

Canadian 'Pipemen'

These two gentlemen both come from Calgary, Alberta, Canada - the venue for the 2008 World Plumbing Conference. On the right is Bruce Shafer of Bill's Plumbing and Gas Fitting Limited while on the left is "Pipeman", created by Bruce and his father Bill from an assortment of plumbing products.

Bruce and Bill, who fondly refer to Pipeman as "Junior", spent many hours experimenting with various fittings and pipes before coming up with their very own "apprentice".

Pipeman made his first appearance in 1999 at the Alberta Skills Canada Plumbing competition and has since appeared at many career and trade fairs, on television, posed with beautiful ladies and was even asked by a border official if he had anything to declare!

Our thanks to Hans Tiedemann,



Executive Director of WPC member Mechanical Contractors Association of Alberta for introducing readers of the Review to an innovative promoter of the plumbing trade and skills.

www.mca-alta.com

IAPMO contributes to Codes

A full set of codes for the USA construction industry is being developed jointly by WPC member IAPMO (the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials), the National Fire Protection Association, the Western Fire Chiefs Association and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers. They represent the first full set of codes ever developed through a consensus-based process that is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the administrator and coordinator of the United States private sector voluntary standardisation system.

Russ Chaney, Executive Director at IAPMO and WPC Executive Board member commented, "We're

proud to be one of the partners in this effort to deliver a full set of codes developed through an ANSI-accredited consensus process." Chief Plumbing Inspector for the City of Antonio, USA, Robert Stricker added, "Having a set of codes developed in this way is a tremendous advancement for the code world and public safety. A comprehensive set of consensus codes represents an unparalleled new resource for the public safety community."

As its contribution to the new codes, IAPMO is updating the *Uniform Plumbing Code* and the *Uniform Mechanical Code* through a consensus-based process that is accredited by ANSI. These two codes are the most widely adopted plumbing and mechanical codes in the USA.

www.iapmo.org

UK Alliance

The plumbing and heating industry in the United Kingdom is represented by a number of professional bodies and trade associations. In the past this has led to confusion and an inability to 'speak with one voice' when consulted, for example, in respect of new legislation.



Now the UK industry has the Plumbing and Heating Industry Alliance, representing no less than 23 trade associations, professional bodies, manufacturers' associations, suppliers' associations and other bodies, all of whom are able to retain their individual identities and relationships with their members, while providing a one-stop-shop for the industry as a whole.

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The mission of the World Plumbing Council is to unite the world plumbing industry to safeguard and protect the environment and the health of nations, for the benefit of all. Its objective is to provide and share information regarding research projects and technology that may be applicable to the Plumbing Industry and the people they serve

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"Uniting the world plumbing industry to safeguard and protect the environment and the health of nations"

Johannesburg Earth Summit

Following the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg earlier this year, the World Plumbing Council issued a communiqué "People, Plumbing and Progress", the highlights of which are reproduced below.

People, Plumbing and Progress

The 2002 Johannesburg Earth Summit achieved many positive outcomes including heightened, shared understandings of the environmental challenges and opportunities facing humanity. There was clearly a greater emphasis on actions and results and a higher sense of urgency and commitment than at previous summits. One key feature of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was the increased focus on energy and sanitation issues, which were critical elements of the negotiations.

The Summit also provided important reminders that social, humanitarian, political and economic challenges cannot be separated from environmental actions. This is particularly true when communities grapple with the issue of water. Sanitation and water use are among our greatest challenges socially, ethically, politically and economically – as well as environmentally.

In this context, the World Plumbing Council is delighted to provide this brief communiqué as a response to the Johannesburg 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and to offer our efforts as contributions towards the important targets agreed upon.

The technologies and techniques of the plumbing trade have a crucial role in a wide range of water, waste water and energy use initiatives. Moreover, plumbing skills and competencies offer by far the most cost-effective and environmentally sound opportunity for providing access for all to safe and sustainable water and energy. In particular we are able to offer important expertise in plumbing training, which offers economic, social and environmental benefits over both short and long terms.

As the global umbrella body representing the plumbing industry, we can make a very real contribution to progress on both human and environmental wellbeing. We stand ready and keen to play our role.

Key WSSD Outcomes Relevant to the World Plumbing Council

▣ *Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water (reaffirmation of Millennium Development Goal).*

▣ *Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation.*

▣ *Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005.*

▣ *Recommend to the UN General Assembly that it considers adopting a decade of education for sustainable development, starting in 2005.*

Education, Training and Capacity Building

The World Plumbing Council believes education and training are crucial issues to be addressed if any real, lasting progress is to be made towards sustainable development. Capacity building was clearly recognized at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development as being of major importance. Investing time and resources in education and training is a perfect example of a broad-based capacity building strategy. Education and training develops capacity at both an individual and a community level and it enhances economic capacity while protecting environmental capacity. As a high standard of education training in one generation increases the capacity for increased standards of education and training in subsequent generations, the positive effects are clear in the short term and magnified greatly over the long term.

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Investing in vocational training has a direct impact on a nation's GDP that is on par with the benefits of investment in tertiary education. Raising standards in plumbing correlates directly to increasing the effectiveness of public sanitation systems, reducing the level of water loss and, crucially, to increasing capacity for further improvements on consumption management.

The World Plumbing Council is passionate about the value of education and training and believes that this is an area in which it can make an important contribution to global sustainable development. It has already established relationships with many of the world's leading education and training organisations. WPC members offer world's best practice expertise in professional vocational training and are deeply committed to the principles of lifelong learning for the industry. WPC does not believe any nation has the 'answers', but it does believe that cooperation in collective learning is the best way to improving the way the global community shares water and energy.

Integration of Issues Requires Integration of Solutions

Water use and management practices are closely integrated with economic development and energy use issues. In the past, increases in water use have typically been closely linked with increases in energy use and increases in economic development. The correlation between these only exacerbates global inequality and injustice.

Future development for all nations can only be sustainable if we break this pattern. Truly sustainable development means achieving economic development, especially where it is needed most, without sacrificing efforts to reduce our overall use of water and energy. Plumbing has developed a great deal since it began in Roman times. As well as new water technologies, the plumbing indus-

try now incorporates a range of related expertise in energy use and air quality. The nature and history of plumbing also means it acts as an informal nexus between a range of other fields of expertise including town planning, civil engineering, public sanitation and infrastructure management and all building-related professions. Plumbing is therefore well placed to act as an agent of change and point of social diffusion. The global profile of plumbing professionals may be low but our potential to make a difference to sustainability is enormous.

Plumbing promoted in UK primary schools

They say that you are never too young to start learning! With that in mind, UK-based WPC member organisation, BPEC (Training) Ltd, in conjunction with the Plumbing and Heating Industry Alliance (PHIA) has recently published a Big Book aimed at 5-7 year old primary school children. 'Primary' schools in the UK cater for children aged between 5 and 11 years.

The Big Book is exactly what its name suggests - a very large, illustrated book, designed to be read by teachers to their pupils. It

tells the story of a family who are kept awake at night because of a dripping tap and how, after a failed attempt by the mother of the family to sort the problem, "Peter the Plumber" comes to the rescue. The Big Book is provided with a CD-ROM which contains activities that teachers can print out for use by their pupils.

WPC Executive Board member, Robert Burgon (who is Chairman of the PHIA Education and Training Working Group which managed the project) comments, "The intention of Big Book 1 is to encourage young people to grow up with respect for the importance of the role which the plumber plays in our society. Primary schools in the UK use other 'Big Books' extensively but there was a gap in relation to science and technology.



Peter the Plumber

"This publication has attracted considerable attention from schools and the national media, and we will shortly publish a second Big Book, geared towards older children.

"We are encouraging industry organisations and companies to purchase copies of Big Book 1 for distribution to their local primary schools and we hope that it will result in future generations having a better understanding of our industry than has perhaps been the case in the past."

More details at www.bpec.org.uk

WPC Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the WPC was held in Toronto, Canada at the end of October 2002. 23 delegates attended and a wide range of topics was discussed, including:

- a World Plumbing Council Scholarship aimed at lecturers and trainers - an announcement on this is likely at WorldSkills in Switzerland in June 2003



- an update on the joint WPC/WHO project "Health Aspects of Plumbing"

- a strategic development plan for the future of WPC (see separate story on page 3)

Members of WPC have been circulated with the full Minutes of the meeting.

(left) some of the delegates at the Toronto meeting

WPC strategic development plan

At the WPC annual meeting in October, the Executive Board presented a strategic development plan.

The plan concentrates on nine major areas on which the WPC should concentrate:

- to develop and promote the image and standards of plumbing worldwide

- to encourage the exchange of plumbing-related information, ideas and technology worldwide

- to promote and assist in education and training

- to create awareness of the plumbing industry's role in protecting the environment

- to provide and share information regarding research and technology in plumbing

- to stage and promote a triennial World Plumbing Conference

- to ensure continued growth of WPC membership

- to ensure adequate financing for the WPC

- to appoint an individual or organisation, by March 2005, to manage the affairs of the WPC.

The plan includes provision for the creation of strategic partnerships with other like minded organisations and the establishment of WPC Regional Councils.



Also proposed is a global network of plumbing training organisations and an international water/sanitation symposium.

The possibility of a WPC Training Foundation is to be investigated, while every effort will be made to widen WPC membership and to encourage manufacturers and other organisations to support the work of the WPC.

The annual meeting approved the plan unanimously.

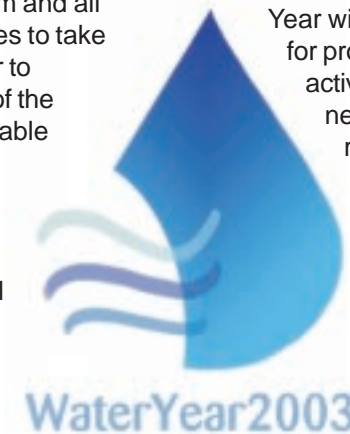
International Year of Freshwater

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater. The resolution encourages Governments, the United Nations system and all other interested parties to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable freshwater use, management and protection. It also calls upon governments, national and international organisations, non-governmental organisations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions and to lend

other forms of support to the Year.

The United Nations says that the International Year of Freshwater provides an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the principles of integrated water resources management. The Year will be used as a platform for promoting existing activities and spearheading new initiatives in water resources at international, regional and national levels.

The International Year of Freshwater is expected to follow up on agreements reached at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg,



Dr John Snow biography

Dr John Snow (1813-1858) was a famous physician, credited with discovering the water-borne link to the transmission of cholera.

The John Snow Society, part of the UK's Royal Institute of Public Health (www.riph.org.uk), has now published a book *Dr John Snow (1813-1858): His Early Years*. Costing £15, post free, it can be ordered from:

Hannah Bourke
John Snow Society
phone +44 (0)20 7291 8359
email hbourke@riph.org.uk



World Water Day 2003

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been charged with co-ordinating the commemoration of World Water Day 2003 on 22 March under the theme *Water for Future*.

September 2002), and should have an impact far beyond the year 2003.

The publication by the United Nations of the World Water Development Report will be a major focus of the Year's public information activities. Its first edition will be launched at the Third World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan in March 2003.

The public information and media strategy will include the elaboration of information materials, brochures and media kits. Educational material for schools, videotapes and documentaries, and an official Website for the Year are also being developed, with assistance from the private sector, NGOs and bilateral donors.