



Dear ,

ASTT e-News, April, 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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Annual General Meeting Set For May 25

The ASTTBC Annual General Meeting will be held on May 25, 2007 at the Coast Hotel & Convention Centre in Langley, BC. It is your opportunity to network with colleagues and to get updated information on key initiatives of your Association.

The day runs from 8:00am to 4:30pm and includes continental breakfast, awards luncheon, and a meet Council coffee reception.

Presentations include:

Technology Careers... it's TIME! by Keith Switzer, ASCT, President and John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar

Modernization Project by Jeff Vasey of the Building Policy Branch of the BC Government

Breakout sessions on Practice Guidelines and Risk Management.

An informal no-host reception will wrap up the day.

Cost including GST is \$50 for the full day. Of course ASTTBC registrants in good-standing are welcome to attend only the AGM Business Meeting if they wish at no cost. Pre-registration is required, please register at www.asttbc.org by May 15, 2007.

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Connecting With Victoria

Minister of State for Mining

Kevin Krueger, Minister Of State For Mining, met in Victoria with ASTTBC President Keith Switzer, ASCT and Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT CAE. Topics included ASTTBC's donation of \$2,500 to the BIG Little Science Centre and our endorsement for a Science & Technology Elementary School in Kamloops. The Minister, who sees the value in both programs, expressed his appreciation for ASTTBC's efforts. The discussion also covered ASTTBC's concerns regarding technology education and careers, and the need for a partnership between educators, employers, associations and government to address enrollment issues and employment challenges.

The three talked about a discussion paper written by ASTTBC on 'umbrella legislation' and about professional regulation generally. The ASTTBC representatives stressed the need to fully recognize ASTTBC members and their credentials in light of their contribution to the growth and development of the province. The Minister thanked ASTTBC for its work in serving the public interest through its professional regulation of technologists, technicians and technical specialists and in promoting technology careers.

Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations

When President Keith Switzer, AScT and Executive Director & Registrar John Leech, AScT, CAE met with Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations John van Dongen in late March, the three talked about similar topics to those discussed with Minister Krueger. John van Dongen has a lead role with the Pacific North West Economic Region, a coalition of western provinces and states. ASTTBC is taking an increasingly active role in PNWER. The Minister has met formally and informally with ASTTBC representatives on several occasions since he took office in 2005, always expressing interest in ASTTBC's role in professional regulation and the Association's work in advancing technology careers.

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APEGBC & ASTTBC Hold Executive Meeting

'Building synergies' was the theme at a recent joint executive meeting of the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC and ASTTBC. The two Associations share an interest in serving the public through their respective professional regulatory roles and it makes sense to explore ways that working together could enhance this vital role. Agenda topics also included the Eng.L. Limited License for technologists and other professionals wishing to practice professional engineering and geoscience, and the new Guides to Professional Practice being developed by ASTTBC. The two associations will also explore other areas in which there is common interest such as promoting careers in engineering and geoscience and technology.

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CEBC Awards Gets Three-Year Commitment By ASTTBC

This year ASTTBC increased its sponsorship for the Consulting Engineers of BC Awards Gala to \$5,500, becoming one of two organizations at the platinum sponsor level. ASTTBC is making the commitment for three years, with the option of continuing at this level in the future. CEBC member companies represent an important group of employers for technologists, technicians and technical specialists.

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The Future Of Forest Measurements

ASTTBC representatives are talking with senior staff from the Association of BC Forest Professionals about a possible new model for governing the professional regulation of forest measurements specialists, including those in timber cruising, waste surveying, scaling and vegetation resource inventory. It is anticipated that the two Associations will reach an 'agreement of intent' before the summer of 2007. Ron Mecredy, RFT, ATE, who is the current chair of the Forest Measurements Resource Board, and Tim Giesbrecht, ATE, chair of the Timber Cruising Certification Committee and a former chair of the FMRB, are leading the effort.

When asked about the future of forest measurements, Jim Snetsinger, RPF, Chief Forester said "The Ministry of Forests and Range supports certification of all forestry practitioners, in all specialties, including the work of ASTTBC and the Forest Measurements Registration Board to advance the knowledge, skill and professionalism of forest measurement specialists. We also encourage our staff to assist the Board and participate in all such forums. While we encourage this, the involvement of staff and contractors is voluntary, unless it is essential to the job or work. The Ministry will continue to support your efforts to advance the forestry profession."

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BC Safety Regulations And Technicians & Technical Specialists

As reported in a recent issue of ASTT News, ASTTBC is building a strong working relationship with the BC Safety Authority, the agency responsible for regulating safety systems. The BCSA regulations include recognition of AScT's in electrical work, but do not recognize CTech's and certain technical specialists groups. These issues are

being addressed with BCSA with the anticipation that ASTTBC registration will be appropriately included and recognized within the BCSA regulations.

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WorkSafeBC Regulations Should Include ASTTBC Members

WorkSafeBC, the Workers' Compensation Board of BC, is changing some of its regulations and ASTTBC is recommending appropriate inclusion of ASTTBC-registered professionals. ASTTBC is seeking recognition within the current round of changes which includes forest roads.

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Building Code 'Registered Professionals' Should Be Expanded

A long-standing issue requiring attention is the need to recognize ASTTBC members as 'Registered Professionals' within the BC Building Code. "This issue will become more acute as ASTTBC further defines, and has accepted, its scope of practice", says ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, AScT, CAE. "The role of ASTTBC members needs to be fully recognized. To continue to only include engineers and architects simply protects turf and does little to enable and engage all qualified practitioners."

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'Certified Professional' Program Should Be Expanded

ASTTBC is proposing that the 'Certified Professional' Program be expanded beyond Part 3 buildings. ASTTBC's submission calls for the Certified Professional Program to be used as a model for recognizing all professionals offering services within Part 9 of the BC Building Code.

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ASTTBC Promotes 'Letters Of Assurance'

The widely accepted and generally successful 'Letters of Assurance' should be expanded into all areas of building design and construction according to a submission by ASTTBC to the BC government's Modernization Project. "The Letters represent a means of clearly identifying the professionals involved with the built environment," says John Leech, AScT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar. "ASTTBC's suggestion is that the scope of use of the Letters be extended on a voluntary basis to other buildings, including BC Building Code Part 9 buildings which covers single family housing." Several years ago ASTTBC, in conjunction with the Building Designers Institute of BC, considered developing a special set of Letters of Assurance that could be used by ASTTBC-registered designers. In light of the government review of building regulation and practices, the idea will once again be looked at by ASTTBC.

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New Web Site Coming Soon

ASTTBC is in the final stages of revamping the Association web site. The official launch will take place this Spring. Members will have the opportunity to win one of five iPods by visiting the site and entering a contest. Watch for announcements in future issues of ASTT e-News and by broadcast e-mail.

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Retired & Dual-Designation Dues Under Review

A task force has been established to consider the level of dues paid by retired members and members who hold 'dual designation'. This latter group includes those registered as an AScT, CTech, or Associate and who are also registered as either a technical specialist with ASTTBC or as a 'senior professional' with another professional association. It is expected that the task force will complete its work in time for new levels of dues and fees for 2008. Serving on the Task Force are: John McNeill, CTech, Secretary Treasurer (Chair); Jim Blake, CA, Public Representative on ASTTBC Council; and Bill MacPherson, AScT.

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TELUS And ASTTBC Work Together On Registration

The TELUS collective agreement calls for all employees who are 'engineering technicians' or 'engineering technologists' to be registered with 'the applicable provincial body'... which is ASTTBC in BC. The agreement states, "Engineering Technician or Engineering Technologist is an employee in either of those job titles as listed under the Engineering Category in Attachment B-1 who is registered as a certified Technician or Technologist with the applicable provincial body in a technology that is appropriate for the job assignment in the Company or has other appropriate qualifications for those positions deemed satisfactory by the Company." The agreement goes on to say that the employee must be a member in good standing and that TELUS will reimburse any fees required for an employee to maintain certification. ASTTBC and TELUS are now working out the details of a strategy that will bring all eligible current employees into membership and an approach for dealing with new hires.

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RTMgr Task Force Rolling

A newly appointed task force, chaired by ASTTBC Council member Bruce Stevens, ASCT, is working out the criteria for certification as a Registered Technology Manager. While it has taken a bit longer than anticipated, the plan now is to launch the RTMgr certification program in January, 2008. Representation on the task force includes members of ASTTBC Council (Prakash Joshi, ASCT, EngL and Dave Rutherford, ASCT, BCLS); BCIT (Jim Duncan); and Thompson Rivers University (Gerry Derochers, PEng).

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Onsite Wastewater Program Enhancements

ASTTBC has adopted a plan to further enhance the professional regulation of Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioners (ROWP). This technical specialist certification program was initiated just under 2 years ago and, while the new certification program is progressing, there are areas requiring attention. There are four goals: enhance professional regulation and awareness; achieve concurrence with BCOSSA as to roles; enhance awareness of key stakeholders; and, enhance services specific to, and communications with, ROWP's. Specifically on professional regulation, the work will include: developing a new Professional Practice & Ethics exam; investigating a mentoring program to assist applicants in getting certified; reporting

on complaints and findings; offering risk management workshops; and reviewing the Errors & Omissions insurance.

On public awareness and marketing, the work includes: signing a Memorandum of Agreement with BCOSSA; publishing three new brochures; placing articles in various publications; developing and placing news / print advertising; posting career information on the web site; offering a web-based 'Contact a ROWP' service; and surveying ROWP's.

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Contaminated Sites Fact Sheets Posted

The Ministry of Environment has released two new contaminated sites fact sheets to their Land Remediation Section's web site. Fact sheet 34, "Requirements for Responding to Offsite Contaminant Migration," describes the notification requirements, legal responsibilities, and ministry's expectations where substances have or likely have migrated to neighbouring properties. Fact sheet 35, "Requirements for the Environmental Cleanup of Illegal Drug Manufacturing Sites," discusses the risks posed by these sites, who is responsible for their cleanup, and how spills and offsite migration of associated substances should be addressed. View these documents at:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/contam_sites/fact_sheets/

In February, the Land Remediation Section held consultation meetings in Vancouver to provide an overview of seven draft documents released for public comment and to provide an update regarding the development of the Contaminated Sites Approved Professionals Society. These presentations are now available under the heading "Consultation Presentations" at:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/contam_sites/draft_documents/

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BC Green Building Code Announced

On February 13, 2007, the Throne Speech announced the development of a new 'BC green building code' in consultation with industry, professional, and community representatives. A preliminary information session to find out more about the green buildings regulation project was held at the end of March. Michelle Bast, ASCT, a technologist with O'Connor Associates Environmental Inc and

ASTTBC's representative on the APEGBC Sustainability Committee, attended on ASTTBC's behalf.

Trudy Rotgans, Manager of the Building Policy Branch of the Office of Housing and Construction Standards, presented what the project goals are for February 2008. The intended outcomes include: removing barriers to sustainability in current building regulations, targeting key sustainability issues for specific building types, and creating an administrative framework for green buildings solutions with the greatest impact and conservation potential. The Building Policy Branch will engage and explore options with industry groups and the public through surveys, industry forums, working groups and public consultation. For more information, go to: <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/bulletins> or email building.policy@gov.bc.ca.

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BC Safety Authority Gas Safety Reminder

The BC Safety Authority reminds residents about the need to consider natural gas and propane safety during renovation and gardening projects. Regulations require people to have gas line information on-site before digging around gas company underground pipes. Residents can obtain information about the location of gas utility lines by calling BC ONE CALL at 1-800-474-6886 or *6886 on a cell phone. Customers served by small natural gas or propane utility systems should call their gas supplier.

Homeowners can check if the work they are doing requires a gas permit and whether a contractor is licensed to do this work by contacting the BC Safety Authority at <http://www.safetyauthority.ca> or 1-866-566-SAFE (7233).

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Technology Students Available

Camosun College – Civil Engineering Technology

Camosun College Co-op students in Civil Engineering Technology will be available for a summer work term. Students are trained in: drafting and CAD; surveying; materials testing; designing; field services; and supporting environmental aspects. If you need a student for the

summer work-term, feel free to post a job at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca/coop/jobpost.php> or contact John Horn, Employment Facilitator Co-operative Education & Student Employment (Technologies), Camosun College, phone 250-370-4185 or e-mail horn@camosun.bc.ca

Malaspina University-College - Information Technology

Students in the Information Technology and Applied Systems program at Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo are required to complete a 110 to 150 hour practicum in May to practice the skills that they have trained for. In exchange for a few hours of instruction and supervision you will receive many hours of work from the student as they hone their abilities. For details visit http://www.mistic.bc.ca/careers_practicum.asp

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Student Competition Offers \$24,000 In Prizes

Grade 11 & 12, undergraduate and graduate students from Vancouver Island can compete for more than \$24,000 in cash prizes and seed capital at the 2007 IDC Challenge.

The IDC Challenge is an annual business plan competition designed to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among students. Presented by the University of Victoria's Innovation and Development Corporation, the IDC Challenge creates a unique learning environment and is designed to build the entrepreneurial skills of future business leaders. It features workshops, mentors, networking events, and other resources to aid students in the creation and implementation of their business plans.

For more information visit: <http://www.idcchallenge.com> or contact info@idcchallenge.com

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Innovation Awards Call For Nominations

The BC Innovation Council Awards recognize the outstanding achievements of British Columbia's innovation forerunners who are advancing the province as a world-class technology centre. Nominations are welcome under the following categories:

BC Science and Technology Champion of the Year Award
Cecil Green Award for Technology Entrepreneurship
Chairman's Award for Career Achievement
Eve Savory Award for Science Communication
Frontiers in Research Award
Lieutenant Governor's Technology Innovation Award
Young Innovator Award

Deadline for nominations is May 31, 2007. For details visit
<http://www.bcinnovationcouncil.com/awards>

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Old Computers Never Die

The Electronic Recycling Association is a non-profit organization focusing on the re-use of computer related equipment and other electronics for charities, as well as handling equipment for recycling. The ERA is searching for computers and laptops as well as networking equipment to help set up libraries of computers at local charities and non-profit groups. All computer equipment is sorted by volunteers. It is then determined if it is suitable for donation to a local non-profit organization or handled for recycling. The ERA offers complete hard-drive wiping by request. Local donations of twenty items or more will be picked up at no charge. Contact Joanna Trebon at joanna@era.ca or visit <http://www.era.ca>

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Coming Events

Building Envelope Solutions

April 24, 2007 Vancouver
Issues and solutions for architects, designers, engineers and contractors.
www.buildingenvelopeforum.com

ASTTBC AGM

May 25, 2007 Langley
See [separate article](#) this issue of ASTT e-News or visit www.asttbc.org

Consulting Engineers of BC

May 24 – golf tournament

June 27 – AGM

For information on these events visit www.cebc.org

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference

June 1 – 4, 2007 Calgary

Meet more than 1600 municipal decision-makers from across Canada.

Contact Seán Kelly, Manager - Membership, Events and Corporate
Access

Federation of Canadian Municipalities at skelly@fcm.ca or visit
www.FCM.ca