

### Dentists Enjoy Hospitality and Camaraderie in Newfoundland and Labrador



Dr. Gary MacDonald (left), chair of the Local Organizing Committee, with Dr. Wayne Halstrom, CDA president, at the Welcome Reception.



Dr. Mike Suzuki of Winnipeg delivered a presentation on anterior and posterior composite restorations.

In late August, CDA and the Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Association (NLDA) joined forces to host a successful 2006 CDA Annual Convention in St. John's.

The event attracted close to 1,100 dental professionals and 250 representatives from the dental industry to the historic capital. The delegates who made the journey were rewarded with a scientific, professional and social program that catered to all members of the dental team.

#### Practical Solutions for Everyday Practice

The convention's diverse scientific program was assembled under the guidance of Local Organizing Committee (LOC) member Dr. Daniel Price of St. John's. The program featured speakers from all dental specialties and emphasized practical solutions for common clinical problems. Among the notable presenters were Dr. Crawford Bain, who discussed treatment planning for the entire dental team; Dr. Rob Roda, who gave a full-day session on endodontic diagnosis and therapy; Dr. Mike Suzuki, whose presentation on composite restorations was playfully titled "The Great White Hype"; and Drs. Archie Morrison, Ben Davis and Chad Robertson, who led 2 full-day courses — the first on medical emergencies in the dental

practice, the other examining practical applications and troubleshooting in oral surgery.

The joint CDA/NLDA event took place at the Delta St. John's Hotel, the St. John's Convention Centre and Mile One Stadium. It featured a large dental industry trade show that drew over 100 exhibits. On the trade show floor, CDA unveiled the CDA Demo-Zone — a 40-seat, theatre-style venue that showcased the Association's electronic-based member benefits. Dentists enjoyed live, interactive demonstrations of the Lexi-Comp Online, CDA Edition drug databases, the electronic Table of Contents (eTOC) journal service and the WebAlive website creation and management tool.

Several dental organizations took advantage of the gathering in St. John's to hold concurrent meetings. These groups included the Canadian Sections of the Pierre Fauchard Academy (PFA) and the International College of Dentists (ICD). At their respective functions, the PFA honoured CDA past-president Dr. Burton Conrod with its 2006 Distinguished Service Award, while the ICD bestowed CDA executive director Mr. George Weber with an Honorary Fellowship and ICD past-president Dr. George Peacock of Saskatoon with a Master Fellowship.

The Canadian Academy for Esthetic Dentistry held its regional meeting and the Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry (CAPHD) hosted its annual meeting and conference. The latter event was particularly well attended and included an insightful panel discussion with such luminaries as Canada's chief dental officer Dr. Peter Cooney (read full details of the CAPHD event on page 791).

#### Event Showcased Newfoundland Culture

The Convention's LOC deserves recognition for its tireless efforts leading up to and during the event. Led by its chair Dr. Gary MacDonald of Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, all members of the committee made sure that the dentists who made the trip to the province had a memorable and rewarding experience.

"We saw the convention as an ideal opportunity to showcase the culture and people of Newfoundland," says Dr. MacDonald. "This



Members of the Local Organizing Committee celebrate a job well done at the Final Gala Evening.

concept was prominent in many of our decisions throughout the planning process and was most evident in our social program.”

The social program kicked off with the Welcome Reception, which saw several local artisans and craftspeople on hand to display their wares. Many a cod was kissed at the “Rally in the Alley” Fun Night, where over 400 delegates were treated to live music and local flavour along the famous George Street strip. Guests who attended the Final Gala Evening were thoroughly entertained by the St. John’s-based Cantus Vocum Chamber Choir, Billy and the Bruisers band and locally born writer and comedian Mark Critch of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* fame.

The CDA Annual Convention previously graced the shores of Newfoundland back in 1975. However, the positive feedback from this year’s event makes St. John’s a strong candidate to play host to the dentists of Canada in the not-so-distant future. The event was a prime example of an effective, collaborative relationship between CDA and a provincial dental association. “CDA performed so much work behind the scenes. Without this partnership, we wouldn’t have been able to produce such a successful event,” notes Dr. MacDonald.

This spirit of cooperation and collaboration will extend to the 2007 CDA Annual Convention as the Alberta Dental Association and College and CDA are set to host the dentists of Canada in Jasper, Alberta, from May 24 to 27.

The 2006 convention enjoyed support from many generous sponsors, especially the Platinum level sponsors Aurum Ceramic/Classic Dental Laboratories, Aliant Yellow Pages, Crest Oral-B, Henry Schein Ash Arcona and Scotiabank. Blue Cross was a Silver level sponsor of the event. ♦



The dental industry trade show attracted over 100 exhibitors to St. John’s.

Convention photos courtesy of tecklesphoto.com

## Convocation of the International College of Dentists

The 57th annual convocation ceremonies of the Canadian Section of the International College of Dentists (ICD) took place in St. John’s on August 25. Highlights of this year’s ceremonies included the induction of CDA executive director Mr. George Weber as an ICD Honorary Fellow. A Master Fellowship was conferred on ICD past-president Dr. George Peacock of Saskatoon.

Along with the convocation ceremony, the ICD

officers for 2006–2007 were also announced. The president of the ICD Canadian section is Dr. Mike Suzuki of Winnipeg while the president-elect is Dr. Paul Rondeau of Regina. The next ICD convocation will be held in Jasper, Alberta, on May 26, 2007.

A photograph of the 2006 ICD inductees will be posted on the CDA website under *News and Events/Media Room/Dentistry News*. ♦



(L. to r.) Kiwanian Ed Dawe, St. John's mayor Andy Wells, Royal Newfoundland Constable Darryl Nixon, Peggy Boccia, Dr. Aldo Boccia, councillor Dennis O'Keefe.

## Ontario Dentist Arrested in St. John's?

For 23 years, the Kiwanis Club has sponsored a "Visitor of the Week" project, where 2 unsuspecting tourists to St. John's are picked up in a police cruiser and brought to City Hall. When the true nature of the "arrest" is revealed, the couple receives a tour of the city, meets the mayor of St. John's and enjoys complimentary lunch at a local restaurant.

The Boccias were quite surprised during the arrest but ended up having a great experience. According to a local newspaper report, Dr. Boccia says the arresting officer waited about 15 minutes before finally revealing what was happening. "They frisked me, handcuffed me, the whole thing," said Dr. Boccia.

Edward Wade, the Kiwanis Club of Cabot president, says the program is a great benefit to the local Kiwanis Club and is a real tourist attraction for the city of St. John's. ♦

**D**r. Aldo Boccia and his wife Peggy of Toronto were apprehended by the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary shortly after the couple arrived in St. John's for the CDA convention. However, no charges were laid in this "mock arrest" masterminded by the Kiwanis Club of Cabot.

## Dental Public Health Session: A Landmark Event at the 2006 CDA Convention



(L. to r.) Dr. Peter Hornett, Dr. James Leake, Dr. Peter Cooney and Dr. George Taylor. The assembled panellists offered a provincial, academic, national and international perspective on the future of public oral health programs.

session that exemplified this practical focus was the Dental Public Health Session, jointly hosted by the Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry (CAPHD) and CDA on August 25. The session proved to be quite a popular event, and extra chairs were required to accommodate the large number of participants.

The audience consisted of dental public health dentists, private practitioners, dental hygienists, academics, students, and representatives from government and dental professional organizations. Of particular note was the significant number of private practitioners in the audience who were able to offer their insights and perspectives on how public health programs translate into everyday dental care delivery.

The keynote speaker in the morning session was Dr. George Taylor, an associate professor at the University of Michigan school of dentistry and school of public health. Dr. Taylor's address examined the connections between oral health and systemic conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, adverse pregnancy outcomes and pneumonia.

**A**s the host city of the 2006 CDA Annual Convention, St. John's provided attendees with a unique experience in a setting rich in history and charm. The city offered unparalleled hospitality and boasted many different opportunities for networking with old classmates, colleagues and friends.

The convention featured a scientific program designed to focus on the practical issues that clinicians are presented with on a daily basis. One educational

*Photo courtesy of Dr. Luke Shwart, CAPHD president.*

For each systemic disease, he provided an overview, outlined the risk factors and public health considerations, highlighted the relevant epidemiology, the economic and social impact, and demonstrated the current evidence linking oral health to the particular condition. His presentation set the tone for the remainder of the session and reinforced the importance of dental public health programs in Canada.

The afternoon session consisted of a panel discussion with the broad theme “Dental Public Health: Where Are We Headed.” The invited panellists, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Peter Hornett, Dr. Peter Cooney and Dr. James Leake, represented a unique cross-section of international, provincial, national and academic perspectives on the issue of public dental care programs. The goal of this interactive session was to improve the knowledge base and draw attention to the need for public dental programs in Canada.

The panellists spoke about the variance that exists with current public dental programs across the country and made comparisons between similar international programs. Each speaker highlighted both the strengths and the limitations of different public dental programs. This allowed for a productive discussion on how to capitalize on the lessons learned to enhance programs in jurisdictions across Canada.

Dr. Taylor led the panel discussion with an examination of the issues surrounding access to oral health care services in the United States. His presentation delved into the different access issues of diverse population groups such as the poor, migrant groups, immigrants and seniors. He also explored the impact of various delivery and financing systems and the availability of health care personnel to address the issue. He also briefly described the latest activities of the American research centres in the field of dental public health and oral health disparities.

Dr. Hornett, chief of dental services for Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority, spoke about his experiences providing dental services to remote communities in northern Newfoundland and Labrador. In addition, he discussed the revised children’s dental health plan for Newfoundland and Labrador that was released a few days before the session. The new plan removes dental fees for all parents with children up to the age of 13.

Children of parents receiving social assistance payments have access to care up to the age of 18. Dr. Hornett reviewed the provincial program and highlighted both its relative strengths and weaknesses.

Dr. Cooney, the chief dental officer of Canada and a cross-appointed assistant professor in the faculty of dentistry, University of Toronto, provided a review of the federal government’s involvement in oral health care and the role his office plays within government in improving the oral health status of Canadians. He also advised the group on the future plans of the Office of the Chief Dental Officer. Dr. Cooney took the opportunity to provide details about the upcoming Canadian Health Measures survey and explained how the results from this needs assessment should assist with identifying the need for a strong dental public health infrastructure in Canada.

Dr. Leake, a professor and discipline head of community dentistry in the department of diagnostic and biological sciences at the University of Toronto’s faculty of dentistry, discussed publicly funded dental programs in Canada. He began with a detailed history of the evolution of such programs in Canada leading up to the current status. He compared the standards of existing dental public health programs to the standards of the Canada Health Act and with benefits provided for government employees. He ended his presentation with some thought-provoking recommendations that primed the audience for a productive interactive group discussion on access to care.

The audience expressed many diverse opinions and asked numerous questions — a clear sign of a strong interest in dental public health. Participants seemed to believe passionately in the need for a renewed interest in the field. The consensus was that without this increased emphasis, many Canadians would continue to be in need of oral health care. It was evident from the discussion and dialogue during the open forum that there is overwhelming interest from oral health professionals to be involved in the evolution and delivery of dental public health services in the future.

While all participants deserve praise for making the interactive session a success, the Dentistry Canada Fund warrants special recognition for providing the necessary funding for the panel discussion. ❖

THERE IS OVERWHELMING INTEREST FROM ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO BE INVOLVED IN THE EVOLUTION AND DELIVERY OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN THE FUTURE.