

# ASPECT

Definition: 'as - pekt / 1. a position facing a particular direction  
2. appearance to the eye and mind

## THE DEGIFS NEWSLETTER

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### **The Editorial**

by  
Sharon Scott, P.Ge., Eng. L.

#### **Change...**

A powerful word that can seem like a great concept when directed at others, be welcomed and embraced with gratitude for opportunities that it may bring or trigger fear. Change happens anytime and anywhere. Change can be mundane or unexpected.

Changing oneself is a process. It may happen due to personal need, values, or opportunities. Changing an organization may stimulate new ideas, making things more vibrant.

It is important to realize that change is a process and lasting change will involve all the stages:

- Resisting or denying the change.
- Deciding that change is needed. Making a plan and setting gradual goals.
- Taking action, putting specific plans into play.
- Considering the possibility of the need for future change.
- Maintaining and internalizing the change; incorporating the change into your life or organization.

One thing is certain, change reveals a range of limitations and possibilities. But don't expect change to be in a straight line. As with life there are so many interrelated actions and possible paths for change that at times it may take a while to see the result or it may happen very quickly. The key is to embrace change and make it your own.

#### **Other Notes**

Have you registered for the APEGBC AGM (October 16-18, 2008) yet? This year it is being held in beautiful Kelowna. The Engineering and Geoscience in the Forest Sector Professional Development stream has a full slate of speakers again this year. The DEGIFS AGM will be held October 16, 2008 at 3:30 pm, following the professional development session. Don't forget the pre-conference DEGIFS field trip led by Don Dobson. See you there!

*Please note: DEGIFS Executive does not necessarily support or agree with the opinions and conclusions indicated in the editorial.*



## 2008 DEGIFS AGM

**The AGM for DEGIFS members begins at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, 2008 at the Grand Okanagan Lakeside Resort in Kelowna, B.C.**

The DEGIFS executive invite all members who plan to attend the APEGBC conference in Kelowna to note the time of our AGM and to make an effort to attend. The executive will announce the results of the letter ballot campaign regarding the amendment of the division's terms of reference that is necessary for the division expanding its mandate into other resource sectors. You will also get a chance to meet the new members of your executive.

Executive members whom were elected last year and are continuing include:

- Jeremy Araki, P. Eng.
- Julien Henley, P.Eng.
- Mike Noseworthy, P.Geo., Eng. L.
- Jack Whittles, P. Geo., Eng. L.

Tracey Raume, P. Eng., Ron Arksey, P. Geo., Eng. L. and Doug Underhill, P. Eng., R.P.F. will be stepping down. Out-going chair, Irena Weiland, P.Geo., Eng. L., will continue with the executive for an additional year as Past Chair.

This will be a great opportunity to meet with your peers, enjoy stimulating conversations and learn new things.

So come on out and help this division grow.

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## 2008 DEGIFS – Field Trip Wednesday, October 15, 2008

### Chase Creek Watershed Field Trip Hydrologic & Geotechnical Retrospective

**Field Trip Leader:  
Don Dobson, P.Eng.  
Dobson Engineering Ltd.**

Chase Creek watershed (292 km<sup>2</sup>) flows into the South Thompson River through the Village of Chase, which has grown up on the alluvial fan. The watershed has a long history of instability that is thought to have started between 1930 and 1951. Since this time, significant disturbance has resulted in channel width increases of 50% throughout the middle reaches, channel avulsions, flooding of private property, and damage to infrastructure.

Disturbances have been attributed to both natural and anthropogenic causes including:

- Eden Lake wildfire (1973);
- Riparian harvesting;
- Failure of an earthfill dam on a major tributary;
- Major flood events, and;
- A high frequency of landslides (73 inventoried in 1996).

To date more than a \$1,000,000 has been spent on studies and works in an effort to both, understand the cause, and mitigate disturbances.

The field trip will explore the numerous issues facing Chase Creek beginning in the upper watershed and culminating at the mouth. Discussions will touch on the implications of the current mountain pine beetle infestation with regards to watershed hydrology, slope stability, and downstream development.



The itinerary for this trip has not been finalized, but the likely scenario is:

- Stop 1) major landslides that occurred in 96/97
- Stop 2) dam failure
- Stop 3) channel disturbances and subsequent attempts to mitigate through bioengineering
- Stop 4) lower channel to discuss possible future problems

Regulations, impacting worker safety, to become effective on the dates indicated below:

- Avalanches, Part 4 General Conditions, 4.1 Definitions and 4.1.2 Snow Avalanche Assessments effective September 1, 2009.
- Construction, Excavation and Demolition, Part 20 (including Clause 20.78) effective January 1, 2009.

WorkSafe BC will be posting the new approved OH&S Regs. in these two areas on their website by early October, 2008.

These revisions were made to reflect the role that Professional Engineers, Professional Geoscientists and Registered Forest Professionals have in such matters when forestry operations are involved.

APEGBC and ABCFP worked to coordinate their submission so that WorkSafe BC received one set of recommendations from the two Associations rather than two separate responses, which could have resulted in inconsistent messages being conveyed to WorkSafe BC.

Finally, with respect to Item (iii), currently Clause 26.18 of the OH&S Regs. contains provisions governing landslides in forestry operations. Last spring, WorkSafe BC issued a Stakeholder Consultation Paper of Terrain Stability (landslides) for discussion purposes only. APEGBC engaged experts in the field to advise WorkSafe BC on matters related to landslides which impact worker safety outside of forestry operations. With respect to landslides impacting forestry operations, a response dated September 16, 2008, was submitted by the APEGBC/ABCFP JPB. It is APEGBC's understanding that upon considering the submissions from the JPB and others, WorkSafe BC will be going out for public consultation on this matter.

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## Update on Status of Revisions to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (OH&S Regs.) respecting:

- (i) Avalanches,
- (ii) Construction, Excavation and Demolition,
- (iii) Terrain Stability Assessments(Landslides).

**By Peter Mitchell, P. Eng.**

Where proposed changes to the OH&S Regs regarding Item (i) Avalanches and Item (ii) Construction, Excavation and Demolition impacted forestry operations, APEGBC consulted with the APEGBC/Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) Joint Practice Board (JPB). Submissions from the JPB were made on both these items with input from the DEGIFS Executive.

After a round of public consultations, which included submissions and presentations from the JPB, the WorkSafe BC Board has approved revisions to the following aspects of the OH&S



## **The Aztec Vampire Chronicles (a.k.a. Getting New Blood into your Business)**

**By Del Ferguson, P. Geo, Eng. L. with  
contributions from the members of the  
Aztec Geoscience Inc. team**

Are you considering hiring co-op students, new graduates or some 'older' new blood into your business? Well perhaps you would like to hear some tales from the Aztec Chronicles before making that jump.

Aztec has been hiring new professionals for some 12 odd years with incredible success if you take into account natural attrition, folks attaining independence or just becoming plum tired with the 'terrain stability world'. The most satisfying part of the whole experience is the knowledge transfer and gain on both sides. It is likely that I and others in our company gain as much knowledge from new blood as what is sucked out of us during the training process.

I'm trying to count while creating the documentation, but I do believe that we have had ten new professional staff or short term employees pass through our doors during the past 12 years. Most have moved on to other careers, some related some not, but all doing well and still keeping in touch from time to time or aiding in some obscure project that requires a few more bodies than normal.

Aztec predominantly hires and trains geo-types. The recent OH&S regulation issues with respect to what P.Geos 'can and cannot do' in the terrain stability/forest road engineering industry has caused considerable woes for younger geoscientists who are left wondering if their qualifications meet the standards outlined in APEGBC's Guidelines for Terrain Stability Assessments. Some move on to areas where their expertise is more recognized, while others

stick with it and rise to the next challenge within the forest industry.

One of the biggest challenges in mentoring is the encouragement of employees to think for themselves, sometimes outside the box and often outside their individual comfort zones. Every one of us has personal and professional goals and this has to be recognized by peers and employers alike. Feedback is the key...the loop has to be maintained on a constant basis. Employers, employees and clients need weekly and often daily feedback in small organizations (and I suspect in larger ones).

Beyond all, as professionals we must realize that there is not 'one right way of achieving the end result', but there is a need for collaboration to embrace new concepts and ideas that ultimately will better serve our clients and the public at large.

A must for professionals is constant upgrading through new learning channels. As a small company, we cannot always afford to send everyone to current relevant seminars or workshops, so we select an interested representative to attend. The representative becomes responsible for presentation of the finer points of his/her learning experience at either an AzTalk meeting or monthly safety meeting. In addition we do try to host an AzWalk day to visit some of the results of our terrain assessments. This is not always an easy task considering the scheduling required, but the benefits of such a 'day-out' are extremely rewarding for all.

Perhaps the best part of sharing knowledge with others in the small company atmosphere is camaraderie and knowing that others are there for you when you really mess up. We attempt to make our work an enjoyable part of our life, certainly not the be-all-end-all, but a heck of a way to make a living.



So you want to mentor a new up-coming geoscientist? I will let you in on an old known and trusted secret..."Giving" has many, many more rewards in life than does "Receiving".

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## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

*From APEGBC website*

### DEVELOPMENTS IN GEOTECHNICAL APPLICATIONS OF CEMENT AND CONCRETE

*Friday, October 31, 2008 - Burnaby, BC*

Cement mixed with soil, cement grout and concrete are being used for a variety of applications in geotechnical engineering that are new to British Columbia. The presentation will review the developments in these new techniques including: Cement – Modified Soil –Jet-Grouting and Diaphragm Wall (Slurry Wall).

[http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/geotechnical\\_applications.html](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/geotechnical_applications.html)

### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS

*November 5, 2008 – Prince Rupert*

Urban stormwater management and the associated processes have been linked to adverse impacts on aquatic environments. Regulatory agencies are actively pursuing the implementation of impact neutral infrastructure projects and urban development. This seminar will provide an introduction to analytical techniques and methodologies that can be used to quantify impacts and impact reduction methodologies. Engineers working in urban infrastructure planning and design and the land development industry will find this seminar of particular value.

[http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/stormwater\\_pr.html](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/stormwater_pr.html)

### CURRENT PRACTICE IN ACID ROCK DRAINAGE PREDICTION

*November 6, 2008 - Prince George, BC*

Acid rock drainage (ARD) and the associated process of metal leaching (ML) can be important issues at any construction project where rock is exposed to flowing water. This seminar will provide an introduction to the methods available to predict the reactivity of rock and the chemistry of drainage in contact with rock, and the use of the results to identify technologies to address ML/ARD.

[http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/ard\\_pg.html](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/ard_pg.html)

### AN INTRODUCTION TO SLOPE ANALYSIS

*November 13 & 14, 2008 - Vancouver, BC*

This two-day workshop will provide an introduction to the tools and knowledge needed to undertake/interpret soil and rock slope stability analyses for hazard assessment. This will be achieved through a series of lectures led by Erik Eberhardt, P.Eng., Oldrich Hungr, P.Eng./P.Geo. and Doug Stead, P.Eng. Accompanying the lectures will be a series of tutorials using a wide range of slope stability and runout analysis software.

[http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/intro\\_slope\\_analysis.html](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/intro_slope_analysis.html)

### EXPERT WITNESS

*December 4, 2008 - Vancouver, BC or via Webcast*

As a professional engineer or geoscientist, at some point in your career you may be asked to write an expert report or testify as an expert at a trial. Are you fully aware of what will be expected from you? This seminar will discuss the factors to consider before agreeing to deliver expert witness testimony, as well as examine the benefits and risks of doing so.

[http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/expert\\_witness\\_dec08.html](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/prodev/events/expert_witness_dec08.html)



## OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### CANQUA/CGRG CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

**May 3-8, 2009 at Simon Fraser University**

The CANQUA 2009 organizing committee would like to invite you all to Simon Fraser University from May 3 to May 8<sup>th</sup> for the biennial conference. We are planning a number of exciting fieldtrips including CGRG sponsored pre-conference trip to the interior of British

Columbia to explore glacial history and paleo-ice sheet dynamics, a post conference trip to the Channeled Scabland in northwestern United States, and a number of 1-day mid-conference trips. We are also planning a one day short course to be given by Dr. John Gosse on the application of terrestrial cosmogenic nuclides to Quaternary research. No official theme has been set for the conference and we are requesting input from members for special sessions; suggestions will be vetted by the organizing committee. Please mark May 3-8, 2009 on your calender as we plan on having an informative and exciting meeting.

<http://www.mun.ca/canqua/index.html>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Volunteer Opportunities:

**We are still looking for volunteers to help out. A Co-editor from the interior would be a nice addition to ASPECT in order to provide us with a balanced view between interior and the coast issues. If you have some time to spare please contact one of the executive or the current editor.**

**All you GIT/EIT types have an opportunity to get some great experience down in your logbooks by volunteering your time to ASPECT. Do a guest interview or editorial. Your input is welcomed!**

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### Got something to say?

ASPECT welcomes announcements, technical articles, letters to the Ed, project profiles, photos, tips, jokes, etc.....basically anything that would benefit or interest DEGIFS members.

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Congratulations to the newly formed Division of Environmental Professionals (DEP)! They just recently released their first newsletter. Check it out at:

<http://www.apeg.bc.ca/services/divisions/dep/index.html>



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## Do Not Forget!!!

### ASPECT SUBMISSIONS

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO ASPECT	NEWSLETTER RELEASE DATE
DECEMBER 1, 2008	DECEMBER 15, 2008

Electronic submissions in **Word format (only)** should be made to Sharon Scott ([sharonkscott@shaw.ca](mailto:sharonkscott@shaw.ca)) by the date listed above.

Refer to Guidelines for Submission on the website <http://www.degifs.com/guidelines.doc> for submission requirements.