

# NA ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES INC.

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Ontario for more than twenty years.



Photo taken from Bruce Power media release

## cutting the ribbon on bruce power's new fire training facility

In mid-April of this year, Bruce Power celebrated the opening of its new Fire Training Facility, with President and CEO Duncan Hawthorne using the “Jaws of Life” to cut the ribbon and signify the project's completion.

NA Engineering Associates Inc. acted as the Prime Consultant for the Fire Training Facility, leading the project through conceptual design, detailed design, and construction oversight (to the building's completion). The project is one of the most exciting and important buildings we have ever designed.

The Fire Training Facility is one of the most advanced facilities of its kind in the world, and will help provide extensive safety and emergency training to firefighters working on site.

The building will improve on already-extensive safety and readiness training, and help to maintain the high standard of safety at Bruce Power.

The interior of the Fire Training Facility is able to simulate broad range of realistic training scenarios utilizing live-fire propane props (one of which mimics a turbine generator). The building also provides indoor space to rehearse high-angle rescue training.

The site also includes outdoor fire simulators for a transformer, a car, and a forklift. The project has been noted as one of the most successful project's undertaken at Bruce Power's Centre of Site.

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## our firm provides upgrades to the sarnia government complex

The Sarnia Government Complex is comprised of four buildings: The Sarnia Jail, the Sarnia Courthouse, the Registry building and the Social Services building. The Complex is located in downtown Sarnia on a 12.54-acre parcel bounded by Highway 402 and Christina Road.

This site accommodates a number of Ministries and functions, and was built in various stages in the early 1960's. IO considers this a "Core Real Estate Asset" that has value in use to the client ministry and after considerable deferral of maintenance to the site, multiple upgrade projects are planned that will span several years ahead.

NA Engineering Associates Inc. has completed a number of projects at the Sarnia Government Complex, including

designing upgrades to the waterproofing, railings, and landscaping. At the Social Services building, the windows were replaced and the dated exterior insulation and finish system was re-coated for a refreshing new look.

At present, we are involved in specifying repairs to the elevator at the Social Services building.

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## renovating the kincardine arts centre

The Kincardine Centre for the Arts Building is a historic structure built along the main street of the town. It is also the former town hall, and one of the most recognizable buildings in the surrounding area.

NA Engineering Associates Inc. has been asked to provide our professional services for phased renovations to the Arts Centre, designed to expand available amenities, as well as modernizing and updating the building.

New HVAC equipment is being designed, and will replace an ancient boiler with a modern system, improving both comfort and efficiency. A rearrangement of the public spaces on the main floor will provide a more open, functional and pleasing space for the town residents to enjoy.

New washrooms are being designed at the rear of the building that will serve the users of the adjacent park. Additionally, a variety of mechanical, electrical and cosmetic upgrades are being incorporated throughout the building's interior.

The first phase of the work was completed in 2013. The second phase was recently approved as part of the town's 2015 budget, and construction work is expected to begin in September at the end of the area's busy summer season.

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## keeping a condo reserve fund up-to-date

Perth Condominium Corporation is a seven-storey, residential condominium building that overlooks the Stratford Park system.

As the building was constructed in the mid 1980's, keeping the building in good maintenance is critical for long-term performance. The Corporation is very diligent in ensuring that it keeps condominium fees balanced to provide good value for the owners and simultaneously ensuring that all of the condominium's common elements are maintained in good working order.

Over the years, NA Engineering Associates Inc. has worked closely with the Board of Directors to prioritize maintenance needs that ensure items that need to be replaced are taken care of at the right time.

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## for this edition of quality circle, we discuss engtracker

Welcome again to Quality Circle, our newsletter's ongoing feature to highlight stories, observations, and lessons that are relevant to our practice and the way we conduct our business as engineers.

For our second article in this series, we'd like to discuss EngTracker, a proprietary software that our firm has developed for our own use. EngTracker software is used on all of our projects, and every staff member is trained in its use. It is one of our firm's greatest tools in delivering quality projects to our clients. It helps facilitate projects, maintains proper documentation throughout work, and ensures all relevant project information is recorded and organized.

The work that has gone into developing the software has been relatively complex, but the philosophy behind it is based around a simple idea: filling-in a standardized checklist of necessary information. This ensures that project information is: properly recorded, available to the relevant personnel, and tracked with consistency from

one-project-to-the-next. By ensuring this level of quality and consistency, EngTracker can help prevent issues and answer questions before they arise.

EngTracker has a number of other features. Its search function allows us to track received documents and provides a secure, navigable, organizational system. It can be accessed from a mobile device with e-mail capabilities (like an iPad) for on-site report writing.

The software also provides staff with a standardized method of producing documentation (such as reports, transmittals, and other documents). The system includes a change-order module with a project value calculator for up-to-date contract values. Our most recently deployed module is our FileTracker system, which is our internal FTP or "Dropbox" system. It features easy-to-navigate functions, secure encryption and extremely strong permission functions.

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## visiting the CNA conference

In late February, representatives of our firm returned to Ottawa to attend the 2015 Canadian Nuclear Association Annual Conference and Trade Show.

The theme of this year's Conference was "Power For A Cooler Climate". The event was attended by more than 750 delegates from the industry, the government, and other related organizations.

This year's event was a complete success, with a variety of entertaining and informative speakers and events, as well as time shared with the industry's best and brightest.

One highlight of the conference was a talk given by Canadian Olympic Gold Medalist - and current television host - Jon Montgomery (who won the Gold medal for Men's Skeleton in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver).

Nick Aroutzidis (Managing Partner of NA Engineering Associates Inc.) sits on the Board for the Canadian Nuclear Association. Nick is pictured at the conference, standing to the right of Larry Walton (also a partner with NA Engineering Associates Inc.).

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## celebrating a commitment to volunteerism

NA Engineering Associates Inc. has had a culture of volunteerism and charitable-giving since the firm's inception. This is an area in which Nick Aroutzidis - the firm's managing partner - has led by example, donating much of his time to worthy causes. His philosophy on the subject is a simple one: give back to the communities that help support you, and provide help to those who need it.

Nick's commitment to the community is remarkable, and he has associated himself with a broad range of community organizations and charities. These include: the United Way Perth, the Stratford Cullitons Hockey Club, the Huron-Perth Lakers Minor Hockey Club, the Huron-Perth Lakers Major Midget Program, the Committee of Adjustments for the City of Stratford, the Rotary Club of Stratford and Tavistock, Ontario, and the Rotary Respite House.

Recently, Nick was also one of the five nominees for Sportsperson of the Year at the Stratford Minor Sports Council Awards. This was in recognition of his work with Huron-Perth Lakers Hockey.

As a part of the Huron-Perth Lakers Executive, Nick spearheaded the beginning of the Major Midget program for the Lakers and was the General Manager for several years that saw success both on and off the ice. While the duties of the General Manager have been passed on, he still remains the major team sponsor for the program.

Nick is shown at the left of the photo on this page, receiving the 2015 Ontario 10 Year Service Award at a ceremony in Stratford. This was given for his work and support for Family Services Perth-Huron: Hospice Services.

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## supporting good works with good food


Supporting a good cause with delicious food is truly a “win-win” scenario. Everybody gets to eat, and money goes to a worthy organization.

Staff from all three of our firm’s offices were thrilled to participate in a bake sale, with proceeds donated to the Stratford-Perth Humane Society (an organization that provides “forever homes” to animals in need). The group is a registered charity and has been in operation since 1973. They are in the process of raising money for a major renovation project, designed by our firm, that will leave them with a new Animal Welfare Centre.

Following the bake sale, we were able to donate just over \$500 dollars to the Humane Society. Our firm’s Cheryl Young (who coordinated the effort) is pictured at right presenting the cheque. Congratulations to Cheryl and the staff on their great work.

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*The will to  
persevere is often  
the difference  
between failure and  
success.*

- David Sarnoff