



NEWS

The Newsletter of the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 2

Announcements

*****URGENT*****

After the second review by POARA a separate mailing of the Professional Chemist Regulation will be sent to members only.

A membership vote is required before the regulation can be placed on the order paper for government ratification.

You must be a paid up member to receive the ballot. Please submit your dues before October 31 in order to be considered.

Please note! If your membership lapses you will not be able to use the designation P.Chem and will have to undergo re-admission to regain status.

Professional Development Seminar

Chemistry and Criminalistics
Victor C. Reeve
Laboratory Director
(seminar outline)

The participants in this year's seminar will be guided by Laboratory Director Victor Reeve, a forensic scientist with thirty five years experience in the Crime Laboratory business. Utilizing John Houde's excellent text as pre-reading, each student will enter the

Crime Laboratory and will focus on the applications of Chemistry to Physical Evidence. Initially, we will study examples drawn from the text "Crime Lab: A Guide For The Non-Scientist"; then our journey will take us to famous cases such as the O.J. Simpson matter. Finally, their guide will share his experiences drawn from cases worked while in the employ of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and from the California State Department of Justice's Sacramento Crime Laboratory.

(The study material will be supplied to pre-registrants).

In addition to Mr. Reeve's seminar, the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service will talk about industrial espionage. We also hope to have a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Forensic Laboratory give talk on how the RCMP lab operates. (This speaker has not been confirmed at this time)

Because of the added cost of bringing the speaker to Canada we will require a commitment from each of you who wish to attend and prepayment by Jan 15. Please e-mail Bob Swingle bswingle@cal.maxxam.ca with your intentions and numbers from your office who might

attend. In order to make this fly we need to know how many will be attending in each location.

From the President

It's September again and life for most of us is getting back into high gear (if it ever got out of high gear over the summer). It is my pleasure to serve as President of the ACPA for the next year. The Board has several things on the agenda to be accomplished in the next 10 months.

First and most important is the finalization of the Association's Professional Status. I know you have heard this before but we believe that we are very close to achieving our goal. One of the problems we have had over the years is re-organization within government departments and the lack of continuity within the departments and governmental committees. Kevin Dunn, in his Report from the Past President, outlines the current situation.

Briefly, the **Professional and Occupational Association Registration Act (POARA)** requires that the APCA membership ratify the Professional Chemists Regulation. A majority vote in support of the Regulation will enable us to get the document to a second review by the Standing Policy Committee and onto the

order paper in the Legislature. Premier Klein may put a wrench into these plans if he calls an election in the early Spring which will probably cause a delay in getting on the order paper. Your prompt return of the ballot on the Regulation will help us keep the process moving. **Remember** the ratification ballot will be sent only to paid up members for 2000. There is still time for you to get your membership dues paid and be included in the voting process.

Secondly, we are undertaking to set up an ACPA website this year. This will give the Association a location that we can manage ourselves. One of the comments at the AGM this year was that our site on the ACPO website was a couple of years out of date. Having our own site will enable us to keep it current. It will give the membership easy access to the Board, access to AGM minutes, links to other chemistry related sites and a way for the Board to give easy access to documents like the Professional Chemists Regulation without relying on "snail mail."

One of my objectives this year is to raise awareness of the Association in the Province of Alberta. The Board is working on couple of initiatives to this end.

Some of you may be aware that Alberta Environment (AB ENV) is undertaking a review of the *Alberta User Guide for Waste Managers*. The Board has made representation to the consultant (Stantec) undertaking this work for Alberta Environment to be included as a stakeholder in this review. It is our belief that chemists can offer valuable input to the review since a significant portion of the *User Guide* relates to analytical

methodology and other principles we work with on a day to day basis. Alberta Environment to our knowledge has one chemist in the department and a myriad of engineers, hydrogeologists, etc. By getting involved in this process as an Association, we may be able to get more consideration for the practice of chemistry by AB ENV. Erv Callin has volunteered to be the ACPA contact and coordinator for the Association's input to the process. If you have comments about the *User Guide* as it currently stands, ideas for improvements, things you would like clarified in the revision or changes that would make things easier or more consistent as a chemist, please contact Erv by e-mail at ervc@envirotest.com.

This year we are going have a tabletop display at two technical/technology type meetings in Edmonton besides our normal presence during National Chemistry Week in Calgary and Edmonton. The first meeting is the Edmonton Association of Technical Societies meeting Thursday, November 9. This is an annual gathering of most of the technical societies in the Edmonton area and will enable us to get our message out to other technical professionals. The second meeting is *Technology for Success 2000* on Tuesday, November 14. (More information about this can be obtained on the web at www.technologyforsuccess.com). This symposium and trade fair is designed to provide information about emerging technologies and network with people in the high-tech business community. The more people in technology businesses that are aware that there is an organization that represents the chemical profession, the more

impact we can have and the more benefit the ACPA can be to its members. Ken Schmidt and Stan Backs are taking the lead in the Promotions and Special Events areas

In early February, we will be holding our second 1 day Professional Development Workshop on consecutive days in Calgary and Edmonton. The topics are "Forensic Chemistry" and "Industrial Espionage". The session on "Forensic Chemistry" will be lead by Victor Reeve from the California Department of Justice. Victor worked in the RCMP's crime labs before going the United States. The other speakers are being finalized. We are looking forward to an another interesting seminar.

In conclusion I think we have an exciting year ahead of us. I welcome your comments and ideas on how we can promote the ACPA and make it serve the membership more effectively. You can e-mail your comments to donwhite@safety-kleen.com.

Don White
President

Report from the Past President

We are optimistic these days. We believe that this last Annual General Meeting (AGM) was our last under the Societies Act. We foresee that next year's AGM will be our first under the Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act (POARA).

Our application has gone through all the required steps. This has included a second stakeholders review of the draft regulation conducted late in 1999 and a recent review by

Legislative Counsel. We have a few details to tidy up, and then, following a second review by the Standing Policy Committee, the Professional Chemists Regulation will be ready to hit the order paper in the legislature.

Your involvement as an ACPA member is essential to make this happen. The revised final edition of the regulation will be mailed separately to members who have paid by October 31. We need you to review the regulation and indicate on the enclosed ballot whether you support this regulation in its present form. A majority of members must demonstrate their support for the regulation for it to continue through POARA's process. Of course, if you find it deficient, we want to hear about it. Please give us any feedback you feel is appropriate. Note that some requirements, such as the expiry date, are a POARA requirement, about which we can do very little.

If you did not get a copy of the regulation for review, it is because you have not paid your dues, and are not entitled to vote. Additional ramifications of not paying your dues include having to re-apply for registration as a Professional Chemist, and pay the application fee, again. All members in good standing will automatically have their status transferred over to the registry under the regulation when it is passed.

In preparation for the ACPA's registration, we have been busy developing the processes required to make a professional organization function. One of these is the system of Professional Development Credits. We published the first draft of the system in the second-last newsletter. Thanks to the feedback provided by

many of you, we were able to refine and improve the system. The improved version was published in the last newsletter and was subject of lively discussion at the AGM. We plan to test the system later this year. We will be asking many of you to participate in this "beta-test" to see how it works with real working chemists.

In other news, we are well underway organizing a professional development workshop for next year. We have topics and speakers that we are sure you will find fascinating. The topics include forensic chemistry and industrial espionage. This workshop is part of a continuing series of workshops that will help you obtain Professional Development Credits and further upgrade your own skills and knowledge. Suggestions for future workshops are always welcome, as are volunteers to help with the organization of these events.

Over the past year, we have participated in judging local science fairs, provided speakers to chemistry careers nights at the University of Calgary and University of Alberta and contributed to activities in conjunction with the local Chemical Institute of Canada sections. We are also working with the Canadian Society for Chemistry, the Association of the Chemical Profession of Ontario and the Ordre du Chemistes du Quebec to establish the "P.Chem." title across the country.

Finally, you may have noticed a new look for the newsletter banner. Yes, we have a new logo. We thought it was time that we projected a more professional image, beginning

with the new logo. We hope you like it.

It has been my great pleasure and a great privilege to serve as your President the past couple of years. I will be continuing my involvement with the ACPA Board of Directors, and I look forward to the leadership of Don White, your new President.

Kevin Dunn
Past President

Professional Development Credits

At the annual general meeting, there was a lively discussion on the topic of professional development credits. As a result of this discussion, and also of the Board's own concern regarding the accumulation of credits, a re-revised edition of the credits has been formulated. This will now be sent out to approximately one third of the membership to get an idea of how well they fit in with the work habits of the membership. The recipients of this survey will be selected so that a fairly good cross section of jobs and positions will be covered. Concern has also been expressed about retired, unemployed and part-time employed members. This is part of an on-going discussion by the Board and some allowance will be made to accommodate these situations.

Treasurers Report

The balance as of July 3, 2000 was \$21803.87.

Registrars Report

Current membership is 129 although only 89 have paid for the year 2000.

Bio Corner

Mary Mayes, B.Sc.

Mary is a Project Chemist with Matrix Solutions Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Calgary. Mary graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto in 1977. She worked as a lab analyst for 10 years, which included three years at the Kananaskis Center for Environmental Research and six years at Gulf Canada Resources.

In 1986, Mary left the work force to complete the requirements of a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Waterloo. She received her B.Sc. in 1987 and returned to Calgary to work as the laboratory manager of the inorganics laboratory of the environmental services division at Chemex Labs (now Maxxam).

In 1995, Mary began working in the challenging environmental consulting field as a chemist at Groundwater Solutions Ltd. (now Matrix). She works in

tandem with scientists from many disciplines including geology, hydrogeology, soil sciences and engineering. At Matrix, Mary is primarily responsible for the data management group. This includes data validation, data interpretation, development of analytical programs, and development of Matrix Solutions quality control/quality assurance program, including sample collection procedures. Other responsibilities include the management of groundwater monitoring programs and writing reports and proposals for clients and government regulators.

Mary's professional development has included courses on ICP-AES, IR spectroscopy, ion chromatography, attending conferences, as well as expanding her knowledge in other sciences such as geology, hydrogeology, geochemistry, and engineering as they relate to environmental assessment and remediation.

During her career, Mary sat on the executive of WEALA . She is a member of the Chemical Institute of Canada, and the Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta.

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From the Editors

All contributions from members to the newsletter will be welcome. Please send them to Robert Swingle at Maxxam Analytics 2021-41 Avenue N. E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 6P2 or fax them to 403-2919468. If you prefer electronic mail address them to the internet at roberts@internode.net. It would be nice if you could send any lengthy material on disk in PC format using Microsoft Word.

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2000 ACPA Board of Directors

Name	Position	Affiliation
Don White	President	Technical Manager Safety-Kleen Environmental Services
Mary Mayes	Secretary	Project Chemist Matrix Solutions Inc
Trent Parks	Treasurer	URS Corporation
Kevin Dunn	Past- President	Vice President, Environmental Management Systems Jacques Whitford Environment Limited
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Ken Schmidt	Director	DK3 Scientific
Bob Swingle	Director	Manager, Scientific Services Maxxam Analytics Inc.