

# Nuffield Notes



Canada 

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## Three New Scholars

The selection review committee of Ian, Wally, and John has done a tremendous job in evaluating potential candidates for scholarships for the year 2011. From a total number of sixty applicants, they compiled a short list of twelve for interviews. Times were established so that all three on the committee could interview the twelve on the short list. The committee has recommended to the board the top three applicants and the board has accepted the recommendation of the committee.

We are confident of funding more than three scholars per year in the future, if we can find sponsors. In fact many of you have asked us to do this. Consequently we have activated a sponsorship committee consisting of Barb as chair, Steve, Harold, Karen, Marilyn, Les, Wally, and John, tasked with finding new long term sponsors. If you have advice for this committee, please forward you comments to Barb. (*Notes from the Chair*)

We welcome the scholars are from east to west:



**Raymund Loo :** Ray is a PEI farmer operating a certified organic farm since 1996. In 2005 he began marketing is products to Japan and building value chain. There are now 24 farmers marketing through the value chain. These crops include black currants, non GMO and organic canola seed and oil,

organic soy beans, organic safflower, organic buckwheat, organic rhubarb and other fruit.

With his Nuffield Scholarship he hopes to expand his value chain internationally and to make this project an example that other farmers can learn from.

**Kelvin Meadows:** Kelvin was a grain farmer from Moose Jaw Sask. operating a 3000 acre farm growing commercial and pedigreed seed. Since selling the farm 2008 he has been operating Maxcor Ventures Inc. which focuses on management work in real estate, agriculture and investment.



From his life experiences he has learned the challenges of finding middle managers for farm enterprises. During his study he will be investigating human resources and farm management.



**Léona Dargis** Leona inherited the family farm in St. Vincent Alberta and became parent to four sisters at a very young age. Together they operate a 4000 head feedlot and 7000 acre farm. As a member of the Royal Agricultural Societies of the Commonwealth, she has development an international agricultural network. She has a passion for agriculture and a vision to influence positive change nationally in the industry.

Her study will focus on intergeneration transfer of the family farm.

## Global Focus Tour visits Alberta

Eight 2010 Scholars arrived in Calgary, AB on June 23<sup>rd</sup> following their visit to Washington D.C. I, Steve Larocque, 2007 Canadian Scholar, had the honor of teeing up their visit. Karen Daynard, our 2009 Canadian Scholar, joined us for the five-day tour of Central Alberta and the Canadian Rockies. After brief introductions at the airport, the van was packed, pecking order established, and off went six Aussie's, two Kiwi's, and two Canucks to explore Alberta agriculture at its finest.



*Nuffield Scholars in pea field: (Left to right) Alan Redfern, Helen Thomas, Brad Stillard, Ed Cox, Paul McGill, Ben Hooper, Desiree Reid, Ben Tyley, Karen Daynard.*

The first stop on our journey began at Big Rock Brewery, a wonderful success story of Ed McNally. McNally was a malt barley grower who had grown tired of selling malt to the CWB and subsequently created one of Canada's most successful micro-breweries. It was nice to see our guests embrace our culture so well! The day ended with a down home BBQ at Jones Hereford Ranches, a 100 year old cattle ranch and grain farm owned by Allen and Shanna Jones.

The following day we toured Three Hills Hutterite Colony, a communal branch of Anabaptists similar to the Amish but different in the way they've embraced technology. The farm is very diverse with large scale cropping, dairy, chickens, cows, hogs and vegetable gardens managed with state-of-the-art equipment and technologies.

The next stop was Hwy 21 Feeders and Double M Farms, a 15,000 acre grain farm and 20,000 head feedlot owned by Ed Miller and family. Ed and his son Lyle lead an insightful

discussion on how they manage production, currency, business expansion, and employee risk. We finished the day with a BBQ and discussion about succession planning at Hilton Farms. Spencer and Sterling Hilton, along with their families, have an excellent succession plan that helps parents exit the business while bringing in the next generation.



*Scholars on a 100 ft weigh scale: (Left to right) Brad Stillard, Alan Redfern, Paul McGill, Ben Hooper, Ed Cox, Helen Thomas, Ben Tyley, Desiree Reid. Picture Below: : Kevin Nixon, Nixon Honey owner, fetching us a queen bee to look at*

On Day Three we toured one of Alberta's most successful vertically integrated family businesses called Sunterra, owned by the Price family. Sunterra's business was built around growing and marketing food products and controlling each aspect of the supply chain. Sunterra's outlet is Sunterra Market, a high-end retail grocery business that also offers catering, cooking classes and online grocery shopping. We learned how Sunterra manages the production chain by raising its own lamb, cattle and hogs, all processed in their own abattoirs. The next stop was Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural development to learn about the make-up of Agriculture in Alberta, the demographics and some key indicators of farm financial health.

The day ended with a tour and BBQ at Rod and Shelley Bradshaw's fresh veggie and grain farm. Rod, Shelley and four other local families began Innisfail Growers, a successful co-operative that sells home grown produce to over 40 farmers markets in Alberta. A highlight for the group was being billeted out to farms for



the evening; a huge thanks to Rod who organized it! Finding a compatible family to host a lobster fisherman is a lot to ask, but Rod found an excellent host and a great time was had by all.

Day Four we visited Nixon Honey, an impressive business started by Kevin Nixon, a young and aggressive entrepreneur who owns and manages over 4,000 hives in Central Alberta. Kevin built his business from the ground up and now employs over 15 people selling honey, beeswax, pollen, propolis and royal jelly to markets in Europe, Asia and North America. Our next stop and final farm tour was Morsan Farms, owned by Morris and Sandra Thalen. Morsan Dairy own and house one of the largest Holstein genetic pools in the world with over 200 different cow families. It's an extraordinary operation and one that recently sold a Holstein cow named Missy for \$1.2 million dollars!



*Picture: Paul McGill holding a \$50,000 Holstein cow.*

With ten farm tours under our belt and the world's food production problems solved, we headed for the Rocky Mountains. The group enjoyed a paddle on Lake Louise, a gondola ride up Sulphur Mountain in Banff and an overnight in Canmore.

I really enjoyed hosting the GFT and showcasing Alberta agriculture! It opened my eyes to the high level of business acumen that exists in my own backyard. The Nuffield banner once again opened up doors to businesses we wouldn't have had the opportunity to visit otherwise and having the fresh, new perspectives of the diverse group enhanced it even more. I'm already looking forward to the next GFT!



*Picture: Paul McGill, Ben Hooper, Ed Cox paddling on Lake Louise.*

By: Steve Larocque, 2007 Nuffield Scholar

## **2010 Nuffield Canada Annual Tour and Meeting**

Fairmont Empress Victoria, BC Nov 27 - 28, 2010

Book Hotel on-Line or by phone; On-Line; <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/youngfarmers> Phone: 1-800-441-1414

November 27 - **Tour** -the Cowichan Valley, a water buffalo farm, a winery and a birds of prey sanctuary

November 28 - **AGM** and Scholar Presentations starting at 9:00 am.

**Full program** includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, tour and entertainment on Saturday; breakfast, lunch, banquet and speakers on Sunday \$300/person

**Spousal Program** includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, tour and entertainment on Saturday; banquet and speakers on Sunday \$225/person

### **NUFFIELD REGISTRATION**

To register and reserve your spot on the tour Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote at 306 466-4645 send an email to [dinewithconfidence@gmail.com](mailto:dinewithconfidence@gmail.com) or snail mail to R.R.#3, Site 319, Box 117 Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3J6

## Notes from the Chair

Another fall season is behind us and here on PEI we were spared the difficult growing conditions that many of you faced this year. Instead we had the best growing conditions, this summer, for quite some time.

Thanks to Steve for heading up the Global Focus tour in western Canada in late June. Feedback from the tour was very positive. Members of the tour really appreciated in being billeted out to other farm families.

Our revised application to the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) has been submitted. We are hopeful of a favourable response this fall.

The board and the executive meet via conference call on as needed basis. So far we have had four board meetings and numerous executive and committee meetings.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our AGM in Victoria on November 27 and 28.

Barry Cudmore

## Summer 2010 Ontario Picnic

Jim & Ruth Clark, Jack & Donna Rigby, Mac & Joyce Sprowl, Shane Eby, Jim Rickard & Mary, Meredith Robb & Bev., and Dan & Megan Cornwell were hosted by Brian & Jane Ellsworth for a lovely picnic the last weekend in July.

We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon and evening in the backyard seated around their pool. A number of the group had recently had cancer treatment and all were doing well thanks to the wonders of modern medicine.

The talk centered around past Nuffield experiences and the hopes of attending the annual Nuffield meeting in Victoria this November and the conference in Australia in 2011. It was great seeing everyone and catching up on the happening in each other's lives

by Jack Rigby

*It is with sadness that we report the passing of Harvey Holman 1958 scholar from Hanover Ontario*

## 2011 Nuffield International Conference and Study Tour

The triennial Nuffield International Conference offers scholars from across the world an opportunity to experience the extraordinary destination that is Australia. This is a premier opportunity for scholars to be engaged in Australia's vibrant and diverse farm sector and discuss the issues affecting global agriculture.

There are three stages to the Study Tour:

1. **South Australia** – 25 September to 30 September 2011
2. **Transit to Perth** – 1 October to 4 October 2011
3. **Western Australia** – 5 October to 9 October 2011

There are two major conference days:

- Adelaide:** Friday 30 September 2011  
**Perth:** Wednesday 4 October 2011

**For more details visit the conference website at [www.2011.nuffieldinternational.org](http://www.2011.nuffieldinternational.org)**