

**Innovation Place Newsletter**  
**May 2001 Edition**

**Boffins Gardens Wins Landscape Awards**

Fundamental to the success of Innovation Place is the research park's ability to create a working environment that facilitates interaction among tenants and clientele. Building design, landscape image and outdoor areas are all critical to this interaction.

One of the newest components of the park's interactive environment is Boffins Garden, located adjacent to Boffins Club. It is the first phase of the "Garden Park" project, which will develop as a prominent gathering area within Innovation Place.

The landscape image for Boffins Garden was designed by Crosby Hanna and Associates, a Saskatoon landscape architecture and planning firm which has had a primary role in the short and long-range landscape development of Innovation Place since construction first began on the research park in 1979.

Crosby Hanna and Associates has recently received two major awards for the Boffins Garden project, including the Premier's Award of Excellence, bestowed by the Design Council of Saskatchewan in October 2000, and a Regional Citation awarded this spring by the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.

The Boffins Garden project was managed by Rob Crosby, FCSLA. The project landscape team included Doug Shearer, Genevieve Russell and Arnold Thiessen.

Doug Shearer says the Boffins Garden was designed to complement the Craftsman architectural style of Boffins Club. "The landscape was conceived as an Arts and Crafts Garden to complement the restaurant."

The landscape designers sought to integrate the garden with the design of the building, in a carefully crafted setting that includes a patio, pergolas, entry walkway and a close-clipped curvilinear lawn which serves as a setting for functions and as a foreground to garden plantings. Landscape structures, materials and furniture evoke the Arts and Crafts style which distinguishes the interior of Boffins Club.

The design team combined traditional plantings with a diversity of unusual plants, to create year-round interest. Herbs, for example, have been integrated into the landscape, making the garden a working part of the restaurant kitchen, says Shearer. "Boffins Garden also introduced new landscape materials to the Saskatoon vernacular. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first institutional/ commercial landscape project in Saskatchewan to utilize pacific yellow cedar and tumbled unit pavers."

Boffins Garden has quickly evolved as a showpiece landscape at Innovation Place, adds Shearer. The intimate setting is appropriate for business receptions and family events.

"The achievement demonstrated by Boffins Garden is collaborative. The joint effort of supportive clients who understand and do not limit the value of good design, with skilled

design practitioners, is an ideal client/consultant arrangement. The quality of this collaborative relationship is, in our Prairie experience, rare to the point of being endangered," says Rob Crosby.

### **Saskatchewan Advanced Technology Association Formalizes Operations, Opens Office at Innovation Place**

Saskatchewan continues to move towards a knowledge-based economy, as the province's advanced technology sector matures and expands.

The Saskatchewan Advanced Technology Association (SATA) is an organization dedicated to encouraging, promoting and stimulating the development and growth of industry and employment in the province, through the commercialization and application of advanced technologies.

The association had existed informally for the past decade through the voluntary efforts of its members. In 2000, SATA membership decided it was time to renew the organization's focus and formalize its operations.

Larry Cooper, president of Scientific Instrumentation Ltd. (SIL) in Saskatoon, accepted a two-year term as SATA president. Lorne Smith, formerly with Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development's department of Science and Technology, was named executive director of the association. Jose Verwimp took a leave of absence from her position with Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development to take on the role of SATA executive assistant.

"It was really time to reposition SATA and formalize our operations," says Cooper. "Our industry has many needs that can only be addressed through a strong industry association."

Cooper says that SATA sees itself as the voice of the advanced technology industry. "That covers a pretty broad range of objectives. We want to create a healthier, more positive environment for industry to grow and prosper in Saskatchewan."

The newly established association held its kick-off meeting in June of 2000. This spring, the association moved into its new office at Innovation Place, located at 112D - 116 Research Drive.

Innovation Place was a natural choice for SATA's new office, says Cooper. "The research park has a strong core of technology-based companies, many of whom are SATA members. There are many resources and facilities here. The owners and operators of Innovation Place have been very supportive and co-operative in our attempts to get SATA going. It's a good place for us to be."

SATA represents over 100 companies in the advanced technology sector. Cooper says the membership ranges from "very small firms to some of the larger Crown corporations. The membership covers different sectors of the industry, from biotechnology, instrumentation and electronics to information technology. We represent developers of technology, users of technology and some of the infrastructure as well."

Currently, the majority of SATA members are located in Saskatoon. "Regina also has a growing membership base," says Cooper. "We're starting to focus on some of the smaller centres as well."

Cooper says the association's initial efforts will focus on growing the SATA membership, which now represents about 20 per cent of the province's advanced technology sector. "There is strength in numbers. With the reincorporation of SATA we're starting to grow the membership. We will then be able to better identify what the industry's needs are."

SATA Executive director Lorne Smith says, "A larger membership will also allow us to provide more and better services to our members, which makes belonging to SATA even more attractive. A strong industry is also able to market itself more effectively, outside the borders of the province and the country."

SATA is working to facilitate the exchange of ideas, knowledge, expertise and information among the membership through networking events, seminars, research, coordinated promotion and other activities. The association is currently planning a technology-based conference focusing on several industry sectors, which will be held in Saskatoon this autumn. SATA is also submitting a bid to host the Western Canadian Aerospace Conference in 2002, says Smith.

One of the most powerful benefits of SATA membership is the opportunity to network and share information with other members of Saskatchewan's advanced technology sector, says Cooper. "We have many functions and gatherings which bring the SATA membership together. It might be a breakfast meeting where we'll talk about scientific research and development tax credits. After the formalities are over, there will be a lot of networking, which leads to the development of new business opportunities and the forging of partnerships."

Networking has already created one SATA success story. "At one membership event, we had a small company approach us that was on the verge of leaving the province because they couldn't find the resources and the support they needed. With a little bit of SATA intervention and making the right contacts, that position was reversed," says Cooper.

"That's typical of what SATA can do, helping companies make the right contacts with the right people."

"Business development is another one of our priorities," says Cooper. "An example of that is our work with the Canadian Light Source synchrotron project. We're embarking on a supplier development program to identify opportunities and help position Saskatchewan companies to take advantage of some of the synchrotron-related business opportunities."

Training programs are also being developed that will meet the needs of those currently employed in the sector, as well as programs to assist recruitment and retention. "Education and training programs could range from seminars on Quality Assurance to manufacturing procedures and processes," says Cooper.

"It also includes developing contacts and influences within the education system to identify industry needs and help our educational process adjust to the specific needs of Saskatchewan industry."

Cooper says that the industry's most pressing concerns revolve around improving the business environment in Saskatchewan.

"We could be doing more things to make a more positive business climate here, to retain knowledge-based companies and workers, and attract new firms to Saskatchewan. There are applications for advanced technology in every sector of the province's economy - the resource sector, the agriculture sector, the healthcare sector - just to name a few," says Cooper.

"The future is very bright for technology-based companies in Saskatchewan. I think SATA will be able to help facilitate that growth and realize our industry's full potential."

For more information on becoming a member of the Saskatchewan Advanced Technology Association, check the website at [www.sata.ca](http://www.sata.ca) or contact executive assistant Jose Verwimp by calling (306) 244-3889 or emailing: [jverwimp@SATA.ca](mailto:jverwimp@SATA.ca).

### **PMC-Sierra Announces New Chipset to Improve Network Interconnectivity**

PMC-Sierra recently announced the company's newest chip set for the next generation of networking equipment to improve the interconnectivity of multi service networks. The CHES-II product family was in part designed in PMC-Sierra's Saskatoon design centre, located at Innovation Place.

Carriers and ISPs often deal with several networks and have in the past had to install separate equipment to manage each network. With the introduction of the CHES set in April last year, companies in this sector could replace five or six older network equipment elements with one multi service equipment network to support IP Routing, ATM, SONET and DWDM. In the process they provisioned for a larger number of services at a lower cost than before. The CHES-II platform provides higher densities, i.e. a faster transfer of data, supporting any SONET (optical network) data rate up to 10 Gbit/s.

With network access services expanding rapidly, metropolitan transport networks have become the bottleneck. Today's SONET/SDH networks were originally designed to carry voice traffic and are unable to handle the proliferation of data and other services brought on by the emergence of the Internet. In response, carriers and ISPs must upgrade existing metro infrastructure to maintain and grow their service provisioning businesses. CHES-II enables multiple platforms for data, voice and video services to be collapsed into a single network platform, reducing interoperability and scalability challenges.

The CHES-II chip set helps remove MAN bottlenecks by aggregating services such as Gigabit Ethernet, Internet Protocol, Fiber Channel and ATM into highly scalable SONET/SDH platforms exhibiting sub-wavelength cross-connect capabilities. Services in the MAN are initially aggregated into pipes at STS-1 (51.84 Mbit/s) level granularities. The CHES-II chip set grooms these STS-1 pipes in such a way that multiple services can be transported over individual OC-192/STM-64 wavelengths or multiple OC-48/STM-16 wavelengths. This capability enables carriers to manage and direct services through the MAN in a more efficient manner.

"Metropolitan Area Networks bridge the space between long haul and access networks, aggregating lower rate clients into higher speed OC-48 and OC-192 trunks," said Steve Perna, vice president and general manager of PMC-Sierra's Optical Networking Division.

"PMC-Sierra's CHES-II chipset offers a complete metro solution allowing next generation carrier-class metro networks to offer increased service-level provisioning to users at lower cost by mapping multiple client services onto individual WDM/DWDM wavelengths," Perna continued.

PMC-Sierra's Saskatoon design centre formed in April 1998 as a result of the acquisition of Hypercore Technologies. Since that time the R&D centre has grown to 40 employees. The team in Saskatoon makes up part of the Optical Networking Division of PMC-Sierra. Their role in CHES- II was the design of the traffic dispatch that flexibly interconnects the different networks, ensuring seamless transfer of data between different bandwidths and protocols.

### **BDM Receives Certification from B.C. Ministry of Health**

BDM Information Systems, a resident company of Innovation Place, is pleased to announce that in addition to the Community Pharmacy certification, the BDM RxTFC Pharmacy Management System has now achieved Long Term Care certification from the British Columbia Ministry of Health, allowing BDM Customers in BC certified interaction and integration with the BC Healthnet/PharmaNet System.

"This certification is the culmination of a significant design effort and a successful project thanks to the cooperative efforts of BDM's British Columbia customers and BDM's Systems Integration and Research and Development teams," says Chuck Ingerman, BDM Vice President, Health Products and Services.

BDM RxTFC's integrated Long Term Care functionality was evaluated utilizing a stringent set of standards aimed at ensuring quality in the automatic handling of on-line government claim adjudication and the maintenance of a central medication profile for British Columbia residents.

BDM is a leader in systems integration in the healthcare information technology field, having designed and implemented some of North America's first interfaces and interactions between its pharmacy information systems and numerous databases, automatic dispensing devices, controlled access cabinetry, robotics and personal productivity devices in healthcare organizations across North America. BDM routinely works with its customers to meet provincial and state jurisdictional requirements across North America.

### **Province Invests \$405,000 in Key Data Communications Network**

The Government of Saskatchewan is making a strategic investment in data communications infrastructure that is vital to the retention and growth of the province's research community.

Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development is providing \$405,000 to the Saskatchewan Research Network (SRnet), a non-profit corporation that promotes and enables research and development in the province. SRnet will use the funding to buy equipment to upgrade its advanced networking and digital media laboratory.

Through SRnet, Saskatchewan researchers, universities, industries and government gain access to a high-speed digital connection to colleagues and resources across the province and around the world. With the new equipment, SRnet will be able to connect to CA\*Net 3, a national optical Internet service which provides service at a speed of 2.4 million bytes per second. It has been described as the national 'backbone' research network.

"With this investment, Saskatchewan researchers will be able to work on the cutting-edge and they will gain access to their colleagues around the globe," says Eldon Lautermilch, Minister of Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development. "By providing access to this national network, SRnet will help us attract, retain and train highly qualified researchers needed to grow the province's advanced technology sector."

Larry Symes, chair of the SRnet Board of Directors, says, "The investment in SRnet will allow universities and businesses that do research to flourish in Saskatchewan. In the late 1800s and in the early part of this century, railway lines were the key to economic success for our cities and towns. The towns that were on the rail lines survived. Today, this high-speed data network is the key to the success and growth of our research communities."

SRnet was established in 1995 to promote and enable research and development within Saskatchewan. Its members include SaskTel, the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation (SOCO), the Telecommunications Research Laboratories Inc. (TRLabs) and the National Research Council's Plant Biotechnology Institute. Future members are expected to include SIAST, hospitals and libraries.

Funding for SRnet to upgrade its equipment comes from the Province's Strategic Investment Fund, which encourages the development of new technologies and research infrastructure in the province. The fund is designed to enhance the competitiveness of Saskatchewan industries, as well as to develop new value-added products and processes to expand the Saskatchewan economy.

## **24 Hour Relay Update**

There's still time to register your team to participate in the 15th annual 24 Hour Relay for Easter Seals, hosted June 9 and 10 at Innovation Place.

Event organizer Carrie Olson hopes to get 35 teams involved, with a fund-raising objective of \$125,000, in support of Camp Easter Seal at Lake Manitou. To learn more or to register your team online, check the new website at [www.24hourrelay.sk.ca](http://www.24hourrelay.sk.ca). Technical difficulties delayed the launch of the website until now, but organizers are hoping that the revised website address will do the trick. Carrie Olson of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council can also be contacted at 374-4448.

## **WOOD '01**

The Saskatchewan Woodworkers' Guild presents:

**WOOD '01** - 23rd Annual Exhibition of Fine Works

May 26 to June 2 (11 am to 9 pm) & June 3 (11 am to 4 pm)

Galleria Building - 15 Innovation Boulevard - Innovation Place