

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

Jessie Channey, President

We kicked off 2009 to a great start with our Brewster's Pub Night January 21 with 29 members and non-members alike. Our Salary Survey Manager, Helen Lansdell, pre-released a portion of our results and eagerly solicited thoughts and feedback. The economic topic was a hit with many people discussing what they've experienced in the market. [Read more ...](#)

Salary Survey Results!

Helen Lansdell, Salary Survey Manager

The STC Alberta Chapter Salary Survey results are in! Check out the 2008 reports posted on our website under Publications. Here's a sampling of what you'll find:

- Full-time employees reported a median salary of \$64,000 in 2008, a 4.9% increase from 2007.
- The median hourly rate for contractors/consultants in 2008 was \$70, an 11% increase from 2007.

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to those STC Alberta members who took the time to participate in this survey. [Read more ...](#)

New Heights news

Mellissa Ruryk, New Heights Manager

Is this New Heights Workshop for me? Are you:

- needing to move your documentation from paper to online but aren't familiar with any authoring tools?
- writing the same online content over and over with minor variations for different user audiences?
- having to create online content using DITA but are nervous about migrating to a completely new authoring tool for DITA?
- considering migrating from a help authoring tool to a CMS but aren't sure what to expect?
- curious if a CMS costs a lot of money?

- wondering what the heck DITA is anyway?

Then this New Heights workshop is for you! [Read more ...](#)

New Year's Career Resolutions: Setting Professional Goals for 2009 (December 2008)

Elaine Balych, B.A., CCDP

Coordinator, Career Education/Career Development

Career Services, Mount Royal College

Once again, it's the time of year where most of us wistfully look back on our lives: what we've accomplished, what has eluded us and whether we're on track with our own expectations. For most of us, thoughts quickly turn to the future and we resolve to make a fresh start on specific actions to again move forward. Typically, career related resolutions rank high on many people's New Year's Resolution lists. With recent developments in the economy, it is hard not to reflect on what you've done, what alternatives may be worth considering, and looking beyond the turbulence to where you'd like your career to go. [Read more ...](#)

March Program – Playing With Change: Videogames, the Gamer Generation and Technical Communications in the early 21st Century.

Rosalinda Hernandez, Program Manager

Some observers claim that a defining characteristic of younger workers is their engagement with the medium of videogames. Like television and the world wide web before them, videogames are argued to be changing how younger people interact with peers, co-workers and supervisors. This presentation will outline the challenges that the so-called Gamer Generation poses for technical communicators who may be involved in designing learning materials and offer reflections on what the real challenges of videogames are in the workplace and society.

[Read more ...](#)

April Program – Thinking About Going Independent? Things to Consider...

Rosalinda Hernandez, Program Manager

Intrigued by the thought of going independent? Controlling your destiny? Schedule? No more office politics? No more commuting? (Maybe...) It sounds good. And it can be. But what's really involved in becoming independent? Do you have the psychology for it? The discipline and drive? Many people don't, and try to go independent when they shouldn't. [Read more ...](#)

Landing That First REAL Job after Graduation (June 2008)

Melody Choboter, CCDP Coordinator,

Career & Graduate Development

Career Services, Mount Royal College

Graduation has arrived you are all grown up and ready to begin your career! For some new graduates the thought of landing that first career related job can be a little daunting. The good news is your chances of securing a job upon graduation are excellent. Today is the healthiest job market in years, according to many of the employers who are actively recruiting graduates

from the Class of 2008. [Read more ...](#)

Free Training Webinars

Sharon Burton, former STC Chapter President

MadCap Software is offering free tool-independent webinars. In this economy, everyone needs to make sure their skills are up to date and they're current on the latest topics. [Read more ...](#)

Second Annual STC Sing-along

Serena Beck, STC Alberta Member

On Tuesday, December 16, 2008, Jenny and Deanne hosted the second annual STC sing-along holiday party.

The evening started with chit chat and fine wine, cheese and other delectable goodies. Half of the attendees were employees from Haemonetics (including all four of the company's technical writers and one STG member), and the others either worked together at Saville or were former STC liaisons. We determined that out of the group Hugh has been an STC member for the longest. [Read more ...](#)

Quotable Quote

"Write drunk; edit sober." — Ernest Hemingway

SuperScript Newsletter News

Alex Kelly, Editor

Thanks to those who have sent along their or others' articles for this edition! We welcome your submissions and feedback to newsletter@stc-alberta.org.

For the next edition, submit your fabulous and interesting technical communication-related: articles, links, pictures and quotes by **Wednesday, March 11**.

[SuperScript Archives](#) | [Events](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [STC Alberta](#) | [STC.org](#)



SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

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 Editor](#), with any comments, stories, technical tips, book reviews, advertisements, or questions. [>> Previous editions.](#)

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President's Message

Jessie Channey, President, STC Alberta

We kicked off 2009 to a great start with our Brewster's Pub Night January 21 with 29 members and non-members alike. Our Salary Survey Manager, Helen Lansdell, pre-released a portion of our results and eagerly solicited thoughts and feedback. The economic topic was a hit with many people discussing what they've experienced in the market. During the past few months of global instability, some attendees had seen job losses in both their workplace and families, and yet others had secured new jobs. The overall opinion is Calgary still has jobs, however, companies are simply being more cautious before filling those roles. On a cheerful note, some believe Calgary's downturn will be shortlived. During times like these, one of the key benefits of STC membership includes access to "inside" referrals as not all jobs are posted on the mainstream job sites. Some jobs are posted exclusively on the STC Alberta jobline, and sometimes we pass on the word verbally to people we know through our STC network.

Expanding your skills with management experience boosts any resume. The executive accepted the proposal to rename our "Coordinators" to "Managers." STC Alberta, being a volunteer organization, is reliant upon well-organized individuals who make time to go the "extra mile" for the society. In the process, we have opportunities to learn valuable leadership skills and build our careers. And your involvement doesn't have to be major. For example, we're currently seeking a Membership Manager, a position requiring only 2-3 hours a month. This position is responsible for managing two email lists ensuring all members receive STC Alberta messages. Please contact me at president@stc-alberta.org if you are interested in filling this important role for our chapter or have any further questions.

Remember to check out our upcoming events! See our [Programs](#) page for more information.

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Salary Survey Results!

Helen Lansdell, Salary Survey Manager

The STC Alberta Chapter Salary Survey results are in! Check out the 2008 reports posted on our website under [Publications](#):

- *Full-time Employees, and*
- *Consultants/Contractors and Part-time Employees.*

Here's a sampling of what you'll find:

- Full-time employees reported a median salary of \$64,000 in 2008, a 4.9% increase from 2007.
- The median hourly rate for contractors/consultants in 2008 was \$70, an 11% increase from 2007.
- Part-time communicators, however, reported an average salary of \$34 per hour, a 5.9% decrease from 2007.
- Fewer respondents reported receiving benefits this year, and the range of benefits offered is shrinking. Is it the economy? Review the results and see what you think.
- A major trend was reversed in this year's results - for the first time in the history of the survey! What was it? Check out the reports to find out!

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to those STC Alberta members who took the time to participate in this survey. Thanks also to Past President, Lucille Worone, whose previous salary survey experience helped immensely, current President, Jessie Channey, whose guidance saw the project through, and to all who contributed thoughtful suggestions on Pub Night. Your feedback ensures the survey will continue to evolve over time to better meet your needs providing topical, regional data costly to obtain otherwise.

You may also be interested in recently announced results in a related (non-STC affiliated) [Salary Survey](#). The WritersUA Survey provides a look at the factors contributing to higher salaries in the software user assistance community.

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New Year's Career Resolutions: Setting Professional Goals for 2009 (December 2008)

*Elaine Balych, B.A., CCDP
Coordinator, Career Education/Career Development
Career Services, Mount Royal College*

<http://www.mtroyal.ca/careerservices/graduates/enewsletter.shtml#resolutions>

Once again, it's the time of year where most of us wistfully look back on our lives: what we've accomplished, what has eluded us and whether we're on track with our own expectations. For most of us, thoughts quickly turn to the future and we resolve to make a fresh start on specific actions to again move forward. Typically, career related resolutions rank high on many people's New Year's Resolution lists. With recent developments in the economy, it is hard not to reflect on what you've done, what alternatives may be worth considering, and looking beyond the turbulence to where you'd like your career to go.

If you do not enjoy the thought of time consuming formal self assessment and creating long career to-do lists, you're not alone. Below are a number of simple strategies you can choose from and personalize to start fresh, get unstuck or boost your career trajectory.

1. Look at who you are today. When was the last time you 'checked in' with your career goals? Things change – ourselves and the world around us. As a result, our

career plan needs to be updated regularly. It is an undeniable truth that what we find satisfying changes with time and circumstance.

- If you are happy in your company, your work and your industry, identify what is so satisfying and what some next, equally satisfying steps might be.
- If you are less than happy, clarify what it is that your work lacks, what you are missing that you enjoy doing, or what has changed.

2. Review how often you connect with your professional contacts and mentors – both formal and informal. The holidays are a wonderful opportunity to resurrect neglected relationships and strengthen important ones. Former colleagues, employers and instructors may have fresh perspectives on trends or avenues to pursue. Your Mount Royal Career Services offices can provide successful strategies and tools to easily reconnect.

3. Re-research your industry and profession. What are emerging trends? What are the benefits and potential challenges of a changing economy? Who seem to be growing and what future opportunities does that suggest for you? Who are the current industry experts? The up and comers? What changes are they talking about in the next 5-10 years? Compare what you learn with your current competencies and abilities to look for professional development opportunities that are of interest or may be critical to your continued success.

4. Become more active in a professional organization. Are you able to volunteer for an executive position? Sit on a committee? Speak at a conference or event? Publish an article in a journal or newsletter? Active participation improves your knowledge, increases your exposure to people of influence, ultimately increasing opportunities and personal satisfaction.

5. Become more visible at work. Volunteer for a company committee, event or challenging project. Often, these are opportunities to showcase your leadership skills in new or unexpected ways and remind current leaders of your contribution above and beyond your job responsibilities.

6. Update your resume. Whether you are planning to look for new opportunities within or outside of your current company, or want to prepare for the unexpected in these turbulent times, it's a great idea to take stock of your ever-changing skills, achievements and competencies. Target your resume to address what you now know about the needs of your industry. Contact Career Services to gauge how it meets today's expectations.

7. Update yourself professionally. Research and sign up for a class, conference, program or webinar related to your work. Consider what areas you might need to brush up on to help manage your current accountabilities and support next-step goals.

8. Get organized for dealing with interruptions that routinely cross your desk. Are your files (paper or electronic) no longer serving you well? De-clutter, archive and reorganize to boost your spirit and productivity. Do you find phone calls and e-mails take you off track? Schedule a specific designated time slot daily to attend to these, freeing up blocks of time for other projects.

9. Expand your horizons. Read books, take a class, attend a retreat or try out a new hobby outside your professional realm. Often, new opportunities and insights are recognized while engaging ourselves in new ways.

10. Plan your implementation and celebration. Write down your SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-specific) goal(s) for each of resolution. Prioritize them. Identify a personal reward you will give yourself to celebrate each step in your success - big and small. Keep your prioritized list where you will be inspired by them at least daily.

Have a Happy New Year!

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Landing That First REAL Job after Graduation (June 2008)

Melody Choboter, CCDP

Coordinator, Career & Graduate Development

<http://www.mtroyal.ca/careerservices/graduates/enewsletter.shtml#Landing>

Graduation has arrived you are all grown up and ready to begin your career! For some new graduates the thought of landing that first career related job can be a little daunting. The good news is your chances of securing a job upon graduation are excellent. Today is the healthiest job market in years, according to many of the employers who are actively recruiting graduates from the Class of 2008.

According to 'Job Outlook 2008', an annual survey of college recruiters, employers plan to hire 16 percent more college graduates in 2007-08 than they did in 2006-07.

Even though employers are interested in and optimistic about hiring graduates, sitting back and waiting for an employer to find you can be a major career blunder. If you want to be employed in your field and with the right job you will need to put in the effort.

Today employers are looking for more than a glowing academic record; they want employees who will provide outcomes as well as, employees who fit the team.

Top Qualities/Skills Employers Want:

- Communication skills
- Strong work ethic
- Teamwork skills (works well with others)
- Initiative
- Interpersonal skills (relates well to others)
- Problem-solving skills
- Analytical skills
- Flexibility/adaptability
- Computer skills

'Top Qualities/Skills Employers Want'

National Association of College Employers - Job Outlook 2008

Unfortunately, the top qualities employers value today, they find lacking in many new graduates. Specifically, employers say new graduates tend to lack face-to-face communication skills. Interview, presentation, telephone and interpersonal skills are also considered absent in new graduates. By demonstrating these skills during an interview you will have an advantage in the hiring process.

Tips to Jumpstart Your Career after College Graduation

Research - Why is it we invest more time researching the latest technical gadget on the market than we do in our own career? It is crucial to take time to investigate industry trends, and companies in your field of interest along with, each position you are applying to. Check out websites, read newsletters, magazines and company profiles. Your research today could be the best career investment you'll ever make!

Customize Marketing Materials - Do not adopt a one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to developing your marketing materials. Tailor each resume and cover letter to the particular opportunity, and try to obtain the name of the hiring manager so you can personalize your cover letter. Customizing your marketing materials and doing a little detective work will go a long way in helping you stand out.

Create Personalized Business Cards - Personal business cards are a great way to pass on information about yourself when you first meet someone. Include your basic contact information, also a few of the primary skills you can offer, and links to any sites you have created for yourself, such as a digital portfolio.

Spring Clean your Social Networks - You've heard it before, but let me reiterate how important it is to maintain a professional appearance on Facebook and MySpace. It doesn't matter if your profile is set to private, you should still take pride in the image you are portraying. Remove any images that could cost embarrassment or worse your job and/or an offer if viewed by future employers.

Network, Network, Network - Take inventory of the people you know; connections you've made, and future connections you would like to make. Consider doing a mind map that lists all of your contacts including (volunteering, social clubs, associations, special projects, job fairs, school events and employment). Begin to network at every opportunity that arises; this will help connect you to prospective employers and future employment opportunities.

Put your Experience to Work - Don't short change yourself; find the value gained from all your experiences (volunteering, internships, work, committees and memberships, education/academic projects). Take stock of the transferable skills you acquired/honed from these experiences, include them in your resume and share specific results achieved during interviews.

Prepare for Interviews - Remember you don't have a second chance to make a first impression. Do your research (company / position / location), dress for success, practice your handshake. Make certain you can support the claims you made in your resume, and be prepared to show proof of your competencies. Interviews can be nerve wracking. Preparation is the key to a successful interview therefore, practice, practice, and more practice.

Make a Plan - You've heard it before, once you graduate the real work begins. Looking for a job is a full-time job. Take some time to identify where you are today, and where you want to be in one month, six months, and one year. Goal setting includes; writing out a plan of action, include what you want to achieve by when. Your plan should be specific, measurable and realistic. If you are not where you hoped to be at your check-in point, don't get discouraged. Remember, the best plans are always in transition. Share your action plan with someone you trust, a mentor or coach perhaps, someone who will hold you accountable.

Keep an Open Mind - Attitude can make or break an opportunity. Be prepared to look

outside the box, and ask yourself, "How could this opportunity impact my future?" Some companies may offer all sorts of great incentives, others provide a unique learning experience, and some may offer little in the way of incentives or salary but provide opportunities to advance. Know what is important to you before you attend the interview, as this will give you the upper-hand when it comes time to negotiate your value.

Get Started - You can begin by visiting your College Career Services Centre to get professional assistance in leveraging your career - services range and may include (professional critiques of your marketing materials, interviewing preparation, access to job banks, job search assistance, labor market research and more).

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Free training webinars

Sharon Burton, former STC Chapter President

MadCap Software is offering free tool-independent webinars. In this economy, everyone needs to make sure their skills are up to date and they're current on the latest topics.

Towards that end, MadCap software is running a series of free webinars in first quarter '09. All but one are tool-independent. No sales pitches, no product pitches, just free training to help people update themselves. If these are successful, we'll do more.

It's something we can give back to the community that makes us successful.

For more information and to sign up for one or more free webinar, go to <http://madcapsoftware.com/training/webinars.aspx>

If you're interested in presenting a topic in the future, contact [Sharon Burton](#).

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Second Annual STC Sing-along

Serena Beck

On Tuesday, December 16, 2008, Jenny and Deanne hosted the second annual STC sing-along holiday party.

The evening started with chit chat and fine wine, cheese and other delectable goodies. Half of the attendees were employees from Haemonetics (including all four of the company's technical writers and one STG member), and the others either worked together at Saville or were former STC liaisons. We determined that out of the group Hugh has been an STC member for the longest.

Deanne organized a game of Word Bingo. We sounded like a bunch of comedians while we tried to guess the meaning of each of the words (yes, it's shocking that not all writers know the meaning to all words). For example, "impasto" could have been imitation pasta, but it really has to do with painting. At first we went for one line, then two lines, then a full card to win. We were having so much fun with the words that we decided to keep going until everyone had a full card, after which Deanne kindly

presented each of us with a \$10.00 Second Cup gift card.

Later the party started in earnest. Glenn, Hugh and Aaron broke out the guitars. They strummed, hummed and sang. Angela and Deanne sang back up while playing the maracas and dancing (they are very coordinated). Jenny played the single bongo drum and sang (those singing lessons have really paid off). Janet played the tambourine. Jim and Serena were insistent upon remaining roadies (and were also conveniently located closest to the door—just in case they decided to bolt), but it didn't take long before they joined in the fun. Who says technical writers can't sing?

Thanks to Deanne for organizing a great party. Thanks to Jenny and Glenn for hosting an awesome concert in their living room.

Our first album, "Grammar Sing-alongs," will be released in Summer 2009.

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Last updated: February 23, 2009

Seminar Topic : Using Flare to Single Source Help... Maybe Using DITA... Maybe as A CMS... [\[How to Register\]](#)

MadCap Flare is the newest entry in the help authoring tool market, but its latest features take it beyond traditional online help and documentation authoring to make it:



- a complete authoring environment that supports text-based authoring plus visual authoring, project analysis, user feedback and other useful support features;
- a DITA authoring tool that lets you work in DITA from a familiar environment, without the disruption of having to adopt and learn a new tool, a new format and new ways to work; and
- a CMS “prototyper” that lets you create a make-believe CMS to test how well a real CMS will fit into your company’s workflow, technology and culture.

Workshop Synopsis

In this busy, full day hands-on workshop. You will:

- receive a quick overview of Flare in general and create a little project from scratch;
- look at Flare’s major single sourcing features - conditionality, variables, snippets, variables-in-snippets, conditionalized snippets, and more;
- look at what DITA is, how to use Flare to create material in DITA, **and** how to use Flare to abandon DITA if that’s your preference; and
- look at the features making up a “typical” content management system, see how those features are manifested in Flare and how to use Flare to create a prototype CMS you can use to analyze the impact of adopting a CMS before actually buying one. You may even find that you can use Flare as your real CMS.

B.Y.O. Laptop, & Configuration

Since this is a hands-on workshop, please bring your preconfigured laptop:

- If you have Flare, you’re already 95% of the way there.
- If not, download a trial version from the [MadCap website](#).
Note: don’t download the trial version too early as it expires in 30 days!
- You’ll receive full configuration instructions about a week before the seminar.

Configuration aside, there are no other prerequisites.

About the Presenter

Neil Perlin is the owner and principal consultant of Hyper/Word Services of Tewksbury, Massachusetts. He entered technical writing in 1979, began creating online material in 1985 and is now an internationally recognized expert in online help and documentation design and development. He has provided online documentation training and consulting services for 19 years, is a popular speaker at various technical communication groups and conferences, organized and ran the "Beyond the Bleeding Edge" stem at the STC annual conference from 1999 to 2006, and is a columnist for the STC and IEEE/PCS. Neil is a certified instructor for MadCap Flare and Mimic, and Adobe RoboHelp and Captivate.

New Heights is **Friday April 17, 2009** at the Sheraton Cavalier hotel (32nd Ave. NE & Barlow Trail in Calgary – free parking!) and is open to STC-AB members.

Topic	Information Design
Date	Friday, April 17, 2009
Registration Options	<p>Rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STC Alberta Members: \$250 • STC Alberta Student Members: \$225 <p>Register and pay online via PayPal</p> <p>REGISTER ONLINE AND PAY BY PHONE OR CHEQUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill out our online registration form • E-mail the Registration Coordinator for payment instructions <p><small>*To be eligible for member prices, you must have paid your 2009 STC membership dues and have chosen STC Alberta as your geographical community (chapter).</small></p> <p>The 2009 New Heights seminar will be held only in Calgary. STC members who live more than 100 km from Calgary will receive a 20% registration discount. Please pay the full amount and e-mail the Registration Coordinator to request a refund of the difference.</p>
Cancellation Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancellations received in writing before or on March 21 (three weeks before the seminar) will be refunded the registration fee paid less a \$25 administration fee. • Cancellations received between March 22 and April 4 will be refunded the registration fee paid less a \$50 administration fee • Cancellations will not be accepted after April 4. • Substitutions are permitted, however, if the substitute is not the same membership and geographical category as the original registrant, the difference in cost must be paid

For more information contact [Melissa Ruryk](#).



Last updated: March 17, 2009

Our evening programs offer STC members the opportunity to learn the latest information regarding the theory and practice of technical communication. Take in seminars on topics such as communications theory, Web design, project management, and single-source documentation, led by technical communications experts from our own local community.

Programs are usually in a one to two -hour presentation format. We begin registration at 6:45 PM. Programs run from 7:00 to 8:00 or 9:00 PM.

Confirmed program dates are listed on our [Calendar](#). Please note that advance registration is required for our programs and workshops. To register for a program or workshop, use the [online registration form](#).

March 24 Program: Playing With Change: Videogames, the Gamer Generation and Technical Communications in the early 21st Century.

Some observers claim that a defining characteristic of younger workers is their engagement with the medium of videogames. Like television and the world wide web before them, videogames are argued to be changing how younger people interact with peers, co-workers and supervisors. This presentation will outline the challenges that the so-called Gamer Generation poses for technical communicators who may be involved in designing learning materials and offer reflections on what the real challenges of videogames are in the workplace and society.

Presenter: Dr. Lee Easton

Dr. Lee Easton teaches communication and media theory in the Faculty of Communication Studies at Mount Royal College. He is the Chair of the Department of English, where he teaches film and the graphic novel. He has a special interest in videogames and learning.

Date:	Tuesday March 24, 2009
Time:	Doors open at 6:30, Program from 7:00-9:00 pm
Location:	Calgary Technologies Inc. (CTI) (aka Alastair Ross Technology Center), 3553- 31 Street NW Calgary Alberta Directions: CTI is located in University Research Park. Parking is free anytime after 5:00 p.m. and there are plenty of spots. Visitor parking is marked, and is close to the front door. If you're taking the LRT, get off at the Brentwood station; the CTI is across the parking lot.
RSVP:	Register online or e-mail registration@stc-alberta.org

Program Fees:

- STC Alberta Members: \$10.00
- Student Members: Free
- Non-members: \$15.00

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

Contact

- For more information on programs, e-mail the program coordinator at program@stc-alberta.org

April 15 Program: So you want to be a contractor? Here are some things to consider...

Intrigued by the thought of going independent? In controlling your destiny and schedule? No more office politics, and no more commuting (maybe). It sounds good, and can be-- but what is involved in becoming a contractor? Do you have the psychology for it? The discipline and drive? This presentation discusses key attributes of deciding whether to go independent and how to make it work. Presented by a Technical Communications Entrepreneur with thirty years of experience, this presentation covers:

- Defining yourself - How to determine whether you have the qualities needed to work independently and your strategic definition.
- Selling yourself - How to market and brand yourself, and what not to do.
- Managing yourself - How to manage your operational direction when there is no one to talk to— issues such as sounding boards, family support, and goal setting.
- Psychologically preparing yourself - How becoming independent can eliminate the fear of losing your job.
- Extending yourself - How to keep up in a field that is constantly changing.
- Keeping yourself sane - How to not become overwhelmed by work.

About the Presenter

Neil has 30 years experience in technical communication, which includes over 20 years in training, consulting, and development for various online formats and tools including WinHelp, JavaHelp, WebHelp, RoboHelp, Flare, and many more. He is a columnist and frequent speaker for the STC, IEEE PCS, and other groups. Neil is a member of the STC Boston chapter, the creator and manager of the Beyond the Bleeding Edge stem at STC's annual conference (1999 - 2006), and an Associate Fellow of the STC.

In addition, Neil is Madcap certified for Flare and Mimic and Adobe certified for RoboHelp and Captivate. He provides training, consulting, and development for online help and documentation, Flare, RoboHelp, Captivate, Mimic, XML, single-sourcing, and structured authoring through Hyper/Word Services of Tewksbury, MA. He can be reached at nperlin@concentric.net, or visit his website at www.hyperword.com

Date:	Wednesday April 15, 2009
Time:	Doors open at 6:30, Program from 7:00-9:00 pm
Location:	Calgary Technologies Inc. (CTI) (aka Alastair Ross Technology Center), 3553- 31 Street NW Calgary Alberta Directions: CTI is located in University Research Park. Parking is free anytime after 5:00 p.m. and there are plenty of spots. Visitor parking is marked, and is close to the front door. If you're taking the LRT, get off at the Brentwood station; the CTI is across the parking lot.
RSVP:	Register online or e-mail registration@stc-alberta.org

Program Fees:

- STC Alberta Members: \$10.00
- Student Members: Free
- Non-members: \$15.00

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Contact

- For more information on programs, e-mail the program coordinator at program@stc-alberta.org
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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.

2009 Upcoming Events

March 24	Program: Playing With Change: Videogames, the Gamer Generation and Technical Communications in the early 21st Century This presentation will outline the challenges that the so-called Gamer Generation poses for technical communicators who may be involved in designing learning materials and offer reflections on what the real challenges of videogames are in the workplace and society. Learn more ...
April 15	Program: So you want to be a contractor? Here are some things to consider... Intrigued by the thought of going independent? In controlling your destiny and schedule? No more office politics, and no more commuting (maybe). It sounds good, and can be-- but what is involved in becoming a contractor? Do you have the psychology for it? The discipline and drive? This presentation discusses key attributes of deciding whether to go independent and how to make it work. Learn more ...
April 17	Using Madcap Flare as a Content Management test bed while learning about topic-based, structured writing for single sourcing. Speaker: Neil Perlin Learn more ...

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.



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