



William Saunders

(1836-1914)

Born in Crediton, England, Saunders immigrated to Upper Canada in 1848 settling in London where he apprenticed to a local druggist and opened his own pharmacy in 1855. He sold medicinal extracts made from plants and he studied entomology. William was a botanist and an agriculturalist who collected plant samples. He helped found and was president of the Entomological Society of Canada, the Canadian Pharmaceutical Society, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the Fruit Growers Association and he also helped establish the Ontario College of Pharmacy.

Saunders believed that science could improve Canadian agriculture and speed the development & settlement of the northwest. John Carling agreed and in setting up the Dominion Experimental Farms system in 1886 made Saunders its founding director a position he held until his retirement in 1911.