

Honorary Life Membership Award

Donald Spangelo, P. Eng., FEC



Donald Spangelo graduated with a BSc (Civil Engineering) from University of Manitoba in 1981. Don has been registered with the Association since 1983 and received his Fellow of Engineers Canada in 2010. Don was the recipient of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba's Outstanding Service Award in 2003.

Don started his career in 1976 after completing a diploma in Design & Drafting Technology from RRCC. He initially worked for Wardrop Engineering as a draftsman from 1976 to 1978 and then with Dominion Bridge from 1981 to 1983 as an Engineer-in-Training. He was employed by Crosier Kilgour & Partners as Structural Design Engineer from 1985 to 1992. During this period Don worked on numerous

commercial/industrial buildings in Western Canada including the Boeing manufacturing facility, Portage Place Mall, the Regent/McPhillips casinos, the fabric tent over the ice skating circle at the Forks and the air supported Golf Dome.

Don has been working with Manitoba Hydro since 1992. As a structural engineer he was involved in design of transmission towers and substation superstructures from 1992 to 2000. In this capacity Don coordinated the evaluation of the failure of 17 High Voltage DC Bi Pole transmission towers due to a wind event, which was one of the most critical structural failures for Manitoba Hydro. He presented a paper on this event at an international Severe Wind Conference.

Don was promoted to the position of Head of the generating station structural section in 2000. His section is responsible for reviewing the consultant's structural design of new hydro dams (Wuskwatim and Keeyask), designs for upgrades/rehabilitation of existing dams and Dam Safety reviews and analysis. He is also a key member on the corporation's "Engineering Drawing Best Practice Committee" which includes the evaluation of corporate engineering processes and supporting staff on engineer practice concerns. In this capacity Don has headed the development and implementation of an electronic eSealing and paperless archiving system for engineering drawings. This system has increased the efficiency and security, and decreased negative environmental impacts of the 30,000 plus drawings annually handled by this system.

Over the years, Don has volunteered his time to serve on council and various committees of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba. He was a key member of the group that pioneered the Spaghetti Bridge Building events and designed and built the specialized testing machine used to test the bridges. This popular event at the Provincial Engineering and Geoscience week and the numerous in-classroom visits he has conducted over the last 18 years introduces the concept of engineering and science to over 300 school children a year. This involves them in designing and building bridge structures which are tested to failure. Some of his other contributions involved sitting on the task groups that developed the Continuing Professional Development program and associated ProDev Guidelines, and the Limited Licensure category of membership. He was also involved in the development of the association's eSealing authentication process and the associated guidelines.

Don has served as a member of the Keystone publication committee (1983-89), Member of the Legislation Committee (1989-2012; Chair 1997-2012), Chair of the Discipline Committee (1999-2008),

and a member of the Continuing Competency Committee (2012-present). He has served as an elected Councillor (1995-1997 and 2008-2014) and is presently serving on Council in an appointed position (2015-2017). Don has also been on the advisory committee for Structural Engineering Technology at Red River College since 2003.

Don is married to Patricia (P.Eng.) and has three adult daughters: Whitney, Lisa, and Sara. His hobby activities involve building and piloting radio controlled fixed wing and rotor aircraft, restoration of a 1954 Ford Meteor, and spending summers at his self built cottage at Victoria Beach.

In recognition of his dedicated service to the engineering profession and prolonged voluntary service to Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba, the Association is pleased to confer Honorary Life Membership on Mr. Don Spangelo, P.Eng.