



The Western Canada Group of Chartered Engineers

Members of U.K Institutions of Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Structural, and Building Service Engineers, B.C., Yukon, Washington & Alaska

NEWSLETTER of the WCGCE

Volume 02 - September 2014

Dear members of **Western Canada Group of Chartered Engineers**,

Because your Committee strives to communicate more frequently with our members about the interesting activities presented since the last newsletter, this new NEWSLETTER replaces the *ChallENGe* Newsletter that served our members well for many years on semester cycle. Preferences are fore-ever shifting, and we are aware that professionals value 'real time' news in smaller packages more. In combination with a substantially upgrade of our website last year, this compact NEWSLETTER is designed to improve service to our members along this principle. As a result of rising cost of land mail on the one hand, and reduced budget allocations from our contributing institutions on the other hand, correspondence with members is now exclusively by email supported by our website www.wcgce.org .

Readers will therefore notice that articles of the NEWSLETTER provide only a synopsis and refer to the website for more material.

We trust members will enjoy this new quarterly Newsletter, and look forward to your suggestions about format and content.

Planned Future Activities 2014

WCGCE SCHEDULE FOR TECHNICAL MEETINGS 2014

Date	Venue	Subject	Presenter
Sept 17 Wed 7:00 pm	Accent Inns Burnaby	Innovative Design of a Theatre Motion Seating System (Joint Event with ASME),	David Siu-Kau Lo, M.A.Sc., P.Eng. VP of Technical Services at Dynamic Structures
Nov-18 Tue 7:00 pm	Accent Inns Burnaby	BCIT – Nano-Technology (to be confirmed)	To be confirmed

Technical meetings commence 7:00 pm, following Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm.

Recent Activities 2014

June 11th 2014 - Earthquake in New Zealand



On June 11th, the week before his pending departure for New Zealand, we were indeed fortunate to have Prof Dr. Ken Elwood (structural specialist) of UBC Engineering faculty drop by to provide us with a fascinating technical overview of the extensive damage to buildings in the CBD of Christchurch New Zealand suffered from a large earthquake in 2011.

Approximately 70% of all buildings, many with Heritage classification, had to be demolished. The majority of the 'modern' designed buildings survived and met the basic objective of 'Life Safety' required by current building codes.

Prof Elwood was there on February 22 2011 when the Mw 6.3 quake shook Christchurch. He related his experiences and observations and the numerous parallels with his past and ongoing research efforts in this particular field.



He described how damaged buildings were inspected by a swat team of engineers for evaluation. They were designated as "safe", in need of minor repairs, unsafe and in need of reinforcement, unsafe but salvageable and condemned to immediate demolition.

Where buildings had failed, they were documented, analyzed to determine how the structure had failed to withstand the earthquake, how if possible, they could be salvaged, and what lessons could be learned for the future. One simple example was the failure of concrete stairways simply because grooves provided to allow the foot to slide like a tidal dock were filled causing the stairs to buckle and collapse.

The talk was illustrated with slides of detailed examples.

The speaker was introduced and thanked at the end by David Harvey (Vice Chair) for a well presented and very interesting topic of relevance and interest to all disciplines of engineering.

A summary of this presentation is posted on www.wcgce.org under Past Events, June 11, 2014.

July 19th 2014 - APEG BBQ



The Group participated in a very successful annual Summer BBQ as guests of APEGBC Sea-To-Sky-branch on a perfect summer afternoon in the sprawling garden of Bill and Vivian Vaughan in West Vancouver. The fully catered barbeque dinner was attended by approximately 60 members and guests.

It was a well-planned event with delicious catering, convivial atmosphere and conversation at the many tables under umbrellas. A beer testing competition and a charity raffle (lucky win by Kris Gadareh of our Committee!).

The regional MLA delivered a short address expressing appreciation for the value and quality of engineering professions to the local community and at large.

Next Edition

The next edition of NEWSLETTER is scheduled for December, reporting on the September and November events, and what is in store for the new year.

Editorial

The NEWSLETTER is compiled and edited by Chris Richardson and George De Ridder (Hon. Secretary) serving the executive Committee of the Western Canada Group of Chartered Engineers. Communication about this edition can be directed to

<http://www.wcgce.org/governance/secretary>