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**BC Floor Covering Association Board of Directors 2015**

**Office Contacts:** Jackie Trafton, Benefits & Administration Manager  
Denise Rowse, Administrative Assistant  
Tel: 604-881-4944 | email: [info@bcfca.com](mailto:info@bcfca.com)



**President**  
**Chris Bland**  
13056 22a Ave.  
Surrey, BC V4A 8Y4  
[christ@bcfca.com](mailto:christ@bcfca.com)



**Scott Cooper**  
**Vice President**  
Stanley-Cooper  
Timber & Stone  
[scott@stanleycooper.ca](mailto:scott@stanleycooper.ca)



**Past-President**  
**Scott Rust**  
Erv Parent Co.  
791 Caldesw St.  
Delta, BC V3M 5S3  
[slrust@ervparent.com](mailto:slrust@ervparent.com)



**Don Brletic**  
Ardex Americas  
14908 - 57th Ave.  
Surrey, BC V3S 8W3  
[don.brletic@ardexamericas.com](mailto:don.brletic@ardexamericas.com)



**Jason Davids**  
Exclusive Floors  
5550 Panorama Dr.  
Surrey, BC V3S 1B7  
[jason@exclusivefloors.com](mailto:jason@exclusivefloors.com)



**Jeanette Martin**  
Cypress Hardwood  
Flooring Ltd.  
Unit #123  
823 Henning Dr  
Burnaby, BC V5C 6P3  
[jeanette@cypresshardwood.com](mailto:jeanette@cypresshardwood.com)



**Greg Reader**  
Maxwell Floors  
8441 - 160th St.  
Surrey, BC V4N 0V6  
[gregr@maxwellfloors.com](mailto:gregr@maxwellfloors.com)



**Ron Teljeur**  
Acorn Wood Floors  
#2 7550 River Rd.  
Delta, BC V4G 1C8  
[info@acornwoodfloors.com](mailto:info@acornwoodfloors.com)



**Darryl Wilson**  
Mapei  
7440 Vantage Way,  
Delta, BC V4G 1H1  
[dwilson@mapei.com](mailto:dwilson@mapei.com)



**Executive Director**  
**Thomas Foreman**  
BC Floor Covering  
Association  
Unit #2, 19299 - 94th Ave.,  
Surrey, BC V4N 4E6  
[thomas@bcfca.com](mailto:thomas@bcfca.com)

**BCFCA Committee Chairs for 2015**

Insurance/Benefits Committee – Ron Teljeur  
Social Committee – Jason Davids

Membership Committee – Greg Reader  
Marketing/PR Committee – Darryl Wilson

Education Committee – Don Brletic

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# DEMYSTIFYING FLOORING ACOUSTICS



**M**ore than ever, choosing the right acoustical solution represents a substantial challenge. When working with a condo owner or on a new multi-family project, asking the right questions, at the right time, is crucial. The following may be helpful when navigating through this complex, and often misguided, field.

## HOW TO REDUCE NOISE?

With flooring, it's important to note that similarities exist between airborne and impact noises, however impact noises are far more complex to measure, classify and control. Because impact noises generate much more energy than airborne noises, they travel more easily and quickly through the building structure. To ideally dissipate this energy, we must "decouple" materials as close to the source of the impact as possible. A resilient acoustic membrane is designed to eliminate this direct contact between materials. In a perfect world, the floor covering should never come in contact with the structure (substrate).

## CHALLENGES IN CHOOSING AN ACOUSTIC MEMBRANE

Typical Scenario: Mr. and Mrs. Smith want to change the flooring in their condo. The building they live in requires acoustic performance of FIIC 62. During their search they discover an acoustical membrane claiming an acoustic performance in excess of FIIC 62. They feel confident and proceed with the installation. The following week, their downstairs neighbour complains of hearing footsteps. An Acoustical Engineer is asked to perform acoustic tests on their flooring. The test results reveal a rating of FIIC 54, well below

the FIIC 62 required. What happened? How can the results be so poor?

Flooring acoustics are far more complex than they appear. Indeed, several criteria must be considered when choosing an acoustic membrane. We cannot rely solely on the acoustic results published by the product manufacturer without paying attention to the floor / ceiling assembly.

## DON'T BE FOOLED

Be cautious of acoustic ratings published by manufacturers. It is impossible to predict the performance of an acoustical underlay without considering the nature of the building in which it will be installed. However, acoustic performance, as published by several acoustic membrane manufacturers, suggest that you can achieve similar results regardless of the type of structure. Therefore, it is essential to verify the conditions under which the published acoustic tests were performed by the manufacturer.

Was the testing conducted in a laboratory or in the field? Acoustic tests performed in a laboratory, under ideal conditions, will systematically provide more efficient results than field tests, where nothing is optimal, often by up to 5 points. Was the floor / ceiling assembly used during the acoustic testing the same as the intended installation? The thickness of the concrete slab, the quantity and thickness of plywood layers, the use of resilient channels, the existence of a suspended ceiling, acoustical mat, etc. are all factors that can dramatically influence published acoustic results for a given membrane. As an example, a suspended ceiling can increase results up to 14 points. You must ensure that acoustic tests carried out

with the membrane you are considering were conducted using identical or very similar testing methods and floor / ceiling assemblies.

## DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE

An extremely important criteria in choosing an acoustic membrane is mechanical performance. Make sure that the product meets the mechanical criteria (thickness, density, internal cohesion) of the chosen floor covering. This aspect is often overlooked, however it is just as important as the acoustic performance. Neglecting mechanical performance while choosing your acoustic membrane can lead to expensive failures such as deformation, delaminating, cracking or lifting of the floor covering; all potentially resulting in voiding of the manufacturer's warranty!

It's also important to know the type of flooring that will be installed: glued or floating engineered wood, nailed hardwood, vinyl, ceramic, etc. This information will guide you to the appropriate acoustical membrane category for your building. If the flooring type is not considered, the result may be that the membrane is too thick, soft or dense. Also, the membrane's mechanical strength may not be sufficient enough to absorb the energy from the natural variations of the floor or subfloor.

## IN CONCLUSION

As specialists, we lead the way, guiding our customers toward making educated decisions. Today, it is impossible to do so without having a better understanding of acoustics and evaluating the consequences of our recommendations. The good news is that the proper information and support is available and within reach. ♦

# ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The BCFCFA Annual Golf Tournament was held at the Surrey Golf Course on June 4th. It was a beautiful day, with **Andrew** of the **Investors Group** serving complimentary hot dogs as the golfers came through. The sun was shining for our 67 golfers, with an additional 7 attendees for the wonderful buffet that followed the tournament. The new owners of the Surrey Golf Course have already started making changes and upgrades and will continue with renovations to the banquet room and clubhouse which will increase capacity. The food and service was fantastic for our event.

Our thanks to **Randy Gibson** of **Shnier**, for once again volunteering to emcee and organize the trophies and plaques for the

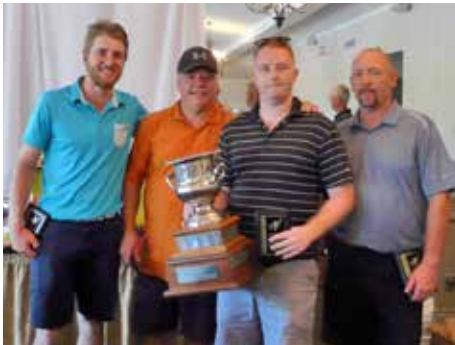
winners. We also wish to thank **Laura Opsal**, of **Interface**, who as usual, did a fantastic job helping to purchase the prizes for the event and adding more fun at dinner time.

Thank you to **Dustin Stewart** from **Flooring Canada**, for donating the iRobot for our raffle. **Mike Donald** from **Donald Flooring** was the lucky winner.

Thanks to **The Rosedale Group** for the vent cell phone holder give-a-ways at registration, a great gift that was appreciated by all.

The winner of the 50/50 draw went home with \$211 and the other half will go towards the **BCFCFA Education Fund**.

Thanks to all who sponsored and participated, we appreciate your support & let's try to get more members out to this event for next year! ♦



**The Winning Team with a score of 62:**  
Connor O'Dell, Goodfellow; Todd O'Dell, Woodworks The Hardwood Floor Co. Ltd; Scott Wood, Goodfellow; Tyler VanBlankenstien, Woodworks The Hardwood Floor Co. Ltd.



Jason Smith Pacific Rim Flooring Ltd., Donna Duncan, Aero Carpet Services, Colleen Foreman & Philip Livingstone, Ardex Engineered Cement



Patrick Sutton, Mike Donald, Laura Opsal & Don Mann, Interface.



Dustin Stewart, Flooring Canada; Mike Donald, Donald Floors

**Thank you to our sponsors for their continued support:**



# 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JULY 9 – MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST**

BCFCFA Office Surrey

**AUGUST 15 – SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT**

Softball City, Surrey

**OCTOBER 22 – PUMPKIN PATCH**

Port Kells Nursery, Surrey

**OCTOBER 20 – FLOORING EXPO & INSTALLERS CONVENTION**

Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna, BC

**DECEMBER 10 – MEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

Signature Sandman, Langley, BC

**DECEMBER 12 – SKATE WITH SANTA**

Langley Events Centre, Langley

# 2015 EDUCATION CALENDAR

**SEPTEMBER 23 – HARDWOOD SEMINAR**

**WATCH FOR UPCOMING EDUCATION IN THE FALL!**

For more information or registration forms please visit [www.bcfcfa.com](http://www.bcfcfa.com) or call the office at **604-881-4944**.

## NEW BCFCFA MEMBER

Welcome to the newest member of the BC Floor Covering Association

**AcoustiTECH**

150 Leon-Vachon

Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon, Quebec G0S 2W0

Andre Rioux

Ph: 403-462-6060

Fax: 418-889-9915



# BCFCA AGM 2015

2015 BCFCA Annual General Meeting was held at the BC Vintage Truck Museum in Cloverdale on June 10th. Although attendance was low we did have enough for a quorum. Board members in attendance were, **Chris Bland**, **Jason Davids**, **Scott Cooper**, **Ron Teljeur** and **Thomas Foreman**. It was a beautiful sunny day and all enjoyed the delicious BBQ sausage and snacks provided by **Scott Cooper** of **Stanley Cooper T & S**. Scott and **Chris Maskell** of BCFCA were the BBQ masters, standing over the grill, making sure the food was cooked just right.

**Mark Plausteiner** is stepping down from the board this year after 2 years. We thank Mark for his commitment to the BCFCA Board, a final word from Mark "I appreciate all of you for the opportunity and I know with the BOD in place the BCFCA will continue to grow and succeed for many years to come".

**Jeanette Martin** of **Cypress Hardwood Floors** was nominated for the Board and accepted, Welcome Jeanette!

## FOR SALE

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email: [jimwiddifield@yahoo.ca](mailto:jimwiddifield@yahoo.ca)  
or by cell: (604) 290-6532



Thank you to **Irina Robertson** from **Morneau Shepell**, our Affinity Partner, who once again sponsored the wine.

Thank you to the BC Vintage Truck Museum volunteers. The volunteers did a wonderful job of getting everything set up for us and spoke with our members about the history of the trucks and the museum. If you have a chance visit the museum, have a tour and learn about its' amazing history.

Thanks to all those in attendance, please mark the 2nd week of June on your calendar for our 2016 AGM.



Jeanette Martin



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\* potential new members to BCFCA are subject to an application and approval process



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