



The 4th Dimension

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC
 Victoria Branch Newsletter
www.apeg.bc.ca/vic

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March 2005

A Year Away: an Engineering Student's Adventure in Scotland

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Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live and study overseas for a year? Craig Sutherland has first-hand experience in being an international student after having recently completed a Master of Science degree at the Heriot-Watt University and the University of Glasgow in Scotland. Like most Master's programs in the United Kingdom, this program is only one year long and consists of eight months of course modules taught by leading research specialists and a four month self-directed research project. This program was also unique in that the program was jointly offered by the University of Glasgow and Heriot-Watt University, giving students the opportunity to explore Scotland's two great cities. Craig will present some of the factors that went into his decision to travel to Scotland to study and his overall impression of the education he received.

As part of the MSc program, Craig completed a dissertation which investigated the impacts of climate change on snowpack dynamics and hydrology of the Scottish Highlands. This research involved downscaling output from global climate models to a regional scale which could then be used to analyze how changes in temperature and precipitation would influence snow accumulation and melt. He will discuss the methodology used to



Edinburgh Castle from Princess Street Gardens

APEGBC Victoria Branch
 c/o Falcon Engineering Ltd.
 626A Fisgard Street
 Victoria, BC V8W 1RC
 Email: vic@apeg.bc.ca
www.apeg.bc.ca/vic

complete the analysis as well as his results. Many of his conclusions also apply to snowpack here in British Columbia.

Of course, a year away was not without its adventures. To wrap things up, Craig will present an informal slideshow of photographs and recount some of his stories. These may even include tales of castles, knights and even haggis.

Dinner Meeting Presenter — Craig Sutherland, EIT

Craig Sutherland is a Water Resources Engineer with the Earth and Water group of UMA Engineering based in Victoria. Since 2001, Craig has been involved in several water resource studies and engineering projects. He has been involved in hydrodynamic modeling of floodplains for many areas in Southern BC including the Serpentine and Nicomekl Rivers in Surrey, the Sumas River in Abbotsford and the Fraser River Gravel Reach between Hope and Mission. In 2002, Craig was a member of the design team for the Raising of Sooke Reservoir project. His duties included the hydraulic design of the raised spillways at Sooke Reservoir and the adjacent Deception Reservoir, and the preparation of dam breach inundation maps which make up part of the Emergency Preparedness Plan for the facility.

In 2003 and 2004, Craig took a year's educational leave of absence from UMA to complete a Master of Science degree. He attended the Water Resource Engineering Management course at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow in Scotland. This course comprised of eight months of course work and a four month self-directed research project. Craig investigated the impact of climate change on snowpack dynamics and hydrology of a small mountain catchment in the Highlands of Scotland. This research involved the development of future weather scenarios and the application of a hydrological model which incorporated the effects of snow accumulation and melt. Craig has now returned to UMA Engineering and is continuing his career in water resource management.

Outside of work, Craig is a competitive dragon boat and outrigger canoe paddler. He is a member of the Gorging Dragons and has competed in the top division at the Victoria, Vancouver and Kelowna Dragon Boat Festivals. He also coaches novice paddlers in preparation for local festivals. When he has the time he also enjoys strapping on some skis, when there is snow, and strapping on hiking boots, when the hills are bare.

Images from Last Month's Dinner meeting



Special guests at last month's dinner meeting were the UVIC Formula SAE Team and Car



March Dinner Meeting Details

WHEN: **Thursday, March 31, 2005;** Social at 5:30 pm; Dinner at 6:30 pm; Presentations starts at 7:45 pm

WHERE: **Haro Room, Cadboro Commons, University of Victoria**
For directions and maps to the University of Victoria, link to <http://www.uvic.ca/maps/index.html>.
To find out where Cadboro Commons is on campus, link to <http://www.uvic.ca/buildings/ucl.html>
Parking is free of charge after 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and all day on Saturday.
Parking permits may be purchased during the day from vending machines located at most Campus entrances; also there are a limited number of metered spaces available in Lot 9, which is located adjacent to the Club.

COST: **General Admission \$20, Students \$10, Presentation Only \$5.00**

RVSP: Please register in advance via the telephone answering service at **721-8896 by TUESDAY, March 29**. Provide the names of those whom you are registering and your telephone number. If you cannot attend after registering, please call 884-7744 by NOON the day before the meeting and give notice of cancellation on the answering service. The branch pays for dinners for those who do not cancel. Friends, associates and partners are always welcome!

The Third Annual Richard Talbot Award

By Tom McLean PEng CFP, Talbot Fund Manager

Who was Richard Talbot?



Richard (Dick) Talbot believed strongly in the professionalism of Engineering, and was a strong supporter of the Victoria chapters of the EIC and the CSCE. He was also a mentor to many of our present members.

In 1995, the APEGBC planned to present him with the Professional Service Award, in recognition of his lifetime dedication to our association and other technical and community societies. Sadly, Dick died of cancer at the relatively young age of 64 that summer, just prior to the awards ceremony. The award was presented posthumously to his wife, Christine.

The Talbot Award - 2005

The Victoria Branch has a mandate to honour Dick's contribution in perpetuity, by making an award available yearly to a University of Victoria Engineering student.

We are pleased to announce the recipient of this year's award:

Robert Prinz, 4th year – Electrical Eng.

Robert now joins the esteemed list of prior recipients (short list, but growing!):

Magnus Charles McElroy, 4th year – Electrical Engineering
Thomas Owen, 4th year – **Mechanical Engineering**



From Left to right, Joshua Hayes, Robert Prinz (award winner), Christine Talbot, Tom McLean and Christine's daughters Fiona and JoAnn.

Financial Status of the Fund

Jan. 12, 2004	\$ 13695	Balance, held in 3 GICs
	505	Contributions + Gains during period
	500	Disbursement - 2004
<hr/>		
Jan. 4, 2005	<u>\$13,700</u>	Balance

Fund Management

On April 30, 2002 the Victoria Branch Executive mandated that the fund be actively managed, with objectives similar to pension management, i.e.:

- Long-term sustainability
- Capital preservation
- Optimized growth vs volatility
- Minimized / optimal tax implications

The evolution of this actively-managed fund is ongoing, and will be reported to the Executive and summarized in ***The 4th Dimension***.

Meetings Around Town

ASHRAE, Vancouver Island Chapter

Please check the ASHRAE, Vancouver Island Chapter for upcoming meetings [www.ashrae.bc.ca/vi.htm]

Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS)

Meetings are normally held the third Friday of each month from September to May, excluding December. Please see the website for details: <http://www.cgs.ca/english/reg-div/vic-loc.html#news>

Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC), Vancouver Island Branch

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday February 4, at the Travelers Inn, 1961 Douglas. For more information, please link to: <http://civil.camusun.bc.ca/vib-eic/>

Institute of Transportation Engineers (CITE), Vancouver Island Section

The February meeting is in Victoria at Travelers Inn (Between Douglas and Blanshard on Discovery St), www.citebc.ca.

Advertisements

While APEGBC-Victoria Branch is not in a position to endorse advertisements, we do provide them as a service to our members. The advertising rates are \$200 for eight continuous advertisements and \$30 for a single advertisement.

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Victoria Branch Executive

Chair

Joshua Hayes, EIT 480-1132
joshua_hayes@telus.net

Past Chair/Robot Competition

Greg Beaveridge, P.Eng 388-5312
beaverig@shaw.ca

Vice Chair

Sharlie Huffman, P.Eng 356-0761
Sharlie.Huffman@gems9.gov.bc.ca

Treasurer

Jan Abbott, GIT 656-0931
Jan.schuh@terraemote.com

Secretary

Sandra Taylor, P.Geo, Ph.D.
taylors@pacificcoast.net

Events Co-Ordinator

Gord Porritt, P.Eng 884-7744
gporritt@telus.net

Papers/Speakers

Tom McLean, P.Eng 475-3698
mc.vic@moneyconcepts.ca

Newsletter Editor

Cari Wells, EIT, Ph.D. 480-1132
cwells@tactex.com

UVIC and Certificates

Marilyn Kowalchuk, P.Eng 721-8651
marilyn_kowalchuk@yahoo.ca

Gold Foils

Bill Fraser, P.Eng 658-8525
fraser@fraserconsulting.com

MathChallengers

Jan Buermans, P.Eng. 656-0177
janbuermans@shaw.ca

Members-at-Large

Dave Bevan, P.Eng 477-5764
dmbevan@ii.ca

Henrik Jacobsen, P.Eng 383-8351
henrik.jacobsen@agti.ca

Brendan Simons, EIT 382-2177
brendansimons@yahoo.ca

Randal Slade, P.Eng 385-3713
rslade@falcon.ca