

JOE COOL!

Back in June, Mount Royal College hosted the 30th College Chemistry Canada conference. At conferences, there are many roles to be played. I had the role of conference organizer, which is every bit of work people tell you it is! But, constructive labours are always the most satisfying when they're over.

We were privileged to present the pre-eminent Canadian science lecturer Dr. Joe Schwarcz of McGill University as our invited speaker. Joe is one cool guy (see photo).



Dr. Joe Schwarcz tries on a pair of very cool Oakleys at Lake Louise

He delivered the opening lecture to the conference in the morning and a fantastic public lecture that same evening. As far as lectures go, they were more like *The Matrix* (great visuals and something to think about) than your typical 90 minute chemistry class. I remain surprised at how many facts I can recall from his two lectures... If only I could teach my students like that! In the morning, Joe spoke about the joys, trials, and tribulations of the science outreach game. His public lecture about food – what to eat and what not to eat – enthralled the 170 people in attendance.

While planning his trip to Calgary, I suggested to Joe that he bring his wife Alice along, which he did. In fact, the Schwarcz's even brought their daughter Rachel along for the ride. In the role of the cheering section, Alice and ten year old Rachel were there for both of Joe's lectures. And what dedicated fans they were! Kudos to Rachel for holding her eyes open until 9 p.m. after a day involving listening to dad lecture for a total of three hours, a visit to Heritage Park, and that pesky time zone change.

The Schwarcz's met up with us for the post conference day trip at Lake Louise. They arrived at the Lake before our bus arrived and thus witnessed the last of the surface ice disappearing down the creek that flows from Lake Louise. They joined our group for the hike to the Lake Agnes Tea House on what was a truly atmospheric sort of day. Read Bill Blann's article in this issue to find out just how atmospheric it was!

Later in June, after the conference, my extended family met together at my parent's home to celebrate Father's Day. As the young father in the family, I received a gift from my brother-in-law, who was present at Joe's public lecture. The gift was a grocery bag containing blueberries, peach flavoured tofu, cherry tomatoes, a Jonagold apple, brocco sprouts, and some Bernard Callebaut chocolate. Those of you who were at the lecture will get the joke, and probably even remember the names of the healthy ingredients in each of those foods!

by Lawton Shaw, Editor



President's Message

C₃ NEWS



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Welcome back from summer break that was probably far too short. This year's conference at Mount Royal College in Calgary was an unqualified success. From the welcome of the Wine and Cheese on the first evening all the way to the Lake Louise trip in the Rockies on the last day we were treated to great presentations and discussions revolving around the communication of chemistry. Hats off to Lawton Shaw, Susan Morante, Mike Bosdet, Susan Varkey, Diana Garred, Gloria Dingwell, et al for putting together such an excellent meeting. I believe the appropriate Calgarian term in this situation would be a big fat collective "YEE HA!"

You will notice a few changes on your C₃ executive after the elections at the AGM in June. Jacky McGuire has agreed to stand as our Treasurer for one more year. Susan Morante, the first half of the Mount Royal College cartel, has taken on the position of Secretary. Lawton Shaw is now C₃ News Editor, so please send him word of anything that is happening in your part of the world (hint, hint). Finally, John Olson one of our faster C₃ members in the Fun Run, became President-Elect. (Apparently you're not fast enough John :)).

It has become obvious from our membership roll that we are heavily concentrated in Western Canada. In the upcoming year I would like to focus some of our collective energy in letting our colleagues across Canada know more about College Chemistry Canada, in the hope of getting more participation nationally. One of the best ways to do this is through word of mouth. If you know someone who is involved in chemical education either at the secondary or post-secondary level, please tell them about C₃. In many respects C₃ is really a well kept secret. Our membership is still only \$20 a year, we have a national newsletter (C₃ News), and we have the best value for money and fun chemistry conference anywhere.

Have a good semester!

Dietmar Kennepohl

Annual General Meeting Results

President Elect	John Olson, Augustana University College
Secretary	Susan Morante, Mount Royal College
Editor	Lawton Shaw, Mount Royal College
Treasurer	Jacky McGuire

A Conference Recollection

The directions were perfect. From the north-east to the south-west, from Deerfoot Trail to Glenmore Trail, past the reservoir (barely seen at dusk, but conspicuous by its blackness), and on to Richard Road and a minute later the MRC sign lit up in the dark. The road/campus construction did not appear a problem as I headed for the first building with a light in the window. I knocked on the door and the lady said, "are you Ian?" I said, "yes". She said, "I have been expecting you", and I was taken to #15D right away.

However, in daylight the next day, after doing a little necessary shopping, the same directions led to some circling around the campus before I found #15D again. The MRC sign did not stand out as before and there were many distractions – traffic blocked the road signs, construction workers led to short detours, and there was no light in the window. What a difference a day made! There is a lesson there somewhere for both faculty and students!

MRC has a fantastic campus, and not just because it is new. The facilities are all there although I did hear the chemistry folks are short of conventional lab space. Residences are close to the college – a definite advantage in winter – and most or all of the other facilities – library, cafeteria, book store, etc... – are under one roof.

The conference organization was excellent as in previous years. The topics were appropriate and the speakers/presenters gave much to think about. The attendance was better than in previous years, which is a credit to both organizers and presenters. Thank you again for a great conference.

by Ian McMaster, College of the North Atlantic



Conference-goers at the picnic table outside of the hospitality suite.

Photo: I McMaster

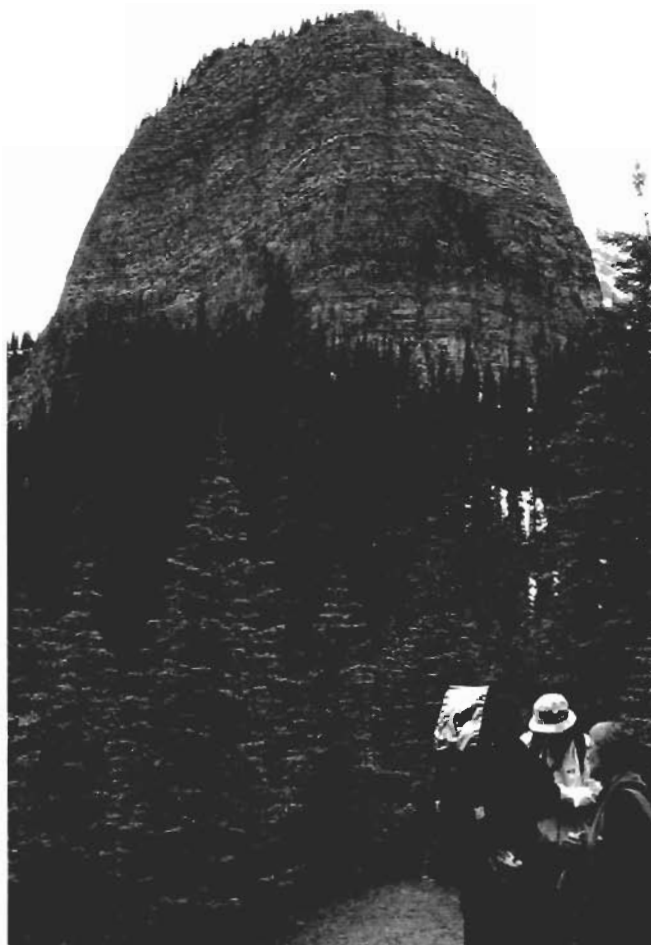
Lake Louise:

So Where do we find a Current Bush up Here, Anyhow?

by Bill Blann

The day did start a little uncertain, as to wondering if the mountains would be socked in and how much we would be rained on. But, Sir Lawton of the (not Round but) Well Sponsored Table set us to rights with yet another breakfast, and the rain was almost perfectly Camelot rules (? - "by morning all the clouds must disappear"?). There were tatters of ice still on the lake, and clouds draped over the peaks and glacier, but though I realize it was difficult for me to tell with my taste in internationally recognized, award winning millinery I'm sure it was no longer actually raining as we started up the trail.

And surely everybody noticed the intensity of the smell as we entered the forest? - the intoxicating green of freshly wet forest can be every bit as impressive as the spectacular views. The blue of the lake got deeper and more intense as we climbed higher and looked more directly down into the water. The trail begins to switch-back, and with the switchbacks come the first patches of wet and slippy ice. The vista gets ever more impressive to compensate for the rigours of the climb and the peaks across the lake shed their ever thinning blankets of mist. By the time we get to Mirror Lake, the aptly named Beehive beyond it is completely clear. It is just possible to see the Teahouse at the top of a waterfall beside the foot of the hive shaped rock. Just a few more



The Beehive

Photo: B Blann

icy patches and steep stretches of trail leads us to the top of the waterfall, and a pretty little mountain tarn half frozen and half reflecting the rugged peaks of its back-drop mountain. Beside Lake Agnes and on the brink of the drop the tea house invites us to open up our boxed lunches on the verandah, and wash them down with hot chocolate or (appropriately) Japanese green tea while we enjoy the view.

Only when we were through did the next bank of clouds roll in as if to tell us it was time to go, and the peak at the end of the lake began to disappear as we headed down the trail. This is about the point where



C3 President Dietmar Kennepohl presents Max and Dot Ferguson their Chemmy for almost getting run over by Dietmar's taxi at the 2002 conference.

Photo: B Browne

our humble narrator - eagerly trying out his new digital Canon, getting used to using the little monitor instead of the viewfinder for picture composition - got the little message about battery power, which the little monitor, it seems, fair gobbles up. Powerless to make photos - the fates appear to have spoken. But no, help is at hand: Sir John d'Augustan has the solution. All we have to do is find a current bush and refill the battery from that. An electrifying idea! I wasn't really sure what a current bush looked like but I carefully examined shrubberies all the way down the trail. Alas, to no avail - where do we find a current bush up here, anyhow?

Bonus - time to detour down the scenic highway on the way back, and take a hike up the spectacular little Johnston Canyon - an impressive little trail boxed in by canyon walls, and here and there cribbed onto the wall above the howling waters.

We were back on the bus, on the road back to Mount Royal, when the Met office must have discovered we were off the mountains, for the heavens opened with every cat and dog in the country. But the rain refused to enter through the skylight, and by the time we're back it disappeared, in true Camelot style. But then,



Dave Schwass from NOVA Chemicals talks about the training needs of environmental scientists as part of the industry panel discussion on "What Does Industry Want in Chemical Education?" Other panelists were Tracey Henselwood (Core Labs), Terry Horton (Maxxam Analytics), Neil Warrender (Sanjel Corp.), and Richard Wong (Champion Technologies).

Photo: B Browne

there is definitely something magical about the woods and mountain environment, and Lake Louise takes it to Camelot extremes. But it would be nice if in future they were to label the current bushes for the convenience of their dimmer, er, more electrically challenged visitors.



The group of eager hikers before the hike to the Lake Agnes Teahouse. Note Bill Blann looking at his camera's viewfinder.

Photo: B Browne

H^o Lawton - nice format!

The winning entry, as it transpired.

College Chemistry Canada Cryptic Crossword

The Challenge: The first person to fax the editor the correct solution will be awarded fame, recognition and a nice prize. Fax this page to (403) 440-6095.

Across

- ~~9~~ Pele mentioned containing an irreducible form (7)
- ~~10~~ Centre dweller spells "non-true" poorly (7)
- ~~11~~ Turn e-lover 5 around (7)
- ~~12~~ Many a french sea is long (7)
- ~~13~~ Cool reflux apparatus (9)
- ~~15~~ Endless renown unusual for the proprietor (5)
- ~~16~~ Rutherford's model is mixed up from the beginning, unclear (7)
- ~~19~~ Dug a well of 50 riddle confusion (7)
- ~~20~~ Moving stealthily re: platinum, carbon not normal (5)
- ~~21~~ Art museums have bizarre regal lies (9)
- ~~25~~ Sultana's sarin is scrambled (7)
- ~~26~~ Big mama? (7)
- ~~28~~ The mean incorrectly gives a simple hydrocarbon (7)
- ~~29~~ Conformer is warped (7)

1	F	2	K	3	C	4	S	5	I	6	N	7	C	8	I			
9	E	L	E	M	E	N	T	10	N	E	U	T	R	O	N			
	R		L		L		R		S		C		I		F			
11	R	E	V	O	L	V	E	12	P	O	L	Y	M	E	R			
	I		I				S		I		E		I		A			
13	C	O	N	D	E	N	S	E	R	15	O	W	N	E	R			
			L						E		T		A		E			
16	N	U	C	L	E	A	R	18		19	D	R	I	L	L	E	D	
	I		H		C		E											
20	C	R	E	P	T			21	G	A	L	L	E	R	I	E	S	24
	H		M		R		I		I				O				T	
25	R	A	I	S	I	N	S	26	G	R	A	N	D	M	A			
	O		S		C		T		H		C		A				N	
28	M	E	T	H	A	N	E	29	T	W	I	S	T	E	D			
	E		S		L		R		S		D		E				S	

Down

- ~~1~~ Form of iron in wafer rice (6)
- ~~2~~ Lord of temperature (6)
- ~~3~~ Voltaic, for one? (4)
- ~~4~~ Sulfur on length of hair a worry (6)
- ~~8~~ Church peak in middle of ruckus is divinely motivated (8)
- ~~6~~ Sugar, phosphate, and a base (10)
- ~~7~~ Bad dude starts with chromium (8)
- 8 Heat wave? (8)
- ~~11~~ Wiring change re: lice talc (10)
- ~~16~~ 28 and 24: Add these to make an alloy (8)
- ~~17~~ People of substance (8)
- ~~18~~ Latin King Ret reversed a list (8)
- ~~22~~ Photons? (6)
- ~~23~~ Confused, do I eat an oxyanion? (6)
- ~~24~~ Retorts in the lab, holding equipment (6)
- ~~27~~ Acceptor not basic (4)

SHEER CHEEK:
 (shouldn't clue 20
 be "moved stealthily"?)
 unless there's something
 obvious that I missed -?
 - which is likely!
 B.
 (eg. - the lad spent ages
 staring at #8 - ahem!)

MEMBER NEWS



Alan Davis, Ph.D. a long-time C3 member and ex-editor of C3 News was appointed to the position of Vice President Academic at Niagara College in Ontario effective August 5, 2003.

Alan comes to Niagara College from Athabasca University in Alberta, where he has served as Vice President Academic since 1996. He previously resided in B.C. where he served as Director of several academic divisions at the Open College/Open University in Burnaby and taught chemistry at Fraser Valley College for 12 years.

The C3 President-Elect had a very productive summer! John Olson put a metal roof on his home in Camrose.

As this picture proves, even while on his roof, he was never very far from the highly coveted J. Willard Gibbs Trophy.

John was awarded the trophy for winning the annual C3 Fun Run at Mount Royal in June.

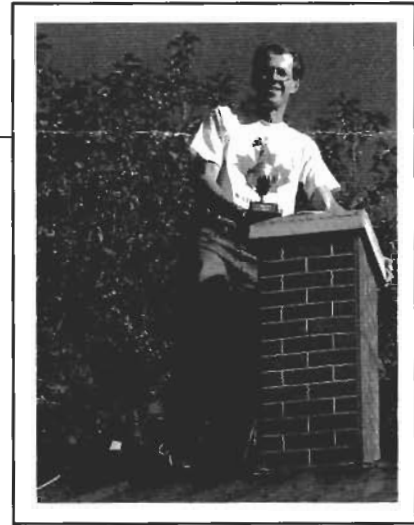


Photo: H.D. Mündel

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A Taste of Chemistry

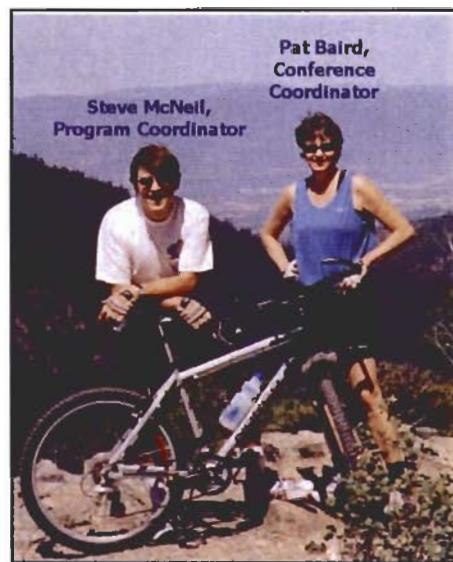
The 31st College Chemistry Canada (Chémie Collégiale au Canada) Conference will be held at Okanagan University College, in Kelowna, British Columbia, June 10 - 13, 2004. OUC is a multicampus institution, but the conference will take place solely at the North Kelowna campus, 5 minutes from the Kelowna International Airport and 10 minutes north of the city.

Kelowna made international news this summer with its 25,600-hectare fire that destroyed 234 homes on the south side of the city. Firefighters from across the country came to our rescue and for that we would like to thank you and your cities for their support. The kindness and generosity from people in a time of need is truly staggering. OUC property has not been damaged, nor was it even in the evacuation zone, but one of our own chemistry department members has lost her home. The OUC residence, which will provide accommodations during the C3 conference, is currently being used to house firefighters and some evacuees.



A map of the Kelowna region submitted to the editor September 9th. The OUC appears at the top of the map. Various lines representing fire locations are shown on the south side of the city. Myra Canyon and the Kettle Valley Railway have been transformed by forest fires.

Unfortunately, high winds in the first week of September swept the blaze through Myra Canyon, location of the historic Kettle Valley Railway trestles and our intended location for a bicycle tour during the conference. As of September 8, fourteen of the eighteen trestles have been lost, the fire has again begun moving northward toward homes along the south edge of Kelowna. Although various levels of government have all vowed to fund the restoration of the Myra Canyon trestles, it's not going to be a project complete by next summer, so we'll be looking for an alternative Sunday activity.



The lead conference organizers for 2004 show off their athleticism at Myra Canyon, before the forest fires of this last summer.

We here at OUC are starting to prepare for next year's Conference. We have a strong team from the Chemistry Department as follows:

Pat Baird, Conference Coordinator:
Pbaird@OUC.BC.CA
250-762-5445 Ext. 2239

Steve McNeil, Program Coordinator:
smcneil@OUC.BC.CA
250-762-5445 Ext. 7573

and...

Rosemary Capell, Sandra Kenefick, Rene van Poppelen,
Paul Shipley, Rob O'Brien, Connie Neid
and Dana Webster.

Our planned theme is "A Taste of Chemistry", with some presentations focussing on aspects of the interesting chemistry associated with our local wine industry. As well, we plan to arrange both winery tours and the banquet at a winery as part of our calendar of social events. We look forward to welcoming you to Kelowna!

by Stephen McNeil, Okanagan University College