



# THE INSPECTOR

SEPTEMBER 1988

## IS THIS OUR FUTURE?

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Today there is a vision abroad of a coming day which will revolutionize everything to which we are accustomed. With the stunning breakthrough in higher temperature superconductivity, technology is making big promises.

Superconductivity is a condition under which electric currents can be transmitted with zero dissipation into waste heat. Even before the latest advances, a prototype tube only 16 inches wide, built at Brookhaven National Laboratory, was able to transmit enough electricity to meet one-eighth of the consumption needs of New York City.

Some evidence of the extent of interest in this subject is the fact that research in this important area is being pursued at a feverish pace by Russia, Japan, U. S. A., Canada, Great Britain and Western Europe.

The superconductivity revolution could mean far more than plummeting electricity bills for heating and lighting homes. All energy -- the force on which modern civilization depends -- could become dirt cheap. Battery-run electric cars could replace gas guzzlers, eliminating the world's chief source of air pollution.

An even greater promise would be saving the world's forests. Deforestation in the developing countries has reached catastrophic proportions, and the leading reason

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LIFE MEMBERS HONORED.

At the spring meeting of the Association, five members were named to Life Membership of the Electrical Inspectors Association.

Dr. James Hill made the presentations to JIM LAW and GEORGE WARD.

President Dave Fitger presented the memberships to DON MacINTYRE and CAL BARKER.

HARRY MUELLER, located in Smithers, was honored in absentia.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RICK PORCINA

Members of the Association will join in extending congratulations to their Immediate Past President, RICK PORCINA, who has been named Supervisor of the Okanagan Region of the Electrical Safety Branch. He is now headquartered in Kelowna.

The Phones Never Quit

Have you ever noticed that during a disruption of Hydro, your residential telephone service is maintained. This is because all critical telephone equipment is backed by battery plants, standby generators and Uninterruptible Power Systems (U.P.S.) The largest backup systems in the B. C. Telephone Company network are located at the 768 Seymour Street building in Vancouver.

The commercial A. C. power for this building is supplied on a dual radial, 12.5 KV feed from B.C. Hydro's Cathedral Square substation. After it enters the building, the power is transferred down to 480 volts and divided into three Hydro supplies, for distribution to building loads. The average summertime load is approximately 4.5 megawatts.

In the event of a Hydro failure, all critical equipment loads are immediately assumed by the battery backup system, with a 2-hour minimum reserve. These include 50 volt D. C. plants to power all network switching equipment and 400 volt D.C. plants that feed Uninterruptible Power Systems for critical A.C. computer equipment.

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is the felling of trees for cooking charcoal. With small scale power grids furnishing almost unlimited amounts of electricity, people could cook on small electric stoves that would be cheap and easy to manufacture.

Modern technology has a fundamental economic tendency to become dirt cheap, if not thwarted by special interests. This, however, is only one of the problems faced by those interested in superconductivity.

Initially, many researchers had been looking at metallic conductors and had little luck in finding superconductivity at temperatures much above absolute zero. Then some Swiss, Chinese and American scientists looked at ceramic non-conductors and, amazingly, found them to be superconductive at higher temperatures within reach of potential technologies.

Some of the best information available at the moment points to the fact that a way has not yet been found to achieve superconductivity at anything like normal temperatures. Thus, the cost of producing the extremely low temperatures required to make the system work are more costly than the savings which could be effected by the new system.

With the costs of most basic necessities of modern life steadily escalating, it would be a real boon if the cost of energy could be brought down.

Franz Schurman, Sociology Professor at the University of California in Berkeley, says: "Cheap energy is one of the five pillars on which all decent life is based, along with cheap food, housing, medical care and education." It is a fact that only food has stayed relatively stable in the last decade.

It is to be hoped that politicians will become aware of the necessity of bringing the five basics of modern living (energy, cheap food, housing, medical care and education) within reach of the important middle classes and that they will not only monitor closely the progress being made in this important area but will guard against exploitation of the means of reducing prices.

If all these "ifs" become facts, "total revolution" in our way of life is not too strong a term to use. The next few years will be interesting ones.

After one minute of a Hydro failure, the standby generators are running and on-line, providing power to all essential equipment, lighting and cooling loads.

Hydro Bus #1 is supported by four conventional diesel engines common-shafted to two 1000 KVA generators.

Hydro Bus #2 is supported by three 800 KW turbine diesel generators mounted on the roof of the building.

With the above backup systems and a regular preventative maintenance program, conducted by Canadian Telephone & Supplies, telephone service is assured.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In expressing my thanks to the Electrical Contractors Association for their courtesy in extending an invitation to myself and my wife to attend their conference in Penticton, I wish, also, to bring to the attention of the members of the EIA the importance of continuing a close liaison with this organization.

It was a most enjoyable time for both myself and my wife, and the reception we received and the recognition accorded to me -- and hence to our organization -- was all that could have been desired.

In my hopes for the direction for EIA in the coming months, I believe a closer relationship is desirable with the Contractors through their Association and with individual contractors. Perhaps, through fruitful discussions, some of

the tensions between the various trades can be eased or erased.

A new system of planning meetings has been instituted this year, with each of the Directors on the Board being given responsibility for one program during the year. We feel that this will bring greater variety to the year's events and I look forward with interest to the first of such meetings on October 3rd, notice of which has gone out to all members. Planning is already under way for the November 21st meeting.

I wish to express my appreciation to the members for their cooperation this year, shown by the increased attendance at meetings. I hope, by the provision of good programs, this interest will continue.

### NEW COURSES AT B.C.I.T.

Of special interest to anyone working in the electrical trades is the list of courses being presented at the British Columbia Institute of Technology this fall.

ELECTRICAL CODE; High Voltage, 8 weeks - \$290  
 ELECTRICAL CODE 1 - 10 weeks - \$290  
 ELECTRICAL CODE 2 - 10 weeks - \$290  
 ELECTRICAL ESTIMATING 1 - 3 weeks - \$75  
 ELECTRICAL ESTIMATING 2 - 5 Weeks - \$116  
 ELECTRICAL TD REFRESHER 1 - 6 Weeks - \$188  
 ELECTRICAL TD REFRESHER 2 - 6 Weeks - \$188  
 MATH FOR ELECTRICIANS 1 - 10 weeks \$312  
 MATH FOR ELECTRICIANS 1 - 10 weeks - \$312  
 MATH FOR ELECTRICIANS 3 - 10 weeks - \$312  
 MOTOR CONTROL 1 - 5 Weeks - \$157  
 MOTOR CONTROL 2 - 5 WEEKS - \$169  
 RESIDENTIAL WIRING 1 - 6 Weeks - \$188  
 RESIDENTIAL WIRING 2 - 6 Weeks - \$188

Registration may be made in person at the Burnaby Campus, 3700 Willingdon Avenue;  
 Telephone number: 434-1610

### NEW COMMITTEE

Information has been received that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is setting up a special Building Safety Advisory Council. There has as yet been no naming of those who will form part of the Council.



### CHECK YOUR LABELS.

A special effort is being made by Ted Simmons, the Association Secretary, to get the mailing list of members in better shape. There always seem to be some mailings returned because of being wrongly addressed.

Members are asked to check the mailing list on the next piece of mail they receive from the Association to make sure the details are correct. If changes are required, either mail the corrected label to Ted Simmons or bring it with you to the next meeting.

## PROVINCIAL STAFF CHANGES

Since the last newsletter was published there have been many changes registered provincially, due to resignations, illnesses, transfers and various other reasons.

Among other things a number of new Inspectors have been named:

RONALD REID is a new Inspector in Cranbrook.

BERNHARD GERICK has been named Inspector in the Kamloops office.

The Abbotsford office has a new inspector in the person of IVAN PYE.

In Campbell River the new inspector is JOHN MacMILLAN.

Joining the Nanaimo office later this month will be their new inspector CHUCK WEBBER.

DARL PLEASANTS, who was working temporarily in the Chilliwack office has now joined the permanent staff as an inspector.

In Victoria the new inspector is MICHAEL KRYGIER.

Among those transferred are:

GERALD POESCHEK who has been moved from Terrace to Prince Rupert.

TED GILBERT, formerly of Prince Rupert, has been promoted from inspector to supervisor and will now be working out of the Terrace office.

Inspector PETE JANZEN has been transferred from Dawson Creek to Penticton.

TOM MANN, formerly working in Courtenay has been transferred back to Kelowna where he formerly lived. Tom is amused at the irony which has seen him buy a house in Kelowna on the same street and only four doors away from

the house in which he formerly lived. He has been away from Kelowna for ten years and says, "It took me ten years to move only four houses away."

Absent from their posts because of illness are:

JOHN WORTHINGTON, working out of the Quesnel office.  
and

VERN LILLY, of the Merritt office.

New Permit Issuing Officers have been named:

JEAN MOWBRAY has been appointed to work in the Nelson office.

JOYCE CURTISS is the new Permit Issuing Officer in the Prince George office.

VERA PEACEY has taken up her post in the Campbell River office.

Among new inspectors appointed are:

RICHARD ROGERS, the new inspector joining the staff in Prince Rupert.

CRAIG PICKERELL is the new inspector to be working out of the Dawson Creek office.

JACK KLICK is the new inspector to be working out of the Smithers office.

Formerly a temporary employee in the Prince George office, ROBERT COCHRANE has now received a permanent appointment as inspector there.

*Apologies for the delay and problems in getting out THE INSPECTOR -- one of the far-out effects of the strike!*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

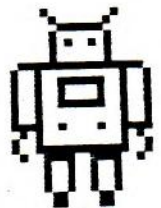
PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS'  
ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ENCLOSED IS \$25.00 AS - AN INSPECTOR \_\_\_\_\_  
AN ASSOCIATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION  
P. O. Box 80716  
BURNABY, B. C. V5H 3Y1



## IN THE NEWS

GEORGE WARD, recently retired from the Provincial Electrical Safety Branch as Codes and Standards Engineer, has turned up as part time staff at Canadian Standards Association.

It is certain they will find his expertise most useful.

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Have EIA members noticed that both Imperial and Metric systems are in use in the Code?

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The new EIA membership card is an improvement over the old one -- more colorful, in keeping with the increased vitality of the Association itself.

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BILL MALCOLM, part of the Burnaby Municipal Electrical staff, prior to his retirement because of ill health, is now settled comfortably in Kamloops.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Provincial Electrical Safety Branch is suffering another serious dislocation with the lengthy illness of VICKI BRAGG, a mainstay in the secretarial echelon.

\*\*\*\*\*

ERNIE MORTIMER, past president of EIA, has moved from New Westminster to a new residence in Maple Ridge, where he has purchased a home in a seniors' complex.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is a new inspector in the Vancouver office - BRUCE SPARGO. He has been working out of that office for some time on a temporary basis and has now replaced GORDIE DICK who retired July 1st of this year.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to all the new members of the Association.

DENNIS PERCIVAL, Electrical Safety Branch, Inspector.

MIKE MECREDY, Electrical Safety Branch, Inspector.

LEN STAM, L.S. Electric Ltd., Surrey, Associate

PAUL SCHOUTEN, L. S. Electric Ltd., Surrey, Associate.

WILLIAM STRAIN, Villa Electric Ltd., Surrey, Associate.

BEN DECK, Ben Deck Electric, Surrey, Associate.

RON MUNRO, Scepter Manufacturing Co., Ltd., New Westminster, Associate.

LUDWICZAK ALEXANDER, Alexander Electric, Surrey, Associate.

HORST GERBERT, Stampede Electric Ltd., Surrey, Associate.

BRUCE WHITING, Infraview Energy Analysis Ltd., Vancouver, Associate.

EDWARD WITZKE, Witco Building Inspection Services, Vancouver, Associate.

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*THE LAST WORD - (overheard at the Convention) "His speeches are like the horns on a steer - a point here, and a point there, and a lot of bull in between."*