

➤ **Rahman Orthotics based** in Calgary [www.rahmanorthotics.ca] played a key role in the success of Canada's Para ice hockey (formerly known as sledge hockey) team. The team won the world championship Gold medal game in South Korea defeating the United States 4-1. Rahman, a certified Orthotist, became a fan of the sport when he spent time with the Para hockey team members during the process of fitting their sledges with customized seats. He and his friend Dave Lysay, along with a colleague in Kitchener, Allan Moore, adapted the seats for 17 out of 19 athletes on the team. Using innovative design and materials engineering these custom made seats for the player's sledges are truly an example of Canadian innovation at its best. John Rahman has been providing custom-made orthotics, splints and braces that have improved people's lives through pain reduction and/or sport performance improvement.

➤ **David Schindler discusses** Canadian public policy on science, scientific research, and its infrastructure in his article "Facts Don't Matter" [Alberta Views. June 30, 2017. www.albertaviews.ca]. In the article, he describes some of the challenges that the Canadian scientific community has experienced; which he attributes to the "poor state of science literacy among Canadian politicians, provincially and federally." This, in spite of rhetoric about the importance of innovation and the training and retention of highly-skilled workers. Science and technology national policy is an important continuing long-term investment for the benefit of all. Canada must quickly embrace new opportunities presented by advanced technology and the digital revolution rather than continuing as a supplier of unprocessed natural resources.

➤ **A new generation** of young tech-savvy, and highly competitive men and women known as "Generation Z" is entering the workforce. Born between 1995 and 2012 they make up a large proportion of the population (72.8M) and are distinguished by knowing only a totally wired, multicultural, and post 9/11 world. They are entrepreneurial, self-reliant, personally independent and are radically different from the preceding millennial generation. David and Jonah Stillman provide important insights based on the first national studies of Generation Z's workplace attitudes in their book *Gen Z@ Work* [HarperCollins, 2017]. It is thought by many that this generation will rewrite the rules of the workplace and transform the future of business. Canadian business leaders responsible for recruiting, managing, and retaining this generation of skilled workers need to pay attention to their characteristics in order to take advantage of their abilities.

Biz-tech Report



by Terrance Malkinson

➤ **SAIT Polytechnic recently** completed its year of Centennial celebrations with the internment in a ceremony "full of pomp and circumstance," on June 5 of a time capsule that won't be opened until its 200th birthday on Oct. 16, 2116. The SAIT-manufactured capsule contains objects representing SAIT's centennial year including a letter from



A SAIT time capsule begins its long journey towards 2116. Along for the ride is a 3D-printed figurine of the campus' Heritage Hall.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, artifacts suggested by members of the SAIT community, and even a can of SAIT Centennial-Ale beer produced by Tool Shed Brewing Company. In breaking news (August 17) SAIT announced a \$2 million gift from The Joyce Family Foundation to help continue setting its School of Hospitality and Tourism students up for success through its "Introduction to Cook" apprentice program and SAIT entrance awards. The Summer Cooks program is changing lives with many of the students obtaining work in the hospitality industry or progressing to advanced training in the industry. As one of the students stated "all of the skills I learned I applied right away."

About the Author

Terrance Malkinson is a communications specialist, business analyst and futurist. His career path includes technical supervisor and medical researcher at the University of Calgary, business proposal manager for the General Electric Company, and research administrator with the School of Health and Public Safety at SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary. He is currently an international correspondent for *IEEE-USA Today's Engineer*, contributing editor for *IEEE Canadian Review*, and a member of the editorial advisory board of *IEEE The Institute*. He was Vice-Chair of the IEEE-USA Communications Committee (2004-2010), and editor-in-chief of *IEEE-USA Today's Engineer Digest* (2004-2008). He was an elected Governor of the IEEE Engineering Management Society as well as past editor of *IEEE Engineering Management*. He is the author of more than 550 earned publications, and an accomplished triathlete. malkinst@telus.net

➤ **Charles Wilkins describes** the Canadian High Arctic Research Station set to open in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut later this year in his article "It's Been Raining! In the High Arctic!" [Canadian Geographic. 137(4):62-71. August, 2017. www.canadiangeographic.ca]. With global warming, and the large area of Canada that is in the Arctic it is critical that Canada be a leader in research on its land, water and people. This station will give researchers from Canada and other countries unprecedented levels of state-of-the-art laboratory and residence support. Other articles of interest in this issue include "Titans of the Great Lakes which is a glimpse into what life is like aboard the freighters that travel the Great Lakes and "A Story in Stone" a portrait of the work of the stone carvers who are working to rejuvenate Canada's Parliament buildings.

➤ **The opening round** of talks to renegotiate the North American free-trade agreement have begun among Canada, Mexico, and the United States. At stake is a large amount of business which last year totaled \$US 1.1-Trillion. Expected to take many years of difficult negotiation the final agreement will be critically important to all parties and influence their economies for many years into the future. With the growth of national protectionism discussions are difficult and the professional negotiators at the table are working hard to achieve mutually beneficial results. It is important that all professionals in Region 7 follow these negotiations and communicate their suggestions and concerns to their Member of Parliament.

➤ **The University of Waterloo's** Innovation Summit [www.waterlooinnovationsummit.com] was held September 14-15. "Hacking the Future" delivered 16 sessions, over 3 days. Participants learned about the trends driving innovation from keynote speakers, and had the opportunity to participate in workshops and interactive discussions. Topics included corporate disruption, and the talent imperative. This Summit attracts leaders from every sector—government, the private sector, academia, incubators and accelerators and creates an ideal environment for innovative thinking and cross-pollination of ideas. ■