

Date: January 21, 2009

To: WSSA Board

From: C.J. Swanton, Past President Canadian Weed Science Society

Re: Canadian Weed Science Society

The Board members of the Canadian Weed Science Society continued to meet via conference on a regular basis throughout this past year. We were very fortunate to be able to hire Anita Drabek from Manitoba as our new executive assistant. Her term of service was initiated just a couple of months prior to our annual meeting. Needless to say, her learning curve was very steep, but she very successfully fulfilled her duties to our Society. Our Society held its annual conference in Banff, Alberta from November 24th to 27th, 2008. The Board met prior to the conference for a day of strategic planning. Our planning session was led by Gail Wallin from Management Plus. Our plan is designed to give continuity in direction for our Board members over the next five years. This plan is expected to be posted on our web page by March 2009. Our new web page is in the final stages of construction and is scheduled for launch by the 1st of February 2009. The annual conference was attended by 188 registered members. The plenary session was entitled, "The Politics of Weeds". In this session current issues facing weed science were discussed. Topics ranged from public perception of genetically modified organisms to urban pesticide use and challenges. The conference also hosted workshops, graduate student presentations and numerous weed control sessions on field and vegetable crops. Our Society awarded "Fellows" to five individuals in recognition of their contributions to weed science in Canada. The award winners were Mahesh Upadhyaya, Frederick Holm, Gordon Thomas, Gerald Stephenson and Clarence Swanton. As well, industry award winners included Don Hare from Dow Agrosiences and Lyle Drew from BASF Canada.

The new executive and Board members have already started planning for this coming year. The new President is Tom Wolf from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Our annual conference in 2009 is scheduled to be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island from November 25th to 27th.