



FOREWORD

David Marchand, Chair, ACEC-BC Provincial YPG Steering Committee

Welcome to another issue of the ACEC-BC YPG Newsletter. We have had an event-filled start to spring, including the ACEC-BC Awards Gala, the annual curling bonspiel and a total of six breakfast seminars throughout our regions.

The remainder of the spring promises to be just as exciting with an assortment of upcoming events including the second annual ACEC-BC YPG Conference on June 1st, the ACEC-BC Annual Golf Tournament on May 9th, the annual ACEC-BC / CBA YPG Whisky Tasting Event on May 24th, and the ACEC-BC AGM on June 7th.

Stay tuned for upcoming breakfast seminars throughout the province to be announced in the next email updates!



Members of the ACEC-BC Young Professionals Group at the 29th Annual Awards for Engineering Excellence Gala

LOWER MAINLAND

The last few months have been packed full of fun and learning opportunities for the Lower Mainland group. On February 21st the YP group partnered with ACEC-BC and invited Cheryl Kristiansen (BC WinSETT) to facilitate an Unconscious Bias seminar with a focus on self-reflection and experienced-based learning.

Again, partnered with ACEC-BC, Lower Mainland YPs participated in the Great Scavenger Race. On March 3rd eleven teams navigated and explored Vancouver, while raising a sizable sum to donate to the United Way charity!

On March 4th the group held a trivia night, where 40 YPs competed in an intense line of questions. A bonus engineering round was implemented to challenge the technical prowess of the attendees.



On March 21st the Lower Mainland YPs learned how to curl! Keeping with the team-cooperative nature of engineers, players would often help sweep for the other team and cheered on opponents who made a great shot. It was a night where points and team allegiance did not matter. The focus was on team spirit and the refreshments enjoyed together afterwards!



VANCOUVER ISLAND

The Vancouver Island group kicked 2018 off with a very well attended social event held at the Argyle Attic in January. It was great to meet some new faces over a beverage and appetizers. The social was followed by two breakfast seminars. First, Cameron Elder (Harper Grey LLP) provided design professionals with an overview of their exposure to professional liability, highlighting some of the issues engineers can face, and ensuring risk is managed appropriately. The second seminar was presented by John Knappett (CEO Knappett Group) on large scale construction projects, discussing his experiences running a successful construction company as well as board experience in BC with mega projects such as the Site C Dam. It was great to see more people coming out and getting involved in the seminars.

Sign up for the breakfast seminar on May 24th at the Union Club in Victoria. It will feature a presentation from Carl Millar, P.Eng. on “Motivations for a Career in Progress”. Mr. Millar is a Senior Geotechnical Engineer who has had a diverse career on multiple continents for medium sized and multi-national corporations. Currently Mr. Millar is introducing an Engineering Geology program at Vancouver Island University.

OKANAGAN

The Okanagan group met for their annual Big White Night on March 2nd, 2018. While the weather was not particularly cooperative, the group enjoyed an evening of night skiing, followed by snacks and beverages. This annual event always proves to be a great way to meet new people while enjoying what Big White has to offer.

In addition, two professional development breakfast seminars were held since the winter newsletter. On March 8th, Rich Threlfall (Troika Management Corp.) spoke to attendees on the topic of “Question, Collaborate and Innovate: Three critical strategies to becoming a change maker in your organization”. Rich’s background in consulting and current work in land development allowed him to provide some insight for young professionals into how to stand out from the crowd and succeed in business.

On April 12th, Brian Beach, Infrastructure Delivery Manager with the City of Kelowna, presented his tactics on “How to be Successful with Municipal Clients”. Brian’s extensive background in consulting and current position with a municipality give him a unique insight on how to retain clients and what can drive them to the competition. Both breakfast seminars were well attended and provided valuable knowledge for attendees.

Get involved in the Okanagan committee: A few positions remain open. If you (or anyone you know) is interested in joining, please contact the Chair, Robyn Sherstobitoff (sherstobitoff@ae.ca). Volunteering with the YP Group is a small-time commitment, looks good on your resume and is a great way to meet new people in the industry and have some fun!

NORTHERN REGION

Professional Development

Keith Sashaw, President and CEO of ACEC-BC, travelled to Prince George on February 7th and presented at the YP Northern Group’s first breakfast seminar of the year. There was a broad range of attendees from member to non-member firms. The topic included a general overview of ACEC-BC, hot button topics and potential disruptions that exist in the consulting engineering industry.

No breakfast seminars are planned for May at this time.

Networking

Planning is underway for a municipal mixer with the City of Prince George in early June. Topics will include the capital plan for 2018/19, current issues the City would like to communicate to the engineering community and other areas where the engineering community can assist the City in meeting its goals and objectives.



NORTHERN REGION

Come [join](#) us for a tour of the Northern Lights Estate Winery followed by a wine tasting on May 24th at 5.30 pm! Please RSVP to Robert Teetaert at rteetaert@mcelhanney.com

On March 28th the Northern Region's YP's hosted their inaugural curling event, which included instruction about the game followed by open time to test out the new skills. We had 12 people interacting with a lot of laughs and a friendly competition at the end.

Student Outreach

It was announced that UNBC will launch a civil engineering program and a full environmental engineering program commencing in the fall of 2019. With this good news, the YPG group will expand its student events at UNBC in the future. As a first step Keith Sashaw gave an introductory presentation about ACEC-BC to environmental engineering students on February 7th. The event showcased how ACEC-BC is working on behalf of the industry and how you can get involved.

Volunteering

Many of our members are also involved with other volunteer associations in the community. We are working on joining forces with these associations to organize

CONGRATULATIONS GRAHAM!

Congratulations to Graham Lovely, P.Eng., LEED AP BD+C, Associate from MCW Consultants Ltd. for winning this year's Young Professional Award!

The Award recognizes an individual young professional who has demonstrated excellence in consulting business practices, outstanding achievements in their applicable fields, and leadership in the community.



Graham is currently the chair of the ACEC-BC building engineering steering committee, and an active member of our Young Professionals' Lower Mainland Subcommittee for student outreach. For more information on this year's awards you can visit:

<https://www.acec-bc.ca/awards/>

ACEC-BC 2018 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE

This year's Young Professional Conference on May 31st/ June 1st is quickly approaching! Following the theme of this year's conference, Fast Forward Fifteen, sessions will be focusing on how the engineering industry is likely to change in the next fifteen years and how young professionals can adapt to be successful in the workplace. The networking and soft skill development opportunities at the conference should not be missed! Last year's conference sold out so be sure to register soon. More information about the conference including registration instructions can be found here:

<https://www.acec-bc.ca/events/event-details/?EventID=408/>





FEATURED PROJECT OF THE QUARTER

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY FOUR-LANING IN YOHO NATIONAL PARK



Highway 1, navigating through lakes and rail in Yoho National Park

The Trans-Canada Highway serves as a major trade and travel route for many Canadians. The recent traffic growth has required the highway to be upgraded from a two-lane to a four-lane divided highway, with the only two-lane sections remaining located between Kamloops and the BC/AB border. Although only 97km of this stretch is within National Parks, these sections contain some of the most difficult terrain in the entire nation.

These mountainous regions present challenges due to the narrow corridor available to implement an effective design. The current highway alignment traverses valley bottoms, is constrained by steep rock cuts, and is home to many protected species, lands, rivers and lakes. In addition, much of the highway corridor is shared with CP rail, tightening the already limited space even further. With all these restrictions, it is no wonder it has been the last section of highway to be upgraded!



The massive 'Wapta Cut,' supplying over 500,000m³ of material. GPS-equipped excavators were used to get precise cuts.

McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd. has recently been involved with developing and implementing the upgrade program on behalf of Parks Canada Agency (PCA), who have high standards on the Parks' aesthetics, travel time delays during construction (with traffic almost tripling during the summer months), and maintaining animal connectivity.

This section of highway has many unique features including one of North America's largest animal overpass (60m wide and spanning 34m), over 500,000 m³ of excavated material in a 6km stretch, wetland reclamation, preservation of a goat lick, and a precast girder animal underpass.



Construction of the 60m wide 34m span animal overpass, designed by COWI Bridge.

A coordinated team effort from McElhanney's Vancouver and Calgary teams was needed to successfully implement this project, including six young professionals. Joey Chiu, P.Eng., and Nick Guaran, EIT, were involved in the design process and led the team on the contract documents while Jimmy Howells, EIT, provided the day-to-day construction supervision and quality assurance. Ben Ticknor, P.Eng., was the lead inspector of the 34m clear span animal overpass and Mathias Tait, EIT, worked with the survey team to produce as-builts and quantity estimates. Lastly, Alex Kaspyrk, EIT, designed the wildlife exclusion fence to help direct the animals to the animal crossings.

By the end of the summer, McElhanney's Young Professionals will have helped Parks Canada Agency plan and execute a major piece of the Trans-Canada Highways.