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The Catalyst

Newsletter of the Chemical Institute of Canada Toronto Section
Serving the chemical profession in the GTA

May 2012

Letter from the Chair

Dear members of the CIC Toronto section,

It gives me great pleasure as I look back at the many events and new initiatives CIC Toronto local section successfully undertook since our last AGM in May 2011. What a phenomenal year it was in 2011, the International Year of Chemistry! You can read about the success stories in articles published in the CATALYST in October 2011 as well as in this issue. I want to take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to members of our local section executive committee and members-at-large for their fantastic effort, passion and unwavering support, without which none of this would be possible. I would also like to thank Roland Andersson, Executive Director of CIC and the rest of the team at the national CIC organization who partnered with us to host the Canada Post IYC stamp release event, and for organizing the Chemistry Recruitment zone at the recently held National Job Fair & Training Expo in Toronto. I am pleased that we delivered on our promise to host an event that addressed the career services needs of our local section members. We hope to build and continue on this initiative in upcoming year. Thanks to Demyan Prokopchuk, our graduate student volunteer, who has done a fabulous job of creating a new website for our local section that gives you all information on events held at our section, see www.cictorontosection.ca for more information.

Looking forward to 2012, I am happy to announce that CIC Toronto section has received a chemical education grant to host E. Gordon Young Lecture series in the Greater Toronto region. This event will be held later this fall. We will communicate more on this in near future. We have many young and enthusiastic volunteers at the section with demonstrated leadership skills, and ready to take up new roles in the next executive committee. You will learn more about the next executive committee soon following our AGM scheduled for June 6, 2012.

I invite you to join us at the upcoming AGM (see announcement below) where you can meet and greet other members, help elect the new executive team and celebrate the achievements of this past year. As always, we would like you to take an active role in the section by joining us at one of our monthly local section meetings. For more information, feel free to contact me at ravi.ramachandran@syngenta.com.

Finally, I want to thank the many educational institutions and corporate sponsors for their continued support of our local section events. A special thanks to SYNGENTA CANADA, Inc. for contributing a record sponsorship (\$2500) in 2011 to support various IYC events held at the local section.

Dr. Ravi Ramachandran Ph D, MCIC
Chair, CIC Toronto Local Section



2012 Annual General Meeting

The 2012 CIC Toronto Section Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 6, 2012** starting at 6:30 P.M. in the Debates Room, HART HOUSE, 7 Hart House Circle, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 3H3

Please notify Eric Persson (e-mail: ericmpersson@gmail.com or by phone: 647-618-2970) by May 31, 2012 if you plan to attend.

Student Awards Night

Your executive committee:

Ravi Ramachandran, Chair
 Nilima Gandhi, Vice Chair
 Brooke Ozguler, Treasurer
 Eric Persson, Secretary
 Satyendra Bhavsar, Past Chair
 John Purdy, Former Chair
 Leslie Barton, Former Chair
 Judith Poë, By-laws Chair
 Demyan Prokopchuk,
 Student Activities Chair
 Lana Mikhaylichenko,
 Science Outreach Chair

Members-at-large:

Ken Hoffman
 Tayseer Mahdi
 Dineshkumar Patel
 Alexzander Samuelsson
 Kazim Agha
 Rummana Syeda
 Ali Moshrefy

Last year's Student Awards Night was held on Friday October 28, 2011 at the University of Toronto, St. George Campus. The evening began with a warm welcome from Professor Robert H Morris, Chair of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Toronto, followed by a message from Dr. Ravi Ramachandran, the Chair of the Chemical Institute of Canada, Toronto Section. The Lash Miller lecture hall was brimming with scholarly humility and filial pride as Fouroozan Mohammadi (Professor at Centennial College) kicked off the awards presentation. CIC Medals were presented to students who achieved the highest academic standing in chemistry-related programs during their penultimate year of a four-year program, or the final year of a college program. Those who demonstrated the greatest improvement over the same time frame were awarded CIC Book prizes.

Post-secondary presentations were followed by High School student awards. Melody Guan (University of Toronto Schools) was recognized for scoring 1st place in 2011 Canadian Chemistry Contest and receiving the silver medal at the 2011 International Chemistry Olympiad held recently in Ankara, Turkey. Richard Liu (University of Toronto Schools) was also recognized for winning a silver medal at the 2011 International Chemistry Olympiad and Sean Ridout (Northern Secondary School) was recognized for his 2nd place in the 2011 Canadian Chemistry Contest. The CSC Student Chapter Merit Award was presented to Erindale Chemical and Physical Sciences Society students Kai Wan, Bluky Ng, Kevin Jiang and Stephen Mac. Many handshakes, proud smiles and photo opportunities ensued.

The awards presentation was followed by "Nanomaterials for Solving Medical Challenges", presented by Professor Frank Gu from the Waterloo Institute of Nanotechnology, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Waterloo. Professor Gu's presentation gave a vivid perspective on the impact of self-assembled polymeric nanoparticles, and their potential use in cancer therapy.

The evening concluded with food and refreshments, much stimulating conversation and plans for SAN 2012.



CICTor at the National Job Fair & Training Expo

In association with the CIC National Office, CICTor executive committee members staffed the Chemical Institute of Canada Recruitment Zone information kiosk during the April 4-5, 2012 National Job Fair & Training Expo held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. In addition to providing Job Fair attendees with information on the roles of the National and Local levels of the CIC, our volunteers directed attendees to the various chemical industry exhibitors that the CIC had brought to the Fair. Traffic in the Recruitment Zone was encouragingly heavy, providing a hub for professional networking between both prospective employees and employers. The CIC presence at the Fair provided our existing and soon-to-be members with an opportunity to see their executive committee in action, advocating on their behalf. Thanks go out to Roland Andersson, Luke Andersson and Bernadette Dacey at the national office and Ravi Ramachandran, John Purdy, Ken Hoffman, Tayseer Mahdi, Lana Mikhaylichenko and Eric Persson.



CIC Toronto showcases chemistry at the National 4-H Conference

On November 22, 2011 hundreds of 4-H youth leaders from across Canada gathered in Toronto for the 2011 National 4-H Conference. Local section chair Dr. Ravi Ramachandran and Professor Anne Johnson of Ryerson University were invited to lead a symposium themed 'Chemistry - Our Life, Our Future'. Participants learned about the many contributions of Canadian chemists to society, and how it plays a crucial role in global energy, health, environment and food production. The science symposium was part of a five-day program, which included educational visits to the Vineland Research Station in Niagara, the TD Bank tower in Toronto and a series of discovery sessions in the fields of science and technology.



After the presentation a discussion was held on the topic of food production and how science will help feed a growing global population of 9 billion people by 2050, a topic that sparked a lot of discussions and ideas among the participants. "Chemistry plays a role in many facets of our daily lives, and will also play a key role in developing solutions to feed 9 billion people", explains Ravi. "It was wonderful to meet these enthusiastic 4-H delegates whose active participation and engagement in our session was a testament to their emerging role as future leaders of Canada."

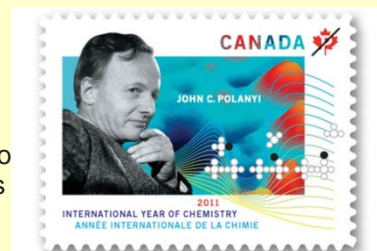
2011's edition of the Crystal Growing Competition

In this annual competition held during September – December 2011, teams of students from 21 local section high schools grew crystals of Aluminum Potassium Sulfate over a period of five weeks. Submitted crystals were judged based on criteria such as crystal clarity, mass and form. The crystal growing material used to prepare the crystals was generously donated by Anachemia Science. 70 students from the regional schools representing school boards from the Peel District, Toronto District and Durham region took part in the competition. The winners of 2011 CIC Toronto section contest are:

- Winner of BEST OVERALL category
 - Ara Rio, Jennifer Ramos, Karen Leung, Kyla Palos– St Joseph's College School
- Winner of BEST QUALITY category
 - Taimoor Shahid, Kunal Khamar, Nauman Riaz – Middlefield Collegiate Institute
- Winner of BEST GREEN CRYSTAL category and 1st place in Canada-wide Crystal Growing contest
 - Luxika Paskaran, Manpreet Jodgey, Sneha Skariah, Minija Somasundaram – Middlefield Collegiate Institute
- Winner of TEACHER'S category and 1st place in the Canada-wide contest.
 - Surinder Ahitan – North Albion Collegiate Institute

The CIC and CIC Toronto local section hosts Canada Post release of the 2011 IYC stamp

The year 2011 was the international year of chemistry. The CIC developed a full program of events to commemorate the year, and a highlight among these was the October 1, 2011 release of a limited edition postage stamp by Canada Post week to celebrate the work of world-renowned University of Toronto chemist Dr. John Charles Polanyi. The presentation of the stamp was held at the University of Toronto Department of Chemistry as part of Toronto's Nuit Blanche festival. Representatives from Canada Post, The Chemical Society of Canada, Dr. Polanyi's wife and children were present. The CIC Toronto Chapter, the Department of Chemistry and other dignitaries also attended the presentation.



Dr. Polanyi's ground-breaking research examines the rates and mechanisms of chemical reactions. Polanyi pioneered the use of infrared chemiluminescence, using extremely weak infrared emissions from newly formed molecules to understand how chemical reactions take place. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his work in 1986.

Designed by Tejashri Kapure, the Canada Post stamp features a photograph of Dr. Polanyi and a graphic image representing his work using Scanning Tunneling Microscopy to study atoms on surfaces. While the official launch date of the stamp was October 3, CIC's 2011 International Year of Chemistry organizing committee unveiled the stamp on October 1 at 8:00 p.m., as part of the University of Toronto's Chemistry Nuit Blanche event.

The chemistry location of the Nuit Blanche festival is a new event initiated by students at the University of Toronto. It aims to present chemistry to the general public in a fun and interactive manner. In addition to the stamp presentation, the event showcased booths demonstrating chemistry topics relevant to everyday life and included a dynamic panel discussion.

Announcements

50 year members

Joseph Atkinson, FCIC
Walter Sowa, MCIC

Deceased

F.J. Cooper, MCIC
Peter Susel, MCIC
Robert Rushowy, MCIC

Fellowship

Pierre Beaumier, FCIC, CanAlt Health Labs.

Donors

The CIC Toronto Section thanks the following companies and organizations for their participation in, and support for, our activities.

