

Door decorating contest at the Ottawa Research and Development Centre, AAFC.

This year, oat researchers in Ottawa were well-represented in the ORDC Christmas party door decorating contest, with four entries! The challenge was to use lab or office supplies to make the decorations, so each door ended up reflecting the type of work being done by the group.

Room 2047, Judith Frégeau-Reid's cereal chemistry lab (Judith Frégeau-Reid, Savka Orozovic, Alison Yu, and Louis Beauchamp):



Most of the materials used here are grain bags (thanks to the folks in Lacombe for the red and green ones!). The snowman has his safety gear, but I don't know about that pipe!



Room 2055, Nick Tinker's genomics lab (Nick Tinker, Charlene Wight, Phil Couroux, Biniam Hizbai, Wubi Bekele, Honghai Yan, and Pingping Zhou):



Materials used here include bromophenol blue-stained paper towels, Kodak X-Omat intensifying screens from the old RFLP days (!), undeveloped x-ray film (the green), sample bags, Eppendorf tubes, 10mL pipette tips, and “trunk-ated” DNA sequence alignments....



Room 2068, Shea Miller's microscopy lab (Shea Miller and Mehri Hadi Nezhad):



The wreath is made of two colours of paper towels that were dyed using Fast Green spray. Note also the fancy glassware, and, of course, the oat sprigs!



Room 3006, Allen Xue's plant pathology lab (Yuanhong Chen):



The Christmas tree is made of soil pots and vermiculite bags and is decorated with plant ties and fungal culture plates. The “gifts” include seed plot samples. Yuanhong works on oat diseases and deals with a lot of *Fusarium* species, which, as it turns out, are quite festive!

Happy Holidays from all of us at ORDC!

-Charlene Wight, 14 December, 2015.