

Awards ceremony celebrates engineering

By JOAN BAILEY

An architect, an artist and an engineer were discussing whether it was better to spend time with your wife or a mistress. The architect said he enjoyed time with his wife, building a solid foundation for an enduring relationship. The artist said he enjoyed time with his mistress, because of the passion and mystery he found there. The engineer said, "I like both."

"Both?" the others asked.

"Yes," said the engineer. "If you have a wife and a mistress, each will assume that you are spending time with the other, and you can go to the lab and get some work done."

Engineers are seen as practical, hard-working, fully appreciative of technology, dedicated to public and client service, and respectful of intellectual precision. So said Gord Miller, Ontario environmental commissioner, in his keynote address to awardees, guests, and PEO and Ontario Society of Professional Engineers staff and volunteers at the Ontario Professional Engineers Awards ceremony on November 14. The above joke, which drew appreciative laughs and applause from the crowd, correlates with his experience as environmental commissioner, Miller said, and shows that engineers are generally perceived positively.

He cautioned, however, that engineers must help to "regain the public confidence and credibility of scientists and scientific decision making." Miller said that the media disseminate a distorted message, with the opinions of unqualified people given the same weight as those of trained scientists.

"We have to stand up to this mischief, and defend the solutions of qualified professionals," he said. "We must work to restore technical integrity to its status."

The engineering community will be called upon increasingly for its input in environmental legislation, as seen with the passage of the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, and *Sustainable Water and Sewage Systems Act*, said Miller. He called upon engineers to work with other environmental pro-



Ontario's engineering community recognized its own in a ceremony held this past November. Shown are (standing, from left): Awardee Peter Hiscocks, P.Eng., Awards Committee members Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng., G. Ross Gillett, P.Eng., Jeanette Southwood, P.Eng., Daniel Couture, P.Eng., Chair Márta Ecsedi, P.Eng., Eric Nejat, PhD, P.Eng., John Lipsett, P.Eng., and Ray Linseman, P.Eng. Awardees seated from left are: Larry Seeley, PhD, P.Eng., Hank Edamura, P.Eng., Wayne Doran, P.Eng., Jennifer Moylan, P.Eng., Douglas Barber, PhD, P.Eng., William Rowan, P.Eng., Levente Diosady, PhD, P.Eng., and Hanif Ladak, PhD, P.Eng.

fessionals to effect change. He also urged engineers to view "the natural environment as the client, and afford it the same level of service as any other client."

His message was complementary to that of Gold Medal Winner H. Douglas Barber, PhD, P.Eng., who said that his professional life has been guided by two principles: one—act for the good of all; and, two—search for wisdom. Barber, a recipient of the PEO Engineering Medal for research and development in 1987, was honoured for his leadership and entrepreneurial skill.

Eight other professional engineers were honoured that evening:

- Peter Hiscocks, P.Eng., for citizenship, for his tireless work to make the profession more welcoming to women;
- Wayne Doran, P.Eng., for engineering excellence, for developing standards that are now integral requirements in the area of electronic cheque and image exchange;
- William Rowan, P.Eng., for entrepreneurship, for significant achievements in the field of wind engineering;

- Larry Seeley, PhD, P.Eng., for entrepreneurship, as the driving force in developing the world's largest commercial metallurgical testing, R and D organization;
- Hank Edamura, P.Eng., for management, for leadership on successfully completed airport planning and development projects world wide;
- Levente Diosady, PhD, P.Eng., for research and development, for work that relieves nutritional deficiencies in developing nations;
- Hanif Ladak, PhD, P.Eng., for achievement as a young engineer, for establishing himself as an expert in digital image analysis for disease diagnosis; and
- Jennifer Moylan, P.Eng., for achievement as a young engineer, for introducing new software to the aerospace community and for service to the profession.

Sponsors for the event were Canada Life, Celestica, DPIC Companies, General Electric Canada, Hume Imaging, Jordan Engineering, Manulife Financial, Telus Mobility and The Personal.

Technologist recognition still in the works, legislation changes a sticking point

By FAWZIA SHEIKH

A year and a half after PEO Council approval of recommendations of the Technologist Licensure Task Group (see "Recognition of C.E.T.s gets the go ahead," *Engineering Dimensions*, November/December 2002, p. 42), work on implementation details is proceeding, but the necessary changes to the *Professional Engineers Act* to effect some of the recommendations are likely some months away—and last fall's change in the provincial government is expected to slow the process further.

"I think it would be fair to say that we're disappointed that it's taken so long," says OACETT Executive Director Angela Shama, P.Eng., C.E.T.

Submitted initially to PEO Council in March 2002 and subsequently released for stakeholder consultation before final approval in September 2002, the report of PEO's Technologist Licensure Task Group (TLTG) contained nine recommendations, ranging from allowing certified engineering technologists who meet PEO's academic, experience and other requirements for a limited licence to hold an exclusive title in addition to their limited licence (the report suggested "licensed engineering technologist") to enabling all limited licence holders to become members of PEO.

One of the most contentious task force suggestions will require a change in the legislation, so that limited licensees may apply for a Certificate of Authorization (C of A) "to offer to the public or engage in the business of providing professional engineering services to the public." Cs of A granted to limited licence holders would be restricted to the holder's "defined scope of professional engineering practice." However, this recommendation would affect only a minority of technologists—some 100 to 200 of OACETT's 21,000 members, says Shama.

PEO Manager of Registration Gerry Meade, P.Eng., charged with implementing the TLTG recommendations,

attributes some of the delay in amending the legislation to a failure to arrive at an adequate definition of a scope of practice that would relate to a C of A.

October's change of government in Ontario is also bound to hold up the implementation, he notes. Although PEO's legal department has drafted some proposed legislation changes to move the process forward, approval is contingent on the Ministry of the Attorney General, he explains. In the new year, he says, PEO's registrar will begin discussions with the new attorney general to brief him on the approved recommendations and proposed changes, following which there will be discussions between legal staff within PEO and within the attorney general's office. The government staff will "put PEO's proposal into the appropriate language and drafts will go back and forth" between PEO and the ministry, he says.

In addition, input from stakeholders will be needed to finalize a position paper

on categories of PEO registration and membership, including one for limited licensees as proposed in the TLTG recommendation 9. To date, the paper has been received by PEO's Executive Committee but has not yet been received by Council, following which it will be released for stakeholder consultation. The outcome of this consultation will determine the final implementation of the recommendation and inform any consequential legislation changes.

Meade says he hopes to see some of the TLTG recommendations in place by the summer of 2004. This schedule is dependent on other priorities facing PEO, such as Act amendments to ensure that Ontario P.Engs can meet the exam and registration requirements of Bill 124, since Bill 124's implementation schedule has already been set by Regulation 305/03.

Fawzia Sheikh is a freelance writer, based in Toronto.

Depth and breadth of engineering discussed at technology conference

By FAWZIA SHEIKH

As the practice of engineering and technology quickly changes, common concerns remain on the minds of major stakeholders.

Whether you're talking to academe, industry or professional licensing or certifying associations, they are all focused on the calibre of future students, employees or members, noted Ted Wisz, P.Eng., chair of the Engineering and Technology Forum 2003, sponsored by the Professional Engineers Ontario/Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists Joint Management Board. Held in November, the forum examined the evolving character of the engineering team.

Developing a technically skilled workforce, many delegates conceded, naturally starts at the academic level. The University of Windsor studied academe's reputation of failing to meet industry's needs for skilled design engineers, by polling engineering schools, such as McGill and the University of British Columbia, and firms like Bombardier Aerospace and MacDonald Dettwiler.

The survey asked respondents to rate a "laundry list of 70 skills," said Peter Frise, P.Eng., professor and NSERC/DaimlerChrysler Canada Senior Industrial Research Chair in Mechanical Design, University of Windsor. He says the results can be applied across all engineering disciplines.

Among the most desirable skills mentioned by industry were effective communication with colleagues and customers, a professional attitude, ethics, conflict management and hands-on experience, said Frise. He noted that technical prowess, though never cited, was considered the minimum qualification of engineers.

The survey results suggest that a gulf that has grown between the academic world and engineers in the field has contributed to producing students armed with workplace skills that fall short in key areas, he said.

For example, engineering professors, emphasizing the analytical, often give low priority to corporate vision and a product's strategic value, in contrast to engineering firms that strongly believe new recruits have "got to show up and contribute."

Resolving these differences is apparently becoming paramount as colleges, polytechnics and universities offer increasingly technical degrees and diplomas that critics say reinforce the value of technology at the expense of a broader education.

Conference delegates also noted that discussions around new applied degrees raise the challenge of upgrading previously earned technical college diplomas to university engineering degrees. Although schools like the University of Victoria and Lakehead offer bridging programs to turn technology diplomas into engineering degrees, would-be professional engineers with technology diplomas can also bypass the traditional degree stage and write a series of PEO exams, prepared for through enrolling in back-to-back university semester programs, or self-study courses, said Marc Rosen, P.Eng., professor and founding dean of the school of manufacturing engineering at the newly opened University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa.

John Tibbits, president of Conestoga College in Kitchener, predicts that ITALS (institutes of technology and advanced learning that operate essentially as polytechnic schools) will be "major players in upgrading professional skills."

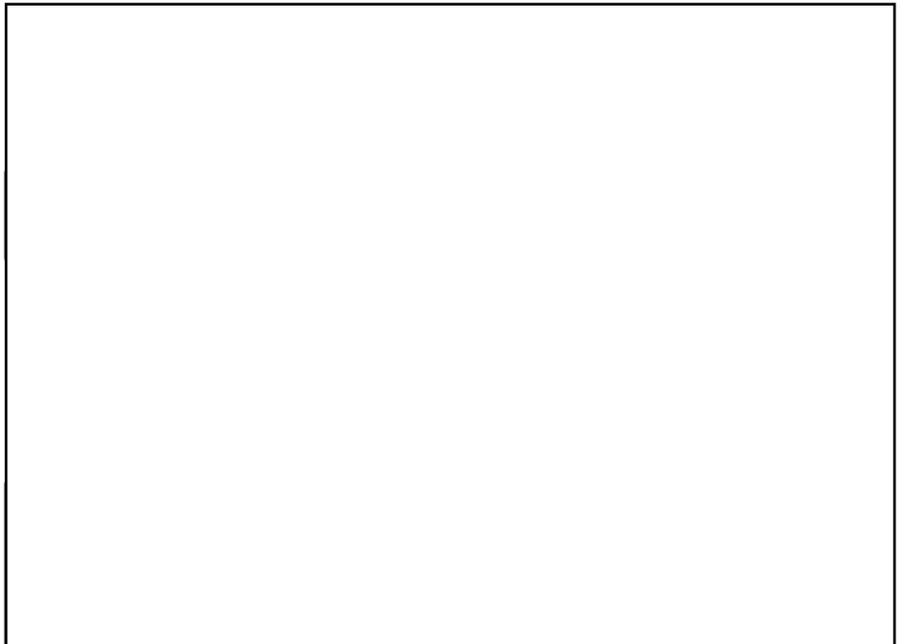
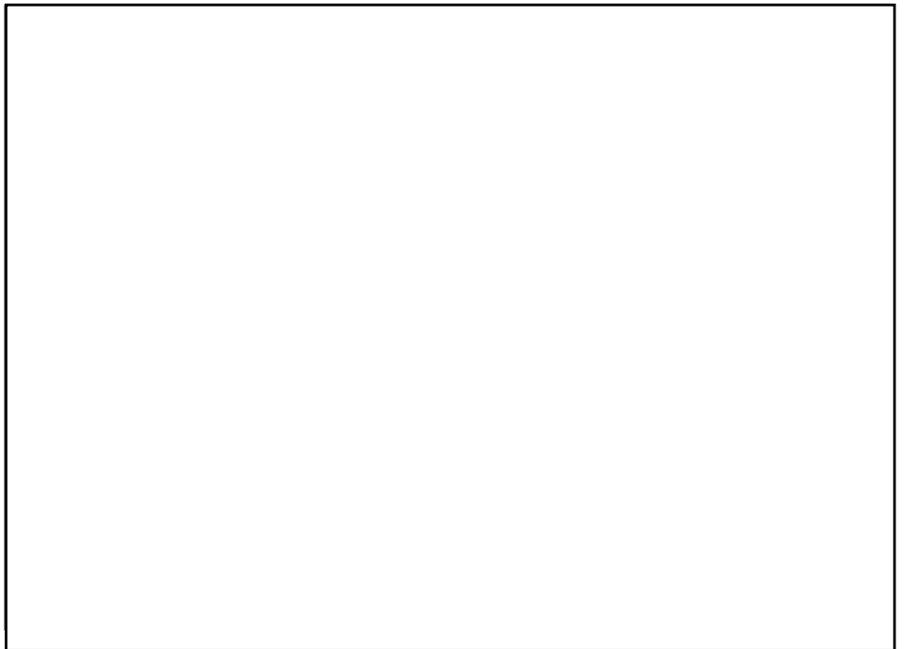
Driven by market needs, ITALs will ideally create a new kind of graduate who can adapt easily to the competitive global market, he added.

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—Peter Frise, P.Eng.

The tremendous marketing challenge to explain all of these educational offerings to incoming high school students, the public, and people tapping a tech-

nical workforce cannot be overlooked. It seems industry, academe, licensing and certification bodies have their work cut out for them.



Meeting the challenges of privacy protection

BY SHARON ASCHAIK

Sweeping federal privacy legislation implemented this year is having a substantial effect on how Professional Engineers Ontario conducts its affairs.

As of January 1, the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA) began governing how the private sector—including self-regulated organizations (SROs) such as PEO and businesses of all types—collects, uses or discloses personal information in commercial activity.

Under PIPEDA, personal information includes one's name; age; weight; height; medical records; income; purchases and spending habits; race, ethnic origin and colour; blood type; DNA code; fingerprints; marital status and religion; education; and home address and phone number.

"PEO has always looked at protecting confidential information, and now there are more protections in place," says Kim Allen, P.Eng., PEO's CEO/Registrar and chief privacy officer. "Privacy is very important to us because we deal with sensitive information from so many people."

Indeed, PEO has about 68,000 active professional engineers and engineering interns on its database, but, Allen says, when you factor in data on licence applicants, former licensees, deceased licensees, unsuccessful applicants, and so on, the organization has information on about twice that number of individuals.

PEO's new privacy policy (posted on the website at www.peo.on.ca) is based on a code of fair information practices, developed by business, consumers, academics and government under the auspices of the Canadian Standards Association, and which are Schedule 1 to PIPEDA.

It is encapsulated in 10 principles, which include identifying to individuals at the time of collection the purposes for which their information is being collected, limiting use of information to its intended purposes, ensuring information is accurate and up to date, and more. (See

sidebar for a full list of the 10 principles and PEO's correlating policies.)

"Federal legislation also compels the disposal of personal information when it's no longer needed," says Ian Eng, P.Eng., former deputy registrar, complaints, discipline and enforcement, who developed the action plan for PEO's compliance with PIPEDA that includes the new privacy policy. "We have to carry out an audit of what personal information PEO possesses, and go through a checklist of such criteria as: What was the purpose of collecting the information? Do we still need it? Who else has it? And, do we have the individual's consent?"

"PEO has always looked at protecting confidential information, and now there are more protections in place," says Kim Allen, P.Eng.

As an example, Eng cites individuals applying to be licensed by PEO, who must give their date of birth to confirm they are at least 18 years of age (a requirement for licensure). "Once that intended purpose has been fulfilled, we don't need the information any more and should dispose of it in a secure manner," he says.

In establishing the parameters of personal information, however, PIPEDA does allow for some exceptions. For example, information not covered by the act includes:

- the name, title, business address or telephone number of an employee of an organization;
- information used for an individual's personal purposes, such as a greeting card list, or for journalistic or literary purposes; or
- information that might appear on a business card, such as an individual's professional designation.

Many other exceptions apply to collecting, using and disclosing personal information. For a full list, visit [\[com.gc.ca/information/guide_e.asp#015\]\(http://com.gc.ca/information/guide_e.asp#015\).](http://priv-</p>
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At present, PEO is developing consent forms for its collection and use of the personal information it requires and already has on hand.

Procedures are also being developed for staff in disclosing personal information and for requesting access to your personal information that PEO holds.

As procedures are put into place, PEO will educate its employees on its privacy practices, and inform licensees of their obligations under PIPEDA.

"Clearly members are affected, especially those who have their own engineering

practices," Eng says. "There is an overriding obligation for all members to be in compliance. If they fail to meet their obligations, they could be subject to PIPEDA and also to PEO discipline rules."

Engineering licensing bodies across Canada are also moving to meet the requirements of the new legislation. The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) follows the standards of the Alberta privacy act, called the *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA), which follows the same 10 principles as PIPEDA, but features some exceptions.

"The question we had was will we still have the same rights to investigate?" says Al Schuld, P.Eng., APEGGA's deputy registrar and privacy officer. "Under the provincial act, our power is explicit. We don't have to get consent for an exemption from PIPEDA. We have those powers under the provincial act—the potential for exemption is built into the PIPA."

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This leaves room for APEGGA to investigate such issues as whether individuals interested in becoming members meet its professional standards, and allegations of professional misconduct against its members.

PEO may seek a legal opinion as to whether it should apply to Industry Canada to be specified as an investigative body, which would give it the same exemption for regulatory purposes as Alberta has.

Meanwhile, the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec (OIQ) is exempted from both PIPEDA and the provincial privacy act, which does not apply to SROs, but follows the provincial civil code, which is also largely based on PIPEDA's 10 principles.

“Association” out in regulator’s new moniker

By **CHERIE DELORY**

In its 51st year, the organization formerly known as the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland is now called The Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador. As of October 16, PEG-NL also sports a new logo and image to reflect the change.

The change in name was initiated following an amendment to the Constitution of Canada in November 2001, which replaced the words “Province of Newfoundland” with “Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.” When PEG was asked by the government early in 2003 to add the word “Labrador” to its name, it took the opportunity to address further concerns. “We had for some time given consideration to changing the name to eliminate the word association,” says Steve McLean, P.Eng., executive director of PEG. “There had been a fairly significant expectation from our members that we were going to be acting more as an advocacy body than we felt we were capable of doing,” explains McLean. “We felt that the term association [denoted an] advocacy role, rather than a regulatory role, and we felt it was good to drop the term.”

While advocacy does play a minor part in what PEG does, it is secondary to its obligation of ensuring that standards of both professions are met by determining who is entitled to practise and who is not, he says.

Where PIPEDA does come into play for APEGGA and the OIQ is in inter-provincial activities where information sharing or transferring is involved. As well, APEGGA follows federal standards when it comes to sponsored member benefits, such as group or term life insurance, group savings and investment programs, auto and home insurance and disability insurance.

“Our view of PIPEDA’s 10 principles is that they’re just good business practice,” Allen says. “Complying with the law is a byproduct of doing good business.”

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Jervais White, P.Eng., president of the 2500-member PEG, says that so far feedback on the new name has been positive, with some members “saying it’s more reflective of what we are and what we do.”

McLean says that although sometime in the future PEG may look more closely at the distinction between its regulatory and non-regulatory roles, at present it’s operating as usual, regardless of the name change. PEG remains a self-regulating professional organization, he says, receiving its authority from the provincial government under the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, to provide for the competent and ethical practice of engineering and geoscience in Newfoundland and Labrador and to ensure public confidence in the professions.

At present, PEG must use its former name in legal documents, but has requested a revision to the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act* to make the new name official. However, its new name and look are in effect for all other communication purposes.

Cherie Delory is a freelance writer, based in Toronto.

10 key principles

Principle 1: Accountability—PEO is responsible for personal information under its control and designates at least one person to be accountable for its compliance with the principles outlined in this policy.

Principle 2: Identifying Purposes for Collection of Personal Information—PEO identifies the purposes for which personal information is collected at or before the time the information is collected.

Principle 3: Obtaining Consent for Collection, Use or Disclosure of Personal Information—PEO requires knowledge and consent for its collection, use, or disclosure of personal information, except where inappropriate.

Principle 4: Limiting Collection of Personal Information—PEO limits the collection of personal information to what is necessary for its identified purposes. PEO collects personal information by fair and lawful means.

Principle 5: Limiting Use, Disclosure, and Retention of Personal Information—PEO does not use or disclose personal information for purposes other than those for which it was collected, except with the consent of the individual or as required by law. PEO retains personal information only as long as necessary to fulfil its purposes.

Principle 6: Accuracy of Personal Information—Personal information collected and held by PEO is as accurate, complete and up to date as is necessary for the purposes for which it is to be used.

Principle 7: Security Safeguards—PEO protects personal information by security safeguards appropriate to the sensitivity of the information.

Principle 8: Openness Concerning Policies and Practices—PEO makes readily available to individuals specific information about its personal information management policies and practices.

Principle 9: Access to Personal Information—PEO informs individuals of the existence, use, and disclosure of their personal information upon written request and gives them access to that information. Individuals may challenge the accuracy and completeness of their information and have it amended as appropriate.

Principle 10: Challenging Compliance—Individuals may address a challenge concerning compliance with the above principles to the designated person or people accountable for PEO compliance with the PEO Privacy Policy. To access PEO’s full Privacy Policy, visit www.peo.on.ca.

PEO hosts train the trainer gender issues session

By LEIGH DOYLE

Both male and female instructors at all levels in the education system tend to treat male and female students differently. This can include not recognizing female contribution, using male-centric examples in practical questions, or exclusively using male pronouns. The Illinois Valedictorian Project, a longitudinal study of 46 women and 34 men who graduated in 1981 as valedictorians of their high school classes, found that the women's self-esteem dropped steadily and significantly while the men's self-esteem increased throughout their college studies, despite the fact that GPAs of the women were higher than the men.

A much anticipated gender issues training kit that incorporates the findings of the Illinois Valedictorian Project has arrived in all 13 accredited Ontario engineering schools. It is designed to raise the awareness of engineering faculty members to communication and gender differences in the classroom, which can be as simple as not calling on female students enough.

The kit is one of the initiatives of the Women into Engineering (WIE) project, established in March 2000 as a partnership among the Ontario government, academe and Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO). It was produced with the NSERC/Nortel Joint Chair for Women in Science and Engineering in Ontario with funding from the Ontario government. WIE is designed to help recruit and retain women into Ontario university engineering programs.

To familiarize schools with the kit, seven university representatives attended an October half-day "train-the-trainer" session at PEO's offices. The workshop was run by Lisa Anderson, P.Eng., coordinator for WIE, and Elza Seregelyi, P.Eng., who developed and piloted the kit at McMaster University and the University of Toronto.

During the workshop, attendees walked through the training kit, which comprises PowerPoint slides (to introduce goals), an icebreaker (to initiate dis-

cussion), a multiple-choice quiz with enlightening information, and interactive video clips. In the upcoming months, the attendees will be running this same workshop for their faculty.

The objectives of the session are to increase awareness and understanding of gender differences, learn ways to make the learning environment more supportive to women, and develop a "do-able" personal action plan that will benefit students.

The workshop does not have to be directed at gender issues, says Anderson, who suggested the kit could be modified to address communication and diversity, not just gender. "It might also be a way to get more people to attend the workshop," she said.

The magnitude of the task of attempting to change instructors' long-time, often subconscious, behaviour towards gender

was also of concern to the workshop participants. Seregelyi said "a good educator will cater to varied learning styles, regardless of gender or culture," while Anderson said that the WIE project steering group realizes that one workshop cannot single-handedly change societal stereotypes or gender roles. The ideal would be to establish a positive, gender-neutral environment to help all students reach their potential within engineering programs. "The kit is a starting point to address these issues," said Anderson.

Like the other activities of PEO's Women in Engineering Advisory Committee, the WIE project has now been transferred to the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers.

Leigh Doyle is a freelance writer, based in Toronto.

Society lifts cap at "Get Networking" reception



The Ontario Society for Professional Engineers launched its Toronto Region with a splash at a networking event at the Design Exchange on November 6. The keynote speaker was journalist Wendy Mesley, who talked about her eventful career covering Quebec and national politics. Over 150 participants attended the reception, which kicked off the three-day "Get Networking, Get Educated, Get Involved" event.

Engineers showed their support for examining the electricity price cap by lifting symbolic baseball caps. As Daniel J. Young, P.Eng., president and chair of the Society remarked, "when 66,000 engineers speak together, we have a very powerful voice."

Engineers can contribute to greenhouse gas reduction, panel says

BY KAREN HAWTHORNE

Engineers have a role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, says a panel of experts on climate change.

The engineering community should make energy conservation a priority when designing products, buildings, manufacturing processes and transportation systems, says a panel that spoke on climate change and the United Nations' Kyoto Protocol at PEO Brampton Chapter's annual general meeting in November. About 100 members and guests, and more than 20 new professional engineers who received their licence certificates, attended the meeting held at the Brampton Golf Club.

"As engineers, I think we can do a lot—we design the products, the cars, etc.; we have a social responsibility to make them as energy-efficient, as low in terms of emissions as we can," said panelist Peter Smith, P.Eng., energy manager for Bayer Polymers, one of the largest manufacturers of polymer chemicals.

"We're wasting huge amounts of energy. We have to start somewhere," said panelist John Bennett, executive director for Climate Action Network of Canada, an alliance of more than 100 organizations across Canada working to protect the environment.

While the panelists agreed that engineers should make energy conservation a priority and encourage the use of alternative energy sources, the topic up for discussion—the case for and against ratifying the Kyoto Protocol to reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases—made for a lively debate among the four panelists.

The panel also included Ross McKittrick, an economics professor at the University of Guelph, and Raminder Gill, P.Eng., former MPP for Bramalea-Gore-Malton-Springdale.

Negotiated in 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was signed by Canada in 1998. Once it comes into force, countries that signed Kyoto will be committed to develop flexible, domestic policies to reduce emissions.

"The science is not compelling" to conclude that the carbon humans add to the air by burning fossil fuels and deforestation has had a significant effect, said McKittrick who has written a book on the subject.

"Even meeting the Kyoto targets will bring an imperceptible change," he said, adding that the estimated \$1.5 billion to be spent annually by Canada to meet Kyoto targets should go toward solving hunger and air pollution.

He argued that "global warming" is not scientific fact since the collection of temperature data is relatively recent and climate change has occurred naturally for millions of years. "The severity and frequency of weather disasters and damages

have not gone up—it's that more people are living in their path. We only hear more about them," McKittrick said.

The fact that the U.S. and Australia dropped out of the treaty altogether, and developing countries such as Mexico, China and India are exempt, should raise

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New engineers receive their licences at Brampton AGM.

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a red flag for Canada, cautioned Gill. He says if Kyoto is ratified, all of Canada will be affected by rising costs of heating, transportation, electricity and natural gas.

Smith argued that scientists have issued warnings about the increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere for the last 40 years and Kyoto offers the first “baby step” in what will have to be a series of agreements over the next 50 years.

The opportunity for engineers in industrialized nations—as outlined in Kyoto—is to develop new technologies and share them with the developing world so that those nations can avoid large increases in emissions as standards of living improve, Smith says.

Says Bennett: “The Kyoto Protocol will create jobs and allow Canada to sell the technology, like how do you solve leaky gas lines in Russia? This is an opportunity.”

Karen Hawthorne is a freelance writer based in Toronto

“Drive Change,” new licensees told

By LEIGH DOYLE

In his address to new PENTA chapter licensees, keynote speaker Peter DeVita, P.Eng., stressed the importance of engineering leadership in modern society. Engineering brings science into the lives of laypeople, said DeVita. It is the role of an engineer to responsibly create beneficial uses for the knowledge.

Since Walkerton, which occurred while DeVita was PEO President, he said he has recognized the pressing need for engineers to step forward to help protect society. “Leadership is a skill that can be learned, so I encourage all of you to take the time to learn those skills,” said DeVita. With the pace of change so rapid, society needs professional engineers who are dedicated to serving and protecting the public and

who will lead the way into the future. As DeVita put it: “Change...we can ignore it, follow it, or drive it.”

President of DeVita Associates and a Companion of PEO’s Order of Honour (2003), DeVita and PEO West Central Region Councillors Phil Maka, P.Eng., and Colin Moore, P.Eng., President-elect George Comrie, P.Eng., and President Kenneth McMartin, P.Eng., welcomed the 42 new engineers to the profession at the event held November 20 at the Islington Golf Club.

Using his career as an example, DeVita spoke about engineering leadership within the context of the ever-accelerating pace of technological change. He began by reminding the newly licensed engineers of their obligations by highlighting PEO’s duty to serve and protect the public. “Protecting the public means that an engineer will do nothing bad,” DeVita said. “Serving the public means that an engineer will do something good.” During his term of office as President, DeVita was involved in defining software engineering and bioengineering for licensing purposes to protect the public interest.

In fact, getting involved was an unofficial theme at the ceremony. In his speech, President McMartin encouraged the new professionals to start volunteering with their local chapters, which he noted were created to develop a local presence for the profession in their communities. McMartin also reminded the group of their duty to maintain high standards. It is a point of pride, he said, that the government and the public see engineering as a responsible and respectable profession. This public trust must be maintained, said McMartin, and ethical behaviour will ensure that it is. By getting involved through either their local chapters or on PEO committees, task forces or Council, professional engineers will learn how to be leaders dedicated to the public welfare, he said.

PEO’s Penta Chapters comprise five chapters from the West Central Region: Toronto Dufferin, North Toronto, Kingsway, Toronto Humber and Etobicoke.