



Canadian Association for Surface Finishing

CASF President's Newsletter – January 2020

Dear CASF Member and Industry Supporter:

Another year has passed leaving the World in some turmoil compared to this time last year. Here in Canada we now have a minority government lead by a party who seem to have alienated the West, and a Prime Minister who has many issues to face in the next 4-years but seems to be only fixated on getting a seat on the UN Security Council and on climate change. But the traditional opposition appears unable to decide on a leader who has the ability and charisma to make a difference. Still, it does look like at last, the Trans Mountain pipeline that will run between Edmonton and Vancouver will now be built.

The US President has just come through an impeachment trial and the Stock exchanges on both sides of the border are breaking records. The predictions of a correction or even a recession we've been hearing about for a year now continues to fall on deaf ears. The results of the Iowa Democratic Primaries, the start of the run up to the November US elections, were not what was expected, and we now wait for results from N.H., Nevada and S.C. and who knows what November will bring! Tesla stock hit \$968 then dropped a little, making their market value \$100 billion, and therefore larger than Ford, GM and Fiat-Chrysler combined! What is going on!!

All of us here at the Canadian Association for Surface Finishing are working hard for you and would like to thank you for your continued belief in CASF and all that we do in support of our industry. We are a volunteer organization and give of our time, from the heart, in support of this great industry sector we are all a part of, and your help by continuing to be a member and encouraging others within your circle of influence to join us is greatly appreciated.

We've been busy! In the last year with your help we have held several "Lunch and Learn" Presentations on the Surface Finishing industry. These have focused on local Colleges and Universities in our efforts to attract the bright young minds of the graduating Chemistry and Chemical Engineering students to consider our field of Surface Finishing as a career choice and the feedback is encouraging.

Our CASF Conference: “Risk, Resilience and Sustainability”, held on November 13th last year, was well-attended and the comments and feedback from you were inspiring. We had a group of world-class Speakers who touched on areas of great interest to our Membership, including a return visit of the irrepressible Christian Richter. Earl Sweet was also truly impressive in his grasp of every facet of the Canadian and global economies and his interpretation of the relevance of the facts he presented as a part of the big picture.

Importantly, at CASF we realized that we needed to review our Fee structure to add more benefit and incentive to the Plating shops and Applicators to join us at CASF, so we cut those membership fees ***in half*** starting for the 2020 year. So, if you’ve been on the fence over joining us then we’ve just removed what is likely your biggest impediment. You can find the CASF Membership Application and fee structure on our website: www.casf.ca

We also spent a lot of time during 2019 in developing what your Board felt was an essential need in our Canadian Surface Finishing industry – an educational course on electroplating focusing on those of you either new to the industry or those wishing to improve their knowledge and value to their Company, from the shop floor to lab to management. The “Introduction to Electroplating” course and exam was a 2-day diploma event run in November by our Danielle Miousse, PhD, and Richard Thibodeau for 22 participants who all came away with a far greater understanding of their chosen field. The Course was so successful that we intend to run a second one in 2020 and have already had it translated into French for a third Course in Quebec in the Fall. Please go to our website for details at www.casf.ca

Some more big news from CASF is our awarding last Fall of a contract to Orr & Boss to develop, on behalf of our membership, a comprehensive study of the entire Surface Finishing industry nation-wide. This was not an inexpensive undertaking, but we felt it was worth the effort and expense as it had not been updated for many years. This Report will provide extensive data on all facilities, their size, location, specializations, ownership and much more. The Report will be finalized in Q1 2020.

Coming up on Tuesday September 22nd, 2020 is our much loved and anticipated golf tournament being held again at Whistle Bear in Cambridge. It’s hard to imagine a better location, course layout and condition. The staff, function room, food and ambiance will once again make this the “can’t miss” event of the year. We are limited to 136 golfers and you know these spots will go quickly so go to our website www.casf.ca and sign up soon. We also have available the hole and event sponsorships as in past years and these too go fast.

Our Government Liaison Board member, Steph McCallum, has continued to build her outstanding personal relationships at all levels of local, Provincial and Federal governments in the area of the environment, changing environmental rules and limits and waste treatment. This is a quagmire of complex requirements in order to comply with existing regulations and

they are ever changing. As members of CASF you have front row seat access to our website and Steph to help in your understanding of what you need to know to be compliant with the current regulations. We believe this alone is worth the cost of membership in CASF for our Plating shop friends but CASF offers so much more than this.

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 and in their free time to improve our industry and help our businesses grow. My vision for CASF is to continue to grow our membership by adding real value, particularly in the area of Surface Finishing shops, right across Canada, by sharing knowledge, especially concerning the tightening within the environmental arena referenced above and helping our Applicator members comply with all the regulations that must be met. And finally, to have fun while doing it – 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!

Again, we thank you for your support and please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions, suggestions, feedback or concerns.

My very best regards,

Bob

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