

Records show the last Countertorque was well over a year ago in October 2020; although I did prepare the Annual Report in April 2021 for the Annual meeting, and this was circulated to the membership with the Minutes. It has continued to be unusual times for the Central Canada Branch as it has been for all organisations and individuals. As a result, this issue of Countertorque will be unusually short.

The Committee has continued to meet on Zoom on a regular basis at approximately 6 weekly intervals with a break over the summer months. The meetings too have been unusually short because we have not been in a position to organize meetings where we could expect a reasonable attendance, plant tours have been out of the question. The Committee has met to review the situation with regards to the covid 19 pandemic and in the hope that one of these days we will be able to return to something normal.

We have continued to maintain contact with the Novotel, North York where we have held events and meetings in recent years. Last September it began to look as if conditions might have allowed us to hold our Festive Dinner and Lecture in early December, Dr Gary Elfstrom was contacted, and he confirmed he was still available to give a talk on "Wind Tunnels:

the need and their development"; the presentation he was prepared to give two years ago. On final review the Committee decided it was still too soon to expect members to attend such an event. As things have turned out this was the right decision, given the new Omicron variant.

There is very little else to report at this time. The Institution of Mechanical Engineers have a new CEO, Dr. Alice Bunn who started at HQ in July 2021. I wrote to her on behalf of the Central Canada Branch welcoming her and wishing her success in her new position. This type of information is always available on the IMechE website.

Followers of the IMechE website will also know about FREE WEBINARS offered. The CCB Committee have discussed the possibility of offering our own online events, but we do not really have the resources and the participation is expected to be low. I welcome members to join our Zoom Committee meetings if they have any questions for us, or any suggestions as to how we may proceed as the pandemic drags on. Alternatively, you may simply like to meet the Committee after such a long time without regular meetings or plant tours. If you are interested in this then please e-mail the Hon. Secretary, Phil Apperly at

[ccanadasec@imechenearyou.org](mailto:ccanadasec@imechenearyou.org)

We will then send you a link to join the meeting. It will not be necessary to stay for whole meeting. We in turn would be interested to meet Central Canada members even though it will only be on Zoom.

In conclusion, I must thank all the Branch officers, particularly our Hon. Secretary, Phil Apperly and our Hon. Treasurer Peter Dennis who have served the Branch with dedication and perseverance during these difficult times. Other CCB committee members have also contributed in many ways over this period.

Two items of note at this time: The world's most expensive telescope, the James Webb, is on its way to a parking orbit one and a half million kilometers away from earth, always on the opposite side to the sun, with some vital Canadian technology onboard, and the IMechE's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which coincides with the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> (platinum) Anniversary as monarch and as patron of the Institution.

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