

## Report of the President

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They say that as you get older, time seems to speed up; well this year has passed in the blink of an eye. I have had an exciting time. I have always found personal benefit volunteering with APEGM, but this year has been a real rush.

I certainly felt privileged when Digvir Jayas asked if I would consider the President's position and it was not without feelings of trepidation that I accepted. There was no precedent for a Geologist President. APEGM took the chance and I have personally benefitted greatly.

First and foremost I want to thank my family. Even though Liz got to travel with me, my absentee rate from family duties and events was at an all time high. Her patience and forbearance were amazing. As well, she probably knows more about the regulation of geoscience and engineering than any other accountant.

I also want to thank my employer, the Manitoba Geological Survey. My management truly believes in the benefits and needs of self regulation of professionals and demonstrated their belief by allowing me the time to serve APEGM.

As I chaired the past Presidents meeting, the reality struck home that Don Himbeault will take on the tasks and trials of President soon. I hope that he and Giselle will have as much fun as Liz and I have had. I also hope that Don leaves with the same feeling of regret, relief and amazement as I am.

I want to summarize some of the issues that I have dealt with and hope to not overlap too much with reports from other sectors.

## ADMISSIONS

Work on revision of the Manual of Admissions was ongoing when I came on council and I joined past President Allan Silk and Councillor Brian Shortt on the revision committee. As the document grew we consulted with Council's Admissions Committee to be sure the suggestions were workable. We knew what council wanted but also needed to know that it was practical in its application.

The rewriting task is finished and Allan will be forwarding the document to Grant Koropatnick in the near future to be scrutinized by our legal council.

I hope that this monumental task, shepherded by Allen Silk, will be an agenda item for the December council meeting. Originally I hoped to get this one

through in my term, but we didn't quite make it. I want to thank Allan and Brian for all the Tuesday night meetings.

A parallel series of adjustments was carried out over the last several years in the APEGM office to revamp the Academic Review Committee (ARC) manual. This task fell chiefly upon Sharon Sankar and Grant. In January, council approved a motion to accept the revised ARC manual of operations.

I believe that the changes in these manuals will result in a more efficient registration process. As well, I believe that APEGM is in a good position with regard to mobility issues and registration of foreign trained engineers.

Returning to the ARC, I wanted to thank Ian Ferguson for his careful oversight of the ARC committee for the past 2 years. Ian has stepped down as ARC Chairman to pursue a sabbatical in Australia. His attention to detail and measured guidance was especially helpful in assessing the academic credentials of applicants. Since his wife Nancy Chow went with Ian, ARC lost two geoscientists at one fell swoop. Thanks to both of them.

## COUNCIL

I want to thank all of the councillors that I have served with. Their dedication and willingness to understand the issues and help keep APEGM needs first made my job easier. There was always lively discussion and an open sharing of opinions and ideas; without any acrimony – ever. Thanks again, it certainly made my job as Chair easy.

I especially want to thank the councillors Brenda Bilton, James Blatz and Jim Miller who have finished their terms on council. I hope they stay involved with APEGM in many ways and that maybe they will throw their cap in the ring again to serve as councillors.

Two newly appointed councillors will be joining council this year. Sheila Dresen, and Cindy Rodych. Sheila is an RN and is Past President of the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba. Cindy is a member of the Professional Interior Designers Institute of Manitoba (PIDIM) and Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA). She is currently Corporate Leader – Interior Design, Stantec Consulting Ltd. With the Governments, both at Provincial and Federal levels, putting emphasis (read legislation) on across country mobility and registration of foreign trained professionals, their ability to provide a point of view from other regulated professions will be a great asset.

## ENGINEERS CANADA

Engineers Canada has just embarked on a major advertising campaign. Engineers and engineering, to my mind, in today's world is taken for granted – one of the invisible things of everyday life. Few know that in the early 1900's Engineers in the U.S. were the highest paid professionals, well ahead of Medical Doctors. They have fallen behind and it is probably time that the general public go reintroduced to engineers, what they do and importantly how to become one. Being in the profession all of you probably know this, but Engineers Canada is out to re-educate the public. You may know this from other reports but my point in bringing it up is to inform you that this campaign will be multi-year and will cost money. To be effective we should expect our Provincial and Territorial organizations to fund this project for the long haul. The effective advertising campaigns of the three Accounting organizations has gone on for several years and truly raised their status. Engineers and Geoscientists need to do the same.

## CANADIAN COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS

The June annual meeting of CCPG was in Winnipeg at the Fort Gary Hotel. I had the privilege of presiding over the President's meeting the day before the Annual meeting of Directors and Members. The previous year in Kananaskis Tim Smith, the president of APEGBC, brought together a quick meeting of Presidents prior to the annual general meeting. It was suggested that this meeting should be a standard event and I chaired a more formal event in Winnipeg last June.

I have been asked to provide terms of reference for the future Presidents annual meeting. This is a mirror of the meeting by the Presidents at Engineers Canada meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to become informed on the issues from the various jurisdictions and work toward a consensus for the presidents on the issues. Incidentally, two weeks ago at Engineers Canada in Ottawa, I was asked to set up similar terms of reference for Engineers Canada President meetings.

## EARTH RING

This was my fun project for the year! Although the Earth Ring is not directly related to APEGM, just as the Iron Ring stands alone and independent, there is pride in being an Engineer or Geoscientist and the ring is an important visible symbol.

Until friends from Alberta talked about the ring, I hadn't thought much about it. However, I tossed out a few comments to students at U of M and Brandon and was overwhelmed with a positive response. So much so that it essentially turned

into a demand. The earth ring became a tradition in Alberta 33 years ago so I got myself invited to their ceremony and brought the tradition home. Graduates eligible for registration in Manitoba received Earth Rings this spring. I am sure this will become a Manitoba tradition. It has now spread to B.C., Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. I expect it will continue to expand.

The Brandon students have put photos up on our Face book. Now I have to get my kids to show me how to use Face book.

I am proud to have been instrumental in introducing the Earth Ring to the graduating geological classes this year.

## PARTING SHOTS

The APEGM office is moving; about 100 metres to the south. The new building going up on Pembina has really taken shape quickly. Grant and the staff are looking forward to moving in, possibly on December 1st. So watch for the office opening and some new eye catching signage – from the discussions, dreaming, and looking at the plans our new Association home sounds pretty exciting. It will be twice the size of our present space and at the rate we have grown, it is surely needed.

In closing, it is amazing how fast a year can spin by, at (most) times apparently out of control. But Grant and the office staff can be counted on to keep the underlying system running smoothly for membership. For that we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. As well, as I've said before – the Association relies on the dedication of volunteers. It always seems to return to the need for volunteers. So keep on giving a little bit back. It is, after all, your profession.