

# Nuffield Notes

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Nuffield



Canada 

## Innovative Women In Today's Agriculture –

by Tanya Robbins UK scholar

After the international conference, I arranged to stay on to further my study with Carolyn Fuerth(1999). She made several appointments for me over two days. My first stop was with Anna Mastronardi in her lovely warm greenhouses covering several acres growing flowers, tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. Even in the depths of winter Anna's passion for her business shone through by using the closed period to propagate huge numbers of plants including geraniums and herbs. I was impressed with the technology used to grow more from the same area and the biological control used instead of pesticides.

The next stop was Doug and Leslie Huffman and their fruit farm growing apples, cherries, peaches, apricots, plums, pears, raspberries & cut flowers. Leslie is the Apple and Horticulture Crops specialist for OMAFRA. Their farm is putting research into practice and where traditional orchards averaged 50% marketable apples, new orchards using modern breeding and innovative growing techniques aim to produce 95% marketable produce. We visited Leslie at her office and she gave us a tour of Research Centre taking in the greenhouses, genebank for apples, raspberries, strawberries, plums, roses and peaches and their 20 year soil analysis project.



Tanya Robbins UK Scholar amazed at the vast expanse of Lake Erie.

Onwards to Sprucewood Shores Estate Winery to meet Tanya Mitchell, the youngest Canadian wine maker at 24 winning 26 awards in 2012. This is a family business with the structure put in place by her late father with Tanya and her family forging ahead and using the beautiful building beside Lake Erie as an events venue. Tanya is responsible for doing the laboratory analysis for the wine, the accounts, staffing and publicity for weddings and events. I was impressed with her insight and future planning of

the business. Last interview for the day was with Nikki Taylor who is, I understand, the only female crop advisor in this area of Canada working for Settingington's .

The next morning took us to meet Carol Taves. She is a part of the family business of Wheatley Grain Elevators. An inspiring story of the family coming from the Ukraine, now farming owned land, share cropping, renting and encouraging the next generation to take an active role. My final interview was with Isabella Muzzin who with her husband Mark owns The Butcher of Kingsville. A steady stream of regular customers, enjoy chatting to them and want to buy local and support the 'Grown Right Here' campaign.

My visit was just before Easter and an article in the local paper, the Windsor Star, resulted in non-stop phone calls from current customers and many new ordering lamb for Easter. I am so grateful to Rick & Carolyn for giving me an insight into their business.

## 2014 Nuffield Triennial Conference

Nuffield Canada is very proud to host the Global Nuffield Family. The theme of the conference is "Prosperity through Innovation." We will explore - in depth - the meaning of each word. The backdrop of the event is the beautiful Atlantic Coast of Canada, starting in Halifax Nova Scotia (YHZ). After 4 days of touring agriculture operations and East Coast culture, the Conference Day on June 19th will wrap up our time in Nova Scotia. The next day you will travel over one of the world's longest links - the Confederation Bridge (14 km) to Prince Edward Island - Canada's smallest Province and the Cradle of Canadian Confederation. You will continue to dine on some of Canada's best seafood and other delicacies and experience "Agriculture the Island Way." June 24th, we will fly you to the heart of Canada - South Western Ontario . This area is Canada's most diverse and productive agriculture region and home of Niagara Falls. The study tour will wrap up on June 28th, with connections possible from Pearson International Airport (YYZ) at Toronto. For those who are interested in extending their stay in Canada, there is the potential of post tour. Nuffield Triennial Conference, runs from June 16 to 28, 2014. Registration will open soon, and there will be opportunity to select either the entire itinerary, or individual segments (Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Ontario) Visit and bookmark

<http://nuffield.ca/triennial/> or link to us from <http://www.nuffieldinternational.org/index.html>

# Contemporary Scholars Conference 2013

March 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Guelph, ON and Niagara Falls, ON, Canada

Report by Nuffield Canada 2013 Scholar, Clayton Robins

Arriving just in time to catch a ride to the Guelph hockey arena, I had little time to introduce myself to many of my new colleagues before we were dressed in Canadian hockey jerseys and off to the game. A sense of ease and camaraderie soon became apparent as I found myself engaged in a myriad of



conversations with my new-found friends as we exchanged introductions and I endeavored to explain the rules of the game that played out before them. The highlights of the evening were two-fold: firstly in the site of the sea of red jerseys borne by those of CSC 2013, and secondly in the frenzy of the hamburger game played by our quartet of fun-loving Nuffielders; pictured L to R: Jake Freestone (UK), Trent De Paoli (AUS), Natasha King (NZ), and Andrew Janaway (UK). Great sports one and all and a wonderful ice-breaker.

Our first morning together set the tone for the entire Conference over the next several days as the Class of 2013 began our Nuffield journey together. We entered the conference room that Sunday morning,

in dress attire and hearts pounding, prepared to formally introduce ourselves to our new colleagues. The first sight to take in was a ring of chairs, over 50 in all, circling the speakers' podium and the projector. Regardless of age, experience, knowledge or gender we took the first steps of that journey together, new entrants to the Nuffield network and family, as equals; a moment in our lives that will not soon be forgotten.

The remainder of the day was spent with additional social activities that once again provided us a forum to get to know each other on a personal level, and discover each other's skills and interests, as we prepared for the formal programming that would demand our full attention for the remainder of the week. The afternoon was spent in small groups on a Scavenger Hunt around the University of Guelph campus, followed by an evening in the Guelph Curling Rink; where fun was most certainly had by all.

Throughout the entire week, a series of excellent presenters provided us with a very broad picture of Canadian agriculture. These presentations began with overviews of statistics and the state of Canadian agriculture, including our place on the international stage; as well issues and challenges facing some of our industries. As our guest presenters laid out the road map for their vision of the future of agriculture in Canada, opportunities in export potential, processing, and local food were highlighted. Of particular interest to all in attendance were the series of presentations on the power of media and the use of messaging to promote the industry that we know and love so well.

The take-home from this session was the importance of each of us telling our story, since it is such a great story to tell; a fact that was not lost on every Scholar in the room and resonated with their passion and commitment to our respective roles in the quest to feed the world. It was very fitting that this day ended with presentations from three local entrepreneurs, each with a unique story as they shared their journey on the road to success. They could not have had a more receptive audience in any venue.

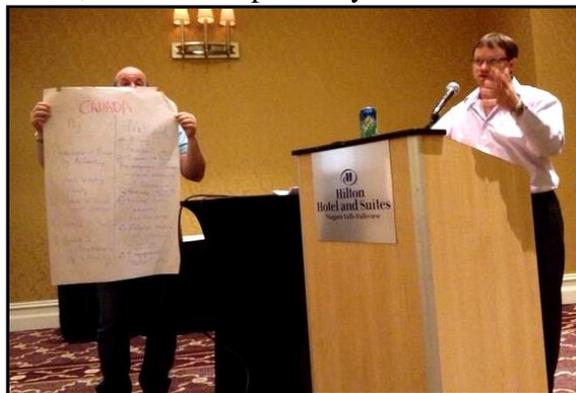


As with any conference we welcomed the opportunity to hit the road, see the countryside, tour a very successful co-operative, get schooled at a research institution, and experience small businesses focused on local food and processing. Much of the southern Ontario agriculture that was seen and experienced was very informative even for myself, considered the local by all my Nuffield colleagues, but so very foreign to the production systems of my Prairie home. This time spent in the Ontario countryside was considered very valuable by all.



After several days of inspiration and information overload, our skills were put to the test on our final day together at CSC 2013, with a series of challenges and strategic planning sessions. With little time and a great deal of focus, it was an impressive feat to see what this group of diverse, intelligent, and grounded individuals were able present to the conference organizers in the final session. As throughout the entire week preceding, I was continually amazed and humbled at the capacity of these individuals, and more so as a group, in overcoming challenges and diverging opinions to chart a course of action.

We arrived as strangers; began as equals; shared the stories of our lives; fed on each other's passion, knowledge, and humility; quickly became friends and colleagues; and left as a family. It was the most profound experience of my life to date and is difficult to put into words what it truly means to be considered a peer amongst this group of amazing individuals. To spend the better part of nine days with such a group; comprised of agricultural leaders who not only truly wanted to be there, but more importantly had earned the right to be there, was in itself a very humbling and sobering thought. To be immersed in their passion and drive; to know that they were willing to travel to the four corners of the Earth in the pursuit of knowledge, in order to bring that knowledge home to change the world for the better is an experience that I will never forget; and one that I wish everyone could experience at least once in their lives. Thank you to the organizers of CSC 2013. We had been told all along that this would be a life-changing experience and those words could not have rung more true during my time together with the 2013 Nuffield Scholars. I will cherish these memories and look forward to when we meet again.



### **Ontario Summer Picnic Sunday August 10**

Hosted by Grant and Gayle Ketcheson  
at their cottage at Pitts landing on Moira Lake  
GPS address - 99 Pitts Lane Madoc

Meal is provided by the hosts.  
Please bring desert or treats of your choice.

Accommodations  
Hotels in Belleville  
Madoc - B&B -THE SPOTTED DOG 1-866-776-8364  
Marmora- (16 km west) - MARMORA INN

RSVP - [gketcheson@sympatico.ca](mailto:gketcheson@sympatico.ca)

### **Western Summer Picnic July 26 & 27 in Wolseley, SK Home of Joe and Joan Linnell**

#### **Agenda**

#### **Friday July 26**

2:00 - arrive and register  
2:15 - local agricultural highlights tour  
6:00 - supper at the Banbury House  
Evening of socializing and reminiscing  
Overnight accommodations at the Banbury House  
**Saturday July 27, 10:00 AM - Brunch**

The Banbury House, [www.banburyhouse.com](http://www.banburyhouse.com) is  
Saskatchewan's first European style bed and  
breakfast and can accommodate 20 -30 guests

## Research Paper on Local Food Movement

by Sarah Megens

Since the turn of the century, a growing movement endorsing the availability of locally grown food has lent its support for enhanced preservation of agricultural lands. The motivations for these local food justice movements are varied. The motivations behind the movement as including the emphasis of consumers' rights, the iterative relationship between human and environmental health, the importance of modes of food production and distribution and the impact that coalitions and focused efforts can have on policy.

This Nuffield research study will focus on the policy frameworks and strategies through which local food movements operate and will analyze their potential to impact farmland preservation regimes at the local level. Land-use, agricultural, community economic development and social policies will be explored in conjunction—described herein as food policy—particularly as it relates to the creation and maintenance of a sustainable local food system built upon an adequately protected agricultural land base. The paper explores the topic on three fronts.

The first section explores the theoretical underpinnings of the local food movement and focuses on three schools of thought: food security, food sovereignty and food systems. This section combines research and information gathered throughout the study area, and highlights only a small selection of organizations or coalitions that exemplify these approaches. The second section will discuss the rationale behind farmland protection and preservation from a land use planning and policy perspective, and will explore regimes from Canada, the United States and Europe in greater detail. To contextualize the research study, the elements of planning policy at the local, provincial or state, and national level will provide insight into how transformation in agricultural practices and food system infrastructure will further enable a rural renaissance in the Canadian country-side. An in-depth analysis into the conditions upon which the success of a local food system characterized by independent producers rests is followed in the third section by a series of recommendations for policy makers interested in pursuing similar models of local food system creation in their own communities. This section will highlight the opportunities for comprehensive community food systems planning at the municipal level. Each of the elements described above will be contextualized with examples based on my Nuffield travel research from visits across Canada, parts of the United States, England, France, the Netherlands and Belgium. The research will be framed in for its applicability in Canada, acknowledging Canadian policy making practices and legislative structures, however it is hoped that the international audience may be able to make use of some of these ideas as well. Visit Nuffield website to read the final paper.

## Presidents Greetings

Good Day Fellow Nuffielders,

*"May you live in interesting times"* is often said as a curse but I cannot think of anything worse than being bored. Fortunately for us at Nuffield Canada we are not bored! Au contraire – I think things have never been busier. Since our last newsletter in December, there was:

- The revamping of the Nuffield website along with the logo to better reflect ourselves and our future direction – thanks to Alan Miller
- Placement of the finishing touches on the triennial conference that is coming up in June 2014, this is no small feat as we are looking to host 150 international guests in not one but four locations – Nova Scotia, PEI, Ontario and Alberta thanks to Barry Cudmore and his committees for this
- A decision to approach the Bill Gates foundation as a possible collaborator with Nuffield, as a possible sponsor and/or to liaise with the many talented Nuffield alumni - thanks to Joe Linell for instigating this
- The successful hosting of the 2013 Contemporary Scholars conference. With 65 brand new Nuffield Scholars, eager, enthusiastic and so full of vim and vigour it was astounding. We spent time in Guelph and Niagara, Ontario, with presentations on everything from Twitter and social media to GMO's to agricultural finance. Along with many excellent tours. . We taught them how we Canadians walk on water (we wait till it is frozen) and how gentlemen throw stones at one another (otherwise known as curling). Though we couldn't get the Aussies to stop calling the hockey goalie a "keeper" we do think that they finally got the idea behind the game. Many thanks to Karen Daynard
- The development of a strategy for Nuffield International, a group comprised of the chairs from all member countries, with a mandate to promote Nuffield and further global connections
- An overhaul of the Nuffield books/taxes/accounting thanks to Rod Bradshaw
- There was a newsletter sent out by Carolyn Fuerth
- We have 15 qualified applications to be 2014 scholars and our application review committee of Ian McPhadden, John Lohr, Wally Doerksen and Mark Wales are busy at the task of selection
- The preparations for the eastern and western summer picnics – thanks to all involved

Although I am secretly hoping for a slow summer I have my doubts that it will be so. Ahh but that is the consequence of having a vibrant organization with many people involved. Thanks to everyone for their help.

Have a great summer,

Barb