

## Presidents Report A Year in Review

Welcome to the 2020 AGM for the Fraser Valley Branch of BCIA.

What a year! 2020 was a year to remember. We've added so many words to our daily vocabulary, like pivot, sourdough, and pandemic. COVID-19 presented a huge hurdle to completing branch business because it meant that we could not gather in the same room to plan anything, nor could we arrange for face-to-face professional development opportunities. In addition, the way that family and work shifted meant that many of us no longer had the ability to volunteer with the branch.

The executive continued to meet monthly via phone and video. We met 11 times over the year. I expect that the requirement for virtual meetings will continue for several more months so I anticipate the branch will move forward with virtual meetings. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please email the branch at [fv.branch.bcia@gmail.com](mailto:fv.branch.bcia@gmail.com).

We were able to put on a modest PD program this year. We had one fun face to face session in early March where we collaborated with the Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science (PRSSS) to host their annual spring workshop at UFV. The theme was Soils in the Field, and it was about how being an Agrologist supported interesting and exciting careers in soil science. In addition to the face to face event, we hosted several webinars on a variety of topics including composting, COVID-19 and environmental health, and insects of note. We collaborated with other branches to offer an engaging session on Robert's Rules of Order. Finally, we managed to develop a joint PD session focused on making better presentations to virtual meetings. This interactive, virtual session had people offer their presentation slides for critique and suggestions for improvements meant to engage the audience. I want to thank all the presenters and coordinators who made these events happen.

I would also like to thank the members of the branch executive for their hard work and dedication to BCIA and Fraser Valley Branch members. These volunteers worked hard over the year to fulfill the Branch mandate and deserve to be recognized for the work they completed in 2020. I'd like to single out Paramdeep Nahal. She volunteered to act as secretary mid-way through the year because the position was vacant. Then, she single-handedly organized the joint PD event, with no previous experience in our branch. Thanks for your above and beyond contribution!

Many of our branch team are not continuing on the executive. I'd like to thank Dan Hebert, Melanie Lantz, Jason Lussier, Laura Miceli, Dave Sahlstrom, Gail Schultze, Johanna Walker, and Linda Wilson for their service to the Fraser Valley branch. Many of these people have served the branch for numerous years, a generous contribution to BCIA and the branch.



Fraser Valley Branch  
2021 Annual General Meeting  
**President's Report**

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to serve as Branch President. It was a challenging year, but with the support of the executive team, and the BCIA staff, especially Bonnie Keleher, we were able to make it through.

Stay safe,

Eryne Croquet, P. Ag.  
President - Fraser Valley Branch

## Professional Development Coordinator's Report

A major function of our Branch is to assure that members are given opportunities to develop professionally. Despite the challenges due to COVID19, we were able to provide an impressive range of professional development events. Only one event, held in March, was face to face; the remaining five we all held virtually by webinar. With the workplace disruptions caused by COVID19, we did not have a singular PD Coordinator; it took teamwork from all members of the Executive to develop and organize the events. The webinar events surely would not have gone so smoothly without the leadership and organizing provided by Bonnie Keleher at BCIA Head Office.

Below is a summary of 2020 Fraser Valley Branch PD events:

### March 6, 2020 **IN-PERSON WOKSHOP**

**Event:** Pacific Region Society of Soil Science Workshop

The PRSSS Workshop had over 100 students and professionals attending.

- The workshop included many agriculture/soil science students from UBC, SFU, and UFV who were educated on the field of Agrology and the importance of joining the BCIA.
- The workshop also emphasized the need for educational institutions to work with the BCIA to ensure that students are being adequately prepared to become Professional Agrologists.
- The workshop built a foundation for future discussions on bridging the gap between the student and professional designation

Attendance: >100 total/ approx. 20 BCIA members.

### June 24, 2020 **WEBINAR**

**Speaker:** John Paul PhD, Pag, Transform Compost Systems

**Topic:** Compost and Compost Use: The professional agrologist's role in recycling nutrients and organic matter

This webinar examined the local and global importance and implications associated with recycling organic matter and nutrients for the benefit of agriculture and the health of society, the environment and our economy.

Attendance: 70 total/14 from FV Branch

### August 18, 2020 **WEBINAR**

**Speaker:** Elsie Friesen, Food Safety Provenance and Education Specialist, BC Ministry of Agriculture

**Topic:** Cross-shared Learning – Managing COVID-19 through the Lens of Environmental Health. In this webinar, Elsie Friesen discussed how environmental health in the workspace operates, and how environmental health principles and practices can help workers reduce their risks and



exposure to the Coronavirus.

Attendance: 71 total/16 from FV Branch

November 6, 2020 **WEBINAR**

**Speaker:** Ivan Wanis Ruiz, Senior Consultant, Public Speaking Lab

**Topic:** Public Speaking in a Virtual World

During this interactive webinar, Mr. Ruiz demonstrated how to:

- Create effective and engaging presentations.
- Create interactive exercises to keep a virtual audience engaged.
- Use non-verbal communication hacks to communicate confidence.
- Design impactful openings, closers and transitions.
- Apply two neuroscience based hacks for creating effective visual aids.
- Utilize a formula to overcome and answer questions.

Attendance: 22 total/9 from FV Branch

December 8, 2020 **WEBINAR**

**Speaker:** Tracy Hueppelsheuser PAg, Entomologist, BC Ministry of Agriculture

**Topic:** 2020 Insects of Concern to Agriculture in BC

Tracy provided an update on some new insects that are a risk to agriculture in BC. Examples presented were the incursion of Japanese beetle, the new detection of strawberry blossom weevil, and the news of potential biocontrol agents to help manage spotted wing drosophila

Attendance: 40 total/18 from FV Branch

December 9, 2020 **WEBINAR**

**Speaker:** Eli Mina MSc, PRP, Board Effectiveness Consultant, and Registered Parliamentarian

**Topic:** Roberts Rules of Order and How to Solve Boardroom Problems

Eli Mina conducted a 3-hour interactive virtual workshop explaining Robert's Rules of Order and some of the problems encountered in business meetings and how to solve them (procedurally and/or non-procedurally). Topics included key principles and rules for meetings, quora, voting issues, motions, amendments, and knowledge-based decision making.

Attendance: 50 total/6 from FV Branch

In addition to the events we offered, there were another 23 webinars organized by other branches and BCIA which were available to all BCIA registrants in 2020. In each of these at least a few Fraser Valley Branch registrants attended.

Submitted by:

Linda M. Wilson, PhD, PAg (Retired)

Professional Development Coordinator (acting)



## Articling Coordinator's Report

As of this month, January 2021, Fraser Valley Branch has 36 active Articling Registrants comprising 5 Articling Technologists in Agrology and 31 AAgS, compared with 24 at the end of 2019. Two AAgS are currently on leave.

The branch accepted 20 new Articling Registrants into the program since the 2020 Branch AGM, but two of them transferred to different branches. Of the active Articling Registrants, 9 commenced the Articling process in 2018 or later. There is only one Articling Registrant who started their Articling process prior to 2018, indicating that most of the AAgS have been working diligently to complete the process in a timely manner.

We added 4 new student members in 2020 and had 18 student members as at the end of 2020 compared with 14 at the end of 2019 and only 3 at the end of 2018. We would take this as an indication that students pursuing studies in areas aligned to Agrology are becoming aware of student membership provision with BCIA.

I am very pleased to report that seven Articling Agrologists completed their articling requirements as of January 2021 and gained the status of Professional Agrologist. These registrants are:

- Tyler Andersen
- Miranda Elsby
- Pablo Aleman Taco
- Brandon Wood
- Joshua Andrews
- Greg Rekken
- Johanna Walker

We also added Justin St. Andrassy as a new RTAg in the branch under an expedited program. My heartfelt congratulations to all the new PAgS and RTAg.

On behalf of the Branch executive, I would like to thank all Professional Agrologists who have volunteered as mentors, and assisted Articling Registrants in their pursuit of PAg or RTAg designation. As of today, there are only three Articling Registrants who have not provided us with mentoring agreement. Nevertheless, we have observed that most of the new Articling Registrants are very proactive in finding a mentor. As we accept new Articling Registrants to the branch, we would need your continued support to the articling process. Therefore, we request all the volunteer PAgS to continue mentoring, and encourage all the other Professional Agrologists, who have not tried it yet, to consider mentoring when the opportunity arises.

Thank you.

Submitted by:  
Parashar Malla, PAg  
Articling Coordinator - Fraser Valley Branch

## Councillor's Report

Greetings Fraser Valley, Kamloops, and Okanagan Branch Agrologists!

There have been several changes within our organization in the past year, mostly guided through the enactment of the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA). The biggest change, as I write this to you, is the composition of the BCIA Council. Council was altered to meet the requirements of the PGA with a change from 8 Councillors each elected by a regional branch to the new format of 7 Councillors from 3 Districts, plus up to 4 lay Councillors. District 2 is composed of the Kamloops, Okanagan, and Fraser Valley Branches with 2 Councillors: Jessica Morgan and Kevin Eastwood. In September, we held the first council meeting as District Councillors plus 3 lay Councillors.

Councillor elections will now be held online and registrants interested in the opportunity can look to the Bylaws for information on the submission process. Any interested candidate will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee and the online voting will take place in March 2021. Both council positions for District 2 are due for election in 2021. Keep your eye on emails and the BCIA website for information on nominations and voting.

Under the PGA, all listed professional organizations must adhere to a consistent governance framework such as bylaws, committees, and policies. There are 5 legislated Committees which are required from the PGA and it is mandatory that at least one lay committee member (not an Agrologist) is on each one. These committees include: Nomination, Credentials, Audit & Practice Review, Investigation, and Discipline. These committees provide important information and self-governance functions for the Institute. For more info, see <https://professionalgovernancebc.ca/>

BCIA has continued to adhere to, provide input, and adapt previous policies to reflect the new legislation. Institute Bylaws were revised last fall, and some were ratified at the May AGM. The PGA requires training to encourage reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Effective Jan 1, 2021 all new articling Registrants will be required to complete an approved course, and all Registrants must do so by Dec 31, 2022. As always, you can look to BCIA staff to communicate note only these changes, but opportunities to meet these requirements. Keep your eyes on email and website communications for more details. The current definition of 'agrology' has been refined to better prepare BCIA for practice rights, which is the next big change we work towards under the PGA.



Fraser Valley Branch  
2021 Annual General Meeting  
**Report from Council**

Despite the hurdles and changes that 2020 has presented us, BCIA has remained a resilient and adaptable organization. Professional Development opportunities have switched from in-person field tours to a wide variety of online learning options. The provincial AGM was held virtually in May 2020, and will again be in 2021. All branch AGMS are currently being held virtually. Looking forward in a positive direction, the 2022 AGM will be planned to be held in conjunction with ASTTBC in Kelowna. BCIA budget forecasting has been challenging but we are still projecting a budget surplus for 2020, as opposed to the budgeted deficit, and annual fees will not be raised in 2021.

It has been an interesting and definitive year, and the BCIA is poised to continue its legacy of effective self-governance of natural resource professionals across the province.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Jessica Morgan, PAg, and, Kevin Eastwood, PAg  
BCIA District 2 Councillors

## Fraser Valley Branch Treasurers Report

Included in your package is the 2020 balance sheet and the proposed 2021 FV Branch budget.

The uncertainty and adjustments to the reality of 2020 is reflected in the FV BCIA balance sheet. There were lots of adjustments trying to transition to a mainly online presence, which was fairly new to the FV Executive. Since many of our events were no longer in person, some cost savings were realized and some expenditures were never made due to events being cancelled.

This year, like many others, our executive were able to successfully provide free or low cost PD events. By finding willing and knowledgeable presenters who volunteered their time, as well as being able to transition to a mainly online presence, we have been able to keep our costs down.

The typical large expenses for each year have been the joint Vancouver / FV PD events and our AGM. This years joint PD was held on line and hosted by the FV branch. While the event was a success, the our expenses were greater than our revenue. However, the cost savings through out the year were easily able to cover the loss. Additionally, our online AGM is expected to cost around \$500, when the normal in person event would cost \$1000-2000.

The spring PRSSS was an outside PD event that we subsidized and planned for on our budget. It was a successful event which cost the branch \$1,128.75.

Our allocation of branch funds has decreased from last year. The BCIA is planning to take on more of our PD offerings and have decreased the allocation from \$30/ registrant to \$20/registrant. Therefore, our carry over from 2020 (\$3460.71) and our 2021 allocation (\$3,360.00) equals \$6,820.71 for the FV Branch 2021 budget.

2020 was a year of learning and adjusting. I have seen our executive pivot to adjust to the new challenges and I know they will be better equipped to deal with whatever 2021 will throw at them. I truly hope that we will be able to return to some in person events in 2021, but I know that 2020 has allowed us to learn new skills that will benefit what our association and FV executive will be able to offer our registrants.

After three years on executive, I have decided to step away. I hope this will allow others to step in and take on this great opportunity. Thank you to the excellent and dedicated support of the FV executive in 2020 and thank you for allowing me to serve the members of the Fraser Valley BCIA.

Gail Schultze, P.Ag.



## Fraser Valley Branch of BCIA – 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2020

Tradex Exhibition Centre, Abbotsford BC

### **1. Pre-Meeting Notes**

- 1800 Meeting registration wrapped up, followed by two presentations by local 4H participants:  
Palatable Ideas: an instructional demonstration of constructing a plant wall-hangar from a used shipping palate, as well as an award winning speech highlighting food insecurity in Canada's arctic.
- 1900 P.Ag. Certificates were awarded
- 1910 A.Ag. presentations -introductions to the branch, area of practice and mentor acknowledgement
- 1921 AGM called to order
- Adoption of agenda: moved by Linda Wilson, seconded by Eryn Croquet.
  - Adoption of 2019 AGM minutes: \*David Sahlstrom observed his name was misspelled, clarification that \$300 donation to 4H was not processed in 2019 but had been sent in early 2020. Moved, as amended, by Brian Mauza, Seconded by Daniel Hubert.
  - President's Report: Melanie Lantz
    - Highlighted a great year in 2019 on executive with an engaged group with diverse opinions and good discussion.
    - Branch hosted 7 PD events coordinated by Art. Further thanks to Art on behalf to branch executive for his contributions as PD coordinator.
    - Thanks to Parashar for commitment and contribution stepping up as A.Ag. coordinator
    - acknowledgment of branch executive: Eryn, Linda, Brian, Gail, Laura, Josh, and Jason - who served in a new role as student liaison. David, Joanna??
    - Thanks to head office staff for support throughout the year.
    - Acknowledged change in the institute.
    - Invitation for volunteers to get involved in the branch and in provincial working groups and committees.
    - Thanks to all members present.
    - Highlighted that branch reports were available online for all to see.
- 1930 -PD Coordinator Report: Art Guite
- Thanks to volunteers who helped organized events: Gail, Laura, Parashar and exec.
  - Branch hosted 7 events: drones in Ag., bees, benchmarking costs of production, animal feed and nutrition, webinar EFCC economics of particular mention, Nov. conference on soils and contaminants joint event with Vancouver branch, and Mentor appreciation night.
- 1933 -AAg Coordinator Report: Parashar Malla
- 24 AAg's in 2019 plus 14 new Student Members compared to 3 students in 2018.
  - Thanked mentors for their contribution.
  - Highlighted to branch that some A.Ag.s may be awaiting mentors and to consider becoming a mentor.
- 1933 -Treasurer's Report: Gail Schultze.
- The executive made effort to source free locations for events in 2019.

- Highlighted value in alternating joint PD with Vancouver Branch: broke even, saving branch dollars.
  - Gail explained that the winter event has been more expensive in the past than in 2019.
  - Gail reviewed the carry-over of branch allocation
  - Summarized cap on spending in certain categories e.g. travel, to align with new PGA, new PD guidelines from BCIA office under review for input
  - Explained that the numbers on the budget/expenses sheet distributed to members on the tables at the AGM did not add up because there was an accidental deletion of one line during printing. This was the Youth donation of \$300 to 4H – and this money was in fact issued in 2020 as the cheque was not sent out in 2019 as planned.
  - Reviewed 2019 expenses line by line, and shared planned/projected budget for 2020.
  - Promoted PRSSS event for March 7<sup>th</sup>, soil workshop and panel of professional Agrologists. Event designed to promote student engagement in BCIA and soil science.
  - Question from David Sahlstrom re: \$750 revenue from PD in 2019 -explained to have come from fee for the winter event which was less costly than anticipated
  - Motion from the floor to approve 2020 Budget: David, Art
- 1948 -Councillor’s Report: Brian Mauza
- Shared regrets on Behalf of JP Elson, ED, who could not be present at meeting due to attendance of Peace branch AGM on following evening.
  - Presented PPT summarizing council activities and updates from the institute:
  - BCIA main office has moved to new location.
  - Expectation of a surplus for 2019 to be met with a similar deficit in 2020 of \$60,000 to \$70,000 due to timing of expenses.
  - No fee increase expected in 2020.
  - BCIA membership increased to 1759, plus deliberate effort to recruit more student members.
  - BCIA office has grown to 4 staff plus the Executive Director.
  - Agrologists of Canada Update – Alberta has left, but good work on national standards being pursued.
  - RTAG designation announced and to become effective March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Land Summit board of Directors opportunity.
  - Professional Governance Act update including council’s proposal for new composition of council as well as election of councillors and vice president -introduced Kevin Eastwood as continuing councillor for District 2.
- 2045 -Branch Elections:
- The existing Executive stood and indicated intent to continue roles on executive.
  - Geoff Hughes-Games acted as parliamentarian.
  - Dan Hubert volunteered to join the Executive (positions not confirmed).
  - Eryne Croquet, incoming president performed a land acknowledgement, thanked Melanie (president 2019) and Bryan Mauza for their service and encouraged others to volunteer for committees.
- 2048 -Meeting Adjourned