

CSSE Newsletter

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The President's Remarks

Greetings everyone. From my weather window in Victoria, I had thought of wishing all a happy spring but was dissuaded from doing so by reports of bitter cold from colleagues recently returned from Ottawa and by Director Gilkie's chronicles of his travails of dealing with successive cycles of snow, rain, and freeze ups which have prevented him from getting his refurbished snow blower out of his garage. It seems our two Canadian groundhogs had messages for both circumstances - an early spring on the west coast; ongoing blasts of winter in Central and Eastern Canada. Also speaking from a personal perspective, even those of us in Arnold's fondly referred to "la la land" have not escaped the bronchial croup that seems endemic this year.



Colin Smith

Beyond dealing with the energy sapping effects of the aforementioned croup, my recent focus of engineering-related volunteer activity has been centered on regional economic development matters including visitations as a PNWER delegate with gubernatorial and legislature leaderships in Alaska, Montana and Washington. Of particular interest are the impacts of declined oil prices. We're all aware of Alberta's deficit but by comparison, Alaska, which has derived 90% of its annual revenue from oil is facing a \$3.5 billion deficit on a total annual budget of \$6 billion. As one diversification response, the Governor has announced his commitment, with apparent industry support, to construct a trans-Alaska natural gas pipeline at a forecast capital cost of \$45 to 60 billion. This project has a huge advantage in that its route is approved and fully permitted. Yet to be confirmed is whether a somewhat smaller diameter line will be built for essentially domestic consumption (~ 36" Bullet line) or whether a larger one (~42") will be built to the Pacific tidewater for LNG exports. Montana has a more diversified economy and has yet to benefit much from its share of the Bakken oil play given the continuing lack of American approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. Only one oil rig was working recently in the entire state.

On the related topic of shipping oil (and LNG) by tanker, recent developments in ship to shore vessel tracking by transponder should provide comfort to members of the public who have been alarmed by fears of collisions and groundings. As an example, every commercial ship and boat that transits Alaska coastal waters must file the equivalent of a flight plan. Each vessel is monitored in real time 24/7 by the Alaska Marine Exchange which immediately contacts the vessel if it deviates from its course or speed. At the click of a mouse, a full tableau of the vessel's information, right down to the cell phone number of its insurance broker can be accessed to ensure that all needed assistance can be resourced if timely corrective action is not taken. Moderately priced transponder units, the size of a small beer cooler, are now available for small pleasure craft such that they too can monitor, and be monitored, when cruising in commercial vessel lanes. In addition to the much reduced risk of collision or grounding, this enhanced tracking of all vessels, especially in poor weather conditions, also effectively removes the "S" from Search and Rescue enabling the Coast Guard to focus its resources on providing assistance and rescue.

On a separate marine-related tack, CSSE representatives will participate in a March 5th

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The President's Remarks *continued*

Honours and Awards Ceremony at CFB Esquimalt. At the invitation of RAdm Bill Truelove, a deferred presentation of the last of CSSE's Citations honouring the centenary of Canada's Submarine Service will be presented to Malcolm Barker, General Manager, Seaspan/Victoria Shipyards in appreciation of his company's Gold Sponsorship of our 2014 AGM/Awards Gala.

As to other CSSE-related matters, thank you to all of you who have renewed your memberships for 2015, and to those of you who may have been procrastinating, please remit your dues. In spite of our largely volunteer activities, our small membership does require a critical mass of paying members in order to effectively meet our mandates of advocacy and student support.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see that our 2015 AGM Organizing Committee is well along in its event planning for our May 29th AGM in Winnipeg. If you haven't already done so, confirm the date, register and reserve your accommodation for this fast approaching event.

Also, on our advocacy front, note the lead contacts provided and consider participating in the development of one of the several papers under development. In this regard, kudo's to Past President Jon Jennekens who submitted a CSSE advocacy paper in 2009 to an NRCAN Expert Panel on Medical Isotopes recommending the use of medical cyclotrons (already installed and operational in major hospitals across Canada) to produce Tc-99m on a daily basis. This paper helped justify NRCAN's funding to TRIUMF (and Canada's Light Source) that enabled this technology to be developed. The interdisciplinary Medical Isotope Team CycloMed99 has just been recognized by His Excellency, the Right Honorable David Johnson, Governor General of Canada, with the awarding of NSERC's Brockhouse Canada Prize.

In closing, I acknowledge that the January editorial was not well received by several members and apologize for its inclusion in the last newsletter. Your Board of Directors does wish to stimulate members to submit thoughtful articles for consumption both within and beyond CSSE's immediate membership. Prior to publishing further items, the Board will be putting in place policy mechanisms for approving and editing them and notating disclaimers where appropriate. Volunteers to serve on an editorial board will be sought in due course.

Members in the News

- **Guy Van Uytven** has prepared a joint paper with the Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE) that demonstrates how Canada could move towards a TransCanada Power Grid as recommended in the CSSE's "*Vision 20/20...and beyond: A Recommended Canadian Energy Decision Framework*" and "*...A Corollary*"
- Director **Gerrie Kautz** has recently had his 8th book published, entitled '**Start and Run an Internet Research Business**' by Self-Counsel Press, reference www.kautzbooks.com.
- As a Past President of CCPE (1980-81), Director **Pieter Van Vliet** has been appointed as an Ambassador for Engineers Canada, in a program that seeks to broaden Engineers Canada networking opportunities through the engagement of its volunteers who are active with other Canadian and international engineering organizations.

The 2015 AGM

Plans for the Friday, **May 29, 2015** CSSE Annual meeting are being finalized. Our web site has been activated. Please check it out at <http://www.apegm.mb.ca/CSSE/>.

This is still, to some extent, a work in progress. Agenda details are not, as yet, confirmed. Registration costs are still to be firmed up as we work out details with sponsors. As a result, the on-line meeting registration form has not been activated. All these details should be finalized within the week. In the meantime, the web site does include hotel reservation details.

Thanks to the assistance of The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba, we will be able to offer secure web based registration, complete with credit card

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Welcome, New/ Returning Members

- **Robert Foster** (Winnipeg, MB)
- **Gert Oscar Martens** (Winnipeg, MB)
- **Charles Pelton** (Ottawa, ON)

Changed Your Coordinates?

If you have a new mailing (or emailing) address, please inform the CSSE Administration Office.

The 2015 AGM ... continued

payment.

We look forward to having you join us for the 2015 meeting and suggest that you consider extending your visit so you have the opportunity to explore local attractions in addition to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Ron Britton and Dave Ennis, CSSE AGM Meeting Coordinators

From Sea to Sea to Sea ...

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Contact: John Evans, 13jgevens@gmail.com)

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 two to three 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: Gerrie Kautz, gwkautz@rogers.com)

February 18 Jon Jennekens, and Buzz Nixon, "Canada in the war in Korea".

March 17 John Jennekens, "North Korea Nuclear Program".

April 21 Layne Larsen, "Debunking the Avro Arrow Myths".

May 19 Art Hunter, "Low Energy Nuclear Reaction (Cold Fusion) Energy Technology".

June 16 Drew Wilson, "The Lighthouse Stevensons".

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

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

Monthly lunch time meetings of the Manitoba CSSE group are held in conjunction with the local IEEE Life Members. Meetings are scheduled on the last Monday of each month, with a three month break during the summer to avoid conflicts with "lake season".

February 23 A speaker from Stantec, "The Souris Swinging Bridge Replacement".

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 nine 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. Starting with the January 15th lunch, we will meet at Chateau Louis Conference Centre, 11727 Kingsway.

February 19 'Atco Electric', "DC Transmission Line".

"CSSE Bulletins"

In keeping with one of the CSSE's objectives, namely, to increase public awareness of the many contributions of engineers to Canada, the CSSE History and Archives Committee is planning to publish a periodical, subject to Board approval, possibly called "A CSSE Bulletin", which will monitor needs of Canadians and how engineers have contributed, and/or are contributing, to the satisfaction of those needs.

Any CSSE member who would like to participate, is asked to contact the administration office.

Recruit a New Member!

If you have a friend who is not a CSSE member, simply tell the CSSE Administration Office about him/her.

From Sea to Sea to Sea ...

- March 19** **Daniel W. Smith**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Alberta. Topic to be announced shortly.
- April 16** A speaker from PCL, "The Edmonton Arena Project".

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)

- February 5** **Alan S. Imrie**, Imrie Engineering Inc., "The Ituango Project in Colombia—An Update on this 2400 MW Hydroelectric Project in South America".

VANCOUVER ISLAND (Contact: **Gerry Buydens**, gbuydens@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.

- February 6** **Martin Poulin**, Manager, Biomedical Engineering—VIHA, Vancouver Island Health Authority, "Medical Technology at VIHA".

Advocacy Progress

The Ottawa and Montreal chapters' workshop, and others, have developed synopses of the following six advocacy topics, (the final length of each advocacy paper to be between 800 and 1200 words):

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);
2. The erosion of Canada's manufacturing sector - what can engineers do about it (contact **John Dinsmore** at johndins@videotron.ca);
3. The role of engineering in mitigating against disasters (contact **Drew Wilson** via info@seniorengineers.ca), (or 613-821-5273);
4. Improvement in national defence procurement (contact **Bruce McGibbon** at bmcgibb9@rogers.com), (or 613-821-5273);
5. Re-advancing the Canadian nuclear industry (**Don Peterson**, **Dan Meneley** and **Doug Lightfoot** appear to be taking over from the late Terry Rogers); and,
6. Updating the CSSE's "Energy Compass" advocacy paper of 2010 (contact **Jon Jennekens** at jonorah@rogers.com), (or 613 822 8227).

Members who might be interested in participating to some extent in one or more of these six topics are invited to contact the applicable members indicated. Also, for anyone interested in mounting his/her own advocacy, there is a revised procedure to follow, available at info@seniorengineers.ca or by phoning 613-821-5273.

Editor's Comments

I understand that some members were upset by the editorial in the January edition. This being an in-house newsletter (distributed only to CSSE members), it was thought that occasional editorials, designed to prompt discussion and letters to the editor, were appropriate for a learned society such as ours. Apparently I was mistaken, and I regret any unhappiness that I have caused.

Therefore I have deleted "The Editorial Corner" from this and future editions. **Editor.**

The CSSE Website

The CSSE website (<http://www.seniorengineers.ca>) 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. Similarly, 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.