

Gary Patterson

Gary grew up on a farm in central Alberta. He obtained a BSc. (Agr) from the University of Alberta in 1970 after which he and his wife volunteered with the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) for three years in Malawi in south-eastern Africa. Upon his return to Canada Gary completed his M.Sc. in Land Resource Science, and worked in that field in Ontario and in Alberta before transferring to Truro in 1984. He was the Scientific Authority for the contract soil survey of the Northumberland Shore Area, He helped his provincial colleagues to set up the Land Evaluation and Planning Service, an on-farm program known as Leaps. He chaired a committee to set up the National Soil Data Base which is still in use today. As an adjunct professor at Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Gary taught a module in Geographical Information Systems and sat on numerous graduate student committees. He travelled to Southern Africa, China and Vietnam on behalf of NSAC in the 1990's. Gary served as National Soil Correlator from 2005 until his retirement in 2010. He was also on partial secondment to the Specific Claims Branch of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada as Canada's agricultural expert for Specific Land Claims.

Gary has published many peer reviewed papers and miscellaneous publications, and given over 100 presentations in various conferences and invited talks, and has served as a member/chair of several professional groups.

Gary has volunteered with several organizations including Scouts Canada, the Truro Centurion Swim Club, the Colchester Historical Society and the Truro Food Bank. He is currently a Director-at-Large on SCANS Board of Directors, and serving as on the SCANS Finance Committee. As well, he is involved with PROBUS (past treasurer) the National Association of Federal Retirees (Membership Chair) and the Therapy Dog Program of Saint John Ambulance. He enjoys photography, gardening, woodworking, swimming, and yoga.