

E-SCAN is a regular newsletter distributed electronically as a means of maintaining timely communication of, and encouraging a dialogue on, topics relevant to Chartered Accountants and students of the Nova Scotia Institute. Copies of recent issues can be obtained from the Institute web-site at www.icans.ns.ca



Juan tossed boats like toys during its visit.

Facing Up To The Storm

For people directly in the path of Juan, it has been a week to remember. First the hurricane itself, then seeing the surreal images of the devastation. While all were certainly distressed and inconvenienced, many others also suffered tragic or substantial economic loss. We have experienced the power of nature, been reminded of the importance of electricity in our lives, and perhaps most importantly, the value of living in a community where people rise to the occasion to help others.

On behalf of Council, I would like to express our hope that all members, families and colleagues have survived the storm without significant loss, and that all Nova Scotians quickly can return to their normal lives again.



Bob Bean, President



Institute-Sponsored IIA Conference Weathers The Storm

The Institute of Internal Auditors North Eastern Conference commenced on September 28th, just hours before Hurricane Juan blew ashore. The Institute, as well as the other Institutes in Atlantic Canada, were Presenting Sponsors (collectively as the Chartered Accountants of Atlantic Canada) of the conference, which attracted internal auditors from throughout Canada and the North Eastern States. Conference organizers demonstrated tremendous risk management techniques in handling the logistics, as they huddled together on Monday morning and considered their options.

2003 Halifax Careers Fair Another Big Success

ICANS once again participated in the Halifax Careers Fair, held this year on Friday 26 September at the WTCC for university students from Saint Mary's, Dalhousie and Mount Saint Vincent University. Each year, over 1500 students visit the Fair, and this year ICANS Recruiting Committee volunteers **Tanya Boudreau**, **Catherine Johnston**, and **Tanya MacDonald** answered hundreds of questions from students considering the benefits of a CA career. **Terry Arthur**, ASCA's Registrar, deserves special recognition for taking on a marathon role of manning the booth for the entire day!

Council Approves Two New Rules of Professional Conduct

At its 26 September meeting, Council approved two new standards which are intended to improve public confidence in financial reporting in Canada, as well as the reputation of the CA designation by demonstrating our compliance with the highest standards developed to protect the public interest. The two standards were developed on a national basis by the Ethics Harmonization Standards Committee and reflected considerable input from the Provincial Institutes, firms, members, and various public stakeholders.

The first standard relates to the replacement of the current Rule 204 — Objectivity with a new **Rule 204** on Independence. In order to comply with a requested effective date of 1 January 2004, Council has agreed to bring this matter to a member vote next month, and has

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called a Special Meeting to be held on **27 November 2003**. All members will be receiving a formal notice of this meeting in the mail next week, together with further information on the new Rule prior to the meeting.

The second standard approved by Council establishes a new Rule 206 - Compliance with Professional Standards. The new Rule applies to all CAs who are engaged in the practice of public accounting as well as to all CAs who are responsible for the preparation of all or part of an entity's general-purpose financial statements, regardless of their level of seniority either as auditor or preparer. This is an important change, since the current rule addresses only CAs in public accounting, an anomaly the profession needed to fix. In addition, under the new expanded rule, CAs who are members of audit committees or boards of directors will be required to exercise the care and diligence of a "competent CA," enhanced by their own career experience, in fulfilling their responsibilities. Council Interpretations (CIs) to Rule 206 stipulate that the notion of competency is not static—time and context must be considered. The CIs also clarify what is meant by the term "competent CA," stating that the CA in a governance role:

- should not be considered a GAAP expert;
- should not be considered a professional advisor to the audit committee;
- should identify and raise the issues that should be discussed (e.g., accounting policies, accounting estimates); and
- should be familiar with regulatory requirements.

Finally, the CIs make clear that so-called fringe interpretations of GAAP are not acceptable, stating that extreme interpretations of a source do not constitute evidence that the criteria in paragraph 1100.04 have been met if it is likely that most parties, exercising professional judgment, would reject them as not resulting in a fair presentation in accordance with GAAP. This interpretation arises from past problems in prosecuting discipline cases. The defendant must show that the accounting treatment is truly "generally accepted" and cannot rely on support or use by only a few others. Copies of the new proposed Rule 206 and related Council Interpretations have been posted to the Institute website for exposure to the membership.

While Council has unanimously recommended member adoption of the new Rule 206, it recognized that the change had widespread application to members not previously covered by the existing Rule, and that members may wish to have some time to consider and understand the implications of the new Rule. For this reason, Council has not yet decided whether to bring this issue to a vote at the same meeting as Rule 204, but is committed to fully inform the members in order that a member vote on its adoption can be called as early as deemed appropriate, and definitely no later than the June 2004 Annual Meeting. In the meantime, members are encouraged to refer to the proposed new rule and related interpretations, and to comply with the requirements on the understanding that the new Rule will likely be adopted in the immediate future.

Member Benefits - Attractive Hotel Rates

Are you visiting Halifax or Dartmouth and looking for a place to stay... during your PD courses... or just a weekend get away? Remember that ICANS members qualify for corporate rates at the following hotels:

Halifax - The Prince George Hotel

Dartmouth - Park Place Ramada Plaza Hotel

Browse our website www.icans.ns.ca under members/membership services for further details!

What Makes CAs Tick (or Run)?

Accountants do not automatically conjure images of athletes. We know this is largely a misconception, as many of our members compete and excel in team sports such as hockey, soccer and softball, and, let's face it, all of us believe we're only a few games away from becoming scratch golfers. One other sport which seems to attract plenty of CAs is running. In the hope of encouraging others to advise the Institute of similar accomplishments of their fellow members, the Institute would like to congratulate **Jean-Louise Beaton CA** on her excellent first marathon in Montreal on September 13. Although it was 36°C and suffering from heatstroke, she still managed to finish 21st out of 154 female participants. Congratulations, Jean-Louise!

Valuable Privacy Resources – At No Cost

New federal privacy of information legislation comes into effect in January 2004, and time is rapidly running out on ensuring that your firm and company is in compliance with the requirements. The CICA, together with the Canadian Bankers Associa-



tion and the Chambers of Commerce, have recently presented information sessions throughout the country, and the Institute is offering a PD seminar on the topic on November 9th. In addition to the seminar, be sure that you check out valuable information on the new requirements which is available on the CICA website www.cica.ca and the Canadian Bankers Association www.cba.ca. The information on these websites is free of charge and provides you with relevant information on the requirements and your preparedness for the new legislation.

Saving Time on PD Registration

You can help ICANS register you for PD courses in a quick and efficient way by providing your member number on the registration form! Remember, your ICANS number is the same as your CICA number and can be located on most mailings! Including the number on your registration form saves the Institute staff much time and allows them to serve you faster and better. If you don't know your number, drop us an email to request it at icans@icans.ns.ca. Keep it in a handy location for future uses, including logging into the CICA website or for corresponding with ICANS.

CMC Atlantic Chapter - Orientation & Networking Event - Thursday October 9th

The Canadian Association of Management Consultants (Atlantic Chapter) invites you to join them on **Thursday, October 9th** at 6:00 pm in the Compass Room of the Casino Nova Scotia Hotel for an evening of cocktails and networking! This session is open to professionals and management consultants interested in learning more about the Association and the benefits of the Certified Management Consultant (CMC) designation.

Boys and Girls Club Is Stronger For CA Support



Jack Gorrill CA, Bob Bean CA and Stephanie Simonson from the Boys and Girls Club

Stephanie Simonsen, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Nova Scotia recently received the ceremonial cheque from the proceeds of the Institute's Annual Members' Golf Tournament from Tournament Organizing Committee Chair **Jack Gorrill** and ICANS President **Bob Bean**. Since the golf tournament's current format started seven years ago, the Boys and Girls have received over \$48,000 in support. This support would not be possible without our sponsors, and we would again like to thank them for their continued support.



Task Force Established to Develop Strategic Plan for Canadian CA Profession

The dot.com meltdown, Enron/WorldCom, new legislation, increased competition – the business environment has changed significantly in the past few years, and Canadian Chartered Accountants must adapt to this new environment.

To chart the profession's path through these changes, and those ahead, the Canadian CA profession's Council of Senior Executives (CSE) has established an inter-institute task force to develop a new strategic plan. "It has been seven years since the Inter-Institute Vision Task Force took an in-depth look at the profession, so it is an appropriate time to undertake a strategic planning process," said Strategic Planning Task Force Chair and Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta Executive Director, Steve Glover, FCA. "As well, the collapse of the high-technology sector, high-profile corporate failures, changing legislation and greater competition have changed our environment and we need to take these factors into account."

The Task Force, which began its work in August, has been asked to develop a strategic plan for the Canadian CA profession that identifies the component of the financial and business markets for which CAs are to be the market leaders. The Task Force will also recommend strategic directions consistent with the market position and work with the CSE's Branding Project Team to establish the characteristics of the CA brand and how that brand is to be positioned and promoted. The Task Force expects to present a draft report to the CSE Steering Committee next spring. CSE members will present the Task Force's report and recommendations to their Councils or Boards for final decisions.

Promoting The Economics of Staying In School

In addition to financially supporting the Boys and Girls Club, ICANS has been a strong sponsor of the Junior Achievement program in Nova Scotia over the years. JA is currently seeking over 460 volunteers to assist it in offering its Grade 9 "The Economics of Staying School" message to over 4500 Grade 9 students in every Grade 9 classroom in Halifax Regional School Board. The event will be taking place on October 26, 2003. For further details visit the JA website at www.janovascotia.org or contact Lesley Waugh at lwaugh@janovascotia.org or (902) 454-4564.

CFP Examination Deadline Approaches

Members intending to write this year's Certified Financial Planners examination on November 22nd are reminded that the deadline for registration is October 22nd. More details on registration and the application form can be obtained from either the Financial Planners Standards Council website www.cfp-ca.org or from the Institute office.

New Promotional Material Available

ICANS has recently developed two new pieces of promotional material that are available to members who have the opportunity to promote the profession. Both are single sheet, double-sided fact sheets, themed to specific audiences. One, "Opportunity.CA", is geared to promoting the CA profession as a career to high school and university students while the other sheet "Leadership.CA" is a more generic document, intended to promote the profession to the general business community and public-at-large.

If you would like copies of this material for distribution or your reception area, please contact communication@icans.ns.ca.



Erratum (Redux)

Poor **Shannon McLaren CA**, — it's bad enough that she was inadvertently left off the source listing for the committee listing in the Annual Report; unfortunately it wasn't noticed until after that same listing was used for the acknowledgment in the SCAN which had just gone to press. Apologies to Shannon who really was an active member of the Recruitment Committee— really!

Here And There With Members

N. Merrill Carmichael CA is no longer in public practice and is now the Chief Financial Officer of Dynagen Technologies in Sydney.

Michael Cooze CA, formerly with PricewaterhouseCoopers, is now with XL Life Ltd in Bermuda.

Natalie McLean CA is now a partner with McLean, MacDougall & Associates.

Leanne MacLellan CA has left Grant Thornton LLP and is now at St. Francis Xavier University.

Membership Changes

Jan Bremner CA, **Laura Cumming CA**, **Heather Jackson CA** and **Jennifer Sheeran CA** have been admitted to membership upon completion of their periods of experience and payment of their admission fees. The Institute is pleased to welcome **David Bruce CA** back as a member through affiliation.

Raymond Folkins CA and **Harold Raper CA** have resigned from the Institute effective April 30th. **Wilson Donovan**, suspended as a member in July 2002, has now had his membership terminated.

The following individuals were suspended from membership July 18, 2003 due to non-payment of membership dues and



not filing their Professional Development reports:

Blaine Burke
Bernadette Christie
Andrew Gape
Barry King
Brian Purchase
Chantal Rochon

In Memoriam

Joseph A. Marven FCA on 8 November 2002

Looking To Hire A CA? For A New Career?

Consider posting your opportunity on the website. CAs can also post their availability for a reasonable fee as well. Check out the website for further details.

CAreer Opportunities On The Website

Check the site for recent career postings which are added to the site on a weekly basis. Current postings are:

Accountants and students — MacKay LLP Chartered Accountants, Yellowknife
Manager Corporate Internal Audit — Department of Finance, Province of NS
Director of Corporate Compliance — Maritime Life Assurance
Manager, Administrative Services — NS Community College

Other career opportunities, together with valuable information and guidance on career counselling, etc., can be found at CA Source, on the [CICA Website](http://www.cica.ca) (www.cica.ca).

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities are posted regularly on the ICANS website under News. The following positions are currently open:

Auditor — The Epilepsy Association of Nova Scotia
Treasurer — Bayers Westwood Family Resource Centre
Treasurer — The South Shore Waldorf School Association (Conquerall Mills)

Reminder — Important Upcoming Dates

October 10, 2003

Deadline for PD Passport Registrations

October 15, 2003

Chamber of Commerce Business to Business Expo

October 22, 2003

Deadline for registration for CFP Examination

October 30, 2003

Annual Practitioners Forum in Truro

November 3-7, 2003

PD Week in Halifax

November 27, 2003

Special Members Meeting

November 28, 2003

UFE Results Release

December 12, 2003

Members Luncheon, Halifax

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