



ASTT e-News, February, 2008

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.

Table Of Contents

[Nominations For ASTTBC Council](#)
[ASTTBC Annual General Meeting](#)
[National Survey of Technicians and Technologists](#)
[Consultation Paper on Licensing House Inspectors](#)
[ASTTBC And CNC Partner On Career Forum](#)
[ASTTBC Members Meet in Prince George](#)
[Minister of Education Meets ASTTBC](#)
[Onsite Wastewater Program Makes Progress](#)
[Executive Director Speaks With Hon Pat Bell](#)

[ASTTBC Sponsors Award For Northern BC](#)
[ASTTBC Attends 2007 Georgie Awards](#)
[Registration Opportunity For Forest Techs](#)
[ASTTBC Sponsors BIG Little Newsletter](#)
[Materials Testing Vital To Public Safety](#)
[ASTTBC Participates In Science Outreach](#)
[Awards In Concrete Construction](#)
[Featured Links](#)
[Coming Events](#)

Nominations For ASTTBC Council

The deadline for nominations for election to ASTTBC Council is February 23 2008. Serving on Council provides a rewarding experience and lets you put something back into ASTTBC and, through the Association, into society as a whole. Council is the governing body for the Association and makes policy decisions in accordance with the ASTT Act, Regulations and Bylaws.

Council meets 4 or 5 times per year and Directors are asked to commit to a term of 3 years. Remuneration for service is not provided, however ASTTBC covers out-of-pocket expenses for attending to ASTTBC Council business.

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 should be sent to: Keith Switzer, ASCT, Chair, Nominating Committee c/o ASTTBC, 10767 - 148 Street, Surrey, BC V3R 0S4 or fax (604) 585-2790.

ASTTBC Annual General Meeting

The 2008 ASTTBC Annual General Meeting will be held on May 23 2008 at the Coast Hotel & Convention Centre in Langley.

The day starts with a continental breakfast followed by the AGM business session. Informative workshops will be offered. The full-day package includes an awards luncheon and a wrap-up networking reception. Attendees will receive a free 50th Anniversary legacy T-shirt, available only at the AGM. Mark your calendar now. Help us kick off celebrations for ASTTBC's 50th Anniversary!

Registration will be available on-line or by contacting the ASTTBC office. Watch ASTT e-News for more details or visit www.asttbc.com

National Survey of Technicians and Technologists

The 2008 National Survey of Engineers and Engineering Technicians and Technologists will provide important information on trends that affect ASTTBC members. The results will guide ASTTBC on the

policies and programs that will strengthen our profession and support you in your career.

The National Survey is co-sponsored by Engineers Canada and the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists. Results will be published later this year.

Your participation in this survey is important. It will require about 20 minutes.
www.engineeringemployeesurvey.com

Consultation Paper on Licensing House Inspectors

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has issued a Consultation Paper on plans to license house inspectors.

Some proposals from the Consultation Paper include:

- The Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority will provide the licensing for house inspectors.
- House and property inspectors registered with ASTTBC will have an exemption from the proposed licensing by BPCPA. (This means that if you are registered with ASTTBC you will not have to also get licensing by the BPCPA.)
- A uniform standard for certification licensing is needed.
- Consumer and public protection are paramount and therefore issues such as whether errors and omissions insurance should be mandatory will require careful attention.
- Key stakeholders should support a common approach to regulation.

ASTTBC and the BC Institute of Property Inspectors, an institute of ASTTBC, have taken a lead role in this matter. ASTTBC and BCIPI have informed government about ASTTBC's years of experience in offering professional certification for house and property inspectors and about BCIPI's role as the prime advocate and service provider for inspectors. ASTTBC suggested that a partnering arrangement between the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority and ASTTBC would limit duplication and facilitate a common approach. ASTTBC will work with BPCPA and other stakeholders to ensure a seamless approach to certification and licensing.

BC Institute of Property Inspectors president, Bruce Allen, CTech, CHI, indicated BCIPI supports a regulatory approach that makes certification/licensing mandatory. *"At present there is no common standard or single licensing body. The consultation paper is worth full consideration. It is a start to ensuring a standard that can be relied upon by the consumer,"* said Allen.

The Ministry plans to introduce licensing this fall. ASTTBC members interested in this initiative are encouraged to review and respond to the paper.

www.pssq.gov.bc.ca/legislation/current.htm

ASTTBC And CNC Partner On Career Forum

BC is facing a critical shortage of technology workers. To help identify the issues and formulate strategies for the northern part of the province, the College of New Caledonia and ASTTBC held a mini-roundtable in Prince George on January 16. Approximately 50 business, industry and community leaders came together with college faculty and staff and representatives from ASTTBC.

In June 2005, ASTTBC hosted a two-day careers conference that identified an emerging crisis in technology education and careers. Since that time ASTTBC has, on its own and with strategic partners such as CNC, engaged stakeholders in a dialogue about technology education and careers. ASTTBC's Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage II at the Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver in October brought together 100 senior decision makers from major corporations, small businesses, academia, industry and professional associations. www.asttbc.org/RTSS

ASTTBC Members Meet in Prince George

Fifty members, potential members and guests attended a January meeting in Prince George to hear about recent ASTTBC initiatives.

ASTTBC Vice President Doug Carter, CTech (who is also Chief Engineer at the University of Northern British Columbia) told attendees about ASTTBC's work with employers, educators and government to address the shortage of technology skills. He talked about a special meeting to be hosted the next day by the College of New Caledonia and ASTTBC where local industry, education, government

representatives and other leaders were going to reflect on technology skills shortages.

Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT CAE provided an update on ASTTBC's progress in enhancing the profile of members and the Association and on professional recognition. He also covered recent events such as National Technology Week. The meeting concluded with a question and answer session. The ASTTBC representatives stayed around for another hour talking with a few members on issues specific to each.

Minister of Education Meets ASTTBC

ASTTBC Vice President Doug Carter, CTech; Jim Blake, CA, public representative on ASTTBC Council (and Chair of the Prince George Airport Authority); Colin Dix, ASCT, EngL, Community Representative; and John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar met with Shirley Bond, Minister of Education in Prince George on January 18. Topics covered included:

- declining enrollments in technology programs at BCIT and the Colleges
- fostering better connections between education and industry
- enhancing awareness of technology education at K-12
- greater attention to math, sciences and technology in K-12
- support of the BIG Little Science Centre in Kamloops and the idea that it be replicated throughout BC
- the idea of a mobile career unit to promote engineering, science and technology careers.

Onsite Wastewater Program Makes Progress

The Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner program started by ASTTBC in 2005 now has nearly three years of experience providing certification in this previously unregulated field.

Mike Reier, ROWP, attended the ASTTBC information session in Prince George in January. He and several other ROWPs in attendance reported that their industry is now working more collegially than ever before and there is good discussion about the new professional standards and ROWP registration offered through ASTTBC in cooperation with other stakeholders, including the BC Onsite Sewage Association. The BCOSSA's primary role is to develop and deliver training to current and future onsite wastewater practitioners.

Executive Director Speaks With Hon Pat Bell

Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture, took time out of his busy schedule as host of the 6th Annual BC Natural Resource Forum held in Prince George to speak with John Leech, ASCT, CAE, ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar.

John discussed with the Minister ASTTBC concerns about practice legislation that no longer meets the needs of industry and that limits qualified technologists and technicians. As an example John cited the need to amend the decades-old Architects Act and he suggested adding an exemption for ASTTBC-registered members to practice within their education, training and experience. This led to discussion about greater recognition for ASTTBC-registered professionals.

During his conversation with Minister Bell, the Executive Director also raised ASTTBC's concern about lack of awareness of technology education and careers and declining enrollments in technology courses. In Prince George itself, the College of New Caledonia has cut technology programs in recent years. The College president has indicated discussions are underway about bringing back one or more of the engineering technology programs. John reinforced the importance of this with the Minister in light of the current skills shortage.

ASTTBC Sponsors Award For Northern BC

ASTTBC once again sponsored the 'Technology Provider Of The Year Award' at the Northern BC Business & Technology Awards gala in Prince George in January. This year the award went to Rob Dykman, General Manager for Tower Radio.

ASTTBC Attends 2007 Georgie Awards

The 2007 Georgie Awards were presented at a gala celebration of excellence in home building on February 8. The Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia, was on hand to present the

awards.

ASTTBC President Darrin Heisler, ASCT, and Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT, CAE and their spouses attended the awards. *"We were pleased to attend and meet with key representatives of the Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC and the representatives of the Homeowner Protection Office with whom we shared a table,"* said President Heisler.

Registration Opportunity For Forest Techs

The Association of BC Forest Professionals has reopened the Forest Technologist Transitional Policy one last time in order to help forest technologists who were unable to take advantage of the earlier transitional period. Technologists who are doing a job that falls into the Registered Forest Technologist (RFT) scope of practice must apply for ABCFP membership at this time or be supervised by a registered member. Forest technicians with no diploma, or a technologist with an unrecognized diploma and at least five years of experience, may be able to apply to the ABCFP before November 30 2008 to write the RFT registration exam. www.abcfp.ca

ASTTBC Sponsors BIG Little Newsletter

The BIG Little Science Centre in Kamloops gives elementary school students the chance to try hands-on activities in science and technology. The Centre publishes a newsletter and ASTTBC stepped up as sponsor of issue #100. The February 2008 BIGScience newsletter ran 16 pages. www.biglittlesciencecentre.org

Materials Testing Vital To Public Safety

Prakash Joshi, ASCT, EngL, believes materials testing is an essential component of good design and construction. He recently joined the Metro Testing group of companies as Senior Materials Engineering Technologist, bringing his three decades of experience to this well-known engineering, testing and inspection outfit.

Metro is employee-owned. From its start in 1987 it has expanded to ten regional offices. A team of professional engineers, technologists, technicians and inspectors provide prompt and accurate engineering, testing and inspection services. Along with testing equipment in the laboratory, Metro operates eight mobile labs which facilitate concrete, asphalt, aggregate and soils testing services on remote projects. Since 1987 the company has provided testing and inspection services to more than six thousand projects in BC. Staff are encouraged to participate in continuing education in applicable fields through company sponsored programs.

Prakash Joshi believes in giving back to the community. He is currently on ASTTBC Council. He has worked closely with APEGBC in assisting BC's internationally trained engineers in the form of career guidance and work placement. He has volunteered with 'Friends of the Environment' and with the Society of Punjabi Engineers & Technologists of BC. An accomplished musician and singer in the classical Indian tradition, Prakash has also contributed articles to local Indo-Canadian newspapers.

ASTTBC Participates In Science Outreach

The second annual BC Science Outreach Workshop will take place in Vancouver on February 22 2008. The goal is to co-ordinate a network for organizations dedicated to science awareness and education. The workshop will bring together outreach organizations like 'Let's Talk Science' with student recruitment officers from science and technology faculties, representatives from professional associations and human resource staff from companies. John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar for ASTTBC is slated to be one of the speakers.

Awards In Concrete Construction

The BC Ready-Mixed Concrete Association has announced a call for entries for the 3rd Annual Awards for Excellence in Concrete Construction. Deadlines for entries is March 14 2008. www.bcrmca.ca

Featured Links

- Mechanical Engineering Technology Students Available. Co-op students from Camosun College are available for the March 31-June 13 2008 work term. camosun.ca/services/coop
- Residential Building Drafting Technician Certificate, January - May 2009, Okanagan College. In this

certificate program you will gain general knowledge of the building design process for residential projects, from the initial client meeting to the creation of final working drawings.

www.okanagan.bc.ca/cs

- Ministry Of Environment. Bulletins, updates, consultation papers on land remediation, contaminated sites, hazardous waste, etc. www.env.gov.bc.ca
- 'Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative' three-year strategic plan released by the Ministry of Forests and Range. www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests
- KAA-BOOM. A monthly newsletter on how organizations can protect their most valuable resource, their older workers. www.workplaceinstitute.org
- Flywheel Building Solutions. This newsletter by Ken Kunka, ASCT, RBO provides information on building codes, modernization strategy, building projects, green solutions, etc. www.flywheelbuildingcoach.com
- Technology Management MS Degree Program. An on-line MS program. www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/Ogden/AMS/MSTM/index.htm
- BC Student Congress, April 4 2008, Vancouver. Students from secondary schools across BC can participate in the second annual Student Congress. Apply online. Applicants will be chosen at random; however, the process will ensure all regions of BC are represented and that students from public, independent and band schools are selected. Application forms must be received by February 22 2008. www.bced.gov.bc.ca/asc/
- BC Bioenergy Strategy. The goal is to create new opportunities for rural communities and help BC become electricity self-sufficient by 2016 through a provincial Bio-energy Network for greater investment and innovation in bio-energy projects and technologies. www.gov.bc.ca/pinebeetle

Coming Events

- Green Roof Technology, March 1 2008, Vancouver. Understand the policy and regulatory framework for green roofs within a municipality's or city's incentive program. Offered by BCIT. www.bcit.ca/study/courses/grow0001
- Building Green in a Changing Climate Conference, March 4 - 5 2008, Courtenay, BC. Showcasing leaders and innovative case studies in the Vancouver Island Green Building movement. www.livinggreenbuildinggreen.com
- Doing Business in the USA, March 6 2008, Surrey. This seminar is designed to help you understand the market, plan your approach, and suggest practical methods and alternatives for implementing your business and marketing plans. www.ucantrade.com
- 5th Annual International Encounter on Information Technology and Communication, March 6 - 7 2008, Costa Rica. The event will be free of charge for international visitors that are invited through The Trade Office of Costa Rica (PROCOMER). www.costaricainsight.com
- BC Society of Landscape Architects Rainwater Cafe, March 8 2008, Vancouver. Water conservation, water reuse and rainwater capture in a time of global warming. www.bcsla.org/pdf.htm/Rainwater%20posterFinal.pdf
- Due Diligence and Valuation Advanced Investor Ready Workshop, March 10 2008, Vancouver. For entrepreneurs and owners who are planning to raise equity in the next 6 to 12 months. Supported by PricewaterhouseCoopers, TSX Venture Exchange, National Research Council and Province of BC. www.ANGELforum.org
- Are You Interested in Exporting? March 12 2008, Vancouver. Small Business BC, the Canada Border Services Agency offer a workshop and networking seminar about the rules, regulations, standards and resources involved in exporting. www.smallbusinessbc.ca
- GLOBE 2008, March 12 -14 2008, Vancouver. Corporate sustainability and finance; energy and the environment; building better cities. www.globe2008.ca
- BC Building Code I, March 14 2008, Vancouver. Sponsored by the Architectural Institute of BC. www.aibc.ca
- BCIT Open House, April 11 - 12 2008, Burnaby. School students and the public can explore programs and courses and find out about the BCIT experience directly from faculty and students. www.bcit.ca/openhouse
- Council of Forest Industries 2008 Annual Convention, April 17 - 18 2008, Kelowna. The largest gathering of the forest industry in Western Canada. www.cofi.org
- Smart Growth BC Conference, April 18 2008, Vancouver. Tools and strategies for implementing smart growth principles and policies in communities of all sizes. www.smartgrowth.bc.ca
- Building Officials Association of BC Annual Conference, April 20-23 2008, Kelowna. Annual 3 day educational seminar with a variety of workshops. www.boabc.org
- AIBC Annual Conference, April 24 - 26 2008 Vancouver. Watch for details on www.aibc.ca
- CONNIE Awards Gala, May1 2008, Vancouver. Celebrating innovation in the use of ready-mixed concrete in applications throughout the province. Sponsored by the BC Ready-Mixed Concrete

- Association. www.bcrmca.ca
- BC Building Code II, May 30 2008, Vancouver. Sponsored by the Architectural Institute of BC. www.aibc.ca
 - Construction In Challenging Environments, June 16 - 18 2008, Edmonton. A forum for sharing ideas, exploring new solutions and understanding financial impacts on the construction industry. Sponsored by the Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors. www.pags2008.com
 - Wood WORKS! BC Sustainability Workshop, October 10 2008, Vancouver; October 11, Surrey; October 12, Kelowna. Different ways of measuring the benefits of high performance structures; environmental attributes of engineered wood products; Green Globe Training. www.wood-works.org
 - Canadian Summit on the Mature Workforce, November 5 2008 Calgary. The impact retiring baby boomers are having on organizations throughout the Western World and what to do about it. www.workplaceinstitute.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
-