



Introductory Briefing

The Calling of an Engineer

Presented by

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

Mechanical Engineering, University of Toronto



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
- **Five (5) Honorary Wardens and 14 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:
Treasurer (Acting):

Darrell Wellington
Maryam Tse

Honorary Wardens:

Richard L'Abbé
Richard Evraire
Ruth Rayman

Binitha Chakraburty
Mike Foster
Kathryn Sutherland

Wardens:

Daniel Benjamin
Dave Farrar
David Henselwood
Franklin Holtforster
Brian Laughton
Mike Pascoe
Amanda Shane

Kim Eaton
Anna Gkalimani
Peter Holt
Kim Howie
Gen Nielsen
Christian Piché
Saakshi Sutarwala

Contact: camp12wardens@gmail.com

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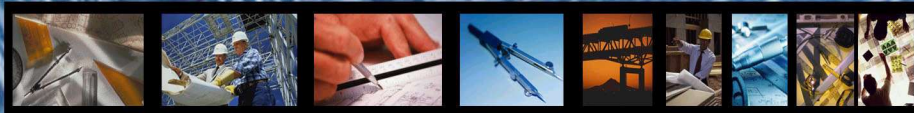


Agenda

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

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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**

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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

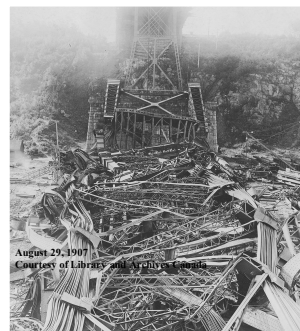
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Context for The Calling of an Engineer

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



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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**

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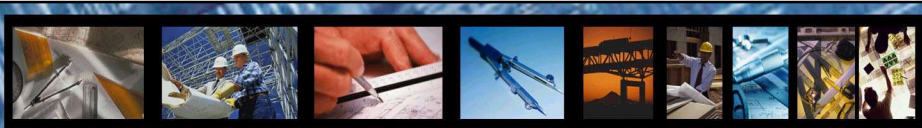


Kipling

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

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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*

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The Ceremony (1 of 3)

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

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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

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The Ceremony *(3 of 3)*

The Landmarks:

- Chain
- Hammer & Anvil
- Iron Ring

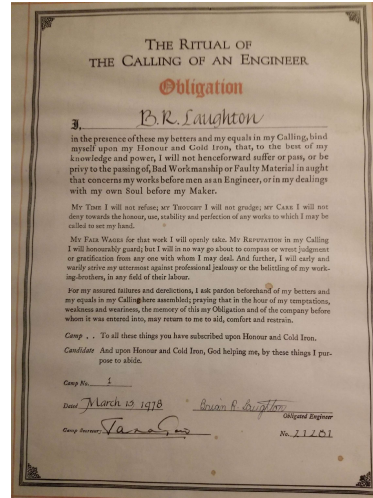
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The Obligation

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



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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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For my assured failures and derelictions, I ask pardon beforehand of my mentors and my peers in my CALLING here assembled; believing that in the hour of my temptations, weakness and weariness, the memory of this, my OBLIGATION, and of the company before whom it was declared, may return to me to aid, comfort and restrain.

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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

- **Timing: 14:30 Saturday, March 22nd in the Ravens' Nest**
- **Ring sizing and registration for the Carleton Ritual will take place in the Ravens's Nest from 9:30 to 1:00 before the Ceremony Ensure you have photo ID**
- **The Ceremony is to commence sharply at 2:30 when the doors will be closed**
 - arrive no later than 2:15
 - Guests should arrive no later than 2:00 as they will enter and be seated first
- **The Ceremony is formal so please wear appropriate clothing**
- **No cameras, cell-phones or other recording devices are permitted**

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Learn about

the Obligation.

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