ANNUAL CONGRESS

By Michel Boudreault

AYRSHIRE CANADA

DEPUIS / SINCE 1916
CLUB AYRSHIRE
HOWICK - HUNTINGDON
AYRSHIRE CLUB

Activities surrounding the Ayrshire Canada and Ayrshire Quebec Annual Congress was held from February 27th to 29th. We were pleased to find ourselves in the region of Club Howick-Huntingdon in Quebec. The organizing committee, under the responsibility of Ms. Carrie Simpson, rose to the challenge brilliantly. In this region of Quebec, we inevitably had to "juggle" with early spring and the sugaring-off season. As expected, we had to face a real winter storm and cold winds… 😀

The election of the members of the Board of Directors of Ayrshire Canada involved the Western Section of the Association: Ontario and the four western provinces. Mr. Oliver Balme from British Columbia was elected by acclamation. For Ontario, Ms. Eleanor Robinson continues to work on the board and as Vice-President. Mr. John Ahrens from the Ayr Wyn Dale farm in Elmwood will complete the Ontario management team. Mr. Duane Tolhurst therefore vacates his seat after three terms.

The Board of Directors is completed by Ms. Marie-Ellen Trueman (New Brunswick), who remains at the head of the Association. The Eastern Section is also comprised of Ms. Jessie Rioux, Ms. Caroline Couture, Mr. François Beaudry, Mr. Mario Lacerte and Mr. Anthony Bilodeau.

In the absence of Ms. Trueman, the Annual General Meeting was skillfully led by Ms. Robinson. The Association's annual financial result shows an operating deficit due to a situation beyond our control involving the CLGA (Canadian Livestock Genetic Association). Without this, we would have obtained a positive result in line with the budget adopted by the Board. For the next year, we wish to invest more work hours on the road with members. We will have to increase and diversify our sources of income in order to meet our obligations. Concerns and questions were addressed to Mr. Andrew Shufelt, Chairman of the Breed Improvement Committee. The importance of testing and the limits imposed by the reliability of genomics were among the topics that were discussed.

Three superb companies opened their doors during the Congress. This type of visit has the advantage of attracting dairy producers of other breeds, while bringing together more breeders. The Ferme St-Clément clearly demonstrated the dairy qualities of the herd. Their impressive cows leave no doubt as to why the Daoust family's herd has long ranked among the country's highest production averages. On the other hand, the young herd of the Money Making farm surprised several visitors despite its short history. Mélissa Sylvestre and Andrew Scoble are doing an excellent job. They have built a solid foundation by building on the genetics of great cow families. And what about the gorgeous herd of Entreprises Marbrae! It exemplifies everything a breeder may look for: excellent genetics, high producers and impressive conformation. There is no doubt that this herd, named

GROUP OF VISITORS
AT ST-CLÉMENT FARM

CARRIE SIMPSON, PRESIDENT OF THE HOWICK HUNTINGDON CLUB, OPEN THE MASTER BREEDERS BANQUET

Master Breeder four times, promises a bright future for the next generation of MacFarlanes at the helm of the business. Thank you to all of you who agreed to welcome us on your farms.

The Annual Congress also serves to recognize high performance in produc-

WHILE WAITING FOR THE BANQUET
TO START, WE TAKE A PIC.

GRANT ROY GRILLS FOR DINNER

HÉLÈNE POULIN IN ACTION

PRESENTATION OF THE SOUVENIR GIFT TO THE DAOUST FAMILY OF ST-CLÉMENT FARM

PRESENTATION OF THE SOUVENIR GIFT, TO THE MACFARLANE FAMILY FROM MARBRAE ENTRERPISES

tion. The Association highlighted the nomination of two Master Breeders for the first time: the Guimond prefix from the Ferme Guimond and Fils in Ste-Blandine, and the Pierre Bleu prefix from the Ferme Pierre Bleu in St-Agapit (Quebec). The prefixes Du Petit Lac of the Ferme Coubert (1987) in Compton (Quebec) and Forever Schoon from the Forever Schoon Farms Inc. in Vernon-Bridge (PEI) win this prestigious title for the second time.

The ever popular Ayrshire Dream Cow contest was won by **the Ferme Margot Inc.** The success of **Margot Patagonie EX-5E 95** in shows and her longevity won over the voting members. You can read the texts of the four (4) finalists, presented by their owners. Margot Patagonie, Marbrae Peru EX 94 4E 2* from Marbrae Entreprises, La Sapinière Dinalor EX-92-7E 2* from Ferme la Sapiniere and Duo-Star Burdette Amara-ET EX-2E 91 « ELITE » form Marilie Ayrshires

The Association is always committed to recognizing the work generously offered by its members. The title of Honorary Life Member was awarded to Mr. **Philippe Marcoux.** His involvement in the Ayrshire Quebec Society, Valacta (Lactanet) and the Quebec Council of Milk Producing Breeds has greatly contributed to the development of Ayrshire breeding. Ms. **Joannie Bilodeau** won the 2019 Personality of the Year award. You can read about them in the next Ayrshire Review and on the Ayrshire Canada website.

The high production levels were obviously not forgotten. **The Hammond Farm Award** was presented to **Ferme Bellevue du Lac** for the highest composite herd BCA with 293.7 points. La Sapinière Facybe **ET VG-86** (Ferme La Sapinière SENC) wins both the **Robert E. Ness Award f**or the highest yield of fat, and the title of highest yield of fat-protein with 1,322 kg, i.e. a production of 4.44 kg/day. **Facybe** is one of the most productive families in Canada today. Another family of top Canadian producers witnessed one of its members stand out. Visserdale Selenna **33 VG-87** (Ferme Visserdale) wins **the Wes McConnell Trophy** for obtaining the best composite BCA at 1352.

You may access all production and recognition results on the Ayrshire Canada website

MAPLE SYRUP GENEROUSLY OFFERED BY TERRACE BANK FARM TO ALL AYRSHIRE CANADA AGM ATTENDEES.

PRESENTATION OF THE SOUVENIR GIFT TO THE SYLVESTRE SCOBLE FAMILY FROM MONEY-MAKING FARM

KATRINE LIECHTI, FREDERIC GRANDJEAN, ALEXANDRE BEAUCHEMIN FROM FERME MARGOT & SYLVAIN BOYER FROM CIAQ