

Looking Back, Moving Forward

The application of engineering and geoscience knowledge has evolved, and continues to evolve, in a diverse and adaptive way. This presentation will focus on the importance of understanding the origins of our profession and the technology it utilizes. These origins, particularly as they relate to Canada's historic Anglo/European roots, still impact our perceived place in society, and the roles we are expected to fulfill. Failures and successes from here at home and around the world provide sources of understanding that help shape future directions. Understanding the reasons behind those successes and failures provide a foundation beyond strict technical analysis. While engineering progress is founded on the application of science, it is also a process of adaptation, and that requires an understanding of the past in order to impact the future.

Speakers: Ron Britton, P.Eng FEC, and Richard Jones, P.Eng.

Dr. Ron Britton, P.Eng FEC, is a Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba. Born in Regina and raised in Lang, Saskatchewan he obtained his B.Sc. in Civil Engineering degree from the University of Saskatchewan, M.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering from University of Manitoba and Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from Texas A&M University.

Ron spent five years working in industry between his B.Sc. and his M.Sc. During that time he was employed by Shell Oil, the Plywood Manufacturers Association of British Columbia, and Beaver Lumber. His work took him from Winnipeg to London, England, and Toronto. During that time he concentrated on the design of buildings, with an emphasis on wood, and ultimately focusing on agricultural buildings.

Ron has held academic appointments at both Texas A&M and the University of Manitoba. He rose through the ranks in the Agricultural Engineering (now Biosystems Engineering) department, and held appointments in both Civil Engineering and Biosystems Engineering in addition to his administrative responsibilities.

Ron is a member of numerous technical and education related societies. He is a 3M Teaching Fellow and has received a number of other awards including the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba Merit Award and Outstanding Service Award. Ron was also instrumental in the establishment of the Internationally Educated Engineers Qualification Program which assists foreign trained engineers to achieve their P.Eng in Manitoba

Richard Jones, P.Eng., is an experienced meeting facilitator, a professional engineer by training, and a graduate of several of the Royal Air Force Colleges. He has lived in North America for over 30 years and has been a member of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba since the 1980s. He was also a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers and a Chartered Engineer in the United Kingdom. Now retired, Richard was a Principal Consultant for several consulting companies. In his career he has lectured at the University of Manitoba on Quality issues, served as a Chairman and CEO for small companies, and as

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general manager for the Canadian plant of a US-based multi-national defense electronics manufacturer.

He provides expertise in project team chartering, project execution, and teambuilding. He has worked with large and small clients in the US, Canada, Asia and Europe, and at remote, clients' construction locations. He is often called in to assist Project Managers in dealing with team-related problems at critical times in the project's life cycle. In this role he has worked from Norway to Uzbekistan with a range of companies including Norsk Hydro, CH2M HILL, Ellerbe-Becket, ARCO, OMI and ABB.