

Canadian Society for
Civil Engineering



Société canadienne
de génie civil



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WELCOME

For those of us connected to the University environment, we are now very much into the exciting fray of final exams!! And job searches, both permanent and summer, are well advanced for most students. Here on the Prairies, and perhaps elsewhere, we are still wondering when spring will come, both hoping that it will hurry up and perhaps being a bit relieved that it is taking its time given all the snow that we had over the winter. Indeed, flood preparations have taken place in many urban centres. And, yes, it is time for my monthly e-letter, my second last!!

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Further to the comments made of some nice press coverage in my last e-letter, I am pleased to report that we received a bit more positive coverage in the Careers and HR section of the National Post in an article published on March 20. The focus of the article was on the booming demand for civil engineers, and included quotations from several of our members. There is little doubt that the future of civil engineering is very bright!

At the December Board meeting, a decision was taken to pilot a new position in our National Office to focus on the younger demographic of the Society. Amie Therrien was hired to take on this assignment on an interim, part-time basis as our Student and Young Professional Program Coordinator. While the 'project' is yet in the development phase, I am very pleased with the progress that Amie has made to date. I quite look forward to the achievements that this initiative will help us realize in the context of the 'growing with youth' strategic direction of our Vision 2020 plan.

Much of the focus of the senior leadership team and National Office is now on finalizing reports for the Society's annual report and preparing for the conference and AGM to be held in Montreal (see below). Much work is also being put into finalizing the program for the Honors and Awards banquet, at which we will recognize many of the significant contributions and achievements of many of our members. Across the country, I am well aware that most of our Sections will be holding their annual meetings as they wrap up another season of CSCE activity.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

In mid-May, I will be attending the Hydrotechnical Division's 21st conference in Banff, while at the end of May I will be attending the EIC climate change conference and annual Awards Gala in Montreal and our own annual conference and related events, also being held in Montreal. More details about these events can be found below.

I will be partaking in the EIC Board meeting to be held in Montreal the day before the climate change conference.

VISION 2020: Our plans for the future

The three strategic directions that will guide and inform our decision-making over the next several years in realizing our mission and vision include:

- Strategic Direction #1: enhanced services to members (focus on improved programming for our members, including many of our traditional activities)
- Strategic Direction #2: growing with youth (focus on students and young professionals and their career development aspirations and needs)
- Strategic Direction #3: leadership in sustainable infrastructure (focus on the improvement of the planning, design, construction and maintenance of public infrastructure)

All members, and perhaps particularly those engaged in leading the Society, are encouraged to actively participate in helping us to take action to make the strategic directions come to life. It is the sum of all of our efforts that will result in meaningful impact on the vitality of our Society; please do not underestimate the importance of your contributions to our work!

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

A total of 38 engineers and students attended the course on CSA-S850 (Design and Assessment of Buildings Subjected to Blast Loads) in Ottawa and Toronto. The presentation was very well received.

CSCE 21st Canadian Hydrotechnical Conference, Banff, AB, May 14 – 17, 2013 (<http://registration.cgi-pco.com/CSCEhydrotechnicalconference/index.html>).

EIC 3rd Climate Change Technology Conference, Montreal, QC, May 27 – 29, 2013 (www.cctc2013.ca).

CSCE annual conference, Montreal, QC, May 29 – June 1, 2013 (www.csce2013.ca).

- The conference is being held at the Sheraton in downtown Montreal. Please consider taking advantage of the special room rate (the conference local organizing committee will love you for this!) and enjoy the convenience of partaking in most of the conference activities without having to venture far from your room.
- The conference program is very full and looks tremendously exciting. Please consider attending this major annual event of the Society in one of Canada's oldest cities!

DID YOU KNOW?

That the CSCE holds an annual dinner for Fellows of the Society, with the dinner typically being hosted on the Saturday evening following the annual conference by a local Fellow from the city in which the conference is located? This year's host will be Mr. Armand Couture. Member since 1955!

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