

# TA'N'NI'KWEK

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF DALHOUSIE'S FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

FALL 2019

**IMPROVING A MI'KMAQ  
COMMUNITY FOR THE  
NEXT SEVEN GENERATIONS**  
CHIEF SIDNEY PETERS  
PAGE 12

**FIVE DECADES OF FAMILY,  
FUN AND FRESH, LOCAL  
PRODUCTS**  
MASSTOWN MARKET  
PAGE 24

**A CAMPUS  
THAT IS  
INCLUSIVE  
AND  
WELCOMING  
TO ALL**

UNIVERSITY-WIDE  
INITIATIVES OF  
SUPPORT





## HOMECOMING 2019

***Save the date October 17-19***

Plan to return to campus for a variety of activities including the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame, College Royal, Blue & Gold Alumni Awards, Athletics events, Dean's Breakfast and more!

Class years ending in "4" and "9" celebrate milestone reunions in 2019. Homecoming is a great opportunity to reconnect. Contact the Alumni office to initiate a special celebration for your class.

agalumni@dal.ca | 902.893.6022

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Agricultural Campus Alumni Association AGM**

October 17

### **Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame**

October 17

### **Dean's Homecoming Breakfast**

October 18

### **College Royal**

October 18

### **Blue & Gold Awards**

October 18

### **Agricultural Campus Open House (for prospective students)**

October 19

Community Day 2019



# AGRICOLA

VOLUME 48, NO. 2, 2019



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Cover photo credit:  
Nick Pearce, Dalhousie University

Published twice yearly by Dalhousie's  
Faculty of Agriculture

EDITOR  
Alisha Johnson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Emma Geldart  
Stephanie Rogers

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Dalhousie University  
Faculty of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 550  
Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E3

PHONE: 902.893.6022  
EMAIL: agalumni@dal.ca

For advertising opportunities contact editor.

Mailed under Canada Post Publications  
Mail Sales Agreement No. 40063668





12

## FALL 2019 CONTENTS



20

### FEATURES AND COVERS

#### 6 Creating a campus that is welcoming and inclusive to all

Welcome; come in and sit down. The phrase is a loose translation of the Mi'kmaq word pjila'si. Its meaning—to listen, share, and connect with one another—can also describe motivations behind the Agricultural Campus' steady progress towards creating a culturally supportive environment for the rising number of self-identifying Indigenous students on campus.

#### 12 University-wide initiatives of support

Over the last few years, Dalhousie has placed major emphasis on diversity and inclusiveness university-wide.

#### 14 Improving a Mi'kmaq community for the next seven generations

Seven years ago, Chief Sidney Peters made a gambol – he resigned from his established career in exchange for uncertainty and five months with no salary and started campaigning. All for a shot at running for Chief of Glooscap First Nation.

#### 17 Bringing back the black ash tree

A unique species of tree which holds significance to the Mi'kmaw is in danger of being lost forever.

### IN THE NEWS

#### 31 Oldest living alum

Leonard d'Eon (Class of '40) celebrated a very special milestone on September 11.

### AROUND AND ABOUT

A leap of faith | 20

Haydays | 23

When you know you know | 24

Message from the editor | 04

Dean's message | 05

In memory | 34

Research | 25

Donor spotlight | 26

### EVENTS AND REUNIONS

Outstanding young farmers | 28

Reunions | 29

Barley Party a family affair | 30

Convocation | 32

Community Day | 34

Aggies in the Community | 35



26



## Alisha Johnson

Editor, AGRICOLA

Alumni Relations, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus

### Message from the editor

“Ta’n Ni’Kwek” – A loose Mi’kmaq translation for Agricola, means “where it grows”.

A fitting translation for this issue as we acknowledge Mi’kmaq History Month. In this issue, we draw attention to the ways in which our campus has grown – resulting in new support and programs, allowing us to be more welcoming and inclusive of all cultures and traditions. Specifically, for Indigenous cultures.

Although the meaning of this Mi’kmaq term relates to agriculture in particular, it is still appropriate as the Agricultural Campus is located on Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq. And that land has grown and evolved into the diverse campus and landscape it is today.

Inside this issue, you will read about what may seem like small initiatives – such as the permanent instillation of the Mi’kmaq flag, but also larger endeavours like the opening of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Together, all of these initiatives have resulted in increased enrollment for Indigenous students and a better campus for all.

You will hear first-hand from recent and not-so recent graduates – some mention the great experiences they had on campus, which jump-started their careers, others talk about the path that lead them to their established careers.

We are particularly proud that one of our own alums is the chief of a First Nations community in NS. Keep reading to learn more about Chief Sid Peters (Class of ‘84) and his efforts to move Glooscap First Nations forward.

As always, there’s research news, donor spotlight and a great events re-cap.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Ta’n Ni’Kwek!

Alisha Johnson  
Alisha.johnson@dal.ca  
902.893.6022



## Dr. David Gray

Dean, Faculty of Agriculture  
Principal, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus



## Message from the dean

What does it mean to be a diverse and inclusive campus? For the Faculty of Agriculture, it means all learners, faculty and staff feel safe, welcomed, valued and included regardless of religious background, ethnicity, race, or sexual orientation.

Diversity, in all its forms, makes us stronger...as a campus, as a community, as a culture.

October 1 or Treaty Day, marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia with the purpose of promoting public awareness of the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage for all citizens of Nova Scotia.

The Faculty of Agriculture on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus is fortunate to be in close proximity to 13 First Nations communities and continues to strive to be a welcoming and safe place for all Indigenous peoples.

For the past two years the Faculty of Agriculture has offered the services of a manager of Indigenous Students. This position continues to play a key role in assisting us in increasing our Indigenous student support, improving our capacity to develop innovative Indigenous policies, programs and strategies and building partnerships with the Mi'kmaq First Nation and broader Indigenous communities.

Last year the Faculty of Agriculture was excited to hire a dedicated Indigenous librarian and launch the first and only in Atlantic Canada, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Hub in our new Student Learning commons. The event not only celebrated Indigenous culture but also served to educate non-Indigenous people by fostering an environment inclusive of Indigenous world views.

A new pilot transition year program called the Indigenous Student Access Pathway program (ISAP) was also launched. ISAP is a three-year pilot aimed at serving under represented Indigenous students who would otherwise not be eligible for admissions.

With the support of Farm Credit Canada this past spring the Faculty hosted the first of three annual Indigenous Youth Spring Camps named "Awtiget" (making a path) these camps invite Indigenous youth from across Mi'kma'ki between the ages of 12-17 to come and stay on campus and live the student

life experience. The aim of the Awtiget camps is to build our Indigenous community relationships while inspiring Indigenous youth to see themselves within the institution with the hope that they consider Dalhousie in their future educational journey.

And our efforts are making a difference. Indigenous student enrollment is on the rise. In 2018/19, our faculty enrolled 38 self-identified Indigenous students which represents an increase of over 35 per cent from 2017/18 in which the faculty enrolled 28 self-identified Indigenous students. This fall, we welcomed 26 self-identified Indigenous students to our campus.

Honouring our Indigenous people's lands and language, the Faculty renamed River Road on campus to "Sipu Awti" reflecting the literal Mi'kmaq translation. In 2016, in recognition that Dalhousie University sits on traditional territory of the Indigenous Mi'kmaq people, the Faculty of Agriculture permanently installed the Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag. More recently Dalhousie's New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging was introduced during the Faculty of Agriculture Convocation replacing the University Mace as the ceremonial object used to open and close each ceremony.

The New Dawn Staff was designed and created by artists Alan Syliboy of Millbrook First Nation and Mark Austin of Colchester County, with guidance from the university and in collaboration with a team of artists and craftspeople from diverse communities across Nova Scotia.

It is the little things and the big things that make all the difference. When a community can see themselves reflected in the curriculum, in the community and on our campus, I think we will have succeeded.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Gray







# Creating a campus that is welcoming and inclusive to all

Written by Nicole Killawee

Welcome; come in and sit down. The phrase is a loose translation of the Mi'kmaq word *pjila'si*. Its meaning—to listen, share, and connect with one another—can also describe motivations behind the Agricultural Campus' steady progress towards creating a culturally supportive environment for the rising number of self-identifying Indigenous students on campus.



During Mi'kmaq History Month on October 4, 2017, the Faculty of Agriculture raised the Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag at the AC. This powerful symbol of honour and recognition was flown on campus before, but this time the flag was there to stay.

Art Stevens, a band member of Millbrook First Nation and the Faculty's Indigenous Student Manager, had planned the flag raising ceremony that day to celebrate the permanent installation of the Mi'kmaq flag. His role, which was new to the AC at the time, was created to support self-identifying Indigenous students and lead the charge on programs and improvements to make them feel welcome at the AC.

Since the campus is located near four First Nation communities in the province, honouring the land's history with the Mi'kmaq flag was an obvious first-step towards making that happen. In fact, the flag was permanently raised on Dal's Halifax campus the year before, thanks to the leadership of former Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) President Aaron Prosper, a member of the Eskasoni First Nation and the DSU's first Indigenous president. "One of the first things we did to make the Truro campus more welcoming was to pay respect to the fact that we are on Indigenous land—we are on Mi'kma'ki, unceded traditional Mi'kmaq territory," says Stevens, who is also an NSAC alumnus (Class of '10).

The flag raising made history at the AC and its celebration acted as a catalyst for connecting with Indigenous organizations and communities off campus. "During the ceremony, we had a contingent of delegates and representation from Indigenous communities around the province all in one place. It was an excellent opportunity to engage some of them in what we were trying to do for students," Stevens says, emphasizing the importance of consultation. "We had a round-table meeting that day, and from that we established the AC's first ever External Indigenous Advisory Committee."







Above top (L-R): Land acknowledgement mural, designed by Art Stevens greets those entering the SLC; The former River Road, which takes visitors through campus, was renamed to reflect the beautiful Mi'kmaq language; A new sign in the Student Learning Commons is welcoming to all; A traditional smudging ceremony is performed on the Agricultural Campus; Art Stevens, Faculty of Agriculture's Indigenous Student Manager.





Cheyenne MacDonald, was one of four Indigenous students who graduated last spring from the Agricultural Campus.

Representatives from organizations like the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (the Mi'kmaq Education Authority), the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, and the Millbrook Band sit on that committee. Two years in, this committee has proven itself crucial to helping the AC understand the needs of Indigenous students and put plans into action.

One of those plans was the development of the Indigenous Student Access Pathway (ISAP) program. The one-year program is designed for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who don't yet meet admission requirements.

ISAP offers academic and cultural support for students while they complete admissions pre-requisites and first-year courses, helping them transition to university life and navigate academic requirements. Should students wish to continue with their university studies after ISAP, they'll already have a head-start in their first year of a degree program because the courses they take in the program count as credit. "ISAP addresses a lot of admissions barriers for my community. Many of our students come from communities with federally-funded high schools. On average those receive 30 per cent less funding than non-Indigenous schools—that's 30 per cent less of a chance to do better in life," Stevens says. "When consulting with our external committee, we all said, 'we need a way to create more access to university.' That was the essence behind starting ISAP. It's great to talk about indigenizing the academy but we want more Indigenous students in the academy first."

Recalling an experience that he had with a student, Stevens paints a picture of what many Indigenous students have to overcome to succeed in university. This student was a young parent who struggled with math enough that it would impact university admission and academic success. "These are science programs. There's a lot of math involved and having that working knowledge is necessary," Stevens explained. "We immediately put in place a peer tutoring structure and worked out academic accommodations for this student"

That kind of customized support is critical, but Stevens is quick to note that most of the hard work is done by the students themselves. "My job is easy, I just get behind the students. Really, I can guide them, but they put in the work," Stevens says. "Their dedication is what makes you want to get up and go to work every day!"

Besides ISAP, changes across the physical campus and other support services have been taking place too. The AC's new Student Learning Commons (SLC) houses the CIBC Multicultural Centre, which features an area built specifically to ventilate the smudging of traditional medicines—a common practice among Indigenous communities. A large land acknowledgement mural, designed by Stevens himself with input from the External Indigenous Advisory Committee and Mi'kmaq Elders, greets those entering the SLC. A new hub for the University of Manitoba's National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation (NCTR) can be found there, too—the first one in Eastern Canada (and





Mi'kma'ki). Plus, the university established a new Indigenous Services Librarian position held by Morning Star Padilla, who splits her time between the Halifax and Truro campuses. Even a campus road was renamed to showcase the beautiful Mi'kmaq language: what was once called River Road is now known as Sipu Awti, the Mi'kmaq translation of its original name.

"All of this is for the students," Stevens says. His pride in them is clear when he shares the news that four Indigenous students graduated with agricultural science degrees last spring.

Cheyenne MacDonald (Class of '19) was one of those students. While completing her degree, she was involved with the AC's first Indigenous Student Collective. The group plans events that honour Indigenous culture and history, like the first-ever Apuknajit Mi'kmaq February Feast to take place on campus last winter. Apuknajit is a Mi'kmaq word that translates to 'snow-blinding month'—it's used to refer to February (or more precisely, the second moon cycle of the traditional Mi'kmaq calendar). During that time of year, many Mi'kmaq families thank the spirits with food offerings for allowing them to survive the hardest part of the winter.

The feast included traditional Mi'kmaq food, dancing, drumming, smudging, and talking circles. The Indigenous Student Collective also planned a blanket exercise for the event. It's a popular and powerful educational group activity used across the country to acknowledge Indigenous mistreatment. "We invited both Indigenous and non-Indigenous attendees to Apuknajit," says MacDonald. "The openness and response from the non-indigenous students after the blanket exercise was really amazing. The AC has some really remarkable students."

MacDonald now works as a Climate Adaptation Officer with Climate Action Program under the Department of Environment of Natural Resources at The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq. Yet she remains engaged with the campus community as a volunteer because of her own student experience. "I really think Dal AC is making great progress in the support and pjila'si of Indigenous students," say says, adding that support from staff members like Art Stevens have a profound impact on student engagement and success. "He has become a mentor to me. I couldn't imagine my experience at Dal AC without him."

Over the last number of years, the Faculty of Agriculture prioritized efforts to establish a more welcoming environment for Indigenous students. A lot has been accomplished and that's because administration, faculty, staff, and students from diverse backgrounds came together to acknowledge the past while looking forward with clarity and optimism. But if you ask Stevens, there's always more that can be done to improve inclusivity in academic settings.

"It's never-ending, really. We're going to continue to strive and push forward, and hope that along the way we'll be able to celebrate further successes with our Indigenous communities and non-Indigenous communities. It's all about bringing people together."

## University-wide initiatives of support

Written by Niecole Killawee

Over the last few years, Dalhousie has placed major emphasis on diversity and inclusiveness university-wide. The university hosts an annual Mawio'mi on the Halifax campus every October to celebrate Mi'kmaq History Month. In 2018, Dal established an Indigenous acknowledgement statement—for use at meetings and official events—to recognize the legacy of the traditional Mi'kma'ki land on which the university stands. Initiatives like these complement similar efforts at the Agricultural Campus but with the added benefit of servicing the Dal community regardless of campus location, faculty, and degree program.



The university's Elders-in-Residence program is one such initiative. Established in association with Dal's Indigenous Studies minor program, the program aims to better support the Indigenous student body. Attending university can feel isolating for Indigenous students, as though they've left all their support systems behind. Coordinated by Elder Geri Musqua-LeBlanc, a member of the Nakawe Nation (Keeseekoose First Nation) and the Bear Clan in Saskatchewan, the Elders-in-Residence program provides students with opportunities to practice familiar ceremonies and rituals with respected members of Indigenous communities.

An Elder is generally described as a well-respected Indigenous community leader whose deep spirituality, cultural knowledge, and life-long learnings have been passed on. "It's not just whether we have grey hair or no hair," laughs Billy Lewis, a Mi'kmaw Elder taking part in the Dal program. "An Elder is a knowledge keeper and a wisdom carrier."

Five Elders, each from different nations across the country, are available to support students in Halifax and Truro. Faculty and staff also seek their presence to bless university spaces with smudging ceremonies and give opening prayers at campus events. Elders even attend convocation ceremonies to give pouches of sacred medicine to Indigenous students graduating.

Indigenous ways of knowing, Lewis explains, is about seeing the world for its relationships and the balance among them. That's the kind of wisdom he hopes to pass on to Dal students, especially those in agricultural science programs because rigid methodology and reductionism can starkly contrast Indigenous culture at times.





Dr. David Gray, Elder Jane Abrams and Indigenous Student Manager, Art Stevens

“Whatever the students are studying, whether it’s botany and plant science or something else, we want them to know that the Indigenous ways of seeing—our ways of seeing—are a plus,” Lewis says. “We’d like them to think about this: what is it that can bring life [to that topic], to make it something more than an intellectual exercise? It’s simply another way of understanding what they’re doing without reducing it to a formula.”

With initiatives like the Elders-in-Residence program, the Indigenous Studies minor, and the AC’s Indigenous Student Access Pathway program, Dal is adding to national reconciliation efforts. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) released its 94 calls to action in 2015, many of which were focused on education. To that end, the university endorsed the Universities Canada principles on Indigenous Education and joined other Canadian institutions working to close the education gap that exists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

In addition to the university making progress on its first Indigenous Strategy this year, it also launched a partnership with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR). The NCTR first opened at the University of Manitoba in 2015. It’s known as the permanent home for all statements, documents and other materials gathered by the TRC to preserve the memory of Canada’s Residential School system. This partnership led to the creation of an east coast NCTR hub located on the AC campus. The tragic outcomes of residential schooling affect families across the country, and now those in the Atlantic provinces have easier access to pieces of their past with an NCTR hub closer to home.



The university has also established a new Indigenous Services Librarian position. Morning Star Padilla, who brings Navajo roots to Mi’kma’ki, took on the position after working for the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. Part of her role includes facilitating connections between the local NCTR hub and surrounding communities.”

The TRC really took Canada to task, to respond and participate in the work of developing better relationships [with Indigenous communities],” Padilla says. “To be a part of the university’s process in helping do that has been very interesting. I believe work towards reconciling [with Indigenous nations] deserves the utmost respect, just as much as the work to build relations between countries receives.”

Padilla splits her time between the Halifax and Truro campuses, bringing expertise in social science research, community engagement, Indigenous cultural/intellectual property, and language reclamation to Mi’kma’ki. Beyond her work with Dal’s NCTR, she plays a crucial role in bringing Indigenous knowledge to the university community.

“I develop Indigenous collections for the libraries,” says Padilla, “Whether that means making sure the faculty and staff working in the Indigenous Studies minor program have access to what they need, or supporting Indigenous content in other programs as well.”

When she’s working out of the AC’s MacRae Library, Padilla also spends time collaborating with Indigenous Student Manager, Art Stevens and supporting the Indigenous Student Collective. But she wants the Dal community to know that she encourages anyone, whether Indigenous or not, to speak with her and use the resources she can provide.

“A question often comes up from non-Indigenous students: is this for me? Can I come talk to you?” says Padilla. “I’m here for everybody—no matter where they are in their knowledge or learning on Indigenous topics.”

## Improving a Mi'kmaq community for the next seven generations

Chief Sidney Peters (Class of '84)

Seven years ago, Chief Sidney Peters made a gambol – he resigned from his established career in exchange for uncertainty and five months with no salary and started campaigning. All for a shot at running for Chief of Glooscap First Nation.

“It was quite a risk really,” recalls Chief Peters. “Our two kids were still at home, not to mention, I wasn't completely sure I even wanted to be Chief.”

Glooscap First Nation was formed in 1982 with a mere five families. The relatively new Mi'kmaq band was created to provide support to those living off-reserve. The reserve is one of 13 in Nova Scotia and sits on 400+ acres of land, just outside of Hantsport, NS. Chief Peters' father, Joseph, was Chief of the reserve from 1989 to 1996.

Following in his father's footsteps, Chief Peters' campaign efforts paid off. He was appointed the fourth Chief of Glooscap First Nation in April 2012. Chief Peters is currently in his second term.

“Glooscap itself was in pretty rugged shape at that time,” says Chief Peters, who resides in Masstown, NS, with his family and is considered an off-reserve band member. “The community had become a retirement area, with no one new coming on to the reserve. There were numeration issues, resulting in little revenue or funds to support the community.”

With that in mind, Chief Peters didn't just ease into the position gently. Upon taking office, he immediately sliced his own salary, as well as those of his three Councillors. The result – the ability to hire more staff to run the community properly, allowing himself and the Councillors (who are also elected members) to focus on policies, procedures and high-level efforts. “The Councillors and I put in the hours, focusing on strategic planning, while the staff keep the community going,” says Chief Peters. The salary reductions also allowed for funds to be added to the small pot of existing money committed to Glooscap by the federal government, providing programs and support to the community.





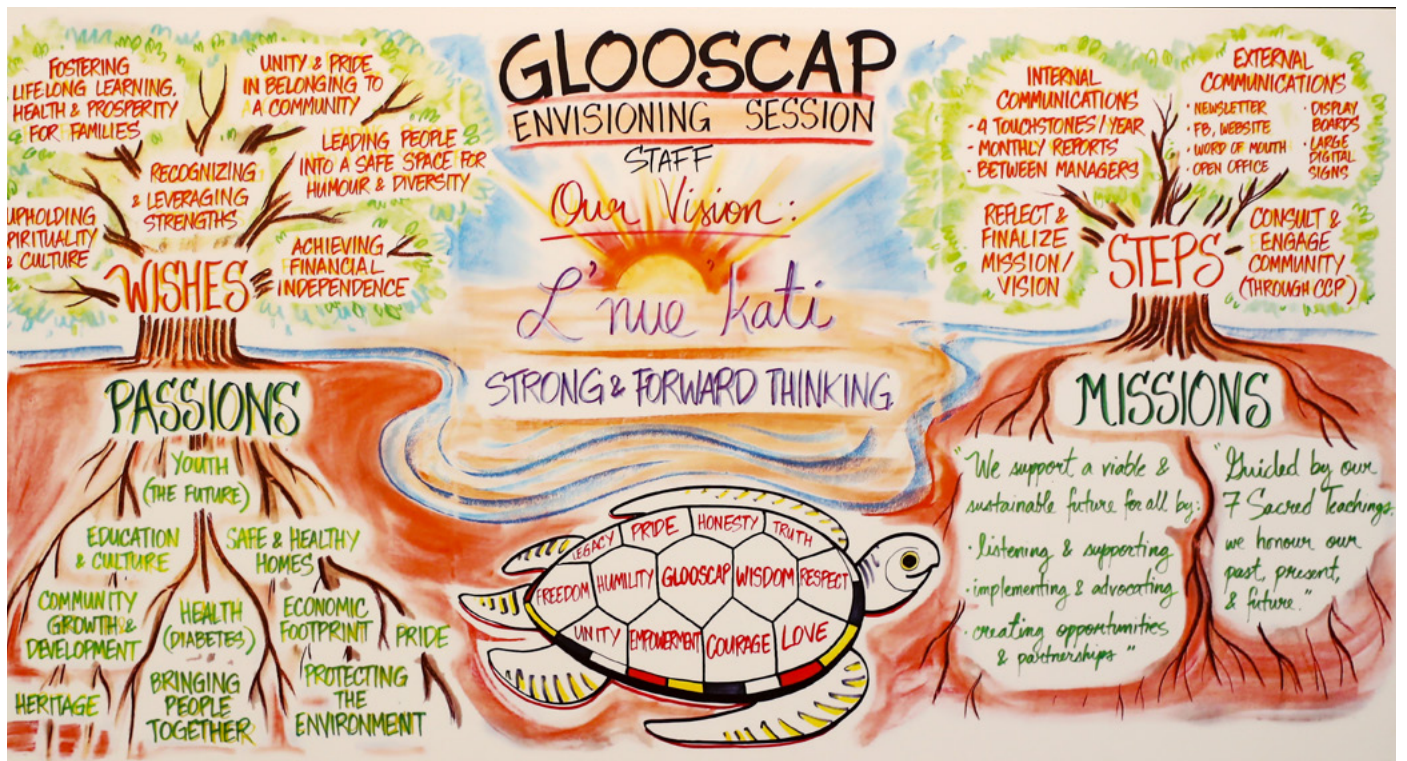
He quickly built a number of new houses, encouraging young families to move back on reserve. On a smaller scale, he added community mailboxes. "No one visited Glooscap. People didn't feel like you could come here, or even drive in to our convenience store. I wanted our community to be welcoming."

While clearly proving transparency and accountability were important to him from the get-go, Chief Peters set his focus on economic development for Glooscap. "My mandate, from the beginning, has always been to make people proud of who they are and where they come from. I want them to be proud band members of Glooscap, just like I am."

Chief Peters considered how to create economic development so the community itself could be self-sustaining and provide support for its 380 members. "I really considered what we were going to do and how we were going to do it so we have dollars coming back to the community."

Glooscap Ventures was formed. The economic development arm of Glooscap First Nation, Glooscap Ventures, is an independent cooperation, creating business opportunities that will deliver revenue and employment to Glooscap First Nation and its members. Glooscap Ventures currently manages the on-reserve store, gaming facility and commercial fisheries, which includes Yarmouth Bar, a fisheries facility in Yarmouth,

**Glooscap First Nation was formed in 1982 with a mere five families. The relatively new Mi'kmaq band was created to provide support to those living off-reserve. The reserve is one of 13 in Nova Scotia and sits on 400+ acres of land, just outside of Hantsport, NS. Chief Peters' father, Joseph, was Chief of the reserve from 1989 to 1996.**



NS. In the works is the final development of Glooscap Landing, 25-acres of land, just off highway 101, which currently houses Tim Hortons, a gas station and retail space. Opportunities in renewable energy and a new fish processing facility in Yarmouth are also in the works.

"Part of making our community thrive means being involved with the communities around us," says Chief Peters. "We can't do this alone; we are a small community." Chief Peters ensures regular connections with the Town of Windsor, the Town of Kentville and the municipality. "We all have to work together to create opportunities."

And while Chief Peters has made great strides in economic development for Glooscap, resulting in positive changes for the band members, he doesn't have any airs of being superior. "We want Glooscap to be sustainable, but we also want to help the other Mi'kmaq communities outside of Glooscap. Some are in rough shape."

A second priority for Chief Peters is education. "Education is so important to Glooscap First Nation," he says. "We are very proud that 29 per cent of kids in the Glooscap band are enrolled in post-secondary education." Part of Chief Peters role involves active participation on the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey board, an education authority for the First Nations.

A spin-off to Chief Peters's commitment to education is a future focus on professional services. "I'm tired of Aboriginals only doing retail and menial jobs," he adds. "Our kids are becoming more and more educated; some are even becoming

doctors. We need to work with them and create opportunities."

While Chief Peters has without a doubt made drastic improvements to the band members of Glooscap First Nation, there has been some uncertainty.

"Over the past seven years, we've had to be careful our people don't become too dependant on our community," he says, adding that if they are not cautious of this, it could lead to bigger problems. "We need to shift away from the stigma of entitlement."

A big part of Chief Peter's success moving Glooscap First Nation forward could be attributed to a skill he may have inherited from his father. "Dad was very much a people person. He believed in helping others, getting into the community, visiting elders and seniors on a regular basis." While there is no such thing as a typical day or regular schedule for Chief Peters, he always makes sure he has time for the community members themselves.

"I may not always be here, in the community, but I am always accessible and working," he says. "And when I am on-reserve, I have an open door policy and visit our members as much as I can. The elders are particularly important. They are why we are here." Chief Peters adds that his day is simply about figuring out how to best support the community and see it thrive.

Perhaps the greatest key to Chief Peters' success is his mindset. "In the Mi'kmaq world we talk about seven generations of family. With everything I do, I assess how it will impact the next seven generations. I want to know the future impact with every decision I make."



# Bringing back the black ash tree

A unique species of tree which holds significance to the Mi'kmaw is in danger of being lost forever.

Unless the team at Mi'kmawey Forestry has anything to say about it.

"The most recent estimate puts Nova Scotia's black ash population at about 1000 trees," explains Cody Chapman, Mi'kmawey Forestry Stewardship Officer with Mi'kmawey Forestry.

Mi'kmawey Forestry is a program within the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq that carries out forestry-related projects on behalf of the eight mainland Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw communities. Their work covers everything from community outreach events to species at risk conservation projects to working with industry. The goal of their program is, "to support Mi'kmaw participation in the transformation of Nova Scotia's forests through the practice and promotion of Netukulimk." Netukulimk is a Mi'kmaw concept that summarizes the need to live in a sustainable balance with nature today so that future generations can also sustain themselves from the land as we do. One of their current projects is the black ash conservation project.

"Our long term goal is to establish a collection of wild black ash seeds from various Nova Scotian populations of the tree," Cody explains.

As Mi'kmawey Forestry Stewardship Officer, Cody has been working for the last year to oversee the black ash conservation project and help grow the population of black ash trees in Nova Scotia. The ultimate goal is to conserve this species that has significance to the Mi'kmaw community.

"The black ash is a very significant species to the Mi'kmaw as it has been used to make artwork and everyday items for many generations," Cody explains. "Material from the ash has been used to create everything from snowshoes to canoe ribs, to baby cradles and hockey sticks. Most notably, however, is the ash's use as the preferred material for Mi'kmaw splint baskets. The production of these baskets provided an income for many Mi'kmaw families."

The Mi'kmawey Forestry team is working to grow black ash seedlings, juvenile black ash trees. The seedlings serve as valuable planting stock to establish protected black ash plantations throughout the province. All of their black ash seedlings were grown from seed collected from a very fertile site in Cumberland County in 2014. Some of the seeds will be placed into long-term frozen storage until such a time when conditions in the province may be ready to host black ash once again.



"Black ash grow best in relatively undisturbed forested wetland habitat," Cody explains. "Traditionally, this habitat has been altered by the forestry industry and by the transformation of wetland areas into agricultural landscapes. The most notable change to Nova Scotia's ability to host black ash, however, is the recent introduction of the invasive emerald ash borer beetle to the province."

Adds Cody, "If conditions continue to worsen and black ash cannot be reintroduced to our landscape in the short term, it is hoped that the seed material that we put into storage can be used to establish future populations to ensure that the species' genetic legacy is not erased."

By documenting previously unknown occurrences of black ash, the team hopes to improve their understanding of the distribution of the species in Nova Scotia and better prepare to mitigate the risks to the species.

"The most immediate challenge to our work is the threat of damage caused by white-tailed deer," Cody explains. "Deer selectively browse on ash and can completely strip a seedling bare of its leaves or pull a plant from the ground. We have tried

several methods to keep our seedlings safe from deer but have found that the most effective repellent method is to install a fence around the seedlings."

While Cody oversees the project, Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture has played a significant role in the conservation project. A valuable partner on the black ash project, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus has offered its extensive expertise and resources to help the project to be successful.

"The horticultural staff on campus provide excellent care for our seedlings, and the Friends of the Garden did a great job potting 500 of our seedlings into large containers with a custom soil mixture that they created for us," Cody explains.

While the project is still in progress, the team at Mi'kmawey Forestry has been working on conserving black ash since 1997. To date, the program has submitted thousands of black ash seeds for long term storage at the National Tree Seed Centre and has established seven plantation sites provincially. They hope that these plantation sites will one day yield seed themselves to supply future conservation efforts.



## AGRI**LEADERSHIP** *Ideas that grow*

**November 2, 2019**

**Dalhousie Agricultural Campus**

DASA and the Student Success Centre have partnered in hosting Dal AC's first student leadership conference! We invite you to share how your academic experiences prepared you for life after university with current students. How did your time at the AC shape you into the industry leader you are today?

Inquiries can be directed to [gillian.hatch@dal.ca](mailto:gillian.hatch@dal.ca)



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

**STUDENT SUCCESS  
CENTRE DAL AC**





# Meant to be

Kalolin Sullivan (Class of '19)

Growing up in Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation outside of Antigonish, Kalolin Sullivan (Class of '19) is proud to be the first Indigenous student to graduate from Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture with a diploma in civil engineering.

"I value coming from an Indigenous community," Kalolin explains. "There is little representation within the field of engineering and I am extremely proud to be the first Indigenous student to graduate from Dal AC's engineering diploma program."

Reflecting on her academic journey, Kalolin knows now that she chose the right path. Despite some hesitancy in the beginning, the soon-to-be graduate of the two-year program is certain her career choice was meant to be.

"I was not always interested in engineering," Kalolin admits. "My interests dabbled all over the place. I considered fashion design, architecture, psychology and other programs. People tell you to do what you enjoy and after thinking about what it was I enjoyed, I figured out that I had a passion for building and creating things."

Kalolin was previously enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Although her intentions were to pursue architecture, she felt from the beginning that something wasn't quite right. Upon further reflection of the program and her personal interests, she decided to make the switch to study civil engineering at Dal AC.

"Once I decided engineering was the path for me, there was nothing that was going to stop me from reaching my goal," Kalolin says.

Civil engineering is the professional engineering discipline that deals with the design, construction, and maintenance of the physical and naturally built environment. This includes public works such as roads, bridges, canals, dams, airports, structural components of buildings, and much more. After completion of the diploma program at Dal AC, engineering students have the option to complete an additional three years of studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax to earn a Bachelor of Engineering degree.

"Civil engineering enables creativity and mathematics to come together in the creation process," Kalolin explains. "My plan is to direct my studies towards structural engineering. I am very interested in combining environmental aspects within the structural aspects of building."



As of September, Kalolin is now attending Dalhousie University in Halifax where she will complete her Bachelor of Engineering degree. The three-year program offers students the chance to gain real-life work experience through a co-op program. Kalolin is excited to gain hands-on work experience in her in field and plans to continue to be involved on the Halifax campus, much like she was at Dal AC.

"I want to run for a position on the undergraduate engineering society at the Sexton Campus," Kalolin says. "I want to continue to take on leadership roles and be a beneficial member of the society."

As Kalolin looks to her next chapter at Dalhousie, she admits she senses a feeling of completion. Despite her uncertainty in the beginning, Kalolin is now positive that studying civil engineering at Dal AC was the path for her, a path that was certainly meant to be.

"I did not expect to enjoy the Dal AC campus as much as I have," Kalolin admits with a smile. "My engineering class is like my second family and I cannot wait to gain new experiences at the Sexton Campus. As exhausting as studying engineering is, I have never felt like I have belonged anywhere else more in my life."

"I felt so motivated and driven to get there and now that I am here, I know this is where I was meant to be."

## A leap of faith

Alex Buckley  
(Class of '19)







It took Alex Buckley (Class of '19) one semester to realize that the career path he was on might not be right for him. A hasty decision led him to a different path that his heart just wasn't into.

Finally, after some self-reflection the answer came to him.

"The answer didn't come fast but when it did, it hit me like a ton of bricks," Alex smiles. "When I saw that the U.S. was discussing the legalization of recreational and medical cannabis, I just somehow knew that Canada would be next."

"I took a leap of faith and enrolled in plant science at the Agricultural Campus before there was any talk of legalization in Canada."

Alex hasn't looked back.

#### **FINDING THE RIGHT PATH**

Growing up in Saint John, NB, Alex began his university career at the University of New Brunswick Saint John (UNBSJ) enrolled in a Bachelor of Science program. His intention to become a physical therapist was short lived when he began to feel the pressure of entering a potentially saturated job market.

"I felt very pressured to change my path because my peers were telling me that too many people are already trying to become physical therapists and it would be hard to get a good job," Alex explains.

In a hasty decision to switch gears, Alex transferred to a business degree at UNBSJ.

"It had the broadest implications and I figured that by the end of my degree I would have found my passion," Alex says.

No such luck. After choosing to major

in accounting based on the promise of a well-paying career, Alex realized yet again that he wasn't truly following his heart.

"It was quite obvious that I didn't enjoy it," Alex says. "By my fourth year, I knew I couldn't do this for the rest of my life. I then had another decision to make. I thought long and hard about finding a career that met my criteria: what career would excite me for the next 40 years, what am I good at, and what will I make a decent wage in?"

#### **THE LEAP OF FAITH**

With knowledge of and an interest in the rehabilitation properties of cannabis, Alex turned to Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture's plant science program. Dal AC was the closest university to his hometown that offered a program of that nature, so it was a natural choice for him. Once he set foot on the campus though, he was hooked.

"When I received a tour of the school, saw how beautiful it was and how friendly the people were, I knew immediately that it was the place for me," he smiles.

Alex completed his Bachelor of Business Administration through UNBSJ as well as his Bachelor of Science in plant science through the Agricultural Campus. Although he completed his studies late in 2018, Alex officially graduated in May, 2019. What's more, Alex had a job lined up before he graduated and to his delight, he knows he is finally on the right path.

Immediately after graduating, Alex began the position of Lead IPM (Integrated Pest Management) at the state of the art AtlantiCann Medical Inc.



**“I witnessed the first plants arrive at the facility when we had only five employees,” Alex explains humbly. “The facility is now a full operation with over 6,000 plants and roughly 30 employees.”**

facility located in Lower Sackville, NS. The facility is managed by the prestigious cannabis company, MJardin which originated in Denver, Colorado when cannabis was first legalized in the U.S.

“I witnessed the first plants arrive at the facility when we had only five employees,” Alex explains humbly. “The facility is now a full operation with over 6,000 plants and roughly 30 employees.”

As Lead IPM, Alex was responsible to lead the production of the cannabis crops and was the only certified pesticide applicator at the facility. He also teamed up with the director of operations to standardize working procedures and learn how to properly follow the strict Canadian Cannabis Regulations. Alex played a supervisory role in the growing of the crops. He also assisted the company in making strategic decisions, propagated new plants, cleaned and operated the irrigation systems, and much more.

“MJardin is extremely ethical and has yet had a need to apply pesticides,” Alex explains. “But if they did, I was the only one permitted to do so at the facility.”

#### **THE RIGHT CHOICE**

Looking back on his academic journey, Alex has no regrets. Each of his decisions led him to the next, and ultimately to the successful position he is in today.

This past summer, Alex left his position with MJardin to assist in the development and launch of a cannabis management course offered through Extended Learning at Dalhousie Agricultural Campus.

“I was very excited to hear that Dalhousie was creating a cannabis course,” said Alex. “This was the school that fostered my plant knowledge and passion. Having the opportunity to use my experience to give that back to future students that are like me has been pretty amazing.”

The course, Cannabis Production and Management is an online course designed to help students prepare for entering a mid-upper level cannabis production position.

And while Alex’s work with the course development is only a temporary gig, he has been happy to apply his learnings back to his alma mater. When his work on the course development is complete, he knows there are many open doors for him. He credits much of his success to Dal AC and the professors that helped him realize his true passion.

“I understand that, like any good thing in life, cannabis must be used wisely and in moderation,” Alex explains. “It’s helped me recover from sports injuries in the past and I became passionate about understanding the plant and its rehabilitation properties. I love how approachable the professors were at the Agricultural Campus and how light their sense of humour was. I could openly talk about my cannabis interest to my professors and they were all ears.”

As for his leap of faith, it turned out to be a leap of faith in the right direction.



# Haydays

## Evans Estabrooks (Class of '62)

Experiencing life before televisions, computers, tape decks, photocopy machines, ballpoint pens, contact lenses, credit cards, penicillin and even immunization from the dreaded polio disease, is not relatable to many of us.

And that's exactly what motivated Evans Estabrooks (Class of '62) to publish *Haydays*.

"My initial thinking for *Haydays* was for the benefit of my two grandsons, Sam and Ben," says Evans in his introduction, "as well as all of the other grandchildren who have only lived in the electronic and communication age."

*Haydays* is a memoir of Evans' first ten years of life, growing up on a farm in Eastern Canada from 1942-1952.

"About 15 years ago when my grandsons were in preschool, I realized that they knew little of life when I was their age," he adds. "First, I put a few thoughts down on paper directed to them. Then I realized that many grandchildren knew little of life in the post Second World War era when life was so different from today. Once I had an outline of what I wanted to cover I decided on a book."

With that in mind, Evans spent many sessions, over 10 years, putting pen to paper, describing life as a farm boy in southeast New Brunswick, growing up with his two older brothers and sister, with their parents, on their mixed farm. He recounted what life like life – simple and self-sufficient.

"Self-sufficiency was the main goal of farm families during the 1940's and 1950's," he says, "with sales of farm products and some working off-farm to provide the extras required by the farm family." He compares his up-bringing to current farm lifestyles. "Today farm families produce farm products to sell while other family members are working off-farm to supplement their income."

Throughout the nearly 100-page memoir, Evans also recalls many of his favourite memories, both of good times and also of hard work.

"My favourite memory is the freedom that I was given to run through the fields and woods with my faithful dog, Peter, exploring nature," he says. "I was free to make mistakes after some minimum guidance from my parents. With freedom came responsibility for my actions. We all sensed a responsibility to carry out assigned tasks in a timely manner."

Evans is quick to point out his experiences are no different than others of his era, and that those first ten years were pivotal in shaping his life. "The environment and circumstances in which I was brought up, helped shape the way I look at life and how I live as a man."

Although *Haydays* was written for the younger generations, Evans wants all readers to get an appreciation for life in the 1940's and 1950's and think about how different life was compared to today. That being said, he also says, "for those of you under the age of 60, I hope that as you read this book you will develop a new insight into how your parents think and for those of you over 60 years, I hope this book brings back a few good memories."

Evans generously handed over the distribution and sale of his book to the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association.



## When you know, you know

Jennifer Wiper (Class of '02)

In 1998, Jennifer Wiper (Class of '02) eagerly began her studies in pre-veterinary medicine at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Fast forward to today, Jennifer is thriving in her career in aquaculture.

So what prompted the switch from a career as a veterinarian to a career in aquaculture?

"That's a bit of a funny story," Jennifer smiles.

Growing up in Little Burnt Bay, a small town with a population of less than 500 in Central Newfoundland, Jennifer admits that she perhaps didn't have quite the same farming background as some of her fellow AC classmates. Her family operated a small hobby farm, and growing up, they always had a few animals and crops. It was her experience with animals that drove her to pursue veterinary medicine at the Agricultural Campus. The thought of studying aquaculture had not ever crossed her mind.

"I had never heard of aquaculture or fish farming, until I attended the AC," Jennifer admits.

Shortly into her first year studying veterinary medicine, things changed for Jennifer. Coming from a small-scale farm, simple strategies like crop rotation and soil science, requirements for the pre-vet and animal science programs, were foreign to her. Sitting in her room in residence one evening in her first year, Jennifer overheard some third-year students discussing fish anatomy.

"I was no expert, but through my years of recreational fishing and helping my dad gut and fillet cod fish, I knew a little anatomy," Jennifer laughs. "I started to talk with them and became really interested in what they were talking about and enjoyed that I could relate to what they were talking about and even more so that I understood it."

Jennifer walked out of the building that day and headed straight to the administration office to change her program.

Today, Jennifer works as the manager of Compliance and Certification for Cooke Aquaculture, a leader in the global seafood industry who works closely with communities to produce high quality seafood for their customers. Jennifer's role with Cooke Aquaculture is to manage their third-party



certification programs for Cooke's North American operations.

"When I talk about third party certification, I mean standards such as Best Aquaculture Practices to which we are four-star certified, which means our hatcheries, marine farms, feed mills, and processing plants are certified," Jennifer explains. "I lead a small team which conducts internal audits, training and procedure development to ensure that everyone is doing the work that they need to do to not only meet our regulatory requirements, but meet additional requirements that we are certified."

Jennifer's involvement in aquaculture doesn't stop with her day job at Cooke Aquaculture though. She is involved with many national aquaculture organizations. She sits as a board member of the Aquaculture Association of Canada, a technical committee member for the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance, a member of the Salmon Farm Standard Technical Committee for Best Aquaculture Practices, and much more.

"One of the biggest issues with marine farming is that people can't see the cows grazing, horses galloping and that scenic red barn in the background," Jennifer explains. "Marine farming happens underwater and for people not in the industry, it can be difficult for them to understand everything that happens. I am especially passionate about helping people to understand what happens on a fish farm."

Reflecting on her time at the AC and her switch to studies in aquaculture, Jennifer has no doubt that her decision was the right choice.

"Aquaculture isn't just about being on the farms and feeding the fish, there are so many varied careers within the industry or those associated with supporting the industry," she explains. "With so many different species under the Cooke banner and various operational locations, I get to interact with a multitude of people, farming and fishing practices, learning new things daily. It's never redundant and never slow!"

"I knew from the day that I learned about aquaculture that I wanted to be involved," Jennifer smiles. "I have been involved and absolutely loving it since I graduated in 2002."



## An apple a day

Sophie Watts (Class of '20)

If an apple a day keeps the doctor away, Sophie Watts (Class of '20) doesn't have to worry. Taste-testing over 800 varieties of apples is just a typical harvest season for this graduate student.

"My biggest accomplishment, but also my biggest challenge, so far has been harvesting over 800 apple varieties in the orchard," Sophie smiles. "It was a lot of work and took me all fall but it was also super fun because I got to taste them all during the process!"

A Masters degree candidate at Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture, Sophie is studying the Apple Biodiversity Collection as part of her research. Supervised by Sean Myles, Sophie's research is looking at creating more sustainable, and tastier, apples.

"I'm doing this by studying the apple orchard over multiple years for traits that determine fruit quality and are therefore targets for apple breeders," Sophie explains. "I measure over 40 different traits on each of those apples' trees."

Some of the traits Sophie is measuring in different apple varieties include things like sweetness, firmness, storability, juiciness, acidity, and frost damage susceptibility to name a few. She measures these traits from apples in the Apple Biodiversity Collection to pinpoint which traits may want to be incorporated into varieties to help improve apples.

The Apple Biodiversity Collection (ABC), from which Sophie is gathering her data, is recognized as the most diverse collection of apples in the world. Located

in Kentville, NS, the ABC is a collaboration between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Dalhousie University. It is home to over 1,000 apple varieties, including dessert and cider apples, heirloom varieties, and apples from as far as the forests of Central Asia. The ABC looks to efficiently breed new apple varieties that are delicious and require less chemical input to grow.

"The Apple Biodiversity Collection is one of the largest, most diverse apple collections in the world!" Sophie explains. "It makes researching this orchard a great opportunity that is also very unique. My supervisor, Dr. Sean Myles, and post-doc colleague, Dr. Zoe Migicosvsky, are very supportive and knowledgeable."

Sophie is also a recent recipient of a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) graduate scholarship. This award will help offset costs for Sophie during her Masters research.

"I am very happy and thankful to have been awarded an NSERC scholarship," Sophie smiles. "It's a really big help to have this funding to do this research."

Originally from Halifax, NS, Sophie completed her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree through the University of Guelph in Ontario. It was Sophie's passion for food and agriculture that led her to Dal's Faculty of Agriculture to complete her Masters degree. Prompted by the reputable research program and high-quality labs, Sophie began her graduate studies in September 2018.



Through her research, she not only hopes to improve apple varieties, she also hopes to increase the overall understanding of apple biology.

"By working with such a diverse collection of apples, I hope to raise awareness of how important biodiversity is in agriculture and emphasize that we need to use that diversity in order to improve our agricultural crops."

Adds Sophie, "I really love food and care about how we grow food and will continue to do so in the future with challenges from climate change. I saw this research as a way to work on one of Canada's most important food crops and figure out how we can create apples that are tastier and more sustainable. I will continue working on my project and hopefully uncover valuable insights about apples and how we can improve them."

## Five decades of family, fun, and fresh, local products Jennings family

What used to be a roadside fruit and vegetable stand is now a growing local landmark that travellers within Nova Scotia can't seem to pass by.

"It's not only a destination," Eric Jennings (Class of '58), founder and owner of Masstown Market explains. "It's an experience."

"It seems like everyone knows where the Masstown Market is," wife Priscilla Jennings adds with a smile.

Owned and operated by the Jennings family, the Masstown Market is a one-stop shop for delicious and unique local products. Nestled along the Trans-Canada Highway, anyone travelling to or from central Nova Scotia is likely to pass directly by the Masstown Market, making it a popular tourist destination in the summer months. An award-winning, family owned business, the Market has built its reputation around great service and fresh, local foods. Market-goers will find fruits and vegetables, home-style baked goods, delicatessen and gourmet products, a café, dairy bar, Grapes and Grains Nova Scotia Liquor Commission boutique, unique giftware and fully stocked garden centre. Over the years, the thriving family business has grown to include The Peg, Masstown Lighthouse, Wharf and Fish Boat, Masstown Petro Canada and Tim Hortons, and a satellite store in the Community of Five Islands.

This year, the Masstown Market celebrates its 50th year in business. As part of the celebration, the Jennings family sought a way to recognize their loyal customers and community who contributed to the success of the Market over the past 50 years. As a lasting token of their appreciation, the Jennings' decided to establish an endowed bursary to provide financial assistance for students at Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture who aspire to start or expand a family business in Atlantic Canada. The \$100,000 gift creates a lasting legacy that will have a tremendous impact on students and the agricultural businesses that are the backbone of our region in the years and generations to come.

"The Agricultural Campus is an important economic driver in our community," Laurie Jennings, son of Eric and co-owner of Masstown Market, explains. "We are in a position to be able to support others and we want to support those who want to encourage entrepreneurship in Nova Scotia. Entrepreneurship and supporting the economy is important to our family- that's where the Masstown Market all began."

While the Masstown Market is highly regarded and widely recognized, it wasn't always the local landmark it is today. The booming business began as a small farm-gate fruit stand that Eric started.

"When we started 50 years ago, we had no idea it would end up where it is today," Eric admits.

In 1969, Eric started the Masstown Market as a way to provide some extra income to his growing family. A crop farmer himself and recent graduate of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Eric decided to sell his crops to his community.

"We were raising three children," Eric explains. "I was looking for a way to make a little extra money and to share the fruits and vegetables that were produced on our farm."

With less than \$500 to start the business, Eric partnered with a close friend and neighbour to buy the land for what would become the Masstown Market. He spent the following months working off the payments he borrowed from his business partner to purchase his half of the land.

"Back then you could do that," Eric says. "You could make a deal with a neighbour on nothing but a handshake."



Looking back, Eric Jennings (pictured with wife Priscilla) would never have imagined the success of his small road-side fruit stand, 50 years later.



In little time, locals began flocking to what they started calling “the Fruit Stand” for the fresh, delicious fruits and vegetables. With a few campgrounds in the area, the Jennings family began stocking their stand with basic grocery items to meet the needs of their customers visiting from away. As time passed, Eric and Priscilla began stocking the shelves with more products at the Market. Little did they know, it would quickly evolve into the empire it is today.

From the day the Masstown Market opened, Eric made his customers his top priority. Fifty years later, he attributes much of the Market's success to listening to customer feedback. While the Masstown Market has not operated under a formal business plan at any point in its lifespan, the family-owned store continued to grow. By 1973, four years after the Masstown Market opened, the market had tripled in size. Eric's close attention to his customers may very well have been the key to the success of the growth of the Masstown Market.

“Customer experience is one the most important things to us here at the Masstown Market,” Eric says.

Not only is customer experience a top priority, family is important to the Jennings' as well. To say the Masstown Market is a family affair would be an understatement. All three of Eric and Priscilla's children played their own role in building the Market to what it is today. As Eric's children step-up to build on the foundation that he laid, his grandchildren are also involved in the Masstown Market in different capacities.

“Wade, our oldest son, was always the to-do fella, there wasn't anything around here he couldn't fix,” Eric smiles. “Laurie was the business part, he talked to the customers every day. My grandson, Tristan, now manages the butcher shop.”

But the family ties don't stop with the Jennings family. The longest standing Masstown Market employees are two sisters who have been working at the

Market for over 30 years. Bonnie McLean and Lisa Mcrae both started working at the Market when they were teenagers, scooping ice cream in the dairy bar. Today, the sisters still work at the market, although have been promoted from scooping ice cream, and have never worked anywhere else.

“Not only do we have families working at the Market, we think of our employees like family,” Eric says. “We employ around 200 people with a few more hired in the summer during peak season. We feel proud to see our employees come to work everyday with a smile on their faces and are knowing that they are happy to be here.”

Although Eric stills plays a part in the operations of the Masstown Market, it is Laurie who oversees the day-to-day operations. Like his father, Laurie operates the business on the principle of customer satisfaction. Despite overseeing business operations, Laurie can often be found on the front lines, bagging apples, stocking shelves and interacting with customers.

“Innovation begins with the day-to-day stuff,” Laurie explains. “We have to listen to our customers and adapt with how times are changing. Our priority is making decisions based on feedback from customers as opposed to increasing profitability and our bottom line. Our measure of success is attracting people to Masstown.”

As for the future of the Masstown Market, the Jennings family have some plans for yet another expansion, although nothing set in stone.

“The Masstown Market is never complete,” Laurie hints. “We're always expanding. We listen to our customers and try to bring in products or expand the property to satisfy the customers needs. Our customers always come first. Our next expansion will once again be based off of consumer demand. We're excited to see what the future holds for the Masstown Market.”



Eric Jennings stands just inside the greenhouse department, which has a view of the Masstown Lighthouse.



Laurie Jennings tends to the fresh produce.

## Atlantic Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers



The Agricultural Campus is pleased to support the Atlantic Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers program, each year. In March, we were honoured to attend the regional event, hosted in Moncton. The Outstanding Young Farmers program recognizes young farmers who exemplify excellence in their profession.



Our own alumni, Justin and Laura (both Class of '01) Rogers, of Brae, PEI were named the 2019 Atlantic Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers (above left) in Moncton. Although Justin and Laura certainly weren't the only alumni in the room. Check out this group of Aggies in attendance! (above).

## Dean's Receptions

Last spring, we hosted various Dean's Receptions in Ontario and Newfoundland. We always enjoy reconnecting with Aggies and meeting new faces. While in Ontario, Dr. Gray hosted our first FAFU alumni reception. We were pleased to have Professor Emeritus, Dr. Claude Caldwell join us at this particular event and see so many FAFU alumni.

See you again soon!



Since we couldn't take the real Rocky the Ram, several stuffed Rocky's attended our events with us and found new homes with alumni.



A crowd of Aggies in St. John's, NL.



Dr. David Gray is always ready and smiling to greet alumni at our events.



We love meeting alumni from all generations. A few young alums, smile with Dr. Gray in Ontario.



A great group of FAFU alumni spent the evening with us just outside Toronto.



## Class of '59 reunion

The Class of '59 celebrated 60 years since graduating from NSAC, in July. Classmates started their day on campus, with a tour of the Student Learning Commons and a visit from the dean.

They then moved on to the farm of Don and Karen Grant in Hardwoodlands, where they were joined by other classmates. The group enjoyed a farm tour, followed by a BBQ.



Front row (L-R): Bob Clark, Lorne Cock [former faculty member and member of the class of '52], Ernie Maynard, Jack Sibley, Sherman Williams. Back row (L-R) should say Alan Napean, Don Grant, Cal Currie, Irvin McCormick and Dale Ells.

## Class of '54 reunion

Members of NSAC's Class of '54 returned to campus, in July, in honour of their 65th anniversary. Classmates and guests toured the popular Student Learning Commons during Community Day, before reconnecting over lunch in Jenkins Hall.



L-R: Page Baird, Freeman Eaton, Robert Parks, Calvin Tilley, Vernon Murray, Dr. David Gray and Ronald Colpitts.

## Class of '60 & '61 reunion

NSAC's Class of '60 & '61 joined forces in August for a combined reunion in Sydney, NS and area. Classmates and guests enjoyed a BBQ, Men of the Deep concert, tour of Cape Breton University, visit to the Fortress of Louisburg and more during their three days together. The next class gathering will be held in the South Shore area, August 26, 2020. More information to follow!



## Barley Party a family affair for one Dal AC family

The increasingly popular and highly anticipated Barley Party at Dalhousie's Agricultural Campus can easily be described as one of the most exciting events for graduating students on campus. But the excitement goes far beyond the graduating students. In recent years, past alumni have expressed interest in receiving the prestigious Barley Ring, often times alongside their graduating children or even grandchildren.

### A SENSE OF PRIDE

This year, three generations of the Bowlby family proudly received their Barley Rings at the Barley Party on April 5. David Senior (Class of '57), David (Class of '87) and Devon (Class of '19) each received their rings. For David Sr., the presentation was a complete surprise coordinated by his son David and grandson, Devon.

"I knew my dad would be very proud to be there, first and foremost for my son Devon as he has been Devon's number one fan his entire life!" David explains. "My dad got an original AC ring after he graduated in 1957 and he's mentioned the Barley Ring a couple of times after he and I attended an alumni event or two."

David and Devon concocted a plan to get David Sr.'s ring size and get him to the Barley Party. David told his mother the details about the party and she took his wedding ring to have it sized, letting on it required some much needed repairs.

"He's been wearing his wedding ring for almost 60 years now," David smiles.

After getting the ring size from his mother, David placed the order for his father's ring. It was easy to get him to the Barley Party as David Sr. is proud of his grandson and was thrilled to be invited to watch Devon receive his ring.

"This is just such a surprise," said the nearly speechless David Sr. following the event.

"It feels good to get my Barley Ring, although it makes me even happier knowing how proud my dad and grandfather are," Devon adds.

"Receiving a Barley Ring is a great reminder of all the good times that I had while I was at the AC," David smiles. "To receive it alongside two of my family members representing over 60 years of our family attending AC is really amazing."

### FAMILY FARMING

For over 150 years, the Bowlby family has proudly been farming on the same plot of land in Aylesford, NS. In 1866, Samuel Bowlby purchased the farm and began farming sheep and a variety of crops. Over the years, the farm has been home to carriage horses, sheep, apple orchards, and crops. In the late 1990's David Bowlby and his wife purchased the farm from David Sr. and began the creation of the on-site farm market.

Dempsey's Corner Orchard's U-Pick and Farm Market evolved into a mixed operation offering hands on activities and farm education for their customers. The old livestock barn was renovated into the centrepiece of the farm and is now a retail outlet with restaurant, bakery and petting zoo.

Devon Bowlby is the sixth generation on the Bowlby farm. Prior to his graduation, this past May, with a diploma in agricultural business management, Devon was ecstatic to have accepted a position at the Kentville Research Station. Although Devon did not return to the family farm, he is excited for what's in store for him in the future.

"I'm currently looking into furthering my studies and getting my degree in agricultural business," Devon explains proudly.

As for the Bowlby farm, David explains that it's time to move on. The family has recently finalized the sale of a farm to a couple moving from Ontario to Nova Scotia. Although the popular market will be under new ownership, David explains that things will continue as they have, at least for now.

"I'm sure the new owners have plans of their own," David says. "But they are planning on status quo for now and all staff here will continue to have employment that will be relied upon into the future. I have a full time job with Agriculture Canada at the Kentville Research facility where I am the farm manager so plans are to remain there for now, but opportunity is always knocking!"

### AN ANNUAL TRADITION

For the Bowlby family, the Barley Party was an exciting end to an era. Their shared passion for Dal AC was evident and will continue to be held in their memories with each glance at the shiny Barley Ring on their fingers.

Established in 2010, the Barley Party is the annual celebration for students who have purchased a Barley Ring- Dal AC's widely recognized graduation ring. Held in Jenkins Hall on campus on Friday evening, students attending the Barley Party enjoyed a delicious meal and one-by-one were called to the front of the room to accept their barley ring. Students were welcomed to the Agricultural Campus Alumni Association by Colette Wyllie, chair of the Alumni Association and were presented their rings by Campus Principal, Dr. David Gray.

"The Barley Ring symbolizes everything that the Agricultural Campus stands for – integrity, professionalism, hard work and a connection to the land," says Colette Wyllie, chair of the Faculty of Agriculture's Alumni Association. "It unifies our AC community across the globe. Barley Party has become a beloved tradition amongst graduating students, and it's fantastic to see the uptake from relatives who are graduates from years prior. The event feels more and more special every year!"





Three generations of Bowlby's received Barley Rings together at the annual Barley Party: Devon, David Senior and David.

Unveiled nine years ago, the Barley Ring is the official graduation ring of the Agricultural Campus. Since its launch in 2010, it has become a highly recognized symbol of the Agricultural Campus. Now with over 1,100 rings worn by alumni around the world, the Barley Ring is a proud symbol of the

Faculty of Agriculture and the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. The textured design features a pattern of barley around the band of the rings and each ring is handmade by local jeweler, Donna Hiebert. This year, 80 Barley Rings were given out at the Barley Party.

## Leonard d'Eon turns 101

Our oldest living alum, Leonard d'Eon (Class of '40) celebrated a very special milestone on September 11, his 101st birthday. Alisha Johnson and Cathrine Yuill, members of the Agricultural Campus Advancement team visited Leonard and his family. Leonard, who is from West Pubnico, attended NSAC from 1938-1940, before beginning his diverse and hard-working career as a farmer, welder (including teaching welding), boat builder and landscaper.



## Convocation

The Agricultural Campus celebrated the Convocation of 186 students in early May, at the annual event in the Langille Athletic Centre.

### VALEDICTORIAN

Jack Lynds, who received his diploma in engineering, was nominated by his peers to address graduates and guests as the Class of '19 valedictorian.

"Although I have only been studying here for two years, I have tried my best to pack as much fun and as many memories in as a four-year degree," said Jack as he addressed his audience. "During my two years, I played on the school soccer team, worked here at the Langille Athletic Centre, in the Math and Physics Help Centre, and as a summer student in the engineering department."

Twenty-nine years ago, Jack's mother, Jean (Baillie) Lynds (Class of '90) addressed her class as valedictorian, making the moment extra special for Jack and his family.

"I remember reading my mom's valedictory address and thinking how honoring it would be to be selected by your peers for that role," he said, prior to his speech. "Now that I've experienced it, I can report that it is humbling. This is a nice way to end such an incredible time here at the AC."

While Jack reflected on his experiences, during his address, he also spoke of the unique and special campus, the people he met and the impacts they made. He also gave voice to a major event that impacted the entire campus community.

"We are all familiar with the Cox fire during the summer of 2018. This was certainly a tough time for our campus, but we persevered. The fire displaced our classes, disrupted our labs and some lost very valuable data. When something like this happens, it would be easy to fold, but that is not the Aggie spirit," he said.

"We rallied together and made the best of an unfortunate situation. I propose that we, as the first graduating class since, be remembered as the class on fire. We are entering an exciting field in agriculture which is changing ever-so-fast. As the most recent graduates, we will move into important roles leading the way in this continually advancing industry. A few short years ago, we ignited this fire by choosing agriculture and choosing Dal AC. Since then, we have been steadily building our fires. The knowledge from the classroom and skills we have gained in the labs and shops are like the wood we add to fuel our fire and keep it going. Our instructors, advisors, family and friends who were there every step of the way, they are the oxygen making it possible for our fires to take off. Today, our flame burns hot

and bright. We should be excited and passionate about the challenges our careers have in store for us. Even if we do not know what lies ahead, I am confident we will be ready for it. While you are out doing great things, keep this in mind, if it ever feels like gasoline was poured on your fire and everything is out of control, just take a step back and wait for things to settle down to reevaluate. If it feels like it has been raining on your fire non-stop and nothing is seeming to go right, don't give up. Don't let a little rain ruin what you have worked so hard for. Find that last ember that is burning hot and build your fire back up again. Let's take this fire with us as we graduate and never lose the passion for what we do or the resilience that we have shown. Let's show the world what Aggies are all about."

Jack is now carrying-on with his education, working towards his Degree in Engineering, on the Halifax campus.

### LIFE PRESIDENT

When Lauren Peters (Class of '19) wasn't studying, you could find her at any and all student events that took place on Dalhousie's Agricultural Campus.

"Over my four years here, I tried to be involved and get to know as many people on campus as I possibly could," Lauren explains.

Her campus involvement has certainly paid off. As Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture Class of '19 graduates turn to their next chapter, they can move forward knowing the interests of their class are in good hands with Lauren representing the Class of '19 as life president.

"It is an absolute honour to be chosen as life president of the Class of '19," Lauren says. "I am happy to have made those connections and cannot wait to continue building them. I am overjoyed to get to work with the Alumni office along with Hannah Gerard to ensure the Class of '19 stays connected to Dal AC."

As life president, Lauren will act as the main representative between the Class of '19, the Agricultural Campus Alumni Association and the Alumni Relations office. She will ensure the interests of the Class are being observed in the matters of finance, publicity, reunions and funding. Each spring the graduating class elects two individuals to represent the entire class within the Agricultural Campus Alumni Association. Hannah Gerard, Life Secretary, will join Lauren in making up the Class of 2019 Life Executive.

Lauren received a dual degree with both a Bachelor of Agriculture from Dalhousie University and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Aeres University, the partner university in the Netherlands. Prior to graduation, Lauren secured the position of marketing coordinator for the Masstown Market in Masstown, NS.





Valedictorian, Jack Lynds with his mom, Jean, who also addressed her class as valedictorian in 1990.



Class of '19 Life President, Lauren Peters.

## Honourary Barley Ring 2019

### DR. JIN YUE

Keeping with the Barley Party tradition, an honorary ring was presented to an unsuspecting guest during the spring event. As read by student representative, Nellie Wood, during the presentation, "The 2019 Barley Ring recipient embodies and exemplifies what it means to be a true Aggie."

Dr. Jin Yue has been a staple to student success on the Agricultural Campus for over 10 years. Jin, as students call him, is a senior instructor in the Department of Engineering who always strives to help his students succeed. He teaches calculus to many of the first-year students. Despite the challenging course content, he's known for his great sense of humor and ability to make his lectures enjoyable for every student. An approachable and outgoing professor, Jin ensures that his students understand difficult concepts and are aware of the various services available to enrich their knowledge and understanding.

His dedication to his students, both academically and through extracurricular, is what makes Jin more than deserving of the honorary Barley Ring. An ambassador of the Agricultural Campus and a supporter of the institution and its students, Jin will wear his Barley Ring with pride as he represents Dal AC.



## In memory

The Agricultural Campus and the Alumni Association acknowledge the passing of the following alumni. We extend our deepest sympathy to family and friends.

<b>Ronald Easton</b>	<b>1944</b>
<b>Alexander MacAskill</b>	<b>1944</b>
<b>John Morse</b>	<b>1945</b>
<b>Allan Saunders</b>	<b>1945</b>
<b>Victor Lotherinton</b>	<b>1947</b>
<b>Richard Harvie</b>	<b>1948</b>
<b>Donald Mitchell</b>	<b>1948</b>
<b>Vaughn Nichols</b>	<b>1951</b>
<b>Paul Musial</b>	<b>1953</b>
<b>Paul Swan</b>	<b>1956</b>
<b>Paul Rogers</b>	<b>1957</b>
<b>Cornelia Murray</b>	<b>1961</b>
<b>Douglas Petrie</b>	<b>1962</b>
<b>Anthony Glencross</b>	<b>1963</b>
<b>Margaret Fife</b>	<b>1974</b>
<b>James Eisener</b>	<b>1974</b>
<b>Peter Wile</b>	<b>1975</b>
<b>Blaine Friars</b>	<b>1977</b>

## Make a memorial gift

Honour a classmate or a friend with a memorial gift to the AC. Your thoughtful gift will be used to support student scholarships or bursaries, to improve campus, or to support an area that is of importance to you or your honouree. An acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to the family of the deceased. For additional information on memorial gifts, please contact Donor Relations at 902.893.6721. Make a gift online at [dal.ca/giving](http://dal.ca/giving).

## Community Day 2019

### EXPLORING OUR BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS

Another jam-packed day of fun, exploration and surprise, at our annual event in July.

Some visitors enjoyed a wagon ride and learned about the range of work we do to feed and protect our world. Others took a slide down the Bubble Barn, met our Engineering Department and toured the world with our International Centre. We had music, demonstrations with our championship Woodsman team, ice cream, BBQ and more!







## Aggies in the Community

Our very popular Aggies in the Community themed dinners have become a great way for alumni to gather and re-connect with campus. During our most recent dinner, Big on Blueberries, alumni, community members and special guests enjoyed a nine-course chef- curated meal, all featuring wild NS blueberries.



## Agri-Golf

It was a beautiful day for the 23rd annual Agri-Golf Classic, in July. The tournament, which was held at Northumberland Links, in Pugwash, brings together alumni, industry, businesses and community in support of students Athletics at the Agricultural Campus.



Alumni winning team – Seed Rite  
L-R: Kyle Murray, John Nicholson, Frank MacDonald and David Francis



## Missing your Barley Ring?

A lonely Barley Ring has been found and turned in to the Alumni office. Contact 902.893.6022 / [alisha.johnson@dal.ca](mailto:alisha.johnson@dal.ca) with the style of your missing ring, approximate size, engraving and your best guess of the area in which it was lost. We would love to have it returned to its proud owner!





## Keeping the tradition alive

Show your campus pride with a custom Barley Ring. Each ring is hand-made, available in two different widths of stainless steel, white or yellow gold.

**[dal.ca/agalumni](http://dal.ca/agalumni) | 902.893.6022**

*Universities are steeped in tradition and nothing captures the spirit of a graduate's experience more than an alumni ring.*



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE