

Highlights

NECEC 2006
TAT-1 Milestone Dedication
IEEE Telus Innovation Award

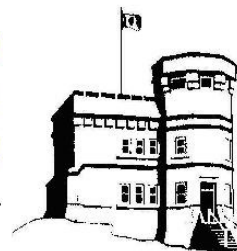
Upcoming

Annual General Meeting



IEEE

IEEE Newfoundland & Labrador Section
www.ieee.org/newfoundland_labrador



Newsletter of the Newfoundland and Labrador IEEE Section, Volume 06, No. 2, Nov. 2006

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting
December 5, 2006 starting 7pm
Engineering Faculty Board Room

This year's AGM will be held December 5, 2006 in the Engineering Faculty Board Room, 4th floor, S.J Carew Building. In addition to reports from section officers, the event will feature guest speaker Jonathan Anderson, M.Eng. student and grand prize winner of the 2006 IEEE Canada Telus Innovation Award. For further details on this talk, please see the details of Mr. Anderson's award in the Awards section of this newsletter.

Past Events

NECEC 2006
Thursday, November 9, 2006
Holiday Inn, Portugal Cove Road

On November 9, 2006 the IEEE NL Section, in partnership with Memorial University, hosted the 16th annual Newfoundland and Labrador Electrical and Computer Engineering Conference (NECEC) at the Holiday Inn in St. John's. NECEC is a forum where professionals and students in electrical, electronic and computer engineering as

well as information technology and sciences can present their work to the growing technical community within the province.

The Conference Chair for NECEC 2006 was Gerard Dunphy from Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro and the Technical Chair was Dr. Eric Gill from Memorial University. We are pleased to report that this year we had 114 attendees and 61 papers (52 oral presentations + 9 posters) covering a wide range of technical subject areas. Awards were given as follows:

- Wally Read Best Student Paper Award – Dilan Amarasinghe
- Wally Read Best Graduate of the Last Decade Paper Award – Reza Shahidi
- T. David Collett Best Industry Paper Award – Jonathan Anstey
- Best Poster Award – Isheeta Nargis

We would like to congratulate all of our winners as well as all those who submitted a paper for the conference. It is your participation which continues to ensure the event is a success.

Our keynote speaker was Paul Dubé, Executive Director, Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Technology Industries, who gave a very thought provoking presentation on our

“flattening world” and dynamic global marketplace and challenged the audience to acquire the “softer” skills they need to position themselves within the new global realities. Our luncheon speaker was Dave van de Wetering, Nortel - Wireless Account Executive for Bell Aliant. For the past eight years he has been working directly with Bell Aliant providing solutions for wireless and Metro Ethernet environments. He spoke on the evolution of wireless technologies. Following the technical sessions, we held a wine and cheese reception and awarded door prizes donated by our sponsors.

Proceeds from this event and past conferences are used to sponsor IEEE Scholarships, which are awarded to students in the Electrical Engineering or Computer Engineering program at Memorial University of Newfoundland, as well as to support other activities within the province.

The Planning Committee and Section Executive Committee would like to extend our sincere thanks to our speakers, presenters, sponsors, session chairs, volunteers, and others who contributed to our conference this year. It is much appreciated and we look forward to NECEC 2007!

TAT-1 Milestone Presentation



Milestone plaque on site with ceremony attendees

On Sunday, September 24 the IEEE Newfoundland and Labrador Section in partnership with the Town of Clarenville and the Clarenville Heritage Society celebrated an IEEE Milestone dedication ceremony commemorating the site of the first transatlantic cable (TAT-1) near the site of the former cable station in Clarenville.

The IEEE Milestones Program honours significant achievements in the history of electrical and computer engineering. There are approximately 70 of these milestone sites in the world, 6 of which are in Canada. In recognition of its pivotal role in the development of worldwide communications, half of the Canadian sites are in Newfoundland. The first successful transatlantic telegraph cable, in 1866, is commemorated by a Milestone at Heart's Content. There is also a Milestone at Signal Hill in St. John's honouring the reception of the first wireless signal across the Atlantic by Marconi in 1901. The latest Milestone recognises Clarenville as the eastern terminal of the first transatlantic telephone cable, TAT-1 which entered service on September 26, 1956.

The TAT-1 inaugurated the modern era of global communications. Before TAT-1, voice was carried on unreliable radio channels and text messaging was carried on submarine telegraph cables (the technology of the previous 90 years), which was reliable, but slow and expensive. TAT-1 operated with exemplary reliability until 1978, when advances in technology made it obsolete.

The dedication ceremony drew about 100 spectators. Gerard Dunphy was the Master of Ceremonies. The roster of speakers began with greetings and best wishes from the political leaders at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels - Mayor Fred Best, Ross Wiseman, MHA, Trinity North and Bill Matthews, MP, Random-Burin-St.George. Dr. Camilla O'Shea from the Clarenville Heritage Society eloquently explained the role of Clarenville in the transatlantic project. The Heritage Society and the Town of Clarenville were instrumental in establishing the Milestone. The role of the people of Newfoundland in telecommunications was celebrated by Dr. Wallace Read, a resident of Newfoundland and a past President of IEEE. Dr Ferial El-Hawary, President Elect of IEEE Canada conveyed the best wishes of IEEE Canada. Dr. Jerry Hayes, a former worker on TAT-1 and who has written extensively on TAT-1, called for a moment of silence remembering the men and women who contributed to the advances of global telecommunications. The plaque was unveiled by Lloyd Currie and Kathleen Chafe. Mr. Currie worked at the Clarenville cable station and is a member of the Clarenville Heritage Society. Ms. Chafe was the Chair of the TAT-1 Milestone Organizing Committee.

The dedication ceremony was followed by a reception at the Clarenville Inn. All enjoyed refreshments and hors d'oeuvres during this excellent social networking opportunity. The Clarenville Heritage Society prepared a very interesting display of TAT-1 artifacts and photographs. Dr. Jerry Hayes presented an informal slideshow highlighting key events in telecommunications history before, during, and after TAT-1. Commemorative Booklets and Clarenville pins were provided to all attendees.

The members of the Organizing Committee were very pleased with the event. The IEEE Newfoundland and Labrador Section would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution of the Town of Clarenville and the Clarenville Heritage Society who were critical to the success of the celebration.

IEEE Annual Lobster Boil

Actually, Lobster Boil is something of a misnomer, as we no longer buy the lobsters and put them in the pot, as in days past. The highlight of the section's social calendar was held this year on Saturday, June 10. As for the last few years, the location was the Fluvarium with its pleasant décor and great outdoor gallery. Fresh, tasty Newfoundland lobster was the main item on the menu. Michel's Bakery did a great job of catering, offering those who prefer not to eat ocean crustaceans with alternate choices of roast beef or vegetarian fare.

Prices were the same as last year, despite rising costs and rampant inflation; \$20 each for IEEE members, who can bring one guest for an additional \$20. Non-members cost \$30 each. For a main course, dessert, tea, coffee and 2 complimentary drink tickets, this is a good deal.

If you missed this year's event, remember next year. Mark June 2007 on your calendar as Lobster Boil month.

IEEE Canada Meetings

The fall meeting of IEEE Canada (Region 7) was held recently in Mississauga, Ontario. Kathleen Chafe and John Pitt were pleased to represent the Newfoundland and Labrador Section. This two day meeting started with presentations and reports including group committees such as External Relations, Member Services, Women in Engineering, Awards and Recognition, Conferences and Publications/Communications as well as the IEEE Canadian Foundation.

The local NL Section is interested in putting forward a proposal to host Canadian Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering (CCECE) 2009. It was agreed that any Section interested in hosting CCECE would formally present their proposal at the Spring meeting two years before. NL Section will be presenting their bid at the Spring 2007 meeting in Vancouver, BC. The budget for 2007 was also presented,

debated, and approved. It was decided that the Fall 2007 meeting would be held in St. John's.

The most beneficial part of the meeting was the networking opportunity it provided. It allowed us to share ideas and experiences with Section officers from all over Canada. We hope to continue to build valuable relationships within the IEEE Canada community.

Awards

IEEE Canada Telus Innovation Competition

The IEEE Canada Telus Innovation Competition held September 15, 2006 in Toronto, Ontario, was a great success for Memorial University. Jonathan Anderson, Memorial's representative, won the first award prize at the final stage of the competition, for his Term 8 project entitled "Scribe: A Real-Time Transcription Tool". The IEEE Canada Telus Innovation Award is conferred yearly to an individual or a team undergraduate project in an engineering or technology program. The basis for judging the projects entering the competition is the extent to which solutions to the engineering problems demonstrate innovation and creativity, practical application of engineering fundamentals, relevancy, usefulness and applicability in industry. The competition is a three-step event. The winning project at the IEEE student branch level enters the regional competition, in which three entries per area (Eastern Canada Area, Central Canada Area and Western Canada Area) are selected for the final step, based on the written report presentation. At the national stage, the nine finalists present their projects in front of a panel of judges, and as such, the quality of the verbal report presentation is also evaluated.

We hope that this year's success in the IEEE Canada Telus Innovation Competition will continue for the years to come, as a natural outcome of the quality of instruction at Memorial University.

Student Branch Activities

Within the last year much has changed within the Student Branch. Because the Engineering program is a Co-op program there were two separate Executives. With both a new Executive "B" being elected last Fall and the convocation of Executive "A" in the winter it has been decided that there will be one merged executive. The members of the executive with work terms in St. John's will aid the members that are in classes if important spots need to be filled. This process is currently ongoing, as elections will occur for the vacant positions in the near future.

The Student Branch Treasurer, Robert Cove, attended the IEEE Canada Student Congress this September in Mississauga, Ontario (in conjunction with the Fall Regional Meeting and GOLD Congress) along with Dr. Eric Gill who was filling in for Dr. Dennis Peters as the Branch Coordinator. The Congress spanned two days and covered topics such as "How to Run a Successful Student Branch", "How to Advertise the IEEE to Students", and "How to Receive Financial Aid".

Student Branch representatives from Universities across Canada attended the Congress. Through many brainstorming activities there were a lot of creative ideas for future events and membership drives presented. As a result of the Congress there has been an internet community created for the exchange of ideas and information amongst Canadian Student Branches.

The Student Branch looks forward to a productive and exciting year ahead. The Student Branch intends on helping with the NECEC Conference and continuing our roles in the IEEE Student Night and Industry Night. Along with these commitments there will be many more events planned, aimed at boosting membership and promoting volunteering with the IEEE.

Membership Development

The membership development of our section keeps improving over the past two months. The most noticeable change is the approval of two new senior members, Dr. D. Peters and Dr. M. Plumber. The number of active IEEE members by the end of September 30, 2006 is 141, which includes Life Fellow (1), Fellow (1), Senior Member (14), Life Member (1), Member (64), Associate (3), and Student Member (57).

It is time to consider renewing your membership for 2007. You can renew your membership through online <http://www.ieee.org/web/membership/renew/index.html>. Members who renew online by 1 December will automatically be entered into a drawing to win a Dell Inspiron Laptop computer. Membership renewal notices will also be mailed to current members by the end of the month.

Please contact Cheng Li, Membership Development Chair, licheng@enr.mun.ca, or 737 8972, if you have any feedback or questions about membership.

Women In Engineering/ WISE News

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) NL invites members and the general public to their annual general meeting at the Marine Institute, Room C1214 at 7:00pm on Monday, November 6, 2006. A guest speaker, refreshments and a networking social will follow annual reports. Our special guest speaker is Charlene Johnson, BSc, MASc, MHA for Trinity - Bay de Verde and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources.

For further information, please contact Lori Hogan, IEEE WIE liaison to WISE-NL, lori.hogan@ieee.org or 737-8063.

GOLD – Graduates of the Last Decade

The Regional GOLD Congress was held September 15-17, 2006, in Mississauga, ON, in conjunction with the Student Congress and Fall Regional Meeting. Sixteen GOLD leaders and volunteers from across Canada came together to learn more about the GOLD program, share frustrations and ideas regarding running GOLD activities within their Sections, and work to create resources that everyone can use. The NL Section was represented by GOLD volunteers Jon Anderson and Brian Kidney.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the IEEE GOLD program. Many special events are planned. For more details, see the IEEE GOLD website: <http://www.ieee.org/gold>.

Over the summer, the NL Section received approval to form a GOLD Affinity Group. Some upcoming activities include a financial planning seminar (scheduled for late November – stay tuned for further details!) and joint social events with the Engineering Graduate Student Society.

We are seeking ideas for activities of a technical professional or social nature. We are also looking for volunteers to help organize events! If you are interested, please contact Lori Hogan, lori.hogan@ieee.org, 737-8063.

Section Website Updates and Online Membership Survey

Recently, you may have noticed the Newfoundland and Labrador Section website has undergone a facelift. The changes have been made to update the look of the site, as well as to make the site more useful for members.

As part of the process, we have added an online membership survey to learn more about you and your needs. To complete this survey please visit the survey page

<http://ieee.engr.mun.ca/~nlsection/survey>. We are asking all members to complete the survey by November 30th, 2006. We will be drawing for an IEEE Polo shirt in early December from all members who complete the survey and include the optional name and membership number.

The purpose of the Section website is to be a resource for our members. As such, if there are any ideas you have that to make it more useful, please feel free to email Brian Kidney, Webmaster, at bkidney@ieee.org.

IEEE Mentoring Connection Program

The IEEE Mentoring Connection Program is looking for “online” mentors to help guide younger professionals in career planning and professional development. Currently, 489 mentees and 264 mentors have registered. Mentor participation is open to all higher grade IEEE members.

The program enables mentees to select their mentoring partner online from a list of individuals who have volunteered to serve as mentors. After mentors are identified as a potential match, they are contacted and asked to begin establishing a relationship.

Interested members can visit the website <http://www.ieee.org/mentoring> for information on the roles and responsibilities of each mentoring partner, including additional program information and an FAQ page. Potential mentors are asked to review the time and effort commitment to the program necessary to ensure a successful mentoring partnership.

For more information, contact Cathy Downer, Regional Activities, at c.downer@ieee.org.

IEEE.tv: New Broadcaster Hits Town

After more than 100 years as a magazine publisher, the IEEE might be regarded as an unlikely candidate to become a broadcaster. But in August, the IEEE released IEEE.tv, its Internet broadcasting network, which features coverage of IEEE conferences, interviews with IEEE book authors, primers on technology-related careers, and overviews of IEEE products and services. Learn more at <http://bmsmail3.ieee.org:80/u/3937/03273281>

Section Executive Update

The following list represents the Section Executive as of January 2006:

Chair – **Kathleen Chafe**
Past Chair – **Mike Janes**
Vice-Chair – **Eric Gill**
Treasurer – **Paul Thorburn**
Secretary – **John Pitt**
Membership Development – **Cheng Li**
Awards & Scholarships –
Octavia Dobre
Technical Activities – **Gerard Dunphy**
Student Activities – **Dennis Peters**
Women in Engineering (WIE) –
Lori Hogan
Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) –
Lori Hogan/ Jonathan Anderson
Webmaster – **Brian Kidney**
Student Branch Chair, Society A –

Student Branch Chair, Society B –
Rob Coish
Newsletter Editors –
Lori Hogan and Mike Janes

We would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone interested in volunteering some time to the Section to please contact any executive member. We are always seeking out new faces, fresh ideas and novel approaches to serving our members!