

Celebrating engineering achievement

by Anita Direnfeld

Fifty-five years have passed since PEO Council awarded its first Gold Medal to C.D. Howe, P.Eng., to recognize his outstanding leadership and contributions to the Canadian war effort during the Second World War. More recently, Gold Medals were awarded in 1997 to engineer, medical doctor and astronaut Robert Thirsk, P.Eng., in 1999 to Donald Walker, P.Eng., president and CEO of Magna International, a global leader in auto parts manufacturing, and in 2001 to Robert Gillespie, P.Eng., chairman and CEO of General Electric Canada Inc.



In June 2001, PEO Council committed to work with the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) to manage jointly what had been PEO's professional awards program. To rejuvenate the program, for which nominations appeared to be declining since a switch to a biannual awards presentation in 1995, Council directed that:

- ◆ the program be renamed the Ontario Professional Engineers Awards; and
- ◆ presentations of the awards be restored to an annual schedule beginning in 2002.

PEO's other awards program, the Order of Honour service awards, which had been presented in alternate years since 1995, will also revert to an annual presentation during the PEO Annual General Meeting in April. The new Ontario Professional Engineers Awards will be presented annually in November.

The Ontario Professional Engineers Awards program comprises three awards.

The **Gold Medal** recognizes conscientious commitment to public service, technical excellence and outstanding professional leadership. It is the program's premier award.

The **Engineering Medal** recognizes professional engineers who have improved quality of life through the ingenious application of their engineering skills. Engineering Medals are awarded in several categories:

- ◆ **Engineering Excellence**—recognizing overall excellence in the practice of engineering, where the innovative application of engineering principles has solved a unique problem or produced above-average results;
- ◆ **Research and Development**—for developing new and useful applications, or improving engineering knowledge or applied science, or discovering or extending any of the engineering or natural sciences;
- ◆ **Management**—for the management and direction of above average engineering projects or highly successful enterprises. Recipients are PEO members who have

contributed significantly to achieving excellence in engineering, primarily through their management skills;

- ◆ **Entrepreneurship**—for applying new technologies that have enabled new companies to get started, and/or assisted established companies to grow in new directions. Those who earn this award have demonstrated the initiative, energy and spirit it takes to seek out, promote and foster new ideas; and
- ◆ **Young Engineer Award**—for outstanding engineers under the age of 35, who have made exceptional achievements in their chosen fields. This award is given to those who have demonstrated excellence not only in their engineering careers, but also in community and professional participation.

The **Citizenship Award** recognizes community service in two categories, for:

- ◆ activities for society outside of an engineering context;
- ◆ activities for social betterment within an engineering context (e.g. extensive voluntary involvement with standards setting groups).

Call for nominations

The new Ontario Professional Engineers Awards program is administered by an Awards Committee made up of volunteers from PEO and from OSPE. The nomination deadline for the 2002 Ontario Professional Engineers Awards is March 31, 2002.

Anita Direnfeld is PEO's manager, programs and events.

Know any engineers who deserve a medal?

Nominate them for a 2002 Ontario Professional Engineers Award.



The Ontario Professional Engineers Awards program recognizes excellence across a broad range of engineering endeavours, including innovation, professional leadership and entrepreneurship, as well as significant contributions to society in general.



Ensure that professional engineers who have done outstanding work get the recognition they deserve. Everything needed can be found on PEO's website—including descriptions of categories, nomination criteria, a description of the points system, terms of reference and a nomination form.



<http://www.peo.on.ca/events/awards/awardshomepage.html>

If you have any questions or need an awards information kit, please call Nancy Mastrocola at 416-224-1100, ext. 403 or 800-339-3716, ext. 403.

The deadline for nomination is March 31, 2002.