

October 7, 2004

Science and Technology Week helps students consider future careers

Family activities and events happening across Alberta

Edmonton... The educational world of science and technology is opening up to Alberta students as Science and Technology Week 2004 kicks off across the province.

Running from October 8 to 17, Sci Tech Week will feature a variety of events and activities that Alberta's youth and their families can explore together. From surfing the web site, to watching an informative, eye-opening documentary on TV, to taking in exhibits and programs in their own communities, families can have fun while they learn about the world-class science and research being done in the province.

"Today's students are tomorrow's innovators," said Victor Doerksen, Minister of Innovation and Science, as he launched Science and Technology Week at the Odysium in Edmonton. "That's why we are creating an environment where they can learn about the importance of science and technology, get the necessary education in these areas, and put those skills to use here in Alberta. Our government has a 20-year strategic plan to make that happen."

Visiting the Sci Tech Week web site at www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca is a great way for students of all ages to learn about the world of opportunity that exists in Alberta for science and technology. The web site features a number of new contests and activities, including a mascot design contest for elementary school students, an essay and video challenge for junior high school students, and an online scavenger hunt ... all with great prizes up for grabs.

Grade 4 students at Consort School in Consort, Alberta, are glad they entered a Sci Tech Week contest last year that asked them to research an innovator from their community. Their entry won their school a SMART Board interactive whiteboard and floor stand from SMART Technologies Inc., and an LCD computer/video projector from Sharp's Audio-Visual Ltd. The prizes, worth a total of \$6,000, will be presented to the school on October 13 by the Honourable Shirley McClellan, Deputy Premier, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, and MLA for Drumheller-Chinook

In addition to entering educational contests online, Albertans can order a copy of the third annual wall calendar that encourages school children to consider a career in the sciences. In recognition of Alberta's 100th anniversary, the calendar pairs established researchers in Alberta with young scientists of tomorrow who are interested in the same area of science. Find out why requests for the calendar in past years have poured in from across Canada, every state in the U.S. and 23 different countries!

Community events celebrating science and technology will also be taking place across the province throughout October. From the Wood Buffalo Science Festival in Fort McMurray, to *Mall Science* at various shopping malls in Edmonton, Calgary and Sherwood Park . . . from the Family Science Olympics in Medicine Hat, to the Rock and Fossil Clinic at the Canmore Geoscience Centre . . . families can have fun and learn at the same time. To find out more, visit the online calendar of events.

For some great family viewing on TV, be sure to watch Global Television on Saturday, October 16th for the broadcast of *Alberta Innovation 2004*, the fourth annual documentary on innovation in Alberta's science and technology sector. The documentary, airing at 10 p.m., celebrates present and past winners of Alberta Science and Technology (ASTech) Awards. It was developed in cooperation with Alberta Innovation and Science, Western Economic Diversification Canada, and Global Television for the ASTech

Leadership Foundation. Documentaries from previous years can be viewed online at www.innovation.gov.ab.ca

Science and Technology Week 2004 is generously supported by the following sponsors and partners: **Titanium:** Bell, Global Television Network, IBM Canada Ltd., iCORE, Pfizer Canada Inc., Alberta Science and Research Authority. **Silver:** Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, Alberta Heritage Foundation For Medical Research, Alberta Ingenuity Fund. **Bronze:** Sharp's Audio Visual Ltd., SMART Technologies Inc. **Partners:** *Calgary Herald*, CBC Radio One, *Edmonton Journal*, Innovation Alberta, Netera Alliance, Odysium, Praxis: The Science and Technology Hotline, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, and Science Alberta Foundation. Sincere thanks go to them for their commitment to supporting science education in Alberta

www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca

- 30 -

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Background

Science and Technology Week 2004

What is Science and Technology Week?

Science and Technology Week recognizes and embraces the achievements of Alberta's science and technology communities, and promotes the role that science and technology play in contributing to the quality of life we enjoy in Alberta. Individuals and organizations across the province hold science and technology-related activities throughout the week. Alberta Innovation and Science is a proud supporter of Science and Technology Week.

What is Alberta Innovation and Science?

Alberta Innovation and Science brings together all research and technology activities and initiatives within the Alberta government under one organizational structure. Under the leadership of the Honourable Victor Doerksen, the ministry involves some of the province's leading science and research agencies and organizations, including the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, the Alberta Ingenuity Fund, the Alberta Science and Research Authority, the Alberta Research Council, the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute, the Alberta Energy Research Institute, the Alberta Forestry Research Institute, and iCORE Inc. (Informatics Circle Research Excellence Board). These organizations work collectively to ensure that Alberta's innovative nature and scientific community stays strong and continues to grow.

How can I get involved in Science and Technology Week?

Explore the many activities happening around the province and develop your own programs and activities to learn more about the important role that science and technology play in your daily life. Explore a career in science and technology, plan an event, conduct an experiment, surf the web - your imagination is your

only limitation!

What contests are available to Alberta school children during the 2004 campaign?

Details and entry forms for each of the following contests are available at www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca:

- *Mascot Design Contest*

: Elementary school students are being encouraged to think about science and technology, and about the important role they play in their lives, then to design a mascot for the Science and Technology Week campaign in 2005 and send it to Alberta Innovation and Science. The winning entry will win a LEGO MindStorms Robotics Invention System Set worth \$300! With this LEGO kit, you can design and program real robots!

- *Essay and Video Challenge*

: Last year's successful essay challenge has a new component added this year. Junior high school students can choose to either write an essay OR create a digital video. Students are encouraged to think about something they are curious about, then describe how science and technology can help them understand it. Selected entries will be read on Wild Rose Country on CBC Radio One (12 - 1 pm) during Science and Technology Week. Thousands of dollars worth of prizes are up for grabs!

- *Scavenger Hunt*

: The ever-popular online scavenger hunt is back. Tour the Sci Tech Week web site, learn about science and technology in Alberta and enter to win great prizes generously donated by the *Edmonton Journal* and *Calgary Herald*.

- *Researcher Quiz:*

Learn more about Alberta's world-class medical researchers through the online quiz hosted by the The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

What is the Innovative Albertans calendar?

This is the third year that the award-winning Innovative Albertans calendar is being distributed to schools, science promotion organizations and Albertans across the province as part of Science and Technology Week celebrations.

In recognition of Alberta's 100th anniversary, the 2005 calendar pairs established researchers in Alberta with the young scientists of tomorrow who are interested in the same area of science. For example, Dr. Philip Currie, head paleontologist at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, is featured with six-year-old Jesse Scott of Calgary who initiated an ongoing friendship/mentorship with Dr. Currie by writing him a letter to discuss their shared love of theropod dinosaurs.

The 2003 calendar profiled Albertans who are excelling in their science-related careers, and the 2004 calendar profiled students who are excelling in their pursuit of scientific fields of study.

The national and international demand for the calendar grows each year. Requests for the 2003 calendar were received from every province and territory in Canada, 43 American states, and nine other countries. Public response to the 2004 calendar was even more positive. Despite more than doubling the print run, stock ran out within two months, with copies distributed to science education organizations across Alberta and in response to Internet requests. Demand for the 2004 calendar also rose substantially outside of Canada, going from 43 states to 50 states and territories, and from nine countries to 23 countries, not including the U.S. In addition to hard copies of the calendar mailed around the world, the electronic version of the calendar was also the most downloaded file on the web site.

What is the contest that Consort School won?

Consort School in Consort, Alberta, is the lucky winner of the Name The Innovator contest that ran during the Science and Technology Week 2003 campaign. The contest asked schools across Alberta to identify a significant date in the life of a scientific or technological innovator (past or present) from their community

or region. Consort School's winning entry identified July 30, 2002 as the date Ted Devine of Consort, Alberta, was granted a patent for an environmentally friendly and efficient, positive displacement pump for the trucking industry.

The prizes won by Consort School - worth a total of \$6,000 - include a SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard and floor stand from SMART Technologies Inc., and an LCD computer/video projector from Sharp's Audio-Visual Ltd.

Ridding the classroom of blackboards and chalk dust, the SMART Board interactive whiteboard allows teachers and students to do everything they do on a computer, right in front of the class. Simply by touching the large whiteboard, they can access and control any computer program or multimedia platform, including videos, the Internet and CD-ROMs. Students and teachers can write over any application in digital ink and then edit, save, print or post their notes to a website for future reference. SMART Board interactive whiteboards are used in classrooms, briefing rooms and boardrooms around the world, helping people to collaborate effectively whether they are in the same room or in different locations.

Sharp's Audio-Visual is pleased to donate a Sony VPL-DS100 LCD projector, as their contribution to Science and Technology Week. Sharp's has been reaching out to both rural and urban educators in Alberta since being established in 1923, bringing many forms of technology to school divisions near and far. The Sony line of projectors has been among Sharp's best sellers with educators, due to its reliable performance and ease of use. Sharp's is confident Consort School will enjoy many years of productive use from this modern teaching aid.

What events are taking place in Alberta during Science and Technology Week?

For more information on these and other events, visit the online calendar of events at www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca, which is regularly updated as more information becomes available:

- **October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

- : Free Friday Night Star Gazing at the Calgary Science Centre.

- **October 7:**

- The Provincial Museum of Alberta is hosting an open forum on Forensics, the fourth in a series exploring genome issues that affect all Albertans. Held in conjunction with *The GEEE! In Genome!* exhibition that runs until October 11, 2004.

- **October 9:**

- Come to the Odysium and talk to Team Alberta, the students who represented the province at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in St. John's, NF, last May.

- **October 13**

- : iCORE is hosting a debate simultaneously broadcast from the Universities of Calgary, Lethbridge and Edmonton asking "Should artificially intelligent robots have the same rights as people?"

- **October 13**

- : A *Science Fair Know How* presentation at the Medicine Hat Public Library will introduce students to the fun of science fairs and share tips on how to put a great science fair project together.

- **October 13 - 17:**

- The Wood Buffalo Science Festival in Fort McMurray will showcase *Science in Your Own Backyard*. Roberta Bondar, Canada's first female astronaut, will open the festival.

- **October 14:**

- Small Science - Discover your World* in Medicine Hat will give curious preschoolers a chance to participate in hands-on activities to become more aware of science in our everyday lives.

- **October 14**

- : Grand opening of new interpretive centre for Canada's first high voltage, fully operational fuel cell at NAIT.

- **October 15:**

- NAIT Open House: See more than 100 hands-on demonstrations and interactive exhibits showcasing

NAIT's exciting range of choices in current and emerging fields.

• **October 15:**

The 15th annual Alberta Science and Technology (ASTech) Awards will celebrate those who have contributed significantly to the success of science and technology in the province.

• **October 16**

: The Medicine Hat Family Science Olympics will give families the chance to try ten fun hands-on science events and win great prizes.

• **October 16:**

APEGGA is hosting its ever-popular Rock and Fossil Clinic at the Odysium.

• **Various days in October**

: *Mall Science* will feature fun demonstrations and hands-on displays at shopping malls in Calgary, Edmonton, and Sherwood Park.

• **October and November**

: The Climate Change Show at the Calgary Science Centre discusses global warming and lets you experience environmental effects, re-creating weather and climate changes, even a thunderstorm!

Events and activities are added daily to the online calendar of events. Visit www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca for more information.

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