



P.O. Box 1547 Station Main  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2Z4  
T: 204.774.5258 F: 204.779.0788  
E-Mail: cemca@shaw.ca  
www.cemanitoba.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**10:00 P.M. — APRIL 13, 2007**

## **Consulting Engineers of Manitoba Honour Innovation and Excellence at 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards of Excellence in Consulting Engineering**

**WINNIPEG, MB** – Innovation, advancement of technology, and contributions to society were honoured tonight at the 2007 Manitoba Awards of Excellence in Consulting Engineering. Winners were announced at a gala dinner hosted by the Consulting Engineers of Manitoba (CEM) and attended by 300 guests including representatives of the engineering industry, government and Manitoba's business community.

"The goal of the Awards of Excellence Program is to encourage Manitoba's consulting engineers to be creative, innovative, and strive for excellence in all that they do," said Cheng Wong, P.Eng., Chair of CEM's Awards Committee. "Engineers bring ideas to life and touch every aspect of modern life. It is our privilege to serve society in such a meaningful way and our responsibility to set the bar high and demand nothing but the best from our profession."

This year, nineteen projects were submitted by CEM member firms in one or more of the following award categories: Building Engineering, Infrastructure, Industrial, Environmental, Innovation, and Resource Development. The projects were judged by an independent panel of leading industry professionals chaired by Dr. Jay Doering, Professor of Civil Engineering and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, at the University of Manitoba.

The judging panel is allowed to present award(s) of excellence and merit in each category. In keeping with the Awards Program's mandate of fostering and promoting excellence in engineering, projects must meet a minimum standard to be selected for an award. The project with the highest score is declared the overall winner and presented with the prestigious *Keystone Award*.

This year, Awards of Excellence were presented to:

- ND LEA Inc. (*Infrastructure*);
- Acres Manitoba Limited (*Environmental*);
- Earth Tech (Canada) Inc. (*Industrial*);
- UMA Engineering Ltd. (*Innovation*); and
- J.R. Cousin Consultants Ltd. (*Resource Development*).

- more -

## Page 2 – CEM Awards of Excellence

Awards of Merit were presented to:

- Crosier Kilgour & Partners Ltd. (*Building Engineering*);
- KGS Group (*Infrastructure*);
- SNC-Lavalin Engineers & Constructors Inc. (*Industrial*);
- ND LEA Inc. (*Innovation*); and
- KGS Group (*Resource Development*).

The **Keystone Award** went to **Acres Manitoba Limited** for their development of a comprehensive field-based data collection program for monitoring the sedimentation and erosion impacts resulting from Manitoba Hydro's Wuskwatim, Keeyask and Conawapa generating stations.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented by **title sponsors XL Insurance and Oldfield Kirby Esau Inc.** to **Alfred John Poetker, P.Eng.**, in recognition of the exceptional leadership, integrity, innovation, diligence, and unwavering respect for his fellow engineers and the citizens of Manitoba demonstrated throughout 42 years of practice. Mr. Poetker was also given the honour of presenting the *Keystone Award*.

*Founded in 1978, CEM is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the Manitoba business environment for consulting engineering firms in the province, and providing society with the highest standards of engineering and safety.*

– 30 –

**Note** – See attachment for a complete listing of winning projects and a bio for Alfred John Poetker.

### **For more information contact:**

Cheng Wong, P.Eng.  
Chair, Awards Committee  
Consulting Engineers of Manitoba  
Ph: (204) 775-0171

Laura Cabak  
Media Relations Coordinator  
Wordsnorth Communication Services Ltd.  
Ph: (204) 269-4239  
Cell: (204) 771-4213

# 2007 Manitoba Awards of Excellence in Consulting Engineering

## Award Winners

### **KEYSTONE AWARD:**

Firm: Acres Manitoba Limited  
Client: Manitoba Hydro  
Project: Wuskwatim, Keeyask and Conawapa Sedimentation and Erosion Physical Environment Monitoring Programs

### **AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE:**

Category: Infrastructure  
Firm: ND LEA Inc.  
Client: Manitoba Floodway Authority  
Project: Red River Floodway Expansion Project – Temporary Railway Detours

Category: Industrial  
Firm: Earth Tech (Canada) Inc.  
Client: Manitoba Hydro  
Project: Brandon Generating Station Cooling Tower Biocide System Replacement

Category: Innovation  
Firm: UMA Engineering Ltd.  
Client: Manitoba Floodway Authority  
Project: Twin Red River Floodway Bridges on Trans Canada Highway No. 1 East

Category: Environmental  
Firm: Acres Manitoba Limited  
Client: Manitoba Hydro  
Project: Wuskwatim, Keeyask and Conawapa Sedimentation and Erosion Physical Environment Monitoring Programs

Category: Resource Development  
Firm: J.R. Cousin Consultants Ltd.  
Client: Rural Municipality of Victoria  
Project: Holland Chlorine Dioxide Disinfection

### **AWARDS OF MERIT:**

Category: Building Engineering  
Firm: Crosier Kilgour & Partners Ltd.  
Client: The University of Manitoba  
Project: Building for the Future – the University of Manitoba Engineering and Information Technology Centre

Category: Infrastructure  
Firm: KGS Group  
Client: The Jim Burns Family Foundation  
Project: The Plaza at the Forks

## Page 2 - Award Winners

Category: Industrial  
Firm: SNC-Lavalin Engineers & Constructors Inc.  
Client: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
Project: Dorion Fish Culture Station Renovation

Category: Innovation  
Firm: ND LEA Inc.  
Client: S.A.M. (Management) Inc.  
Project: Pocket Suites Affordable Housing

Category: Resource Development  
Firm: KGS Group  
Client: City of Winnipeg  
Project: Hawthorne Flood Pumping Station

### **Lifetime Achievement Award Alfred John Poetker, P.Eng.**

Throughout 42 years of practice, Alf Poetker has demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity, innovation, diligence and respect for his fellow engineers and the citizens of Manitoba.

Alf graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1965. After graduation, Alf worked for Manitoba Water Resources and the Manitoba Water Supply (now "Services") Board, before launching a full-time consulting practice under the name A J Poetker Ltd. in 1978. His practice expanded in 1981 when Bill Brant and Ken Buhr joined as partners, and became known as A J Poetker & Associates Ltd., then Poetker Engineering Ltd. The firm was acquired in 1990 by the Cochrane Group, with Alf serving as President (1990-95) and Special Projects Consultant (1995-present). In 2001, after a major health challenge, Alf returned to work on a part-time basis and remains employed with GENIVAR (successor to Cochrane Engineering and Poetker Engineering).

Over the course of his illustrious career, Alf has acted as a special advisor to the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission, served as an expert witness in about 50 legal actions, volunteered his time as an instructor at the Manitoba Water & Wastewater Association Operators' School, and delivered presentations at numerous seminars, conferences and public meetings.

Alf became active in CEM in the early 1980s, serving as a Board member (1986-88) and President (1988-89). He has also been active with APEGM and taken leadership roles in facilitating the process by which foreign-trained engineers become registered and negotiating to settle the dispute between engineers and architects.

Alf's drive and commitment extend to his community. In his "free" time, Alf served on the Agassiz Drive School Parent Committee and has been an active member of the Fort Garry Mennonite Brethren Church since 1966, where he volunteers for a Community Based Language Program for immigrants. From 1996 to 2004, Alf was on the Board of the Family Life Network, a multi-national non-profit Christian media production agency providing programming in 16 languages to over 1000 media outlets world-wide.