



16 August 2018 Newsletter

Conference Tours

Three conference tours were offered today to provide delegates with an overview of irrigation, drainage, sustainable water management, agricultural practices and research being carried out in Canada.

Tour 1 provided an overview of the South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District (SSRID) including its water conveyance infrastructure that supplies water to 27,000 hectares of farmland as well as, to municipalities, industrial clients, parks and wildlife.

Over thirty conference delegates visited a few Saskatoon area irrigation farms to see a variety of crops and value-added products such as syrup, jam and gin as part of **Tour 2**. One of the tour stops was at Black Fox Farm and Distillery, owned and operated by John Cote and Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote. This farm, located southwest of Saskatoon, has 80 acres under irrigation, growing everything from pumpkins and flowers to raspberries and haskaps for liqueurs. They use drip irrigation in order to ensure a reliable crop with 90% of the ingredients needed for their value-added products being produced on their farm. Irrigation also ensures that water is available for plants during more drought conditions ensuring greater resiliency to extreme events, something that is of concern under a changing climate. Another stop was at Feitsma Dairy where forages are irrigated to ensure higher quality of feed for cattle which results in higher milk quality.



Tour 1 Participants at the Rehabilitated M1 Water Canal in the South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District.



Tour 2 Participants at the Black Fox Farm and Distillery



Tour 3 took conference delegates to the University of Saskatchewan's Innovation Place which is home to several world-class research facilities, institutes and organizations. Innovation Place has helped grow Saskatchewan's tech sector and provides a supportive environment for startup and early stage technology companies. It is one of North America's most successful university-related technology parks and supports approximately 140 tenants employing over 3,700 people.



It includes the University of Saskatchewan, one of Canada's top research universities with a key focus on agriculture including plant and animal science. The university also houses Canada's Western College of Veterinary Medicine. The National Research Council of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Research and Development Centre, the Canadian Light Source, Genome Prairie are also part of Innovation Place.

Canadian Light Source at Saskatchewan Innovation Place.

Young Professional Training Workshop

Close to thirty young professionals from around the world traveled to the Canada Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC), located 95 km south of Saskatoon in Outlook, Saskatchewan. During the morning session, the young professionals learned how irrigation has developed, been regulated and maintained in Western Canada.

The afternoon session allowed participants to be out in the field for a hands-on experience in soil sampling and to learn about innovative technology in irrigation scheduling such as the use of a ground conductivity meter (EM 38) for field mapping and using unmanned aerial vehicles for remote sensing.



Jay Bauer of the University of Saskatchewan demonstrates how to characterize soils.



Young Professionals at field demonstrations at CSIDC.



Left: Saskatchewan Agriculture Representative demonstrates the use of an EM 38. Right: Erl Svendsen of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provides an overview of how bio-beds are being used to treat pesticide rinsate.

ICID Meetings

The **Permanent Committee for Technical Activities (PCTA)** met today as well. Outcomes from the Strategic Theme meetings on Wednesday were presented as well as, various memberships were discussed and decided on. It also included a dialogue on ICID's Vision 2030.



Participants and Presenters at today's PCTA Meeting.

Reception hosted by India

India will be hosting the 9th International Micro Irrigation Conference 16-20 January 2019 in Aurangabad, India. Tonight, the Indian National Committee on Surface Water, the Central Water Commission, the Ministry of Water Resources, the River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Government of India hosted a dinner and provided an introduction to this conference.



Delegates at tonight's reception hosted by India.



Farewell Banquet

The farewell banquet held on Wednesday night included a number of recognitions, awards, and entertainment by T.J. Warren, his family and accompanying Indigenous powwow dancers of Treaty #6 Territory. Canada was recognized for hosting an excellent and informative conference. We leave you with highlights from Wednesday's banquet and we look forward to seeing you in India.



Conference delegates at Wednesday night's banquet.



*T.J. Warren and Indigenous Powwow
Dancers of Treaty #6 Territory.*