



Professional Engineers  
and Geoscientists of BC  
www.apeg.bc.ca

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# The 4th dimension

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

The October dinner meeting for the fall will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2005 in Queenswood Room at the Cadboro Commons Building, University of Victoria. Members are encouraged to attend to learn of the latest events from the Victoria Branch.

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### Speakers of the Month:

Do you want to be a successful entrepreneur? Come to listen to the speaker in this month's APEG Dinner Meeting on October 27th. The speaker is Mr. Erik Djukastein. His talk will be on: "Contech: a local Victoria success story". Mr. Djukastein is the co-founder of Contech Electronics Inc., a leader in the pet industry known for its award-winning Scarecrow outdoor animal-repelling sprinkler and its patented ScatMat, designed to keep animals off furniture. Contech Electronics Inc. was founded 17 years ago. Former President Erik Djukastein and his late father, Klaus Djukastein, made it the company's mission to improve harmony between animals and humans. Their focus on developing innovative new devices that really work has made Contech a leader in the pet industry. You want to learn more..... Come to our Dinner Meeting.

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## Events Details

**When:** **Thursday, October 27, 2005:** Social at 5:30 pm; Dinner at 6:30 pm

**Where:** **Queenswood Room**, Cadboro Commons Building, 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 Common Building is on campus, link to <http://www.uvic.ca/buildings/ucl.html>.

Parking is free of charge after 6:00 pm 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 is a limited number of metered spaces available in Lot 1, which is located close to the building.

**Cost:** **General Admissions** \$20.00, Students \$10.00. \$25.00 at the door.

**RSVP:** Please register in advance via the telephone answering service at **721-8896 by Tuesday, October 25**. Provide the name of those who you are registering and your telephone number. If you cannot attend after registration, please call **477-0151 by NOON** the day before the meeting and give notice of cancellation on the answering service. The branch pays for dinner for those who do not cancel. Friends, associates and partners are always welcome (pre-registration is required!) If you cannot join us for dinner, please come and join us for the presentation.

## Upcoming Events

### APEGBC, Victoria Branch

Victoria Branch dinner meetings are held the last Thursday night of every month from September to May excluding December. Meetings are usually held in the Cadboro Commons Building, University of Victoria and start at 5:30 p.m.

The next dinner meeting is at the Queenswood Room of the Cadboro Commons Building, University of Victoria.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Branch Executive meetings held every first Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the restaurant of the Cedar Hill Golf Course. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2005.

### Events

Oct 26-27/05. Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo/Canadian Public Works Expo – Focuses on the collection, hauling, processing and disposal of waste, materials recycling and municipal recycling programs. Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, Vancouver. *Information/registration:* [www.cwre.ca](http://www.cwre.ca).

Nov.3/05. Canadian Institute of Steel Construction – BC Region Steel Design Awards Reception. These awards celebrate ingenuity and innovation in the use of structural steel and platework. *Information/registration:* [www.cisc-icca.ca](http://www.cisc-icca.ca).

Jan 23-26/06. Mineral Exploration Roundup – Theme: “Striving for excellence in Exploration,” The BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines hosts one of the world’s premier mineral exploration events. Westin Bayshore Resort & Marina, Vancouver. *Information/registration:* [www.chamberofmines.bc.ca](http://www.chamberofmines.bc.ca).

## What is new?

Imagine you do not have to spend hours in a doctor's office to complete a comprehensive health check. Instead a small blood sample delivered to a nanotechnology machine will find out everything wrong with you, or better still what will be wrong in the future. Your doctor's task will be to prescribe the drugs tailored to your state of health. This is the idea of Dr. Leroy Hood, the president and co-founder of the Institute for Systems Biology, a non-profit organization based in Seattle, and a champion on marrying biology with technology. As he proposes, the Human Genome Project has already provided the "parts" for all the elements in a biological system. The next step is to create the mathematical models that represent the relationships between them. Once this is achieved, he reckons, it will revolutionize the entire health care system. All this of course cannot be done overnight. Dr. Hood has a good track record for success. He is a past faculty at Caltech, a co-founder of Applied Biosystems, the biggest life science instrument company in the world, and Amgen, the largest biotechnology firm in the world. His lab also originated the automated DNA sequencer. Don't be too surprised that your life will be increasingly in the hands of the technologists.

*Source: Economist, September 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>th</sup> issue.*

## Engineering in action

The audacious attempt is to provide a personal laptop computer to every school child – particularly in the poorest part of the world. This is the goal of a group of American techno-gurus called One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) headed by Nicholas Negroponte of the MIT Media Lab. To do so will require bringing the price of the laptop down to US\$100 (right now it is at around US\$130). Dr. Negroponte plans to display the first prototype in November at a UN summit. Interestingly enough, the laptop will be powered by batteries or a hand-crank.

Five countries – China, Brazil, Egypt, Thailand and South Africa have said that they will buy over 1m units each. Even the governor of Massachusetts said that the state should purchase one for every secondary-school student, when they become available.

Good news for the students.

*Source: Economist, October 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> issue.*

## Have Your Say!

Do you like our format? Do you have concerns or comments you like to voice? We love to hear from you and welcome any contributions to this newsletter, humorous or otherwise. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is October 28, 2005. Please send them to Harry Kwok, University of Victoria at [hkwok@ece.uvic.ca](mailto:hkwok@ece.uvic.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.

## Victoria Branch Executives

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**Money Concepts - Victoria**

**475-3698**

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