

IEEE Toronto Is Almost 100 Years Old

The IEEE Toronto Section was formed on September 30, 1903 as a section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE). It was the first such section formed outside the United States. This was 18 years after Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell formed the AIEE, 6 years after the formation of the Canadian Society of Civil (non-military) Engineers - to become the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) in 1912, and 9 years before the formation of the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE). The Canadian Section of the IRE was formed in Toronto in 1925. The AIEE and IRE merged in 1963 to create IEEE, and IEEE Canada was created in 1994 with ties to both IEEE and EIC. Before 1912, the formation of IRE, local entities were creatures of the AIEE. The www page at <http://www.ieee.ca/history/sections/first20.htm> records the first 20 sections formed under the AIEE banner. Toronto was the first and only section to be formed outside the United States in this period. Vancouver was the second - in 1911.

Since those early beginnings, the Section has grown and prospered together with our great city of Toronto as electrical engineers have developed and managed electricity to provide the power for its industry and communication for its citizens. The Toronto Section executive committee, chaired by Bob Hanna, is developing plans for celebrating this unique event. Members can keep informed about these plans by looking at <http://ewh.ieee.org/r7/toronto/centennial.htm>, just on click away from <http://www.tor.ieee.ca> (that is <http://ewh.ieee.org/r7/toronto/>).

The first planned event was a lecture on "On the Origins of DSP", by Prof. Andreas Antoniou, University of Victoria, BC, on April 14, 2003. Details about this lecture are available at <http://ewh.ieee.org/r7/toronto/events/dlsantoniou.pdf>.

The second event is scheduled for Sunday July 13, 2003 during the IEEE Power Engineering Society annual general meeting that will take place in Toronto on July 13-17, 2003 (<http://www.ieee.org/pegmtoronto2003>). The PES conference committee will be recognizing the Toronto section for its centennial celebration during the welcoming reception.

The third planned event is the "2003 IEEE Toronto Centennial Workshop on Wireless Communications - CWWC2003", to be held on October 3-5, 2003, at the University of Toronto, Toronto. You can find details about this workshop at <http://ewh.ieee.org/r7/toronto/cwwc03/index.html>. The Workshop Co-Chairs are Prof. D. Hatzinakos (dimitris@comm.utoronto.ca) and Prof. K.N. Plataniotis (k.n.plataniotis@ieee.org), who is also Section Vice-Chair.

The Section executive is working on a new logo for the section to reflect its achievements over the past 100 years.

The section will plan and deliver other activities.

Bruno Di Stefano (b.distefano@ieee.org) is collecting information about the history of the Section. With the help of Cathie Lowell (admin@ieee.ca) Bruno has built a list of all Section Chairs since the formation of the Section. You can find this list at http://www.ieee.ca/history/sections/ch_tor.htm. Bob Alden (r.alden@ieee.org) has kindly organized this material for the www. If you are one of the past Section chairs or you are in contact with a past Section chair, please, send e-mail to Bruno Di Stefano. Similarly, if you have been a past member of the Section executive, please, contact Bruno and pass on whatever information you may have. This Toronto Section History Page is meant to be a growing web presence, beyond the Centennial celebration.

It is reasonable to say that the Centennial of the IEEE Toronto Section is also the Centennial of IEEE Canada. This is probably the reason why the official name of the IEEE Toronto Section in many documents is shown as "IEEE Canada - Toronto Section". Another interpretation of this name is that, prior to the merger of AIEE and IRE, in 1963, the

by *Bruno Di Stefano*
IEEE Canada, Toronto, ON

AIEE section was known as the "AIEE Toronto Section" and the IRE section was known as the "IRE Canada Section". Bob Alden (r.alden@ieee.org) is the source of this second interpretation and is the source of all of the above historical information. He maintains a web page about the history of IEEE Canada. You can find it at <http://www.ieee.ca/history>. Indeed, part of this article is a result of a cut-and-paste from Bob's web pages.

Please, visit this web page and all related pages and see if you can contribute any information. If you have information that could be posted on this web site, please contact Bob Alden.

Acronyms used for Society Names

AIEE	American Institute of Electrical Engineers
CSECE	Canadian Society for Electrical & Computer Engineering
CSEE	Canadian Society for Electrical Engineering
EIC	Engineering Institute of Canada
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IRE	Institute of Radio Engineers

Milestones

1884	AIEE formed in Philadelphia by 25 electrical experts including Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell.
1887	Canadian Society of Civil (non-military) Engineers (CSCE) formed
1903	AIEE Toronto Section formed on September 30 at the Engineers Club in Toronto
1912	IRE formed by merging the Society of Wireless Telegraph Engineers (initiated in Boston in 1907) and the Wireless Institute (initiated in New York in 1909)
1912	CSCE becomes the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC)
1921	AIEE Canada District (No. 10) formed on August 1
1925	IRE Canadian Section formed at Canadian General Electric in Toronto in October
1944	Ralph Hackbush becomes first Canadian to be IRE Vice-President
1957	John Henderson becomes first Canadian to be IRE President
1963	IEEE Region 7 created out of AIEE Canada District and IRE Canadian Section during the merger of AIEE and IRE
1972	Bob Tanner becomes first Canadian to be IEEE President
1976	CSEE formed
1990	CSEE renamed as CSECE
1994	IEEE Region 7 and CSECE merge to form IEEE Canada