

“Keeping you current and involved”



## A Super AGM!

This year's AGM and Hall of Fame Dinner was a great success – and one of the best attended in recent years. Held at the Fairmont Waterfront in Vancouver, it featured a special award to Dan Mott of Mott Electric (below, left, with Bob Leese), in recognition of his efforts to have supervisory ratios incorporated into provincial safety regulations. Also among those in attendance were Nes and Shirley Romaniuk (above) who celebrated their 50th anniversary this year. Congratulations Nes and Shirley! 




## Member services will be among priorities

New ECABC president Ron Fettback says he is looking forward to everything about his new role, including the challenges that are bound to come with it. “My predecessors have all been faced with challenges and, with the help of the Board of Directors and other contractors, they were ultimately successful in meeting them,” says Fettback, President of Western Pacific Enterprises Ltd. “I’m sure that will also be the case during my term.”

**ECA has been asked to take a lead role in revising the apprenticeship training curriculum.**

For example, said Fettback, who was elected at this year's annual general meeting, the Association recently won a long battle to retain the principle of compulsory certification for the electrical trade (see annual report pages) – a significant achievement. More recently, ECA has been asked to take a lead role in revising the apprenticeship training curriculum. “Portions of it are obsolete, and we would like to see technical training terms cut from 10 weeks to 8 weeks, which would be good for contractors and apprentices alike.”

The coming year will also see a continued focus on membership growth. “We’ve ramped up our benefit program

and we are looking into other ways to solidify the current membership base and attract new members, such as rejuvenating regional chapters, which are an important means of building a strong membership,” said Fettback. “With these and other initiatives underway, we can look forward to an even stronger association in the years to come.” 

ECA President  
Ron Fettback



## WE HAVE A NEW LOOK!

Notice anything different about this issue of *The Relay*? After 52 years of loyal and dedicated service, our logo has been replaced with a younger, more vibrant version. We felt it was important to maintain a strong link with the past, but wanted something that would project a contemporary image that would appeal to our members and many contractors we hope to attract. It's already up on our website ([www.eca.bc.ca](http://www.eca.bc.ca)). We hope you like it!

**ANNUAL REPORT EDITION SEE PAGES 3, 4, 5**




**E**CA chapters have been keeping busy, including a rejuvenated Central Interior chapter (top photo), which resumed regular meetings in October. Pictured (left to right) are: Rick Hauff, Houle Electric, Roger Pelletier, Lakewood Electrical; Bob Leese, Ainsworth Inc.; Vance Eggers, ESC Electrical Service Contracting; and Peter Sherba, Westcana Electric. Pictured in the middle photo are the winners of the Vancouver Island Chapter golf tournament: Daphne Cassin, Howard Brounstein, Richard Campbell, Bob Alger, and Jim Cassin. Last, but not least: Vancouver Chapter president Harry Friesen (left) of Canem West Services, with Charles Bristow of Ecounting Works at the September meeting. 

## Trades training promoted

**A** new \$1.2 million program aimed at getting more high school students to consider becoming tradespeople is being offered by the Industry Training Authority (ITA) and the BC ministries of Education and Advanced Education.

“ACE IT . . . is a key part of our efforts to expand opportunities for learners and meet BC’s long-term skills training needs,” says ITA Chief Executive Officer Brian Clewes. ECABC’s Executive Director, Richard Campbell, agrees. “This program will provide career opportunities that students might not otherwise be able to pursue, due to

the high cost of post secondary education, increasingly strict entrance requirements at universities and colleges, and other factors.”

ACE IT stands for accelerated credit enrolment in industry training, and allows students to earn credit towards their high school graduation and the technical training component of an apprenticeship or industry training program. 



## STAR promotions underway

**T**he Construction Safety Association of BC (CSABC) has launched a province-wide marketing campaign to promote courses

a mailer – both of which will soon be appearing on construction sites and other locations throughout the province, including secondary schools and regional and provincial construction association offices. ECABC is

among those associations that are assisting with the distribution of the brochures. The courses are open to all members of the industry – regardless of affiliation – and are taught by instructors from the St. John Ambulance, the Roofing Contractors Association of BC, and the Southern Interior Construction Association.

For more information about course offerings in your area contact CSABC at 604-241-7667 or [courses@csabc.ca](mailto:courses@csabc.ca).



that will be available through the association’s STAR (Safety, Training, Accountability, Recognition) program (see *Relay*, Summer 2003). The campaign features a 4-color brochure as well as





**T**he Electrical Contractors Association of BC is a non-profit society comprised of approximately 140 member companies located throughout the province. Governed by a Board of Directors that represents each major region of BC, the Association also has established regional chapters that serve as vehicles for dis-

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cussion of local issues and for maintaining liaison with local officials.

The previous year was marked by a number of initiatives aimed at increasing the membership base. For example, direct member services were enhanced to include access to a customer telephone answering service, preferred rates for legal services, preferred courier rates, a cellular phone package with satellite discounts, and on-line accounting services, to name a few. As in previous years, member services also included a group benefit plan, a Salaried Employees Train-

ing Trust Fund, a library of technical publications, the *Health and Safety Policy Manual*, the *Seismic Restraint Standards Manual*, and the *Membership and Industry Directory*. Head office also sponsored a number of workshops and seminars, and members were kept up-to-date on industry news via *The Relay* and *Conduit* newsletters. As always, the annual meeting and convention represented another important member service. As in previous years, this event included the Hall of Fame awards (during which contractors and other industry members are recognized for their outstanding service). In other member services activities, staff and contractors also continued efforts to rejuvenate regional chapters and were rewarded with the resumption of regular meetings of the Central Interior Chapter, comprised of contractors in the Prince George area.

**O**n the industry front, staff and contractors continued to represent Association members on over a dozen industry and government committees that addressed a variety of issues of importance to the electrical and construction industries (e.g., legislation, contractor qualifications and certification, trade practices, and apprenticeship

and trades training). ECABC scored a major victory in persuading the provincial government to preserve the principle of compulsory certification for the electrical trade, in the form of supervisory ratios that will be incorporated into the provincial Electrical Safety Regulations in the spring of 2004. The electrical trade is the only one to which these ratios will apply.

**W**ith respect to community involvement, ECA once again participated in the *Lights of Hope* - the annual charity sponsored by St. Paul's Hospital Foundation. The contribution-in-kind made by ECABC and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers totaled roughly \$20,000 - a donation that was essential to the project's success. 



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT


**T**his past year, the second and final year of my term as President of ECABC, was marked by a number of achievements that will benefit our members and the electrical industry as a whole. In this, I am particularly pleased and proud to report that, following a two-year battle, we succeeded in preserving the principle of compulsory trade certification for the electrical trade in the form of supervisory ratios that will be incorporated into the Electrical Safety Regulations.

This victory – and the fact that ours is the only trade to which the ratios will apply – is an excellent example of what can be achieved via a collaborative effort on the part of an Association and its members. It would not have been possible without those contractors who spent many hours attending numerous government meetings and events, and who organized province-wide letter writing campaigns to a variety of provincial officials and politicians, including Premier Gordon Campbell.

We also continued to lobby the Industry Training Authority, which replaced the Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission. With alternatives now being considered for other trades, it appears that our voice is being heard by ITA officials,

who have indicated that they support a traditional training approach for electricians and the inter-provincial Red Seal program.

I have enjoyed my term as President, and I am proud of what we were able to accomplish over the past two years. I welcome our incoming president **Ron Fettback** of Western Pacific Enterprises, and wish him every success. I am confident that he will do a superb job leading our association.

**I**n closing, I would like to thank the Board of Directors and the many contractors who volunteered their time during the year to various committees and other activities. Their willingness to be involved was integral to our success. I also want to thank our Executive Director, **Richard Campbell**, for his assistance and advice throughout the year; and Administrative Assistant, **Zana Gordon**. 

**ROBERT LEESE**



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004-2005

**PRESIDENT:** Ron Fettback, Western Pacific Enterprises Ltd., Coquitlam  
**PAST-PRESIDENT:** Bob Leese, Ainsworth Inc., Coquitlam  
**1ST VICE-PRESIDENT:** Hank Paquin, Sasco Systems Ltd., Burnaby  
**2ND VICE-PRESIDENT:** Robert Lashin, Houle Electric Ltd., Burnaby  
**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** Stan Hussey, Harbourview Electric Ltd., Burnaby

### DIRECTORS

**Bob Alger**, Horizon Power Installations, Brentwood Bay  
**Peter Bridge, Sr.**, P.R. Bridge Systems Ltd., Victoria  
**Bill Crarer**, Canem Systems Ltd., Richmond  
**Jack Funk**, Jack Funk Electric Ltd., Kamloops  
**Dan Mott**, Mott Electric Ltd., New Westminster  
**Gerry Reinders**, Bridge Electric Corp., Richmond



## Inductees recognized for outstanding service

As in previous years, a highlight of the AGM and convention was the Hall of Fame awards banquet, during which four members of the electrical industry are recognized for their outstanding contributions to the electrical industry. Starting from the top, the 2004 recipients were: Nes Romaniuk (Elworthy Electrical Services), Bob Morrison (Ross Morrison Electric), Derek Johns (Wesco Distribution), and Rick Porcina (Electrical Safety Branch). Presenting the awards was ECA President Robert Leese.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This past year was a very active one for ECABC. It also was a year of achievements, and none more significant than winning our fight to preserve the principle of compulsory certification for the electrical trade in the form of supervisory ratios.


The provincial government's agreement to include ratios in the Electrical Safety Regulations means that there will be a 2:1 ratio of trainees to journeypersons on industrial and commercial projects, with a trainee being defined as an apprentice or other individual registered in a recognized industry training program). For most single-family residential projects, the ratio will be 4:1, or 4 "individuals" or unqualified workers to 1 journeyperson – a disappointing decision that we will continue to address in the coming year.

While ratios represent a major victory for ECABC and the industry overall, there is still no effective enforcement policy to ensure that workers have proper credentials. This will also be among the issues we continue to address in the coming year, via our membership on the Safety Standards Appeal Board. Ours is the only trade to have a representative on the Board, which also stands as a key achievement for our Association and the industry overall.

We also intend to step up our involvement with the Industry Training

Authority, which replaced the Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission, and which has instituted a number of changes that could have an impact on our trade.

And, we will also be paying close attention to skill shortages that are beginning to affect some sectors in the construction industry. Our goal is to ensure that our trade has sufficient numbers of skilled workers to meet current and future demand – and especially the coming boom in construction activity that will be associated with the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

In closing, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Board of Directors for their continuing support during the year. I also want to welcome contractor Ron Fettback to his new position as ECABC President. I look forward to working with him. My thanks also to Administrative Coordinator Zana Gordon for her continuing fine work during the year. 

**RICHARD CAMPBELL**



In each issue of *The Relay*, **Ted Simmons**, Chief Electrical Instructor at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, provides examples of technical questions of interest to the industry. This issue, Ted looks at continuous load requirements. If you have any comments or questions regarding this article, please contact Ted via e-mail at: [Ted\\_Simmons@bcit.ca](mailto:Ted_Simmons@bcit.ca)

## Are you aware of continuous load requirements?


**SCENARIO** An electrical contractor is required to install the circuit breaker and feeder to supply a 150A continuous load. The specs for the job indicate that all feeder conductors shall be copper type R90 XLPE installed in conduit. The foreman on the job consults Table 2 of the CEC and selects #1/0 R90 conductors rated at 155A for the feeder conductors. The rating of the circuit breaker is determined according to the conductor ampacity, and a 150A breaker is installed to provide overcurrent protection for the feeder.

The installation is completed and the contractor calls for inspection. The inspector rejects the installation and states on the certificate of inspection that the installation does not comply with the requirements identified in Rule 8-104(5).


## QUESTION

*Was the inspector correct?*

**ANSWER:** Yes, The note located in Appendix B for Rule 8-104 states that circuit breakers not marked as suitable for continuous operation at either 80% or 100% of their ampere rating are considered to be suitable for continuous operation at 80% of their ampere rating. Consequently, for this installation, the maximum continuous load that could be connected to the unmarked breaker would be 120A (i.e., 150 x .80).

In order to avoid changing the #1/0 R90 feeder conductors, the contractor would be required to replace the unmarked circuit breaker with a circuit breaker marked for continuous operation at 100% of the ampere rating. 

## WJETS announces top apprentice


**W**ho says age doesn't have its benefits? Dennis Martin, a member of IBEW Local 1003 in Nelson and perhaps the oldest apprentice on record at age 59, was the Western Joint Electrical Training Society (WJETS) top apprentice for 2004, scoring an impressive 98% average during his 4 year training term. Dennis received the Golden Pliers Award from the training society, a silver cup from Local 1003, and a framed certificate and a cheque for \$750 from ECABC. 



Pictured at the ECABC/IBEW apprenticeship awards last May (left to right): Pat O'Connell (Training Coordinator, WJETS), ECABC Executive Director Richard Campbell; Jack Funk (ECABC); Wayne De Delley (Business Manager, Local 993); Philip Venoit (Business Manager, Local 230); Lou Boulaire (Business Manager, Local 1003); Lew Williams (Service Manager, Houle Electric, Victoria); and top apprentice Dennis Martin (seated).

## ECA member apprentice a double winner at Skills Canada competition

**A** third year apprentice employed by ECABC member contractor Mott Electric has won this year's Skills Canada provincial competition in Vancouver. Adam Byron, a graduate of the Secondary School Apprenticeship and Career Training Centre program in Surrey, also won a silver medal at the Skills Canada national competition in Winnipeg.

John Bayers, a fourth year apprentice with West Coast Reduction, won the Skills Canada industrial wiring portion of the provincial competition. Bayers also won a gold medal at the national competition in Winnipeg. For his efforts, John was awarded the Skills Canada Roger Houle Memorial Award of Excellence, received a cheque for \$250 from ECABC, and a pair of Klein pliers from ECABC Associate Member, Guillevin International. 

Adam Byron (left), winner of the 2004 Skills Canada provincial competition and a silver medalist at the national competition in Winnipeg. Beside him is John Bayers, gold medal winner at the national competition.



# Contractors encouraged to utilize small business centre

Use it or risk losing it. That's the message from Council of Construction Associations President Grant McMillan, who says construction industry contractors could be missing out on a beneficial claims-related service designed with their unique needs in mind.

The service is the Small Business Centre, which swung into operation early this year with a view to helping smaller companies with various aspects of the WCB claims process, including how to get injured workers back on the job as quickly as possible, without compromising their recovery or WCB regulations.

"A key benefit of the centre is it is staffed by real people who have been oriented to the construction industry. They are able to start the claim over the phone, and to help with the essential elements, such as filling out forms, return to work considerations, legal obligations, and so on," McMillan told *The Relay*. But, he said, at only about 10 calls per day on average, the centre is being underutilized.

"This service is being piloted to our industry as a result of a COCA request but, as with any service, if not enough people use it, it becomes more difficult to justify keeping it. So we are encouraging industry members to take advantage of it."


Mike McKenna, a WCB client services manager who has been seconded to work with the construction industry, says the WCB also plans to step up its publicity of the centre in order to raise awareness and, equally important, to clarify what services are and aren't available. "For example, we often get asked how a claim will affect a contractor's overall business costs," said

**A key benefit of the centre is that it is staffed by real people...**

McKenna. "These questions are understandable, but the Centre isn't set up to go into that kind of detail. We can help with equally important considerations such as early, safe, return-to-work opportunities."

The Centre is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Telephone 604-233-5353 or Toll Free 1-866-338-3888. 

## CECA had it all!


Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island was the site of this year's Canadian Electrical Contractors Association annual convention. Representing ECABC at the 3-day event were: Bob Alger (Horizon Power Installations), Dennis Carlo (Houle Electric), Lorne Picard (Henneberry Electric Ltd., Victoria) and Executive Director Richard Campbell. Highlights included a seminar on the cumulative effect of change orders, speakers on communications and safety issues; and a challenging round of golf on a legendary PEI course. 

ECA's Richard Campbell (left) was among the prize winners who survived a round of golf at the famous Crowbush Golf Course in PEI – a windy, links-style course

## SAFETY FIRST



Using a stepladder safely means keeping the following in mind:

1. Position the ladder properly
  - Fully open the stepladder on a level surface and lock its spreaders in place.
  - Never use a stepladder folded up and leaning against a surface.
2. Use a ladder that is long enough
  - Never climb on the top two steps of a stepladder.
  - Never place the stepladder on boxes or unstable bases to gain extra height.
3. Climb and use the ladder carefully
  - Maintain 3-point contact with the ladder while climbing (such as 1 hand and 2 feet).
  - Brace yourself with your free hand, if possible.
  - Always face the stepladder treads while using a stepladder.
  - Never overreach or lean to one side while using a stepladder.
  - Never carry heavy, bulky, or other objects that may make going up or down a ladder unsafe. 

SOURCE: [www.worksafefbc.com](http://www.worksafefbc.com)

# Trade recognition goal of Olympics action team

To ensure appropriate recognition of trade contractors and workers who will build the various venues for the 2010 Olympics, the Council of Construction Trade Associations (COCTA) has established the BC Construction Action Team.

ECABC Executive Director Richard Campbell said COCTA members decided to strike the team in response to the establishment of the Construction Leaders Task Force (the self-anointed "Olympic Dream Team"), comprised of 19 of BC's largest general contracting firms. "The important distinction between the two groups is that it is the trade contractors and their tradespeople who are on the front lines, building the buildings, the roads, the bridges, the sky trains and everything else that needs to be built," said Campbell. "We want to make sure that the public recognizes the vitally important work of trade contractors, without whom Olympic construction would not be possible."



Left to right, starting from back row: Dave Hudson, Gregg Lowes, Greg Boshard, Brian Hofler, Bob Weins, Gay Woodward, ECABC Executive Director Richard Campbell, Moira Rowan, Bruce Sychuk, Dana Taylor, and Bill McEwen.

## ECA contractors win awards!

Houle Electric Ltd. and Status Electrical Corporation were among the proud recipients at the recent 16th annual Awards of Excellence sponsored by the Vancouver Regional Construction Association. Houle and Status won in the safety category for recording 100,000 -199,000 and 200,000 or more accident-free person years, respectively. Also a winner was the Victoria Division of Canem Systems Ltd., which received an award of Merit in the electrical contractor category for the Marriott Hotel in Victoria (left). Congratulations!



## DID YOU KNOW

Revenues from lotteries, casinos, and other types of government-controlled gambling in the province totaled 1.2 billion in 2002, nearly half of which went into provincial government coffers. The government received 4.5% of its total revenues from various types of gambling, profits from which tripled since 1993, when they totaled \$221 million. Nation-wide, provincial governments received just over 6 billion in profits from gambling operations, representing 5.6% of their total revenues in 2002. Ontario (6.7%) was the most dependent on gambling as a source of revenue, while PEI (3.0%) was the least dependent on these activities. British Columbians spent an average of \$366 per person gambling in 2002.

- SOURCE: BC STATS INFOLINE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUPERVISORY TRAINING PROGRAM

Starting in November and continuing into the new year, the National Electrical Contractors Association will offer its three-day, EPS Levels 1, 2, and 3 training series, designed to strengthen the abilities of project supervisors. Contact Zana at ECA for more information, 604-253-1962.

### IT'S MURDER OUT THERE!

The Vancouver Chapter will host what should be a totally fun Murder Mystery Dinner and Silent Auction on November 26. Call Zana at ECA for more information: 604-294-4123.

### WHO TURNED THE LIGHTS ON?

Don't miss the official switching on of the *Lights of Hope* at St. Paul's, November 30. Contact Zana at ECA for times. 604-294-4123.

### SEASONAL CASINO!

The BCEA and Electro Federation Canada Christmas reception is December 2 at the Royal City Star Riverboat Casino. Contact BCEA at 604-291-7708 or email them at bcea.bc.ca.

### BOARD MEETS

ECABC's Board of Directors meets March 24-27 at Whistler. Contact Zana at ECABC for more information. 604-294-4123.

### CECA CONFERENCE SET FOR JASPER

The Canadian Electrical Contractors Association annual conference will be at the Jasper Park Lodge in Alberta. Dates are June 15-19. If you're interested in attending, contact Zana at ECABC at 604-294-4123.

