only to those who had a university degree. The term of sub-professional referred to non-degree support staff, in the technical and trades areas.

<sup>5</sup>The society bylaws restricted the membership to professionals (i.e., those with a university degree).

<sup>6</sup>Secretaries of CSHS-SCSH, first 30 years:

J. A. Freeman	1956/57
R. P. Langley	1958
J. R. Almey	1959
L. F. Ounsworth	1960
S. Sheard	1961
D. F. Cameron	1962
C. E. McNinch	1963-65
W. E. Evans	1966/67
E. W. Toop	1968
W. E. Evans	1969
W. B. Collins	1970-74
E. J. Hogue	1975-78
E. W. Toop	1979-81
I. V. Hall	1982-84
D. J. I. Buszard	1985/86

Ivan Hall and Tom Haliburton also made valuable contributions in the same capacity

(Ref. Dr. Charles J. Bishop. Personal Correspondence). It appears that Hogue was only able to escape the editorial position (in 1979) by being elected president of the Society.

<sup>7</sup>A copy of the CSHS-SCSH brochure, *Horticulture: A Rewarding Career*, may be obtained by contacting Roger Vick at DBG.

<sup>8</sup>After three decades, the CSHS-SCSH could claim over 200 members in four regional groups: Atlantic, Eastern, Prairie and Pacific. CSHS-SCSH could also boast affiliation with the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), as well as close ties with the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS). CSHS-SCSH is known in french as, "La Société Canadienne de Science Horticole."