



SuperScript

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SuperScript is the official newsletter of the Alberta Community of the Society for Technical Communication and is published 10 times a year. The editors welcome submissions and advertising that will be of interest to our members. If you have an idea for an article or if you have an advertising enquiry, please contact us.



President's Message

The news is full of stories about change: climate change, Alberta energy royalty change, Federal GST change, Canadian dollar value change. Of course, if everything stayed the same, there would be nothing to report! [Read more ...](#)

~ Lucille Worone, President

New Heights News

Mark your calendar! The 2008 New Heights seminar will take place April 11 at the Hotel Arts in Calgary. Dr. Saul Carliner, an internationally known expert on e-learning, information design, and technical communication will present on information design. [Read more ...](#)

~ Nicole Foss, New Heights Coordinator

Edmonton's Networking Bonk (yes, bonk)

On November 15th, Edmonton STC held a networking wine and cheese event at local member Jenny Nelson's house in historic Oliver. It was a rollicking time, involving a revealing bingo game, a little word-sleuthing, and some fine guitar picking. [Read more ...](#)

~ Jennie Nelson, STC Member (Edmonton)

Membership News

In September, the Alberta Community gained six members, bringing the membership count to 224.

Welcome to our new student member, Vikki Shephard, from Edmonton.

~ Deirdre O'Riain, Membership Coordinator

Pub Night!

Our annual pub night will be held on Thursday January 17th. What started out as an evening where a few STC members gathered to share war stories over a pint or two has grown into an event that attracts 15 to 20 members. [Read more ...](#)

Software for Sale

It's a bargain! STC Alberta has some older versions of software that we no longer use. Please [see here for details](#).

“A deadline is negative inspiration. Still, it’s better than no inspiration at all.” ~ *Rita Mae Brown, writer and activist*

The next SuperScript deadline is December 14. All I want for Christmas is a sack of SuperScript submissions landing in my e-mail inbox! Articles, quips, tips, news about news groups, photos, discussion topics ... pass along whatever you think might be of interest to the STC community.

Please send submissions to me at newsletter@stc-alberta.org. Or pop them down my chimney.

~ *Carmen Wyatt, SuperScript Editor*

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The Alberta Chapter newsletter, *SuperScript*, is published ten times a year, with double issues in December/January and July/August. *SuperScript* presents feature articles from inside the Chapter and out, program and events calendar, profiles, tips and tricks to improve your skills, and important contact information. [Contact our SuperScript Editors](#), with any comments, stories, technical tips, book reviews, advertisements, or questions. [>> Previous editions.](#)

STC Alberta News and Updates — November 2007

President's Message

Lucille Worone, President, STC Alberta

The news is full of stories about change: climate change, Alberta energy royalty change

Federal GST change, Canadian dollar value change. Of course, if everything stayed the same, there would be nothing to report!

Change also seems to be taking place in the Alberta market for technical communicators, in the past month or so—many in this sector are noticing a reduction in the number of new positions and contract opportunities.

It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.—Charles Darwin

How do you become responsive to change? A good start would be to change your thinking—rather than fear change, accept that change is inevitable, and recognize that new opportunities will emerge. The second step is to be prepared to take on these new opportunities.

STC Alberta offers many avenues for professional and personal development with educational programs throughout the year. On the personal level, STC Alberta offers the opportunity to network with other technical communicators. By becoming actively involved in creating the Chapter's events and activities, you have the opportunity to develop technical, organizational, and project management skills in an environment that is supportive and collaborative. (Especially valuable if your workplace is not!).

In a time of drastic change it is the learners who inherit the future. The learned usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists.—Eric Hoffer

Who are you—learner or learned? More importantly: who do you plan to be tomorrow?

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Software for Sale

STC Alberta has some older versions of software that we no longer use.

- Adobe Acrobat version 5.0 (\$20 or best offer) - Upgrade to Adobe 8.0 for \$99 US from this version.
- Adobe PageMaker 6.5 Plus (\$20 or best offer) - Upgrade to PageMaker 7.0 for \$79 US or to Adobe InDesign for \$199 US

Please contact Ruth Maryniuk at pastpresident@stc-alberta.org before November 30, 2007. Highest bid takes it. If there is more than one high offer, the first one received at that price will be accepted.

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New Heights News



Mark your calendar! The 2008 New Heights seminar will take place April 11 at the Hotel Arts in Calgary. Dr. Saul Carliner, an internationally known expert on e-learning, information design, and technical communication will present on information design.

Dr. Carliner has extensive industry experience and is an assistant professor of educational technology at Concordia University, where he teaches courses on human performance technology, qualitative research, the management of educational technology units, educational evaluation, and adult education. His research interests include emerging genres of online communication and learning for the workplace, means of assessing the productivity, effectiveness, and business performance of workplace content, and informal learning in a variety of contexts.

Dr. Carliner chairs the Advisory Board for the Institute for Democratic Learning for Career Education and is a member of the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance. He also serves on the editorial boards of *The Canadian Journal of Learning and Technology*, *Information Design and Document Design Journal*, and *Performance Improvement Quarterly*.

Topic	Information Design
Date	Friday, April 11, 2008
Register	<p>New -- Register before February 15 and save!!!!</p> <p>Register early to take advantage of a special discount.</p> <p>Registration begins in January, after the course outline has been confirmed.</p> <p><i>STC Alberta members:</i> Registration before February 15: \$150 Regular registration: \$175</p> <p><i>STC Alberta student members:</i> Registration before February 15: \$75 Regular registration: \$100</p> <p><i>Non-STC Alberta members:</i> Registration before February 15: \$250 Regular registration: \$300</p>

The 2008 New Heights seminar will be held only in Calgary. STC members who live

more than 100 km from Calgary will receive a 20 per cent discount on their registration.



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The distance between Edmonton and Calgary makes it impossible for most STC members in the Edmonton area to attend many chapter meetings. Consequently, some years ago, the Edmonton members decided to form a subgroup within the chapter.

The Edmonton group meets about six times a year (approximately every two months between September and May). We sometimes meet to discuss technical communication issues, sometimes to conduct technical communication workshops, oftentimes to just chat. If you're an Edmonton area STC member, then consider coming out to our meetings.

For more information about the Edmonton group within the Alberta Chapter STC contact the [Edmonton Liaison](#).

News & Events

Edmonton's Networking Bonk

- *Jenny Nelson, STC Member (Edmonton)*

On November 15th, Edmonton STC held a networking wine and cheese event at local member Jenny Nelson's house in historic Oliver. Eight intrepid long-term STCers showed up to work the net: Jenny, Marcia Wright, Angela Wiens, Hugh Read, Rick Paisley, Serena Beck, Deanne Wilson, and Elaine Elrod. Melissa Di Natale almost made it, but was stuck, at the last minute, coaching a high school dance team, instead.



Clockwise from left: Rick Paisley, Jenny Nelson, Angela Wiens, Hugh Read, Marcia Wright, Serena Beck, Elaine Elrod, and Deanne Wilson.

The event got off to a rollicking start with an icebreaking bingo game where two teams competed to see who could fill up the most squares on their card. Each square asked a writing-related question such as "Who has worked with a printing press?" or "Who has written dark and disturbing fiction?" or even "Who has written off his or her car?" Who knew three people in our group had been written anonymous love letters? Or more than one person had worked with a printing press. No one, however, owned up to having written a letter to Penthouse. Some of us, however, had our suspicions...

Following the bingo, many topics were discussed with boisterous enthusiasm - none having anything to do with our profession, however, despite Jenny's intentions. Angela educated us about a word none of us knew could apply to the sort of situation she described. We listened as she told us about a kayaking trip her family took in the Broken Islands off the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Angela's husband, while paddling his kayak, became very ill and "bonked." A stunned silence befell our group. "He did *what* while ill in his kayak?" Apparently, Angela assured us, this term can be applied to a state of unresponsiveness when one becomes seriously ill. Dictionaries were pulled out, websites were perused, all in search of the elusive term, "bonk" which several of us knew only, like its cousin "boink," as a term somewhat more salacious in nature. In the end, we took her word for it. The rest of the evening's conversation, however, was peppered with thinly veiled references to the word's baser side.

Elaine sobered the group by pointing out that Melissa Di Natale was unfortunately leaving her post as Edmonton liaison, and asked us to decide what we should do about this. Not one of us threw up his or her arm in a fit of volunteerism. For the remainder of the year, then, we've decided to hold ad hoc events and use Angela Wiens' name and email as a contact point between the Calgary and Edmonton groups.

With the evening's business out of the way, some of the group yawned and turned in for the night. The stalwart partiers, however, were still in for a treat when two guitars were brought out and placed in Hugh's and Glenn's (Jenny's partner and, as it turns out, an erstwhile technical writer) hands. Both being talented players and singers, they wound the evening down on a great folk/bluegrass sing-along note. Perhaps our next report will include news of our new Edmonton STC band: Manual Overdrive. Or maybe it'll be Jimmy Pagebreak and the White Outs. Stay tuned...



From left: Glenn Smith, Angela Wiens, Hugh Read



Social Events

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STC Alberta holds social events a few times a year. This gives our members a chance to relax and get caught up on what other members have been doing. They also provide an opportunity for non-members to meet some of our people and find out if the STC would be an appropriate organization for them to join. Edmonton members often hold their own social events. Refer to the [Edmonton](#) page for details.

Pub Night : Thursday, January 17

Our annual pub night will be held on Thursday January 17. What started out as an evening where a few STC members gathered to share war stories over a pint or two has grown into an event that attracts 15 to 20 members.

While it is great to visit with the people you know("sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name"), it's also valuable to meet new people. Following on the success of Pub Night 2007, we will again to have a brief and fun icebreaker activity to get the conversations started.



When	Thursday, January 17, 2008 From 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Where	Banshee Room (downstairs) Ceili's Irish Pub and Restaurant 803-8th Ave SW
Register	Please RSVP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By e-mail • Register online



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STC Alberta Activities

Check out our [Programs](#), [Workshops](#), [Coffee Nights](#), [Administrative Meetings](#), and [Social Events](#) for an opportunity to meet & greet, learn a tool or skill, or further develop your technical and writing expertise.

The calendar shown below outlines upcoming Alberta Chapter events. These events, unless otherwise stated, are held in Calgary. Please see our [Edmonton](#) page for a listing of "Upcoming Events" in that city.

2008 Upcoming Events

January 17	Pub Night @ Ceili's Irish Pub and Restaurant
April 11	New Heights Seminar : Information Design Presenter: Dr. Saul Carliner, an internationally known expert on e-learning, information design, and technical communication will present on information design.

Throughout the year, STC Alberta presents a wide variety of opportunities to learn, share and to become involved in the field of technical communication. Through workshops, social events and regular meetings we endeavour to:

- Present the latest information regarding theory and practice of technical communication
- Provide opportunities to learn and experiment with new tools and techniques
- Open up opportunities to network by meeting and exchanging ideas with fellow STC members
- Provide on-the-job training and opportunities to share your skills through our mentoring program.

Register in advance for all Programs and Workshops through our [online registration page](#).

Note: When space is limited, preference is given to current STC members.