

## The IEEE Toronto Centennial Celebrations - October 3 - 5, 2003

**S**eptember 30, 1903 saw the establishment of the first Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) outside the United States. The location was the Engineers Club in Toronto. In 1963, the AIEE merged with the IRE (Institute of Radio Engineers) to form the IEEE.

October 3 - 5, 2003 was the date and the Marriott Bloor Yorkville hotel in Toronto was the place for the IEEE Toronto Centennial celebrations held in conjunction with the Fall meeting of the IEEE Canada Board of Directors. The three events described here are:

- Forum on Reliable Power Grids in Canada
- IEEE Toronto Centennial Banquet
- IEEE Canada Board of Directors Meeting

### 1.0 Forum on Reliable Power Grids in Canada

The Friday evening forum was assembled in response to the intense interest in understanding more about the recent power blackout (August 14, 2003) that directly affected 50 million people in Ontario and several north eastern states - a timely and important topic that was well attended. The forum featured four experts with experience in power grid blackouts and other disturbances, and was moderated by IEEE Canada President Mo El-Hawary and convened by IEEE Toronto Section chair Bob Hanna. Formal discussions and those following the presentations were extensive and spirited.



Figure 1: The Forum participants were (left to right) Bob Hanna, Dan Rochester, Jim Lee, Jean-Marie Gagnon, Prabha Kundur and Mo El-Hawary



Figure 2: The audience was interested!

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Figure 3: Sample slide

Dan Rochester is the manager of the section responsible for reliability outlooks for the Independent Electricity Market Operator in Ontario. His presentation on the IMO perspective on reliability, which began with the IMO view of the August 14 blackout, provided a fitting start to the forum.

Jim Lee, supervisor of transmission system development at Hydro One Networks in Ontario, provided the transmission company perspective on the August 14 sequence of events and an overview of related Hydro One system development.

Jean-Marie Gagnon is director of interconnection development at Hydro-Québec Transnergie. He discussed the reasons why Hydro-Québec was not involved in the blackout, and concentrated on what courses of actions could be considered following a blackout or catastrophic events (e.g. the January 1998 ice storm in Quebec).

Prabha Kundur is president of Powertech Labs in British Columbia and has a distinguished record of consulting on various major outages around the world. His presentation on Power System Security in the New Industry Environment: Challenges and Solutions, provided a thoughtful and fitting finale to this set of four perspectives.

All of these presentations, speaker biographies, and many additional photographs from this event, are posted on the IEEE Toronto web site at <http://toronto.ieee.org/events/oct0303.htm>

### 2.0 Centennial Banquet

The Saturday centennial banquet started with a reception and, between the fine meal and desert, featured an IEEE Canada awards segment followed by a special multimedia presentation and a special centennial version of IEEE Toronto awards and recognitions. Section Secretary Pelle Westlind was a splendid master of ceremonies.



Figure 4: MC Pelle Westlind

## 2.1 IEEE Canada Awards

IEEE Canada President, Mo El-Hawary, presented three awards:

- A plaque to Dr. Wallace Read, recognizing his recent induction as a Member of the Order of Canada,
- Together with IEEE Vice President for Regional Activities, Cleon Anderson, the 2002 IEEE Sustained Membership Growth Award to the Toronto Section,
- The 2003 McNaughton Medal to Dr. Anastasios Venetsanopoulos, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering at the University of Toronto - the citation reads "for outstanding contributions to the design and implementation of communication systems, digital filters and multimedia systems; IEEE; the engineering profession and society at large".



Figure 5: (top left) Wallace S. Read C.M.

Figure 6: (top right) Toronto Section Award



Figure 7: (bottom left) McNaughton Medal

## 2.2 IEEE Toronto Multimedia Presentation

The Toronto Section presented an historical perspective of developments in Toronto and the IEEE since the founding of AIEE in the 1880's using a sequence of slides set to appropriate music of the period, decade by decade. The sequence concluded with a series of video clips capturing the thoughts of several IEEE volunteers. Please keep watch on the IEEE Toronto web site for details about downloading or obtaining a copy of this historic record.

## 2.3 IEEE Toronto Awards and Recognitions



Figure 8: Student Scholarship Winners with Professor Ng

## 2.4 Member Recognitions

Toronto Section Chair, Bob Hanna, paid tribute to the various programs offered by the Section and the members and volunteers who contributed in various important ways. He focused on four categories of IEEE membership by naming those achieving this status in our centennial year and asking those present in that category to stand and be recognized:

- Student Scholarship Winners,
- Senior Member Upgrades,
- Fellows, and
- Life Members.



Figure 9: Some of the IEEE Fellow grade members being recognized

## 2.5 IEEE Toronto Centennial Medals

Special medals had been designed and struck to commemorate four groups of IEEE volunteers who had served the Section and other IEEE entities with distinction.



Figure 10: B. Hanna



Figure 11: The IEEE Toronto Centennial Medals

Bob Hanna identified and presented medals to:

**Past Section Chairs** Ted Millen 1950-51, Ike Morgulis 67-68, Ian Dutton 69-70, Wasyl Janischewskyj 75-76, Bob Jefferies 76-77, Tas Venetsanopoulos 77-79, Ajit Bapat 79-81, Robert Caputo 81-83, Andre Salama 85-87, Wallas Khella 87-89, Lamberto Gomes 89-91, Ted Wojcinski 91-93, David Whyte 94-95, Bruno DiStefano 96-99, Ted Sargent 00-01.

It is with deep sadness we note that Ted Millen became ill just before the Centennial celebrations and passed away a few days later. Luc Matteau of the Peterborough Section visited Ted's wife to present her with his medal.



Figure 12: Current and Past IEEE Toronto Section Chairs.

Front: Hanna, Gomes, Morgulis, Venetsanopoulos, Dutton

Back: Bapat, Caputo, Wojcinski, Sargent, Jefferies, Whyte, Salama, DiStefano

**IEEE Corporate Volunteers** Ray Findlay, the third Canadian to serve as IEEE President, Mo El-Hawary, the current IEEE Canada President, Celia Desmond, the current IEEE Communications Society President, Cleon Anderson, the current IEEE Vice President of Regional Activities, Mike Adler (absent), the current IEEE President, Wally Read, the second Canadian to serve as IEEE President.



Figure 13: Findlay, El-Hawary, Desmond, Anderson, Read

**Selected Section Volunteers** Ramesh Abhari, Dennis Cecic, Bob Hanna, Emanuel Istrate, Randy Park, Kostas Plataniotis, Al Wallis, Pelle Westlind, Walter Zessner. Three additional section volunteers were awarded centennial medals in addition to the plaques presented in commemoration of the establishment of three Toronto Section Scholarships.



Figure 14: Section Volunteers; (left to right) Plataniotis, Istrate, Cecic and Westlind

## 2.6 Establishment of Three Scholarships

IEEE Toronto Section wished to recognize in a special way the contributions of three Section volunteers for their outstanding services and dedication. The Section decided to establish scholarships to be named after these volunteers.



Figure 15: Bruno Di Stefano, Bob Alden and Wallas Khella with their plaques.

- The IEEE Toronto Section Bruno Di Stefano Scholarship,
- The IEEE Toronto Section Dr. Wallas H. Khella Scholarship, and
- The IEEE Canadian Foundation Dr. Robert T.H. Alden Scholarship (to be presented jointly by the IEEE Toronto Section and the IEEE Canadian Foundation).

## 2.7 IEEE Toronto Section Business Meeting

The formal part of the evening's events concluded with a very brief announcement of the election by acclamation of the 2004-2005 Section officers, with Kostas Plataniotis as Chair, Denis Cecic as Vice-Chair, Al Wallis as Treasurer, and Pelle Westlind as Secretary.

## 3.0 For More Information

Many additional photographs and other information about this historic event are posted on the IEEE Toronto web site at:

<http://toronto.ieee.org/events/oct0403.htm>

## 4.0 The IEEE Canada Board Meetings

Twice a year, the board of directors and associated committees get together in person to conduct their formal business which compliments the extensive use of teleconferences, e-mail and other electronic forms of communication. By IEEE bylaw, Section chairs must form a voting majority at the board meeting - this is to ensure that the primary local IEEE unit, the Section, has the dominant say in decisions. Information for new Section chairs is provided, good practices are exchanged, decisions are taken, and the leadership team gets to know and learn from each other. This was the final meeting of President Mo El-Hawary's term of office and several items of business were wrapped up - one of these was the approval of many committee charters that had been revised to be consistent with the previous meeting's decisions to deliver services in both languages in a manner to keep within budget limitations. This was also the opportunity for President-Elect Bill Kennedy to set the stage for his goals - which will be posted on our IEEE Canada web site.



Figure 16: Bill Kennedy (left).

Ferial El-Hawary presented a workshop for chapter chairs on the Friday afternoon. This is a popular recurring event at these meetings and is scheduled immediately prior to the start of the administrative meetings so that delegates from across Canada can attend at no additional cost by arriving a few hours earlier than otherwise - it also provides an opportunity for volunteers from the local Sections to attend. Because Ferial's arrival was slightly delayed (due to Halifax Airport problems resulting from the widespread damage caused by the recent hurricane), Witold Kinsner (Winnipeg) started the workshop and provided the following photo.



Figure 17: Attendees at the IEEE Canada Chapter Workshop



**IEEE Toronto Section**  
serving members and the community since 1903



The Toronto Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers