

Toronto May 2018

The Toronto Section's May meeting co-organized by Peter Armstrong and Tony Meerakker was held on 23 May at Ontario Place Cinesphere. The Cinesphere was the first IMAX screen in a multiseat theatre environment. The Section was honored with the attendance of Patricia and David Keighley, IMAX chief quality officer gurus, and Denis Tremblay, senior research scientist also from IMAX. Three of Toronto's societies were also represented: SMPTE, the Audio Engineering Society, and Canadian Society of Cinematographers (CSC). The outstanding number of 234 registered attendees included 105 from SMPTE, 58 from AES, 36 from CSC, and 35 friends. Patricia and David Keighley provided a history of IMAX and display technologies. Tremblay discussed audio technologies at IMAX; Glenn Shaver, Ontario Place, Manager of Transformation, spoke of the renovation side of the Cinesphere transformation; and Nancy Rowland, Ontario Place general manager, spoke of the current Ontario Place revitalization



Audience shot.

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Ontario Place Cinesphere venue and evening sponsors.

CREATED BY TONY MEERAKKER

plans. Cinesphere offers a unique and immersive IMAX theatre experience for the screening of films in digital laser and 70-mm film technologies. After the meeting, Cinesphere showed the 70-mm, 18-min IMAX film *North of Superior*, originally released in 1971.

—Tony Meerakker, Past Chair

Toronto June 2018

The Toronto Section's June meeting co-organized by Shawn Kelly and Tony Meerakker was held at Global Television Studios on 12 June. The evening started off with the Toronto Section year-end BBQ event. This outdoor event offered a great venue (weather cooperated), great food, and a perfect setting for networking with other SMPTE members. Eamon Zekkou, Global TV, Manager Broadcast Operations, and Chris Bott, Global TV, Manager News Technology, were the presenters at the

meeting. They spoke of the history of the facility, its recent evolution, and how technology is powering dramatic change in newsgathering. Global News has been deploying innovative new workflows to drive production efficiencies enabling content creation at a reasonable cost, and in pursuit of their goal of being "digital first." By allowing content to be published online before broadcast, consumers are able to access the news when and where they want.

—Tony Meerakker, Past Chair



Presenters Eamon Zekkou and Chris Bott.

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Mark Schubin presenting the Keynote address at the Toronto Technical Conference.

Toronto Technical Conference June 2018

The Toronto Section held its Toronto Technical Conference (TTC) 2018 at the George Vari Engineering

and Computing Centre, Ryerson University, on 13–14 June. The two-day event, themed “Technologies for Storytelling,” also included a tradeshow event component with 21 companies participating in showing

new technologies and providing hands-on experiences for attendees. Takeaway numbers from the event included 22 papers (from VR to IMF to IP-related topics), 160 registered attendees, including 81 SMPTE members, 15 new members, 21 presenters (three of which were remote presentations), three students, and 32 sponsors.

The Section would like to acknowledge the following chairpersons who participated in the event.

- Organizer Chair—Tony Meerakker
- Papers Chair—Leigh Whitcomb/ Paul Briscoe
- Catering Chair—Sylvia Fantin/ Craig Jasman
- Registration Chair—Nadia Aftab/Tony Meerakker
- Tradeshow Chair—Reid Robertson/Shawn Kelly
- Sponsor Chair—Sylvia Fantin/ Stosh Durbacz

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Trade Show event at the Toronto Technical Conference.

- Promo Chair—Andrew Thomas/
Peter Armstrong
- Artwork/PR material—Peter
Armstrong/Tony Meerakker
- Ryerson Liaison—Richard
Grunberg

Washington, D.C. Bits By The Bay May 2018

Once again, the Washington, D.C. Section hosted its regional technical conference, Bits By The Bay, an event that draws standing-room-only crowds to this small resort community on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay and features some of the leading television industry figures as presenters. The conferences have been a regular event for nearly a decade and attract attendees from up and down the U.S. East Coast and other locations.

The 23–24 May event featured about two dozen presentations, panel discussions, and keynote addresses involving top broadcast and data communication industry officials. This year's program focused on a range of contemporary topics, including video-over-IP/implementation of IP technology within the broadcast plant, migration to cloud-based operations, media supply chain concepts, high dynamic range video, artificial intelligence (AI), and more.

The social side of things was not neglected either, with luncheons, dinners, cocktail and ice cream parties, a crab feast, and a pre-conference social event. Attendees this year numbered more than 150, completely filling the



TTC Committee Chairs (L–R): Paul Briscoe, Leigh Whitcomb, Andrew Thomas, Richard Grunberg, Reid Robertson, Sylvia Fantin, Stosh Durbacz, Tony Meerakker. Absent—Craig Jasman, Nadia Aftab, Shawn Kelly.



ET Canada—Studio tour.



Conference producer Rick Singer welcomes attendees at the opening of the 2018 Bits By The Bay event.



Conference presenters (L-R) Henry Goodman, Karl Paulsen, Thomas Gunkel, and John Mailhot grouped together for a Q & A session on broadcast facility IP-connectivity.



Mark Schubin provided his close-up and personal views of the NAB Show.

meeting room at the event's long-time host facility, the Chesapeake Beach Resort and Spa.

Informal conference activities began on Tuesday evening, with a social gathering and meal at the nearby home of one of the organizers, SMPTE Membership Vice President Peter Wharton. A springtime rain didn't put a damper on the fun, food, fellowship, and live music, but it did provide guests with a brilliant double rainbow seen to advantage from Wharton's clifftop dwelling.

The technical conference properly began early the next day with a welcome and recognition of Section Managers and other officers by Section Chair Tom Hackett and a greeting from the former mayor of Chesapeake Beach and SMPTE member Bruce Wahl. Section member and conference producer Rick Singer then provided a review of

the conference program and recognized those who helped to make the event possible.


First on the program agenda was a "supersession" on studio video-over-IP, consisting of eight IP-related presentations that spanned everything from IP fabric to monitoring within an all-IP facility and case studies of IP-based broadcast facilities.

NAB Show Review and a Special Tribute

The afternoon's activities opened with a review of the 2018 NAB Show, as seen through the eyes of Mark Schubin, media historian and proprietor of the "Schubin Cafe" website. This was followed by additional video-over-IP and HDR presentations, wrapped up with a tribute to long-time industry figure and SMPTE



Karl Kuhn provided an in-depth look at precision time protocol during day one of the events.

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Washington, D.C., Section members James O'Neal (center) and Peter Wharton (right) engage Larry Thorpe in conversation about his career during the first day of conference events.



More than 150 conference attendees packed the host facility's meeting room.



An outdoor beach party dinner with crab cakes and steak has become a tradition at Bits By The Bay.

Senior Fellow, Larry Thorpe, in the form of a “A Conversation With Larry Thorpe,” in which he was prompted to speak about his long career in video camera and optical technologies by Peter Wharton and James O’Neal. Evening activities included a cocktail reception and a beach party dinner.

The second day of the conference included a second “supersession” devoted to the media supply chain, AI, and wrapped up with a panel discussion and Q & A session with industry experts Peter Wharton, Karl Paulsen, John McCoskey, Gary Olson, Jason Pauquin, Renard Jenkins, and Rob Goldheim, fielding inquiries from the audience on studio video-over-IP, high dynamic range video, and media chain adoption.

The Bits ByThe Bay conference has roots extending more than 30 years to an annual engineering conference jointly organized by the Washington, D.C., Section and another D.C. area engineering group, the Washington Executive Broadcast Engineers.

The Section would like to acknowledge the support of the following Bits By The Bay sponsors who helped to make this year’s conference possible: AC Video Solutions; Arista; Aspera; Avid; Amazon Web Services; Calrec; Canon; Chesapeake Systems; Cisco Systems; Clear-Com; Communications Engineering, Inc.; Comrex; Dalet; Data Video; Digital Video Group; Diversified; Eagle Hill; Ericsson; Evertz; Floral Systems; Grass Valley Group, A Belden Brand; Imagine Communications; JVC; Quantum; Ooyala; Sony; Tedral; Tektronix; Telestream; and Veritone.

—James E. O’Neal,
Section Manager

