

# SCENES FROM QUÉBEC CITY— THE ICRI 2012 SPRING CONVENTION

BY DALE REGNIER



The picturesque beauty of the historic quarter of Québec City, QC, Canada, one of North America's oldest cities, served as the backdrop for the ICRI 2012 Spring Convention. Significant committee work, captivating technical sessions, engaging exhibitors, and our annual Recognition Luncheon were all a big part of our expanded 3-day event, held April 18 to 20 at the Hilton Québec.

Thanks go to our gracious hosts, the Québec Province Chapter, for providing a unique glimpse into the local flavor and hospitality of the region on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening. Attendance, in excess of 275 attendees, was one of the highest, proving the importance of ICRI does not waver with the distance traveled.

The convention began on Wednesday morning with our "Visit the Exhibits" continental breakfast, where exhibitors showed off their newest products and services to the morning crowd. The theme of this convention, "Preservation Engineering—Masonry/Stone/Concrete," allowed members of the Technical Activities Committee to recruit a variety of industry professionals who addressed issues such as specialized surface preparation, masonry façade evaluation, and shotcrete rehabilitation. In addition, a series about projects in and around Québec was presented by local specialists. The spring schedule allowed members to attend the morning technical presentations on the first day without other scheduled meetings competing for their attention.

With golf in Québec City uncertain in April, the Québec Province Chapter chose to offer one of the most unique events ever attempted for the Wednesday afternoon activity. Almost 100 attendees signed up to participate in or watch the chapter put on a curling tournament. Yes, curling. Curling, a staple in the sporting life of many Canadians, was certainly a unique and intriguing offering for most ICRI members in attendance. Guests were shipped off to a local curling club—an ice rink designed for the sport—and began the afternoon with expert lessons. They learned about the basics of the sport—sliding the stones, sweeping, and scoring. A great deal of strategy and teamwork go into choosing the ideal path and placement of each stone, and a curler's skill determines whether or not the desired result will be achieved. This gives curling its nickname: "chess on ice." Those who signed up may not have been experts, but they enjoyed an amazing new experience that included the gracious hospitality of the chapter and the curling rink personnel.



*Because 97% of those participating had never been (or seen) curling before, the staff at the rink provided some excellent instruction*



*Members are seen "brushing" up on their curling technique*



*ICRI Treasurer Beth Newbold takes to the ice as if she were born in Canada*



*ICRI President Garth Fallis shows off his specially ordered shoes, broom, and tuque (because he really is from Canada)*



*Dale Regnier, ICRI Manager of Marketing and Chapters, also took part in the curling event*

*The official start of each ICRI convention is the Welcome Reception, where members meet old friends and greet new friends*



*Gathering at the Welcome Reception are Baltimore-Washington Chapter members David Rodler, Horace Willis, and Oscar Valenzuela*



*Winners of the Curling Tournament included Mark LeMay and Naomi White, seen here with Québec Chapter representative Jacques Bertrand and ICRI President Garth Fallis*



*Joining us for the first time are representatives from Green Mountain—Frank Queen, Dennis Galbreath, and John Ammons*



*Showing off their "Most Challenged" trophies from the Curling Tournament are last-place team members Ed Mclean, Bud Earley, and Keith Toro*



*Current ICRI President Garth Fallis (left) congratulates and thanks ICRI's most recent Past President Don Ford (right) for his service and sacrifice*



*ICRI welcomed two new ICRI Fellows during the Recognition Luncheon: Don Ford (left) and Larry Olson, PE (right). Both have both displayed exemplary service to ICRI and the concrete repair industry*

Much of what ICRI does as an industry association comes from the hard work of our technical committees. By working together in these committees, we broaden our knowledge base and expand the industry. All of our guidelines and important documents come out of the collaboration of our committee members. If you want to know what is happening with any of our committees, please visit the Technical Committee page of the ICRI Web site to view a description of what is being worked on right now.

The highlight of the spring convention was the annual Recognition Luncheon. In addition to recognizing the contributions of ICRI's Supporting Members and Past Presidents, ICRI honored its newest Fellows: Don Ford and Larry Olson, PE. Dale Regnier handed out the 2011 Chapter Awards, honoring the great work of ICRI's chapters. Included was the prestigious Chapter of the Year Award, given to the Chicago Chapter, as well as the Most Improved Chapter, given this year to the Southwest Florida Chapter. Current ICRI President Garth Fallis took to the stage and introduced the 2012 Officers and Board of Directors. The rest of the afternoon included more committee meetings and the last of the technical presentations.

Thursday's busy schedule concluded with a sold-out evening of dining and entertainment at the beautiful and historic Manoir Montmorency overlooking Montmorency Falls and the St. Lawrence River. The Québec Province Chapter pulled out all the stops to host what turned out to be an outstanding evening of authentic local cuisine that ended with more than one standing ovation for the chapter's chosen entertainment: Le Vent du Nord. This utterly engaging and unique quartet of talented



*A beautiful shot of Montmorency Falls (photo courtesy of Board member Jessi Meyer)*



*Manoir Montmorency, the site of the Québec Province Chapter social outing*

musicians introduced the crowd to a distinctive form of Canadian folk music that had the crowd on its feet dancing and applauding. It was a truly magical experience and one that won't soon be forgotten by the attendees.

The convention closed Friday afternoon following the final "Visit the Exhibits" continental breakfast and a full day of committee meetings. If you are not attending ICRI conventions, you are definitely missing out on some interesting activities and entertaining networking opportunities. The bar has been raised both socially and technically, as the technical sessions get better and better with each convention.

We hope to see everyone at the ICRI 2012 Fall Convention in Rancho Mirage, CA. We'll be at the Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa from November 7 to 9, 2012. The theme for this event is "Life-Cycle Repair—Sustainability," and you don't want to miss the 2012 Project Awards Banquet and celebration. We are getting things done at ICRI and would like to extend an invitation for you to get involved. Make the most of your membership and come to a convention.



*ICRI Board member Michael Breetz with his wife, Clair, pause to look at the view from the Manoir*



*ICRI Executive Director Kelly Page enjoying the evening's activities with ICRI Membership Coordinator Naomi White and ICRI Event Planner Susan Adams*



*Québec Province Chapter President Simon Reny took time to welcome everyone to the sold-out social outing event*



*Patrick Ouellet from the Québec Province Chapter helps the guests understand the local menu and prepares them for the entertainment*



*Guests Jessi Meyer and Scott Harrison just before the music started*



*ICRI Past President Monica Rourke with ICRI President Elect for 2013 Bud Earley*



*Le Vent du Nord, the evening's musical entertainment, had the ICRI crowd on its feet and applauding during the entire performance*