

# Canadian Farm Writers' Federation



2000 Annual Report

# Canadian Farm Writers' Federation

## Annual Meeting

7:30 am

Saturday, September 15, 2001

Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, Fredericton, NB

### Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2000 annual meeting
4. Business arising from the minutes
5. President's Report
6. Secretary-Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement
7. Conference Report
8. Awards Program Report
9. Senate Report
10. Regional Reports
11. IFAJ Report
12. Executive Elections
13. New Business
  - a) part-time or student administrator
  - b) Agricultural Hall of Fame
  - c) AAEA (Vancouver in 2004, IFAJ in 2008)
14. Adjournment

# Canadian Farm Writers' Federation

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 30, 2000  
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel, Lethbridge, Alta

**1. Welcome:**

Hugh Maynard welcomed members and participants. Members acknowledged the September 28, 2000 death of Pierre Elliott Trudeau with a moment of silence.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda:**

Moved by David Schmidt, seconded by Doug Peebles. CARRIED.

**3. Adoption of the minutes of the 1999 annual meeting:**

Moved by Doug Peebles. Seconded by Janet Kanters. CARRIED.  
70 people in attendance.

**4. Business arising from the minutes:**

None.

**5. President's Report:**

Laurie Harris referred to her printed president's report, reminding members of the volunteer nature of the organization which has an effect on the speed of changes in the organization. She invited people to sign up for the listserv to keep current with group activities. Laurie also referred to issues raised in the September issue of The Farm Journalist regarding perception of farm writers and suggested the group should promote itself and its members in a more active way. But teamwork and participation is necessary. She thanked First Line Seeds for sponsorship that allowed attendance at the IFAJ Congress and noted useful contacts were made. Many compliments were extended at IFAJ in Australia to Owen Roberts for his work on the newsletter and listserv. Copies of a recent IFAJ publication will be sent to members soon. The next IFAJ congress is in Finland in September 2001.

**6. Secretary-Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement:**

Hugh Maynard reported efforts to use the surplus for organized membership activities, including specifically the newsletter and the awards program. Some additional expenses were incurred; had to reprint the membership list.

Hugh presented the financial statements. It was noted conference generated more income than expected. Bottom line, \$11,370 in coffers.

Query: Why do we print the membership list, when we could just put it up on website, in data base, etc. Hugh noted many members didn't have e-mail addresses as late as last year. Also some members indicated preference for hard copy. Asked for some direction from the meeting on preferences. Two people spoke in favor of electronic version with hard copies on request.

Hugh moved adoption of the 1999 financial statement, seconded by John Morriss.  
CARRIED.

## **7. Conference Report:**

### **2000**

Clare Stanfield noted there are 99 registrants at this conference. She acknowledged the attendance of various ag department officials.

Clare noted success of pre-conference tour and acknowledged good feedback on tours; thanks to Jim Hahn for that. She was pleased with attendance at the AGM. No final financial figures available on this conference but it's looking good so far.

Laurie Harris thanked the conference organizing committee.

### **2001**

Joan Leblanc from Farm Focus, New Brunswick invited members to next years conference in Fredericton, N.B Sept. 13-16 and invited attendance. A taste of NB's finest is planned. Some whale watching is planned, if whale's co-operate. Lobster on the menu. Harvest Blues festival is there at the same time.

### **2002**

B.C. will host convention in 2002.

### **Greetings**

Lethbridge deputy mayor Frank Peta provided greetings from the city on behalf of mayor David Carpenter. Noted ag diversity of region, learning institutions, parks, friendly people. Thanks for coming, etc. Laurie Harris presented him with a conference bag.

### **Awards Program Report:**

Barb Adams gave the report. She and Paul Pihichyn accepted challenge of award competition this year. Had just over 200 entries. Awards will be given in all categories; although in one category only two placings. Duncan McMonagle was head judge and there were 22 judges in all, who did a tremendous job.

Hugh Maynard tabled awards changes report provided by Elaine Shein. Time does not permit full discussion at this point. By way of background, Hugh noted awards program specifics haven't changed substantially in years, so Elaine volunteered to spearhead study and recommendations. Some additional categories proposed; also some procedural changes. Proposals will put more onus on entrants. Peter Darbshire has looked at recommendations and thinks some discussion would be appropriate. Input from membership would be valuable. Executive will be looking at recommendations and consulting with members before making major changes.

## **8. Senate Report:**

Tabled until the evening.

**Regional Reports:**

Regional reports provided in hard copy. No additional info offered.

**IFAJ Report:**

Laurie Harris invited feedback on her report provided in meeting package. Wants to continue to strengthen IFAJ ties with our organization and would like to invite international guests to future CFWF functions.

**9. Executive Elections:****Owen chaired elections process**

BCFWA – Renée MacTaggart nominated Dave Schmidt. Acclaimed.

AFWA – Janet Kanters nominated Clare Stanfield. Acclaimed.

SFWA – Judy Hume nominated Karen Briere. Acclaimed.

MFWBA – Barb Adams. Acclaimed.

ECFWA – Laurie Harris, Doug Peebles let names stand. Barry MacCormack put his name forward.

Owen offered each of the three candidates one minute to speak.

The assembly decided on election by ballot, with only ECFWA members eligible to vote.

Janet Kanters and Steve Morgan Jones acting as scrutineers.

Laurie and Barry win ballot.

Members at Large – Hugh Maynard (east) acclaimed. Barb Adams nominates Cal Zacharias (west). Acclaimed.

Newsletter Editor – Laurie nominated Barb Glen. Acclaimed

**10. New Business:****Young Speakers for Agriculture program, presented by Elizabeth McClung**

This group is seeking sponsorship from CFWF. Spoke in favor of supporting young people to help create greater awareness of agriculture. Background info on the program provided in a handout. She moved that CFWF agree to sponsor the young speakers for a program for their annual luncheon. Seconded by Bernard Tobin.

Discussion: What about precedent it sets; Reg Norby, John Morriss wonder about precedent and suggest more consideration; suggests it be examined in principal. Dave Schmidt says the organization's surplus comes largely from corporate support, so we must carefully consider where it is spent. Dangerous to take corporate support and spend it on some other corporate pursuit. Also worried about open-ended nature of motion. Some \$\$ consideration needed. Hugh notes consideration also needed to upcoming expenses related to conferences. Suggest it could be supported in principal, with exec to figure out details. Art Stirling says there are more effective ways for CFWF to raise profile, rather than sponsor individual programs, suggests the executive be empowered to look at ways to raise the profile of CFWF from a marketing perspective. Paul Langsbergen notes program encourages ag writing by youth, so it makes sense to get younger generation involved in hopes they'll get involved with our org in the future. Shana Bailey says as a newcomer to organization, sponsorship of nature proposed would have helped to encourage her involvement; would help this group get the word out to young people to get involved in agriculture, and involved at different levels. If we can't sponsor luncheon, maybe provide a fixed amount of money toward young speakers

projects. Jack Howell from Alberta farm writers notes 4-H clubs have speaker programs, and this young speakers group could consider getting involved with 4-H if they haven't done so already.

Motion amended: That the executive consider a one-year involvement in the young speakers, a partial sponsorship. Seconder Bernard Tobin agrees to amendment.  
CARRIED.

**11. Adjournment:**

Art Stirling moved adjournment.

# Canadian Farm Writers' Federation

## Annual Reports

### **President's Report**

Prepared by Laurie Harris

Over the last year, it has become even more evident to me how challenging it can be to manage an organization with volunteers. We all have very demanding careers that must come first, along with our families. Some of the time remaining can then be given to volunteering for organizations such as CFWF, but we can never get everything done. The challenge is then to determine what we can manage to do, and how to make it happen. I wish to acknowledge the members of the executive and other CFWF members who have given their time to ensure our organization continues to operate.

However, we would like to do more, we would like to grow and develop more services for members. In order to do that, we may have to consider a part-time administrator who can focus on the development of CFWF under the guidance of the executive. We have lots of good ideas, the problem is finding the time to implement them. Perhaps a paid staff person could do that for us. I would like the membership to discuss this and hopefully to find a solution before next year's meeting.

Over the last year, the executive has continued to meet via teleconference, and email. Much of what we have discussed has been reported over the year in the Farm Journalist. Barb Glen has done an outstanding job with the newsletter, encouraging submissions from members and providing a good balance of features, news, photos and professional development tips. I am very pleased she has agreed to continue as newsletter editor.

The executive has proposed distributing two of the quarterly issues electronically, keeping the issue following the conference and the issue with the awards package and conference information as hard copies distributed by mail. We will be looking for your feedback. The membership list will also be provided as a pdf file to members, with updates provided in the same manner. More than 95% of our membership has provided email addresses.

More use has also been made of the listserv. Elaine Shein has made efforts to get discussions going on the listserv, with good results. Information on job opportunities, conferences, activities, tips could also be shared on the listserv. Changes have been made to the website. Fleishman Hillard's renewal of their sponsorship of the website allowed a change of domain name to [www.cfwf.ca](http://www.cfwf.ca) to make it easier to find the site. Membership applications have also been added. I would like to thank Owen Roberts for his efforts to enhance the site, and his willingness to put into place members' suggestions.

We hope to find ways to increase membership by developing a marketing strategy. Clare Stanfield and Terry Hockaday will provide some ideas. We need to decide if we wish to spend

some of our funds on promotion, on opportunities to get some profile through support of activities such as the Young Speakers for Agriculture, to which we provided a \$500 grant last year.

The awards offer an opportunity to promote CFWF. As it became evident that as volunteers we would be unable to find the time, not only to put the awards into place this year, but to revitalize the program, a proposal from Kahntact Marketing was accepted to manage the awards for two years and to develop a template and action plan. In their continuing support of CFWF, Kahntact offered to donate some of the time to this project. Jane Robinson's experience with the awards also ensured we could depend on them to get the job done in a short timeframe.

As mentioned, we need to examine if what CFWF needs is a part-time administrator or executive director. Someone who could handle membership, financial aspects, mail the newsletter and other information, assist with finding sponsors, coordinate executive conference calls and take action on items, promote CFWF and manage the awards program. We need to examine how much time is needed to handle these responsibilities and how much we may be willing to spend. While we don't want to spend a large part of our funds on administration, if volunteers are unable to find the time needed we will have to find alternatives to manage the organization.

Some of the projects which have been suggested over the last year or so, in addition to those mentioned above, include bringing the awards history up to date (it ends in 1978) as well as the history of the CFWF, continue to update the archives, develop a conference handbook, nominate members to the Agriculture Hall of Fame, manage the listserv, strengthen relationships with AAEE and IFAJ, for example if AAEE holds its meeting in Vancouver in 2004, look into opportunities to cooperate, encourage members to attend the AAEE annual meeting, and invite their members to CFWF. If you have any suggestions about how to accomplish any of these activities, please discuss them with a member of the executive.

CFWF has always been successful with the organization of our annual conferences with volunteer committees. Last year's conference in Lethbridge was a great success. The fact that we are meeting for the first time on the East coast this year is very exciting. I would like to thank the organizers for inviting us, and I look forward to meeting some new members from the East coast. Next year we travel to the other side of the country to enjoy the hospitality of B.C.

I want to recognize everyone who has taken the time to make suggestions, provide advice and assistance and help CFWF develop. If we haven't taken action on something important to you, I invite you to get involved. Help make CFWF what you want it to be!

## **Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

Prepared by Hugh Maynard

### **Administration**

Three conference calls were organized for the executive during the year.



Managed membership list and preparation of electronic format  
Layout and mailing of Farm Journalist  
Bookeeping

**Finances**

Instituted cost reduction measures in order to balance books.  
Contributed \$500 to Young Speakers Program as part of promotion effort.  
Started two-year program to complete revisions to Awards Program with Jane Robinson at Kahntact Marketing.

## CFWF Financial Statement - 2000

		1999	2000 <i>Budget</i>	2000 <i>Final</i>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>				
Awards	Fees	\$1,930	\$2,000	\$2,300
	Sponsors	\$6,400	\$6,400	\$5,800
Conference	Registrations	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Sponsors	\$5,777	\$0	\$2,000
	Other	\$1,507	\$3,000	\$4,006
Memberships		\$6,025	\$7,000	\$7,020
Interest		\$2	\$10	\$8
Other		\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$21,641</b>	<b>\$18,410</b>	<b>\$21,134</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>				
Administration	Sec.-Tres.	\$1,528	\$500	\$418
	Conf. calls	\$1,178	\$1,200	\$583
	Promotion	\$0	\$0	\$500
	Other	\$500	\$100	\$600
Awards	Administration	\$3,521	\$1,000	\$1,353
	Certificates	\$561	\$400	\$200
	Judging	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
	Prizes	\$5,700	\$7,200	\$6,500
	Travel	\$0	\$300	\$0
	Refunds	\$20	\$0	\$0
Conference	Expenses	\$1,182	\$0	\$2,000
	Refunds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Farm Journalist	Honourarium	\$1,268	\$1,000	\$1,000
	Newsletter	\$4,884	\$3,500	\$3,708
	Travel	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$690
Membership		\$1,712	\$0	\$0
IFAJ	Fees	\$2,251	\$2,250	\$2,306
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$27,055</b>	<b>\$19,950</b>	<b>\$21,358</b>
<hr/>				
<b>TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE</b>		<b>-\$5,414</b>	<b>-\$1,540</b>	<b>-\$224</b>
Surplus/Deficit		\$16,784	\$11,370	\$11,370
Retained earnings		\$11,370	\$ 9,830	\$11,146

## **IFAJ Report 2001**

Prepared by Laurie Harris

First Line Seeds agreed to continue to sponsor the attendance of a CFWF member at the IFAJ congress. ECFWA President Andrew Douglas was invited to represent CFWF at the conference in Finland and will provide a report. Members will be charged for IFAJ press cards. Cards will only be produced once a year, and are valid until 2005. Next deadline for orders to IFAJ is November 15, 2001. Details will be included in the next Farm Journalist. IFAJ will no longer publish a printed directory, but will post it on the website, along with the newsletter. The next congress is in Valencia, Spain, May 18-23, 2002. The U.S. is hosting the 2008 World Congress in California. CFWF may wish to propose a pre- or post-conference tour. At the January IFAJ executive meeting in Berlin Hans Matthiesen (Germany) was installed as President, and Mike Wilson (U.S.) as Vice President

## **Regional Reports**

### **British Columbia Farm Writers' Association**

Prepared by David Schmidt

The BC Farm Writers Association had another quiet year, holding only two meetings during the year: our annual meeting held in conjunction with the Pacific Agriculture Show in Abbotsford, Feb 16, and a summer meeting, held in conjunction with the Chilliwack Exhibition, Aug. 10.

At our annual meeting, we were joined by BC Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Ed Conroy. It was a credit to our stature with the ministry, as Conroy was in ill health throughout his tenure and made very few meetings. Yet he insisted on attending ours.

Our guest speaker at the annual meeting was Brian Baehr, co-ordinator of the Green Fund, now called the Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative. Baehr described the new program, which is to receive \$5 million annually for at least two years. The money comes out of the federal-provincial safety nets agreement.

Interestingly, the program has been in the development stages for about two years but has only been finalized in August. Since the minister was attending, we (and Brian Baehr) had hoped that Baehr's presentation at our meeting would be the impetus to get the program funding released quickly but that was not to be. A change in provincial government and inter-governmental squabbling managed to delay that.

Our summer meeting was poorly attended but featured some interesting presentations. It was held in the new Chilliwack Exhibition facilities, an expansive 150,000+ square foot series of barns, two with concrete floors and two with sand floors. Chwk Ex president Barry Kelly described some of the planning which went into the facilities, which were to replace facilities usurped by the city to create a new leisure centre. While large, the facilities left a lot to be desired-they lack adequate power and adequate washroom facilities! Despite that, it promises to

be a major venue for agriculture-related events said our second speaker, Rod Hudson of the Chilliwack Community Arts Council, which has been contracted to manage the facility. Questioned by farmwriters as to why an arts council would be running an ag facility, he insisted the CAC is interested in culture and that includes agri-culture.

Our third speaker, Dale Wheeldon, is an economic development officer who works with the Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation, a relatively unique private-public partnership created to promote economic development of Chilliwack City. Recognizing agriculture is the main industry in Chilliwack, CEPCO has created the Chilliwack Agricultural Commission as a subsidiary organization to promote agriculture in the area. Wheeldon brought along a new full-colour brochure the CAC has prepared in English and Dutch and plans to use to attract Dutch farmers to emigrate to the area.

BC Farmwriters welcomed one important new member this year: Kate Glover joined the association after replacing Renee Mactaggart as communications officer for the Pacific Region of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This was important to us as Kate also took over Renee's duties as BCFWA secretary.

While the past few years have been relatively dull, BC farmwriters expect to be more active in the coming year as we plan and prepare for the 2002 CFWF national conference in Kelowna. Support our efforts by planning to attend.

## **Alberta Farm Writers' Association**

Prepared by Clare Stanfield

It's been a banner year for the AFWA - two annual meetings and tours, two new honorary life members, one new president and a healthy membership level. It just doesn't get any better, eh?

Of course, the big event of the 2000/2001 year for AFWA was hosting our colleagues from across Canada at CFWF 2000 at Lethbridge in September. I'd like to take just one more opportunity to thank all those who attended and helped to make the conference such a success. And I would be remiss not to say a final thank you to our sponsors, some of whom are members of this organization, for helping to make the CFWF annual meeting possible in the first place.

One of the things I gained a solid appreciation for, as conference chair, is that without the support of sponsors, many of which return year after year with cheques in hand, the national conference would be more expensive to attend, and would offer less by way of great ag-related local tours. The AFWA looks forward to the next time it has a chance to host the CFWF annual meeting.

On the local front, on June 21 and 22 this year, the AFWA held its annual summer tour and business meeting. Organized by then president Claudette Lacombe, the tour was a showcase for agriculture in the Strathmore area, just east of Calgary. About 25 members attended, travelling to a Ducks Unlimited wetlands rehabilitation project on the Hilton farm, an aeroponic greenhouse that produces feverfew, the Crowfoot Creek Watershed Group demonstration site, and the

Hutterite Colony at Standard. Participants toured Chestermere Lake, an irrigation reservoir on the outskirts of Calgary, and engaged in a discussion on the pressures urban development has placed on irrigation infrastructure and water quality. The tour also took AFWA members to Strathmore's Harimex Inc. (FNA Foods), a plant that extracts specific proteins from bovine plasma to produce a meat-binding product (yum!).

The AFWA also had some personnel changes this year. Having completed her term at the presidential helm, Claudette Lacombe of Umbel Communications passes the torch to Geoff Ludkin, who is the Member & Corporate Services Representative for Agricore in the Peace Region.

Geoff's an interesting guy. When asked to supply some information on himself for this report he offered this: "I've been with Agricore (and Alberta Pool) for 22 years. My duties include media and public relations for Agricore in the Peace, as well as administration of corporate programs, elected and operational support and community relations. I should also mention that I ran down the field at the 1976 Grey Cup Game in Toronto!" Unfortunately, Geoff doesn't elaborate on whether he ran down the field as a player or a streaker.

AFWA stalwart Janet Kanters remains as the association's secretary/treasurer. Janet and Geoff are doing some preliminary planning for the AFWA 2002 tour and meeting, which is slated to happen in the Grande Prairie region in June.

Today, the AFWA has a respectable 81 members and two new honorary life members: Ross Halseth and Bob Brown.

And that's about it from Alberta.

## **Saskatchewan Farm Writers' Association**

Prepared by Karen Briere

Members of the Saskatchewan Farm Writers Association met three times during the past year. The association's annual meeting is held in November, during Canadian Western Agribition. Elected last fall were: Karen Briere, president; Lorne McClinton, vice-president; Adrienne Gagnon, secretary; and, Judy Hume, treasurer. We will have at least one position to fill this November. Adrienne Gagnon has assumed new responsibilities at Farm Credit Canada and is no longer a member of the association. Mike Raine of The Western Producer conducted a photography seminar for members in June. Afterward, about 15 people gathered for supper. In July, a few members got together during the celebration of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration Shelterbelt Centre's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Saskatchewan members are located across the province, which makes it difficult for many to attend events. The executive is looking for ways to include more people in our activities, but that is proving to be a challenge. Suggestions are welcome!

Our membership currently stands at 26, down slightly from last year.

## **Manitoba Farm Writers & Broadcasters' Association**

Prepared by Jay Whetter

Our summer tour was a big hit this year, with 22 members riding a big comfy bus through livestock heaven in southeast Manitoba. If you want more details, please read the latest CFWF Farm Journalist. In May, we hosted a panel discussion on Roundup Ready wheat, with Trish Jordan of Monsanto and Patty Rosher of the Canadian Wheat Board presenting their points of view. The CWB is not closed to the idea of Roundup Ready wheat, as long as Canada's wheat customers will buy it. Sounds reasonable.

At our AGM in January, Manitoba farmer and Alliance MP Howard Hilstrom was guest speaker. As agriculture critic, he has had a tough time getting his ideas through at Liberal-dominated committee meetings. He found us ag. journalists more open minded.

Between now and year end, we have our annual BBQ Sept. 17, a panel discussion on hog expansion set for Oct. 17, and a professional development seminar on photography in early December.

Memberships keep trickling in, and we are up to 83 now, including 4 lifers, and one very late renewal. Two years ago, Manitoba had more than 100 members, and we are working to get back to that level. In May, our membership chair Jason Woywada sent MFWBA info to all editors and reporters on the Manitoba Community Newspapers Association list. We had one positive response. Jason is rewriting our brochure to make it snappier and more up to date. I suspect this new brochure will have new members lining up at the door. MFWBA secretary Roberta Rampton took some time this spring to completely redo our membership file, cleaning out deleted members and tying up loose ends. (Roberta, by the way, started a new job this summer in the news department of CBC's new "Country Canada" 24-hour digital cable station.)

We have just under \$2,800 in the bank after paying our 2001 dues. We don't give away too much here at MFWBA and we aim to break even at every event, so money tends to sit there. We may have to throw the odd free event < gasp! We are also considering a low-cost student rate. I'm getting over the hill, so young blood is important.

## **Eastern Canadian Farm Writers' Association**

Prepared by Andrew Douglas

### **Membership**

- As of the beginning of September we had 134 members. At the same time last year we had roughly 110 members.
- Adding our registration form to the Web has helped streamline the process when inviting someone to join the ECFWA. Now, instead of mailing or faxing a registration form, we can send people to the CFWF Web site where they can learn all about the organization. They can "buy in" at the end by printing off the ECFWA registration form, filling it in, and mailing it with a cheque to Karen Lewis, our secretary treasurer. I would encourage every provincial association to get their registration form on the Web.

### **Events**

- Over the past few years our schedule of events has included a luncheon with CAMA in Toronto at the Canadian International Farm Equipment Show and the ECFWA AGM in the spring.
- Last year we added a new training series. All three seminars took place in Guelph in January, February and March. The first seminar was a debate between PR professionals and journalists called Hacks vs. Flacks. It was well attended and sparked some good debate about the role of both sets of communicators in agriculture. The second seminar was on photography. We flew an AAFA award winning professional photographer from Land O' Lakes in Minnesota to Guelph to conduct the seminar. For the third seminar we invited three journalists to give their best interview tips. We flew in two journalists from Winnipeg - Laura Rance, Manitoba Co-operator, and Sandy Cushon, recently retired from CBC-TV. Frances Anderson, Ontario Farmer, was our third panelist.
- As we've done in the past few years, we ran the AGM as a morning and lunch event. We spent the morning listening to speakers discuss a "newsy" topic. This time the topic was the threats to Ontario agriculture. The AGM ran after lunch.

### **Goals for 2002**

New members - We would like to add more people to our membership list. We are targeting working journalists, particularly those at regional ag newspapers and those who cover agriculture for community newspapers.

Partnerships - We are investigating partnership opportunities with different organizations. Our most promising opportunity appears to be with the Ontario Community Newspaper Association. Although we have yet to meet and work out the details, a partnership with the OCNA could include sharing invitations to training seminars.

Training seminars - We will be running another round of training seminars in Guelph during the winter months. Although the other two topics have yet to be nailed down, one of the seminars will answer the question: "Should you buy into digital photography."

ECFWA-net - Owen Roberts will set up our own listserv, much like he did for CFWF-net. We will use this new e-mail service to poll our members and encourage debate on topics affecting ag journalists in Ontario.

Bus tour - We will poll our membership through ECFWA-net to see if people want to resurrect an ECFWA summer bus tour with an overnight stop, possibly in Eastern Ontario.

ECFWA constitution - The ECFWA constitution was last amended in 1966. It suggests that our secretary treasurer be a man. Obviously, it's time to make some changes to our holy document.

CFWF conference - The ECFWA exec is willing to host the CFWF conference in 2003.