

Canadian Society for  
Civil Engineering



Société canadienne  
de génie civil



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## WELCOME

This is the last President's e-letter from yours truly. The next edition will be from our next President, Reg Andres, who will be installed at the AGM in Montreal on May 31. This edition also marks the end of three years of the President's e-letter, which was first introduced by then-President Vic Perry in 2010 as a way for the President to maintain some sort of regular contact with the Society's membership. While the format of the letter has morphed a bit since Vic's first e-letter, in part a reflection of the various Presidents' personal styles, I am hopeful that the constant has been the regular communication it has provided directly with the membership. That has certainly been our goal!

Given that this is my last such communication with our membership, I take this opportunity to thank those members who have written to me with feedback on either the President's e-letter or the President's Perspective articles featured in Canadian Civil Engineer magazine. Your messages have been greatly appreciated, perhaps if for no other reason than to allow me to know that my messages have been heard! Although I will make a more formal statement at the upcoming AGM, let me also say to all of you that I have appreciated the privilege afforded to me to be the CSCE President this year; I have been honored to serve in this role.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

In mid-May, I had occasion to attend and bring opening remarks at the CSCE's 21<sup>st</sup> Canadian Hydrotechnical Conference held in Banff, AB. The theme of the conference was "Recent flood management lessons in Canada." Mike Bender, the conference chair, and his organizing committee are to be commended for a job very well done! Some of the conference statistics included: 170 registrants (including delegates from 6 countries other than Canada and from 7 of our provinces), 4 short courses, 6 plenary presentations, and 67 paper presentations. And all of this was held in a wonderful conference venue, the Banff Springs Hotel.

One of the delegates to the hydrotechnical conference was Charlie Neill of Edmonton, who is well-known in Canada's hydrotechnical community. I make special mention of Charlie as he was one of the organizers of the first CSCE hydrotechnical conference, which was held in Edmonton in 1973 and was the first of all CSCE specialty conferences. In addition, I am pleased to say that Charlie was an author of one of the conference papers, he was the 1981 recipient of the Society's Camille A. Dagenais Award, the third recipient of CSCE's premier hydrotechnical engineering award, and he was one of my early mentors as I started my working career many years ago. Congratulations Charlie, and thank you!

On May 9, I had occasion to attend the annual dinner and general meeting of my home section, the Saskatoon Section. Following a delightful German-style dinner, we were treated to an excellent presentation on the oilsands of northern Alberta by Prof. Lee Barbour. The annual meeting followed. What is of interest to note is that the majority of the Section executive comprises Associate Members; I am very proud of the leadership role that these younger members are taking in the Society.

### **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

I will be attending the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) Board meeting in Montreal on May 26. I will also attend EIC's climate change conference (CCTC 2013), which follows, as well as the institute's Award's Gala on May 28. Four of our members will be receiving Fellow Awards in EIC, while one will be receiving a career award. I very much look forward to congratulating the recipients for the honors received.

On May 29, the opening day of the annual conference, I will be participating in our annual Operations Workshop, along with several other senior executive members and our Executive Director. This workshop is intended for all leaders of the Society, including Section chairs, committee and division chairs, and others.

Of course, the upcoming CSCE annual conference in Montreal is a major event for all of us in the Society and one which I particularly look forward to enjoying. As I reflect back on my time as a CSCE member, and if my memory has not failed me, this will be my 27<sup>th</sup> CSCE annual conference, the first one being in 1979. At the Montreal conference, I will be participating in the two historic site commemorations, in presiding over our annual general meeting, and in being host at the Awards Banquet.

I am pleased that we will soon be renewing the long-standing agreement that we have had with our sister civil engineering society, the American Society of Civil Engineers. ASCE President, Greg DiLoreto, will join me in signing the agreement, along with our executive directors, Doug Salloum and Patrick Natale, at our upcoming annual conference in Montreal. Among other things, the agreement provides for a \$25 member discount for a member that wishes to also join the other society.

And last, but not least, I am going fishing ... (post President)!!

### **VISION 2020: Our plans for the future**

The three strategic directions that will guide and inform our decision-making over the next several years in realizing our mission and vision include:

- Strategic Direction #1: enhanced services to members (focus on improved

- programming for our members, including many of our traditional activities)
- Strategic Direction #2: growing with youth (focus on students and young professionals and their career development aspirations and needs)
- Strategic Direction #3: leadership in sustainable infrastructure (focus on the improvement of the planning, design, construction and maintenance of public infrastructure)

All members, and perhaps particularly those engaged in leading the Society, are encouraged to actively participate in helping us to take action to make the strategic directions come to life. It is the sum of all of our efforts that will result in meaningful impact on the vitality of our Society; please do not underestimate the importance of your contributions to our work!

### **WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES**

A total of 40 engineers and students attended the CSA-S850 course, Design and Assessment of Buildings Subjected to Blast Loads, in Vancouver and Calgary. As in other cities, the attendees rated the presentation very highly.

EIC 3<sup>rd</sup> Climate Change Technology Conference, Montreal, QC, May 27 – 29, 2013 ([www.cctc2013.ca](http://www.cctc2013.ca)).

CSCE annual conference, Montreal, QC, May 29 – June 1, 2013 ([www.csce2013.ca](http://www.csce2013.ca)). It would be great to see you at this event!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The CSCE as it exists today was established in 1972 following the restructuring of the Engineering Institute of Canada into a federation of member societies, each focused on a particular area of engineering practice. John Bell of Vancouver was declared the Founding President of CSCE, while Camille A. Dagenais of Montreal was the first elected President of the newly-formed constituent society.