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Volume 1, Issue 2

October, 2006

## Are You Hiding Behind Your Certificate? (The Enemy Within)

Why are you employed by your employer? Is it because they have to or because they want to?

If given the chance what do you think your employer would do if they could deregulate the plant you are working in? Would they jump at the chance, allowing them to relieve you of your position or would they say to themselves that your position is much too important to the operation of the facility to have you not there?

At our Annual General Membership Meeting Mr. John Coulter the Chief Officer for the TSSA brought up the issue of Power Engineers hiding behind their certificate for employment. What is John telling us with this statement?

I have tried to write this in a professional manner to guise the message in some cryptic way so that our members get the message, but to no avail. I have typed and backspaced, typed and backspaced. It's not working! I'm

going to have to tell it like it is. Some, not all Power Engineers are taking their employers to the cleaners by not providing the full service of skills that can be offered.

All too many times I have heard employers upset that when they come into the power plant the operator is sitting at the controls reading a newspaper, playing Sudoku or some other self indulging activity. Other times the maintenance engineer can be found chatting with the operator in the boiler control room.

It can be said that an operator who knows what he or she is doing is the one that is not running around the plant tending to emergencies. An operator should be able to anticipate potential problems or know the intervals that equipment needs to be looked at to prevent a problem. Following this statement though is the question of what is the engineer doing in the quiet

intervals? Keeping busy or getting updated on an article found in Sports Illustrated?

All professions have their characters and bad apples, this is true, but unfortunately even some of the good apples fall into the trap of sitting around doing nothing. The unfair thing is we are all painted with the same brush. Normally an employee's performance is dealt with by a supervisor and/or the Employee Services Human Resources personal. In Second and First Class Plants the Chief Engineer would be the one to deal with employee productivity and job roles. Any Chief in these plants that does have their operators and maintenance staff productive should be under review themselves. Plant owners should not be able to walk into the plant and see an operator sitting idle. The perception given

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## New Memberships

The Toronto Branch is going on a membership drive. Our membership numbers strengthens our voice as being representative of Power Engineers in our Province and across the country.

We need new members as well as maintaining current ones. With this in mind we are going to hold monthly draws from our members in good standing. If you are a member who has paid up his or her dues we will

be including your name in the raffle draw held at our monthly executive meetings.



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## 2006 Annual Golf Tournament

The Toronto Branch held its annual golf tournament on Tuesday, May 2nd. It was a remarkably a wonderful day. Last year we had sun, rain, sleet and snow. This year it was ideal golfing weather. We had about 70 golfers enjoying the game, the social activity of the 19th hole and dinner.

Once again Ralf had done a fabulous job of purchasing the best set of trophies on the market.

The dinner was fantastic once again. Glen Cedar staff are to be thanked for their great food and warm hospitality.



Each golfer received a gift bag at the start of the game which included a baseball cap, golf balls, t-shirts, etc.

The prize table was once again overflowing thanks to our many sponsors who support us each year. Without them the tournament would not be able to happen.

Our sponsors include:

Active Mechanical, ABB Inc., Brodi, Carmichael Engineering, Cooling Tower Maintenance, Drew Chemicals, E.L.S., GE Water Treatment, Gorbarn Mechanical, Kudlak-Baird, Lenworth Building Services Ltd., Marin Starr

Next year we hope to raffle off at least one four-some from our general



membership who are in good standing (that means paid up membership). That way we can get more of our members out to enjoy the event.

## The Power of Perception

*(Continued from page 1)*

is that the company is employing a person to sit around and do nothing. The conclusion is this position is not needed.

Let's talk about a modern plant with full DDC monitoring. An operator has all of the tools at his or her fingertips to see every aspect of the plants operation. Feed water control, water treatment, water levels, steam outputs stack temperatures, excess oxygen, burner outputs. You name it, it can all be monitored through a DDC system. Why would an operator have to leave the comfort of the chair? And yes in some instances and plant configurations it would be ineffective or even more dangerous for an operator to leave the vicinity of the controls. But in most plants the operator can leave the controls to do things in the boiler plant.

I recently attended a boiler manufacturer's seminar where a representative from the Federal Government spoke about the different regulations between Provinces for the staffing of registered plants. I thought the language he used was very interesting. The audience consisted of plant owners, operators, consultants and contractors. The representative worked his way through each Province starting at the lowest horse-power rating of the boiler indicating what class Power Engineer would be required to operate the plant. Every time he got to the highest rating he would say "You're out of luck you need to have a First Class Chief Engineer"

What is that telling you?

This was a forum for plant owners to check out the latest boilers on the market and the message of the seminar was "Too bad you

need to hire a Power Engineer if you have certain ratings"

They are not happy out there folks and they are searching for and implementing ways either through technology or legislation so as to not require us. Are you going to **sit around** and let it happen?

*If I have struck a nerve out there among our membership or have said something that offends you I would like to hear from you. If you have another point of view or agree with what has been said please e-mail me at [ipe@sympatico.ca](mailto:ipe@sympatico.ca). I would be happy to put your viewpoint into our next newsletter. Open discussion and the sharing of information will help us all better ourselves and our profession.*

## New Membership Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

We will be raffling off Institute of Power Engineers merchandise. Each month we will have a different product.

In September we will be raffling off an Institute of Power Engineers Mug. In October we will be raffling off a baseball cap and T-shirt.



In November at our Annual General Membership meeting we will be raffling off a working model steam engine worth over \$500.00.

If you are the sponsor of a new member, which means you recruited him or her then your name will be entered into a separate draw for IPE merchandise. Your name must be on the new members application, as a sponsor, and sent to our branch mailing address. Acceptance and paid membership must be complete before your name is entered in the draw. So if you are a sponsor you have twice the chance of winning.



Septembers draw will be for an IPE baseball cap and October the draw will be for an IPE copper tone travel mug.

## Bill C-45, How it Affects You

**You could be personally fined by the Ministry of Labour in the event of an accident in your plant.**

On March 31st, 2004 Bill C-45 came into affect changing the Criminal Code of Canada. From this point forward corporations as well as their management and supervisory staff are held criminally responsible for the safety of workers. In the event of a critical injury the Ministry of Labour is notified. If negligence is thought to be the case then charges will be laid under the Canadian Criminal Code to all those in the scope of responsi-

bility of the worker. This includes the immediate supervisor, the CEO, and all those in between, as well as the corporation. Charges laid to supervisory staff are the responsibility of the person not the corporation. Traditional mindset has one thinking they are innocent unless proven guilty. Under Bill C-45 one is guilty unless they can prove their innocence. This means that documentation of training and work procedures are crucial in proving innocence.

The supervisor can stand in court and swear that the employee was trained in safe work practices, but if there is no documentation supporting this claim the case will be lost and the supervisor will be paying a personal fine, be sent to jail or a combination of both. In our next newsletter we further explore the implications of Bill C-45 in the workplace.



## Lord of the Rings

The Toronto Branch acquired tickets to the Lord of the rings for November. Unfortunately the show stopped running in September. We had sold all of the seats to the show and we had a decision to make. We were given the opportunity to transfer our tickets to a date in September or get a refund. Those who bought tickets and could make it, went the show in September. Those that couldn't

make it received a refund. The members who went contradict what was said in the newspapers. "The show was awesome. You felt like you were in the movie" said one member.

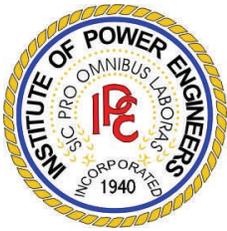


that sounds fun and exciting please let us know at [ipe@sympatico.ca](mailto:ipe@sympatico.ca) and we will try to make the arrangements

We are looking into other events in the near future. If you have any ideas or heard of anything

88 Corporate Drive, Suite 511  
Scarborough, Ontario  
M1H 3G6

Phone: (416) 296-9468  
Fax: (416) 296-9273  
Email: mark\_page\_2@sympatico.ca



*The Recognized Voice of  
Power Engineers*

## Institute of Power Engineers—Featured Product

We are confident in the products we have chosen to bare the IPE logo. We are so confident, we are going to offer this amazing offer. If you are not happy with the quality of the product we will take it back and refund your money.

This month's featured product is the IPE travel/gym bag. This high quality bag has the IPE logo embroidered on its side. It has zippered compartments and is 20" x 10" x 10". It comes with carrying handles and a shoulder strap. It is perfect for the gym, weekend trips, camping, work clothes, study materials, etc. With a price tag of just \$35.00 plus shipping it is a great deal.



### TSSA Sidebar

Paul Annis of the Chief Examining Officer of the TSSA is no longer with the TSSA. Replacing Paul as a Interim Examiner is Joe Raso.

### TSSA Update

Many Power Engineers are in charge of or responsible for the operation and maintenance of the buildings that are owned by their employer. With this in mind we are including Directors Orders dealing with Elevators. Some elevators have a Firefighters Emergency Operation Key (FEO). After January 1, 2007 all new installations or installations that are altered require that the Emergency Power Selector Switch, three position Fire Recall Switch and the three position Fire Operation Switch to be keyed on the same key. The new key will be standard no matter who manufactures the elevator and will be standard throughout all jurisdictions of North America. This key will of a tubular, 7 pin, style 137 construction and will have a biting code of 6143521. They key will be

coded FEO-K1.

The rationale for this change is to assist in reducing the response time for firefighters.

Another information release from the TSSA on elevators is the use of a pre-inspection check list for newly installed passenger elevators, Freight Elevators and Lifts for persons with physical disabilities. Before calling the TSSA for an initial inspection of the elevating device the Pre-Inspection Checklist must be completed. Failure to do so will result in cancelled inspections, or withheld licenses and/or additional inspection and travel costs applied to the contractor.

A third TSSA bulletin reminds owners and contractors of their obligations to

comply with the maintenance requirements of CSA B 355-00; Lifts for persons with physical disabilities to outline the required maintenance activities and intervals; and to provide a summary of the minimum information requirements for the maintenance log book.

If you have lifts or elevators under your authority you should go to [www.tssa.org](http://www.tssa.org), Safety Legislation & Regulatory Information and read up on the TSS Act & Safety Regulations, Active Director's Orders and Bulletins and All Director's Orders and Bulletins.