Canadian scientists and their stone-slaying comrades around the world are gearing up for the 15th annual Ig Nobel prize ceremony, sort of an MTP awards for the science community that honours imaginative academic achievements that “make people laugh, and then make them think.”

“The year’s event, which takes place in Boston, will be at Harvard University’s Sanders Theatre. It will include an opera based on the concept of infinity, a win-a-dose with a Nobel laureate concert, and a 24/7 lecture series in which top thinkers explain their subjects first in 24 seconds, then in just seven words.”

“An annual Ig Nobel prizewinner has a reputation for being more than just a laughing matter; it seemed a shame the world is not paying more attention to the Ig Nobel Prizes.”

“Take, for example, the research interests of this year’s guest speaker, Karen Leland, a chemical engineer at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. In 2003 for documenting the effects of smoke on household pets. "Every once in a while, there would be someone who had done something that just smacked you in the head in such an odd way that it seemed a shame the world would probably never pay attention to it," Leland said. "That was the idea behind the Ig Nobel Prizes.""