

Vancouver Welcomes CSE

Iain E P Taylor, Chair
2004 Local Arrangements Committee

Christine A Arturo, Chair
2004 Program Committee

When you come to Vancouver (www.tourismvancouver.com) for the 2004 CSE annual meeting, you may not want to leave. The Local Arrangements Committee has a raft of things to see and do while you are here for the meeting, to be held 14-18 May.

You don't need to do anything but step outside the Hyatt Regency Hotel (literally at the city center) to see the North Shore mountains. A cross-harbor ferry ride and a city bus will take you to the gondola that goes to the top of Grouse Mountain. No skiing in May, but a view that on a clear day includes the Coast Range, the Cascade Mountain volcanoes (Mount Baker and Mount Rainier), the Olympic Peninsula, and Vancouver Island.

The conference location means that you will be less than a 15-minute walk from at least 10 of the best restaurants in Vancouver; take a 5- to 10-minute cab ride and you have almost all the rest. The original Vancouver location (Gastown) and the concert halls are a 20-minute walk away, and the art gallery is just one block to the east. The Vancouver Aquarium (www.vanaqua.org) in Stanley Park is a leisurely 30-minute walk from the hotel. Early-morning joggers can easily get their 5- to 10-km masochism dealt with before breakfast by running around the sea wall.

We're planning half-day and full-day trips around the conference. These include visits to the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology (www.moa.ubc.ca) and Botanical Garden (www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org), Whistler (a world-famous ski resort), Vancouver Island



TOURISM VANCOUVER/AL HARVEY

False Creek Evening

(including the provincial capital—called Victoria, just to confuse you), the Fraser Canyon, and at least one whale-watching area (May is the best time for the migrations from Baja to Alaska). We are considering a 3-day preconference or postconference visit to the Okanagan Valley, which is home to some of the best wines in the world—Californians, take heed!

In May, the local hockey team, the Vancouver Canucks, may well be on its way to the Stanley Cup final. Cheap seats will not be available, but there may be ways to score a ticket. Oh, yes, the bars are open until 4:00 am, and the bus service is all night and completely safe.

A key service that Iain and Sylvia Taylor have provided for several conferences in Vancouver over the last 35 years is "The Hooky Desk". This is the place to ask, "What can I do for the next hour?" or "How can I get to wherever I want to go?" Please feel free to contact them (iepiep@interchange.ubc.ca).

One of our local committee people, David Hamilton, lives in Prince George

(time to check your atlas) and has suggested some fantastic 7- to 10-day trips for those who really want the best of an off-season vacation in spectacular scenery in some out-of-the-way, cool places.

Coastal weather is always uncertain, but expect temperatures to be 17 to 20°C (63 to 69°F) daytime and 7 to 10°C (45 to 50°F) at night. A light waterproof jacket and an umbrella are essential. It may rain every day, but it may not rain at all during your visit.

Just a friendly reminder that if you are not from Canada, you will pass through all the normal customs and other international boundary formalities. You must have acceptable documentation to enter Canada and to return to your home country. At the time of writing, the US dollar is worth about CAN\$1.40, €1 is worth about CAN\$1.50, and £1 is worth about CAN\$2.20. Paper money is usually accepted in stores and banks at something that approximates the official exchange rate, but coin is traded at par.

Come join us in Vancouver next May!