



ASTT e-News, December 2008

Dear [FIRSTNAME],

ASTT e-News is broadcast 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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Best Wishes From The President And Executive Director

Thank you for your continued commitment to professionalism and to your support as a member of ASTTBC. 2008 is coming to an end amidst global financial challenges and political uncertainties. Most likely we will all be touched in some way by the change to financial markets. Whether you are being a little more cautious with spending or, in the worst case, you've lost your job, ASTTBC will take steps to offer some assistance. At the ASTTBC Council meeting in December we agreed to develop a program to provide enhanced services in a number of areas. We will release this plan early in 2009. Suggestions are welcome; please email them to techinfo@asttbc.org. We hope you have a nice time with your family and friends during the holiday season and wish you the very best in 2009. For a special card please click on <http://www.asttbc.com/docs/2008.jpg>

Darrin Heisler, ASCT, President, and John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director

ASTTBC Council Nominations

Nominations are requested for election to the Council of ASTTBC. Each nomination must be supported by the signatures of 10 certified members, as well as the consent and signature of the nominee. Nominations properly endorsed must be received by the Nominating Committee Chair by Saturday, February 21 2009.

Keith Switzer, ASCT
Chair, Nominating Committee
10767 - 148 Street
Surrey, BC V3R 0S4
Fax: (604) 585-2790

Winners In 'Women In Technology' Survey

Gina Purchase, ASCT, won the draw for an iPod Nano and Marija Cvenkel, ASCT, an iPod Shuffle in the recent 'Women In Technology' survey conducted by ASTTBC. The goal was to get feedback from female members to help ASTTBC understand the challenges women face in choosing a career in technology; entering the workforce; and during career progression. Industry, educators, government and others, such as the new Technology Education and Careers Council, want to hear from ASTTBC about female members' key challenges and suggested recommendations and/or solutions. Requests to participate were sent out to all female members including technical specialists. The response rate was 25% which was significantly higher than on most surveys that the Association conducts. Watch ASTT News, ASTT e-News and the web site when the results are compiled.

Connecting With Government

ASTTBC continues to take every opportunity to meet with government officials and to tell the story of the important role played by technologists, technicians and technical specialists.

At a recent meeting of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region, the ASTTBC Executive Director met with several leaders including John Rustad, MLA for Prince George/Omineca; Hon Joan McIntyre, Minister of State, Intergovernmental Relations, West Vancouver/Garibaldi; Premier Floyd Roland, North West Territories; and Hon John Van Dongen, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Abbotsford/Clayburn and President of PNWER.

Executive Director, John Leech, ASCT, CAE and Manager, Technology Careers, Jason Jung, ASCT, attended a meeting with Minister of Healthy Living and Sport, Mary Polak. The purpose of the meeting was to review with the Minister the role of ASTTBC in Onsite Wastewater Certification. Minister Polak expressed appreciation for ASTTBC's contribution to assuring qualified practitioners, dealing with issues relating to Safety Systems Regulation and in communicating with other key stakeholders. The Minister agreed to stay connected with ASTTBC as we work together to enhance the program.

MP Receives Honorary Membership

Member of Parliament John Reynolds was awarded Honorary Membership in ASTTBC in 2008.

"John Reynolds was a sponsor of the ASTT bill when we were seeking our own provincial legislation way back in 1985," says John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director. "He has continued to be a strong proponent of science and technology, making him a very deserving candidate for Honorary Membership."

In a note to John Reynolds from Premier Gordon Campbell, the Premier stated *"Congratulations on being honoured for your Honorary Membership in the association of Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia during their 50th Anniversary year."*

Honorary Membership in ASTTBC honors those individuals who are not members, but who have demonstrated exceptionally meritorious service to the Association.

ASTTBC To Again Sponsor Northern BC Event

Each January, the 'BC Natural Resource Forum' attracts up to 500 delegates. ASTTBC has been a sponsor of the event for a number of years and will be visible again January 23 - 24 2009 as the Forum returns to the Prince George Civic Centre.

The Forum coincides with an annual trade show for business and industry, and with the Northern British Columbia Business & Technology Awards, where ASTTBC presents a 'Technology Provider Of The Year' award. (*see separate article re nominations*)

In 2009, the BC Natural Resource Forum will also dovetail with 'Opportunities North: The Northern Economic Summit'. This will create a unique opportunity for cross-communication, networking and synergies. Participants will be able to engage in the dialogue about 'big picture' aspects of resource management.

The BC Natural Resource Forum is hosted by the Honourable Pat Bell, MLA, Prince George North, Minister of Agriculture and Lands.

To register, visit www.eventscreators.com/businessstechshow/nrc/nrcconference.html

Nominations For 'Technology Provider Of The Year' Award

Deadline January 9 2009

Do you know an individual, company or organization that have made a difference and deserves recognition? The 7th Annual Northern BC Business & Technology Awards & Banquet will be held on January 22 2009 at the Prince George Civic Centre. Why not nominate someone for the 'Technology Provider Of The Year' award that is sponsored by ASTTBC?

The 'Technology Provider Of The Year' award recognizes a technology company, organization or individual that has developed or introduced a product or service that furthers business growth in northern British Columbia, or which assists individual companies in their own development. Nominee's must currently reside in Northern British Columbia for a minimum of one year. The recipients must be a role model for other entrepreneurs, businesses and organizations and have demonstrated leadership in their field.

For details on award nominations, and for tickets to the awards dinner, visit www.businessstechshow.com/businessstechshow/btsawards.html

Science Day Camp Sponsored by ASTTBC

On December 1 2008, the BIG Little Science Centre in Kamloops hosted students from Stuart Wood Elementary School, Kay Bingham Elementary School, Rayleigh Elementary School and from the Bert Edwards Science and Technology School. The invitational science day camp was made possible thanks to sponsorship by ASTTBC.

The young visitors completed three hands-on experiments involving chemical reactions, watched a chemistry demonstration, experimented with buoyancy of helium balloons and radio-controlled UFO's, fired off piezoelectric 'poppers', and helped launch air-powered rockets and pop bottle rockets.

www.biglittlesciencecentre.org

ASTTBC Sponsors 'QuizMe!' TV Show

Reminder

ASTTBC is a sponsor of a science & technology program which airs on Prince George television station CKPG. Watch the 'QuizMe! Cup' on Sundays at 7:00 p.m., with repeat broadcasts on Mondays at 6:00 and Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. ASTTBC promotional advertising will highlight technology careers.

Dancing Robots Pique Interest In Technology

The third annual 'Western Canada RoboCup Jr. Games' were held at Okanagan College on November 21 2008. This year 30 teams had more than 100 students and teachers participating. Secondary school students competed in the Soccer and Rescue Challenges, while elementary school students entered their robots in the Dance Challenge.

ASTTBC was a 2008 RoBo Cup Jr. sponsor. Bruce Stevens, ASCT, Manager of ASTTBC's Construction Safety Registration program, presented a prize, trophy and certificates on behalf of the Association.

The mission of RoBo Cup is to promote science and technology through hands-on, fun and challenging activities. Winners of this year's event at Okanagan College qualified to represent Canada in the 2009 annual World RoboCup games.

Science Fairs Challenge Young Minds

More than 300 students from high schools throughout the Lower Mainland came for a day of intense, head-to-head competition testing science know-how and ingenuity at the third annual 'Kwantlen Science Challenge' at the Kwantlen Polytechnic University campus in Richmond on November 27 2008. The competition consisted of educational and challenging laboratory activities in biology, chemistry, engineering design, mathematics and physics. Scores were based on successful solution of design problems, good experimental technique and measurement skills, correct application of science concepts, and correct use of data and calculations to draw conclusions.

Meanwhile planning is underway for a Science Fair to be held in Parksville between March 4 and 6 2009. School District 69 will be hosting its twelfth bi-annual district-wide Science Fair during Education Week. Students will set-up their science project displays in a local mall for viewing by the general public in the days leading up to the event.

Call for judges - please phone Paris Gaudet at 250-753-8324 or email pgaudet@mistic.bc.ca

Skills Shortage A Concern Despite Economy

Industry, educators and government are concerned that a shortage of technologists and technicians will threaten economic growth and development in British Columbia and they are looking for solutions.

"People generally don't recognize how important these occupations are to the well-being of our province," explains John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director of ASTTBC. "From infrastructure development such as bridges and highways, to telecommunications, to water and sewer treatment, to health care - technologists and technicians are the people who make things work. We know that we're facing the same kind of demographic pressures there are to be found in other sectors and occupations, with accelerating retirement rates eroding our skills base in technologies. But what compounds the problem - and what really concerns us - is that there is declining interest in these occupations and in the post-secondary programs that prepare students for these lucrative careers."

Declining enrolments have resulted in engineering technology program cancellations at other institutions in BC but Okanagan College with its five engineering technology programs has been able to avoid doing that, notes Dr. Andrew Hay, Okanagan College's Vice President Education.

"That doesn't mean we can be complacent," he says. "We have been very proactive in recent years working with industry and ASTTBC to get the message out about the opportunities and careers in engineering technology."

Hay points to TELUS as an example of an employer who has become directly involved in communicating the messages to prospective students.

Okanagan College, the Okanagan Science and Technology Council, and ASTTBC recently co-hosted a technology skills shortage roundtable that brought together educators, industry, school district and government representatives to talk about what can be done to address the problem.

"It was a productive session," says Leech, who has helped other communities in the province organize similar roundtables. "We have a shopping list of ideas and tactics that we can implement to start to address the problem. We'll be crafting that into a strategy that can guide us toward a longer, more comprehensive solution. The first step was getting everyone together to describe the problem and realize that working collectively we can come to solutions."

Okanagan College Talks About Skills Shortage

Institutions in BC are closing technology programs while the silver tsunami comes rolling at us with more and more of the skilled technological workforce retiring, according to Jim Hamilton, President of Okanagan College. Speaking at a roundtable organized by ASTTBC, he went on to highlight the peculiar situation where there is pressing employer demand for graduates of technology programs, and despite that, there are empty seats in classrooms. He then outlined some of the initiatives that Okanagan College is undertaking to address the skills shortage. For a full report visit www.asttbc.org/docs/TechSkills.pdf

Volunteers Can Help Immigrant Professionals

MOSAIC has been helping newcomers to Canada face the challenges of resettling here for more than 30 years. The 'Workplace Connections Program' matches newcomers with volunteer mentors for a 3 month period. Mentors help newcomers understand the subtleties of workplace culture, introduce them to resources and colleagues, offer coaching with job search activities, and assist in identifying potential employers or relevant training. Partners meet once a week for two hours. Meeting times and places are flexible.

Benefits of volunteering include: developing your leadership and coaching skills, meeting interesting people from around the world and sharing your passion for your career while helping people who genuinely want to learn from you.

For information on Workplace Connections, phone MOSAIC at 604-254-9626 or visit www.mosaicbc.com

Students Help Regional Innovation Centre

Six first-year students from Okanagan College's Network and Telecommunications Engineering Technology program donated an evening and their expertise to help the Okanagan Regional Innovation Centre get its new facility up and running.

By the end of the day, the students contributed more than 40 man-hours to the project through the installation of roughly 100 data connections and 50 faceplates, a contribution that was gratefully accepted by ORIC.

"The experience was very valuable to the students," said Okanagan College instructor Philip Ashman. "It gave them an opportunity to see how their education and training translates in the real world. This kind of work is especially helpful to first-year students because, with only two months of classes under their belt, they haven't had a chance to demonstrate their abilities. It is also nice for the students to come to the aid of an organization that needs their specialized skill set and expertise."

Input Sought Re Wood Frame Buildings

The provincial government is seeking feedback on potential code proposals, particularly relating to six-storey wood frame buildings. Feedback can be provided on-line. The code proposals could impact the planning and design of residential buildings and the educational needs and responsibilities of building designers and architects.

www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/wood_frame/index.htm

Timber Cruiser Recognized

ASTTBC recognized Keith Tudor, RPF, ATE, for his leadership in developing the Timber Cruisers' certification program. Keith was one of the early members of the Forest Measurements Registration Board. Keith played a lead role in the roll-out of the program. *"It was through the dedication of Keith and others who introduced professionalism to the field of timber cruising,"* said Executive Director, John Leech, ASCT, CAE. *"I enjoyed working with Keith as the team worked together on the*

initiative." ASTTBC is now finalizing an arrangement to have the FMRB transferred from ASTTBC to the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

TechPRO - Trevor Hutton, ASCT

Technologist Recognized For Work In Community

Trevor Hutton, ASCT, General Manager, North Salt Spring Waterworks District, breathed a sign of relief when two aerators, each weighing more than 6,000 kg, were successfully lowered into place in St. Mary's Lake. Each aerator was almost as long as the massive Chinook helicopter used for the operation. *"The cost of the chopper was \$16,000 per hour,"* said Trevor. *"So we had to make sure this went like clock work."* The unique installation was aired on television.

Trevor Hutton, ASCT, was awarded a Professional Achievement Award at ASTTBC's 2008 Awards & Recognition Celebration in recognition of his community service.

"Thank you so much for a truly fantastic awards ceremony," Trevor said after the Association's gala. *"My wife and I had a great time, met some wonderful people and renewed old acquaintances."*

Born in Scotland, he was educated in the UK, North America and Africa. In 2001 he became General Manager of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District. He arrived to a situation where the community was facing a water shortage and was deadlocked as to what to do about it. Through his strong leadership skills, Trevor was able to get all levels of government, property owners and community groups to agree to replace the weir on St. Mary Lake. He was then able to get the community to go the next step and replace the aerators in the lake, cutting down on the blue green algae bloom and increasing water quality.

He has also become an active citizen of his community. He volunteers with the Salmon Enhancement Society, serves as Deputy Emergency Response Coordinator, chairs the Salt Spring Island Water Suppliers Association, is a church board member and was a founding member of the local model railway club.

In an era of climate change and uncertainties about water supply, strong leadership like that expressed by Trevor Hutton, ASCT, is a skill that is needed in every community. His work is an example of the difference that technologists, technicians and technical specialists are making in their communities.

TechLINKS

Celebrating Women & The Spirit Of The Cranes

Nomination Deadline: December 31 2008

The Burns Bog Conservation Society has included a new awards category in the 8th annual 'Celebrating Women & The Spirit Of The Cranes' awards. The new Science & Technology category acknowledges women who have found success in the trades sector and who use their time and talents to make a difference in their workplace and community. The awards gala will be held March 21 2009.

www.spiritofthecranes.org or www.burnsbog.org

Buildex Vancouver Conference & Exposition

Free trade show passes available through ASTTBC, limited quantities, contact techinfo@asttbc.org

The Buildex Vancouver Conference & Exposition, featuring The BC Construction Show, offers the latest products and services in 550 exhibits to the architectural, construction, interior design, property management and real estate industries. Stay abreast of the latest industry developments, technologies, trends, products and services while networking with other industry professionals. February 11 - 12 2009, Vancouver. Register before January 29 for lower conference prices.

www.buildexvancouver.com

Pension Standards In BC And Alberta

The British Columbia and Alberta governments have released the report of the Joint Expert Panel on Pension Standards, which provides recommendations to harmonize and modernize the pension standards legislation of the two provinces and improve access to pension plans. The report provides 125 recommendations to improve pension standards in both provinces. For copies of the report 'Getting our Acts Together - Pension Reform in Alberta and British Columbia' or to provide feedback, visit www.ab-bc-pensionreview.ca

Homeowner Protection Office

Proceedings from the HPO's 10th anniversary conference including initiatives regarding the licensing of contractors are available at www.hpo.bc.ca

Industry Training Authority

The Office of the Auditor General has released a report on the ITA's management processes. www.bcauditor.com

Sustainable Building Advisor Program

This nine-month certificate program is designed for working professionals, and is scheduled one Friday and Saturday per month starting in January 2009. Classes are taught by local experts in various fields of sustainability. Topics include site design, energy efficiency, water conservation, ventilation and air quality, and green materials. www.brightergreenconsulting.com

Camosun Civil Engineering Technology Students Available

Second year students are available for a 3 month co-op work term commencing January 5 2009. Contact Nan Judd, Employment Facilitator, Engineering Technologies Camosun College at 250-370-4185 or visit camosun.ca/services/coop/

Assistance For Engineering Technology Students

New financial support for students interested in taking engineering technology programs at Okanagan College, is available courtesy of the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust. Okanagan College's engineering technology programs include mechanical engineering technology, electronic engineering technology, network and telecommunications engineering technology, civil engineering technology, and water quality and environmental engineering technology. Each of the engineering technology programs allow co-operative work and education opportunities for students. Students registering for the two-year diploma programs are eligible for \$1,000 bursaries from SIDIT in their first year. www.okanagan.bc.ca

TechEVENTS

'Silicon Vineyard Innovation Awards' Call for Nominations, deadline January 05 2009. The Silicon Vineyard Innovation Awards acknowledge excellence in innovation among individuals and organizations from the Okanagan's science and technology sectors. Categories: OSTEC Member of the Year; Innovative Organization of the Year; Innovator of the Year; Most Promising Emerging Technology. Sponsored by the Okanagan Science & Technology Council. events@ostec.ca

Determining Significance of Historic Resources, January 12 - April 19 2009, distance education. Defining the heritage value or significance of a historic place is the foundation on which any heritage conservation process is built. Offered by University of Victoria. https://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/forms/crm/online_reg.aspx

Green Rehabilitation and Sustainability Forum, January 19-20, Vancouver. Examine the current state in BC for existing buildings, heritage buildings (designated or not), and green buildings and sustainable communities in an effort to contribute to the green building and heritage/existing building initiatives. <http://www.cascadiagbc.org>

Construction Contracts - Practical Guidelines to Prevent Costly Mistakes, January 27 2009, Vancouver. From identifying the critical issues in a construction contract to resolving construction disputes, this event will provide current, practical advice for addressing challenges at all stages of

the contractual process. <http://www.pbli.com/744/> or <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/crmp/home.aspx>

Investor Ready Workshop, January 29 2009, Vancouver. With public equity markets down, how do you correctly value a private company? If you are planning to invest or raise private equity in the next 6 to 12 months, attend this workshop for expert presentations, panel discussions and small group case studies. www.confmanager.com/main.cfm?cid=77&nid=3419

Buildex Vancouver Conference & Exposition, February 11 - 12 2009, Vancouver. The Buildex Vancouver Conference & Exposition, featuring The BC Construction Show, offers the latest products and services in 550 exhibits to the architectural, construction, interior design, property management and real estate industries. Free trade show passes available through ASTTBC, limited quantities, contact techinfo@asttbc.org. Register before January 29 for lower conference prices. www.buildexvancouver.com

Building SustainAble Communities, February 24 - 26 2009, Kelowna. More than 100 speakers from the public, private, non-profit and academic sectors will address a range of topics including sustainable agriculture, sustainable business, and community sustainability. Third annual event by the Fresh Outlook Foundation. www.freshoutlookfoundation.org

ExpoFor 2009, February 25 - 27 2009, Prince George. ABCFP's annual forestry conference and AGM. This year's event will feature a public education forum in addition to numerous plenary and breakout session to interest every forest professional. www.expofor.ca

CEBC Awards Gala, March 7 2009, Vancouver. The annual Consulting Engineers of BC Awards Gala is the association's premiere professional and social event of the year. www.cebc.org/subcalendar/upcomingcalendar.html

Silicon Vineyard Innovation Awards Gala, March 12 (tbc) 2009, Kelowna. Join in celebrating excellence in innovation among individuals and organizations from the Okanagan's science and technology sectors at the 6th Annual Silicon Vineyard Innovation Awards. Sponsored by the Okanagan Science & Technology Council. events@ostec.ca

Celebrating Women & The Spirit Of The Cranes awards gala, March 21 2009, Whiterock. Every year by International Women's Day, the Sandhill Cranes return to Burns Bog. The 'Celebrating Women & The Spirit Of The Cranes' awards gala recognizes women who have made a difference in their community and workplace. www.burnsbog.org

ASTTBC AGM, May 22 2009. Details to follow, please mark your calendars now. www.asttbc.org

World Conference On Sport & The Environment, March 29 - 31 2009, Vancouver. How sport organizations and major sporting events can contribute to environmental, cultural and economic sustainability at local, regional and global levels. Hosted by the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games on behalf of the IOC and the United Nations Environment Programme. www.wcse2009.com

WorldSkills Competition, September 1- 6 2009, Calgary. More than 850 competitors from 48 countries will compete. The goal is to promote excellence in skilled trades and technologies training. www.worldskills.org

World Forestry Congress, October 18 - 25 2009, Buenos Aires. Call for papers under the theme 'Forests in development - a vital balance'. www.wfc2009.org

Note: For links to seminars listed on the web sites of other associations, visit www.asttbc.org/services/cpd/seminars.php