



Nick Reid, Rick VanSant, WaterTAP board chair, Angela Murphy, and Peter Gallant, WaterTAP

Ryerson Urban Water Mixer Toronto, Ont.

Establishing collaborations between multi-disciplinary university researchers and water technology sector professionals is key in developing real-world water solutions. Ryerson Urban Water (RUW) and Ryerson's Office of the Vice President, Research and Innovation hosted a mixer to share expertise, build bridges, and foster a culture of partnership toward potential advancements in the field.

On April 5th, the mixer welcomed Ryerson researchers as well as government and industry experts within the water landscape. Ryerson researchers presented their work and ongoing research programs. A networking reception followed where industry and government stakeholders described their various interests, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration. The researchers spoke on multi-disciplinary topics including innovative water quality testing methods, wetlands remediation, green roof technologies, impacts of urban pollution on watersheds and of acoustic pollution on water bodies, hydrology and flow efficiency in urban water systems, and integrated urban water management strategies.

The event was attended by approximately one-hundred participants including industry, provincial and municipal organizations, conservation authorities, non-profits, and funding agencies.



The OOWA hosted a lively exhibition floor.



(L-R) Rick Esselment, ESSE, and Mike Gibbs, OOWA



Derk Maat and Bill Waters of SciCorp.

Ontario Onsite Water Association Annual Convention & Expo Niagara Falls, Ont.

The theme for OOWA's 18th Annual Convention & Expo was Treatment, Optimization and Service and was held at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls, Mar 25th-27. This year's keynote speakers **Dave Gustafson**, University of Minnesota; Eric Casey, National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association; and **Peter Gallant**, WaterTAP, addressed critical aspects of the convention's theme while highlighting the industry's exciting future. The first day of the convention provided three streams of technical training for over 60 of OOWA members who are dedicated to

ongoing education and skills development. The breakout sessions featured technical presentations, case studies, and panel discussions regarding onsite system design, emerging decentralized technologies, and the industry's new CAN/BNQ 3680-600 standard for advanced treatment units. One of the main take away messages from this year's convention was that our industry is leading the way in establishing exceptional standards for itself and that it has the knowledge, expertise, and solutions to help address current infrastructure challenges in rural and peri-urban Ontario. Close to 400 people attended.



Freshwater scientists, policy-makers, and communications people at the IISD launch.



IISD, Experimental Lakes Area Research Launch Toronto, Ont.

Following several years of unrest related to budget cuts and the potential loss of long-term data sets, the world-class science conducted at the Experimental Lakes Area, now the International Institute of Sustainable Development-ELA (IISD-ELA), is in full swing once again. At a time of growing populations and a rapidly changing climate, the IISD is responding to nations' needs for science to respond to challenges to their fresh water. These include the impacts of agricultural runoff, contaminants such as selenium and, and the effects of climate change on freshwater.

On April 10th, a small group of freshwater research supporters met with members of the IISD board and research team to hear about what the next field season has in

store. Specifically, participants heard **Vince Palace**, the new chief research scientist, and **Matthew McCandless**, executive director, speak about new research priorities. In the room were **Nicola Crawhill**, Westbrook Public Affairs, formerly with the Cities Initiative; **Sara Rang**, Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change; **Douglas Wright**, The Great Lakes Project; and **Carolyn DuBois**, the Gordon Foundation.

IISD-ELA is an exceptional natural laboratory comprised of 58 small lakes and their watersheds set aside for scientific research. IISD's independent, evidence-based approach to the development of policy recommendations and tools complements the facility's strong scientific foundation.