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## Grain Farmers of Ontario and Glacier Media Step up to Sponsor

The three new Canadian scholars will begin their travels with a trip to Ireland in February 2016 where they will meet with the other 2016 scholars from around the world, for one week of tours, workshops, speakers and networking. It is exciting for the organization that two of these scholarships are sponsored scholarships.

Glacier Media is supporting Tim Smith's scholarship and the inaugural Grain Farmers' of Ontario scholarship goes to Tony Balkwill. Having sponsors on board shows that Canadian agricultural businesses and farm organizations believe that an investment in a future industry leader will pay dividends. Their support also allows us to continue to grow the Nuffield Program here.

As well as being sponsors Glacier Media/Country Guide helps build awareness of the program through their excellent coverage of scholar studies.

## Meet the New Scholars

### *Tony Balkwill, Paris, Ontario*

Tony, an independent agronomy specialist based out of Southern Ontario, wins the inaugural Grain Farmers' of Ontario Nuffield Scholarship. As owner of NithField Advanced Agronomy, he manages thousands of acres of cropland across several counties. He is also a third generation farmer who farms in the Oxford and Brant areas. His farming operation is the foundation for NithField's research and development program and consists of 400+ acres of full production field scale research systems. Tony has been working with producers for over ten years. He is a Certified Crop Advisor, a graduate of the University of Guelph and the University of Illinois, specializing in Crop Science. Tony is an avid public speaker and a published writer with the American Society of Agronomy, Better Farming and Grain Farmers of Ontario.



**Agronomist Tony Balkwill**

With his Nuffield Scholarship, Tony will be looking at the challenges of accurately modernizing historical soil type maps into field specific management zones. By studying the geology and make-up of agriculture soils and how they can be a foundation and predictor for variable rate farming, in the aim of increasing production potential and sustainability.

Tony will primarily be visiting large 'grain belts' across the world including Canada, the U.S., Europe and Australia. [Follow Tony @TonyBalkwill](#)

### *Clair Doan, Norwich, ON*

Clair's mission is to productively contribute to the Canadian agriculture industry as a passionate advocate, turkey and grain farmer and professionally as the Associate Vice President of Agriculture for Ontario at National Bank of Canada. He graduated from the University of Guelph with a B.Sc. (Agr) and a Masters of Agribusiness (MAB) from Kansas State University.



**Clair Doan – Banker, Farmer**

Along with his wife Kathryn and daughters Carmyn, Sophia, and Charlotte, Clair lives near Norwich, Ontario where agriculture and farming is truly a family affair.

Clair's Nuffield project will focus on how Canada's supply managed sectors, particularly poultry farmers, can manage during times of uncertainty with increased political and global market pressures. As an advocate for our system, Clair seeks to gain a thorough understanding of production and marketing models abroad. His focus is to ensure the industry remains relevant and competitive while seeking market opportunities.

Visits to Australia, New Zealand, England, and Holland to investigate the impact of changes in supply management policies, as well as to the Southern US to better understand the integration of the American poultry industry make up the majority of Clair's travel plans. [Follow Clair @clairdoan](#)



**Timothy Smith,  
Coronation, Alberta**

After reflecting on 100 years of ranch family heritage, combined with a degree in agriculture, Tim Smith successfully rebuilt and grew from a small portion of a divided farm established in 1915 to a successful 800 head cow/calf cattle operation. He and his family also own a custom forage harvest

**Cattleman Tim Smith**

business, harvesting several thousands of acres each year. He is also highly involved in the agricultural industry, serving on his provincial beef cattle organization and representing Alberta Beef Producers nationally.

Through his Nuffield project, Tim plans to research the valuation of ecological goods and services provided by cattle ranching. He believes there is much to be gleaned in studying how other cultures recognize and value pastoral benefit. His interest is in the development of national support to encourage and improve sustainable habitats, as well as how that support is transferred to the actual stewards of the land. Tim believes that good stewardship of the land will be increasingly important to the financial health of Canadian cattle country.

Tim plans to visit some of the larger beef exporting countries of the world including South America, Australia, and the U.S.

### **Promoting Scholarships**

Many things have changed over the years since our first scholars went by boat to England in 1950. One thing that has stayed constant is that there are many people in agriculture, deserving of the Canadian Nuffield Scholarship. It is up to past scholars to increase awareness of the opportunity and to encourage worthy individuals to apply.

Currently the scholarships are valued at \$15,000 each. They are awarded to men and women who are judged to have the greatest potential to create value for them, their industries and their communities through the doors which will be opened and the opportunities provided. Scholars are able to access the best production, management and marketing systems in every corner of the world. Before the deadline for new applications on April 30, 2016, encourage someone you know to visit [www.nuffield.ca](http://www.nuffield.ca) to learn more.

### **Annual Scholars Meeting in Conjunction with FMC Agri Excellence Conference**

The Agricultural Excellence Conference is a one-of-a-kind event in Canada, focusing on bringing diverse industry experts and stakeholders together from across disciplines, regions and commodity sectors to share and explore beneficial farm management practices, advice, and insight with leading farm business thinkers. – See more at: [www.fmc-gac.com/content/agricultural-excellence-conference](http://www.fmc-gac.com/content/agricultural-excellence-conference)

The Nuffield Conference is being held from 9:00 am November 25 until noon Nov. 27. It will be followed by the Scholar presentations and AGM. There is an optional tour on Saturday Nov. 28 to Black Fox Distillery in Saskatoon. Deadline for registration is Oct. 23, 2015. Contact [secretary@nuffield.ca](mailto:secretary@nuffield.ca) for registration forms, as we have reduced rate of \$451.50 with tax.

Note for those who can't attend the events in their entirety that we have some separate pricing as follows:

- For those wishing to have guests attend the luncheon and presentations on Friday the cost is \$25.00 taxes incl.
- Separate tickets available for the Thursday banquet evening. They are \$85.00/each and can be purchased on the FMC website The banquet evening will include supper, award presentations and the Marquee Speaker, Chris Koch.

All event functions will take place at:

**Ramada Plaza Regina**, Toll Free: 1-800-667-6500

Website: [www.ramadaregina.com](http://www.ramadaregina.com)

#### **Notice of Annual Meeting for Nuffield Canada**

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting for Nuffield Canada will take place on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and will be held in Regina Saskatchewan at the Ramada Plaza at 2:30 pm immediately following scholar presentations which start at 1:00 pm.

The meeting is for the following purposes:

- To receive and consider the financial statements of Nuffield Canada for the financial year ended September 30, 2015
- To re-appoint the accounting firm for Nuffield Canada
- To elect 3 Western directors and one director at large for a two year term.
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

*Is your membership paid so you can vote?*

## Canadian Outbound Scholars



**Cheryl Hazenberg in Argentina**

There are currently six scholars working on their studies and being proud ambassadors for Canada. Included below is a note from Cheryl Hazenberg 2013 scholar.

“I’ve just returned from my last Nuffield research journey which took me through three countries in South America. It seemed like the perfect location to finish off my travels as Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay are all about beef. The winter weather was wonderful, the people were friendly and along with beef production I was able to see a variety of different crops. In Brazil, there were Nelore and Angus cattle, coffee plants, orange trees and sugar cane. Argentina in the Pampas region is all about the Angus cattle where 80% of the national herd is Angus. Uruguay was heavy with Holsteins, Herefords and Angus. The other great thing about these countries was the amount of beef residents consume, they are among the highest consumption rates in the country and much of the product is used to supply the domestic market. I cannot wait to go back and these places have risen to near the top of my favourite locations I have visited through the Nuffield process.”

## Win – Win Hosting Inbound Scholars

Canadian scholars and scholars from all parts of the globe benefit from home stays, which are an integral part of the scholarship program. One guest this summer was Adam McVeigh, an Australian cotton and grain grower. His topic is around achieving high yields with double cropping under overhead irrigation or “Turning water into cash flow”

Adam and his family had a spectacular entrance into Canada by crossing a bridge with a view of Niagara Falls! He says “Two nights in Niagara with our two young

children is an experience that Edwina and I will never forget. Crossing an international border between two countries by car is still a strange concept for me and I’m sure for most Australians.”

Adams next stop was the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre with Mary Jane Clark. Adam comments that “one of the great opportunities that a Nuffield Scholarship provides is the chance to explore other agricultural sectors and gain an insight into the structures, research and approaches that they take.” They discussed biological pest control methods, automation and technological advances, nutrition experiments in nurseries and then exchanged ideas from the Australian Cotton and Grains industry.

For Adam “the key visit for our trip into Canada was visiting and staying with Fellow Nuffielder Jim Clark and his wife Ruth. Jim showed me around the district and introduced me to some of the locals who were great company and interesting to talk with. The tour finished with a great opportunistic field walk through corn breeder Francis Glenn’s trial plot where he demonstrated some of the different traits that he selects for. The water supply in the region is an irrigator’s fantasy, but as I found out, it seems here, removing water from the soil is more of an issue than filling it up.”

Adam’s visit is just one example of what is gained by the visiting scholar and in exchange the visitor brings a wealth of knowledge and different perspectives. As Canadian scholars we need to be proactive about offering a hand and a home to international guests. Take the time to read the list of new scholars and their topics. If you see an area where you can offer a Canadian perspective or provide contact information, reach out and share this information. Cross fertilization of ideas is a win-win for everyone.



**Jim and Ruth Clark (left) with visiting Adam and Edwina McVeigh and family**

## *greetings fellow alumni and scholars.*

Summer has come and gone with its usual haste and we come to the end of another cropping season with a mixed bag of results. I know that there have been pockets of farming success this season but for the majority it has not been the finest of falls after a dry summer and wet harvest season. My father in law was always a positive guy and he would say that all this moisture means we already have half a crop for next year, but then he is always a glass half full kind of guy. For those of you who are still grinding away I doubt you really care much about the cup full or otherwise. Here is hoping you all finish safe and soon.

I have a few items of note for this newsletter and the first is that Nuffield Canada has a new Executive Director. As of September 1<sup>st</sup> Shannon McArton has taken over from Alan Miller who has stepped down due to ongoing health issues that have prevented him from completing his contracted duties as E.D. I would like to thank Alan for the effort he has expended on behalf of Nuffield Canada and wish him all the best as he regains his health. I would also like to thank Shannon for taking on the role of Executive Director and encourage everyone to reach out and welcome Shannon into her new role. Shannon brings 25 years of writing, communications, public relations, marketing and administrative experience to Nuffield Canada and will be primarily responsible for managing the communications, website and investor relationships while supporting the Chairman and board. Shannon resides in Saskatchewan and farms alongside her husband Ken at Dilke, Saskatchewan.



**Shannon McArton, Exec. Director**

I would also like to remind everyone who is considering attending this year's AGM in Regina that the October 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline for registration is fast approaching and you might as well suck it up and do the paperwork now so you don't miss out on a great opportunity to meet other likeminded individuals. The registration package has already been sent out a couple of times but if you need more information please contact Rod Bradshaw at [secretary@nuffield.ca](mailto:secretary@nuffield.ca) Look for more details with the AGM notice. As to what we have been working on at the board level I can confirm that we have FCC coming on board as an investor and they will be providing up to \$20,000 to help us with raising Nuffield Canada's public profile as well as scholar speaking opportunities. We look forward to the collaboration and opportunity that this investment brings.

I can also confirm that we have set the launch date for the new website to be up and running in November so that we can get some feedback from everyone during the AGM. This has been a stuttering project that has dragged out for well over a year and I am pleased that we can get this site up and running. We see the website as an important tool to support our investor relations as well as our alumni and scholars so we look forward to the new format and all the positives it will bring.

The board is also working to roll out the roles and responsibilities document so that we can better describe the positions and responsibilities for committees, board members and the Executive Director. The updated document will play an important role in making sure that we have a functioning work group that is well positioned to support new scholars and engage alumni.

Finally I would like to inform everyone that Jim Geltech will be moving to head Nuffield International and as a result Nuffield Australia will be looking for a new E.D. Jim has been the face of Nuffield Australia and has done an incredible job of leading that organization so I would like to thank the Australians for having the unselfish foresight to let Jim take on a new challenge with Nuffield International.

That's it for now, have an enjoyable fall season.

*Kelvin Meadows*

Chairman