



CANADIAN
Scientific & Christian
AFFILIATION
1973 – 2023

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP

This special newsletter is a project of the CSCA's 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, convened by Rebecca Dielschneider and Judy Toronchuk. The Committee very much appreciates the contributions found herein from the leadership of both the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation and the American Scientific Affiliation. We trust this anniversary newsletter will be something that you will both enjoy and learn from.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Bob Geddes, compiler and editor; Mark McEwan, layout and co-editor.

ASA 2023

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER:

The Future of Science and Faith

77th Annual Meeting | July 28 - 31, 2023 | University of Toronto Mississauga

In Celebration of CSCA's 50th Anniversary



Denis Alexander



Joanna Ng



Donna Strickland



Victoria Lorrimar



Megan K. DeFranza



www.asa3.org



Contents

Foreword <i>Heather Prior, President</i>	4
Greetings <i>Janel Curry, ASA President</i>	5
The CSCA: A Community Reaching Out <i>Arnold E. Sikkema, Executive Director</i>	6
Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation 50th Anniversary Report <i>John Wood, Executive Director Emeritus of the ASA</i>	10
My Early Memories of the CSCA <i>Dan Osmond</i>	12
A CSCA History <i>Judy Toronchuk</i>	16
A Call to Celebrate <i>Rebecca Dielschneider and Judy Toronchuk</i>	26
The ASA 2023 Annual Meeting – Mississauga	28
The New CSCA Legacy Fund...and Some Good News!	30
Recent Books Authored by CSCA Members	32
Truly Canadian Scavenger Hunt	34

Produced January 2023.

Cover: Western Brook Pond in Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland. Photo taken by Mark and Krystal McEwan during their June 2018 trip to Atlantic Canada, the occasion of which was Mark's travel to the Nova Scotia chapter during the Local Chapters Project.



CSCA President Heather Prior

Foreword *Heather Prior, President*

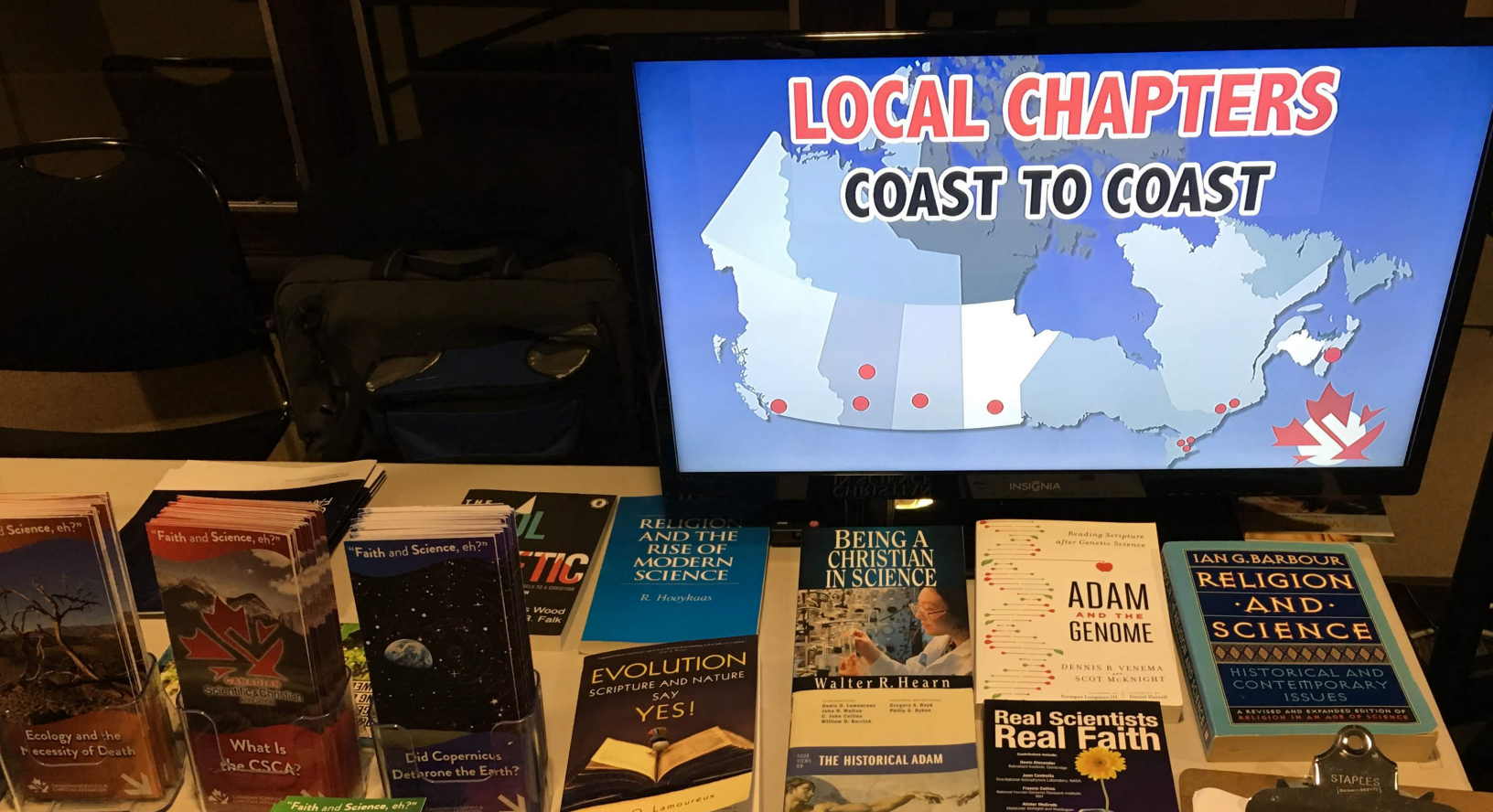
Warm greetings from wintry Edmonton for the Golden Anniversary Year of the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation! Whether you're a CSCA veteran or a brand new student member, why not celebrate?! What an honour and delight for me to serve as the newest president of our organization, especially in this Golden Jubilee year with so many special activities and the Canadian hosting of the ASA/CSCA Annual Meeting in Mississauga this July. As you will read in all of the greetings, invitations, reflections, and other items in this noteworthy newsletter, our community is based on robust relationships – first and foremost with our Lord Jesus Christ, and then with one another in an organic, fruitful way (yes, I'm a biologist). My gratitude



goes immediately to my fellow and former executive council members, and also to my mentors and colleagues in faith and science who patiently and persistently pull me into deeper fellowship and meaningful reflection. My prayer for our Jubilee Year and for our community of faithful scientists is that we aspire to the real wisdom described in James 3:17 – 18 (The Message): “Real wisdom, God’s wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.” May we do this work, and reap this wisdom, not only in our 50th Anniversary year but also in what I hope will be our next fifty years to come!



Patrick Franklin lectured on “Science as a Missional Enterprise” for our 2018 AGM at Redeemer University. A recording is available at csc.ca/50-franklin.



This photo shows a typical exhibition display at one of our CSCA information booths at a conference.

Greetings Janel Curry, ASA President

I bring greetings and congratulations from the American Scientific Affiliation on this 50th Anniversary of the CSCA! We have been blessed to have the CSCA as an affiliate over the past fifty years and have benefited greatly from the contribution of its members. We look forward to gathering to celebrate your achievement in Toronto at the end of July 2023 and look forward to the wonderful field trips you have planned for us that allow us to explore the wonders of Southern Ontario from the Niagara Escarpment to sites in Toronto. From having spent a Fulbright in Guelph, I have found Toronto and Southern Ontario to be one of my favorite areas to explore. And I am particularly thankful for the reduction

in travel restrictions that makes it possible for us to all be together at this important milestone in your history. I hope you have an eventful and blessed anniversary year.



ASA President Janel Curry

The CSCA: A Community Reaching Out

*Arnold E. Sikkema,
Executive Director*

My introduction to CSCA was in 1996 when I was in my last year of doctoral studies at UBC in Vancouver. Rick Baartman, a fellow physicist who was working at TRIUMF and was a member of a neighbouring congregation in my denomination, met with me at Regent College one afternoon and told me about ASA and about John Polkinghorne's new book, *The Faith of a Physicist*. I don't recall the exact selling point, but I signed up shortly thereafter. Besides attending the 1999 conference at John Brown University in Arkansas while teaching at Dordt University, my engagement with ASA was limited to the journal and, for a while, the ASA "ListServ" (an email discussion group, led by Terry Gray during its 16.5-year existence until its closure in 2009) until I connected with the recently resurrected Vancouver chapter when I moved back to BC to work at Trinity Western a year after the 2004 ASA meeting there. Judy Toronchuk ensured I got involved in guest lectures from visiting scholars, such as Jennifer Wiseman, Stephen Barr, and Bill Newsome. One of these was Robert Mann, with whom I had done research as an undergraduate at the University of Waterloo from 1989 to 1991. I had rebuffed

conversations about faith and science with him because my then sadly



Arnold E. Sikkema is CSCA Executive Director and leader of our local chapter in Vancouver, BC.

limited ecumenical vision didn't allow for me to consider him a true believer, but we reconnected happily. This led to Robb's nomination of me to be the program co-chair for the George Fox meeting in 2008. Doing that work gave me a deep dive into the people and ethos of ASA, and many surprised me by affirming my administrative leadership bent.

In March 2011, I met Jim Peterson, the CSCA Vice President, when he came to speak at TWU. I was recruited onto the CSCA Executive Council under the guise of an invitation to give the Annual General Meeting talk in November of that year, where after speaking on "Challenging the Reductionism of Scientism," I was immediately nominated and voted upon as the new Vice President. I held back on





The new tradition of the annual meeting volleyball game, started the previous year in Tulsa, was solidified by a good showing at Azusa Pacific University in 2016.

accepting that until I could at least have a night's sleep on the matter and attend the meeting of the EC the following morning, during which it became clear that God was calling me to serve in that capacity. One of the first things I did was to connect CSCA with my second cousin Harold Sikkema, whose web and graphic design skills led to the creation of the CSCA logo and the launch of our modern website in the spring of 2012.

Since 2011, I have attended most CSCA AGMs and every ASA conference (except for Gordon College in 2018; my wife Valerie took me instead to her horticulture conference in Hawaii). I wanted to share the above background to my connection with CSCA and the Executive Council to highlight how many within ASA & CSCA formed and encouraged me. And the growth

of our fellowship will continue to depend upon each of us in like manner reaching out to students in our university classes, to science students and young scientists in our churches, to colleagues in our companies, our government labs, and our wider peer networks, to retired folks who are wanting to inspire and equip generations to come, to pastors and teachers looking for ways to answer their parishioners' and students' questions. At a recent event, I met a woman in her mid-sixties who had spent her whole adult life thinking she was alone in wondering how to make sense of modern scientific discoveries and the Christian faith. There's the established public university chemistry professor who didn't personally know any other Christians in the sciences, and was beginning to see he could benefit from fellowship and mentoring, and more importantly that he had something



For several years, Stephen Jeans of Ambrose University has been providing Christmas-themed astronomy lectures and stargazing sessions for our Calgary, AB chapter—most recently in December 2022.

to offer to his colleagues and students, especially (but not only) those who were Christians. And the student who came from Asia to study English so she could get into an American graduate school, and also encountered the Christian faith through a campus ministry; she is now wondering if and how this faith relates to her studies.

The theme of the 2023 conference of the ASA/CSCA is “Moving Forward Together: The Future of Science and Faith.” So many topics in the near and long term ahead need sustained expert attention from a Christian perspective: genetic modification,

social media, and climate change, along with continued developments

in evolutionary biology, astrophysical cosmology, geology, appropriate technologies, renewable energies, green chemistry, public health, just to name a few that entered my mind now. But even more important than topics are the people who need to hear about, join, and benefit from the fellowship, networking, and resources that we as an organization have worked for fifty years on creating in Canada alongside eighty-plus years with the ASA.

The future of the CSCA as an organization is of little value in itself. What matters far more is an expanded reach among future and current scientists, who will in community with us be enabled to participate in enlightenment, encouragement, enthusiasm, joy, and confidence, as they



together with us share in the future of science both in our communities of faith and in our world. The aim of every scientist who is a Christian is to do their work of discovery, integration, application, and pedagogy to the glory of God and the benefit of humankind. We do this best in community, not only in our research groups but particularly in a fellowship of believers who are diverse in every way: national and ethnic origin, age, gender, skill sets, passions, interests, disciplinary backgrounds, and personalities.

Let us work together to bring along many more who can benefit from the CSCA and who can bless the CSCA through their involvement. Do you know someone who would benefit from joining our network? Tell them about the CSCA, and sponsor their first year of membership. Don't forget, students join for free; but then follow them

after graduation to ensure they remain connected as full regular members. What if we each were able to bring in just three additional members this year? And don't forget that CSCA functions entirely on donations, so help propel the CSCA into the next fifty years with your monthly, tax-deductible donation of \$50 or whatever you can contribute.

I am so thankful to God for the CSCA! As a national community, engaged internationally, we are so blessed to be able to grow together in our knowledge of our creator, sustainer, and redeemer in and through both this multifaceted creation and inspired scripture, and to serve one another and all of humanity for their good and God's glory.



Nova Scotia chapter leader Helen Lau (second from the right) and several students pose with pizza at Janet Warren's October 2018 lecture on Christianity and Alternative Medicine in Halifax, NS.

A recording of the talk is available at csc.ca/50-warren.

Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation 50th Anniversary Report

*John Wood,
Executive Director Emeritus
of the ASA*

Moving Forward Together is the theme for this year's ASA annual meeting, and it is the perfect theme for the CSCA's 50th anniversary. It not only anticipates the future but elegantly captures the essence of the enduring ASA/CSCA relationship. We are a fellowship of scientists and those interested in science. Yet more than that, we are focused on the interface of Science and the Church and in understanding both, another form of moving together, in the context of the life-giving Christian tradition. The impact of our faith-based scholarship and professional formation has created a transformative community for many.

The ASA and CSCA share a common mission and maintain a close working relationship. Members of the CSCA are also ASA members and have served in governance on the ASA Executive Council. In many ways, the *CSCA is the expression of the ASA in Canada.** The vibrant and vital relationship between us supports all phases of our mission and the strategic vision in service to our membership.

** This succinct articulation was formally adopted by the CSCA Executive Council in its January 2023 meeting.*



Local chapters are the lifeblood of both our affiliations. With eleven chapters across Canada and another twenty-five in the USA, we have a strong base for growing our fellowship. These chapters got a huge boost from the CSCA beginning in 2016 with the Local Chapters Project. Together, we learned the value of having a dedicated staff member helping each chapter leader develop programming. Enhancing regional programming and member value also got a boost from the engaging “Faith and Science, eh?” pamphlet series. These CSCA initiatives help to continue building the strong bond between our organizations.

Today the ASA and CSCA are offering more member touchpoints than ever before. Over the past six years, I have been in a unique position to see this impact. Our



John Wood, Executive Director Emeritus of the ASA, regularly participates in CSCA local chapter events in Edmonton, AB.



Arnold Sikkema and Mark McEwan represented CSCA at the 2018 Apologetics Canada conference in Abbotsford, BC.

family has lived in Canada for over three decades. And we are citizens of both our great nations. This dual role of citizenship has given us insight into the power of the cross-border relationship between the CSCA and ASA. Our great democracies bring distinct blessings to the world.

What is the impact of the CSCA? It is you! Each day our members live out their calling and gifting by doing the complex work of advancing our knowledge, application, and communication of the sciences. We are by our presence a witness to colleagues and friends of the wonder of God’s creation. As a friend of mine, Rick Baugh, prophetically said, “Work loves

our neighbour.” Every day, whether it is preparing for a career, going to work, or volunteering in retirement, our work is our witness. This is the tangible expression of what God has called us to be – servants, disciplined, and caring ones. Each one of us is called and gifted for some unique opportunities. The CSCA has been here for half a century as the expression of Godly excellence in scholarship and community. Together we are serving one another and our communities in the intellectually hard work of better understanding our faith in the context of scientific discovery. It is that simple. And it is that hard to be what we have been called – good neighbours.



This photo showing attendees of the 1972 ASA Annual Meeting held at York University, at which the establishment of the CSCA was discussed, was presented by Charles Chaffey at the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the CSCA. A list of names matching the photo is available at csc.ca/50-chaffey.

My Early Memories of the CSCA

Dan Osmond

The late Dan Osmond was one of the founding members of the CSCA, and he was active on its Executive Council for about thirty years. He produced this reflection for the CSCA's 40th-anniversary newsletter.

It is filled with many personal comments about the CSCA's early days, a portion of which bears repeating in this newsletter.

I've been asked to stroll down CSCA's memory lane, my main qualification being that I'm still alive! I may also be still in possession of my faculties but not

necessarily of accurate memories! Moreover, I

am, at present, mostly confined to my bed with a ruptured quadriceps tendon in my right knee and in no position to access my few, thin CSCA files. Many bulging files have long since gone in bankers' boxes to join the ASA archives at Wheaton College, leaving me in no position to recharge my memories, so please excuse any errors.

Three founding directors are named in the 1973 letters of incorporation of CSCA. They are John Stewart, a medical doctor, Anglican priest, and former missionary abroad; Douglas Morrison, Professor of Animal and Poultry Science (later Chair) at the University of Guelph; and myself, recently appointed Assistant Professor of Physiology & Medicine (later Professor & Associate Chair) at the University of





Toronto. Both John and Doug passed away some years ago, and their respective funerals/viewings and/or memorial services bore powerful witness to the high esteem in which their characters, accomplishments, and Christian testimony were held. At John's memorial in the beautiful Chapel of Grenville College, Brockville, the service ended with the packed crowd singing the triumphant, glorious words and music of "The King is Coming!" at the top of their voices and with unforgettable emotion.

John did most of the hard work on incorporation. He and his uncle John Howitt, a retired psychiatrist, regularly attended ASA annual meetings together and were known and trusted by the ASA leadership. Doug was also well known, as was Bob Jervis of Chemical Engineering from U Toronto and a colleague of his

from York University. This smoothed the way. We wanted the name to be "Canadian Scientific Affiliation" (CSA) to match ASA but were told officially that the name would have to reflect both the scientific and Christian character of the organization. So CSCA it had to be.

Discussions between representatives of ASA and the emerging CSCA were facilitated by the fact that the ASA annual meeting in the summer of 1972 was held at York U, located in the northern outskirts of Toronto—quite rural in those days. This provided a good opportunity for people from both sides of the border to get to know each other better. Bill Sisterson was ASA's Executive Director at the time. Faith and I hosted the joint group at a BBQ in our Willowdale home, also near the northern outskirts.



Dan Osmond (1934-2015), one of CSCA's founders. Read Don McNally's tribute to him at csc.ca/50-osmond.

Doug Morrison served for many years as our very capable first Executive Director. I served on Council for close to thirty years, three of them as President. Doug's wife Barbara competently handled memberships, donations, and other business. Their farm in Fergus, near Guelph, became a hub for CSCA Council meetings as well as other meetings for fun, fellowship, and visiting speakers. The winter Council meeting was usually held just after Christmas or early January, and we would converge from all directions, sometimes slithering precariously up their icy driveway, to warm up with hot chocolate, tea, or coffee around a blazing wood stove in their kitchen. Then we would gather to do business around their large, rustic dining table. In summer, adults and children would gather for fun and games in a nearby grassy field, eat our



potluck meals sitting around an empty hay

wagon, then move into the vintage barn and sit on straw bales to listen to the speaker. One such outstanding speaker was the late Donald MacKay, author of *Christianity in a Mechanistic Universe* and other books.

Of course, there were many other activities on and off the various campuses. At one point, there were concerted efforts to establish 'local sections' of CSCA. The ones in Toronto and Guelph took off quite vigorously and lasted for quite a while. Toronto even published its own periodic newsletter. In 1977, Faith and I and our four children drove from Toronto all the way west to Victoria, British Columbia, taking the ferry to Vancouver Island, and camping all the way there and back. At various pre-arranged centres, we stopped to meet with local ASA/CSCA members and others to promote CSCA and try to encourage the formation of local sections. It was not easy, but I still believe that local presence and fellowship are very important for CSCA.

During the first thirty years, our home in Willowdale, and later our home near the St. George (downtown) campus of the University of Toronto, became hubs for fellowship, prayer, and ministry on behalf of both CSCA and IVCF (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship). I couple the two because Faith and I were closely involved with both for decades and especially because, in strategic terms, they are well-placed to form a synergistic, natural alliance. There are only so many evangelical Christian professors and

students on campus and only a limited number of opportunities for them to gather and interact.

Finally, what precipitated the establishment of CSCA? First, ASA with its modest resources was already stretched thin across the length and breadth of the USA with too little left over to do justice to their huge northern neighbour. Second, in 1967, Canada celebrated its centennial year with its spectacular Expo '67 in Montreal and many other such grand events across the nation. Repatriation of our Constitution from Britain was in the works, and a strong sense of “coming of age” pervaded the country. In matters large and small, people felt it was time to exercise home-grown responsibility, including financial responsibility. Last but not least, income tax laws had tightened such that only

donations to Canadian organizations could be recognized for income tax purposes. So, CSCA became a reality to serve in close partnership with the ASA. Our unity in Christ, our desire to serve our Lord first and foremost, and our reliance on the Holy Spirit have made it possible to work together in harmony on a win-win basis.

I recognize that I’ve left too much out. I’d like to thank all executive directors, presidents, council members, office staff, members, and others on both sides of the border who have done their best for the ASA and CSCA ministries through the years. They serve God, but I hope they will also be recognized and thanked properly when an official history is written.



The planning team for the Hamilton Chapter holds its meeting in Don McNally's kitchen, 2018.

A CSCA History

Judy Toronchuk

Faith and Science

Moving Forward with God

How does the triune God interact with creation? If all truth is God's truth, what new insights about this God are revealed as we discover more about nature? The desire to more fully know both God and creation drew the founders of CSCA together in 1973 as they sought to create a uniquely Canadian organization. We have sensed God's guidance through the years moving us forward, science and faith both rising to new challenges, but moving forward together with God. Along with dialogue from different perspectives on difficult issues, CSCA has been a continuing source of fellowship, sharing, helping, and mentoring. Thinking back to the founding of CSCA when I was a grad student, I am reminded how my own life has been greatly enriched by participation in this caring community.

Moving Forward Together with ASA and Others

Canadians have been numbered among ASA members from the earliest days. Frank Allen (University of Manitoba) joined as early as 1946, becoming ASA's first Honorary Fellow in 1965; Brian P. Sutherland (Consolidated Mining & Smelting, Rossland, BC) served as ASA's Vice President 1953-56.

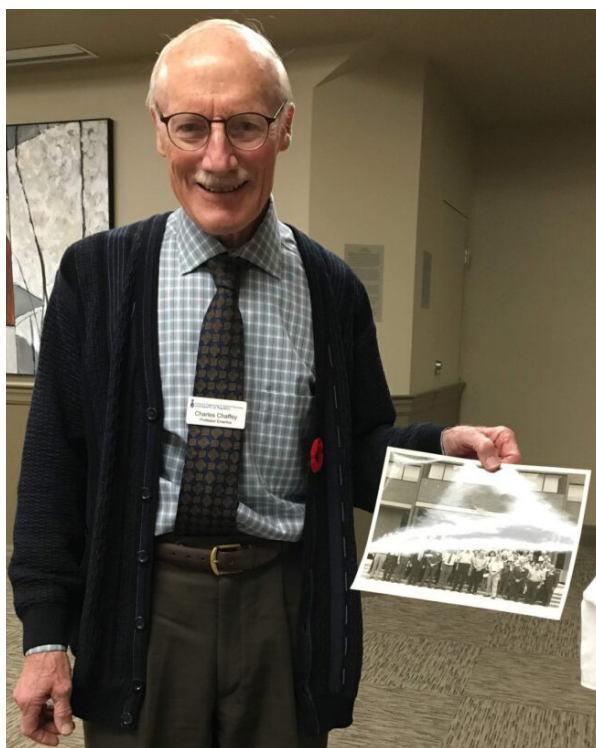


Early Canadian ASA member Frank Allen was one of "The Original Six" professors at the University of Manitoba. Read more here: csc.ca/50-allen

The American Scientific Affiliation held its first Canadian annual meeting at York University in 1972. This set the stage to birth a Canadian offspring. We have continued to work together since then with the generous help and guidance of ASA and its leadership. Several people have played leadership roles in both organizations. John Wood, recently serving as ASA's President and then Interim Executive Director, has long been part of the Edmonton chapter. James Peterson, former CSCA President,

is long-time Editor of *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*. Plenary speakers at past ASA conferences have included Canadians Robert Mann, Dennis Danielson, and Loren Wilkinson, and I have also been on the Executive Councils of both organizations.

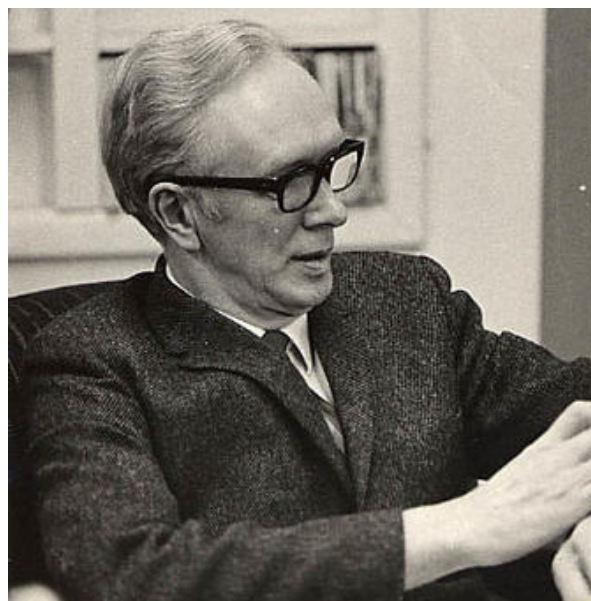
Many productive cross-links with IVCF have continued over the years, including the role in the campus ministry of former CSCA Executive Director Don McNally. We have had numerous grants from the Templeton Foundation, including the Metanexus Institute for Science & Religion, and the Templeton Science and Religion Course Program. Dan Osmond, one of CSCA's founders, was on the Templeton Foundation Board along with former ASA Executive Director Robert Herrmann.



Charles E. Chaffey at the 2018 AGM of the CSCA at Redeemer University, holding a photo from the 1972 ASA Annual Meeting at York University.

Early History

CSCA was founded in 1973 by John Stewart, Dan Osmond, and Doug Morrison, all in southern Ontario. John, who did much of the organizational work, was a physician, Anglican missionary, and priest. Dan Osmond from the University of Toronto was CSCA's first President, and Doug Morrison (animal science, Guelph) was a long-time Executive Director. At that time CSCA was centred in Guelph, with additional activity restricted to Toronto and Waterloo. Donations were sent to John Stewart's home in Perth, ON, and meetings were often held at Doug Morrison's farm in Fergus, ON.



Vancouver CSCA section founder Enoch Mattson, for whom a building on TWU's campus is named.

Robert Vander Vennen (University of Toronto, & Institute for Christian Studies) served as President for most of the '80s, succeeded by Doug Morrison, with Norman MacLeod (Toronto) as Executive Secretary. In 1981 the geographical base of CSCA

broadened when a Vancouver section was organized by Enoch Mattson (theology) of Trinity Western University. Don McNally began his role in campus resource ministry in 1986. Other key people in this decade included Charles Chaffey (chemical engineering, Toronto) as well as Esther Martin (chemistry, Guelph) who served as Secretary-Treasurer for many years and as proofreader of *PSCF* for decades. By the dawn of the '90s, local sections of the CSCA included Vancouver, Guelph, Toronto, and Ottawa.

In 1992 Norman MacLeod (Toronto) became President and Don McNally joined the council. Gary Partlow (physiology, Guelph) served as President from 1994 to 1996. ASA's annual conference came to Canada for the second time when the ASA/CSCA conference was held at the University of Toronto in 1996. Numerous Canadian speakers included Denis Lamoureux, Ted Beverley, John Stewart, Charles Chaffey, Harry Spaling, and Jitse van der Meer. Robert Mann (physics, Waterloo) then served as President from 1997 to 2006, and David Humphreys was Executive Director from 1999 to 2003, when Don McNally accepted the role.

Forward into the New Millennium

Under the direction of Robert Mann, CSCA hosted a nationwide public lecture series in 2001-2004 entitled "Science and Faith in the New Millennium." Funding

was provided by grants from the Reid Trust,



the Templeton Foundation, and private donations. Speakers included physics Nobel Laureate William Phillips, physicist/theologian John Polkinghorne, psychologist

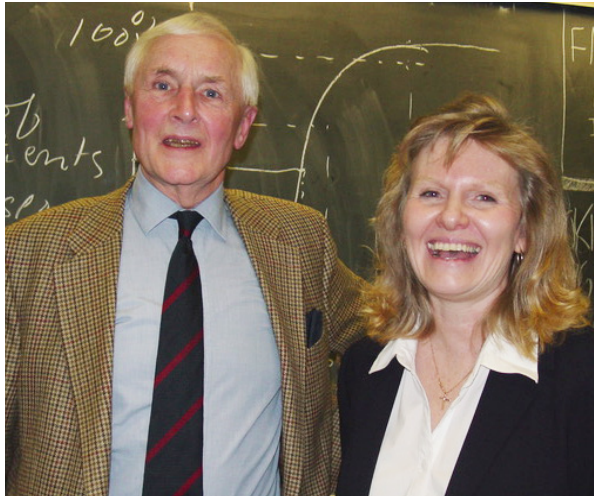
Science & Faith in the New Millennium 2002-03

CSCA
National Lecture Series

**Cosmology
Spirit
Mind
Origins
Destiny**

Calgary
Edmonton
Guelph
Hamilton
Halifax
Lethbridge
Montreal
Toronto
Waterloo
Vancouver
Victoria
Yellowknife

A brochure cover from the Science & Faith in the New Millennium tour. Look inside: csc.ca/50-millennium



Malcolm Jeeves and Judy Toronchuk during our Science & Faith in the New Millennium tour (UBC, Feb. 2003).

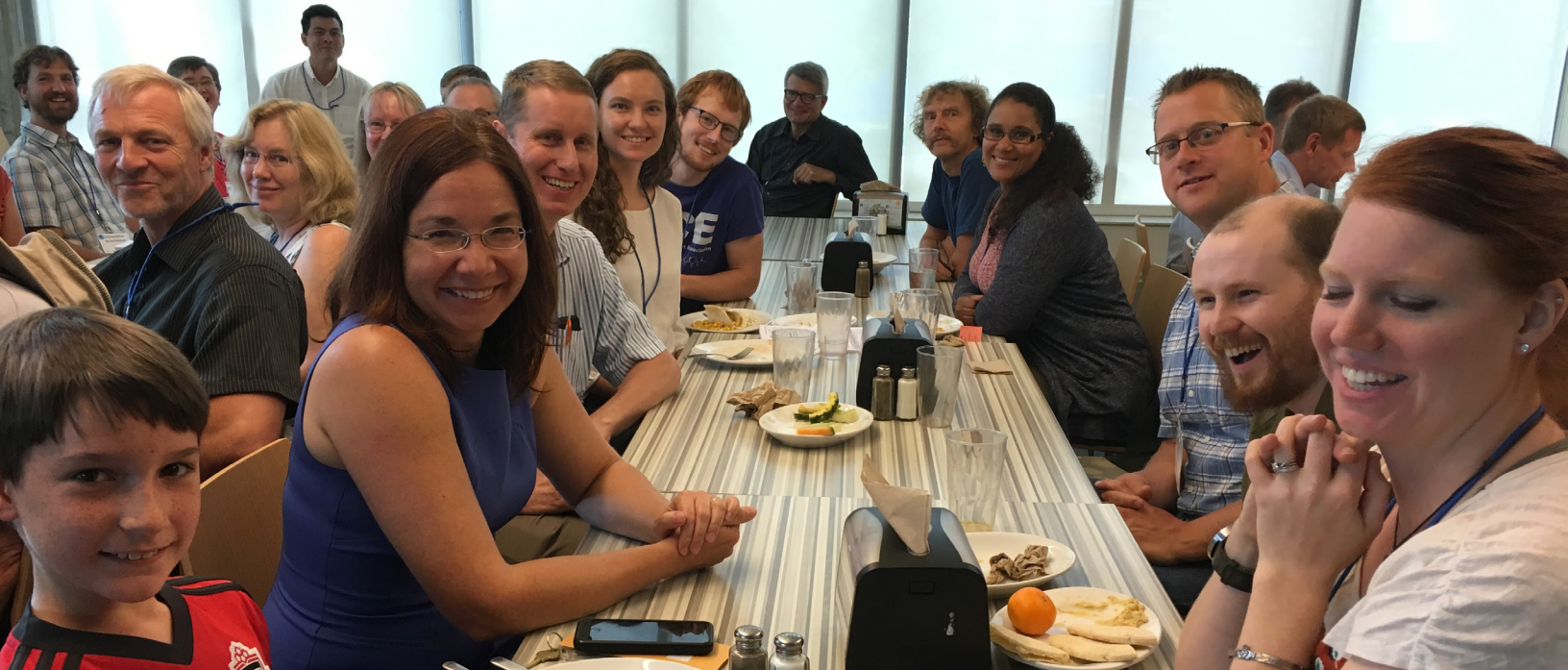
Malcolm Jeeves, cosmologists Owen Gingerich and George Ellis, theologian Anne Foerst, neuroscientist David Cechetto (Western), mathematician Bill Dembski, biologist/theologian Denis Lamoureux (University of Alberta), ecologist Calvin De Witt, and materials scientist Colin Humphreys. In total, over 5,000 people in twelve cities attended these lectures, the largest event being in Edmonton with nearly 800 present.

The annual ASA/CSCA conference returned to Canada in 2004 at Trinity Western University with several international speakers, including Malcolm Jeeves and George Ellis. Canadian plenary speakers included Heather Looy (psychology, The King's University) and David Cechetto (physiology). We partnered with the International Network on Personal Meaning for an ancillary symposium, "The Gift of Suffering: Spiritual Transformation, Science and Medicine." Several plenary speakers from the ASA/CSCA main

conference spoke at that event. Both of these conferences were funded in part by grants from Templeton Foundation.

In this era, the Templeton Foundation also funded several Local Societies Initiatives in connection with the Metanexus Institute on Religion & Science, which provided funding for local CSCA groups. This enabled the Vancouver area to host several speakers from 2005-2008 and to hold a student essay writing competition. Hamilton also received a Metanexus grant in 2005 for Thaddeus Trenn (history of science, Toronto) and Don McNally to head up a Templeton-funded science & religion course together at Toronto.

A poster for the 2004 ASA/CSCA conference at TWU.



Katharine Hayhoe joined our Canadian meal meet-up at ASA 2017 in Boulder, Colorado.

Forward from Coast to Coast

Southern Ontario, Vancouver, and Edmonton remained the primary areas of activity in the next decade. In 2010 the CSCA Executive Council, then under the direction of Thaddeus Trenn (President 2007-2011) was reorganized to include only five members, three of whom would be in nine-year rotation (Vice-President, President, and Past President), a Student & Early Career Representative, and a non-rotational Secretary-Treasurer. Bob Geddes, a geologist/pastor, continued to faithfully fill the latter role, and Don McNally continued as Executive Director until 2018. Other key people in that decade were Denis Lamoureux and Heather Looy in Edmonton. Thad Trenn was followed as President by James Peterson (medicine, McMaster), then Arnold Sikkema (physics, TWU), and then Janet Warren (medicine & theology).

In 2014 the ASA/CSCA annual conference (including Christians in Science from the UK) was held at McMaster in Hamilton with Robert Mann and Bob Geddes as chairs. The Canadian plenary speakers were Bart Netterfield (astrophysics, Toronto) and Don Page (physics, Alberta) along with numerous Canadians speaking in parallel sessions.

From 2016-2018, CSCA was the recipient of a generous grant from the Templeton World Charity Foundation to carry out a Local Chapters Project. Chapters were added in Calgary, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Waterloo, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Nova Scotia, bringing our total to eleven (including Vancouver, Edmonton, and Hamilton). The project included a speaking tour, for which Arnold Sikkema delivered a lecture on “Quantum Physics and Christianity” in each Canadian chapter (csc.ca/50-sikkema). In addition to thirty-six student mentoring meals, the funding





Our 2017 AGM was held at Wycliffe College on the University of Toronto campus in September, coinciding with our major event with Alister McGrath and Michael Shermer: “Is God a Figment of Our Imagination?”

provided for a record total of 186 local chapter events in three years (including Arnold’s tour, several shorter lecture tours, individual public lectures, panel discussions, workshops, luncheons, and book launches). Our Waterloo chapter conceived and brought to bear a major event by reaching out to nearby local chapters and several other ministries: a debate between skeptic Michael Shermer and theologian Alister McGrath in Toronto (csca.ca/50-mcgrath)—also the occasion for our 2017 AGM. Scholarships were provided for twenty-eight students to attend science and religion conferences. The grant also allowed for the hiring of Project Development Officer Mark McEwan (theological studies student, ACTS), who did a fabulous renovation of the CSCA website (csca.ca). During this time, a series of pamphlets called “Faith and Science, eh?” was produced on topics including

creation, earth science, Copernicus, quantum physics, reductionism, genes and evolution, carbon dating, tectonic plates, and ecology (csca.ca/pamphlets).



A poster for our multi-chapter, multi-ministry event at the University of Toronto in September 2017, CSCA logo prominently centred.



Patrick Franklin, Janet Warren, and Helen Lau represented CSCA at ASA 2018 at Gordon College.

In May 2018 CSCA held its first national conference, “From Sea to Sea... to Sky!” with over 160 attendees. Plenary speakers included Richard Middleton (theologian, Northeastern Seminary, past president of the Canadian Evangelical Theological Association, now the “Canadian American Theological Association”), Katharine Hayhoe (Canadian climate scientist at Texas Tech.), Robert Mann (physics, Waterloo), and Dennis Danielson (English, UBC).

Outstanding among
the plenary sessions



was Santa Ono, then president of UBC, a biologist and medical scientist who has openly proclaimed his faith at UBC. (Find recordings at csc.ca/50-2018.)



Truitt Wiensz, Dennis Venema, and Matthew Morris attended our May 2018 conference in Langley, BC.



Don McNally delivers "A Brief History of the CSCA" for our May 2018 conference at Trinity Western University. A recording is accessible at csc.ca/50-mcnally.

One highlight of the conference was the off-site Sky Gala with Dennis Danielson (author of *The Book of the Cosmos*) narrating "Six Pieces of a Reverberant Cosmos" composed by Janet Danielson (music, SFU) and performed by the Isotone Ensemble. Katharine Hayhoe spoke following the concert. Additionally, we partnered with a ministry called Theo's Feast (theosfeast.com), run by Gary Stevenson with Power to Change, specializing in using "edible metaphors" to communicate a Christian message. On the opening night of the conference, Gary made and served exotic ice creams, and the night after the conference, a smaller group participated in "Taste and See: An Edible Science and Faith Odyssey." (See the menu here: csc.ca/50-taste).

In late 2018 Arnold Sikkema was appointed Executive Director, and in early 2019 Mike Werth (who had assisted with financial and tax matters throughout the 2016-18 grant years) became our Treasurer, allowing Bob Geddes to focus on the Secretary role. As the Local Chapters Project was completed at the end of that year (see the final report at csc.ca/newsletter-18), Mark McEwan's full-time employment with CSCA came to a close; today, he continues part-time work as Digital Media and Communications Specialist. In 2019, Patrick Franklin (theology, Tyndale) would have become President, but his health delayed his appointment until 2020, and Janet Warren remained in her position as President for one extra year. Heather Prior (biology, King's) was appointed Vice President. Charles Chaffey, who attended that first 1972 conference and remained active, celebrated fifty years of ASA/CSCA membership in 2018 and went to be home with the Lord in 2021.



Apart from the Sky Gala, all plenary and breakout sessions of CSCA 2018 were held in the DeVries Centre (formerly Northwest Building) on TWU campus.



CSCA's first true hybrid event, during which online and in-person audiences could directly interact with the speaker and hear each other live, was held at TWU for the launch of Dennis Venema's coauthored book, "Biology, Religion, and Philosophy: An Introduction." A recording is available at csc.ca/50-venema.

Forward through the Unknown

The COVID-19 pandemic brought an abrupt halt to all in-person CSCA events, but it also brought ASA and CSCA closer together in many ways, pushing us further along technologically. As early as April 2020, the ASA jumped with both feet into the challenging world of online-only events. Sharing a Zoom license with ASA, CSCA chapters began holding online events shortly after, with Waterloo leading the way in May. That same month, Mark McEwan was brought aboard ASA's team as their Digital Content Specialist—now working for both affiliations.

From the beginning of the pandemic to the end of 2022, CSCA held thirty-seven online-only events for seven local chapters,

not including CSCA AGMs, ASA's 2020



“Summer Something,” the online-only ASA 2021, any of the regular ASA programming precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic (monthly Diving Deeper Discussions, quarterly Brown Bag Lunches, and the annual Winter Symposium). Of particular note are the joint-chapter Zoom events hosted by Calgary's Matthew Morris (biology, Ambrose University) for the benefit of Canada's western provinces, featuring Winnipeg's Rebecca Dielschneider (biology, Providence University College), who spoke on vaccine hesitancy with great wisdom and compassion (csc.ca/50-diel).

At the 2022 annual general meeting, there was significant turnover in the Executive Council. Bob Geddes finished fifteen years on the Executive Council, mostly as Secretary-Treasurer; he was replaced

WHAT ABOUT UNKNOWN, LONG-TERM EFFECTS?

“There are always unknowns in life, but records show that vaccine side effects appear in the first few minutes, days, or weeks. **In the history of vaccines, we haven’t found any side effects that suddenly appear years down the road.** In the long run, vaccines lead to health and longevity.”



**Rebecca Dielschneider
Ph.D. (Immunology)**

*Christian, Mother, and
Assistant Professor of Biology
at Providence University College*

csc.ca/vaccine-pdf

csc.ca/vaccine-video

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CSCA produced several images to promote sound science over social media.

as Secretary by Joseph Vybihal (computer science, McGill). Mike Werth completed his term as Treasurer and was replaced by Andy Sebestyen (environmental management, Stelco - retired). Janet Warren completed her term as Past President. Heather Prior moved to the President position, and Patrick

Franklin became Past President. Nyasha Gondora (neuroscience, Canadian Institutes of Health Research) continues as Student and Early Career Representative, a position which she has occupied for two years. Vlad Paserin (consultant for Nickel Institute) was appointed as Vice President.

Today we look forward to the next fifty years of CSCA partnering with ASA and proclaiming God’s greatness. We extend thanksgiving to all who have helped to guide and promote this endeavour.

With contributions by Mark McEwan and Arnold Sikkema. As part of our 50th-anniversary celebration, we are using this piece as a starting point for a new history section of the CSCA website. Be sure to visit this page throughout the year and beyond: csc.ca/history



TWU student attendees of ASA 2022 in San Diego reflect on their experiences at one of our Vancouver, BC events.

A Call to Celebrate

For the past year, we have served as the co-chairs of the CSCA's 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee. This wonderful group of volunteers includes Alan Dickin, Bob Geddes, Joseph Vybihal, and Osowo-Ayim Bisong. We developed five goals: promote the CSCA, encourage our members, learn about our members, celebrate our past, and discuss our future. We believe the initiatives outlined below will meet these goals and lead you to thanksgiving and praise. It has been a good fifty years!

50th Anniversary Newsletter

As was done for the 40th anniversary, we have published this 50th-anniversary newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading the articles, letters, and remarks shared on these pages. We thank all the contributors for their thoughtful and faithful contributions, and we thank Bob Geddes for his editorial insights.

Fifty Things to Find:

“Truly Canadian Scavenger Hunt”

On one of the pages of this newsletter, you will see a “50 Things to Find” in nature activity. In this activity, Joseph Vybihal curated fifty awe-inspiring species, specimens, or spaces. Perhaps some of these are the objects of your scientific study. We hope as you consider the beauty of each one that you are drawn into conversation and worship. How many have you seen in person?



*Rebecca Dielschneider,
50th Anniversary Celebration Committee Co-chair*

Which will you seek out this year? We challenge you to check off as many as you can and send us some photo evidence!

Past President Lecture Series

From January to June, each month a past CSCA president will speak to a local CSCA chapter. Each will share their experience as president, offer reflections on science and faith, and discuss the future of the CSCA. Perhaps you are affiliated with one of these local chapters and can attend that lecture in person. If not, there will be opportunities to tune in virtually or watch recorded videos at a later date. The schedule of this lecture series is as follows:



Judy Toronchuk,
50th Anniversary Celebration Committee Co-chair

- January: Robert Mann in Vancouver
- February: Gary Partlow in Waterloo
- March: Arnold Sikkema in Edmonton
- March: Jim Peterson in Hamilton
- June: Patrick Franklin in Montreal
- June: Janet Warren in Winnipeg

Q&A with Fifty CSCA Members

We likely all know a little bit about the past presidents, but there are many other CSCA members that you perhaps know less well. Therefore, we have asked fifty members to

respond to three questions about science, scripture, and Canadian scenery. We will publish their responses as blog posts on the CSCA website throughout the year. We hope this will build our fellowship and celebrate our diverse journeys and perspectives. Do you want to contribute? We still have several spots left! Send us an email to discuss this further.

Celebrations and Swag at the ASA Annual Meeting 2023

We plan to have some Canadian foods, swag, and events at the annual meeting. Stay tuned for more details. You won't want to miss the fellowship and scholarship at this meeting. We look forward to celebrating with you all in Toronto this summer!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Dielschneider and Judy Toronchuk
Cochairs of the CSCA's 50th Anniversary
Celebration Committee

anniversary@csc.ca

www.csc.ca/50



We had a terrific Canadian turnout for ASA 2022 at Point Loma Nazarene University.



The University of Toronto Mississauga is one of three campuses of the University of Toronto.

The ASA 2023 Annual Meeting – Mississauga

The CSCA is very pleased to host the 2023 annual meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation. The last meeting in Canada was in 2014, at McMaster University in Hamilton. The venue for the 2023 meeting will be the University of Toronto – Mississauga Campus (UTM). The dates are July 28 to 31. The campus has some of the “U of T vibe,” but is situated on 225 acres of a greenbelt area along the historic and naturally significant Credit River. The student population is just over 16,000. The picturesque grounds are home to many deer.

The theme of the meeting is “Moving Forward Together: The Future of Science and Faith.” The feature text is Phil. 3:12:

“Not that I have already obtained all of this or



have already arrived at my goal, but I *press on* to take hold of that for which Jesus Christ took hold of me.”

To foster that theme, you will see on the poster that the conference offers an inspiring program of plenary speakers, from three continents. The speakers range from an Emeritus Director of the Faraday Institute in the UK to Canada’s recent Nobel Laureate in physics. On the Saturday, there will also be a special 50th-anniversary dinner (or rather BBQ), featuring Canadian cuisine (think back bacon on a bun and butter tarts).

Some interesting workshops and field trips are in the plans. Workshop themes are still being finalized. Field trips include a half-day trip to the world-renowned Royal Botanical Gardens, led by our own horticultural expert Valerie Sikkema. Two



The North Building on UTM campus.

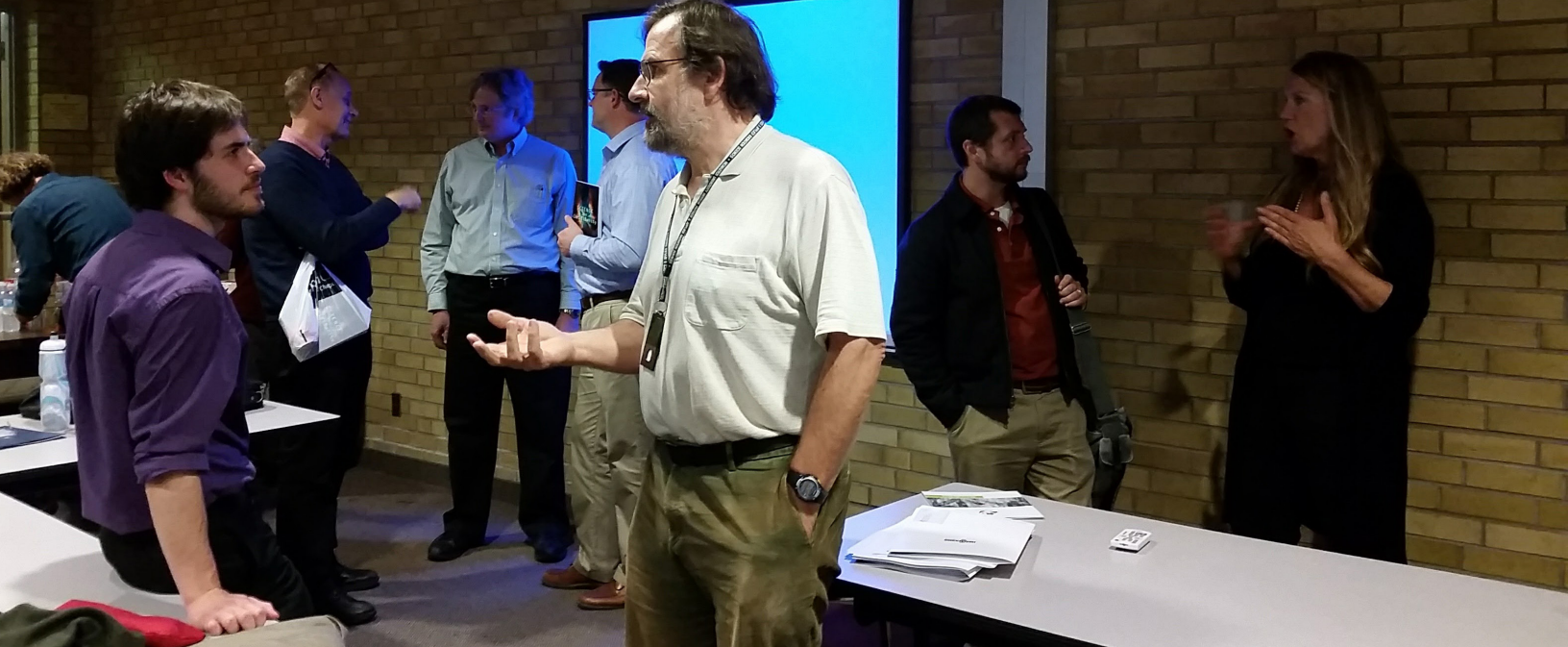
full-day trips are being planned. One is to the Royal Ontario Museum in downtown Toronto, which will feature a tour of the new and fascinating “Dawn of Life” exhibit. It is a 10,000-square-foot gallery featuring 1,000 fossil specimens plus dioramas and animations. A second trip is planned to the landform-rich Guelph area and will feature environmental stewardship at the A Rocha Cedar Haven site, and the nearby Crieff Hills, the national retreat centre of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This trip will also feature some small hikes and stops to visit some classic glacial geomorphology and likely a stop along the Niagara Escarpment.

One important feature of the UTM site is its proximity to Pearson International Airport,

Canada’s busiest. Under good traffic, it is twenty minutes away. We hope you will consider joining us for this special and memorable way to celebrate the CSCA’s 50th Anniversary!



The Royal Botanical Gardens are well worth the visit.



Leslie Wickman spoke on “Christians and Climate Change” at our 2016 AGM at McMaster Divinity College.

The New CSCA Legacy Fund...and Some Good News!

In 2018, our partner, the American Scientific Affiliation commenced work on the development of a Legacy Fund. At the last CSCA annual general meeting, Executive Director Arnold Sikkema shared the news that the CSCA will be starting its own “Legacy Campaign” to work in parallel with the ASA’s campaign. It is a wonderful way to commemorate the organization’s 50th anniversary! The ASA’s campaign has been in the works for a few years and has had a very successful “quiet” phase. The CSCA will join in at the next level. It will allow CSCA members who catch the spirit of the campaign to contribute with full charitable tax benefits.

The goals of the ASA fund include

supporting and expanding membership, reaching



out to more students, providing student scholarships, resourcing future leaders, and program support. The CSCA’s fund will share very similar goals, just as the two organizations share the same purposes and ethos. The CSCA fund, however, will allow for a more directed, contextual approach to the Canadian situation.

For example, the post-secondary scene in Canada is culturally quite different than in the U.S. There are far fewer per capita Christian colleges and universities in Canada and a much larger component of government-sponsored secular institutions. It would be the students and faculty of these latter institutions who would be the primary target for some concerted approach by the CSCA. This would involve a dedicated CSCA staff person reaching out through university chaplaincies, Christian clubs, local CSCA chapters, divinity colleges etc, to develop a mutual relationship and to provide support for both Christian students

and faculty in the sciences. We would use certain models already established by some of our Canadian Christian colleges and universities, from whom we get tremendous support. We would also pursue a working relationship with ASA staff such as Hannah Eagleson, Director of Partnerships and Innovation. In addition, the fund would be used to support student scholarships for those attending the ASA annual meetings.

The CSCA Executive Council and its fund subcommittee have reviewed CRA requirements for such a fund. The fund is

being administered by the CSCA treasurer and overseen by the CSCA Executive Council. We are very pleased and grateful to share the news that two initial cash donations of \$20,000 each have already been received! It is hoped that this will encourage others to catch the spirit, and be moved by the Spirit, to support the fund and its important work in carrying the CSCA (and with it the ASA) forward.

Contact our treasurer for more details at treasurer@csc.ca.



Some attendees from our Vancouver chapter at the ASA 2022 Saturday Night Gala at Liberty Station in San Diego, CA, during which the ASA Legacy campaign was announced. A recording of the evening is available at csc.ca/50-legacy.

Recent Books Authored by CSCA Members

In the 40th anniversary newsletter, we had the opportunity to share some books authored by CSCA members. We carry on that “tradition” with a more complete list of recent books, with **CSCA authors in bold**. We are thankful for all the submissions. We had planned to also share book chapters as well, but the list was too comprehensive to provide here! The list here includes some very intriguing titles, and we encourage you to follow up. The editor apologizes for any unintentional omissions. Other books by CSCA authors, but not submitted for the newsletter, may be found at csc.ca/books.

Christian J. Barrigar, *Freedom All the Way Up: God and the Meaning of Life in a Scientific Age* (Friesen Press, 2017).

Harry Cook (translator), Cees Dekker, Corien Oranje, and Gijsbert van der Brink, *Dawn: A Proton's Tale of All That Came to Be* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2022).

Terry Defoe, *Evolving Certainties: Resolving Conflict at the Intersection of Faith and Science* (Kindle Direct Publishing, Amazon, 2018).

Alan Dickin, *A Scientific Commentary on Genesis 1-11* (Amazon, 2015).

Alan Dickin, *From the Stone Age to Abraham: A Biblical History of the Ancient World* (Amazon, 2021).

Merrill Edmonds, *Are We Going to be Okay?* (Tellwell Publishing, 2017).

Chary Rangacharyulu and Chris Polachic, *From Atoms to Higgs Boson: Voyages in Quasi-Spacetime* (Jenny Stanford Publishing, 2019).

Tim Reddish, *The Amish Farmer Who Hated L.A. and Other Modern-Day Allegories* (Deep River Books, 2015).

Tim Reddish, *Science and Christianity: Foundations and Frameworks for Moving Forward in Faith* (Wipf and Stock, 2016).

Tim Reddish, *Does God Always Get What God Wants? An Exploration of God's Activity in a Suffering World* (Cascade Books, 2018).



CSCA Secretary & Montreal chapter leader Joseph Vybihal organized our “Truly Canadian Scavenger Hunt.”





CSCA Student and Early Career Representative & Waterloo chapter leader Nyasha Gondora (right) hosted Janet Warren's book-launch for "All Things Wise and Wonderful" during the COVID-19 pandemic. A recording is available at csc.ca/50-warren-2.

Tim Reddish, *The Jesus I Didn't Know: Reflections on the Identity of Jesus* (Wipf and Stock, 2021).

Tim Reddish et al (eds.), *Partnering with God: Exploring Collaboration in Open and Relational Theology* (SacraSage Press, 2021).

Ethan J. Brue, **Derek Schuurman**, and Steven H. VanderLeest, *A Christian Guide to Technology for Engineers and Designers* (IVP Academic, 2022).

Peter Schuurman, *The Subversive Evangelical: The Chronic Charisma of an Irreligious Church* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2019).

Keith Allan Shields, *Supernatural* (Beacon Publishing Group, 2020).

Keith Allan Shields, *The Great Beyond* (Beacon Publishing Group, 2019).

Dennis R. Venema and Scot McKnight, *Adam and the Genome: Reading Scripture after Genetic Science* (Baker, 2017).

Michael L. Peterson and **Dennis R. Venema**, *Biology, Religion, and Philosophy: An Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

Janet Warren, *All Things Wise and Wonderful* (Wipf and Stock, 2021).

Janet Warren (ed.), *Singing into Splintered Spaces: The Rhythms of Mission and Spiritual Disciplines* (Wipf and Stock, 2022).

Truly Canadian Scavenger Hunt

The “Truly Canadian” checklist:

We wish to celebrate CSCA by sharing our Canadian experience. We ask you to send in a picture that you have taken yourself of any (or as many) of the items below to this email: anniversary@csc.ca. Our judges will select the best pictures from each category and place them on the 50th-anniversary webpage. Please include the following information with your pictures: your name, the location of the picture, when it was taken, and a single-sentence title. We thank CSCA Secretary and Celebration Committee member Joseph Vybihal for putting this together. (Yes, there are fifty items.) A PDF version is available at csc.ca/50-hunt.

Animals	Plants and Fungi
<input type="checkbox"/> Beaver	<input type="checkbox"/> Maple tree
<input type="checkbox"/> Moose	<input type="checkbox"/> Reindeer lichen
<input type="checkbox"/> Polar bear	<input type="checkbox"/> Canadian Grape Vine <small>(L'Acadie Blanc, Adalmiina, Baco Noir, Chancellor, etc.)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bison	
<input type="checkbox"/> Walrus	
<input type="checkbox"/> Caribou	
<input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Puffin	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Lynx	
<input type="checkbox"/> Beluga Whale	
In your area...	Canadian Rocks/Geology
<input type="checkbox"/> Iconic Canadian university building or monument in your area	<input type="checkbox"/> A mine headframe
<input type="checkbox"/> Iconic Canadian Mountain in your area	<input type="checkbox"/> An Esker or a drumlin
<input type="checkbox"/> Iconic Canadian city building or monument in your area	<input type="checkbox"/> A piece of Precambrian granite
<input type="checkbox"/> Iconic Canadian Indigenous location or event in your area	
<input type="checkbox"/> Iconic Canadian French location or event in your area	Canadian Indigenous
	<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous art
	<input type="checkbox"/> Totem Pole
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Great Spirit Circle Trail
	<input type="checkbox"/> Haida Heritage Site, BC
	<input type="checkbox"/> Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Alberta
	<input type="checkbox"/> Petroglyphs Provincial Park & National Historic Site, Ontario
	Truly Canadian...
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cuisine
	<input type="checkbox"/> Great lakes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal Forest
	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern lights
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tundra
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prairie fields
	<input type="checkbox"/> Something representative of the Canadian mosaic (not a melting pot)
	From sea-to-sea-to-sea
	<input type="checkbox"/> Iconic Canadian scene at the Atlantic Ocean
	<input type="checkbox"/> Iconic Canadian scene at the Pacific Ocean
	<input type="checkbox"/> Iconic Canadian scene at the Arctic Ocean

Provincial Plants
<input type="checkbox"/> Alberta - Wild Rose
<input type="checkbox"/> BC - Pacific Dogwood
<input type="checkbox"/> Manitoba - Prairie Crocus
<input type="checkbox"/> New Brunswick - Purple Violet
<input type="checkbox"/> Newfoundland - Pitcher Plant
<input type="checkbox"/> NWT - Mountain Avens
<input type="checkbox"/> Nova Scotia – Mayflower
<input type="checkbox"/> Nunavut - Purple Saxifrage
<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario - White Trillium
<input type="checkbox"/> PEI - Lady's Slipper
<input type="checkbox"/> Québec - Fleur-de-lis
<input type="checkbox"/> Saskatchewan - Western Red Lily
<input type="checkbox"/> Yukon - Fireweed







CANADIAN
Scientific & Christian
AFFILIATION
1973 — 2023

www.csca.ca/50
info@csca.ca

   
[@csca1973](https://www.instagram.com/csca1973)

 [csca.ca/linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/csca-ca)