



CIMS

TECHNOLOGY

**Deep computing recreates Montreal Street**

A life-size, interactive recreation of Lower St-Laurent Boulevard in Montreal was demonstrated at the Carleton Immersive Media Studio in Ottawa last November. The visualization of 10 city blocks took engineers, architects and programmers more than two years and \$1 million to create, using IBM's Deep Computing Visualization technology. The 360-degree image was also transmitted from Montreal to Ottawa over CANet 4, a network that has a capacity of 40 gigabits per second. Canada's Department of Canadian Heritage helped fund the Montreal recreation.

such a system is very environmentally friendly, Levitt and Buczolitz pointed out that ironically it doesn't contribute to having individual buildings certified by LEED since they don't benefit from the energy credits. A person in the audience suggested a solution might be forthcoming if the LEED for Neighbourhood Development rating system comes to Canada. It is currently being piloted by the U.S. Green Building Council.

AWARDS

**Steel in B.C.**

Winners in the 2006 Canadian Institute of Steel Construction B.C. Region awards were: Pine River Crossing (Buckland & Taylor), Texada Quarrying Shiploader (Westmar Engineering), the YVR Chevron Expansion (Stantec, Bush Bohlman),

and the Electronic Arts Phase 2 Studio Building (Musson Cattell Mackey, Glotman Simpson).

INFRASTRUCTURE

**A tunnel and a prayer**

A service honouring St. Barbara, the traditional protector of those working underground or with explosives, was held December 4 at the Seymour shaft of the Seymour-Capilano twin tunneling project in the Greater Vancouver Regional District. Such ceremonies are widely practised on construction projects in Europe. This one

was hosted by the prime contractor, Bilfinger Berger Canada. A shrine to St. Barbara greets workers at the bottom of the Seymour shaft on the rock face where the twin tunnels diverge.

Two 3.8-metre diameter tunnel boring machines are now moving from Seymour towards the Capilano reservoir, seven kilometres away. The tunnels will bring water to and from a new filtration plant.

The Seymour-Capilano project is just one component of the GVRD's \$600-million plans to upgrade the region's water supply. The need for water upgrades became obvious at the end of last year when a million people in the region were placed on a boil water advisory. Storms had caused landslides that resulted in unacceptable levels of turbidity in the reservoirs. — *Tonia Jurbin, P.Eng.*



Shrine at entrance to tunnelling shaft, Seymour-Capilano project, B.C.

Tonia Jurbin

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