

A Diamond or Demisesquicentennial Anniversary!

We, the Canadian Geotechnical Society and the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique, missed an important anniversary – a diamond or demisesquicentennial (that may be easy for you to say!) anniversary. In the fall of 2006, Dr K Wayne Savigny, PEng/PGeo, of BGC Engineering Inc in Vancouver, BC was the 75th Cross Canada Lecturer. To show you how badly we missed this anniversary, by the time you read this article, Dr Donald Bruce of Geosystems LP from the United States will have completed the 76th Cross Canada Lecture Tour this past spring, and we will be anticipating the 77th Cross Canada Lecture Tour by Dr Kerry Rowe from Queen's University this fall.

In the Fall of 1965, Dr Ivan Rosenqvist from the University of Oslo, Norway, was the first Cross Canada Lecturer. He was followed by Dr DJ Henkel, from Cornell University, USA (Spring 1966) and Dr NR Morgenstern, then from Imperial College, UK (Fall 1966). Dr Morgenstern was the first Canadian Cross Canada Lecturer, and a few years later returned to Canada to take up his position at the University of Alberta.

Over the 41-year history of the Cross Canada Lecture Tour there have been five individuals who have twice been Cross Canada Lecturers: Dr Liam Finn (1991 and 2001); Dr Geoff Meyerhof (1967 and 1983); Dr Vic Milligan (1972 and 1997); Dr Ralph Peck (1972 and 2000) and Dr Bob Quigley (1969 and 1990).

The purpose of the Cross Canada Lecture Tour is to enable CGS Members, and others across Canada, to attend seminal presentations by prominent Canadian and foreign geo-professionals. Whenever possible, two Cross Canada Lecture Tours are organized each year, one in the Spring and the other in the Fall. It is customary for one speaker to be Canadian and the other to be foreign.

The lecturers are selected, and the tours are organized, by the Canadian Geotechnical Society. Since 2000, funding for the Cross Canada Lecture Tours has been the responsibility of the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique, a charitable foundation at arms length from the CGS. The Foundation has exclusively relied on corporate sponsorship for funding this specific activity, and Canadian companies have risen to this challenge and have received the deserved benefits.

Since 2000, 18 companies have generously supported the Cross Canada Lecture Tour. For 2006 the corporate sponsors are: Thurber; GEO-SLOPE; EBA; Golder; Worley Parsons Komex; Klohn Crippen Berger; O'Connor; and Jacques Whitford. Jacques Whitford and Reinforced Earth Company Limited have both committed sponsorship for 2007.

As the number of corporate sponsors are limited to only 8 per year, if other companies wish to be added to this select group for 2007 or beyond, they should contact Mr DF VanDine, PEng/PGeo (vandine@islandnet.com or telephone 250 598 1028), Chair of the Fund Raising Committee of the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique for further information.