

WE FELT THE THUNDER!



Despite the thunderstorms that were forecast for yesterday, the weather behaved just long enough for contestants to enjoy Niagara Falls. For first time visitors, the falls were breathtaking to see. Many contestants said that they couldn't believe the power and beauty of the waterfall until they actually saw it in person.

The sunny morning saw many teams taking pictures, followed by the chance to travel below and behind the Canadian falls for the Journey Behind the Falls visit. Numerous IOI teams were

surprised to learn that over 2,800 cubic meters of water thunders over the brink every second, travelling 65 kilometers per hour!

The highlight for most teams, though, was in the afternoon, when they rode the Maid of the Mist to the foot of the waterfall. Astonished looks were plentiful as everybody was surprised by the sheer power of the water falling within metres of their boat. The strong mist emanating from the base of the falls, made many IOI contestants, leaders and guests thankful for the rain gear they received.

After the boat ride, teams explored the various sights and attractions on Clifton Hill. The street, in close proximity to Niagara Falls contains amusements like the Guinness World Records museum, Ripley's Believe It Or Not, various arcades and haunted houses. Everybody returned to Waterloo with some spectacular pictures and many souvenirs for friends and family back home.

OUR SOUTHERN NEIGHBOR

Despite being from different parts of the United States, Brian, Michael, Wenyu and Neal have known each other for many years. Three of the four-team members participated in last year's IOI in Bulgaria.

Our friends to the south have travelled to Canada a few times before, but this was their first visit to Southern Ontario. What surprised them the most was our beautiful weather. Brian said it was a good ten degrees Fahrenheit (five degrees Celsius) warmer than they expected.

Brian, Michael, Wenyu and Neal were selected for Team USA in early June after a 22-hour invitational competition, to which only 15 people are invited every year. All four competitors have been part of IOI for at least the past two years. This is only one of several competitions in which Team USA participates,



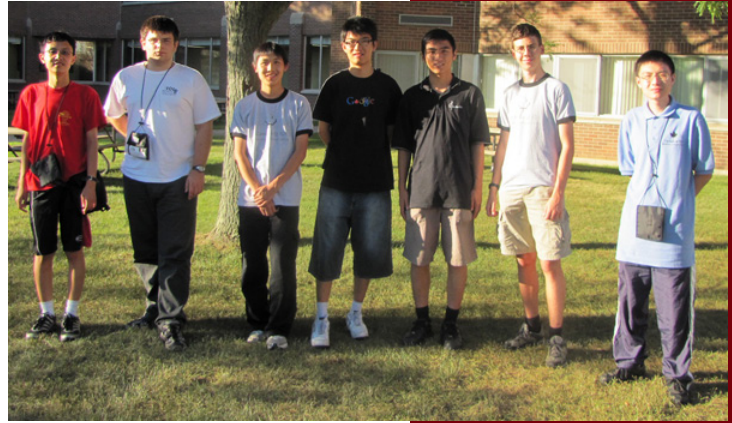
and Brian said that this provides them with a lot of material and opportunities for training. Three of the team members just finished their senior year of high school and they will be attending either Harvard or MIT (two of the top USA schools for computer science) next year. Wenyu still has a year of high school to complete and hopes to follow in the footsteps of his teammates. Every USA participant who has been to the invitational in the past few years has gone to one of these two schools, so Wenyu probably has very little to worry about.

PRESSURE? WHAT PRESSURE?

As the host of IOI 2010, Canada is allowed to enter two teams into the competition. Brian, Tyson, Jonathan, Zhi Qiang, Cyril, Jacob and Aurick say they don't feel too much pressure as the host competitors.

Despite the fact that Canada is a large country, six of the team members are from Toronto, Canada's largest city and the capital of Ontario. Aurick is from Windsor, in the extreme tip of Southwestern Ontario, while Robin is from Coquitlam in British Columbia, just outside of Vancouver. They took part in the annual Canadian Computing Competition in February, with the top 20 students coming to the University of Waterloo in the spring to compete for the eight spots on Team Canada. Most of them didn't know each other before coming here but a quick search on Google and Facebook fixed that.

Team Canada is excited about hosting this year's IOI because with the exception of Robin who lives on the west coast, they all live within a three-hour drive of Waterloo and they didn't have to experience any jet lag. Though they're disappointed not to be travelling to another country they are eager to show off Canada to the rest of the world.



The team doesn't see hosting over three hundred new friends from eighty-three different countries as strange at all. This is because they've all had different multicultural experiences growing up. Toronto and Vancouver are two of the most ethnically diverse cities in Canada. In general, our country accepts around a quarter of a million new immigrants each and every year.

Like most competitors, Team Canada is hoping for a medal so that they can get into one of the most prestigious computer science universities in the world, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of Toronto, and (of course) the University of Waterloo. Half of the team has already received acceptance into one of these three schools, while the rest still have another year or two of high school to complete.

HOTTER/COLDER

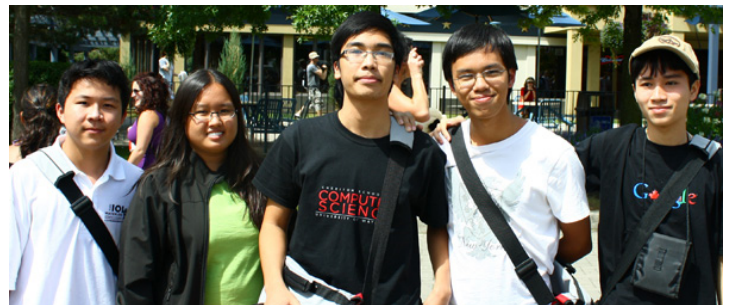
It's the morning after Canada's Wonderland and Team Vietnam are still full of energy. Sitting at breakfast, they are chatting away. Khanh tells us that Vietnam has only one amusement park - Suoi Tien Park in Ho Chi Minh City, which is a long ways away from Ha Noi, where the team members live.

They also find it fascinating that there are so many squirrels and geese on campus and the trees in Canada change their color.

This is understandable. Vietnam is located at the equator; the vegetation there receives the same amount of sunlight all year round. Thus their trees are never lacking for chlorophyll.

Reflecting on day one's competition, Tuan says he is happy with his effort but he could do better if he were given a second try. Out of the four tasks, he thought three were manageable but the "Hotter/Colder" task was a definite challenge. Looking at day one's scoreboard, this seems to be the consensus among the competitors too as scores for this task were on average a little low.

Asked what he considers more difficult, solving the IOI tasks or finding a girlfriend, Viet answered, "Solving the tasks...I haven't thought about the other problem yet."



AWE-INSPIRING!



PREVIEW OF CLOSING CEREMONIES

IOI 2010 officially comes to an end at the closing ceremonies, which will take place tomorrow evening from 17:00 to 21:00 at Bingeman Park. Buses will arrive at Village 1 at 16:00 and leave at 16:15 sharp. Please be on time.

The ceremonies begin with a formal dinner followed by a welcome speech from Feridun Hamdullahpur (Vice-President Academic and Provost, University of Waterloo). Seventy-five bronze medals will then be awarded to the contestants by the Provost and Ian Goulden (Dean, Faculty of Mathematics, University of Waterloo). This will be followed by the fifty silver medalists presented by Clement Chan (Executive Director, Columbia International College) and Arturo Cepeda (IOI President). Then Troy Vasiga (Chair, 2010 IOI Organizing Committee) and Ryan Marshall (Vice-President, Operating Systems, Research In Motion) will confer gold medals on our top twenty-five contestants. IOI 2010 sponsor Lenovo will end the presentation of medals by making a draw for a Think pad laptop.

The closing ceremonies will officially come to an end with speeches from Troy and Arturo followed by the passing of the IOI flag to Thailand for IOI 2011.



CANADA QUIZ

Test your knowledge of our national history

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the name of our flag before the Maple Leaf?
A) Canadian Red Ensign B) Union Jack C) Canadian Blue Ensign D) St. George's Cross
2. This Canadian won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957.
A) Louis St. Laurent B) Lester Pearson C) Vincent Massey D) John Diefenbaker
3. On June 6, 1944, Canadian troops participated in the invasion of Nazi-occupied France. What was the code name of the Normandy coast beach on which we landed?
A) Omaha Beach B) Sword Beach C) Juno Beach

ANSWERS: 1. A) 2. B) 3. C)



FRIDAY AUGUST 20, 2010

TIME	EVENT		
	CONTESTANTS	LEADERS	GUESTS
07:00 - 08:00	Breakfast		
08:00 - 09:00			
09:00 - 10:00	Free Time	GA Meeting (DC 1350)	St. Jacobs Train and Shopping
10:00 - 11:00			
11:00 - 12:00			
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch		
13:00 - 14:00			
14:00 - 15:00	Free Time		
15:00 - 16:00			
16:00 - 17:00			
17:00 - 18:00	Closing Ceremony		
18:00 - 19:00			
19:00 - 20:00			
20:00 - 21:00			
21:00 - 22:00			
22:00 - 23:00			
23:00 - 24:00			

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