



Celebrating 125 years since our founding in 1887 and 40 years as a constituent society of the Engineering Institute of Canada



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WELCOME

Here it is nicely into September and your President has yet to get out the monthly e-letter!! Indeed, the last few weeks have been rather busy, much with my work on behalf of CSCE but also with my work at the University of Saskatchewan getting ready for the fall term. Thankfully, I have some colleagues who are great to help out with my day-job while I have been away. So, to usher in the fall season, I offer the following summary of my CSCE activities as well as those of some others.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

In mid-August, I had occasion to attend and bring opening and closing remarks at the international Cold Regions conference held in Quebec City. The conference was co-sponsored by CSCE and ASCE. Guy Dore, the conference chair, and his organizing committee are to be commended for a job very well done! The total attendance was nearly 250, with delegates from 11 countries in attendance.

At the Cold Regions conference, I was afforded the privilege of presenting the Can-Am

Amity Award for 2012 to Prof. Em. Reini Schuster from the University of Waterloo. This award is given in recognition of a member of either CSCE or ASCE who has contributed meaningfully to the 'amity' of the United States and Canada. Congratulations Reini!

While in Quebec City, I was able to meet with two members of the Quebec Section (François Labrecque and Sylvain Carrier) as well as from the Quebec Region (Vice President Tony Begin and Suzanne St. Laurent). Indeed, the folks from Quebec treated my wife Marlene and I, and our Executive Assistant Lois Arkwright, to a delightful dinner in Old Quebec as part of our visit. I am pleased to note that the Quebec Section is one of our stronger sections from across the country.

In early September, I attended the annual general meeting and dinner of our Hong Kong Branch. At the meeting, the leadership of the Branch passed from Prof. Moe Cheung, the founding chair, to Mr. Paul Pang. Prof. Cheung has contributed significantly to getting the Branch on its feet since it was established in May 2007. Thank you for your leadership Prof. Cheung; it is appreciated! I am confident that the Branch is in good hands with Mr. Pang now at the helm. Welcome aboard, Paul! I thank all of the Branch members who were so generous of their time with me during my visit.

While in Hong Kong, I also had occasion to meet briefly with the several members of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE), including President Choy. Following our meeting, we enjoyed a delightful lunch and then a wonderful tour of the ICC Building, which is one of the world's 10 tallest buildings. CSCE has an Agreement of Cooperation with HKIE, which was most recently renewed under President Vic Perry in 2010. HKIE is an organization that serves as both a learned society and a licensing authority. It has Chapters in both Toronto and Vancouver.

On my return trip from Hong Kong, I was able to meet with representatives of the Vancouver Section (Chelene Wong, Stanley Chan), Vancouver Island Section (Kevin Baskin) and our International Affairs Committee (Rishi Gupta). We discussed a variety of matters pertaining to CSCE operations, with a few ideas coming forward for further consideration. I am grateful to the members for taking several hours from their Saturday to meet with me.

On September 11, Canada's first infrastructure report card was released at a press conference in Ottawa, with our Senior Vice President Reg Andres and Executive Director Doug Salloum in attendance. CSCE has been involved with this major initiative over the past two years along with our partners, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Canadian Construction Association and the Canadian Public Works Association. Thanks to Guy Félio, Reg Andres, Nick Larson and Konrad Siu for their work on our behalf on development of the report card.

The History Committee held the unveiling of a plaque establishing the Patricia Bay Air Base, now Victoria International Airport, on September 7 at the BC Aviation Museum. The base was one of 88 airfields built in the 1940s as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. The plaque unveiling was organized by Mr. Ramsay Murray, FCSCE and Kevin Baskin, Chair of the Vancouver Island Section. Past-President Vic Perry attended the ceremony on my behalf. Approximately 60 people attended the event, which included local politicians, military, historians, members of the Vancouver Island Section and several members of the press.

Our first CSCE Award for Governmental Leadership in Sustainable Infrastructure, which was awarded to the City of Edmonton at our 2012 annual conference, was formally recognized by Edmonton City Council at an event held on August 29. This recognition speaks well to the success of this initiative, which ties in very nicely with our Vision 2020 plan.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

This year's first National Lecture Tour, with guest presenter Guy Félio, is on the just-released infrastructure report card for Canada. It is currently planned that Dr. Félio will visit 15 locations across the country, the first of which is in Saskatoon on September 13. This presentation is likely to attract interest from a wide variety of participants, particularly those whose work involves municipal infrastructure.

I will be attending the EIC Board meeting in Toronto on September 16. As part of that trip, I will also be meeting with the Ontario Region VP, James Garland, and several executive

members from the Sections in the Toronto area on September 15.

At the end of the month, I will be participating in the Board meeting of the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS), which is being held in Winnipeg the day before the annual CGS conference. I will also attend the opening of the conference. While in Winnipeg, I will also be meeting with several members of the Manitoba Section, including the Section Chair, Shawn Clark.

Later this fall, I will be attending the ASCE annual meeting in Montreal and making a trip to China to meet with our various partner agencies there. More details on these items will come later.

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!

"Did you know" ... that CSCE has 30 international agreements including 5 with China and Hong Kong and 2 with ASCE?

