

The Creation of IEEE Canada – Part 3

The Final Steps by Robert T.H. (Bob) Alden

In the Fall of 1991 Region 7 director elect, Vijay Bhargava, established a “Blue Ribbon Committee” consisting of outgoing R7 director Tony Eastham and outgoing CSECE president John Plant. This committee was charged with reviewing the relationship between IEEE Region 7 and CSECE and preparing a discussion paper to be considered by both organizations. They identified three options; maintain separate organizations with no common activities, develop collaboration and engage in cooperative programs and ventures; and amalgamate to form a single organization. Their recommendation was for amalgamation.

At the spring 1992 meetings of both organizations the amalgamation proposal was presented and approved in principle – subject to financial and operational plans being developed. To inform the memberships, Tony and John prepared an article “IEEE Region 7 and CSECE – is a merger desirable and feasible” for the fall 1992 issue (#14) of the IEEE Canadian Review (ICR).

In January 1993 Vijay appointed a working group for the amalgamation of IEEE Region 7 and CSECE consisting of Tony Eastham, John Plant, Bob Alden and Ray Findlay. In February 1993, the proposal was presented to the IEEE Transnational Committee (TC) and the IEEE Regional Activities Board (RAB) – the following motion was passed “TC, RAB welcomes and supports the initiative to merge IEEE Region 7 with the CSECE and urges IEEE to work with CSECE towards determining ways and means to bring about this merger by January 1, 1994.”

In May 1993 draft bylaws and a draft budget for 1994 were presented and approved at the R7 regional meeting in St. John’s. It was agreed to hold discussion in all Section committees, and to inform and seek approval by the R7 membership in the next (#17) ICR.

In August 1993 the IEEE Executive Committee and the IEEE Board of Directors approved this process.

In November 1993, a special CSECE AGM approved that CSECE would be dissolved and its assets transferred to IEEE Canada on the condition that the membership of IEEE R7 and the IEEE board approve the merger.

The fall 1993 ICR (#17) carried an article “IEEE Canada – the decision is yours” containing the background, the process, the features and budget, and a ballot to approve the merger.

By the end of 1993 both R7 and CSECE had approved the merger

The start of 1994 saw both organizations operating in complete collaboration pending the remaining approvals

- R7 director Ray Findlay was also the IEEE representative on the CSECE board
- CSECE president Tony Eastham was also vice-chair of R7
- Louis-André Poulin was treasurer of both organizations

At the May 1994 R7 meeting in Ottawa, the modified draft bylaws were approved and forwarded to the IEEE board with a request to approve the formation of IEEE Canada and recognize the new organization as Region 7 of the IEEE.

With the fall 1994 IEEE election ballot mailing, a ballot for the merger was included. Following a positive vote, the merger was approved by the IEEE Board at its November 2005 meeting.

January 1, 1995 - IEEE Canada formally exists and Ray Findlay is the first to add “IEEE Canada President” to his “IEEE Region 7 Director” title.