

Nuffield Notes



Canada 

Site 4, Box 23 R.R. 4 Lacombe Alberta T0C 1S0
msharp@rttinc.com 403-885-4218



A good Neighbor – Alfred Grenfell

Nuffield Benefits From Neighbour

We all rely on good neighbours and we try to be ones ourselves. Well, Nuffield Canada has a good neighbor in Alfred Smith of Grenfell, Sask. Alfred donated \$10,000 for a Nuffield scholarship. Alfred gave because he feels its "good to share knowledge around" and he wanted to help other farmers learn more. He also gave because he has a good neighbour in Joe Linnel, who encouraged him. Alfred says that he has heard Joe speak about Nuffield many times and that he believes the scholarship was of great benefit to Joe and the community. At 82 and in poor health, he has discovered how important good neighbours are and how much he appreciates them.

Alfred has farmed all his life with his twin brother Edward (now deceased) and older brother Richard. They farmed two sections and most years grew wheat, oats, barley, flax, and peas. They also had a herd of purebred Charolais, which they imported from France. Alfred says he and his brothers have always gotten along well, which is no small accomplishment and is a tribute to the generous spirit of the Smith brothers. **Thank you Alfred.**

Brian Ellsworth Honoured

Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Association inducted 5 leaders into the Hall of Fame Gallery at Country Heritage Park in Milton on Sunday June 12, 2005. To qualify for this prestigious recognition inductees must have demonstrated visionary leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship in the advancement of agriculture in Ontario. Brian Scott Ellsworth (1966 Scholar) will one of the five honoured.

Brian Ellsworth served as General Manager to the Ontario Egg & Fowl Producers' Marketing Board, the Ontario Egg Producers' Marketing Board and most recently the Ontario Egg Producers. During his 34-year tenure as General Manager of these organizations he successfully guided this industry through tumultuous times. His "beg forgiveness, then ask permission" philosophy provided dynamic leadership for the industry and enabled him to demonstrate the lasting benefits of progressive agricultural policy development. His enterprising style and advocacy for change resulted in the successful implementation and development of the overall Canadian Egg Quota System.

Brian Ellsworth's influence extended beyond the egg industry. Early in his career he served as director on Boards serving the hog industry, the Ont. Federation of Agriculture, the Rural Learning Assoc. and the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program. He also has served as President of the Canadian Association of Nuffield Scholars, Ontario Institute of Agrologists and the International Egg Commission. He assisted in the creation of AGRICORP, an agency that continues to serve Ontario's agricultural interests, and recently served the livestock industry as Interim GM of Ont. Farm Animal Council.

Brian influenced every major milestone that has marked the evolution of the egg industry in Ontario and Canada. We are proud of his association with Nuffield. **Congratulations Brian!**

Orrin Hart - The Other First Nuffield Scholar



In 1951 two young single Canadian farmers traveled to the UK on Nuffield Scholarships, John McLean and Orrin Hart. In my previous presidents message I called John McLean of Eureka, N.S. our 1st scholar but I didn't realize that he and Orrin Hart of Claresholm, Alberta actually traveled together part of the time. In 1951 Orrin found travel in the UK difficult so he purchased a new Morris Minor car for 330 pounds and he and John put 11,000 miles on it. Orrin brought the car back to Alberta but he says that the little 4-cylinder had trouble starting in the Alberta winter and the canvas top and lack of a heater made it very cold, so he traded it. Orrin spent his scholarship looking at Black Angus and he says that even John was bitten by "black fever" at the time. Orrin must have been bitten by something too, because he met an Ayrshire dairy farmers daughter named Margaret, from Kilmarnock, Ayrshire County, Scotland. In 1953 Margaret traveled to Alberta to confirm Orrin's accounts of prairie life and see the farm in Claresholm. Orrin says she delivered a heifer for him and stayed on for wages, but Margaret says the heifer arrived after her. She must have liked what she saw because they tied the knot later that year. Orrin and Margaret have three sons, Bill, John and Andy. Andy and John have carried on the beef farming tradition with a pure bred Angus herd and commercial steers respectively. Margaret had heart

surgery last year but Orrin says she is now back on half wages and getting much better. Orrin still rides horseback and helps on his son's farms and sounds to me like a remarkably spry 81 year old.

Orrin is well known in Alberta as an inventor, environmentalist and for writing letters to the editor. He is currently trying to get the Alberta and federal governments to rationalize their environmental funding policies for alternative energy sources. Orrin and Margaret are famous for living in a solar home and having a 65-kilowatt windmill, which makes him a net contributor to the Alberta power grid. They are planning to construct a retirement home in using a geothermal heat pump as their temperature control. Orrin is also a developer for "paddle pumps" which use the flow of the stream to pump livestock drinking water uphill and thereby keep the stream much cleaner.

Orrin says the friends and connections he made through Nuffield have meant the most to him over the years. He developed a lasting friendship with the Mackie brothers of Scotland and John Elliot a fellow Angus devotee also from Scotland. He also kept in touch with Mike Butler of Rhodesia and had Mike's son David work on his farm for a summer. Orrin and Margaret have not heard from the Butler's for the last 18 months and fear for their safety.

Orrin has participated on the boards of many organizations and served as president of most of them. Included are The Small Power Producers of Alberta, Alberta Cattle Breeders, Alberta Angus Breeders, and The Canadian Angus Breeders. As the Canadian Angus Breeders President he was introduced to the Queen Mother. He also judged many Angus shows across Canada, the USA, Mexico and Scotland

Orrin took a lot of pictures on his Nuffield travels and picked up many new labor saving ideas. He also saw the value of fertilizing, which was something they had not done prior to his Nuffield scholarship. Orrin picked the brains of many famous cattle producers trying to sort the myths and fads from the sound practical advice that could be applied to Canadian operations of grassland farming. Orrin says the mistakes he avoided held as much value as the positive things he learned and he is grateful for the opportunity he had to undertake the scholarship. Besides winning a most satisfactory partner and advisor he hopes that some of his experiences rubbed off on Canadians to justify his being selected.

**Presidents Report
- John Lohr**

Visiting Spain - From Left to right: Barry Cudmore - Canada, Richard Smith - Past UK Scholar, John Wright - New Zealand, Simon Turnbull - Australia, Mark Modra - Australia, John Shaw - Australia



Nuffield Travels January-April 2005

By 2003 Scholar Barry Cudmore

Travel thus far has been in two segments, January 26 - February 15 travelling the UK exclusively and March 8 - April 11 travelling in Europe, as well as organized tours in London, Brussels and Southern Spain.

The purpose of my study was to evaluate the effectiveness of brands in marketing agricultural products. To this end I want to look at branding initiatives in the UK but I also had the opportunity to meet several Nuffielders along the way. I arrived in London and had first exposure to the tube and then took the train to Market Harborough. There, I met John Stones, who was my first instructor in driving on the wrong side of the road. I think I gave him a few grey hairs before he

was comfortable with me driving. After two days he let me drive on my own. My first visit was to Steven Craven's potato farm in Boston. Here I discovered that the UK way of storing potatoes is different from the way we do things here. From there I visited Jack Ward of the National Farmers Union and he gave me a good account of the challenges producers face in the UK. Some of the other highlights of the UK tour were visiting Simon Becketts farm shop, Ian MacPherson's beef operation with his brand "Well Hung and Tender" and meeting a number of Nuffielders in South-Western England where I learned of the "Cornish King" brand. The last three days of the UK tour were spent at the Farmer's Club in London.

The European tour commenced in Copenhagen where I met Thomas Harttung who delivers organic produce to 30,000 Danish households. We then travelled to Paris where I looked at "La Belle Rouge" brand and how it benefits producers and consumers. Next was a week spent in Southern Germany. Highlights included a visit of the Schwabeisch Hallische Schwein Kooperative, Tagwerk Project in Dorfin and a research station North of Munich where potatoes are grown in a rather unique manner. On my return to London I met up with the organized Nuffield tour where discussions focussed on the new EU farm policy which would appear to reward individuals who want to pursue environmental stewardship in an area of the world where overproduction of food exists. The Southern Spain tour was an "add on". We looked at farms who supplied the London fresh salad market. The benefits in producing in Southern Spain are temperature and moisture.

British Nuffielder Passes On

We were saddened to learn of the death of our English friend, John Cyster on May 7th, 2005

John, a Nuffield Scholar in 1960, together with Captain John Stewart established the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust, when the Nuffield Foundation withdrew from funding and administering the awards scheme at about 1970.

John Stewart became the first Director of the Trust, John Cyster the first Chairman; together they created the original charity. John later became a Trustee of the Trust, only retiring from these duties in 2003. HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Patron of the Trust, attended a Dinner in early 2004 to celebrate and thank John for so many years of service to Nuffield.

Make A Note

Inbound Scholars

There will be scholars visiting Nova Scotia from June 27th - July 3rd. For info on their travels contact John Lohr at jellycupboard@ns.sympatico.ca

Ontario Summer Picnic

Jim Rickard is hosting the summer picnic on Sunday July 17th. Contact him at JimgRickard@3web.net for details or call 905-623-3552

Annual Conference

Book your flights now to Charlottetown P.E.I., for November 25th - 27th. Book your room at <http://www.rodhotelsandresorts.com/ourhotels/charlottetown.html>. Barry is planning a pre-meeting tour for Friday. Contact him for more specific details at barrycudmore@pei.sympatico.ca

2005 Nuffield Conference – New Zealand

Combined reports of Jack Rigby and Jim Rickard

Auckland!!! What a beautiful city to start our tour of New Zealand, with the Pacific Ocean on the east and the Tasman Sea on the west. To view the city and its harbour from the revolving restaurant high above the city is truly awesome. The city is built among a number of extinct volcanic cones, so there are many high points with many parks.

The Canadian contingent consisted of Jack & Donna Rigby, Mac & Joyce Sprowl, Art & Frances Westlund, Art Petka and Jim Rickard.

The first week was a pre-conference tour of the North Island with about 100 participants. After hearing a presentation about the efforts to reverse the impact of human settlement and to take a select few islands back to their original state re flora and fauna, we visited Tiritiri Managi – one of the select islands. A ferry ride to the wine area of Waihake completed the day.



The group visited Maungatautari Mountain, where they are attempting to restore it to its original state, as they have the islands which are isolated by water. A visit to a horse stud farm and the Kiwifruit Industry were also part of the itinerary. Many wonderful meals in a variety of settings with excellent dining companions were a feature of the trip.

The highlight of our week of travels was visiting Geoff & Marion Mathis's dairy farm where we were treated to a barbeque under a tent in their garden. Their house is situated on a hill overlooking their dairy operation. They have a new rotary parlor and two people are able to milk 1200 cows in one hour. It takes 70 cows just to fill the rotary parlor.

On the weekend we were in Rotorua for the Conference. This is a beautiful city that is a must for any tourist visiting New Zealand. The theme for the conference was "Pushing the Boundaries – World Agriculture" and there was a good roster of international speakers. All countries with the exception of France were represented at the business meeting. Jack Rigby, Jim Rickard and Art Westlund represented Nuffield Canada.

Some of the highlights of the meeting.

- Speakers from USA and NZ addressed "Agriculture 2050"
- Australia is well established with \$1,700,000 invested to fund their operation.
- The Republic of Ireland now has 21 Scholars and is awarding 3 Scholarships a year.
- New Zealand is hoping to award 3 Scholarships a year.
- The UK awards between 17 & 22 Scholarships a year.
- Zimbabwe has 21 Scholars remaining in the country. In 2000 Zimbabwe had 4600 farmers, in 2004 there were only 300 still actively engaged in farming. In the last few months 10 banks have closed and inflation is running at 600%. Trevor Gifford, who reported for Zimbabwe is determined to stick it out and hopes to see Zimbabwe return to its place as the breadbasket of Africa.

The 2008 conference is to be hosted by Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland and the 2011 conference will be in Australia.

It was great meeting up with so many Nuffield people that we have gotten to know over the years and Nuffield mates from during the study.



Donna Rigby in Kiwi Trees