

It all started with a conversation with **Cam Blachford** in 1988 - he had just become president of the Canadian Society of Electrical Engineering (CSEE), and I had just become the IEEE Region 7 director. The background for that conversation was as follows. The CSEE had been created 12 years before as a constituent society of the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) with a journal, a small number of members and very little in the way of local activities. IEEE Region 7 had been in existence for 85 years with virtually all of its member services provided from IEEE in the US, except for a small newsletter which was mailed from the IEEE Region 7 office in Thornhill, just north of the Toronto city boundaries. The Canadian IEEE bi-annual regional conferences in Toronto and Montreal were going under and **Vijay Bhargava** was starting up the **Canadian Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering** for the CSEE.

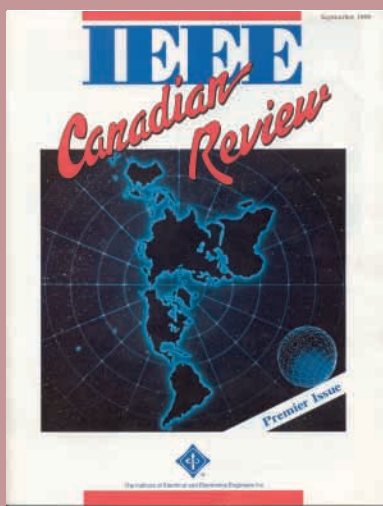
Cam and I were continuing the perennial discussion of that era - how should a learned society for electrical, electronics, and computer engineers exist in Canada, given the long history of the EIC which had never attracted many "electricals" because of the pervasive influence of the then "US centric" IEEE. We each believed that the organization we served should be the only one in town. The choices appeared to be, very small and Canadian, or big and American - the other choice, merging together, was not a realistic option at that time, but the seeds were being sown. I had started to promote the use of the name IEEE Canada as an alternative name for IEEE Region 7, but I realized that the "name" was not enough. I believed that we needed a truly Canadian, high quality magazine for all Canadian IEEE members - to provide a home grown member service and the correct image of our country-wide organization to our members and the public at large. The original mission statement that appeared in the first issue spelled out that belief and remains unchanged today.

The concept of the **IEEE Canadian Review** had been set. The next step was to find the "right person" to help me make the concept a reality - text, pictures, layout on high quality paper, etc. Who would be the initial editor? Again, the requirements were clear in my mind - a volunteer who was obsessive in vision, quality, and detail, with publication experience and proudly Canadian in both languages. I knew of only one such individual, a volunteer with the Montreal Section who produced conference proceedings for IEEE Montreal Conferences Inc. (MCI). His name was **Richard Marceau**. We got together after various MCI and Region 7 meetings and discussed ideas and eventually specific plans, typically in time slots from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. - **he was as crazy as I was!** But in the space of half a dozen clandestine meetings over about half a year, the first issue was conceived, developed, refined and mailed to all some 15 thousand Canadian members in the Fall of 1988. Richard enlisted the help of volunteer associate editors and the expertise of a Montreal-based printing company who provided guidance on specific layouts and materials. By the way, at the time that our magazine was created, it was against IEEE policy for Regions to have magazines; they were only permitted for Technical Societies. A couple of years later, IEEE USA's "Today's Engineer" was born.

Our premier issue was funded in part by a special \$5,000 grant from "IEEC. Inc." - which evolved four years later into the **IEEE Canadian Foundation**. Speaking of funding, we knew that we wanted our new magazine to have a bilingual component but we were conscious of the potential costs and our limited financial resources. We decided to proceed slowly and carefully. All issues would have abstracts of feature articles in both languages and we would seek articles in either language as well as advertising to generate income. Issue #1 had abstracts in both languages, #4 contained the first full page advertisement, #5 carried the first full arti-



Richard Marceau,
first Editor of CR
Oshawa, ON



First issue of the IEEE Canadian Review in September 1988.

cle in French, and so the magazine developed. Issue #24 was the first one edited by **Vijay Sood** - whose opening remarks started with "It is with apprehension that I take over the helm at the IEEE Canadian Review magazine for the next two years..." That was in 1996 and Vijay has remained at the helm for 37 issues over a decade! Vijay made a break with the past with #34 - a change in font and format for the magazine's name - the original look is shown in the reproduction of the first issue cover on this page.

In between Richard and Vijay, three other editors added their contributions, **Tony Eastham, Theo Wildi, and Paul Freedman**. These five dedicated volunteers, together with a large number of associate editors, have served with distinction and made that initial concept become the member service that Canadian IEEE members consistently rate as their *most valued benefit from IEEE Canada* - my thanks to all of you for making that dream come true.



Bob Alden, LF-IEEE, FEIC,
1988-89 Region 7 Director
Toronto, ON

Some comments from the other editors....

I took over from founding CR Editor, Richard Marceau in 1990 -- was it really 15 years ago? A lot of work I recall, but very satisfying. The big issue in those days was the merger of CSECE and IEEE Region 7. I feel proud to have had a role in this, as I know IEEE Canada continues to serve Canadian EEs well! Congratulations to all who have carried the CR torch forward to its 50th issue.



Tony Eastham
1990-91 Region 7 Director
Hong Kong

The IEEE is a big family of friendly people who enjoy sharing their knowledge. The IEEE Canadian Review, launched by Bob Alden, epitomizes this attitude. I found it a real privilege and challenge to act as Editor during two short years.

Theo Wildi,
former Editor of CR
Quebec City, QC



Everyone profits when we become part of something larger than ourselves. I salute our past editors, the authors with whom I worked, Vijay Sood who took over the reins when I stepped down, and lastly our IEEE Canada readers. May you always find something to take away from each issue!

Paul Freedman
former Editor of CR
Montreal, QC



It was an exhilarating challenge all the way. Thanks for the great ride and Au Revoir.

Vijay Sood
Editor of CR, 1996-2005
Montreal, QC

