



# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

March 2, 2012

Issue 14

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### Quick Links

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

### Calendar of Events

**March 8th, 2012**  
Calgary Chapter Meeting  
(The Blackfoot Hotel)

**March 19th, 2012**  
Edmonton Chapter Meeting  
(Chateau Louis Conference Center & Hotel)

**April 12th, 2012**  
Calgary Chapter Meeting  
(The Blackfoot Hotel)

**April 16th, 2012**  
Edmonton Chapter Meeting  
(Chateau Louis Conference Center & Hotel)

### MARCH/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

So shovel the driveway or work on the Spark article.

Good idea, ignore the driveway for awhile, maybe the snow will melt. We knew we would have to pay for that mild January eventually. February has been pretty busy on the ECAA front with lots going on with preparations for the upcoming Cabo San Lucas Convention. This is coming to a close with about 70 people heading down early March, for what is going to be a great time. Also had a few more committee meetings to finalize some more plans for the upcoming AGM in Edmonton at the Marriott River Cree.



Clem  
Gratton,  
PEC

I started the month of February with the ACA (Alberta Construction Association) AGM in Calgary February 2nd, followed by the EIAA (Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta) Conference, which was held February 3rd and 4th. The EIAA conference was very well attended, and as I had mentioned to the attendee's at the conference, I really appreciate that venue. It allows us as stakeholders to have our voices heard on many of the same code and interpretation issues we all face throughout the Province. I applaud the EIAA on achieving this through their very well organized conference. Our Code Committee chair Mr. Darcy Teichroeb, who was also at the meeting, has advised us that the Masters Advisory Committee is finally being formed. It will be a subcommittee to the ETC (Electrical Technical Council) under the Safety Codes Council umbrella. Good news indeed for all of us Masters to once again have a venue to voice our concerns.

February 9th brought me to Calgary again as I attended the Calgary Chapter Industry night. This event was very well attended and a good time was had by all. Congratulations to Scott and his Executive on organizing an informative and fun evening. I attended a Convention/AGM committee meeting at the ECAA office on February 17th and would like to thank the committee members for a very productive meeting. As I had mentioned earlier, we finalized a lot of plans for the Cabo Convention March 2nd, and our AGM May 25th and 26th. That meeting was followed by the ECAA Ways and Means committee who worked very hard on finalizing our budget numbers for the 2012 year that will be presented at our AGM this May.

February 21st took me to Red Deer where I attended a meeting with many of our fellow trade Associations. We are in the early stages of assembling an association

*Hotel)*

**April 24th, 2012**  
North West Chapter  
Meeting  
*(Stonebridge Hotel)*

**April 30th, 2012**  
North East Chapter  
Meeting  
*(Best Western Wayside  
Inn)*

## Tradeshows

**Electrical Learning EXPO**  
March 22, 2012  
Grande Prairie, AB

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

**James Fowler Career Fair**  
April 18th  
*(Calgary)*

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

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

**Provincial Skills**  
May 10,11, 14th & 15th  
*(Edmonton)*

## Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

## Social Networking



that will mirror our Canadian version, the NTCCC (Nation Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada). The National Coalition has been preparing some draft legislative documents, which could be used in presenting to Provincial governments throughout Canada. Our Provincial Coalition group feels this would be of great benefit to us in Alberta. There is plenty of work to be done in this area which I am sure our newly formed Provincial Legislation Committee, chaired by Mr. Terry Milot, will champion for us very well.

As you can tell I have been very busy running around the Province, but this is nothing in comparison to the work our Administrative staff has been doing at the Association office. They are the ones that have been arranging and setting up these meetings, all the while sending out and processing membership registrations for our contractor and associate members and our PEC, CME, and RME members. This represents somewhere around two thousand plus memberships in total. Our administration has also been doing a lot of work getting prepared to present the new code up date courses throughout the Province. The places, dates and times have been scheduled and posted on our website. Call the ECAA office to order your new code book and reserve your spot for the Code update session nearest you. Thanks to Don Letcher and John Biollo for developing and offering to present on our behalf again, they too have been very busy getting this put together for us.

The meetings and events I touched on above only cover what I have participated in. There is so much more work being done by the many committees and Chapters of the ECAA who are equally as busy representing the Association on your behalf. For those of you who are asked by non-members why should I belong and what does the Association do for me? you can tell them on my behalf; "the Association represents and offers many behind the scenes benefits, as this small window snap shot above might represent."

I just realized another benefit of volunteering my time for the association, while putting this article together my wife shovelled the driveway and sidewalks, talk about a lucky guy.

Cheers,  
Clem Gratton.

## 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 Labour Relations Director:*** Brian Halina

**Company:** Chemco Electrical Contractors Ltd

**Family Members:** My wife Lois and I have been married for 36 years and have two children Todd and Jillian along with two grand daughters Ava and Mya.

**When and how did you start in the industry:** Started as an Electrical Apprentice in 1969 with Doug Smith Electric and in 1975 became a partner and changed the name to Chemco Electrical Contractors Ltd.

**Favorite hobbies:** Hunting, Fishing, Golfing and enjoying the outdoors

**Favorite TV show:** Edmonton Oilers Hockey games

**Favourite Sports Team:** Edmonton Oilers

**Most memorable vacation:** Numerous throughout the world but traveling to Africa was probably the most memorable.

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**Affiliations with other associations:** Director with CLRA, Canyon Creek Food Company, and River Valley Alliance.

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** The electrical trade can be a very rewarding lifestyle and once you have attained your journeyman certificate it will provide you with a reliable source of income as well as the ability to continue to move up to different roles depending on your individual desires.

**Favorite ECAA memory:** Numerous Conventions throughout the world and the opportunity to spend time with new friends that are part of the ECAA.

**Best part of ECAA is:** The ECAA is comprised of many individuals and organizations that all have the same goal of making the Alberta electrical construction industry the best in Canada and regardless of your Company's role allows people to mingle and make new friends.

**Getting to know your Director at Large (North) & Legislation Chairperson:** Terry Milot

**Company:** Chemco Electrical Contractors Ltd.

**Family Members:** Wife Connie , daughters Amanda & Michelle

**When and how did you start in the industry:** Worked with a local neighbor farmer then started apprenticing with Chemco in 1979.

**Favorite hobbies:** Trying to play Golf , spending time at the lake with family and travelling to see what else this world has to offer.

**Favorite TV show:** NCIS & NCIS Los Angeles

**Favourite Sports Team:** Edmonton Oilers and St Louis Cardinals

**Most memorable vacation:** ECAA Convention Costa Rica

**Affiliations with other associations:** Alberta Enterprise Group, COAA, IEEE

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** Never stop trying to learn something new and remember when you become the journeyperson don't send someone to do something you wouldn't do yourself.

**Favorite ECAA memory:** Being awarded the Past Presidents Pin and the thanks that I received in knowing that I made a positive influence in the association.

**Best part of ECAA is:** Sharing experiences with fellow colleagues and people who share in a common goal of providing a decent life for their family and caring for the safety of the community.

## Industry News

***ECAA proud sponsors of CECA, Provincial & National Skills Canada Competitions, Careers The Next Generation and STARS.***

Our President Clem Gratton will be doing an interview with **Canadian Business Executive Magazine** who is doing a feature on the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta. Keep an eye out in the future for this article.

**Code Update Courses Scheduled!** Sign up for the *22nd Edition of the Canadian Electrical Code Changes Seminar* presented by Don Letcher & John Biollo. For a complete listing of dates and locations please 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.

**Electrical Standata - Print Version No Longer Available.** Municipal Affairs has decided to discontinue the print version subscription service. Instead, they will be directly distributing all Electrical STANDATA information bulletins electronically. You can subscribe to this free service on the Municipal Affairs website at [www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/cp\\_electrical\\_standata.cfm](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/cp_electrical_standata.cfm)

**Construction Canada Magazine** is looking for lighting/controls articles for their May issue. If you are interested in contributing to a feature article please contact Molly Doyle 1-800-409-8688 ext. 276 or [mdoyle@constructioncanada.net](mailto:mdoyle@constructioncanada.net)

Congratulations to the winners of the Early Bird Prize draw for the CECA 2012 Industry Conference in Whistler: **Bryan Leverick (Alliance Energy Ltd.), Rick & Kathy Ball (White Pine Electric Ltd.), Morris & Judy Lansing (Canem Systems).** These winners have won an upgrade to a Premier room, a special welcome gift and 2 tickets to the Peak to Peak Alpine Tour! **Registration for the Optional Events and Partner Programs** are available on our website at [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)

*Congratulations* to **Paul Verhesen** on his appointment as Chairman of the Board and **Scott Emerson** as President of the Edmonton Construction Association. We would also like to congratulate newly appointed ACSA Director **Dan MacLennan**, and new Chief Electrical Inspector **Dave McCallum**.

Metis Nation Economic Development Summit is taking place at the Grande Prairie Inn in Grande Prairie, Alberta on March 15th & 16th. For more information please visit [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) and register today as there is limited space available!

**Capital Region Electric Club Curling Funspiel** Friday, March 9th taking place at the Ellerslie Curling Club. To sign up please contact [info@elecleague.ab.ca](mailto:info@elecleague.ab.ca) or to view the registration form visit [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)

Join us in wishing the best of luck to **Lou Greco** who has been a member of the Calgary Chapter for many years and an invaluable source of information at our monthly meetings. Lou is retiring from the City of Calgary at the end of March. ***We wish you all the best in your future endeavours Lou!***

## Board of Directors Update

Next Meeting: March 22nd, 2012

**50th Anniversary AGM Registration** forms are now available and can be found on our website ([www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)) ***Thank you again to the following companies who have generously contributed as sponsors for the event. Silver:*** Chemco Electrical Contractors; Guillevin International; Trotter & Morton Building Technologies & Western Electrical Management. ***Bronze:*** Ipex Electrical Inc.; KELS Electric and Siemens Canada. ***Wine Sponsors:*** AAA Enterprises Electrical; Edmonton Electric; EQ Services; Guillevin International; High Line Electrical Constructors (Edmonton & Calgary) and MorQuest Electric. **Be sure to book your hotel accommodations prior to April 20th** as the hotel will be releasing our room block after this date. Registrations can be emailed directly to [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca) or faxed to (780) 455-9815.

President Clem Gratton attended an ATCC (Alberta Trade Contractors Coalition) meeting in Red Deer February 21st, 2012, to review the proposed **Prompt Payment Legislation** being submitted in other provinces, with the help of the NTCCC (National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada). Keep an eye out for further progress in this area or better yet come to the AGM to hear more on this and let us know your point of view.

## Labour Update

Watch for the **Electrician's Photo Reference Guide**, developed by ECCA (Unionized Members), Local 424 and the Electrical Industry Training Centres. This group retained the services of Karen Hammond - Hammond and Associates to pull the project together. Its purpose is to serve as a guide for new electricians and electricians who are new to Canada and experiencing difficulties with the English language. It consists of colored pictures of most tools and materials used in industrial construction by electricians. By each picture is the normal term for the item, as well as alternative terms and a pronunciation breakdown based on a Pronunciation Key at the back of the book. ***This pocket sized reference guide should be available to Unionized Electrical Contractors and members of IBEW L.U. 424 by April, 2012.***

## Local Chapter Activity

**Calgary Chapter** - Next meeting Thursday, March 8th at the Blackfoot Hotel. **Guest Speaker** will be Kelly McIennan, Copper B-Line Industries *Topic of Discussion:* Reducing the costs associated with the installation of Cable Trays.

**Edmonton Chapter** - Next meeting Monday, March 19th at the Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Center. **Guest Speaker** will be Ken Marshall, Osram Sylvania *Topic of Discussion:* LED (Phillips) Presentation.

**North West Chapter** - Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th at The Stonebridge Hotel in Grande Prairie.

**North East Chapter** - Next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 30th at The Best Western Wayside Inn, Lloydminster.

## Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

**PEC Networking Sessions** The following sessions have been scheduled as a networking opportunity for PEC's and PEC students.

**Calgary** - 7:30 am - 9:00 am **The Blackfoot Hotel**

**Grande Prairie** - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm **The Stonebridge Hotel**

Please RSVP to [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca) to attend any of these sessions.

## Volunteers Needed

### Upcoming Career Fairs:

- Calgary Construction Career Expo (April 17th, Calgary)
- James Fowler Career Fair (April 18th, Calgary)
- Residential Construction Industry Tradeshow (April 24th & 25th, Edmonton)
- The Bi-Provincial Try-A-Trade Career Expo (May 1st & 2nd, Lloydminster)
- Provincial Skills (May 10th & 11th, 14th & 15th, Edmonton)

ECAA is still looking for volunteers for the upcoming tradeshow listed above. If you are able to volunteer please contact [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca)

## Continuing Education

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

**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.

**April 13th & 14th, 2012 - Assessing & Finalizing The Tender (Calgary)** 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.

**April 27th & 28th, 2012 - Project Management (Edmonton)** 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

**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 River Cree, 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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