



SPRING 2002 NEWSLETTER
OTTAWA LOCAL SECTION
CHEMICAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

2001-2002 CHAIR'S MESSAGE FROM EDWARD LAI

This past year has been the second official year of a joint Chemical Institute of Canada and Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering (CIC/CSChE) Ottawa Local Section. I have enjoyed the privilege of working with an extremely dedicated and enthusiastic executive team and want to express my heart-felt thanks to all who helped organize and coordinate the many events and activities throughout the year. One of the highlights for our Local Section was the First Annual Ottawa Chemistry Olympiad. The oral contest stimulated a great deal of excitement and interest. We have continued to try and provide interesting opportunities of networking for chemical professionals in the Ottawa region. We are now planning to expand informal gatherings (e.g., pub nights) and family oriented events for our Local Section membership. Your guidance and advice on new activities are always welcome. If you did not have a chance last year, why not consider coming out to some Local Section events this year and meet some great people? If you are interested in team work, why not join us at our monthly executive meetings? The doors are open, if you take the initiative to contact us.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual General Meeting and dinner on May 1. If you are able to come, please bring a friend: non-members interested in hearing our guest speaker are welcome to attend and join the CIC! Note that the business part of the AGM only lasts 30 minutes and the coffee/dessert is great.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's annual general meeting will again be held in the staff dining room of the Woodroffe Campus of Algonquin College, on Wednesday, May 1st, 2002, with refreshments and cash bar starting at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served around 6:30 p.m. This year's cost for the meal will be \$25. The cost has been partially subsidized by the Ottawa Local Section. Dinner will be followed by a very short business meeting, including the election of the new executive, for which a slate of candidates is presented to you below. We will then have the pleasure of listening to a special presentation, **Prof. Don Wiles** from Carleton University. His talk is entitled "**The Chemistry of Nuclear Waste Disposal**". More details can be found below on the poster page. To reserve a seat by April 25th, please contact **Edward Lai** (520-2600 ext. 3835 / edwardlai@pigeon.carleton.ca) or **Gale Thirlwall-Wilbee** (232-6252 ext. 223 / gwilbee@cheminst.ca).

NOMINATIONS OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR 2002-2003

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers to be your executive from May 2002 to May 2003: **Jean-François Legault** (chair, CChE Director, Local Sections, Department of National Defense), **Edward Lai** (past chair, Chemistry-Carleton University), **Jules Thibault** (treasurer, Chemical Engineering-University of Ottawa), **Renata Jovanovic** (secretary, Chemical Engineering-University of Ottawa), and as members-at-large: **Gino DiLabio** (National Research Council), **Marc Dubé** (Chemical Engineering-University of Ottawa), **Caroline Ladanowski** (Environment Canada), **Kim Merrett** (Chemical Engineering-University of Ottawa), **Savita Pall** (Colonel By Secondary School), **Horace Philipp** (retired-Public Works-Government Services), **Ron Shigeishi** (Chemistry-Carleton University), **Helen Graves Smith** (Canada Museum of Science and Technology), **Alain St-Amant** (Chemistry, University of Ottawa), **Pam Wolff** (Chemistry-Carleton University), and **Gale Thirlwall-Wilbee** (Ex-Officio member as National Office rep).

We are presently inviting two members to consider nomination for the position of vice-chair. We also welcome new members-at-large. If you wish to participate in the running of your Ottawa Local Section, please submit your name and a contact address or number directly to **Edward Lai** (520-2600 ext. 3835 / edwardlai@pigeon.carleton.ca), **Marc Dubé** (562-5800 ext. 6108 / dube@genie.uottawa.ca), or **Gale Thirlwall-Wilbee** (232-6252 ext. 223 / gwilbee@cheminst.ca).

TOUR OF I-STAT CANADA

Date: Wednesday April 10, 2002.
Time: 3:00pm to 5:00pm.
Location: 436 Hazeldean Road

The Ottawa CIC Local Section is continuing with its traditional visits to the industry leaders in Ottawa. This spring members are most welcome to join us in a visit to the world leader in medical diagnostic products for blood analysis – iSTAT. iSTAT's unique combination of semiconductor technology, electrochemistry, computer electronics and software in a quest for an improved medical diagnostic will be of interest to a broad range of professionals. iSTAT will accommodate approximately 30 people. Members of the Deep River CIC Local Section are most welcome to join us for the tour. For any additional information and registration, contact **Edward Lai** (520-2600 ext. 3835 / edwardlai@pigeon.carleton.ca) or **Renata Jovanovic** (562-5800 ext. 6259 / relichrz@hotmail.com).

NEW CIC FELLOWS

The Ottawa Local Section aided the nominations of four distinguished members. To our greatest delight, all four nominations have been elected by the CIC. Now is the time to congratulate **Anne Alper, Jacqueline Belanger, Richard Turle** and **Horace Philipp** !!!

CONGRATULATIONS

Jean Bélanger, FCIC, has been elected as a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada. He is presently the Chair of the CIC.

Addelhamid A. Sayari, MCIC, at the University of Ottawa has been named a Canada Research Chair.

Silver Medal Winners in 2001

University of Ottawa, Department of Chemical Engineering - **Karla Dibartolo**
Carleton University, Department of Chemistry - **Richard Verver**

Winners of the **national Crystal Growing Competition** in the Ottawa region:
Best quality crystal - 6th place to **Mother Theresa High School** and 8th place to
a home schooler in Greely
Best overall crystal - 5th place to **Ecole Secondaire De La Salle**
Teacher's crystals - 1st place to **Gilles Sabourin** of Ecole Secondaire De La Salle
(winner of \$100 for school)
- 3rd place to **Roxanne LeBlanc** of College Catholique Samuel
Genest

If anyone knows of other awards received by local members recently, please let any executive member know, and we will be happy to announce it in our next newsletter.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

National Chemistry Week (NCW) was from October 12 to 20, 2001. The highlight of the Public Program event at the Place d'Orleans Shopping Centre on October 13 were the two excellent forty-minute chemistry shows which were presented by **Rashmi Venkateswaran** and **Bob Nadon** from the University of Ottawa. The overall winner (#1) of the **Crystal Growing Competition** is **Maria Stefanescu *et al*** from De La Salle (teacher: **Gilles Sabourin**). The best quality (actually #2) is **Latoya Morgan *et al*** from Mother Teresa High School (teacher: **Robin Howard**). Special thanks to **Marc Savard** (Agriculture Canada) and **Kim Merrett** for judging the crystals and awarding prizes to the winners for the Crystal Growing Competition, as well as **Alain St-Amant** for coordinating the Public Program for the Ottawa Local Section.

A tour of the **Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre** took place on November 20, 2001. The Centre is the City of Ottawa's wastewater treatment plant and the headquarters of the Water Environment Protection Division. Sixteen people attended the tour and it lasted for two hours. Thanks to **Horace Philipp** for organizing the tour.

The CSChE strategic plan was implemented to integrate **Student Chapters** into CIC and CSChE Local Sections. This would strengthen the relationship between students at the University of Ottawa, Carleton University and Algonquin College. Both **Camille Drouin** (University of Ottawa) and **Mike Sahl** (Algonquin College) were inducted. It is envisioned that undergraduates may be more likely to join if their societies are closely affiliated to the Ottawa CIC Local Section and if the benefits of joining Local Section are introduced to them by their student representatives.

The Ottawa CIC Local Section launched the **First Annual Ottawa Chemistry Olympiad** that involved students in Grades 7 to OAC from 10 local schools. The event was one of two on-site competitions in the Science and Engineering Olympics that were held at the Canada Science and Technology Museum on February 19, 2002. This was the first-ever contest to be organized by the CIC (Ottawa Local Section). The purpose of this First Annual Ottawa Chemistry Olympiad was to encourage excellence in the learning of chemistry and to recognize the outstanding students in the Ottawa region.

The format of the competition consisted of two students representing each school, who answered multiple-choice questions with increasing level of difficulty as read by **Helen Graves Smith**. Once all participating schools finished in the preliminary rounds, the winning teams in the middle school contest (Grades 7 & 8) were presented with T-shirts printed with the CSC logo. There was a tie for first place between Bridlewood Public School, represented by **Feng Wang** and **Karan Mathur**, and Georges-Etienne Cartier School, represented by **Daniel Spence**. The top three high schools (Grade 9 to OAC) - Colonel By Secondary School, Lisgar Collegiate and Collège catholique Samuel-Genest - continued in a head-to-head competition on stage in the auditorium, in front of an

excited, cheering audience of over 120 students, teachers and judges. There was great excitement in the crowd, who gave a round of loud applause each time the teams answered or anticipated the question correctly.

The final winning team was Colonel By Secondary School, represented by **Christopher Yearwood** and **Nauzer Forbes**. Second prize went to Lisgar Collegiate, represented by **Jing Ping Ji** and **Ram Ananth**. In third place was Collège catholique Samuel-Genest, represented by **Zachary Fouchard** and **Robert Johns**. **Savita Pall** and **Edward Lai** awarded T-shirts with a periodic table print to the six finalists. **Horace Philipp** took photos of the award ceremony. Certificates will be sent to the students and their teachers. Congratulations to all participants and best wishes for continuing success in chemistry throughout your academic studies. The Science and Engineering Olympics organizers have already invited the CIC (Ottawa Local Section) back, which is great since we want the First Annual Ottawa Chemistry Olympiad to have been exactly that!

Carleton University hosted the **Students' Career Night** this year on February 5, 2002. The purpose was for undergraduate and graduate students to meet and mingle with local chemists and chemical engineers to learn about their academic/work experiences, key decision making points, current/emerging opportunities in both professions, and tips for seeking/gaining/keeping employment. The invited speakers were Ms. **Savita Pall** (Colonel By Secondary School), Dr. **Gino DiLabio** (National Research Council), Mr. **Brad Kachuik** (ST Microelectronics), Ms. **Isabelle Gagnon** (Industry Canada), Ms. **Renata Jovanovic** (University of Ottawa) and Ms. **Gale Thirlwall-Wilbee** (CIC). The speakers shared their experiences about searching for a job as well as providing everyone with their perspectives on local and global trends in the chemical professions. Pizza and drinks were served during a break, when students got the opportunity to mingle with the speakers. **Regina De La Campa** won a door prize of dinner for two. Thanks to **Caroline Ladanowski** for organizing the event.

A CIC/CSCHE Ottawa Local Section **logo design competition** was initiated. The logo must be bilingual, represent all chemical professionals, represent Ottawa, look good in black and white, and easy to read as a letterhead. The design presented by **Jean-François Legault** was adopted. The new logo can be seen at the head of this newsletter! It will also be printed on all official letters and certificates.

CIC
Ottawa Local Section

Annual General Meeting and Dinner

1 May 2002 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Algonquin College, Woodroffe Campus, Faculty Dining Lounge

With a special presentation by

Prof. Don Wiles

“The Chemistry of Nuclear Waste Disposal”

Detailed schedule:

6:00 p.m.	Refreshments and cocktail (cash bar)
6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:30 p.m.	Local Section business meeting
8:00 p.m.	Special presentation

Cost is \$25/person, payable at the door

If you plan to attend or have any special dietary needs, please contact Edward Lai, at 520-2600 ext. 3835 or edwardlai@pigeon.carleton.ca by 19 April 2002.

AGM agenda:

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes from last AGM
3. Chair's report 2001-2002
4. Treasurer's report 2001-2002
5. Report of the Nominating Committee
6. Vote for 2002-2003 executive
7. New Chair's remarks
8. Adjournment

“The Chemistry of Nuclear Waste Disposal”

Prof. Don Wiles, FCIC

Department of Chemistry, Carleton University

Abstract

Nuclear power reactors produce highly radioactive waste products. This waste can be very dangerous if it is not managed properly; or it can be quite harmless. The disposal of this nuclear waste is a complex and multi-faceted problem, involving geology, hydrology, engineering, physics and, above all, Chemistry. There are more than forty different chemical elements whose behaviour must be understood in a variety of unusual circumstances. This is the challenge for the present discussion. It turns out that most of the elements will be trapped in one or more of the designed barriers, so that only two radionuclides are likely ever to reach the surface and get into the food chain. Which ones are they? How serious are they? Come and hear, and take part in the discussion. Ethical and moral issues are not the focus of the evening's talk, but can be introduced and discussed if time permits.