

## District 13 (Eastern Canada) District Leadership Conference Report

*By Graham Nasby, ISA Hamilton Section Delegate*

Each year, each of ISA's 14 geographic districts holds a district leadership conference where volunteer leaders from the sections within the district gather to share ideas, conduct society business, get leadership training, and discuss society-level issues.

On the weekend of May 4-5, 2013, ISA members of the Eastern Canadian district, known as district 13, gathered in Chicoutimi, Quebec to participate in their own D13 district leadership conference. Hosting the DLC were the ISA Saguenay/Lac St. Jean Section and D13 District-VP Antonio Alves.



The Eastern Canadian ISA District Leadership Conference was held in the town of Chicouimi, Quebec.

“The Saguenay/Lac St. Jean Section is a unique ISA section as it provides most of its programming entirely in French, in light of the very large community of French speaking automation professionals in this important aluminum mining/smeltering area,” said Alves, “However, the Saguenay/Lac St. Jean Section makes an active point of responding to the needs of both English and French speakers in the area by providing resources for all of its ISA members, including members in Quebec as well as in Canada's maritime provinces. This openness contributed to what was a very successful DLC for us. For members from our Montreal Section, they enjoyed being able to compare notes with other French-speaking colleagues in the Saguenay region. And for our English-speaking members from Ontario, it was a great opportunity for them to practice their French in a friendly bilingual atmosphere.”

The Saguenay/Lac Jean area is located in Northern Quebec and is a considerable distance from most of the other local ISA Sections in District 13. Many of the attendees arrived by plane, and attendees from the ISA Sarnia Section had to take no less than 4 flights to finally arrive at the DLC hotel in Chicoutimi. Total driving time from Toronto, Ontario to Chicoutimi is approximately 10-12 hours. Following a tradition that dates back many years, the District 13 DLC rotates through the various local sections in the district. With this year's DLC being in Chicoutimi, Quebec, attendees welcomed the chance to see another part of their country.

Despite its small size, the town of Chicoutimi boasts a large modern hotel thanks to the healthy mining industry in the area. The DLC kicked off with a fully-catered cocktail party in the

hotel's disco on the Friday night, and featured a formal Saturday night dinner with a French provincial-style fondue. Attendees also enjoyed full hot breakfasts and a wide selection of local Quebec cheeses during coffee breaks.



Due to Chicoutimi's remote location, most attendees from Eastern Canada arrived by plane, flying into the town's military base.

The DLC program followed the ISA's traditional 2-day format. On the Saturday, attendees listened to a wide range of presentations on leadership topics, professional development, and society-issues. This included both in-person talks and several Skype-based presentations from ISA headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina. On the Sunday, the District leaders held their annual district business meeting, which included annual section reports, electing district officers, and the annual district budget.

In attendance were representatives from the Hamilton, Sarnia, Toronto, Montreal, and Saguenay/Lac St. Jean sections. In all, 12 ISA volunteer leaders participated in the DLC, including 1 new leader who had never attended a DLC before. Also in attendance was Tim Feldman, the ISA's director of global products and services, who flew up from Raleigh, North Carolina to be one of the DLC's guest speakers.

Guy Savard, past-president of the Saguenay/Lac St. Jean section was particularly excited to host this year's DLC. "The District Leadership Conference is a great opportunity for local ISA leaders to come together and share ideas. We were delighted to be this year's hosts, and to be able to give something back to the ISA," says Savard.

At the DLC, Saturday consisted of a busy program that began with a 7:30am breakfast. District 13 DVP Antonio Alves called the meeting to order, and opening remarks were made by Savard. ISA President-elect Peggie Koon also welcomed attendees to the DLC via a Skype-based live video feed direct from her home in Augusta, Georgia.

The first speaker of the day was ISA staff member Tim Feldman, who gave a presentation as to how the society was doing from a business perspective and various new developments in terms of member services. An update was given on how the new society-level website development project was progressing, and how the society was working hard to provide member services and training opportunities for the growing international market. Tim closed his presentation with a motivational address about how, as a member-driven non-profit organization, the ISA is working hard to respond to the growing needs of its members around the world.

After Tim's presentation, individual section leaders from District 13 gave the following presentations for their peers at the DLC:

- Benefits of ISA – Life, Entertainment and Career  
Rob Dickson – ISA Sarnia Section
- Job Promotion Pitfalls (a humorous look at the downfalls of being promoted at your company)  
Patrick Bouwman – ISA Montreal Section
- Online Tools to Improve Section Communications  
Ryan Kershaw – ISA Hamilton Section
- An Overview of the Updated ISA Society-Level Awards Program  
Kalpen Vachharajani – ISA Sarnia Section
- How to Develop an Effective Newsletter – It's not just about the articles  
Graham Nasby – ISA Hamilton Section
- ISA Governance Structure Update  
Bob Baillet – a past ISA President (via Skype)
- Issues and Risks in Project Management (Case Study: Converting the Montreal's Shell Oil Refinery from refinery to terminal operations)  
Trung Nguyen – ISA Montreal Section
- Test your ISA IQ  
Antonio Alves – D13 District Vice President & ISA Montreal Section member

After Saturday's presentations, the attendees enjoyed a "happy hour" reception hosted by the ISA Saguenay Section, followed by the much-anticipated fondue dinner.

On the Sunday morning, the attendees gathered for the annual District 13 business meeting. District issues were discussed and the location of the following year's DLC was selected, with the ISA Hamilton Section taking on the role as DLC hosts for 2014.

Topics covered at the meeting included: annual reports from each of the district's sections; the annual review of the district's business plan, membership statistics and trends; and the selection of nominators/delegates for the upcoming international level SLM/FLM meetings.

In the meeting, Section presidents also gave PowerPoint presentations highlighting the events and accomplishments of their individual sections during the past year.

In the ISA Hamilton Section presentation, we highlighted our successful Expo (held on April 3), and our well-attended membership meetings during the 2012-2013 year so far. We were proud to report that membership numbers in our section were steady and that we had a full slate of officers going into the 2013-2014 year.



Participants at the 2013 District 13 DLC gather for parting group photo in the hotel lobby.

The D13 District Leadership Conference wrapped up with the annual ISA certificate presentations to recognize the hard work of volunteers in leadership and member services positions. ISA Section presidents for the past year were recognized with appreciation plaques, and special certificates were given out to individuals to recognize outstanding volunteer service. The DLC concluded with a group photo of attendees and a farewell lunch at a local brew-pub featuring local Quebec craft beers.

### Standards Update: ISA96.06 – Partial Stroke Testing for Valve Actuators

The ISA96.05 subcommittee, Partial Stroke Testing for Valve Actuators, will hold a subcommittee meeting at the SIS-Tech offices in Houston, Texas, on Wednesday, June 26th to coincide with the Valve World Americas Expo and Conference 2013, June 25-26 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

At a recent ISA96.05 meeting, there was discussion of the related International Instrument Users' Association WIB draft guidelines and their relation to the ISA technical report.

Input has been gathered from partial stroke testing manufacturers and users, and ISA96.05 is ready to begin work on the revision of ANSI/ISA-TR96.05.01, *Partial Stroke Testing of Automated Block Valves*. For more information on the ISA96 Valve Actuator Standards Committee, contact Eliana Brazda at ebrazda@isa.org.

### About the ISA Hamilton Section Inc.

*The ISA Hamilton Section is the local section of the International Society of Automation for the Hamilton, Burlington, Guelph and Golden-Horseshoe areas of Southern Ontario, Canada. ISA Hamilton Section holds regular meetings, sponsors a variety of educational endeavors, produces an annual exhibition, encourages an open exchange of career opportunities, and promotes the goals & objectives of ISA.*

## ISA Hamilton Section Contacts

For more information about ISA membership, the ISA Hamilton section or the upcoming section events, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us. (Email addresses are @isahamilton.com)

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### Marketing & Advertising

To be announced shortly

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*Note: Our official mailing address will be changing shortly. See our upcoming Summer newsletter for more information.*

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