

Introductory Briefing

The Calling of an Engineer

Presented by

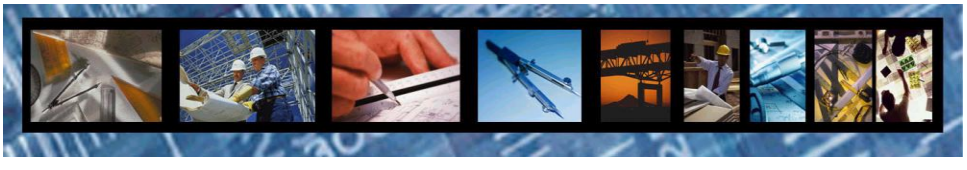
LCol (Ret) Brian Laughton, BApSc 7T8, B Ed, P Eng

Mechanical Engineering, University of Toronto

Learn about  **of the Obligation.**

Corporation of the Seven Wardens (established in 1925)
Camp 12 – Ottawa (established in 1958)

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Corporation of the Seven Wardens

(http://www.ironring.ca/)

- Not-for-profit organization incorporated in Canada and responsible for the administration of "***The Calling of an Engineer***" Obligation Ceremony
- "***The Calling of an Engineer***" : Copyrighted in Canada (1938) and in the USA
- ***Ring of Obligation*** ("***Iron Ring***"): Trademarked & copyrighted in Canada (1961); patented in the USA

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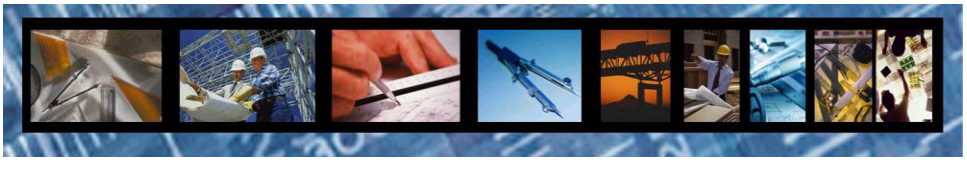


Camp 12

- **Chief Warden**: Darrell Wellington
- **Six (6) Honorary Wardens and 16 other Wardens**
- Camp 12 Wardens are **experienced engineers & volunteers** who live and work(ed) in the National Capital region
- Camp 12 Obligation ceremonies take place in the **spring** and in the **fall**

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Camp 12 Wardens

Chief Warden: **Darrell Wellington**
Treasurer (Acting): **Maryam Tse**

Honorary Wardens:

Richard L'Abbé, **Binitha Chakraburtty**, **Richard Evraire**, **Mike Foster**, **Ruth Rayman**, **Kathryn Sutherland**

Wardens:

Daniel Benjamin, **Kim Eaton**, **Dave Farrar**, **Anna Gkalimani**, **David Henselwood**, **Peter Holt**, **Franklin Holtforster**, **Kim Howie**, **Brian Laughton**, **Gen Nielsen**, **Mike Pascoe**, **Christian Piché**, **Francois Robitaille**, **Amanda Shane**, **Saakshi Sutarwala**, **Stephanie Tremblay**

Contact: camp12wardens@gmail.com

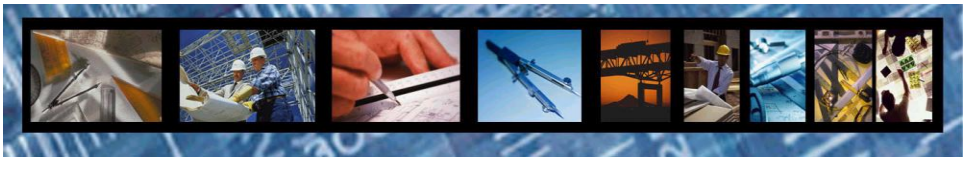
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Agenda

- **What is the Obligation Ceremony?**
  - What it is not!
- How did the Ceremony originate?
  - **Elements of the Ceremony**
    - The Obligation
  - **Why participate?**
    - **Logistics**



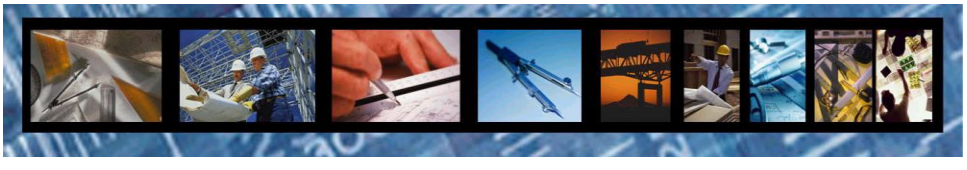
What is the Obligation Ceremony?

- **A uniquely Canadian ceremony established in 1925**
- **Ceremony of obligation - to make commitments "in the presence of these my mentors and my peers in my calling."**
- **Ceremony of welcome to the profession by more senior engineers**



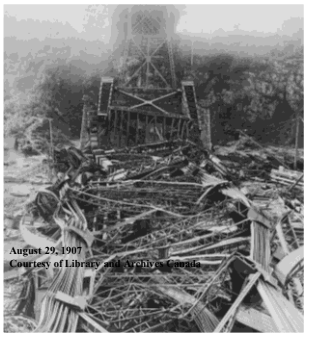
What is the Obligation Ceremony?

- **Over 500,000 Canadian participants so far**
- **Intended to inspire you to honour personal and professional ethics in dealing with your professional colleagues, the public and the planet**
- **You will make an obligation to uphold these ethics**
- **You will be presented with your Iron RIng**



Context for The Calling of an Engineer

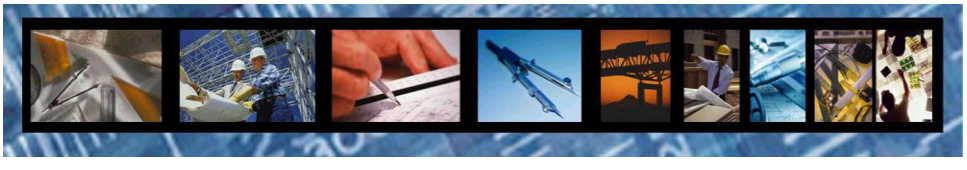
- Inspired as a consequence of the Quebec Bridge collapse in 1907 and its aftermath





How did the Ritual originate?

- Professor Haultain (U of T) – Jan 1922
- Request to Kipling to write text – Oct 1923
- First Ritual held in Montréal – Apr 1925
- Camp # 1 established in Toronto – 1925
- Camp # 12 – Ottawa - 1958
- Camp # 28 – Prince George - 2020



Kipling

- Writer of renown (Jungle books)
  - Nobel Prize Winner (1907)
- Widely travelled
- Text for ceremony demonstrated his understanding of the engineering profession

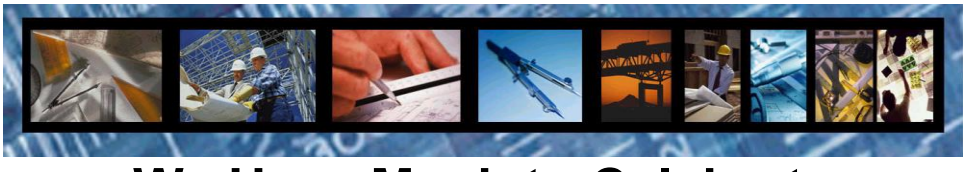


A Modern Ceremony

- Modernized for its 100th Anniversary in 2025
- Significant updates to ensure its relevance in today's world
- Focus remains on ethics, relationships and failures
- Scope of the Obligation based on civil and mining works
- Principles apply to contemporary fields of engineering practice

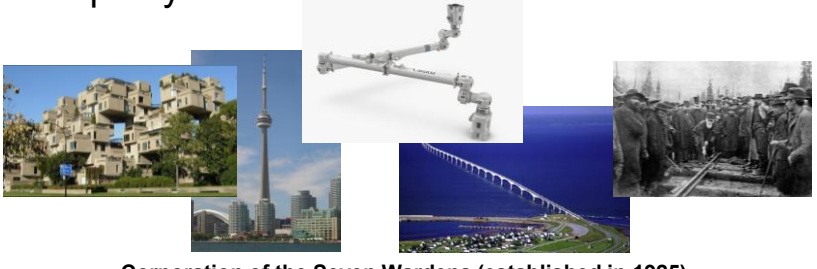
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We Have Much to Celebrate

- Without risk and failure, we would have no successes
- Which Canadian engineering success stories inspire you?



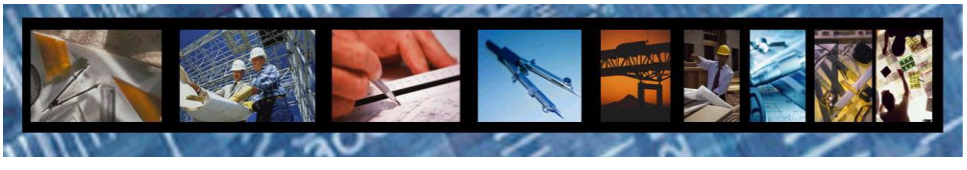
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Common Myths

- It is mandatory to attend
  - *No, it is a personal decision to participate*
  - *But you need to be eligible and register to attend the Obligation Ceremony*
- The ring is needed to practice engineering
  - *No, it is unrelated to professional qualification*
- I can obtain a ring without attending an Obligation Ceremony
  - *No, the ring is presented as a reminder of your Obligation*
- The rings come from the Quebec Bridge
  - *No, the Quebec Bridge failure was merely the impetus for the Obligation*
- The Ceremony is secret
  - *It is not a secret, but it is a personal commitment*



The Ceremony *(1 of 3)*

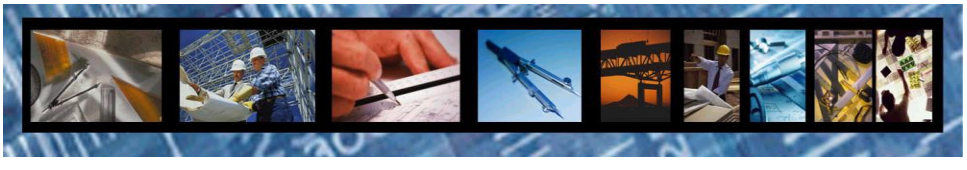
- Entrance into Ceremony hall
- Opening comments
- **The Calling of an Engineer**
- Address by a distinguished engineer
- Post-Ceremony comments
- Other Camp-specific activities



The Ceremony *(2 of 3)*

Participants:

- Obligants (you!)
- Camp 12 Wardens : At least seven (7), including the Senior Supervising Engineer (SSE) who presides over the Ceremony
- Ring presenters, other obligated engineers, non-obligated guests



The Ceremony *(3 of 3)*

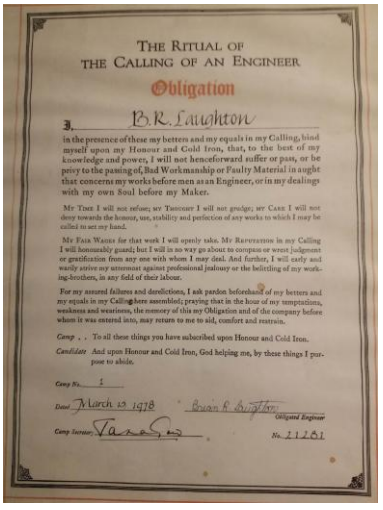
The **Landmarks**:

- Chain
- Hammer & Anvil
- Iron Ring



The Obligation

Taking the **Obligation** (and not receiving an **Iron Ring**) is **THE purpose** of the Ritual.



THE RITUAL OF
THE CALLING OF AN ENGINEER

Obligation

I, B.R. Laughton

in the presence of these my betters and my equals in my Calling, bind myself upon my Honour and Cold Iron, that, to the best of my knowledge and power, I will not henceforward suffer or pass, or be privy to the passing of, Bad Workmanship or Faulty Material in aught that concerns my works before men as an Engineer, or in my dealings with my own Soul before my Maker.

My Time I will not refuse; my Taxicare I will not grudge; my Care I will not deny towards the honour, use, stability and perfection of any works to which I may be called to set my hand.

My Fair Wages for that work I will openly take. My Reputation in my Calling I will honourably guard; but I will in no way go about to compass or wrest judgment or gratification from any one with whom I may deal. And further, I will early and warily strive my uttermost against professional jealousy or the belittling of my working-brethren, in any field of their labour.

For my assured failures and derelictions, I ask pardon beforehand of my betters and my equals in my Calling here assembled; praying that in the hour of my temptations, weakness and weariness, the memory of this my Obligation and of the company before whom it was entered into, may return to me to aid, comfort and restrain.

Camp . . To all these things you have subscribed upon Honour and Cold Iron.

Candidate And upon Honour and Cold Iron, God helping me, by these things I purpose to abide.

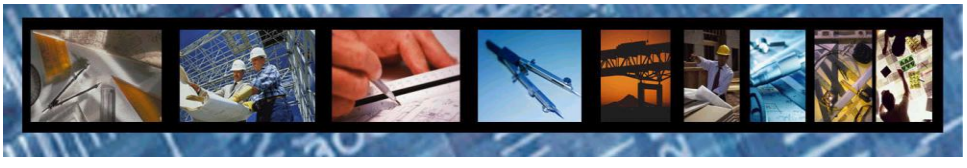
Camp No. 1

Dated March 29 1978 Brian R. Laughton Obligated Engineer

Camp Secretary [signature] No. 21281

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Key Concepts

- The Obligation is an expression of intent
- Fundamental ideas
  - Reject bad workmanship or faulty material
  - Freely give your time, thought and care in your work
  - Be honourable and fair, respect your colleagues
  - Be humble, always be reminded of your Obligation
- Made while holding "COLD IRON" in the form of a chain
  - Demonstrates the connection to each other, employers, clients, and the public
  - Signifies the unreliability of materials
  - Reminds you of the significance of your Obligation

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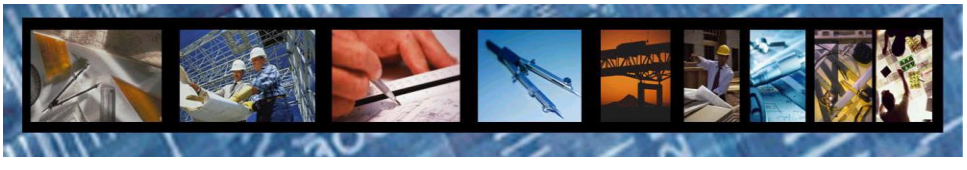
Obligation

I, _____

in the presence of these my mentors and my peers in my CALLING, pledge on my HONOUR and COLD IRON, that, to the best of my knowledge and power, I will not tolerate or pass, or participate in the passing of, BAD WORKMANSHIP or FAULTY MATERIAL in all that concerns my works as an ENGINEER, or in my dealings with my own conscience, before the WORLD.

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My TIME I will offer freely; my THOUGHT I will openly share; my CARE I will fully apply, towards the honour, use, stability and perfection of any works to which I may be called to set my hand.

My fair WAGES for that work I will openly take. My REPUTATION in my CALLING I will honourably guard; but I will not attempt to manipulate, obscure judgment or seek personal gain from any one with whom I may deal. And further, I will diligently strive against professional jealousy or the belittling of my working colleagues, in any field of their labour.

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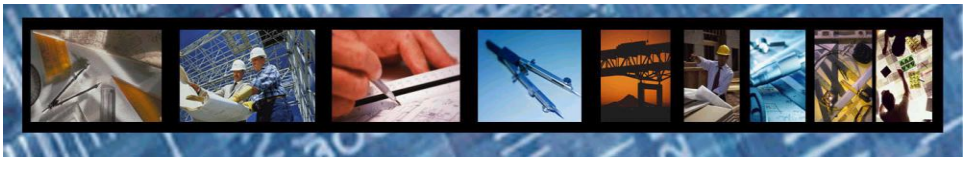
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Why participate?

Definition of the Practice of Professional Engineering (CCPE):

"*…any act of planning, designing, composing, evaluating, advising, reporting, directing or supervising, or managing any of the foregoing,*

that requires the ***application of engineering principles****; and*

that concerns the ***safeguarding of life,*** *health, property, economic interests,* ***the public welfare*** *or the environment*."

To obligate ourselves to practice our profession in an ethical, professional, and responsible manner at the SERVICE of our clients/employers, society and the general public, and the environment that sustains all of us.

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Logistics

- What is the deadline and cost to register?

Obligants

Regular registration

- – $35.00 CAD + HST
- – Deadline to register is Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EST



Logistics

- What is the deadline and cost to register?

Guests

Regular registration

- – $15.00 CAD + HST
- – Deadline to register is Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EST

You will be limited to 1 guest ticket per student. If there are seats remaining after the guest registration deadline (Nov 8), you can opt in to receive an email to purchase an additional guest ticket (for a total of two guests per graduating student) in the registration form. Guests do not need to be engineers to attend.

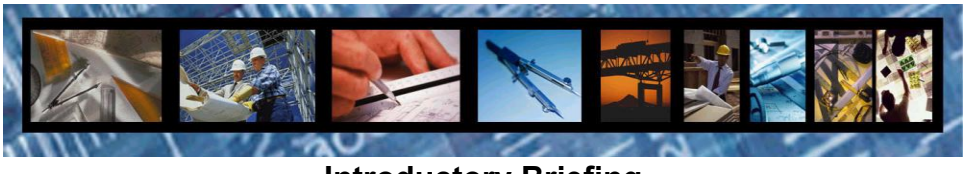


Logistics

- Timing: 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 14th in Fenn Lounge, Teraanga Commons
- Ring sizing and registration for the Carleton Ceremony will take place in Fenn Lounge at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the 14th. Ensure you have your Carleton ID card.
- The Ceremony is to commence sharply at 2 p.m. when the doors will be closed
  - Gather in hallway outside Fenn Lounge to arrive no later than 1:45 p.m.
  - Guests should arrive at 1 p.m. and no later than 1:45 p.m. as they will enter and be seated first
  - Obligants will process to Fenn Lounge starting at 1:50 p.m.
- The Ceremony is formal so please wear appropriate clothing
- No cameras, cell-phones or other recording devices are permitted

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