



# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

February 3, 2012

Issue 13

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### Quick Links

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

### Calendar of Events

**Feb. 9th**  
**Calgary Chapter**  
**Casino & Industry**  
**Information Night**  
**(The Blackfoot Inn)**

**Feb. 13th**  
**Edmonton Chapter**  
**Meeting**  
**(Chateau Louis)**

**March 2-12th**  
**(7&10 Day Options)**  
**ECAA's 50th Anniversary**  
**Convention**  
**(Cabo San Lucas)**

### Tradeshows

## FEBRUARY/2012

### 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

Here we are -- The month of January has blown by us. It certainly only felt like January for a little over a week, but it still was January. I think I heard a blurb on the Radio that we had something like 20 days that were in the plus temperatures. When I was apprenticing and going to school it was a priority in my scheduling to be in school in January, and I was pretty lucky in making sure that happened every year. Now working in January would not be so bad. I think our new apprentices are getting a false sense of "not so bad working in the winter".



**Clem**  
**Gratton,**  
**PEC**

The ECAA office is back in full swing with all of the Contractor, PEC, CME, RME, and Associate membership enrolments going out. I would like to take this time to applaud those who have renewed their memberships. Many of you like me have or will be renewing in more than one category as I have renewed as a Contractor member, PEC member, and a CME member. We realize that by at least enrolling in those memberships, even if you may not have time to get more involved above that, you are helping those groups stay relevant and active.

I would like to remind those of you who might read this article and are not enrolling in one of the memberships to please consider doing so. Many ask what will I get out of joining and I asked that exact question before I got involved and for the many years I did not participate. I can now tell you that it was one of the best things I have ever done, both for me personally and for the health of my business. The electrical business has and is the livelihood of my family, with both my sons working alongside me with our Residential wiring company in the City of Edmonton. I have been working in that aspect of our Industry for around 36 years; so on a personal side of things, getting involved gave me the chance to give back to an industry that has provided so much for me and my family. Having our business associated, going to chapter meetings and Annual General Meetings has exposed us to the professional side of our industry. Being able to go to these meetings and mingle with Associate members has put us in a very competitive position, as well as keeping me informed about the newest technologies.

The Associates also do a lot of volunteering and sponsoring for our Association. "Believe me when I say we practise be a member use a member." By mingling with my peers I have learned to appreciate that we are all in the business to be successful and beating each other up does not improve my bottom line. I have learned that sharing information about many of the same problems that we face has helped us immensely. I always knew that I did not have to re-invent the

**Calgary Construction Association**  
**Construction Career Expo**  
April 14th  
(BMO Center, Calgary)

**Residential Construction Industry Conference (RCIC 2012)**  
April 24th & 25th  
(Edmonton Expo Center)

**Bi-Provincial Try-A-Trade Career Expo**  
May 1st & 2nd  
(Lloydminster)

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wheel, but I had no idea that my peers are more than willing to help me be professional and profitable. As a member of the ECAA I had the associated Insurance Companies have a look at our commercial policy and was extremely happy when we saved money and got a policy that was totally geared to the business that we are in, tailor made.

One of the most amazing things that happened as I got involved is that all of a sudden I had a voice, and as I started to speak I quickly realized that the things I had to say were being heard. So I got more involved and raising my hand to help out, then next thing I knew I was on some committees that actually were part of the policy making.

I personally helped not having some silly code changes proposed, and have helped explain the reality of some code interpretations from the ground level. I have had input in taking out some old criteria and beefing up new criteria into the training models used by our colleges throughout the province. I have had the opportunity to sit with Ministers and advise them of our points of view and how certain proposals might or might not help our industry, or my business in the end. I am not going to tell you that everything I suggested had a positive reaction, but my voice was heard. I could not have achieved these kinds of things on my own, but only as being part of a very respected and strong voice, the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta.

Even when I was not participating on Boards or Committee's my enrolment dollars helped the Association fund the administration required to be able to stay on top of all the issues that affect us, and to make sure our industry was being represented at all the decision making levels. I look at the CME for instance who is a Master registered with the Association. At the very least one is supporting their membership by registering.

The CME will be informed through the ECAA on what is going on and what the industry might be thinking of changing, which would and might affect the livelihood of a CME and Master. The traditional Master who is not registered will be getting a letter from Safety Codes advising them that their annual fee is due and if not paid they will not be able to pull permits. That's about the only connection or information you will get without an Association that you could belong to. So yes I know, enough said on that, but please make sure and re-register, or get registered, that will help the committees and representatives that do all that work for us. Get involved and better your personal, and businesses position. Get more involved and let your voice guide the industry we all participate in.

## 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.*

**Getting to Know Your PEC Chair:** Tom Morin, PEC

**Company:** MorQuest Electric Ltd. (Sturgeon County) Started 2002

**Family Members:** My wife is Jackie, one daughter Monique (Dan), one son David and three super granddaughters.

**When and how did you start in the industry:** I started the trade in December 1972 with Triad Electric Ltd. Richard McNeil was part owner with two other partners. I had taken one year of Electrical Technology at Nait in 1971. That got me interested in Electrical. I started with looking in the phone book from the A's and Triad was the first to offer me work. It was a long, hungry month...I relish the fact that individuals such as Rich McNeil, Terry Taillon and Reg Morris, just to name a few, took the time to share their beliefs with me about this great business.

**Favorite hobbies:** Hunting, fishing, travelling and I dabble in backpacking.

**Favorite TV show:** News, History channel, National Geographic, and recently the Big Bang theory... like to watch Sheldon... definitely has creative writers.

**Favourite Sports Team:** Edmonton Oilers, Eskimos

**Most memorable vacation:** Five awesome weeks driving across Canada, in 1996 with the family. Driving to San Francisco along the west coast last summer

**Affiliations with other associations:** Alberta Boilers Safety Association  
Alpine Club of Canada

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** Don't let fear stop you, experience comes with time. Ask questions if you don't understand, it may save your life.

**What does being a PEC mean to me?** I am a member of a professional group of individuals across Alberta, that share beliefs and work to a standard of excellence in the business. I strongly believe, that if more took the PEC courses before entering into business, their success in the industry would be greater.

**Favorite ECAA memory:** Our first AGM in Kananaskis, met some great people who have become friends.

**Best part of ECAA is:** Being part of a group of people that have genuine value and concern for the industry and its future.

## Industry News

***ECAA proud sponsors of CECA, Provincial Skills Canada Competitions and STARS.***

**Save the Date** November 24th STARS is teaming up with the Construction Industry again putting on a Winter Wonderland gala. Keep an eye out for sponsorship packages coming out in the beginning of March.

**Get Paid to Hire** an apprentice in their first two years of an apprenticeship program in a Red Seal trade and receive a tax credit equal to 10% of their salary to a maximum of \$2,000. Tax credit also applies to RAP students and graduates working first or second year. ***For a full guide to tax credits and incentives*** for intern employers visit [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)

***Calling all Residential Contractors:*** ECAA has secured a booth at the Residential Construction Industry Conference (RCIC 2012) being held at the Edmonton Expo Centre on April 24th & 25th, 2012. ***Interested in volunteering and promoting your services?*** Contact [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)

Grande Prairie Regional College now offering **Master Electrician Course** beginning May 5th, 2012, ending June 10th, 2012. For more information please contact (780) 539-2975.

**CCA Education Fund Scholarships:** Application deadline is February 17th. The trustees of the Calgary Construction Association (CCA) Education Fund are pleased to announce for the tenth consecutive year, that **six \$1,000 scholarships are available** for employees and family members of CCA member firms. Please send completed application by email ([assistant@cca.cc](mailto:assistant@cca.cc)) or fax (403-250-1607)

2012 NECA **Labour Relations Conference** (March 7-8th at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans). To register for the Cross Border Meeting or the 2012 Labour Relations Conference visit [www.necanet.org](http://www.necanet.org)

**2011 Employment Law Year in Review Seminar** reflecting on changes witnessed on the labour & employment scene. February 7th (Edmonton), February 9th (Calgary) and February 15th (Yellowknife). For more information visit [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)

**2012 Canadian Electrical Code is available and in stock.** Member Price: \$160, Non-Member Price: \$170 contact ECAA office to purchase your copy today.

Alberta Construction Safety Association's 23rd Annual General Meeting March 10th at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton for more information visit [www.acsa-safety.org](http://www.acsa-safety.org)

18th Annual Electric Learning Expo in Grande Prairie March 22nd at the TEC Centre visit [www.elecleague.ab.ca](http://www.elecleague.ab.ca) for more information.

Did you know that ECAA has **truck decals** to advertise your membership with our Association? If you would like to know more about this contact the ECAA office or email [ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca)

### Board of Directors Update

Next Meeting: March 22nd, 2012

**Two suites left in Cabo!** Come join President Clem Gratton and the 67 convention participants at the beautiful Pueblo Bonito Rose resort in Cabo San Lucas. Lots of exciting events planned. Contact [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca) for more information. Paull Travel will be sending flight itineraries and tickets out to all convention participants beginning of February.

**Advertising sales for DEL Communication's 50th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine** have exceeded our expectations. Thank you to our members for their continued support.

50th Anniversary AGM registration forms will be out the end of February. **Thank you to our 50th Anniversary Sponsors:** Silver Sponsors **Western Electrical Management Ltd.** (Calgary); **Trotter & Morton Building Technologies** (Calgary); Bronze Sponsor **Ipex Inc.** (Calgary). **Wine Sponsors:** Guillevin International (Edmonton); Edmonton Electric; MorQuest Electric (Edmonton); High Line Electrical Constructors Ltd. (Edmonton & Calgary). **Still looking for sponsors;** if you would like to contribute and donate for the event please contact [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)

ECAA looking for volunteer to represent us on the **Alberta Construction Association Research & Technology Committee**. For more information on the committees objectives or to put your name forward please contact [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)

**Fire Technical Council (FTC)** is still dealing with **the following STANDATA which will affect Electricians:** **1)** Elevator upgrade issues concerning addition of smoke detection are ongoing but far from complete and attention needs to be kept on this issue. **2)** The problem with Alarm upgrade requirements when updating a panel (sometimes caused by Elevator upgrades) is not yet complete. This sorts the problem with Alarm upgrades being done in some cases to the 1981 Building Code, and that code is not available in the Library or the City archives any longer. **3)** "All fire detection within a building **MUST** be routed through the main annunciator panel", this effectively prevents a smoke alarm being installed as part of a separate security system within a building which has a fire alarm panel.

**Thank you to Keven Lefebvre, PEC** as he ends his 9 year term with the Fire Technical Council (FTC). **Congratulation Peter Wemyss** (Simplex Grinnell) on his appointment as the new ECAA representative to sit on the FTC.

**Electrical Technical Council (ETC)** still working with Grant Thornton on OBIEC. An

overwhelming amount of questions were submitted by members with regards to the Grant Thornton report and some will remain unanswered until more details are sorted out in the process. It was reported that two CSA Standards are available relative to OBIEC, however they are not yet adopted in Alberta. **A Master's Advisory Group is being formed;** Kevin Harrison (NAIT) has been selected as the Chair. Currently Safety Codes Council is seeking representatives for this group.

**Director at Large (North) Terry Milot undertaking Provincial Legislation Chair.** Chapters are encouraged to appoint local committee representatives. If you are interested in participating at the Chapter level, please contact your Chapter President.

**Congratulations Sophie Schmaltz** on another term as the ECAA's Public Member and **Dave Hagen** as our ECAA representative as a Director on the Alberta Construction Safety Association Board of Directors.

### Local Chapter Activity

**Edmonton Chapter** - Next meeting Monday, February 13th at the Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Center. **Guest Speaker** will be Rob Harlan, Solar Energy Society of AB.

*Thank you again to all who attended the President's Ball and made it so successful.*

**Calgary Chapter - Try your hand with Lady Luck!** Thursday, February 9th **Casino & Industry Information Night** at the Blackfoot Inn. Members encouraged to bring a non-member, rsvp to [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca) if you would like to attend.

### Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

**New PEC's:** Mike Genereux (St. Albert); Steve Sinclair (Nisku); and Charles Gold (Peace River). Congratulations!

**PEC Update.** Still looking for retired PEC's to assist with marketing the PEC program. Contact [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca) or [tommorin@shaw.ca](mailto:tommorin@shaw.ca) if interested in assisting. 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):**

**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.

**February 23rd & 24th - Basic Electrical Estimating (Edmonton) Course Full. If you would like your name to be put on a waiting list please email [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca)** 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.

**March 8th & 9th - Computer Estimating (Edmonton)** This course is designed to provide the new estimator or contractor with a basic understanding of how to prepare an estimate. It covers: Planning for the estimate; Preparing counts, take-

offs; Preparing the Bill of material for supplier pricing and Review of the Bill of material; Accubid "Bidwinner"; Use of assemblies, where to enter miscellaneous costs, supplier pricing, overhead costs, and the final pricing sheet; Use of Excel spreadsheets to assist with take-offs.

**March 23rd & 24th - Safety Principles (Calgary)** A well developed safety program can reduce costs resulting from injury and property damage, and is the hallmark of a quality electrical contracting firm.. The first day of the course shows you each step to develop and implement an effective safety program for your small to medium sized electrical contracting firm. The next day is designed to help managers ensure construction supervisors fine-tune their safety skills by: clearly understanding what their safety roles and responsibilities are; presenting and delivering effective training to workers and maintaining high worksite safety standards; conducting effective site inspections - and developing appropriate recommendations; investigating - the steps to follow and processes involved.

**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.

### From the Archives

**Save the Date!** 50th Anniversary AGM May 26th & 27th at the Marriott Rivercree, Edmonton. *Come and celebrate ECAA's 50th Anniversary with President's and members from the past 50 years!*

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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