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## **Consulting Engineers from Ontario Recognized at National Awards Gala**

**(OTTAWA) October 24, 2017** – From designing a first-class landmark educational facility to improving water quality and waste disposal, consulting engineers from the Barrie and London ON, areas were celebrated for these outstanding achievements Tuesday night in Ottawa at the 2017 Canadian Consulting Engineering (CCE) Awards gala. Recognized as the industry's highest honours, the awards are presented to projects by Canadian firms that showcase the most remarkable engineering feats.

“These awards not only provide the opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions that consulting engineers make to our local communities, they showcase these outstanding achievements on a national stage,” said ACEC President and CEO John Gamble. “They bring focus to the important role that these projects, and consulting engineers in general, have on the social, economic and environmental quality of life of all Canadians.”

Well deserved awards are presented in a variety of categories, ranging from buildings and transportation, water and natural resources, to special projects and community outreach. Ontario consulting engineers took home two **Awards of Excellence** from the Buildings, and the Environmental Remediation categories.

### **Landfill challenges require innovative solutions to improve water and air quality**



For the *Barrie Landfill Reclamation and Re-Engineering* project **Golder Associates Ltd.** was recognized for its role as design engineer and construction management firm. As the existing landfill was impacting water resources it required remediation. While landfill reclamation and installation of engineered controls is not unique, this project involved challenges relating to the limited space, remaining fill volume, odour control, waste density and stability, which required unique engineering design and project sequencing.

Public concerns with respect to air quality and odours were a significant part of the project planning process. This was complicated by the presence of odours from other sources including composting and agriculture. These concerns were addressed through sampling of landfill gas and air quality and development of risk-based air quality standards. Further to this, a system involving off-site odour monitoring and contractor response and control was developed to ensure rapid response to odour complaints, at minimal effect to the reclamation production rate.



The overall objective of improving the environmental performance of the landfill design was achieved through the installation of liner, leachate collection and landfill gas collection systems, which will also reduce the discharge to the wastewater treatment system. Further to this, the City's objective of sustainability was achieved through an 18-year increased landfill lifespan, to the year 2035, over a decade longer than expected. “The City of Barrie was behind the project concept from the beginning and is proud to have developed an environmentally and financially successful solution,” said Paul Dewaele, Principal, Senior Geo-

Environmental Engineer, Golder Associates Ltd. “Golder would like to extend our gratitude to the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies and CCE Magazine for granting us this award recognizing excellence in Canadian engineering. On behalf of the project team including the City of Barrie, we are thrilled to be recognized amongst our colleagues in the industry.”

### **Overcoming structural challenges to give students a first-class learning environment**

The *Lazaridis School of Business & Economics – Wilfred Laurier University* (WLU) project located in Waterloo, ON, was recognized for its achievements in meeting the needs of the university’s increasing enrolment demands, providing excellent learning spaces, and enhancing WLU’s competitive edge among other universities.

To construct this first-class facility, WLU commissioned Diamond Schmitt Architects Inc. to design an energy efficient building that would subsequently serve as a landmark gateway to the University. The project’s structural consulting firm, **VanBoxmeer & Stranges Engineering Ltd.**, designed this iconic LEED® Gold building as a predominantly cast-in-place concrete building that had four major structural challenges to overcome. Namely: three 150 seat main floor lecture theatres requiring large clear spans; a two storey 24m long cantilever at the southwest corner; a 350 seat lecture theatre housed in a drum-shaped feature with very few vertical support opportunities; and a large span skylight located over the atrium. The building’s design was also challenged with an overall height limitation; the cast-in-place concrete structure design was used to minimize the floor thickness, thus minimizing the building height. “Our involvement in this project pushed us technically and we are better designers as a result. We also thank Diamond Schmitt Architects for their vision,” said Rick Stranges, P. Eng. Vice President, VanBoxmeer & Stranges Engineering Ltd.



### **Shifting focus from a traditional approach to better engage with the community**

The building houses the School of Business & Economics (SBE) and the Department of Mathematics, and with over 4,500 full and part-time students, SBE is WLU’s largest and fastest-growing faculty. Classrooms are supported by leading-edge educational video conferencing technology to support distance learning and connection with partners locally and abroad. A finance lab, complete with Bloomberg trading terminals, enables students to have real world experiences within an academic environment.



Optimally situated to give Lazaridis Hall greater exposure and visibility within Waterloo’s business and high-tech communities, this facility strives to signal change by shifting focus from an internalized campus approach to one that engages with the community. It has also established an appropriate scale for future development of the WLU campus as it urbanizes and animates University Avenue and its surroundings. “We are honoured to be recognized for this outstanding project with an Award of Excellence, we have always embraced complex projects and the structural challenges they present,” said Rick Stranges, P. Eng. Vice President, VanBoxmeer & Stranges Engineering Ltd.

In November, follow the [#20DaysOfExcellence](https://twitter.com/20DaysOfExcellence) in engineering campaign on Twitter and at [www.acec.ca/20daysofexcellence](http://www.acec.ca/20daysofexcellence) to watch videos of other award-winning projects like these and to learn more about the impact of consulting engineering on our quality of life.

### About award-winning firms

**Golder Associates Ltd.** As a global, employee-owned organization with over 50 years of experience, Golder Associates is driven by our purpose to engineer earth's development while preserving earth's integrity. From more than 165 offices worldwide, our over 6,500 employees deliver solutions that help our clients achieve their sustainable development goals by providing a wide range of independent consulting, design and construction services in our specialist areas of earth, environment and energy. For more information, visit [www.golder.com](http://www.golder.com)

**VanBoxmeer & Stranges Engineering Ltd.** The firm of VanBoxmeer & Stranges Ltd. (VB&S) started in London, ON in 1994. VB&S is a structural consulting engineer servicing the building industry. Our designs include Universities, Colleges, Hospitals, school boards and major developers. We excel at providing our clients with innovative solutions so that our structural solutions blend in seamlessly with the architect. We find solutions to architectural problems and are not afraid to push the structure with innovative solutions. [www.vbands.com](http://www.vbands.com)

### About Awards co-sponsors

**ACEC** represents companies in Canada that provide professional engineering services to both public and private sector clients. These services include the planning, design and execution of all types of engineering projects, as well as providing independent advice and expertise in a wide range of engineering and engineering-related fields. For more information about ACEC and the 2017 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards, please visit [www.acec.ca](http://www.acec.ca)

**Canadian Consulting Engineer** is a bi-monthly magazine for engineers in the construction industry. It is a division of Annex Publishing & Printing Inc. The award-winning projects are described in full in the October-November 2017 issue of *Canadian Consulting Engineer* at <http://www.canadianconsultingengineer.com/digital-edition>

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### **Multimedia (includes project description, video, photo)**

[Golder Associates Ltd. project photo](#)  
[Golder Associates Ltd. project page on acec.ca](#)

[VanBoxmeer & Stranges Engineering Ltd. project photo](#)  
[VanBoxmeer & Stranges Engineering Ltd. project page on acec.ca](#)

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