Member of the Month

Janis Chow

Janis Chow, P.Eng, Operations Engineer, Transportation Management Systems, City of Edmonton - Transportation Department, 15th Floor, Century Place, 9803 -102A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3A3

Janis writes:
Thank you for the nomination. I am a little surprised by it.

Currently, I am an Operations Engineer in the Traffic Management Centre and have worked with the City of Edmonton for 8 years in various positions.

My work experience includes:
- Operating and maintaining traffic control systems and devices, such as above-ground vehicle detection and CCTV traffic cameras.
- Development of operating procedures and guidelines for various transportation management systems.
- Designing traffic signal functional requirements and signal timings.
- Coordination and review of roadway design projects.

I have been a member of IMSA for about 7 years and am currently the Secretary for the Canadian Prairie Section. In the past year, I have put together our Section’s newsletters and helped organize the annual conferences. I also provide support to our Executive members by taking on miscellaneous duties or by helping with anything that needs to be done.

My husband, Bruce, and I enjoy visiting different cities and countries to experience diverse local cultures.

Other hobbies:
- Various activities such as hiking, football, and volleyball.
- Photography.
- Music (I have been involved in a few music CD projects and have played in various bands).

Richard L. “Dick” Ober, 84, a lifelong resident of Medford, Massachusetts died at his home on November 9, 2008. He was born in Medford on September 14, 1924.

Mr. Ober was employed by Gamewell as a fire prevention systems installer for many years. He was an avid and longtime member of Chevalier Theater in Medford. He was a lifelong member of the West Medford Baptist Church and a member of the Mystic Players of Medford.

Mr. Ober will be fondly remembered because of his willingness to donate his time and efforts to the Medford community.

He was survived by his twin sister Ellen Smith and her husband, a niece, nephew and several great-nieces and great nephews.

Dick Ober

Dick Demello wrote:
Once, I asked him if he had a degree? He said, No. He was a sophomore at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) when World War II had recently started. Evidently, he was so smart the government pulled him out of school to work for them. He had to develop alarm systems for munition factories and munition storehouses.

At the end of the war in 1945, Gamewell Company picked him up. That explains when he joined IMSA.

The guy had a photographic memory. He was a railroad buff. When we had the conference in New Jersey, we rode the train from Boston to Philadelphia. When we exited the tunnel from New York to New Jersey, he knew every commercial building and company from there to Philly., even to the point of saying “Around this next bend is such and such factory.” And, of course he was right.

He was quite a guy. A real intelect.