



Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation

1027 Pembroke Street East, Suite 200

Pembroke, ON K8A 3M4

Tel: (613) 732-7068 Fax: (613) 732-3386

Email: elizabeth@theprofessionaledge.com W: <http://www.aic.ca/about/foundation.cfm>

Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Scholarship Benefits Post-Grads in Soil Science

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Scholarship supports post-graduate students studying soil science and is made possible through his generous gift to the Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation (AICF). The AICF is pleased to announce that Mr. Tyrel Hamsley and Mr. Matthew VanKoughnett were selected as the 2010 recipients of the Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Scholarship.

Tyrel Hamsley is a M.Sc. student in Soil Science in the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta. His research focuses on atmospheric nitrogen (N) deposition as a potential source of pollution in the Athabasca oil Sands Region (AOSR). N deposition can cause N saturation, and soil acidification, can increase plant production and soil N availability and shift plant community composition. On the other hand, studies have shown that deposition rates of 10 to 20 kg/ha/year, fertilize the forest ecosystems and are more beneficial than harmful. Mr. Hamsley's goals are to quantify N deposition in the AOSR and determine what stand characteristics influence wet deposition and to determine the fate of N in different soil and plant pools on these reclaimed landscapes.

Matthew VanKoughnett is completing doctoral studies in Philosophy in Biology at the University of Western Ontario. The aim of his Ph.D. research is to determine the interactive effects of N deposition and climate warming driven increases in soil freezing on plant productivity and ecosystem function. He hypothesizes that while increased N availability from atmospheric deposition has the potential to enhance plant growth, soil freezing can increase soluble N losses over winter, change microbial community structure, and cause sub-lethal freezing damage to plants, all of which will reduce N uptake over the following growing season.

Dr. Karl C. Ivarson worked as a soil scientist with the Soil Research Institute, Soil Biochemistry Section. In 1978 he was transferred to the Chemistry and Biology Research Institute where he probed and resolved many problems of the effect of microbial activity on mineral transformations in soils. Dr. Ivarson retired and resided in Calgary until his death on August 2, 2010. After his retirement he remained keenly interested in agriculture and especially developments in soils and farmland sustainability.

The deadline for applications for the 2011 Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Scholarships is November 4, 2011. Application forms and scholarship guidelines for this and other scholarships administered by the AICF Foundation are posted on the AICF website http://www.aic.ca/about/foundation_initiatives.cfm.

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For information contact:
Elizabeth Muckle-Jeffs
Manager, Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation
T: 613-732-7068 E: Elizabeth@theprofessionaledge.com