



Canadian Association for Surface Finishing

## **CASF President's Newsletter – June 2020**

Dear CASF Member and Industry Supporter:

As I write this late on June 11, 2020, I'm watching the DOW drop 1800 points, the TSX here in Canada dropping 600 points along with most major stock markets in the world. This is scary but I'm sure tomorrow will bring good news again. As of yesterday, the DOW has regained 71% of its drop from its all-time record high level before the pandemic; the S&P 500 has regained 76% and the TSE is back up 62% and all of them could be back to pre-Covid levels by year end or sooner. This is good news for all of us worried about our RRSPs, investments and just getting by! Right now we are either coming out of Covid-19 or getting ready for the next wave which is predicted to be worse than the first, and all of us are living through an upheaval unprecedented in our lives, the extent of which will not become apparent until much time has passed.

So, it's not the best time to be writing an uplifting Newsletter but I'm determined to find a silver lining. Many of the big OEM auto companies are back on 3-shifts now and industry in North America is slowly starting to fire up again. For many it's been 13-weeks of quarantine, CERB, social distancing, facemasks and a feeling that our world is going to be a different place from now on. Maybe it is but I'm confident our resilience will put all this behind us, and we will all adjust to the new reality, whatever that turns out to be.

Since my last Newsletter in January, CASF has held two Board meetings, one of those via ZOOM last month, which we learned is quite a good way to hold a meeting! In 2020 we have said goodbye to two of our Board members, Gene Torcoletti who has retired following a full and rewarding career in the surface finishing industry, and Mike Hullinger, who retired from our Board a year ago due to a career change. We are delighted to welcome four new Board members to our group: Francois Routhier, who is the high-energy President of CrD Placage in Drummondville, Quebec and who becomes our ambassador in that Province; Daryl Iszczuk of AGS Automotive who works closely with our old friend Maurice Pestowka; Danielle Miousse, of Metal Protection Lenoli in Quebec, who was responsible for translating our "Introduction to Electroplating" Course into French and creating and running the English language course during the CASF Conference last November. Danielle has just translated a number of our CASF membership documents into French – something we should have done a while ago, but it's done now, and she has agreed to translate this Newsletter into French, also for our Quebec members. Finally, Jaro Priboj has joined us from Kuntz as a new member. Jaro is in their sales & marketing team for the powder coating division

and all of our new Board members are full of good ideas. So welcome to all our new members – you enrich us at CASF by your presence.

If you are a regular reader of the CFCM magazine you will have noticed our contribution in the March-April copy on the things CASF are doing to attract more younger people to our industry, and you will see the very first “CASF NEWS” column in the upcoming special “COVID” edition of the magazine. We are planning to run a CASF column in every edition now and we will be issuing 4 CASF Newsletters each year starting with this one, because there seems to be a lot of news to pass along for just two Newsletters each year.

For example, you will be wanting to sign up for the return of our biennial golf tournament, held again this year at the wonderful private Whistle Bear course in Cambridge on Tuesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> and are already at 80 golfers. Our golf Chair this year is Stewart Tymchuk, all information can be easily found on our website at [www.casf.ca](http://www.casf.ca) and we are pleased to help you with this if you wish. Just call one of the numbers listed and we can answer your questions. We have held pricing the same as in 2018 and the golfing will be superb as always, as well as the dinner, the prizes and the networking opportunities with old friends. Please watch for our full-page ad. in the upcoming CFCM magazine or go to our website for the latest news.

Please also let me briefly remind you of our reduced fee structure for our job and captive shops, covered in my last Newsletter. You may go to our website for details or feel free to call me anytime at 416-709-9196 if you have questions. With the current situation regarding Covid-19 and the accompanying global slow down things can get tight but the need for compliance with government regulations remains in place and CASF has the answers you need in this area so we hope this gesture on our part can help your decision to become one of our members.

Our CASF-sponsored Surface Industry Economic Impact Study is now finally complete and ready for distribution to our members. This extensive Report shows what a pivotal role and contribution our industry makes in Canada and will surprise many. It has been many years since the last time such a study was completed, and thanks go to both Mike Kuntz and Stewart Tymchuk for heading up this project.

I’m determined not to go over 2 pages so it’s time to wrap up. Watch out for our second offering of the “Introduction to Electroplating” course as soon as the pandemic and circumstances allow, and others offered in Western Canada and in French in Quebec. Don’t forget our golf tournament and, 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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