



Institution of Engineering and Technology

IET Ottawa

November 2006 Newsletter

Web Site: www.iee-ottawa.org

Branch email address: ottawa@iee.org

Secretary: Martyn Delbridge,

2006 Annual Dinner:

The Canadian Space Agency in Action Today

Rolf Mamen, Director General, Space Operations Branch, the Canadian Space Agency

The Britannia Yacht Club, 2777 Cassels Street, Ottawa

Tuesday 28 Nov. 2006, 6:30 for – 7:00 pm

The talk by Rolf Mamen on November 28 will include an overview of the Canadian Space Agency with an emphasis on its operational missions RADARSAT-1, SciSat, Canadarm 2 and the David Florida Lab (DFL). Some aspects of Steve MacLean's flight on STS115 will be shown, as will current assembly, integration and test activity on RADARSAT-2.

The talk will also address current and planned satellite aided navigation and will conclude with a question and answer session.

Rolf Mamen earned a B.Eng. (Hon) in Electrical Engineering at McGill University and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Imperial College, University of London. After a short consultancy with RCA Limited relating to the HERMES communications technology satellite, he commenced a thirty-five year career with the Canadian federal government by joining the Department of Communications (DOC) at the Communications Research Centre (CRC). He subsequently moved from conducting research in orbital mechanics and space technology to space programs management at DOC Headquarters and then at the R&D Branch of the Department of National Defence. He returned to CRC where he assumed responsibility for the management of David Florida Laboratory (DFL), a national facility for the integration and environmental test of spacecraft.

Upon creation of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), the DFL was transferred to this new department. Dr. Mamen was appointed Director General, DFL and, subsequently, Director General, Space Operations Branch,

reporting to the President of the CSA. His Branch is one of the core functions of the CSA and is responsible for the operation of the DFL, the RADARSAT-1 remote sensing satellite system, SciSat and Canadarm 2, Canada's contribution to the International Space Station. His branch also contributes to the operational planning of such CSA missions as the SAR Constellation and Chinook.

Dinner tickets are \$25.00 each, guests welcome. Tickets must be reserved and will be available until Sunday 26th November. Dinner includes wine, soup, salad, roast beef, dessert & coffee, vegetarian palates will also be accommodated at the same cost of \$25, advanced notification also required.

Contact John Vines ph. 729 5458, email: jvines@iee.org, or Eric Dodman ph. 820 8894, email: ericandsylvia@sympatico.ca.

How to get there:

From the East: Proceed along Carling Avenue or Richmond Road to the point at which they meet. Take the first right on Carling. Ave after the junction onto Britannia Road. Proceed north to Cassels Street. Turn left and carry on until you reach the Britannia Yacht Club entrance.

From the West: Take Pinecrest Road, Richmond Road or Carling Avenue to the junction of Richmond Road and Carling Avenue. Proceed on to Richmond Road and turn left on to Poulin, just before Britannia Plaza and continue north to Howe and then turn right on to Britannia Road.

November 16th Local Electric Rail plan meeting postponed

Planning for the monthly IET technical meeting has been "in the works" for quite some time. The key organizer, David Jeanes, is very involved with the "Friends of the O-Train" organization. You may have seen their proposed alternate implementation plan; it was described in the Ottawa Citizen on 31st October. Well, David advises us that this plan has "struck a chord" with various people, and he expects that he,

along with other people involved in the "Friends of the O-Train" organization, will be too busy immediately after the local election, to be able to give a presentation of a "Status and engineering plan" to the IET as well. Expect the meeting to be re-scheduled in the New Year. David has expressed his apologies.

Meeting reports – October Technical Meeting Success - a summary by Hugh Reekie, Ottawa Branch

There was a good turnout of twenty curious engineers for the October IET Ottawa meeting at the RA Centre on 18 October, with support and publicity from the Ottawa Chapter IEEE Computer Society. About a dozen reserved for the excellent but simple pub-style dinner at The Fieldhouse restaurant, just down the hall – with reasonable prices. Some called in for a drink before the 8 pm start, and others just took in the presentation itself. The following report was kindly submitted by George Yee, Chair of the Ottawa Chapter IEEE Computer Society:

Mark Bottomley of the Ottawa IBM Software Lab gave a presentation on the various verification stages undertaken by

the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) that takes place when a Java “.class” file is loaded. These verification steps make sure that the “.class” files are trustworthy, as well as verify constraints that enhance the performance of the interpreter by eliminating certain runtime checks. According to Mark, this is the magic behind much of Java's security that supports the execution of “.class” code from external untrusted sources such as web pages and downloads from third parties. The attendees were intrigued by Mark's presentation and all benefited, not only from the presentation, but also from the many questions and answers that also formed part of the talk.

Formation of the IET Regional Representatives Committee

A note by John Beale, IET Staff Chair RRC

The Membership and Regions Board (M&RB) established a Working Party to develop a new Regional Representatives Committee (RRC) that will advise the M&RB on members' concerns from around the world. The new Committee will seek solutions on outstanding issues and transmit them back to member groups. The M&RB will remain the strategy body, but the RRC will act as a tactical arm of the M&RB. This initiative was agreed by the M&RB and subsequently ratified by the Board of Trustees.

The formation of the RRC is on a fast schedule. It was a difficult decision about whether to give greater notice (and start in the New Year) or to seek a way forward now. The fact that many potential representatives would be over for Council was a deciding factor in pressing the button at this point. The first meeting is expected to refine the key concepts for the

RRC and help decide the final shape for a launch proper in the spring.

Inputs from key stakeholders will be welcomed and it is pleasing to see that members of the Global Support Group (GSG), meeting subsequently to the RRC on 15 November, have extended an invitation for RRC representatives to attend their meeting also. A united way forward is sought, so that there is agreement on the best way to find solutions for member issues.

A note from the Ottawa Branch Chair: Your Ottawa Branch Executive felt that there should be some representation at this all- start-up meeting of the RRC; John Vines, who has performed similar tasks in the past, is available and I asked him to attend the Meeting on 15 November; as it turns out no other North American Branch has submitted an available representative. HR

Government, Delegation and Change - update from the Chair

As we ponder the changes in Ottawa City Council and the US Congress, it might be worthwhile to consider government and change in the IET. Like many worthwhile volunteer organizations, success starts at the lowest level; the IET Ottawa executive meets regularly and we have changed from meeting in a restaurant with low lights to a pub with a bit of space - and with no-one else in the room. This has achieved an appropriate change – there is less inhibition to interrupt, speak your mind or just obtain eye contact to make a point. The most recent meetings have been well attended with many decisions made, opinions expressed and aspirations mentioned. Our Secretary Martyn Delbridge does a great job of getting all our deliberations down on paper!

As many of you know, Alf Roberts announced that he would step down from the IET top job, soon after the Special General Meeting earlier this year; the majority of members did not like his method of government. It is good news that we now have Robin McGill as new Chief Executive Officer and Secretary from January 2007. The “Secretary” aspect is important, as it implies that most IET staff will work to serve the members, according to the aspirations and requests of volunteer engineers who serve on various committees. A “secretary” works like a military adjutant, to make things

happen. It is that aspect of IET government that has been in trouble these last few years.

It was also a delight to see, recently, that a Regional Representatives Committee (RRC) is being set up again. The Ottawa Branch heard about it at very short notice; nothing new with that. Jim McConnach, who did a great job with the Climate Change Conference in Ottawa earlier this year, is a Council rep, and will attend the Global Support Group meeting on the evening of 15th November. Too bad that the announcement about the RRC meeting earlier in the day was made AFTER Jim had made his travel reservations, in mid September - so he cannot attend. Your local representatives are now making arrangements for our voice to be heard: strong words were said at the recent IET Ottawa Executive meeting, to the effect that a local person was VITAL for adequate representation. The Agenda for this important, initial, RRC meeting in London makes little reference to the method of delegate selection for regional representation. There have been too many comments in this column for your executive to let this “little matter” pass by without a strong statement. Stay tuned. Let's hope that the RRC does a useful, effective, job in the months and years to come. I look forward to a change for the better.

- - - Hugh Reekie Chair

The New Chief Executive of the IET

Please find below the text of an email from Andrew Wilson concerning the appointment of the new Chief Executive of the IET

I am pleased to be able to advise you that the President has now announced that Robin McGill is to become the new Chief Executive Officer and Secretary of the IET from January 2007. Robin McGill is a Chartered Engineer and has had a long and distinguished international business career holding many senior posts, primarily within BP and its joint ventures.

Robin brings a wealth of valuable experience to the Institution having served as an MD and supervisory board member of many UK and European legal entities as well as working in the USA and having had exposure to activities across the globe. He has served as a Chemical Industries Association council member, Scottish CBI council member, and has been a representative on various trade bodies over the years; in his latter role he worked with trade unions and management in creating a common vision and direction.

Yours sincerely

Andrew F Wilson - Head of Governance & Legal Affairs

The Institution of Engineering and Technology

Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL, United Kingdom

Are you from Aberdeen?

Alison MacLeod, the International Development Officer of the University of Aberdeen will be in Ottawa on Wednesday 15th November, and would like to meet people from the city, and especially the University, whether IET members or not. For further information contact Hugh Reekie, max-com@allstream.net, phone 613-728-5343.

The 2006/2007 Ottawa Branch Committee consists of:

D. Hugh Reekie	<u>Chair</u>	Colin Billowes	<u>Overseas 35+ plus representative</u>	Ernest Fanthome
Frank Johnson	<u>Treasurer</u>	John Vines	<u>International Membership Advisor</u>	Hudson Egbert
Martyn Delbridge	<u>Secretary</u>	David Boteler	Eric Dodman	Bhagvat Joshi
Edwin Morton		Robert Tolley	John Rivenell	
John Farmer		Allen Baldwin	Nicholas Homan	

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

For some time we have been sending notices to members by Email. This is to save the cost of paper and postage, but also provide updates and reminders that you would not receive in time from Canada Post. We send at least one paper mailing to all Ottawa Branch members each year.

You are receiving this paper copy of the newsletter because we do not have your Email address or the address that we do have does not work. If you wish to receive notices and newsletters by Email, please send your Email address to jvines@iee.org and the address will be placed on the list. Thanks

Note: If you change your home address, telephone number or Email address, please inform the IET in London. The change may be made by letter or sending an Email to membership@iee.org, or by entering the change directly via the IET WEB page. Notification to jvines@iee.org will also help locally.