

**ROUND TABLE REPORT RELEASED:**

The primary question on many people's mind's is whether the government will listen to and implement the recommendations provided by the sixteen members of the Round Table on Resource Land Use and Stewardship. The report, *Cultivating Island Solutions*, is very readable and contains a wealth of information on our Island and its various resources from woods to agriculture to water and wildlife. One of the many tidbits of information is a rating system developed by Ron DeHann for assessing tolerable soil erosion rates (3 tons per acre) off fields that are ploughed up and down the slope. Did you know that in a conventional three year potato rotation, the maximum distance that should be ploughed up and down the slope on a 5% grade (5 ft rise in 100 ft horizontal distance) is only 175 ft? A two year rotation drops this to 150ft). This system allows landowners to readily assess their crop rotation practices and determine where addition soil conservation may be required.

There are 87 recommendations provided in the report on areas ranging from protection of ground and surface water to soils sustainability and from the management of Crown Lands to providing education. It is well worth reading! It can be obtained free from Island Information Services at 368-4000. We hope that as many members as possible will contact their MLAs and express their feelings about the recommendations it includes. Your voices, combined with those of other Islanders, will determine the fate of proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection Act and many policy decisions of the current government. This is perhaps the best opportunity to improve the stewardship of our resources in this century.

Mr. Todd Dupuis, one of the members of the Round Table, will speak on the report at the November meeting. We hope that you will join the Society for this discussion.

Rotation and Management Practice	Grade (%)						
	2	3	4	5	6	8	10 12
2 Yr. Potato & Grain (u.s.) <sup>(1)</sup> Conventional Tillage <sup>(2)</sup>		800	420	150			
2 Yr. Potato & Grain(u.s.) Residue Managed (30%) <sup>(3)</sup> <u>or</u> Winter Cover <sup>(4)</sup>	1000	700	230	130			
3 Yr. Potato, Grain (u.s.) & Hay Conventional Tillage	1000	800	360	175	100		
2 Yr. Potato & Grain (u.s.) Residue Managed (30%) + Winter Cover	1000	800	400	180	120		
3 Yr. Potato, Grain(u.s.) & Hay Residue Managed (30%) <u>or</u> Winter Cover	1000	1000	630	200	170		
3 Yr. Potato, Grain (u.s.) & Hay Residue Managed (30%) + Winter Cover	1000	1000	800	410	260	120	

1. Grain (u.s.) - Under seeded grain  
 2. Conventional Tillage - Fall moldboard plow; Spring disc and harrow  
 3. Residue Managed (30%) - 30% of surface covered with residue from previous crop measured after the potato crop has been planted  
 4. Winter Cover - Following potato harvest, soil protected with well established cover crop or mulched at minimum rate of 1.5 tons/ acre