

## **Report on the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual ISE Meeting, Banff, Canada, September 9-14, 2007**

The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ISE, held at the Banff Centre located in Banff National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a year-round protected wilderness area, attracted 902 participants from 55 different countries. The Banff Centre, located on the side of Tunnel Mountain, is surrounded by the spectacular beauty of the Canadian Rockies which was particularly enhanced by the clear sunny fall weather and enjoyed by all. Only a ten minute stroll allowed delegates to visit the bustling town of Banff located 128 kilometres (80 miles) west of the city of Calgary, Alberta.

The Opening Ceremony conveyed the theme of the meeting, “Exploring Frontiers of Electrochemistry” reflecting the pioneering spirit of those who opened up the west, by showing a series of old pictures of the western frontier, many obtained from the archives of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. A Mountie in red serge uniform carrying the Canadian flag led the platform party, including the Mayor of Banff, ISE Award winners, and other dignitaries to the stage to open the Meeting.

The scientific contributions from the participants were excellent. The five plenary speakers included Andrzej Wieckowski as the *Electrochimica Acta* Gold Medal winner, Kingo Itaya (Japan), Wolfgang Knoll (Germany), Hector Abruna (USA) and Jeff Dahn (Canada). The other award winners included Alain Walcarius (Tajima Prize), Monica Santamaria (Hans-Jürgen Engell Prize), Vijayasekaran Boovaragavan (Oronzio De Nora Foundation Young Author Prize) and Kyung-Won Park (Oronzio De Nora Foundation Prize on Electrochemical Energy Conversion). The 1077 abstract submissions were divided into 42 keynotes and 442 oral presentations distributed among the ten Symposia, and 593 poster presentations separated into two poster sessions with viewing available during the day and late into the evening. A special symposium was held to honour Canada’s most eminent electrochemist, the late Professor Brian E. Conway who secured a significant place among the most notable electrochemists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Two very successful sets of tutorial lectures were presented on Sunday afternoon: 1) Nanotechnology with Nongjian Tao (Arizona State University) and Richard McCreery (National Institute for Nanotechnology, Alberta) who kindly filled in for Jillian Buriak who broke her foot one week before the Meeting, 2) Corrosion in the Oil and Gas Industry with Jose Vera (BP America Inc., Houston) and Mark Orazem (University of Florida).

The Welcome Reception sponsored by Elsevier on Sunday evening was a well attended meet and greet event. On Monday evening, Thermo Scientific sponsored a very successful Exhibition Reception held among the posters and exhibitors. The exhibitors were extremely pleased with the interaction with the delegates at this event.

Wednesday brought some rain overnight which cleared in time for the excursions and a glorious view of the mountains. Participants had the choice of three excursions: 1) Lake Louise “Jewel of the Canadian Rockies” and Moraine Lake nestled in the Valley of the Ten Peaks, 2) Bow Lake to view Crowfoot Glacier and Peyto Lake considered the most emerald lake in the Rockies, 3) Johnston Canyon Hike which allowed participants to hike

to the scenic canyon falls. Buses then delivered all delegates to a fun filled evening at the Mount View Barbecue where hip of beef, baked beans, baked potato, salad and apple pie were served along with a roaring bonfire, Country and Western bands and line dancing that challenged and entertained the delegates late into the evening.

Thursday brought the banquet, attended by 400 delegates, which was held in the western style hewed log adorned dining hall at the Banff Centre. The highlight of the evening was the spectacular performance by a three time World Champion Native Hoop Dancer who through his dance told stories of many wild animals and birds.

During the conference, ISE held meetings pertaining to the organization of the Society: Regional Representatives' Meeting, Division Officers' Meeting, Council Meeting and General Assembly. For the first time the seven Divisions of ISE each held a successful reception or luncheon meeting with its members that allowed input and planning of future activities.

ISE is exceptionally pleased to announce that a Co-operation Agreement between ECS and ISE was signed at the General Assembly by ECS President Barry MacDougall and ISE President Christopher Brett. This is a significant step forward in cooperation between the two Societies which we expect will benefit electrochemists throughout the world. As an example, an educational task force consisting of members from both Societies is currently being assembled to discuss issues affecting all electrochemists.

In closing, we wish to thank all the delegates who traveled the long distance to Banff to give their excellent oral and poster presentations contributing to the high quality scientific meeting. Special thanks also go to all who contributed in any way to the organization, sponsorship and success of the Meeting. We look forward to seeing all of you next year at the 59<sup>th</sup> ISE Annual Meeting to be held in Seville, Spain, September 7 to 12, 2008.

Best wishes,  
Sharon Roscoe and Jacek Lipkowski  
Co-organizers,  
58<sup>th</sup> ISE Annual Meeting