

C₃ News

Newsletter of College Chemistry Canada / La Chimie Collégiale au Canada

A warm welcome in Southern Alberta

25th annual C₃ conference

Medicine Hat College hosted the 25th annual C₃ conference in June, bringing together members from across Canada. This year's theme, "Chemistry under the Tepee," was a success due in large part to the hard work and dedication by conference organizers Cythia Mutch and Brad Pavelich. Conference photos and coverage inside.



Chemists get to pretend to be paleontologists at the Tyrrell Museum, near Dinosaur Provincial Park (above). Photo by Don Todd, Loyalist College.

In this issue

<i>TWO Presidents' messages!</i>	2,3
<i>Conference presentations</i>	4
<i>Social activities and photos</i>	5-7



C₃ News

Volume 23, No. 3 Fall 1998

Published quarterly by College
Chemistry Inc.

President: Bob Perkins

Editor: Dietmar Kennepohl

Athabasca University

1 University Drive

Athabasca, Alberta

T9S 3A3

Tel: (403) 675-6206

Fax: (403) 675-6186

E-mail: dietmark@cs.athabascau.ca

Articles of any length will be gladly accepted. Please send typewritten copy to the Editor at the above address or send by fax. Copy can also be sent on a 3.5" disk, Mac or IBM format using Microsoft Word 6.0, or IBM format using WordPerfect 6.0 or lower, or any word processor producing ASCII output.

1998 College Chemistry Canada
Inc. ISSN 0843-4956

Designed by R. Franchuk

Printed by Athabasca University

President's message

The Medicine Hat conference was a great success (thanks Brad, Cynthia and others) although us sea-level runners were a bit winded by the finish line after running up and down to the Tepee. The presentations were excellent, especially the eye-opening work being done on site remediation by the NBC response team. It gives a whole new meaning to lab unknowns when the unknowns could be such things as nerve gas, mustard gas or explosive shells. I'm sorry that I missed the trek to see the dinosaurs but had to rush back to Vancouver to represent C₃ at the CSC conference in Whistler. Next year's conference at Loyalist College (Belleville, ON) looks good with Don Todd and Reg Vinnicombe at the helm. The three of us took turns manning a C₃ booth at the 15th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education at the University of Waterloo. We split a table with the 2YC₃ organization and hopefully drummed up a few more potential attendees for the Loyalist conference. The conference had nearly 1500 delegates including a number of C₃ members. There were a number of excellent presentations but you had to make a choice between as many as 10 concurrent sessions; I missed the sense of togetherness found at a C₃ conference.

As I slowly wind down from my last summer activity (2 days of sea-kyacking in the Broken Islands off the West Coast of Vancouver Island) I have a few questions for you all. What would you like to see happen over the next two years (my term of office)? College Chemistry Canada is your organization, your forum to communicate with instructors across this great country of ours. We have a core of chemists who come out to every conference or every other conference when our east/west rotation brings it within easy access. It is at these conferences when a good deal of How I Do It and What A Neat Idea sessions often occur over a beer, during lunch etc.. Shahid has promised that the History of C₃ will be ready for the Loyalist conference and should contain many fond memories (isn't that right Shahid!!). Travel funds are getting harder to come by so for the conference non-attendees, what can we do to help you stay active/current/interested? C₃ News was started as a means of communicating some of these ideas, but it can only be effective if people submit material. The members of the Executive have a meeting (conference call) once a month and would be happy to discuss any concerns/suggestions.

Since we presently send out a copy of C₃ News to the Chair of the Chemistry department of every college in the country some of you may not feel the need to send in a membership cheque. C₃ now has 2 student scholarships plus the C₃ Award for chemical education. Your membership renewal helps to support these awards plus the costs associated with the generation/ mailing of C₃ News. If you don't feel that this is worth \$20 a year then perhaps you send me a letter/e-mail/fax with any thoughts you might have on how C₃ can better serve your interests.

Bob Perkins

Check out our C₃ Homepage!

<http://www.douglas.bc.ca/chem/c3/c3home.html>

Conference organizers Brad Pavelich (left) and Cynthia Mutch (centre) enjoy a few moments before the banquet with Medicine Hat College president Ralph Weeks.



Outgoing president's message

Suzanne Pearce

It's September and once again we are looking forward to all those fresh, eager to learn, students streaming into our classes. O.K. so maybe I am being a little optimistic

here. But, it is the start of a new academic year, and with it comes a new President of C₃. I am very confident that Bob Perkins will lead us into the year 2000 with his usual enthusiasm and excellent

leadership. As I depart from the position of president I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my fellow executive members for the last two years. Jacky has done a stupendous job as Treasurer, we are in excellent financial shape. Bob has the membership process streamlined to such an extent that Diana should have no problems carrying on as Secretary. Dietmar has produced two full years of excellent Newsletters (even though he does seem to have a slight problem making conference calls). We are grateful to him for agreeing to continue as Editor for one more year, although I am sure he would be quite willing to hand over the reigns at any time if a volunteer appeared. The conferences over the past two years have been great. Thanks Brad, Cynthia, and all of your assistants for making Medicine Hat a memorable experience. For those of you that missed this years' conference, not only did you miss an interesting conference program, great social events, but you also missed out on the chance of winning a coveted C₃ golf shirt. Keep your eye on the Newsletter for information on how you can purchase a shirt this year. Thanks again for everyone's support over the last two years, and see you all next year in Belleville.



The 1998-1999 C₃ executive: (l to r) Dietmar Kennepohl, C₃ news editor; Suzanne Pearce, past president; Bob Perkins, president; Jacky McGuire, treasurer. Missing: Diana Messervy, secretary. Photos by Paul McCluskey, Medicine Hat College

ERASERS decontaminate chemical weapons

John McAndless, DRES

Ed Barone, NAIT

Dr. McAndless (from the Defense Research Establishment Suffield (DRES)) presented a very interesting (with excellent anecdotes) summary of DRES's involvement in Chemical Warfare Demilitarization. The focus of the talk was on the ERASER project. This project involved the decontamination of some chemicals stored at Chalk River. The presentation illustrated the protocol used by DRES in decontamination procedures to ensure: maximum safety, maximum environmental protection, and public consultation. The audience questions, at the end of the talk, were indicative of the interest this topic (and the presenter) stimulated.



John McAndless of the Defense Research Establishment Suffield (DRES) describes site decontamination.

Thermal Carbon Black:

Manuel Reider and Brent Paley of Cancarb Limited

Chris Meinzer, NAIT

Cancarb Limited is located just north of Medicine Hat and is the world's largest producer of carbon black (36,000 tons in 1996). A brief history of the production of carbon black was presented. The five forms of carbon black (lampblack, channel black, furnace black, acetylene black and thermal black) and their uses were compared. Cancarb Limited produces a form of thermal black. It is produced from natural gas via anaerobic thermal cracking in a brick work reactor, separation from hydrogen biproduct, pulverization and pelletization. Thermal black has the largest particle size and is good for pliable rubbers (wiper blades, hoses, seals, gaskets, engine mounts, and wire and cable insulation). It is also used in the production of metal carbides, advanced ceramics, audio and video tapes, brushes and electrodes, and in pigments.



An attentive audience during one of the technical sessions.

Photos by Paul McCluskey, Medicine Hat College.

In search of live dinosaurs

Don Todd, Loyalist College

A group of 12 enthusiastic C₃'ers left Medicine Hat at about 8 o'clock on Sunday morning in pursuit of dinosaurs, on a trek arranged by our hosts, Cynthia Mutch & Brad Pavelich. The bus ride took us through CFB Suffield and DRES (Defence Research Establishment Suffield) and on to Dinosaur Provincial Park (a World Heritage Site). At the Park we were met by our guide, who showed us the highlights of the site.

The tour started at the Lookout where one could see a huge canyon which had been formed by the meandering of the Red Deer River over thousands of years to form the "Badlands". From here we took a Walking Tour. This hour long hike in the Badlands, with our guide's wealth of knowledge of the site, gave us a unique look into the sites formation and resulting exposure of dinosaur remains and into its vegetation and its wild life. Some of the treats were "Hoo Doos" (pillars of eroded materials capped by harder rock layers) miniature flowers, cacti, grasses, mule



Our intrepid explorers hot on the trail of the dinosaurs. Photos by Don Todd, Loyalist College.

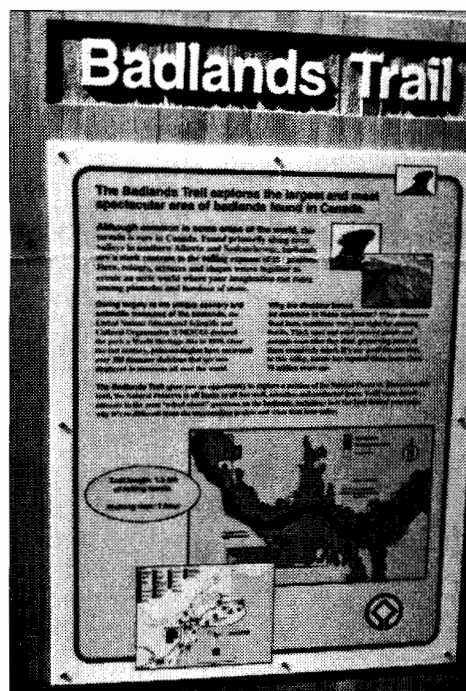
deer, rabbits.....there were rattle snake warnings but no snakes were seen. One part of the site had a House to House exhibit. This was a walk between two "digs" where dinosaur remains had been partially unearthed and then covered by a glassed in "House" for viewing and for protection. This part of our outing finished with a visit to the Field Station which was an interpretive centre for the Park, at which point our guide left our group.

At noon we loaded back onto the bus, where Cynthia provided us with "box" lunches (tasty croissants with chicken or beef as well as carrot sticks and a drink followed by a Granola bar and an apple) which we ate on our way to our second destination - the Tyrrell Museum just outside of Drumheller. The Museum contained an amazing collection of fossil remains especially from the Alberta Badlands as well as from around the world. More than 500 skeletal remains have been unearthed in these badlands,

some of which are distributed to many museums throughout the world.

For the first part of our Museum visit we were given a special "behind the scenes" tour of the labs where sample preparation is carried out and of the storage area where hundreds of fossil remains sit waiting to be worked on. We learned that the preparation of even one bone in an excavated sample could take months to extract and bring up to a final desired state. The second part of our visit gave us the opportunity to take in the public area of the Museum and to marvel at the displays depicting an age millions of years before our time.

Our trip back to Medicine Hat took us past some oil fields where some of the group had their first look at an oil pump - called a "jack pump" or a "horse's head" (so coined because it looks like a horse moving its head up and down). Even though we didn't see any live dinosaurs, we suspected that they were there, since we saw their tracks.





The GQ string quartet entertained C₃ members at the reception and the banquet.

The Fun Run

John Olson, Augustana University College

At 6:59, I awoke (for the second time) with a start, pulled on my running clothes (didn't even take time to tie my shoes) and jogged from the residence towards the front entrance of MHC near which I joined the eight on-time participants in the just-started post-pluvial pre-prandial perambulation. Encouraged by the cheers of a sparse but enthusiastic avian chorus and by the brightness and warmth of an increasingly bolder sun, we crossed the parking lot to the intersection of College Road, College Avenue, and College Drive, and headed downhill and then along the creek and amidst the trees of Kin Coulee Park. Tunneling under the trans-Canada highway brought us to more-open brush-covered terrain, and a challenging uphill assault on the Saamis Tepee. Although the pace was fairly leisurely, we didn't have time to treat the world's tallest tepee as anything more than a pylon to run around, and we soon had retraced some of our steps and found ourselves cutting through Kin Coulee Park to the base of the tobogganing hill. It only *seemed* to be straight up! A short tramp across a soccer pitch brought us back to where we (well, most of us) had started.

Mike Korney set the pace for the 5+-kilometre course and finished with a time of 27:06. Bob Perkins (27:51) and I (27:38) were the other runners. Also disagreeing with and disproving Barley Fakirson's contention the night before that "fun run" was an "oxygenmoron" were Chris Meintzer, Melvyn Mitchell, Hubert Taube, Marie Thiesen, Suby Vadlamudy, and Kam Wong. We thank the organizers and volunteers who made this event possible.

Wine and cheese

Robert M. Miller, Yukon College

Registration for the 25th annual College Chemistry Canada conference was followed by an excellent wine and cheese reception at 7 p.m. on May 28, 1998. Approximately 50 participants, at any one time, attended this event. All enjoyed a wide selection of red and white wines. In addition, there were several varieties of cheese and crackers. This was topped off with delicious strawberries, mushrooms, celery and tomatoes.

This social occasion brought together acquaintances from previous conferences. It also provided opportunities to meet new friends and colleagues. "Stories" were discussed and enjoyed by all. We were also entertained by four wonderful musicians playing the music of Mozart. The wine and cheese reception was a nice send-off for the upcoming sessions and social activities. Well done Medicine Hat!

C₃ Banquet

Francis Sutherland, NAIT

After a day of informative sessions, the majority of C₃ participants reconvened at the Medicine Hat Country Club. Old acquaintances were renewed and new ones were formed, while we relaxed and enjoyed the exceptional view of the Hat. The evening's entertainment featured performers from both the music and drama departments of the Medicine Hat College, beginning with the G.Q. string quartet.

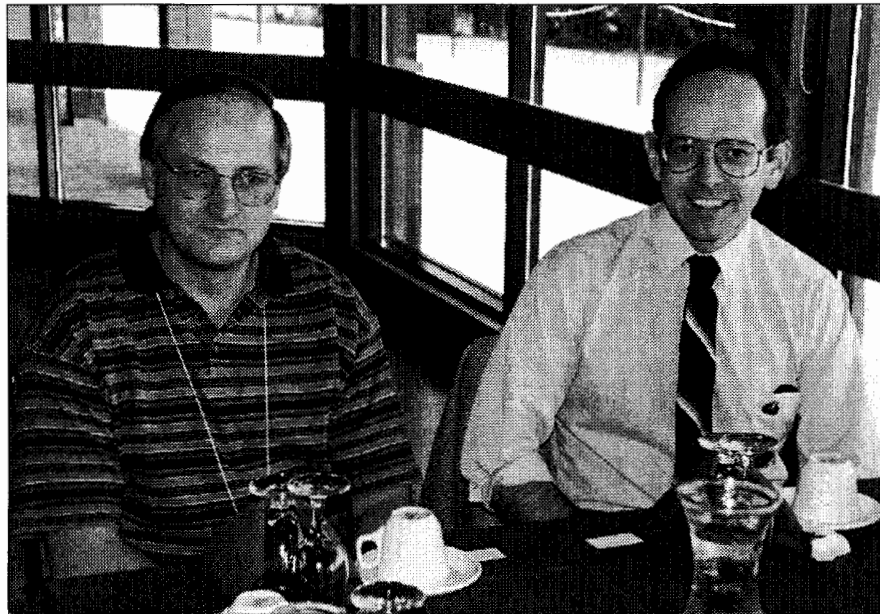
After dinner, Barley Fakirson, the local version of Charley Farquarson, dropped by and offered his unique perspective on the conference. We were also entertained by the Strange Brew Jazz Ensemble and recitations by drama students Chandel Lovig and Brian Bergum.

The Chemmie Awards for outstanding performance at a previous conference were presented to David Klein for his valiant efforts to provide Kansas BBQ, and to Dietmar Kennepohl for the best pout.

Truly a delightful evening!

Banquet snaps

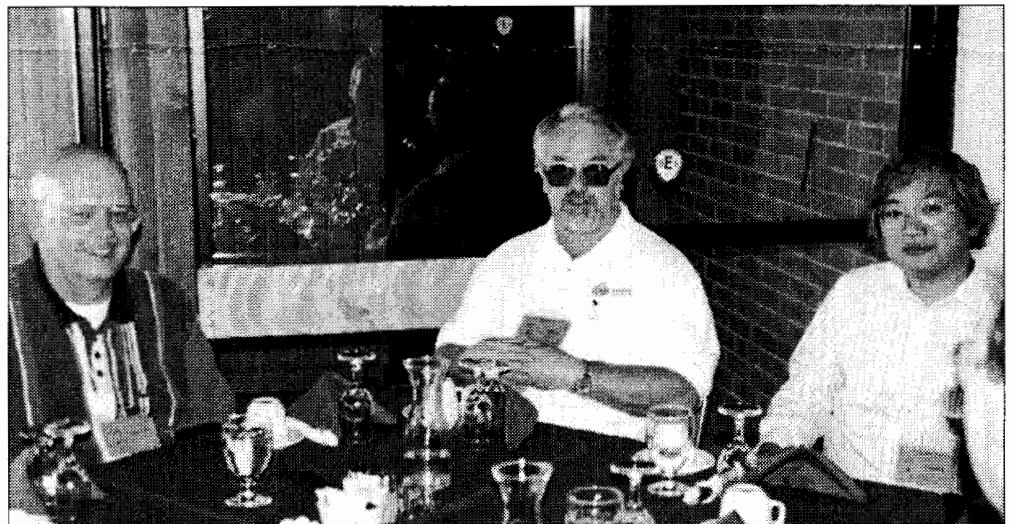
Robert and Cynthia Mutch,
Medicine Hat College.



Reg Vinnicombe, Loyalist
College, and Bob Perkins,
Kwantlen College.

(left to right) Carlton
Fletcher, Treasure Valley
Community College; Bill
Blann, Keyano College;
and Norman Gee,
University of Alberta.

*Photos by Paul McCluskey,
Medicine Hat College.*



College Chemistry Canada executive 1998/99

Executive

President

Bob Perkins
Kwantlen University College
PO Box 9030
Surrey, BC V3W 2M8
bobb@kwantlen.bc.ca

Past President

Suzanne Pearce
Kwantlen University College
PO Box 9030
Surrey, BC V3W 2M8
suzanneg@kwantlen.bc.ca

Secretary

Diane Messervy
West Viking College
PO Box 822
Corner Brook, NF A2H 6H6
dmesserv@calvin.stemnet.nf.ca

Treasurer

Jacky McGuire
Douglas College
Box 2503
New Westminster BC V3L 5B2
jmcguire@direct.ca

Editor

Dietmar Kennepohl
Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, AB T9S 3A3
dietmark@cs.athabascau.ca

Conference Coordinators

Don Todd and Reg Vinnicombe
Loyalist College
P.O. Box 4200
Bellevue, ON
K8N 5B9



Regional Directors

Atlantic

Sudhir Abhyankar
Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
University Drive
Corner Brook, NF A2H 6P9
sudhir@beothuk.swgc.mun.ca

Quebec

Rod Restivo
Heritage College
205 Rue Laurier
Hull, PQ J8X 4J3

and

Patrick Draper
Champlain Regional College
CP 5003
Lennoxville, PQ J1M 2A1

Ontario

Don Todd
Loyalist College
P.O. Box 4200
Bellevue, ON
K8N 5B9
dtodd@loyalistc.on.ca

Prairie

Bill Blann
Keyano College
8115 Franklin Avenue
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2H7
bill.blann@keyanoc.ab.ca

BC/Yukon

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

Liaison

CSC Liaison

Sudhir Abhyankar
Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
University Drive
Corner Brook, NF A2H 6P9
sudhir@beothuk.swgc.mun.ca

CSCT Liaison

vacant

2YC₃ Liaison

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

APICS Liaison

Jeff Hoyle
Nova Scotia Agricultural College
PO Box 550
Truro, NS B2N 5E3
jeff.hoyle@nsac.ns.ca

Renewals

If you would like to continue receiving C₃ news, please remember to renew your annual membership. Forward a \$20 cheque to Diane Messervy payable to "College Chemistry Canada."