

# New funding to expand EIR program

by Dwight Hamilton

PEO's Engineer-in-Residence (EIR) program will receive \$225,000 in new funding from the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology over the next four years. The money will be used to expand the program across Ontario, to host community events, and to provide training sessions. In addition, the funds will assist in developing an EIR website, and hosting a conference and Engineering Olympiad in 2003.

In the EIR program, volunteer professional engineers, working in a wide range of areas, go into classrooms and help teachers bring the science and technology curriculum to life. In bridging the gap between classroom theory and the real world, students are given the opportunity to hone their problem-solving and teamwork skills.

"By helping students apply the knowledge they acquire in the classroom, the EIR program brings a fresh perspective to learning and makes it relevant to our young people," said Jim Wilson, Ontario Minister of Energy, Science and Technology, when the grant was announced.

The EIR program was launched in 1998 with just five schools. There are 23 schools participating this year across the province.

"We are very proud of the volunteer professional engineers who devote their time to the EIR program. By putting a human face on our profession, EIRs help Ontario students see engineering and science as viable career choices," said PEO President Gordon Sterling, P.Eng. "EIRs also nurture an enthusiasm for science-related careers and motivate students to pursue higher education in engineering and science. The investment will allow the EIR program to reach an even greater number of students."

Companies have also indicated to PEO that the leadership, communications and team-building skills that an engineer can develop via the EIR program are essential for advancing within industry. Firms facing severe shortages of highly skilled IT staff see the program having a long term payback of better educated graduates from which to recruit. Gennum Corporation, MD Robotics and Canadian Microelectronics Corp. are among the companies that have participated in the program over the past years.

Currently, there are about 100 schools on the waiting list for a volunteer engineer to become available. For more information on volunteering, contact Tom Chessell, PEO manager, volunteer programs, at 416-224-1100, ext. 404, or 1-800-339-3716; email: tchessell@peo.on.ca.

## For building the profession



Engineer strikes gold: Robert T.E. Gillespie, P. Eng., chairman and chief executive officer of General Electric Canada Inc., proudly accepts the distinguished Professional Engineers Gold Medal presented by newly elected PEO President Gordon Sterling, P.Eng. Achievements of eight outstanding engineers were celebrated as part of PEO's Annual General Meeting held from April 19 to 21 in Toronto. Gillespie has been a driving force of change in Canadian business, combining leadership, excellence in engineering and a lifelong commitment to public service. Look for more coverage of the 2001 AGM in the June/July issue of *The Link*.

## New PEO process aids prospective Canadians to plan future

by Sharon Van Ihinger

### Guesswork is being eliminated for prospective immigrants who would be seeking their P.Eng. licence in Ontario, thanks to recent changes to PEO's application process.

Foreign-trained engineering graduates who are considering immigrating to Ontario will benefit from PEO's recent extension of the licence application process. Prospective immigrants who have been educated in engineering in their countries of origin, or elsewhere, can now start their application to become licensed as professional engineers in Ontario before they make the decision to leave their home country. This new initiative stems from a

recommendation made after a recent review of PEO's regulatory processes, including admissions, by a PEO task force in 1999.

Enabling application from outside Canada will provide prospective immigrants first-hand information about PEO's licensure requirements, as well as answer questions about the possible acceptability of their qualifications. "People were arriving from abroad without a clear understanding of our role, our licensing requirements, or the circumstances under which they would require a licence," according to PEO Past President Peter M. DeVita, P.Eng., who was President when PEO announced the changes in early April. "By enabling them to start the process of applying for a professional engineer's licence before they immigrate to Canada, we ensure foreign-educated engineering graduates arrive aware of, and prepared for, the steps they'll have to complete to obtain a licence. Furthermore, it has the potential of reducing the time between applying and the granting of a licence."

Prior to the extension of PEO's licence application process, assessments conducted by the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE) added an element of

confusion for prospective immigrants. "The CCPE assessments have a broader focus with respect to the prospective immigrant's suitability for immigration purposes," DeVita says. "The CCPE assessment is meant to determine whether a prospective immigrant appears to have the background required to work in the Canadian job market, not whether he or she meets the requisite standards of education and experience required for licensing as a professional engineer." In Ontario, licensing is not required to do engineering work, as long as a professional engineer supervises and takes responsibility for it.

Norman Williams, PhD, P.Eng., deputy registrar of admissions, notes that PEO's new process has not changed the legislated requirement that all licence applicants acquire at least 12 months of acceptable and verifiable experience in a Canadian jurisdiction, under the supervision of a professional engineer. As the licensing body for professional engineers in Ontario, he says, PEO does not assist applicants in securing employment to satisfy the required work experience for licensing, but does license all those who demonstrate that they have fulfilled the licensing requirements.

## 2001 Council election and referendum results

by Connie Mucklestone

The results of PEO's 2001 Council election, which closed February 28, are in: Richard W. Braddock, P.Eng., has been elected President-elect; Richard Weldon, P.Eng., has been elected West Central Region Councillor. All other positions were filled by acclamation as follows:

- ◆ Vice President—Kenneth C. McMartin, P.Eng.;
- ◆ Councillors-at-Large—Danny Marmora, P.Eng., Denis Dixon, P.Eng.;
- ◆ East Central Region Councillor—John D. Reid, P.Eng.;
- ◆ Eastern Region Councillor—Allen K. Lucas, P.Eng.;
- ◆ Northern Region Councillor—Bruce E. Clarida, P.Eng.;

- ◆ Western Region Councillor—Roydon A. Fraser, P.Eng.

About 21 per cent of members voted for candidates for President-elect, which was the only position for which all members were eligible to vote. In 2000, about 23 per cent of members participated in the election, about 21 per cent in 1999.

At its first meeting on April 21, the new Council elected Eastern Region Councillor Colin Cantlie, P.Eng., as the Vice President elected from among Council. West Central Region Councillor George Comrie, P.Eng., was elected as a Member of the Executive Committee. At an upcoming meeting, Council will appoint one other Member to the Executive Committee, from among the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council appointed Councillors. Council approved extending the term on the Executive Committee of LGA Laurier Proulx, CET, until this appointment is made.

### How you cast your vote

#### President-elect (2001-2002)

*Richard W. Braddock	5458
Gina P. Cody	2980
Kam Elguindi	4465

#### West Central Region Councillor (2001-2003)

Alberto DeSantis	1049
*Richard Weldon	1771

\*Elected

# National Engineering Week: Blast off to discovery

by Sharon Van Ihinger

*This year's 10th annual National Engineering Week, held March 3 to 11, achieved its mission to increase awareness of the importance of engineering and technology in everyone's lives. It also encouraged young people to continue in their studies of math and science in preparation for a career in engineering or technology—by making subject matter interesting and fun. A full roster of Ontario events was held at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto, Science North in Sudbury and the Canada Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa as well as throughout the province.*

Nationally, the week-long festival focused on contributions of Canadian engineering in space. Canadian astronaut Julie Payette, ing., served as honorary national chair and spoke about the importance of engineering at the national launch in Ottawa. As a warm-up to the week, school children tested their skills on an interactive website contest called The Great Canadian Engineering Space Quest. The winner successfully completed a simulated space mission while learning about Canadian engineering achievements along the way, and won a lunch date with Payette.

"National Engineering Week is a great example of how to get young people more involved in science and technology, and I congratulate the organizers on the outstanding job they have done," said Jim Wilson, Energy, Science and Technology Minister, at the combined K'Nexhibition ribbon-cutting/Engineering Week in Ontario launch in Toronto. "We need more young leaders in science and technology today to create the jobs of tomorrow."

Other highlights of the week in Ontario included multimedia shows, emceed by the popular *TVO Kids* hosts. The shows featured live demonstrations of Canadian space technologies by engineering students and interns, as well as the debut of Engineers are Everyday Heroes educational short films. Engineering Week 2001 in Ontario was organized by PEO, Consulting Engineers of Ontario, the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists and the Ontario Science Centre.



Next in space? Jonathan Bartlett, winner of the Great Canadian Engineering Space Quest Contest, receives part of his prize from Julie Payette, ing. and Marie Lemay, P.Eng., CEO of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers.



Jim Wilson, Ontario's minister for Energy, Science and Technology, and fellow Engineering Week fans kick-off the week in Ontario at the Ontario Science Centre.



Phil's popular with the kids: The *TVO Kids* host Phil emceed the Engineering Blast-off Multimedia stage show at the Ontario Science Centre, which premiered new Engineers are Everyday Heroes educational shorts. Afterwards, he signed autographs for young fans.

# Work of art honours engineering profession

by Sharon Van Ihinger

To inspire tomorrow's young engineers by recognizing the achievements of the past and the promise of the future, PEO's North Bay Chapter has created an original work of art titled "The Calling." The work is a montage of engineering images against a backdrop of a North Bay-area setting.

David Robinson, P.Eng., North Bay Chapter chair, says the image is intended to capture "some of the good of the past and project to the future in a time of change." After a decision was made to emphasize water as a life-sustaining symbol, work on the piece began in earnest last fall when a picturesque location was chosen as a backdrop for the montage, and Ed Eng, an internationally renowned local photographer, agreed to assist with the project. The shoot involved Don Haws, P.Eng., a senior engineer, and Robinson's granddaughter, Samantha-Leigh Landry, posing on a raft on nearby pristine Trout Lake, a previous film location for James Cagney's *Captain of the Clouds*. As the sun rose, Eng shot several rolls of film, until his cameras froze

up. This wilderness scene captures the essence of past and future as an aspiring young prodigy contemplates nature and her future role in society, while looking up to the senior engineer as he fishes.

As concepts for the artwork developed, several elements were linked together to highlight engineering's top international



"The Calling," an original montage, that depicts international engineering activities, was created as a millennium project by PEO's North Bay Chapter. From left to right : Mel Harju P.Eng., former North Bay Chapter chair, artist Ed Eng and current Chapter chair David Robinson, P.Eng.

achievements. A rare Beaver aircraft, recognized as one of Canada's 10 outstanding engineering achievements, planes across calm water. "The biggest challenge was in finding a Beaver aircraft. After an exten-

sive search, we found what was needed in fellow engineer Bob Brown's hangar on Trout Lake," said Robinson.

The engineer's quest to balance preservation of precious natural resources with the activities of humankind, is conveyed through relevant images. Mechanical drive gears, meshed with an iron ring and an engineer's stamp, symbolize efforts for continuous improvement.

Unveiled during National Engineering Week in March, a limited edition print of *The Calling* was presented to North Bay Mayor Jack Burrows by then North Bay Chapter chair Mel Harju, P.Eng., and will be displayed at the North Bay City Hall.

Limited edition prints are also available for purchase by calling (705) 840-1737, fax (705) 476-9862, or email: mel.harju@sympatico.ca. Advance payment is required with cheques payable to North Bay Chapter PEO, 19 Farley Avenue, North Bay, ON P1A 2S4. A mounted and framed 20" x 26" print costs \$300; a mounted and framed 29" x 40" print costs \$470. A certificate of authenticity is included with either. The background scenario is also available in a 8.5" x 11" size, mounted and framed, for \$30.



**Professional Engineers  
Ontario**

## Request for Submissions

At its March 26, 2001 meeting, PEO Council approved the establishment of a task force to study international mobility as it pertains to the practice of professional engineering. It is expected that the task force will be reviewing issues relating to mobility and globalization, including the various Canadian Council of Professional Engineers Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) and the concept of International Registers of Engineers (e.g. the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] Engineer Register). MRAs and similar initiatives are intended to facilitate access to the practice of professional engineering in Canadian jurisdictions by qualified foreign engineers, while giving professional engineers licensed in Ontario who wish to practise abroad the same privilege.

The task force is particularly interested in hearing from individuals who have been providing professional engineering services at the international level, or have views that may be relevant to the work of the task force. We are soliciting written submissions from PEO chapters, licensed practitioners and other interested parties.

Please send submissions and comments to:

Dr. Norbert Becker, P.Eng.  
Chair, International Professional Engineers Ontario Mobility Task Force  
Suite 1000, 25 Sheppard Ave West  
Toronto, ON M2N 6S9  
Fax: (416) 224-8168 or 1 (800) 268-0496

Thank you.

*Maximus Perera, P.Eng.  
Vice-Chair, International Mobility Task Force*