



Canadian Spectroscopic News

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NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR ANALYTICAL SCIENCES AND SPECTROSCOPY

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The Canadian Society for Analytical
Sciences and Spectroscopy
announces the 52nd
International Conference on
Analytical Sciences &
Spectroscopy



<http://www.icass2006.ca>, or by
contacting the conference chair.
All abstracts must be received prior to
June 1st, 2006.

For more information contact:
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ICASS is presented by;
Canadian Society of
Analytical Science and
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<http://www.csass.org>

Sessions will be held in the following
areas; **Mass Spectroscopy,**
Metabonomics,
Plasma Spectroscopy, Speciation,
Infrared Spectroscopy, Synchrotron
Radiation,
Environmental Chemistry
Developments in Laser Spectroscopy,
Emerging
Technologies,
Education in Analytical Sciences,
Quality Assurance and Quality
Control,
and Nutraceuticals and Food Analysis.

Abstract forms can be found online at,



Greetings everyone! It has been a while since the last newsletter. In that time the society has decided to create a new section in Northern Ontario, so that the members living there have the opportunity to attend local section events without having to drive many hours to Toronto. Graeme Spiers has been instrumental in this decision, and will be involved with the creation of the section and the forming of a local section executive. If there is anyone interested in being on this executive please contact Graeme at gspiers@mirarco.org.

In the future, I would like to dedicate a portion of the newsletter to each of the local sections. When you have local section events please feel free to send any information and photos to me for this, as well as using it as a promotion tool for future events.

As always, if you have anything that you would like to include in the newsletter please feel free to send it to me at the address found on the front page.

SOCIETY CONFERENCES

52nd ICASS (2006) The conference chair is **Rob O'Brien** and the meeting will be held at Okanagan University College in Kelowna, BC from June 18-22, 2006. Please see the attached flyer and minutes.

53rd ICASS (2007) The conference chair is **Holger Hintelman** and the meeting will be held at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. Please see the attached minutes.

STUDENT CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Shulan Liu is the student representative this year. She is a PhD student in chemistry at Queen's. You may contact Shulan at lius@chem.queensu.ca or (613) 533-6000 ext. 78256.

SOCIETY AWARDS

The 2006 recipients of the Society's **Distinguished Service Awards** are Ralph Paroli, Ed Paski and Ricardo Aroca. Ralph has been actively involved with the society, and has held the positions of both Vice President and President. Ed has also been an active member of the society, and has held the position as current Director of the Vancouver / Victoria section for many years. Ricardo is the Editor-in-Chief of CJASS, and has also organized symposia at ICASS in the past. Ralph, Ed and Ricardo will be invited to receive their awards during the ICASS 2006 conference banquet.

The winner of the **Gerhard Herzberg Award** for this year is Dr. Diethard Bohme from York University. The winner of the **Smiths Detection Spectroscopy Award** is Dr. Vince Taguchi from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Both award recipients will be accepting their awards at the CSASS Award Ceremony during the ICASS 2006 conference in Kelowna. Both Diethard and Vince will be giving their award lectures during the ICASS conference as well.

The winner of the **MDS SCIEX Student Bursary** is Shulan Liu from Queen's University. Shulan will receive her award during the ICASS 2006 conference banquet.

RETIREMENTS

Professor Jack Martin Miller has been appointed Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, on his formal retirement from the Department and from his Positions as Associate Vice-president, Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. He is still working part time at Brock as Special Advisor on Buildings and Space and doing some computational chemistry research on 40 years of experimental results.

SOCIETY WEBSITE

Alison Holliday is the website manager for the society (<http://www.csass.org/>). She is willing to post any information on the website that is pertinent to the society. Please contact Alison at aholliday@chem.ubc.ca if there is anything you would like posted on the website.

MEMBERSHIP LIST UPDATE

For the last year we have been updating our membership list to ensure that we have the proper contact information for all of our members. When renewal notices are sent out, please ensure that your contact information is correct. This is critical so that you will continue to receive the journal by mail. As a result of the recent survey, nominations and voting for NEC positions will be done by email, as well as the distribution of announcements and the newsletter. If you have not already done so, please provide your current affiliation, complete address, phone number, fax number, home phone number (optional) and email address to Teresa Switzer at teresa.switzer@ene.gov.on.ca.

JOURNAL SPONSORSHIP

The CSASS will pay a commission of 50% of the first year cost of sponsorship or advertising rate to the person who actually brings in the new sale of advertising and sponsorship space. If more than one person is involved, then they will be given a share proportional to their involvement. No commission will be awarded for reciprocal page exchanges or in-kind exchanges. Please contact Rob O'Brien with any questions that you may have (robrien@ouc.bc.ca).

OBITUARY

Louis St-Onge (1967-2005):

It is with deep sadness that I report the passing of Dr. Louis St-Onge on October 22, 2005, after a short, courageous battle with cancer. Louis was born and raised in Montreal and received his PhD degree in Physics from the Université de Montréal in 1996 where he conducted graduate studies in experimental physics and diagnostics of SF₆ high-density plasmas. His work on the propagation of ion-acoustic waves in electronegative plasmas has been highly cited. Upon completion of his studies, he joined the National Research Council of Canada (NRC), first as a Postdoctoral Fellow, and since 1998 as a Research Officer. His research interests centered on industrial and field applications of Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS), in particular for use on pharmaceutical materials, and Raman spectroscopy. Louis has been active in the larger scientific community. For the past two years he was a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of Spectrochimica Acta B. He recently organized a symposium on LIBS and laser ablation (LA) for the FACSS 2005 and the ICASS conference held in Québec City just one week before his death.

Louis has a good publication record of papers covering many aspects of high-density microwave-induced plasmas and laser-induced plasmas. He is better known for his papers devoted to the application of LIBS for the pharmaceutical sector, where he has several contributions to LIBS books, and the application of LIBS to the Process Analytical Technology (PAT).

Louis had an outstanding skill for writing scientific papers and particularly for the dissemination of science to ordinary people. For example, in his paper on LIBS in

Laboratory Focus, Louis wrote: «Imagine you could capture some harmless light given off by an ordinary light bulb and store it in a box. Now, imagine taking off this light and sending it almost instantly along a narrow beam. You would have something like a pulsed laser beam... It can burn stuff, it can break matter into pieces, literally to atoms ...».

All of us who had the privilege to interact with Louis-St-Onge will always remember him as a researcher with a brilliant intellect and a sharp analytical mind and as a fine and truly noble man, knowing about the relative importance of things and accepting them with composure, firm and determined in his principles, loyal and faithful to the people who were close to him and warm and gracious in his heart.

As a personal note, I will remember him as a courageous individual. He certainly was a pleasure to work with and I am not the least surprised that he will be remembered as an excellent researcher.

We mourn his sudden death with his family and many friends and colleagues at the NRC and elsewhere.

Mohamad Sabsabi

Notice of Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Canadian Society for Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy will be on **June 21, 2006, during the ICASS meeting in Kelowna, British Columbia (specific room to be confirmed at the conference) during the lunch break**. All members in good standing with the Society are invited to attend. The agenda will include the Society's Finances, status of its journal, and the announcement of the new National Executive Committee. Since lunch will be provided, please contact the Conference Chair, Rob O'Brien (Rob.OBrien@ubc.ca), by June 9th to confirm your attendance so that enough food may be ordered.

Avis de Convocation

L'**Assemblée Générale Annuelle** de la Société canadienne des sciences analytiques et de spectroscopie se tiendra le **21 juin 2006, pendant le congrès ICASS à Kelowna, en Colombie Britannique (local à être confirmé durant le congrès) pendant la pause du dîner**. Tous les membres en règle de la société sont invités à participer. L'ordre du jour inclura les états financiers de la société, la condition de son journal et l'annonce du nouveau comité exécutif national. Comme le dîner sera fourni, veuillez contacter le président du congrès, Rob O'Brien (Rob.OBrien@ubc.ca), d'ici le 9 juin pour confirmer votre participation de sorte que suffisamment de nourriture soit commandée.

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR ANALYTICAL SCIENCES AND SPECTROSCOPY
Minutes from the National Executive Committee Meeting
On February 9, 2006 at 15h30 (by teleconference).

Present: Diane Beauchemin (Past President), Ana Delgado (Chair – Ottawa Valley), Richard Denis (National Programs), Roxanne Gil (Chair – Edmonton / Alberta), Doug Goltz (Treasurer / Membership Chair), Otto Hermann (Director – Southern Ontario Section), Rob O'Brien (Vice-President, Managing Editor of the CJASS and Acting Chair – BC Interior), Ed Paski (Director – Vancouver / Victoria), Roy Smith (Chair – Southern Ontario), Graham Spiers (incoming Director of the Northern Ontario Section), Kate Stepniewska (Secretary), Teresa Switzer (President and Editor of Newsletter),
Regrets: Ricardo Aroca (Editor-in-Chief of CJASS), Victor Benham (International Liason), Denis Boudreau (Chair of the 51st ICASS), Ewa Dabek (Member at Large), Holger Hintelmann (Chair of the 53rd ICASS), Alison Holliday (Website), Marc Lamoureux (Director – Atlantic Canada), Shulan Liu (Student Representative), Michel Pezolet (Chair – Quebec City), Mark Saffari (Chair – Vancouver / Victoria), Nimal De Silva (Member at Large), Benoit Simard (Chair of the Awards Committee),

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

-The October 2005 meeting minutes were accepted.

Ana had a few remarks that were revised by Teresa and Diane wasn't sure whether \$5000 from ICASS/FACSS conference in Quebec City was in US or Canadian dollars. Diane will send the documents in question to Teresa for revision and then to Kate.

Diane / Ed

2. Business Arising

a) Survey results and where to go from here

Otto reported that the response to the survey was excellent. Members who participated in the survey were willing to see the journal in an electronic version. Electronic communication between the members was preferred as faster and cheaper. Contacts such as e-mails and phone numbers have to be updated soon if the internet / phone is to be the primary / secondary contact and the by-laws will be changed accordingly. Roy said that using a member number would be a fast and secure way of communication on the internet. Teresa didn't see a problem to assign numbers to the members although recently members have not been given any particular number. Otto brought up a Zoomerang service as useful for the society during the survey because of its convenience and several levels of security. Members would like the society to contribute to their education, which means more workshops, seminars, lectures, talks, etc. Teresa said that before implementing the changes based on the recent survey we should carefully read the by-laws because there are many positive things there that were not enforced. Otto thinks that the society should subsidize money to local sections to help them get started or to improve the existing ones. Local sections need at least two people responsible for the finances to be able to open up a banking account, however not all the existing sections have two signing authorities. Also, it has to be found out what resources each of the sections has. Otto pointed out that the local chair and a local director is a duplicate function. Diane asked how many people constitute a section? Otto found that minimum ten members are required. Teresa believed that the society executives have to be more apparent to the members and more accountable and credible. Otto replied that this was the purpose of the survey.

b) Fees for national workshops

Richard would report it while talking about the National Program in Committee Reports section.

c) New Northern Ontario Section

Teresa would like to create a Northern Ontario section for the Southern Ontario section members living in northern Ontario. Graham Spiers reported that there is an interest in joining the section by students and professionals; however, people are not sure how much time they can devote to the society. There were complaints that speakers do not seem to be eager to go up north whereas northern Ontario members are always willing to go to southern Ontario for the events. Richard opposed by giving an example of a tour to Sudbury when it was difficult to find participants among northern members. There will be about eleven members in the new section, mostly government but Graham is to involve more academics soon. Teresa asked if Graham would like to be the director/chair of the new Northern Ontario Section? Graham agreed. Teresa reminded about the advertising local sections events to all sections so all members could choose to participate in any local section event. Otto made a motion to create a New Northern Ontario Section. Teresa seconded. All in favour unanimously.

3. Conferences

a) The 50th ICASS, Halifax, August 2004

Marc was absent, no report.

b) The 51st ICASS/FACSS, Quebec City, October 2005

Diane reported that Denis Boudreau, the chair of this conference, knows the exact figures in terms of profit/loss. Diane said that after subtracting free lunches, awards and other expenses, the society was sent \$3477USD on Dec 7th, 2005. Teresa confirmed that it is already included in the financial report. Diane didn't like that some of the invited speakers were paid twice by ICASS and by FACSS.

c) The 52nd ICASS, Kelowna, June 2006

Kate asked when it would be possible to register for this conference? Ana asked how many chairmen are involved in the conference? Rob said that the registration was available on-line but Diane checked the website and it wasn't. Rob needs the information about the conference to be posted on CSASS official website, Alison would be contacted. Rob confirmed that Marc and Diane are session organizers. Regarding the sponsorships, it will be one complimentary registration per session. About five sponsors are committed. Otto suggested that CEM be contacted as potential sponsors. Richard didn't like that on ICASS in Halifax only certain vendors were invited so he would help to make a complete list of vendors for this year conference. Diane asked what are the other chairmen? Otto asked about the budget, whether any financial help is needed.

Teresa asked Rob to send her the information about the 52nd ICASS so she can include it in the coming up newsletter. Richard asked who is looking after the exhibit and how long will it last? Rob said that a day and a half on Monday and Tuesday. Rob wants to focus also on very comprehensive social program. He

committed that the page with the registration and accommodation will be uploaded shortly.

d) **The 53rd ICASS, Peterborough, 2007**

Teresa reported that Holger, the chair of this conference is in the initial stage of preparing it and he is aiming at June through August time frame, however the exact date is not yet announced. Diane thought to implement one of the recommendations from the survey, namely to organize the ICASS every other year and alternating it with the EnviroAnalysis. Richard warned that having ICASS every two years would cut off the profit of 5000-10000 CDN to the society journal. Otto reminded that members are interested in the journal only if it is self-supporting. Diane, Teresa, Ed and Otto like the idea of alternating the two conferences. Diane asked whether the society is going to join the EnviroAnalysis every second year when there is no ICASS? Graham mentioned that EnviroAnalysis always takes place in Toronto and focuses on environmental issues only. Diane said that then it would be EnviroAnalysis / ICASS and that the conditions could be negotiated.

4. Committee Reports

-Newsletter and Directory: the newsletter is ready to go out but Teresa will wait for the e-mail from Rob about the Kelowna conference. Diane suggested to send a call for nomination no later than by the end of April, Benoit Simard is to be contacted regarding awards. Teresa reported that several members do not want to have their personal information published so establishing the society directory is out of the question. Teresa suggested adding a question at the end of a newsletter whether people wish to be contacted in the future? Richard suggested making a motion of not having the directory at all for the next couple of years. Ed seconded. Accepted unanimously.

-Treasury / Membership: Doug sent the receipts and renewals forms in January. He still does not have access to society investments in CIBC Wood Gundy Investment Company in Winnipeg. He thinks Heidi Chen could help. Doug reported that there are two other TD accounts. Mylaine or Nimal might know something more. Doug wants to have one main society account. Teresa concluded that both Doug and she have the signing authority only to the Winnipeg chequing accounts. Besides the mutual funds that Doug does not have the access to, the society has: TD investment, investment in Ontario, mutual fund (Money Market Funding) and another one (Renaissance Canadian Money Market Fund). Doug is concerned that there are still some investments under the former society name – Spectroscopy Society of Canada, like for example in Ottawa. Otto worries that the bank might consider some of the investments “inactive”. Doug thinks that Credit Union seems to be more attentive toward the customers than any other bank. Roy stressed that society is non-profit organization so it should dispose any excess of money. Diane suggested to distribute \$5000CDN to all sections to help them become more active. Ana reminded that \$10000 is required by the by-laws to keep as an emergency. Otto would like to establish the budget of how much the society keeps for what. Diane said that taking \$5000 out of \$44000 for each of the seven sections would leave \$9000 required for the emergency (properly \$10000). Roy and Otto think that

\$5000 is too much and that the local sections should present first what they would do with the money in order to get it. Richard pointed out that the excess of \$44000 comes partly from the subsequent raise in the membership fees and that the raise was justified as the future rebate toward the local section events, which was never done. Also, although the newer sections need more money, the older sections might actually deserve more. Roy suggested to give \$20-25 per member to each section to reward the section for being active. Teresa said that the new sections need more money to get started, but they have to commit that they will make a profit from the event. She doesn't like idea of giving all the money away. Ana thinks that \$5000 is too much, instead should be \$1000. Rob thinks that sections should apply for the money so that they will be forced to come up with ideas. Otto thinks that the society should offer fixed seed money for the new sections to get off the ground and money available to apply for by the existing sections. Diane said that usually the society gives \$3000 to ICASS. Otto asked Doug about the "traveling funds" that were established in 1994. Ana, the former treasurer, hasn't heard about them. Richard reported that this issue came up in 1996 in Kingston. There was no name on these traveling investments. Teresa wants to give a rebate to each section even if the section does not have the required 10 members but first she needs to have a bank account number associated with the section and two names of the signing authorities.

- **International Liaison:** Teresa couldn't get in touch with Victor Benham. She thought that this position is of no use for the society. It was created only temporarily for the CSASS / SAS exchange purpose and should be removed as it falls under National Program category. Otto suggested to get rid of International Liaison position. Diane seconded. Approved unanimously.

-**National Program:** Richard gave earlier the report on tour speaker program. After calculating profit / loss, the society lost about \$4000CDN, although it may come down to \$2000; possible expenses for Kelowna were not included yet. The speakers were paid \$1000 for the talk, yet not enough profit was generated. Richard suggested seven changes to the tour speaker program to avoid losses in the future. 1) The speakers could go only to regions where at least 2 local events have occurred. 2) The speakers would be warned what the society takes on risk. 3) There would be a strong preference for dedicated CSASS member as tour speakers, as they know what is the best interest for the society. 4) Maximum \$300 will be offered for an event with the possibility of profit sharing. 5) There will be 3-week notice to the members about the event otherwise the event will not take place. 6) The society will pay all the cost up front to avoid any unexpected last minute cost. 7) It will be the responsibility of the local CSASS leadership to collect all the receipts and keep track of all the expenses. Ed suggested that the profit made on the event could be split between the society and the speaker in the pre-determined ratio. Teresa added that there also should be a fixed ratio of how much money members and non-members are charged for an event. Richard suggested that Dirk, the last year tour speaker, could be asked to come to Toronto and Ottawa for free seminars in inorganic speciation and the profit would go toward the recuperation of the \$4000 loss. Diane thinks that first change is not necessary

since the success of the event is not directly related to the number of previous events in a particular area. Richard pointed out that this is not about the good attendance but about having a seed to which the regular local events would occur. Rob suggested that the sections should know what profit the society expects them to generate. Teresa said that the main purpose of the last tour speaker program was to make some of the local sections active and it worked very well for the good of the society although the society lost some money. This can serve as an example how to avoid similar mistakes in the future. Richard feels disappointed that there was no revenue generated as projected.

-Journal: Rob reported that the journal has to be converted to the new electronic format. By mid to late March Rob is hoping to put the journal on-line. Contract with April hasn't been changed. Diane thinks that Rob, not the society, could sign the contract at the beginning of Jan 2006. Back then, there was a conflict of interests, as Marco, the former journal manager, was Alison's boyfriend. George Nevil, the society lifetime member, told Teresa that he hadn't received any journal for some time. Rob said that the last issue hadn't come up yet and for the previous issues Marco is responsible. Rob thought that the directory of the members might not be up to date. Teresa offered to send a complete update. Diane suggested sending apologies for delaying the journal edition in the newsletter but announcing an on-line journal as a reward. Rob would like to add a description about the new format of the journal.

-Awards: Teresa couldn't get in touch with Benoit Simard but she will try to get an update at least through e-mail.

-Web Page: Alison had nothing new to report. Teresa wants the website to be improved. Ideas are expected.

-Student activity report: Sulan had nothing to report.

Local Section Reports:

-Atlantic Canada: Nothing to report.

- Quebec / Montreal: Nothing to report. Diane suggested appointing someone else to chair this section. She asked one person and it is possible that he would agree. Teresa will contact him and ask.

-Edmonton: Roxanne has nothing to report. There is one person who joined the society who she hopes will help to improve this section.

-Southern Ontario: Nov 10th – Niagara region wine tour with stop at the Brock University for a talk about the biochemistry of ice wine making followed by a lunch and a tour in two wineries. On Nov 23 we had a talk with Dr. Johannes Zeidler on "Quantitation of Immunosuppressants with LC-MS"; on Nov 25th we had a talk with Doug Goltz on "Science and Spectroscopy of Cultural Artifacts". Teresa suggested that Doug should be considered as a potential tour speaker. On Dec 21st we had a professor Bill Shotyk. from German Institute of Environmental Geochemistry talking on "Environmental geochemistry of lead: Identifying pathways and quantifying fluxes using lead isotopes". We still have more talks and events to come up soon.

-Interior BC: Rob is extremely focused on the 52 ICASS so there are fewer events for the local section. Money needed for the conference will be transferred to BC section account.

-Ottawa: Dinner and talk was organized with Dr. Poirer. Seventeen members participated including two visitors from Southern Ontario section: Teresa and Jill. Diane reported one meeting in December when it was decided what to do to improve the section. They aim to have at least three events during the year and to organize at least one joint event.

-Vancouver/Victoria: Marc reported that the section hosted the metal speciation workshop last October with a good attendance. Ed added that there are a few more activities planned for the future. He would like to put a sampling workshop with the experiments.

All reports approved unanimously.

(Diane/Rob)

6. Any Other Business

New elections will be performed by e-mail following the success of the last elections, which was done electronically. Otto suggested having the elections ready by the end of April to meet the June deadline. Diane asked if she chooses the nomination committee as the past president? Otto quoted from the by-laws that "the past president chooses two members who are not members of the national committee". Kate asked who knows where is the official seal of the society. It was decided that the physical seal is not needed any longer because of the electronic means of communications. Otto will remove this part of the by-laws stating that the society has an official seal.

Next meeting will be in May 2006 by teleconference

CSASS TREASURER'S REPORT (Doug Goltz)

December 20, 2005

NET WORTH:

ASSETS

Chequing Account	\$44596.24
Investments	
Cash	\$6955.95
Fixed Income	\$40768.34
Mutual Fund	<u>\$22900.54</u>
TOTAL	\$ 115221.1

INCOME:

Membership Dues – 2005	\$ 5880.00
Membership Dues – 2006	\$ 1445.00
Membership Dues – 2007	\$ 730.00
FACSS/ICASS sponsors:	
Pharma Laser	\$ 650.00
SD Acquisition	\$ 597.00 (\$500 USD)
Princeton Inst.	\$ 1135.04 (\$1000 USD)
Lamoureux	\$ 500.00
ICASS 2004 transfer	\$500
ICASS MDS SCIEX bursary	\$1000
ICASS Smiths Detection award	\$1000
SSC - Transfer (Ottawa)	\$42,000
Access Copyright – licensing	\$ 148.41
Interest	<u>\$ 14.77</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 55600.22

EXPENSES:

Queen's University (fax,phone)	\$101.38
Bell Canada teleconferences	\$ 410.89
	\$ 262.47
	\$ 231.20
Canada Post	
Winnipeg-Box	\$ 238.87
Ottawa-mail forward	\$ 107.00
Web Site (webnames Inc) 2005	\$ 124.32
2006	\$ 136.46

