

## President's Awards

### R A McLachlan Memorial Award

#### Dr Philip Hill PEng



As visionary as he is humble, Philip Hill is a remarkable individual whose pioneering work on the use of natural gas in diesel engines has inspired generations of engineers. Phil has been an influence in the engineering community for more than 40 years as a professor of mechanical engineering at MIT, Queen's and UBC; his exceptional leadership was recognized with the both the UBC Killam Teaching Award as well as the Walter H Gage Award for Teaching Excellence. He has always strongly believed that his work should have a profound

societal relevance, and began addressing our critical need for clean energy more than 20 years ago. He went on to win several awards for his outstanding technical achievements, including the Province of British Columbia's Minister's Environmental Award. Phil is respected and admired not only as a visionary engineer, but also as an exceptional human being, and is an outstanding recipient of the 2008 R A McLachlan Memorial Award.

### Meritorious Achievement Award

#### Ward Kilby PGeo



Ward Kilby's efforts to bring mineral exploration into the digital age have revolutionized the mining and resource sectors in BC. After graduating from the University of Alberta, this professional geologist found his niche in mapping and exploration with several resource-based companies before joining the BC Geological Survey Branch in 1982. During his 18-year tenure, he developed a keen understanding of gaps in data collection and presentation methods, and single-handedly conceived and developed an electronic data distribution system known as MapPlace.

This integrated, web-based system replaced the traditional process of compiling hard-copy maps and datasets from scattered sources and is now indispensable in mineral exploration work. Ward has been consulting with Cal Data Ltd for the last eight years and continues to make great strides in geomatics, remote sensing, software development and resource potential evaluation. His admirable achievements have brought BC's mineral resource database to the fingertips of exploration capital around the globe.

### Meritorious Achievement Award

#### Neil McDonald PEng



With an incredible work ethic and strong leadership ability, Neil McDonald is known for his long and impressive career as a consulting engineer in BC. His professional accomplishments as a civil engineer include a variety of domestic and international municipal infrastructure projects, particularly community water supply and wastewater management. A past president of the Consulting Engineers of BC, Neil is valued not only for his professional expertise, but also for his personal commitment to fostering exceptional ethical and professional standards

in his contemporaries. Throughout his 30-year career, he has always taken a keen interest in how his work will benefit the community, and his leadership has extended to his philanthropic work with Rotary International. As an active and longstanding member, Neil's efforts have been recognized twice with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award, one of Rotary's highest honours. He is also a past President of Rotary's USA-Canada Youth Exchange Network.

### Meritorious Achievement Award

#### Rhonda Netzel PEng



Determination and personal drive took Rhonda Netzel from an EIT to a well-respected and sought-after electrical engineer in just 16 short years. Since graduating from the University of British Columbia in 1989, her thirst for technical knowledge and thorough approach in applying engineering principles have helped her achieve an outstanding professional track record. Early on in her career, Rhonda found her niche in power systems analysis, and now designs electrical systems for international mining projects. In 1998 she founded Sequoia Engineering, a

successful enterprise that is now responsible for the electrical design of the largest mobile conveying system in the world. Rhonda has always appreciated the need to give back to her profession and provides many hours of service as a Registration Interviewer for APEGBC, assessing the professional experience of new applicants. Her many accomplishments and her dedication to professional excellence make Rhonda an outstanding recipient of the APEGBC Meritorious Achievement Award.

### Professional Service Award

#### Calvin VanBuskirk PEng/PGeo



Calvin VanBuskirk's professional innovations have transformed forestry road and stream crossing construction in BC, and his personal dedication to giving back to the professions has earned him respect and recognition throughout the province. As a geotechnical engineer and founder of Terratech Consulting Ltd, Calvin developed ground-breaking systems for stream crossings and retaining walls using geosynthetic reinforced soil (GRS). His pioneering work has kept him in high demand, but Calvin has remained a strong and

active supporter of his professional community throughout his 20-year career, and has spent much of his personal time contributing to initiatives that have truly enhanced the resource industries. Along with his work on several APEGBC committees, Calvin is a longstanding member and past Chair of the Division of Engineers and Geoscientists in the Forest Sector, and has been a major contributor to many APEGBC forest sector guidelines.

### Community Service Award

#### Dr Albert Koehler PEng



Albert Koehler has always applied his ingenuity and strong work ethic to better his community and to enhance the engineering and geoscience professions. A true self-starter, Albert has founded three companies and secured 12 patents since moving to Canada from his native Germany in 1985. After teaching at both UBC and UNBC, Albert embarked on a quest to expand and enhance engineering education in northern BC. He has served on the joint board of studies between the two universities, and as the current President of the Prince George

Chamber of Commerce, has established a technology and engineering committee with the goal of establishing a full engineering faculty at UNBC. Although Canada is home for Albert, he also maintains strong ties with his heritage in his role as Honourary Consul of Germany for Prince George. In all of these pursuits Albert has shown tremendous dedication to enhancing his community for the benefit of all.

### APEGBC Award for Teaching Excellence

#### Dr Jonathan Fannin PEng



Jonathan Fannin is a caring and dedicated mentor to his students and an innovative leader of curriculum and program enhancements at the University of British Columbia. A professor of soil mechanics and geosynthetics, Jonathan encourages students to develop sound decision-making skills and reinforces the concept of uncertainty in engineering analysis and design. He has enhanced student learning by redesigning courses, creating custom course notes, and developing unique assessment methods that emphasize both qualitative and quantitative reasoning. With an

infectious enthusiasm for his work and the use of illustrative teaching materials from his own research and specialist technical advising, Jonathan is an accomplished instructor who has been recognized twice with the UBC Killam Teaching Prize. Jonathan is also active in several professional associations, including APEGBC, the North American Geosynthetics Society, and the Canadian Geotechnical Society. He has authored over 30 refereed journal publications and book chapters, and was a significant contributor to the latest edition of the Canadian Foundation Engineering Manual.

### Young Professional Award

#### Michael Blackman PEng



Just 12 years after graduating from the University of British Columbia, Michael Blackman has established himself as an intelligent, driven, and selfless individual with a great deal of passion for his work. Michael is a project engineer who leads by example with his dedication to sustainable design practices and is respected for his work in structural restoration. Among the many projects he has seen to successful completion are the seismic upgrade of Trafalgar Elementary School and the building envelope restoration of Whistler

Village Resort's north and south towers. He has actively contributed to his professional community on several APEGBC committees, including the BC Green Building Code Task Force and the Sustainability Committee, and is a past chair of APEGBC's Central Interior Branch. He has also been a positive force for social change as a member of Engineers Without Borders, and is active in his community as a member of St John's Shoughnessy church and the Vancouver Rowing Club.

## Sustainability Award

APEGBC's Sustainability Award recognizes a project that demonstrates a commitment to, and understanding of, the concept of sustainability and/or has applied one of more of APEGBC's Sustainability Guidelines.

### Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd.

The Cowichan River on Vancouver Island is one of the major fishing rivers in the province, but for many years it had seen a decline in fish stocks as fine sediment washed into the river from the base of the surrounding bluffs, devastating salmon egg survival downstream. Kerr Wood Leidal was called in to head off a potential ecological disaster and find a solution that balanced the varied needs of fishing, industry, commercial and domestic users.

The river restoration project was the largest on Vancouver Island in more than 20 years and presented many challenges, including diverting a one kilometre section of the river, moving

more than 40,000 m<sup>3</sup> of river sediment and 30,000 fish, and bypassing more than 3,000 river recreationalists. Incorporating leading-edge bioengineering techniques and deflective weir approaches to halt the flow of damaging sediment from the bluffs, Kerr Wood Leidal's goal was to allow the riverbank to slowly naturalize over time.

With major construction complete and sediment monitoring ongoing, the rehabilitation of the river has successfully restored one of the environmental treasures of British Columbia, making Kerr Wood Leidal a deserving winner of APEGBC's 2008 Sustainability Award.



RIVER FLOW IS REINTRODUCED INTO THE ENGINEERED CHANNEL.



THE RESTORED STOLTZ BLUFF AND COWICHAN RIVER.