



ASTT e-News, August, 2007

ASTT e-News is broadcast monthly to technologists, technicians, technical specialists and others. It contains the latest information about your profession and your association. Each issue is also posted to the ASTTBC web site.

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ASTTBC Publishes Report On Technology Skills Shortage

On June 19, 2007 thirty-five senior industry representatives from construction, engineering, manufacturing, resource, technology and other companies joined the Hon. Colin Hansen, Minister of Economic Development and staff of ASTTBC to identify priorities and solutions for addressing an increasing shortage of technology workers in British Columbia.

ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, AScT, CAE, was the catalyst behind the Roundtable. He indicated that the Roundtable was an industry 'call to action' and the result of a two-year process started in 2005 through the identification of challenges and priorities at ASTTBC's 'Building Careers in Technology' conference.

Chaired by Josh Blair, Senior Vice-President of HR Strategy and Business Support, TELUS and supported by Kerry Jothen, CEO of Human Capital Strategies and ASTTBC staff, the Roundtable started with a discussion on the technology skills shortage to identify the number one issue; the top three priorities; actions or solutions to be taken by industry; and the priority action to be taken by Government.

The key themes from participants were:

- Increasing a sense of urgency for action among stakeholders and increasing awareness and promotion of technology careers among young people and those who influence them (e.g. parents, teachers, peers).
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- Reforming curriculum and flexible program delivery of education and post-secondary education related to technology careers and increasing access to retraining, updating and lifelong learning among technology workers and workers in other careers.

Participants were asked to identify priority actions and solutions for a Technology Skills Action Plan. The number one priority was clearly the need to increase awareness and promote technology careers among young people and others. Other priorities included: creating and making better use of technology occupational labour market information and supporting, retraining and retaining people already in the workforce. Adopting changes and innovative approaches and programs in schools and post-secondary systems and making better use of immigrants, streamlining and fast-tracking foreign credential recognition were also identified by the Roundtable participants.

A much larger Technology Skills Shortage Roundtable is slated for October 31, 2007 at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue to move to the next step.

To view the full 'Technology Skills Shortage Roundtable: Industry Takes Action' report, please go to <http://www.asttbc.com/careers/docs/Roundtables.pdf>

ASTTBC RTMgr Certification Progressing

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Bruce Stevens, AScT, a former member of ASTTBC Council, has been retained to further develop ASTTBC's proposed Registered Technology Manager (RTMgr) designation. Bruce will develop policy and processes for RTMgr certification.

Watch ASTT e-News for details.

Construction Safety Officer Program Review

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Bruce Stevens, AScT, will be working on ASTTBC's technical specialist program for Construction Safety Officers. He will review the current certification program and recommend changes as well as make contact with others stakeholders.

Watch ASTT e-News for details.

Forest Measurements Update

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ASTTBC is discussing with the Association of BC Forest Professionals the possible transfer of forest measurements certification from ASTTBC to ABCFP. The signals are good that this is the right thing to do.

"This is a very common sense approach" says Cliff Lauder, RFT. "It is not practical to carry several certifications from different organizations, in addition to the licenses issued by the Ministry of Forests, as well as certification by the ABCFP to do tasks common in the profession. At a time when we are having difficulty attracting new people to the profession, perusing all these various certifications and charging an annual fee for each, would not have been wise. Technical diplomas, forestry degrees, course certificates, licensing by the MOF, and ABCFP registration as RPF or RFT should be adequate."

For more details please see <http://forestmeasurement.asttbc.org/Transfer.pdf>

Information On ASTTBC Services

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ASTTBC frequently hears from members who save enough on one or more of the member services to offset the cost of annual dues. Associations like ASTTBC are ideally positioned to let members know of useful, money-saving products or services. ASTTBC approaches this in two ways:

Affinity Partner Member Service Programs

ASTTBC enters into long-term agreements with select affinity partners where the Association feels that there is potential benefit to a significant portion of the membership. ASTTBC works to ensure that affinity partner agreements are with reputable firms and that the product or service offered has genuine value,

nonetheless it is important for members to investigate the details of the product or services offered to see how well they meet the needs of each individual. The list of affinity partners can be found on the ASTTBC web site.

Advertising and Inserts with ASTTBC Publications

ASTTBC accepts advertising and inserts to help offset the cost of production of publications. In these cases, ASTTBC looks for products or services that could be of interest to a significant portion of the membership, however the Association does not investigate the advertiser's offerings and members should look into the details as they would for advertising in other media such as newspapers and television.

Buying or Building A Home?

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If you are buying or building a home, there are several groups within ASTTBC that specialize in providing housing-related services:

House and Property Inspection

The purchase of residential or commercial property represents a significant investment. A quality inspection gives the purchaser or building owner detailed information about the building and the systems within it. A Certified Property Inspector (CPI) or Certified House Inspector (CHI) is qualified with the education, training and experience to carry out professional house and property inspections. *For a list of certified house and property inspectors, visit the BC Institute of Property Inspectors web site at bcipi.asttbc.org*

Site Improvements Surveys

The practice of Site Improvements Surveys is the determination of the relative location of structures to cadastral survey monuments and Land Titles Office records and plans. These surveys are typically required by lending institutions as a condition of mortgage approval, and by municipal authorities as part of the building permit process prior to construction. ASTTBC membership is required before one may be Registered in Site Improvements Surveys (RSIS). *Contact ASTTBC for a list of practitioners with the RSIS designation.*

Building Design

The designations of Registered Building Designer (RBD) and Certified Residential Designer (CRD) represent professional building designers practicing in BC under provincial statute with ASTTBC. Members' expertise covers the full spectrum from residential, commercial and industrial to recreational allowing them to offer uncompromising professionalism and service in the design and construction of buildings. In the public interest, RBDs and CRDs work with architects and professional engineers where required by law. *For a list of building designers, please visit the Building Designers Institute of BC web site at www.bdibc.bc.ca*

On Site Wastewater

The majority of BC homes outside of cities use onsite systems to handle their

sewage. The Ministry of Health Sewerage System Regulation provides for two types of Authorized Person - a Professional, such as a Professional Engineer, and a Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP) to plan, install and maintain an onsite system. In order to be registered by ASTTBC, the ROWP must demonstrate experience and complete required education. ROWPs must follow a 'Standard Practice Manual' provided by the Ministry of Health, which sets out the current best practices. ASTTBC registers four main classifications of ROWP: planner, installer, maintenance provider, and private inspector.

For a list of ROWP practitioners, visit owrp.asttbc.org

ASTTBC To Sponsor Award For Sci-Tech North

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ASTTBC will sponsor a Technology Leadership Award for Sci-Tech North, one of nine regional science councils. The ASTTBC Technology Leadership Award will recognize a person who has demonstrated leadership in developing or applying technology and who has contributed to the Fort St John community, especially as a role model and in promoting technology careers.

"This new award adds to several initiatives our Association has undertaken during the past few years to reach out to local communities across BC" says John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar. Watch ASTT e-News for further details.

Member Profile – Luke Svard, ASCT

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Can taking to the road with a recreational vehicle be compatible with sustainability? Is it possible to produce a recreational vehicle that is energy-efficient to make and fuel-efficient to operate? Luke Svard, ASCT, believes it is.

"The RV industry is an extremely large market that is continuing in growth especially with the number of people retiring in the near future" says this Applied Science Technologist. " Our goal at Acute Trailer Manufacturing Ltd is to provide an alternative to the larger RV vehicles. While we won't be eliminating the use of fossil fuels it can be greatly reduced by using smaller vehicles to travel and enjoy our beautiful country."

The Vernon-based company manufactures teardrop camping trailers. The firm is adamant in promoting alternatives and sustainability with regards to fuel consumption and efficiency in the manufacturing process.

Teardrop trailers, which first rose to popularity in the 1930's, have come back to provide an eco-friendly alternative for camping. The low weight trailers are compact, easy to tow, and provide a quick escape to getting onto the road. Pack a bag and a cooler, and go. The lightweight and aerodynamic style does not significantly decrease mileage, nor is a large truck or SUV needed to tow it. Teardrops are popular with everyone from classic car enthusiasts to baby boomers seeking a return to a simpler, more functional way to travel. Acute Trailer Manufacturing even makes a half-size trailer for touring bikers.

During the next year, ASTTBC will be establishing its TechGREEN program to involve the Association, and members, in sustainability issues. Luke Svard, ASCT, is keen to be a TechGREEN volunteer. *"I am interested in this new program because of my background in*

mechanical engineering, manufacturing, and the company I started with its eco focus." he says. For more information visit www.adventureteardrops.com

Members - Do you have an interesting career-related story that we could profile in ASTT News or ASTT e-News? Contact editor@asttbc.org

Labour Market Study Underway

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Engineers Canada, and the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists, are conducting a national survey of recruitment challenges and skills needs in the engineering and technology labour market. Participation by employers would be greatly appreciated. The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

The results of this survey will directly benefit employers of engineers and engineering technicians and technologists. As a participant in the survey, you will receive an up-to-date and detailed report on:

1. supply and demand conditions in different regions and by technical field,
2. recruitment challenges and successful recruitment strategies,
3. changing skills requirements for engineers and engineering technicians and technologists,
4. trends in engineering work force diversity,
5. trends in continuing professional development.

The survey may be accessed at: <http://www.engineeringemployersurvey.com>

Public Safety Awards Call For Nominations

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British Columbians are encouraged to nominate outstanding candidates for the third annual Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Public Safety. Administered by the BC Safety Authority, the awards recognize an individual and an organization for their exceptional leadership, innovation or achievement in the promotion of safety in British Columbia. Preference is given to submissions related to the industry sectors overseen by the BC Safety Authority.

"The awards honour those exceptional people who have made a difference by always making safety a priority" says Harry Diemer, President & CEO, BC Safety Authority and an Honorary Member of ASTTBC.

ASTTBC is a Silver Safety Vest Level sponsor of the awards. Nominations close September 12, 2007. For more information visit www.safetyauthority.ca

ASTTBC Members Can Connect With Olympics

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Want to know what's happening with the Olympics? Log on the Vancouver 2010 web site at

Technologist Co-Authors Sustainability Article

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Canadians produce 140,000 tons of 'e-waste' every year. Consumers create e-waste when they discard an old stereo or computer, switch to a new cell phone, or replace their CRT monitor with a new flat panel display. E-waste can be generated on a large scale when industry standards change, for example the coming switch from analog to digital TV. Obsolete industrial electronics are another culprit.

Michelle Bast, ASCT, an environmental technologist and ASTTBC's representative on the APEGBC Sustainability Committee, and Maggie Wojtarowicz, P.Eng., have co-authored an article titled 'Engineers Can Help Stop E-waste Generation'. The article looks at the e-waste problem and suggestions solutions for both designers and consumers. It was published in the Spring, 2007 issue of Sustainability Now, an APEGBC publication.

Contaminated Sites Regulation Roster Update

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During the last few years changes in terminology and several administrative items relating to the Roster of Approved Professionals under the Contaminated Sites Regulation have occurred. *To view the latest version of the Procedures for the Roster of Approved Professionals visit:* http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/remediation/policy_procedure_protocol/index.htm#3

Environmental Management Act Regulation Changes

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A number of codes of practice and regulations have recently been enacted and/or amended under the Environmental Management Act. Enacted in 2004, EMA fundamentally changed the way the Ministry of Environment authorizes some introductions of waste into the environment. Recent developments and their effective dates include:

1. Vehicle Dismantling and Recycling Industry Environmental Planning Regulation. Sept. 01, 2007
2. Soil Amendment Code Of Practice (Formerly Soil Enhancement Using Waste Code of Practice). Sept. 01, 2007
3. Waste Discharge Regulation. June 30, 2007
4. Organic Matter Recycling Regulation. June 30, 2007
5. Slaughter and Poultry Processing Industries Code of Practice. June 30, 2007.

The EMA is also reviewing the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation.

The new codes and regulations are available on the ministry website at: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epdiv/ema_codes_of_practice/index.html

Green Building Code Update

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The February 2007 Throne Speech announced the development of a BC Green Building Code by early 2008. The Office of Housing and Construction Standards, Building and Safety Policy Branch, is leading this initiative. The goals of the green building code are to:

1. identify and remove barriers within provincial codes and regulations
2. identify and propose new provisions for green buildings regulation
3. support implementation through an administrative framework, education and training

The green buildings regulation will be results based and flexible for industry and will consider a range of sustainability areas such as sustainable sites; water conservation; energy; materials and resources; indoor environment; and innovation and design process.

Visit http://www.asttbc.com/services/docs/Green_Building_Code.pdf

Municipal Funding Opportunity

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The Federation of Canadian Municipalities 'Green Municipal Fund' will offer financing to municipal governments and their partners to implement the best examples of municipal leadership in sustainable development - examples that can be replicated in other communities. The Fund provides low-interest loans and grants, builds capacity, and shares knowledge to support municipal governments and their partners in developing communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. The GMF issues Requests for Proposals annually in five sectors of municipal operation: energy, transportation, waste, water, and brownfield remediation. GMF Intent to Apply forms, along with details of the RFP requirements and processes, will be available on-line. The deadline to submit an Intent to Apply is September 19, 2007. Applicants that have their Intent to Apply accepted will be asked to submit a detailed proposal.

For information visit www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca.

Clean Technology Funding Available

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If you have a new, innovative technology that helps address climate change or promotes clean water, land or air, then Sustainable Development Technology Canada wants to hear from you. SDTC is accepting Statements of Interest for funding from September 5 to October 24, 2007. SDTC supports late-stage development and pre-commercial demonstration of clean technologies by Canadian companies.

For details visit <http://www.sdtc.ca/en/funding/advice/index.htm>

Pine Beetle Epidemic Changes Economic Approach

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The provincial government is funding Geoscience B.C. – an industry-led agency to spark more

mineral exploration in areas hit by the mountain pine beetle. It could be 20 to 60 years before newly regenerated forests are ready for harvest. The goal is to change the focus of local economies from forestry to mining by the time the dead pine has been exhausted for sawing into lumber. As well, the Canadian government is directing \$80 million from its mountain pine beetle fund to help communities in the interior diversify their economies and support major transportation infrastructure and it plans to spend \$1 billion during the next 10 years to mitigate the impacts of the beetle epidemic.

Flicking The Switch Makes A Difference

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May 16, 2007 was 'Turn It Off Night'. According to BC Hydro, by turning off unnecessary lights, televisions and appliances, British Columbians saved the province the equivalent energy needed to power more than a million incandescent light bulbs for one evening. If British Columbians continued to turn off unnecessary lights and appliances every evening, the savings would provide enough electricity to power 8,000 homes for an entire year.

Industry Training Authority Posts Survey Results

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The Industry Training Authority conducts an annual survey to measure apprentice, employer and industry satisfaction with work-based training, technical training and ITA customer service and to measure awareness of ITA roles and responsibilities.

The report is available at <http://www.itabc.ca/AboutITA-reports.php>

Labour Shortage Impacts BC's Small Businesses

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A study conducted for the Coalition of BC Businesses demonstrates how skills and labour shortages in many sectors and regions of BC are negatively impacting small business and communities. The 'Labour Supply Strategies for Small Businesses in British Columbia' makes a number of recommendations to government and others.

Visit http://www.asttbc.com/services/docs/LabourSupplyReport_Jun07.pdf

Occupational Exposure Limits for Styrene Input Requested

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WorkSafeBC has released a discussion paper regarding the occupational exposure limits for styrene. At issue is whether WorkSafeBC should maintain the occupational exposure limits established in WorkSafeBC Policy R5.48-1, or adopt the threshold limit values set by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. Stakeholders are invited to provide comments before October 10, 2007 on the discussion paper, which can be accessed on the WorkSafeBC website at http://www.worksafebc.com/regulation_and_policy/regulating_exposure/law_90_40.asp

Innovation Council Awards Dinner

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The BC Innovation Council Awards dinner on October 22, 2007 in Vancouver will celebrate British Columbia's innovation forerunners who are communicating science in creative ways, establishing innovative technology companies and conducting groundbreaking scientific research. Early Bird rate available until August 31, 2007. *To purchase tickets, please call 604-438-2752*

Coming Events

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Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues, commencing Sept 5 2007, Vancouver and lower mainland locations. GVRD. www.gvr.bc.ca

Building Envelope Principles, Sept 7 2007. AIBC. www.aibc.ca

CanWest Horticulture Show, September 12–13 2007, Vancouver. CanWest is Western Canada's largest horticulture trade show representing nursery, floriculture and landscape supplies companies. www.CanWestHortShow.com

BCIT 2007 Distinguished Alumni Awards, September 26 2007. Vancouver. A celebratory dinner event honoring distinguished grads, instructors and students. *To purchase tickets phone 604-432-8847 or email alumni@bcit.ca*

Wood-Works Sustainability Workshops, October 10 2007, Vancouver; October 11, Surrey; October 12, Kelowna. The benefits of building green and construction environmental attributes of engineered wood products, a case study of what may be the greenest building in North America and an introduction to Green Globes, an alternative high quality green building rating system. *Lorna Malone at lmalone@wood-works.ca or 1-877-929-9663 ext 4.*

IAQ and Housing Durability, October 10-12 2007, Richmond. Day 1 IAQ and Housing; Day 2 Troubleshooting; Day 3 Mold Assessment. Attend 1, 2, or all 3 days. *Julie Levi (800) 785-4110; e-mail info@iaqresourcescanada.com*

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, October 16-17 and November 27-28, Calgary. SafeGrowth Primer and Advanced Workshops provide training in safe urban design. *Anna Brassard at (403) 389-3327 or aebrassa@telus.net*

Canadian Brownfields Conference, October 18-19 2007, Montreal. Focus on building sustainable cities and the potential of achieving economic and cultural growth through the redevelopment of brownfields. Themes will include political and technological innovation, municipal and private sector partnerships and international experiences to revitalize communities and restore urban cores. www.canadianbrownfields.ca.

Negotiation Skills, October 19 2007, Fort St John. Achieving success requires the ability to negotiate effectively. Sponsored by APEGBC www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/neg_skills_oct07.html

APEGBC 2007 Annual Conference & AGM, October 25 - 27 2007, Whistler. Program includes two days of professional development, combining industry-leading technical and business sessions. A trade exhibition and social events provide an opportunity to network with colleagues and suppliers. <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/ac2007/main.html>.

Laboratory Safety Course, October 29-30 2007, Edmonton. Canadian Society for Chemical Technology www.cheminst.ca/profdev

ASTTBC Awards & Recognition Celebration – November 3 2007, Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver. Watch for details in ASTT e-News and by broadcast email.

GLOBE 2008, March 12 -14 2008, Vancouver. Corporate sustainability and finance; energy and the environment; building better cities. www.globe2008.ca
