

Queen's Park event next step in communications push

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

The "quiet profession" will be enjoying some much-needed attention at an Engineering for Ontarians Day, June 6 at Queen's Park.

As a central component of PEO's ongoing government communications campaign, the Queen's Park event is an opportunity to bring key messages about the self-regulation of engineering in the public interest to Ontario's legislative nerve centre.

Officially titled, *Engineering for Ontarians: Regulating in the public's best interest*, the Queen's Park event is scheduled to include comments by PEO President Bob Goodings, P.Eng., and by Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant. The attorney general is responsible for the *Professional Engineers Act* (PEA) and Regulation 941, which give PEO authority to regulate engineering practice in the public interest. The communications program was initiated by PEO Council in January. Results of the program will be reviewed by Council at its meeting on June 24, when next steps will be decided.

Intended as a grassroots effort, the program was inspired in part by comments made by Attorney General Bryant that engineers' concerns are well down on the provincial government's priority list. In a December 6, 2004 meeting with then PEO President George Comrie, P.Eng., Bryant said Premier Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government has only a very basic understanding of the regulator's mandate. He said engineers, themselves, should educate MPPs about PEO and the engineering profession's contributions to public safety and protection through self-regulation. Accordingly, the communications program aims to develop long-term relationships with government leaders, so that the government consults PEO early in the development of public policy that has the potential to affect regulation of professional engineering practice. It is hoped that such early consultation will eliminate such situations as two recent legislative initiatives by the housing and environment ministries that appear to indicate a basic misunderstanding of engineering self-regulation.



Ranee Mahalingham, P.Eng., senior review engineer, safe drinking water branch of the Ministry of Environment, and a PEO spokesperson (far left), President Bob Goodings (left), and Deputy Registrar, Standards and Registrations Johnny Zuccon (right), present Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Brad Duguid with a print of "The Calling" at a recent meeting.

To date, nearly 80 volunteers from all parts of Ontario have signed up for the program, with about half of them receiving training March 21 and 22 at PEO in Toronto on effective government communication. Conducted by Howard Brown and Robert Merrick of Brown & Cohen Communications & Public Affairs Inc., the sessions emphasized the importance of engineers maintaining active relationships with their local MPPs to help familiarize policymakers with PEO's concerns and to deliver key messages about PEO's role and mandate.

The three messages to be delivered to policymakers are:

- PEO has a legislative mandate under the PEA to regulate the practice of professional engineering in order that "the public interest may be served and protected";
- The self-regulating engineering profession has been successfully protecting the public for more than 80 years; and
- PEO has unique knowledge and

expertise and it is in the best interest of the government to consult with the regulator before considering any new policy decisions that may have an impact on the regulation of professional engineering in Ontario.

Since the program was unveiled in January, PEO delegations have met with Ontario Cabinet ministers and ordinary MPPs. On April 1, for example, a delegation consisting of President Bob Goodings, P.Eng., Deputy Registrar, Standards and Regulations Johnny Zuccon, P.Eng., PEO spokesperson John Henry He, P.Eng., and communications consultant Howard Brown brought the engineering self-regulation message to David Caplan, Ontario's infrastructure minister.

Engineer ambassadors

Throughout April and early May, teams of engineer ambassadors met with MPPs Ernie Parsons, P.Eng., Phil McNeely, P.Eng., Tony Wong, Kevin Flynn, Jim Brownell, Brad

Duguid and Monique Smith. As well, a PEO delegation that included Past President George Comrie, P.Eng., and CEO Kim Allen, P.Eng., met April 18 with Terri Lohnes, director of stakeholder relations for Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Further meetings are scheduled in May with New Democratic Party Leader Howard Hampton, and Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister John Gerretsen. In June, a team consisting of PEO members John Grefford, P.Eng., Bob Dunn, P.Eng., and former PEO President Ken McMartin, P.Eng., is scheduled to meet with MPP Norm Sterling, P.Eng., at the Heritage Walk event in Lanark, Ontario.

The June 6 Engineering for Ontarians Day—to be held at the dining room of the main Legislative Building at Queen’s Park—is sponsored by P.Eng. MPPs Norm Sterling (Lanark-Carlton), Phil McNeely (Ottawa-Orléans) and Ernie Parsons (Prince Edward-Hastings). It will be an opportunity for PEO spokespeople to have unfettered access to the legislators and their key staff.

John Grefford, P.Eng., a Carp, Ontario-based practitioner, has high expectations for the Queen’s Park event and for the entire communications campaign. Grefford attended the training sessions in March and was part of the delegation meeting Liberal MPP Jim Brownell on April 11.

“I found the initial meeting very rewarding,” Grefford told *Engineering Dimensions*. “Mr. Brownell was appreciative of the information we provided him. He has a son-in-law who is an engineer and discussions into such things as the self-regulatory mandate of PEO had never surfaced prior to our meeting. We will maintain contact as needed in the future to ensure communication channels are kept open and to offer support.”

Grefford said the training sessions and the use of individual practitioners as defenders of the self-regulatory mandate should prove effective. “I believe a majority of engineers are introverts by nature,” he said. “The training helped by providing an effective approach when dealing with people who are very busy, possibly unaware of the PEO mandate, indifferent to PEO concerns, or not sure how they as MPPs can help.”

Meanwhile, newly elected PEO Councillor Jeff Mark, P.Eng., believes the campaign could spin off into a new era of active, ongoing communication between engineers and policymakers. “There are a number of ways that we can make ourselves known to politicians,” Mark said. “One way is to invite [MPPs] to licence presentation ceremonies and have them assist in handing out the licences. The press should be invited so that politicians get some publicity, as

would the profession. Another process that should be considered is getting engineers involved working on provincial [election] campaigns. This could be done through the chapters, but they would need some assistance and direction from headquarters to ensure that the required bases are covered.”

Mark took part in an April 6 meeting with MPP Tony Wong of Markham, and has also had meetings with MPP Julia Monroe and Markham Mayor Don Cousens.

2005 Council election results are in

By JENNIFER COOMBES

PEO’s 2005 Council election closed February 28 and the new Council took office on April 16. This year, 16 per cent of members voted for candidates for President-elect, a position for which all members are eligible to vote. In 2004, 18 per cent of members voted; 18.5 per cent voted in 2003, 18 per cent in 2002.

Patrick J. Quinn, P.Eng., was elected President-elect. Allen Lucas, P.Eng., was elected Vice President by acclamation.

Members also elected the following to Council:

- Councillor-at-large—Denis Dixon, P.Eng., and Richard H. Weldon, P.Eng.;
- Northern Region Councillor—Seimer H.L. Tsang, P.Eng. (by acclamation);
- Eastern Region Councillor—Nicholas P. Colucci, P.Eng.;
- East Central Region Councillor—Jeff M. Mark, P.Eng.;
- Western Region Councillor—Diane L. Freeman, P.Eng.;
- West Central Region Councillor—E. Philip Maka, P.Eng. (by acclamation).

The election mailing also included a ballot for confirmation by members of an amendment to By-law No. 1. Under the *Professional Engineers Act*, Council may make or amend PEO by-laws, but new by-laws or amendments do not become effective until confirmed by members in a mail ballot. Members voted in favour of the proposed amendment to section 25 of By-law No. 1, concerning general provisions as to

meetings. The question, “Do you approve the proposed change to Section 25 of By-law No. 1 to amend the rules of procedure for all meetings of the association, Council, and its committees from *Bourinot’s Rules of Order* to *Wainberg’s Society Meetings?*” received 5387 votes in favour and 246 votes against.

At the first meeting of Council, on April 16, Diane Freeman was elected to the position of the Vice President elected by and from among the members of Council. Nancy E. Hill, P.Eng., and Richard Weldon were elected by Council as additional members of the Executive Committee.

How you voted

President-elect 2005-2006

Patrick J. Quinn	4823
J. David Adams	2459
Kenneth J. Lopez	1934
James S. Dunsmuir	1761

Vice President

Allen K. Lucas	acclaimed
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Councillor-at-large (two elected)

Richard H. Weldon	6294
Denis Dixon	6292
Pappur N. Shankar	2774

Northern Region Councillor

Seimer H.L. Tsang	acclaimed
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Eastern Region Councillor

Nicholas P. Colucci	938
William R. Campbell	800

East Central Region Councillor

Jeff M. Mark	1574
Santosh K. Gupta	1142

Western Region Councillor

Diane L. Freeman	1386
Peter J. Broad	903

West Central Region Councillor

E. Philip Maka	acclaimed
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PEO position on Bill 124 unchanged

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

Because engineers are required to follow the law and the July 1 implementation of Regulation 305/03, relating to qualification and registration of designers (including P.Engs) under Bill 124/02 is fast approaching, engineers in the building design field should become qualified and registered without delay. At the same time, PEO's position remains that professional engineers should be exempted from the requirement to pass *Ontario Building Code* (OBC) exams, since there has been no evidence produced to indicate that the P.Eng. licence is inadequate in protecting the public in matters related to the OBC.

From the beginning, PEO has opposed the housing ministry's legislation, which requires designers, including licensed professionals, to demonstrate OBC knowledge, through completing examinations, and to register with the ministry to submit building plans for new construction projects, but agreed initially to administer the exams for professional engineers and maintain the registry of qualified engineers. In June 2004, however, PEO Council voted to withdraw from the OBC certification plan, on the grounds that the requirement for engineers to pass code-knowledge exams sets a policy precedent that ignores existing public statutes that regu-

late and govern the practice of licensed professionals. PEO noted that no evidence or policy analysis had been produced to suggest problems with engineers' OBC knowledge or limitations in the *Professional Engineers Act* and Regulation 941, or in PEO's administration of them, that would compromise public safety.

Become qualified, says Comrie

At the recent PEO Annual General Meeting in London, Ontario, outgoing President George Comrie told members that although the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is backpedaling on its qualification requirements in some areas, especially in altering the OBC exam categories to suit practitioners' "niche areas," the ministry remains committed to the July 1 exam deadline.

"If anyone is sitting here thinking 'I'm going to wait and see how this unfolds before I decide to take any of these exams'—and if you're somebody who submits building plans for

approval for a living—I wouldn't do that," Comrie said (see sidebar). "I think you should assume that this is going to go ahead, although we've got a meeting scheduled with the minister, himself, and we have yet to see how the whole thing will unfold. But at the very least, I'm gaining confidence that we won't quickly see a repeat of this kind of thing."

Extensive negotiations

Meanwhile, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), a fellow regulator that has agreed to regulation changes allowing it to set up a "parallel system" to qualify and register architects, is now facing heat for what some of its members have described as "...enthusiastic support for the extra layer of bureaucracy that Bill 124 has created."

In April, the OAA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of the Attorney General and the



Al Suleman, P.Eng., manager of code interpretation, registration and training for the Ontario housing ministry's building and development branch, discusses *Ontario Building Code* exam preparations with engineers at a March 31 seminar organized by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers.

PEO has made it clear to the ministry that it will not implement a similar “parallel system” to test building code knowledge.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing outlining details for an OAA Building Code Designation System (BCDS). In an April 19, 2005 letter to OAA President Randy Roberts, Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant says the MOU is “a product of extensive negotiations and an excellent working relationship between the OAA and the Government of Ontario.” Roberts, for his part, says on the OAA website that architects are “principal users and stakeholders in the *Ontario Building Code* and that the MOU “clearly signals to the government that the OAA is intent on becoming much more directly involved in the ongoing development of building code regulation in Ontario.”

However, according to comments posted to an online forum for Ontario architects, the OAA’s BCDS isn’t supported by all OAA members. Results of a recent survey of architects cited in the electronic *A2A Newsletter*, for example, indicate that 95 per cent of respondents are opposed to Bill 124 and its requirements. Many write-in comments to the survey expressed a feeling that the parallel system brokered between the OAA and the housing ministry will subject architects to “onerous, time consuming and expensive” OBC exams, and urged the OAA to take a position similar to PEO’s.

OAA spokesperson Marcia Cooper told *Engineering Dimensions* that while some architects have expressed “strong concern”

about the legislation’s impact on a self-regulated profession, the majority support the OAA executive. “The majority [of OAA members] recognized that the OAA has managed this incursion on self-regulation by developing its own system [the BCDS], which better reflects how architects apply the building code in practice,” Cooper said. “The OAA BCDS has

received an overwhelming response with 2700 registrations received for the OAA Building Code Assessments.”

PEO has made it clear to the ministry that it will not implement a similar “parallel system” to test building code knowledge—in spite of continuing public pressure to do so—as such a system would only duplicate bureaucracy and costs.

Time to qualify is now

Despite the ongoing controversy, engineers in the design/building field are now scrambling for appointments to write the housing ministry’s OBC qualification examinations as the July 1 deadline draws closer.

According to Bernie Ennis, P.Eng., PEO manager, practice and standards, engineers are asking him such questions as:

- Do I have to write exams (even though I have been doing this work for 20, 30, 40 years)?
- Which exams do I have to write?
- Where do I write them?
- Where can I find preparation courses?
- Why didn’t PEO let us know about this before now?
- Why doesn’t PEO have its own exam program as the architects have?

Al Suleman, P.Eng., manager of code interpretation, registration and training for the housing ministry’s building and development branch, says the ministry’s OBC exam website—www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca—is an ideal starting point for practising engineers to obtain information about the building code exam requirements. The site, which includes links dealing with registration, qualification and exam samples, also provides information on sitting dates, how to qualify, and the categories of OBC exams offered.

“The questions we’re being asked are pretty thoroughly dealt with on the website, which will soon be supplemented by additional questions and answers,” Suleman told *Engineering Dimensions*. He added that despite the pressure for an extension, the July 1 deadline remains “as set out in the regulations.”

10,000 and counting

Practitioners typically have to write at least two exams: one dealing with the legal/process aspects of the *Building Code Act*, and the others corresponding to the individual’s area of practice. The exams are

multiple-choice format and three hours in length. As of April 1, some 10,000 exams had been written across the province and large volumes of applications were being received daily. The housing ministry says the exam results are coming in “much as expected.”

To advise on the exams first-hand, Suleman has been touring the province to meet engineers. At a March 31 seminar presented by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE), Suleman said housing ministry officials have been working extra hard to get all practitioners through the exam preparation process by the July 1 deadline. The ministry is also providing more exam dates and venues.

He also said the architects’ parallel system for OBC exam qualification and registration sets a precedent for self-regulated professions, and that the housing ministry remains open to working with PEO to set up a similar system for engineers (see main story).

Some engineers attending the OSPE seminar argued that PEO should have been more definitive in its opposition to the OBC exams. Others expressed the view that the housing ministry’s 11th-hour efforts to revise the OBC exam categories to reflect niche areas of building and design practice are adding to the confusion and fueling a “wait and see” attitude by engineers who are ambivalent about writing the exams.

However, Suleman’s basic advice to engineers was clear: “The key messages for right now are that engineers should know that the deadline is firm and that the details about the examinations and the registration process are available, and that affected engineers should really get cracking.”

Engineers in the design/building area who do not pass the OBC exams by July 1, will be prohibited from submitting plans, designs, or drawings for the construction of any structures subject to the building code.

PEO studying its future accommodation needs

BY MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

PEO is considering a number of options regarding the location of its offices in anticipation of the December 31, 2009 expiry of its lease at the current 25 Sheppard Avenue West building in Toronto.

Although the lease expiry is still more than four years away, PEO must develop a plan for the future and make a decision shortly, especially if the decision is to be relocation.

At present, at least four options are being considered: renewing the lease at the present site (with more favourable conditions), moving into another rental property, purchasing a building outright, or building its own office facilities.

The review of PEO's space requirements is being led by an Accommodation Task Force (ATF), chaired by Nick Monsour, P.Eng., a past PEO President and Councillor.

PEO Council established the ATF to study and evaluate different options for PEO's accommodation needs. For a lease option, the choice is between renewal of the current lease, or negotiation of a new rental agreement. The task force is also considering the possibility of PEO owning its own building, either by purchasing an existing property or putting up a new building.

Over the past four years, the task force has surveyed Council members, staff, volunteers, and visitors as to their preferences for PEO's offices. The ATF has also engaged a consultant from CB Richard Ellis realtors to assess the real estate market and provide insights as to the benefits of each option.

Since January, the consultant has met with Council members and staff to gain their views on PEO's accommodation needs. Councillors and staff are also scheduled to be surveyed online shortly to gather further impressions of the present facility and to note relocation preferences.

An earlier small sample of Councillors found that, in the event of a relocation, a majority favoured moving to a "remote site," either in the Markham area or near Pearson International Airport.

Although the 25 Sheppard Avenue West building is well situated in terms of public transit access, PEO has limited parking spaces available. As well, parking in the

neighbourhood has become increasingly scarce and expensive. The Sheppard West offices are also reaching their capacity, with meeting room and storage space at a premium. Monthly rent in the order of \$100,000 is also a significant issue.

"We're certainly paying a very hefty rental fee each month, and it might be worth considering putting some of these assets towards a mortgage in the event we decide to move into our own building," said ATF Chair Monsour. "But whatever decision is reached, it's important that we act quickly to consider the most feasible options and to take advantage of the best opportunity that presents itself."

Daria Babaie, P.Eng., PEO director of administrative services and staff advisor to the ATF, said a review of PEO's accommodation needs is related to wider efforts to make PEO business operations more cost effective and efficient and to match resources with needs.

"We have to consider how our accommodation situation will help us realize our goal of aligning all of our resources with PEO's strategic objectives in a cost-effective manner," Babaie said. "The fact that our lease represents a significant part of our annual operating costs is important in its own right, but these ongoing consultations also help us address some short-term problems, such as parking, and longer-term issues, such as the possible use of video teleconferencing technology to reduce some costs associated with in-person meetings. Managing cost and deploying cost-effective means to conduct the day-to-day affairs of PEO is a priority to the regulator."

In any case, a decision from Council regarding PEO's future accommodation is considered strategic in nature because meeting PEO's future accommodation needs requires long-term planning and implementation well in advance of 2009.

The urgency is more pronounced if PEO decides to own its own building, since under a purchase or build-to-own option, PEO must undertake planning activities at least two to three years prior to occupancy. The ATF is expected to prepare a detailed report regarding PEO's occupan-

cy needs and deliver recommendations to Council at the June 2005 meeting.

PEO moved to its current 30,585-square-foot location on January 1, 1995. Occupancy-related costs are now \$1.4 million a year, or 9 per cent of PEO's total operating budget.

Volunteers make the difference to NEW 2005

BY JULIE COHEN

National Engineering Week (NEW), held February 26 to March 6, was celebrated across the province in 40 centres. Engineering volunteers donated their time to organize and host more than 130 activities and events.

Around the province, PEO chapters also held their own activities and events to celebrate NEW—all organized and run by dedicated engineering volunteers. Here are some examples:

The **Quinte Chapter** hosted a *Popsicle Stick Bridge-Building Contest*, where the goal was to construct the strongest bridge possible using only 100 popsicle sticks and white glue. Prizes were awarded in two categories. Winners received a \$75 prize and a trophy.

The **Grand River Chapter** hosted *Engineering Activities for Kids* at Stone Road Mall in Guelph, where hands-on activities for children and their families were overseen by University of Guelph engineering students.

The **Ottawa Chapter** teamed up with the National Research Council and teachers of grades 4 to 6 students to conduct the *Engineering Challenge 2005*. About 2300 students participated in a problem-solving activity in which student "engineering" teams designed and constructed a rubber-band-powered car made of recycled materials. About 100 volunteer engineers visited classrooms in early February to help the students with their design and the finale was held at the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

The **Lakehead Chapter** and the faculty of engineering at Lakehead University invited grades 7 and 8 students to par-

ticipate in the *National Engineering Week 2005 Challenge*. The challenges included spaghetti bridge building, egg drop, electromagnetic fishing pole, and paper airplane competitions.

The National Engineering Week Ontario Steering Committee (NEWOSC) thanks all the volunteers. "The contributions of the many dedicated volunteers are the key to the huge success of Engineering Week in Ontario," says David Tsang, C.E.T., NEWOSC chair.



Minister of Culture and Francophone Affairs, Madelaine Meilleur, speaks with students before the 1st annual Design Challenge Construct event, a competition to construct a bridge using K'NEX. The March 1 event, which was open to grades 5 and 6 French language students in the private, public and Catholic school systems, marked the first time a competition of this type has been held entirely in French. Held at École Jeanne-Lajoie in Toronto, the event was launched with a speech by Ms. Meilleur encouraging students to consider engineering as a career choice. Says Mervat Rashwan, P.Eng., ing., organizer of the event, and chair of PEO's York Chapter, "Despite the snowstorm, which prevented some of the teams from arriving, the competition was a great success and an important step in bringing the message of engineering to Francophone students."

Qualified persons debate goes to next round

BY MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

PEO is continuing its efforts to have the Ontario environment ministry (MOE) explain its position on "qualified persons" under the *Brownfields Statute Law Amendment Act* (formerly Bill 56).

The legislation, which defines the qualifications of those permitted to certify records of site condition under the *Environmental Protection Act* for Brownfields site assessment and remediation work, excludes PEO's limited licence holders from the qualified persons list.

The engineering regulator recently sent a letter to Joan Andrew, MOE assistant deputy minister, to express its ongoing opposition to the exclusion.

PEO is convinced that the exclusion is based on the ministry's failure to understand the difference between a professional engineer licence (a licence to practise) and PEO's Certificate of Authorization, which is essentially an authorization for a business or commercial operation.

Although a limited licence holder cannot hold a Certificate of Authorization, the *Professional Engineers Act* gives limited licence holders the same rights and responsibilities of a full P.Eng., provided the holder confines his or her work to a defined area of practice.

The issue of liability insurance appears to have further clouded the environment ministry's understanding of the limited licence. Correspondence from the ministry indicates that officials there do not appear to understand that engineers are different from lawyers and doctors in that an engineer can practise as an employee, whereas doctors and lawyers operate independently.

As of April 12, there had been no reply from the environment ministry to PEO's latest letter. PEO will continue to monitor environment ministry action in the Brownfields area, especially as elements of the current regulation have an expiry date, after which MOE is slated to establish its own certification regime for qualified persons.

START II ignites new opportunities

By PAULA HABAS

Last year, PEO introduced online fee payment for P.Engs and EITs to its website, and a change-of-address form to make it easier for members to update their information profiles in PEO's database. In 2005, it is focusing on meeting the needs of its 38 chapters. Calendaring, email distribution and list management and new chapter website templates will be rolled out in phases during the year, as per approved recommendations of the Chapter Structure and Revitalization Team (START) II Report.

First off the mark is a dynamic calendar that will enable chapters to add detailed event information. Anyone with Internet service will be able to access the calendar online from three vantage points: by chapter, by region and by province, and search it by keyword. Currently, users view only a static webpage with limited information (name of event, date and chapter).

Roll-out of the calendar will be followed by enhanced email distribution and list management capabilities to improve chapter e-postmasters' communication with chapter members. Eventually, members should be able to manage their own mailing list profile to indicate their interests. When the email notification process is enabled, subscribers will receive automatic email notification of events corresponding to their interests.

A challenge for any provincial association is finding ways to engage the membership and assist volunteers in communicating over great distances. With the assistance of a panel of chapter webmasters from each of its five regions, PEO intends to roll out a dynamic new chapter website template. Although phase one will likely offer a "basic model," the back end, an application called PRISM, has many more modules that active chapter webmasters may wish to explore.

Phases two and three will exploit the technology with a "smart" application that gives members more online services. An online registration form from

within the calendar interface could be added to website functionality, for example. Farther down the road, an online payment option could be added to the event registration forms.

PEO is also soon scheduled to unfold its Expanded Public Information Model (EPIM), which will enable members of the public to go to the main website (www.peo.on.ca) and view information about PEO licence holders, just as the public can already access information on doctors through the website of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. When the EPIM is fully developed (see *Engineering Dimensions*, January/February 2005, p. 47), each PEO licence holder will be able to access, manage and update their own information, where appropriate.

AGM Hand Off



Outgoing PEO President George Comrie, P.Eng., (left) passes the gavel to incoming President Bob Goodings, P.Eng., at PEO's 2005 Annual General Meeting on April 16 in London. Besides the Annual Business Meeting, the event included a new Councillor orientation, a Chapter Leaders' Conference, and the Order of Honour investiture ceremony. Look for full coverage in the July/August 2005 issue of *Engineering Dimensions*.

Survey tests awareness of PEO enforcement function

By MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

Staff with PEO's regulatory compliance department are pleased with the response level to a recent online survey to assess members' awareness of the regulator's enforcement activities.

Steered by the Enforcement Committee, the seven-question survey was distributed to 25,000 members in early 2005. It drew 3500 replies (14 per cent overall response rate), and is considered an accurate sampling of the overall membership's general knowledge of the issues in question.

The survey coincided with PEO Council's recent approval of an updated enforcement policy that clarifies staff's internal policies and procedures, includ-

ing investigating cases of illicit use of the engineer title.

The survey sought to determine members' awareness of such initiatives as the PEO Enforcement Hotline for reporting enforcement-related matters, the development of brochures to explain the value of the P.Eng. licence and PEO's enforcement activities, the summaries of enforcement actions in *Gazette*, and news articles in *Engineering Dimensions*.

More than 75 per cent of respondents expressed satisfaction with PEO's level of enforcement efforts, and a significant number had adequate knowledge of proactive enforcement activities, such as reviews of *Yellow Pages* advertising and

website monitoring of companies advertising professional engineering services.

However, only half of the survey respondents appeared to recognize any difference between discipline and enforcement activities.

"The most disturbing aspect of the survey is the apparent lack of understanding of the distinction between enforcement and discipline, which is clearly an issue we need to continue to address in *Engineering Dimensions* and elsewhere," said Roger Barker, P.Eng., deputy registrar, regulatory compliance.

Enforcement deals primarily with investigating individuals and companies who may be practising professional engineering or offering engineering services to the public without the required licence or Certificate of Authorization, or using titles that may lead to the belief that they may practise professional engineering or offer engineering services. Actions to enforce the practice and title provisions of the *Professional Engineers Act* (PEA) may be prosecuted in the courts. Discipline refers to the investigation of complaints of negligence or professional conduct against licensed engineers, which after review by the PEO Complaints Committee may result in a formal hearing by a panel of the PEO Discipline Committee.

In 2001, PEO Council approved a three-part communications/education plan to raise awareness of the value of the P.Eng. licence and PEO's enforcement activities. Phase one was directed at PEO Council, members and staff. Phase two, scheduled to begin sometime in 2005, is educational outreach to human resources professionals, potential employers of engineers, and risk managers. Results of phases one and two will be evaluated before a third, public, phase of the plan is launched.

Results of the recent survey are a benchmark against which to evaluate the results of future surveys. The Enforcement Committee plans to repeat the survey in two years to determine whether there are any changes in mem-

Twelve Celebrated at Order of Honour



Twelve dedicated Ontario engineers were invested into PEO's Order of Honour on April 16 during a ceremony held in conjunction with PEO's Annual General Meeting. Argyrios Margaritis, P.Eng., (lower left) was invested as an Officer of the Order. New Members are (from top right) Clare Morris, P.Eng., Michael Mastronardi, P.Eng., Charles Kidd, P.Eng., Judith Dimitriou, P.Eng., David Richards, P.Eng., Anthony Cecutti, P.Eng., Carolyn Adams, P.Eng., John Turner, P.Eng., Denise Spadotto, P.Eng., Richard Weldon, P.Eng., and Nickolay Gurevich, P.Eng. (see inset photo).

bers' awareness of, and satisfaction with, PEO's enforcement activities.

Last year, PEO successfully prosecuted two cases. In the first, in the Superior Court of Justice, a Toronto man was ordered to cease passing himself off as a professional engineer. In the other, brought in Provincial Offenses Court, an Odessa man was convicted of providing engineering services to the public without being licensed. The man had submitted two drawings bearing a professional engineer's seal to the local building department, without the knowledge or consent of the engineer. He was fined \$6,250, including a Victim Surcharge.

In 2004, PEO also contacted more than 400 people and organizations in connection with possible violations of the PEA. The majority of these involved engineers licensed in other provinces who had moved

to Ontario. Other investigations were the result of complaints, and Internet or public record searches.

The Enforcement Committee would like to remind all professional engineers

that they are key to the success of PEO's enforcement activities, by informing PEO of instances where they suspect professional engineering is not being done under supervision of a professional engineer.

Foundation for Education Gold Medal



Stephen Jack, P.Eng., secretary, Ontario Professional Engineers Foundation for Education, presents the Professional Engineers Gold Medal to Lulu Bursztyn at McMaster University's annual Engineering Awards Night. The medal is awarded annually to the graduating engineering student who has earned the highest cumulative average in his or her undergraduate term. Bursztyn previously received the Chancellor's Gold Medal as the top-ranking student in scholarship, leadership and influence. The foundation is an independent, non-profit, charitable organization established by Professional Engineers Ontario. It provides scholarships to encourage engineering students to pursue careers in the profession. Donations to the foundation can be made through its website at www.penged.on.ca, or by using the tick-off box on PEO's invoice and including the donation with the annual licence fee.

Program steers professors on path to P.Eng.

BY MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

PEO is making steady progress in helping Ontario engineering professors stuck in the licence application process obtain a P.Eng. licence.

The program is motivated in part by Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) expectations that the “majority” of instructors at Ontario engineering faculties will be licensed engineers. The CEAB’s 2003 *Accreditation Criteria and Procedures Report* states that the deans of engineering faculties should be registered engineers in Canada, and that the overall competence of the teaching faculty depends in part on instructors being licensed as professional engineers.

mates that PEO may now have close to 200 applications for licensing from Ontario engineering professors and instructors. By implementing a series of changes from initial file setup upon application and working this information into the main licensing database, PEO has developed a system to track these educators and teaching assistants. However, educators who applied before 2004 might not be similarly identified.

To be part of this assistance program, Calderbank encourages faculty members, including teaching assistants, to contact their admissions representatives to ensure that they have been included in this system.

cated professors and Canadian graduates share a false impression that their teaching experience won’t be recognized by PEO. While the teaching of such basics as math or pure sciences would not be recognized, many courses involve the teaching of, and therefore the knowledge and application of, engineering principles in design. This experience is valid for consideration as engineering experience. Furthermore, much of the applied research that these professors and graduate students undertake can be considered to be the practice of engineering.”

Activities such as providing specialized consulting to industry, supervising applied research and development work, or teach-

“We’ve been meeting with many of these applicants with a view to having them present their material in ways that better match our experience requirements.”

Noreen Calderbank, P.Eng., PEO manager of prelicensing programs

The campaign may also assist Ontario engineering faculties to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of internationally trained engineering graduates. A recently released report of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE) suggests that internationally trained engineering graduates can help fill a shortage in senior-level teaching positions. Up to 90 per cent of Canadian engineering faculties reported teaching vacancies in 2002. As well, it’s expected that more than half the full-time and associate professors now teaching engineering at Canadian universities will be retiring over the next 10 years.

Tracking system

Noreen Calderbank, P.Eng., PEO manager of prelicensing programs, has developed a number of initiatives to ease the application and licensing process for engineering faculty members. She esti-

Since the fall of 2003, Calderbank has been visiting individual engineering faculties throughout Ontario to make recommendations on how unlicensed engineering professors can get their licence applications back on track.

In 2003, she spoke to engineering faculty members at McMaster University, The University of Western Ontario and Ryerson University. Last year, she visited the University of Toronto and the University of Windsor. In January of this year, she discussed the program with engineering professors and instructors at the Royal Military College and Queen’s University, as well as at the University of Ottawa.

“We discovered that a lot of engineering professors aren’t licensed in Ontario, because the vast majority of new hires are also new to Canada,” Calderbank said. “In many cases, both internationally edu-

ing upper-level engineering science courses may also be partially acceptable as suitable experience.

“Part of the problem is that some of these applicants present their experience credentials in unusual ways that might not initially be identified as having the proper relevance,” Calderbank said. “We’ve been meeting with many of these applicants with a view to having them present their material in ways that better match our experience requirements.”

She also notes some unlicensed engineering professors, many of whom have been teaching for many years, may take exception to having to take additional courses or write examinations to qualify for an Ontario P.Eng. Nonetheless, PEO continues to look for ways to encourage international engineering graduates to proceed with their licence applications.

As the administrator of the Professional Engineers Act, PEO cannot cut corners in its licensing criteria.

Calderbank said an additional problem can arise in cases in which applicants have an undergraduate degree in something other than engineering. "In some cases, these professors might have a degree in mathematics or one of the pure sciences, and they have since gone on to obtain a master's degree or even a PhD in a field of engineering," Calderbank said. "Our evaluations in terms of experience and academic equivalence focus on the broad base that we expect to be provided in a bachelor of engineering undergraduate program."

Under such a scenario, PEO's Academic Requirements Committee (ARC) would review an applicant's education and experience and assign specific exams to overcome what are seen as deficiencies in the applicant's overall credentials.

No cutting corners

As the administrator of the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO cannot cut corners in its licensing criteria, says Calderbank. But special circumstances can be taken into consideration. As part of the push to encourage more engineering instructors to obtain the licence, for example, former PEO Councillor Royden Fraser, P.Eng., a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Waterloo, along with ARC member Barna Szabados, P.Eng., and other committee members, are developing an approach now known as the "eminent practitioners" system, which would be a variation on the traditional evaluation process aimed at senior engineering practitioners, who may appear to lack the regular qualifications—on paper—but who otherwise possess notable or exemplary practice or teaching achievements.

In addition to the new assessment method, PEO is considering a "parallel

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CORRECTION TO 2004 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Please note the following corrections to the 2004 financial statements as issued in the March/April issue of *Engineering Dimensions*.

1. STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2004	2003
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND MARKETABLE SECURITIES	\$3,080,223	\$(2,271,228)

2. NOTE 5. CAPITAL ASSETS

	2004		2003	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Furniture, fixtures and microfilm equipment	\$1,283,056	\$1,073,484	\$209,572	\$223,316
Computer equipment	2,228,071	1,649,224	578,847	591,563
Leasehold improvements	147,017	140,197	6,820	21,818
	\$3,658,144	\$2,862,905	\$795,239	\$836,697

We apologize for any inconvenience these errors may have caused.

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review” process that, in some cases, would allow it to consider an applicant’s experience, while simultaneously reviewing academic achievements and grading any examinations that have been assigned.

In the case of Ryerson University’s Jun Cao, P.Eng., the parallel review process proved to be a blessing.

Cao, an assistant professor at Ryerson’s department of mechanical and industrial engineering, required a decision on his P.Eng. licence as part of his application for tenure at the university. The ARC initially recommended that Cao write up to five exams to make up for shortcomings in his experience and academic requirements, but it was later determined that Cao’s experience and the knowledge gained through his teaching circumstances justified an exemption from these exams. In addition, the normal evaluation period was compressed into a shorter timeframe by assessing Cao’s academic history, experience and Professional Practice Exam (PPE) results in parallel, rather than separating the three processes.

“This saved time significantly so that an end could be officially brought to my application by October 2004,” Cao told *Engineering Dimensions*. “Otherwise, using the normal procedure, the Professional Practice Exam result would have become available in late October, then the experience check would take another two months or even longer—depending on the speediness of the graders’ response—and the final approval would be given by PEO towards the end of 2004, which would have adversely affected my tenure application.”

Cao, who joined Ryerson’s engineering faculty in 2000, applied for his P.Eng. licence in late April 2003. In late October 2004, he received a letter from PEO informing him that he had fulfilled all the requirements for licensing.

Although he was disappointed with the ARC’s initial assessment results, Cao praised PEO’s overall handling of the unique circumstances of his application. “Without their special consideration, I would have had trouble obtaining tenure at Ryerson,” he said.

The association has received with regret notification of the deaths of the following members (as of March 2005):

ABEL, James Joseph
Harrowsmith, ON

ACHESON, John David
Toronto, ON

ALLAN, Donald Sutherland
Toronto, ON

ANDERS, Julian Stanislaw
Burlington, ON

BAILEY, George William
Bolton, ON

BAIN, Steven
Vienna, VA (U.S.)

BALMER, Philip D.
Islington, ON

BENT, Raymond Myron
Grimsby, ON

BERRY, Douglas Andrew
North York, ON

BIMAN, Aapoolcoyuz
Hamilton, ON

BOBBS, William Peter
Rexdale, ON

BROWNING, Charles Earl
London, ON

BUECH, Werner
Pierrefonds, QC

CARSTENS, Reinhard
Bolton, ON

CASTILLO, Salvador Ricafranca
Mississauga, ON

CHAPPELL, John Joseph
Cyffylliog, Clwyd (U.K.)

COVERT, John Reginald George
Burlington, ON

CRUDEN, James McNab
Brigus, NL

DIENESCH, Michael
Farmington Hills, MI (U.S.)

DONAHUE, Paul Richard
Naples, FL (U.S.)

DOUGLAS, Andrew Bruce
Stoney Creek, ON

DRESLER, Robert Amos
Hamilton, ON

GAPSKI, Roman B.
Nepean, ON

GARLAND, George Albert
Oakwood, ON

GATOWSKI, Stefan
Pittsburgh, PA (U.S.)

GRIFFIN, Gordon Randolph
Toronto, ON

HAWKINS, Charles Eugene
Mississauga, ON

HEASLIP, Eric E.G.
Chelmsford, ON

JONES, Norman Alan
Thornhill, ON

KENNARD, William
Mississauga, ON

KENNEDY, Dorwin Elmore
Ottawa, ON

KIEFHABER, Harry George
Burlington, ON

LEWICKI, Boris
Willowdale, ON

LUBOJANSKI, Ferdinand
Stoney Creek, ON

MacDONALD, Frank Joseph
Etobicoke, ON

McCONNELL, Bruce Alexander
Kitchener, ON

MIDDLETON, Ronald Stanley
Brantford, ON

MILLER, Thomas Robert
Mississauga, ON

MOFFAT, Andrew John
Hamilton, ON

MONTEITH, George Kitchener
Toronto, ON

MORROW, Robert Stairs
Etobicoke, ON

MUTAFYA, Kavaya Elon Simeon
Stittsville, ON

NARUI, Toshiyuki
Kanata, ON

REDFERN, Donald Blaine
Toronto, ON

RUSSELL, Douglas Fergus
Toronto, ON

SHARMA, Janardan
Richmond Hill, ON

SILLIMAN, Donald W.
Sarnia, ON

ST. LAURENT, Yves Auguste
St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC

SUHANIC, George
Toronto, ON

THOMAS, Allan Trevor
Penetanguishene, ON

TUFF, Edmund Moores
Picton, ON

TWIGG, Michael Stuart
Kingston, ON

WADE, Richard Philip
Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight (U.K.)

WILLAN, Gordon E.
Burlington, ON

WILLIAMS, Harold
Oakville, ON

WOODMANSEY, Anthony B.
Toronto, ON

YEO, Richard Mansfield
Vineland, ON