



Derrick Slack,
Mott Electric and
Laura Mongrain
from Texcan at the
ECABC's Meet and
Greet

The ECABC's Mission is to strengthen and promote the Electrical Contracting Industry.

Our SIX Core Values:
Safety - Education - Integrity -
Respect - Team Work - Quality of
Life.

In this Issue...

- Looking Back at '11 and Forward to 2012
- 2012 Economic Forecast
- Update on Restricted Electrical Licenses
- Chapter Reports:
 - Vancouver
 - Interior
 - Vancouver Island
- National Conference Whistler
- Sparky's Shorts

Looking Back at '11 and Forward to 2012

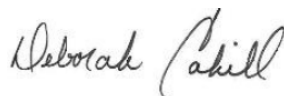
Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter. You will notice a bright, fresh new look to this publication which is being delivered to all members and stakeholders electronically. Each new edition will be posted on our website along with past newsletters for your reference. If you have any comments or feedback on our new format, please let us know!

Where has the year gone? 2011 has gone very quickly for us at the ECABC. That's what happens when you are busy! We have had another year of progress, adding to our membership, and as you can see from each chapter's report, here in this newsletter, we have had a year punctuated with many events and we have had some fun too!

One of the highlights of our year was our November Meet and Greet which featured economist Helmut Pastrick who spoke to a packed audience at

The Shangri-La Hotel in Vancouver. It was one of our best attended events ever. While we all enjoyed each other's company and had a chance to network with fellow ECABC members from across the province, and industry representatives also in attendance, Mr. Pastrick gave us some valuable take away information about the economy in general, and his predictions for British Columbia, specifically. There is a summary of his presentation here and if you'd like to see a video featuring the highlights of his economic forecast for 2012, please visit the new ECABC *You Tube Channel*:
www.youtube.com/ecabctv

We hope you enjoy our newsletter.
Good Reading to all!



Deborah Cahill
ECABC President



Deborah Cahill, ECABC President welcomes attendees to the Meet and Greet.

The Economic Forecast for 2012



(from left to right) Clyde Scollan, President - CLR Construction, Labour Relations Association of BC, and Robert Lashin, President - Houle Electric and Chairman of ECABC



(left to right) Economist, Helmut Pastrick, Steve Crocker, BC Director, Wesco, Amber Papou, Development Director for Skills Competition Canada with Deborah Cahill and Graham Trafford, General Manager Mott Electric GP and Vancouver Chapter, Chairman



After the presentation by Helmut Pastrick, attendees socialized while enjoying a relaxed buffet and drinks.

The November Meet and Greet in Vancouver featured a presentation by Helmut Pastrick, the Chief Economist for Central ONE Credit Union which is the central financial facility and trade association for the BC and Ontario credit union systems. Central ONE has 45 locations in BC and 126 in Ontario. Their member Credit Unions serve 2.9 million members and hold \$70 billion in assets. Mr. Pastrick is also the Editor of The Economic Analysis of British Columbia and The Economic Analysis of Ontario publications. Prior to joining the Central ONE Credit Union in 1997, he spent many years with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in BC, analyzing and forecasting the provincial housing market and economy. He is the former President of the Association of Professional Economists of BC, a member of the Canadian Association for Business Economics, and the BC Economic Forecast Council.

His presentation was entitled: "What does 2012 have in store for us?" Recent statistics showed building permit values in the Lower Mainland - Southwest region up 8% this year, however these statistics fluctuate monthly. These changes affect prospects for our businesses and the people we employ. Mr. Pastrick's presentation helped attendees get a clearer view to the future and the New Year ahead. His talk covered a wide range of topics from the European debt crisis to the Recession in the US. To view his presentation made at our Meet and Greet please [visit our new You Tube Channel](http://www.youtube.com/ecabctv) (<http://www.youtube.com/ecabctv>). His speech is broken down into 2 - 10 minute segments.

Here are the key points of his Economic Forecast:

- The European economic debt crisis is the largest risk to the outlook for 2012; it will get worse before it gets better.
- US economy is heading for a slowdown in 2012 due to fiscal drag and weaker exports.
- We can expect low interest rates to continue through 2012 and 2013.
- The BC economy will grow at a moderate pace in 2012 and 2013. Higher growth awaits global and US resurgence.
- Construction activity in BC will be modestly higher in 2012 with larger private sector gains thereafter.

The ECABC says "THANK YOU" to our Meet and Greet Sponsors:

**FMI
Wesco
Eaton
Plan Group
Guillevin
Mott Electric GP
ECA**



**The ECABC is now
on YouTube!**

www.youtube.com/ecabctv

**Sparky's Shorts...
you gotta be joking!**

**"Hey Sparky! Did you hear
the one about...?"**

- A guy walks into a bar with jumper cables. The bartender says, "You can come in, but don't start anything!"
- If electricity comes from electrons... does that mean that morality comes from morons?
- An invisible man marries an invisible woman. Their kids were nothing to look at, either...
- A pessimist's blood type is always B-Negative.

Update on Restricted Electrical Licenses

In June of 2011 the ECA office was notified that BCSA had signed an agreement with ASTTBC to certify restricted licenses for electrical work. From the beginning ECA and its membership have been very concerned with this initiative and the effect it will have on both worker and public safety. The result of this agreement would have workers who are not red seal certified electricians performing work on electrical installations under these restricted licenses. This includes installations of 30 amps, 3 phase and up to 250 volts, it also includes work on critical life safety systems.

This decision is unacceptable to us.

This agreement should have been suspended until such time as our concerns are acknowledged and addressed. We have attended numerous meetings with representatives from both BCSA and ASTTBC to put forward our viewpoint. In most of these meetings it was apparent that the outcome had been predetermined and our concerns were not being considered. One of the most disconcerting aspects of this issue is that the agreement was signed without a verified training and certification process being in place. Without these measures there is considerable risk.

BCSA has granted its legislated authority to issue certification to ASTTBC without full input from stakeholders and industry representatives. This authority was also granted without a thorough vetting of the process for training and certification of these individuals. In spite of all of this the agreement has been signed and ASTTBC is presently working on a training and certification process.

ECA is determined to work in the interest of safety. Without due process, training and certification to existing standards these individuals and all workers are at risk. ECA will closely monitor this situation and lobby all parties to have this ratified to our mutual agreement and benefit. Above all, we will ensure that the safety standards of the electrical industry in BC are not eroded to unacceptable levels.

It is our duty to our members, their employees and all stakeholders that our voice be heard in all matters relating to changes in the workplace.

Sincerely,

Deborah Cahill

ECABC President

We Donated over \$6,500 to the Vancouver Food Bank!

It was another early morning for ECABC Executive Director Deborah Cahill, BCEA Executive Director Barbette Ishii, Graham Trafford, Vancouver Chapter Chair and GM at Mott Electric/4th Utility and Steve Crocker at Wesco. On Friday December 16, the group met at CITY TV Studios at 7 am and presented 3 cheques totaling \$6,560 during the morning show. The donation was made on behalf of all our members and stakeholders as part of our "Hungry for Change" campaign.

The donation helps needy families this holiday season.

Thanks for your support!



(left to right) Deborah Cahill, President - ECABC, Graham Trafford, General Manager - Mott Electric, Steve Crocker, BC Director - Wesco, Barbette Ishii, Executive Director - BCEA

ECABC Vancouver Chapter Report

It was quite a year. In 2011 the Vancouver Chapter of The ECABC hosted a number of events supporting professional development, networking and social gatherings. Meetings featured a number of topics with guest speakers making presentations ranging from workplace health and safety, Worksafe BC nurse advisors, management training and the economy.

The April Industry Roundtable captured the attention of all attendees with a discussion and brainstorming session on ways to improve the industry. This was followed up in our October meeting with a move towards creating an industry best practices document.

In September at our Chapter's AGM we elected our executives and directors for the upcoming year. We wrapped up 2011 with a very successful Meet and Greet that attracted over 120 industry people who gathered to hear economist Helmut Pastrick give his view and predictions for 2012.

Our Social Calendar had three major events this past year kicking off with our February poker night at the Hilton Hotel in Metrotown. In May, our annual golf tournament was sold out and raised over \$5,000 for the Vancouver Food Bank. We all got together again in July for a terrific wine tasting event at Domaine De Chaberton Winery in Langley.

For the New Year, please mark your calendars for these two events:

January 24th, 2012

This is our first meeting of the year: Metrotown Hilton

May 24th, 2012

Our annual golf tournament with fund raising again for the Vancouver Food Bank

I look forward to 2012 as it promises to be a very busy year for the chapter and its members. We will be bringing in speakers on a variety of topics that will be informative and help us all to manage our businesses better.

Graham Trafford,
Chapter Chair, Vancouver Chapter

ECABC Interior Chapter Report

2011 had its ups and downs for the Interior Chapter. To start the year we had two meetings and a well attended round table discussion in May, however the fall meetings had to be cancelled due to a lack of attendance.

Because our chapter covers such a large territory it has been difficult to get our member firms to attend meetings. However, our new membership committee is looking at ways to improve this and to consider future special events.

With that said we are looking forward to 2012. After our chapter chairs meeting in early December I feel that with the help of the provincial office and father firms to the local chapter firms we will be able to pick up our attendance for this year's meetings

and events. We will be having a golf tournament this year and would like to have a combined meet and greet social event with an industry round table discussion. With these two events we hope to see our attendance with our existing members increase and with any luck we can bring on some new members to help grow the numbers in the area.

I look forward to working with the new membership committee to continue the development of a marketing plan for attracting new members.

Over the next few years, northern BC will continue to grow economically with billions of dollars slated across various industries. So the challenge for the contractors of the north will be how we can manage these large and subsequent spin off projects with an aging skilled workforce.

On a personal note, last year was difficult with the passing of my father who was the founder of Bryant Electric but with the support of Deborah and her staff I look forward to a great 2012. Thanks.

Darcy Bryant,
Chapter Chair, BC Interior

ECABC Vancouver Island Chapter Report

It's been a busy year for the ECA Van Isle Chapter and we are pleased to welcome our new members. The continual support we have been receiving from our team has been a key element in event promotion and industry education.

Here's what happened in 2011:

New committees were formed for Membership, Social, our Fishing Derby, the VI Chapter Golf Tournament and VEC Golf.

We updated our strategic business plan with the new ECA changes and welcomed guest speakers on the STEP program, BC Construction Safety Alliance, WorkSafeBC, HCBI and Ron Coleman

In addition the Chapter has plans for a new bursary program to be created to encourage trade workers.

Last year's events were very successful highlighted by a great turn out at the Fishing Derby, over 120 people at Golf tournaments. The Frank Mazzei fundraiser attracted \$1,450. Frank was in a horrific motorcycle accident in Saskatchewan and is currently

recovering at home in Nanaimo. The Victoria Electric Club Memorial Golf Tournament supports a Bursary which has been taken over by the Vancouver Island Chapter. There are two \$500 bursaries that are given to the trades programs at Camosun College every year. We would like to acknowledge the membership and sponsors who supported that event. Thanks again. We appreciate your support. The next ECA/VEC Memorial Golf in Victoria will take place on May 17, 2012

Here is the Vancouver Island Chapter 2012 Calendar of Events:

February 23rd, 2012
Chapter Meeting, Duncan

March 15th, 2012
Executive Board Meeting

March 29th, 2012
Meet and Greet, Victoria

May 10th, 2012
Chapter Meeting, Nanaimo

May 17th, 2012
ECA/VEC Memorial Golf Tournament, Victoria

June 2nd, 2012
Wine Tasting, Duncan/Victoria

June 13th - 17th, 2012
ECA CECA AGM, Whistler

July 12th & 13th, 2012
Fishing Steep Island Lodge, CR

September 14th, 2012
ECA/MCA Joint Meeting, Duncan

September 21st, 2012
ECA Golf, Duncan

October 19th, 2012
Executive Board Meeting

November 1st, 2012
Chapter Meeting, Victoria

November 24th, 2012
Christmas Party, Beach Club

Thanks.

Mike Crucil,
Chapter Chair, Vancouver Island

Mark Your Calendars! National Conference Planned for Whistler, June 13 to 17!



The ECABC and the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario are hosting the National Industry Conference in beautiful Whistler BC at The Four Seasons Hotel this June. The conference will feature an outstanding agenda including business sessions, guest speakers and of course a few social events and excursions. Conference dates are June 13 to 17. If you register before February 12 you could win a prize package including an upgrade to a Premier Suite!

This year's agenda includes presentations on the following topics: Changing Electrical Project Delivery and The Changing Role of the Electrical Contractor; How to Make Contracts Work for You, Instead of You for Them; The Economy Isn't Down, its Different: Reinvention Made Easy and The Impact of Overtime on Labour Productivity. There will be a Golf Tournament and you can even sign up for some excursions to enjoy Whistler and area!

For complete details, [click here](#) (PDF file) for a conference application.