

The American Scientific Glassblowers Society



Canadian Section Canadienne

Canadian Section Report
to the
American Scientific Glassblowers Society
Board of Directors Meeting
Point Clear, Alabama
Friday November 2nd, 2001

Before I present my report, I would like to take this opportunity to say that, on behalf of the members of the Canadian Section of the Society, our hearts go out to our fellow glassblowers in the United States and to all other Americans whose lives have been changed by the terrorist act of September 11, 2001 and we hope that some sense can be made from this senseless act. All Canadians share your sorrow.

Craig Nagami and Pamela Geddes, our newly elected Chairman and Secretary are taking an active interest in our Section. E-mail addresses are being established for the members of the executive for ease of communication. Craig and Pamela arranged a fall meeting at Pegasus Industrial Specialties on Saturday September 22nd. Our hosts were the Trent Family. Twenty-six people attended. Our thanks to Padma Ramalingam who demonstrated the joining and flame annealing of a 9 inch QVF flange to a correspondingly sized pipe section.

At our business meeting concern was shown for our low finances and discussed a number of options for increasing the bank balance. For the most part contact for the fall meeting was conducted by e-mail and word of mouth thereby saving the cost of postage. Concern was also expressed for the payment for travel of the Section Director's expenses to attend the fall Board Meeting. Many telephone calls over several months were made by Meryl Leslie to find a seat sale for the return trip from Toronto to Mobile, Alabama. The regular cost: \$900.00. The seat sale cost; \$499.00. Four hundred and ninety-nine dollars is half of the Section's current bank balance

A lengthy discussion also took place regarding telephone calls several of us had received from a representative of a college in Red Deer, Alberta about the feasibility of expanding their artistic glassblowing course to include scientific glassblowing.

Our next meeting will hopefully be in the spring of 2002 at Namdar Custom Glassblowing in Mississauga, Ontario.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 18, 2001

Dear Professor _____:

As one of the twenty-five professors, for whom I have provided glassblowing services during the past year, I would like to inform you of the following:

On Thursday June 14, 2001, Professor Douglas Reeve, visited the Chemical Engineering glass shop and informed me that in the fall, likely in September, a state of the art mass spectrometer will arrive. He mentioned that considered sites for installation of the instrument included the Mining Building, the Roseburgh Building and the glass shop, room 227, in the Wallberg Building and there may be other unstated locations in this same building. While he said that the decision had not been made yet, Professor Reeve expressed a strong preference for room 227. For the sake of those in the Department who rely on my services, I would not like to see that happen.

If the spectrometer is installed in room 227, it will mean the end of the glassblowing services in the Department, thereby denying you, your graduate students and numerous undergraduate students of essential services which they have enjoyed until now. For the past thirty-four years, I have made myself available to staff members and students, took pride in the quality of my work and in the quality of the technical support I provide. I feel that this rare commodity should continue in the Department as long as possible and I should also reiterate that these services are provided to the Department cost free.

The nearest glass shop on the St. George campus is in the Chemistry Department. With all due respect to the glassblower there, because of his departmental workload, he could not be expected to provide the same individual level of service or concern for chemical engineering glass work as is available from me in Chemical Engineering.

If you and/or your students feel that they will be inconvenienced by the loss of this support service, I would ask you to address your concerns directly to Professor Douglas Reeve.

Yours very truly,



Scientific Glassblower