



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

# The 4th Dimension

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

Volume 6, Issue 4  
April 2006

The April dinner meeting will be held at 5:30 pm on Thursday, April 27 2006 in Queenswood Room at the Cadboro Commons Building, University of Victoria. Our speakers are **Mr. Jim Whyte**, Provincial Emergency response and **Mr. Ken Nielson**, City of Victoria Emergency Coordinator. They will speak on the topic of **Earthquake/Disaster – Emergency Response**. This presentation is a continuation of the earthquake hazard series, prompted by the recent natural disasters (Katrina and Rita), and the responses. Part 1 of this theme was September’s **Living on the Edge: Earthquake Assessment in the Victoria Area**, by **Dr. Pat Monahan**.

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**\*\*\* EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2006 –NEW REGISTRATION RULES \*\*\***  
You can still get the full evening with dinner for \$20 – if you register by **NOON, THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE DINNER MEETING**. Read the full options on Page 2.

### Speakers of the Month:

**Jim Whyte**, Manager of Operations for the Provincial Emergency Program of the Emergency Management of British Columbia is a Victoria native. He graduated from BCIT in 1974 in the area of Instrumentation and Systems, and has completed additional studies at UVIC and Selkirk College in Hydrology and Water Resource Management. During the past 25 years with the Ministry of Environment, Jim’s responsibilities included the management of a specific kind of environmental inventory: that of ground water and surface water. As a network specialist with the River Forecast Centre, he helped manage flood forecasting, monitoring, and flood response for the Ministry. During the past 5 years he has acted as Manager of Provincial Operations for the Provincial Emergency Program, coordinating provincial response to major events such as 2003 Wildfires, 2003 Fall Flooding, and 2005 Ice Jam Flooding.

**Ken Nielson** graduated from the Royal Roads Military College with a degree in combat systems engineering. He was previously posted to Canadian Air Forces Base at Comox, and was once awarded the order of merit. Ken also taught marine survival and wilderness survival and joined the West Coast’s Sea Survival School and was a member of the Engineering Department of the City of Victoria. He was forefront in the City’s response to the blizzard of “96”. Ken is now the Emergency Coordinator for the City of Victoria, and an instructor with the Justice Institute of British Columbia. He leads a team of volunteers and staff in preparing the City of Victoria to respond to, and recover from, major catastrophic or disastrous events in the region.

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### Events Details

**When:** **Thursday, April 27, 2006:** 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 Commons 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:** **Cost (dinner included except where noted):** Registered members and guests \$20.00 ea.; Students \$10.00 ea.; **Late registration:** \$25.00 ea.; Admission at the Door: \$30.00 ea.; Presentation-only \$5.00 ea. (dinner not included).

**RSVP:** Please register in advance via the telephone answering service at **721-8896** by **NOON Friday, April 21**. Provide the name of those who you are registering and your telephone number. Registration after **NOON Friday, April 21** but prior to **NOON, Monday, April 24** will be considered **Late registration**. If you register but can not attend, please call **477-0151** by **NOON** the day before the meeting and give notice of cancellation on the answering service (please note that the branch may have to pay for dinners that are not cancelled).

**You can also register on the web:** Visit <http://www.me.uvic.ca/APEG.htm> and register by **NOON Friday, April 21**. To complete the registration, please provide your name and phone number.

**Late registration** cost of \$25.00 ea. applies after **NOON Friday, April 21** and prior to **NOON, Monday, April 24**. Friends, Associates and partners are always welcome (pre-registration is recommended). 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 Queenswood Room, Cadboro Commons Building, University of Victoria.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Branch Executive meetings held every month at the restaurant of the Cedar Hill Golf Course. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 2, 2006.

#### Events

- May 25 - AGM of Victoria Branch, APEGBC.
- May 14-17 - CIM 2006 Mining Conference and Exhibition. Vancouver Convention Centre. *Information:* [www.cim.org/vancouver2006/](http://www.cim.org/vancouver2006/).
- May 17 - Camosun College South Island Robot Competition. *Information:* [www.elecx.camosun.bc.ca/robotics/sirc/index.html](http://www.elecx.camosun.bc.ca/robotics/sirc/index.html).
- June 7-8 - Electric Code Comparison. *Information:* <http://learningcentre.csa.ca>.
- June 19-23 – UN-Habitat World Forum III. *Information:* [www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006](http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006).
- Oct 1-4 – Sea to Sky Geotechnique. *Information:* [www.seatoskygeo.ca](http://www.seatoskygeo.ca).

## Photos of the March Dinner Meeting



Commemorating the Talbot Fund Scholarship event



Christine Talbot presenting award to Jason Wei.



Daniela Constantinsecu from DAWEG



Aurelia Jacobsen, Steve Sturrock and Dan Beck from EWB



Matt Burdyny from AUVic showing submarine hardware



Tony Kroeker from AUVic explaining control systems

*We thank Joshua Hayes who took these photos.*

## APEGBC Awards

### Call for Nomination

The Standing Awards Committee of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC is currently soliciting nominations of candidates for the 2006 President's Awards. These awards are a meaningful way to recognize the outstanding service and accomplishments of our members. They are presented at our October Annual General Meeting, and including the following:

- R.A. McLachlan Memorial Award
- C.J. Westerman Memorial Award
- Meritorious Achievement Award
- Professional Service Award
- Community Service Award
- Teaching Award for Excellence in Engineering and Geoscience

For reference, please view the Term of Reference

<<http://www.apeg.bc.ca/members/awards/2004%20Presidents%20Awards%20TOR.pdf>> and nomination form <<http://www.apeg.bc.ca/members/awards/pres-awards-nomination.PDF>> for these awards. Additional details and forms are available at the website at <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/members/awards.html> or can be obtained from the Association Office by contacting Shelley Bruins at 604-412-4860 or by email at [sbruin@apeg.bc.ca](mailto:sbruin@apeg.bc.ca). If you are unsure which award is best suited to your nominee, the Standing Awards Committee will make the choice. The deadline for submissions is April 21, 2006.

## Summary of the March Dinner Presentations

We were fortunate to have several speakers for the March Dinner Meeting. The first presentation was on the "Salary Seminar" which had been an initiative to help graduating engineering students to take their first step towards becoming an integral part of the professional engineering community in Greater Victoria. Dr. Daniela Constantinescu highlighted that the seminar would be a 3-part presentation followed by a student-industry networking session. Although targeted primarily at female senior undergraduate students and young professionals, the event welcomed their male colleagues, too. She mentioned that during the seminar, students and young professionals learned what fair compensation was for them as engineers, as well as interview and salary negotiation skills. The networking night on the other hand offered an opportunity for the students to meet professional engineers and learn about local companies, for professional engineers to mentor young and upcoming engineers, and for local employers to find new talents. This was followed by Mr. Steve Sturrock and Mr. Dan Beck who spoke on the origin of Engineers w/o Borders (EWB) in Canada. They then carried on with descriptions of their recent activities in Ghana and how EWB members actually shared the living experience with the locals there. The third presentation was by Mr. Matt Burdyny, Mr. Tony Kroeker, and Mr. Niko Rebenich from AUVic. They presented the newest design of the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV). The vehicle possesses the latest and most advanced components to assist in its intended functions. The presentation outlined three main design categories involving Mechanical, Electrical and Software. These include issues linked to size and weight, power consumption, efficient and optimization, and partnerships with other organizations and academia.

## A Message from our Past Chair

The APEGBC Victoria Branch Annual General Meeting is fast approaching. It is time to call for nomination for the Victoria branch Executives. If you would like to help out or make any suggestions, please contact Joshua Hayes at [joshua\\_hayes@telus.net](mailto:joshua_hayes@telus.net). Being a member of the executive has many benefits and rewards. The Victoria branch events, community involvement, outreach programs and dinner meetings are only made possible because of your help. I would like to thank all the members that have helped make the Victoria Branch a great success.

## What is New?

### Reader's Corner

We intend to add in the near future a Reader's Corner to our newsletter. The intent is to foster a forum whereby members of the Victoria Branch may submit articles of interest to our readers, to provide feedback to events, and potentially to add substance to the newsletter. Submission should be sent to the Editor: H.L. Kwok, Email: [hllkwok@ece.uvic.ca](mailto:hllkwok@ece.uvic.ca). The published articles will be unedited and reflect solely the opinions of the author(s). The newsletter holds no responsibility for the accuracy of such articles but will make effort to ensure the article contains no fraudulent information. Furthermore, the editor retains the exclusive right not to publish any article deemed unsuitable for publication in our newsletter (such articles will be returned to the respective authors).

### Technology Transfer on Vancouver Island

Vancouver Island post-secondary students and researchers who want to launch businesses have a new resource to help them take their research to the marketplace. Thanks to more than \$1 million in federal funding, the University of Victoria's Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC) is expanding its services to assist four other post-secondary institutions: Camosun College, Royal Roads University, Malaspina University-College, and North Island College. IDC's mandate is to move research and innovations into both the public and private sector through partnerships, licensing of technologies, and the formation of new spin-off companies. As well, it provides one of the most comprehensive packages of tech transfer services to students in Canada – graduate and undergraduate – at the same level it gives to faculty. *Source:* The April 2006 issue of the RING, University of Victoria.

### Spectroscopy Analyzes Food – Cheese and Crabmeat

“Exposed to too much light and oxygen, cheese can form off-flavors, undergo changes in color and lose nutritional value.” The March issue of the PHOTONICS Spectra reported researchers at The Royal Veterinary and agricultural University of Copenhagen, Denmark, used fluorescence spectroscopic techniques to measure Vitamin A in cheese as a monitor for potential degradation. Other substances such as riboflavin were also investigated. In future, cheese makers and distributors may use this high-tech tool to monitor daily product characteristics under different storage and packaging conditions to minimize light-induced degradation effect. In a second article, visible and near infrared spectroscopy was used to spot whitefish fillers in crabmeat. As reported, one way that food manufacturers may seek to boost profits is to add inferior gradients to high-end products. One frequent used whitefish filler is “surimi” in samples of crabmeat. Researchers at North Carolina State University and Florida Gulf Coast University have used visible and near-infrared spectroscopy to detect these whitefish fillers. The advantages are lower cost and the technique requires minimal sample preparation. Their results have shown that the sample absorbance decrease as the extent of adulteration increases. Further work is underway to deal with species, quality and authenticity issues.

## 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 April 24, 2006. 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

Chair	
Sharlie Huffman	356-0761
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### Engineer Your Financial Future

- Strategic Financial Planning
- Tax Reduction Strategies
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- Risk Management - Personal & Business

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