



ASTT e-News, January, 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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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.

Council Meeting Schedule

ASTTBC Council meeting dates for 2008 are February 21, May 22, September 25 and October 24.

Issues Before Council

The following are some of the key issues discussed at the September and November 2007 ASTTBC Council meetings:

- 2008 workplan and budget
- Potential professional legislative models governing technology professionals
- Professional regulation of Architectural/Building Technologists and Technicians and Designers

- Guides to Professional Practice
- Onsite Wastewater program
- RTMgr Certification Policy
- Occupational Health & Safety Regulations
- Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement
- Synergies with APEGBC
- Engaging First Nations communities in technology careers
- ASTTBC 50th Anniversary planning.

Council minutes, once approved, are posted to the ASTTBC web site. Articles on important issues appear in ASTT News or ASTT e-News.

ASTTBC Annual General Meeting

The 2008 ASTTBC Annual General Meeting will be held on May 23, 2008 in Langley.

Mark your calendar now. Help us kick off celebrations for ASTTBC's 50th Anniversary! Visit www.asttbc.com or watch [ASTT e-News](#) for more details. Registration will be available on-line or by contacting the ASTTBC office.

Electronic Billing For Dues

Electronic billing is here! ASTTBC is pleased to inform members that this year's launch of electronic invoicing for annual dues has been well received. Under the new system, members get an email when dues are payable. This leads directly to a personalized dues payment page which streamlines the process for each member. The service is secure and is encrypted and includes authentication. Payment is processed in real time with immediate confirmation.

Members who have not provided their email address to ASTTBC may use on-line payment by clicking on the Pay Dues section of the ASTTBC web site. Alternatively, paper invoices can still be mailed to members who need to receive their annual dues invoice in the traditional way.

ASTTBC ran a contest to promote the new electronic billing service. Members who paid with the new system before January 11 were entered in a draw. Matthew Corbet won the draw for an Olympus digital camera.

Reminder – as the e-business transformation continues, it is important to ensure ASTTBC has your current email address.

ASTTBC Holds Risk Management Seminars

In December, nearly 50 people attended a Risk Management Seminar on Contracts at Okanagan College in Kelowna. The seminar was presented by Jeremy Lovell from Bull Houser & Tupper, whose practice focuses on assisting clients to resolve professional liability and construction disputes, including builders' liens issues. He gave a detailed rendition of key components of contracts and how entering well-written contracts can help reduce risk. Special kudos go to all the members who attended; Rob Scherer, P.Eng., RPF and his Construction Law class for attending; and Richard Nygren, ASCT, Okanagan College, for his great help. ASTTBC plans to offer this informative session in different areas of the province in the coming months. Stay tuned!

Fire Protection Program Gets New Manager

Larry Barker, RFPT has passed the torch for ASTTBC's Fire Protection Technician Program to Brian Stegavig, the new Manager, Fire Protection Registration. Larry played a key role in establishing the program and he has been program manager for the past 12 years.

"His contribution to the program has been enormous," says John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar. "Larry's strong leadership, management and administration skills were felt big time, in fact, I would say we could not have made this program so successful without him."

For his part, Larry Barker, RFPT, says it was a great ride and a great experience. He pegs much of the success to staff in ASTTBC's Registration Department.

Practice Review Board Case Histories Report

August 16, 2006 to September 27, 2007

Our 'purpose', as generally stated in the ASTT Act is, "To maintain, improve and increase the knowledge, ability and competence of technologists and technicians; to regulate standards of training and practice of and for its members, and to protect the interests of the public." The ASTT Act and Regulations, in the provision of professional certification of technologists, technicians and technical specialists, requires that members adhere to a Code of Ethics, provides a disciplinary mechanism to deal with breaches of the Code and protects ASTTBC's titles and designations.

The ASTTBC Council has charged the Practice Review Board of ASTTBC with the responsibility for enforcement of the 'Code of Ethics' for member's professional practice and conduct, as well as with protecting ASTTBC's titles and designations. A complete report of PRB complaint and practice cases resolved, since the last report ending on August 16, 2006, is posted on the ASTTBC web site. This report includes all cases resolved up to September 27th, 2007. The report reflects the activities and hard work of the PRB in fulfilling its mandate.

The report only gives the generic circumstance of the nature of the complaint cases and their outcomes, as it is the policy of ASTTBC to only report on the specific details of cases (names, places, dates, etc.) when the case has resulted in censure as a result of a Disciplinary Hearing or the PRB has determined it is in the public interest to have such information provided.

Practice Review Board Report

Complaint Case Number 05-26

A Fire Inspector of the Richmond Fire Department alleged that a Registered Fire Protection Technician installed a fire suppression system in a commercial kitchen application that did not meet code requirements. An investigation determined that there was reason for concern with the practice of the member, based on the facts of the complaint. The Practice Review Board (PRB) attempted to resolve the matter by use of a Stipulated Order. The member did not accept the proposed terms of the Stipulated Order and the PRB then ordered that a formal Discipline Hearing be convened. The Discipline Hearing Committee found reasons for judgment and recommended to the PRB a condition of censure for the member. The member appealed the decision of the Discipline Hearing Committee and the Appeal was presented to Council. Council decided to overturn the decision of the Practice Review Board and Discipline Committee and determined that the Appeal should be granted based on the arguments presented by the member's Legal Counsel.

For a complete and detailed Practice Review Board report on this case please visit the ASTTBC web site.

Technology Students Register In Numbers

ASTTBC's student membership drive at the beginning of the 2007 school year resulted in 431 new membership applications from students at institutes and technical colleges throughout the province. With help from the faculty and staff at institutions such as BCIT, Camosun College and Okanagan College to mention a few, students in accredited applied science or engineering technology programs were introduced to ASTTBC as a part of student orientation sessions. ASTTBC values its student members and continues to develop student-focused activities and resources to reinforce the value of membership. Membership allows students to take part in shaping BC's future in applied science and engineering technology.

Our Best FEATures

The Foundation for Education & Advancement in Technology is ASTTBC's charitable foundation. Since it was founded in 1990, FEAT has put more than \$500,000 into helping students and promoting science and technology in BC.

Thanks to donations from members, in the past few years FEAT has tripled the long-term endowment fund while doubling the amount given out in bursaries each year.

Students in eligible technology programs at BCIT, Camosun College in Victoria, Kwantlen University College, College of New Caledonia in Prince George, Okanagan College, Thompson Rivers University, and Vancouver Community College share in \$13,000 of annual FEAT bursaries where college staff select students who exhibit the characteristics of tomorrow's technology professionals. FEAT awards another \$11,000 directly in bursaries each year.

"I'm pleased how much of a contribution FEAT has made to science and technology in BC," says Ted

Nodwell, CAE, FEAT Executive Director. *"We are looking at ways that FEAT and ASTTBC can take this to an even higher level as one way to celebrate ASTTBC's coming 50th Anniversary."*

For information on applying for FEAT bursaries or for making a tax-deductible donation please visit www.asttbc.com.

Top Action Priorities To Tackle Skills Shortage

A report highlighting the key dialogue from the ASTTBC-sponsored 'Roundtable on Technology Skills Shortage II' is in the final stages of production. The top 3 action priorities identified by delegates are:

- Implement a comprehensive program to promote technology careers and education throughout the K – 12 school system
- Partner with the Industry Training Authority to develop modern apprenticeships and industry training for skilled technology occupations
- Fund a strategy to assess and recognize the technology skills and credentials of internationally-trained workers.

The report will be distributed shortly to delegates who attended the event. Other stakeholders who could not participate at the Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue on October 31 2007 will also receive a copy of the report. An email announcement will be sent when the RTSS II Report has been distributed and/or posted on the RTSS web site for downloading by interested stakeholders.

System Offers Eye To Security

Rick Richardson, CTech, works for Precision Camera Inc., the company that designed and installed what could be Canada's first wide-area video surveillance system being used for public space monitoring.

"While video CCTV is used in most private and public buildings for security, there are two main differences here," says Rick. "First, these are designed for wide area coverage of public streets. Second, these cameras are installed in a very open manner with signs and news media such as public service announcements so people are aware of their presence."

The idea for cameras initially came after the infamous shootout on Boxing Day 2005 that killed an innocent bystander. The Toronto Police Service manages the cameras. Designed in accordance with Canada's privacy laws the cameras are not monitored, the video is digitally recorded and deleted after thirty-one days.

"Naturally, such a project created significant controversy, however, the cameras have proven to be valuable in preventing crime and providing evidence for events that took place," continued Rick. "In fact, when the pilot project was over, a local merchant organization offered to pay for the cameras to stay."

Rick is marketing the system to BC cities and municipalities and says the technology would be a great solution for Olympic venues.

Science Camp Front Page News

The First Invitational Science Day Camp at the BIG Little Science Centre garnered front-page media coverage for ASTTBC. The Daily News of Kamloops ran a feature article and photograph on the event. ASTTBC was recognized in the article as the sponsor of the camp. Twenty-three elementary school students spent the day trying hands-on experiments at the BIG Little Science Centre.

"I thought it was my favourite school day ever!" said one of the students. *"I thought the best part was the great chemical reactions."*

Another student said *"The Mentos and Diet Coke one was fun too, even though ours really didn't work out. Another thing was how the volunteers answered any questions we had, or helped us."*

ASTTBC has agreed to sponsor a second Science Day Camp for students from other elementary schools in the Kamloops area. The Association has also stepped up as sponsor of the 100th issue of the BIGScience newsletter.

"We think the BIG Little Science Centre is a winning model to create excitement about science and technology at the community level, so we are pleased to add our support," says John Leech, ASCT, CAE,

Executive Director & Registrar of ASTTBC.

Spaghetti Bridge Contest Coming In March

March 7 2008 will see anxious competitors once again gathered in Kelowna for the 25th annual Okanagan College Spaghetti Bridge Contest. They will be trying to see who can break a record before their spaghetti bridges break under the strain of increasing loads.

ASTTBC is Student Competition Sponsor and sncLavalin is Event Sponsor. Prizes are awarded. Information on the event and how to enter, visit www.okanagan.bc.ca

BCIT Open House To Showcase Opportunities

The 2008 BCIT Open House will be held from 9:00am to 4:30pm on April 11 and 12.

It all happens at BCIT's Burnaby Campus where you can visit labs and shops, see displays and find out about programs that lead to career opportunities. You can also enter to win tuition for a year at BCIT and other great prizes!

ASTTBC will be on-site with the Association's display booth. Members and students are encouraged to stop by. For information visit www.bcit.ca/openhouse

Built Green Program Adds New Level

The Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC is adding a platinum level to the Built Green BC program that it offers. Built Green promotes construction of buildings that are healthier for the occupants and healthier for the environment. Built Green BC is growing tremendously with courses being offered throughout the province. Starting January 1, 2008, Built Green BC will introduce a Platinum Level. This makes Built Green one of the most demanding environmental residential building programs available in Canada. www.chbabc.org

Wood Design Competition Deadline Looms

The deadline for nominations for the 4th annual Wood WORKS! BC 'Wood Design Awards Competition' is February 1 2008. Wood WORKS! invites architects, engineers, designers, builders and project owners to submit entries in 12 categories.

The Wood WORKS! BC Wood Awards honour excellence in wood-based construction projects, and they recognize the people and organizations that are pioneering and preserving the use of wood in British Columbia. www.wood-works.org

BC's 2008 Forest Capital

The Association of BC Forest Professionals has named Prince George and Lheidli T'enneh the 2008 Forest Capital of BC. The First Nations community of Lheidli T'enneh is located 28 km east of Prince George. While the area has been hard hit by the mountain pine beetle, the communities have rallied, replanted their parks and have chosen to make the best of a bad situation. In spite of the devastation they are facing, Prince George and Lheidli T'enneh remain forestry based communities with many jobs depending on the forestry companies based in the area. The Forest Capital of BC program celebrates the economic, cultural, natural and historic contributions of forests to community life. Each year, one community is selected as the Forest Capital of BC. For more information visit www.abcfp.ca

Buying or Building A Home?

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 www.bcipi.net

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).

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 Practitioner. For most homes, a Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP) will 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

Featured Links

- Residential Bldg Drafting Technician certificate program, Okanagan College. www.okanagan.bc.ca/csreg
- BCIT e-store. BCIT clothing with logos designed specifically for Alumni and Alumnae. www.bcitsa.ca/comersus/store
- Capital Report. E-news subscription for anyone who would like to keep up-to-date on the BC Government Caucus. www.governmentcaucus.bc.ca
- 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The latest news on the Olympics. www.vancouver2010.com
- 2010 Business Network. A free online supplier database that allows companies to profile their goods and services to potential buyers and business partners now, and in the lead-up to the 2010 Winter Games. www.2010commercecenter.com
- BC Workinfontet Youth Site. Career information with featured sector each month. workinfontet.bc.ca
- Nobel Prize Speech By Al Gore. [Text or video clip](#) on the speech given by the former Vice-President of the USA on the environmental challenge.

Coming Events

- **SPEATBC Annual Dinner**, February 1 2008, Surrey. Annual awards dinner of the Society of Punjabi Engineers & Technologists of BC. For tickets contact treasurer@speatbc.org
- **Landslide Risk Management in Forest Development Planning and Operations**, February 5 2008, Nanaimo or via webcast. Terminology, framework and various methods of landslide risk management, as presented in the BC Ministry of Forests Land Management Handbook 56 (2004). Sponsored by [APEGBC](#).
- **Digital Dilemmas**, Digital Dreams Conference, February 7 – 8 2008, Victoria. Privacy, security and society in new world networks. www.rebootconference.com
- **Georgie Awards**, February 8 2008, Vancouver. Sponsored by the Canadian Home Builders Association of BC. www.chbabc.org
- **Leadership Action Skills**, February 15 2008, Nanaimo. Solidify your understanding of what motivates employees to work at peak performance levels. Sponsored by [APEGBC](#)
- **Drafting Tenders, RFPs, and Proposals: Avoiding the Legal Pitfalls**, February 21 2008, Prince George. This seminar will review how an owner should write an Invitation to Tender and a Request

for Proposal, and how a contractor or consultant should read them to prepare a bid or proposal. Sponsored by [APEGBC](#)

- **Construction Administration**, February 21 2008, Vancouver. Sponsored by the [Architectural Institute of BC](#)
 - **BC Construction Show**, February 13 – 14 2008, Vancouver. Western Canada's largest annual exposition for the design, construction, renovation, retrofit and refurbishing of all building types for residential and commercial. www.bcconstruct.com
 - **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
 - **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
 - **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
 - **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
 - **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
 - **AIBC Annual Conference**, April 24 – 26 2008 Vancouver. Watch for details on www.aibc.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.paq2008.com
 - **World Forestry Congress**, October 18 – 25 2009. Buenos Aires. Call for papers under the theme 'Forests in development – a vital balance'. www.wfc2009.org
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