

The 4th Dimension

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC
Victoria Branch Newsletter

September 2002
Volume 1, Issue 1

Join us on September 26th!

You are cordially invited to attend our next dinner meeting on September 26, 2002 to be held at the Faculty Club in University of Victoria!

Our meeting will start at 5:30pm with a social, followed by a delicious dinner at 6:30pm and will close with an enlightening presentation entitled The Unusual Weather is More Unusual than Usual by Dr. Timothy Ball.

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The Unusual Weather is More Unusual than Usual



What do we know about global climate? Why is there conflict in the scientific community about global warming? Just twenty years ago the consensus was we were headed to another ice age.

All climate change predictions are based solely on computer models called General Circulation Models (GCMs) that simply don't work. They have been wrong in every prediction yet continue to have credibility. More and more evidence shows the inaccuracy of the models and the overall lack of knowledge and understanding of climate and its mechanisms. Any scientist who dares to question the theory is branded a skeptic or worse, "in the pay of the oil companies". Yet the theory is the scientific method as Thomas Kuhn explained in his book.

Harvard professor of atmospheric meteorology Richard Lindzen said of global warming, the consensus was reached before the research had even begun! Sadly, science is prevented from being science, especially in environmental research.

Dr. Timothy Ball will explain the long-term 'natural' variability of climate and provide us with the side of the global warming argument rarely heard.

Dr. Timothy Ball is the recipient of one of the first Climatology PhD's in the world. His interest in climatology supported the growing knowledge of how our history and human condition relate to changes in climate. An environmental consultant and seasoned public educator, he has published many papers and delivered many presentations about the climate and its impacts on areas such as sustainable development, agriculture, water and river management, and geopolitics.

Dinner Meeting Registration

Please register in advance via the telephone answering service at 721-8896 by TUESDAY, September 24. Provide the names of those whom you are registering and your telephone number.

If you cannot attend after registering, please call 882-4482 by NOON the day before the meeting and give notice of cancellation on the answering service. The branch pays for dinners for the no-shows who do not cancel.

Friends, associates and partners are always welcome! If you can not join us for dinner, please come and join us for the presentation.

Cost is \$20.00 for advance registration, \$25.00 at the door, \$10.00 for students and \$5.00 for presentation only.

Music to Our Ears

By Joyce Liu, EIT

At our last meeting in May 2002, the Victoria Branch had the privilege of hearing Phillip Scott, the President and CEO of IVL Technologies, Ltd., present a talk entitled **Bringing Vocal Processing to the Masses**



Accompanied with good food and great company, the evening marked another successful and informative meeting! It was a pleasure listening to Mr. Scott as he enlightened us with stories about his trials and tribulations in establishing a local music-based high-tech company with products suited for an international market. We were introduced to the state-of-the-art karaoke technology that provides pitch correction, generates harmony and even provides gender transformation! After 20 years of business, IVL Technologies is now the world leader in instantly enhancing, changing or adding to the human voice.

The Annual General Meeting was also held this evening and new branch executives were elected. Congratulations to all new executives and good luck in the coming year! A list of the new branch executives is provided at the end of this newsletter.

A big THANK YOU goes out to last year's executive for making 2001-2002 a success!

Dinner topics before May 2002 included:

Bridging to Hydrogen: Engineering Sustainable Transportation Solutions – April 2002

Presented by David Demers, founder of Westport Innovations Inc.

Offshore Potential and Impacts of Petroleum Exploration in Queen Charlotte Basin, BC – March 2002

Presented by Dr. Michael J. Whiticar, Professor of Biogeochemistry, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences (SEOS), University of Victoria.

See some pictures of our last meetings at <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/branches/Branches/victoriapic.html>

Future Directions

By Jan Buermans, P.Eng., Branch Chair

APEGBC's professional engineers and professional geoscientists will soon receive their annual voting package for Council elections and two critical bylaw amendments that will have a great impact on all of us.

Council Election

The election of APEGBC Council provides all members with the opportunity to set the direction taken by the Association. One of the great benefits of a self-regulating organization is that it encourages and accepts the contributions of members at any and all levels. Many do not choose to get directly involved in the Association's day-to-day business, through Branch, Division or Committee service, but everyone's opinion is sought through the election of Council.

Each candidate's election platform is provided in the election brochure and outlines the future they see for APEGBC. I encourage you to take a moment to read about the programs and goals of each of the 11 candidates and then to vote for the ones who most closely mirror your goals for the Association.

Professional Fee Increase

During its 2002/2003 budget deliberations last May, when it became evident that the Association would have difficulty meeting its professional and member service responsibilities at the present annual fee levels, Council was faced with negatively impacting services through a reduction in

APEGBC programs. Council voted instead to seek a \$30 increase in the 2003 annual fees for full professional members, raising the fee to \$240 from the current \$210 that APEGBC members have been paying since January 1994. All members will have the opportunity to vote this September on the proposed bylaw changes that would create the authority to levy the additional fees (see <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/news/news-fee-increase.html> for more information).

Secondary Professional Liability Coverage

The second bylaw ballot asks members to support the establishment of a mandatory secondary liability insurance program. While it is now in place as of March 31, 2002, and the first year’s premium is being paid by CCPE, the ballot is necessary to create a mandated APEGBC program for all members and to give Council the authority to collect the annual fees and service costs, expected to be \$10 in 2003. This, without question, is the best \$10 APEGBC members will ever spend. It will give all of us the security and peace of mind to know that if a previous employer goes out of business or if our neighbour tries to sue us for offering what he thought was poor professional advice, we are covered for pennies a day.

To enact new or amended bylaws, members must support the changes by a two-thirds majority or greater. I encourage each one of you to educate yourselves on the facts and mail in your ballot to help direct the future of our Association.

Meetings

APEGBC, Victoria Branch

The Victoria Branch dinner meetings are held the last Thursday night of every month from September to May excluding December. Meetings are usually held at Caddie’s Pub in University of Victoria and start at 5:30 p.m.



Dates of future dinner meetings are: November 28, January 30, February 27, March 27, April 24, and May 29. Speakers for these dates will be announced in the monthly newsletter of the same month. Visit our website at <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/branches/Branches/victoria.html>

ASHRAE, Vancouver Island Chapter

The next dinner meeting is held on September 19, 2002 at the University of Victoria. Dr. Ned Djilali, the Executive Director of Institute for Integrated Energy Systems, will provide a tour and presentation on Sustainable Energy and Fuel Cells. RSVP by email to Paul R Mazzulli at paul@burmech.ca or call Paul at (250) 385-6234 to reserve your spot. Cost: \$25.00 for chapter members, society members, & guests of members, \$15.00 for students and \$30 for non-members. For more information, please link to: <http://www.ashrae.bc.ca/vi.htm>

Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS)

Luncheon meetings generally take place on the third Friday of each month at 12:00 p.m. at the Traveller’s Inn - City Centre, 1961 Douglas St., Victoria. Meetings run from September to May, excluding December. For more information, please link to: <http://www.cgs.ca/english/reg-div/vic-loc.html> or contact Steve Bean by email at sbean@thurberggroup.com or by calling (250) 727-3710.

APEGBC Annual Conference and AGM 2002

The Victoria Branch of APEGBC is proud to present the Association’s Annual Conference and AGM to be held at the Victoria Conference Centre on October 24th, 25th and 26th, 2002. The theme for this conference is “**Creating a Sustainable Future for BC**”. Association members play an important role in promoting and delivering sustainable solutions. To enhance the skills required this role, APEGBC’s Annual Conference offers a complete selection of courses and workshops with ten different tracks, ranging in topic from Sustainability to Management. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 26th.

For more information and to register, please link to <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/ac/ac2002.htm> or contact the Annual Conference Chair, Bill Fraser, P. Eng. Bill may be reached by telephone at (250) 658-8525, by fax at (250) 658-8125 or by e-mail at fraser@fraserconsulting.com. Volunteers may contact Bill Fraser at the same numbers.

**Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC),
Vancouver Island Branch**

The group meets the first Friday of the month at the Traveller's Inn, 1961 Douglas at 12:00 p.m. The next luncheon meeting will be held on Friday, September 6 at the Traveller's Inn - City Centre. The featured speaker, Jack Hull, P.Eng will speak about Construction of the Sooke Lake Dam. Cost is \$12.00. For more information, please link to: <http://civil.camosun.bc.ca/vib-eic/>

Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE)

If you are interested in joining, please e-mail CSCE at info@csce.ca. For more information, contact Gerry Buydens by email at gbuydens@pacificcoast.net or call (250) 356-9449.

Engineers' Wives Association

The next meeting is a Coffee Party on September 9th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Princess Mary Restaurant. New members are welcome! For more information please call Caroline Hunter at (250) 595-8658.

**Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE),
Vancouver Island Section**

Luncheon meetings take place on the last Thursday of the month at 11:45 a.m. at the Traveller's Inn - City Centre, 1961 Douglas, Victoria. The cost is \$14 for members and \$17 for non-members. For more information, please link to: http://www.citebc.ca/ite_sect.html.

Professional Development Courses in Victoria

**September 10 & 11, 2002
Taking Care of Business: A Seminar for Sole Proprietors
and Small Firms**

Sole proprietors and small firms may face different business issues than large firms. This session will look at the financial, business development, marketing, legal, tax, insurance, WCB and professional practice issues unique to sole proprietors and small firms.

For more information or to register visit <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/takingcareofbusiness.html>

**September 17, 2002
ATC-20: Post Earthquake Safety Evaluation Of Buildings**

This presentation explores the evaluation of building damage conditions, and the assessment of overall risk from damage after an earthquake. For more information, please visit <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/atc-20-victoria.html>

**APEGBC Professional Development Events
Outside of Victoria**

For more information on course offerings from APEGBC, see the association's professional development web page at <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/prodevevents.html> or contact Tracy Frazer, Professional Development Coordinator at (604) 412-4879 or 1-888-430-8035.

Smile Story

By: Reader's Digest



Two groups of students-math and engineering majors-boarded a train that was headed for a technical convention. Each of the math majors had a ticket, but their engineering counterparts had only one ticket between them.

The math majors were snickering at this when an engineering student shouted, "Here comes the conductor!" With that, all the engineering majors squeezed into a bathroom. The puzzled math majors watched as the conductor collected their tickets, then knocked on the bathroom door and said, "Ticket please." The conductor took the single ticket that was passed under the door and left.

Not to be outdone, the math students boarded the returning train with only one ticket, and again they laughed because this time their rivals had no ticket at all. When the engineering lookout yelled, "Conductor coming!" all the engineers crowded into one bathroom, while the math majors piled into another. Then, before the conductor entered the car, one of the engineers came out of his bathroom and knocked on the math majors' door. "Ticket please," he said.

Change of Address or Email

Please send change of address, telephone or fax number, or Email address directly to: APEGBC, Suite 200, 4010 Regent Street, Burnaby, BC V5C 6N2, Fax: (604) 430-8085; or update your information using APEGBC's internet form at <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/members/change.htm>.

Have Your Say!

Do you like our new format? Do you have concerns or comments you would like to voice? We'd 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 1st, 2002. Please send them to Joyce Liu, EIT at jliu@powelgroup.com.

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

Advertisements

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