



# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

December 5,  
2011

Issue 11

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

### Calendar of Events

**Dec. 8th  
Calgary Chapter  
Christmas Social  
(The Blackfoot Inn)**

**Jan. 12th  
Calgary Chapter  
Meeting  
(The Blackfoot Inn)**

**Jan. 16th  
Edmonton Chapter  
Meeting  
(Chateau Louis)**

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

### DECEMBER/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



Clem  
Gratton,  
PEC

December already. I have to say that was the fastest November ever -- well it did help that I spent half of it in China. We have a long way to go in the City of Edmonton before we see that kind of population and traffic congestion. I don't know what I was complaining about all spring and summer long when I got tied up in those road construction hold ups and bottle necks. I cannot believe the amount of construction going on in the three major cities we visited. I remember going over an overpass with an elevated view and there must have been no less than 50-70 high-rises going up all at the same time. Mr. Dave Hagen our ACA WCB/Safety committee chair would have loved going around with his camera to bring back some slightly unsafe work practices to share at his next meeting. I remember pointing out the work one fellow was doing with a fair size back hoe, as he worked away in his sport blazer, dress pants, and open toe sandals. My wife really got a giggle seeing most workers wearing a hard hat, but no glasses, gloves, or any kind of work wear, and sandals. Sledging concrete apart, pushing wheelbarrows, climbing bamboo scaffolding, it was quite the sight. I left Shanghai in plus 24 degree weather and landed in Edmonton at -28 degrees. Welcome home, but we were happy to be home and breathing clean air. A couple days later I made the trip to Lethbridge with Sheri McLean and Steve Warholik where we almost died in those extreme winds as our flight out of Lethbridge dipped and dipped more -- better than any ride I have ever been on, O.K. I am a little weak-kneed. I really enjoyed the meeting with a good presentation Thank you Mr. Rob Coleman for a well-run meeting and also thanks to Gescan Lethbridge for sponsoring the meeting. Those contractors, PEC's, or Associates who did not attend, please consider attending next time. Rob works hard on your part to present good meeting topics and needs your support at meetings; as do all the Chapter Presidents. December 1st was our Provincial Board meeting and Christmas open house. I would like to take this time and wish all the best for the upcoming Christmas Season, and a prosperous 2012 to come, (ECAA's 50th Anniversary Year). Cheers.

#### Getting To Know Your Executive

We thought our readers would like to know more about the volunteers who make up the ECAA Board of Directors so have added this feature into the Spark.

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

**Tradeshows**

No upcoming tradeshows at this time.

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**Getting to know your President:** Here is a bit of insight into ECAA's President, Clem Gratton, PEC

**Company:** CMN Electrical Systems Ltd., (Edmonton, AB). I started the company in 1989 hoping that it would become a true family business, and it has, as my two sons (Mike and Nick) are now working partners and Certified Master Electricians (CME's) in their own right.

**Family Members:** Wife Kathy, son Mike (Pam) and grandchildren Jordann and Brandon; son Nick (Jennifer) and grandchildren Kate, Brianna and another on the way.

**When and how did you start in the industry:** I think it was 1978 and completely by chance, a friend of mine called me one 30 degree below night to help him get his wife's car going. We could not get it going but on the way back he asked if I might be interested in becoming an electrician. I said sure, he said I'll pick you up in the morning I think my boss is hiring. There I was a smiling rookie sitting in front of John McEwan (Creative Electric) and he looked up and said what are you doing here and here I am.

**Favorite hobbies:** Curling, hunting, fishing of all kinds, really like fly fishing, golfing, travelling, wine tasting, and lately friendly games of Texas Hold 'em.

**Favorite TV show:** Bugs Kathy to no end but news, also Blue Bloods with Tom Selleck -- must be the family business thing.

**Favourite Sports Team:** Oilers, Oilers, Oilers

**Most memorable vacation:** I would have to say a two week trip to Bali with my wife Kathy - although we did a tall ship sailing in the Greek Islands that was also pretty nice.

**Affiliations with other Associations:** I currently sit on the Industry Advisory Council for the Edmonton Home Builders Association. I have sat on the Provincial Apprenticeship Committee, Electrical Technical Council, and the Canadian Electrical Code Advisory Committee.

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** Never stop learning and be proud of a very honourable trade.

**Favorite ECAA memory:** Many moons ago sitting in a bar type lounge in Kananaskis Village after a days worth of meetings, having cocktails and smoking cigars (yech!) think I was trying to fit in. Terry Emmerson (Provincial Electrical Services) made a very convincing argument that I should do something about the issues I was complaining about and get involved. I did and in the process learned a lot about professionalism and made some great new friends.

**Best part of ECAA is:** being able to travel to all the chapters and meeting members all across the Province. We have so much in common and there are truly some great people all over working hard for our, "My" Association.

**Getting to know your Vice-President:** Here is a bit of insight into ECAA's Vice-President, Kelly Wilde

**Company:** KELS Electric Ltd. (Sherwood Park, Alberta)

**Family Members:** I have 2 daughters and my wife Marge has 2 sons and together we have 8 grandchildren

**When and how did you start in the industry:** I started apprenticing right out of high school in Lethbridge and came to Edmonton in 1980. In 1982/83 I started

KELS Electric.

**Favorite hobbies:** Curling, golfing, camping, diving

**Favorite TV show:** Criminal Minds

**Favourite Sports Team:** Oilers

**Most memorable vacation:** Out backing on Horseback with my daughters in Wilmore Wilderness Park

**Affiliations with other Associations:** Was involved in soccer, ringette, basketball, slowpitch and curling associations. Was and am on the Board of Condo Associations.

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** Be a leader not a follower

**Favorite ECAA memory:** St. Lucia

**Best part of ECAA is:** Getting to know your competitors and distributors and being involved in the issues facing the industry. Too many contractors go through their years not knowing or understanding the issues facing our industry. If you are making your living in the electrical industry you need to be involved and give back.

## Industry News

**CONDOLENCES to Sharon, Richard, Michael & Cassandra Elhard, Tyler Kruper, and the entire R&T family on the loss of Kristy.** Our heartfelt thoughts are with them through this upsetting time. Donations towards Kristy Elhard Memorial Scholarship Fund can be made at any ATB branch.

**LAST CHANCE to register for ECAA's 50th anniversary convention in beautiful Cabo San Lucas - remaining rooms will be released December 31st.** Registration form available on ECAA website [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca).

**Congratulations to Electrical Installation competitor, Tim Twa** on his Medallion for Excellence at World Skills London 2011.

**Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta--** Please submit your Agenda items on line at [www.eiaa2004.com](http://www.eiaa2004.com) ASAP so the subject can be researched. **Keynote Speakers:** *Ted Simmons from British Columbia* the Chief Instructor for the Electrical Trades Programs will be speaking on the new Section 64 for the 2012 Code - Renewable Energy; and *Kevin Harrison from NAIT* who represents the training institutes on Part 1 will be speaking on the changes in the 2012 Code. Thomas & Betts, once again this year, has agreed to host our Friday Night Social. ECAA has contributed to the coffee and refreshment fund. Please be aware that seating is limited to 120 attendees and by pre-registering you will be guaranteed a seat. Still unable to take credit cards so the only way payment can be made is by snail mailing me a cheque. Once payment received receipt will be sent. All submission items can be submitted by email ([lou.greco@calgary.ca](mailto:lou.greco@calgary.ca)) or by going to our Web Site. EIAA Technical Conference Registration.

**Alberta court says Chinese firm can face trial for death of oilsands workers.** The Alberta Court of Appeal has upheld a ruling that *Sinopec Shanghai Engineering Co.* can be prosecuted under the Health and Safety Act for the death of two oilsands workers more than five years ago. (Full story on ECAA website ([www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)) or Canadian OHS Legal Update, November 24th, 2011)

**The face of Wills and Estates law in Alberta is set to change in 2012!** The Government of Alberta is preparing to usher in changes that will see current Wills and Estates laws largely replaced by the Wills and Succession Act. The Wills and

Succession Act has been passed by the Alberta legislature and is expected to be declared in force sometime in early 2012. (Full story on ECAA website [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)).

## Board of Directors Update

**Board of Directors met December 1st, 2011** (reports in this issue 4 of the Contactor). Budget approved for 2012. **New members** approved were **Design 21 LED Lighting** (Edmonton); **GE Industrial Solutions** (Calgary, Edmonton and Fort McMurray); **Dash Electric Ltd** (Gibbons); **A Power Master Electrical Services** (Edmonton). **Congratulations new Professional Electrical Contractors Bill Long (#215) and Dallas McEachern (#216).**

**Membership Survey results discussed. Thank you to all who submitted their response to ECAA's survey on benefits.** Board of Directors to discuss and address path forward on comments received at January board meeting. Full survey results available on the ECAA website ([www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)). **Question was asked when Code updating courses will be held.** ECAA has contracted with Mr. John Biollo and Mr. Don Letcher to offer code updating courses to our members, CME's and RME's in every Chapter of ECAA beginning in May. Request made to Safety Codes Council to recognize this course as update for Safety Codes Officers (no reply has been received to-date).

**Del Communications has been contracted to produce a 50th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine for ECAA.** Thank you to any members who choose to advertise in the magazine. Just a note that this is not the hard cover 50th Anniversary book that will be released following the President's Gala.

**CECA Convention 2012 in Whistler BC** - Updated registration form available on ECAA website [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca). **Register by February 15th 2012 and you are eligible for the early bird draw (upgrade to a premier room, special welcome gift & 2 tickets to the peak to peak alpine experience).**

In lieu of Christmas cards ECAA will be making a cash donation to the food bank. **Food bank donations accepted at the ECAA office until December 23rd.**

ECAA office will be closed for Christmas Break the week of December 26th. Will re-open Monday, January 2nd.

## Local Chapter Activity

**Calgary** - Chapter Christmas social scheduled for Thursday, December 8th at the Blackfoot Inn. Tickets \$20 per person (dinner, auction, dance). Contributions to the food bank appreciated. Contact Dianne Rinaldi ([muffin\\_911@hotmail.com](mailto:muffin_911@hotmail.com)) if donating silent auction items. Registration form for tickets available on ECAA website ([www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)) in Calendar of Events. **Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 12th, 2012.**

**Edmonton -meeting location moving January 2012.** The convention center at the Chateau Louis Hotel on Kingsway Avenue will host our first Chapter meeting on Monday, January 16th. Hope to see everyone there! Thank you to the Derrick Golf & Winter Club for the excellent years of service provided to our Edmonton Chapter Members. **Edmonton Chapter President's Ball - Saturday, January 21st .** Tickets available now please visit [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) for poster and order form or contact [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca).

**Lethbridge** - Thank you again to Gescan for an informative presentation and sponsoring the meeting. We are still looking for agenda items for upcoming meetings, please contact [rob@colemanelectric.ca](mailto:rob@colemanelectric.ca) with suggestions or ideas.

## Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

**SUCCESSFUL PEC breakfast session held Friday, December 2nd in Edmonton.** 18 PEC's attended the first of a series of breakfast sessions around the province to provide networking opportunities for Professional Electrical Contractors and PEC student members. **Topics of discussion included when "professional" liability insurance is required and when a PEC is exempt from having to take a business license in a municipality he is working in.**

**PEC Update from City of Edmonton.** Business license exemption is issued to an individual who is a Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) *or any member of ECAA who is a sole proprietor (i.e., 100% shareholder).* When enforcement contacts this individual, and they will, proof of status will be asked for. This will include a copy of a current up to date PEC membership card or proof of ECAA membership, along with a copy of Certificate of Incorporation given to each business by the Government, usually kept in a Company's manual.

**Looking for retired PEC's to assist with marketing the PEC program** (at tradeshow, at industry events, to journeymen, as mentors to new PEC's). Contact [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca) if interested in assisting. On behalf of Mr. Tom Morin, PEC chair, thank you.

## Continuing Education

Registrations being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2012 (complete list on ECAA website under PEC section and in Calendar of Events):

**December 8 & 9, 2011 - Assessing & Finalizing the Tender (Edmonton)** This 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.

**January 6 & 7, 2012 - Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) (Carriage House Inn, Calgary) (\*Waiting List Only) February 23 & 24, 2012 (Edmonton) (\* Waiting List Only)** 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.

**February 9 & 10, 2012 - Legal Implications.** The instructors for this course are from the legal firm of Fraser Milner Casgrain, LLP. This course will address such matter as incorporation, income tax and GST, construction contracts and subcontracts and liability thereunder, and perhaps most importantly, steps available to ensure payment, including remedies under the Builder's Lien Act. Liability in stamping and sealing drawings will also be addressed.

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.

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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