

# Capital Communiqué

2004 –2005

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February 2005

## EVENING PROGRAM

**DATE:** Tuesday February 15th, 2005. Social: 17:30 Dinner: 18:30 Program: 20:00

**THEME:** **Membership**

**PROGRAM:** **Seismic Bracing**

**SPEAKER:** **Jean Noreau M.Sc.**

**OVERVIEW:** The presentation will cover the basics of seismic bracing, including the basic definitions involved. Also there will be discussions on calculating horizontal forces on bracing, according to both the California codes and National Building codes. There will be sample calculations of horizontal forces and discussion on the roles SMACNA, NFPA 13 and ASHRAE have with seismic bracing. Furthermore, there will be a general information discussion on the Seismic Manual, which will cover general notes, design procedures and examples, selection tables and vertical rod stiffener design tables. The more detailed discussion of the Seismic Manual will be centered on how to use the tables and details for designs. This will cover such topics as typical hanger details, concrete construction, steel deck with concrete, steel construction and wood construction.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Jean Noreau is a professional engineer who graduated from McGill University in 1987. He obtained a masters degree in engineering management from Sherbrooke University in 1997. He has worked as a regional field engineer for HILTI since 1998. His duties typically include visiting Ottawa and Montreal designers to train them on product updates. He has developed expertise in SRS (Seismic Restraint Systems) internally at HILTI and outside the company by consulting the National Research Council code experts. He has presented more than 20 SRS seminars to the mechanical and electrical engineering community over the past 12 months.

### Menu

Cream of Broccoli soup  
Chicken Parmigan with potatoes and vegetables  
Rasperry mousse cake for dessert (yum)



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## President's Message

by Cathy Godin

I began to write a message about three weeks ago that was filled with outrage, disgust and several strong opinions, but after bouncing it off a few of my sounding boards, received frowns and tsks. "How did you jump from Readers' Digest and Slinkies", they asked, "to this topic?" Hmm, well I have opinions about controversial issues. I'll share them, I enjoy a good argument! "Keep it light", I was advised.

That's probably a good idea. So I'll share with you my view on one of the aspects of ASHRAE that holds the greatest value to me; one of the benefits. It is the friendship, the camaraderie, the socializing. The Ottawa Valley Chapter has enjoyed a long history of "the pursuit of advancing the arts and sciences of heating, refrigeration and ventilation and the allied arts and sciences for the benefit of the public" as put forth in society's mission statement. But boy do we have fun! The meetings, the golf tournament, the curling bonspiel – yes, the curling bonspiel is no exception.

I was told many years ago when I joined a mixed social curling club that the very worst thing that could happen is that someone would buy me a beer. That didn't seem so bad. I decided to give it a go. One of the other ladies startled me when she released her rock and instantly called out at an ear-splitting volume "Sorryyyyy Honeyyyyy". She did the same after every shot of every game that draw. I heard her anthem dozens of times, but it made me laugh each and every time. That first year I had quite a few beers bought for me, but I persevered and eventually decided that perhaps a broom and a silly looking pair of shoes would feel at home in my closet.

I'm still a social curler. I love the rush after a great shot (heck even after a good shot), and the cracking sound that stone-on-stone makes when they collide is golden. I cheered on Jenn Hanna's Ottawa rink as they swept their way to Tournament of Hearts victory last weekend.

The ASHRAE Ottawa Valley Chapter Curling Bonspiel is coming up and will possibly be fully booked by the time you receive this newsletter. ASPE recently held a successful event; so will BOMA and many others, some charitable, that you and your fellow ASHRAE members organize or participate in. Nearly everyone will tell you these events are FUN! No choking coaches, at least not literally (the cause of my aforementioned outrage). Just some good old-fashioned fun, frivolity and friendship.

Opponents beware, I hereby declare that on March 18<sup>th</sup>, I am not going home with one of 'those' trophies. I already own a pair of horse hindquarter awards, although I prefer to call them bookends.

See you in the hack!

Sincerely,  
Cathy Godin,  
President (2004-2005)  
ASHRAE – Ottawa Valley Chapter

**John P. Lowery, P.Eng.**  
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**Question: Where does a snowman keep his money?**

**Tech Session**

**La Contessa Banquet Hall**

**Time: 4:30pm Sharp, Tuesday February 15th, 2005**

Come one come all!

Do you sense a need to improve your understanding of hazardous gas technology and standards?

If so, come join us at La Contessa banquet hall at 4:30 before this month's ASHRAE meeting for a "tech session" all about hazardous gas detection.

A representative from the Armstrong Monitoring Corporation will discuss a variety of topics including: Types of sensors; pros and cons of different technologies; common applications; factor in designing a system; and standards affecting gas detection.

If you are an owner, contractor, supplier, designer or any one else who wants to bring some sense to this foggy area come join us!



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**Theme**  
**Membership Promotion**  
by Heather Garner

Hi everyone, and greetings from the membership promotion committee! We hope you are enjoying the program this year. A lot of effort has gone into trying to develop a program that will hold interest for a variety of people with different backgrounds.

As Chris Frauley mentioned at last month's meeting, ASHRAE is a place where people who work together, can get together on a more social basis and talk and develop relationships. ASHRAE is also a place where a variety of "experts" share technical information which can help us in our working lives. ASHRAE is indeed a worthwhile investment for anyone touched by our industry. That being said - we'd love to see more new members join our chapter - please let me (or anyone else on the membership promotion committee) know if there is anything we can do to help get the word out!

We have the following new members to announce for November 2004:

Leonard Arksey  
Scott Cooper  
Maja Todorvic  
Jason Young

Now that the pleasantries have been addressed – I move on with the serious business. We will be starting our delinquency campaign this month, so if you have dues owing - expect a call from our friendly membership promotion committee volunteers!

Also, if you have an interest in helping out with the ASHRAE Ottawa Valley Chapter, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact me if you'd like to donate some time.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of this year's program, and look forward to seeing you all at this month's meeting!

Heather Garner  
Membership Promotion Committee Chair  
ASHRAE - Ottawa Valley Chapter

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## What You Missed Tuesday, January 18, 2005 Meeting by Glenn MacLean

The theme for January's meeting was Student Activities and we were happy to welcome a number of students and some faculty from Carleton University to our meeting and tour. Chris Fudge, our student activities chair, gave us an update on the committee's activities to date, and asked the members for assistance in fostering the same kind of interest in our other local institutions that we have seen from Carleton this year.

The pre-meeting tour of the Nortec Manufacturing and Research Labs was provided courtesy of Longhill Energy Products and Nortec Humidifiers. Jason Alexander gave a summary of the tour for the members that could not attend.

The annual curling bonspiel was announced by Chris Healey - members were encouraged to book their spots early.

Bob Kilpatrick gave an introduction to the TEGA awards and explained just how easy it is to apply for them. It's a great way to gain recognition for your company and for our chapter - so let's not let these opportunities pass us by.

The evening program required some quick thinking by our ever resourceful president. The guest speaker originally planned for did not arrive, so taking inspiration from a recent visit to Carleton University, Cathy had three of our members from three different backgrounds and areas of work give brief overviews of their experience, how they got involved in ASHRAE, and what ASHRAE has meant to them over the years. Thanks to Chris, Tom and Guy for their help.



The Table Top Crew for January



(your card here!)



## Table Top Display

by Gary Hartmann

### Variable Volume Kitchen Exhaust Systems

Spring Air Systems, established in 1988, specializes in commercial kitchen ventilation systems. With a vast product offering, Spring Air Systems is able to meet all ventilation needs of the modern commercial kitchen environment. With Spring Air's focus on research and development they offer the most economical and energy efficient ventilation commercial kitchen systems available.

This month, Spring Air will display another new product: the Truflo kitchen controller. The Truflo is a variable speed commercial kitchen controller that regulates the exhaust volume to match the appliances operating under the hood. With recent changes to NFPA96, this has become a viable solution to reducing operational costs of a commercial kitchen.



## Business Card Ads

by Rod Lancefield

You can support your chapter and promote your business by placing your business card in the Capital Communiqué. It will appear in the electronic and printed version as well as on the Chapter website.

Cost is \$225.00 for the year; contact Rod Lancefield, [rod@htseng.com](mailto:rod@htseng.com), 728-7400

**Answer: In a Snow Bank you silly!**



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## Student Activities Update

by Chris Fudge

Hi to everyone!

One of my main goals as Student Committee Chair is to get students interested in ASHRAE and the benefits that our local Ottawa Valley Chapter can offer. We have made great inroads already this year with the creation of a new Student Chapter at Carleton University, under the watchful eye of Dr. Gu, whom many of you met at last November's meeting.

We like to start them young at ASHRAE OVC, and every year there is a local Science Fair, the **Ottawa Regional Science Fair** to be exact. I pilfer the following from their website:

*The Ottawa Regional Science Fair (ORSF) is a volunteer organization which encourages students in the Ottawa-Carleton Region, from grades 7 to 12, to research, develop, and present projects in the fields of science and engineering. Students from both public and private schools in the Region are invited to enter projects in one of six subject areas... (visit <http://www.orsf.ca/main.php> for the complete story).*

I mention this because ASHRAE OVC offers the young students an incentive if they develop a project with a bend towards our industry – in the form of cash prizes! We stipulate three levels, Junior (\$100), Intermediate (\$200) and Senior (\$300). In our opinion, this is money well spent, because we consider it an investment in the future of our Chapter and indeed Society as a whole.

Recently a 14-year-old Calgary boy, Daniel Bezdek, won major national science fair awards for solving a mathematical mystery dating from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The problem was posed by an Albrecht Durer and it questioned whether every polyhedron (multiple-faced object) can be “cut” along its edges and then unfolded flat in one piece, without any overlap. It turns out that young Daniel solved the mystery by using three-dimensional models made of colourful magnets. From this we can see that occasionally, significant progress is made at these Science Fairs. (*National Post*).

This year's Ottawa Science Fair will be held on **April 9, 2005** at the **University of Ottawa**. I look forward to it, not least because I have managed to rope in Bob Kilpatrick and Rod Potter as judges for the Chapter!

Join us at the Fair this year – you never know; you could learn something!



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**Jack Teevens**  
General Manager

## 2005 ASHRAE Curling Bonspiel

The 2005 ASHRAE Curling Bonspiel will be held this March 18/05 at the Nepean Sportsplex. Curling will be from: 1:00 pm until 6:30 pm with dinner to follow @ 7:00 pm in the Richmond Room. Spectators Bar & Grille will be open @ 11:30 am for lunch and refreshments for the balance of the day.

Cost is: \$240.00 per team (please book in teams of 4, if possible).

To book a team, please contact: Chistine Kemp [christine@walmart.net](mailto:christine@walmart.net) or Chris Healey [chris@walmart.net](mailto:chris@walmart.net), or by phone: 225-9774 or by fax: 225-2972

See you there  
Chris Healey

## ASPE Meeting Update

This month's meeting will be held at Capone's East (Industrial Road) on Wednesday February 9, 2005. Social will begin at 5:30, Dinner seating at 6:25.

This month's topic will be "The ABCs of Plumbing & Heating Seismic" presented by Derek Johnston of Tecoustics Limited.

## CONFERENCE – BUILDING SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY

The Building Envelope Council of Ottawa Region (BECOR) will be hosting the 10th Canadian Conference on Building Science and Technology in Ottawa, May 12-13, 2005.

This year's theme is "Building Science and the Integrated Design Process" and is reflected in the technical topics to be discussed during the Conference. This Conference will be of interest to ASHRAE members as building services have a huge impact on overall building performance and their design and installation should be undertaken with full consideration of other building systems. Most of the technical presentations relate to the need to consider the building as a system during the design and construction, the benefits that accrue when buildings are developed under integrated design processes, and the problems that arise when they are not.

The official promotional document is posted on our website and can be accessed at:  
[http://www.ashrae.ottawa.on.ca/ashraeoc\\_docs/BECOR2005Promotionalflyer.pdf](http://www.ashrae.ottawa.on.ca/ashraeoc_docs/BECOR2005Promotionalflyer.pdf)

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## Spotlight on: Lan Chi Ngyen Thi

by Rod Potter



### Saigon. 30 April 1975:.

*The war in Vietnam ended today as the government in Saigon announced its unconditional surrender to the Vietcong. The President, Duong Van Minh, who has been in office for just three days, made the announcement in a radio broadcast to the nation early this morning. He asked his forces to lay down their arms and called on the Vietcong to halt all hostilities.*

*In a direct appeal to the Communist forces, he said: "We are here to hand over to you the power in order to avoid bloodshed."*

Lan Chi Ngyen Thi was born in Saigon on 18 March 1965, and she has two younger brothers, Nguyen-Khac-Hoang (born March 1971), and Nguyen-Khac-Hoi (born - May 1974). Her parents were both teachers at that time, her father Nguyen-Khac-Trung teaching math, while her mother Quyet-Tuyet-Lan taught French. Their life was fairly opulent however, because Lan Chi's great uncle just happened to be the embattled South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu. Their house was a comfortable three-storey affair with servants and all the trimmings.

Of course the Vietnam War had been waging for a few years by the time Lan Chi was born, but she has no recollection of early battles such as the 1968 Tet Offensive. By the time 1975 arrived, she was ten and far more aware of the troubles with the North, although she does not remember being traumatized by the war because it was mainly affecting other areas of the country.

However things fast became frantic in the final days leading up to the fall of Saigon. The US military were pulling out in droves and most of us remember those fateful scenes at the US Embassy as throngs of panicking citizens tried desperately to get access to the Embassy roof and a helicopter to safety. It became apparent to Lan Chi's family, about a week before the fall of Saigon, that they were going to have to leave the country or face an uncertain (and probably unpleasant) future at the hands of the Viet Cong. The North Vietnamese forces were advancing southward at an alarming rate, forcing her great uncle President Thieu to resign on 21 April 1975.

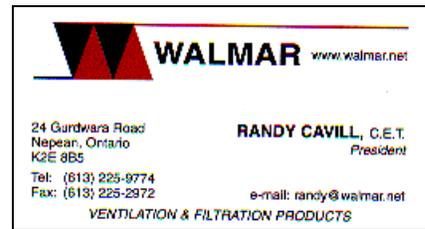


President Thieu resigns  
21 April 1975



Desperate citizens try to flee Saigon  
30 April 1975

(...cont.)



(cont...)

Initially the evacuation of the family was well planned and a Boeing 747 was chartered to fly them out of Tan Son Nhut Airport. Unfortunately, before they could make the flight the airport was heavily shelled by advancing forces, which effectively put an end to that escape plan. Luckily one family member (another uncle) was a Commander in the South Vietnamese Navy, and he arranged for the family to be transported in covered military vehicles to the local Navy Base at the harbour. Martial Law had been invoked which would have made it impossible to travel without the aid of the military. At some time during this melee the family members were forced to abandon most of their luggage because it simply would not fit on the trucks. Lan Chi and her family proceeded to the waterfront with nothing but the clothes on their backs, a small amount of gold, and whatever they could reasonably carry. Of course Lan Chi's youngest brother was only about 11 months old at this point so her mother had her hands full. Owing to Martial Law, her father Trung had only been able to get his hands on US\$100 before the banks closed down.

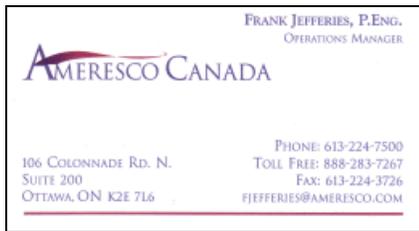
On arrival at the Navy Base, the extended family (about 30 people) was directed to board a small Navy patrol boat which was sent out into the harbour waters to wait for further instructions. The family went below deck to remain out of site from the shore. Her uncle's warship was anchored nearby and he wanted them to wait at a safe distance off-shore until he could ascertain what his orders would be (of course he was probably contemplating the worst). His intention was not to leave the base until the official surrender occurred, and they were to wait until he sent news on where to join him. Eventually he contacted the patrol boat by radio, requesting that they join him, but it was not clear exactly where he was, and they were unable to find him.

Piloting the patrol boat were a couple of Navy servicemen who soon proved themselves to be human - they were probably well aware that their future was uncertain, so they promptly started demanding money from the helpless family members down below. It turns out that most Vietnamese men of the time carried some sort of weapon, and Lan Chi's father was no exception, so it was discussed privately that they would try to gather enough money between them to satisfy the sailors, but if necessary, they would have to resort to some gunplay. In the end, cooler heads prevailed, and the Navy guys seemed happy when money was produced.

Not knowing what else to do, the sailors decided to head out of the harbour in search of a safer environment. They motored along the coast with very little food or water and after a few days they came across another boat, in similar circumstances, heading in the opposite direction. The crew of the other craft made it clear that they were heading into danger and that they had to turn around, which they did. By this time, more and more boats started appearing in the general vicinity, full of half-starved people in various states of panic. It was decided that they should try to flag down any larger ship that might possibly take them on, and eventually they were helped onto a larger vessel that resembled a barge. It turned out that a successful Saigon Industrialist had purchased the barge for his family's escape, and he was taking on passengers from many nearby craft.

While the barge was large and somewhat more comfortable than the patrol boat, it was not a sea-faring vessel, and when it was decided to head out to open sea, it of course rocked around like a bucking bronco. Before long there were a great deal of very sick passengers on the barge, and at around this time Lan Chi's baby brother Hoi became quite unwell, suffering from dehydration and diarrhea. Gradually the barge reached international waters and they spotted a large merchant ship only to be told not to approach because there was no room left on the ship. In effect, Lan Chi's family and hundreds of others were the first boat people; not to be confused with the throngs of Vietnamese citizens who became known as Boat People when they escaped Viet Nam in December 1977.

(...cont.)



(cont...)

The US Seventh Fleet was known to be in the area but at first they were not reacting to the crisis. However then President Gerald Ford finally gave the order to aid and assist all such refugees and Lan Chi's family were eventually picked up by the USS Duluth via tenders from the ship. At this point, Lan Chi's father Trung was careful not to mention anything about their family connections, for fear that they might not actually make it onto the Duluth, and be left on the barge with perhaps unsympathetic fellow citizens. Lan Chi remembers her family being forced to give up any weapons, and being billeted on deck in tents with many others. She recalls how hot it was during the day, and how uncomfortably cold it was at night. The ship was an amphibious assault vessel with a displacement of approx. 16,900 tons, and its crew did its best to help the refugees. They did not have sufficient blankets and other equipment to provide comfort to all of the people. Lan Chi has fond memories of one sailor who gave two of his spare undershirts to her mother to wrap around Hoi, who was still very unwell.

The ship took the refugees to the Philippines, where they disembarked on landing craft, and were billeted in barracks for about 3 days. We can only imagine there was great relief felt by the refugees at this point, particularly with hot meals being served. From the base in the Philippines they were flown to Anderson Air Force Base on Guam, where they were housed in a "tent city" for about three weeks. Lan Chi's mother was basically in a state of shock through most of this ordeal and Lan Chi stepped into the breach - she remembers being on "food duty", where she had to line up for ages to get food for her family from the enormous mess hall on the base.

#### Time Magazine 12 May 1975:

*The Marines had the dangerous job: evacuating the last Americans and South Vietnamese from Saigon by helicopter. Now a necessary but dreary job confronts the armed forces and swarms of bureaucrats: housing, processing and relocating an estimated 120,000 South Vietnamese refugees. Tens of thousands of evacuees had already reached the three principal U.S. "staging areas" in the Pacific: Guam, Wake Island and Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. Others were scattered on Saipan, 250 miles from Guam, where 56 refugees landed after commandeering a South Vietnamese C130; at the U.S. naval...*

*Andersen forces also played a key role in Operation New Life, the evacuation of thousands after the fall of Saigon in 1975. During New Life, Andersen received more than 40,000 refugees and processed another 109,000 for onward transportation to the United States mainland. Andersen also played a key role in Operation Baby Lift, an element of New Life in which the U.S. evacuated 1,500 orphans from Vietnam and Thailand in April 1975.*

All of the refugees were expecting to end up in the United States because they had been promised safe harbour by Gerald Ford. While they were on the base in Guam, Trung tried in vain to contact overseas family members who might have sponsored them. During this time there were US and Canadian immigration representatives on the base sifting through the mountains of paperwork requiring processing for the refugees. One day Lan Chi heard her father's name being called over the P.A. system and she had to frantically run around trying to find him. At that time, Canada was accepting refugees only if they had a sponsor. When Trung finally did make it to the proper building, it transpired that the Canadians had been hailing *another* Nguyen-Khac-Trung, who turned out to be a single guy with relatives in Canada willing to sponsor him. This of course was a major disappointment, but Trung used the opportunity to plead his family's case, saying that he and his wife both spoke French, and they wanted to live in Quebec (major brownie points here!). He was told by the immigration officer that there was a quota system in place and that if another applicant failed, then his family would be considered. Soon thereafter it transpired that the other Trung, the single guy, had previously been trained as a pilot by the US Military, so the US authorities promptly said they wanted him to go to the States. This meant of course that the slot was vacated, and seeing as the Canadian paperwork was already in place for a Nguyen-Khac-Trung, Lan Chi and her family were cleared to go to Canada!

(...cont.)

(cont...)

They flew to mainland United States via military transport soon thereafter and then proceeded on to Montreal on a Canadian commercial flight. The US flight was free, but Trung was told that he would have to eventually pay for the Canadian flight (no surprises there). They arrived in Montreal with nothing but US \$75 (Trung had given \$25 to his wife in Guam so she could go to the PX and purchase new clothes for all of them to travel in). The early days in Montreal proved to be tough but they received a great deal of help from Church sponsored groups, and the Government gave them their first month's rent. Trung worked hard at menial jobs - his first was cutting grass.

The rest is history. It is hard to believe that our soft-spoken recent past-president has such an interesting story to tell!

Follow these links for more detailed background information:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/april/30/newsid\\_2498000/2498441.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/april/30/newsid_2498000/2498441.stm)

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/april/21/newsid\\_2935000/2935347.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/april/21/newsid_2935000/2935347.stm)

[http://www.strategic-air-command.com/bases/Andersen\\_AFB.htm](http://www.strategic-air-command.com/bases/Andersen_AFB.htm)



## ASHRAE OTTAWA VALLEY CHAPTER MEETING LOCATION

Our meeting location is **LA CONTESSA BANQUET HALL**, 156 Cleopatra Drive, Nepean, K2G 5X2  
Tel. 613-224-8700. Parking is available just to the north of the building in a small multi-storey parking lot.  
Make sure you lock your car and bring your valuables with you.

\*\*\* end of Communiqué \*\*\*



(your card here!)

