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**Vancouver Section**  
**Annual Report of Activities from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009**  
**Prepared by David Regehr, Vancouver Geotechnical Society Chair**

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## **Introduction**

This annual report is a summary of the activities of the Vancouver Geotechnical Society (VGS), a local section of the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS), for the period July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. This local Section has a very active membership from the Greater Vancouver area. For further information, please see the VGS web site: <http://www.v-g-s.ca/>

## **Executive Committee**

The 2008 - 2009 executive committee of the VGS consists of the following members:

Chair:	David Regehr, Thurber Engineering Ltd.
Past-Chair:	John Richmond, Golder Associates Ltd.
Program Director:	Chris Williams, Golder Associates Ltd.
Secretary:	Stuart Hrysio, Braun Geotechnical Ltd.
Treasurer:	Marc Bosse, Trow Associates Inc.
Registrar:	Chris Anderson, Golder Associates Ltd.
Web Manager:	Carl Kelman, Levelton Consultants Ltd.
CGS Director:	Mustapha Zergoun, Thurber Engineering Ltd.

## **Activities**

The VGS executive committee meets approximately once a month to organize technical presentations and social events, and to review issues relevant to the society membership. Generally, the executive meetings take place immediately before the monthly technical presentations. The attendance at the technical presentation ranges from about 60 to 100 persons. The executive also maintains regular ties with other geotechnical groups in British Columbia and Washington State. Notices of upcoming events held by other similar local organizations are distributed to all VGS members in addition to notices of VGS events.

## **Membership Information**

Currently, the Vancouver Geotechnical Society has 108 paid members, 13 life members and 3 student members. There are 198 local active members of the Canadian Geotechnical Society.

## **Meetings**

The 2008 - 2009 meetings held to date were as follows:

September 30, 2008 – VGS Annual General Meeting

“Seismic Upgrade of the Seymour Falls Dam – Case History” by Neil K. Singh

October 21, 2008

“Assessment of Seismic Performance of Piles in Liquefying Soils” by Dr. Misko Cubrinovski

October 30, 2008

“Some Complex Problems Concerning the Loetschberg Base Tunnel” 2008 Fall Cross Canada Lecture Tour by Dr. Aurele Parriaux

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November 19, 2008

“The Comforts of Ignorance and the Benefits of Arrogance, Lessons of the Failure Kind for the Geopractitioner” 2009 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer in Engineering Geology by Edmund Medley

February 12, 2009

“The History and the Future of High Strain Dynamic Testing of Piles – With Some Practical Tips for Those That Use it Today” by Peter Middendorp

March 10, 2009

“Golden Ears Bridge – Geotechnical Seismic Design Aspects & Pile Loading Test” by Ernest Naesgaard and Ali Amini

April 14, 2009

“Challenges of Utility Tunneling Through Lower Mainland Till Deposits” by Naresh Koirala - Combined meeting with the Tunneling Association of Canada

May 6, 2009

“Construction on Organic Terrain and Characterization of Organic Soils” 2009 Spring Cross Canada Lecture Tour by Dr. Arvid Landva

May 26, 2009

“Overlooked Details in Liquefaction Evaluations” – by Professor Izzat M. Idriss

### **Financial Status**

The VGS's operating budget is primarily funded by profits from symposia, technical short courses and conferences. As of May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the VGS balance is approximately \$70,500 of which \$51,500 is currently invested in a business savings account with the remainder to be used for regular operations.

### **Additional Information**

- A VGS committee has met with a BC Ministry of Environment representative in early December 2008 and has followed up with a letter of suggestions for revision to the BC Groundwater Protection Regulation.
- The VGS will be supporting a student from Simon Fraser University to attend the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual CGS Conference in Halifax in September 2009.
- The 2009 VGS Award, which recognizes selected members of the VGS for their significant contributions to the Vancouver Geotechnical Community, will be presented at the VGS Annual General Meeting in the fall of 2009.

Prepared by:

David Regehr, Chair, Vancouver Geotechnical Society