



## History of the Hawkesbury CIC Local Section

The Hawkesbury Section was established in 1956, with the majority of members coming from the research laboratory of Canadian International Paper Company, plus a significant number from CIL in Brownsburg and Canadian Refractories in Marelán. Membership grew to a peak of 44 in 1963, but in subsequent years a number of plant and laboratory closures gradually decreased the membership to less than 20. With a similar situation in Cornwall, about 60 miles away, the members there decided to cease operation and were assigned to the Hawkesbury Section in 1997, bringing the total membership of the combined section to approximately 30. With age and further plant closures in the area, the membership has declined to 18 as of May, 2010.

The Hawkesbury Section has always played an active role in CIC affairs, for example leading a vigorous opposition in 1984 to some aspects of the restructuring which affected local sections. Four of the members have served as councillors, two as directors, and one as treasurer and later president of the CIC. During the 1960's the section offered the Prescott-Argenteuil Industrial Scholarships, each valued at several hundred dollars, supported by donations from a number of local industries, and awarded on the basis of a written examination in chemistry, to 2 or 3 students in the last year of secondary school. Courses were also given to local technicians to enable them to achieve official certification as chemical technicians. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to initiate a science fair in the Hawkesbury area. In 1976 the Cornwall Section started a science fair in their region, which has now grown to include the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, as well as Akwesasne. The combined Hawkesbury Section has undertaken to continue providing one of the prizes for this event.

Despite its size, the Hawkesbury Local Section has always maintained a full program of meetings, relying heavily on tours of local industries, but also drawing on speakers from the Ottawa and Montreal regions. All meetings are dinner meetings to which spouses and other interested people are invited, so that attendance is usually in the range of 15 to 25.