

CSSE Newsletter

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The President's Remarks

Let me begin my first "Remarks" by offering my sincere thanks to Colin for his contributions as President over the past two years. His second year of service began unexpectedly as a result of John Evans untimely death, shortly after the 2015 AGM. I was/am most appreciative of his willingness to step in and allow me a year to "acclimatize" as President-elect. I also want to thank the Organizing Committee for the 2016 AGM in Halifax for a job well done. There is a uniqueness associated with Maritime hospitality, and the Committee certainly maintained that regional reputation.

CSSE/SCIS is a unique organization in the world of Canadian engineering. Being named President of such an organization is both humbling and intimidating. I sincerely hope that I will be able to provide the leadership that is expected from a person entrusted with this position. Leadership, of course, requires a membership that is willing to contribute to the myriad of tasks that must be undertaken. I trust that I can count on the support of both those who have contributed in the past, and those who have not, as yet, become directly involved.

The 2016 Board of Directors Meeting reflected on both past developments and future direction. All organizations of seniors experience a continuum of active members being forced to become less active. Notably in 2016, both Ken Putt and Perter Van Vliet were dealing with health issues that prevented them from attending the meeting. Their absence, and the still vacant positions in the Nominating Committee's Report reinforce the need to address both membership numbers and membership involvement.

Probably the most contentious issue at the Directors Meeting was a motion to accept the "Restructuring Initiative" that was advanced by a group of concerned members. Basically the Initiative suggested that the CSSE/SCIS should adopt an administrative structure more in line with standard business practice. The Board of Directors would provide guidance to an Executive group. Debate centered on details. Eventually the motion was withdrawn and replaced with a motion that assigned the task of recommending a new operational structure to a group chaired by the President. Members of this group will be selected by the President. An initial report will be debated at the Board Teleconference in October and a final report will be delivered at the 2017 AGM.

Clearly my Presidential term has been defended by the aforementioned motion. From my perceptive, I see this as an opportunity, not a constraint. There is a need for clarity with respect to responsibilities. The overall organization requires an elected Executive that is responsible for the day-to-day operations. The Board needs to function as an advisory body that represents both regional and national interests. Committees require clear definition of their responsibilities and reporting guidelines. Given the responsibilities that I have been assigned, it is probably appropriate to share some of my thoughts relating to CSSE/SCIS.

Challenge number one - Our strength seems to be based on local groups that meet on a regular basis to share lunch and listen to a presentation relating to engineering. Many persons who attend these local meetings are not members of the national body,



Ron Britton, P.Eng.

The President's Remarks

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but they are prime candidates for membership. What can we do, or say, that will encourage these persons to "join"?

Challenge number two - We are the a group of Senior engineers. In the minds of many persons, that means "old" engineers. However, our admissions standard requires only 25 years of of engineering experience. Engineers with 25 years of experience are in their mid to late 50's. How do we get our message to these potential members?

Challenge number three - A recurrent concern relating to the future of CSSE/SCIS is one of declining membership. Sadly we receive regular reminders of the passing of members. But, seniors are the fastest growing segment of our Canadian population. Doesn't that suggest that our potential membership is growing, not declining? How do we get our message to those who are no longer constrained by responsibilities relater to employment?

Challenge number four - While we are in the process of restructuring we need to consider what we offer to members, and how we deliver those offerings. What should we be doing that will attract new members, and contribute to a profession that has allowed us the luxury of being Senior Engineers?

2016/2017 looks like it has the potential to be a busy, and interesting, year. Please consider joining in on the task of making CSSE/SCIS a vigorous and viable component of the Canadian Engineering continuum.

As I close out this initial report, I cannot help but think about Robert Browning's gender biased observation. "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp. Or what's a heaven for?" I guess we will have a chance to consider that question, and others, at the 2017 AGM, on May 13 in Regina.

Welcome, New/Re-joining Members

- **Ramsay Murray** (Victoria, BC)
- **Malcolm Symonds** (Winnipeg, MB)

In Memoriam

- **Harold Page** (Edmonton, AB)

2016 Annual General Meeting & Awards Dinner

The CSSE Annual General Meeting and Awards Dinner was held in Halifax on May 21, 2016 at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel. CSSE Director **Ron Gilkie** reports: "We had a very successful AGM and Awards Dinner here at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel which from all accounts was very much enjoyed by all ... One of the highlights was entertainment by the "Abilene Duo" at the reception, with **Nelson Ferguson** on fiddle and **Ian Holmes** on accordion. It was enjoyed by all, especially **Jean-Guy** (René) and his wife, Lyse, who danced to a special waltz request. It was also great to have Honorary Member **Debbie Innes** as a guest of the organizing committee for the dinner."

The 2016 Fellowship Awards

The following CSSE fellowships were awarded on May 21 to:

- **Kenneth (Ken) From** (Regina, SK),
- **Kevin L.W. Hodgins** (Yellowknife, NT),
- **Daniel (Dan) Hogan** (Saskatoon, SK),
- **Rick B. Kulman** (Saskatoon, SK),
- **Margaret Kuzyk** (Saskatoon, SK),
- **L. Conrad LeLièvre** (New Minas, NS),
- **Daniel (Dan) MacDonald** (Sydney, NS),
- **Malcolm Reeves** (Saskatoon, SK),
- **Leslie T. Russell** (Halifax, NS),
- **Peter Vician** (Yellowknife, NT), and
- **Leonard (Len) A. White** (Halifax, NS).

Changed Your Coordinates?

If you have a new mailing (or emailing) address, please inform the CSSE Administration Office and the CSSE Newsletter Editor Arnold Eyre (arnoldeyre@gmail.com).

From Sea to Sea to Sea ... Current and Upcoming Events

MARITIMES (Contact: Ron Gilkie, barkergilkie@ns.sympatico.ca)

QUEBEC PROVINCE (Contact: Jean-Guy René, jg.rene@sympatico.ca)

MONTREAL (Contact: Tom Madanda, TMadanda@bell.net)

The Montreal chapter meets 2 to 3 times a year, for luncheon at The Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club, with a guest speaker. In addition, casual get-togethers for lunch every first Monday of the month, at the pub 'Le Manoir'.

ONTARIO (Contact: Jon Jennekens, jonorah@rogers.com)

THE GREATER OTTAWA AREA (Contact: Jon Jennekens, jonorah@rogers.com)

The Ottawa chapter meets on the third Tuesday of the month, at 11:30 am for lunch at 12:00 and a speaker, except in December, July and August.

June 21 Drew Wilson, "Early Canadian Lake and River Steamers."

THE GREATER TORONTO AREA (Contact: Jerry Cuttler, jerrycuttler@rogers.com)

MANITOBA (Contact: Dave Ennis, ns2@mymts.net)

The Manitoba chapter meets in the APEGM offices.

SASKATCHEWAN (Contact: Pieter Van Vliet, p.vanvliet@sasktel.net)

ALBERTA (Contact: Fred Otto, fotto@interbaun.com)

CALGARY (Contact: Chan Wirasinghe, wirasing@ucalgary.ca)

The Calgary chapter meets 9 times a year at the Danish Canadian Club on the second Monday of each month with the exception of January, July and August. Meetings are from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

EDMONTON (Contact: Nick Malychuk, nmaly@telus.net)

The Edmonton chapter meets on the third Thursday of the month, at 11:30 a.m., with a buffet lunch at 12:00, followed by a speaker at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre, 11727 Kingsway.

June 16 Bruce Peachey, President of New Paradigm Engineering Ltd., "Oil and Gas Price Instability will Drive Innovation in New Directions."

BRITISH COLUMBIA (Contact: Ken Putt, kwputt@shaw.ca)

VANCOUVER (Contact: Aidan Gordon, aidan@gordoncrane.com)

The Vancouver chapter normally meets at 11:45 a.m., on the first Thursday of each month at the Sutton Place Hotel, Burrard Street. (Three-course lunch. Cost: Members \$45, Guests \$50)

VANCOUVER ISLAND (Contact: Robin Black, robinblack@shaw.ca)

The Vancouver Island chapter gathers for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on the first Friday (adjusted for holidays) September through June at The Oak Bay Recreation Centre, Victoria.

Spreading the Word

Speakers' notes are made available via Internet (with author's agreement).

Members in the News

- CSSE Director Jerry Cuttler has co-authored a paper: **Treatment of Alzheimer Disease With CT Scans.**
- CSSE Director Shawna Argue is shown presenting Wayne Clifton with his FCSSE certificate at the recent APEGGS Awards Banquet (May 7, 2016) in Saskatoon. Wayne was honoured with his FCSSE in 2014.
- CSSE's Guy Van Uytven has been contracted by the African Development Bank to assess the overloading of the transmission grid and the resulting daily load shedding in Mozambique's Southern capital region and recommend solutions to the situation.



CSSE Charities

Youth Science Canada

CSSE Director and CSSE Youth Science Representative **Frank Corbett** reports that this year's Canada Wide Youth Science Fair was held in McGill's indoor sports complex May 15-20. Some 150 secondary school winning teams presented exhibits in one hall while judging teams from academia and sponsors such as the CSSE deliberated privately. Prizes were presented at St-Denis Theatre on May 19. The CSSE shared in the "Engineering and Innovation" award of \$3500, received by Sarah Veilleux and Victoria Allen of Drummondville, QC. (shown with the presenter, Professor Parsons of St. John's, Newfoundland). Their project is an innovative method for detection of diabetes; ambitious indeed, as were many of the projects exhibited. We understand that next year's Youth Science Fair will be in Regina, SK.



Advocacy Workshop Progress ...

Two advocacies are being considered by the board for release to the public:

(1) the aging of our vital infrastructure and the threat to public safety - an engineering responsibility (Contact **Jean-Guy René**, at jg.rene@sympatico.ca or 613-821-5273); and

(2) re-advancing the Canadian nuclear industry (Contact **Dan Meneley** at dan.meneley@sympatico.ca or 705-657-9453.)

At the recent directors' meeting, **Andy Jones**, the chairman of the advocacy committee, was requested to provide the incoming president (a) with a list of addresses to which the two advocacy papers could be sent, and (b) the web pages on which both the infrastructure and nuclear positions could be placed on the CSSE web site.

Also still in the works: the erosion of Canada's manufacturing sector - what can engineers do about it. (Contact **John Dinsmore** at johndins@videotron.ca, or 514 933-2112).

Members who might be interested in mounting his/her own advocacy, there is a procedure to follow, available at info@seniorengineers.ca, or by phoning 613-821-5273.

Recruit a New Member!

If you have a senior engineer who is not a CSSE member, simply refer her or him to the CSSE website at www.seniorengineers.ca.

Correspondence with the CSSE Administration Office

All "snail-mail" correspondence, including cheques and enquiries, should be sent to the: Canadian Society of Senior Engineers, Suite 1504, 71 Somerset St. W., Ottawa, ON. K2P 2G2 and Emails to: administrator@seniorengineers.ca. Phone calls: 613 890 9363.

Dues and donations can be paid securely by credit card by going to the "Members" page at the CSSE website www.seniorengineers.ca.

The CSSE Website - www.seniorengineers.ca

The CSSE website continues to grow and improve. However, it is only as successful as the information that is placed there. If you have a photo of a project you worked on and think it would be of interest to others send it to: andyjones@explornet.com. The same with if you know of something a CSSE member has done that can be entered into "members spotlight".

The site still needs a French language half and anyone who would be willing to help review and edit the copy the Webmaster has to date can contact andyjones@explornet.com.