

[NATIONAL ENGINEERING MONTH]



NATIONAL ENGINEERING MONTH GETS BETTER

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ON MARCH 1, the province of Ontario will once again be gearing up for a celebration of engineering—but this year, with new life. Expanding from the week-long formats in previous years, the new National Engineering Month (NEM) Ontario is set to include exciting, theme-inspired events and conversations as well as a new, innovative direction.

With this fresh format comes a fresh face to energize the initiative. On the 20th anniversary of NEM, the funding partners, PEO and the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT), are pleased to welcome Engineers Without Borders (EWB) to the team as the 2012 service provider.

“OACETT remains committed to this important annual celebration of engineering and engineering technology,” says David Thomson, CEO, OACETT. “We are pleased to once again be partnering with PEO and look forward to the new energy that EWB will bring to National Engineering Month in 2012.”

EWB is recognized for its creative, high-impact engagement strategies and ability to mobilize large networks. They are focused on helping promote the next generation of engineering lead-

ers and, through NEM Ontario, want to champion the engineering community as a critical leadership force, fully equipped to handle the increasing systemic and technological complexity of the 21st century. PEO’s and OACETT’s grassroots chapters and organizations will work with EWB to project engineering in this light while working toward a new, ambitious vision for NEM Ontario.

Although the core vision remains—to increase public awareness of the role of engineering and technology in society; encourage young people to consider engineering as their career of choice; and broaden public support for science, technology, engineering and infrastructure—this year the boundaries of stakeholder engagement will be pushed and previously untapped corners of industry and the public will be reached.

The coordinating committee and EWB see five target groups—grade school and high school students, young and established professionals and the general public—and plan to facilitate results-oriented programming that speaks directly to each of them. Fostering existing relationships is important, too, and NEM Ontario is excited to continue working with partners like the Ontario Science Centre (OSC), Consulting Engineers of Ontario (CEO) and public libraries to make this programming happen.

Operationally, the changes to the NEM Ontario organizational structure promote efficiency, agility and communication between local chapters and the organizing committee. “We’re committed to supporting our chapters,” says Matthew Ng, P.Eng., PEO chapter manager. “By reducing time-consuming procedures, we can now react quickly to chapters’ requests and allow for this process to be driven from the bottom-up, as it’s intended to be.”

In 2012, social media will also play a key role in engaging stakeholders. Students, practising professionals and



Girl guides complete their engineering badge at the University of Guelph as part of National Engineering Month festivities.

The guides took part in an engineering activity with Valerie Davidson, PhD, P.Eng., NSERC/RIM chair, Women in Science and Engineering—Ontario (bottom left).

the public will connect in innovative and exciting spaces of discussion about the profession. Join the conversation by following NEM Ontario on Facebook (www.facebook.com/nemontario) and Twitter (@NEMOntario). However, to keep up to date on all information, including event listings, sponsorship opportunities and action in your area, visit www.nemontario.com or www.nem-mng.ca/NEM/event.html. PEO chapters are encouraged to submit their events to the NEM Ontario website for inclusion in the directory, while members interested in volunteering with NEM Ontario events should contact their local chapters.

Everyone is encouraged to experience this new vision for National Engineering Month and help celebrate engineering this March. Come out and join the fun!

NEM ONTARIO 2012 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

LONDON

GUIDING EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY –SCOUTING EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY Through displays, show-and-tells, interactive challenges and tours, this hands-on day for youth, co-presented by OACETT London and PEO London, explores engineering technology in the London area.

OSHAWA

DURHAM REGION BRIDGE-BUILDING CONTEST March 3 Presented by OACETT Durham and PEO Lake Ontario, the 7th annual bridge-building contest is being hosted at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. Last year, 62 teams and 160 students participated, promoting interest in engineering concepts, math and structures among school-aged youth and the general public.

OTTAWA

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE STUDENT PROJECT SHOWCASE Presented in conjunction with OACETT Ottawa Region and the on-campus OACETT Club, students have an opportunity to present their designs and the public can tour the innovative Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence. Various design competitions, including bridges and robotics, will also be hosted.

PETERBOROUGH

WIND TURBINE DESIGN COMPETITION Co-produced by local chapters of OACETT, PEO and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), this popular competition is open to a maximum of 120 students.

SUDBURY

NEW! COLLÈGE BORÉAL VS. CAMBRIAN COLLEGE ROBOTICS CONTEST Professor-mentored teams from Collège Boréal and Cambrian College battle wits and skill in this robot-building competition. Judged by a panel of experts from OACETT Sudbury, the winning and runner-up teams each walk away with prizes.

THUNDER BAY

CONFEDERATION COLLEGE TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM March 2 The engineering and technology students of Confederation College organize a symposium focusing on topics related to their areas of study. Punctuated by a celebratory dinner, the event brings together high-school students, university and college students, the professional engineering community and public to hear myriad speakers working in architecture, civil, electrical and environmental technology.

TORONTO

HANDS-ON SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR March 3 From robotics to energy generation, electrical motors to automotive transmissions, this event at the Malvern Town Centre has it all. Science demonstrations and displays help engage students and the public in the exciting world of technology while bringing together the engineering community from the Toronto East and Central chapters of OACETT and four local universities and colleges.

ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS FORUM The Engineering Innovations Forum promotes the work of the engineering community—including engineers, technicians and technologists—and its benefits to society. Activities engage members of the public and students interested in engineering, allowing them to interact with industry professionals in informal and constructive settings.

WINDSOR

WINDSOR ESSEX ENGINEERING WEEK Engineering Week activities in the Windsor/Essex region include high school design and poster competitions, as well as workshops at the Canada South Science City. An awards luncheon will also feature presentation of the Technologist of the Year, Engineer of the Year and two \$500 scholarships.

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