

Experience counts! Valorisons l'expérience!



CSSE Newsletter

The President's Remarks

My remarks in the August Newsletter reflected my confidence that my medical advisors had things under control. It has turned out that I was being overly optimistic. As a result, the plans laid out in Halifax last May are not progressing as I (we?) had hoped. Hopefully that phase has passed, and I can now focus on CSSE/SCIS rejuvenation.

As I flew home from the AGM in Halifax, I pondered the nature of our organization, it's strengths and it's

As I flew home from the AGM in Halifax, I pondered the nature of our organization, it's strengths and it's weaknesses. In my opinion, I saw our strength founded on local chapters that provide a regular opportunity for "senior" engineers to get together, share lunch, and hear about something that relates to the world of engineering. Some might suggest that the local chapters are more social get-togethers that technical meetings, but that might account for their success. If it isn't broken, don't try to fix it.



Ron Britton, P.Eng.

The AGM had noted, however, that our national structure needed attention. The instructions that came out of that AGM were very specific relating to need, if short on detail. Clearly those instructions still need to be addressed. Once a workable structure is put in place, we can begin to develop (redevelop?) national objectives. And I acknowledge that my involuntary inaction has caused the current slow pace toward that goal.

In a recent conversation with a member who has been, and continues to be, a major contributor, it was suggested that a significant reason for our organizational problems is that people are too old, too busy, or too focused, on family support, to become involved beyond attending local meetings. I accept that reality. It slows down, or at least limits, what we can do. We are after all, in name and in reality, a society of SENIOR engineers. But here in Manitoba, we are largely a society of RETIRED engineers. I suspect that is the case across the county.

Local chapters can, and do, thrive as the exclusive domain of retired engineers. National involvement becomes problematic when driven by that membership base. Does that explain our situation?

But is the current "model" exclusive to retired folks? One of the qualifications for CSSE/SCIS membership is 25 years of engineering experience. In other words, a SENIOR engineer, by our formal definition, can be someone as young as 46 (graduate at 21 and work for 25 years). Those engineers are "senior" in our profession and in their careers. They generally have the energy and access to "outside" resources that would enable them to become involved at the national level. They frequently find themselves practising beyond the constraints of a narrow technical specialization. Does it make sense to attempt to attract these folks to our organization? If it makes sense, how do we do it?

All organizations require a seriously considered and clearly defined Executive structure to provide a base that will facilitate the conduct of "business". The Halifax AGM gave instructions to put that base in place. That will happen. But organizations that are nothing more than an Executive structure don't serve any useful purpose. Maybe it is time, as the new structure is being created, to re-examine (reinvent?) our purpose. That input can only come from our members. PLEASE, as individuals or as



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The President's Remarks

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chapters, take a bit of time to consider what our future purpose and direction might be. PLEASE forward those thoughts to executive members or, submit your suggestions to Arnold for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

Canadian Engineering needs a group that focusses its attention on the profession and how the profession is/should be practised. Doesn't that seem to be a logical focus for "senior" engineers?

Members in the News

- CSSE Past President Ken Putt reports that CSSE Director Chan Wirasinghe has been appointed to The Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) Panel on Transportation for the Aged.
- CSSE Past Director and Past Secretary-Treasurer Arnold Eyre has been invited to prepare a paper entitled "The Future of Professional Engineering" for APEO's "Engineering Dimensions" publication.
- CSSE President Ron Britton's paper, "Engineering Philosophy 101", appears on Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba's website. (When on website, click on "Keystone Professional".)

Honours and Awards Nominations for 2017

The closing date for submission of nominations for 2017 awards is November 30, 2016. However, it is not too early to initiate nominations for 2017 CSSE fellowships, to be presented at the Honours and Awards Dinner following our AGM in Regina in May, 2017.

Please submit completed applications to Director Fred Otto, Chairman of CSSE's Honours and Awards Committee at **fotto@interbaun.com**. Detailed guidance for the preparation of nominations is given in the applicable CSSE Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

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) VP (East)

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

MONTREAL (Contact: Frank Corbett, corbf@videotron.ca)

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 gettogethers for lunch every first Monday of the month, at the pub 'Le Manoir'.

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

(Continued from page 2)

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

THE GREATER OTTAWA AREA (Contact: Tony Thatcher, jathat@rogers.com)

The Ottawa chapter (known to many of its members as "The Old Farts") meets at the KS Restaurant on Daze Ave., south of Southgate Shopping Mall, on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, at 11:30 a.m. for Tunch at 12:00 and a speaker, except in December, July and August.

Buzz Nixon, "How the Advances in Technology Have Given Rise to the October 18 Unrelenting Increase in World Population".

November 15 Mike Taylor, "Two Successful Confederate Stealth Weapons".

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

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

The Manitoba chapter meets in the offices of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba (APEGM).

SASKATCHEWAN (Contact: Pieter Van Vliet, p.vanvliet@sasktel.net) The 2017 Annual CSSE Meeting at the Hotel Saskatchewan in Regina. May 12-13, 2017

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 at Chateau Louis Conference Centre, 11727 Kingsway on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30 am with a buffet lunch at Noon, followed by a speaker.

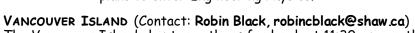
Alex Palynchuk from Western Instrumentation. October 20

November 17 The University of Alberta Eco Car International Competition team will speak about their experience.

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. (Threecourse lunch. Cost: Members \$45, Guests \$50)

High School student Ray Liu received the 2nd Annual C. Gordon Lindsay Memorial TRIUMF High School Fellowship, from CSSE Director and Vancouver Branch President, Aidan C. Gordon (shown on the left) and Dr. Marcello Pavan, Head of Education and Outreach at TRIUMF. Ray recently graduate from R.C. Palmer Secondary School in Richmond, BC and will be attending UBC this fall with plans to enter Engineering Physics.



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.

October 7 Graham Looney, "UVic ECOSat - Inc.?".

November 4 Andrea Taglisaachi, "Capture of Real Time Geometry".

December 2 Chris Kennedy, "Green/Smart Cities".

Speakers PowerPoint presentations, files and photos are made available

through Dropbox (with author's agreement).



Advocacy Workshop Progress ...

"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) is being distributed to a representative of each province for distribution to local authorities of his or her choice.

Still being developed are:

- 1) "Re-advancing the Canadian Nuclear Industry" (Contact Dan Meneley at dan.meneley@sympatico.ca or 705-657-9453.); and
- 2) "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**.

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.

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.

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@xplornet.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@xplornet.com.

Spreading the Word

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