



ASTT e-News, July 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.

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ASTTBC Awards Call for Nominations

Deadline August 1 2008

Help us identify individuals who are deserving of an ASTTBC Award. Each year ASTTBC recognizes outstanding technology professionals in BC with the following awards:

- Advanced Technology Award
- Professional Achievement Award
- Employer Award for Career Enhancement and Success of Women as Technology Professionals
- Professional Leadership Award for Women in Technology
- Peter Allan ASCT Leadership Award
- R. Littledale Memorial Award
- Honorary Membership
- Life Membership

For details, and to submit your nomination by August 1, visit www.asttbc.org/about/awards/nominations.php

National Award Open To ASTTBC Members

Deadline August 15 2008

The National Achievement Award is sponsored by the Canadian Council of Technicians &

Technologists. This Award recognizes individual technicians or technologists affiliated with one of the constituent member associations of CCTT (such as ASTTBC) and who is actively working in applied science or engineering technology. It is presented for outstanding achievements in one of the disciplines of registration in applied science or engineering technology recognized by CCTT. Recipients receive an individualized CCTT award to honour their achievement and a feature article in the CCTT Standard. The deadline for submitting nominations is August 15, 2008.

See the Awards & Scholarships section at www.cctt.ca

ASTTBC Sponsors MISTIC Award

Deadline for nominations October 3 2008

ASTTBC is once again sponsoring the Technology Leadership award at the annual Mid-Island Science, Technology & Innovation Council's awards gala. ASTTBC members are encouraged to nominate deserving candidates before the October 3 deadline and to attend the 'Science, Technology & Innovation' awards dinner in Nanaimo on November 6. www.mistic.bc.ca/awards.asp

Premiums Reduced On Professional Liability Insurance

In May 2008, Council confirmed the decision to change the insurance carrier for the Association's Professional Liability Insurance and CGL Insurance to the largest syndicate at Lloyd's of London based on premium capacity. CATLIN is a recognized leader in numerous classes of specialty insurance and reinsurance. The CATLIN Syndicate has nearly 200 underwriting professionals who can be accessed by brokers. Underwriters are supported by a range of specialists, including an actuarial team and a 60-person claims staff. Willis Canada, ASTTBC's broker for Professional Liability Insurance, will work with the CATLIN office in Calgary.

Highlights from the change are an anticipated average rate decrease of 20% for all renewing members except for 'Class 4 Members' and 'House & Property Inspectors'. The renewing Class 4 Members' premium remains the same as it was already quite low. Renewing House & Property Inspectors will receive a substantial rate decrease of approximately 74% on average!

For information on ASTTBC's Professional Liability Insurance program click on http://www.asttbc.org/services/programs/group_programs.php

Specials At The PNE For ASTTBC Members

Summer is here. It's a perfect time to take your family to the fair. The PNE runs from August 16 to September 1 2008.

ASTTBC members can purchase discounted tickets to Playland and other special events held at the PNE such as The Fair at the PNE, Fright Nights, and High School Musical The Ice Tour. Playland single day and season PlayPasses are available now at up to 36% off the regular prices depending on the product selected. To access these savings and to purchase tickets for the event of your choice, visit the Group Sales Online Ticket Program Events Webpage www.pne.ca/groupsales (Enter promotion code 07ASTTBC)

While at the fair, drop in to the PNE Prize Home. ASTTBC and the BC Institute of Property Inspectors will be represented as part of our partnership with the SAFERhome Standards Society. The mission of SAFERhome is to promote the adoption and use of housing standards and practices that are safe, healthy and sustainable for everyone in the community. Under an agreement between ASTTBC and SAFERhome, ASTTBC certified house and property inspectors can also qualify for the 'SAFER-certified' inspector roster.

ASTTBC sponsored the SAFERhome Standards Society reception at the PNE Prize Home on July 17. *"Both our BC Institute of Property Inspectors and the SAFERhome Society share the goal of value for homeowners,"* says Jason Jung, ASCT, Manager, Technology Careers at ASTTBC. *"So we are pleased to have the opportunity to work with SAFERhome at the PNE Prize Home."*

Women In Technology Survey Coming

by Nancy Fowler, ASCT, ASTTBC Council member

Hi to all of the female members of ASTTBC. My name is Nancy Fowler and I am an ASCT, as well as one of your ASTTBC Council Directors. I have just taken early retirement from TELUS, after a successful career in the telecommunications industry, and I find that I have more time to spend on a subject that is very important to me... 'Women In Technology'. I invite you to join me.

In September 2008 we will be sending you a survey to 'check-in' on issues and challenges that women face as they pursue careers in technology. I encourage you to complete this survey to help us determine how ASTTBC can best work on your behalf. I will also be looking for volunteers to follow-up on some of the survey findings so please give some thought as to how you might engage further.

Women represent 9% of the total ASTTBC membership. It's time to increase our numbers. Everyone is listening ...industry, educators, government. Let's hear your voices!

Engineering Team Brochure Published

ASTTBC was the catalyst behind a new brochure 'The Engineering Team in Canada – A British Columbia Perspective.' The purpose of the brochure is to clarify the many roles in the engineering team here for students, foreign educated professionals, the public and other interested stakeholders such as trade commissioners and embassy staff.

"Having spent many hours with immigrant professionals at ESL classes and skills-connect training sessions over the past five years, I came to realize that neither they nor the general public have a clear understanding of the hierarchy within the engineering sector," says Geoff Sale, ASCT, Manager of ASTTBC's Internationally Educated Professionals Program. "Everyone understands the structures in the legal and health systems, but very few outside of our sector know who fits where. Unlike other sectors that are portrayed in movies and on television, we are not. So it's to be expected that students in high school do not understand the different fascinating career options open to them within the broad ambit of engineering and technology. And very often, internationally educated professionals are not clear on Canadian designations because many other countries define 'engineer' differently."

As a result, ASTTBC thought it was important to produce a brochure that outlines the whole spectrum from trades to engineering. "We were pleased that the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC and the Industry Training Authority agreed and came on board with this project, and we appreciate the BC government helping out with the publication and printing costs," continued Geoff.

The brochure will be posted to the ASTTBC web site; copies will be distributed with the next issue of ASTT News, or for multiple copies contact the ASTTBC office at techinfo@asttbc.org.

Information Available About Onsite Wastewater Systems

ASTTBC has produced a brochure about the Sewerage System Regulation that was enacted in 2005, and how it applies to all smaller systems, including those for houses, small businesses and even small communal systems. Formerly known as septic systems, onsite systems are installed with the majority of BC homes outside of Greater Vancouver to handle their sewage.

These systems can be efficient, cost effective and can protect health and the environment. However, they must be properly planned, installed and, above all, properly maintained. Practitioners in the onsite wastewater systems business must be designated as a 'professional' as defined by the new SSR regulation, or they must become a Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP). The registration process for ROWP's under the new regulation is the responsibility of the Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC. All registrants with ASTTBC are required to meet the educational requirements of the BC OnSite Sewage Association for system

installation, planning or maintenance.

The 'Onsite Wastewater Systems for Residences in BC' brochure provides important information for home owners, building designers, architects, builders and developers, technologists and technicians, local governments, real estate agents and insurance and mortgage brokers. Some key highlights include:

- Changes in homeowner responsibility
- Who is authorized to perform specific areas of work
- Defining an Authorized Person
- Where to find an Authorized Person

The brochure is being distributed to ROWP's, building departments, real estate boards and others. To download a web-based copy of the brochure, click owrp.asttbc.org/new.htm or to receive a complimentary copy, phone the Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC at (604) 585-2788 or email techinfo@asttbc.org.

Onsite Wastewater Regulations Provide Adequate Safeguards

The majority of BC homes outside of Greater Vancouver use onsite wastewater systems to handle their sewage. The passage of the Sewerage System Regulation (SSR) in 2005 included a significant change in approach whereby responsibility for the proper design and installation of onsite systems was transferred from Health Authorities largely to 'Authorized Persons' as defined by the SSR. Health Authorities still play a role in onsite systems, holding the records of sewage systems and enforcing the regulation to protect public health.

This new approach has raised concern in the minds of some that with 'deregulation', BC homeowners could receive faulty and potentially dangerous septic systems.

A story in the Times Colonist on June 30, 2008 raised the possibility that some operators could be installing overpriced or poorly designed systems. In a follow up article on July 6, the Times Colonist reporter interviewed John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar, because of ASTTBC's Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner program. In the article, John said fears are largely unfounded and that there is no problem with the current regulatory framework. He advised homeowners to make sure they are dealing with registered practitioners who have the proper training because most problems likely arise from systems being installed illegally either by homeowners or by unregistered contractors. In the same article John Rowse, head of the BC OnSite Sewage Association, said that illegal installations have always been a problem and that his association supports more proactive enforcement. Starting in the fall, ASTTBC will institute a test program in which a handful of practitioners will undergo a peer review after finishing jobs. John Leech anticipates the policy will be fully accepted by ASTTBC Council and will be more widely applied in 2009.

An article titled 'Toilet Trouble' in the April 18 Prince George Citizen voiced similar concerns by people in that community. In that article John Leech stated "The government has done an extraordinarily positive thing by requiring that individuals demonstrate their competencies, and that they're qualified to carry out the work. Previously that was not the case." He added that the new regulations are not a 100 percent guarantee. "People are human," he said. "Errors will be made. The question is, have we got the systems in place that will deal with and assure consumer confidence in what's transpiring? I think the system is working, and working well and certainly when issues... come along, we need to make sure they are properly taken care of."

For information on the Onsite Wastewater Registration Program, or to find practitioners with the ROWP designation, click on owrp.asttbc.org

BDIBC Update #1 - July 2008

by John Leech, ASCT CAE, Executive Director & Registrar, ASTTBC

With this 'BDIBC Update' my goal is to bring to the attention of BDIBC members: 1) recent developments regarding ASTTBC / BDIBC initiatives generally and 2) more specifically information

regarding their professional recognition, practice rights, and member services.

With the Architectural Institute of BC now offering associate membership, some of you may want more information about your continued registration with ASTTBC as a RBD, CRD or Associate Designer. While some ASTTBC members have chosen to take out associate membership with AIBC, others have not. Regardless of your decision on this, and without getting into the merits of the AIBC offer, I am pleased to report that to date very few ASTTBC members have resigned their RBD or CRD certification. This says to me that members believe that their registration with ASTTBC is a good investment and that it will prove valuable as ASTTBC works with the BC Government, AIBC and others to achieve changes to the Architects Act and other legislation and regulation that will ensure full and fair recognition of ASTTBC designers.

What of the future of RBD and CRD? What will likely happen if ASTTBC is successful in getting an exemption under the Architects Act similar to the one in Saskatchewan? My response is that ASTTBC's proposed exemption is for an ASCT or CTech which will apply to those members qualified in building design. I anticipate that ASTTBC will, in this circumstance, require that ASCTs and CTechs hold technical specialist certification as a RBD or CRD. This is no different than today and is consistent with current practice. The very reason the RBD and CRD was established in the first place was to distinguish those ASTTBC members with special expertise in building design.

My advice as you consider your future professional and career development and recognition is to retain your RBD and CRD.

Two senior ASTTBC Council members have been appointed to provide special attention and oversight of the BDIBC. Doug Carter, CTech, ASTTBC Vice President and Bill MacPherson, ASCT, Secretary Treasurer are both active in the building industry. Doug is Chief Engineer at the University of Northern British Columbia and Bill is Sales Engineer with Broadway Refrigeration. They welcome anyone who is willing to dedicate a little time to further the objectives of building designers. Please contact me if you wish to volunteer even a couple of hours a year.

I welcome your comments and suggestions at any time. Please send me an email at bdibc@asttbc.org

To find a building designer visit www.bdibc.bc.ca/find.php.

BCIPI Gets New President

Noel Murphy, CPI, is the new President of the BC Institute of Property Inspectors.

"The purchase of residential or commercial property represents a significant investment," he says. "Members of BCIPI provide quality inspections that give the purchaser, or building owner, detailed information about the building and the systems within it, so becoming the President of BCIPI is quite an honour and an important role". This information may influence the buying decision, identify safety issues or maintenance items to be considered. The mission of BCIPI is to advance the profession of House and Property Inspection, and the professional recognition and career development of Certified House and Property Inspectors in a manner that serves and protects the public interest.

"The years that I have served on the Board and more recently as President were rewarding," says out-going President Bruce Allan, CHI. "I have felt truly honoured and have enjoyed being involved in the evolution of our Institute."

Thinking of buying a new home? To contact a registered BCIPI inspector visit bcipi.asttbc.org/contact.php.

ASTTBC House And Property Inspectors Can Be 'SAFER-certified'

A SAFER-certified home is ergonomically safer and electronically prepared, a home that anticipates the needs of owners. People can age-in-place and live healthier lives. A SAFERhome is the heart and building block to creating sustainable communities.

To be SAFER-certified, a home must be inspected by a house or property inspector who is authorized by the SAFERhome Standards Society to approve that the home meets the SAFER-certified requirements. For more than a decade ASTTBC has been registering house and property inspectors, granting the CHI and CPI designations to those who qualify. Now ASTTBC's CHI and CPI certified house and property inspectors can also be added to the 'SAFER-certified' approved inspector roster by successfully completing an on-line exam.

"This special recognition of ASTTBC house and property inspectors who take the added step of getting SAFER-certified represents a great addition to their portfolio of services," says John Leech, ASCT, CAE, ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar. "The program is an example of a positive outcome of an agreement signed between our Association and the SAFERhome Standards Society and the great partnership that has developed."

For information on SAFER-certified homes visit www.saferhomesociety.com (ASTTBC registered CHI and CPI inspectors who wish to be qualified for the SAFER-certified roster should click on the 'Inspector Registration and Exam' button)

To find an ASTTBC registered house and property inspector in your community, visit bcipi.asttbc.org/contact.php.

Greening the Building Code Seminars - September 2008

A new Part 10 has been added to the BC Building Code that includes new energy and water efficiency objectives. These provisions come into force on September 5 2008. The Building Officials' Association of BC, in cooperation with the British Columbia Building & Safety Policy Branch, Ministry of Housing & Social Development and the Electricity & Alternative Energy Division, Ministry of Energy, Mines & Resources, is delivering seminars on the code across the province. Locations have limited seating, which will be allocated first registered, first served. Professional development points for will be recorded for BOABC, AIBC, APEGBC, ASTTBC, POABC and for members of other professional bodies.

Seminar Locations

- Victoria - September 8
- Nanaimo - September 9
- Kelowna September 10
- Kamloops September 11
- Abbotsford September 16
- Burnaby September 18
- Prince George September 23
- Richmond September 24
- North Vancouver September 25

Information and registration form, www.boabc.org.

China Professional and Cultural Trip Planned

China is becoming increasingly important as a source of engineering technicians and technologist immigrants to Ontario, BC and Canada according to John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar of ASTTBC. As a result, 'People to People Citizen Ambassador Programs' and the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists are developing a delegation of professionals specializing in engineering technology to meet in China in November 2008. As the lead agency, OACETT is also looking beyond its provincial membership and is inviting other stakeholders, including engineers, architects and others to participate. ASTTBC's Executive Director will join the delegation.

Grant Lachmuth, ASCT, Senior Project Director on the Sea to Sky Highway Improvement Project knows first hand about the value of cultural and professional exchanges. *"I was in Beijing this Spring as one of the Team Leaders for the BC Canada Pavilion"* he says. *"Our highway improvement project is a key corridor for our 2010 Olympic Games. The trip focused on economic*

trade, tourism and as a cultural exchange. The BC Canada Pavilion has many visitors from China and around the world and they are all very impressed with the imagery on the exhibition floor and have found the business meetings to be very productive. I felt honoured and privileged to be there representing BC and Canada. I would say that organized delegations to connect with what is happening on the international scene are well worth the time and money."

Expressions of interest from colleagues in BC are now being accepted. Anyone interested in joining the November delegation to China should e-mail David Thomson at dthomson@ocett.org, call (416) 621-9621 ext. 251, or register on-line at www.citizenambassadors.org.

Contaminated Sites Update

The Contaminated Sites Approved Professionals Society is now operational. The CASP Society is a self-regulating professional society whose members are authorized under the Environmental Management Act to recommend that the Ministry of Environment approve applications for specific contaminated sites legal instruments. After July 1 2008, applications for contaminated sites services that are required to be accompanied with the recommendation of an Approved Professional must be sent directly to the CSAP Society office. Further details are on the web at: <http://www.csapsociety.bc.ca/>

The CSAP Society is now accepting applications for the November 2008 sitting of examinations. The application deadline is August 1. This is the last opportunity for previous applicants to take the exam under the 'grandfathering provision'.

CEBC Votes For Name Change

At its annual meeting in June 2008, members of the Consulting Engineers of British Columbia voted in favour of changing the association name to the Association of Canadian Engineering Companies – British Columbia (ACEC-British Columbia). This convey's the trade association's mandate to promote the business and commercial interests of engineering firms, rather than individuals. The decision follows the renaming of the national association last year to the Association of Canadian Engineering Companies, l'association des firmes d'ingénierie du Canada. By adopting this national brand, CEBC can leverage a national identity and share resources. The process of renaming CEBC will roll out in a timely manner.

2008 Georgie Awards Call for Entries

The Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC has announced the Call for Entries for the 2008 Georgie Awards. The Georgie Awards celebrate excellence in home building. www.chbab.org.

ASTTBC Sponsors DiscoverTech Camp at Camosun

This summer Camosun College is running a one-week introduction to the exciting world of engineering technology for up to sixteen Grade 9 - 12 students. At DiscoverTech, students will gain an understanding of what technology is through a series of hands-on activities hosted by the departments of Mechanical, Computer Systems, Civil, and Electronics & Computer Engineering Technologies. ASTTBC committed \$1000 to Camosun College to help cover the cost of the event. "This ties in well with our goal of getting more kids interested in careers in technology," says Jason Jung, ASCT, Manager, Technology Careers. "And in return for sponsoring the camp, ASTTBC will be showcased as a partner on all materials and promo items."

CCTT Launches GoTechGirl

The Canadian Council of Technicians & Technologists launched its new national 'GoTechGirl' initiative in May 2008. Organized in partnership with the National Council of Deans of Technology, GoTechGirl raises awareness among young women in Grades 7-11 across Canada regarding the exciting careers available in applied science and engineering technology. Made possible through cooperative ventures between CCTT and colleges and technical institutes, the GoTechGirl initiative will feature special events held throughout the year culminating with National Technology Week,

Canada's annual celebration of technology careers that is held during the first week of November.

CCTT is the national organization representing provincial associations like ASTTBC that grant and maintain the certification of individual technicians and technologists. www.cctt.ca.

National Technology Week - Get Involved!

In the lead up to National Technology Week (November 3 – 8 2008) , ASTTBC will be updating you periodically on initiatives to help promote careers in technology. NTW is Canada's national showcase of exciting career choices available in applied science and engineering technology. Held annually during the first week of November, it is a great way to interactively offer fun and informative resources to students, teachers and parents to explore technical careers. As well, it is a great opportunity to recognize the amazing contribution over 50,000 certified technologists and technicians make to Canada's workforce.

Here's where you can help. One of ASTTBC's major activities this year to help promote NTW will be to again partner with Black Press to bring stories of BC 'Techs' to the forefront. As we approach NTW, you may be contacted by a staff reporter from your local area newspaper who wants to feature you in a story to help promote careers in technology. Some of the things they may ask you will include: why you decided to get into a career in technology, what makes your job so interesting, why technology careers are so hot these days, what kinds of opportunities there are, etc. It is our hope that you will participate in this exciting feature but also realize that with more than 9,000 members throughout the province that obviously not all members will be contacted.

If you'd like to get involved directly, or have a story you'd like to share, please email Jason Jung, ASCT, Manager Technology Careers at jjung@asttbc.org to discuss. Thanks and a reminder to 'Get Involved!'

ACCC Makes Submission on Science and Technology

As the voice of 150 publicly-funded community colleges, institutes of technology, and polytechnics across Canada, a primary role of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges is to engage in discussions and debate with respect to the role and capacity of these institutions in the nation's economic and social development. In an April 2008 submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, the ACCC stressed that investing in the recapitalization of Canada's colleges and institutes, many of which were built in the 1960's and increasing student engagement in science and technology are vital to address the skills shortage. See full report at www.accc.ca

Members Invited To Support Worthy Causes

Ron Isaak, ASCT, memorial

Ron Isaak, ASCT, who died in 2005 was an active member of ASTTBC. He was also a past Chair of the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board, past Chair of BCIT's Board of Governors and past President of the BCIT Alumni Association. In addition, Ron worked with Canadian Council of Technicians Technologists to enable immigrant professionals to have their qualifications more easily processed and recognized in Canada. But better than all that Ron achieved outside the classroom, was the rapport that he developed with his fellow workers, industry, and his students. To honour Ron Isaak, a special memorial will be placed on the BCIT campus. If you would like to make a contribution to this memorial, please contact Luis Curran at luis_curran@yahoo.ca

'Joints in Motion' team to support Arthritis Society

Larry Beattie, CD, CTech, a member of ASTTBC and a civilian employee of the RCMP, is training to run a marathon in December 2008 to raise money for the Arthritis Society of Canada. Donations of \$15 or more will receive a charitable tax receipt. Those interested can contribute by sending a cheque or money order made out to the Arthritis Society Joints in Motion at 1207 Landry St. Clarence Creek, Ontario K0A 1N0 or online at www.arthritis.ca/joints/ontario/larrybeattie.

TechPRO – Kevin Witzke, ASCT

In 2003 a forest fire raged across Okanagan Mountain Park, taking with it more than 200 homes and 12 historic Kettle Valley Railway trestles. A federal/provincial task force determined that the most viable option was to rebuild a combination of 'look-a-like' and 'scaled-down', but historically accurate, versions of the trestles. Five years later the Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society and BC Parks celebrated the grand re-opening of this historic portion of the KVR.

Kevin Witzke, ASCT, was there... as he had been during the entire reconstruction project. Kevin had the job of leader for the design of the reconstructed Myra Canyon trestles. A graduate of the Okanagan College Civil Engineering Technology program, one of his jobs after graduation was with CP Rail where he worked for three years with the department responsible for structures such as trestles and bridges. In 1987 he moved to Kelowna and joined Reid Crowther, eventually becoming a partner (Reid Crowther became part of Earth Tech in 2000).

"The burning of the Myra Canyon Trestles was devastating to our community," said Kelowna-Mission MLA Sindi Hawkins. "It is a testament to the commitment and vision of the reconstruction committee that they are now rebuilt."

In marking the official re-opening, Premier Campbell also had praise for community members like Kevin Witzke who pulled together to bring the trestles back. *"The Myra Canyon Trestles are an important cultural and historic treasure for British Columbia and Canada, as well as being a key tourist attraction here in the Okanagan," said Premier Campbell. "It's especially fitting that we're re-opening these historic trestles during the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia so that all British Columbians can once again share in the heritage, history and beauty of this world-class heritage site. The re-opening of the trestles is only possible because of the commitment and perseverance of those who worked so hard to rebuild after the Okanagan fires."*

The Myra Canyon Trestles are part of the Spirit of 2010 trail network, a series of recreational trails for non-motorized use. For more information, visit www.bcparks.ca and www.spiritof2010trail.ca.

TechTIPS

'TechTIPS' passes along a variety of information that members may find helpful in their daily lives.

Save On Air Conditioning Costs

- Don't leave your air conditioner on when you're not at home
- Reduce air conditioner use by using window blinds and ceiling fans
- Switch off room lights which generate heat
- Follow the instructions in the owner's manual carefully
- Get air conditioners serviced regularly
- Replace old units with Energy Star approved models
- Install a programmable thermostat

Source: 'The Smart Life' electronic newsletter, June/July 2008 issue. Published by TD Insurance - Meloche Monnex, ASTTBC's affinity partner for home insurance. <http://www.melochemonnex.com/asttbc>

TechEVENTS

'Network Administration and Security Professional & Technology Professional Programs' Information Session, August 20, Vancouver. Information sessions are offered jointly by UBC and BCIT.

http://reg.cstudies.ubc.ca/session_info_2.cfm?sessionid=IC916%5D

International Federation of Consulting Engineers, September 7 - 10 2008, Quebec City. Bringing together the world's consulting industry. www.fidic2008.org

2008 BC Innovation Council Awards, September 29 2008, Vancouver. Celebrating leaders whose contributions establish BC as a world-class innovation centre. www.bcinnovationcouncil.com

Open Pit Mine Design, September 29 - October 1 2008, Vancouver. Ideal for those with expertise in specific areas of the mining industry who need to interface to the broader spectrum of the business, those requiring a refresher in their field, and for those with limited or no technical background. Conducted by UBC Continuing Studies. <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=183024>

Open Pit Slope Design, October 1 - 2 2008, Vancouver. Overview of the process for the design and management of slopes in open pit mines. Participants should have a basic grounding in rock mechanics (undergraduate courses) and experience in open pit operations. <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=183024>

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

Mine Safety: Risk, Reason & Regret, October 15 - 17 2008, Vancouver. This workshop is intended for those in heavy industry who are interested in modeling safety behaviour or those who are responsible for ensuring compliance with generally accepted industry practices and legislation. <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=183024>

'Engineering in a Climate of Change' International Symposium, October 16 2008, Toronto. Engineering innovators and practitioners will examine practical solutions for the mitigation and adaptation of climate change effects. The symposium will also be webcast. Hosted by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers. www.ospe.on.ca

APEGBC Annual Conference and AGM, October 16 - 18 2008, Kelowna. Celebrate accomplishments in the professions of engineering and geoscience; attend technical, corporate and professional workshops; participate in an extensive trade exhibition and numerous social events. www.apeg.bc.ca/ac2008

HOT PROPERTIES @ Canadian Brownfields 2008, October 22 - 24 2008, Toronto. This conference highlights remediation projects across the country that are raising the bar for sustainable community design, investment in the public realm and stimulating neighbourhood renewal. www.canadianbrownfields.ca

Fuelling the Economy of the Future, October 24 2008, Penticton. High school graduates entering post-secondary programs in science, engineering or technology is declining. This symposium will heighten awareness of science and engineering education, and build stronger connections within the K-PhD education system and industry. www.eplyevents.com

ASTTBC Awards & Recognition Celebration, October 25 2008, Vancouver. An evening of celebration, awards and music and a great opportunity to network with stakeholders in BC's science and technology community. Coincides with ASTTBC's 50th Anniversary and with National Technology Week. www.asttbc.com

VRCA Awards of Excellence Dinner, October 30 2008, Vancouver. Celebrating excellence in construction. Sponsored by the Vancouver Regional Construction Association. www.vrca.bc.ca/awards.php

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

MISTIC Science, Technology & Innovation Awards, November 6 2008, Nanaimo. This gala highlights the achievements of individuals or businesses in twelve categories including the ASTTBC Leadership in Technology Award. ASTTBC members are encouraged to nominate deserving candidates (deadline for Call For Nominations deadline is October 3 2008) and to attend the gala. www.mistic.bc.ca/awards.asp

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.com/services/cpd/seminars.php