

editor's note



EVER SINCE WE ANNOUNCED THAT THE 2014 NASCC: THE STEEL CONFERENCE WAS GOING TO BE HELD IN TORONTO AT THE END OF MARCH, I STARTED HEARING COMMENTS WORRYING ABOUT THE WEATHER. Amazingly, a lot of these complaints were from my same friends who boast about how the end of March is a great time to visit Chicago; the cool days make walking around downtown a pleasure, etc.

As most of my friends know, my wife is from Toronto, so I've had daily weather reports from that city for more than 20 years. And typically the weather is just about the same as Chicago's—plus or minus a degree or two.

If you've never visited Toronto, buy your ticket now. Not only will you have the opportunity to attend the year's best conference, but you'll also get to see one of the top cities in North America. Because of the quality of the restaurants, and because we recognize that many attendees will have never visited Toronto before, this year we're reserving Thursday as a free night for you to explore the city. (If you want a sampling of activities, start with www.sectorontonow.com. And if you need more suggestions, drop me an email!)

If you've previously attended a Steel Conference, you know what to expect. More than 100 technical sessions (structural engineering, fabrication, bridges and more). There's a huge exhibition hall with more than 200 companies. And, of course, there are more than 3,500 professionals in attendance (engineers, fabricators, detailers, erectors, educators, transportation officials, contractors and everyone else involved in the design or construction of steel-framed buildings and bridges).

If you have a smartphone, you can download the free NASCC app at either the Apple App store or the Google Play store. The app allows you to browse the schedule and make your own calendar of sessions to attend. You can start with a session on BIMsteel, welding inspection or floor vibrations on joist-framed floors. You can check out the session on stability bracing or effective BRBF design. You can learn about direct analysis, torsion and K-factors. You can attend stability sessions, bridge sessions or technology sessions. Attendees can earn 18.5 PDHs. Make sure you visit www.aisc.org/nascc to check out all the sessions and to register.

I hope to see you in Toronto, March 26-28! Bring an umbrella (just to be safe), and don't forget to pack your walking shoes too.


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