

IDW-43 2011

On Aug 20-21, 2011, immediately following the Sixteenth International Symposium On Silicon Chemistry (ISOS XVI) held Aug 14-18, approximately 80 enthusiastic inorganic chemists gathered at the Crowne Plaza Niagara Fall in Niagara Falls, Ontario for the 44th Inorganic Discussion Weekend. The weekend began with a barbecue in the outdoor dining area at Edgewaters Tap & Grill which overlooks both the Horseshoe and American Falls; there was a spectacular fireworks display after dark to celebrate our gathering.

This annual meeting of inorganic and organometallic chemists provides an important venue to disseminate the most recent research results of the younger chemists in our community. This year was no exception. The latest installment of the long-running IDW was held in conjunction with ISOS XVI. The vision was to take advantage of having the international silicon community on our doorstep and provide an opportunity for our local inorganic community, who may not attend ISOS XVI, to meet with the international silicon community in a congenial, interactive setting. Indeed, over 25% of the attendees at IDW 2011 were from the silicon community. This gave a strong international flavor to the meeting with attendees from seven different countries (Canada, US, UK, Germany, Japan, Israel, and the Czech Republic). As usual, there was a large number of attendees from Ontario with 12 universities represented. Much discussion took place at the conference venue, while overlooking the beautiful Falls or during excursions out to Clifton Hill.

Plenary lectures were given by Professors Matthias Driess (TU Berlin), Ian Manners (University of Bristol) and T. Don Tilley (UC Berkeley). As is the hallmark of this meeting, there was strong participation by students and post-doctoral fellows: there were 30 oral and 30 poster presentations by the next generation of scientists. The quality of the presentations was extremely high making the jobs of the judges extremely difficult! Five students received prizes for their oral presentations and eight students won prizes for their poster presentations. The top oral prize went to Christopher Dares from York University and the top poster prize went to André Schäfer from Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg in Germany.

The next IDW will be held at the University of Ottawa. We look forward to meeting you there!

Kim M. Baines, Paul J. Ragogna, Myra Gordon, co-organizers of IDW-44.