



Canadian Association for Surface Finishing

## **CASF President's Newsletter – January 2019**

Dear CASF Member and Industry Supporter:

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to my first and our fourth CASF President's Newsletter. We hope for you a happy, healthy and fulfilling 2019 and we want to thank you for your unfailing support for the Canadian Association for Surface Finishing over these years. We are currently 75 strong and our longer term goal is to reach 100 members with your help.

There have been some changes to our leadership since our last Newsletter. Mike Kuntz has stepped down from his role as President to become Past President but will continue to work just as hard as he always has for the good and benefit of CASF. Richard Thibodeau has also now relinquished his Past President title but has made it clear he's still here to help and will be a strong and invaluable influence everywhere. Stewart Tymchuk of Dynamix has been a fully contributing member of our Board since day one and has graciously accepted the role of Vice President, not realizing yet just how much work that entails! I have accepted my new role as President and will approach my new responsibilities as I always have with CASF – with enthusiasm and hard work!

We have come a long way since that first meeting in the boardroom at KEI in 2013, led by the charismatic and indefatigable team of Mike Kuntz and Richard Thibodeau, who single handedly and through their unwavering belief in the need for this organization, made it happen and then made it grow. The Surface Finishing world in Canada now has that strong voice of support we felt it needed. As we continue to grow this organization and continue to add to and improve our website, we will become a more valuable resource for you and are already a very valuable resource to the Federal and Provincial governments in the complex environmental arena through the amazing contributions of our Stephanie McCallum.

We have focused on Education with a capital E in 2018. Paola Battiston, who is Chair of the School of Biological Sciences and Applied Chemistry at Seneca College and a

member of our Board, has been the driver with help from many others and we have allocated 20% of our dues to directly support education each year. We have now organized two lunch-and-learn sessions at Seneca with the aim of encouraging today's young graduates into considering careers within our industry. They were very well received and we have one planned for the University of Guelph shortly with more to come. We have an ambitious plan to beef up our website with more educational and technical information and there are also plans to hold a Plating Essentials course in 2019 subsidized by CASF on the back of the CEF Course we ran recently.

During the latter half of 2018 we held our most successful Golf Tournament to date at the private Whistle Bear course with 103 golfers. The food was great, the networking and catching up with old friends even better. We had more golfers, more fun, and better weather than any in the past and the only way it could have been any better was if someone had won the \$10,000 hole-in-one contest.

There were some changes during 2018 to our Board of Directors who are currently 17 strong. We said goodbye to four members due to career changes: Peter Schmied, Roy Jimmerskog, Peter Paine and Mary Lukic and we thank them for their tireless service. We are also pleased to have you welcome four new members: Brigitte Roth of Acclaims Environmental and well known for her years of support to the Association, the dynamic Graham Douglas of UBA and Kencro, Skip Aluisy of Net Global in Boston and are very thankful to welcome Debbie Drak of Dynamix who has stepped in at short notice to take over from Mary as Treasurer of CASF. If you feel you would also like to contribute in a very worthwhile cause and join us please let me know.

We have begun the planning phase for our 2019 Conference. It will be held on Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup> at the same Hilton Garden Inn as we have used for the past few times and we are confident in the return of the irreplaceable Christian Richter. In addition we'll have a team of highly qualified and relevant Presenters and Mike Kuntz has promised a high level Economist for the keynote address. Times are changing and we all need to change with it to survive. Environmental regulations are strengthening but we are influential with the various levels of government but more importantly, they are listening to us at CASF now as we have grown our credibility with them. Plan to join us there. Our website will shortly be available for information on how to sign up whether you wish to exhibit or attend.

As I've said in the past, echoing Mike, I believe that we are stronger together. This belief continues to be one of the driving forces behind our Association and is paying off. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together since 2013 and this is thanks to you for your support and our dedicated Board of Directors who have worked tirelessly on a

volunteer basis and in their free time to improve our industry and help our businesses grow. My vision for CASF is to develop our website to be an industry world class go-to site, to explore other related industry associations both here and globally to see if there's a fit for a global network, sharing knowledge and influence, especially in the area of the tightening within the environmental arena. And finally, to have fun while doing so – we're a non-profit volunteer organization so our hearts, as a group, are in the right place so let's all enjoy the ride!

My best regards,

Bob

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