



SKÅL INTERNATIONAL **CANADA**



President's Message **January 2009**

Dear Skålleagues and Friends,

From beautiful Halifax, on Canada's East Coast, let me extend sincere wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year for you and your family. 2009 may be a challenging year for the world's economies and for Skål's Canadian members but we will face this time with the enduring spirit in which this organization was created, "Friendship and Amicable" and "Doing Business Among Friends."

Let me begin by thanking our Past President, Mr. Norman Bevilacqua, and the entire SICAN Board for their tremendous efforts during the past year. I speak for all Skål International Canada members in applauding their dedication and hard work during 2008.

As we proceed into 2009, be assured that the spirit and power of this membership is going to help us weather any storm. In these uncertain economic times, the "Power of Skål" provides its members with a number of benefits, including the comfort and support of a like-minded community who are Skålleagues in business and friendship. It also provides a unique forum for all of the travel and tourism industry, allowing members to speak with a strong, singular voice as we tackle the challenges of today's tough times. It provides members with a powerful network of contacts and referrals, facilitating business opportunities and letting us share career opportunities worldwide. Finally, Skål fosters genuine hospitality and life-long friendships that make our industry the most enjoyable and rewarding in the world.

Skål International Canada will continue to improve communications with its members through an upgraded website, monthly newsletters and more focused meetings. The SICAN board will assist each club with increasing membership, retaining membership and improving the value for members. Industry exposure of the Skål brand will be improved through increased public relations and concentration on communication. Internationally, support for sustainable tourism, improved standards and quality, business ethics and business-to-business opportunities, will continue to be priorities.

2009 will also be an exciting time, as we celebrate many important milestones that demonstrate the "Power of Skål" in our communities. This year, join us in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the formation of Skål International on April 28, 1934. Canada's oldest club, Skål International Montreal, will also celebrate its 60th year in 2009, and we send our congratulations.

I encourage all members to experience the “Power of Skål” at the upcoming NAASC Congress in Anchorage, Alaska from May 7 to 10. We’re invited to experience the “friendship and amicable” of the Anchorage Skål Club (www.skalanchorage.com).

Budapest, Hungary will host the Skål International World Conference from November 1 to 6. Come experience the “Power of Skål” on the international stage. (www.budapestinfo.hu/en/general_information).

I look forward to collecting accreditation from all clubs in my “Skål International Passport” when I visit. It will be an honour to represent all of my Canadian Skålleagues. I will work with the same commitment and enthusiasm for Skål International Canada in 2009, as I have in the past. I urge all Skålleagues to continue to spread the word of the “Power of Skål.”

May you all experience the “Power of Skål” in 2009 and beyond.

Happiness, Good Health, Friendship, Long Life
Skål!!

John Duggan
President
Skål International Canada