

Murray MacDonald

My first involvement with the IEEE was probably very typical—as a Student Member. I served as a Student Branch treasurer, took part in some fun events, and attended visiting lectures linked to the IEEE. Many of us joined for technical reasons as, in the era before the Internet, the IEEE was seen as a fount of up-to-date technical information. I still recall a visit from the renowned Bill McMurray from GE Labs in Schenectady, New York. After completing my graduate studies, I moved to work in the industry, and my active involvement with the IEEE virtually ceased.

A few years later, I had the good fortune to work for an IEEE-minded general manager, who encouraged me to become involved in the International Telecommunications Energy Conference (INTELEC). I coauthored my first paper for this conference in 1986. I have been actively involved with most of the INTELEC North American conferences ever since.

After becoming semiretired in 2009, I looked to the IEEE for an opportunity to give back. The IEEE's Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) was just getting rolled out in Canada, and that matched my interest. I continue to have a fulfilling involvement with the TISP London Section. I am



Murray MacDonald

Vice-Chair of the London Section

Region 7 Teacher In-Service Committee Chair

murraymacdonald@ieee.org

also the TISP Canada Committee chair for 2019.

Sensing my interest, Maïke Luiken, the then London Section chair, convinced me to take on the Section secretary role.

This was followed by rewarding opportunities to serve as the vice-chair and then the chair. In 2011, I had the honor to receive the MGA Outstanding Small Section Award. I am particularly proud of my role in the Women in Engineering and Young Professionals affinity groups in London. I was also tapped at the Region 7 level to become the Central Area chair. Over the years, I have helped a number of colleagues, particularly from the industry, to elevate their membership—having received similar support myself.

Along the way, I helped organize several IEEE conferences: EPEC 2012, EPEC 2015, IHTC 2017, and EPEC 2018. I am always learning something new about conferences.

I continue to be an IEEE volunteer to give back to the professional community and to the society. I find these opportunities very fulfilling. I always find that the IEEE has a wealth of current knowledge in my various technical fields of interest. ■

Dr. William “Bill” McMurray (1929–2006) was a power electronics legend. From 1953 to 1988, he worked at GE. He was the authority on thyristor commutation circuits. He wrote the book Theory and Design of Cycloconverters, and he contributed to the book Principles of the Inverter Circuits by Bedford and Hoft (1964), which was the bible for power electronics in those days. Bill was the inventor of the McMurray inverter and McMurray–Bedford inverter. For more information, see IEEE Industrial Electronics Magazine, Spring 2007, page 45.

The IEEE Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Board partnered with Region 7 in hosting IEEE Sections Congress 2020 (SC2020) in Ottawa, Canada.



IEEE Sections Congress is a triennial gathering of Section leadership sponsored by the MGA Board.

For more information visit: <https://sections-congress.ieee.org/>