

Conference report

GeoSt.John's 2019, Canada

GeoSt.John's 2019, the Canadian Geotechnical Society's 72nd annual conference, was held September 29 - October 2, 2019 in St.John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The conference theme was ***Under Land and Sea***; because of the growth of the offshore oil and gas industry in Atlantic Canada has created many opportunities for the geotechnical community, the conference program highlighted recent achievements in offshore and nearshore geotechnical engineering. Over 500 delegates were in attendance, with over 230 technical papers presented, and many great opportunities for networking and connecting during the three days. The trade show held 45 suppliers, contractors, and consultants; 22 companies sponsored the conference in various ways, including two top-level (Diamond) sponsors: Clifton Associates and Klohn Crippen Berger. This year's Keynote Lectures included:

- **R.M. Hardy Address** - Dr. Ryan Phillips, C-CORE, *Centrifuge Modelling - 'A Mari usque ad Mare'*
- **CGS Colloquium** - Dr. Kathy Kalenchuk, RockEng, *Mitigating a fatal flaw in modern geomechanics: understanding uncertainty, applying model calibration, and defying the hubris in numerical modelling*



Dr Ryan Phillips, C-CORE, receiving recognition for the R.M. Hardy Address from Conference Co-Chair Dr Bipul Hawlader.



Dr Kathy Kalenchuk, RockEng, receiving recognition for the CGS Colloquium from Dr Kevin Biggar, President of the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique

Many award winners were recognized at the CGS Awards Banquet, from young professionals and students, to engineers and geotechnical professionals well-established in their careers. During the Legget Award Luncheon, **Arun Valsangkar**, Professor Emeritus at the University of New Brunswick and former editor of the Canadian Geotechnical Journal, was awarded the **Legget Medal** - the most senior and prestigious CGS award, given for significant lifelong contribution to the geotechnical field in Canada. The CGS introduced its new Early Achievement Award, with its first recipient being **Suzanne Powell** of Thurber Engineering Ltd. and past CGS Vice President Technical (2017-2018). The Dennis Becker MSc. Prize was also presented for the first time, to **Andrea Walsh** of the Department of Civil Engineering at Queen's University.



Professor Arun Valsangkar accepting the Legget Award



Dr. Suzanne Powell, Thurber Engineering Ltd. receiving the Early Achievement Award from CGS President Mario Ruel

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Andrea Walsh, Queen's University, receiving the Dennis Becker MSc Prize. Also pictured from left to right: CGS President Mario Ruel, CGS Student Awards Administrator Dr Ryley Beddoe, Dr Dennis Becker, of the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique and Dr Kevin Biggar, President

The 6th Canadian Young Geotechnical Engineers and Geoscientists Conference (cYGEGC) was held in St. John's from September 26-28, just before GeoSt.John's 2019. The cYGEGC is an event held every three years that gathers students and young professionals from across Canada and beyond. The conference focuses on providing an opportunity to young professionals and students with geotechnical and geosciences backgrounds to meet their peers, exchange technical knowledge and interact with experts in a relaxed environment.



Group photo from Canadian Young Geotechnical Engineers & Geoscientists Conference

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Keynote Speakers at this year's conference included CGS President (2019-2020), **Mario Ruel**; CGS Vice President Finance (2019-2020), Vice-President Engineering and CTO at TREK Geotechnical, **Kent Bannister**; Senior Principal, Geotechnical Engineer at Stantec, **Paul Deering**; Principal geotechnical engineer at BGC Engineering Inc., **Pete Quinn**; Professor & Head at the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Calgary, **Jocelyn Hayley**; and Honorary Research Professor at Memorial University, **Derek Wilton**.

This year's Canadian Geotechnical Conference, **GeoCalgary 2020** will be held in Calgary, Alberta from September 13-16, 2020. Visit www.geocalgary2020.ca for more details. We hope to see you in Calgary this fall!