

TOONTOWN TIMES

Edition 2

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada

Monday, July 16, 2007



Dr. Hans Morélis (above) reminded students they are all winners as they are the best and brightest from their own countries and challenged them to explain his colorful demonstration.

Today's Weather:



High 30°C
Low 16°C
POP: 20%

Tomorrow's Forecast:



High 28°C
Low 16°C
POP: 0%

Some of you have been complaining about the Saskatoon heat. Saskatoon is in a dry-prairie biome and is famous for its sunny, warm summers and very cold winters. The lowest temperature recorded in Saskatoon was -50°C in 1893 with a wind chill of -61.9°C. The highest temperature recorded in Saskatoon was 41°C!

IBO Officially Opens

It's official, the Olympiad has begun! The 18th IBO opening ceremony was held at TCUPlace yesterday morning. For the first time in IBO history, we welcome students and jurists from 49 different countries to North America. The University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIASST) are hosting this year's competition. Dr. Chary Rangacharyulu, chair of the local host committee, and his team of volunteers have spent four years working on making IBO 2007 a reality.

The opening ceremonies began with a slide show of Saskatchewan land and the dramatic entrance of dignitaries. Dr. Lynda Haverstock, who made history as the first woman in the province to lead a political party and was the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan from 2000 to 2006, is Honorary Patron of the International Biology Olympiad and was the keynote speaker.

Also in attendance were the Honorable Lynne Yelich, offering greetings on behalf of the Government of Canada, the Honourable Judy Junor, offering greetings on behalf of the Saskatchewan government, His Worship, Donald Atchison, mayor of Saskatoon, Mr. R. Peter MacKinnon, President of the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Bob McCulloch, President and CEO of SIASST, Dr. Hans Morélis, chairman of IBO coordinators, Her Excellency Ingrid Iremark, Swedish Ambassador to Canada and many other esteemed guests. All student participants

crossed the stage in an array of ethnic greetings, costumes and flags.

While the aim of the IBO is to inspire students' interests in biological sciences, several of the guests offered additional advice in their welcome speeches. Dr. Lynda Haverstock stressed, "To enjoy, enjoy and enjoy" your time in Saskatchewan. The very charismatic He agreed with the university motto that this is "Where great minds meet" and challenges each of you to make friends while you are here. Don Atchison reminded us that Saskatoon is not only the "City that Shines," but the "City of Bridges". In the spirit of Saskatoon, he suggested that the relationships made at the IBO will help to bridge scientific communities working together in the future.

The arrival of the Olympiad trophy, swearing of rules and Dr. Haverstock's official opening concluded the business portion of the ceremonies. Mr. Jeff Soucy's Métis Jig and the university's videos gave a brief history of the land and its peoples. The theme of native heritage and Saskatchewan history will continue later this week.

Wise Words From a Canadian

"Tomorrow is always fresh, with no mistakes in it."

Lucy Maud Montgomery
Author of *Anne of Green Gables*

Notable Canadian Inventions

Zippers:

Can you imagine a world of only buttons and buckles? Thanks to Gideon Sundback, a Swedish-Canadian, the zipper was developed in 1925 revolutionizing clothing, luggage and other textiles.

The garbage bag:

The common green plastic garbage bag was invented by Harry Wasylyk and Larry Hansen. The two inventors developed the polyethylene bags in 1950, spawning a multimillion dollar industry.



ABOVE: Science Olympics, Sunday night: With the only instruction to avoid explosions, competitors and team guides split up from their teams and worked together to measure the speed of light with chocolate, cheese or marshmallows. By far, the best part of the activity was eating the experiment upon completion. Winners will be announced later this week.

University of Saskatchewan: Biology Building

The W.P. Thompson Biology Building is named after the University's third president and founder of the Biology Department (1913). The Biology Building was constructed in Collegiate Gothic style in the late 1950s and officially opened in 1960. In 1962, a greenhouse area was added to the teaching and research wings. Unlike most Canadian universities, the Department of Biology remains in a single unit rather than subdividing into specific departments.

One of the most recognizable features of the building is the mural mosaic tiles depicting the four stages of cellular mitosis. The artist, Roy Kiyooka, chose the design as a testament to Dr. Thompson's

work on the genetics of wheat rust. In 1985, the Geology building was added on the south side of the Biology building resulting in a large atrium. The Museum of Natural Sciences was created in that space to outline evolution throughout geological time and showcase displays of living plants, animals, fossils, rocks and minerals. The museum also features several full-size skeletons of extinct horse species, a Triceratops, and a Tyrannosaurus Rex. The primary role of the museum is to illustrate the breadth of the geological and biological sciences and to serve as a teaching resource for students and visitors.

Excerpts from University of Saskatchewan literature

Sunday's Student Supper Stories

Sunday's supper gathered a group of tired travelers, excited Competitors and enthusiastic volunteers. Some students had arrived a few days ago while others were still recovering from 16 hour flights. Students spent the day doing a variety of activities namely touring the campus and exploring downtown Saskatoon. Some students viewed the Synchrotron while others saw the Mendel Art Gallery, Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Saskatoon Zoo and Midtown Plaza. First impressions about Saskatoon included, "It's very flat," "Saskatoon's a beautiful city," "I can't believe how much land there is," and "I can't believe how slow the speed limit is here."

Anna Karrila of Finland spent the day running at the Physical Activity Complex (commonly referred to as the PAC). She is a competitive race walker in her home country and will need to stay in shape this week. One of her co-delegates, Visa Nurmi, has enjoyed eating North American food since he arrived in Saskatoon. So far he has tried bacon, doughnuts, ginger ale and a "double double" coffee (two cream, two sugar) at Tim Hortons. Tim Hortons is Canada's largest quick service food chain with more franchise stores across Canada than MacDonald's.

Students are excited about a variety of activities this week. All students seem to be excited to meet new friends from across the globe. Whenever asked about winning a prestigious gold medal, student's faces light up in anticipation and expectation.