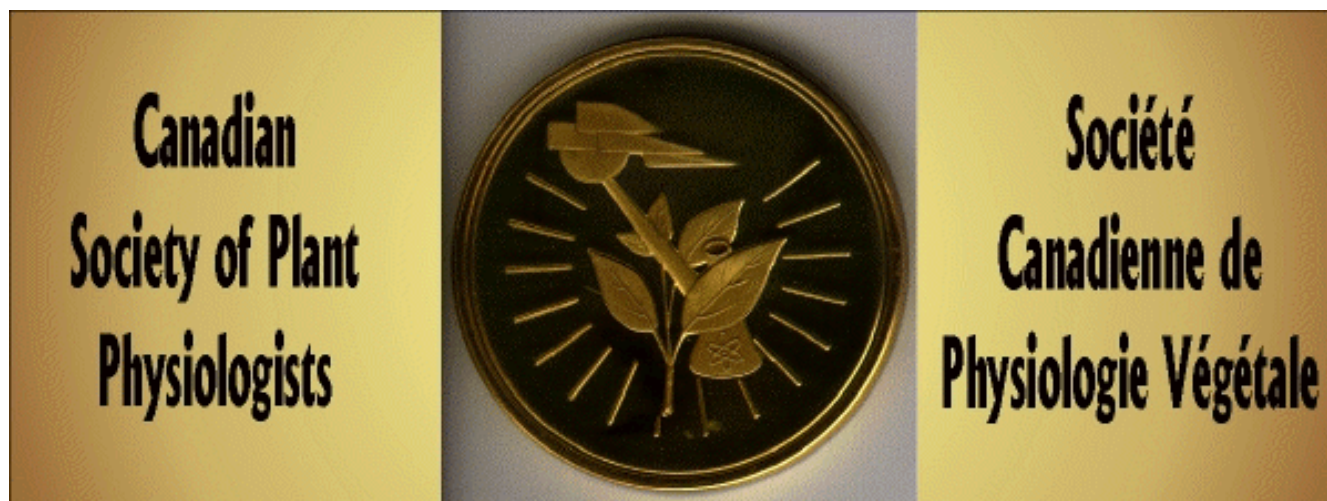


BULLETIN

BULLETIN

of the

de la



APRIL 2005

AVRIL 2005

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Editor 2
 GEORGE H. DUFF - Travel bursary..... 2
 2004 Plant Canada Meeting 3
 Report 2004 Regional Meetings 4
 Message from the Education Director 4
 Treasurer's Notes 5
 New CSPP student/postdoc representative 5
 Obituary – Marilyn Griffith 6
 Obituary – George Hugh Neil Towers..... 7
 CSPP Executive and Committee Members..... 8
 Upcoming events..... 9
 Collaborators 9

DANS CE NUMÉRO

Mot du Rédacteur..... 2
 Bourses de voyage – GEORGE H. DUFF 2
 Conférence Plant Canada 2005 3
 Rapport des rencontres régionales 2004 4
 Mot de la directrice à l'éducation 4
 Nouvelles du trésorier 5
 Nouveau représentant étudiant/postdoc 5
 Avis de décès – Marilyn Griffith 6
 Avis de décès – George Hugh Neil Towers.... 7
 Membres de l'Exécutif et des divers comités . 8
 Futures conférences 9
 Collaborateurs 9

Plant Canada 2005, June 15-18th at the University of Alberta in Edmonton,
 More information and on-line registration: www.plantcanada2005.ca



MOT DU RÉDACTEUR



Bonjour à tous

Il me fait plaisir de vous faire parvenir un nouveau numéro du bulletin de la SCPV-CSPP. La parution de ce numéro qui coïncide avec l'arrivée du printemps annonce également l'approche de notre rencontre annuelle qui se tiendra cette année du 15 au 18 juin à

Edmonton. Cet événement s'effectuera cette année dans le cadre d'une conférence multidisciplinaire réunissant six sociétés scientifiques canadiennes;

- la Société Canadienne de Malherbologie
- la Société Canadienne de Physiologie Végétale
- la Société Canadienne de Phytopathologie Végétale
- la Société Canadienne de Science
- la Société Canadienne d'Agronomie,
- et l'Association Botanique du Canada

C'est sous la bannière de « Plant Canada » que cette deuxième conférence du genre aura lieu, le premier événement s'étant déroulé à Antigonish, Nouvelle Écosse en juin 2003. Le comité organisateur du congrès nous propose un programme fort intéressant à en juger par la

brochette de conférenciers et de conférencières invités (pour plus de détails, voir l'article en page 3 intitulé : 2005 Plant Canada Meeting).

Le début de 2005 nous apporta une triste nouvelle, soit le décès subit de Marilyn Griffith, professeur à l'Université de Waterloo et directrice sénior de la SCPV. Je vous invite tous à lire les bons mots de Barbara Moffatt et Elizabeth Weretilnyk à l'endroit de Marilyn en page 4 de ce bulletin. Suite au départ de Marilyn, Derek Bewley, ancien membre de l'exécutif a généreusement offert ses services pour terminer le mandat de Marilyn et permettre le bon fonctionnement des activités de notre société. Nous lui en sommes grandement reconnaissant.

Sur ces mots, je vous laisse à la lecture de ce bulletin en espérant vous rencontrer en personne cet été à Edmonton. Sachez que vos commentaires sont toujours les bienvenus afin de rendre cet outil que représente le bulletin de la SCPV le plus informatif et utile possible. Si vous avez de nouvelles idées de chroniques ou d'articles divers à me proposer, j'en serai ravi.

A la prochaine

Pierre Bilodeau
Secrétaire/Rédacteur

BOURSE DE VOYAGE – GEORGE H. DUFF - TRAVEL BURSARY

The CSPP invites applications for the George Duff student travel bursaries to promote graduate student participation at the CSPP Annual Meeting (Plant Canada 2005), June 15-18, 2005 at the University of Alberta. The bursaries are intended for those students who will be presenting their work (oral or poster) at the meeting and who are student members of CSPP at the time of application. Based on cost, preference will be given to students travelling the furthest and presenting in the oral category or as first author of a poster presentation. The maximum individual award is \$ 500.00. Deadline for receipt of applications is May 10, 2005. Bursaries are contingent upon the recipient attending and presenting their work at the meeting. Enquiries regarding the bursaries should be sent to Dr. Greg Vanlerberghe, University of Toronto at Scarborough, gregv@utsc.utoronto.ca, or Dr. Doug Muench, University of Calgary, dmuench@ucalgary.ca.

La SCPV offre un certain nombre de bourses de voyage afin d'encourager la participation des étudiants(es) gradués(es) au congrès annuel de la SCPV (Plant Canada 2005) qui se tiendra à l'Université de Alberta, du 15 au 18 juin 2005. La bourse vise à aider les étudiants(es) gradués(es) actuellement membres de la SCPV à se rendre à Edmonton pour y présenter leurs résultats (présentation orale ou affiche). Les étudiants(es) qui sont auteurs d'une présentation orale (ou premier auteur d'une affiche) et devant parcourir de plus longues distances pour se rendre au congrès auront priorité lors de l'attribution des bourses. L'octroi maximum pour une bourse est de 500.00\$ par personne. La date d'échéance pour la réception des demandes est le 10 mai 2005. Les bourses seront attribuées à condition que le/la gagnant(e) se rende à Edmonton lors de la conférence pour y faire une présentation orale ou présenter une affiche. Pour plus d'informations au sujet des bourses de voyage, veuillez contacter Dr. Greg Vanlerberghe, University of Toronto at Scarborough, gregv@utsc.utoronto.ca, ou Dr. Doug Muench, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary, dmuench@ucalgary.ca.

2005 PLANT CANADA MEETING



Plant Canada 2005 will be held on the University of Alberta campus in Edmonton, June 15-18th. It is the first joint meeting of six major Canadian scientific societies devoted to plant biology. Currently planned major symposia topics include:

- Global Food Security & Biotechnology
- Plants, Canada, and Climate Change
- Roots and the Underground Environment
- Shoot Apical Meristems: Structure and Function
- Horticultural Crop Quality and Human Health
- Nutrient Use Efficiency
- Arctic and Alpine Plants
- Resistance to Disease: Unraveling the Plant Response
- Contemporary issues in statistics, data management, plant biology and agricultural research

...plus up to 40 other smaller symposia.

Confirmed and invited speakers include:

Benfey, Phillip	Brandle, James
Brisson, Normand	Dengler, Nancy
Draper, John	Hiratsuka, Yasuyuki
Ibrahim, Ragain	Kachanoski, Gary
Kenkel, Norm	Klironomos, John
Kronzucker, Herbert	Layzell, David
Mattoo, Autar	McRae, Ken
Muhammed, Tahir	Prusinkiewicz, Przemek
Rothstein, Stephen	Steeves, Taylor
Suzuki, David	Swaminathan, M.S.
Tinker, Nicolas	Vance, Carroll
Wilson, Scott	Yan, Weikai

Don't forget to book dorm or hotel accommodations. Temporarily discounted nightly rates are available from \$23/person for shared dorm rooms, up to \$145/person for one bedroom executive suites.

More information and on-line registration are available at:
www.plantcanada2005.ca,
 or e-mail info@plantcanada2005.ca.

CORPORATE/INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORS



REPORTS 2004 REGIONAL MEETINGS

WESTERN MEETING, SASKATOON, Saskatchewan

The 2004 CSPP Western Regional Meeting was held December 9-10 at the University of Saskatchewan. Over 50 plant biologists representing each of the western provinces attended, of which included a van load of participants from the Hill lab at the University of Manitoba. Our President, Deep Saini, also made the trek to Saskatoon. Immediately following the meeting, Deep travelled directly to the Eastern Regional meeting in Kingston – what a trooper!

The meeting was highlighted by excellent talks from the invited speakers, Federica Brandizzi (Life inside a plant cell: dynamics of the early secretory pathway) and Lacey Samuels (Building a cell wall: new models for wax and monoglucuronol export). The opening mixer amidst the dinosaurs in the Biology/Geology atrium, and the closing banquet at Marquis Hall, provided the participants with the opportunity to discuss science in a relaxed atmosphere.

The Western Regional Director Awards were presented for best oral and poster presentations, and included an award certificate and cash prize. Jaqueline Hulm (supervisor – Peta Bonham-Smith) was awarded the best oral presentation for her talk entitled “The four members of the ribosomal protein S15A gene family are differentially transcribed in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.” The top poster award went to W.P. Liu (supervisor – John King) for her presentation entitled “One carbon (C-1) metabolism in response to biotic and abiotic stresses.”

Overall, the meeting was a resounding success! Plans are underway for the next Western Regional Meeting – stay tuned for details.

Gordon Gray and Doug Muench
Meeting Organizers

EASTERN MEETING, KINGSTON, Ontario

The 2004 Eastern Regional Meeting was held at the Biosciences Complex on the campus of Queen’s University, Kingston Canada. Events began with a Friday night mixer in the Atrium and continued with poster and oral sessions throughout a full Saturday schedule. The oral sessions began with two plenary talks. The first was by Maria Harrison (Cornell University), describing her work on arbuscular mycorrhizae. The second was delivered by Normand Brisson (Université de Montréal) and described his work on defense gene regulation by transcription factors. Both talks were excellent and well received.

In keeping with tradition, the meeting included graduate student awards for best oral and best poster presentations. Numerous faculty were involved in the judging of presentations and a choice of winners was made difficult by the all-round excellence of the candidates. Best oral presentation was awarded to Dominic Rosso (University of Western Ontario), for his talk on the Arabidopsis IMMUTANS. Best poster presentation was awarded to Jeff Waller (Queen’s University) for his poster on NADH kinases. Honorable mentions went to Martha Mullally (Carleton University; oral) and Mark Held (University of Waterloo; poster).

The CSPP thanks Wayne Snedden and Lynn O’Malley (Queen’s University) for organizing this very successful meeting!

Greg Vanlerberghe
CSPP Eastern Regional Director

MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR



The Plant Canada meeting in Edmonton is approaching fast and it is my pleasure to announce that in collaboration with the Education and Teaching Committees of several other participating societies we were able to include two education related events at the meeting:

"Teaching Roundtable": A panel will discuss questions concerning the future of botanical training at Universities in Canada. It seems that more and more botany departments are disappearing and fewer and fewer opportunities are available for students to pursue botany. The importance of teaching "classical" topics such as diversity, ecology, systematics, anatomy, and morphology of plants versus the dominance of molecular biology related disciplines will be discussed.

"Session on teaching issues": Both keynote speakers and speakers chosen from contributed abstracts will have the opportunity to speak about different aspects of teaching plant science related classes. Of particular interest are new concepts for teaching including modern media and for organizing lab classes.

Contributions to both events are strongly encouraged. Those interested in contributing actively to the "Teaching Roundtable" are invited to contact me, whereas abstracts for the "Teaching Session" should be submitted directly to the conference organizers at www.plantcanada2005.ca.

Anja Geitmann, Education Director

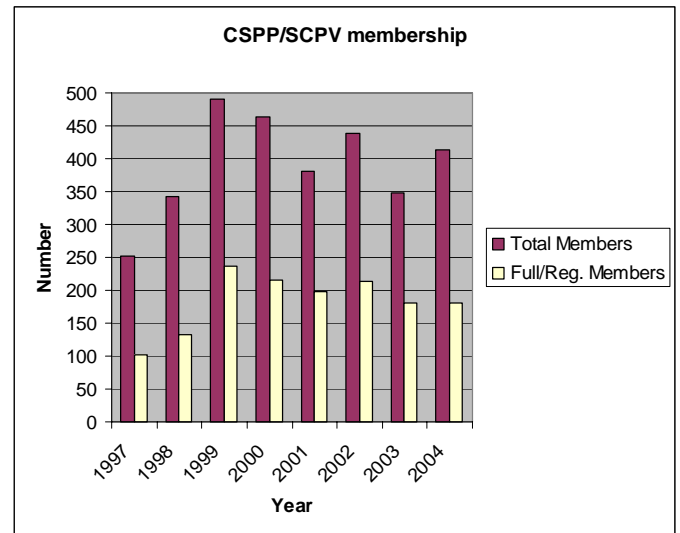
TREASURER'S NOTES



Don't forget to renew your CSPP/SCPV membership. Among other things, having a current Society membership provides a \$100 discount to the Plant Canada 2005 conference in Edmonton this June.

With respect to membership I did a quick analysis of Society membership trends since 1997. As you can see, we had a sharp increase in membership in the late 90's, and have been holding steady since then.

Harold Weger, Treasurer



NEW CSPP STUDENT/POSTDOC REPRESENTATIVE

From J. Derek Bewley, Acting Senior Director and Chair of the Nominations Committee:

Following a bid for nominations I am pleased to announce that Andrew McCartney will be the new Representative for the Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows on the Executive Committee of the Society, starting in June of this year. Andrew is a PhD student at the University of Guelph, and below is a brief biography.

I was first exposed to biological science while growing up on the family farm in rural New Brunswick. Those experiences compelled me to pursue undergraduate studies in biology at Mount Allison University where I developed a keen interest in plants. After graduating from Mount Allison with a BSc degree in 1998, I chose to pursue my interests in plants through further studies at the University of Guelph. I eventually enrolled in the Department of Botany's graduate program and am currently a PhD student in the laboratory of Dr. Robert Mullen. My research project is focused on understanding the role of the host in plant virus replication.

During my graduate studies I have had the privilege of attending a number of CSPP meetings, both

at the regional and national levels, where I have enjoyed meeting colleagues from across the country. I look forward to this opportunity to serve on the CSPP executive.

McCartney AW, Dyer JM, Dhanoa PK, Kim PK, Andrews DW, McNew JA, Mullen RT. (2004) Membrane-bound fatty acid desaturases are inserted cotranslationally into the ER and contain different ER retrieval motifs at their carboxy termini. *Plant Journal* 37:156-173.

McCartney AW, Greenwood JS, Mullen RT. (2004) The Tomato bushy stunt virus replicase protein p33 contains multiple peroxisomal membrane targeting signals and causes the formation of novel vesicles adjacent to aggregated peroxisomes. *Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists, Guelph, ON, June 2004.*

McCartney AW, Mullen RT. (2002) Characterization of the sorting pathways and targeting signals for two different viral replicase proteins that localize to either mitochondria or peroxisomes in plant cells. *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Cell Biology, San Francisco, CA, December 2002.*

McCartney AW, Mullen RT. (2002) Characterization of the sorting pathways and targeting signals for two different viral replicase proteins that localize to either mitochondria or peroxisomes in plant cells. Eastern Regional Meeting of the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists, St. Catharines, ON, December 2002.

McCartney AW, Mullen RT. (2002) Subcellular localization of a RNA virus replicase protein in tobacco BY-2 cells: Transient expression of the 33 kDa protein from Tomato bushy stunt virus causes the disappearance of peroxisomes. Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists, Calgary, AB, June 2002.

OBITUARIES

Marilyn Griffith (1953-2005)

It is with great shock and sadness that members of the CSPP learned of Marilyn Griffith's sudden death on February 19, 2005, due to complications arising from a stroke. Marilyn gained international recognition for her research on cold hardiness in plants, particularly in winter rye and more recently in *Thellungiella*. Her discovery of plant antifreeze proteins led to successful collaborations with scientists in many disciplines. The focus and integrity she brought to her work resulted in a collection of highly cited publications and a cadre of highly trained students and postdoctoral fellows. Her colleagues respected her knowledgeable, honest, and principled opinions. Marilyn will be greatly missed by our Society, which benefited from her enthusiasm and commitment to research in plant biology.

Marilyn received a B.A. in 1975 from Mount Holyoke College, a liberal arts college in Massachusetts, a Master's degree in Forestry Science from Yale University in 1977, and her Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from the University of Minnesota in 1981. She was a Killam Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Botany, University of British Columbia in 1981-82, and then she joined Norm Huner as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Western Ontario, where she worked from 1982-84. It seemed that Marilyn's professional training was on a northern trajectory, especially for the next step in her career. From 1984 to 1987, she served as Assistant Professor at the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. In 1987 she moved south to become an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Waterloo, where she was promoted to the rank of Associate in 1994 and later to Full Professor in 2000. In 2003 she was recognized as a Killam Research Fellow, a prestigious title she held at the time of her death.

Marilyn will be remembered as an outstanding and creative scientist. She authored or co-authored more than eighty research publications, her innovative research led to four patents relating to cold tolerance of plants, and she was the founder and a member of the Board of Directors of Ice Biotech, Inc. She enjoyed many active roles in the plant biology community, and her expertise



and insight were much sought after. She served on the Grant Selection Committee in Plant Biology, NSERC (2000-2003); as Associate Editor, Canadian Journal of Botany (2005-present); Subject Editor, *Physiologia Plantarum* (1998-2001); Minireview Editor, *Physiologia Plantarum* (1995-present); Eastern Regional Director, Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists (1994-1996); and was the Senior Director, Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists (2003-2005). She mentored many postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students over the years, and she hosted several visiting scientists who came to share ideas and passion for research on the mechanisms of freezing tolerance in plants. Numerous German undergraduate students visited her lab for six-month research terms, where they were exposed to her enthusiasm and high standards for science. She strongly promoted female scientists and worked hard to see women recognized for their scientific achievements. One of Marilyn's outstanding skills was her ability to draw others towards her exciting work and foster a synergistic environment that made her a great collaborator and catalyst for innovative projects.

Colleagues who worked closely with Marilyn would agree that she seldom fit her research data to existing paradigms; she sought new hypotheses to help explain her observations, and at times her work was viewed with skepticism. However, Marilyn's ability to

devise new hypotheses was a talent that made her the exceptional scientist that she was. Nothing would make her happier than to see her work subjected to the same scrutiny that she felt all scientific endeavours should withstand. She has left a rich legacy of scientific data and no doubt would have continued to do so had fate not deprived us so soon of a scientist of great intellect and creativity.

On a more personal note, many of us will remember Marilyn by her infectious, distinctive laugh (giggle); a

smaller, perhaps “privileged,” group also will have sampled her exceptional home-baked cookies. Still others will have fond memories of the friend who shared her time to help neighbours, friends, and colleagues with everything from gardening to shovelling snow. On behalf of the CSPP, we extend our deepest sympathies to Tim Thorne, her husband of 21 years, her parents, her brother, and her sister on their loss of Marilyn.

Barbara Moffatt
Elizabeth Weretilnyk

George Hugh Neil Towers (1923 - 2004).

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of UBC Emeritus Professor of Botany Neil Towers, who died peacefully at his Vancouver home on November 15, 2004 at age 81. Neil was a founding member of the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists. He served our society in many capacities, most notably as our President in 1965.



Dr Towers was well known nationally and internationally for his record of pioneering and sustained research in botany and phytochemistry. He was born in Bombay, India and was educated in Burma where his interest in the natural world began. He obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from McGill University, and his Ph.D. in 1954 from

Cornell University. After academic appointments at McGill and the NRC in Halifax, Dr. Towers was recruited to UBC, where he served as Head of the Department of Botany from 1964-71, a period of great expansion of the Department. After 1971, he devoted his full energies to his successful career in research and teaching, which he continued as an emeritus faculty member from 1989 until his death. Dr. Towers was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, from whom he received the Flavelle Medal in 1986. He received numerous research awards and prizes over his career. Most recently, he was awarded the Pergamon Phytochemistry Prize in 2000, and in 2001 was recognized as one of UBC's (and the world's) most highly cited scientists by ISI. He published more than 425 papers and book chapters, starting with a 1953 paper in Nature. He devoted his extraordinary life to science and traveled extensively to collect plants worldwide. Dr. Towers had a lifelong passion for tennis, music, travel, botanical and phytochemical diversity, and stimulating discussions with colleagues and students, all of which he actively pursued until shortly before his death.

A memorial was held on the UBC Campus in December 2004. Donations may be made to: The George Hugh Neil Towers Memorial Fund, Awards Services, UBC Development Office, 6253 NW Marine Drive, Vancouver V6T 1Z1, 604-822-8920. Marine Drive, Vancouver V6T 1Z1, 604-822-8920.

Communicated by Rob Guy
CSPP Vice-President

CSPP EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2004-2005

EXECUTIVE

President: Deep Saini (Montreal) 2005
Vice-President: Rob Guy (British Columbia) 2005
Senior Directors: Derek Bewley (Guelph) interim
Secretary: Pierre Bilodeau (Medicago, Ste Foy) 2006
Treasurer: Harold Weger (Regina) 2006

Western Director: Doug Muench (Calgary) 2005
Eastern Director: Greg Vanlerberghe (Toronto) 2006
Science Policy Director: Barbara Moffatt (Waterloo) 2006
Education Director: Anja Geitmann (Montreal) 2005
Communications Director: Gordon Gray (Sask) 2005
Student representative Andrew McCartney (Guelph) 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPNominating Committee

Derek Bewley, Senior Director (Chair) Interim
Peta Bonham-Smith (Sask) 2005
Ljerke Kunst (UBC) 2006

Meeting Site Committee

Rob Guy (UBC) Chair 2005
Joan Krochko (PBI) 2005
Allen Good (Alberta) 2006
Aine Plant (SFU) 2006

Communications Committee

Pierre Bilodeau (Secretary)
Mike Stasiak (Webmaster, Guelph)
Gordon Gray (Communications Director)

Education Committee

Anja Geitmann, Education Director (Chair) 2005
Barry Micallef (Guelph) 2006
Doug Ormrod (Victoria) 2006

CD Nelson Award Committee

Dave Kristie (Acadia) 2005 Chair
Vipen Sawhney (Sask) 2006
Daphne Goring (Toronto) 2007

Gleb Krotkov Award Committee

Roger Horton (Guelph) 2005 Chair
Normand Brisson (Montreal) 2006
Larry Fowke (Sask) 2007

Society (Gold) Medal Award Committee

Peter Jolliffe (UBC) 2005 Chair
John Coleman (Toronto) 2006
Ed Yeung (Calgary) 2007

David Gifford Tree Physiology Award Committee

Allison Kermode (SFU) 2005 Chair
Mike Dixon (Guelph) 2006
Jocelyn Ozga (Alberta) 2007

Ann Oaks Scholarship Committee

Harold Weger (Regina) Chair
Elizabeth Weretilnyk (McMaster) Co-Chair 2006
Frederique Guinel (Laurier) 2005
Connie Nozzolillo (Ottawa) 2006
Doug Campbell (Mt Allison) 2007
George Espie (UT Mississauga) Advisor

Auditors

Ken Wilson (Sask) and Vipen Sawhney (Sask) 2004-5

UPCOMING EVENTS

73^e Congrès de l'ACFAS, La Société des Savoir
 Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Chicoutimi
 9-13 mai 2005
www.acfas.ca/congres

**Plant Development, Meristems; Root & Flower
 Development; Transition to Flower; Fertilisation &
 Seed Development, PhD Summer School**
 Maratea, Italy
 June 8 - 11

2005 In Vitro Biology Meeting
 Baltimore, Maryland
 5-8 June 2005
www.sivb.org/meetings.asp

16 International Arabidopsis Research
 Madison, Wisconsin
 14-19 June

Plant Canada 2005
 University of Edmonton,
 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
 15-19 June

Plant Biology 2005
 Seattle, Washington
 16-20 July
www.aspb.org/meetings

XVII International Botanical Congress
 Vienna, Austria
 17-23 July 2005

COLLABORATORS

Derek BewleyCSPP/SCPV Acting Senior Director
 Mike DeyholosChair, Organization committee, Plant Canada 2005
 Anja Geitmann.....CSPP/SCPV Education Director
 Gordon GrayCSPP/SCPV Communication Director
 Rob Guy.....CSPP/SCPV Vice President
 Barbara MoffattCSPP/SCPV Science Policy Director
 Elizabeth WeretilnykUniversity of Waterloo
 Doug MuenchCSPP/SCPV Western Regional Director
 Harold WegerCSPP/SCPV Treasurer
 Greg VanlerbergheCSPP/SCPV Eastern Regional Director

Note: We welcome your comments and suggestions for future publications of the CSPP/SCPV News Bulletin. Please forward all your written material to Pierre Bilodeau (secretary@cspp-scpv.ca).

Next issue of the CSPP/SCPV Bulletin:
OCTOBER 2005