

ASTT e-News, March, 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

[ASTTBC AGM](#)
[Meeting With Minister Of Advanced Education](#)
[ASTTBC Reps Meet Hon John van Dongen](#)
[Meeting With CAHPI\(BC\) Re House Inspector Licensing](#)
[BCIPI AGM Combines Business And Education](#)
[SDIBC Holds AGM](#)
[Federal Budget Addresses Skills Shortage](#)
[National Survey Of Technicians And Technologists](#)
[PNWER Summit On Regional Solutions](#)
[Greater Practice Rights For Health Professionals](#)
[ASTTBC Sponsors Catapult Competition](#)
[ASTTBC Promotes Careers In Southern Ontario](#)

[Kelowna 'Careers In Technology' Conference](#)
[BIG Little Science Centre News](#)
[CNC Suspends Forestry Program](#)
[BCIT Holds 'Green Roof' Open House](#)
[Kamloops May See Technology High School](#)
[Buying Or Building A Home?](#)
[In The News](#)
[TechPRO - John Macgregor-Skinner, ASCT](#)
[TechTIPS](#)
[TechLINKS](#)
[TechEVENTS](#)

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

Meeting With Minister Of Advanced Education

Murray Coell is Minister of Advanced Education and Minister responsible for Research and Technology for BC. As such he shares a common interest in the skills shortage with the Technology Education and Careers Council, a group that ASTTBC is playing a lead role in establishing.

The mandate of TECC will be to provide strategic leadership and an advocacy role in advancing the importance of technology careers and education in BC by being a catalyst for action and an industry voice into governments and educational systems on policy issues.

On March 19 2008 the Hon Murray Coell met with ten representatives from TECC. The meeting was set up by ASTTBC. They discussed how technology careers are 'invisible' and that trades training and university education have more profile. While technologists and technicians are in demand, student enrollment in many technology programs is declining. This led to a discussion about developing a strategic plan, bringing industry together with a united voice, and enhancing marketing of technology careers. They also discussed TECC's anticipated role in working with government, industry and NGOs.

Representatives from ASTTBC and the BC Safety Authority, TELUS, Black Press, Okanagan College, the BC Science Teachers Association, the Canadian Home Builders Association of BC, Concost Consultants and

Metro Testing attended.

ASTTBC Reps Meet Hon John van Dongen

On March 19, several representatives from ASTTBC attended an information session on the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region with Hon John van Dongen. He is Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations for BC and he is also the current Vice President of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region.

PNWER is a statutory, public/private partnership. All state and provincial legislators in the region are members, as are the Governors and Premiers. In addition, private sector members, counties, economic development commissions, industry associations and similar entities may join.

The minister provided an update on PNWER efforts to promote greater regional cooperation to enhance the region's global competitiveness, while striving to maintain or improve its environment. He also highlighted plans for the 18th annual PNWER summit that will be hosted by Vancouver in July 2008.

ASTTBC Meets CAHPI(BC) Re Licensing Of House Inspectors

CAHPI(BC) President Bill Sutherland, RHI; Secretary Owen Dickie, RHI; and Helen Barton, Registrar, met in Kamloops with ASTTBC's Executive Director & Registrar, John Leech, ASCT, CAE, to talk about the BC Government's plans to license house inspectors. John spoke about ASTTBC's submission regarding the 'Consultation Paper on A Proposed Regulatory Framework for Home Inspectors'. The submission pointed to ASTTBC's proposed partnership arrangement with a designated 'authority' wherein the authority (the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority has been suggested by Government) would issue a license and ASTTBC would carry out professional registration responsibilities. A similar model exists in Manitoba for the electrical 'M' license. John also expressed an interest on the part of ASTTBC to bring together all house inspection organizations to cooperate to achieve common goals. The BC Institute of Property Inspectors also made a submission to the consultation paper and is generally supportive of some form of licensing. The Ministry of Public Safety is expected to advise as to the next steps once it has compiled the 125 responses received to the consultation paper.

To view the full ASTTBC and BCIPI submissions, visit www.asttbc.com/docs/ASTTBC_Response.pdf and www.asttbc.com/docs/BCIPI_Response.pdf

BCIPI AGM Combines Business And Education

The British Columbia Institute of Property Inspectors, an institute of ASTTBC, held its Annual General Meeting on February 21 2008. The members discussed matters of institute business and held two informative seminars. The first seminar was by Grant Molberry who spoke on 'Structural Concrete Solutions' while the second seminar was delivered by Ulrich Janisch, Electrical Safety Officer, WorkSafe BC on 'Electrical Panel Inspections'. The AGM provided a springboard for BCIPI to continue on to another year serving its membership.

SDIBC Holds AGM

The Steel Detailers Institute of BC held its Annual General Meeting on March 12, 2008. Delegates listened to a presentation by Ms. Pat Newhouse of the Canadian Welding Bureau on Complete Joint Penetration (CJP) and Partial Joint Penetration (PJP) welds and symbols.

Federal Budget Addresses Skills Shortage

The federal budget tabled in February 2008 includes measures that relate to skills development, labour shortages and the labour market. Of particular interest are:

- Changes re student grant and loan programs
- Modernizing the immigration system to speed permanent resident applications
- Raising the Guaranteed Income Supplement earned income exemption and providing additional funding programs to help older workers stay in the workforce
- Support for training and career adjustment.

www.budget.gc.ca

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

PNWER Summit To Explore Regional Solutions

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region is holding its 18th annual summit July 20-24 2008 in Vancouver. The theme is 'Global Challenges – Regional Solutions Through Innovation, Excellence and Leadership'. PNWER is a regional USA-Canadian forum dedicated to encouraging global economic competitiveness and preserving the environment.

"ASTTBC is offering some of its resources to advance the work of PNWER and encouraging both members and other associations to get involved," says John Leech, ASCT, CAE, ASTTBC Executive Director & Registrar. "I think we will be well served by our support, for example increasing the exposure of ASTTBC and the technology professionals we represent and by allowing us to be involved in issues such as the technology skills shortage and sustainable development."

This summit will be PNWER's largest ever bi-lateral meeting and an important showcase of BC's leadership in the region. It is the only cross-border forum for legislators and the business and association community to come together to develop regional solutions to global economic challenges. It will also be an opportunity to meet with Premier Gordon Campbell and members of the legislature, and representatives from Alaska, Alberta, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Yukon, plus officials from Ottawa and Washington, DC. www.pnwer.org/2008summit

Greater Practice Rights For Health Care Professionals

The BC Throne Speech in early 2008 signaled a number of coming changes to ensure that all health care workers can fully and appropriately utilize their training and skills. For example, pharmacists will be able to authorize routine prescription renewals and nurses will be trained to deliver a broader range of health services, such as suturing, ultrasounds, allergy testing, local anesthesia and cardiac stress testing. A new Health Profession Review Board will ensure that all qualified health workers can fully and appropriately utilize their training and skills and not be denied that right by unnecessary credentialing and licensure restrictions.

For years ASTTBC has been pointing at the umbrella legislation of the Health Professions Act as a model for professional regulation. Now, with the changes proposed in the Throne Speech, it appears health professionals will once again be in the vanguard, this time in taking practical steps to alleviate the skills shortage in their sector.

"This is a significant move by Government," says John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar. "Hopefully it leads to Government addressing the practice restrictions faced by technologists and technicians so that BCIT and college graduates in applied science and engineering technology will also be able to fully and appropriately utilize their skills."

ASTTBC Sponsors Catapult Competition

How do you get students to explore wood design and learn about the attributes and strength of wood in a fun and challenging way? Let them design and build siege engines, then see who wins in a shoot-out. Post-secondary students from across BC participate in the annual Wood WORKS! Catapult Competition. This year's event saw 10 teams from BCIT, Okanagan College North Island College, UBC, and UBC–Okanagan.

ASTTBC is on board as First Place Overall Winner Sponsor for the next three years. On March 8, students from North Island College fired shot after shot onto the targets, nailing the \$1,500 ASTTBC prize for 2008.

Bill Billups, ASCT, was involved in organizing the event and Brad Walton, ASCT, RFPT, volunteered as one of the judges.

ASTTBC Promotes BC Careers In Southern Ontario

ASTTBC recently accompanied the BC Ministry of Economic Development and Canwest Media, along with many of BC's top employers, to promote career opportunities in BC to more than 3,000 job seekers in Kitchener, Windsor, Hamilton and Toronto. ASTTBC was pleased to take the message about technology

careers 'on the road' with Fortis BC, Terasen Gas, the City of Richmond, the City of Abbotsford, Metro Testing, and WoodTech International.

Kelowna 'Careers In Technology' Conference

On March 11, career advisors for the Kelowna school district organized a 'Careers in Technology' conference for more than 300 students ranging from grade 7-12. Students learned about a variety of careers from employers in electronics, aviation, mechanical and civil engineering, and forestry, to name a few. Jason Jung, ASCT, Manager, Technology Careers for ASTTBC was the keynote speaker. He also delivered three hands-on workshops for students interested in learning about opportunities in technology-based careers. *"It was a great event that gave students a wide range of exposure to some awesome careers in technology, we were so thrilled to be involved."* said Jason.

BIG Little Science Centre News

On March 12 2008 Dr. Gordon Gore, founder of the BIG Little Science Centre in Kamloops, received Honorary Membership in ASTTBC. The Centre is a hands-on way to inspire children, their families and teachers to explore and experience science in an entertaining and stimulating environment and to nurture a lifelong appreciation for and interest in science. John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director & Registrar presented the certificate at an event hosted jointly by Thompson Rivers University's School of Advanced Technologies and Mathematics and Career Education Department and ASTTBC. Among those attending the award ceremony were Dr. Mark Evered, Vice President (Academic) of TRU; Pat Wallace, Councillor for the City of Kamloops and Annette Glover, School District 73 Trustee and President of the BIG Little Science Centre.

ASTTBC members Lyle Killough, ASCT, and Tony Walters, CTech, were joined by Don Graham as volunteers at the BIG Little Science Centre Open House on February 16. ASTTBC donated an iPod as a draw prize for the Open House. Clayton Burgess was the lucky winner.

College of New Caledonia Suspends Forestry Program

The College of New Caledonia has suspended the intake of first year students in its Forest Resource Technology program. Six other programs will also be suspended. The Forestry program had the highest net cost per Full-time Equivalent of all CNC programs. Funding and tuition have not covered rising costs. At the same time, the number of students projected to enroll has fallen to the lowest in four years. A booming job market generally, coupled with the decline of the forest industry, mill closures and layoffs and media coverage of future impacts of the Pine Beetle epidemic, have students looking at other career choices.

"Being a graduate of this program, I think this is a sad day for BC," says Darin Heisler, ASCT, President of ASTTBC. *"The province has a skills shortage, and suspending any technology program now, will just make it worse down the road."*

John Bowman, President of CNC said *"The College is very appreciative of the support that ASTTBC has provided to CNC, the Forest Resource Technology program and students."*

BCIT Holds Green Roof Open House

Green roofs provide a natural solution to urban environmental problems. This monthly open house includes an introduction to historical and global case studies of green roofs, the different types, the various benefits, and barriers to their implementation. BCIT Green Roof Research Facility, 555 Great Northern Way, Vancouver, BC

Free; every third Thursday of the month 3:00 - 5:00 pm
www.greenroof.bcit.ca

Kamloops May See Technology High School

School District 73 in Kamloops is making an application to the Ministry of Education to establish the Norkam Secondary Trades and Technology Centre. ASTTBC provided a letter of support. *"One of my personal goals as President of ASTTBC is to make more kids aware of technology careers,"* says Darrin Heisler, ASCT. *"A technology high school would be a natural, given the success of BEST."* BEST is the acronym for the Bert Edwards Science and Technology School, an initiative that ASTTBC also endorsed. Two kindergarten classes have been added for BEST for September 2008 which will eventually double the School's exit Grade 7's.

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

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. bcjpi.asttbc.org

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. Expertise covers the 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. www.bdibc.bc.ca

On Site Wastewater

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. A Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP) is registered with ASTTBC in four main classifications: planner, installer, maintenance provider, and private inspector. owrp.asttbc.org

In The News

The Chief Operating Officer of the BC Safety Authority, Catherine Roome, PEng, was named a 2008 Influential Woman in Business by Business in Vancouver. In announcing the award, BCSA noted that Catherine is a 'leader, collaborator and mentor... strategic thinker who has had a positive impact on the organization and its employees.' ASTTBC extends its congratulations.

TechPRO - John Macgregor-Skinner, ASCT

Who would have thought an ASTTBC member would end up working on the world-famous Sydney Opera House? John Macgregor-Skinner, ASCT, Executive Officer with Northern Rivers Private Forestry in Australia, did just that.

Before he became involved with the forest industry, John worked on the construction of Warragamba Dam, now Sydney's main water supply. He won an educational scholarship and was given leave by his employer to travel to Canada... a move that changed his life. He enrolled in BCIT and, graduating in 1969, won the Council of Forest industries silver medallion. He would have stayed in Canada except, under the terms of the scholarship, he had to return to Australia. One thing he did hold on to was his registration as an ASCT.

"I returned to my employment just in time to participate in the Company's submission of a tender to supply all of the timber laminated flooring and wall panels to the Sydney Opera House." he says. "At the time in Australia, timber laminating was in its genesis. With the contribution of my recently acquired knowledge the tender was successful and I subsequently managed the plant that fabricated the 134,000 square feet of engineered and decorative material."

John Macgregor-Skinner, ASCT, went on to become general manager of a forest products plant that included the largest drying complex in the southern hemisphere and the first continuous feed, radio frequency cured glue laminated beam manufacture.

Now approaching 65, he is looking forward to pursuing his interests of full-bore rifle shooting, running, cycling plus spending more time with grandchildren.

ASTTBC members... Want to share your career story? Contact editor@asttbc.org about the possibility of an article in ASTT News or ASTT e-News.

And remember... every ASTTBC member can post his/her profile on the TechPRO section of the ASTTBC web site at www.techprofile.ca

TechTIPS

'TechTIPS' is a new feature in ASTT e-News to pass along a variety of information that members may find helpful in their daily lives.

TechFLEX – Neck Stretches While Sitting at Desk

While sitting up straight at your desk hook one hand under the edge of the chair, lean head away from anchoring hand and use your other hand on head to gently increase the stretch. You should feel a pull in the side of your neck but no pain. Hold this position for 30 seconds then switch sides and repeat. Next, keep shoulders back and down while dropping your head forward. You should feel a pull down the back of your neck and between your shoulder blades. Hold this position for 30 seconds. Doing these stretches three times a day will help decrease neck and shoulder tension and tension headaches.

Courtesy of Madeline McIntyre, Registered Massage Therapist, Nanoose Bay, BC. Phone (250) 468-5368. If you wish to ask a question about massage therapy, e-mail montevista.rmt@hotmail.com

TechLINKS

- National Technology Benchmarks Forum. The Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists has created a 'discussion board' that lets stakeholders provide comments, feedback and suggested changes on the new Benchmarks. <http://forum.cctt.ca>
- Environmental Protection Technology Co-op students. Hire co-op students from Kwantlen University College to meet your needs this summer. Students are in an ASTTBC-recognized, nationally accredited program. Available for 12-16 weeks beginning May 2008. www.kwantlen.ca/calendar/academic_divisions/sci/enprot.html
- Hazardous Waste Regulation Review. Ministry Of Environment. The HWR review seeks input from professionals. www.env.gov.bc.ca/epdiv/env_mgt_act/index
- Environment Bulletin 2008 by the BC Business Council focuses on growing world energy demands, energy supply and implications for government plans to reduce GHGs. www.bcbc.com/Documents/EBv2n1.pdf
- 2008 Awards Call for Nominations. BC Innovation Council. Celebrating leaders whose contributions establish BC as a world-class innovation centre. Submission deadline May 30 2008. www.bcinnovationcouncil.com
- 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 is by Ken Kunka, ASCT, RBO. The March issue highlights items to be aware of when preparing to buy or build or renovate within the Okanagan, etc. www.flywheelbuildingcoach.com

TechEVENTS

- 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
- Project Management; April 14 - 15 2008, Nanaimo; May 5 - 6, Prince George. Successful projects are achieved by using a team approach in planning, scheduling, monitoring, and evaluating projects. Sponsored by APEGBC. www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/project_mgmt_nanaimo.html
www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/project_mgmt_pg.html
- 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
- The Market for Walkable Urban Development, April 25 2008, Vancouver. Evening presentation by Christopher B. Leinberger, Metropolitan Land Strategist and Developer of The Brookings Institution, Washington DC. Admission free. <http://www.sfu.ca/city>
- 3rd Angel Forum, April 29 2008, Vancouver. Bringing both tech and non-tech companies at the 'starting sales' stage or 'established sales' stage together with private investors. Sponsored by PriceWaterhouseCoppers, TSX Venture Exchange and BDC. www.angelforum.org
- CONNIE Awards Gala, May 1 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
- IAQ and Housing Durability, May 13-15 2008, Richmond, BC. Save - early registration discount for ASTTBC or BCIPi members. www.iaqresourcescanada.com
- CEBC Annual Golf Tournament, May 22 2008, Vancouver. www.cebc.org
- ASTTBC Annual General Meeting, May 23 2008, Langley. Business session, workshops, awards luncheon and reception. Help kick off celebrations for ASTTBC's 50th Anniversary! www.asttbc.com
- Association of Canadian Community Colleges Annual Conference, May 25 – 27 2008, Prince George. 'Forests of Change', helping to shape a new direction. conference.accc.ca/2008/index_e.htm

- Personal Leadership for Peak Performance, May 27 2008, Nanaimo, BC. Join international speaker Brian Tracy. www.briantracy.com
- 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
- Pacific NorthWest Economic Region 18th Annual Summit, July 20 – 24 2008, Vancouver. PNWER is the regional planning and facilitation organization set up in statute by the border states and provinces to deal with trans-boundary policy and planning in the Pacific Northwest. www.pnwer.org
- 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
- 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