

# AGRICOLA NEWS

For the Alumni and Friends of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Winter 2002  
Volume 26 Number 1

The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, a national centre for education and research in organic agriculture at NSAC, will help quench a growing thirst for knowledge in this fast-emerging sector.

## *Why* **Organic** *Agriculture?*



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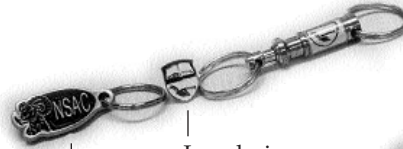


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# AGRICOLA NEWS

For the Alumni and Friends of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Winter 2002

Volume 26 Number 2

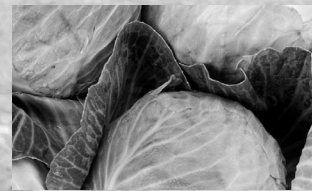
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## Why Organic Agriculture?

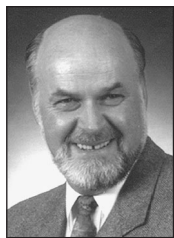


The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, a national centre for education and research in organic agriculture at NSAC, will help quench a growing thirst for knowledge in this fast-emerging sector.



### Highlights

The Haley Institute of Animal Science \_\_\_\_\_ 13



On Founders Day, February 14th, 2002, the NSAC named the Animal Science and Aquaculture Building, the Haley Institute of Animal Science and Aquaculture after Dr. Leslie Haley, Principal NSAC from 1989 till 1996.

Fundraising Priorities \_\_\_\_\_ 14



Organized fundraising has been identified as an important element of the activities of the NSAC and the establishment of the Development and Alumni Relations Office is recognition of that priority.

New Foundation Directors \_\_\_\_\_ 21



The NSAC Foundation Board welcomes the Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, Dick Huggard and Sherry Porter.

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#### AGRICOLA NEWS

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# A Message from the Principal



Fellow Alumni and Friends,

On behalf of all staff and students at the NSAC, let me begin by wishing everyone a happy and successful new year. May good fortune smile upon you!

As we enter the second year of the new millennium, it seems like the right time to be looking forward and planning strategically to seize the opportuni-

ties expected to come our way. That is exactly what we are attempting to do as we draw toward the conclusion of our strategic planning process that has been going on during the past year. The title of our draft plan, "Looking Outward - Embracing Change", is meant to convey recognition of the need to be more tuned in to the world around us and to be leading appropriate changes rather than waiting for them to be thrust upon us. The response of our external stakeholders group (including a number of alumni) to a planning workshop in November was quite constructive and we are thankful for their input. We are planning another internal process before the plan is finalized, but I believe we can look forward to changes in academic programs, more emphasis on internationalization, community service, recruitment and staff development and continued emphasis on research and a new form of governance.

A major action taken recently to support the strategic planning exercise and recruitment activities was the commissioning of a market study designed to find out what various publics know and think about the NSAC and how we can attract more students. The study being carried out by Corporate Research Associates was not completed at time of writing but preliminary results indicate we have substantial work to do to raise the profile of NSAC. We thank all those who participated in the survey and solicit your continued support in helping achieve greater recognition for our alma mater.

If you are wondering about the importance of the market study, it is particularly critical to our recruitment efforts. After three years of declining enrolment, we simply must find a more effective means of communicating the growing job opportunities for graduates in this field. Last year, for example, we experienced a 22 per cent increase in jobs posted through our career services office (1022 opportunities!). We are currently using TV advertising to support our other efforts and have recently boosted our scholarship offerings in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador. But perhaps we need each member of the alumni to tell a young person about the career opportunities in this field.

One highly significant event which occurred last July was the awarding of a federal grant of just under one million dollars to establish the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada at NSAC. While we are pursuing additional funds to match the federal grant, work has already begun on the early projects of the Centre, under the leadership of its first director, Dr. Ralph Martin. It was largely due to Dr. Martin's hard work, determination, vision and national reputation that we have the distinc-

tion of hosting the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada at NSAC. But we have as strong a core of professors with expertise in this field as you will find anywhere in Canada. With an emphasis on the science and technology of organic agriculture, the Centre will be focused on providing information to farmers across Canada who are interested in responding to the growing consumer demand for organic products.

In keeping with the need to improve our connection with the world around us and to develop our capacity and readiness for fund-raising, we have rearranged our administrative functions and office locations to create a Development and Alumni Relations Office. Stephanie Rogers will continue to commit part of her time in working with Jim Goit and Jo-Anne Jordan in this effort. Associated with these developments you will find an article on funding priorities in this newsletter. Contributions in any of these areas would be welcomed at any time.

Thanks to the spirit of the alumni who joined us for the Homecoming in October, we had a successful event. One of the highlights, as usual, was the Library Breakfast held on Saturday morning in the MacRae Library. The theme on the Co-op Movement and an entertaining speech by Allister Marshal, was an appropriate background for the signing of an M.O.U. with Co-op Atlantic. The M.O.U. commits NSAC and Co-op Atlantic to work together in pursuit of common interests in areas of education, training and research for the benefit of agriculture in Atlantic Canada.

I want to extend my congratulations to Byron Beeler who was chosen as the Distinguished Alumnus for 2001. Byron is very deserving of this recognition as someone who is a great supporter of the NSAC and has always carried the NSAC banner proudly and high throughout his outstanding career in agribusiness. Bravo Byron.

Before leaving alumni matters, I want to acknowledge and thank retiring Association Directors John Hutchings, Roy MacKenzie, Walter Termeer and Barry Russell for their service and to welcome new Directors Melanie Laird, Danny Phinney, Gordon Murray, Wendy Burns and Lisa Ashworth. I look forward to working with you.

Also of interest to Alumni is the recent appointment of two more alumni to the Board of the NSAC Foundation. Dick Huggard and Sherry Porter have been appointed to three-year terms, joining alumnus Dr. Nancy Crowe, along with the Honourable Margaret McCain (reappointed for a new three-year term) and David Martin, Vice-President of the Bank of Nova Scotia and Chair of the Foundation Board. We look forward to a closer working relationship between these two groups in the coming year.

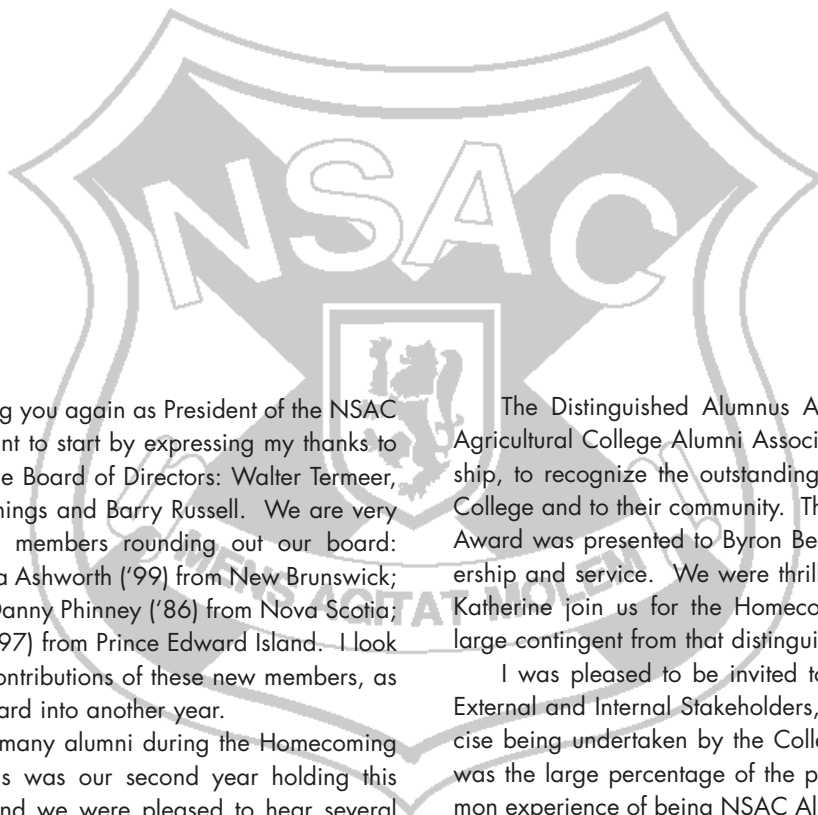
There is always more to be said than space or time allows. So I will conclude by saying, simply, that we appreciate your continued interest and support and we will be counting on that even more as we address the challenges which lie ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garth Coffin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Garth Coffin, Class of '60  
Principal, NSAC

# A Message from the President



It is a pleasure to be writing you again as President of the NSAC Alumni Association. I want to start by expressing my thanks to the retiring members of the Board of Directors: Walter Termeer, Roy MacKenzie, John Hutchings and Barry Russell. We are very pleased to have five new members rounding out our board: Melanie Laird, ('94) and Lisa Ashworth ('99) from New Brunswick; Gordon Murray ('01) and Danny Phinney ('86) from Nova Scotia; and Wendy (Hollis) Burns ('97) from Prince Edward Island. I look forward to the ideas and contributions of these new members, as the Association moves forward into another year.

It was great to see so many alumni during the Homecoming Weekend in October. This was our second year holding this annual event in the Fall, and we were pleased to hear several favourable comments. One improvement noted was the scheduling of the various events. This reduced the conflict between competing events, and allowed alumni to participate more fully while enjoying their weekend. It was particularly gratifying to see the excellent participation in the Annual Meeting. I want to once again thank the organizing committee for a job well done.

I also had the privilege of participating in the Autumn Assembly in October, where the Association presented over \$13,000 in scholarships and bursaries. This support is crucial to the College and our future alumni, and I trust you will consider any help you can give in this vital area.

The Alumni Association established a "Donor Recognition Program" in the past year. The purpose of this program is to encourage financial support to the Association and to recognize frequency of donations as opposed to the amount of support. Certificates were presented to several members who have made numerous financial contributions to the Association.

It was fitting in the International Year of the Volunteer that the Alumni Association also established a volunteer recognition program in 2001. The volunteer recognition award will serve to express the appreciation of the Association for the involvement of alumni on committees and the board of directors. Teri Kennedy, the NSAC student who worked for the Association during the summer of 2001, developed a certificate to acknowledge alumni as they reach the five, ten and fifteen year benchmarks of service to the Association. We would love to put your name on one of them; so please consider any way you may be able to help the Association and the greater College community.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award allows the Nova Scotia Agricultural College Alumni Association, on behalf of its membership, to recognize the outstanding contributions of alumni to the College and to their community. The 2001 Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to Byron Beeler, Class of '56, for his leadership and service. We were thrilled to have Byron and his wife Katherine join us for the Homecoming Weekend, along with a large contingent from that distinguished class.

I was pleased to be invited to participate, along with other External and Internal Stakeholders, in the Strategic Planning exercise being undertaken by the College. One thing that struck me was the large percentage of the participants who share the common experience of being NSAC Alumni. Members swell the ranks of leadership in the agricultural industry in Atlantic Canada and beyond. Surely we can find ways to harness this resource to benefit the College where needed.

The College many of us knew in our student days has grown and progressed, however, many challenges lie ahead. Declining enrolment is affecting the NSAC, as it is agricultural faculties throughout North America. There are many ways alumni can help, but the reality in these days of shrinking resources is that financial support is more needed than ever. Your Board would love to hear suggestions for ways the Alumni, and your Association, can provide tangible help.

I wish you the best for 2002, and I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming year.

Sincerely,

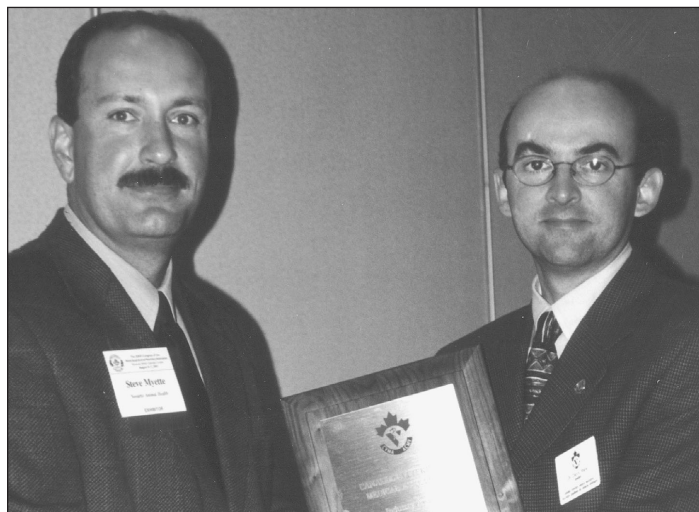
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clint McLean'.

*Clint McLean, Class of '79  
President, NSAC Alumni Association*

# *Around & About.....*

*Steve Myette, Class of '81* \_\_\_\_\_

CVMA Industry Award



*Dr. Darcey Shaw, CVMA President, presents the Industry award to Steve Myette*

The CVMA Industry Award was established to publicly acknowledge and celebrate the role of industry in veterinary medicine. The award formally recognizes the contribution of groups or individuals, veterinarians and non veterinarians to the advancement of veterinary medicine.

Mr. Steve Myette has proved his dedication to the advancement of veterinary medicine in his 16 years as a volunteer with the Atlantic Provinces Veterinary Conference (APVC). Mr. Myette began his involvement with the APVC as an industry representative for Bimeda-MTC Animal Health Inc. This evolved into a 15-year-volunteer position as assistant to Dr. Bert Stevenson, the chairman on arrangements for the APVC. Described by Dr. Stevenson as the 'heart and soul of the planning committee,' Mr. Myette helped to revive the APVC by working closely with other industry representatives and exhibitors and by incorporating all members of the veterinary team.

In the early 1990s, it became clear to the conference organizers that the APVC would need to change in order to grow with the times; more commercial representatives than veterinarians were attending the conference. Through discussions with conference attendees, the committee was able to determine what veterinarians in the Atlantic provinces wanted from their conference- continuing veterinary education at a reasonable price. This year's attendance at the APVC was a record 400 veterinarians, technicians, office staff and industry supporters. My. Myette continues to volunteer with the APVC, lecture at the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Animal Health Technology programs and works as an animal health pharmaceutical representative for Novartis Animal Health Inc.

*Kyla and David Pierik, Class of '92* \_\_\_\_\_

Entrepreneurial Achievement Award

During 2001, Apple Berry Farm Market was recognized for its achievements locally through the Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce and nationally through the Canadian Gift and Tableware Association (CGTA).

Apple Berry Farm Market was awarded the Entrepreneurial Achievement Award at the Business Excellence Awards in October. This award was developed by the Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce. The Entrepreneurial Achievement Award recognizes the business person who has succeeded through innovation and risk-taking in introducing new products or services or growing an existing product line or service through a unique approach. The recipient demonstrates notable achievement in one or all of the following criteria: new product growth, employee growth, industry recognition, innovative marketing, ability to overcome adversity and impact on the local economy.

In November 2001, Apple Berry farm Market was awarded the Eastern Regional Canadian Retailer of the Year from the Canadian Gift and Tableware association from a group of more than 500 entries. The awards are based on visual merchandising and store design, business achievement, advertising and promotion and community involvement. This award is presented each year to a business that has demonstrated outstanding achievement in retailing. The award banquet and gala event was held on January 27th 2002 in Toronto. Apple Berry Farm Market will be featured in the January issue of Retail News magazine for its award. The CGTA was established in 1976 and represents more than 1600 giftware manufacturers, distributors and wholesalers across Canada.

The Apple Berry Farm Market opened its doors in 1983. Kyla's father Allison Woodworth is a member of the Class of 1963 and her grandfather, W.H. Woodworth, Class of 1913.



## *Darlene Acton, Class of '86* \_\_\_\_\_ NSAC Alumnus in Top Ten at World Finals



*Darlene is presently the fastest female competitor in Atlantic Canada and fourth in the nation. Darlene's crowning achievement to date is a top ten placing at the world finals at Las Vegas in 2000.*

Whether she's dragging 300 pound hoses through the desert heat in Las Vegas, Nevada or managing financial accounts on peaceful Prince Edward Island, Darlene Acton is up for the challenge.

Darlene graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics. She accepted the position of Agricultural Account Manager with the Royal



*Darlene and her husband race in a grudge match in Charlottetown during this past summer. They are shown in the last leg of the course, dragging a 175 lb mannequin 100 feet backwards.*



Bank and now lives with her husband and children in Crapaud, PEI.

In 1999, Darlene joined the Crapaud Volunteer Fire Department. "I was always intrigued by both the excitement of responding and also of the camaraderie within the fire service", Darlene reflects. That summer, Darlene began competing in the Firefighter Combat Challenge after watching the competition at a regional event and on television. Darlene and her husband Sandy MacQuarrie, also a former NSAC student, admired the athleticism and stamina of the competitors and began training

for and eventually competing in the event. At the time that the husband and wife team began competing, they were the only two from PEI to do so.

Darlene not only competes in the event, but is also one of the fastest females to complete the Challenge world-wide. After not completing the course in her inaugural attempt in '99, Darlene is

presently the fastest female competitor in Atlantic Canada and fourth in the nation. Darlene's crowning achievement to date is a top ten placing at the world finals at Las Vegas in 2000.

The challenge, originally designed to test recruits wanting to enter the fire service, is composed of five events that are designed to simulate actual firefighting scenarios. The 'warm up' event consists of racing up a five storey tower with a 42 pound hose pack on the competitor's shoulder. At the top of the tower, the pack is set down

and a 45 pound hose roll is hoisted via rope from the ground to the fifth storey. The competitor then races down the tower to where a 165 pound I-beam waits to be driven five feet backwards by a large mallet. The competitor then weaves through an obstacle course of fire hydrants, grabbing a fully charged fire hose and advancing it 75 feet to knock over a target. For the grand finale, a 175 pound mannequin is dragged 100 feet backwards through the course. The course is twinned, and two competitors race side by side against the clock and each other.



The Firefighter Combat Challenge is a demanding but rewarding experience. Darlene must sacrifice considerable time to

strength train for the competition. In the end, however, it is a unique and rewarding experience. "Competing does help you become a better firefighter", says Darlene, "You also get to meet great firefighters from around the world". So what exactly is worn during a Firefighter Combat Challenge? A full 50 pound fire suit of course. Now that's hot!

Congratulations Darlene, on all of your accomplishments.

### **Update** \_\_\_\_\_

*Since this article was written, Darlene and her family moved to Ontario and Darlene is now employed with Farm Credit Corporation.*

Bernie Gallant, Class of '89, Jamie Carson, Class of '97, Paula Mason, Class of '94

## Ag Grads Go to the Zoo



(l to r) Bernie Gallant ('89), Paula Mason ('94), and Jamie Carson ('97)

The zoo has three keepers that are each in charge of a section of the zoo. Bernie Gallant ('89) is the keeper for the large cats, reptiles, invertebrates, and some hoof stock. Jamie Carson ('97) is the keeper for birds and primates and Paula Mason ('94) is the keeper of a variety of species including equine, camels, otters to name a few.

Bernie Gallant ('89) has been working at the zoo for 15 years, initially as a summer student. He graduated from the Agricultural College with a B.Sc. in Animal Science. Bernie, also known as the reptile man is the one to talk to if you have questions about reptiles, insects, or any of the zoo animals.

Jamie Carson ('97) started working for the zoo as a summer student seven years ago and was hired full time in January 1998. Jamie graduated with a B.Sc. in Animal Science. During the summer months Jamie is responsible for the daily presentation of 'World

The Magnetic Hill Zoo is the largest accredited zoo in Atlantic Canada. There are over 400 animals of 100+ species that call the zoo home.

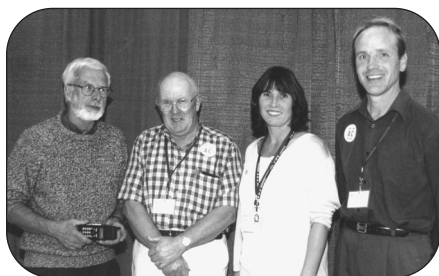


of Birds'. This is an informative experience with a guest list that includes parrots, pigeons, owls and a free flying hawk. Following a two year examination process, Jamie was granted an American Poultry Assoc Judges License in June of 98 and is currently the only licensed judge in Eastern Canada & the youngest in North America. Jamie was also recently approved by the Brazilian Government to take part in the Golden Lion Tamarin Conservation program. These are among the world's most endangered primates.

Paula Mason ('94) has worked at the zoo for nine years, initially as a summer student. With such a variation of animals in her care Paula's days are anything but dull. After all the animals have been fed and the chores are done Paula can usually be found in the barn getting a smile from the horses or giving a little extra attention to those who need it. Paula graduated from the Bio Tech. Program.

Bernie, Jamie and Paula all have very unique and valuable qualities that not only ensure the health and happiness of the animals, but also make the zoo a wonderful place to work and visit. 🐾

## Career Fair 2001



### Alumni Support NSAC's Career Fair

Shown are some of the alumni who attended the Career Fair held on campus in October. From left to right: Gerald Freeman, Class of 1953, representing DACO Laboratories; Glen Ells, President of Kings Produce Ltd., NSAC Class of 1953; Bernadette Alain, Class of 1979, representing Statistics Canada and Jack Cox, Sales Representative - Farm Services with Scotsburn Cooperative Services, Class of 1987.



### Career Fair Provides a Chance for Alumni to Get Together

In addition to telling current students about the work they are involved with, alumni enjoy the chance to meet each other at the College's biennial Career Fair. Shown at this year's event are Danny Davidson, Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association, Class of 1994; Heather Anne Grant, Special Projects Researcher with the Agricultural Development Institute, Class of 1998; Beth Gallant, Assistant Service Manager with Reddin Equipment in Charlottetown, PEI, Class of 1999; and Mark Urquhart, representing Cavendish Agri-Services, Class of 1992.





# Distinguished Alumnus Winner 2001



The Distinguished Alumnus Award allows the Nova Scotia Agricultural College Alumni Association, on behalf of its membership, to recognize the outstanding contributions of alumni to the College and to their community. The 2001 Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to Byron Beeler, Class of 1956

(L to R) Life President, Class of 1956 Ted MacNintch, Byron Beeler, Class of 1956 and NSAC Alumni Association President Clint McLean, Class of 1979.

A native of Kings County, Nova Scotia, Byron Beeler graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1956 before going on to complete his studies at Macdonald College in 1958 with a major in Horticulture. He then went on to the University of Toronto where he earned an MSc. degree in Soils and Crops.

Byron joined the Ontario Government and worked in the Agriculture Division from 1958 to 1971. In 1971 Byron went to Stewart Seed Company where he became General Manager.

In 1991 Byron became the Head of Ciba-Geigy's Animal Health Division for Canada. With the merger of Ciba and Sandoz, two Swiss Companies, the new name of Novartis Animal Health Canada Inc., was given to the company. At Novartis, Byron became involved with Crop Protection, Chemicals and Public

Affairs. He became President of the Animal Health Care Division of Novartis on January 1 1997 until August of this year when he retired.

Mr. Beeler has been involved with the organization and administration of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and served as President in 1992-93 and 1993-94. He is a past president of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists and a Past Chairman of the Animal Health Institute as well as several community organizations. It is little wonder that Byron was honored by the Ontario Institute of Agrologists with the award of 'Distinguished Agrologist'. He was also made a 'Fellow' of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and given Life Membership in the Canadian Seed Growers Association. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Agriculture Hall of Fame.

*Continued on page 26*

## The Development and Alumni Relations Office Opens

The Development and Alumni Relations office officially began operation at the NSAC this fall. The team consists of Jim Goit, Executive Director, Development and External Relations; Stephanie Rogers, Coordinator, Alumni Affairs and Public Relations, and Jo-Anne Jarvis-Jordan, Executive Assistant.

The new office is now responsible for all activities dealing with the NSAC Alumni Association and former students, the NSAC Foundation, the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame, all external relations for the College and the coordination of all media contacts. In addition to supporting and coordinating fund raising efforts of the various groups at the NSAC, the team in the Development Office is involved with the Executive group in strategic planning and the day-to-day operation of the NSAC promoting the College and identifying new partnership opportunities.



Jim Goit, Executive Director, Development and External Relations, Jo-Anne Jarvis-Jordan, Executive Assistant, and Stephanie Rogers, Coordinator, Alumni Affairs and Public Relations.

Located in the Principal's Office in Cumming Hall, the Development Team is ideally situated to deal with visitors to campus. This office now maintains the Friends of NSAC database

*Continued on page 26*

*The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) Responds to Demand*

# Why Organic Agriculture?

by Ralph Martin, Director - OACC

## **Organic agriculture**

*includes all agricultural systems that promote the environmentally, socially and economically sound production of food and fibres.*

*These systems take local soil fertility as a key to successful production. By respecting the natural capacity of plants, animals and the landscape, it aims to optimize quality in all aspects of agriculture and the environment. Organic agriculture dramatically reduces external inputs by refraining from the use of chemo-synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and pharmaceuticals. Instead it allows the powerful laws of nature to increase both agricultural yields and disease resistance. Organic agriculture adheres to globally accepted principles, which are implemented within local social-economic, geoclimatical and cultural settings.*



You might ask, "What is organic agriculture?" The International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM) defines it well. "Organic agriculture includes all agricultural systems that promote the environmentally, socially and

economically sound production of food and fibres. These systems take local soil fertility as a key to successful production. By respecting the natural capacity of plants, animals and the landscape, it aims to optimize quality in all aspects of agriculture and the environment. Organic agriculture dramatically reduces external inputs by refraining from the use of chemo-synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and pharmaceuticals. Instead it allows the powerful laws of nature to increase both agricultural yields and disease resistance. Organic agriculture adheres to globally accepted principles, which are implemented within local social-economic, geoclimatical and cultural settings."

Current Canadian agricultural production is only about 0.5 - 1 per cent organic. However, the current growth rate of organic agriculture exceeds 25 per cent per year. It is expected by 2010 that Canadian agricultural production will be at least 5.0 per cent organic. In Germany, the 2010 target is 20 per cent and this is critical mass for an emerging industry. The potential organic food market in the USA and Japan is \$US 100 billion. In the UK, the organic market is growing at 40 per cent per year and 70 per cent of



organic food must be imported to the UK. Similarly in Canada, 80 - 85 per cent of the organic food sold, is produced outside Canada.

In Atlantic Canada and beyond, the organic market is increasing as consumers request organically produced food. Five years ago, the potential market for organic products was estimated to be

*Five years ago, the potential market for organic products was estimated to be \$3.7 million in Nova Scotia (Hosking 1995) and recently the estimate has risen to \$20 million (Marketing and Food Industry Development 1999). Within the next decade, a multi-million dollar organic export industry to New England, UK and Europe is expected to create employment on an ongoing basis.*

\$3.7 million in Nova Scotia (Hosking 1995) and recently the estimate has risen to \$20 million (Marketing and Food Industry Development 1999). Within the next decade, a multi-million dollar organic export industry to New England, UK and Europe is expected to create employment on an ongoing basis. Markets for organic food in the Atlantic provinces are largely untapped and the demand in nearby New England and Europe exceeds current supplies.

Organic production is more demanding and difficult in terms of knowledge of the biological process and field management skills than conventional agriculture.

Therefore, a focused effort and investment in research, training and technology transfer is required to assist interested farmers in making the transition to access these market opportunities.

Organic agriculture is growing and for the purposes of research and education, organic is identifiable and there are recognized standards. There are organic agriculture opportunities that are available to many. Consider the opening markets, low cost options for new entrants to agriculture, availability of land in Atlantic Canada, the rural vitality of more people working on organic farms, the contribution of organic systems to environmental sustainability and the positive effects of consumer-farmer links developed by organic food.



## Sponsors & Funding

*The centre will ensure organic farmers and those interested in making the transition into organic production have the expertise they need and will also provide them with leading edge technologies.*

A national centre for education and research in organic agriculture will help quench a growing thirst for knowledge in this fast-emerging sector and give Canada's producers an advantage over international competition. Success in agriculture and agri-food is becoming more and more reliant on education, knowledge and technology. Organic agriculture is presenting producers with excellent opportunities and the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) will ensure producers stay on top of the learning curve and that Canada continues to enhance its reputation as a world class supplier of organic food.

The national centre in Truro is designed to help industry reach organic growth targets. Producing organically demands detailed knowledge of the biological process and excellent farm management skills. The centre will ensure organic farmers and those interested in making the transition into organic production have the expertise they need and will also provide them with leading edge technologies.

The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) was officially established July 12 2001, at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) with an announcement by Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief of \$914,700 in federal funding. The OACC will pursue research and education in organic agriculture, in collaboration with colleges and universities across Canada. By virtue of the NSAC location on the Atlantic rim, there is convenient access to Europe and the OACC will be cost-effectively linked to European universities with expertise in organic agriculture.

By January 2002, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Alberta, each committed \$150,000 to the OACC, over three years. Other provinces are expected to contribute as well.

The NSAC has become the first degree-granting institution in Canada to create

an academic position that is specifically related to organic farming with the establishment of a prestigious Tier II Canada Research Chair in Organic Farming, for the research component of the OACC.

In October 2001, an NSERC Strategic Grant, Transition and Sustainability Strategies for Organic Farms, was also awarded to OACC researchers who are faculty members of NSAC and the University of Manitoba. The objectives are: to assess whether ruminant or monogastric livestock contribute to a more effective transition strategy and/or improve indications of sustainability on organic farms than organic farms without access to livestock; to determine the optimum number of years to include forages in a four year rotation and to assess the effects of forage management on the success of transition and sustainability.



## Description of the OACC

*OACC will provide broad support, in Canada, for organic farmers and those in transition, through the development of new research programs, courses and deployment of effective methods for disseminating information. There will be opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to be involved in on-farm research and other investigations of organic agriculture.*



The motto of the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada is "Research and Education: Serving Farmers and Students" with a goal to serve all farmers and all students. The boundaries of OACC are intended to be open in order to provide useful information for conventional farmers as well as those in transition or those who are certified organic. Students with diverse interests are encouraged to study organic agriculture as a component in their overall appreciation of agriculture.

OACC is constituted at NSAC, directed by a Board of eight members responsible to the Principal and advised by representatives of an inclusive Advisory Council who will represent the larger organic community in Canada. The Board members are, Dr. Phil Warman of NSAC (Chair), Dr. Martin Entz of the University of Manitoba, Mr. Robert Guilford, Manitoba grain farmer of Canadian Organic Growers, Ms. Susan MacKinnon, Organic Specialist in PEI, Ms. Jennifer Scott, N.S. organic farmer, Mr. Adrian Vermeulen, N.S. transitional farmers, Ms. Jeanne Cruikshank, Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors and Dr. Gilles Lavoie, Market and Industry Services Branch of AAFC.

OACC will provide broad support, in Canada, for organic farmers and those in transition, through the development of new research programs, courses and deployment of effective methods for disseminating information. There will be opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to be involved in on-farm research and other investigations of organic agriculture.



# Current OACC Priority Projects

## Project 1. \_\_\_\_\_ *Web Course Development*

By September, 2002 at least four courses in organic agriculture will be available to constitute a certificate in organic agriculture through the NSAC Continuing Education Department. The four courses will be: 1) The Transition to Organic Farming, 2) Organic Dairy Production, 3) Organic Field Crop Management and 4) Composting Skills. Additional courses will be developed at other universities.

## Project 2. \_\_\_\_\_ *Assessing Organic Research Needs*

Throughout the first year, farmers, extension workers, researchers and consumers will be consulted in all regions of Canada, to determine research priorities. Please contact Laurie Eagles (leagles@nsac.ns.ca) if you want to suggest research needs. The research needs will be addressed in the objectives of research grant applications submitted from OACC.

## Project 3. \_\_\_\_\_ *Transition Strategies*

A focused effort and investment in research, training and technology transfer is required for farmers in transition. Research will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 will be a survey to determine the successes and problems of farmers who have converted from conventional to organic agriculture. Phase 2 will involve replicated trials of treatments in several regions of Canada. The results of the research will be presented in the 'Transition to Organic Farming' course and on the OACC Web site.

## Project 4. \_\_\_\_\_ *On-Farm Research*

A coordinated on-farm research and training program will be developed to train students and farmers (organic and transitional). In some cases, simple experiments can be conducted on many farms and the data can be analyzed over the locations in a manner similar to cultivar evaluation data. In other cases, farmers may want to test a new idea that they have reason to believe will work in their region. This new treatment can be tested against their current practice. The results of the research will be presented in the OACC courses and on the OACC Web site.

## Project 5. \_\_\_\_\_ *Information Access*

OACC will provide access to current information on organic agriculture, with a scientific basis, organized to meet specific requirements. The OACC website will hold research results and links to other research on organic agriculture. In particular, Canadian research coordinated by OACC will be featured on the website. The website address is [www.organicagcentre.ca](http://www.organicagcentre.ca). Stories of pertinent information will be regularly published in accessible farm newspapers across Canada.

## Project 6. \_\_\_\_\_ *Market Research*

OACC will contribute to stability in organic production by tracking consumer preferences for specific commodities. A system of displaying current farm gate price information is being developed for the OACC website. Market research will also provide the opportunity to investigate the potential for innovative arrangements such as Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), involving organic farmers and regional consumers.

## Project 7. \_\_\_\_\_ *Environmental Horticulture*

When funding is available, OACC will conduct research on the management of organic lawns, shrubs, trees and gardens. Current research on golf courses that are partially organic will be expanded to meet the public demand for courses that are chemical-free.



# Recent Developments at OACC

Several people have recently joined the OACC team

**Laurie Eagles** is the Centre's Administrative Assistant. Laurie has had experience with books, balancing budgets and generally running a tight ship when the winds of activity tend to blow.

The Extension Coordinator is **Dr. Av Singh**, returning to his Maritime roots. He is completing his role as Research Associate in Forage Ecology and Management at the University of Minnesota and will be at OACC soon. Dr. Singh is a Pan-Canadian with research experience and a Ph.D from the University of Manitoba and an M.Sc., from the University of Guelph. He will be providing extension support to organic specialists and farmers across Canada and will be linking them to research in Europe and elsewhere, that is applicable to situations that develop.

**Mr. Derek Lynch**, well-known to many organic farmers in Atlantic Canada, has accepted the position of Researcher at OACC. He is close to completion as a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Guelph and has also been working as a Research Associate at the Atlantic Pasture Research Centre. As co-manager of Agrosystems Atlantic, he has provided consulting and research services to the agricultural industry in Atlantic Canada since 1993. He will be coordinating research projects on farms across Canada.

In Manitoba, **Mr. John Hollinger** the Organic Specialist of the Soils & Crops Branch of Manitoba Agriculture and Food will contribute 20 per cent of his time to OACC extension and research activities. Similarly in Alberta, Mr. Mike Dolinski, the Organic Specialist of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development will contribute 20 per cent of his time to OACC extension and research activities.

There are still plans to hire a Post Doctoral Fellow to assist with research on farms studying compost and forages in soil and weed management.

For more information, please contact us at:



Phone: (902) 893-7256

E-mail: leagles@nsac.ns.ca

or visit our website at:

www.organicagcentre.ca 

## The OACC Director



**Dr. Ralph Martin**, Director of the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, is a Professor at the NSAC. He earned his B.A. and M.Sc. at Carleton University before completing his Ph. D. at MacDonald College of McGill University in Montreal.



## In-vessel Composting Program

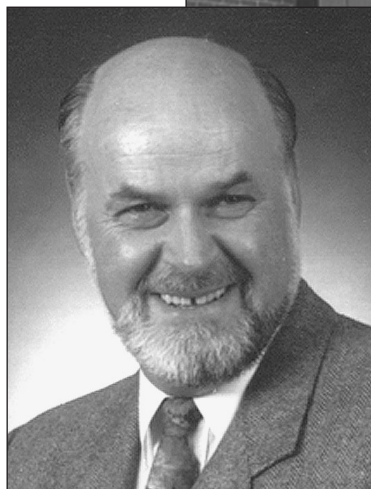
NSAC alumnus, Chris Eyking, Class of 1987 is currently initiating an in-vessel composting program on his family farm operation. Chris is doing this for two reasons:

1. His main reason is to alleviate the pressure of any potential overload of nutrients on the soil and ground water. This will be achieved by composting layer litter from the 100,000+ hens on site. The resulting product has a very high nutrient value to be used on the 750+ acres of cultivated land or retailed as a high end soil amendment for organic gardening.

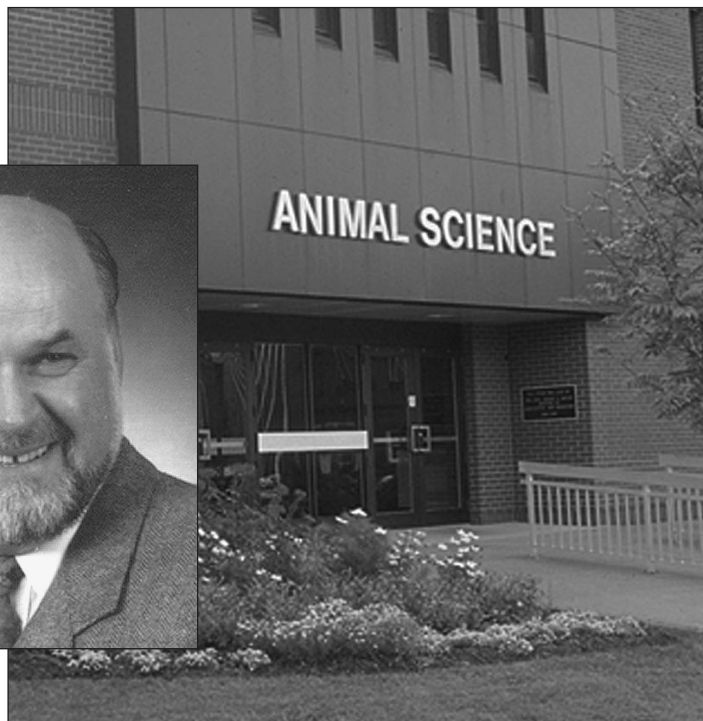
2. Secondly Chris is considering as a future goal of using this product as an organic amendment in the greenhouse operation which currently produces hydroponic tomatoes and cucumbers. His plans include combining conventional know-how and latest technology with onfarm organic amendments to greenhouse organic production for tomatoes cucumbers and peppers. There is currently a 15,500 square foot bio shelter dedicated for producing organic amendments on site at the Eyking farm operation in Boularderie, Cape Breton Island.

# NSAC Names Animal Science Building

*On Founders Day, February 14th, 2002, the NSAC named the Animal Science and Aquaculture Building, the Haley Institute of Animal Science and Aquaculture after Dr. Leslie Haley, Principal NSAC from 1989 till 1996 and Deputy Minister of the Department of Agriculture and Marketing from 1989 - 1996.*



Dr. Leslie Haley



It is traditional to name buildings on the NSAC campus after individuals that have contributed much to the fabric of campus life and given leadership in the development of particular areas of the institution. On Founders Day, February 14th, 2002, the NSAC named the Animal Science and Aquaculture Building, the Haley Institute of Animal Science and Aquaculture after Dr. Leslie Haley, Principal NSAC from 1989 till 1996 and Deputy Minister of the Department of Agriculture and Marketing from 1996 - 1999.

Dr. Haley has dedicated his career to Animal Science and Aquaculture. Originally from a farm near Windsor, Nova Scotia, Dr. Haley graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1958 and received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1960 and a Masters of Science in Genetics and Animal Breeding from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1963. He received his Doctorate in Genetics from the University of California in 1967.

Dr. Haley's working career began with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing as a Poultry Fieldman before going on for post graduate studies. Following his Doctorate, Dr. Haley was an Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan. His appointment as Assistant Professor of Biology at Dalhousie University in Halifax, brought him back to Nova Scotia in 1970.

It was at Dalhousie that Les brought his genetics background to work on the newly emerging science of Aquaculture as he did pioneering work in shellfish genetics and management. He applied many of the techniques and lessons of animal breeding and management into the aquaculture field. His research background in quantitative and developmental research allowed him to publish

approximately 40 research papers. In addition, he supervised numerous masters and doctorate students in Biology and Science Education Research.

Les never forgot his roots with agriculture. In 1989 he was named Principal of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College a position he held until April 1, 1996 when he was appointed Deputy Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing. During his time with the NSAC and Department he was instrumental in providing the leadership to build the Ruminant Animal Center and the Aquaculture Center wing on the Animal Science Building. The Aquaculture degree program was also a vision of Dr. Haley, an intention declared during his installation ceremony.

It is fitting therefore that the Animal Science/Aquaculture building be named the Haley Institute of Animal Science and Aquaculture in honour of

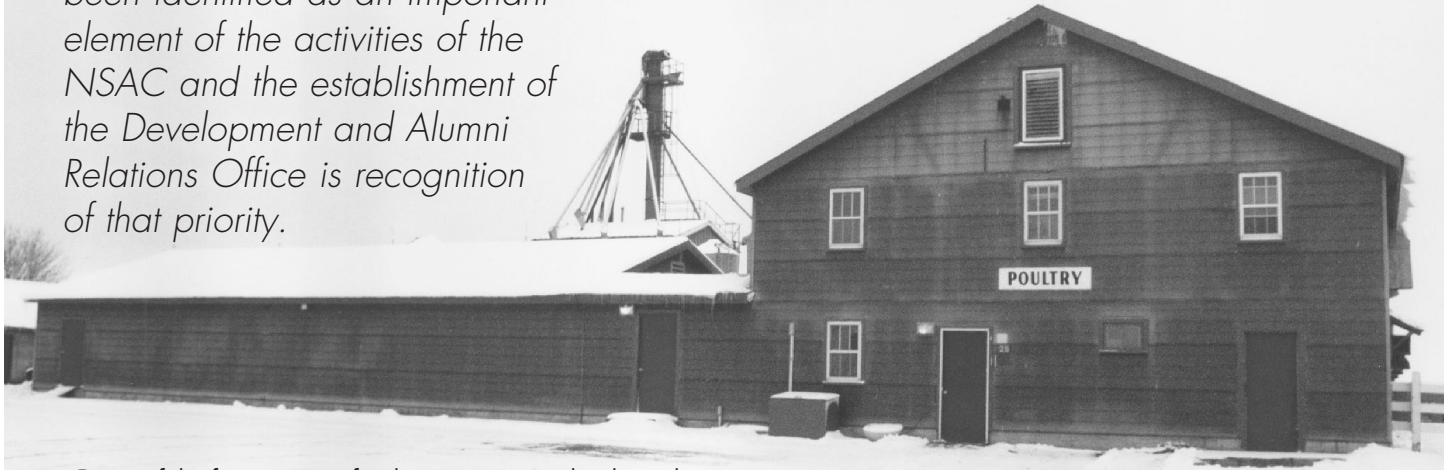
the 9th Principal of the NSAC and a man who has used his education in Agriculture to contribute to the development of science in the Animal Science and Aquaculture sectors.

Ceremonies took place on February 14th, 2002 on the NSAC campus. This is but one of a series of Founder's day events leading to the Centennial anniversary of the College in 2005. 📷

*Les never forgot his roots with agriculture. In 1989 he was named Principal of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College a position he held until April 1, 1996 when he was appointed Deputy Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing.*

# NSAC Creates Fundraising Priority List

*Organized fundraising has been identified as an important element of the activities of the NSAC and the establishment of the Development and Alumni Relations Office is recognition of that priority.*



One of the first activities for the team was to develop a list of priorities that the NSAC has identified as potential for fundraising efforts by faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the NSAC. This list is the result of that analysis. Additional details on these priorities are available by contacting staff of the Development and Alumni Relations Office. Donations will be sought for these funds through annual fundraising efforts, major gift solicitation and corporate sponsorship.

### **Research Program Matching Funds**

The NSAC has been very successful in the last few years in attracting support for research infrastructure and personnel through various government programs. The Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) had awarded support for the agronomy, fur and poultry programs. The Canada Research Chairs program has allocated four positions to the NSAC. There are several applications for funding from the Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF). All of these programs require an element of 'matching funds' to capture the full amount of the federal grant. Money is sought from provincial sources or from internal budgets of the NSAC, however our ability to meet all the required amounts is increasingly strained. For this reason we are turning to private sources for the required matching amounts.

The NSAC will establish a fund where matching funding can be found for the various projects. In some cases there will be sub-funds created that will be endowed for long term support of specific programs. In other cases the matching funds will be expended in support of the project on a one time basis. Committees made up of various interest groups will work to raise and allocate the funds necessary for each project. There are already several projects currently active and looking for matching funds and others will be established as warranted.

### **Scholarships**

The NSAC has one of the best student scholarship programs of any university in Canada. This year for example it dispersed more than \$750,000 in awards. In addition to the many named scholarships sponsored by individuals and organizations (both endowed and contributed to annually) there are many other scholarships funded by the College and government for students. There is an additional need to secure and expand these awards by other means. It takes approximately \$25,000 in an endowed fund to support a \$1,000 annual award. The NSAC would like to have a \$1,000,000 fund to support its general scholarship program. In addition, although there are many undergraduate scholarships, there is a need to expand the awards to support graduate studies and international students.

### **Teaching Technology Development Fund**

One of the most important aspects of the program at the NSAC is the teaching environment in the various classrooms, laboratories and library at the College. It is critical to keep pace with the technology in teaching as students will compare their teaching experience at the NSAC with what is available at other institutions. While it is sometimes possible to acquire new equipment on a one time basis from various programs, there is a need for a program that provides a long term, consistent base for the replacement and improvement of equipment over the years.

### **Infrastructure Capital Fund**

The NSAC is fortunate to have some of the best facilities of any university in the province. However there is a constant need to be able to maintain, upgrade and expand as the years go by



## FUNDRAISING PRIORITIES

and demands change. Provincial budgets have not kept pace with this demand and an additional source of funding is required to help with these capital projects.

### **Human Resource Development Fund**

The faculty, staff and students are the real strength of the NSAC. It is important to have the resources available for continuous development of that strength. This fund is designed to provide a base for supporting human resource activity such as visiting professor fellowships, sabbatical leaves, travel, conference attendance, student leadership programs etc.

### **Library Development Fund**

Support of the Library has always been a priority of the NSAC. A trust fund has long been established to help support the functioning of the library helping to purchase new equipment, books and periodicals. The library development fund needs additional capital to become self-sustaining.

### **Athletics Development Fund**

Athletics is an important element of student life on the NSAC campus and we are fortunate to have an excellent Athletic Centre and

committed staff to support it. However, there is always a need for additional funding sources for projects and activities such as training, team travel etc.

### **Emerging Opportunities Fund**

There will always be the need to respond rapidly to emerging opportunities in academic, research or administrative programs. This fund will stand as a source of capital for such initiatives, sometimes being used in partnership with other initiatives and sometimes on it's own. The funds could be used for the development of promotional materials, the rapid development of course materials and the initial delivery of trial programs.

The NSAC would like to thank all those that have contributed in one way or another financially to the College over the years. You may expect the NSAC to be more direct in it request for support in the future. Your financial support helps to strengthen not only the value of the degree or diploma that you may have received from the Institution but it is an excellent way for you to give back to the institution ensuring the success of future generations of students.



## *The Renewal of the Poultry Facilities at the NSAC*

The poultry industry is one of the most dynamic of all the livestock industries in modern agriculture. As the industry changes, so too must the scope and focus of poultry research. The unique and regional differences in how poultry are raised in Atlantic Canada compared to the rest of North America has resulted in the establishment of specific research priorities for the Atlantic poultry industry.

The Atlantic Poultry Research Institute (APRI) was formed to address concerns of the poultry industry in the Atlantic region by conducting poultry research and training poultry personnel. The institute is managed out of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and represents all sectors of the Atlantic poultry industry, egg, chicken, turkey, hatchery, processing and feed manufacturing. With the development of the Atlantic Poultry Research Institute and acquisition of personnel to conduct poultry research we are posed to address the concerns for poultry research in the Atlantic region. The current limitation is the condition of the research facilities at NSAC.

Lack of environmental control and obsolete production systems limit the application of research results to commercial practice. Recently a subcommittee was formed to spearhead a major project to see new facilities built at the NSAC. Full replacement of the poultry facilities is the goal of this committee, with an aggressive two year building plan. The proposed new facilities will include a

hatchery, environmentally controlled housing with computerized monitoring systems for poultry reared on the floor as well as in cages, a slaughter and meat processing facility equipped to perform research involving food safety and meat quality issues and upgrades to the College's existing feed mill. The preliminary estimate of the cost to construct the new facilities is approximately \$5.3 million.

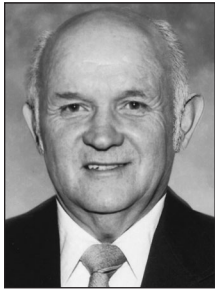
The NSAC, APRI, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and the Atlantic poultry industry have recently reaffirmed their commitment to continue poultry research and teaching in the region. A continuation of this commitment by upgrading the poultry facilities at NSAC is now needed. Money should be available from the federal and provincial governments, but it must be matched by contributions from private sources. Representatives of the regional poultry and allied industries have been made aware of the need for these matching funds. Substantial contributions to this project will be recognized and can be promoted by associating the donor with a specific component of the facility. The Canada Foundation for Innovation is one of the key funding agencies that has been approached. Currently they have conditionally approved \$202,000 towards the Food Safety and Meat Quality research component. On January 30<sup>th</sup>, the Canada Foundation for Innovation announced the successful applicants for 2002. The

*Continued on page 26*

# Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame Inducts Four New Members

Ernest L. Fage, Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, is pleased to announce the 2001 Nova Scotia inductees into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame.

The late **Douglas Bragg** of Collingwood, Cumberland County. "Doug Bragg was a entrepreneur, a visionary and a leader in the wild blueberry industry. His contribution was not only evident in his successful production of blueberries but also in the development of harvest technology."



*Douglas Bragg* said Minister Fage. A graduate of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Doug joined Bragg Lumber Company as Manager and eventually became President. He served as Vice President of Oxford Frozen Foods and

Vice President of Amherst Cable and Tri-Town Cable Companies, finishing his career as President of Douglas Bragg Enterprises Limited. Mr. Bragg was also an active member of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia. From 1979 to 1981 he served as a Director and was an active member of the Research Committee from the time of its inception until the fall of 1996. He was a Founding Director of the Nova Scotia Blueberry Institute and was instrumental in the early days of its development and building of the research field station at Debert. In 1995 Doug received the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia Award of Recognition. Doug Bragg was nominated by the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia in recognition of his contributions to the agricultural industry.

The 2001 inductees from the other Atlantic provinces include **Dr. George Wood**,

New Brunswick; the late **Eric Williams**, Newfoundland and **Leo McIsaac**, Prince Edward Island. The contributions of all four men were recognized at a ceremony today at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in October.



*Eric Williams*



*George Wood*



*Leo McIsaac*

The Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame honours members of the agricultural community for outstanding contributions to the industry, community and farm organizations.

*For more information please contact:*

Jim Goit, NSAC

phone:902-893-7950

E-mail: jgoit@nsac.ns.ca

## New Co-operation Agreement Signed Between Co-op Atlantic and NSAC

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) and Co-op Atlantic signed a co-operation agreement on Saturday, October 20th, 2001 to facilitate and intensify exchanges between the two organizations.

Garth Coffin, Principal, NSAC and Bryan Inglis, Vice President, Agriculture Division, Co-op Atlantic, officially signed the agreement during the MacRae Library breakfast during Homecoming celebrations at the College October 20th, 2001.

The purpose of the framework agreement is to encourage the collaboration and exchange of employees, students, researchers and teachers. The agreement calls for both parties to identify and develop research and teaching programs, joint international development projects, student, staff and professor exchanges and the promotion of the co-operative structure as a viable business option at the NSAC.

"Co-op Atlantic and in particular the Agricultural Division, is proud to be associ-

ated with NSAC in this initiative," said Inglis. "Co-op Atlantic has had a long informal relationship with NSAC, in fact, for the past 30 years, Co-op Atlantic has offered three bursaries and a scholarship to students pursuing careers in agriculture through the NSAC as well, many of our employees and members attended the College," he added. "It is very appropriate that we formalize our relationship as we prepare to celebrate our 75th Anniversary in 2002."


The Atlantic co-operative system is an energetic and vibrant model, which is helping to shape the changing face of agriculture in Atlantic Canada.

"We have already begun work on several joint projects of mutual interest to our organizations" said Coffin. "We have entered into discussions about joint training program possibilities for agricultural store employees through the NSAC's Center for Continuing and Distance Education and



*Dr. Garth Coffin, Principal, NSAC and Bryan Inglis, Vice President, Agriculture Division, Co-op Atlantic*

Co-op Human Resources Department," he added. "In addition we are working with the Co-op to identify businesses in the Co-op system that agricultural business students at the NSAC can use for the development of case studies. This is just the beginning"

Both the NSAC and Co-op Atlantic are major contributors to the agricultural economy in the Atlantic region. This renewed partnership will strengthen the ability of each organization to help the sector meet the challenges facing it. 

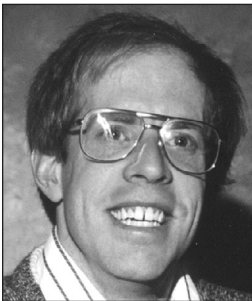
# Our New Alumni Association Directors



Melanie Laird

**Melanie Laird ('94)**

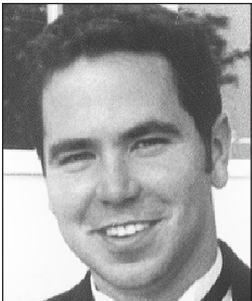
Graduated in 1994 with an Animal Science degree. Moved to Fredericton and began working with the Provincial Government in 1995 and is currently an Aquaculture Development Advisor in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture where her focus is farmed salmon in the Bay of Fundy. Completed the New Brunswick Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program in 1998.



Danny Phinney

**Danny Phinney ('86)**

Hello my name is Danny Phinney, Class of 86. I'm a second generation NSAC grad. My father, Arthur is from the class of 61. I'm still single and living in Paradise in the Annapolis Valley. I'm in partnership on the family dairy farm with my parents. I'm also employed with NS Animal Breeders on a casual basis. I've been active in a number of organizations over the years being past director and president of the county Federation of Agriculture, past director of the Annapolis Valley Exhibition, director of the West Nova Holstein Club, director of the NS Holstein Branch and director of West Nova Agro Commodities Ltd. I enjoy doing some travelling including spending seven months working on a dairy farm in Australia under an IAEA program in 1990. During the winter I do some curling. I look forward to serving on the NSAC Alumni Board.



Gordon Murray

**Gordon Murray ('01)**

Gordon Murray, know as Sonny, graduated from the NSAC in May of 2001 with a degree in Plant Science. He began work as a Crops Specialist at Scotian Gold Co-operative Limited in the Valley on March 15th, 2000. Originally from River John, Sonny now lives in Berwick.



Wendy (Hollis) Burns

**Wendy (Hollis) Burns ('97)**

I was born and raised in Moncton NB. I completed my Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1997. I married Nathan Burns ( Class of 99) in June 2000 and we are expecting our first child in April 2002. Recently Nathan and I purchased his family's egg farm and I am now helping to run Burns Poultry Farm in Freetown, Prince Edward Island.



Lisa Ashworth

**Lisa Ashworth ('94)**

Lisa (Scott) Ashworth, P.Ag.: B.Sc. '94, M.Sc. '99 (& B.Ed. '97 Mt. A.)

I married Derek Ashworth ('97) on August 21, 1999. We live in Maple View (near Plaster Rock), New Brunswick. Derek is farming full time, milking approximately 240 cows. I am currently working on curriculum development for a senior high agri-science course, and will be teaching this pilot course to a Grade 12 class at John Caldwell School next semester. Our first child, Logan, was born on October 17, 2000.



## Alumni Association

Executive Committee &  
Board of Directors  
2001-2002

**Executive**

*President*

Clint McLean ('79)

*Past-President*

Evans Estabrooks ('62)

*Treasurer*

Lori Kittilsen ('89)

*Alumni Affairs Coordinator*

Stephanie Rogers

**Board of Directors**

*Retiring in 2004*

Melanie Laird, ('94)

Gordon Murray ('01)

Wendy (Hollis) Burns ('97)

Danny Phinney ('86)

*Retiring in 2003*

Bradley Briggs ('99)

Patricia Bishop ('99)

Stephen R. Spinney ('86)

Lisa Scott ('94)

*Retiring in 2002*

Nancy Crowe ('78)

Jeff Morton ('79)

Clinton McLean ('79)

Don Allen ('63)

# Homecoming Weekend 2001

October 19th, 20th, 2001

Close to 100 alumni and their families were welcomed back to the Nova Scotia Agricultural College October 19 - 20, 2001 for the second annual Homecoming Weekend in conjunction with College Royal celebrations and NSAC Athletic Reunion activities.



There was a record attendance at the **Annual General Meeting** held during the luncheon program in Jenkins Hall. The Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to Byron Beeler, Class of 1956 and other inaugural volunteer awards presented.

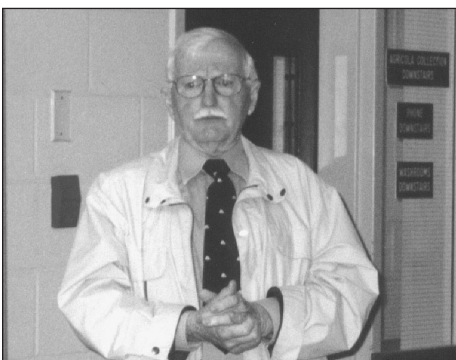
The second Annual NSACAA **Silent Auction** and reception was held on Saturday evening in Cumming Hall. All proceeds from the NSAC Alumni Association Silent Auction support the NSAC Students Emergency Fund. This fund aids students who encounter unusually difficult financial hardship throughout the academic year. Items ranged from a Dill Atlantic

Giant pumpkin and seeds to local artwork and handcrafted jewellery. Sincere thanks are extended to all donors and bidders without whose support this event would not be possible. Nearly \$1800.00 was raised in support of the cause.

It was fitting in the International Year of the Volunteer that the Alumni Association established a volunteer recognition program in 2001. The volunteer recognition award serves to express the appreciation of the Association for the involvement of alumni on committees and the Board of Directors. Teri Kennedy, the NSAC student who worked for the Association during the summer of 2001 developed a certificate to

acknowledge alumni as they reach five, ten, 15 years of service to the Association. Judy Grant, Class of 1978 (Photo 1) and Bernadette Alain, Class of 1979 (Photo 2) received awards for five and ten years of service to the Association.

The Alumni Association also established a donor recognition program in the past year. The purpose of the donor recognition program is to encourage financial support to the Association and to recognize frequency of donations as opposed to the amount of support. A certificate has been developed to recognize five, ten, 15 time donors to the Association. At the Association's annual meeting in October,



Alistar Marshall, Scotian Gold Cooperative, was guest speaker at the annual breakfast.

## MacRae Library Breakfast

The MacRae library also sponsored the 12th annual buffet breakfast during Homecoming weekend. Breakfast attendees had the pleasure of opening the display which draws materials from the Co-op Atlantic Collection in the Agricola Archives. Historically co-operatives have functioned as an alternative to the more competitive and individualistic forms of business. The early 20th century saw phenomenal growth in the number of cooperatives in the region. NSAC, in its early history as well as in subsequent decades, was linked to what has become known as 'The Cooperative Movement' The theme for this year's Homecoming breakfast and Exhibition was 'NSAC: In the Spirit of Co-operation.' (See additional information entitled *New Co-operation Agreement signed between Co-op Atlantic and NSAC on page 16 of this issue.*)



Blair Bonnyman, Class of 1951 and George LaBelle, Class of 1955, received recognition as five time donors and Win Langille, Class of 1940, was recognized as a 20 time donor to the Association. Other honourees were not in attendance.

The Association's **Distinguished Alumnus Award** was presented to Byron Beeler, Class of 1956. (See article this issue) Ted MacNintch, President of the Class of 1956, read the citation. Bob Oulton, Class of 1941, was on hand to receive a 60 year pin. Past-Principal Bill Jenkins, Class of 1938, was congratulated on celebrating his 85th birthday the day before the meeting. The Class of 1950 (Photo 3) was rec-



ognized for exemplary leadership demonstrated through the establishment of a bursary fund in recognition of their 50th anniversary in 2000. Their class gift to the College in recognition of their honour year was set out as a challenge for future honour year classes. Sandra Murphy (Photo 4) was recognized for her close to 20 years of support to the Alumni Association with a special certificate of appreciation. Recognition was also extended to the four retiring Directors from the Board — John Hutchings, Class of 1978; Roy MacKenzie, Class of 1973; Barry Russell, Class of 1976; and Walter Termeer, Class of 1985.

## Reunion 2002 Calendar of Events

Honour Year Classes ending in 7 and 2  
NSAC Campus October 18, 19, 2002

**NSAC Founder's Day**  
February 14th, 2002

**2002 CCAA Men's Basketball  
Championship**  
March 21-23, 2002.

**Homecoming Reunion Weekend**  
October 18 - 19th, 2002

**NSAC Octoberfest 5 K Run**  
October 19, 2002

**Varsity Alumni Weekend**  
October 19, 2002

**Autumn Assembly**  
October 23, 2002

**Agricultural Hall of Fame  
Induction Ceremony**  
October 23, 2002

**Festive Craft Market**  
November 16-17, 2002

**Atlantic Agricultural Sciences  
& Technology Workshop**  
November 2002

## Class Shield Winners

Class Shield Awards were presented to those class years with the most graduates in attendance during Homecoming weekend. Winners of the Junior Class Shield Award were members of

the Class of '81 Intermediate Class Shield winners were the Class of '51 and the Senior Class Shield Award was presented to the Class of '41.



### Junior Class Shield Award

(Board member Jeff Morton presents the Shield to Class rep Shelley MacEwen)



### Intermediate Class Shield Award

(Board member Jeff Morton presents the Shield to Dr. Garth Coffin, representing the Class of 1956)



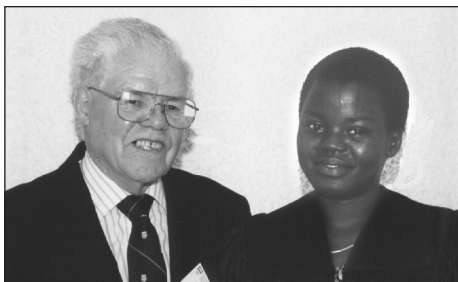
### Senior Class Shield Award

(Board member Jeff Morton presents the Shield to Class rep John McLean)



# AUTUMN ASSEMBLY 2001

Outstanding academic performance was honoured at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College with the presentation of more than \$724,400 in scholarships and bursaries — the highest in the College's history to 237 students. The award presentations were made on Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2001 during the school's annual Autumn Assembly program.



Cliff Retson Memorial Bursary

The \$750 Cliff Retson (NSAC Class of 1934) Memorial Bursary was presented during Autumn Assembly ceremonies at NSAC to Susan Tabu, Nairobi, Kenya. Susan is a first year B.Sc.(Agr.) student. Dr. William Jenkins, Past-Principal, NSAC, represented the Retson family and made the presentation to Susan.



Scholarship Winners

Clint McLean, President, NSAC Alumni Association, was on hand at Autumn Assembly to present scholarships maintained by the NSAC Alumni Association. From left to right: Susan Hunter, Halifax, NS, a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) student majoring in Animal Science, who received the \$1,700 A.C. Neish Memorial Trust Scholarship; Meidrym Hebda, Mailand, NS, a fourth year B.Sc.(Agr.) student majoring in Animal Science, recipient of the \$600 Angus and Tena MacLellan Memorial Scholarship; Ryan Riordan, Pokeshaw, NB, a second year Animal Science degree student receiving the \$600 A.B. Banks Memorial Scholarship; and Trevor Bezanson, Upper Stewiacke, NS, a second year Engineering student who received the \$600 Donald E. Clark Memorial Scholarship.



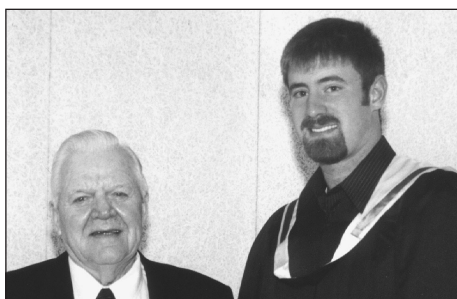
NSAC Alumni Association Scholarships

Clint McLean, President, NSAC Alumni Association, presented the two Association Entrance \$1,000 scholarships during Autumn Assembly ceremonies held recently at NSAC. This year's recipients were Rudy Antohe Ashkelon, Israel, a first year degree student majoring in Plant Science and Paul McClelland, Oxford, NS, a first year Engineering student.



Gordon B. Kinsman Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Peter Burgess, Truro, NS, M.Sc. student at NSAC, received the \$500 Gordon B. Kinsman, NSAC Class of 1947, Memorial Graduate Scholarship during recent Autumn Assembly ceremonies held at NSAC. Peter is pictured with Brian Kinsman, who represented the Kinsman family.



Stuart F. Allaby Graduate Studies Scholarship

The \$1,000 Stuart F. Allaby Graduate Studies Scholarship was presented to Adam Cook, Truro, NS, a Masters student, during 2001 Autumn Assembly ceremonies at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Adam is shown with Stuart F. Allaby, Class of 1949.



First Class of 1950 Bursary

The Class of 1950, when they celebrated the 50th anniversary of their graduation from NSAC in 2000, established a bursary fund as a way of recognizing their golden anniversary. The College extends thanks to the members of the Class of 1950 for providing this long serving support to students. At the annual meeting of the Alumni Association the Class received a special recognition award in appreciation of the establishment of the bursary fund. Sandy Hunter, Northport, NS, was the first recipient of the \$500 Class of 1950 Bursary recently awarded during Autumn Assembly ceremonies at NSAC. Jack Johnson, shown with Sandy, attended the ceremony to make the presentation on behalf of the Class of 1950.

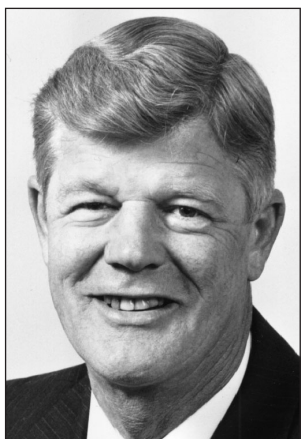
## NSAC Foundation Welcomes Three New Directors



Reappointed for an additional three-year term by an Order in Council, The NSAC Foundation Board welcomes **The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain**, BA, Mount Allison University, B.SW University of Toronto. She was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of New Brunswick, Mount Allison University, St. Thomas University, University of Moncton and University of

Toronto. In October of 1994 she was invested as Dame of Grace in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. Throughout her career Mrs. McCain has been active in organizations which promote education, music and the arts at the provincial and national level. She was a member of

the Mount Allison University Board of Regents and served as Chancellor. She is a founding member of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation in New Brunswick whose mission is the elimination of family violence through public education and research. In 1994 she was appointed Lieutenant- Governor of the Province of New Brunswick - the first female to hold this position and served in that role until 1997. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Ballet School; Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation; Women's College Hospital Foundation; Voices for Children; Havergal College; Beatrice House and the Canadian Living Foundation's Breakfast for Learning program. She is on the Advisory Council for the Canadian Women's Foundation and York University's Centre for Women's Studies and Feminist Research. In April 1998, Mrs. McCain was appointed by the Secretariate for Children, Province of Ontario, co-chair of the "Early Years Study". In January 1999, she was appointed Chair of the National Ballet School. She is married to G. Wallace F. McCain of Florenceville NB.



NSAC Distinguished alumnus winner **Mr. Dick Huggard** (Class of 1956) joins the Board for the first time for a three-year term, Macdonald College of McGill University B.Sc (Agr.) Animal Husbandry 1958, M.Sc. Animal Nutrition 1965. Dick Huggard joined the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing and enjoyed an illustrious career with the Department that spanned more than three decades. During his

36 years with the NSDAM, Dick Huggard worked very closely with farm people, industry leaders, scientists, College students, federal and provincial government officials and many others to promote and develop the agricultural industry both in Nova Scotia and across Canada. In September 1991 Dick was appointed Deputy Minister of the Department, a position he held until his retirement in October 1994. Active in many community and professional organizations, Dick has served as President of the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame, the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame, the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists and both the Eastern Branch and Canadian Societies of Animal Science. In 1978-79 he served as President of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, the second person from Nova Scotia to be elected to this position.



As well, NSAC alumnus Sherry Porter joins the team. NSAC alumnus **Sherry Porter**, Class of 1975, joins the NSAC Foundation Board for a three year term. Sherry is currently a member of the NSAC Foundation Investment Committee and no stranger to the NSAC community. Sherry joined the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing as a Marketing Specialist upon receipt of her Bachelor's Degree in 1977. Sherry has continually advanced through

out her career moving from a variety of increasingly prestigious positions including, Vice President, Atlantic Region, Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, Director of Public Affairs, Sobeys Group, President & CEO of the Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores to her current position as a Partner with Caldwell Partners International.

The concept of giving back is important to Sherry as evidenced by her wide variety of community involvement including participating as Chair of the Camp Hill Foundation Marketing Campaign, Co-Chair of the Women of Distinction Program for the Toronto YWCA and Chair of the Corporate Campaign for the Metro United Way in Halifax.

Sherry's position on the Board is one of several she is currently committed to including Chair of the Pier 21 Society, a member of the Board of Symphony Nova Scotia, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce.



*Barnyard Banter highlights the accomplishments of NSAC Alumni. If you have moved, earned a promotion or another degree, married, had children or have any other news you'd like to pass along to classmates, let us know. Email submissions may be directed to: [srogers@nsac.ns.ca](mailto:srogers@nsac.ns.ca)*

### Class of 1973

MITCHELL, Bob.....Graduated in 1973 from the Ag. Eng. Technician program. Great fun and great friends. NSAC is a very special memory in my life. I had the pleasure of working in the Eng dept. from 1976 to 1981 as an instructor. I married Maureen Kelly ( Grad of '77 Plant Science Tech program) and have had two children who are now 23 and 18 years old. We moved to Victoria in 1981 and have been here since then. I would love to hear from anyone who knows me, please drop me a line. Bob Mitchell <[miknik@home.com](mailto:miknik@home.com)>

### Class of 1978

O'BRIEN, Glenda (White).....Pat and I (both class of '78 grads) recently moved to Whitby, Ontario as Kraft transferred me to Scarborough to be the Plant Manager in a Jello/Magic Moments Pudding Cup factory. We have three sons, two in high school and one in Grade 8. We spend most of our free time traversing hockey arenas and getting used to city life. We look forward to seeing old friends at the Royal Winter Fair and if you are visiting the greater Toronto area, we are only a few kilometers off the 401 - or drop us a note via e-mail. [obrien-51@home.net](mailto:obrien-51@home.net)

### Class of 1983

PATTERSON, Kenneth..... Kenneth (Class of '83 & '84) and Petra (Maas) (Class of '84) have four children, Caitlin 13, Samantha 11, Paulina 7 and Stacy 5. We are still on the home place in Boularderie, Cape Breton.

### Class of 1985

JONES, Greg.....In 1990 Greg earned his designation as a Chartered Accountant and in 1998 he completed the Canadian Securities Course. He recently joined the firm of M&A Canada as an associate. M&A is a Nova Scotia firm dedicated to assisting the owners of successful private companies sell their business. Their mandate is to professionally manage the sale of companies they are proud to represent. Greg spends his spare time with this wife and four children on their farm just outside of Truro

### Class of 1986

CARTER, Cheryl M (Anderson) .....We are currently living in a community called Weilding just north of the city of Vienna, Austria. Doug is working for Lafarge in a technical center in Vienna and traveling to Romania frequently to three cement plants there. The position here in Vienna is 3-5 years. We have been here since April 2001.

### Class of 1990

MCNIVEN, Lisa Ann.....daughter of Paula Gallant and Glenn McNiven graduated from the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine in Toronto, Ontario as a Naturopathic Doctor. In June, 1995 Lisa graduated from the Aberdeen School of Nursing in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Lisa also received her Bachelor of Science degree from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in association with Dalhousie University in 1990. Lisa will begin practicing Medicine in the Yorkville area of Toronto.

### Class of 1993

LANGILL, Darria .....I am currently in the Truro area working with community initiatives for watershed management and fish habitat restoration. I would love to hear how others are doing, my email is [dalangill@tru.east-link.ca](mailto:dalangill@tru.east-link.ca) Cheers.

GOWAN, Traci and Lisa (Orlando), would like to announce the arrival of Emily Margaret on February 9th, 2001. She weighed 8 lb 6 oz, and is a sister for Tyler, 4. We are living in Amherst, Nova Scotia we are both working for AAFC at the Nappan Research Farm outside of Amherst as technicians.

### Class of 1994

TIBBETTS, Sean.....I completed my B.Sc. (Animal Science) at NSAC and my M.Sc. (Animal Nutrition) at NSAC and have since being doing fish nutrition research with the National Research Council in Halifax. I just returned from completing a diploma course at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas in Fish Feed Production Technology.

### Class of 1995

BROWNELL, Heidi (Nordin) Class of 1995 was married in 1996 and had a baby boy, Daniel, October 2000. CARNELLEY, Tracy (Shinners).....My husband Trevor and I were married in 1999. We met while I was completing my PhD at the University of Alberta. We now live in Carman MB, and I work for MB Agriculture and Food as the provincial potato pest management specialist.

URQUHART, Laurie... Is currently working in Halifax as an Instructional Designer (how's that for a switch - from Animal Science to Information Technology!?!). Email address is [laurie\\_urquhart@hotmail.com](mailto:laurie_urquhart@hotmail.com)

### Class of 1996

GOWAN, Traci and Lisa (Orlando), would like to announce the arrival of Emily Margaret on February 9th, 2001. She weighed 8 lb 6 oz, and is a sister for Tyler, 4. We are living in Amherst, Nova Scotia we are both working for AAFC at the Nappan Research Farm outside of Amherst as technicians.

GARDINER, Yvette..... I graduated from NSAC in 1996. I received my M.Sc. from UPEI in May 2001 and am currently employed with the PEI Department of Agriculture and Forestry as an Agriculture Information Officer.

### Class of 1997

BROTHERS, Jason.....a Network Administrator with NSAC Academic Computing Services for the past six years will be leaving this position at the end of October. Jason will be moving to Provo, Utah to be the Hardware/Software Test Associate: NIMS Test Engineer & MyRealbox Systems Administrator for Novell Inc. Congratulations and Best wishes to Jason

WHITE, Lisa.....Hey there kids. This is Lisa White for the class of '97. Still

land locked out here on the flat, flat prairies. I am actually finished my masters and working as the Animal Projects Coordinator for a little company called the Saskatoon Colostrum Company. Still butting heads on the rugby pitch and loving every minute of it. I really miss all the friends of home and the weather!! All we get out here is sun, day after day. And the variation between +40 and -40 is too much to handle sometimes. Take care all, and drop me a line. [white@colostrum.sk.ca](mailto:white@colostrum.sk.ca)

BURNS, Wendy ( Hollis) .....Hello Aggies, I graduated in 1997, moved to PEI to work with Cavendish Farms, got married last June to Nathan Burns (Class of 1999) and recently we purchased his family poultry farm. I am now home full time helping to run the farm. We would love to hear how all our classmates are doing or if you come to PEI, give us a call (902) 887-2156 [burnspoultry@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:burnspoultry@pei.sympatico.ca)

PLUME, Diane.....hello everyone! I have been living out here in the great West since I graduated in 1997 and love it. I am working for TERA Environmental Consultants as an Environmental Planner. I am very excited to be coming home for Christmas. I would love to hear from any fellow school mates! Cheers Diane. [diplume@hotmail.com](mailto:diplume@hotmail.com)

### Class of 1998

HUMBLE, Shauna (Mellish) has recently completed an MSc(Cropping Systems) from the University of Manitoba. Shauna and Angus Mellish (Class of 1998) were united in marriage on October 6th, 2001 in Charlottetown, PE. The couple currently reside in New Perth, PE

DEMERCHANT, Troy and his wife Amanda (Jenkins) had a little boy named Travis in July 2000.

BRIGGS, Derek and his wife Sara had a bay girl named Allyson on September 28th, 2001.

CALDWELL, Treasa.....Treasa has recently completed her M.Sc. at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College/Dalhousie University. She majored in Plant Physiology and her thesis focused on drought tolerance in vegetable crops, particularly tomatoes, onions and processing carrots. She also has a B.Sc. in Environmental Biology from the NSAC. She has worked as a summer research assistant with both the Plant



Science Department at the NSAC and with the Nova Scotia Crop Development Institute. Treasa has also done primary production and sales for a family-owned mushroom operation. Her focus to-date has been research, with extensive experience in technology transfer with both large and small agricultural producers. Treasa is already working and can be reached at (902) 896-2345.

LEGGÉ, Andrea..... I am currently completely my 4th and final year at the AVC. I am also happy to announce that I am engaged to be married next August to classmate, Tracy Matthews from VA.

GENGE, Annette.....Hi Class of '98! Just a quick hello to the Economics class of '98. I am currently living in Corner Brook, NF...still haven't left the ROCK. I am currently working with CIBC as a Personal Banker. Would love to hear from fellow classmates. lagenge@hotmail.com

HENNIGAR, Shannon.....I have been living in Ontario for the past two years working as a barn manager for a major swine operation. I work independently at a 4000 head Segregated Early Wean facility.

GREEN, Melinda ( Miller).....Hello fellow AGGIES!! I'm a 1998 Animal Science grad. I'm living back in my home community again...on the farm. Miss second floor Chapman life. brian.green@ns.sympatico.ca

WHELAN, Trina..... Hi to the Class of '98! Miss you all. I am still working in Labrador and loving it here! Would love to hear from the Economics Class of 98. trina.wheLAN@nf.sympatico.ca

LEONARD, Erin.....Hi Aggies! Just wanted to drop a note to say hi. I attended AC from 96-98. I'm now in my final year of vet school at AVC in PEI. Looking for lost friends, so if any read this, write back please! I miss you all! Hi to Katie Hirtle, Helga, Pelham, Melanie Rose, Tony Stevens, Robin Corkum, Bruce, Tanya Morse, Bev Palmeter, Carrie, Kerry Munn, Megan Williams, Sabrina, Lori Longmire, Stacey Frame and Billy MacKenzie if you guys read this. Email me! eleonard@upe.ca

HOLMES, Stephanie.....is a finan-

cial advisor with Clarica.. Hi! I know what your thinking a financial advisor has nothing to do with animals. While that is correct I am working hard with farmers and ag-employees to make sure they are prepared for their financial future. I worked on farm and ranches out west and I realized that though I loved it, it wasn't what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. So I decided to contribute in another way. I provide lots of free services to my clients and I hope the agricultural section of my clients continues to grow. I wish I had had one of me when I was working out west!! Anyway hope all NSAC grads are doing well no matter where life takes them.

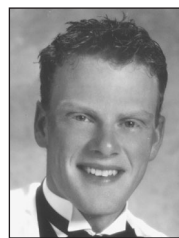
HIRTLE, Katie.....Greetings!!!Just dropping a line to anyone who's around. I graduated in 1998 Ag Bus Tech, I now work for Scotian Gold in Coldbrook. My better half Mark and I live in New Ross and own Boys & Their Toys Auto Service.

VANOOSTRUM, Mark.....Well news from the island, I got engaged, finally most say, but next May I will be married to Cherie Riggs (Class 98). Cherie will be done vet school by then and then who knows where we will be, probably not on PEI. So if anyone wants to hire a vet and a guy like me next year give us a jingle. We got three great pets, two cats (Daks and Kees) and a dog (Scout). Hope to see some fellow Aggies this winter. Made a trip back to AC this past fall, things sure have changed, but it was still a lot of fun. Mark VanOostrum aggiestwice@pei.sympatico.ca

SWEETLAND, Greg.....Hope everyone is doing great. Married Jackie Geldart (Class of '96 and '99'). Living near Fredericton, I'm with NB Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture and Jackie is with ShurGain Atlantic. Miss all you crazy cats!! greg.sweetland@gnb.ca

### Class of 1999

MACPHERSON, Erik.....Since graduation, I have been working at Abercrombie Golf Club as the Assistant superintendent. I worked there for two years previous (while still at AC). After AC I wanted to take the next step. I applied



and was lucky enough to be accepted into Penn State. Penn state is regarded as the best program in North America for turfgrass studies. Erik was recently elected as The GCSAA ( Golf Course Superintendents of America Association) representative for the Penn State turf club. Erik hopes sometime in future to find a Superintendent position in the Maritimes. Matthew Wentzell, also of the Class of 1999 is currently at Penn State with Erik.

RYAN, Kimberley.....I was accepted into the Atlantic Veterinary College after graduation from the AC and am now in the third year of the DVM program....and looking forward to graduation in 2003. I am also engaged to Tom MacDonald, who studied engineering at the AC and we are looking forward to being married in May of 2002. Tom is currently working in Windsor, N.S as an Electronics Engineering Technologist. We can be reached at Karyan@islandtelecom.com.

SAVOY, Jeanne.....Graduated in 1999. Working for Shell Canada as Technical Support Representative in Calgary. If you're ever in the area drop me a line jeannesavoy@hotmail.com

TREMBLETT, Krista.....Hi Grads of '99. I moved to Calgary, AB with my son Noah in June '01. I will be doing my MSc. in Environmental Science at the University of Calgary this fall. We are loving it out here :o) Hope to hear from some old friends. ksdt2000@hotmail.com

GALLANT, Steven.....Grad of 99' Now married to Beth Armstrong (now a Gallant) last month and loving it. We are both living in PEI and doing great. Anytime anyone is over to the Island, look us up!!! Gallant.steven@cavendish-agri.com

ASHWORTH, Lisa (Scott).....I am currently working at the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural and Biotechnological Sciences in Grand Falls. I am working on curriculum development for a Grade 12 agri-science course at the high school here, so I am back to teaching in agriculture, which is much more enjoyable than regular high school math and science!! Logan Derek Ashworth was born on October 17, 2000, he weighed 9 lb 10 oz. He turned one last month and is the happiest little farmer I've ever met. He loves tractors (or any large equipment)!! TUCKER, Denise.....I completed an

Advanced Diploma in Aquaculture course in September 2001 and am currently working for Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association. My son turned two on June 19, 2001. We are living happily in St. Philip's, Newfoundland (my home town). I would like to congratulate Marjorie Hopkins on her marriage to Mark Anderson. I like reading about my fellow classmates in the Barnyard Banter. I would love to hear from my friends, fellow classmates and professors. My e-mail address is dtucker74@hotmail.com.

### Class of 2000

ALLAIN, Amy.....Just wanted to let you know I've been working at the Maritime Animal Hospital in Moncton since April 2001. Keep in touch grads 2000! alallain@hotmail.com

MACDONALD, Stephanie.....Bonjour aggies, I'm writing from the beautiful Laurentians of Quebec atop a mountain in Mont Tremblant. After graduation from Land. Hort. I focused my attention to golf...and so far so good. From greenskeeping at Glen Arbour, N.S. to pesticide tech/ horticulturalist at Fox Meadow, P.E.I. and then the big break...a job offer to supervise the grow in at a resort quality executive par three here in Que. The Manitou is a G. Cooke/D. Huxham designed course that will (hopefully) be ready to play in the spring of 2002. Check it out at www.golfmanitou.com. The superintendent position was mine for the taking...but I enjoyed the challenge of grow-in and may continue in this area of turf. For the winter Jen Savard (former aggie) and I plan to hibernate in the outback of Australia...and in the spring I will surely be somewhere in this world happily growing grass.

MACLELLAN, Megan.....Just left but I miss it already. I was lucky enough to get a job in Ottawa with the CFIA so I moved down here a couple of weeks after graduation. It's great for now but I'm sure missing the Maritimes! Biggest news so far is I got engaged this summer and will be getting married next aug. Who would have thought?...Anyways, if you're ever in the area drop me a line at 613-233-7195. I'm always up for a "sociable" :-). Later, Megan maclellanm@inspection.gc.ca

MARSHALL, Rebecca.....Hello to all my fellow graduates from 2000! I'm currently in the last year of a MSc at the AVC. becca\_marshall88@hotmail.com

Continued on page 26



# Athletics in Review

## VARSITY FALL 2001

### Woodsmen

A keen, full crew of 28 are cutting their way to success again this year. A mini-team competed in unity, Maine with the full team traveling to UNB in October and Sir Sanford Flemming in November, playing well in all competitions. The year 2002 will see activity at Macdonald in January and NSAC in February.



The Woodsmen raise most of the funds required to attend the MAC competition. The team is pictured above with their major fund raising project - they purchase wood in eight foot lengths, cut and split and deliver to interested clients. They were successful in raising \$1800.00

### Soccer

**Women's soccer** struggled a bit this year. Although they improved tremendously over the season, the wins were hard to get and they failed to make a play-off berth.

Record            3-1-6

5th place

All-Conference    Gillian Whidden

**Men's soccer** relied heavily on a strong defensive unit and as such put in a good league schedule. Backstopped by Mike Pittman in goal, the Rams secured the 4th spot and traveled to Saint John for the ACAA's. Unfortunately, a significant injury early in the game threw the Rams off their momentum and they lost the semi 4-0 to UNBSJ (who went on to win the ACAA Title). The injured athlete could not return to the semi but fully recovered in a couple of weeks.

Record            2-6

4th place

All-Conference    Mike Pittman    Iain Caldwell

### Volleyball

**Women** - The women started somewhat slowly in November, but by their last matches in the first semester, were looking like a contender. With half of their schedule ahead of them this semester, they are looking to start strong against UNBSJ and continue to secure a play-off position. St.Thomas is presently the team to beat.

Record    2-7

5th place

**Men** - The men are re-building after a five year reign of the ACAA league. Several promising rookies are gaining confidence in the league and should lead the team to a play-off spot in February. And then in play-offs - anything can happen! Dal are the leaders at this point in the league play.

Record    1-7

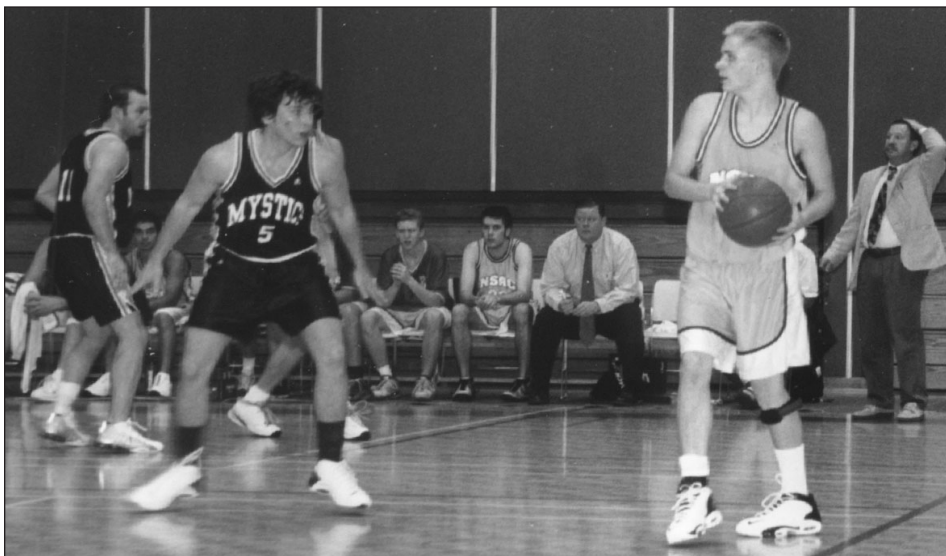
6th place

### Badminton

NSAC badminton has re-joined the ACAA for the 2001-2002 season. The team finished the first two tournaments in 5th and 6th spots respectively. As they start the second semester, the team has added new players on both the men's and women's sections and so are looking forward to a strong second half.

**CCAA Men's Basketball Championships**  
March 21-23, 2002

# Basketball



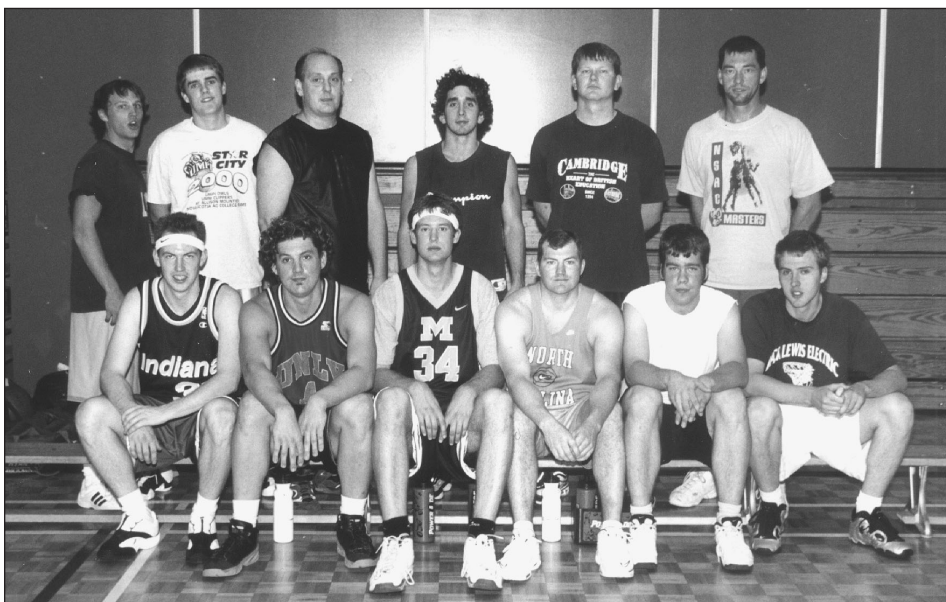
Rookies Mike Akerley leads the Rams Offense against rivals MSVU. The Rams won the game 64-57.

**Women** - The women are again off to a great start. With only one loss in league play in the first semester, they are poised for another first place in the league play with an excellent chance in the play-offs. Veterans are leading the squad with talented rookies maturing quickly and contributing significantly in most games.

Record                  6-1                  Tied for 1st

**Men** - The men had a good start to the season with wins over MSVU and Dal and good close games with the others. Although having a rocky start to the second semester in the Atlantic Coast Classic, they are gaining momentum for a play-off position in March. The goal for the Rams is to finish the ACAA strong and participate in the CCAA Nationals at NSAC - March 21-23.

Record                  2-5                  7th



# Clubs

## Rugby

Both rugby squads had an excellent Fall.

**Women** - The women finished the Fall as NS College Champions

**Men** - The men won the NSRU 2nd Division and then went on to compete in Fredericton (UNB 2nd Division) where they also won the Maritime Title.

CONGRATULATIONS to both Rugby Squads!



Rugby is becoming increasingly popular with women in high schools and universities. Shown here are the AC Rams (solid blue) in a scrum with St. FX. (blue and white)



## Golf

A five member team competed in the ACAA/AUS Golf Tournament at the Truro Club in September. The squad finished 5th in a field of eight teams. The top golfer for NSAC was Jon Garron.

A talented Rams Alumni Basketball squad delivered tough competition for this years' team in the annual Homecoming contest. Above are: (ltoR) Jeff Fisher, Seth Kinsbury, Dan Dunford, Jamie Oxley, Neil Harvey, Donnie MacGregor Back: Steve Doucette, Brad MacGregor, Dean Schofield, Steve Gladwin, Paul Perrin and Jeff Kay

## Development Office, Cont'd from page 7

which includes alumni as well as supporters of the institution. The Development Office coordinates campus events such as open house and alumni weekend, the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame ceremony and contributes to other special occasions such as Convocation, Autumn Assembly and the Seminar Series. In addition, the office is responsible for several components of the NSAC website; making sure that information is accurate and current.

Each team member maintains their own special expertise in dealing with the components of the mission around the office using skills from previous jobs to complement each other in an effective way.

We hope to provide a one-stop-shop for all alumni and friends and invite everyone to please stop by or call the office:

Telephone: (902) 893-6721

or visit us online at:

[www.nsac.ns.ca/development/](http://www.nsac.ns.ca/development/) 


## Distinguished, Continued from page 7

Byron has a keen interest in how people learn which has lead him to instill a high level of life-long learning in the employees of Novartis Animal Health. He, himself, is a firm believer in life-long learning and continuous improvement and believes deeply in the power of a positive attitude. While at Novartis, Byron succeeded in increasing Animal Health Care Sales by over 750 per cent.

This past year Byron was asked to chair a special Finance Task Force for the NSAC Alumni Association and facilitated a planning session with the Board of Directors at a March 2000 retreat. As an NSAC alumnus, Byron has always been a strong motivational force not only behind the scenes in his persuasive, unobtrusive way but also in an overt way. He has worked diligently to preserve the integrity of the Class of 1956 and to channel efforts in relation to support of the College

Since his retirement as President of Novartis Animal Health Canada Inc. in August 2001, Byron has taken on the post of consultant with Novartis Animal Health US. Byron and his wife Katherine reside in Carlisle Ontario on the outskirts of Toronto. They have three daughters: Sharon,


Carolyn and Janet and four grand daughters.

Since graduation in 1956 Byron Beeler has been a strong supporter of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and the NSAC Alumni Association. This combined with his dedication and contributions to the industry make him a very deserving recipient of the NSAC Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2001. 

## Poultry, Continued from page 15

Canadian Centre for Poultry Research at the NSAC was awarded up to 40 per cent of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$2.1 million.


Shortly after this decision a response including commitment for matching dollars must be made for the project to go forward.

The NSAC's prepared to accept contributions toward this and other projects. All contributions will be acknowledged with a receipt for income tax purposes. Substantial contributions to this project will be further recognized and promoted by associating the donor with specific components of the facility. For information on how to contribute to the Renewal of the Poultry Facilities at the NSAC contact Jim Goit, the Executive Director, Development and External Relations (893-7950 or email [jgoit@nsac.ns.ca](mailto:jgoit@nsac.ns.ca)) or Bruce Rathgeber, Poultry Scientist (893-6654 or email [brathgeber@nsac.ca](mailto:brathgeber@nsac.ca)). 

## Barnyard Banter, Continued from page 23

BARCLAY, Erin.....Hey there to all 2000 Ag. Bus. Tech. grads!! I'm currently working at the Nova Scotia Community College in Truro. Dan and I have just recently made our engagement official and we're getting married next May. We have also just bought a house in Debert, so I guess I'm a permanent resident! I hope all is well and hope to hear from you. Erin Barclay [barclay\\_erin@hotmail.com](mailto:barclay_erin@hotmail.com)

## Class of 2001

KENRICK, Elizabeth.....Hey everyone. I just moved up to Pembroke (about 2 hours NW of Ottawa). It's about the size of Truro. I'm working for the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre as a Public Education Technician. I'm really enjoying it. I'd love to hear from some of my fellow grads. Hope everyone is doing well. Miss you all!! Elizabeth Kenrick [ekenrick@nrtco.net](mailto:ekenrick@nrtco.net) 

## New Managing Director for AgriTECH Park



Laurie Sandeson

AgriTECH Park Inc. has a new Board of Directors and management of the facility has been assumed by the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. InNOVAcorp will continue to provide assistance and expertise in terms of business incubation. However, with this transition comes an opportunity for a re-thinking of the business plan and this will be a priority for the newly appointed Managing Director. Laurie Sandeson has accepted a secondment position to AgriTECH Park from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Ms. Sandeson has been with the Marketing Services Branch of the Department for 13 years and most recently was a member of the Product and Quality Development Services Branch whose core business is encouraging the development of value-added products and services in the agriculture and fisheries' sectors. She believes that there is tremendous potential at the Park to grow and develop the agri-food industry through business incubation, agricultural services' networking and alliance-building and professional development initiatives. In collaboration with the Board of Directors and industry stakeholders, Ms. Sandeson will develop a strategic business plan for AgriTECH Park Inc. Initiatives to increase business activity and offer custom-designed facilities for new and existing clients will be a priority.

Laurie lives in Lower Truro with her husband Michael and four boys. Michael operates a small dairy farm (Guernseys and Jerseys) so there is always lots to do down on the farm. 