



Chapter Leaders Conference tackles thorny issues

by Dwight Hamilton

"I challenge you to keep an open mind to new or different ideas and take back to your chapter at least one new concept for implementation," said PEO Eastern Region Councillor Allen Lucas, P.Eng., as he welcomed about 80 delegates to the annual Chapter Leaders Conference held in Toronto on Nov. 24, 2001. "If you have some concerns that something is not just right with PEO or the chapters, please raise it and if possible include how you would change the situation. This is where the challenge begins and you need to be cautious and prepared because it is not simply good enough to say it is their problem—because we are PEO and the chapters," he added.

Clare Morris, P.Eng., vice chair of the board of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) provided an update on the activities of its first year. Surveys of its membership and the general public and interviews with elite stakeholders yielded information that will be helpful in establishing a strategic plan for the society (see page 34 for full story), she said. OSPE found that engineers are well respected by the pub-

lic and are seen to have credibility to speak on scientific issues, but only 25 per cent of the 1000 Ontarians surveyed are aware of the P.Eng. designation.

When OSPE polled its members, most see public recognition of the profession as OSPE's top priority. Elite stakeholders (opinion leaders like government and media) see engineers as a credible information source but believe they should speak out on more issues. They also feel that OSPE should establish a positive public profile before advocating for any "selfish" interests, Morris reported.

Chapter leaders examined a number of issues in breakout sessions, such as separating the right to title from the right to practise. A majority in the breakout session (58 per cent) felt the two should not be separated but that there is a need to define what the licence actually means.

The group felt more discussion is needed, because there seems to be no easy resolution: While they were clear on what constitutes professional conduct, they were not unanimous on how "practice" is defined and how qualifications should be maintained. They agreed there is a need to ensure the solution arrived at addresses the concern of a majority of current P.Engs, however.

As PEO is repositioning itself as a regulatory body, its governance model was reviewed to see if it is appropriate and if chapters have a role in the process. Participants felt that region congresses do

not get enough input from chapters and that Region Councillors should give priority to chapter concerns and present them to PEO Council. Regarding task forces and committees, it was recommended that their number should be reviewed and reduced and that each one should have a scope and schedule communicated to the chapters.

What role should chapters play in PEO's enforcement activities? Chapter leaders felt that a positive contribution is made by members when they report suspected cases of illegal practice or misrepresentation, help gather evidence, transfer notifications and monitor compliance in their areas. Participants felt the process can be improved by setting up a case roster, fixing a finite time frame to investigations and by reporting progress to chapters.

In newer disciplines like software and bioengineering, fewer engineering graduates are seeking their P.Eng. and as a result, the conference also looked at the role chapters can play in promoting licensure. Participants felt the best way to encourage grads to become P.Engs would be to convince management that there is significant value to a company to employing licensed engineers and by educating students at all levels. Chapters could also assist by providing contact personnel for all promotions and by launching mentoring programs, the chapter leaders recommended.

Engineer in Residence program welcomes newest sponsor



PEO President Gordon Sterling, P.Eng., presents a certificate to Lindsay Banks, P.Eng., of Wardrop Engineering Inc. Wardrop has pledged \$15,000 in funding over three years to support the EIR project. The program brings volunteer engineers into the classroom to help teachers and students bridge classroom science and math with real life applications. The EIR program currently runs in 26 schools, with another 90 schools on a waiting list. On hand at the cheque presentation ceremony at Wardrop's Mississauga office were: Gordon Sterling, P.Eng., PEO President; Lindsay Banks, P.Eng., Wardrop Engineering; Nick Markettos, P.Eng., Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology; and George Comrie, P.Eng., Chair, EIR program.

PEO representatives participate in process toward objective-based building code

by Sharon Van Ihinger

PEO has been asked by the Housing Development and Buildings Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to participate in talks to develop a new Objective-Based Building Code for Ontario. Resource conservation and environmental integrity are just two of the concerns that will be addressed through a consultation process that will also include key stakeholders from government and industry.

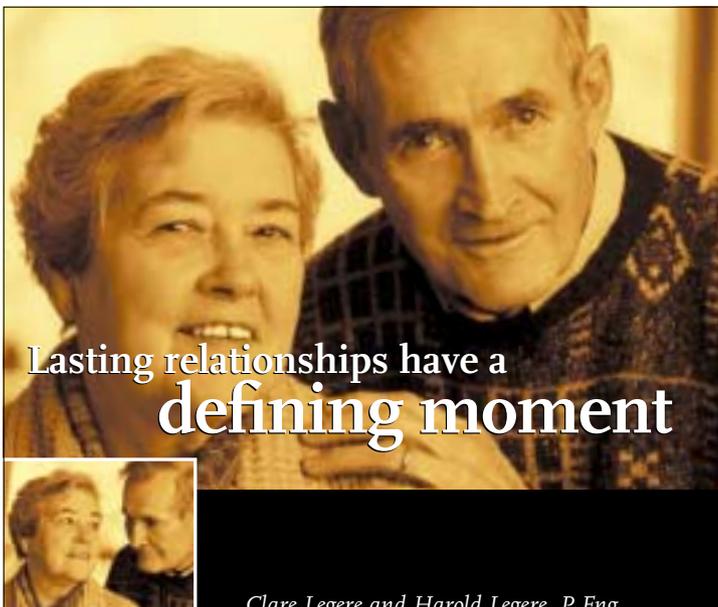
Official PEO representatives, who will sit on committees reviewing technical issues that may have an impact on implementation of a new building code, will provide feedback on these and policy issues as they relate to PEO's regulatory functions.

In addition to the five technical committees, two Fire Code committees have been established to provide advice on technical issues as they relate to implementation of a new Objective-Based Fire Code.

The chair of each technical committee will report to the Building and Development Branch on the status of the committee's deliberations and recommendations. This process is expected to continue into 2003 when final recommendations will be fully analyzed, likely resulting in changes to the Ontario Building Code in several areas. The objective-based codes will ultimately require engineers to exercise more professional judgment compared to the traditional prescriptive-based building codes.

PEO representatives on the Ontario Building Code technical committees are:

- ◆ Jonathan Rubes, P.Eng., president, Leber/Rubes Inc.—Structural/Architectural Committee;
- ◆ Rocco Racioppo, P.Eng., vice-president, Vanbots Construction Corp.—HVAC Committee;
- ◆ Louie Cosolo, P.Eng., vice-president, S. Breda & Associates Ltd.—Plumbing/Drainage Committee;
- ◆ Sewage Systems Committee (PEO representative to be announced); and
- ◆ Randal Brown, P.Eng., president, Randal Brown & Associates—Renovations Committee.



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Associations call attention to engineering fees

by Dwight Hamilton

Unless compensation for engineers is increased "significantly" Canada can expect second-rate services, says Andrew Steeves, P. Eng., the new chair of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada.

In taking the position recently, Steeves called for the "voice of engineering to be heard" to protect the health and safety of Canada's communities. "Too often and for too long the professional advice of engineers has been taken for granted, undervalued or not taken at all," he says. "The hard work of our forefathers who helped to build the social and economic fabric of this great country is in jeopardy if today's industry is unable to show the relevance and the value of our professional services to those who rely on our expertise the most—our clients and the general public."

Steeves sees the "below average" salaries of consulting engineers, the heavy competition across North America for qualified staff and the declining enrollment in civil engineering programs as evidence that the profession "needs to tell its story." Engineering services are becoming a commodity, which leads to decreasing salaries for consulting engineers and an avoidance of the profes-

sion by Canada's best minds, he says. "If left unchallenged, this trend will result in second-rate engineering and undermine the public's faith in our services. This will be bad news for the health, safety and economic well-being of Canadians as well for our shared environment," he says.

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (APEGBC) is considering enshrining minimum fees in B.C.'s engineering act, which is currently being revised. To combat low bidding, workshops at APEGBC's recent annual general meeting explored two options using a "two envelope system" that would have clients select a firm based on its qualifications and past experience in the first stage and consider price in the second. One option would make it illegal for consultants to charge fees below the prescribed levels and for clients to hire engineering firms based on price; in the other scenario fees are "recommended but optional." An APEGBC panel's final recommendations will likely be put before its council this year.

Allen Russell, P.Eng., representing Consulting Engineers of B.C., said his organization has supported quality-based selection for years and would be pleased

to see it included in the province's engineering act, but that its membership has differences over mandatory fees. He said some feel they would alleviate financial pressure for consulting firms and help them retain top talent, while others fear expensive legal challenges and that mandatory fees would promote mediocrity and discourage innovation.

PEO is also concerned by the downward trend in fees. "The members of the Fee Schedule Committee believe that, generally, fees are not high enough for the consulting industry to be sustainable," says Bernard Ennis, P.Eng., manager, professional practice for PEO. "Low fees mean firms do not have the financial resources to invest in business and professional development, and salaries are too low to attract and retain talented engineers." This is a troubling prospect for the profession, which could lead to declining capabilities in its most visible sector.

All PEO members are invited to submit comments and opinions regarding fees, selection processes and engineer/client relationships to the Fee Schedule Committee. Send these via email to feeschedule@peo.on.ca or contact Bernard Ennis, P. Eng., at 416-224-9528, ext. 499 or 800-339-3716, ext. 499.

PEO seminar to examine sustainable development

by Dwight Hamilton

Engineers can learn how sustainable principles can be applied to their daily design decisions at an upcoming seminar to be hosted by PEO's Environment Committee on March 6, 2002.

Sustainable design is a result of integrating an appropriate balance between protection of the environment, a viable economy and social well-being and therefore reinforces the overriding duty of professional engineers. The seminar will offer engineers an opportunity to learn more about existing technologies being applied in the real world by those who apply them.

Dr. Stuart Smith, chair of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE), will be the keynote speaker (see interview on p. 40). NRTEE is an independent advisory body that furnishes Canadian opinion leaders, decision makers and the public with advice for promoting sustainable development. He will provide insight into the federal government's "sustainable development indicator initiative," which promotes the science of measuring progress toward a more sustainable economy.

Deploying a sustainable energy strategy has resulted in a competitive advan-

tage for Dupont Canada and Ed Kalinowski will discuss how he helped reduce its per-unit energy consumption by 28 per cent in the 1990s, saving \$76 million.

In addition, an industry roundtable will discuss the implications of product stewardship from its perspective. Speakers include Michael Gilmore, P.Eng., vice president of the Canadian Steel Institute and Patrice Hanson of Nova Chemicals.

For information on registration, contact Sharon Gillam at 416-224-9528, ext. 464, or 800-339-3716 (email: sgillam@peo.on.ca). Further details are also available at www.peo.on.ca.

University of Toronto grapples with GTA traffic gridlock

by Lisa Korec

The University of Toronto has opened an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Centre to develop solutions to Toronto's traffic gridlock problem. The centre, officially opened on November 22, is part of the university's Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering.

Suburban growth in the GTA has increased the number of cars on Toronto's roads, creating increased traffic jams and gridlock. According to Ontario Minister of Energy, Science and Technology Jim Wilson, the downtown U of T campus is an ideal location for the Toronto traffic study because it is directly affected by traffic congestion and U of T's engineering faculty "is at the forefront of ITS development in Canada."

The Ontario government, a major investor in the ITS centre, is also funding a major GTA traffic pattern study

to improve Toronto's traffic patterns in order to increase road safety and provide environmental and economic benefits for the entire province. The traffic pattern study is headed by Baher Abdulhai, assistant professor and director of ITS Centre, Eric Miller, and Richard Soberman, P. Eng.

The ITS centre is important to the engineering profession, says Professor Abdulhai, "because the public will benefit from the research we produce because traffic safety will be increased."

Abdulhai adds that since there are not enough qualified engineers available to contribute to this area of study, the centre's research initiatives will ensure that current and future engineering students are properly trained to run the high-tech transportation systems increasingly required by growing urban areas.

Students in the university's graduate engineering program, under the direction of the three professors, will use the centre's

intelligent transportation systems to analyze Toronto-area traffic. The Ontario government is providing an entire wall of closed-circuit televisions linked to the Ministry of Transportation's network of more than 200 traffic cameras and detectors covering GTA-area highways and major routes. The ITS centre researchers will analyze traffic patterns, develop mathematical transportation network models and make recommendations.

The ITS centre has received public- and private-sector investment totalling \$4.3 million, including nearly \$1 million from the Ontario government through the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund and the Ontario Innovation Trust.

The value of the global ITS industry is expected to reach \$200 billion over the next 25 years.

For more information on the University of Toronto Intelligent Transportation Centre, visit the centre's website at www.civ.utoronto.ca/its.



Maggie Easton and Joe Tibensky, P.Eng. enjoy a

pretty hectic lifestyle balancing two careers, home and kids. It's a good feeling to be saving money for a time when life won't be quite this busy. With the CCPE-sponsored Financial Security Program with Canada Life, helping you achieve a healthy 'balance' through effective financial planning is the goal.

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Engineers seek to rebuild Afghanistan

by Dwight Hamilton

In an effort to reconstruct war-torn Afghanistan, several Canadian engineers are helping to organize a fact-finding mission to that country to assess its massive infrastructure needs. Working with the Society of Afghan Engineers (SAE), they say the mission will leave for Kabul in March.

"We think something can be done. It's a very painful situation, but challenging from an engineering point of view. You have to be creative starting from scratch," says Peter Aikat, P.Eng., a foreign service officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The immediate objective will be to assist in the resettlement of refugees and displaced people and provide humanitarian aid. The situation is bleak. Afghans constitute the largest single refugee population in the world with an estimated 3.6 million people or 30 per cent of the total. In addition, the United Nations World

Food Program carried out a major survey in Kabul last year and found 75 per cent of the homes it assessed needed aid.

One of the first engineering priorities will be the de-mining and decontamination of the lands and farms affected by years of warfare, says Aikat. Repairs to electrical generation facilities, telecom infrastructure, irrigation systems, hospitals and schools are more areas that require urgent attention, he adds.

Another will be the extensive repairing of roads and highways. According to the Canadian Chapter president of the SAE, Qaseem Naimi, P.Eng., Afghanistan had a network of 2500 km. gravel and paved roads and about 10000 km. unpaved rural access roads linking major settlements. But that was prior to two decades of conflict. A major 1050 km. highway connecting Kabul and Herat could once be covered in about 14 hours but now takes an estimated two weeks, he says.

Also important is waterworks repair. Less than 7 per cent of the population, most of whom are located in urban areas,

has access to safe drinking water. Damage from US air raids is expected to be extensive and the most recent reports on Kabul's water supply and sewer system were prepared by two Canadian engineering companies over 20 years ago. The SAE states that for the most part, newer statistics on infrastructure were considered classified, "so the updating of existing information and establishing a proper database will be of primary importance to all development efforts," says Naimi.

Initially, the engineers are assembling a roster of volunteers who can pass on their expertise in the crucial areas of civil construction, waterworks management and design, telecom/broadcast technologies and prosthetics. Recently retired engineers would be ideal, Aikat says. In addition to engineering talent, he indicates there is also a need for people with organizational/planning and accounting skills.

For those interested in participating or helping with the project, contact Peter Aikat at 613-944-0359 or by email: peter.aikat@dfait-maeci.gc.ca.



Five new stories have been added to the top of the Victoria Wing of Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital. The \$44 million addition, comprising medical services and a mechanical penthouse won the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction's engineering award for innovative design and construction methods. The project's key partners were Cannon Construction Corp. East, general contractor Bondfield Construction, structural engineers Carruthers & Wallace Ltd. and Lambton Metal Works Ltd. of Sarnia, who manufactured more than 1600 tons of steel for the project.

PEO's Order of Honour Service Award Recipients

Seventeen professional engineers will be awarded the Order of Honour on the evening of April 20 at a black-tie awards dinner. Congratulations to the following individuals for their voluntary service to the association.

In the class of Companion:

Christine Ann Bell, P.Eng.
London Chapter

In the class of Officer:

Katherine Crewe, P.Eng.

R. Keith Cross, P.Eng.
Kingsway Chapter

Ravi K. Gupta, P.Eng.
York Chapter

Dr. Kenneth Serdula, P.Eng.
Algonquin Chapter

In the class of Member:

William R. Campbell, P.Eng.
Quinte Chapter

Danny Chui, P.Eng.
Mississauga Chapter

John F. Clayton, P.Eng.
Brampton Chapter

William Edwards, P.Eng.
Oakville Chapter

John Glover, P.Eng.
East Toronto Chapter

Harold (Mel) Harju, P.Eng.
North Bay Chapter

Jana Havard, P.Eng.
Mississauga Chapter

Donald Ernest, P.Eng.
North Bay Chapter

Dr. Ross L. Judd, P.Eng.
Hamilton Chapter

H. Richard Patterson, P.Eng.
Windsor Essex County Chapter

Brian Ross, P.Eng.
York Chapter

Richard Westwell, P.Eng.
Ottawa Chapter



Building things can be very
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Michael Tangen, P.Eng. is a manufacturing engineer in the electronics services industry. He began building his financial future before he turned 30. He recently moved a good portion of his portfolio into the CCPE-sponsored Financial Security Program with Canada Life because it offered two important features: flexibility and a wide range of investment options.

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"Engineers are Everyday Heroes" 2002 campaign goes "Green"

by Julie Cohen

Year three of the "Engineers are Everyday Heroes" educational program will be launched during National Engineering Week (NEW) March 2-10. The campaign aims to build awareness of the contributions engineers make to our daily lives and inspire students to consider careers in science and engineering.

The theme for 2002 activities will be "engineering and the environment." TVO Kids hosts will emcee three performances of "Go Green" live stage shows to be held simultaneously at four venues—the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto, the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa, Science North in Sudbury and the London Regional Children's Museum—at 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 2. Video of one of the Toronto performances will later be available online at www.everydayheroes.on.ca and www.tvokids.com.

March 2 will also mark the beginning of a month-long, environment-themed children's contest on TVO Kids: "Build an environmentally friendly vehicle for Tumbleweed." Workshops where children can create their vehicles will be held at 17 locations throughout the province.

"Engines: Past, Present and Future," an environment-themed, curriculum-related Heroes Teachers' Kit, featuring custom-designed, hands-on engineering challenges for Grades 5, 6, and 7 will be made available to Ontario schools and distributed in February 2002. To order the kit, teachers can contact the Canadian Space Resource Centre at 416-396-2421 or 1-877-449-2772.

Partners in the Heroes 2002 campaign include: the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, Ontario Power Generation, TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment, TVOntario, *National Post*, National Research Council Canada, Canada Science and Technology Museum, London Regional Children's Museum, Ontario Science Centre, Science North, Ontario Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology, Canadian Space Resource

Centre and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Professional Engineers Ontario was a partner in the first two years of the program.

Children's workshops volunteers needed

Take a few hours during NEW to help enthusiastic kids create fantastic, environmentally friendly vehicles for Tumbleweed, the fun-loving hamster mascot of TVOKids.

Contest entry-making workshops will run 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3 and March 9 and 10 at:

- ◆ Ontario Science Centre, Toronto;
- ◆ Canada Science and Technology Museum, Ottawa;
- ◆ Science North, Sudbury; and
- ◆ London Regional Children's Museum.

Workshops will also be held during the afternoon of Saturday, March 2 at 13 locations of the Toronto Public Library. See "Volunteer Opportunities" at www.engineeringweek.on.ca for library locations and times.

Julie Cohen is a public relations consultant working on the "Engineers are Everyday Heroes" campaign.

Volunteer Response Form



Please complete all parts of this form and return by Friday, February 22, 2002 to:
Andrea Vecera,
National Engineering Week Ontario Steering Committee,
Tel: 416-223-9961, ext. 222 or 1-866-763-1654, ext. 222
Fax: 416-223-9963 or 1-866-763-1655
Mail: 4950 Yonge St., Suite 1000, Toronto, Ontario, M2N 6K1.

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Mr Ms First Name _____ Last Name _____

Job Title _____ Language: English ___ French ___

Mailing Address _____

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Home Tel (_____) _____ Bus Tel (_____) _____

Fax (_____) _____ E-mail _____

What is your status? Please check the appropriate classification(s) below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Engineer | <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Engineering Technician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering student | <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Engineering Technologist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Intern | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology student |

Choice of workshop location _____

City _____ Date(s) available _____

What is the best time of day to contact you? _____

Thanks for volunteering!

Education foundation boosts scholarships

by Stephanie Wei

The Professional Engineers Foundation for Education has increased the value of its scholarships in response to increased university tuition. Admission Scholarships will be raised from \$1,200 to \$1,500 and Undergraduate Scholarships will be increased from \$600 to \$1,000.

The foundation is a charitable organization that is run by its own board of directors under the stewardship of PEO. Funding comes from PEO member donations and in 2000 Ontario P.Engs donated more than \$65,000 in order to promote the training and education of professional engineers.

Admission Scholarships are awarded to the top male and female entrants to each of Ontario's engineering schools. Undergraduate scholarships are awarded to students who achieve a high academic standing in engineering programs. In addition, some schools also consider leadership criteria. The number of these scholarships at each school depends on the size of its engineering student body and they can be awarded to students at any level.

The foundation also awards a Gold Medal to the top graduate of each engineering school for achieving the highest standing in their final examinations.

As part of a recently approved communications plan, the foundation is working toward raising awareness of the scholarship program and establishing an identity separate from PEO. It hopes to increase the level of contributions by PEO members in order to support the higher scholarship levels. It is anticipated the foundation will need an additional \$30,000 annually. Plans for a comprehensive marketing campaign include a new website and logo, and print advertising and editorial coverage.

George Comrie, P.Eng., the foundation's president, indicates that these activities are part of the board's mission of increasing the scope of its education outreach. He believes students need to understand the importance of licensure: "They're joining a self-governing profession which has at its core the protection of the public. We want them to know that the profession supports academic excellence and we want to reinforce

the issue of professional competency." In the process, Comrie hopes to build stronger partnerships with the universities and more awareness of the licensing process within their administrations.

PEO members can contribute by sending donations either directly to the foundation at 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 1000, Toronto, ON M2N 6S9, or combining it with their membership fees payment by using the tick-off box and indicating the amount on the invoice.



Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson presents a Gold Medal to 2nd Lt. Nicole Lawrence at the Royal Military College of Canada. Other 2000-2001 Gold Medal recipients were: Alok Aggarwal (University of Waterloo); Stacy Bullock (University of Guelph); Todd Hoare (Queen's University); Andrew Lai-Fat-Fur (University of Windsor); Kenzie MacIsaac (Carleton University); Christopher Scollard (University of Western Ontario); Thomas Turk (Ryerson University) and Phillip Weicker (McMaster University).



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