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The late Dr. John Anderson's contribution to the creation of the Aquaculture Association of Canada

The Bay of Fundy is a finalist in the Seven Wonders of Nature contest, and it is justly famous for its world-record tides, its diversity of marine life and its phenomenal geologic history, but in the less rarefied environment of Canadian aquaculture science, it is also known as the place where the Aquaculture Association of Canada got its start nearly 3 decades ago. John Anderson's name figured significantly in that event. What follows is, as Paul Harvey likes to say, "the rest of the story."

The year was 1983 and the setting was the ferry from Black's Harbour to Grand Manan, plunging through an angry sea toward port at North Head some 16 km away. White-topped waves driven by a southwest wind hammered the bow of the big ship, making the journey unpleasant for the passengers. John Anderson was one of a trio of flatlanders on board that day who lacked the sea legs to enjoy such a journey. The other two were Nigel Robbins, a trout farmer from Ontario, and Dave Aiken, a research scientist with DFO at St. Andrews. They were gathered at this unlikely spot to discuss moving ahead with plans for the formation of a national aquaculture association in Canada.

Dave was, at the time, a member of the Board of Directors of the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) and chairman of a committee to develop a global affiliation of national aquaculture societies. He had been specifically asked by the WAS Board to

foster the development of such an association in Canada and to encourage its affiliation with the WAS. Nigel, a trout farmer from Ontario, had recently received funding from the federal government to explore Canadian interest in forming a national aquaculture association. His initial enquiries had indicated a strong interest across the country. John, an acknowledged visionary and irrepressible promoter of worthwhile causes, was a research scientist with a deep affection for Atlantic salmon and an unwavering confidence in Canadian aquaculture potential. He enthusiastically endorsed the concept of a national association to promote development of the industry.



1985: The AAC pro tempore Executive known as the "St. Andrews Mafia" L-R: Dave Aiken (Vice President and President-Elect), John Anderson (President), Charles (Chuck) Schom (Secretary) (PWG McMullon photo)

Two months later, on July 14, 1983, the Aquaculture Association of Canada was formed by 17 of the attendees at the Canadian National Aquaculture Conference held at the Algonquin

Hotel in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. From day-1 there were strong differences of opinion regarding the mandate of the organization. Two opposing factions emerged: Those who felt passionately that the new AAC should be a trade organization, a cohesive producer group run by and speaking for aquaculture growers across Canada. Opposing them with equal fervour were the so-called “academics”, who believed the new AAC would have more credibility if it avoided the vested interest of industry and acted primarily as a forum for discussion of emerging issues and a conduit for information and research of relevance to the aquaculture industry. A *pro tempore* executive nicknamed the “St. Andrews Mafia” (John Anderson, Chuck Schom and Dave Aiken) was established to resolve these philosophical conflicts and move the organization toward incorporation and viability. In March of 1984, the embryonic AAC joined with the WAS to co-sponsor a multinational aquaculture science and technology meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Squarely between the opposing philosophical factions at the lead-up to the founding of AAC stood John Anderson, a biologist, government bureaucrat, academic and researcher long known for his skills in consultation and collaboration. Who better to manage the escalating philosophical differences between scientist and grower as regards the new Aquaculture Association? It is often said that timing is everything in life, and so it was with John and the AAC conundrum. Never intimidated by thorny assignments, John stepped into the breach to soothe inflamed egos on both sides, convincing them that they had more to gain by working together than by going at each other’s throats. His success in this endeavour ensured his nomination and election as the AAC’s first President in 1984. The rest, as they say, is history.

By

Dr. David Aiken, a co-founding member of the AAC and its second President



The Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association has made available on their website (<http://atlanticfishfarmers.com>) the final report on **The 2011 Sea Lice Management and Program Development Workshop**. The workshop was held during their annual general meeting, in St. Andrews, NB from November 29 to December 1, 2010. [Click here](#) for a direct link to the report.

New AAC Board of Directors

Thanks to all of you who took the time to vote in the last election for the 2011 / 2012 Board of Directors (BOD). The results are in!

New BOD members are:



Grant Vandenberg



Kathy Brewer-Dalton



Matthew Liutkus



Gregor Reid

Returning BOD members are:



Joy
Wade



Caroline
Graham

The new Board of Directors begin their tenure at the close of Aquaculture Canada^{OM} 2011

Student Endowment Fund Donors

(over the past year)

Iola Price, Julian Hynes, Jay Parsons, Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences, John Anderson, Duane Barker, University of Guelph - Aquaculture Centre, Cyr Couturier, Larry Hammell, RDI Strategies Inc., Velmurugu Puvanendran, John Lumsden, John Himmelman, Chris Bridger, Marshall Giles, Andrew Vickerson, Vancouver Island University, Neil Bourne, John Bonardelli, Gerry Friars, Santosh Lall, Samantha Richman, Chris Oikawa, Pisciculture d'Arthabaska, Prince Edward Aqua Farms, MAARS, Craig Clarke, Rene Lavoie, Jeff Davidson, Ruth Salmon, Alistair Struthers, Shawn Robinson, Thierry Chopin, Sharon McGladdery

Thank you!

Did you donate to the Student Endowment Fund this past year and we missed you in the Watermark? Let us know!

Why I Donate to the AAC Student Endowment Fund



“Having started my aquaculture career working for an educational institution, students have always held a special place in my view. They bring with them an air of enthusiasm and energy which is infectious, while at the same time representing the future. I donate to the student endowment fund because I honestly believe that students are what make the AAC special and give the AAC meetings an energy not found at other conferences. It has been my privilege to meet some bright and talented students through the AAC; people that I know will become leaders in aquaculture research, industry and government”

Alistair Struthers is a former AAC President and presently a Team Leader of Sector Strategies, Aquaculture Management Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada



“The AAC is a great opportunity for members to get together to share their knowledge and renew acquaintances. But it also provides a candid venue for young students to share their research with other like-minded aquaculture enthusiasts from across the country. I contribute, for the same reasons I benefited during my studies, because the funds encouraged first-time participation. It gives students that little extra push to present their work among their peers in the industry. Student participation is precious, because they are the next generation of leaders and researchers who will be working together to make this a great business to be in.”

John Bonardelli of Shellfish Solutions AS hails from Canada but has worked in Norway now for over a decade



“Over the years, I have had the pleasure to work with many undergraduate and graduate students in the area of aquaculture nutrition and related disciplines. An important opportunity for these students is to be able to attend the AAC conference. This conference is able to provide them with a chance to present their findings, learn about the new developments in the field of aquaculture, interact with industry people and to meet other graduate students and scientists with similar interests. Unfortunately some students are not able to attend due to a lack of sufficient funds. My small contribution to the student endowment fund can help these students. I have always enjoyed meeting students at AAC for they are the future for advancement for aquaculture science in Canada.”

Santosh Lall, Principal Research Officer, Institute for Marine Biosciences, National Research Council, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Student Award Winners



21st Annual APICS Aquaculture and Fisheries Conference (Halifax, March 11-13, 2011)



L-R: Song Lin (UNB Fredericton, Aquaculture Association of Canada Award), Julia Sampson (NSAC, Novartis Animal Health Award), Jessica Whitehead (UNB Fredericton, Cooke Aquaculture Award), Andrew Douglas Taylor (Mount Allison, Skretting/NSERC Award), Gregory Britten (Dalhousie, Valox/NSERC Award) and Victoria Neville (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Corey/NSERC and APICS Communication Awards).

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Board of Directors: Céline Audet and Duane Barker



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Help support AAC student funding initiatives, increase exposure for your company, service, or just clean out your closets! Bring your donations to the conference or contact:

Céline Audet or the AAC Office
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Going to Aquaculture Canada 2011?

Don't Miss the Awesome Keynote and Plenary Speakers



Gavin Gibbons (Keynote)

Director of media relations, National Fisheries Institute (US)

As NFI's spokesman, he has been featured in everything from the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post to USA Today and has been the voice of fisheries issues on CNN, NPR and the Fox Business Network. Gibbons joined NFI in 2007 after more than a decade as an award-winning television news producer that saw him work for a variety of local television affiliates, as well as MSNBC and the Fox News Channel.

[The Message, the Media and the Market: Changing how we communicate about seafood](#)



J.E. Jack Rensel, Ph.D. (Plenary)

Rensel Associates Aquatic Sciences, Arlington, Washington

Jack Rensel is a leading expert in aquaculture research and environmental issues. He was responsible for much of the basic research and analysis that led to the first federally-sanctioned state permits for net pen aquaculture in the U.S. Dr. Rensel conducts research on current aquaculture and food web topics, including the beneficial food web aspects of optimally sited commercial net pens, which constitutes a new frontier for further exploration using promising tools such as stable isotope analysis.

[Changing adverse impacts into beneficial effects:](#)

[Enrichment of west coast freshwater and marine aquatic food webs with aquaculture wastes](#)



Brett Koonse (Plenary)

US food and Drug Administration, Aquaculture Food and Safety

Brett has been working for thirty years in seafood and seafood safety. After graduating from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a major in Marine Biology in 1980, Brett went directly to work for the State of Texas. He worked for almost ten years there traveling up and down the Gulf of Mexico collecting and analyzing aquatic samples for environmental contamination and monitoring. In 1991 Brett joined the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He has served in a variety of positions there including the lead National Shellfish Processor Inspector, Chief of the Programs and Inspection Branch, and for the last 10 years as FDA's aquaculture food safety expert. In that position, he led the development of Good Aquaculture Practices and has worked in over 40 countries conducting a variety of aquaculture food safety activities including research, training, inspections, and assessments.

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