



ACEC British Columbia

Newsbrief

April 2012



Executive Director's Message

Glenn Martin, CAE

Flight 2012, the Awards for Engineering Excellence Gala celebration, landed safely on the Vancouver runways, after a flight that took us half way around the world in search of engineering excellence, only to discover the best engineering is right here in British Columbia. We have been promoting this fact ever since.

The following pages provide details of the award winners, in particular the Lieutenant Governor's Award recipient Fast + Epp Structural Engineers for the **Van Dusen Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre**; the Meritorious Achievement Award winner, Chris Newcomb, P.Eng., President, McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd.; and the Young Professional Award winner Mike Home-nuke, P.Eng., Kerr Wood Leidal Associates.

On Monday, April 16, 2012, Bill 34, to reduce the ultimate limitation period from 30 years to 15 years from the time the act or omission occurred, was introduced to the Legislature by the Honourable Shirley Bond, Attorney General. 😊 We expect second and third readings to be introduced in the near future. The 10-year lobby effort to achieve this result was led by Neil Cumming, of Levelton Consultants and deftly supported by Ralph Sultan, MLA West Vancouver-Capilano.

The new name and logo were launched at the Gala on March 31st. We have a terrific new website intended to encourage members to contact us so we know how to better serve you. Be sure to visit:

 www.acec-bc.ca

Our new graphic platform is uniquely BC while still maintaining a strong link to the national organization.

Our annual meeting with the Western Provincial Associations was held on April 2nd. These meetings offer us a way of reinforcing some of our positions with those of consulting engineering firms in the four western provinces. Issues included the NWPTA and the proposed new PTech designation in BC.

Please read on to learn more about what ACEC British Columbia is doing to improve the business environment for our member firms.

CEBC is Now ACEC British Columbia

On March 31, 2012 at our Awards for Engineering Excellence CEBC officially became the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-British Columbia (ACEC-BC). This change allows us to better harmonize with our national partner organization, Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-Canada (ACEC). While our colours, name and look may have changed, nothing else has as we continue to work hard for our members.

If you have any questions about our new name or website please contact the office.

Upcoming Events

April 18

Industry Information Dinner

*Sealing in a Digital World and
Getting The Fees You Deserve*

April 25

Metro Vancouver Mixer

April 26

Vancouver Island Breakfast Meeting

Johnson Street Bridge Project

May 16

Golf Tournament

May 22

YPG Breakfast Meeting

Bringing Out the Leader in You

June 7

Annual General Meeting

New Liability Legislation a Win-Win for Professionals and Public

April 16, 2012 (Vancouver): The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of BC (ACEC-BC) applauds the new Limitation Act introduced today by the Government of BC. Bill 34 improves and streamlines legislation governing the liability period for engineers and other professionals. The engineering profession will also become better able to compete with other jurisdictions in attracting and retaining the skilled professionals needed in British Columbia.


The legislation sets a 15 year maximum time limit for filing any claims related to liability beginning on the date of the act in question.


"We are pleased the Government of B.C. has taken this important step today to reduce the ultimate limitation period for engineers and other professionals, including architects, dentists and accountants," said Doug Hinton, President of ACEC-BC, "This initiative will provide certainty to our profession by making B.C.'s legislation consistent with that of other provinces. As a very mobile profession that exports our expertise to other jurisdictions outside of B.C., that will make us more competitive and help protect and attract highly skilled professionals."

The changes introduced in Bill 34 follow several years of consultation with industry and other stakeholders, including ACEC-BC. The engineering industry has been advocating for a shorter liability period for many years, along with other legislative changes. Today's changes address many of the concerns that were expressed to the Province and contained in a 2010 White Paper produced at the conclusion on consultations.

ACEC-BC, formerly known as the Consulting Engineers of BC (CEBC), is British Columbia's provincial association of engineering consulting firms. ACEC-BC represents 90 of BC's consulting engineering companies that provide engineering and other technology-based intellectual services to the public and private sectors. ACEC-BC firms employ 8,000 people in British Columbia comprised of a workforce of engineers, geoscientists, technicians, technologists and other support staff. The consulting engineering business contributes some \$2.9 billion in annual revenue to the BC economy.

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Learn more about the new BC Limitation Act...

 [Ministry of Justice Press Release](#)

 [Bill 34 - 2012 Limitation Act](#)

 [White paper on Limitation Act](#)

 [Uniform Law Conference of Canada](#)

 [British Columbia Law Institute](#)

12th Annual Golf Tournament

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CANAL COURSE

The annual golf tournament offers a fun and relaxed networking environment for ACEC British Columbia members, their clients and industry colleagues. We will join forces again with Make-A-Wish® Foundation of BC and Yukon to help grant a wish for a child with a life threatening illness.



For the first time, the tournament will be held at the Northview Golf & Country Club, 6857 168th Street, Surrey. The new venue features two beautiful courses designed by Arnold Palmer, allowing us to accommodate up to 288 golfers.

We'll also be introducing some new features this year - including FREE massage stations during registration, and through the afternoon at Ridge #10 and Canal #10 (courtesy of *Gastown Wellness* care team).

Be sure to register soon - the Ridge Course has sold out, but there are still places available for the Canal Course. For information about registration and sponsorship, see the following links:

 [Registration Form](#)

 [Sponsorship Guide](#)

If you have any questions about the 12th Annual Golf Tournament, please contact ACEC British Columbia,  (604) 687.2811,  info@acec-bc.ca

Richmond Mayor Helps Launch Awards Road Show

ACEC-BC's annual Awards for Engineering Excellence Road Show kicked off at Richmond City Hall on April 3, 2012 with a little help from Mayor Malcolm Brodie. Consultants, city staff and the general public gathered to see Doug Hinton present Mayor Brodie with the client's Award of Excellence for the No. 4 Road Drainage Pump Station project. Mayor Brodie then spoke about the importance of engineers and their impact on projects in the City of Richmond that enhance its liveability. Doug wrapped up the event by welcoming those in attendance to view all 49 projects that make up this year's exhibition. The Road Show will be displayed in Richmond City Hall's Galleria until April 24th.

Government Relations Days

Government MLAs Luncheon

Guest speaker at the March 27 luncheon was Hon. Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Transportation. Doug Hinton, President of ACEC British Columbia, made a presentation on the consulting engineering industry and our importance to the BC economy. He praised government for addressing BC's infrastructure deficit with a sustained period of growth over the past 11 years, highlighted our support for legislation that would reduce the ultimate limitation period, and also expressed our concerns about the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA) and the negative impact it has had on procurement and the use of QBS.

Opposition MLAs Breakfast

Breakfast with Opposition MLAs (March 28) featured guest speaker Doug Donaldson, Opposition Critic for Finance and Energy. Doug Hinton made a presentation on the consulting engineering industry and our key issues.

Private meetings were also held with key Ministers and officials, including Hon. Shirley Bond, Attorney General and Leonard Krog, Opposition Critic for the Attorney General. Dinner with MLA Ralph Sultan and Mike Cunningham of PACE Group (government/media consultants) gave a chance to go over the days activities and refine our approach on the ULP issue.

Flight 2012

The 2012 Awards for Engineering Excellence

On Saturday, March 31st the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-BC held their 23rd Annual Awards for Engineering Excellence Gala at the Westin Bayshore Vancouver. This event showcases the best engineering accomplishments from the past year by BC consulting firms. The evening had a green tint to it as the winning projects incorporated environmental stewardship into innovative and efficient solutions for their clients.

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Engineering Excellence



Photo by Nic Lehoux

VanDusen Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre

Consultant: Fast + Epp
Category: Buildings (Award of Excellence)
Location: Vancouver, BC

Fast + Epp was the structural engineering firm for an iconic 19,000 sq. ft. visitors' centre at VanDusen Botanical Gardens. The striking entrance point will serve as an interactive education centre and welcome portal to revitalize public interest in the gardens. It includes lecture rooms, exhibition space, a café, and guest services.

Perhaps its most innovative feature is the dramatic freeform, organically-shaped roof structure, which metaphorically represents petals of an orchid, flowing seamlessly into the surrounding landscape like an extension of the garden itself.

Billed as "Vancouver's greenest building" by local media, the structure is targeting Living Building Challenge and LEED Platinum status. Its sustainable features include a Green Roof almost-exclusively constructed with timber, rammed earth walls and natural ventilation.

Awards of Excellence

No. 4 Road Drainage Pump Station

Consultant: Aplin & Martin Consultants
Category: Municipal
Location: Richmond, BC

The No. 4 Road Drainage Pump Station reutilized the confines of the existing wet well to install more and larger pumps to double the pumping capacity while protecting the integrity of the dike and achieving considerable cost savings. The area was transformed into a spectacular architectural feature, complementing its surrounds, with a large public plaza viewing area.

Harbourside West Pedestrian Overpass

Consultant: Hatch Mott MacDonald
Category: Transportation
Location: North Vancouver, BC

The Harbourside West Pedestrian Overpass creates a key link in the spirit trail while meeting the requirements of multiple stakeholders, enhancing community access in the area and providing safe passage over the railway. A serpentine trail alignment was developed to deal with underground and overhead utilities, while skewed foundation places stayed outside rail clearances and avoided impacting the adjacent creek's riparian corridor.

Capilano Cliffwalk

Consultant: Morrison Hershfield Ltd.
Category: Natural Resource, Energy & Industry
Location: North Vancouver, BC

Cliffwalk allows people to safely access the face of a 90 m high granite cliff on a labyrinth-like series of narrow cantilevered bridges, stairs and platforms through an old growth west coast rainforest. It is longer than two football fields and was constructed using a total foundation area of only 11 m². The construction allowed the reclamation of 8,100 m² of previously unusable park land, a net benefit of over 735%.

Partington Creek: A New Watershed Development Planning Process

Consultant: Kerr Wood Leidal Associates
Category: Soft Engineering
Location: Coquitlam, BC

The lower third of ecologically rich Partington Creek watershed is planned for a \$1.5 billion green field development. A multidisciplinary team of planners, engineers and biologist worked together and changed the initial land use plan to maximize environmental protection and rainwater management. Land use designations were redrafted to strategically minimize impacts to the creek and optimize stormwater infrastructure.

Awards of Merit

UBC Biological Sciences Complex

Consultant: MCW Consultants Ltd.
Category: Buildings
Location: Vancouver, BC

Urban Jewel - Burnaby Lake Rejuvenation Project

Consultant: Associated Engineering
Category: Municipal
Location: Burnaby, BC

South Fraser Perimeter Road, Landfill Closure Project

Consultant: CH2M HILL Canada Ltd.
Category: Transportation
Location: Delta, BC

Vancouver City Central Transmission

Consultant: Golder Associates Ltd.
Category: Natural Resource, Energy & Industry
Location: Vancouver, BC

Mapping on the Move - GeoAutomation® Mobile Mapping of the South Fraser Perimeter Road

Consultant: McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd.
Category: Soft Engineering
Location: Delta and Surrey, BC

 www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx



That commitment has contributed significantly to universal recognition of the professional stature of consulting engineers in British Columbia.

Chris has been involved with ACEC British Columbia (formerly CEBC) since the 1990's when he served as Chair of a number of committees, including the very active Ministry of Transportation Liaison Committee.

He was elected to the ACEC-BC Board of Directors in 2000, serving as President in 2002/2003.

Since 2005 Chris has represented British Columbia on the board of ACEC, the national association of consulting engineering firms, serving as ACEC Chair in 2008/2009.

In October 2011, he was elected to the Executive Committee of FIDIC, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers.

This appointment reflects the highest level of respect and acknowledgement by his peers, both in Canada and overseas, of the expertise and experience he brings to supporting the business of consulting engineering.

Awards Road Show

April 3 - April 24
Richmond City Hall – Galleria

April 25 - May 16
Abbotsford Airport

May 19 - June 9
Metrotown - Atrium Court

June 20 - July 4
University of Victoria

July 4 - July 20
Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal

July 26 - August 12
Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal

Online Awards Road Show

Be sure to check out project display boards on our new web site, at

 www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx

and... vote for your favorite project in the People's Choice Poll – results of the poll will be announced early in September.



2012 Young Professional Award

The 2012 ACEC British Columbia Young Consulting Engineer 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.

This year's recipient is **Mike Homenuke**, P.Eng of Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd. (KWL). Mike has 9 years of professional experience and is currently a Project Manager in KWL's Municipal Wastewater division.

Mike specializes in developing GIS-based sanitary sewer and water distribution system models and is familiar with several modelling packages including Hydra, MIKE Urban/MOUSE, WaterCAD and MWH Soft products. He has taken a lead role in numerous high profile consulting projects, including the 2008 CEBC award-winning Rapid Hydropower Assessment Model for BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation (BCTC), and the City of Victoria's \$3 million James Bay I & I Reduction Pilot Program.

Mike graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering (Environmental) from the University of British Columbia in 2003. He is the skill centre leader for KWL's wastewater sector, sits on KWL's GIS steering committee, and provides technical leadership for 5 junior engineers in the fields of resource recovery, asset management, and sanitary sewer system planning.

Over the years Mike has been actively involved in ACEC British Columbia's Young Professionals Group and was Chair in 2008. He was also the inaugural Chair of the BC Water & Waste Association's Young Professionals Group.

2012 Meritorious Achievement Award

The ACEC British Columbia Meritorious Achievement Award recognizes an individual consulting engineer for outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, our industry and the community.

The recipient of this prestigious award in 2012 is **Chris Newcomb**, P. Eng. of McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd.

After receiving his Civil Engineering degree from the University of Manchester in 1969 Chris Newcomb began working for engineering consultants and construction firms on the design and construction of highway and pipeline projects in France, Canada, East Africa and South America. In 1981 Chris joined McElhanney Consulting Services in Vancouver as a Project Manager, eventually working his way up to President of the company in 1997.

During this period Chris helped grow the engineering side of McElhanney's business from a relatively minor player in land development and municipal work, to a multi-disciplinary, multi-branch operation that is now considered one of Western Canada's leaders in the design of transportation infrastructure.

With Chris Newcomb at the helm, McElhanney has won numerous awards for projects such as the South Surrey Interchange, the Mount Lehman Interchange, the Sea-to-Sky Highway, and the Golden Ears Bridge roadworks.

Throughout his career, Chris Newcomb has been committed to the highest standards of engineering and has actively promoted our industry to government, business, and educational institutions.