

Ontario Professional Engineers Awards celebrates engineering achievement

by Anita Direnfeld

Fifty-six years have passed since PEO Council awarded its first Gold Medal to C.D. Howe, P.Eng., to recognize his outstanding leadership and contributions to the Canadian war effort during the Second World War. More recently, Gold Medals were awarded in 1997 to engineer, medical doctor and astronaut Robert Thirsk, P.Eng., in 1999 to Donald Walker, P.Eng., president and CEO of Magna International, in 2001 to Robert Gillespie, P.Eng., chairman and CEO of General Electric Canada Inc., in 2002 to Arthur Johns, P.Eng., chairman, Morrison Hershfield Group Inc., and in 2003 to H.D. (Douglas) Barber, P.Eng., retired president and CEO, Gennum Corporation.



In June 2001, PEO Council committed to work with the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (the Society) to manage jointly what had been PEO's professional awards program. The Ontario Professional Engineers Awards gala is now held annually in November.

PEO's other awards program, the Order of Honour service awards is presented annually during the PEO Annual General Meeting in April.

The Ontario Professional Engineers Awards program comprises three awards.

The **Gold Medal** recognizes conscientious commitment to public service, technical excellence and outstanding professional leadership. It is the program's premier award.

The **Engineering Medal** recognizes professional engineers who have improved quality of life through the ingenious application of their engineering skills. Engineering Medals are awarded in several categories:

- ◆ **Engineering Excellence**—recognizing overall excellence in the practice of engineering, where the innovative application of engineering principles has solved a unique problem or produced above-average results;
- ◆ **Research and Development**—for developing new and useful applications, or improving engineering knowledge or applied science, or discovering or extending any of the engineering or natural sciences;
- ◆ **Management**—for the management and direction of above average engineering projects or highly successful enterprises. Recipients are PEO members who have contributed significantly to achieving excellence in engineering, primarily through their management skills;
- ◆ **Entrepreneurship**—for applying new technologies that have enabled new companies

to get started, and/or assisted established companies to grow in new directions. Those who earn this award have demonstrated the initiative, energy and spirit it takes to seek out, promote and foster new ideas; and

- ◆ **Young Engineer**—for outstanding engineers under the age of 35, who have made exceptional achievements in their chosen fields. This award is given to those who have demonstrated excellence not only in their engineering careers, but also in community and professional participation.

The **Citizenship Award** recognizes community service in two categories, for:

- ◆ activities for society outside of an engineering context; and/or
- ◆ activities for social betterment within an engineering context (e.g. extensive voluntary involvement with standards setting groups).

Call for nominations

The Ontario Professional Engineers Awards program is administered by an Awards Committee made up of volunteers from PEO and from the Society. The nomination deadline for the 2004 Ontario Professional Engineers Awards is March 31, 2004. ✦

Anita Direnfeld is PEO's manager, programs and events.

Know any professional engineers who deserve a medal?

Nominate them for a 2004 Ontario Professional Engineers Award.



The Ontario Professional Engineers Awards program recognizes excellence across a broad range of engineering endeavours, including innovation, professional leadership and entrepreneurship, as well as significant contributions to society in general.



Ensure that professional engineers who have done outstanding work get the recognition they deserve. Everything needed can be found on PEO's website—including descriptions of the Awards, their categories, nomination criteria, a description of the points system, terms of reference and a nomination form.



<http://www.peo.on.ca>

If you have any questions or need an awards information kit, please call Anita Direnfeld at 416-224-1100, ext. 450, or 800-339-3716, ext. 450.

The deadline for nomination is March 31, 2004.