



ASTT e-News, March 2009

Dear Member,

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 AGM Set For May 22

The ASTTBC Annual General Meeting will be held Friday, May 22 2009 at the Delta Hotel & Conference Centre in Burnaby. As well as the AGM business meeting, the day will include a session on economic projections and ASTTBC's responses to the global slow down; workshops on technical topics from risk management to career development; an awards luncheon, continental breakfast, a Meet Council coffee reception; and presentation of the new Top In Technology Awards. RSVP by May 11. Watch for the AGM registration form in the next issue of ASTT News, or check out the AGM invitation video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afUBejbdTLI>

Top In Technology Award

Nomination deadline April 15 2009

ASTTBC will be making its first 'Top In Technology Award' presentations at our Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 22 at the Delta Burnaby Hotel. Make plans to attend!

Do you know of someone who is deserving of the new 'Top In Technology Award'? Are you deserving of this award? We encourage members to nominate themselves or others.

This award will recognize members whose work has been consistent with the high expectations of a professional committed to serving the public, and who have acted as a role model to other British Columbians.

Attributes typical of a nominee could include:

- Mentor / role model
- Demonstrates leadership – excels in his/her field
- Entrepreneurial attitude
- Promotes technology careers
- Uses and/or promotes new technologies
- Volunteers in the community or profession
- Elected to public office
- A new graduate who shows exceptional promise as a technology professional.

Nominations should be submitted by April 15 2009 to the ASTTBC Awards Committee for review and follow-up. Award Nominations are then presented to Council for final approval.

www.asttbc.org/about/awards/topintech.php

Need A House Inspector?

ASTTBC-registered house and property inspectors meet the new government requirements for licensing. 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. bcipi.asttbc.org/contact.php

Editor's Note: To see a feature on home inspections in British Columbia visit

www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0zaxm0utzU

House Inspector Assessments Required

The government has made licensing of House Inspectors mandatory as of March 31 2009 in BC. A major component of ASTTBC's House & Property Inspection certification policy is the completion of Inspection Assessments by each candidate. Inspection Assessments require a candidate to inspect a dwelling that has also been done by an Inspection Assessor. These assessments are essentially field competency audits. The assessor's review of the candidate's report provides a pass or fail result. Prior to March 31 2009, the 30 members who already hold CHI [P] certification must complete one successful inspection assessment; each of the 43 new members registered to date are required to do two successful assessments; and 20 of our current Inspector-In-Training members have been approved for three assessments. This means that, without counting any additional new applicants, ASTTBC/BCIPI must conduct 175 Inspection Assessments. This is a large task on a tight time frame. To facilitate the process, the Association has rented two houses for the required 'in-the-field' assessment component of the certification process. Twenty-five field assessments were conducted in one three-day period.

Editor's Note: Any CHI [P] or IIT's that have not booked for field assignments are encouraged to do so as soon as possible by contacting Peter Link at plink@asttbc.org

Minister Talks About Licensing At BCIPI AGM

Honorable John van Dongen, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, was the keynote speaker at the annual general meeting of the BC Institute of Property Inspectors on February 21.

Effective March 31 2009, all house inspectors must be licensed in British Columbia. This is a first in Canada. In addressing more than 60 BCIPI members, and some two-dozen guests from the National Association of Certified Home Inspectors, Minister van Dongen stated "*I think this new model will work well helping to stabilize your sector and protecting the consumer.*" He told the group "*I want to recognize the work you do, your professionalism and your contribution to making this happen.*"

Peter Link, CTech, CPI, ASTTBC's staff liaison with the BC Institute of Property Inspectors, expects up to 75 new applications will be submitted for review and certification with the ASTTBC house and property inspection program during the next few months. *"I handed out 40 application forms at the BCIPPI AGM alone,"* he says.

BCIPPI President Noel Murphy added that licensing is a first step to a higher quality of service for all British Columbians seeking house inspection services. *"On behalf of BCIPPI, I am pleased that the government has acted to license inspectors,"* he said. *"Because of the high standards established by ASTTBC in partnership with BCIPPI, in my opinion our members are among the best qualified in BC to offer services as house inspectors and they will certainly be sought out by consumers".*

Forest Measurements Group Transfers To ABCFP

Executives from ASTTBC and the Association of BC Forest Professionals have finalized the details to transfer the Forest Measurements Registration Board and certification program from ASTTBC to ABCFP. *"I am pleased with the progress on this initiative and am confident ASTTBC will make the transfer by the end of April 2009,"* said ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech, ASCT, CAE, who has been the staff resource since its inception. ABCFP CEO Sharon Glover and John Leech expressed their collective appreciation to the ABCFP and ASTTBC staff and volunteers who have worked diligently to address key issues such as an acceptable scope of practice and transfer arrangements. FMRB Chair, Ron Mecredy, ATE, RFT indicated his appreciation for the smooth process. *"I am pleased with the outcome and appreciative of the effort by all involved. I am confident that the Accredited Timber Evaluators and Accredited Timber Cruisers will be well served with this move,"* he said. The FMRB was conceived by Alec Orr-Ewing, RFT, ATE, and John Leech about 18 years ago. Alec served as the first Chair. Tim Giesbrecht, ATE, who followed Alec as the Chair and continues to serve as the Chair of the Timber Cruising Certification Committee, weighed in on the transfer. *"I applaud the hard work and dedication of ASTTBC as the founder of the program,"* said Giesbrecht. *"ASTTBC believed in the need for certification of cruisers and other forest measurements practitioners and never wavered from their commitment and service to the public, employers and members."* Jeff Kerley, RFT, ATE, from Kerley & Associates Forestry Consulting Ltd. wrote to say *"Congratulations on the transfer of FMRB to ABCFP, and thank you for all your work on this over the years. I know we cruisers were a very small part of ASTTBC. Despite that, your hard work on the file was evident at meetings I attended."*

CPD Log Goes On-line

ASTTBC has developed a new web-based system allowing members to record their own Continuing Professional Development activities on-line. The CPD policy and the web site have been modified to accommodate the new process. Start recording your professional development activities in the on-line CPD Log Book today! Members login through the CPD policy page at www.asttbc.com/practice/cpd/cpd_policy.php

Bringing Employers And Members Together

CTEN, the Canadian Technical Employment Network, is a 24/7 online job network that brings skilled technology professionals together with prospective employers across Canada. It is restricted to members of ASTTBC and our sister associations, giving employers access to a pool of pre-qualified technology professionals. Members, if you are looking for work, post your profile today at no charge. Employers, advertise job openings at very reasonable rates. www.cten.ca

ASTTBC To Provide Services In Response To Global Crisis

ASTTBC Executive Director John Leech, ASCT, CAE, announced a series of new and enhanced services designed to assist all members during these challenging financial times. '20 x 2012 - Future Success Through Innovation Today' outlines 20 specific initiatives to be delivered by ASTTBC in the next three years. *"ASTTBC will take a leadership role in developing a few new programs as well as enhancing existing programs to better serve members in these difficult financial times,"* said Leech. *"We are already rolling on some of these initiatives and are now working on several*

others which will roll out in 2009." Resource limitations will not allow all programs to come on line in 2009, so they will be spread over the next two or three years. Stay tuned to ASTT e-News and the ASTTBC web site for updates. The plan can be viewed at www.asttbc.org/docs/global.pdf. ASTTBC welcomes any addition suggestions; please email your ideas to techinfo@asttbc.org

Council Clarifies Policy For Access To Insurance Coverage

On February 19, 2009 ASTTBC Council approved the following policy:

Members who seek coverage under the ASTTBC Liability Insurance Plan who are offering, directly to the public, services normal to a technical specialist discipline, in which ASTTBC certifies and registers, must be certified in the appropriate discipline by ASTTBC before such coverage is granted.

It has been a long-held practice that ASTTBC members seeking insurance through the Association's Errors & Omissions insurance plan must have appropriate certifications with ASTTBC. This new directive by Council adds clarity for any members who are working in technical specialist areas. It means that ASTTBC members registered as ASCt or CTech must also hold certification as a 'technical specialist' if they are offering services in one of ASTTBC's nine technical specialist disciplines: building design, construction safety, fire protection inspection and testing, house and property insurance, public works inspection, onsite wastewater, site improvements surveying, steel detailing and timber cruising. Visit www.asttbc.com/practice/docs/InsuranceAccess.pdf

New Health & Dental Options Well Received

The new member service made available through Olympia Trust Company is being well received by ASTTBC members. Since the introduction of the program in February of this year, more than 200 members have expressed interest in the new program with several companies joining already. The new program provides a completely different option for smaller sized firms and consultants, has no monthly premiums and provides 100% coverage on just about everything your family may need. Contact Olympia Trust for plan details and discounts for ASTTBC members. Visit www.olympiatrust.com/asttbc or call 1-800-727-4493.

Professional Regulation To Be Enhanced

In May 2009, a comprehensive plan related to new initiatives for registration with ASTTBC and for professional practice will be submitted to Council for discussion and approval in principle. The Professional Regulation Enhancement Program 2012, or 'PREP2012', represents an ambitious initiative that will address the Association's professional obligations to government, the public and members for the near future. The plan will be done in stages between now and 2012. It addresses the following subjects:

- New categories of certification: RTMgr; PTech; implementation of new 'restricted categories' of membership
- A Technology Credential Assessment & Continuing Education Course database
- Full implementation of the National Technology Benchmarks
- New Professional Practice Examinations
- Reporting for Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Development of a policy for a Professional Assessment Program.

In addition 'PREP2012' proposes new initiatives for consumer protection and public responsibility by members such as further improving the ASTTBC Errors & Omissions insurance and general liability insurance.

Government Liaison Continues

ASTTBC representatives continue to meet with government officials, either in pre-arranged meetings or informally at science and technology events. Some recent discussions include:

- **Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General**, John van Dongen, met with British Columbia

Institute of Property Inspectors leaders Noel Murphy, CTech, CHI, and Ken McNames, CTech, CHI, on the day of the Government announcement requiring licensing of house inspectors. The Minister had asked to meet with BCIPI, ASTTBC, National Association of Certified Home Inspectors and other stakeholders to advise of the Government's announcement and ask for the support of all groups to put the new licensing regime in place.

- **Minister of Housing and Social Development**, Rich Coleman, met with the ASTTBC Registrar and the Executive Director to discuss building practices and legislation.
- **Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development**, Murray Coell, while at an Economic Summit in northern BC, spoke with ASTTBC representatives Pirie Elliot, ASCT, RPF and John Leech, ASCT, CAE about technology education and national standards.
- **Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure**, Kevin Falcon, talked to the ASTTBC Executive Director during the Economic Summit in Prince George about a number of topics including the role of technologists, technicians and technical specialists in the planned infrastructure projects and the need for professional legislation that fully 'enables' all qualified practitioners.
- **Minister of Small Business, Technology & Economic Development**, Ida Chong participated with John Leech, ASCT, CAE, in presenting an iPod to a delegate at the Economic Summit in Prince George. The Minister took a moment out of her busy day to speak with John Leech about ASTTBC's role in developing the human capital needed to ensure a vibrant economy, especially in central and northern BC.
- **Minister of Community Development**, Kevin Krueger, also met with John Leech and Pirie Elliot while attending the Economic Summit in Prince George. They spoke about the role of ASTTBC members in community development and services, the need to change the Architects Act to recognize ASTTBC members, the importance of national accreditation to ensuring portability of credentials, and ASTTBC's 50 year contribution to the growth and development of British Columbia.

Meanwhile, the ASTTBC Executive Director and other board members from the Technology Education & Careers Council, an initiative that was fostered by ASTTBC, met with three ministers:

- **Minister of Education and Deputy Premier**, Shirley Bond
- **Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development**, Ida Chong
- **Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development**, Murray Coell

ASTTBC Writes Minister van Dongen On House Inspection Licensing

The ASTTBC Council sent a congratulatory note to Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, John van Dongen, on the BC Government's decision to require house inspectors to be licensed. ASTTBC Council also outlined a few areas requiring attention in order to ensure the highest possible standards for professional regulation and consumer protection. See ASTTBC's letter at www.asttbc.org/docs/ministerletter.pdf

Minister Coell Meets TECC

Members of the Technology Education and Careers Council met with Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, Murray Coell, to update the Minister on TECC's first six months of operations. The Minister had been a keynote speaker at the launch of TECC held at Science World in June 2008. The most recent meeting with the Minister was attended by TECC Chair, Sandy Innes who is also a Vice President of TELUS; Andrew Hay, Vice President, Okanagan College; Don Wright, President, BCIT; MJ Whitmarsh, CEO, Canadian Home Builders Association (BC); and John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director of ASTTBC. The representatives from TECC outlined the key goals for the strategic-planning group during its self-imposed three-year mandate. They stressed the need for technology education funding to be tied to market needs and the real need to revitalize technology programs in Prince George and northern BC. *"The Minister was very open to receiving an update from TECC,"* said Sandy Innes. *"Minister Coell indicated general support for the goals set by TECC and promised to work with us to address issues relating to technology education and careers. I am confident TECC has established a constructive working relationship with the Minister and that, together, we will maintain a vibrant and sustainable technology education system in BC."*

R. Littledale Memorial Award

ASTTBC's R. Littledale Memorial Award recognizes an outstanding member who has made a substantial contribution to the well-being of the Association as recognized by their peers. Volunteers are the life-blood of ASTTBC and many individuals contribute time and expertise to the Association. This prestigious award is only given when Council wishes to recognize someone who has gone the 'extra mile' for the Association over the long-haul.

"I worked with Dick Littledale when I first started at ASTTBC, then SETBC, in 1974," says John Leech, ASCT, CAE, Executive Director. "So I know first-hand of his passion and commitment, his strong leadership as a technologist and as a member of ASTTBC and of our national federation which he helped form."

Jeannie Littledale, daughter of Dick Littledale, is now a Senior HR Advisor, Corporate Human Resources with WorkSafeBC. She saw an article on the R. Littledale Award in a recent issue of ASTT News. *"It was really heart-warming to see that the ASTTBC has the R. Littledale Memorial Award. My father passed away in 1977. I know he put a lot of heart and soul into the ASTTBC. It's great to see others are being recognized for their special contribution with an award in his name."*

She gave the ASTTBC newsletter to brothers Charles and Matt Littledale. *"I know one has already passed it on to his kids so they can see what their grandpa was up to!"* she said.

School District 69 Science Fair

Nancy Fowler, ASCT, who is an ASTTBC Council Director, and her husband Bruce, volunteered as judges at the School District 69 Science Fair in Parksville on March 6 2009. There were 169 projects presented by students from Grade 2 to 8. *"We were absolutely amazed at the level of detail and professionalism,"* says Nancy. *"It was exciting to see the number of female presenters, it appeared that they outnumbered the boys. Now we just have to figure out how we keep the focus on science and technology as these students progress through high school."*

Task Group Publishes Energy Article

The Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists, the Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta and ASTTBC are working together through an Environment Task Group. The group produced an article titled 'Energy Plans for the Future' that was published in the February 2009 issue of the 'Ontario Technologist' magazine.

Kerri Trace, BSc, ASCT, a Civil Technologist with Stantec in Victoria, is ASTTBC's representative on the task group. *"One of our goals is to provide information on topical environmental issues such as new building technologies for example, and to see how we can work with other green associations,"* Kerri says. *"Our next articles will focus on water and wastewater technologies, brownfields and carbon trading and taxing."*

The group is looking for experts in the field to contribute their technical expertise and knowledge in these areas. Are you interested in volunteering as a technical resource to the Environment Task Group? Contact Kerri Trace, BSc, ASCT, at kerri.trace@stantec.com

TechPRO – Pirie Elliot, ASCT, RPF

Pirie Elliot, ASCT, RPF, accepted a one-year teaching appointment at the College of New Caledonia and ended up staying 29 years. So he sees the current trend at colleges to move away from offering technology programs as worrisome.

"Technologists are often invisible," he says. *"Government, industry and educators all talk university programs or trades and they overlook the importance of the two-year technology program."*

Pirie's own career was built on a love for the 'hands on' technical aspect of forestry. Following in his father's footsteps, he got a summer job in the woods on Queen Charlotte Islands. BCIT had just

been established and Pirie was among the third graduating class to come out of the new technical institute. Increasing career responsibilities in the forest sector took him first to northern Vancouver Island, then Golden, Burns Lake, Rocky Mountain House and finally to Prince George in 1979.

At the time Pirie graduated there was a separate association for forest technologists but this was soon merged with the association that would become ASTTBC, allowing Pirie to get his ASCT designation. While he was building his career, he also undertook the pupil program through the Association of BC Professional Foresters and got his designation as an RPF.

In 2008 Pirie Elliot, ASCT, RPF, was asked to serve as the representative for both ASTTBC and ABCFP on the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board. CTAB sets the national benchmarks for technology programs and conducts accreditation audits at colleges and institutes across Canada. "CTAB assesses how well programs meet national standards plus the needs of students and industry," he says. "As the CTAB rep I am not limited to just forestry so I am learning a lot about other disciplines and it is fascinating."

CTAB is in the process of updating the National Technology Benchmarks. During the coming year CTAB will also conduct 77 accreditation reviews across the country. "I encourage ASTTBC members to look at the Benchmarks," he says. "Tech's comments are valuable and appreciated and help us make sure the Benchmarks reflect industry needs." He also encourages members to volunteer for accreditation reviews. The time commitment is not onerous and he feels it is a great way to get involved in ASTTBC. "For most of my membership in ASTTBC I was part of the silent majority," he says. "Now that I am involved and going out to things like the AGM I am getting a lot more out of being a member."

As a former instructor, Pirie Elliot, ASCT, RPF, also knows the value of people working in industry coming into the classroom to talk to the students. "Graduates who went on to a successful career have a lot to share with students," he says. "It helps the students realize that their diploma is a starting point, it is up to the individual from there."

Editor's Note: To volunteer for an accreditation team contact Pat Larsson, Assistant to the Registrar at plarsson@asttbc.org

Vancouver Whitecaps 2009 Season Tickets Available at Partner Discount Rates Now!

The Vancouver Whitecaps FC, recently announced as the newest MLS expansion team, have partnered with ASTTBC to provide its members the opportunity to obtain 2009 Season Tickets at discounted rates. As an added bonus, ASTTBC members purchasing a Whitecaps FC season ticket package will automatically be placed at the front of the line for seats for the 2011 season!

Contact Tom Tompkins at 778-330-1366 for more information on how you can get your discounted Season Tickets and to secure a spot to get a seat(s) for the 2011 Major League Soccer season. Don't forget to mention you're an ASTTBC member.

TechLINKS

- **National Technology e-Newsletter.** 'Innovation', published by the Canadian Council of Technicians & Technologists, allows Canada's technology professionals to see themselves in a national context; to learn of developments at the level of the federation of all provincial associations; and to better appreciate the contributions that technicians and technologists make to the economy. To subscribe visit maillist.cctt.ca/?p=subscribe&id=6
- **BIG Little Invitational Science Day Camp.** Camp #6 for elementary students at the BIG Little Science Centre in Kamloops will be on May 15 2009. This camp is sponsored by ASTTBC. Administrators or teachers wishing to reserve spots for your school, please e-mail Gordon Gore at grgore@telus.net
- **Mentor Volunteer Positions.** S.U.C.C.E.S.S. is a community-based multi-service organization for the promotion of the well being of new immigrants. Its mentor volunteer program matches Canadian residents with newcomer professionals to help acquaint them with the Canadian job

market and provide guidance in entering their field in Canada. It requires 2 to 3 hours once a week for three months. S.U.C.C.E.S.S currently needs a mentor in the field of tech support to aid a newcomer with an overseas background in this discipline. Please contact: Jessica-Ann Dozois, HM Coordinator, jessica.dozois@success.bc.ca

TechEVENTS

- **BC Leadership Lunch**, April 7 2009, Vancouver. Premier Gordon Campbell will speak on 'Leadership In Tough Times'. Sponsored by the BC Chamber of Commerce, Business Council of BC and Vancouver Board of Trade. www.bcleadershiplunch.com
- **Camosun/VIATeC Trades & Technology Career Fair**, April 9 2009, Victoria. Sponsored by VIATeC and presented in partnership with Camosun's School of Trades & Technology, this year's Career Fair will bring together specialist employers, Camosun's skilled students and alumni to network and discuss career opportunities within their organizations. To register email employ@camosun.bc.ca
- **BOABC 54th Annual Education Conference and Trade Show**, May 3 - 6 2009, Nelson. Includes workshops and golf tournament. Co-sponsored by the City of Nelson and the Regional District of Central Kootenays. www.boabc.org
- **EPIC: The Vancouver Sun Sustainable Living Expo**, May 8 - 10 2009, Vancouver. Vancouver's only green-living tradeshow and eco-marketplace. www.epicvancouver.com
- **National Engineering Summit**, May 19 - 21 2009, Montreal. An opportunity to identify, with the engineering profession, steps to affect positive change for a healthier, cleaner, safer, more competitive and sustainable Canada in a global society. general@taylorandassociates.ca
- **Bright Futures Canada Conference**, May 19 - 20 2009, Toronto. How to address 25,000 electricity personnel retiring within the next 6 years. Sponsored by the Electricity Sector Council. www.brightfutures.ca
- **ASTTBC AGM**, May 22 2009, Burnaby. Details to follow, please mark your calendars now. www.asttbc.org
- **BC Land Summit 'A Better Future: Adapting to Change'**, May 20 - 22 2009, Whistler. Workshops, panels and speakers of interest to BCSLA members and other allied professionals. www.bclandsummit.com/register/index.html
- **GEE 2009**, June 10-12, 2009, Vancouver. GEE 2009 is the 9th Canada-France-Japan-Korea joint conference on Geo-Environmental Engineering. This conference will bring together industry, regulatory, and academic professionals from the disciplines of geotechnical, geological, hydro-geological, mining, chemical and environmental engineering, biology, and toxicology to seek new solutions to technical and regulatory issues regarding geo-environmental engineering and contaminated sites. gee2009.civil.ubc.ca
- **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

Note: For links to seminars listed on the web sites of other associations, visit www.asttbc.org/services/cpd/seminars.php
