

# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

April 5, 2012

Issue 15

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### Quick Links

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

### Calendar of Events

**April 12th, 2012**  
CE Code Seminar  
(*Carriage House Inn*)  
Calgary Chapter Meeting  
(*The Blackfoot Hotel*)

**April 16th, 2012**  
CE Code Seminar

**APRIL/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

April is upon us, I cannot believe how fast the months go by. I had the good fortune of spending the last weekend of March in Jasper skiing some amazing powder snow. Our winter certainly has been good to them as they have officially had the largest annual snowfall since they opened. The skiing was amazing and I am still trying to convince my legs to stop hurting -- price to pay when out of shape as I am. I guess I will have to take another relaxing trip to Cabo San Lucas, as my wife Kathy and I found the time we spent on the recent out of country convention to be absolutely relaxing. As I had mentioned in the Contactor report it was such a treat to spend time with my peers and associates in the business at which my family makes a living. The low stress, easy going environment that this trip provided gave us a lot of time to really get to know the people involved in our industry.

Clem  
Gratton,  
PEC

A recent survey put out by the ECAA had asked whether or not members knew that this kind of trip/convention is a tax write off. Surprisingly a large percentage did not know this. This trip does have official business taking place and meets the required content as prescribed by CRA; therefore your involvement as a participant is required and allowed as an expense to get there and stay. I know many people say first you have to make money to be able to have something to write off against. Well I used to say that also until I got involved with the ECAA, became a PEC, and taking the courses which helped me identify many of the pitfalls that I had been falling into and getting burnt on. Also after getting involved with ECAA and talking to other successful Electrical Contractors, I learned that it was o.k. for my company to make money. This is the kind of information and help a contractor can get from being involved in and participating. Participating is a large part of the equation -- just taking out a membership is not enough.

Take our upcoming AGM which happens to be our 50th anniversary celebration. This is forming up to be an excellent event in the City of Edmonton at the Marriott River Cree Resort, an easy location for all to get to, without all the high costs everyone says the Mountain Retreat AGM's incur. Did I mention the thing about being able to write these expenses to attend off... Anyways the AGM meeting itself has plenty of agenda items of concern and interest to all electrical contractors throughout the province of Alberta. It has been a very interesting year indeed, with ECAA losing the administration of the Masters, the Masters program going through more changes, our attempt to advertise more heavily both for Contractors and PEC's, the ongoing safety concerns with the present rules and structure of the Municipal Affairs and Safety Codes Council a new Trades Coalition which is forming, proposed new Prompt Payment Legislation, not to mention developing and provided code update courses for the new code cycle expected to be adopted in the fall. This and many other issues we face will be reported on and discussed at our Annual General Meeting portion of this 50th anniversary celebratin, May 25th and 26th. The more voices we have at the table the better. Don't forget all you PEC's, PEC students, CME's, and RME's the annual PEC meeting will also be held and

*(Chateau Nova)  
Edmonton Chapter  
Meeting  
(Chateau Louis  
Conference Center &  
Hotel)*

**April 24th, 2012**  
CE Code Seminar  
&  
North West Chapter  
Meeting  
*(Stonebridge Hotel)*

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

**May 1st, 2012**  
CE Code Seminar  
*(Best Western Wayside  
Inn, Lloydminster)*

## Tradeshows

**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 & National  
Skills**  
May 10th & 11th -  
14th & 15th  
*(Edmonton)*

**Join Our List**

we need your direction to best help out those committee chairs shape the future direction of this very important program. Mark your calendars, get registered. Packages available with links from this Spark newsletter, from the ECAA website and as a hard copy insert with the upcoming Contactor.

There are many interesting bullets included in this Spark. Please take the time and get updated. Also keep in mind we are looking for people to step up and get involved as call for nominations at both the chapter and provincial levels are out. Please put your name forward you wont regret it.

## 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 Lethbridge Chapter President:*** Rob Coleman, PEC

**Company:** Coleman Electric Ltd.

**Family Members:** My wife Donna, son Jeremy, daughter Kristie and two granddaughters Brooke and Hadleigh.

**When and how did you start in the industry:** Summer employment at Henry Electric in 1978, returning full time after graduation in 1979.

**Favorite hobbies:** Golfing & Curling

**Favorite TV show:** Castle

**Favourite Sports Team:** Calgary Flames & Stampeders; Lethbridge Hurricanes

**Most memorable vacation:** Family vacation to Disneyland in 2000

**Affiliations with other associations:** Board of Directors Lethbridge Construction Association and Employee Member Local Apprenticeship Committee: Electrical

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** Pay attention and learn as much as possible. You only go through your apprenticeship once!

**Favorite ECAA memory:** First AGM I attending in Kananaskis in 2011

**Best part of ECAA is:** Meeting and talking business with successful electrical contractors.

***Getting to know your North West Chapter President:*** Tim Tarita

**Company:** Magnum Electric Ltd.

**Family Members:** Wife Karen and son Kristian (18) and daughters Jamie-Lee (15) and Kiara (9)

**When and how did you start in the industry:** Started with Broere Electric in Wetaskiwin, Alberta in 1983, owned and still operated by Mr. Hans Broere. I was hired through a family friend that ran the front end of the business; she is still there and due to retire in July.

**Favorite hobbies:** Playing drums for our church worship teams and spending time with my family

**Favorite TV show:** Criminal Minds

**Favourite Sports Team:** Ottawa Senators and Saskatchewan Roughriders

**Most memorable vacation:** Camping with my family and just chillin out with each other

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** Keep your head in the game; listen to what you're taught; pay attention to the little things. If you don't like what you're doing - do something

## Social Networking

else. Life is short; remain ethical, and above all else...BE SAFE!

**Favorite ECAA memory:** This chapters last meeting getting to know our President, Mr. Clem Gratton, better and also this years Edmonton Chapter President's Ball.

**Best part of ECAA is:** The networking, knowledge and wisdom that can only come from collected years of wisdom from ECAA members.

## Industry News

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

Recent notification received from Safety Codes Council (SCC) that they have revised the Permit Regulation to include that **all Master Electricians are required to take an approved code update course within 1 year of a new code cycle in force date.** It is expected that as per typical processing times the new code, which is out now, will be adopted in September or October. Master Electricians will have to supply the SCC with a copy of their course completion certificate to be able to renew their Masters licence. For more information click on the following link to view the latest Permit Regulation

[http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=2007\\_204.cfm&leg\\_type=Regs&isbncln=9780779726868](http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=2007_204.cfm&leg_type=Regs&isbncln=9780779726868)

ECAA is pleased to announce that confirmation has been received from Safety Codes Council (SCC) that **the SCC will accept the ECAA "What's New in the 22nd Edition of the Canadian Electrical Code" seminar as equivalent to the CSA/SCC code update training for SCO's and Master Electricians.** To register for a code update session please visit [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) Space is filling up quickly so book your spot today!

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

**Wirtanen Electric Training Foundation** has trained 655 attitude adjusted starters since 2001. These students are directed to ECAA open shop contractors. Next class available after April 27th, 2012. For more information contact John Gullion [projects@wirtanenelectric.ca](mailto:projects@wirtanenelectric.ca)

**The Alberta Fire Code states in rule 6.1.1.6.2)b)** " Only qualified persons shall test or perform maintenance on a Fire Alarm system". The Alberta Fire Code also states that persons are considered qualified when they acquire certified training from:

- a) A public post-secondary education institution,
- b) The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), or
- c) The Canadian Fire Alarm Association (CFAA)

A Personal Identification Number (PIN) is also accepted by Fire Officials, Building owners, etc. The Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta is one of two associations administering the PIN system. You can complete an application for your PIN if you received your Alberta Electricians Certification after September 1, 1991. Please contact the ECAA for further details. If you have any Fire Code related issues please contact me, Peter Wemyss at: [pwemyss@simplexgrinnell.com](mailto:pwemyss@simplexgrinnell.com) or 780-699-4227.

**NAIT now offering Trian-the-Trainer Program: *Becoming a Master Instructor (BMI)*.** This is an instructor training program designed for experienced instructors, on-the-job trainers, in-house facilitators and those starting a teaching career. This interactive program, which has been delivered across Canada and around the world, provides teaching and learning theory and helps instructors become more effective in the classroom. There are three levels of BMI training and the modules covered include topics such as:

- understanding adult learning styles
- planning sessions
- giving and receiving feedback
- classroom management
- using assessment to enhance student learning

This is an active learning program that encourages participants to demonstrate foundational

teaching competencies through in-class exercises and a minimum of two practice teaching sessions. NAIT can deliver BMI training at NAIT or on-site at your location. For more information contact NAIT Corporate Training at 780.378.1230 or [cittraining@nait.ca](mailto:cittraining@nait.ca)

#### **Save the Date**

Building Magic in the Air STARS Gala November 24, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe. Visit [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) for a complete sponsorship package and save the date card or to reserve tickets and sponsorship opportunities contact [magicgala@stars.ca](mailto:magicgala@stars.ca) If there is anyone you know of in the electrical industry that has been flown by STARS and would like to share their story please contact Sabrina Ali at [magicgala@stars.ca](mailto:magicgala@stars.ca)

### Board of Directors Update

*Board of Directors Update from March 22nd, 2012.*

**Next Meeting:** April 26th, 2012

**Sophie Schmaltz** has been asked to chair a sub-committee to review results from the recent membership survey. A number of issues identified in the survey have been addressed and the committee will now be taking a closer look at the comments submitted.

ECAA has been asked to provide two nominees to the **Master Electrician Advisory Group**. Thank you to **Darcy Teichroeb, PEC** and **Clem Gratton, PEC** for volunteering. The Advisory Group shall be comprised of eight members as follows: one labour representative; two learning institute representatives; two Electrical Contractor representatives (Residential and Commercial/Industrial); one Apprenticeship & Industry Training Representative and two Electrical Inspector representatives (Residential and Commercial/Industrial).

**Welcome Ron Mackenzie** who has recently joined Terry Milot and Brian Alexander on the Provincial Legislation Committee. If you are interested in participating in this committee please contact Terry Milot [tmilot@chemco-elec.com](mailto:tmilot@chemco-elec.com)

The Provincial Board discussed recent changes made to **Alberta's Drinking and Driving legislation** and is recommending that the Chapters provide only one complimentary drink ticket (sponsored by ECAA members) to those in attendance at local chapter meetings.

**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; C.M.N. Electrical Systems Ltd.; Construction Labour Relations Alberta; Eecol Electric; Guillevin International; Trotter & Morton Building Technologies & Western Electrical Management. **Bronze:** Iplex Electrical Inc.; KELS Electric and Siemens Canada. **Wine Sponsors:** AAA Enterprises Electrical; Edmonton Electric; Eecol 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.

**Deadline extended to advertise in ECAA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine.** A hard copy will no longer be published by ECAA. The Association will use this publication as an update of the past 10 years.

Phone calls are currently being made to members who have not renewed their **2012 annual dues**. Please contact the ECAA Provincial Office if you require an invoice re-sent. Thank you to all of our members who have renewed and continue to support the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta.

**DID YOU KNOW** that if you are a retired Contractor or Associate and would like to continue participating in industry events and receiving information from the Association, we have created a **RETIRED** member category at a cost of \$25 for the year? If you are interested in taking out Retired Membership please contact the ECAA Provincial Office toll free 1-800-252-9375.

**Perry Schmaltz, PEC** appointed as ECAA representative on Alberta Construction **Association Research & Technology Committee**. Thank you to our members who submitted their names.

**Board Orientation** scheduled for **Sunday, May 27, 2012, at 9:30 am**. All Chapter and Provincial Board Members encouraged to attend.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** due no later than April 15th, 2012. Please email [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)

## Call for Nominations

*Is open for Edmonton & Calgary Chapter as well as Provincial and PEC positions.*

If you would like to put your name forward or to nominate someone for an Executive position on the **Edmonton Chapter Executive contact:** Bob Maslanko, PEC [bob.maslanko@stantec.com](mailto:bob.maslanko@stantec.com) ; DJ Coppens [dj@territorial-electric.com](mailto:dj@territorial-electric.com) ; or Kelly Wilde [kelly@kelselectric.com](mailto:kelly@kelselectric.com)

**Calgary Chapter Executive contact:** Tim Lang [tim.lang@acutetechelectric.com](mailto:tim.lang@acutetechelectric.com) ; Doug Fraser, PEC [dfrasert@dougleaselectric.ca](mailto:dfrasert@dougleaselectric.ca) or Ron Mackenzie [mackenzie-r@trotterandmorton.com](mailto:mackenzie-r@trotterandmorton.com)

**Provincial Nominations contact:** Bob Maslanko, PEC [bob.maslanko@stantec.com](mailto:bob.maslanko@stantec.com) ; DJ Coppens [dj@territorial-electric.com](mailto:dj@territorial-electric.com) or Ron Mackenzie [mackenzie-r@trotterandmorton.com](mailto:mackenzie-r@trotterandmorton.com)

**PEC Nominations contact:** Bob Maslanko, PEC [bob.maslanko@stantec.com](mailto:bob.maslanko@stantec.com)

ECAA is also looking for **Lifetime, Honorary and Award of Merit Recipient** nominations. If you have a nomination for any of these categories please contact any of your Chapter or Provincial Nominations Committee members listed above.

## Labour Update

ECAA is presenting Province wide Code Changes Seminars to familiarize the Industry with changes in the 22nd Edition Canadian Electrical Code. See ECAA website for details. **Employees of Unionized ECAA Contractors, who are eligible for training benefits, can participate in these seminars and the cost will be picked up by the Electrical Industry Education Trust Fund of Alberta.** Registration is to be done by contacting the Electrical Industry Training Centre in Edmonton at 780-462-5729 or in Calgary at 403-291-2787. Contractors are encouraged to send a group of your employees.

## Local Chapter Activity

**Calgary Chapter** - Next meeting **Thursday, April 12th** at the Blackfoot Hotel. **Guest Speaker** Roxanne Scott, Gescan **Topic of Discussion:** Vertical Marketing

*\*\*All participants attending the CE Code Seminar Update on April 12th at the Carriage House Inn are invited to attend this Chapter Meeting. To ensure adequate space is provided please confirm your attendance with [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca)*

**Edmonton Chapter** - Next meeting **Monday, April 16th** at the Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Center. **Guest Speaker** Dave Bentley, HUB International Phoenix Insurance **Topic of Discussion:** *Life in the Surety Bond world (claims discussion);*

*Life in the Sub Guard world (some of the hidden things Subs don't know about, possible new players); The changing face of Construction (some of the joint ventures, mergers/acquisitions, etc.)*

*\*\* All participants attending the CE Code Seminar Update on April 16th at the Chateau Nova are invited to attend this Chapter Meeting. To ensure adequate space is provided please confirm your attendance with [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca)*

**North West Chapter** - Next meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, April 24th** at The Stonebridge Hotel in Grande Prairie. This meeting will take place after the CE Code Update Seminar and all participants are welcome to attend this Chapter Meeting. To confirm your attendance please contact [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca)

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

## Master's Update

**On the Certified Master Electrician (C.M.E) Front:** The ECAA prepared and on November 25th, 2011

submitted a Quality Management Plan (QMP) to the Safety Codes Council (SCC) seeking accreditation as an Authority Having Jurisdiction in the Province of Alberta. In brief, the QMP provides for the use of a Permit/Certificate of Compliance, whereby a C.M.E. upon application for, fee paid and conditions met (evidence of liability insurance for example) would receive a blank Permit/Certificate of Compliance from the ECAA and upon signing this document is making the statement that the installation conforms to the electrical code in force for that installation. The signed document is then archived by the ECAA for future audit by the SCC. No field inspections are required or necessary in this model, and the C.M.E. has the choice whether or not to use the Permit/Certificate of Compliance approach anywhere in Alberta, or the traditional permit/inspection model. Correspondence dated February 17th was received by the ECAA on February 22nd rejecting the QMP based on the notion that an accredited 'corporation' is intended to be "...large specialized industrial site(s)..." The ECAA is still working to bring the strength of these credentials to the marketplace for the benefit of installation safety for Albertans.

## New Members

Welcome to the ECAA: **Trinity Power Corporation** (Edmonton); **Davco Power Systems Ltd.** (Calgary); **Technical Integrity New Automation** (Calgary); **Seltrek Electric Ltd.** (Calgary); **Cameron Electrical & Controls** (Calgary); **Crestview Electric Ltd.** (Calgary); **Sure Hire Occupational Health** (Associate Edmonton); **Barkman Concrete Ltd.** (Steinbach, Manitoba - Associate Edmonton); **Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta** (EIAA) (Associate Calgary)

## Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

**PEC Networking Session** The following session has been scheduled as a networking opportunity for PEC's and PEC students.

**Grande Prairie - April 24th, 2012** 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.

## Residential Construction Industry Tradeshow

**CALLING ALL ECAA EDMONTON & AREA RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTORS:** ECAA has taken a booth at the **Residential Construction Industry Tradeshow** (April 24th & 25th, Edmonton) and is offering the opportunity to advertise your company by volunteering at the ECAA booth. If you are interested and able to volunteer please contact [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca)

## Volunteers Needed

**Upcoming Career Fairs:**

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

ECAA is still looking for volunteers for the upcoming tradeshows 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):**

**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

**May 3rd & 4th, 2012 - Accounting Principles (Edmonton)** 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.

**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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