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Ops Talk

Celebrating

20

Years

Reaching for Tomorrow

2004 — 2024

Congratulations on the 20th anniversary of *Ops Talk* magazine! It is truly remarkable to see how the publication has thrived over the past two decades. Thank you for the dedication and support of its consecutive executive members. Their commitment has undoubtedly been instrumental in ensuring the magazine's success and growth.

It is clear that *Ops Talk* has evolved with the times, adjusting its content to meet the changing needs of its readership. This ability to mature and stay relevant is a testament to the magazine's adaptability and the vision of its leadership.

Here's to another 20 years of providing valuable content and insights to the readership, and to continuing to be a premier trade magazine with something for everyone.

Cheers to the team behind *Ops Talk* and all their hard work!

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Ops Talk

Spring 2024



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2024 EFMA Conference

Details, registration, and delegate information inside

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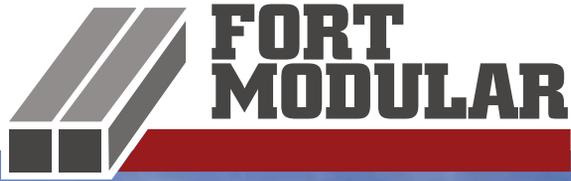
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²Fluence (UV Dose) Required to Achieve Incremental Log Inactivation of Bacteria, Protozoa, Viruses and Algae Revised, updated and expanded by Adel Haji Malayeri, Majid Mohseni, Bill Cairns and James R. Bolton. With earlier contributions by Gabriel Chevretil (2006) and Eric Caron (2006) With peer review by Benoit Barbeau, Harold Wright (1999) and Karl G. Linden



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ON THE COVER

The view of Kumsheen K-12 in Lytton, B.C. — After the fires of 2021, it is the remaining school. It is undergoing a complete HVAC upgrade by SMcN, and both roofs have since been replaced in preparation for a solar installation. The No. 1 Highway from the south passes by the school on the left, and down a steep slope to the right is one of the main railway tracks following the Fraser River.



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MESSAGE FROM THE EFMA PRESIDENT

Archie Stogianos



As the upcoming EFMA conference approaches, we're thrilled to announce that all exhibitor slots have been filled. With a stellar array of courses and sessions lined up, delegates are registering in droves, including many newcomers. This year's theme, "Supporting Your Success," aligns seamlessly with EFMA's mission and values. We believe in the power of collaboration, community, and mutual support to drive positive change and innovation. Get ready for another unforgettable event packed with insights and networking opportunities.

I wish to extend my gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering dedication and active involvement with EFMA. Your commitment to participating in workshops, conferences, zone meetings, and collaboration

with vendors has been truly commendable. As my time as president of EFMA draws to a close, I reflect on the invaluable experiences and interactions I've had the privilege of encountering. The depth of knowledge and expertise within our membership is truly remarkable, and I'm immensely grateful for the opportunity to have served alongside such incredible individuals.

My sincere thanks to Glenn Miller for his unwavering guidance and support throughout this journey, as well as to the entire executive team whose collective efforts have made this role both enjoyable and effortless. My primary focus has been on ensuring that our members truly benefit from being part of EFMA. My ultimate goal has been to get EFMA's education plan rolling, with our Education Committee

partnering with Anne Cooper, and I feel we have succeeded. Our recent Spring Workshop in Tsawwassen was a resounding success, with engaging presentations and many vendors attending. A big thank you Anne Cooper and Bruce Tisdale for all of your insights. The second part of the Leadership Series promises to bring exciting opportunities for professional development to all our members, and I encourage those who haven't attended a workshop to join us in the future.

Looking ahead, our annual conference and trade show in Penticton is fast approaching, and the conference sold out to vendors quickly. We look forward to seeing you all soon. This year, we're adding a touch of outdoor flair to our trade show, promising fun-filled activities and generous prizes. So, dust off your best outdoor attire and join us for a memorable experience.

It's hard to believe that this last year flew by so fast and that we are already heading into our annual conference. I want to take this opportunity to invite each of you to join us at this year's EFMA conference in Penticton where we'll come together to learn, network, and celebrate our achievements as a community.

See you in June. ■



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Ops Talk magazine after 20 years

BY CHUCK MORRIS

Print communication prior to the first edition of *OpsTalk* magazine was through a newsletter. On the facing page is a sample from fall 2002 featuring the front page of a newsletter we produced that went out to all association members.

Print media is a great forum to share with our membership. Reminders and timely information delivered to your mail in the form of the newsletter were appreciated by the membership. With those thoughts in mind, I inherited the job from Lisa Johnston who had been producing it for approximately three years (thanks Lisa). I changed it up a little bit and worked to expand the piece to cover more topics.

During this time, I was also publishing a small magazine called *On Patrol (for Auxiliary and Reserve Policing)*. I used to get it printed and bound at a local

copy and print store in Langley. It was there that I saw a magazine for the BC Nurses Union. I asked about it and discovered the owner's wife happened to be a nurse, so he explained the magazine to me. He gave me the contact information for David Langstaff, the owner of DEL Communications in Winnipeg.

Finally getting in touch with David in Winnipeg, and meetings with part of the SPOA Executive, culminated with David flying to Vancouver and meeting with us one night in a hotel in Richmond. We had held executive and operation meetings that day. Our conversation with David was very good and we enjoyed the possibilities. I recall thinking that this beats a newsletter any old day! We bantered about various topics and finally got to the point where we had to come up with a name.

It is fascinating to see the evolution from newsletters



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October 25th Pro-D

Chilliwack, Abbotsford and Langley maintenance staff got together for the October 25th Pro-D session, held in Abbotsford at the Abby Arts Center. This was the second annual combined Pro-D experience. Prior to that Langley and Surrey had met on a limited basis with great success.

This has proven to be a valuable exercise as important topics can be discussed en-masse, thereby reducing costs. It helps to hear what others are going through as well. Comments may trigger certain thoughts helping to demonstrate to the audience other methods of accomplishing tasks or dealing with certain issues.



Chilliwack, Abbotsford and Langley Maintenance staff at Abbotsford

The morning sessions covered claims management / return to work, molds and indoor air quality, and energy management. After a pleasant lunch break everyone gathered back inside the auditorium for a workshop on injury prevention. Following this the audience broke off into various Trades groups, and with a Manager facilitating, networked for an hour. Discussion centered on how things are done in one district compared to another, how budget cuts have impacted, etc. The day closed with a tour of the Abbotsford Maintenance Facility. Thank you to Abbotsford for hosting the days events. Thanks to the Directors from Langley, Chilliwack and Abbotsford for coordinating the day! Is your district close enough to have a combined training day with a neighbouring school district? Call one of the Directors mentioned above, they will be glad to assist you by providing information that you can use to have successful Pro-D days for your staff too.

2003 Conference

Even though it is still some time away, SPOA Executive are gearing up for our next annual conference held June 2 - 6, 2003 in Penticton.

Plan to attend and see old friends!

*One man may hit the mark,
another plunder; but heed not
these distinctions. Only from
the alliance of the one, working
with and through the other, are
great things born.*

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2002

WHAT'S INSIDE:

October 25 Pro-D day

Power Smart Partners

SPOA Website

Newsletter update

Hand Dryer Notice

to a full-fledged magazine like *Ops Talk*. The journey of how it came to be is always intriguing. It seems like there was a significant shift in communication strategy, and finding the right medium to connect with members was key. The transition from the newsletter to *Ops Talk* seemed to influence the engagement and interaction with association members. That was a step in the right direction!

Ops Talk magazine truly became the cornerstone of communication for the association, providing a professional and engaging platform for sharing information and fostering connections within our community. The transition and impact of *Ops Talk* increased the overall perception and visibility of the association to all its membership.

Ops Talk has become the go-to magazine for the Educational Facility Managers Association, providing valuable content that resonates with members and contributes to their professional development. Having a variety of editorials on relevant topics ensures that there is something for everyone, enhancing the magazine's appeal and usefulness. *Ops Talk* has contributed to fostering a sense of community and knowledge sharing amongst members of the association.

Shared knowledge is important and it helps broaden individuals thoughts and ideas when reading something or listening to something that they can learn from. Though we encourage membership to send ideas in or author their own ideas, we can always wordsmith for them to get their piece in the magazine as well. This begins some great collaborations, some of it continuing

for months or even longer. The process is to engage our readers and to ask questions of them as they read. This helps to encourage greater thought processes and cause them to think beyond what they are reading.

Ops Talk has truly become a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration within the Educational Facility Managers Association. The practice of discussing editorials during meetings and networking events fosters meaningful conversations and allows members to delve deeper into various topics. Encouraging members to contribute their ideas and author their own pieces not only enriches the content of the magazine but also promotes active participation and engagement within the association.

The emphasis on engaging readers by asking questions and prompting them to think critically about the content further enhances the magazine's impact and relevance. It is especially significant that individuals within government, such as those in the Ministry of Education, are among the readership, as *Ops Talk* serves as a valuable resource for sharing insights and perspectives that can influence decision-making and policy development.

Overall, *Ops Talk's* role in facilitating collaboration, sharing knowledge, and stimulating thoughtful discourse is invaluable in advancing the goals and objectives of the Educational Facility Managers Association.

Happy 20th Birthday *Ops Talk*!! ■



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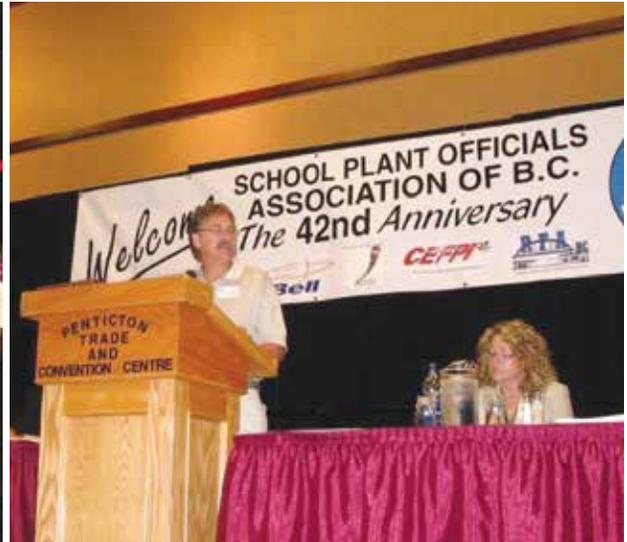


Over the years, a look back at our Association as EFMA turns 60

BY STEVE JACKSON, ASCT, RPA, FMA, GSC< RETIRED DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS,
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6 (ROCKY MOUNTAIN)



EFMA Conference 2006.



Steven Jackson at the conference podium.

Recently, I was asked to provide my perspective on The Education Facility Management Association. For some background, I grew up in a family that owned a mechanical contracting company. Following graduation, I took mechanical engineering technology, then worked for Lennox Industries in Calgary prior to returning to the family business where I worked for the next 10 years as a HVAC and refrigeration journeyman with a gas ticket as well as estimating and project management. Contracting got slow in the 1980's, so I ventured out to try something different.

In 1989, I moved to Chilliwack with my wife and two children, and this is where I started my school district career as Maintenance Supervisor. I was very fortunate to work with Pete Selmer and Mac Christensen

who were very involved with our Association, then known as SPOA (School Plant Officials Association of British Columbia), and they encouraged me to get involved as well.

I recall Mac's stories of the original SPOA meetings starting back in 1964, where a group of school district facility supervisors got together for lunch and envisioned an association made up of maintenance and custodial supervisors throughout the province. They would meet over education sessions and share information. Mac explained that one of the most important aspects of our Association is the networking and relationships you build.

In my second year in Chilliwack, I met Bob Hardy who was the Maintenance Supervisor for Hope

School District at that time. Bob was an incredible role model. He continually reached out to facility managers and supervisors throughout the province. Bob's soft-spoken communication style, knowledge, and experience along with his tireless efforts to communicate with SPOA members illustrated the power of our Association. Bob inspired others to reach out and communicate, to ask questions and share their knowledge and experience. Relationships and friendships grew.

At the June annual meeting in 1991, with the encouragement from Pete and Mac, I was elected as a director. Working for the betterment of the Association and on Ministry and Association committees provided me with new opportunities for learning



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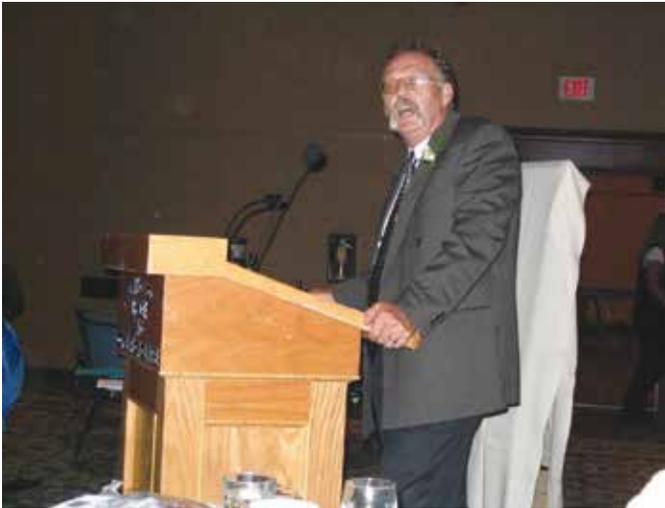
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John Vantol, a repeat MC at the EFMA events.



Cheryl (Partners Program) and Past President Ernie Lambert.

and networking. I served on the executive in various positions and served as President in 1997-98 and again in 2009-2010.

In the fall of 1991, I moved back to the Kootenays, taking over facility management for Golden School District. In 1997, when I became President of SPOA, the provincial government announced the amalgamation of school districts. Shortly afterward, I became Director of Operations for three

former school districts (Golden, Invermere, and Kimberley) that were amalgamated into one district. I stayed in that position until I retired in December 2021.

Looking back at my 32-year involvement with our Association, and all the years I spent on the executive, provincial, and association committees, it is easy to see that the original vision of maintenance and custodial supervisors getting together to

learn and share knowledge was a great idea. This is, and continues to be, the foundation and the main purpose of our Association. We moved our annual general meeting around the province for many years, before centralizing our annual meetings in Penticton. This decision had been made for financial reasons and Penticton provided a great opportunity for networking outside of our busy days at the conference.

Over the years, our Association has had times when it wondered if it were doing enough for its members, bringing forward new initiatives that they thought would help all members. Some of those initiatives worked well and the ones that did not were mainly due to our limited number of members. We just did not have the capacity for some of them. Changing the name of the Association was one of those successful initiatives, and it took place over several years. We met with the School Plant Officials Association of Alberta, hired marketing consultants, and carefully created the new name that reflected the changing times. Another one of



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those great initiatives was hiring a secretary for the Association.

A special thank you needs to be mentioned to Molly Shipowich. Molly has spent countless hours working for our Association over the past 20 plus years, and without her efforts we would not be as good as we are! Thank you, Molly!! A few years ago, the executive added an Executive Director. Glenn Miller has done a great job of keeping our standards and practices consistent. Thank you, Glenn.

As I reflect back, I recall Mac Christensen's stories of the original meetings of our Association in the 1960s. Their original intent was to get together to learn and share information. I believe that what was actually taking place, and they did not realize this at first, was that they were building lifelong relationships. The kind of relationships where you could be honest and ask for technical help or personal advice. We were becoming a facility family of like-minded people. Anyone that has been to an EFMA conference will know what I mean. The learning sessions are helpful and the exhibitors are great, showcasing new and old technology. But it is the interactions that you remember the most: whether it was in the pool at the conference hotel, chatting with exhibitors or other members, or just visiting throughout the conference week.

In summary, our Association has wandered down different paths over years looking to do more for its members and it constantly returned to its roots. An association of facility managers and supervisors that simply get together to learn, share ideas and

build lifelong relationships. Our school districts really benefit.

My hope for everyone in our Association is that you make time to attend zone meetings and our annual conference, relax, meet people, and have fun. Learning and sharing of innovative ideas will come naturally as you build lifelong relationships. There is a wealth of

experience right next door.

Our EFMA is like the "Cheers Pub", somewhere where everyone knows your name. If you are a new member, get involved, you will never regret it. And for those veteran members keep it going, it is worth it. After all, it is for the kids!

All the best to everyone. ■



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EFMA Bursary Program

We are extremely proud to take this opportunity to showcase and recognize one of our important programs that we offer to EFMA members and their families.

The program began in 1983 as S.P.O.A. B.C. Bursary Program and eventually became EFMA B.C. Bursary Program as it is today.

Each year our Association offers bursaries to EFMA members' children who graduate in the current school year and who are registered in a recognized post-secondary educational institution in the upcoming school term. Each of the bursaries will be awarded on the basis of academic achievement and/or special needs. As this is an EFMA B.C. bursary, preference will be given to students entering the fields of engineering, architecture, or building technology however should there not be suitable applications received in these fields, students in other courses of study will be considered. All applicants MUST be dependents of school district employees in the school facilities area (i.e. Maintenance, Capital or Custodial).

Our program could not be as honoured as it is if it was not for two very special people:

***Educational Facility Managers Association of
British Columbia (EFMA) Bursary***

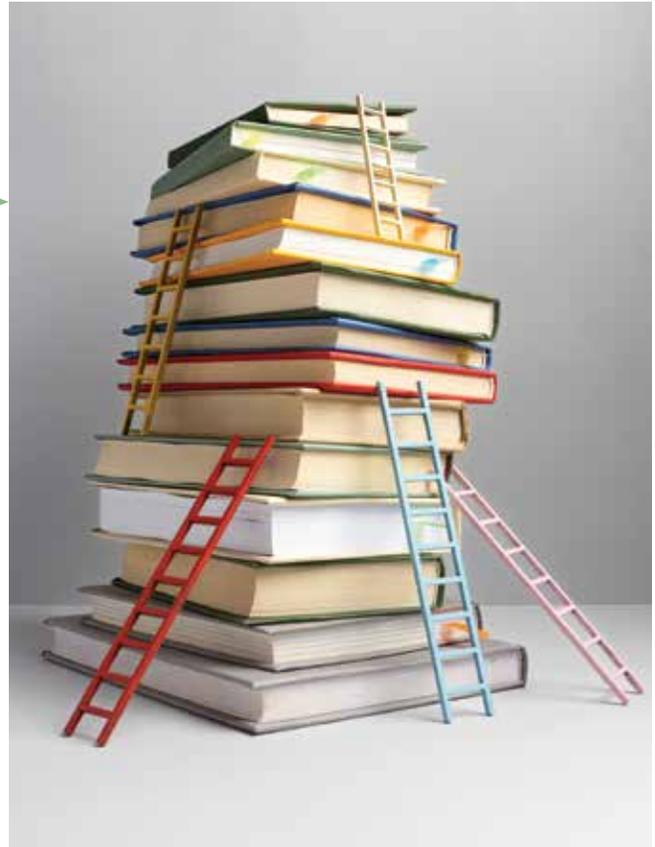
Presented in Memory of

GEORGE T. ROUTLEY

July 20, 1936 - April 30, 1993

George Routley was born, raised, and attended elementary school in Port Coquitlam, continuing his education at secondary school in Port Moody and post-secondary school at Vancouver Vocational Institute taking Structural and Architectural Drafting. He was accepted as an apprentice with the Department of Transport in Ottawa in the Surveying Branch, and worked in airport construction in Northwest Territories, Prince Rupert, Princeton, Kamloops, James Island, and Vancouver.

George joined School District #65 (Cowichan) in 1965



as Assistant Works Superintendent. In 1966, he was appointed to the position of Superintendent and held this position until 1992. His efforts contributed greatly towards achieving a positive environment for learning in his school district.

In 1965, George attended the first official School Plant Officials Association (SPOA) Convention at the Blue Boy Hotel in Vancouver. He felt this organization was a great place to exchange thoughts and ideas with school plant officials from other school districts. He served on the executive for a number of years and was President in 1972. With his knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order, George acted as the Official Parliamentarian at the Annual General Meetings.

In later years, George became involved with the Rotary Club and held various offices with that service club.

His love of ships led him to a hobby career in the Cruise Ship Industry as a Cruise Consultant. He and Marianne went on numerous cruises that took them to many countries. George always loved to share his knowledge of cruising with others.

In 1983, George was instrumental in creating the SPOA B.C. Bursary which has evolved into the EFMA Bursary

for school plant employees' sons and daughters who were graduating from high school. This bursary, one of five, is now dedicated to the memory of George T. Routley which is a very fitting memorial to a man who worked tirelessly for the SPOA.

***Educational Facility Managers Association of
British Columbia (EFMA) Bursary
Presented in Memory of
ROBERT (BOB) HARDY
October 4, 1938 – August 15, 2022***

The Robert (Bob) Hardy Honourary Bursary is unique to the EFMA B.C. Bursary Program. The bursaries being offered to date are typically academic bursaries with a rating system intended to recognize individual circumstances as well as academic achievements. This bursary is all about people and special circumstances that reflect the attributes and honours of Bob Hardy.

Bob was born in Didsbury, Alberta on October 4,

1938. He grew up in Ladner, B.C. Bob's career began in the Cannery in Ladner and finished as Maintenance Superintendent in Haida Gwaii, B.C. He spent 18 years in night school to achieve his goals while working hard to support his family. His career as a Maintenance Supervisor/Superintendent took him to Vancouver's Langara College and the School Districts of Ashcroft, Hope, and Haida Gwaii. Bob was an active member of SPOA and he was instrumental in the rebranding from SPOA to the Educational Facility Manager Association of B.C. (EFMA).

Bob served on the Board of Directors and was twice President. EFMA was honoured to have him as the Historian and Executive Director as well as a lifetime member. This bursary, one of five, is now dedicated to the memory of Bob Hardy which is a very fitting memorial to a man who worked tirelessly for SPOA/EFMA. ■



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SPRING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP 2024

Leadership depends on YOU



There are those who believe that Mother Nature is sometimes cruel with a quirky sense of humour when it comes to winter travel. Well, that was not the case on March 7 and 8, 2024 as 58 School District Facility Managers, Supervisors and Directors throughout British Columbia all travelled to Tsawwassen, B.C. to attend our 2024 EFMA Spring Workshop held once again at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn. This year's program titled, Leadership Depends on YOU, was developed with two goals in mind: Education Program and Performance and Facility Management.

This year's workshop was also the launch of our Facility Leadership Series that is designed not only for new EFMA members, but it helps all members that want to improve and/or learn relevant management techniques and processes that will ultimately help and improve your success at work. A huge thanks to our Education Committee for their efforts.

We are very grateful to again have the following sponsors take the time from their busy schedules and commitments to join us for this event. Their continued support really helps us put together a full and credible program for our members.

Canstar Restorations, eBASE Software, Habitat Systems, Introba, Motorola Solutions, National Air, Norateck Solutions, Siplast, SMCN Consulting, Specialty Surfaces, and Zurn Elkay.

Workshop Day 1

President Archie Stogianos opened our workshop and Executive Director Glenn Miller helped to facilitate the presenters and presentations.

Bruce Tisdale, Secretary-Treasurer

Bruce began his presentation reviewing the roles and responsibilities that the Secretary-Treasurer holds with the Facilities Management team in each school district. I am confident that our new members were enlightened to learn that the relationship between finance, facilities and the Ministry of Education is a consistent, progressive, and honest relationship that we work very diligently to maintain. I think all delegates also learned that while small school districts have unique



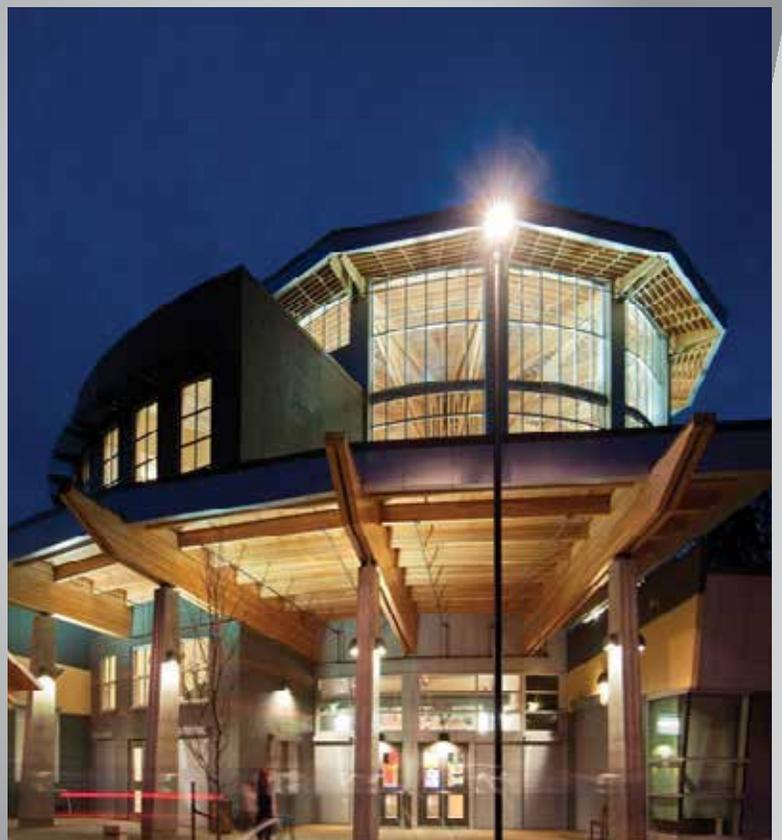


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**Anne Cooper, AZ Cooper Consulting –
Human Resources part 1**

This presentation is the first module of our Facility Leadership Series, and it couldn't have been more relevant for us. So much so that we have devoted a significant portion of this workshop on two of those modules. Anne began her presentation working through A-Z (no PUN intended) on the do's and don't of employee hiring, training, and people management and understanding. Anne focused on the importance of Human Resources functions: "To ensure that the people employed contribute as efficiently and effectively as possible." While that sounds easy, I dare to say not always so. Thanks to Annes' suggested strategies and straight forward approach, the feedback from our members on this session was extremely positive.

challenges that may differ from large districts, the top priority of our work and education program still comes down to providing clean, safe, and dry buildings for our students, staff, and general public. Thanks Bruce!



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Anne Cooper, AZ Cooper Consulting - Human Resources part 2

Continuing from Part 1, this session really hit the mark and hit home with our group. Some of the topics covered under this session dealt with department culture, employee conduct, discipline and dismissal, personal growth, and safe working environments. For the next 90 minutes Anne walked our delegates through the topics like we were constructing a building, making sure we understood the information before the next floor was built. That we understand! Thanks Anne so much for your enthusiasm and easy-to-understand style. Archie and Glenn can now rest from handing out all that material!

Alan Kavanaugh - Risk Management

There is no introduction necessary for this gentleman and his presentation on risk management. Alan has been educating, supporting, and providing sound advise on risk management to EFMA members for more than a couple of decades. His passion and steadfast approach are always appreciated by our members. As we have a number of new members this year, the subject of risk

management was brought forward by our Education Committee to help our members begin to understand how to manage the challenges and legal obligations we face in our work each day. The EFMA Executive is keenly aware of the importance of managing and mitigating risk in all our facilities, and we are committed to ensuring that we have the most up to date standards, practices, policies, and procedures to work with. Much thanks Alan for another great session.

Workshop Day 2

Jessica Fairbairn, Nicole Williams - Harris & Company

In Module 1 of the Facility Leadership Series, we began to understand the complexities, strategies, and challenges in dealing with hiring, training, supervising, and managing people on a day-to-day basis. I am certain that Human Resources professionals will tell you, there is much more to HR than that. That is why we invited Jessica and Nicole from Harris and Co. to present on the next chapter in the HR portfolio. The legal implications, ramifications, and considerations when working with personnel are no less than fundamental in our work.



So, it is critical that we learn how to attract and retain committed people. We will always remind each other that we can't do this work without committed people, that's why leadership depends on you.

Thank you very much Jessica and Nicole for your help!

**Anne Cooper/Bruce Tisdale -
Education Program Module 2**

Ministry Funding, Reporting and Relationship

Understanding our Ministry of Education and Childcare funding model and process can be a bit of a challenge for some of our directors, particularly if you are a new director from outside the K-12 sector. Our presenters at this workshop being no strangers to the funding model, Ministry relationships, and reporting system, Anne and Bruce walked through the process, timelines, and contact information that will definitely help our members when preparing their funding approval and request documents and reports. Question and answer period is always appreciated. Thanks a bunch Anne and Bruce!

Jeff Widmer APEX EHS Services- Asbestos Management/Owner Responsibilities

As we stated in our opening remarks of this session, it is frustrating that we are still dealing with asbestos issues today in our facilities however the reality is... we must continue to make all efforts to manage and eventually eradicate this issue. Jeff from APEX EHS Services presented an Asbestos Management overview as well as an outline of the responsibilities of each building owner or representative that must comply with regulatory requirements. Thanks a bunch Jeff for helping us out here!

**Executive Panel Discussion Forum -
Directors of Facilities
SD#22 Vernon, SD#36 Surrey,
SD#83 Okanagan-Shuswap**

One the most requested sessions in our workshops is the round table discussion forum. This 90-minute forum allows new members, active members, and associate members the time each person needs to ask specific questions on any topic that will help them understand what they need to improve and be better in their roles as supervisors, managers, and directors through discussion, examples, and interest. It is our belief that all members have a voice and deserve to be heard and understood. Thank you all!

A special thanks to Archie, Travis, and Harry for your leadership!

Thank you to:

- Molly, A huge thank you for once again doing what you do to put this program together. Awesome Molly!
- To all Education Committee members for working double duty to help bring this program to our members.
- To the EFMA Executive Committee for putting the funding and priority in the place that matters to our members.

Most of all, a sincere thank you to all of you EFMA members for taking the time from your busy schedules and making the effort to travel to Tsawwassen to attend our 2024 Spring Leadership Workshop.

Stay tuned for more information on our Facility Leadership Series!

We do this for YOU!

Please don't forget our Annual Conference and Trade Show/Annual General Meeting that will be held in Penticton June 3 - 7, 2024.

See you there! ■



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Barry Bepple

Energy and Sustainable Conservation Coordinator, Prince George School District



Perseverance and a skill for embracing change. Barry Bepple, Energy and Sustainable Conservation Coordinator at the Prince George School District has spent 39 years of his career at the school district, where his position evolved with his experience and with the changing times.

Bepple's journey began in a truss and prefab facility in Kamloops before transitioning to wholesale building supply while he pursued university courses. His diverse interests in law, electrical engineering, and computer programming hinted at his future role as a tech-savvy leader in the district. Bepple relocated to Prince George in 1979 and worked with EMCO Wholesaler before joining the Prince George School District in 1985 as a stockman.

In 1996, Bepple moved into a newly created role of Planning Technologist, a role he held for 18 years. Then, stepping into another newly created role as the Energy and Sustainable Conservation Coordinator in 2014, a position he still holds today.

His multifaceted expertise is evident in his varied responsibilities. In his current role, Bepple says he wears many hats, overseeing the energy portfolio, security systems, and collaborating closely with contractors for upgrades and repairs. He also works closely with the capital projects manager for various heating and electrical projects.

In addition to his technical responsibilities, Bepple is also

involved in strategic planning and data analysis. His insights and contributions play a crucial role in long-range facility planning and addressing evolving needs in the district.

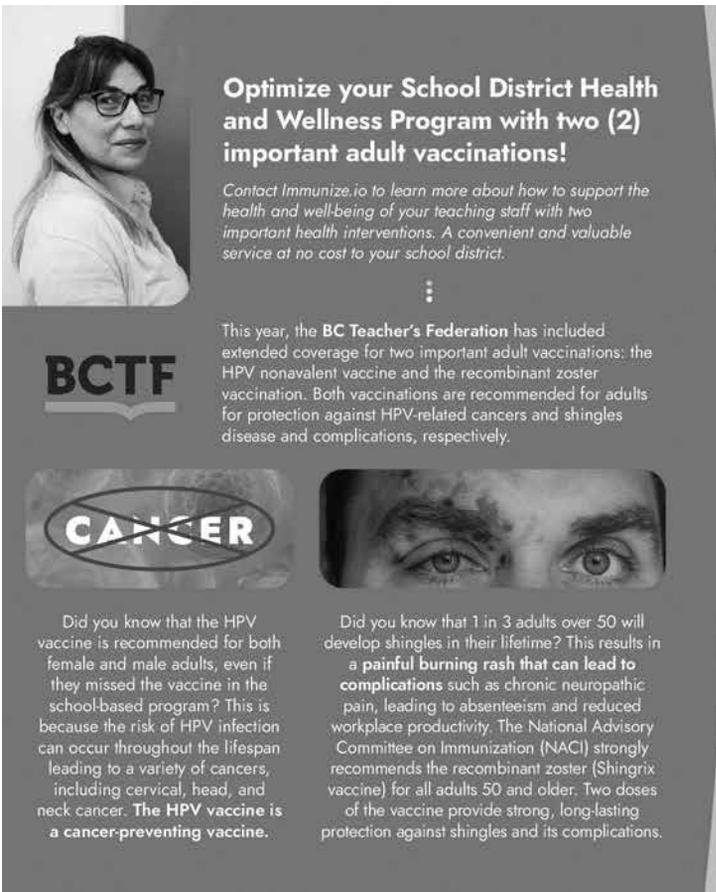
Bepple's dedication to sustainability and efficiency is evident in his approach to problem-solving. "We always have new challenges, and you just work to make adjustments," he says. "You talk to all your partners who are trying to put the job together and make it work within the budget and the schedule." His contributions extend beyond his day-to-day responsibilities as he has been actively involved in committees, including technology advancements and health and safety initiatives.

Beyond his professional achievements, Bepple's personal interests paint a vibrant picture of his life outside of work, "I like anything electronic," he says. "Gadgets, drones, computers, virtual reality." He also says living in Prince George has the benefits of great access to outdoor activities which allows him to pursue his interests in fishing, paddle boarding, windsurfing, biking and skiing. He's also a competitive archer, competing on local, provincial, and national levels.

Bepple has been married to his wonderful wife, Donna, for 34 years. Their two daughters work in the fields of archaeology and chemistry, and they have two Maine-coon cats that are well-known in the neighborhood.

Reflecting on his journey, he expresses gratitude for the supportive network and camaraderie he has found within the school district. He acknowledges, "Our district covers a large geographic area, so you don't have too many opportunities to meet, but we still reach out and stay in contact."

With 39 years at the Prince George School District, Bepple describes himself as the 'oldest knowledge holder' for the district. He credits the positions for his longevity, finding them very interesting. "Students, teachers, and staff expect to have an inviting space to work and learn in. We have a maintenance facility that expects the same thing," he says. "That's what becomes so interesting is resolving issues, and working with people who are very good at their job. We all share a common goal. To provide a safe and comfortable facility that functions efficiently, and that equates to a better student learning experience." ■



Optimize your School District Health and Wellness Program with two (2) important adult vaccinations!

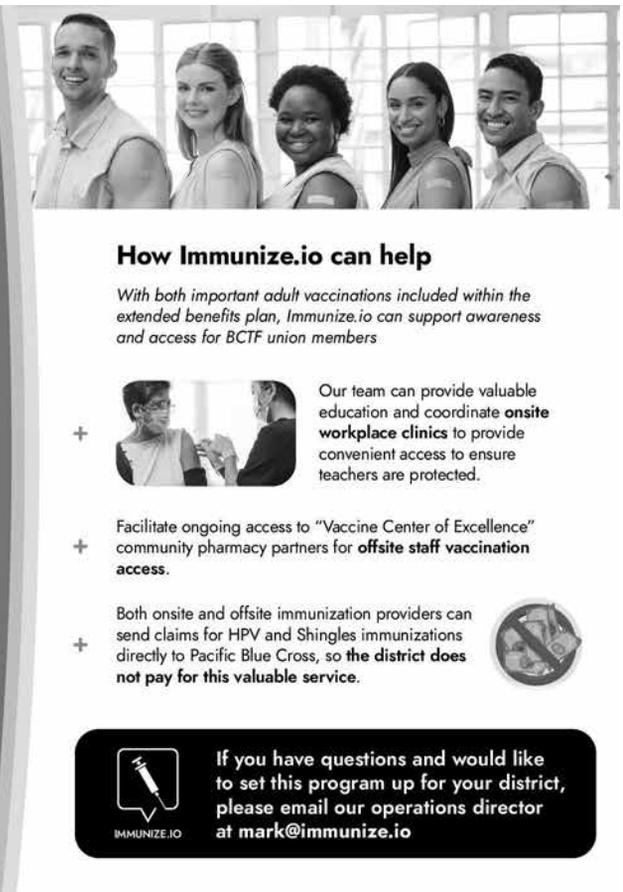
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This year, the **BC Teacher's Federation** has included extended coverage for two important adult vaccinations: the HPV nonavalent vaccine and the recombinant zoster vaccination. Both vaccinations are recommended for adults for protection against HPV-related cancers and shingles disease and complications, respectively.

CANCER

Did you know that the HPV vaccine is recommended for both female and male adults, even if they missed the vaccine in the school-based program? This is because the risk of HPV infection can occur throughout the lifespan leading to a variety of cancers, including cervical, head, and neck cancer. **The HPV vaccine is a cancer-preventing vaccine.**

Did you know that 1 in 3 adults over 50 will develop shingles in their lifetime? This results in a **painful burning rash that can lead to complications** such as chronic neuropathic pain, leading to absenteeism and reduced workplace productivity. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) strongly recommends the recombinant zoster (Shingrix vaccine) for all adults 50 and older. Two doses of the vaccine provide strong, long-lasting protection against shingles and its complications.



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If you have questions and would like to set this program up for your district, please email our operations director at mark@immunize.io

Heather Simm

Director of Operations,
Kootenay-Columbia School District

As a self-proclaimed adrenaline enthusiast, Heather Simm faces an interesting paradox—she loves spontaneous excitement but dislikes heights and speed. However, as the Director of Operations at the Kootenay-Columbia School District, she channels her thrill-seeking nature into managing complex challenges without the physical risk.

Embracing the unpredictable nature of each day, Simm finds great satisfaction in this aspect of her current position as Director of Operations. “I would say there is no typical day. Every day is different without any idea what to expect, which is what I love about the position,” she says. “In this kind of position, you have to be adaptable and calm, and you need to be able to make decisions under pressure.”

With over 15 years of experience in the school district, Simm began her role as Assistant Director of Operations in 2007 and transitioned to her current leadership position in 2013.

Her introduction to the school district was somewhat serendipitous. As she recalls her husband, who is an electrician for the school district, brought home the



job description for her initial role. “I don’t think he completely thought it through,” she jokes. “I applied for the position, accepted it, and ultimately became his boss,” she says, highlighting the interesting dynamic of their professional relationship.

The Kootenay-Columbia School District is located in southwestern B.C. and serves over 4,000 students across 11 schools. It includes six elementary schools, one elementary/secondary school, two secondary schools, and one alternate school consisting of two campuses. Simm is currently overseeing the construction of the new Glenmerry Elementary School which will facilitate 435



students. She says it's an exciting project to undertake in her smaller district. But she says that managing people in a tight fiscal environment is probably the biggest challenge of her position, "It's challenging for all directors in every district," she says. "But I'd say it's especially so in a small district like Kootenay-Columbia where there are fewer layers of management." It's because of these challenges that Simm finds fulfillment in her role. "I love it," she says. "I think you have to love it. It's such a demanding job that if you don't love it, you likely won't survive. And although our Operations team is small, we have a great team and that makes all the difference in embracing the challenges."

Prior to her career in facilities management, Simm spent a decade working in silviculture, managing operations related to tree planting, fire prevention, and health and safety. She graduated with a bachelor's in physical education and biology. However the seasonal forestry work she undertook during her studies soon turned into a full-time career, showcasing her willingness to embrace new opportunities as they arise.

Outside of work, Simm finds joy in outdoor activities such as cross-country and downhill skiing, waterskiing,



biking, hockey, and spending time with her husband and two teenage sons. She and her husband also spend a significant amount of time supporting their sons' sports activities, ensuring their schedules are busy.

Simm emphasizes that by consistently placing her family as her top priority, she is better able to manage the pressures of her demanding position. "Maintaining a positive attitude, upholding integrity, and prioritizing my family enable me to find great satisfaction in my work." ■

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Pierre Ngo

Electrical Manager, Delta School District

Driven by curiosity and a passion for technology, Pierre Ngo, Electrical Manager at Delta School District, brings over two decades of expertise in automation and electrical engineering to his role. With 19 years working in private companies specializing in DDC (direct digital controls) automation and HVAC systems, Pierre transitioned to the public sector one year ago, finding a refreshing change of pace and a newfound appreciation for collaborative work environments.

Prior to joining the school district, Pierre spent 12 years servicing the automation system at the Delta School District before being invited to join the team. Being with the school district for one year now, he reflects on the transition, “I was a bit unsure at first and didn’t know what to expect because I had been with one company for so long,” he says. “I was hesitant about the change, but now that I’m here I think I should have thought of this earlier!”

He emphasizes the contrast between the relentless pace of the private sector and the more planned and collaborative approach he is observing in the public sector. “Under private, you’re always under the gun,” he says. “In the school district, the workflow is a lot smoother, so you can plan more effectively. You have



great collaboration with people, and it’s a pleasant environment that I enjoy.”

The Delta School District is comprised of 24 elementary schools, seven secondary schools, and facilitates nearly 16,000 students. The district also maintains the Delta Community College and the Delta Manor Education Centre.

At the school district, Pierre is responsible for the entire automation side of the building systems. His department oversees electrical systems, lighting system, and DDC controls, including fire alarms, preventive maintenance, smoke detectors, bells, strobes, and annunciators. They also manage main electrical distribution panels, electrical panels, transformers, and system upgrades.

“My strength lies in automation, since I’ve done it for so many years,” he says. In his previous work with private companies such as ESC Automation, Pierre’s past projects include iconic structures such as the



Richmond Olympic Oval, the UBC Pharmaceutical Centre, the Jim Patterson Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre in Surrey, and the Gateway Casino. He also conducted the power monitoring on automation for the Abbotsford School District.

“As the senior engineer, I handled all aspects relating to HVAC and DDC automation, including DDC software and automation design,” he says. “That exposed me to a lot of experience with relation to HVAC and controls.”

Beyond his professional life, Pierre is an amateur classic car enthusiast, restoring his own 1965 Mustang with the help of his best friend Ron, whom he refers to as his classic car mentor. While much to his wife’s relief, the ‘old car’ has now been sold, Pierre still enjoys restoring cars, hanging out in Ron’s garage, and visiting local car shows.

“My passion is working on classic muscle cars and attending car shows,” he says. “You’ll find me at almost every single car show. Be it in Abbotsford, Langley, or Surrey. I’ll be there.”

While one of his interests relates to appreciating the

classics of the past, he also looks towards the future with a passion for sustainable and renewable energy. “My other passion is renewable energy—both solar PV and solar thermal,” he says. Pierre has leveraged his expertise to implement monitoring systems for renewable energy sources in schools, showcasing his commitment to green initiatives and innovation.

Outside of work and his hobbies, Pierre values spending quality time with his wife now that their two children are grown. He also enjoys building and experimenting with electronic circuits and teaching others interested in electricity and science. Pierre is a volunteer mentor for EIT (Engineer in training) students and enjoys helping them through the process.

While his first year with the Delta School District has been fulfilling professionally, what stands out for Pierre is the camaraderie among his colleagues. “What I enjoy most about working at the school district is the people,” he says. “The people really make a difference. Everyone is so helpful, easy going, and enjoyable to work with at every level.” ■



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A career in facilities management

BY CHUCK MORRIS



Facilities Management (FM) can be a rewarding career choice for individuals interested in managing and maintaining buildings and their infrastructure.

FM requires a diverse skill set, including technical knowledge, organizational abilities, leadership capabilities, and problem-solving skills. Starting out as a tradesperson within building trades to gain hands-

on experience and knowledge of buildings is a practical approach. It also allows individuals to understand the complexities of building systems and operations firsthand.

Gaining experience and gradually moving up to supervisory or managerial roles provides valuable insights and a deeper understanding of facility operations. This progression allows

for growth and advancement within the field.

Facilities managers oversee various aspects of building operations, including maintenance, safety, security, space utilization, budgeting, and sustainability. This diversity can make the role engaging and challenging.

Effective FM contributes significantly to the efficiency, safety, and functionality of buildings, affecting the people who use them, whether they are employees, tenants, or the public.

Facilities managers often deal with unexpected challenges and emergencies, problem solving, and emergency management. Learning to manage emotions during crises and ensuring staff remain calm and efficient is crucial for maintaining safety and minimizing disruptions.

However, it is important to note that FM can be demanding, requiring individuals to juggle multiple responsibilities and respond promptly to issues as they arise. It is also essential that you continuously update skills and

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knowledge due to advancements in technology and sustainability practices.

To succeed in FM, a combination of technical knowledge, leadership skills, adaptability, and the ability to remain calm under pressure is essential. Additionally, networking and staying abreast of industry trends and best practices can further enhance career prospects. If you have a passion for problem solving, enjoy working with diverse teams, and have a keen interest in ensuring efficient building operations, FM could indeed be a fulfilling career path for you.

This work can be highly rewarding, both professionally and financially for individuals with the right skills, attitude, and experience. Building strong relationships with superintendents, secretary treasurers, ministry officials, stakeholders, and various teams is crucial in this field.

To reach these higher-level positions, individuals need a combination of expertise, leadership abilities, a track record of successful facility management, excellent communication skills, strategic thinking, financial acumen, and the capacity to navigate diverse challenges.

The satisfaction derived from successfully managing facilities, collaborating with diverse teams, ensuring smooth operations, implementing cost-effective solutions, and creating safe and functional environments for occupants can be immensely fulfilling for those passionate about this field.

Ultimately, for those who find fulfillment in developing and maintaining facilities, nurturing

Effective FM contributes significantly to the efficiency, safety, and functionality of buildings, affecting the people who use them, whether they are employees, tenants, or the public.

relationships, and leading both personal satisfaction and teams toward effective facility operations, a career in FM can offer significant financial rewards. ■

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- 1.1. Ministry of Education and Childcare (MECC) and Boards of Education co-governance
 - 1.2. Board of Education governance responsibilities
 - 1.2.1. Strategic Planning
 - 1.2.2. Financial planning and annual budgets
 - 1.2.3. Long range facility planning
 - 1.3. The Role of the Secretary Treasurer as CFO and Superintendent as CEO
 - 1.3.1. Establishing relationships
 - 1.4. First Nations and Métis people
 - 1.4.1. Understanding terminology
 - 1.4.2. Local Education Agreement requirements
 - 1.4.3. Protocols

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

Professional Development A:

Continued

- 8:00am – 12:00pm Facility Leadership Series - District Budgets and Accountabilities
- 3.1. Annual Budget Preparation
 - 3.1.1. Budget advocacy
 - 3.1.2. Annual Budget Preparation
 - 3.1.3. Building the Budget – Preparation of Operating Expenditures
 - 3.1.4. Consultation and Communication
 - 3.1.5. Budget Approval and Understanding Risks
 - 3.1.6. Budget implementation
 - 3.1.7. Managing and Monitoring the Budget
 - 3.2. Budget allocations
 - 3.2.1. Board Strategic Plans and implications for operations - system alignment
 - 3.3. District specific accounting systems
 - 3.4. Priorities, competing pressures
 - 3.5. Addressing requests – prioritization – how to say no
 - 3.6. Understanding district expectations and requirements

Professional Development B:

- 8:00am – 12:00pm Contractor Safety Management
Presenter: BC Municipal Safety Association

Come join us to gain an understanding of how school districts and contractors have a responsibility to ensure work is performed safely and according to WorkSafeBC legislation. The principles introduced in this course can assist in establishing due diligence for all employers.

- 12:30pm – 4:00pm Review Division and WCAT processes
Presenter: Joon Oh, Employers' Advisers Office

TUESDAY, JUNE 4 cont'd

1:00pm – 5:00pm	EFMA 26 th Annual 9 Hole Golf Tournament Sponsored by: CDI Spaces Kimco Controls Ltd. National Air Technologies Siplast Canada SMcN Consulting Inc.	<i>Penticton Golf & Country Club</i>
3:00pm – 7:00pm	Registration – Members and Exhibitors	<i>South Lobby</i>
3:00pm – 7:00pm	Exhibitors Set-Up	<i>Ballroom II/Salon A</i>
7:00pm – 10:00pm	Presidents Reception Sponsored by: Caliber Sport Systems Inc.	<i>North Lobby</i>
10:00pm – 12:00am	Hospitality Suite – Everyone Welcome Sponsored by: Kimco Controls Ltd. Proactive Hazmat Environmental RCABC Rocky Point Engineering Soprema Canada Telus Communications	<i>Ramada Inn & Suites</i>

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

7:30am – 9:00am	Registration – Members and Exhibitors	<i>South Lobby</i>
8:00am – 9:30am	Breakfast	
8:00am – 9:30am	SSABC Meet and Greet	Room 2
8:30am – 9:00am	New Member Orientation	Room 1
9:00am – 9:30am	Zone Meetings	
9:00am – 9:30am	Exhibitor Training – Conference Overview	<i>Ballroom II/Salon A</i>
9:30am – 10:00am	Zone Chair and Executive Meeting	<i>Boardroom</i>
9:30am – 11:30am	Visit Exhibitors Booths - Coffee Sponsored by: SMcN Consulting Inc.	<i>Ballroom II/Salon A</i>
11:30am – 1:30pm	Opening Ceremonies Delegates, Exhibitors and Partners Luncheon <i>Keynote Speaker: Kevin Rempel</i> Practical strategies for achieving daily, lasting results and maintaining mental wellness amidst challenges. Sponsored by: Quantum Lighting in Memory of Len Horvath	<i>Salon B/C</i>
1:30pm – 3:00pm	Visit Exhibitors Booths - Coffee Sponsored by: First Onsite Property Restoration	<i>Ballroom II/Salon A</i>

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5 con't

3:00pm – 4:15pm

1. Changes to B.C.'s Asbestos Regulations (Licensing and Worker Certification)
Speaker: Ben Rombough, CRSP, NCSO, Pinchin Ltd.

We will be providing an overview of changes to the provincial asbestos regulations including:

- Why the changes were made and who they apply to
- How they potentially impact your organization, your projects, and building operations
- The process of getting workers certified for asbestos work
- The process of getting a business licensed for asbestos abatement work
- Discussion regarding how to properly prepare for your projects; and
- Resources and support available to aid in the training and certification process.

2. Energy Landscape in B.C.

Speaker: Ben Nishi, Senior Manager, Commercial Accounts, FortisBC

Ben will be presenting on B.C.'s Energy Landscape and FortisBC's Energy Transition. The audience will learn about the status of energy demand and supply in our province, and the diversified approach that FortisBC is taking to meet customer demand for affordability, sustainability, and choice.

3. Maintenance Equipment Management

Speaker: Shannon Moore, Vision State and Madhu Dardi, Bunzl C&H

Learn how effective implementation of equipment management programs will deliver the greatest ROI:

- Optimize distribution of assets • Maximizes uptime • Reduce cleaning time & consumable usage
- Minimizes wear and tear • Manage Life Cycles • Maximize Warranty Offerings

4. Tech Ed Shop Safety

Speakers: Heather Elliott, SD#33 Chilliwack and Steve Classen, SD#71 Comox Valley

Exploring the Heads up for Safety document and the Best Practices guide for teaching and learning in Applied Skills (Shop) classes.

6:30pm – 9:00pm

Exhibitors Hosted Evening

Costume: ***The Great Outdoors***

Ballroom II/Salon A

9:00pm – 12:00am

Hospitality Suite – Everyone Welcome

Sponsored by: ***Kimco Controls Ltd.***

Proactive Hazmat Environmental

RCABC

Rocky Point Engineering

Soprema Canada

Telus Communications

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THURSDAY, JUNE 6

7:00am – 8:00am	Buffet Breakfast - Everyone Welcome Sponsored by: FortisBC Energy Inc.	<i>Salon B/C</i>
8:00am – 10:00am	EFMA Annual General Meeting and Elections	<i>Salon B/C</i>
8:00am – 10:00am	SSABC Round Table	Room 2/3
9:30am – 10:00am	Exhibitors Meeting - Appointing New Exhibitor Representative	<i>Ballroom II/Salon A</i>
10:00am – 1:00pm	Visit Exhibitors Booths / Hosted Luncheon Sponsored by: Soprema	<i>Ballroom II/Salon A</i>
1:00pm – 1:45pm	5. Ministry	
	6. <i>Moved to Session 10</i>	
1:45pm – 3:00pm	7. Habitat Systems Speakers: Steve Doyle & Adam Walsh Join us in an open discussion as we take a deeper die into the inclusive play challenges and opportunities to help transform play spaces into something for everyone to enjoy, while taking into consideration site design to make it accessible for all.	
1:00pm – 3:00pm	8. Guidance for Planning HVAC Upgrades for K-12 Schools Speaker: Stephen McNichols, SMcN Consulting Inc. Compliance requirements for new Building code and ASHRAE standards, with respect to ventilation systems capacity and creation of flexibility to operate systems in response to Standard, Emergency (Pandemic) and Wildfire modes. Touching on targeted ventilation rates, filter ratings, use of standalone room filter/disinfection units. Importance of creating 'Preparedness Plans'	
	9. Bill 41 Stay At Work/Return to Work Speaker Arvin Cajigas, WorkSafeBC Mark Somerville, SD36, Surrey	
3:15pm – 5:00pm	10. New BC Hydro Incentive and Energy Management Programs followed by Energy Manager Round Table Speaker: Aron Garrecht, BC Hydro The presentation will focus on current commercial electrification and energy conservation programs, and the financial considerations of each strategy.	
	11. Maintenance Round Table Chair: Travis Elwood, SD#83 N. Okanagan-Shuswap Louie Giroto, SD#42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	
	12. Custodial Round Table Chair: Albert Klade, SD#34 Abbotsford, Glen O'Keefe, SD#62 Sooke	
	13. Ergonomics for Custodians – Ergonomics for Custodians Speaker: Cameron Mckay Occupational Therapist with Season's Health Therapies Identify techniques to prevent strain and injury for Custodians. In this session through an interactive session where you will learn how to: Help staff choose and use tools while maintaining a neutral posture, Learn about and how to observe and choose good body mechanics and posture to avoid awkward movements that put staff at risk, proper lifting techniques that prevent strain, the importance of being a team player and supporting each other to avoid injury,	
6:00pm – 12:00am	Reception, Dinner, and Social Sponsored by: ERV Parent Company	<i>Penticton Trade and Convention Centre</i>

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

9:00am – 10:30am 14. Update to Harassment and Violence Regulation
Speaker: Lauchie MacQuarrie, OSO, WorkSafeBC

9:00am – 12:00pm 15. a) BCPSEA
b) School Protection Plan (SPP)
c) Ministry Update

Salon C

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2024 CONFERENCE PROGRAM
PENTICTON TRADE & CONVENTION CENTRE
June 4 - 7, 2024
PARTNERS PROGRAM

Tuesday, June 4

1:00pm – 5:00pm	EFMA 26 th Annual 9 Hole Golf Tournament	Penticton Golf & Country Club
3:00pm – 7:00pm	Registration	South Lobby
7:00pm – 10:00pm	Presidents Reception	North Lobby
10:00pm – 12:00am	Hospitality Suite – Everyone Welcome	Ramada Inn & Suites Pub

Wednesday, June 5

7:30am – 9:00am	Registration	South Lobby
9:00am – 10:00am	Meet & Greet Breakfast	Expo Lounge
9:30am – 11:30am	Mimosas & Masterpieces Sip a mimosa for some creative courage. Not an artist? No problem - we pre-trace the canvas if you need a little extra help. It's <i>FUN</i> Art not <i>FINE</i> Art	Expo Lounge
11:30am – 1:30pm	Opening Ceremonies Delegates, Exhibitors and Partners Luncheon <i>Keynote Speaker: Kevin Rempel</i>	Salon B/C
1:30pm – 3:30pm	More to come	
6:30pm – 9:00pm	Exhibitors Hosted Evening Costume: "The Great Outdoors"	Ballroom II/Salon A
9:00pm – 12:00am	Hospitality Suite – Everyone Welcome	Ramada Inn & Suites Pub

Thursday, June 6

10:30am – 4:00pm	Hop on the bus and enjoy a delicious lunch at a surprise destination. The adventure continues as you tour some of the amazing wineries in the beautiful Okanagan Valley	
6:00pm – 12:00am	Reception, Dinner and Social	Penticton Trade & Convention Centre



EFMA 2024 Conference Registration Form

First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Organization: _____

Position/Title: _____

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Tel: _____ Email: _____

Cheques, Visa, MasterCard or AMEX are accepted, via web site <https://efmabc.com/events/>
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Conference Fees

Active Members Full Conference Package (includes banquet)	\$550	_____
Non-Members Full Conference Package (includes banquet)	\$700	_____
Members One Day Pass (does not include banquet) Wed ___ Thurs ___ Fri _____	\$300	_____
Non-Members One Day Pass (does not include banquet) Wed ___ Thurs ___ Fri _____	\$450	_____
ProD "A" Monday, June 3 & Tuesday, June 4 <i>Members</i>	\$450	_____
ProD "A" Monday, June 3 & Tuesday, June 4 <i>Members & Non-Members</i>	\$600	_____
ProD "B" Tuesday, June 4 <i>Members & Non-Members</i>	\$300	_____
Partners Program (includes banquet)	\$150	_____
Additional Banquet Dinner ticket only	\$ 75	_____
Golf Tournament (handicap _____)	\$ 75	_____
	GST 5%	_____
	Total	\$ _____

Please indicate your selection of sessions and social events:

Tuesday – June 4

President's Reception

Wednesday – June 5

Breakfast

Luncheon

Exhibitors Hosted Evening

Session 1

Session 2

Session 3

Session 4

Thursday – June 6

Buffet Breakfast

Hosted Luncheon

Session 5

Session 6

Session 7

Session 8

Session 9

Session 10

Session 11

Session 12

Session 13

Reception, Dinner & Social

Friday – June 7

Session 14

Session 15

Please inform us of any dietary needs:

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation of registration must be received before May 17, 2024, for registration fees to be refunded. A processing fee of \$50.00 will be charged on all refunds.



2024 CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

- 91/92 – A&G Supply Ltd.
- 54 – Air Filter Sales
- 40 – AirFoam
- 17 – AIRPLUS Industrial
- 87 – Alpha-Vico
- 25 – Apex
- 3 – Apollo Sheet Metal Ltd.
- 4 – Apollo Sheet Metal Ltd.
- 124 – BC Hydro
- 57 – Berry Architecture + Associates
- 26 – BG Distribution
- 28 – Boxlight
- 13-16 – Bunzl Cleaning & Hygiene
- 7 – Caliber Sport Systems
- 55 – Camfil
- 33 – Canstar Restorations
- 101 – CDI
- 10 – Centaur Products
- 99 – Centura Tile
- 85 – Chaparral
- 90 – Clean Air Services
- 5 – Curb-Ease
- 56 – Custom Air
- 114 – Dafco Filtration Group
- 6 – DG MacLachlan Ltd.
- 47 – Dobbins Sales Ltd.
- 12 – Dyson
- 115 – EB Horsman
- 103 – eBASE Software
- 31 – Edgewood Matting
- 97 – Electric Avenue
- 32 – ERV Parent
- 76/77 – ESC Automation (Ainsworth)
- 83 – EZEE
- 73 – Falcon Engineering Ltd.
- 65 – First On Site
- 88 – Forbo Flooring Systems
- 78 – FortisBC
- 36 – Garaventa Lift BC
- 99 – Garland
- 27 – Green Roots Play Equipment Inc.
- 46 – Greenlight Canada Enterprise Ltd.
- 34/35 – Habitat Systems Inc.
- 66 – Hy-Line Sales
- 38/39 – IBC Technologies Inc.
- 19 – ICS Clean
- 20 – ICS Clean
- 1 – Immunize.io Health Association
- 11 – Imperial Dade
- 21/22 – Inter-lite Sales
- 71 – Introba
- 119/120 – Island Cleaning Supplies
- 84 – Johnson Barrow
- 43/44 – Karcher Canada Inc.
- 64 – Kickstart Technologies Ltd.
- 53 – Kruger Products
- 94 – Legrand
- 113 – Loveday's Flooring Ltd.
- 96 – Lutron
- 42 – Make Projects
- 79 – McCrann Cyrus Mfg Canada
- 122 – Mondo
- 93 – Nacecare
- 80 – National Air Technologies
- 118 – Navien
- 24 – Nilfisk
- 82 – Operations HERO
- 116 – Orca Health and Safety Consulting
- 51 – Orion Security Systems Ltd.
- 117 – Pacific Powertech
- 86 – Pinchin Ltd.
- 112 – Polyflor
- 48 – Proactive Hazmat Environmental
- 68 – ProTELEC Security + Safety Ltd.
- 45 – PUMA Utility Monitoring
- 61 – Quantum Lighting, Inc.
- 95 – RAB Design
- 100 – RCABC
- 52 – Rimkus
- 41 – Rocky Point Engineering Ltd.
- 59 – Royal Stewart Ltd.
- 110 – S.C. Restorations Ltd.
- 81 – Schoolhouse Products Inc.
- 121 – Sierra Industrial
- 63 – Simpson Controls
- 72 – Siplast
- 9 – SMCN Consulting Inc.
- 104 – Soprema
- 29 – Specialty Surfaces
- 62 – Stagefab
- 60 – Staples
- 30 – Super Save Group of Companies
- 108 – Swing Time Distributors Ltd.
- 105 – Swish
- 106/107 – Swish
- 37 – Sybertech Waste Reduction Ltd.
- 89 – TaLedi Distribution
- 75 – Talius
- 67 – Tarkett Contract
- 69 – Tarkett Sports
- 111 – Telus
- 23 – Titan Sport
- 74 – Tremco Roofing and Building Maintenance
- 49 – Ultra-lite Shutters
- 18 – Unitech Construction Management Ltd.
- 123 – Viessmann Mfg Inc.
- 98 – West Sun Communication
- 2 – Western Noise Control
- 50 – Westpoint
- 102 – Winmar
- 8 – Wood Wyant
- 58 – Zurn-Elkay



Creating modern, safe, and inclusive learning environments at George Pringle Secondary School

BY ROB DREW, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 23 (CENTRAL OKANAGAN)

The new George Pringle Secondary School project was announced in 2022. Following a competitive procurement process, the school district has awarded a contract to Clark Builders to design and build a new secondary school for West Kelowna students.

The new school will be constructed on the same property where the old elementary school, of the same name, was located. The George Pringle Elementary School, which was constructed in 1945 was demolished last year in order to accommodate the new 11,870m² secondary school.

This two-storey facility is being constructed in alignment with LEED Gold standards and will incorporate 21st Century learning principles through the development of open, interactive, collaborative, and flexible learning spaces. These principles are further conveyed through outdoor learning areas, modern facility components and technologies, and flexible furniture choices to support collaborative learning.

The school will be built with greenhouse gas and energy reduction strategies achieved through a sustainable geo-exchange system utilized for both heating and cooling. The mechanical systems selected for this project will exceed the minimum energy efficiency targets required by the B.C. Building Code. The design features modern heat recovery and ventilation, building automation, and lighting control. The school design aligns with Central Okanagan climate resiliency best practices by reducing the carbon footprint and incorporating non-combustible construction materials and landscaping alternatives.

The new school also aligns with the government's Neighborhood Learning Centre principles by providing local community benefits through the creation of a standalone childcare, Indigenous and cultural building components, and recreational spaces.

Once completed, the new secondary school will accommodate 1,200 students and is forecasted to

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welcome students, staff, and community members for the start of the 2027/2028 school year. The estimated cost of the project is about \$124 million.

I wish to express gratitude to the whole team of school

district staff, consultants, and stakeholders that have diligently worked to see this project through indicative design, procurement selection, design development and into construction. With special mention to Stuart Kamstra, Chief Project Officer, and Assistant Director of Capital Projects, for his leadership throughout the development and delivery of this new secondary school project. ■

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BUILDING THE FUTURE: Prefabricated classrooms enhance elementary environments in Sooke School District



**BY WINDY BEADALL, DISTRICT PRINCIPAL OF CAPITAL PLANNING AND
MHAIRI BENNETT, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES, SOOKE SCHOOL DISTRICT**



The Sooke School District is no newcomer to rapid growth. In the past five years, the District has grown by almost 2,000 students (18% of their overall enrolment). With rapid growth comes the need for flexibility, and annual portable purchases and moves have been their reality for the past decade. In the fall of 2023, welcome relief came in the form of two prefabricated school expansion projects supported by the Ministry of Education and Child Care during an out-of-cycle capital project investment. The District had requested school additions at both Ruth King Elementary and David Cameron Elementary through the annual provincial capital request cycle and were thrilled to be awarded these two projects in an out-of-cycle funding approval in the fall of 2023. With the anticipated need

for additional space looming for the September 2024 academic year, excitement swiftly transitioned into action.

Realizing there was less than a year to deliver these projects, the District made intentional decisions to expedite the process. The guiding principles for decision making were educational function, schedule, and budget, all playing a significant role in design development. The prefabricated nature of the projects also played a substantial role in procurement, as selecting a manufacturer sooner rather than later would be essential.

Given that both expansions were intended to accommodate 190 students across eight classrooms, the decision was made to adopt identical designs for



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both sites, streamlining the process and minimizing consultant fees. Furthermore, opting for a free-standing, single-story structure independent of the existing schools was a strategic choice driven entirely by the imperative to meet the demanding timeline for the September 2024 opening.

Internally, the District entrusted Mhairi Bennett, Director of Facilities, and Windy Beadall, District Principal Capital Planning, with overseeing project delivery from inception to completion. Dedicating two individuals at the onset, who will follow the project through completion was essential to ensure the rapid schedule was maintained. The District pursued a Request for Proposals for a phased progressive design-build project. The successful proponent was EXO Construction Group partnered with StudioHub Architects, who jumped in full speed preparing for the quick turnaround. The team was able to submit building permit applications before the end of 2023 and began construction early 2024.

The accelerated design process involved condensing previous input from District Consultation Teams, the Districts Design Principles and taking into consideration 21st Century learning environments. The design provides flexibility to support the needs of the learners of today. The larger project spaces in the hallways offers opportunities for students to spill out into alternate learning environments and allows educators the ease

of collaborating with their colleagues. The building includes non-gendered washrooms, providing safe and inclusive facilities. White board and tack boards will be provided as part of the Falkbuilt interior partition system and are included in both the classrooms and corridor. The design will be constructed to meet the British Columbia Building Code's enhanced energy performance requirements, as well as use best practices for sustainability and building envelope performance. This design is in alignment with the School District's goal of expanding their culture of social responsibility and implementing long-term commitments that strive to support society and protect the environment.

Committed to sustainability and energy efficiency, the design adheres to the British Columbia Building Code's stringent standards and implements best practices for environmental stewardship. Despite the challenges posed by building on occupied school sites amidst existing portables, the project team has prioritized safety and effective communication, collaborating closely with school staff, parent groups, and contractors to mitigate concerns and ensure a smooth execution.

The District greatly looks forward to opening these new additions for the community in September 2024. All portables from both sites will be relocated to support additional growth challenges across the Sooke School District. ■

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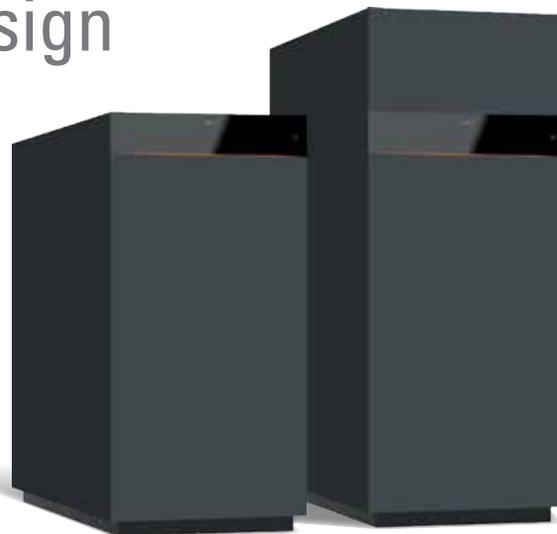


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PERMANENT MODULAR CONSTRUCTION

A good fit for new schools, additions, and childcare projects

BY RICK WELCH, FORT MODULAR



What is modular construction?

Modular construction occurs when the building is designed and constructed in numerous modules, in a factory, with floors, roofs, walls, and finishes all pre-assembled.

Modular construction resembles traditional construction in terms of design and appearance, offering both permanent and temporary options.

Temporary modular buildings (aka portables) typically come with a preset design, are intended for short-term occupancy, and use alternative foundation and finishing materials for cost savings. They still meet code requirements.

Permanent modular construction uses the same materials and meets the same codes, standards, and life expectancy as conventional construction. Modular and conventional construction height limitations on number of stories are equal, as well as their ability to achieve energy efficiency requirements.

Modular vs. Offsite Construction

Offsite construction captures many prefabricated systems, including modular and panelized methods. Panelized construction is pre-assembly of the framing work (walls and floors).

- Modular construction has a substantial on-site speed advantage over panelized construction.
- A potential disadvantage of modular is the higher transportation costs when the factory is located a

significant distance from the project site (e.g., out of province).

Design limitations

Contrary to misconception, modular design can be highly customizable, and can incorporate various architectural styles, finishes, and layouts. It can also be designed to match the façade of existing schools for additions.

While modular construction has its advantages, its restrictions on predefined module sizes can pose challenges in some circumstances when trying to achieve highly complex or non-standard architectural designs. In these situations, an experienced consultant team can assess for a hybrid construction approach to incorporate modular construction with other construction methods including panelized, mass timber, or other conventional methods.

Why choose modular construction?

The primary reason most school districts choose modular is because of the faster project delivery – typically by more than 50 per cent, as site development is simultaneous with modular fabrication. This can also equate to overall project cost savings. Other factors include:

- Less Site Disruption
 - Significantly shortened on-site duration greatly reduces on-site vehicle traffic, parking issues,

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- Consistency and Replicability
 - Lends itself well to projects that require uniformity and replication, like classrooms and childcare.
- Greater Project Certainty
 - Greater upfront cost & schedule certainty.
 - Reduced weather and seasonal impacts (winter works, daylight hours, rain, etc.).
- Greater Quality
 - Modular factories are CSA A277 accredited, requiring strict quality control measures above and beyond conventional construction.
- High Sound Transmission Ratings
 - Added benefit of improved sound transmission between floors and between walls.

Owner's Requirements

One of the challenges for stakeholders who haven't delivered a modular project is understanding that the design and engineering processes are more heavily front-end loaded. The design, engineering, and finish selections are required prior to start of manufacturing, rather than progressive development as the construction advances. Collecting and recording detailed owner's requirements, and adequate stakeholder engagement take time. Unfortunately, this activity is often overlooked and underestimated. For school districts with specific standards, it's critical to be proactive on these requirements to maintain an accelerated schedule.

Bidding Strategy

Bidding and contracting methods should be chosen considering the project's schedule requirements. The design-build delivery method for modular construction is generally recommended for school districts:

- Increases opportunity for collaboration.
- Compresses schedule for a fast-tracked approach.
- Risk transfer on errors and omissions from the owner to the contractor.

- Architectural and engineering becomes the responsibility of the contractor. This is a preferred method for modular companies due to the limited availability of firms experienced in modular construction, and the direct impact this has on schedule and costs. Integration of engineering and code components can be challenging for consultants to expedite who don't have previous modular experience.

Alternatively, a Construction Management (CM) approach can provide even more flexibility, decreasing project timelines even further.

Contracting Strategy

For stipulated sum (fixed price) contracts, it's imperative that all aspects of the work be precisely defined and disclosed by the owner. Cash allowances are recommended for specific items in situations where project timelines do not allow for this detailed work prior to tender. Cash allowances provide better transparency and fairness between the owner and contractor and avoids delaying the tender process for non-critical items.

Examples of scope items appropriate for cash allowances include:

- Site servicing (when detailed engineering is not yet completed, or the information is incomplete).
- Connection to existing on-site utilities, when the information is based on previous as-built drawings.
- Utility service connection fees.
- Proprietary products (e.g., data, low voltage, or mechanical system controls with interface requirements).

Evaluating modular contractors

Besides price, useful factors to be considered:

- CSA A277 factory certification for prefabricated buildings.
- Proximity of the factory location for ease of inspections (also to minimize carbon footprint).
- Financial stability
- Project team's experience (weighted towards individuals, not the firm).
- Capability to deliver turnkey, from preconstruction through to handover.

To learn more about modular construction in your district, visit fortmodular.com. ■



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Telescopic bleachers service and maintenance



BY TYLER CUDMORE, SERVICE MANAGER, ROYAL STEWART LTD.

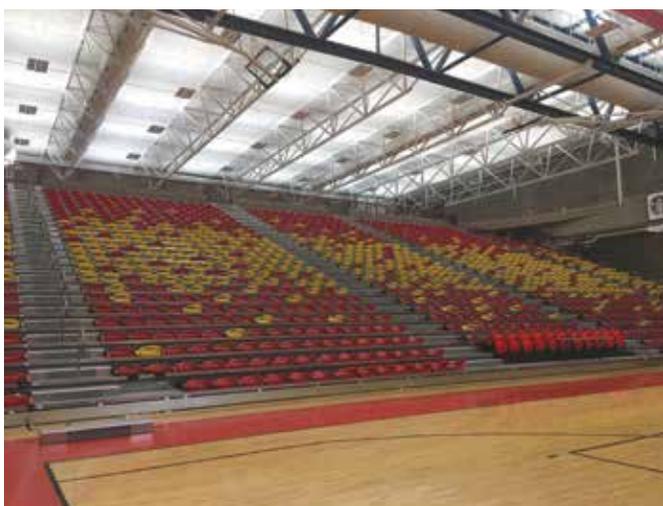


If you have ever attended a sporting event in a scholastic environment, it is almost a guarantee you have sat in some variation of retractable spectator seating, and with over 60 years in the industry, there is a good chance it was one of our systems. Whether it was a small, space-efficient bleacher on an elementary school court line or a retractable wall-like system which covers a full-sized basketball court when extended in a university gym, they all require some love and attention to ensure smooth and consistent operation.

With the bleachers often being the second most expensive piece of equipment in these facilities next to the gym floor, it is incredible how many do not receive regular maintenance or service. Imagine owning a vehicle that costs tens of thousands of dollars and not getting your oil changed. Then, being surprised when issues arise. Although they are not overly complex systems, bleachers still require a significant number of parts to move effortlessly. This is to prevent damage to the system and the gym floor, and to provide a safe

seating environment for its users.

Much like an oil change in a car every five or ten thousand kilometres, general maintenance and service should be performed on your bleachers at least once a year. This includes, but is not limited to the lubrication of all friction points on the understructure such as the flat side of wheel channels, slide rods, guide arms, and underside of support brackets. A food industry lubricant is typically used on all these components as it is non-staining and easily cleaned if it should end up on the gym floor underneath.



Some styles of seats will require attention as well. A contoured seat module or bench style seat which is static, requires little to no maintenance apart from tightening hardware on occasion. Folding VIP chairs that mount on semi-automatic bases will require mechanical boxes, foot pedal apparatus, and springs to be lubricated as well. This can often be completed using an aerosol lubricant without the need to remove cover plates.

A regularly maintained bleacher should not have any issues with tracking and alignment; and if manual, will be able to be opened and closed by the operators with ease. For a motorized system, it ensures the tractors are not working harder than they are supposed to and that they will not struggle to pull even the largest systems out and into place without difficulty. A major issue with an unmaintained bleacher is once it starts struggling to open and close, the worse the alignment can get. The larger the system, the larger the issues. Starting where the tractors are under the first row, alignment issues are compounded on the rows above and often times the “legs” of the bleacher need to be loosened and tuned, or properly aligned to allow for correct tracking.

With an annual maintenance and inspection program for your telescopic bleachers, there is no reason why the system should not last and operate correctly for many years. Perhaps it’s because we manufacture, supply, and install them from the ground up, but it’s incredibly rewarding to witness these sometimes monstrous pieces of equipment smoothly extend and

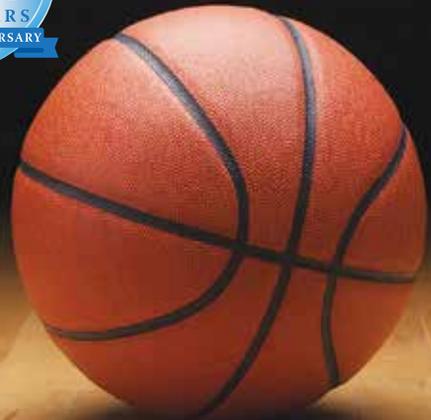
retract row by row, consistently and dependably. All equipment within your facilities, backstops, curtains, game standards, and bleachers should not be expected to operate flawlessly without maintenance. Confidence in equipment means confidence in sport and if well taken care of, you should have both! ■

With an annual maintenance and inspection program for your telescopic bleachers, there is no reason why the system should not last and operate correctly for many years.



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Continuous optimization – low hanging fruit that keeps growing back

BY JONATHAN HO, MANAGER, ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY, SD38



High efficiency IBC boilers in the Richmond School District.

As EFMA members, we are always looking at ways to do more with less. So, what's the best way to save energy, avoid greenhouse gas emissions, and avoid having to pay for carbon offsets? Continuous Optimization (C-Op) is the answer.

Variably known as retro-commissioning (for buildings whose mechanical and electrical systems were never commissioned) or recommissioning (for buildings that underwent commissioning previously), C-Op is a low-cost, high-impact way to evaluate your building portfolio.

You can choose to “Refresh Your Building” for schools that previously underwent a C-Op, “Recommission your Building” for schools that never underwent a C-Op, or a “Real Time Energy Management” program for newer schools that have this functionality.

Funded jointly by BC Hydro and Fortis BC, the C-Op program involves two steps:

Step 1 is the investigation phase: this involves hiring a mechanical consultant that is a member of the BC Hydro Power Smart Alliance. This phase involves a deep dive into your building design documentation, site visits, and a “read-only” look into your Building Automation Systems (or Direct Digital Control). Your service provider will then generate a report of Energy Conservation Measures, along with anticipated electricity (in kWh/year) and natural gas (GJ/year) savings, along with corresponding

reductions in GHG emissions (expressed as tonnes CO₂ equivalent/year).

Step 2 is implementing the Energy Conservation Measures. Your obligation is what is called a “maximum investment responsibility”, which is based on \$0.25 per square foot of occupied area. The idea is that you are only required to spend up to the maximum of this formula implementing these Energy Conservation Measures. While a C-Op may identify some significant other opportunities (e.g., replacing natural gas fired roof-top units and boilers with air source heat pumps) for energy savings, the C-Op program is designed to look for things that are simple fixes.

Of particular benefit to school districts, BC Hydro will directly fund your contractor for the cost of the investigation. You only need to pay the GST portion of the work (due to accounting rules).

At SD38 in Richmond, our HVAC team is a strong supporter of the C-Op program. Over the course of a school year, they look at a lot of service requests, minor capital projects such as boiler replacements, and major projects such as rooftop unit replacements. During this activity, building schedules are temporarily bypassed, make-up air dampers are inadvertently commanded open, or programming errors in the DDC system occur during regular maintenance. C-Op investigations help them find these problems.

Even if a school does not undergo any HVAC projects or activity, it doesn't mean things aren't changing. C-Op Investigations find inoperable thermocouples, failed valves or actuators, and one recent C-Op uncovered the fact that a recent LED upgrade project "borrowed" the occupancy sensors from the HVAC system for the LED lights!

Our results speak for themselves: across our 10 sites, we have identified over 210,000 kWh/year of electricity and 2,300 GJ of natural gas savings.

The C-Op program requires that buildings that underwent an investigation not be eligible for a "Refresh" for five years. Given how much can change in a school from an HVAC perspective, energy savings opportunities continue to grow back.

To get started, you must have a Key Account Manager (for the K-12 sector, that is Aron Garrecht of BC Hydro; in Fortis BC electricity service areas, you need to have a Fortis Technical Advisor). Don't have an Energy Manager? Reach out to your Key Account Manager, and you can get access to a shared Energy Manager who helps our smaller school districts in their energy management needs. ■



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Things to know about electrical operating permits

BY TECHNICAL SAFETY B.C.

What exactly is an electrical operating permit, and how does it differ from an elevator permit? These are common questions we get asked, and in response, our team of electrical safety officers has compiled answers to help building owners and managers better understand these types of permits.

What is an electrical operating permit?

Electrical operating permits are required to operate and maintain electrical equipment in accordance with safety regulations. This permit ensures that a qualified individual is responsible for your technical equipment and its safe operation, maintenance, and inspection. They also maintain records of the equipment and make those available to safety officers if requested.

If you have a Field Safety Representative (FSR) overseeing the work, you can conduct regular maintenance without obtaining multiple electrical installation permits.

Who is responsible for obtaining operating permits?

Generally, the building owner or operator is

responsible for obtaining operating permits. They need to get the necessary permits before installing and maintaining electrical equipment or regulated products. It's their job to make sure the equipment is well-maintained and inspected as required.

In some cases, the tenant or lessee may be responsible for obtaining the operating permit if they have control over their own space within the building. This happens when the owner is not responsible for that particular space, but the electrical equipment in it still requires an operating permit and must follow the rules. In those situations, the tenant or lessee must get the permit and follow the regulations.

It's important for building owners and operators to check with the appropriate authorities and seek advice from professionals, like an FSR, to ensure they meet all the legal requirements for operating permits.

What is the difference between an elevator operating permit and an electrical operating permit?

An elevator operating permit is specific to the elevator and its associated equipment installed after



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the elevator disconnect. It is obtained by the building owner or operator and ensures compliance with codes and standards. The elevator technician oversees compliance during installation, operation, maintenance, alterations, and repairs.

On the other hand, an electrical operating permit covers the entire electrical system within the building or premises, from the main supply to all electrical distribution and equipment, including the elevator disconnect. The responsibility for obtaining an electrical operating permit lies with the building owner or operator and encompasses all electrical equipment and systems.

What happens if a building operates without an operating permit?

Operating without an operating permit is illegal and can lead to penalties, enforcement actions, increased liability, and higher insurance costs. Additionally, it poses a risk to the safety of building occupants as the building hasn't undergone proper inspections and approval for compliance with codes and regulations. This can create hazardous conditions.

Building owners and facility managers must ensure

they have obtained all necessary permits and comply with applicable laws. Operating without a permit can have serious consequences, including investigations and fines from authorities such as WorkSafeBC, attention from law enforcement agencies, violations of federal laws such as Bill C-45, insurance issues, and civil liabilities for property damage or personal injury.

What is a field safety representative (FSR) and how do I find one?

An FSR is a qualified and certified master electrician with expertise in code standards, the Safety Standard Act, and regulations. They ensure that workers conducting regulated work have the appropriate qualifications and report any risks to a safety officer. To find a qualified FSR, building owners can use our "Find a licensed contractor" tool, which verifies the contractor's license number, ensures compliance, and mitigates liability issues.

Ready to apply for an electrical operating permit? Get more information and apply at www.technicalafetybc.ca/apply. ■

Does your building require an electrical operating permit?

An electrical operating permit can help you save time and money. This permit allows building operators to:

- Make minor alterations
- Relocate existing equipment
- Install new equipment
- Avoid applying for multiple installation permits.



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RESPECT

BY CHUCK MORRIS



Maintaining respect and professionalism in the workplace is crucial for a harmonious and productive environment. Disrespectful attitudes can indeed lead to strained relationships and disrupt the flow of work, ultimately affecting productivity and morale. It is important for both employees and exempt staff to be mindful of their interactions with others and to address any conflicts or disagreements in a respectful and constructive manner.

Recognizing that everyone may be dealing with personal challenges or stressors outside of work is also key. Offering empathy and understanding can go a long way in fostering a supportive workplace culture. Instead of jumping to conclusions or becoming involved in conflicts, taking a moment to consider the perspective and circumstances of others can help prevent misunderstandings and unnecessary tension.

Ultimately, promoting respect, empathy, and consideration in the workplace benefits everyone and contributes to a positive and productive work environment.

If you are one who talks all the time and makes comment about others, do not. It may be difficult to stop but most others do not want to hear things that may come across as derogatory. They do not want to listen to rumours about others.

Engaging in gossip or speaking negatively about others behind their backs not only reflects poorly on one's character, but it also erodes trust and respect within the workplace. It is essential to recognize the

impact of our words and actions on others and strive to maintain integrity and professionalism in all our interactions.

Choosing to refrain from gossip and negative commentary demonstrates maturity and respect for colleagues. Focusing on productive and positive communication contributes to a healthier and supportive work environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

If there are concerns or issues to be addressed, it is best to approach them directly and constructively rather than resorting to gossip or speculation. Clear and open communication is key to resolving conflicts and fostering positive relationships in the workplace.

Diversity in personalities and perspectives adds richness to our interactions and experiences. However, when someone carries a chip on their shoulder, it can create tension and discord in the workplace. Addressing such behaviour through a private conversation with their supervisor can indeed help raise awareness and encourage positive changes.

Creating a harmonious workplace requires effort from everyone involved. Encouraging open communication, empathy, and mutual respect can go a long way in fostering a positive environment where people feel valued and supported. When individuals are able to work together collaboratively and respectfully, it enhances productivity and morale, ultimately leading to a more enjoyable and fulfilling work experience for all. ■

Last Call

Len Horvath (1945 - 2024)

During his 45+ year career in the commercial and industrial building industry, Len Horvath was involved in design, construction, operations, and maintenance. For 25 years, Len was responsible for the B.C. Telecom (now Telus Corporation) building and real estate division for North America. This provided him with a unique insight into identifying energy improvement opportunities beyond his lighting specialty.

Later, he founded and led Quantum Lighting, a unique company dedicated to the design and upgrade implementation of energy efficient lighting systems. Working closely with BC Hydro, Quantum Lighting has been responsible for a large amount of demand and energy savings within the province of British Columbia over the last 20 years.

As a business owner, Len freely gave his time as a way of contributing to the community. He served on advisory boards and committees for various organizations such as BOMA BC and the New York Institute of Technology. His contributions to the development of CSA standards for energy efficiency of lighting equipment and building systems was part of his commitment to making a positive impact on society and the environment.

Len's honest and transparent approach, passion for energy efficiency, standards development, and his commitment to building collaborations was an example

for everyone who interacted with him. Most recently, Len had directed research projects for the National Research Council in the development of lighting requirements for the NECB (National Energy Code for Buildings), which involved collaboration with a working group in the United States to develop the equivalent lighting guidelines for the edition of latest ASHRAE 90.1 and the B.C. Building Code.

His multiple contributions to the development of energy efficiency codes and standards will have a lasting impact on the energy conservation programs he

contributed to shaping.

Len has been a valued participant and contributor to the EFMA conference over the years. He was a strong proponent of education and innovative solutions; paving the path for many of the LED lighting and controls retrofit upgrades in B.C. ■

The EFMA proudly acknowledges Len Horvath as a cherished and longstanding supporter of our association. We honour Len for his invaluable contributions and unwavering support of our industry, viewing him not just as a colleague but as a dear friend.

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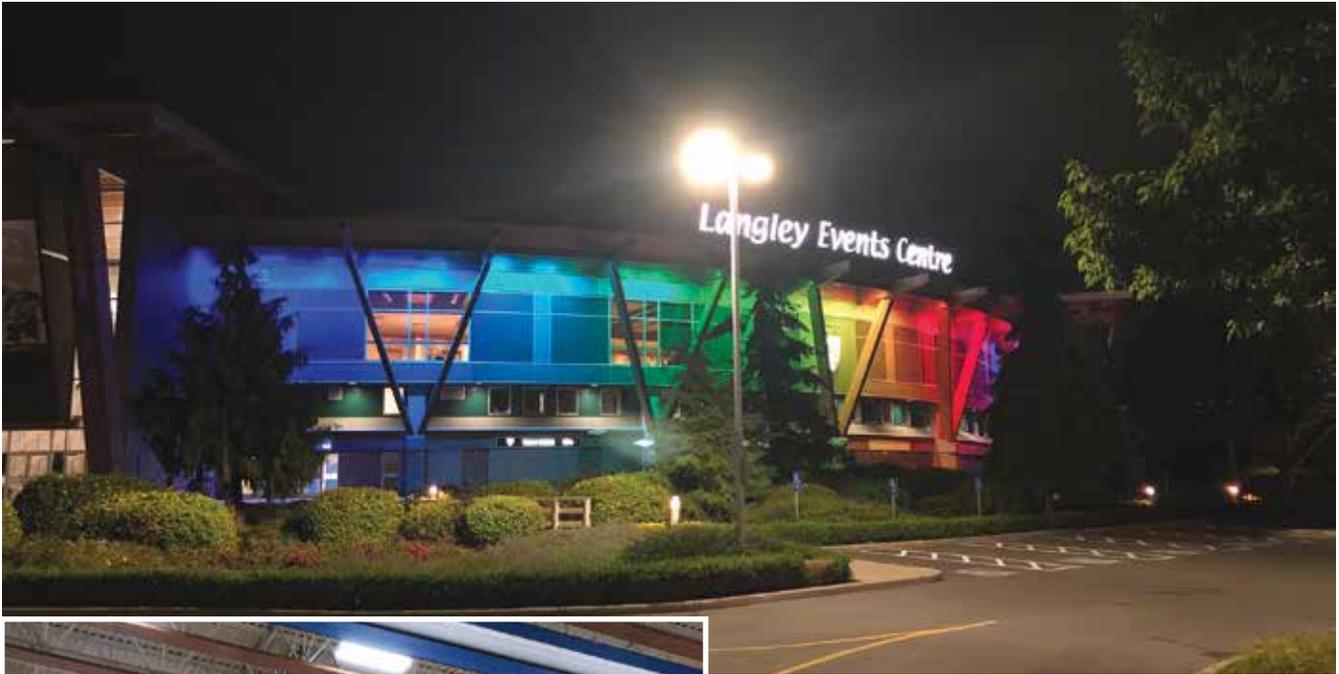
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EXHIBITOR FEATURE

Quantum Lighting illuminating excellence in lighting solutions



Quantum Lighting, Inc. is a medium-sized lighting design and electrical firm specializing in designing, modernizing, and servicing energy-efficient lighting systems and lighting controls in the commercial, institutional, and industrial sectors. Headquartered in Coquitlam and with a presence in Williams Lake, the company offers lighting design, project management, and support services throughout Western Canada. Services range from consulting services for lighting audits and redesigns through to complete design/build project solutions on projects ranging in size from \$5,000 to \$5,000,000, covering a diverse portfolio of clients and facilities.

With a track record spanning 28 years, Quantum Lighting has established itself as a leader in designing, modernizing, and servicing energy-efficient lighting systems and controls. Their projects range in size from \$5,000 to \$5,000,000, covering a diverse portfolio of clients and facilities.

Quantum Lighting has successfully completed thousands of energy-efficient lighting upgrade projects ranging from schools, universities, small businesses, municipal facilities, sports facilities, multi-family residential projects, churches, healthcare facilities, offices, shopping centres, large industrial plants, and specialized facilities. Notable projects include the Vancouver International Airport, the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre, Telus network facilities, and the Vancouver Planetarium.

In recent years, Quantum Lighting has been at the forefront of LED lighting technology, completing hundreds of LED lighting upgrades and retrofit projects as well as specialized building façade lighting projects with colour-changing LED systems and DMX controls. The company is also actively involved in solar and electric vehicle (EV) charging upgrade projects, showcasing its commitment to sustainable solutions.

Apart from its expertise in commercial and industrial lighting, Quantum Lighting also excels in theatrical lighting installations. As a dealer for Signify's Vari-lite and Strand theatrical products, the company offers factory-trained service technicians to maintain and upgrade existing Strand dimming systems. They maintain a stock of replacement processors and dimmer modules to ensure quick resolutions for any system failures, and if a processor is not repairable, they can typically offer system component upgrades that are significantly more cost-effective than a full system replacement.

Quantum Lighting's team includes lighting design specialists trained in modern DMX-controlled LED stage and theatre lighting systems, providing clients with comprehensive support for both new installations and upgrades. With a focus on energy efficiency, innovation, and client satisfaction, Quantum Lighting continues to be a trusted partner for lighting solutions in Western Canada.

To learn more about how Quantum Lighting can help your next project, visit www.quantumlighting.com or call (604) 526-7717. ■



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Continuing education should not be overlooked

BY CHUCK MORRIS



Continuing education undoubtedly offers immense value in today's rapidly evolving professional landscape. While initial education equips individuals with foundational knowledge and skills, ongoing learning ensures they stay abreast of advancements, remain competitive, and adapt to changing circumstances.

Over time, challenges arise in any profession that may not have been covered comprehensively during initial education. Continuing education provides opportunities to fill these knowledge gaps, refine existing skills, and develop new ones. For instance, mastering concise and comprehensive report writing, enhancing interpersonal skills such as empathy and effective communication, or improving managerial capabilities are vital aspects that can significantly affect professional success.

As individuals progress in their careers, the complexity of responsibilities often increases. Continuing education helps professionals stay equipped to tackle these complexities with confidence and efficiency. Whether it is through short-term workshops, online courses, or longer-term certificate and diploma programs, there are abundant opportunities to acquire specialized knowledge and expertise.

Continuing education is not solely about professional advancement. It can also enrich personal interests and hobbies, fostering a well-rounded individual. For example, a course related to one's profession might

also offer insights applicable to a personal passion, enhancing overall satisfaction and fulfillment.

In today's interconnected world, where resources for learning are readily accessible, the only barrier to acquiring new skills is the willingness to learn. Whether aspiring to become a proficient project manager, improving public speaking abilities, or refining disciplinary skills, there are tailored courses available to address these needs.

Ultimately, embracing continuing education empowers individuals to proactively manage their professional growth, navigate challenges effectively, and seize opportunities for advancement. By staying proactive and committed to lifelong learning, professionals can position themselves for success in an ever-changing landscape.

If you have not yet done so, check out educational opportunities within our Association. We are moving in a direction that is attracting interest. Do not overlook potential and current employers, as they will all be interested in the evidence supporting what your resume claims and how you handle issues you've identified during your conversations with them. Your value is not solely based on your experience; it also includes what you bring to the table, such as your educational background, that has contributed to shaping your skills and expertise. ■

Ops Talk celebrates 20 years!

Last month, Glenn Miller mentioned that Ops Talk would be celebrating 20 years of publication this spring. I congratulated him and Molly Shipowich on this milestone for the Association. I'm sure Chuck Morris understood the long-term implications of this important publication when he led EFMA into the original agreement. Once the first issue was published, Ops Talk became a significant and important communication platform within EFMA. Over the years, much information has been shared on Ops Talk pages. Many of our achievements, challenges, projects, and experiences have been shared and many of our members and supporters have been introduced to the Association membership and allied readers.

For the past 20 years, Ops Talk has helped to support the fundamental goals of the Association, providing communication to members and supporters with only the hope that sharing our information and friendship makes us all stronger and better prepared meet the needs of all our facilities.

Congratulations to EFMA and all members on this milestone and your continuing success.

John Vantol

EFMABC Past President 2000/2001



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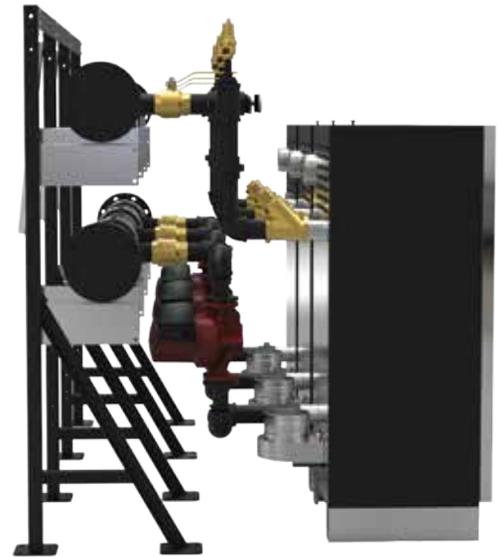
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The Educational Facility Managers Association has been going since 1964 when it began life as the School Plant Officials Association. As the association began to grow an annual conference was developed and companies were invited to be a part of the trade show held at that time.

The trade show has grown since those early days and now we see the floor sold out even before the start of the annual conferences. Who are these people? The association vendors, those paying for a spot at the trade show, are part of the life blood of the association. They support us and many have done so for literally decades.

Not only do they support the association during our conferences, but also with this magazine.

So with the 20th anniversary of *Ops Talk*, our hats go off to all of our vendors for their incredible support of EFMA and certainly *Ops Talk*! Well done and the association thanks all of you very much!

