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A MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE OF CANADIAN BUILDING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

S.B.O.A. SPRING CONFERENCE

April 28, 29 and 30, 2010

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

1301 North Service Road East

Swift Current

1-800- 465-4329

306-773-8288



Book rooms early
as a block of rooms
is only held for a
period of time.



Building Standards/SBOA Workshop
Division B 9.32- Residential mechanical ventilation

Led by qualified instructors from Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute (HRAI) The Objective of this Building Standards/SBOA Workshop is to acquaint building officials with the requirements of section 9.32 of the NBC and the application of those requirements in residential construction. This seminar is directed specifically toward the building official it will cover design and function of ventilation systems. This workshop will be of interest to building officials, municipal officials, building owners and managers, architects, professional engineers, fire officials, contractors, students, interior designers, manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers and other code users.

The conference fee will be \$200.00, which will include this workshop and a manual.

Co Hosted by Building Standards and the SBOA
Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
And April 29, 2010 8:30 to 12:00
Swift Current

Fall 2009 Newsletter

Volume 31, 2009

Dale Wagner: Editor

Saskatchewan
Building
Officials
Association Inc.

President's Report – SBOA Fall Conference

I have participated in a few things since my last report; further meetings of the Public Safety Review Committee (PSRC), a face to face meeting with Minister Huyghebaert, two meetings with Alliance of Canadian Building Officials Associations (ACBOA), as well as co-hosting a reception for the representatives of June 23rd, 2009. Provincial/Territorial Policy Advisory on Codes (PTPACC) and on September 22, 2009 a reception Canadian Commission of Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC), we also met as an executive back on June 4th to take care of some pressing SBOA business.

We were disappointed to receive a letter of resignation from Cynthia Alcorn our vice-president effective this past May 12, 2009. Regrettably we had no choice but to accept her resignation. We will leave the door open if she chooses to pursue a position on our executive in the future; I believe I speak for all of us the executive that we will miss Cyndi's input and energy.

The resignation left the vice-president's chair open and as it is a required position by our bylaws, we felt that it would best to appoint someone to fill the slot. As it happens Chris Gates who had to step down from his position on the executive last fall due to conflicts with his employment had recently gone back to the job he had held before which freed him up for the executive once again. Chris has put a lot of energy into the SBOA in his former position as Education Chair. Chris was the one who brought Certification thru to home plate. We felt that Chris's experience and history especially regarding certification was something we still badly needed on the executive;

Therefore as allowed under

Bylaws of the Saskatchewan Building Officials Association Inc.
6 (5) the directors, or members at a meeting of members, may fill any vacancy among the Directors by appointing a director to hold office for the unexpired term of the director whom the new director is replacing.

The executive formerly and unanimously appointed Chris Gates as Vice-President effective June 4th, 2009.

The Public Safety Review Committee has met several times in the past 6 months to review and design a plan to provide a complete safety net for the whole Province; I have brought our concerns regarding a need for better training in order to meet the shortfall of qualified Building Officials to this table.

Shortly after our last conference we sent a letter to Minister Hicke with copies of our resolutions with the hope of receiving some positive reaction. As expected we did get a response from the Minister's office. Shortly after we sent the letter Minister Hicke was replaced by Minister Huyghebaert. As soon as I heard about the change I fired off a letter to him as well with basically the same message along with a request for a meeting. I was able to deliver a synopsis of the resolutions in person. Mr. Hawkins was there as well and was a great help in delivering our concerns regarding the lack of current training, and supervision of new Building Officials. As well I was able to chat with the Minister and Bill about the use of "interests on title". I have now taken a different approach to this issue than the one we had previously discussed. I would apply an interest on a title right at the application stage



Minister D. J. (Yogi) Huyghebaert and Dan Knutson

as soon as a permit is taken out I would apply the interest and I wouldn't take it off until the project passed final inspection. Perhaps other people had already considered this approach but I am a little slow on the uptake regardless the minister was very receptive to the use of an interest in this manner.

This past summer Saskatchewan co-hosted a PTPACC conferences as well as a CCBFC conference. Both events went very well and we were able to meet the movers and shakers who influence the NBC throughout Canada.

Last May I joined the other provincial representatives in Nelson BC for our spring ACBOA meetings this was coupled with the BOABC Spring conference. I have to commend the BOABC for a very nice conference. The work with ACBOA has been a continuation of our efforts to gain acceptance for National Certification by all the provinces and to work toward finding core training to use by all Canadians interested in becoming Building Officials. We continued discussing training development with the people from ICC.

At the recent ACBOA meetings held this past October 5th, 6th and 7th in Huntsville Ontario we continued to explore the International Code Council (ICC) partnership; some of ICC's existing training is easily adapted to Canadian content and they have developed four soft courses for our consideration which I hope to demonstrate in the near future. As part of our ongoing initiative to raise the profile of the Canadian Building Official we will be producing an ACBOA newsletter that we hope to couple with the provincial newsletters and web site at least annually.

I want to thank Todd for his hard work in putting the last conference together I think we had another very informative agenda. I would also like to thank Jerry and his crew for their hard work as hosts for the event. These things take a lot of work but if we work together things do get easier. We need your help to find speakers and topics for our next conferences so please don't hesitate to give us your suggestions.

As always this is your SBOA please let us know if you have any issues or comments regarding the way it is run or not run.

Dan Knutson



Business Meeting Report

Overview:

The role of the Education committee is to support training opportunities for our members. I am pleased to report on the following activities in that pursuit.

Item 1: Building Code Training For Canadians Series 1

This training course continues to be in more demand than ever. No students wrote exams at the spring 2009 conference. Certificates of completion will be presented at our banquet, to those in attendance.

BCTC Statistics		
	October 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to October 2009
Item	Number	Number
Active Students	33	40
New applications	24	17
Examinations Written	40	40
Exams passed	36	30
Number of students completing	14	10
Students not completed in 1 year	5	n/a

The following students successfully completed the Building Code Training for Canadians - Series 1 course since our spring 2008 conference and were in attendance: David Kashmere, Michael Nelson, Janelle Rode, Ryan Thiessen and Ryan Shepherd. The following certificate recipients were not at the conference: Billy Fowler, Rick Penner, Kevin Robertson, Grant Oatway and Martin Allard.

On behalf of the SBOA, Congratulations!

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Dan Cherewyk	Kevin Donald
Dennis Edwards	Jamie Gorchynski
Maxwell Krecsy	Barry Martin
Frank Masuskapoe	Michael Nelson
Ron Rosvold	

- The BCTC steering committee is made up of representatives from the Southeast Regional College, the Saskatchewan Building Officials Association, and an ex-officio representative from Building Standards.
- The BCTC still serves as the entrance point for most new candidates hoping to enter into a career as a building official, as it is recognized by Building Standards as one of the qualifications for a Class 1 License. It is also currently recognized by ACBOA as meeting National Occupation Standards for knowledge levels at the 'Housing' stage.
- The SBOA recognizes that there are challenges to bring this course to suitable alignment with today's code, both technically, and in format. As well, it must be made to be efficiently updated and maintained as codes are updated and changed.

Item 2: Re-developing the BCTC Course

SBOA is working with Educational Institutions to re-develop this course for the 2010 National Building Code and are expanding to include a Series 2 and Series 3 version. The course will be developed to address the need for recognized training for Class 2 and Class 3 Building Officials.

Item 3: 2010 Training Courses

The 2010 training courses will be held the last week of January with the return of the "Basic Plan Examination" course and the introduction of a new Part 3 "Building Design – Egress, Exits and Fire Safety Provisions" course. The Part 9 course will run January 26th to 29th and the Part 3 course from January 25th to 29th at the Saskatoon Travelodge. Registration is \$500. For more information watch your e-mail or see the SBOA website. www.sboa.sk.ca.

Education Chairperson Chad Freeland

One of the requirements for a Class 1 License Building Code Training for Canadians - Series 1 - 1995

"A comprehensive home study of the National Building Code of Canada one & two unit dwellings."

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Editorial by Newsletter Chairperson Dale Wagner

I know many of our membership are at that age where they have to experience some of those embarrassing visits to the doctor and the following story might sound very familiar.

I called my friend Andy Sable, a gastroenterologist, to make an appointment for a colonoscopy. A few days later, in his office, Andy showed me a color diagram of the colon, a lengthy organ that appears to go all over the place, at one point passing briefly through Minneapolis. Then Andy explained the colonoscopy procedure to me in a thorough, reassuring and patient manner. I nodded thoughtfully, but I didn't really hear anything he said, because my brain was shrieking, quote, *'HE'S GOING TO STICK A TUBE 17,000 FEET UP YOUR BEHIND!'*

I left Andy's office with some written instructions, and a prescription for a product called 'MoviPrep,' which comes in a box large enough to hold a microwave oven. I will discuss MoviPrep in detail later; for now suffice it to say that we must never allow it to fall into the hands of America's enemies.

I spent the next several days productively sitting around being nervous.

Then, on the day before my colonoscopy, I began my preparation.

In accordance with my instructions, I didn't eat any solid food that day; all I had was chicken broth, which is basically water, only with less flavor.

Then, in the evening, I took the MoviPrep. You mix two packets of powder together in a one-liter plastic jug, and then you fill it with lukewarm water. (For those unfamiliar with the metric system, a liter is about 32 gallons). Then you have to drink the whole jug. This takes about an hour, because MoviPrep tastes - and here I am being kind - like a mixture of goat spit and urinal cleanser, with just a hint of lemon.

The instructions for MoviPrep, clearly written by somebody with a great sense of humor, state that after you drink it, 'a loose, watery bowel movement may result'.

This is kind of like saying that after you jump off your roof, you may experience contact with the ground.

MoviPrep is a nuclear laxative. I don't want to be too graphic, here, but: have you ever seen a space-shuttle launch? This is pretty much the MoviPrep experience, with you as the shuttle.

There are times when you wish the commode had a seat belt. When you figure you must be totally empty, you have to drink another liter of MoviPrep, at which point, as far as I can tell, your bowels travel into the future and start eliminating food that you have not even eaten yet.

After an action-packed evening, I finally got to sleep.

The next morning my wife drove me to the clinic. I was very nervous. Not only was I worried about the procedure, but I had been experiencing occasional return bouts of MoviPrep spurtage. I was thinking, how do you apologize to a friend for something like that? Flowers would not be enough.

At the clinic I had to sign many forms acknowledging that I understood and totally agreed with whatever the heck the forms said. Then they led me to a room full of other colonoscopy people, where I went inside a little curtained space and took off my clothes and put on one of those hospital garments designed by sadist perverts; the kind that, when you put it on, makes you feel even more naked than when you are actually naked.

Then a nurse named Eddie put a little needle in a vein in my left hand. Ordinarily I would have fainted, but Eddie was very good, and I was already lying down. Eddie also told me that some people put vodka in their MoviPrep.

At first I was ticked off that I hadn't thought of this, but then I pondered what would happen if you got yourself too tipsy to make it to the bathroom, so you were staggering around in full Fire Hose Mode. You would have no choice but to burn your house.

When everything was ready, Eddie wheeled me into the procedure room, where Andy was waiting with a nurse and an anesthesiologist. I did not see the 17,000-foot tube, but I knew Andy had it hidden around there somewhere. I was seriously nervous at this point.

Andy had me roll over on my left side, and the anesthesiologist began hooking something up to the needle in my hand.

There was music playing in the room, and I realized that the song was 'Dancing Queen' by ABBA. I remarked to Andy that, of all the songs that could be playing during this particular procedure, 'Dancing Queen' had to be the least appropriate.

'You want me to turn it up?' said Andy, from

somewhere behind me.

'Ha ha,' I said and then it was time; the moment I had been dreading for more than a decade. If you are squeamish, prepare yourself, because I am going to tell you, in explicit detail, exactly what it was like.

I have no idea! Really! I slept through it! One moment, ABBA was yelling, 'Dancing Queen, feel the beat of the tambourine,' and the next moment, I was back in the other room, waking up in a very mellow mood.

Andy was looking down at me and asking me how I felt. I felt excellent. I felt even more excellent when Andy told me that it was all over, and that my colon had passed with flying colors. I have never been prouder of an internal organ.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Dave Barry is a Pulitzer Prize-winning humor columnist for the Miami Herald.

A physician claimed that the following are actual comments made by his patients (predominately male) while he was performing their colonoscopies:

- 'Take it easy, Doc. You're boldly going where no man has gone before!'*
- 'Find Amelia Earhart yet?'*
- 'Can you hear me NOW?'*
- 'Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet?'*
- 'You know, in Arkansas, we're now legally married.'*
- 'Any sign of the trapped miners, Chief?'*
- 'You put your left hand in; you take your left hand out...'*
- 'Hey! Now I know how a Muppet feels!'*
- 'Hey Doc, let me know if you find my dignity.'*

And the best one of all.

10. *'Could you write a note for my wife saying that my head is not up there?'*

This editorial is solely the opinion of the writer and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Saskatchewan Building Officials Association or our membership.



Len Semko and Brian McBain

**Thursday October 22, 2009
Underwriters Laboratories of Canada**

Presented by Brian McBain

This presentation was on fire alarm monitoring and how it relates to the National Building Code of Canada. The Standards that relate to fire alarms are CAN/ULC S561-03 for Monitoring of Fire Alarms, CAN/ULC S524-03 for the Installation of Fire Alarms and CAN/ULC S537-03 for the Verification on Fire Alarm Systems. This was a very informative presentation.



Building Code for Canadians Certificate Holders: David Kashmere, Michael Nelson, Ryan Shepherd, and Education Chair Chad Freeland.



Recipients of National Certification Certificates: Back row Left to right - Zane Desroches, Barry Kowbel, Chris Gates, Paul Cook, Allan Cooper, Jim Moorhead and Ted Elliott. Front row - Maureen Berard, Dwayne Williams, William Hawkins, Dan Knutson, William Iron and Burns Fleischhaker.



Dan Knutson, Margaret Kuzyk and Jerry Wintonyk.

**Thursday October 22, 2009
Margaret Kuzyk P. Eng. CCBFC Update**

Margaret gave us an update of the recent and upcoming activities of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC). She explained how the CCBFC commission is made up of volunteers and said that they were always seeking new members who were willing to sit on the commission who are appointed by National Research Council (NRC). The hot issues for upcoming codes are care homes, daycares and radon gas control. It is always good to see Margaret at our conferences and she provided us with a very interesting and informative presentation. SBOA presented Margaret with an Honorary Lifetime Award for her contribution to our association and industry.

The S.B.O.A. wishes to thank the following Sponsors:

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We would also like to thank all those individuals and organizations that donated prizes for the conference. Your support is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to our gracious hosts Jerry Wintonyk, Ryan Shepherd, Kevin Steinborn, Todd Russell and the City of North Battleford.

**Friday October 23, 2009
Code Panel Session**



Back row - Paul Cook and Jerry Wintonyk. Front row - Len Semko, Dan Knutson and William Hawkins.

The presenter was Len Semko who is Assistant Chief Building Official with Building Standards.

Len discussed a multiple array of items in this interesting and informative presentation. The following items are what were included:

- Building Standards Newsletter.
- Dealing with mold, vermiculite insulation, asbestos and urea-formaldehyde insulation (UFFI).
- Can an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AJH) make a policy to increase energy efficiency in their municipality?
- Deck foundations (code change).
- Non-graded, recycled lumber in construction of buildings.
- Building Officials working within license and in areas with no Building bylaw.

These items generated a wide range of questions and discussion, which usually is the case and prove to be very informative presentations. Members are urged to send questions to Building Standards so that the membership can benefit from the Code Panel Session.



Dan Knutson, Lil Luthje and Jerry Wintonyk. Lil was presented with an Honorary Lifetime Award. Fred Luthje husband of Lil's passed away this past fall and was a longtime member of the SBOA. It is our hope Lil will continue to attend our conferences.



Paul Cook and Dale Wagner

**Friday October 23, 2009
Shipping Containers "Sea Cans"**

The presenter was Paul Cook who is Assistant Chief Building Official with Building Standards.

Building Standards has recently been involved in the interpretation of a Shipping Container being utilized as a Building, furthermore as a Storage Garage or Detached Accessory Building. Shipping containers or "Sea Cans" are used for the temporary storage of goods while they are being transported from one place to another. These containers are initially constructed of different materials and are designed differently to fit many uses. Containers come in several different sizes and weights. Dimensions: The different lengths of shipping containers are – 10 feet, 20 feet, 30 feet, and 40 feet. The width is 8 feet. Heights are either 8.5 feet or 9.5 feet. Containers are typically manufactured of anti-corrosive steel construction, welded seams, hardwood ship flooring over steel cross members, and painted to endure sea salt rich environments. They are typically configured with opening doors at one end.

How are Containers as Buildings affected by the UBASA and the NBC? As the Shipping Container being placed on a property has evolved to a Building by definition of the UBAS Act interpretation...the structure is now required to comply with the provisions in the UBAS Act and the provisions of the NBC.

However shipping containers do not meet the prescriptive requirements of the NBC and therefore the Local Authority may request an Engineering review and design analysis prior to issuing a Building Permit.

Some of the following items may be the issues that we are facing:

- Review of the Container for its proposed use
- Foundation
- Anchorage
- Loading
- Building Envelope
- Adapting the Container for its end use

**Friday October 23, 2009
Green Planet Homes**

The presenter was Shawn Hayter from Green Planet Homes and this presentation consisted of building homes with straw bales.

In straw bale buildings, baled straw from barley, wheat, rice, flax, rye or oats is used to build the exterior walls of a house or shed. The building can have any of the traditional foundations used in Canada. Around the perimeter of the main floor a "curb" is built. The curb is a railing of two 2x3's nailed to the floor on which the bales are set. Bucks (framing) are built to hold the window and doors. The bucks are temporarily held in place with bracing to the floor. Baled straw is stacked on the curb in a brick like fashion around the bucks. Headers (a rail or top plate built of wood framing) are built to sit upon these straw walls.

There are two common methods of building straw bale homes. The first method is called a post and beam with a straw bale infill. Here a wooden structure is built first and the bales are stacked between the framing and used as insulation. The second common method is called load bearing. Here the entire wall consists only of bales and there is little or no wood or steel framing in the wall. However, the load-bearing wall must be compressed with cables or wires to stabilize it. For either type of construction, the bales are covered with mesh which is stitched on with giant bale needles. On top of the mesh, two or three coats of plaster are applied. There are many different kinds of plaster which may be used, including earthen, lime or lime/cement.

A conventional roof or second floor and walls may be built on top of either type of wall system. The plaster provides ample structural strength, such that it will comfortably bear the weight of the roof and floors.

Advantages of Straw bale construction over conventional

There are many advantages to straw bale construction, for example:

- Traditional "stick frame" homes of 2x6 construction usually have an insulating value of R14. (R-value of conventional home based on CMHC Technical Series "Energy Use in Straw Bale Houses") With a properly insulated roof straw bale enables a person to build a warm winter home with an R factor of R35 to R50! (US Department of Energy, April 1995, "House of Straw")
- The high R factor of straw homes has the added benefit of keeping the house cool in the summer!
- Straw bale homes offer a more solid look and feel and allows for greater artistic designs. All of which contribute to a more enjoyable and comfortable home.
- Straw homes utilize an annually renewable agricultural by-product.



Chris Gates Shawn Hayter Jerry Wintonyk

- The interior plaster of straw bale houses increase the "thermal mass" of the home, which helps to stabilize interior temperature fluctuations.
- Big thick walls mean nice quiet places.
- Conventional foundations and roofs can be used with straw bale buildings.
- Straw bale homes are low maintenance. The final coat of plaster can be mixed with a dye to provide colour. As such, the owner may never have to paint it. When built with a steel roof and high quality windows, a straw bale home may have a virtually maintenance free exterior.
- Building with straw provides added income to struggling farm families.
- Finally there is the community factor. People can be more involved in the building of their straw bale home, a process that increases the owner's sense of satisfaction with the product.

S.B.O.A. Newsletter

is published twice a year for the information of our association members. Its purpose is to inform the members of conference topics and up-coming events. Comments, story ideas and suggestions about contents and format, as well as any retirements or deaths, should be directed to:

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**Wednesday October 21, 2009
Building Standards –
Pre-Conference Workshop**

SBOA would like to thank William Hawkins Chief Building Official for the popular workshop that he presented to a full house. The presentation was on the *Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards (UBAS) Act and Regulations*. The workshop examined the application of the UBAS Act, The UBAS Regulations and The UBAS Administration Regulations. The focus was on building bylaws, code enforcement and order writing. There were numerous municipal administrators in attendance and many good questions were entertained.



Todd Russell, Andy Teasell, Rory Kaska and Jerry Wintonyk.

**Thursday October 22, 2009
Andy Teasell-ilevel by Weyerhaeuser**

Tall walls are an increasingly popular feature in new homes, but for the designer and code official they create requirements that can exceed the prescriptive solutions in the Building Code. There is information available from Canadian Wood Council on the requirements for walls that exceed 3.6 metres. Andy went on to explain how to interpret the tables for the design of tall walls. A checklist when dealing with tall walls should contain information such as Climatic Data, Wind Exposure and Allowable Deflection.

Other discussion in this presentation included bracing and framing strapping of Preserved Wood Foundations when engineered floor systems are used.

**SBOA Business Meeting:
Minutes and reports from the executive and committee chairman were presented and adopted.**



Mayor Julian Sadlowski giving greetings.

**Thursday October 22, 2009
Nexus Solar Corporation**



Jerry Wintonyk, Jeannine Paul and Gary Martens.

Presented by Jeannine Paul who is with Nexus Solar Corporation. Jeannine's presentation introduced the basics of how solar energy systems work and the many grants, rebates and subsidies available to stimulate growth in this field. We learned the differences in good installations and questionable ones, keys to good system design and when it's a good idea to ask more questions. With today's increasing energy costs solar energy is just one of the new innovations in conserving energy and fossil fuels. For more information contact Jeannine at jpaul@nexussolar.com



Chad Freeland, Dez Shubert and Jerry Wintonyk.

**Thursday October 22, 2009
Fire Etc. Lakeland College**

Presented by Dez Shubert

Changes in residential construction practices have made homes dangerous for fire fighters to suppress involved fires. Lightweight I-joists style, truss joists and truss expedite fire so rapidly that rescue has become extremely dangerous. Houses have also been allowed to have less spatial separation and hence have directly resulted in major fires with mammoth loss of property. Dez provided us with an exuberant and dynamic presentation that enhanced our conference and was well received by the membership.