

2008 Annual Report of the Executive Director and Registrar G. Koropatnick, P.Eng.

Staff Changes

Although we don't like to see it happen, at some point good employees leave the organization. After 32 years of service to APEGM, Joan McKinley retired this year. Is there a member who doesn't know Joan? I don't think so. It was a pleasure and honour to host a luncheon for Joan on September 8th with a group of past presidents, current and former employees, family and friends. In addition to some nice speeches and fine meal, it was announced that the main meeting room in the new office will be called "The McKinley Room" in recognition of Joan; APEGM's longest serving employee. Claudia Shymko takes over for Joan and although Joan's shoes are difficult to fill, Claudia's feet seem to be an ideal match! Mike Gregoire joined the staff of APEGM on March 31st as Professional Standards Officer. Since his arrival, through Mike and several committees APEGM has increased its' activities in the areas of member relations, investigations, public education and enforcement of the Act and By-laws.

Marketplace Demand

The strong Manitoba economy has resulted in a demand for professionals in both engineering and geoscience. In fact, the combination of local grads, imported grads from other provinces and overseas still cannot quench the hot demand for professionals. For example, assessment files for applicants applying to APEGM with international degrees increased 35% in the past year. Many are finding employment with local engineering firms and other technical employers. This is resulting from the immigration policy of the Manitoba government and the opportunity available for technical professionals in our province. Vale INCO in Thompson, invited APEGM north to speak with new employees about professional regulation and to sign-up members-in-training. Director of Admissions Sharon Sankar and Assessment Officer Claudia Shymko spent three days assisting Vale INCO engineers, geologists, managers and supervisors through the application process.

New Office

By the time you're reading this annual report, the APEGM office will almost be moved into its new location at 870 Pembina Highway. You likely recall that for the past dozen years the address was 850A Pembina Highway. The new location is a brand new building at the corner of Pembina and Harrow (immediately south of our old building). The move will be a small one in distance but a giant one in appearance and functionality. The new office will have a large reception room (which divides into two rooms) a reception area with heritage theme a third meeting room and more dedicated parking spaces than before. The McKinley Room (referred to above) will become the "meet and greet" place for members.

New Member Database and Web-site

Thanks to Systems Programmer Andrew Reddoch the new member database and website are almost ready to go. The project goal was to upgrade the member database to current standards and readiness for future demands and create a new web site with automated features. The “heavy lifting” is almost finished and we anticipate the launch of the new systems to take place in November. New look and functionality include online payments, secure login for members and online reporting, reviewing and processing of files by MITs, supervisors and the Registration Committee.

Visibility in the Community

We talk a fair bit about why our profession is not readily noticed by the average man or woman in the street. I am hoping that some members will join with me to look at what can be done to increase visibility. Advertising on buses and billboards? Radio and TV spots? More scholarship awards? In an attempt to promote the professions and increase public appreciation, I have some ideas for a major charity event that will tell the community of Winnipeg that we care about them beyond engineering. Anyone interested? Let me know.

Renewal of the Professions

What does the future hold for engineers and geoscientists? Looking internally, it is clear that our membership is aging and that maintaining numbers will require a combination of grads from UM, BU, other schools across Canada and the welcoming of professionals from overseas. While ensuring that the association is sustainable through adequate member numbers, it is also important to challenge each other with questions about personal, professional and philosophical renewal. Why do we do what we do? Why are we a part of these historic, honourable professions? Who is called and who is responding to the call? What is the profile of the future engineer? What is the profile of the future geologist? These questions will be explored in the near future.

Thank you to each of the 5,474 members – the staff and council appreciate the support you have given this year. Next year, we hope to engage all of you in some new ways. In the meantime, your feedback is welcomed. If you have any thoughts on anything, please email me at apegm@apegm.mb.ca or message me through Facebook.