

## AIC Report

Communications is a key area for AIC and I think a fairly good job is being done through the circulation of AAIC Notes@ by Jean Sullivan. So, most of what I report may not be news.

### **New AIC Executive Director**

With the appointment of Patty Townsend as the new AIC Executive Director, AIC should take a bold step forward. Patty comes from a background in communications and agriculture. I think she will be a great addition to the Board. I have also been impressed with President Garth Coffin and President-Elect Ed Tyrchniewicz. They both want to make AIC a relevant, national organization and both understand the importance of the science component of AIC.

### **AIC Board Meeting Outcomes**

The AIC Board of Directors met on November 2-3, 2001 in Ottawa for the fall board meeting. Outcomes include the following:

1. A committee will prepare a draft amendment of the AIC Bylaws to allow for the following changes:  
To allow the position of President to be elected by the board from within the board.  
To allow for the elimination of the position of President-Elect and the creation of the position of Vice President. The Vice-President to be elected by the board from within the board.  
(These changes will result in cost savings for the election.)
2. A number of actions to clarify and improve the cost-effectiveness of the governance of AIC. Included are the preparation of a board manual, move towards a policy governance model rather than a working board, the re-establishment of a board development committee to take action on board member orientation and training and the development of a board manual.
3. Concerted effort will be channelled into changing AIC into something that the member organizations are demanding. Considerations include corporate sponsorship, new models for action and operations including a close look at how CAST operates in the US.

### **AMO representation on the AIC Board**

John Proctor's term on the AIC board as one of the AMO representatives ended in December 2001. Dr. Peter Hinklenton has been acclaimed as incoming board member. Dr. Hinklenton is editor of the Canadian Journal of Plant Science and is a Past President of the Canadian Society for Horticultural science. Peter begins his term on the AIC Board in January 2002. Currently, Peter and I represent the eight scientific societies and associations. The Provincial Institutes are Full Member Organizations and each have a member on the Board. However, this year the BC Institutes of Agrologists, due to financial difficulties, will not be a FMO. So, as another AMO, BCIA will fall under Peter's and my representation.

### **Promoting the Profession of Agrology**

Advertisements announcing the President of AIC 2001-2002 and the 2001 Honours and Award recipients were placed in the Western Producer, Ontario Farmer, and the Farm Focus Ag Awareness supplement. The ads are titled "People of Distinction" and are meant to promote the Profession of Agrology, enhance the science of agriculture and recognize the contributions and accomplishments of AIC members of AIC Member Organizations. Advertisements promoting PAg's to employers will appear in Better Farming, Western Producer and Farm Focus over the next month. The "PAg, Mark of Distinction" ad will appear in BioteCANADA's new magazine to be published within the next month. This is also featured on the inside back cover of the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (July) and the Canadian Journal of Soil Science (November).

### **International Agricultural Development Program Update**

AIC's International Twinning Partnership Program (ITPP), supported through the Membership and Specialized Organizations Program of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), fosters collaboration between professionals in Canada and developing country counterpart organizations or institutions to identify needs and provide assistance in the agriculture and agri-food sectors. The Program focuses in two broad areas: Strengthening Capacity (of

partner organizations), and support to CIDA's Social Development Priorities, with a specific focus on local food production and household food security. This program is self funding.

Continuing partnerships include:

- \$ Canadian Society of Soil Science & Costa Rican Soil Science Society
- \$ Canadian Society of Soil Science & the Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka
- \$ Canadian Society of Extension & the Tanzania Society of Agricultural Education and Extension
- \$ Canadian Society of Soil Science & the Vietnam Society of Soil Science

New partnerships are underway between:

- \$ The Canadian Society of Horticultural Science & the Ghana Institute of Horticulturalists
- \$ The British Columbia Institute of Agrologists & the Mzuzu University Trust Fund

The ITPP continues to provide opportunities for AIC member organizations to contribute to development work, and\_ to learn more about the challenges facing their professional counterparts in developing countries. AIC's International Agricultural Development Committee encourages member organizations to present new project proposals that support the ITPP goals of strengthened agricultural institutions in developing countries so that they may contribute to economic and social development.

#### **AIC 2003 Conference**

Because none of the Member Organizations or AMOs have volunteered to host a conference, we discussed meeting immediately before or after the 4th International Conference on Mycorrhizae (ICOM) in Montreal since the CSSS, CSHS and CSA are planning joint meetings. The ICOM dates are Aug 10-15, 2003. However, after the last Board meeting, another scenario was discussed. This was sent out to AMO Presidents for discussion.

#### **Canadian Agri-Food Research Council**

I've taken over from John Proctor as AIC Board rep to the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council. President-Elect Ed Tyrchniewicz attended the meeting in Ottawa (saves travel fare for me) but I will go to the semi-annual meeting to be held in BC in August.

#### **Scientific Journals Committee**

The SJC is committee is composed of the following:

A. Shaeffer, Chair; M. Price, P. Hinklenton, R. Simard, the Executive Director, and Tim Fenton, Head of Journal Publications.

Respectfully submitted

Valerie Stevens  
AIC Board AMO Representative