November 2005

The 4th dimension

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC
Victoria Branch Newsletter
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The November dinner meeting for the fall will be held on Thursday, November 24, 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:

OIL DEPLETION AND THE END OF THE CANADIAN DREAM

Please join us for our November 24 dinner meeting, which will include a timely focus on the impact that rising oil prices will have on our economy. This presentation will be in two parts:

- A movie during dinner, *The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream*, examines the lifestyles we take for granted in an era when we rely heavily on the petroleum industry for heating, transportation and energy. This movie includes the perspective of **Matthew Simmons**, chair of one of the world's largest energy investment banks, and author of *Twilight in the Desert – The Coming Saudi Oil Shock and the World Economy*
- A presentation follows by **Guy Dauncey**, author and founder of the BC Sustainable Energy Association. Guy specializes in developing a positive vision of a sustainable future, and translating that vision into action – see www.BCSEA

Your cooperation in reserving soonest is appreciated, since we anticipate a good response. Note that we have modified the times for this evening to allow for the two presentations:

- 5:30 pre-dinner meet and mingle
- 6:00 dinner and movie
- 8:00 presentation by Guy Dauncey

Events Details

When: **Thursday, November 24, 2005:** Social at 5:30 pm; Dinner at 6:00 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, November 22**. 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 December 5, 2005.

Events
APEGBC Professional Development Events: Upcoming seminars in November. For details, see http://apeg.bc.ca/prodev/prodevlopeventsframe.html.
APEGBC President's Awards recipients – For a list of the 2005 APEGBC President's Award recipients, refer to the Sept./Oct issue of Innovation, Journal of the association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC.
For the results of the 2005/2006 APEGBC Council Election and Bylaw results, see http://apeg.bc.ca/.
BC Technology Events: If you are interested in BC Technology events, see http://www.bctechnology.com/frameset_events.html

What is new?

"It is a whale of a contract at $39 million, but there is a whale of a job to be done," according to the October 21, 2005 issue of the Times colonists. The newspaper is referring to the Neptune Project at the University of Victoria involving burying 800 kilometers of cable in a loop out to the Pacific Ocean so images, measurements and other data can be sent instantly to the Internet. The project will allow land-based scientists to access and control scientific sensors and remotely operated vehicles and high-definition cameras. Of particular interest locally are signs of major earthquake off the West coast. Other issues are the management of fisheries, the global warming of the ocean, warning signs of tsunamis and the presence of El Nino.
Source: Times Colonists Newspaper: October 21, 2005.

Futuristic Engineering Project

"A Hoist to the Heavens – A space elevator could be the biggest thing to happen since the Stone Age, but can we build one?" This is the question raised in an article of the August Issue of IEEE Spectrum. The concept of a space elevator is to have a superstrong, lightweight cable stretching 100,000 kilometers from Earth's surface to a counter weight in space. Roomy elevator cars would speed along the cable. "For a fraction of the cost, risk, and complexity of today's rocket boosters, people and cargo would be whisked into space in relative comfort and safety," according to the article. The main argument to develop the space elevator is cost. The current payload cost of a rocket booster is about US$20,000 per kilogram, but in the ideal scenario this can come to below $10 per kilogram using the space elevator. The total price has been estimated to be an awesome $10 billion (for the proponents, this is only two-third of the annual budget of NASA). What is more, it was argued that: "… this can set the stage for the large-scale and sustainable exploration and colonization of the planets and begin to exploit solar power in a way that could significantly brighten the world's dimming energy outlook." The idea of space elevator is not new. Russian scientists Konstantin Tsiolkovsky proposed the basic concept more than a century ago. The gist is that at the time, no material in existence was strong enough for the cable. It was not until the discovery of the carbon nanotubes that at least in theory, a material 100 times as strong and one-sixth the density is found. Should the space elevator be built (estimated to take 10 years), if it is not the most expensive elevator, it will surely be the tallest.
Source: August 2005 Issue: IEEE Spectrum

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 November 25, 2005. Please send them to Harry Kwok, University of Victoria at hlkwok@ece.uvic.ca.

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