



# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

September 7, 2011

Issue 8

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[www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)

### Calendar of Events

**Sept. 14th**

Annual Bob Carson Classic  
(Highlands Golf Course)

**Sept. 19th**

Edmonton Chapter Meeting  
(Derrick Golf & Winter Club)

**Oct. 20th**

North West Chapter Meeting

**Oct. 29th**

STARS Gala  
(Crowne Plaza Chateau  
Lacombe)

**Nov. 10th**

Calgary Chapter Info Night  
(The Blackfoot Inn)

**Dec. 1st**

ECAA Christmas Open House  
(ECAA Provincial Office)

**Dec. 8th**

Calgary Chapter Christmas

**SEPTEMBER/2011**

### Welcome to ECAA's E-Newsletter, The Spark!

This e-newsletter was created to keep members informed on the Association's activities and upcoming events in a timely manner.

### President's Message

All right, in the last Spark I did ask for some summer weather, but that was for August not September now that we are all back at work and rolling up our sleeves. Most of the construction industry colleagues that I have talked to are as busy as they like to be, or busier. That is certainly the case with the projects my company has on the go. As you can tell by reading through this issue of the Spark, the calendars are really starting to fill up.



Clem  
Gratton,  
PEC

I would like to remind you how extremely important it is for you to make sure and attend your local ECAA Chapter meetings. I know that when the calendar gets a little jammed it is easy to say, well I can miss that dinner meeting, and maybe the next one, and so on it goes. Your chapter presidents and executives work very hard at planning and making sure that there are good speakers representing current issues and products. The committee chairs have been working right through the whole year, attending meetings and monitoring issues that their committee represents, then prepare reports to keep you informed of what is going on. The vendor and manufacturer representatives take the time to come out, again and again, to not only support our association, but to make themselves available to present new products and answer any questions that you might have. The networking and the questions that you ask the committee chairs when they present their reports are the issues and concerns that are heard and focused on. They are also the ones that are brought back to the Provincial ECAA Board of Directors to deal with. Without your participation at your Chapter meetings, the concerns and issues of only a few are heard. Please take the little time it takes to come out, be heard, participate, and support your Chapter executive, and your ECAA.

I look forward to meeting you at one of your chapter meetings this year.  
Cheers.

### Industry News

In 2010 the construction industry and STARS partnered with a shared mission of education, safety and saving lives, and created an annual fundraising gala. "Building Magic in the Air" gala is confirmed for October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Chateau Crowne Plaza. Tickets (limited to 500) available for purchase at \$150 per ticket. **Please support the gala by donating a prize item and/or purchasing tickets.** Donations may include restaurant and hotel certificates, electronics, gift baskets, jewelry as well as other valued gift items. All gala prize donors will have their name included in the event program. (contact: [Sali@stars.ca](mailto:Sali@stars.ca))

**Capital Region Electric Club (CREC) memberships due.** Congratulations to newly elected President, Bob Holman (D.A.D. Sales) and Vice President, Willie Neufeld (Eecol Electric). December 2<sup>nd</sup> is the annual CREC Christmas luncheon at the Marriott River Cree

Social  
(The Blackfoot Inn)

**Jan. 21st**  
Edmonton Chapter President's  
Ball  
(Crowne Plaza Chateau  
Lacombe)

**March 2-12th**  
ECAA's 50th Anniversary  
Convention  
(Cabo San Lucas)

### Tradeshows

**Nov. 18th & 19th**

2011 Canada  
Career Week Fair  
(Edmonton Expo Centre)

<http://www.canadacareerfairedmonton.com/>

### Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

### Social Networking



Find us on Facebook 

hotel - mark your calendars.

**Canadian Electrical Contractors Association 2012 National Industry Conference** and product exposition will be held June 13 - 17 at the Four Seasons Resort in Whistler, British Columbia. This event is being hosted by ECA Ontario and ECA BC. Sponsorship opportunities and registration package available on ECAA website ([www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)).

**Bill 16 - Distracted Driving Legislation in effect** September 1<sup>st</sup>. Restricts drivers from using hand-held cell phones; texting or emailing; using electronic devices; entering information on GPS units; reading printed materials; writing printing or sketching; and personal grooming (detailed bulletin from Lloydsadd on ECAA website ([www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca))). Thanks to Lane Gross for sharing this information with us.

October 7<sup>th</sup> **deadline fast approaching to submit projects** for Alberta Construction Magazine's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Top Projects issue. Nomination form and eligibility guidelines available at [www.albertaconstructionmagazine.com](http://www.albertaconstructionmagazine.com).

**ECAA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention confirmed** for beautiful Cabo San Lucas in March. Seven and ten day option available. Updated registration form posted on ECAA website ([www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)) or contact Sheri at ([smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)) for further information. Number of queries on ECAA price versus rates posted on other websites. Members able to get a better rate are more than welcome to book their own accommodations and join us in Cabo (*but remember the ECAA rate is an all-inclusive one*).

After 46 years of service and dedication to Guillevin International we hear **Bunny Kennedy** is retiring. The ECAA family wishes Bunny all the best in his future adventures.

### Board of Directors Update

**Next Board meeting: September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011.**

**Volunteers Required to man ECAA booth:**

**Fort Saskatchewan Career Fair**, October 19<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Canada Career Week Fair**, November 18<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; November 19<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Please contact Brittany ([bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca)) if able to help us out. Thank you.

**Safety Codes Council (SCC)** - ECAA has received notification that Mr. Keven Lefebvre's position on the Fire Technical Council expires January 31st, 2012. The SCC is asking ECAA to submit two proposed nominations for consideration to fill the position, including a brief profile with experience and background, before the end of November 2011. Please contact Sheri ([smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)) if you are interested and require detailed information. Thank you for considering this three-year commitment.

### Local Chapter Activity

**Calgary** - President Scott White and executive met to discuss goals for coming year. First fall meeting held September 8th at the Blackfoot Inn. Next Meeting Scheduled for October 13th. Upcoming events include Member Information Night on November 10th - all members encouraged to bring a non-member and Christmas Social on December 8th. Silent auction items welcome; contact Diane Rinaldi.

**North East** - Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th. Members with agenda items can contact President Terry Barnett ([klect1@telusplanet.net](mailto:klect1@telusplanet.net)) or email [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca).

**Edmonton** - meeting scheduled for Monday, September 19th at the Derrick Golf & Winter Club. Open to suggestions for a speaker. Contact President Scott Hutton ([shutton@highline.ca](mailto:shutton@highline.ca)) or the ECAA office ([smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)).  
Bob Carson Classic golf tourney - 144+ golfers - deadline for registrations Friday, September

9th. Golf prizes welcome!! Contact Christine ([chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)).

**North West** - Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 20th. Members are asked to please contact President Tim Tarita (780-532-4000) with items they would like discussed at the meeting.

## Continuing Education

*Upcoming courses offered by ECAA.*

**Design Build (ECAA Office Edmonton)**, September 10th & 11th. There is still room in this very popular course.

**Safety Principles** (ECAA Office Edmonton), September 22nd & 23rd - Class Full. If you wish to put your name on a cancellation list please contact Brittany ([bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca))

**September 10 & 11, 2011 - Design Build (ECAA Office, Edmonton)**. Design-build has become a common place term in the engineering and construction industry in recent years and is prevalent for various building construction projects. The electrical contractor as a sub-trade is being asked to participate in the design build process. As a viable business opportunity, it is necessary for the electrical contractor to fully understand the concept of design build, organizational model, the laws and regulations pertaining to design build, design methods, estimating techniques and risk management. The course will help project managers, engineers, executive and owners of electrical contracting firms to address opportunities in design build and expand their market profitability.

**September 22 & 23, 2011 - Safety Principals (ECAA Office, Edmonton)**. A well-developed safety program can reduce costs resulting from injury and property damage and in the hallmark of a quality electrical contracting firms. Follow the steps to develop and implement an effective safety program for small to medium sized electrical contracting firms. Second day is designed to help managers ensure construction supervisors fine-tune their safety skills by clearly understanding roles and responsibilities; presenting and delivering effective training to workers and maintaining high worksite safety standards; conducting effective site inspections and developing appropriate recommendations; understanding the steps to follow and processes involved when investigating accidents or incidents; understanding WCB legal responsibilities.

**October 21 & 22, 2011 - Accounting Principles (Location TBA, Calgary)**. This course will introduce you to the terms and concepts of accounting and show you how to use them to attain goals and controls for future growth. You will learn practical skills to help you develop, interpret and use financial data, pin-point problem and profit areas, and focus your resources toward a successful electrical contracting business.

**October 28 & 29, 2011 - Project Management (Carriage House Inn, Calgary)**. Increased competition is eroding profit margins across the board. To be successful in today's marketplace, electrical contractors need to work smarter - not harder. The Project Management course will teach you practical, hands-on skills to:

- identify and recover all costs to which you are entitled
- avoid paying for others' errors or omissions
- reduce project costs through effective purchasing and administration
- identify cost overruns - and take corrective action
- use effective record keeping systems to enhance project profitability

**November 18 & 19, 2011 - Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) (Carriage House, Calgary)**. For small contractors who are not ready to make the investment in a computerized estimating system.

Designed to teach new contractors the fundamentals of preparing an electrical estimate using the Elemental Format hands-on. The course will address material take-off, pricing of materials, labouring of materials using the NECA Manual of Labour Units, labour costs,

special overheads, general overheads and profit/contingencies.

**November 24 & 25, 2011 - Business & Public Relations (ECAA Office, Edmonton).** A series of five modules designed to give you essential and proven management concepts in the areas of managing: Credit & Collections, Business Promotion, Sales Management, Business Management and Human Resource Management. Each module will teach you hands-on management strategies to immediately begin improving the performance and profitability of your electrical contracting business.

**December 1 & 2, 2011 - Assessing & Finalizing The Tender (ECAA Office, Edmonton).** is course for the Professional Electrical Contractor courses covers organizing the estimate, finalizing the tender, and computer aid in estimating and finalizing the tender. Since the course is aimed at Professional Electrical Contractors, very little time is spent on basic take-offs. The course addresses calculations of various overheads, mark-up theories, labor factors, evaluating risk factors, and the like, all concerns that the active business manager meets up with every day. These three parts of this course are designed to create an awareness in the Professional Electrical Contractor of the various business principles involved in preparing his or her tenders.

Registration on-line at [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) or through [ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca). Available through ECAA. **ELECTRICAL SAFETY TRAINING SYSTEM (ESTS)** is a computer based, distance delivered program that recognizes Provincial & Federal Occupational Health & Safety Regulations. The program promotes a "Plan, Do, Check, Act" philosophy applying **CSA Z462**, based on **CSA Z1000 Occupational Health & Safety Management System Standard**. *Course is complimentary to all unionized electrical contractors and their employees that have a bargaining relationship with the IBEW Local 424.* Contact Christine [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca) to sign up.

### Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

**PEC's let your voice be heard!!** We are still looking for active participation on all the committee levels (but especially Practice Review and Registration) Contact [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca) if you are able to participate. Thank you.

If you are an ECAA Contractor or Associate member and would like us to help promote an industry or company event please contact us directly at 1-800-252-9375.

We value your feedback and it is important to us. Please submit any comments to [ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca)



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