

## Engineering for Ontario Day continues

By DAVID SMITH

By playing host to its second Engineering for Ontario Day reception, PEO provided MPPs a break from their legislative duties with the goal of having them become better informed and more supportive of the role of the association and engineering as a self-regulating profession.

The April 16 reception was held in the Sutton Place Hotel's Stop 33 Ballroom and provided the opportunity for participants in PEO's Government Liaison Program, PEO Council members and staff to interact with their local government representatives and discuss with them the common priorities and interests of all PEO members. Representatives from such stakeholder organizations as the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, the Ontario Building Officials Association, the Ontario Association of Architects, and the Chinese Professionals Association of Canada, also attended.

PEO Vice President and newly elected Waterloo City Councillor Diane Freeman, P.Eng., served as master of ceremonies for the evening. Vice President Freeman stressed to the guests—a list that included 10 ministers and 19 other MPPs from all major political parties—the importance of PEO's

role in protecting the public interest for 85 years under the *Professional Engineers Act*.

President Patrick J. Quinn, P.Eng., described such events as Engineering for Ontario Day as “opening some doors” for the association and called on engineers to participate as best they can in the political arena. He then summarized the major issues that have been in the forefront of engineers' agendas from a public interest point of view, and on which PEO is continuing to work with all members of the legislature. One such issue is the amendments to the *Ontario Building Code* that came into effect in January 2006. He commented that PEO has spent a great deal of effort to educate MPPs on the drawbacks of these amendments and that the association is working towards a resolution. A second issue is the Brownfields legislation that overrides the *Professional Engineers Act* in defining who is considered a “qualified person” in dealing with Brownfield properties. The final and most high profile issue is the new *Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act* that created Ontario's first fairness commissioner. President Quinn remarked that PEO is proud to be among only a few regulators who have consistently supported this initiative since day one.

This comment was echoed by the evening's special keynote speaker, the Honourable Mike Colle, minister of citizenship and immigration.

“Of all the provincial [regulatory] bodies, PEO was one of the most proactive,” Colle agreed during his address.

He observed that engineers tend to



Hon. Mike Colle, minister of citizenship and immigration (left), presents PEO President Pat Quinn, P.Eng., with a certificate of recognition for the association's work with internationally trained engineers.

bear the brunt of criticism when things go wrong, not only in mechanical and technological areas, but also in terms of having internationally educated engineers driving taxis or making pizza, adding that it appears PEO is taking the blame for what is essentially a labour market problem. He later said that in contrast to the reluctance of some of the other senior regulated professions, PEO has listened to the provincial government in advance of the preparation of the *Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act*—and he was impressed.

The minister concluded his remarks by presenting PEO a framed certificate, which President Quinn accepted on behalf of the association, honouring PEO's leadership in recognizing the skills and expertise of internationally trained engineers.

Prior to the reception, PEO CEO/Registrar Kim Allen, P.Eng., President-elect Walter Bilanski, PhD, P.Eng., Past President Robert Goodings, P.Eng., and incoming President-elect David Adams, P.Eng., were introduced in the Ontario legislature by Phil McNeely, P.Eng., MPP Ottawa-Orléans. The PEO



Left to right: Ted Arnott, MPP Waterloo-Wellington, PEO Vice President Diane Freeman, P.Eng., PEO President Pat Quinn, P.Eng., Attorney General Michael Bryant, LLB, and Elizabeth Witmer, MPP Kitchener-Waterloo.



Left to right: Phil McNeely, P.Eng., MPP Ottawa-Orléans, Bas Balkissoon, MPP Scarborough-Rouge River, Santosh Gupta, PhD, P.Eng., Scarborough Chapter vice chair, Rane Mahalingam, P.Eng., Scarborough Chapter chair, and David Zimmer, MPP Willowdale and parliamentary assistant to the attorney general.



Left to right: Attorney General Michael Bryant, LLB, PEO Deputy Registrar, Standards and Regulations, Johnny Zuccon, P.Eng., and Daniel J. Young, MEng, P.Eng., president and chair, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers.

contingent was also greeted in the gallery on the floor of the legislature by more than 20 MPPs, some of whom, such as Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care George Smither-

man, Brad Duguid, MPP Scarborough Centre, and Bill Murdoch, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, were unable to attend the evening reception.

PEO's inaugural Engineering for Ontario Day event in 2005 was attended by more than 170 people, including 45 MPPs and their advisors, and featured an address by Attorney General Michael Bryant.



Hon. Donna Cansfield, minister of transportation (left) with PEO Vice President Diane Freeman, P.Eng.



Alourdes Sully, P.Eng., of the North Toronto Chapter, with Norm Sterling, P.Eng., MPP Lanark-Carleton.

## Who was there?

### Ministers

- Hon. Rick Bartolucci, minister of northern development and mines
- Hon. Chris Bentley, minister of training, colleges and universities
- Hon. Donna Cansfield, minister of transportation
- Hon. Mary Anne Chambers, minister of children and youth services
- Hon. Mike Colle, minister of citizenship and immigration
- Hon. Monte Kwinter, minister of community safety and correctional services
- Hon. Steve Peters, minister of labour
- Hon. Gerry Phillips, minister of government services
- Hon. Harinder Takhar, minister of small business and entrepreneurship

### Liberal MPPs

- Bas Balkissoon, MPP Scarborough-Rouge River
- Vic Dhillon, MPP Brampton West-Mississauga
- Kuldip Kular, MPP Bramalea-Gore-Malton-Springdale
- Dave Levac, MPP Brant
- Deborah Matthews, MPP London North Centre

Phil McNeely, P.Eng., MPP Ottawa-Orléans

- John Milloy, MPP Kitchener Centre
- Richard Patten, MPP Ottawa Centre
- Mario Racco, MPP Thornhill
- Khalil Ramal, MPP London-Fanshawe
- Lou Rinaldi, MPP Northumberland
- David Zimmer, MPP Willowdale

### Progressive Conservative MPPs

- Ted Arnott, MPP Waterloo-Wellington
- Toby Barrett, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant
- Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Victoria-Brock
- Norm Sterling, P.Eng., MPP Lanark-Carleton
- Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey
- Elizabeth Witmer, MPP Kitchener-Waterloo

### NDP MPPs

- Gilles Bisson, MPP Timmins-James Bay
- Paul Ferreira, MPP York South-Weston
- Michael Prue, MPP Beaches-East York

### Independent MPPs

- Tim Peterson, MPP Mississauga South