

C₃ News

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Newsletter of College Chemistry Canada / La Chimie Collégiale au Canada

YUKON HO!

Experience the Yukon - Part II (the not so energetic version)

Bob Browne

Douglas College, New Westminster,
BC

If you don't enjoy hiking and canoeing and river rafting here are some activities you may want to investigate while in the Yukon.

1. Dawson City

At the height of the gold rush, Dawson City was known as the "Paris of the North" with a population of over 30,000, and amenities which were the envy of many other cities in North America. By 1900, with news of gold finds in Alaska, many moved on, and Dawson's heyday was over. Today the town is dressed up in its turn-of-the-century finest, with museums, the Palace Grand Theatre, Diamond Tooth Gerties (for many years the only legal gambling casino in Canada), and about 25 buildings restored and maintained by Parks Canada. A tour of the "creeks" where you can pan for gold, and a trip to the top of the midnight dome above Dawson are a must for any visitor. And for those of you with a perverted sense of humour, you can join the Sourtoe Cocktail club. The initiation into this elite group requires that you drink a cocktail containing a human toe. From Whitehorse, Dawson can be reached by car in about 6 hours on the Klondike Highway, and there are regularly scheduled buses and flights as well.

2. Skagway, Alaska

In 1897 there were two routes over the mountains to the gold fields: the Chilkoot Trail, starting from Dyea (9



Lindemann Lake

miles up the coast from Skagway), and the White Pass, starting from Skagway. The completion of the railway over the White Pass in 1899 and on to Whitehorse the following year, ended the use of Dyea and the Chilkoot Trail. Although spared the fate of Dyea (of

which virtually nothing remains today), Skagway's population declined from 15,000 at the height of the gold rush to 600 by 1910.

Today, Skagway is again a busy place (at least in the summer) with Alaska Cruise ships stopping here, and the railway again running to take tourists on excursions over the summit. Many buildings have been restored to their 1900 appearance and the town still has the dirt streets and wooden boardwalks typical of gold rush towns. Be sure to visit the Gold Rush Cemetery and the Red Onion Saloon.

Skagway is about 2 1/2 hours from Whitehorse by road. You can take a bus to Fraser B.C. and continue your trip on the railway to Skagway for a little added excitement (see below).

3. The White Pass and Yukon Route

Construction of the railway was started in May of 1898, and the 21 miles to the summit completed by February of the following year. To save construction

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C₃ Business:

Yukon Conference Information:

As I hope everyone knows by now, the 1996 C₃ Conference is being held at Yukon College on June 6-9, 1996. In this issue of the C₃ News we have assembled as much information as is presently available to help you plan your trip to the conference. Organizers will be mailing an information package to all C₃ members and those who have requested conference information early in March. By that time, a more detailed program will be available. ◀

What's New on the Net:

Suzanne Gardner

Kwantlen University College, Richmond, BC

The most important new addition to the Internet in the last year is us! That's right thank to the efforts of Bob Browne at Douglas College, C₃ has it's very own web page. You can find us at:

<http://www.douglas.bc.ca/chem/c3/c3conf.html>

You can get all the up to the minute updates on the conference, as well as view the newsletter.

What follows is a list of some informative, entertaining, and some simply silly chemistry and general science Internet sites.

http://www.circus.com/~no_dhmo - a humorous commentary on the danger of dihydrogen monoxide.

<http://www.falconsoftware.com/falconweb> - the home page for Falcon Software, an educational software publisher with many chemistry applications.

<http://www.rpi.edu/dept/envirom/guide/discip.html#chemistry> - chemistry, the environment, lots of information here.

http://www.fnal.gov/fermilab_home.html - the Fermi lab home page, neat information on the latest and greatest in particle physics, plus useful information for the rest of us.

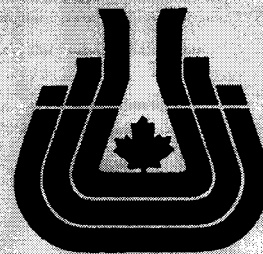
<http://www.csu.edu.au/links/chemistry.html> - a perfect link to all the chemistry departments in Australia, just in case you are planning a sabbatical or thinking of attending the Chem Ed. conference there this year.

<http://www.seanet.com/Vendors/billnye/nyelabs.html> - are you a closet Bill Nye the Science Guy fan? If so here is his web page. Lots of fun and games here.

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~mwm/sci.html> - a link to all the interactive science centers around the world.

Other places to look - many universities and colleges operate web pages. In B.C. the UBC Chemistry department web page allows you to access their on-line periodic table and much more. Also most web pages will have links to web pages with similar subject

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President: Subhir Abhyankar

Editor: Suzanne Gardner

Mailing Address:

Kwantlen University College
P.O. Box 9030
Surrey, B.C.
V3W 2M8

Tel: (604) 599-2656

Fax: (604) 599-2716

E-Mail: suzanneg@kwantlen.bc.ca

Website:

<http://www.douglas.bc.ca/chem/c3>

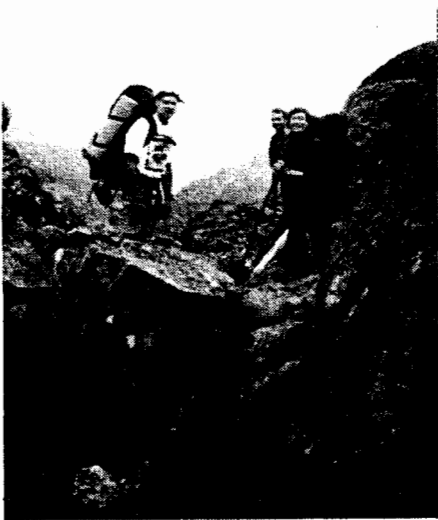
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Experience the Yukon... (Continued from page 1)

costs and reduce the required road bed from 15 feet to 10, a narrow gauge of 3 feet was decided. The railway climbs 2885 feet with an average grade of 2.6 percent through spectacular scenery in the 21 miles from Skagway to the summit and on to Lake Bennett. In 1982 the railway ceased to be profitable and was closed down. The section from Skagway to Lake Bennett was re-opened in 1988 as a tourist attraction and continues to provide tourists with views of the old White Pass trail, of mountain streams,



Top of the "Pass"



The "Pass" looking down on "Seales" and the spectacular railway trestles which cling to the sheer rock cliffs. For a real buzz, stand on the platform between cars and look down.

The railway makes two summit excursions daily as well as providing service to hikers of the Chilkoot Trail from Bennett Lake to Fraser. They also provide bus connections from Fraser to Whitehorse.

For more information:
White Pass and Yukon Route
P.O. Box 435, Dept. B
Skagway, Alaska 99840

phone: (907) 983-2217

fax: (907) 983-2734

From NW Canada: 1-800-478-7373

4. On to Alaska

The Alaska Highway begins at Dawson Creek, BC, and winds 1388 miles (2233 km) north to Delta Junction near Fairbanks, Alaska. Constructed in 1942 by the US Army for military purposes, the highway is today the main artery for visitors to the Yukon and Alaska. If you are planning to come to Whitehorse by car, you should get a copy of *The Milepost*, an annual listing of attractions, facilities, historic sites, which you encounter as you drive along the highway. You can pick a copy up along the way, or order one by phone (1-800-726-4707).

For a truly unique road to Alaska, try the Top of the World Highway which goes west from Dawson to the Yukon/Alaska border. From here, the road becomes the Taylor Highway and leads west, then south to Tetlin Junction where it joins the Alaska Highway. Be sure to visit Chicken, Alaska, population "27 and one old fart" as the sign read a few years ago. You can make this a circle tour by heading south on the Alaska Highway through Beaver Creek (Canada's most westerly community) to Haines Junction and back to Whitehorse. ➤

Travel to the Yukon

For many of us, getting to Whitehorse will just be a matter of catching a flight out of Vancouver and sitting on a plane for two hours. If, however, you are bringing your family and have some extra time, you may want to consider some of the more exciting alternatives such as a trip up the inside passage. Here are the choices:

By Air

The Official Carrier for the conference is Canadian Airlines International. You can make reservations by calling their toll-free number, 1-800-665-5554, or through your travel agent (but please be sure to ask them to register your booking with the Canadian Airlines Conventionair Office). When making reservations be sure to quote our conference registration number: **M0372**.

Why should you book through the official airline? If you book in advance, and if you qualify, (14 day advance booking and stay over Saturday night) you will be guaranteed the lowest possible fare at the time of booking. In addition, you will be given an extra 1000 Canadian Plus points on both Canadian and American Airlines. For the flight from Vancouver to Whitehorse, the lowest fare at this time (mid January) is \$429. Benefits for C3 include a free ticket anywhere in Canada if more than 30 people book through the Conventionair Office. This will help defray some of the costs to our organization of putting on the conference. And the best reason of all for using this service is that Canadian is the only airline with regularly scheduled flights into Whitehorse.

By Land

If you are driving, you can get to Whitehorse by either the Alaska, or the Stewart-Cassiar Highways. The Alaska Highway begins at Dawson Creek B.C. and stretches 2233 km (1,388 mi.) northwest into Alaska. Whitehorse is 1471 km (914 mi.) from Dawson Creek

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Travel to the Yukon... (Continued from page 3)

and 2054 km from Edmonton. If you are traveling in a group, you might consider renting a car in Edmonton and driving from there (two long days of driving to Whitehorse). The highway is now all hard surfaced except for construction zones, and gas food and lodging can be found readily along the way. If you are traveling the highway for the first time, get a copy of *The Milepost*, a mile-by-mile guide containing information on facilities and attractions along the way. You can pick one up at most magazine/book stores enroute, or order one at 1-800-726-4707.

For the more adventurous, the Stewart-Cassiar Highway travels north from highway 16, between Smithers and Terrace B.C., and joins the Alaska Highway just west of Watson Lake. You will pass through some spectacular areas, including the Stikine River Valley and Dease Lake, but it is a remote road and there are limited services along the route.

Regularly scheduled bus service on the Alaska Highway is available from both Alberta and Vancouver for the really budget-conscious conference goer, but this may require more stamina than most of us have. Greyhound has a deal that for \$277 you get a fifteen day free pass on the bus anywhere west of Toronto.

By Water

For a relaxing and scenic way to travel, it would be hard to beat the trip up the Inside Passage from Port Hardy on Vancouver Island to Prince Rupert on BC Ferries. From here, the Alaska Marine Highway ferry system can take you the rest of the way up to Skagway. Both ferries carry passengers and cars and since the Alaska ferry travels over night, you'll be happy to know that they allow tents on certain decks, and sleeping bags virtually anywhere. Alaska Marine Highway also runs one trip per week from Bellingham Washington all the way to Skagway. Because these trips are very popular with tourists, you will need to make reservations well in advance, especially if you plan to take your car.

For more information:	BC Ferries 1112 Fort St. Victoria B.C. (604) 386-3431 Fax: (604) 381-5452	Alaska Marine Highway Box 25535, Juneau Alaska 99802-5535 From Canada or US: 1-800-642-0066 Fax: (907) 277-4829
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Conference Social Program:

Wine and Cheese - Thursday, June 6

The wine and cheese will be held on the evening of Thursday June 6, on the college campus. Come, pick up your registration package and enjoy a glass of wine or beer and cheese and socialize with everyone you haven't seen since last year.

Conference Banquet - Friday, June 7

The Conference Banquet will be held on Friday June 7, the second day of the conference. There are two possible venues, the Mount McIntyre Recreational Centre, and the site favoured by the organizers, Lake View Marina at Marsh Lake. This latter site boasts truly spectacular views of the lake and mountains. Both sites are outside town so your banquet fee (\$45) will include transportation. Entertainment will be provided by a duo of performing sisters singing and performing to bring you the flavour of the Yukon.

The Fun Run - Saturday, June 8

Eat too much at the banquet, this will be your chance to get some exercise, clear your head so you will be bright eyed and bushy tailed for the day's sessions. The coveted J. Willard Gibbs Memorial Fun Run Trophy will once again be up for grabs. Location has yet to be decided.

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Come to the Yukon *Bob Perkins, Kwantlen University College*

In preparation for the 1996 conference which will be held in the Yukon, I have scoured the back issues of *Canadian Geographic* and *Beautiful British Columbia* magazine to come up with a few articles to whet your appetite for that part of the country. All four articles are filled with outstanding pictures to put you in the mood for your big adventure next June.

1. *Canadian Geographic* Mar/Apr 1992 pp. 80-88. Get a feel for the trip up to the north in this account of the building of the Alaska Highway.
2. *Beautiful British Columbia* Spring 1995, pp. 32-39. If driving all that distance doesn't sound like fun, how about a more leisurely trip? This article on Alaska Cruises gives you a taste for what a trip up the coast past majestic mountains, icebergs, black bears etc... would be like.
3. *Canadian Geographic* May/June 1992 pp. 52-62. Here's a chance to find out how to make your fortune before (or after) the conference. Lots of great shots of the Klondike Gold Rush and accounts of how folks are still pulling gold out of the ground to-day.
4. *Canadian Geographic* Jan/Feb 1993 pp. 22-37. If you want white-water rafting pictures, get a copy of this issue!! A detailed glimpse of rafting the Tatshenshini River. Definitely a highlight of any trip to the Yukon. ◀

Accommodation

The organizers are recommending two types of accommodation for the conference: hotel and college dorms. The conference hotel is located in downtown Whitehorse, and the dorms are located on the campus of Yukon College, about 4 miles from the downtown area. If you prefer to go it alone, we have included the names and addresses of two other hotels in the downtown area. Reservations for both the conference hotel and the dorms must be made by May 1.

Conference Hotel

We have chosen the High Country Inn as the official hotel for the conference. A block of rooms has been reserved for C3 Conference attendees until May 1, and these will be available at a special conference rate which is 20% off the normal room charges. The hotel is located five blocks from the centre of town. If you are planning to bring your family, you can book rooms which can accommodate three or more people, and many of the rooms/suites have full kitchens or kitchenettes included. There are laundry facilities on each floor, and a lockable storage area where you can store luggage while you take that trip down the Yukon River. The High Country Inn has a wide variety of rooms and suites available from twin rooms at \$85 to deluxe family suites perfect for 2 or 3 people at \$110. For a complete listing of rooms and room rates, see the conference web page, or phone the toll free number listed below. The hotel also provides a free shuttle bus to and from the airport. The High Country Inn, 4051 4th Avenue, Whitehorse, YT. Phone: (403) 667-4471. Fax: (403) 667-6457. Toll Free Reservation Line: 1-800-554-4471

College Dorms

The Yukon College dorms are bright and clean with smoking and non-smoking lounges (with refrigerators and sinks) and TV rooms. Both single and double rooms are available, and in exchange for the reasonable room rates, you will share bath and shower rooms, (although all rooms are equipped with sinks) and supply your own towels, soap, etc. Coin-operated laundry facilities are available. Since the College cafeteria will be closed at the time of the conference, your \$20 room fee will include a catered

breakfast on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The real advantage of staying in the dorms is the two minute walk to the wine and cheese reception and the conference.

The College can guarantee a limited number of these rooms for our conference and they will be allocated on a first paid, first served basis. In any case, payment must be received no later than May 1. Rooms may be booked beyond June 10th if you plan to stay a few days. Reservations may be made through Louis Schilder at 403-668-8865.

Other Hotels

The Westmark Hotel has two locations in Whitehorse: The Westmark Whitehorse (2nd and Wood Street) and the Westmark Klondike Inn (2288 2nd Avenue). You can make reservations with either of these by calling 1-800-999-2570 in Canada or in the USA, 1-800-544-0970.

The Best Western Gold Rush Inn is a funky hotel with a board walk sidewalk and a wood frame facade, located on the main street of Whitehorse. (411 Main Street, Whitehorse, Y1A 2B6, phone: 403-668-4500). ➡

Program Highlights

As with all C3 conferences, the program of the 23rd conference is being planned to provide professional development opportunities in the area of chemical education, but also to reflect the unique nature of the host college, its faculty and students, and its environment. We hope that the proposed program reflects these objectives. Please note that we have had only one response from the C3 membership to our Call for Papers published in the last newsletter. If you are considering submitting a paper on any topic, please fill in the submission form soon (by February 15), so that your paper can be included in the program.

The following is summary of some of the sessions,

1. **Topics in Chemical Education**
 - Chemistry Labs on a Shoestring: Part II
 - Teaching Chemistry to Blind Students
2. **Environmental Chemistry**
 - Environmental Chemistry - A new course at Yukon College
 - Organochlorines in the Yukon environment
 - Arctic Environmental Strategy 1990 - 1995
3. **The Chemistry of Mining**
 - Cyanide Heap Leaching
 - The Chemistry of Sulphide Mining
 - Acid Mine Drainage
 - Aspects of Yukon Geochemistry
4. **The Klondike Gold Rush**
 - Life on a Placer Creek
 - History of the Gold Rush
5. **Distance Education**
 - New Technologies in Distance Education
 - Distance Learning: The Alaska Experience

Social Program... (Continued from page 4)

The Conference Outings - Sunday, June 9

There are two outings planned for Sunday June 9, a rafting trip on the Tatshenshini, and a trip to Skagway Alaska. Both trips require a minimum number of participants, and the rafting trip will depend on the condition of the river, and the weather. If either event is canceled, a full refund will be given. You can book for one trip only, since these will both take place on the same day.

Rafting on the Tatshenshini

The rafting trip begins on the Blanchard river just where it crosses the B.C.-Yukon border in the southwest corner of the territory. To get there you will be taken from Whitehorse to Haines Junction along the Alaska Highway, and then along the scenic Haines Road which follows the western border of Kluane National Park. After a two hour rafting trip, the Blanchard River joins the Tatshenshini, one of the longest and most spectacular "wild" rivers in North America. The rafting trip

takes you through the canyon, where the walls rise 500 feet above the river, and through the Boulder Garden and Twin Holes rapids. The rafting ends five or six hours later at historic Dalton Post, one of the stopover points along the Dalton Trail. A century ago, the infamous Jack Dalton monopolized access to the Yukon interior over the Chilkat Pass along this trail. On the return trip to Whitehorse, a stop will be made in Haines Junction for supper, and for a visit to the Kluane National Park Visitors centre to see their world class multimedia presentation on the park.

The cost of this trip is \$100 per person, and will include transportation, lunch on the river, and all the gear required for river travel. You must bring a pair of running shoes that can get wet, wool socks, a hat, a warm jacket, and a complete change of clothing. Dress warmly. The trip may be canceled due to low water levels, bad weather, or less than the minimum number of participants (10). Full refunds will be given upon cancellation.

Skagway Trip

A somewhat less adventurous, but equally scenic alternative is a visit to Skagway Alaska. A passenger van will drive you there in 2-3 hours through Carcross to Fraser B.C., the Canadian border station located close to the White Pass summit. From here you can elect to take the narrow-gauge White Pass and Yukon Route railway over the summit and through some truly spectacular mountain scenery, or stay with the van to Skagway. Skagway, and its rival community Dyea, were the starting points for the thousands of stampedeers who made their way over the mountains and down the rivers of the Yukon in search of gold a century ago.

A minimum group of 8 will have full use of the van plus the driver for the day to travel the South Klondike Highway and explore Skagway and surroundings. The cost will be \$55 per person for the road trip alone, and \$110 for the combined road/train trip. As mentioned, the trip requires a minimum of eight people. Full refunds upon cancellation. ◀

Latest from the Literature.....

Sudhir B. Abhyankar, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook, NF, A2H 6P9

An interesting and informative paper in the area of environmental science is published in the *Canadian Chemical News*, July/August 1995, page 15. The paper, titled "Global Warming: What's going on?", describes various greenhouse gases, the ozone layer and what is meant by global warming. The paper also gives a brief summary of what's being done worldwide to reduce the levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

In a paper titled, "Group Work for Undergraduates" published in *Education in Chemistry*, September 1995, page 131, author E. O. Bishop discusses developing student's skills in planning and organizing a chemistry project, team work and effectiveness in oral as well as written presentation. The group project involves six students and one of the projects they did was on infrared spectroscopy and the greenhouse effect.

The difference between what constitutes "science" and what constitutes "technology" is the subject of an article "Conceptions of science and technology clarified: improving the teaching of science." This paper is published in the *International Journal of Science Education*, Vol. 17, no. 3, page 273. The paper proposes a distinction which helps clear the purposes and precise nature of the theorizing process. In this paper the authors contrast description-explanation with know-how, the recipes involved in making and doing.

The advantages and drawbacks of three different tutorial methods used for first year chemistry students are described in "Cooperative Learning in Chemistry Tutorials" published in the *Journal of College Science Teaching*, September/October 1995, vol. XXV, no. 1, page 20.

In an informative article "Surfing the chemical net" which was published in *chemistry in Britain*, September 1995, page 685, authors Winter, Rzepa and Whitaker give a number of useful and practical tips to help understand the Internet. The article states that

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Literature... (Continued from page 6)

currently well over 300 chemistry departments around the world have some kind of WWW site and this number is sure to grow.

In a paper titled "Biophysical Environmental Chemistry: A New Frontier for Chemistry" published in *Chemistry International*, 1995, vol. 17, No. 6, page 205, the author discusses various aspects of environmental chemistry and emphasizes the need for developing fundamental studies in biophysical environmental chemistry in order to better understand the functioning of environmental systems.

The first international chemical conference took place in Germany in September 1860. On the agenda was the major topic of the time: Atomic weights of elements. The conference was attended by a number of well-known chemists, including, Robert Bunsen, Stanislao Cannizzaro, Dimitri Mendeleeff and Julius Meyer. A brief description of the conference was published in an article, "The Karlsruhe Congress 1860," *Education in Chemistry*, November, page 151.

In a paper titled "Calculation of pH and buffer index in complex acid-base systems with a minimum of mathematical preparation", *The Australian Journal of Chemical Education*, Chem Eda, 1995, no. 43, page 14, the author has described a method which enables students to select a dominant reaction in complex acid-base systems without having to do any

preliminary calculations. The students can obtain good approximate values of pH from calculations based on the dominant reaction.

The results of a survey of over 4000 students in grades 11-13 from high schools in Germany show that there are two major misconceptions about conjugate acid-base pairs. First, they confuse non-conjugate and conjugate acid-base pairs and second, students regard pairs of positively and negatively charged ions as conjugate acid-base pairs as if they somehow neutralized each other. The results and their implications were published in an article "Applying the concept of conjugation to the Bronsted theory of acid-base reactions by senior high school students from Germany" *International Journal of Science Education*, 1995, vol. 17, page 733.

In the article "Chemical riches from the oceans", *Chemistry in Britain*, 1995, vol. 31, no. 9, page 680, John Faulkner describes a brief history of marine natural products and how marine chemists hope to turn the toxicity of some of these products to advantage so they can be used in medicine. It is interesting to note that marine organisms produce some of the most cytotoxic compounds ever discovered.

Two new courses in Environmental Chemistry have been described in the *Journal of Chemical Education*, 1995, vol. 72, no. 11, pages 965 and 967. The first of these courses is titled "Introducing Green Chemistry in

Teaching and Research" was developed for upper level undergraduate and graduate students. The second course titled "Integrating Environmental Chemistry with Chemistry Curriculum" was developed as a chemistry course for non-science majors. This course assumed no training in chemistry but rather used environmental issues to present introductory chemistry. Ozone shield, Photochemical smog, Oil and Gas, and Solar Energy were some of the topics included in the course.

In a research paper titled "Effectiveness of Using Computer-Assisted Instructions for the Teaching of the Mole Concept" published in the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, 1995, vol. 32, no. 10, page 1083, the authors found that students who used CAI accompanied with lectures scored significantly higher than those who attended recitation hours, in terms of school subject achievement in chemistry and attitudes towards chemistry subjects. They also found that there was a significant improvement in the attitudes of students in the experimental group toward the use of computers in a chemistry course.

In his article, two at One Blow: The New Chemical Elements 110 and 111", *Angew. chem. Int. Ed. Engl*, 1995, vol. 34, no. 16, page 1713, Gunter Hermann describes the discovery of elements 110 and 111 in November and December of 1994 respectively. The article describes three decay chain characteristics of the elements 110 and 111 as well as the synthesis reactions. ◀

What's New on the Net... (Continued from page 2)

material. Once you get started on one who knows where you may end up.

What do you need to access these sites? Two things, an Internet server, and some type of web browser, preferably one with graphics capabilities (NetScape is the most popular). How do you get these? If your college does not provide Internet access you can subscribe through a private server. For this you will need a computer and modem to communicate with. In most urban centres you should be able to find a server that will provide Internet access for about \$20 a month, be sure to check out the details of the service: do you pay per minute or a flat rate, how many lines do they have (no more than 5 subscribers per one line is advisable). Once you have these you are ready to surf.

If anyone has a favorite web site or knows of useful ones that I haven't mentioned, e-mail the addresses to me and I will include them in a future issue. ▶

College Chemistry Executive 1995/96

President:

Sudhir Abhyankar
Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
University Drive
Corner Brook, Nf
A2H 6P9
sudhir@plato.ucs.mun.ca

President-Elect:

Suzanne Gardner
Kwantlen University College
P.O. Box 9030
Surrey, BC
V3W 2M8
suzanneg@kwantlen.bc.ca

Secretary:

Bob Perkins
Kwantlen University College
P.O. Box 9030
Surrey, BC
V3W 2M8
bobp@kwantlen.bc.ca

Treasurer:

Jacky McGuire
Douglas College
Box 2503
New Westminster, BC
V3L 5B2
jacky_mcguire@douglas.bc.ca

Editor:

Suzanne Gardner
Kwantlen University College
P.O. Box 9030
Surrey, BC
V3W 2M8
suzanneg@kwantlen.bc.ca

Conference Coordinators:

Louis Schilder
Yukon College
P.O. Box 2799
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 5K4

Bob Browne
Douglas College
Box 2503
New Westminster, BC
V3L 5B2
bob_browne@douglas.bc.ca

Regional Directors

Atlantic Region:

Diane Messervy
West Viking College
P.O. Box 822
Corner Brook, NF
A2H 6H6
dmesservy@smtp_gateway.westviking.nf.ca

Quebec:

Rod Restivo
Heritage Collge
205 rue Laurier
Hull, PQ
J8X 4J3

Harry Wilson
John Abbott College
21275 Lakeshore Road
St. Anne de Bellevue, PQ
H9X 3L9

Ontario:

Dinesh Bhatnagar
Algonquin Collge
200 Lees Ave.
Ottawa, ON
K1S 0C5

George Grant
Seneca College
1750 Finch Ave. E.
Norht York, ON
M2J 2X5

Prairies:

Bill Blann
Keyano College
8115 Franklin Ave.
Fort McMurray, AB
T9H 2H7

Brad Pavelich
Medicine Hat College
299 College Ave.
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 3Y6

BC/Yukon

Lillian Martin
Unviersity College of the
Fraser Valley
33844 King Road
Abbotsford, BC
V2S 4N2

Peter Slade
Unviersity College of the
Fraser Valley
33844 King Road
Abbotsford, BC
V2S 4N2

CSC Liason:

Dick Kroeger
Algonquin College
200 Lees Ave.
Ottawa, ON
K1S 0C5

CSCT Liason

Eric Mead
SIAST
P.O. Box 1520
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 3R5

2YC3 Liason:

Shahid Jalil
John Abbott College
21275 Lakeshore Road
St. Anne de Bellevue, PQ
H9X 3L9

