

**Let's Talk Energy**

Engaging ideas  
for Canada's future



**Parlons énergie**

Idées d'avenir  
pour le Canada

## Newsletter

June 2013

### MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND CEO CANADA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUMS CORPORATION

I am so proud of the accomplishments of 'Let's Talk Energy' during my tenure at the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation. Five years ago, as I began my mandate, we consulted Canadians from across the country on their areas of interest with science and technology. Time and time again, the need for more informed discussions on natural resources and energy was brought up, and the idea for a national conversation on energy literacy took shape. Since then, 'Let's Talk Energy' has grown to a nationwide initiative with twenty nine partners from coast to coast, reaching over five million museum visitors every year.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter, highlighting several recent projects from the CSTMC and its partners, including more awards for Let's Talk Energy. We are particularly excited about the Corporation's recent acquisition of over 20,000 documents and artifacts from Domtar Inc., some of which tell the story of early hydro power production in Ottawa.

It is with bittersweet feelings that I am leaving my position here to become President of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges. I am thrilled with the progress we have made to date, and will keep a very interested eye on Let's Talk Energy as it continues to grow in influence and scope in the coming years.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with partners from coast to coast to coast on this initiative. Thank you for your continued interest in energy literacy!

Denise Amyot

### FASCINATING EXHIBITIONS

### In-Situ Drilling Model

Let's Talk Energy's fascinating exhibition Energy: Power to Choose has recently been refreshed with some exciting additions. Thanks to the generous support of the Imperial Oil Foundation, a new interactive model has been added to the exhibit. This model depicts the process of Cyclic Steam Stimulation extraction from oil sands; allowing visitors to dig deep into the topic! Come see the model currently on display at the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

### Streetlights with Built-In GPS: A Canadian Innovation

Recent Canadian innovations are highlighted in a new exhibit at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. In partnership with the Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program, 'From Prototype to Market' showcases Canadian inventions that are having a global impact. One such innovation is 'LED Roadway Lighting', a system that uses a Global Positioning System to determine the appropriate light level for street lights based on local conditions. These state-of-the-art street lights save energy, and are less likely than photocells to be damaged by animals and environmental conditions, saving municipalities money on high maintenance costs.

## ENGAGING PROGRAMMING

### Switch Film Screenings

The feature length documentary film Switch that explores current and future sources of energy continues to draw audiences at screenings across Canada. To date, our screenings and discussions presented in partnership with museums and science centres, universities and local interest groups have engaged more than 1500 Canadians. Check out what they have said in discussions following the film in different parts of Canada – so many of the issues and interests highlighted are the same everywhere! <http://energy.technomuses.ca/english/screenings.html>

### Energy Cart at the Canada Science and Technology Museum

Demonstrations on the floor of the Canada Science and Technology Museum complement the Energy: Power to Choose exhibition by allowing visitors to get up close, and even experience first-hand, some of the concepts presented in the exhibition. Visitors can examine the viscosity of different forms of oil; play with Eddy currents, the principle of which is used in some wind turbines; and examine the density of sulphur hexafluoride compared to regular air.

The energy cart has quickly become the museum's most popular demonstration. In 2012-13, it was seen by almost 9,000 visitors, making it roughly twice as popular as any other demonstration.

## Energy- Themed School Programs

The Canada Science and Technology Museum had a busy year for energy-related school programs. From September 2012 to June 2013, thousands of students from grades 1 to 9 took part in over 90 programs related to Energy. From Sound Energy to Electricity Workshops, students had the opportunity to explore the different sources of energy through interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities. For more information about school programs at the museums, please visit:

<http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/english/schoolzone/index.cfm>

## UNIQUE PARTNERSHIPS

### Webinar

On February 7, 2013, staff of the Canada Science and Technology Museum were joined via web by MAPP partners across the country for Let's Talk Energy's first ever webinar. Distinguished energy academic Dr. David Layzell delivered an exclusive presentation on energy systems and how to make complex information simple and engaging for a general audience. Let's Talk Energy would like to extend a warm thank you to nine MAPP partners that participated for their engagement and to Dr. Layzell for his time and expertise.

### New Canadian MAPP Partner

Let's Talk Energy is pleased to welcome the Montreal Science Centre to our MAPP program! The Montreal Science Centre is a state-of-the-art facility with a mission to help visitors of all ages acquire an understanding of science and technology for use in building their future. The Science Centre's amazing, fun, and surprising exhibitions allow visitors to explore, learn, and understand through a variety of interactive means. For more information, please visit:

[www.montrealsciencecentre.com/](http://www.montrealsciencecentre.com/)

### WindENG Competition at the University of Guelph

Let's Talk Energy was a proud sponsor of the WindENG competition held at the University of Guelph on April 26th. WindENG is an annual high school design competition in which student teams construct an energy generating wind turbine. Following specific design criteria, the competition teams are required to construct their turbines and test them in a wind tunnel. Prizes are given to teams in a number of categories including best energy output, best video, and most innovative design. For more information visit their website at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/engineering/windeng/home>

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### LED Lights: A 'Bright Idea' for Energy Savings!

In May 2013, the Canada Science and Technology Museum completed another energy-saving project, replacing exterior lighting at the Museum and its adjacent office building with LED lighting. The new energy efficient LED lights will save over 63,000 kwh a year, resulting in annual savings of over \$7,000. These savings will be reinvested in the Museum to carry out future energy-saving projects.

### New Learning Centre at the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum

In May 2013, the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum opened their brand new Learning Centre. Converted from an agriculture machine shop, the renovated building was built with energy efficiency in mind! During construction, as much material as possible was reused, such as the existing barn floorboards, in addition to the selection of a maximum number of products with recycled content, including some kirei boards made from field waste. A hydronic heating system that is 15% more efficient than an average atmospheric water boiling system was also included. For more information on the new Learning Centre, please visit:

[www.agriculture.technomuses.ca/english/visitor/new\\_learning\\_centre.cfm](http://www.agriculture.technomuses.ca/english/visitor/new_learning_centre.cfm)

### Sustainable Development Award for the Canada Science and Technology Museum

In Spring 2013, staff of the Canada Science and Technology Museum were recognized for their efforts to reduce the Museum's carbon footprint, winning the 'Prix Coup de Coeur' for Sustainable Development from the Regroupement des gens d'affaires. The Museum was recognized for its numerous energy-efficiency improvements- from a conversion to LED lighting to the installation of an Electric Vehicle charging station in the parking lot. The Museum's involvement in the 'Let's Talk Energy' initiative was also recognized as an excellent way to share best practices among other museums throughout Canada and around the world.

### Canadian Government Executive Magazine Award

In April 2013, the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation received a Leading Management Change Award from Canadian Government Executive Magazine. This award recognized the successes achieved through the transformation in the ways our museums both manage internally, exemplified by human resources management, and deliver our services to

the public, exemplified by the Let's Talk Energy initiative. Our approach to leveraging partnerships to expand our concept of "visitors" and enhance Canadians' access to energy literacy has been recognized for its innovativeness and impact.

## CURATOR'S CORNER

The Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation has recently acquired a collection of archival documents and artifacts from Domtar Inc. Among 20 000 pieces, there are hundreds of important artifacts that tell the story of Chaudière Islands and early water power production in the Ottawa area. This extensive collection will soon be made accessible to the public through the Museum Library. It is already attracting considerable attention from students of the history of science and technology.

## SPONSORS

LET'S TALK ENERGY initiatives are made possible through generous sponsorships, donations, and contributions.

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