

ASHRAE Ottawa Valley Chapter

Chapter Meeting # 2 October Approved



Meeting Date:	Tuesday October 16, 2001
Location:	Capone's Restaurant, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Nepean
Presiding Officer:	President Frank Bann
Attendance:	Total: 92 Guests: 14 Students: 0
Theme Night:	Student Activities
Technical Session:	HVAC and Ice Making Equipment – Corel Centre Tour
Table Top:	Mechanical Trade Sales – Boilers/Unit Heaters Longhill Energy Systems – Precision Air Conditioning Units Society of Fire Protection Engineers
Program:	HVAC Design and its Relationship to Fire Litigation – William Z. Black
Prepared by:	Jason MacMurdo – September 21, 2001

Technical Session (3:00 – 4:35)

- Corel Centre Tour. Review of ice plant refrigeration equipment and rooftop HVAC equipment. Tour was well attended; attendance: 50.

Social (5:30 – 6:30)

Business Session (6:30 – 6:50)

- President Frank Bann introduced the OVC 2001/2002 Executive, the Board of Governors and special guests speaker Bill Black, RVC Program Chair Wilf Laman and his wife Joanne.
- Peter Dunlap introduced the guests.

Dinner (6:50-7:50)

Business Session-Continued (7:50-8:20)

- Patric Renault reported on Student Activities Committee. University of Ottawa kickoff meeting has been held. Carleton University intent on setting up a student branch this year. Activities planned for Algonquin College student branch. Patric reminded membership to turn over old Handbooks to Student Activities for distribution to student members.
- Rob Lefebvre summarized the technical tour of the Corel Centre ice making plant and rooftop HVAC equipment. Tour was well received.
- Frank Bann welcomed RVC Program Chair Wilf Laman. Wilf explained the responsibility of the Program Committee in coordinating the Distinguished Lecturer Program and the ASHRAE Personnel Development Seminars.
- Kevin Courneya reported on the 2 evening tabletops and explained the Chapter's Technology Award Program administered by TEGA. TEGA is encouraging mass participation in the Awards Program this year.
- Frank Bann welcomed Dan Anderson from the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. Dan Anderson spoke at length on the Society's function, its members, meeting location and subject matter. A draw was held for 2 technical handbooks donated from the SPFE.

- Frank Bann reminded membership of the ASHRAE 90.1 Satellite Broadcast to be held at Trane Ottawa on October 30, 2001.
- Frank Bann reminded membership of the upcoming Controls Interoperability Trade Show and seminar to be held on November 20, 2001 and welcomed Mike Derouin from Base Controls. Mike reported that 10 vendors are expected to attend the show that will consist of a morning trade show, 4 afternoon seminars and 6 follow-up breakout sessions. Registration will be \$30 in advance and \$50 at the door.
- Frank Bann reiterated his President's Message to get involved with Society.
- Frank Bann reminded membership that the January Meeting will be rescheduled for January 22, 2001 to avoid conflict with the Winter Show in Atlantic City NJ.
- Glenn MacLean raffled 2 Senators Hockey tickets, donated by Engineered Air. \$332.00 was raised for Student Activities.

Evening Program (8:20-9:50)

- Topic:HVAC Design and its Relationship to Fire Litigation – William Z. Black
- Tony Doyon introduced Mr. Bill Black a Distinguished Lecturer.
- Bill Black's presentation covered a number of large fires that became precedent setting. The following is a number of key points presented during the program.
 - We live in litigation era. We must realize that the building industry and construction trades are subject to law suits resulting from the human desire to find fault and the desire to be compensated for any unpleasantness. The HVAC industry should be concerned about this. Monetary rewards in litigation are large and we are significant targets. Verdicts are often determined by human factors and political correctness rather than on the physical evidence and engineering judgements presented.
 - Current American statistics indicate that fire related deaths are declining while smoke related deaths are increasing. The majority of the casualties are outside the actual sphere of the fire and in many cases are well removed from what one might think as the danger area. HVAC systems are designed to move air; they also move smoke with equal effectiveness. As an industry, we must concern ourselves with smoke control, not just fire and flame management.
 - The speaker cited a number of examples. The following best represented the dangers of smoke. MGM Grand Hotel, commissioned in 1973. Fire occurred in 1980. There were 85 casualties; 65 in the high rise, 18 in the casino and 3 firemen found dead in the elevators. In the high rise portion of the hotel, the deaths occurred on floors 16 through 26. The fire, which started around 8:30 AM, was limited to the casino level on the ground floor. The hotel, an unsprinklered building, was undergoing an expansion and renovation at the time. The building contained many vertical openings; 24 passenger elevators and 8 service elevators. One of the exit stairwells was being used by contractors on site. It was open at grade level and became a chimney for smoke during the fire.
 - The following represents a short list of some general comments on things we can do to improve our designs and minimize our exposure should a law suit arise.
 - Ensure our designs meet or **exceed** all applicable codes.
 - Where possible do more than the minimum requirements.
 - Document everything in writing.

- Try and sell a better system or approach. Provide options and recommend the desired approach. Let the Owner make an informed decision. Should the Owner opt for the minimum solution or one other than the recommended approach, confirm the decision in writing. In many cases the premium for the optimal approach may be paid for by lower insurance premiums.
- We should concern ourselves with smoke control and smoke management during all aspects of our design. This can be achieved by minimizing vertical openings, providing safe smoke free exit paths, providing the means for active smoke control etc...

Business Session-Continued (9:50-10:00)

- Joel Primeau thanked the speaker and presented a gift.
- Frank Bann thanked Tony Doyon for organizing the evening's Distinguished Lecturer and informed the Chapter of the upcoming IAQ seminar on October 15, 2001 in Montreal PQ and of the Controls Trade Show on Tuesday November 20, 2001 in Salons A and B, Nepean Sportsplex.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00. Motion moved by Jason MacMurdo. Seconded by Joel Primeau. All in favor.

Distribution:

Board of Governors

All RVCs

DRC

Gabriel Laszlo

Please review the minutes. Any errors or omissions shall be communicated in writing to Jason MacMurdo.