



Prime Minister's Message

Every year as I return home from another enjoyable IASM conference I always feel the same mixed emotions. Returning home to Canada in the throes of winter is never a pleasant thought but it is where I choose to live and work and there are upsides; no hurricanes or earthquakes and four months without mud (the ground is frozen solid).

The annual conference is one of the highlights of my year. Business is slow around then so I try to combine a family vacation with the conference. The fact that most of our members are from family oriented companies and do the same, coupled with the ladies program, makes it easy to do.

I am always eager to get home because every year I see something or learn something that I just can't wait to try out, build, buy, or experiment with. Our vendors usually talk me into taking something home, or having something shipped. Someone always has a new gadget.

For me the conference is a humbling experience. The jobs featured in the awards competition are spectacular. Many are out of my league. I feel like a child among giants. The photo albums and videos in the media room show me what my peers have attained, giving me objectives to reach and future goals that, hopefully, I can accomplish. They create ever rising standards for guys like me to live up to. As I like to tell people "me and my friends can move anything."

Every year I meet new people. Some may become lifelong friends and others casual but always interesting acquaintances. Hanging out with old cronies is always a high point. I count many of you who were present among my friends.

The high level of openness and fellowship is one of our organizations strongest points. Your willingness to discuss ideas and share your knowledge has always impressed me since my first attendance in San Antonio, Texas in 1997. It is not always easy to discuss my work with people from around home. IASM members is the only crowd that speaks my language and understands my somewhat unique problems. Being able to discuss things with other movers is worth the price of admission and keeps me going through out the year and always coming back.

It is an honour to be included among this great group of individuals. As Prime Minister (I hope you recognize and accept the humour) I will do my best to maintain IASM as an informative, progressive and hospitable association by building on the hard work of others before me.

I hope all attendees enjoyed the conference as much as I did and had a good trip home.

Work smart, work safe.



William Johnson