I’m writing this a day or so following our annual Certification School held in Burlington, April 3rd to 8th.

Everyone involved considered it a great success. We equalled the record attendance of last year: 164 traffic professionals attended. For the most part, the classes were full. I was directly involved with the Signs & Marking Level I and II as a facilitator/moderator and I compliment the “students” for their active participation. This was also the case with the other classes, according to the moderators. In addition to the IMSA moderators, supplier-side experts in their fields were brought in to speak, so that participants could understand things from that side as well. We will continue to expand the “guest expert” program at next year’s school.

One of the subjects in the Signs and Markings Level II was the traffic sign manufacturing process. Following the in-class discussion, we loaded everyone on a school bus and visited the Region of Niagara sign shop in Thorold, where participants received hands-on experience.

Congratulations to Mike Flanigan for his considerable efforts in putting the school together, to Carol Batchelor for all behind-the-scenes work she did, and to all our volunteer moderators. Once again, it was a wonderful certification school. – Oh, and I would be remiss if I did not thank the Burlington Holiday Inn for their efforts on our behalf; especially the catering staff who so thoughtfully procured “the official beer of IMSA Ontario”: Gritstone.

On another subject, TAC is holding its spring meeting in Ottawa and I will be attending as the IMSA representative on the TOMSC (Traffic Operations Management Sub-committee), which will discuss new products and programs.

A number of new programs recommended for inclusion in the MUTCD and the OTM will be discussed.

IMSA Ontario is a member of the Canadian Certification Committee (CCC) which will work to “standardize” certification manuals and practice across Canada. The committee currently also has representation from the BC Section and the Prairie Section. What’s missing is Atlantic Canada. To that end, our own Mike Flanigan is spearheading a drive to assist Atlantic Canada in establishing their own IMSA Section. We, and they, are encouraged by the International office, both heartily and financially. Preparations are in the works to hold a Charter meeting (in the middle of the Annual Atlantic Section … Traffic Expo!) at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Moncton, NB, on the 19th of May.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, June 23rd at the Indian Wells Golf Club. What else? Oh yes, your Executive Committee has decided to hold our Annual Traffic Expo in Kingston in late October.

Jim Keefe, President, Ontario Section

We held our Spring Technical Session and Trade Show at the Coquitlam Executive Plaza and Conference Centre on March 30, 2005. The event was well attended with some of the new suppliers participating in the trade show and some new presenters for the seminars. My thanks go to all the suppliers who showed their support as lunch and coffee sponsors and as trade show exhibitors as well as all the seminar presenters.

Technical Session Presenters included: Doug Gubbe, Novax Industries; Phil Tate, Interprovincial Traffic Services; Roy Hughes, BC Hydro; Steve Scott, BC Hydro; Julie Carter, BC Hydro; Tom Brandes, Interprovincial Traffic Services; Graeme Kraft - City of Vancouver; LenMireau, LCP Traffic Management, Ron Whitelock, Electromega; Mavis Johnson, Canadian Traffic Safety Institute; Christian Fourmelle, Dellux Technologies; Andrew Lee, Meta West Sales.

We are very fortunate to have such active supporters on which to build and grow this event. Thanks also to the board members who organize and execute the Trade Show and Technical Sessions.

We held our Annual General Meeting concurrently with the Technical Sessions during which the old Executive board was retired and a new Executive elected. We now have a number
of new faces that have graciously chosen to volunteer their time and effort to ensure that the IMSA BC Executive board continues to have fresh ideas and a renewed energy. I would like to thank the new members who joined as Directors at Large for stepping up and I would also like to thank the members who accepted nominations for Executive posts for their continuing time and effort. I look forward with anticipation to working with all of you well into the future. As a reminder to the general membership, you don’t have to be a board member to put your ideas forward for discussion at our executive meetings. Contact any of our executives; their contact information is on our website at www.imsa.bc.ca.

Technology is pushing changes in our industry at a rapidly increasing rate. IMSA has recognized this trend and has also recognized that the educational material that is being provided to its members, while still applicable for most situations, is lagging behind in the areas of leading edge technologies. To address this, some fundamental changes have been made at the International level that should allow a faster cycle of inception to production of the educational materials that we present. Some of our own board members have been instrumental in these changes. Additionally, we are reviewing the scheduling of certification courses to ensure that they are offered in a timelier manner. I would like to take this opportunity to challenge all of our members to reflect on their day to day work environment and identify issues that could be addressed through IMSA Certification programs. If you think that we can help, contact any of our executives, their contact information is on our website at www.imsa.bc.ca.

Graeme Kraft, President IMSA B.C. Section

That sure is a tall invisible hazard. Photo by Joseph Quan

NEW PRODUCTS . . . Continued from page 48

Inattentive Motorists Slow to Unusual New Speed Display

Distracted motorists will now be reminded of their speed in multiple colors when they approach the SpeedMinder CR100 radar unit. Responding to studies that show driver inattention as a major factor, SpeedMinder Technology recently introduced a portable radar unit that effectively slows drivers to posted limits. A brilliant LED speed display in flashing red will confront speeding drivers. When motorists slow to the posted limit, the speed display changes to steady green. “They get the message”, reports Martin LeVan, founder of SpeedMinder Technology. This unit was developed for smaller communities that found the radar trailers large and expensive.

The CR100 is compact and portable. Weighing only 351bs, it is mounted on a stand with wheels, and readily moved in an standard size automobile to different locations for increased effectiveness. LeVan states that this is the only compact radar speed display that records and displays traffic statistics. The rear LCD control panel shows traffic count, average speed and number of violations. The built-in sealed 12v battery will operate up to 5 days between charges. A pole-mounted version with solar chargers is also available.

SpeedMinder has found ready acceptance from community associations, traffic engineers, schools, highway constructors, and military bases. It is very affordable. Additional information is available at www.speedminder.net. We can be reached at 805-746-4129.