



## Fall 2013 Newsletter

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**Section President**  
Graham Nasby

**Newsletter Editor**  
Brent Killins

### Presidential Welcome Message



Greetings! It is a great honour to be elected into the role of Section President for the next two years. Our section executive is hard at work planning events for our upcoming 2013-2014 year. I look forward to working with everyone on our volunteer board as these events take shape. On behalf of the entire executive, I look forward to putting on another great year of programming for you, including ISA Hamilton EXPO 2014, our annual Golf Tournament, various Guest Speakers, and Industry Tours.

Please mark your calendars with the dates of our upcoming member events. In the coming months I invite you to get more involved with our section. You can keep up to date by visiting our website, reading our newsletter and by receiving our e-News. Want to get involved but don't know where to start? Feel free to contact myself or any of the other section executive members to find out more about getting involved.

Graham Nasby  
President  
ISA Hamilton Section

### Message from the Editor



Hello Everyone! As the new editor of this newsletter, I wanted to thank you all for reading and let you all know what you can expect to get from our newsletter moving forward.

As always, the newsletter will contain updates on all of the wonderful events our section hosts, which range from member meetings and technical presentations, various plant tours, and annual events such as the EXPO in March and Golf Tournament in May. This year we are pleased to add an additional event, as we have agreed to host the ISA District 13 District Leadership Conference (See Page 3 for more details) and updates on this event will be published with each issue.

Along with the updates on Section events and member activity, I intend to provide at least one technical article per issue and any updates we can communicate regarding ISA as a whole and the benefits of membership. I intend to keep the newsletter both informative and enjoyable, such that it provides all of the information our members need.

Brent Killins  
Newsletter Editor  
ISA Hamilton Section

## Fall Member Meetings and Events

### Member Meeting 1 - Tour

#### **Tour of Emerson Instrument & Valve Service Center**

When: Tues. Sept. 24, 2013 @ 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Emerson Instrument & Valve Service Center  
109 Dartnall Rd.  
Hamilton, ON

What: Our first member meeting of the new session will be held at Emerson's Instrument and Valve Service (I&VS) Center in Hamilton. Paul Rickert, the operations manager for this facility will be hosting us. Matt Bell (Lead Instrument and Valve Technician) and Paul Rickert (Operations Excellence Manager) will give an overview on the valve parts and the repair process. This presentation will be followed by a tour of their new repair facility where the machines and testing equipment will be shown and discussed. During the tour, there will be a demonstration of a valve being torn down and inspected.

### Member Meeting 2 – Guest Speaker

#### **Getting Your Projects Approved and Moving Forward**

When: Tues. Oct. 29, 2013 @ 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: ABB – Burlington Office  
3450 Harvester Rd.  
Burlington, ON

What: Our second meeting will be in a familiar location. ABB's Burlington office will play host to Irene Deketele of Arcelor Mittal Dofasco (Manager, Project & Construction Management – Finishing) who will be giving us a presentation about "Getting Your Projects Approved and Moving Forward". Successful, capital-intensive corporations use standardized, robust project delivery processes. Why? To ensure that they are implementing the right projects, the right way, with the right people. Irene will deliver an overview of the methodology used at ArcelorMittal, the largest global steel company. The presentation will walk through the steps, starting from idea stage to development of the full project scope (why, what, who, how and when) with real-life examples. Irene is a professional engineer with 24 years of experience in project management and systems design.

### Member Meeting 3 – Tour

#### **Tour of Sleeman Breweries in Guelph**

When: Tues. Nov. 26, 2013 @ 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Where: Sleeman Brewery  
551 Clair Rd W (Just off Hwy 6)  
Guelph, ON

What: Our third member meeting will be held at the Sleeman Brewery in Guelph, Ontario. We will be going on a tour through their facility while learning about the processes involved in making beer. Samples will also be included as a part of the tour and a light meal. Space is limited for this event, so please register early. More details to follow.....

## New Membership Chair: Shailesh Parmar



The ISA Hamilton Section executive is pleased to announce Shailesh Parmar as our new membership chair. Shailesh comes to us from SPD Sales where he holds the position of area sales manager. Shailesh will be taking on this role in the place of Maulik Shah, as

Maulik is our new Section Vice-President. Thanks again to Maulik for a job well done in this role!

## ISA Hamilton Mailing Address Change

The mailing address for the ISA Hamilton Section has been changed. Our new permanent mailing address is:

ISA Hamilton Section Inc.  
2186 Mountain Grove Ave., Suite 157  
Burlington, ON  
L7P 4X4

Please ensure your records are updated for anything being submitted to ISA Hamilton Section.

## ISA Hamilton EXPO Vendor Registration

Attention vendors, please get in touch with our new Expo coordinator Cheryl Menzies at [expo@isahamilton.com](mailto:expo@isahamilton.com) to register your booth for our 2014 expo. The date is Wednesday, March 25, 2014. The early-bird vendor registration rate is \$550 if you registered before December; After December the regular rate is \$650/booth. Vendor booths include a 6 foot skirted table, electrical outlet, and a packet of free expo flyers to distribute beforehand. As always, the EXPO is free for attendees to come to the show, and all attendees get a free lunch.

## SAVE THE DATE

### ISA Hamilton EXPO 2014

Instrumentation & Process Technology  
Exhibition & Conference

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
FREE ADMISSION

Trade Show, Seminars, and Exhibits

### Royal Botanical Gardens

680 Plains Road West.  
Burlington, Ontario

## Good Specifications Avoid Problems

By Bill Lydon, InTech Chief Editor

Good specifications avoid problems and result in better automation projects. Many automation problems start with poorly thought-out design and purchase specifications that cost large amounts of money over time. For instance, when people in an organization assert that it is cheaper and quicker to purchase sensors, controllers, human-machine interfaces (HMIs), and other project materials and start the application development and installation without a full definition. In many cases, managers make this assertion with little or no technical or field experience. The theory is that design work can be done on the fly – after all, we know what we want. This is a false economy that is likely to be expensive over time.

I once worked for an experienced automation manager who believed in the value of detailed design and purchase specifications up front; he saw the savings in doing it right. He stressed, “If you don’t invest in design and specification effort up front, then the cost in time and money later is much larger.” Investing up front in detailed specifications without ambiguous information allows for estimating timelines far more accurately as well as purchasing the right items leading to installation, commissioning, and startup progressing faster.

Bad specifications can lead to many problems and in some cases may be career limiting. If a project is done on the fly without specifications, then users and management may start asking why the system is not working and/or meeting the expected needs. It is important to create specifications that management and users can understand so everyone agrees. This process is also helpful to avoid feature creep that puts your project over budget and extends completion times. There cannot be enough said about the importance of spending the time at the early stages of a project defining specifications and getting input from other stakeholders to safeguard your time and budget expectations and, in the end, deliver quality results.

Also important is to work out design issues before installation when changes are more costly. Fortunately, with automation software today, you can rapidly prototype screens and other functions that can be part of your specification, making it easier for people to review and comment. In addition, most control software provides the ability to build logic and simulate functions using variables rather than real sensors and actuators, so you can virtually understand the dynamics of control and sequences.

A difficult issue to deal with can be enthusiastic purchasing people who want to substitute software and hardware devices that have a lower price and are allegedly “like or same as” on the project. This is possible, but without a good specification and interaction with purchasing people, items can end up in a project that cost extra project time and money. And poor substitutes can increase the lifecycle cost of projects impacting operations and maintenance costs.

The best specification is one that starts by describing the what – not how, can be interpreted in as few ways as possible and is

concise, consistent, and reviewed by all parties involved to improve it and gain agreement. The very process of writing the specification has the benefit of becoming a focal point for everyone, including operations and maintenance, to think over issues before committing to installation. In my experience, having weak or no specifications has resulted in difficult, expensive projects and disappointed people. Good up-front specifications, with buy-in from all involved – including operations and maintenance – have been far more successful. Good specifications provide a clear and unambiguous description of exactly how a project’s technical requirements are to be met and benefited by review and input from all parties. If this sounds like work, it is, but front-end work pays off in better project execution and long-term results.

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## ISA Hamilton Hosts 2014 D13 District Leadership Conference

By Graham Nasby, Section President

Each year, each of the ISA’s fourteen geographic districts around the world holds an annual district leadership conference. For ISA District 13 (Eastern Canada), which is the district ISA Hamilton belongs to, our annual DLC is typically held in the spring. Why does this matter, you ask? Two reasons: The first one is that our ISA Hamilton Section will be hosting the 2014 District 13 DLC on the weekend of April 26-27, 2014. The second is that, as a member of the ISA, the DLC presents a unique opportunity to learn more about the ISA, develop your leadership skills, and have a good time with other ISA leaders.

In our district (district 13), the DLC typically consists of a 2 day leadership conference that runs from Friday evening until Sunday at noon. It is held at a hotel and includes a Saturday night social event. Typical attendance is about 30 ISA leaders from the five Eastern Canadian ISA Sections: Sarnia, Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal and Saguenay/Lac St. Jean. The Saturday program consists of guest speakers on a variety of leadership topics and updates about the ISA as a worldwide association. The Sunday features a group breakfast, a short district council meeting, and a parting group photo. For ISA members who wish to attend, some travel funding is available from the local section to help cover the cost of the hotel nights and food. All you have to do is contact your section executive.

Not currently involved, but want to find out more? Feel free to contact one of our ISA section executive members to learn about this fantastic leadership opportunity.

*Graham Nasby was our ISA Hamilton Section delegate for last year’s 2013 District 13 DLC in Chicoutimi, Quebec.*



**Call for Speakers and Articles**

As a service to its members, the ISA Hamilton section holds regular membership meeting. The meetings consist of dinner and a speaker/technical seminar. The meetings generally start at 6:00 pm, with the 45 minute guest speaker or tour beginning at 6:30 pm.

As well as our membership meetings, the ISA Hamilton section publishes a quarterly newsletter (which you are currently reading) as well.

We are currently seeking individuals who would like to make a technical presentation at one of our member meetings or who would like to submit any technical articles for distribution in the newsletter.

For information regarding speaking at one of our meetings, please contact our Program Chair, Michael Bovenkamp. For information regarding submission of technical articles for the newsletter, please contact our Newsletter Editor, Brent Killins.

**ISA Hamilton Section Contacts**

For more information about ISA membership, the ISA Hamilton section or the upcoming section events, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us. (Email addresses are @isahamilton.com)

**President**

Graham Nasby  
Eramosa Engineering Inc.  
[graham.nasby@eramosa.com](mailto:graham.nasby@eramosa.com)  
(519) 763-7774 x261

**Vice President**

Maulik Shah  
Bestobell Canada  
[mshah@bestobell.com](mailto:mshah@bestobell.com)  
(416) 566-7852

**Secretary**

Jerry Gelata  
Arctic Combustion Ltd.  
[secretary@isahamilton.com](mailto:secretary@isahamilton.com)

**Treasurer**

**& Past-President**  
Kenneth Hamilton  
[treasurer@isahamilton.com](mailto:treasurer@isahamilton.com)

**Newsletter Editor**

Brent Killins  
Westech Industrial  
[newsletter@isahamilton.com](mailto:newsletter@isahamilton.com)  
(905) 812-2247

**Membership**

Shailesh Parmar  
[membership@isahamilton.com](mailto:membership@isahamilton.com)

**Program / Member Meetings**

Mike Bovenkamp  
ArcelorMittal Dofasco  
[program@isahamilton.com](mailto:program@isahamilton.com)

**Expo Coordinator**

Cheryl Menzies  
Lakeside Process Controls  
[expo@isahamilton.com](mailto:expo@isahamilton.com)  
(416) 523-2636

**Golf Tournament**

Jerry Gelata  
Arctic Combustion Ltd.  
[golf@isahamilton.com](mailto:golf@isahamilton.com)

**Education**

**& McMaster Univ. Liaison**  
Mike Bovenkamp  
ArcelorMittal Dofasco  
[educate@isahamilton.com](mailto:educate@isahamilton.com)

**Standards & Practices**

Graham Nasby

**Honours & Awards**

To be announced shortly

**Marketing & Advertising**

To be announced shortly

**Social Media**

**LinkedIn, Twitter & Facebook**

Bob Loncar  
Halton Region  
[bob.loncar@halton.ca](mailto:bob.loncar@halton.ca)

**Website & e-News**

Wally Nickel  
ABB Canada  
[website@isahamilton.com](mailto:website@isahamilton.com)

**General Mailing Address**

ISA Hamilton Section Inc.  
2186 Mountain Grove Ave  
Suite 157  
Burlington, Ontario  
L7P 4X4

**Website**

[www.isahamilton.com](http://www.isahamilton.com)

**General Inquiries:**

Email: [info@isahamilton.com](mailto:info@isahamilton.com)  
Tel: Call Graham or Maulik  
Fax: (905) 332 - 4127

**Social Media Links**

: @ISAHamilton  
 : /ISAHamiltonSection  
 : ISA Hamilton Section Group

**ISA Automation Week**

*Technology and Solutions Event*

November 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Nashville Convention Center  
Nashville, TN USA

To Register Please Visit:

<http://www.isaautomationweek.com>

Don't forget to mention you are from the Hamilton Section when registering.

**About the ISA Hamilton Section Inc.**

*The ISA Hamilton Section is the local section of the International Society of Automation for the Hamilton, Burlington, Guelph and Golden-Horseshoe areas of Southern Ontario, Canada. ISA Hamilton Section holds regular meetings, sponsors a variety of educational endeavors, produces an annual exhibition, encourages an open exchange of career opportunities, and promotes the goals & objectives of ISA. More information at [www.isa.org](http://www.isa.org)*