



## **EXPERIENCE NEW WORLD AGRICULTURE IN CANADA**

IFAJ 2011 newsletter –December, 2010 edition

[www.ifaj2011.com](http://www.ifaj2011.com)

### **Greetings!**

Welcome to the third issue of the IFAJ 2011 newsletter. In a few short weeks (**January 15, 2011**), we will begin taking registrations for delegates to the 2011 Congress.

In this issue, we're pleased to provide you with additional information on our pre and post congress tour offerings. We hope this will give you some more options to consider if you're looking to see other parts of this country.

As always, we'd ask that you distribute this e-newsletter throughout your international guilds as you have been doing. Thanks to the Guild of Agricultural Journalists in Great Britain and the American Agricultural Editors' Association for their recent promotions of our congress in their publications.

Thank you and Season's Greetings on behalf of the Canadian planning committee,

Kelly Daynard, Registration Committee chair ([info@ifaj2011.com](mailto:info@ifaj2011.com))

Owen Roberts, Congress Co-chair ([owen@uoguelph.ca](mailto:owen@uoguelph.ca))

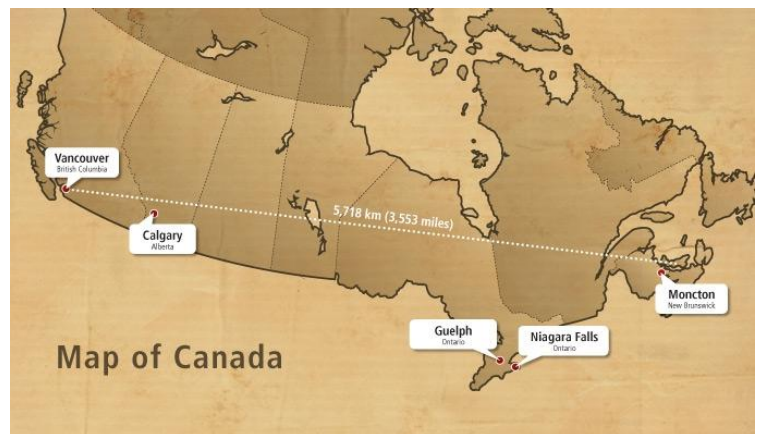
Lilian Schaer, Congress Co-chair ([lilianschaer@agrifoodprojects.ca](mailto:lilianschaer@agrifoodprojects.ca))

### **How big is Canada?**

Canada is a huge country – the second largest in the world by total area. The country is divided into ten provinces and three northern territories. The distance from Pacific to Atlantic Oceans covers 5,718 kilometres – or 3,553 miles – and six different time zones so when it's noon in Vancouver, British Columbia – it's 4:30 p.m. in Newfoundland, Canada's most easterly province. The common border between Canada and the United States is also the longest in the world.

Because of these geographical challenges, the IFAJ 2011 committee is obviously restricted in the amount of Canada that it can show you in a five day congress. The congress itself will be based in the province of Ontario (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario>) but we've heard from delegates who are interested in seeing the Rocky Mountains, the famous Canadian prairies or some of our incredible Maritime Provinces.

So, we're proud to offer four additional tours for those delegates who might want to come earlier – or stay longer – and see other parts of the congress. Details on them follow.



## Pre-congress Tours

### Pre-congress tour option 1 - British Columbia

**Dates: September 9-11, 2011**

British Columbia offers some of the greatest diversity in geography and agriculture of any province in Canada. Starting in Vancouver, this tour will take you through three distinct agricultural regions, including the intensive agriculture of the Fraser Valley, the orchards and vineyards of the Okanagan Valley, and the ranch lands of the Thomson region.



**Friday, September 9, 2011**

- Departing from Vancouver, the first half of the day will focus on agriculture in the Lower Mainland, including dairy, poultry, berries, greenhouse and field vegetable production.
- Enjoy a late-afternoon drive through Manning Provincial Park on our way to the Nk'Mip winery and cultural centre in Osoyoos. Nk'Mip Cellars is North America's first aboriginal-owned and operated winery ([www.nkmip.com/](http://www.nkmip.com/)).
- *Overnight at Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort & Spa (to be confirmed).*

**Saturday, September 10, 2011**

- Sip and savour the local specialties of the Okanagan Valley, one of the great wine and fruit producing regions of Canada ([www.hellobc.com/en-CA/RegionsCities/ThompsonOkanagan.htm](http://www.hellobc.com/en-CA/RegionsCities/ThompsonOkanagan.htm)).
- Transition from the land of orchards and vineyards into the ranchlands of the Thomson region, a landscape filled with more than 200 lakes, hills dressed in sage, vast rolling grasslands, tumbleweeds, looming mountains, alpine valleys, roaring rivers and crashing creeks.
- *Overnight at Douglas Lake Ranch ([www.douglaslake.com/](http://www.douglaslake.com/)) (to be confirmed).*

**Sunday, September 11, 2011**

- Start the day with a morning drive through the glaciers and mountain peaks of the Coast Mountains. Lunch stop and farm visits in the Pemberton Valley ([www.tourismpembertonbc.com/](http://www.tourismpembertonbc.com/)). Designated a Seed Potato Control area in 1947, the protected, narrow valley keeps many potato viruses out of the area thus enabling growers to produce and ship high quality seed for potato farms all over North America.
- Wander the scenic streets of Whistler Village, host site of the 2010 Winter Olympics ([www.whistler.com/](http://www.whistler.com/)).
- Enjoy a sunset drive back to Vancouver down the breath-taking Sea to Sky Highway.
- Fly to Toronto on Monday, September 12.

#### Inclusions:

- Bus transportation from Vancouver, British Columbia
- Meals & snacks
- Accommodation September 8, 9, 10 and 11

#### Exclusions and Travel Information:

- Flights to and from starting and departure points not included.
- Participants will also be responsible for flight costs between Vancouver, British Columbia and Toronto, Ontario for the start of the IFAJ congress. Flight links provided at the end of this newsletter.

**Estimated Cost:** \$725 CAD double occupancy, \$1115 CAD single occupancy

**Minimum Number of People Required:** 25

For more information contact: Tamara Leigh, [shinybird@gmail.com](mailto:shinybird@gmail.com).

## Pre-congress tour option 2 - Alberta

**Dates: September 8-11 (fly to Toronto, Ontario on September 12)**

Fly into Calgary, Alberta and join this pretour for four days as we tour Alberta from September 8 to 11<sup>th</sup> and then fly to Toronto, Ontario on September 12. We'll see the vast wheat fields for which the prairies were called the breadbasket of the world, as well as crops that are more important these days – canola, peas, lentils, flax and barley and the shipping system for exporting grain around the world. See the equipment that enables farmers to seed and harvest thousands of hectares almost single-handed. We'll meet Hutterites whose ancestors fled Europe to pursue and protect the pacifist, communal way of life they still follow. We'll also meet some of the research scientists who develop new technology for farmers. We'll learn about the irrigation system that supports 20% of Alberta's agricultural production on about 6% of the farmland, producing specialty crops like corn, dry beans, potatoes, sunflowers, sugar beets and hybrid canola seed as well as feed for our famous Alberta beef cattle. We'll see beef finishing in an intensive feedlot operation and a cow-calf ranch where you can try your hand at roping a calf.



It won't be all business. We'll visit World Heritage sites including an Aboriginal interpretative centre and also the more recent history of settlement, ranching and the discovery of oil in our province. You will spend a day in Banff, in the heart of the majestic Rocky Mountains, where you can choose from a wide range of activities (museums, hiking, sightseeing, shopping, spas and more). Stop at a wind farm, get close to eagles and other birds of prey and eat a traditional Alberta beef barbecue. Space will be limited - see you in Alberta! Visit [www.ifaj2011.com](http://www.ifaj2011.com) in late December for more details and an updated itinerary for this pre-congress option.

**Estimated Cost:** \$960 CAD double occupancy, \$1,300 CAD single occupancy.

### Exclusions and Travel Information:

- Flights to and from starting and departure points not included.
- Participants will also be responsible for flight costs between Calgary, Alberta and Toronto, Ontario for the start of the IFAJ congress. Flight links provided at the end of this newsletter.

For more information contact Annemarie Pedersen [annemariep1@me.com](mailto:annemariep1@me.com)

## Post-congress Tours

### Post-congress tour option 1 – Atlantic Canada

The post congress tour of Atlantic Canada will bring you to the birthplace of our nation. The provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland make up Atlantic Canada and during the post congress tour, we will visit all of the provinces, except Newfoundland. For the post congress tour, we've woven cultural and agricultural tour stops together to give you a taste of our traditions and a look at some of our strongest farming sectors. We'll drink fruit wine, pick apples, go horseback riding, visit a potato farm, go lobster fishing, tour a cranberry bog, walk along the beaches, and more.

#### Sunday, September 18, 2011:

- Delegates will be shuttled from Niagara Falls, Ontario (where the IFAJ congress ends) to Toronto, Ontario to take a flight to Moncton, New Brunswick.  
Note: This flight cost is not included in the tour price – travel estimates are included at the end of this tour.
- Fly into Moncton, New Brunswick ([www.tourism.moncton.ca/SplashPages/TourismIndex.htm](http://www.tourism.moncton.ca/SplashPages/TourismIndex.htm))
- Buffalo Safari & BBQ lunch at Seawind Buffalo Ranch ([www.seawindbuffalo.com/index.php?p=01\\_100&l=en](http://www.seawindbuffalo.com/index.php?p=01_100&l=en))
- Visit the Dune de Bouctouche  
([www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca/Home/Destinations/NaturalWonders/DunesDiscoveryBeaches.aspx](http://www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca/Home/Destinations/NaturalWonders/DunesDiscoveryBeaches.aspx))
- Traditional Acadian dinner and musical entertainment
- Overnight in Moncton, New Brunswick

### Monday, September 19, 2011

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Walk the ocean floor at the Hopewell Rocks ([www.thehopewellrocks.ca/](http://www.thehopewellrocks.ca/)) tidal exploration site
- Lunch at Broadleaf Farms ([www.broadleafranch.com/adventure.htm](http://www.broadleafranch.com/adventure.htm)) and half-hour marshland trail ride
- Tour Utopia Strawberry Farm and the affiliated Magnetic Hill Winery ([www.magnetichillwinery.com/](http://www.magnetichillwinery.com/)) to see how their fruit becomes wine. Wine tasting & reception included.
- Lobster Tales boat cruise ([www.lobstertales.ca/Index\\_en.html](http://www.lobstertales.ca/Index_en.html)) on Shediac Bay, complete with on-board lobster (or steak) dinner
- Overnight in Moncton, New Brunswick

### Tuesday, September 20, 2011

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Travel by bus to Prince Edward Island, Canada's smallest province.
- Tour a cranberry farm
- Lunch
- Tour a potato farm
- Visit Anne of Green Gables ([www.gov.pe.ca/greengables/](http://www.gov.pe.ca/greengables/))
- Dinner at The Inn at Bay Fortune featuring 100-mile radius menu
- Overnight in Moncton, New Brunswick



### Wednesday, September 21, 2011

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Travel by bus to Nova Scotia
- Tour Belliveau Orchards ([www.vergerbelliveauorchard.ca/](http://www.vergerbelliveauorchard.ca/)) and view apple production facility. Apple winemaking tour if time permits
- Boxed lunch
- Tour Rainbow Farms blueberry farm ([www.rainbowfarms.ns.ca/](http://www.rainbowfarms.ns.ca/))
- Free evening in Halifax ([www.destinationhalifax.com/](http://www.destinationhalifax.com/))
- Overnight in downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia

### Thursday, September 22, 2011

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Tour wraps up with transfer to Halifax airport for a return to Toronto or through Toronto for your home countries.

#### Inclusions:

- Transportation via motor coach
- Three nights hotel in Moncton; One night hotel in downtown Halifax
- Fully escorted with experienced tour guide
- 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 specialty dinners
- All listed attractions
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person
- Gratuities for drivers, guides and for meals included in the package

#### Cost:

- Single room occupancy, per person: \$1,936.04 CAD
- Double room occupancy, per person: \$1,589.69 CAD

#### For more information:

- JK Tours Kari Bryenton at [kari@jktoursinc.com](mailto:kari@jktoursinc.com)
- Allison Finnamore at [Allison@finnamore.ca](mailto:Allison@finnamore.ca)

#### Exclusions and Travel Information:

- Participants will be responsible for the flight costs between Toronto, Ontario (airport code YYZ) and Moncton, New Brunswick (airport code YQM) to start the tour and from Halifax, Nova Scotia (YHZ) to Toronto, Ontario (YYZ) at the conclusion of the tour.

## Post-congress tour option 2 – Guelph, Ontario

A story-intensive look at some of Canada's leading agri-food research

### Sunday, September 18, 2011

- Delegates will be shuttled from Niagara Falls Canada, back to Guelph Ontario.
- A walking tour of the University of Guelph campus, including the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC). Our agricultural science research is ranked above all other universities in Canada for impact, and includes strengths such as breeding of soybeans, corn, and specialty crops, and livestock nutrition, particularly for dairy cattle, swine, poultry and horses.
- Tour a Guelph-based brewery with world-class beer, and see the local food movement in action at a Guelph restaurant and pub. We'll hear from the owner about his philosophies behind using local food and drink, and unwind with good friends.



### Monday, September 19, 2011

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Board a bus to the University of Guelph's Arkell Research Station to meet *The Enviropig*,™ a genetically enhanced line of Yorkshire pigs with the capability of digesting plant phosphorus more efficiently than conventional Yorkshire pigs. This is an interactive presentation about the science and the regulatory challenges associated with genetic enhancements that could have tangible environmental benefit around the world. Delegates will have the opportunity to see the Enviropig for themselves when we tour the research facility.  
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/enviropig/>
- You think you have a green thumb? University of Guelph researchers are working on growing plants in extreme conditions, including those found on Mars. The University of Guelph leads the research team investigating the contributions of plants to life support in space, and formed the Space and Advanced Life Support Agriculture (SALSA) program at the University of Guelph. This program currently represents Canada's prime contribution to the International Space program objectives in Life Support.
- See University of Guelph soybean varieties in action when we tour a local cash crop farm during harvest. Tour the fields, meet the farmers, and see a real cash crop farm in action at the height of harvest.
- Evening event yet to be determined

### Tuesday September 20, 2011

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- The University of Guelph has a long history of research that has led to the commercialization of new food products. Sample the foods that were "born in Guelph" and meet the researchers behind them and an exclusive meal hosted by some of Canada's leading agri-food researchers.
- Meet the brains behind the International Barcode of Life (iBOL) project, the world's largest biodiversity genomics project. Guelph's Biodiversity Institute of Ontario (BIO) will be the scientific hub for iBOL. Researchers are quickly amassing barcodes or identifiers for a growing database of life forms, and developing new informatics tools and technologies. Once fully activated, it will involve more than 100 researchers from 26 countries.  
<http://www.co1bank.uoguelph.ca/views/login.php>
- Meet the researchers and see the products behind *Biocar*, an initiative to improve the development and delivery capacity of biomaterials for the automotive industry. The project involves 16 scientists at Guelph and the universities of Toronto, Waterloo and Windsor. The project has already yielded some impressive car parts, including car seats and bumpers made with crops such as grain corn and wheat.
- Join Guelph researchers in the dairy barn for a demonstration of the *telemetric bolus*, which gives farmers a computerized non-invasive look at what's going on inside their animals. The bolus is a small plastic cylinder – about the size of a lipstick container – that records temperature readings inside an animal, making it easier for farmers to detect low-grade fevers. The research is expected to go a long way in helping to detect acidosis, which can affect yield.

### Wednesday, September 21, 2011

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Tour wraps up with transportation to Toronto's Pearson airport for trips home.

**Inclusions:**

- Transportation via motorcoach
- Three nights hotel in Guelph;
- Fully escorted with experienced tour guide
- Three breakfasts, three lunches, three dinners

**Cost:**

- Single room occupancy, per person: \$951.46
- Double room occupancy, per person: \$698

**For more information:**

- Lisa McLean [lisammclean@gmail.com](mailto:lisammclean@gmail.com)

**What have we missed?**

Through these four pre and post congress options, we’ve done our best to give you options for touring other parts of this beautiful country. However, if there are things that you’d really like to see or places you’d like to visit that we haven’t covered, let us know and we’ll try to point you in the right direction. Members of the Canadian Farm Writers’ Federation live in all provinces and, where possible, we will try to connect you with them.

**Travelling throughout Canada**

Because of the size of Canada as explained earlier in this newsletter, you’ll need to fly within the country to get from either the pre congress tours in British Columbia or Alberta to Pearson International Airport in Toronto and then, again, to get from Toronto to Moncton, New Brunswick for the start of the Atlantic Canada tour. We’re happy to offer advice to any delegates trying to figure out their travel routes. However, if you want to determine approximate flight costs (not included in the pre and post tour prices), we’d recommend that you check out the websites of Canada’s two major airlines:

Air Canada – [www.aircanada.com](http://www.aircanada.com)  
West Jet – [www.westjet.com](http://www.westjet.com)

**Airport Codes:**  
Toronto (Pearson International) – YYZ; Vancouver International – YVR; Calgary International – YYC;  
Moncton International Airport – YQM; Halifax International – YHZ;

If you had a longer time to spend in Canada and wanted to truly see the country from coast to coast, the train is also a beautiful (but lengthy) way to travel. Via Rail Canada offers a four and a half day cross-country trip with sleeper cars.  
Via Rail Canada – [www.viarail.ca](http://www.viarail.ca)

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- **Brian Denys**, Business Director, BASF Crop Protection Canada

With sales of €3.6 billion in 2009, BASF’s Crop Protection division is a leader in crop protection and a strong partner to the farming industry providing well-established and innovative fungicides, insecticides and herbicides. Farmers use these products and services to improve crop yields and crop quality. Other uses include public health, structural/urban pest control, turf and ornamental plants, vegetation management, and forestry. BASF aims to turn knowledge rapidly into market success. The vision of BASF’s Crop Protection division is to be the world’s leading innovator, optimizing agricultural production, improving nutrition, and thus enhancing the quality of life for a growing world population. Further information can be found on the web at [www.agro.basf.com](http://www.agro.basf.com)

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