

## President's Monthly E-Letter – January 2012



Randy Pickle, FCSCE, FEC, P.Eng.  
President, Canadian Society for Civil Engineering  
Email: [rpickle@morrisonhershfield.com](mailto:rpickle@morrisonhershfield.com)  
Ph: 416 499 3110



### The start of a new year ...

This has the potential to be a very good year in Civil Engineering.

First, we will be celebrating, all year long, with our sister Societies of the Engineering Institute of Canada, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the original Canadian Society of Civil Engineers. In 1887, Thomas Keefer, Walter Shanley, Casimir Gzowski, John Kennedy, and others who were involved in the building of the infrastructure for a new nation, met to form an organization for the exchange of technical knowledge and expertise. Our own celebration of the anniversary will peak at the [Annual Conference in Edmonton](#), June 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>, and we will be sharing a special Awards Banquet with EIC. If you have not saved the date for Edmonton, please get it into your calendars so that you do not miss out on the events of the week being organized by Bob Driver and Jeff Battista and the volunteers of the Edmonton Organizing Committee.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012, a delegation of speakers from CSCE will be participating in the 9<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of the CSCE, ASCE and ICE. The CSCE hosted this conference, in St. John's NL, in 2009 and this year ASCE will be the host in Washington D.C. The session themes include: *A Sustainable Future for the Planet - Progress Since 2006 Protocol Perspectives from Canada, the UK and the USA; Federal/National Government Leadership in Sustainable Infrastructure – Case Studies of Mainstreaming Sustainable Infrastructure; Condition, Capacity and Sustainability of Infrastructure - What ASCE, CSCE and ICE Are Doing About It; How Rating Systems Promote Delivery of Sustainable Infrastructure – Project Case Studies; Education and Certification of Professionals for Sustainable Infrastructure and Sustainability Action Plans for the Future.* Those of you who are interested in this event can find full information on the program, hotel and registration at the following website: <http://content.asce.org/conferences/triennial/index.html>.

CSCE will be hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advanced Composite Materials in Bridges and Structures, ACVMBS – VI, in Kingston, Ontario, from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. This specialty conference focuses on recent developments in the use of advanced composite materials (ACM) and fibre-reinforced polymers (FRP) in bridges and other structures. Information of the conference can be found at: <http://www.acmbs2012.ca>.

There is a lot happening in 2012 at the national level, and even more so at the local level. I encourage you to get to as many of the local Section events that are happening from St. John's to Victoria. I look forward to meeting you at one of these events when I am in the area.

## **VISION 2020:**

The Executive Director and the Vision 2020 Committee have summarized the thoughts and ideas captured during the November Board workshop. This summary will be shared with all Executives in March. After that an information package will be developed to inform all members of the strategic directions that CSCE will be pursuing for the next 5 to 10 years. This information package will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval in June, 2012.

Comments, suggestions or offers to assist with the Vision 2020 initiative should be directed to Randy Pickle ([rpickle@morrisonhershfield.com](mailto:rpickle@morrisonhershfield.com)).

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT – ELECT (Jim Kells):**

A significant pre-occupation of mine at the moment is preparing for the Triennial Conference being held in Washington, DC, March 25 & 26. This event, which is held every three years and has been ongoing since 1991, is a joint initiative of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE). The conference “offers an opportunity for members of the three organizations to interact closely on items of interest to the societies and to the civil engineering profession as a whole.” The last Triennial Conference was held in St. John’s in 2009. This year, the conference theme is Global Perspectives on Sustainable Infrastructure, which fits very nicely with our current Vision 2020 theme of Leadership in Sustainable Infrastructure. The conference theme was developed by ASCE's Committee on Sustainability as part of ASCE's sustainability initiative. Along with the President and myself, there will be four others from CSCE who will be speaking on various topics. As noted on the conference website (<http://content.asce.org/conferences/triennial/index.html>), it is hoped that the event “will contribute to the growing policy debate on the economic, social and environmental benefits of an integrated approach to sustainable infrastructure.”

## **PRESIDENT’S WINTER MEETINGS & TRAVEL PLANS:**

The President, President-Elect, Senior Vice-President and Executive Director will be arranging to speak to local civil engineering students and local section meetings during their travels whenever possible.

**“Did You Know?”** - That Montreal’s Victoria Bridge, which went into service in 1860, underwent a major upgrade in 1900. The original tubular iron bridge had only a single railway track. The new bridge was a steel structure with two railway tracks running between twin trusses. Cantilevered vehicle roadways with sidewalks were added on each side. The Grand Truck Railway, owner of the then renamed Victoria Jubilee Bridge, recovered the \$2 million reconstruction cost by means of a toll: 5 cents for pedestrians, 15 cents for automobiles and 15 cents for carts hauled by a dog or a goat. In today’s dollars, these fees would be roughly \$1.00, \$3.00 and \$3.00 respectively. Pedestrians, dogs and goats are no longer allowed to use the bridge, however, toll or no toll.

Please send your comments or suggestions to Doug Salloum Executive Director ([doug.salloum@csce.ca](mailto:doug.salloum@csce.ca)) or the President ([president@csce.ca](mailto:president@csce.ca)).

For additional information on the items contained in this E-Letter or email addresses of CSCE executives, please go to the CSCE Website: [www.csce.ca](http://www.csce.ca).