An anniversary is a significant moment in an institution’s existence. It is the opportunity to celebrate its vitality, remember its origins, measure the progress made, appreciate successes, evaluate challenges, and above all contemplate the future with renewed momentum. This spring marks the 130th anniversary of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC).

Established in the cultural effervescence and “scientific optimism” of the 1880s, the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) is marked by the hallmark of youth of its founder, the Marquis of Lorne (1845-1914), and the drive of his followers. After laying down the foundation of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, the Governor General of Canada reunited writers and scientists to form, in 1882, the two main sections of the new Society,1 each one consisting of two divisions based on linguistic duality, and totalling 80 members.

How many groups, organizations, associations or firms would have endured as long with as few resources? Faced with the inexperience of their leaders, better equipped enterprises fell short. Founded in 1881, the reputable Kodak company endured the affront of filing for bankruptcy early this year. The collapse of the leader in imaging is a lesson in hiding behind success.

Renewal is a demanding test. Throughout its history, the RSC has experienced difficult times, a litany of obstacles even a sometimes exasperating inertia. The Royal Society of Canada has experienced its challenges. Early on, the Society stopped receiving public monies ($5,000 and then $8,000), which it had been assured during the first phase of its existence to publish its work (the Transactions and Proceedings). Relying only on the resources of its annual membership fees, the Society’s management took turns struggling to overcome challenges, temper tensions, devise compromises, and by and large adapt as best they could to new realities. The Presidential speech of Professor Marc-Adélard Tremblay, a retired Université Laval anthropologist, testified to the obstacles avoided, work invested and perspectives seen, at the time when the RSC was preparing to celebrate its first centennial in 1982: Evolution of the Image and Accomplishments of the Royal Society of Canada / Évolution de l’image et des réalisations de la Société royale du Canada.2

During the 130 years after this historic event, the Society has undergone significant changes, not the least of which is the increase in women among its members. At the turn of the new millennium, the RSC underwent a major reorganization: its Academies, overall governance and Secretariat - nothing was ignored. More recently, new committees and task forces were created to take on the new challenges of a world in motion. Today, the acquisition of the first headquarters and the development of a coherent strategy, oriented toward clear and precise goals, enable the RSC to optimistically deal with its upcoming splendour.

The Society’s endurance rests upon the commitment of its members, the invaluable support of its partners and collaborators, and the dedication of its staff, all on behalf of knowledge to benefit Canadians. The time has come for the Government of Canada to recognize the RSC as the National Academy of Canada and endow it with the appropriate resources to pursue its mission in the world of tomorrow, inextricably linked to the growth of knowledge. That is our wish for the Royal Society of Canada on its 130th anniversary.

Yolande Grisé, FRSC
President

1. The Royal Society of Canada for the promotion of literature and science within the Dominion.
The previous three editions of the RSC News reviewed the three central components of the mandate of the Royal Society of Canada - to recognize, to promote, and to advise.

In the fall of 2011, the Council of the RSC presented the Strategy for Renewal and Growth: Strategic Plan 2012 - 2017 to the fellowship at the Annual General Meeting. The five strategic directions outlined in the Society's Strategic Plan are the continuation of the efforts undertaken during the last three decades to reflect upon how the RSC should understand itself and how it can play an active leadership role in Canadian intellectual and public life.

This Plan, which is being distributed to the fellowship and to the Institutional Membership in hard copy, establishes five strategic directions to guide the RSC over the course of the next five years. The strategic directions are:

- Knowledge Promotion And Dissemination
- Engagement of Fellows, Institutional Members and Partners
- Diversifying and Enhancing the Fellowship
- Strategic Partnerships
- Financial Sustainability

In the next several editions of the RSC News, these directions will be reviewed, and progress toward the attainment of each will be tracked.

This issue reviews the groundwork being established toward advancing each of the five strategic directions.

KNOWLEDGE PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION

It is at the very core of the mission of the Royal Society of Canada to widely promote and disseminate knowledge. A number of tactics have been developed to respond to this mission. Two examples of this tactic are the "1-3-25" and the RSC YouTube Channel.

The 1-3-25 is a communication tool unique to the RSC Expert Panel process. Upon completion, RSC Expert Panel Reports are hundreds of pages long, containing the latest science and insight on matters of public importance. As Expert Panels are struck as a service to Canadians, their findings must also be convenient tools for Canadians to use in making informed decisions. The process of the 1-3-25 distills the full-length report into three tools, which are, respectively, one-page (Main Findings), three-pages (Executive Summary) and 25 pages (Report in Brief) in length. These tools - the Main Findings, the Executive Summary, and the Report in Brief - are available in both official languages and provide Canadians with the essential information about matters of public importance.

The RSC YouTube Channel was launched in February 2012 with the posting of the 2012 Governor General Lecture Series videos. This new tool enables the general public to enjoy lectures by some of Canada's greatest scholars, researchers, artists and scientists delivered publicly and in an interactive format that encourages discussion. The YouTube sites of Institutional Members are also prominent features of the RSC YouTube channel. Additional material will be continually posted by the RSC in order to disseminate the activities of Fellows and Institutional Members.

ENGAGEMENT OF FELLOWS, INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

The fellowship and the Institutional Membership are the heart of the Royal Society of Canada. A renewed focus on those whose commitment drives the Society will permit the RSC to enlarge its scope of influence and activities.

The Society is developing a LinkedIn network that will facilitate interaction among Fellows. This portal will enable Fellows with common ideas, research initiatives, projects or public policy interests to reach out and form networks that could result in new forms of collaboration within the fellowship.
For Institutional Members (IMs), the RSC has begun the regular publication of an electronic newsletter providing advance notice of forthcoming programming opportunities. Along with an online portal to administer nominations for fellowship and awards administered by the RSC, the IM E-Newsletter will facilitate more programming collaboration with IMs.

**DIVERSIFYING AND ENHANCING THE FELLOWSHIP**

It is essential that the Society work towards a fellowship that is reflective of the diversity of the Canadian scholarly, research and artistic communities. As a matter of priority, this means attracting more, and increasing the participation of Francophones in the governance and the activities of the RSC.

The Task Force on Diversity in the Fellowship recommended that the Society become more proactive in developing data on the composition of the fellowship with respect to ethnic background. The Task Force also recommended an increase in the number of awards provided annually to emerging women scholars in the sciences. These two initiatives are underway, and the balance of the recommendations of the Task Force on Diversity are being integrated into an action plan.

The Task Force on the Place of Canada's Official Languages within the RSC has been struck and will be chaired by Joseph Yvon Thériault of the Academy of Social Sciences. The mission of this Task Force is to review the ways in which Canada's Official Languages suffuse all aspects of the operations of the RSC, from Expert Panels to the election of Fellows to the Annual General Meeting.

The diversification of the fellowship will also be achieved through the establishment of an Academy of New Scholars in the Arts and Sciences. Along the lines of many other National Academies throughout the world, the RSC has begun planning the implementation of an Academy recognizing new scholars.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

The institutional partnerships contemplated and undertaken by the Royal Society of Canada, at home and abroad, build the capacity of the Society to achieve goals that the Society shares with other organizations.

At home, the RSC has once again partnered with the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. This year’s *Big Thinking* Lecture Series at the 2012 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences will feature Margaret Atwood, FRSC on May 29.

Internationally, the focus on strategic partnerships continues with the Academies of the InterAmerican Network of Academies of Science (IANAS). Frances Henry, Pat Rowell, Dave Layzell and Keith Hipel are the representatives to the four working groups of IANAS. The Society is once again actively involved in the Union Académique Internationale. In addition, bilateral partnerships continue with the Academies of China, South Africa and Japan, while a new partnership is being developed with the Academy of Israel.

**FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

The acquisition of Walter House provides the fellowship with a permanent home, and also presents an opportunity for business development. Of the 6,000 square feet, 50% of the available space will attract organizations seeking multipurpose conference and retreat facilities. The revenue growth and organizational model of the RSC have benefited from the outstanding support of the fellowship and Institutional Membership.

**CONCLUSION: THE STRATEGIC PLAN IS A BEGINNING, NOT A DESTINATION**

The five strategic directions of the Royal Society of Canada are compasses that will guide the fellowship further into the 21st Century. Targets must be established and met, with the overriding objective of increasing the impact of the fellowship and the Society in Canada and around the world.

The Strategic Plan must also remain a work in progress, subject to the careful and continual scrutiny by the fellowship. There are many more ways that the strategic directions of the RSC can be fulfilled. No strategic plan is immutable, and the initiatives of the Society will no doubt adjust certain aspects of the Plan in years to come.
In November 2011, the Expert Panel Report on *End-of-Life Decision Making* was released in Ottawa. The report received remarkable media response, including coverage from national TV news outlets, and the front pages and editorials of major broadsheets.

During the Annual General Meeting in November 2011, the Society hosted two Interdisciplinary Panel symposia - one on *Environmental and Health Impacts of Canada’s Oil Sands Industry* and one on *End-of-Life Decision Making*.

Then, in February 2012, the Expert Panel Report on *Sustaining Canada’s Marine Biodiversity: Responding to the Challenges Posed by Climate Change, Fisheries, and Aquaculture* was released in Vancouver. Panel Chair Jeff Hutchings delivered the 2012 Ocean Lecture at the IRMACS Center at Simon Fraser University (SFU), on the day of the release of the report. Since then, Professor Hutchings has been invited to appear before sub-committees of the House of Commons.

In the fall of 2012, the RSC will release a report entitled *Early Childhood Development* in partnership with the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). A full day symposium on this topic will be held at the Society’s Annual General Meeting in November.

Announcements with respect to a series of new RSC Expert Panels will be made throughout 2012.
Since the establishment of the Walter House Campaign at this time last year, the response of the fellowship and the Institutional Membership has been remarkable. To date, the financing plan for Walter House has achieved over 50% of the $2,500,000 objective.

Walter House is the home of the fellowship, and the doors are always open. It is hoped that, whenever Fellows visit Ottawa, they will drop in for a tour of their new home.

During the summer of 2012, renovations will be undertaken on the first floor of the building. The individuals and universities that have supported the RSC since its inception in 1882 will be celebrated throughout Walter House.

Formal ceremonies marking the official opening of Walter House in the fall of 2012 are being organized. Fellows and Institutional Members can expect to hear a variety of announcements in the coming months with respect to opening celebrations as the RSC celebrates its 130th anniversary.

The following images are "before" and "after" photos of phase one of the renovations to Walter House.
Over the last year, the Royal Society of Canada has received enormous support, encouragement and volunteer service from Fellows whose belief in the mission of the Society has opened new doors of possibility. The support of the fellowship will continue to be the achievement of $2,500,000 in the campaign for Walter House.

Through the continuing support of the fellowship and from Institutional Members, the Royal Society of Canada will faithfully pursue the core values of our mission and mandate. This leadership will contribute to a bright future for the next generation of scholars, and for the future of Canada and Canadians.

Thank you for your generous support.

The following Institutional Members and their communities of Fellows have collaborated in reserving a naming opportunity at Walter House. The fellowship of the Society is honored to be permanently associated with these wonderful Canadian institutions of higher learning.

FUNDRAISING

DECEASED FELLOWS

It is with much regret that we record the deaths of the following Fellows:

ACADEMY OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Robert Kroetsch, elected in 1986, died on June 21, 2011
Douglas G. Lochhead, elected in 1976, died on March 15, 2011

ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Peter Aucoin, elected in 2006, died on July 7, 2011
Jean-Paul Brodeur, elected in 1991, died on April 26, 2010
Leslie C. Green, elected in 1980, died on November 27, 2011
Gideon Rosenbluth, elected in 1973, died on August 8, 2011

ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
Richard F.W. Bader, elected in 1980, died on January 15, 2011
William F. Grant, elected in 1989, died on October 6, 2011
Allan Griffin, elected in 2003, died on May 19, 2011
Walter E. Harris, elected in 1977, died on October 20, 2011
Jack L. McLachlan, elected in 1979, died on December 13, 2010
James Fraser Mustard, elected in 1976, died on November 16, 2011
William Petrie, elected in 1950, died on January 13, 2012
Leslie W. Shemilt, elected in 1985, died on December 20, 2011
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

NOMINATION OF FELLOWS

The new online nomination system, called “Review Room,” is now available. Review Room has been created to more efficiently administer the Society’s nomination process, and provides access for Fellows and Institutional Members. All facets of the nomination process will be administered online as of this summer.

The online system will be accessible from March 1, to December 1, each year. Please note that the deadline to submit new nominations for 2013 is December 1, 2012 at 4:00pm EST.

To access the new system, please visit the RSC website. Review Room is accessible from the Guides and Forms tab in the Fellows section, in the left sidebar on the homepage.

The RSC has also developed a comprehensive guide to assist nominators in preparing nominations. The complete document, titled Preparing a Nomination, is available on the RSC website under the Guides and Forms tab in the Institutional Members section, in the left sidebar on the homepage.

NOMINATION FOR RSC MEDALS AND AWARDS

The Royal Society of Canada recognizes excellence as well as outstanding achievements and contributions to knowledge, research and innovation in Canada by awarding medals and prizes. We are currently seeking nominations for the medals and awards that will be presented in 2013.

The deadline to submit your nomination is December 1, 2012 at 4:00pm EST. All information pertaining to RSC medals and awards, including nomination forms and deadlines, is available on the Society’s website: www.rsc-src.ca/awards.php

THE FOLLOWING MEDALS AND AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED IN 2013

The Alice Wilson Award: to a woman of outstanding academic qualifications who is entering a career in scholarship or research at the postdoctoral level.

The Innis-Gérin Medal: for a distinguished and sustained contribution to the literature of the social sciences.

The Henry Marshall Tory Medal: for outstanding research in any branch of astronomy chemistry, mathematics, physics, or an allied science.

The McLaughlin Medal: for important research of sustained excellence in medical science.

The Pierre Chauveau Medal: for a distinguished contribution to knowledge in the humanities.

The Rutherford Memorial Medal in Chemistry: for outstanding research in chemistry.

The Rutherford Memorial Medal in Physics: for outstanding research in physics.

The McNeil Medal: for an outstanding ability to promote and communicate science to students and to the public within Canada.

The Miroslaw Romanowski Medal: for scientific work relating to environmental problems.

The Sir John William Dawson Medal: for important contributions of knowledge in multiple domains.

The Konrad Adenauer Research Award: for the promotion of academic collaboration between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany, presented to honour a scholar’s academic record.
The vision for the future

During its meeting of November 26, 2011 the Council of the Royal Society of Canada unanimously adopted the report and recommendations of the Task Force on Institutional Members. The members of this Task Force performed a magnificent service to the future of the Society. The members were: Daniel Woolf, Chair, Queen's University; Martha Crago, Vice-President, Research, Dalhousie University; Vianne Timmons, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Regina; Gilles Patry, President, Canadian Foundation for Innovation; Stephen Toope, President and Vice-Chancellor, The University of British Columbia; and Ralph Nilson, President and Vice-Chancellor, Vancouver Island University.

In mid-December, Daniel Woolf, Principal of Queen's University, and Claude Corbo, Rector of the Université du Québec à Montréal, were nominated as Institutional Member Representatives on the Council. Principal Woolf will assume a role on the Executive Committee of Council.

Additionally, in December, the RSC Officer of Institutional Members, Sarah Pouliot, undertook duties in this new role.

In view of the central role played by Institutional Members (IMs), and in light of the adoption by Council of the report of the Task Force on Institutional Members, the Society has prepared The Guide for Institutional Members. This new publication, available online and in hard copy, reviews the benefits of membership and serves as a vade mecum for the existing membership, as well as for potential new members. The objective of the Society is to ensure a continued growth of the programme, particularly in terms of the number of Fellows nominated by Institutional Members and the number of programmes offered on campus.

Acknowledging and Celebrating the Role of Institutional Members

Throughout the fall of 2011 and the winter of 2012, President Yolande Grisé and Past-President Roderick A. Macdonald have visited over fifteen Institutional Members to celebrate the achievements of individual Fellows on various campuses; to thank Institutional Members for their support of the Society and their energy in sponsoring the candidacies of new Fellows; and to continue the process of consultation with IMs and Fellows as the Society pursues the elaboration of its Strategic Plan.
FEBRUARY 2012

SFU FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA SEMINAR SERIES
February 2, 2012 – Simon Fraser University (SFU), Burnaby, BC – Dr. Carole Gerson, FRSC
The IRMACS Centre hosted Dr. Carole Gerson, FRSC, who spoke on the topic of Plaques and Persons: Commemorating Canada’s Authors. Her lecture explored the patterns of national recognition accorded to Canadian writers in relation to current studies of literary tourism and canonicity.

Dr. Yolande Grisé, President of the Royal Society of Canada, addressed the audience and acknowledged SFU and their community of Fellows for this wonderful programme.

GOVERNOR GENERAL LECTURE SERIES 2012 – JAMES MILLER, FRSC
February 8, 2012 – Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC
Governor General Lecture Series: We Are All Treaty People: New Models for a Shared Future

February 9, 2012 – University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
Governor General Lecture Series: We Are All Treaty People: New Models for a Shared Future

Having hosted Dalhousie University, Mount Allison University, the University of Manitoba and the University of Waterloo, Professor James Miller successfully concluded the 2012 Governor General Lecture Series at Vancouver Island University and at the University of Victoria.

MEETING OF THE IANAS WOMEN FOR SCIENCE WORKING GROUP
February 9-11, 2012 – Panama City - Dr. Frances Henry, FRSC
The second IANAS Women for Science Working Group Focal Point meeting took place at Panama Technical University from February 9-11. The meeting was convened by IANAS to discuss the progress made by the working group, as well as to determine a strategic direction moving forward.

MEETING OF SCIENCE ACADEMY LEADERS
February 27-28, 2012 – Washington, DC – Dr. Jeremy McNeil, FRSC and Dr. Marie D’Iorio, FRSC
The National Academy of Sciences (US) hosted a meeting to contemplate the expansion of the annual G8+ Academies statement process. The goal of the meeting was to discuss a set of major global challenges, and to provide common inputs to the global efforts to address these challenges.

MARCH 2012

SFU FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA SEMINAR SERIES
March 1, 15, 29, 2012 – Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC - Dr. Bernard Crespi, FRSC, Dr. Mark Jaccard, FRSC, and Dr. Lawrence Boland, FRSC

APRIL 2012

EASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL MEETING
April 14, 2012 - University Club: Queen’s University, Kingston, ON
Once again this year, co-chairs Professors Michael Sayer, FRSC and Pierre du Prey, FRSC organized the Eastern Ontario Regional Seminar. This interdisciplinary symposium featured Professors Audrey Kobayashi, FRSC, David Thomson, FRSC, Diana Nemiroff, FRSC, and Stan Brown, FRSC, all Fellows elected to the Society in 2011. This half day symposium was open to Fellows as well as the general public.

VISIT OF THE BEIJING ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (BAST)
April 24, 2012 – Ottawa, ON
The Standing Vice-Chairman of the BAST, Mr. Xia Qiang, will lead a five person delegation to meet with an RSC delegation in hopes of establishing a working relationship and an open exchange of ideas between the organizations.
MAY 2012

RSC PANEL: REMEMBERING DOUGLAS LOCHHEAD: ONE MAN’S IMPRINT ON THE DISCOURSE OF REGIONAL IDENTITY
May 4-6, 2012 – University of New Brunswick, Saint John, NB – Dr. Gwendolyn Davies, FRSC, Dr. John Reid, FRSC, Dr. Christl Verduyn, FRSC
This panel held at the Atlantic Canada Studies Conference, will explore key contributions to the exploration of regional identity made by Dr. Douglas Grant Lochhead (1922-2011), FRSC. Dr. Lochhead was a former Davidson Professor & Director of Canadian Studies at Mount Allison University. He was also a Poet Laureate of Sackville, New Brunswick, a Governor General’s nominee for poetry, a teacher, humanist, bibliophile, environmentalist, editor, publisher, fine book designer, bibliographer, and a librarian.

CONGRESS 2012 OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES - BIG THINKING LECTURE SERIES
May 29, 2012 - University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON
The Royal Society of Canada, in partnership with the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, will present world-renowned author, and Fellow of the RSC, Margaret Atwood as part of the Big Thinking Lecture Series at Congress, which is being co-hosted by the University of Waterloo.

NOVEMBER 2012

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM – THE NEW SCIENCE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
November 16, 2012 – Ottawa Convention Centre, Ottawa, ON
The Royal Society of Canada invites you to our symposium on early childhood development which will explore in further depth the multi-faceted factors that shape the health, education, and psychological well-being of our children. Tom Boyce, as well as eight multidisciplinary experts will document different facets of this new knowledge, examine how it helps us understand the role of early environment in development, and discuss the extent to which it can be harnessed to guide current and new programs and policy in Canada. Please join this very important discussion on how we can improve the development and quality of life of our future generations.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EARLY BIRD RATES!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: CELEBRATING 130 YEARS SPANNING THREE CENTURIES
November 16-18, 2012 – Ottawa Convention Centre, Ottawa, ON
Join us as we celebrate 130 years of: promoting Canadian research and scholarly accomplishment in both of Canada’s official languages; recognizing academic and artistic excellence; and advising governments, NGOs, and the Canadian public, on matters of public importance. This year’s event will be returning to the Ottawa Convention Centre. As this is the Society’s 130th year and due to high demand, registration for both the AGM and the Annual Symposium will be open as of April 20, 2012. Early bird rates will be available until July 13. Don’t miss the opportunity to reserve your participation at the AGM weekend.

For more information and to register, please visit: http://www.rsc.ca/events.php
The 2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society welcomed a large number of Fellows to the Ottawa Convention Centre from November 25-27, 2011. Over 400 guests and representatives from 30 Institutional Members attended the weekend’s programming.

The addition of two Interdisciplinary Panels, which included discussions on two RSC Expert Panels entitled *Environmental and Health Impacts of Canada’s Oil Sands Industry*, and *End-of-Life Decision Making*, were well-attended. The events were also webcast. The webcasts of the Interdisciplinary Panels, are available in the Past Events section of the RSC website at: www.rsc-src.ca/events_past.php.

The weekend celebrated the induction of 90 new Fellows into the Academies of the Society, as well as 10 Award Winners who were recognized for their remarkable scholarly achievements.

The RSC wishes to recognize and acknowledge the following Institutional Members for their exceptional support of the 2011 Annual General Meeting:

**RECOGNIZE LEVEL SPONSORS**
- **University of Toronto** for their sponsorship of the Reception and Banquet
- **University of Calgary** for their sponsorship of the New Fellow Reception

**ADVISE LEVEL SPONSOR**
- **Queen's University** for their sponsorship of the *End-of-Life Decision Making* Interdisciplinary Panel

For sponsorship and partnership opportunities at the 2012 Annual General Meeting please contact the Society’s Executive Director, Darren Gilmour at dgilmour@rsc-src.ca

**2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Planning is well underway for this year’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will celebrate the 130th anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Society of Canada.

The 2012 AGM will be held at the Ottawa Convention Centre, with preferred accommodations at the Westin Hotel. Included in this year’s itinerary is the 2012 RSC Annual Symposium on *The New Science of Child Development*.

It is anticipated that a record number of Fellows will be in attendance, and Fellows are therefore encouraged to register well in advance. For this purpose, Early Bird rates for both the Annual Symposium and the AGM banquet are now available. The Early Bird deadline is July 13, 2012.