

## The Conference is Ready to Go!. All We Need is You!

**When :** May 25 - 27, 2006

**Where :** Glendale campus of Niagara College, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

**More Info:** [http://niagarac.on.ca/features/c3\\_conference/](http://niagarac.on.ca/features/c3_conference/)

**See also :** <http://niagarac.on.ca/C3>

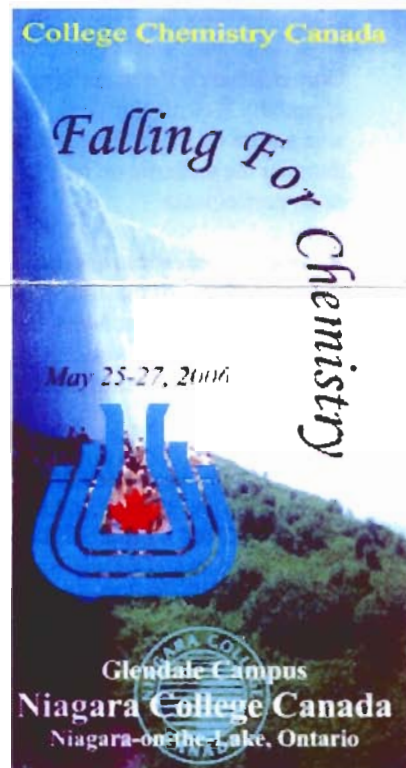
The preparations for the annual C3 conference are complete. Come for a rich and rewarding experience at the Glendale Campus of Niagara College.

“**Applying Chemistry and Teaching Chemistry**” are the two main conference program themes and four sessions are planned during the conference. In addition, there is a plenary session on the first day.

The registration and the reception is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 25, from 4:00 to 10:00 pm

The banquet will be on Friday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m.

A tour of Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the lake will take place on Saturday, May 27.



### NOTICE OF THE AGM!

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on **Friday, May 26, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.** Please plan to attend this important event which will include the election of the executive members and the Regional Directors.

### WANTED! AN EDITOR FOR THE C3 NEWSLETTER

Please consider nominating a colleague, or better yet, nominating yourself for this important position on the Executive of C3. You will make significant contributions to the organization and the chemical profession. You can expect full support from the Executive and the Regional Directors to help you in fulfilling your responsibilities.



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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN!



Although I'd been to Newfoundland twice (both times to the "west coast", once for the 199 C<sub>3</sub> conference in Corner Brook), I'd never been to St. John's before, so I was especially looking forward to 2005 June 16 - 18. The weather was a mite on the dreary/cloudy/drizzly side, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm and interest of the two and a half dozen or so participants

A pre-conference tour included the Marine Institute and, thanks to the gutsiness of our tour guide, a close-up look at the Vickers Vimy biplane that Mark Rebholz and Steve Faucett were waiting (because of weather, parts) to use in a re-enactment of John Alcock and Arthur Brown's 1919 nonstop trans-Atlantic flight.

At the beginning of a conference, I like to hear an "official" welcome from the host institution. I wasn't disappointed as we were welcomed by representatives of all three co-hosts: Memorial University of Newfoundland (Bob Lucas, Dean of Science), College of the North Atlantic (Robin Walters), and Marine Institute (actually part of MUN; Peter Fisher).

The first speaker was INCO's Don Stevens, a MUN grad, who described the Hydromet process (which skips the smelly smelting step) to be used to obtain the nickel from Voisey's Bay ore. Continuing with the local industry theme, Gunther Baumgartner, President of North Atlantic Refining, described, amongst other things, the mismatch between what crude oil provides (e.g., 25 % turns into gasoline) and what consumers demand (same example, 53 % should be gasoline). The morning ended with Axel Meisen, a chemical engineer who happens to be the president of MUN, suggesting a number of ways that "stranded gas" off Newfoundland could be "monetized" (brought to market) – pipeline (but icebergs scour the ocean bottom), compression (CNG; scary), liquefaction (LNG; chilly), or conversion to methanol or diesel, for example (GTL).

David Rees from the Quidi Vidi Brewery (which we visited Saturday afternoon as part of the "rum and rascals" tour) spoke about operating a brewery in Newfoundland and Labrador. Hugh Anderson, professor emeritus, MUN, told the history (and some extraction details) of cod liver oil; he was introduced by Cameron Hopkins, who told a cod liver oil tale of his own (an inspector being shown around by Cameron's father didn't quite have the stomach for the smell and flies associated with barrels of cod liver oil!). One problem of the M\$250 snow crab industry is the short (three-week) season, but Geoff Whiteway of the Marine Institute has been using MALDITOF mass spectrometry to study another problem: processing (

cooking) releases an aerosolized protein that causes an allergic reaction in about one-seventh of the 1,000 workers.

Sam Stack from the provincial government's Department of Innovation provided information about Newfoundland and Labrador (e.g., population, just over half a million; visitors, just under half a million; imports  $\approx$  exports  $\approx$  G\$12), and told us that "more people have been killed on lifeboats than have been saved by them". Laura Halfyard from the Marine Institute taught us a few things about the "blue revolution" (aquaculture) – for example, Canada is a pretty minor player on the world scene (<1 % of the market, in 22nd place behind China, at 70 %), and water quality hinges upon many factors, including temperature, and concentrations of ammonia, carbon dioxide, and oxygen. Rounding out the local-industry roster, Collins Onodenalore from the Marine Institute told of his research into finding uses for some of the more than 350 GT/year of by-products (discards) of the marine processing industry; the waste includes chitin, chitosan, N-glucosamine, lipids, and pigments (such as the carotenoids astaxanthin and canthaxanthin).

I arrived a few minutes late Saturday morning and quickly found myself at the front of the lecture hall juggling a flaming ball of ethanol-jelled calcium acetate, part of one of Gordon Hambly's favorite classroom demonstrations at John Abbott College. Max Ferguson described the first-year liberal arts program at Eastern Connecticut State University in which "learning communities" (25 students) enrol in a common cluster of three courses; three of the sixteen clusters include a chemistry course. Nicole Sandblom spoke of her experience with a writing course (History of Science) at the University of Calgary; peer review (by means of Acrobat) is an integral part of the course, which has shown that writing and technical skills are entirely separate. Bob Browne (Douglas College) completed the technical program by providing examples of do's and don'ts in making laboratory instructional videos.

I felt as if I was wined and dined and entertained in true, friendly, Newfoundland fashion, and I've come away with good memories, good feelings, and a wonderful little CONA briefcase which I use daily.

I hope to see you at Niagara College May 25 - 27. Don't miss out on the C<sub>3</sub> conference experience!