

December 10, 2009

Thanks for tuning in to Pat Magee's CANDYMAIL!

TWO-PARTY SYSTEM ... Chicago kicks off the holidays with the **Chicago AACT** Christmas party, Friday, Dec. 11, at Café La Cave, Rosemont, IL, followed by **Chicago Candy Production Club** Christmas party, Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Union League Club, Chicago ... For info please see links at <http://www.patmagee.com/IndustryEvents.aspx>

CANDYMAIL FEATURETTE

A Milestone Anniversary at Rheo Thompson Candies

Congratulations to Rheo Thompson Candies Ltd., Stratford, ONT, Canada for celebrating its 40th anniversary this year ... Founded in 1969 by Rheo Thompson (retired), the firm is known for its famous Mint Smoothie Chocolates (shown at right) and other flavorful specialties ... Today, the firm's co-owners, Marc Johnstone and Kristene Steed proudly mark the company's milestone: "It's been 40 years of hard work, and fun, and putting smiles on people's faces." ... Still active on the sidelines, founder Rheo Thompson reminisces about his namesake's reaching 40, "after all not every business can talk about that." Although Marc was busy in the kitchen making peppermint patties the day CANDYMAIL phoned, he took the call ... "We've experienced growth in the past few years, and we are sticking to what we do best," he says. "We host a Christmas open house each year," he adds, "to thank customers, and this year we had 800-plus people." ... "We've been making a lot of commitments to the community," Marc says, such as donating funds to Stratford General Hospital and supporting Gallery Stratford art gallery ... "We gave gifts to other organizations with 40-year anniversaries, like Gap, Sesame Street." ... Applauding



the growth that came from the company's founders, Marc says, "In 1996, Rheo and Sally (Thompson) moved locations to (this) 12,000-square-foot facility, and the business has been expanding one customer at a time. We celebrate the staff and all their hard work. They (employees) see more candy being made and that is encouraging! We're looking at another 40 years," he concludes ... Now, back to the peppermints! ... For more info please contact info@rheothompson.com, and visit www.rheothompson.com.



PMCA SPECIAL REPORT

31 Graduate from PMCA panning workshop

The Georgia Nut Company, Skokie, IL, was the site of last month's PMCA panning workshop where 31 students representing 26 confectionery firms were taught the basics of soft, hard, chocolate and sugar-free panning. The workshop, held the week of Nov. 10, also included lectures and hands-on practice with finishing and polishing, and the use of colors and flavors. Faculty for the workshop, who represented a variety of confectionery manufacturing disciplines included: Katherine Clark, Centerchem, Michelle Frame, Kerry Ingredients & Flavours, Jim Hamernik, Flavorchem Corp., Gale Myers, Sensient Colors, Tom Parady, Roquette, Michelle Polach, Flavorchem Corp., Walter Vink, Vink Associates and Dennis Zak, TMResource. ... For a listing of PMCA workshops in 2010, please visit www.pmca.com.

THANKS AGAIN FOR TUNING IN to CANDYMAIL ... and for tips on writing, publicity, and more, please visit www.patmagee.com ... *If you don't wish to receive, reply "Unsubscribe."*

Yours Truly, Pat Magee, Editor/Publisher, ***Susan Tiffany***, Contributing Editor.