Seminar by IEEE Ottawa Section Educational Activities, and Algonquin College IEEE Student Branch

The IEEE Ottawa Section is inviting all interested IEEE members and nonmembers to a seminar

History of Engineering in Canada: What We Should Know about It

By

Andrew H. Wilson, Fellow CSSE, EIC, CAE
Canadian Society for Senior Engineers (CSSE)

DATE: Thursday, November 27, 2014.
TIME: Refreshments, Registration and Networking: 18:00; Seminar: 18:30 – 19:45
PLACE: Algonquin College, T-Building, Room T129, 1385 Woodroffe Ave., Ottawa.
PARKING: No fee after 5 p.m. at the Parking Lots 8 & 9. Please respect restricted areas.

Abstract - Although usually taken for granted, engineered structures, machines and devices are all around us. Their history is also all around us and available to be studied. Unfortunately, the history of engineering is not usually taught to students of engineering, business, history, economics, or politics. The general public gets aware of it mainly as the result of failures and disasters. In addition, the media is prone to mislabel any successful engineering as science. Over the past century, engineering's scientific base has increased significantly, but its practice still requires much input from experience.

Economists and politicians frequently refer to technology and innovation, which may be - but not entirely - associated with engineering. The general public, the media, economists or politicians do not appear to know the achievements and names of prominent engineers, past or present, but business people may well do. While engineers may seek careers in business, they seldom seek political office.

There have been ways in which distinction among engineers and their creations have been officially recognized. Engineers have sometimes identified their own heroes, particularly from the 19th century. Engineers tend to write for their peers and rarely for non-engineers. But non-engineers have written up much of the history of engineering in Canada for the general reader. Engineers have used anniversaries of the profession as opportunities for reaching a wider audience.

The pace of change is fast in many branches of engineering, but their histories still have much to teach today's professionals.

Speaker's Bio

Scottish-born, **Andrew H. (Drew) Wilson** is a graduate in mechanical engineering and the liberal arts of the University of Glasgow. A former marine engineering apprentice, RAF Technical Branch officer and sales engineer, he has lived in Canada for almost 60 years. He has worked in both industry and government, in engineering, administration, research and management, as well as in S&T and innovation policy research and human resources studies. He is a past president of the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) and the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering (CSME), and a past chair of the Canadian Engineering Manpower Council and the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome. He also participated in the founding process for the Canadian Academy of Engineering and was instrumental in arranging for the permanent preservation of EIC and CSME archival material. He holds seven engineering Fellowships and is an honoree of both EIC and CSME, the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He has also been active in the engineering history field since 1975 and was for many years chair of History Committees for EIC and CSME. Since his retirement in 1986, he has been principally a researcher, writer, editor and lecturer in this field.

Admission: Free. Registration required.

Please register by e-mail contacting: branislav@ieee.org.