



June 11,  
2021

# PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM GLP WEEKLY

Volume 15,  
Issue 19



## OVER 60 PARTICIPATE IN QUARTERLY PEO CHAPTER GLP REPS CALL

The PEO Quarterly Government Liaison Program (GLP) Reps call was held on June 3. The meeting was chaired by GLC Vice Chair and the GLP Engagement Chair **Jeffrey Lee**, P.Eng., (top row, third from the left). For more on this story, see page 8.

Through the *Professional Engineers Act*, PEO governs over 90,000 licence and certificate holders, and regulates and advances engineering practice in Ontario to protect the public interest. Professional engineering safeguards life, health, property, economic interests, the public welfare and the environment.

Past issues are available on the PEO Government Liaison Program (GLP) website at <https://www.peo.on.ca/index.php/about-peo/glp-weekly-newsletter>

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday of the week prior to publication. The next issue will be published on June 18, 2021.

## TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

1. PEO TO HOST L2021 VIRTUAL ORDER OF HONOUR GALA LIVE ON JUNE 19
2. PEO BRAMPTON CHAPTER HOSTS MEETING WITH NDP MPP DEPUTY LEADER

## PEO GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM WORKS

GLP Weekly interviews PEO President-elect **Nick Colucci**, P.Eng., (see pages 3 and 4) who shares his views on the value of the Government Liaison Program.

PEO Brampton Chapter hosted an event with an MPP (see page 7). It's important for Chapters to continue hosting events with MPPs to maintain relationships.

## EVENTS WITH MPPS



### PEO YORK CHAPTER'S AWARD WINNERS CONGRATULATED BY MPP

Daisy Wai, MPP (Richmond Hill), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility (top row, left) was guest speaker at PEO York Chapter's Engineering Project of the Year Ceremony on April 21.

RICHMOND HILL - Daisy Wai, MPP (Richmond Hill), has sent a letter of congratulations to PEO York Chapter for their 2020 Engineering Project of the Year Award Winners.

As previously reported in the GLP Weekly on May 7, PEO York Chapter held their Engineering Project of the Year Ceremony on April 21.

MPP Wai said: "This award is a recognition of your admirable efforts and hard work, and is a way for our community to honour your dedication and contribution towards engineering projects across York Region..."

"...Your innovation and creativity is also a great source of inspiration for aspiring engineers across the York Region and for Ontario's next generation of innovative thinkers...you serve as an inspiration to others to join the engineering field and to contribute to projects that improve the way our communities function. Thank you for your incredible contribution."

# PEO PRESIDENT-ELECT SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE GOVERNMENT LIAISON PROGRAM

PEO President-elect **Nick Colucci**, P.Eng., has been an active PEO volunteer for over two decades. He has served as a PEO East Central and Eastern Region Councillor and has been on several standing committees and task forces. President-elect Colucci professionally works as the Director of Infrastructure Services with the Town of Erin.

### 1. What is your experience dealing with the political process?

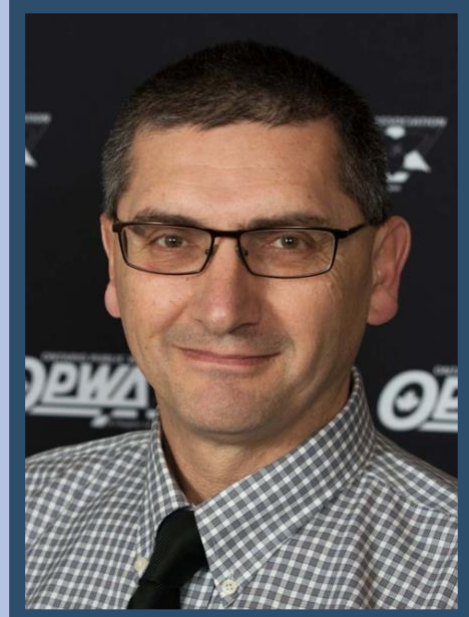
I work for a municipality, the Town of Erin in Wellington County and previously in the Townships of Brock in Durham region and Tay in Simcoe County. In two of those communities, I had the pleasure of working directly with the now Infrastructure Minister **Laurie Scott**, MPP (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock) who represents the riding where I currently live. I also had the pleasure of working with PEO Past President **Marisa Sterling**, P.Eng., when she ran for the Ontario Legislature a decade ago.

As well, in my job I have a lot of interaction with both our local MPP and the MP. Recently, we have been looking at a large infrastructure project for wastewater treatment plants. We have had a lot of meetings with both levels of government dealing with funding and approval.

### 2. Why did you get interested in government liaison activities at PEO?

I was very interested in the Government Liaison Program (GLP) from day one when it was created in 2005. My background of volunteering for PEO was within the Chapter. When you are at the local level, on the Chapter level, you interact with MPPs organizing events and inviting them to annual meetings and licence certificate ceremonies.

It was during my first term on Council that the province changed the *Building Code Act* to require engineers to write tests, which directly conflicted with PEO's jurisdiction. At the time, PEO Council challenged the legislation in court and was successful in protecting PEO's jurisdiction. One of the reasons why we created the GLP was so that we could interact and build relations with the government to avoid these situations in the future.



PEO President-elect **Nick Colucci**, P.Eng.

Story continued on page 4



## GLP WEEKLY INTERVIEW

*Story continued from page 3*

### 3. What do you think the biggest challenges are of the GLP?

I think the biggest challenge is maintaining a connection with this government and future governments. We have found out in the past, connections with staff alone may not be enough. We want the government to consult with us on engineering regulation issues before they get introduced. My take is we underestimate the value of relationships with individual MPPs. The biggest challenge right now is Covid-19 as everything is virtual. In some ways, it's easier to connect, but in other ways it is harder because of the lack of a personal one-on-one connection.

### 4. What do you think the biggest opportunities are for the GLP?

When Council developed the plan for the GLP, we had as a specific objective to tell MPPs that "PEO has unique knowledge and expertise and it is in the best interest of government to consult with it before considering any new policy directions that may have the potential to impact the regulation of the practice of professional engineering."

Furthermore, inviting MPPs to Chapter events and having them listen to young engineers getting their licences helps to foster a genuine connection with MPPs. Take your MPP to Work Day is also a good opportunity for MPPs to experience the work of different engineering companies.



PEO President-elect **Nick Colucci**, P.Eng., (middle row, centre) also sits on the Board of Directors for the Ontario Public Works Association.

## PEO AWARDS NEWS

### PEO TO HOST VIRTUAL ORDER OF HONOUR GALA LIVE ON JUNE 19

The PEO Order of Honour virtual awards ceremony for 2020 and 2021 will be held on June 19 at 8 PM. See link [here](#). They will recognize PEO volunteers, including engineers and others, who have made valuable contributions to the profession. Honourees include current PEO Councillor **Scott Schelske** P.Eng., former President **Bob Dony**, P.Eng. and former Councillors **Paul Ballantyne**, P.Eng. and **Roydon Fraser**, P.Eng.

#### COMPANION



2020 - Paul Ballantyne, P.Eng.

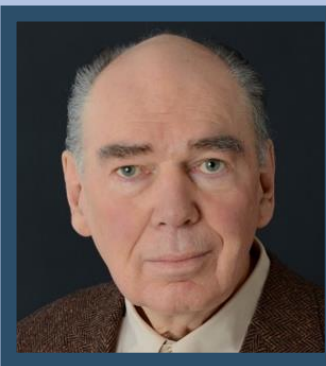


2021 – Bob Dony, P.Eng.

#### OFFICER



2020 - Stephen Hong Tsui P.Eng.



2020 - L. Brian Ross, P.Eng.



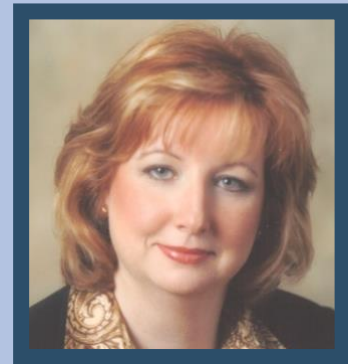
2020 - Edward Kai-Jee Poon, P.Eng.



2021 - Roydon Fraser, P.Eng.



2021 - Sean P. McCann, P.Eng.



2021 - Helen Wojcinski,,P.Eng.

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## PEO AWARDS NEWS

Story continued from page 5

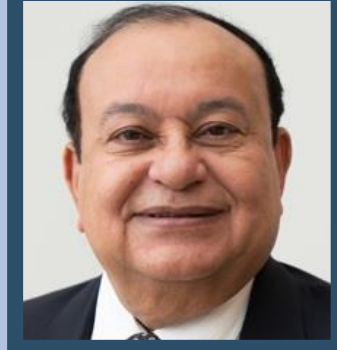
### MEMBER



2020 - Karen Chan, P.Eng.



2020 - Brett Chmiel, P.Eng.



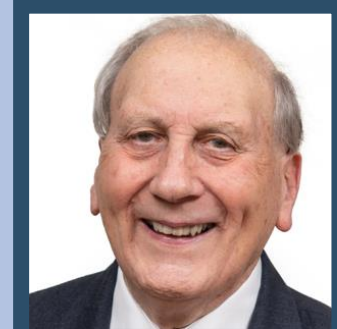
2020 - Waguieh H. ElMaraghy, P.Eng.



2020 – John Hazel, P.Eng.



2020 – David Kiguel, P.Eng.



2020 – Jim McConnach, P.Eng.



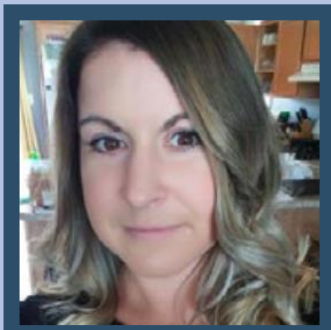
2020 – Scott Schelske, P.Eng.



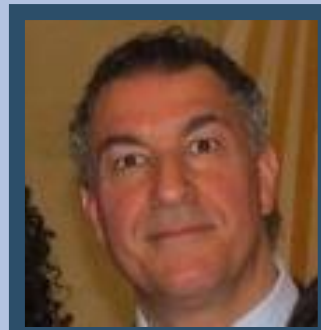
2020 – Barry Westhead, P.Eng.



2021 - Annabelle Lee, P.Eng.



2021 – Stacey McGuire, P.Eng.



2021 – Pasquale (Pat) Scanga, P.Eng.



## EVENTS WITH MPPS

### PEO BRAMPTON CHAPTER HOSTS MEETING WITH NDP DEPUTY LEADER



PEO Brampton Chapter Chair and Chapter GLP Chair **Ravinder Panesar**, P.Eng., (second row, left) and other PEO representatives met virtually with NDP Deputy Leader **Sara Singh**, MPP (Brampton Centre) on June 2.

BRAMPTON - PEO Brampton Chapter hosted a virtual meeting with NDP Deputy Leader **Sara Singh**, MPP (Brampton Centre) on June 2. MPP Singh has been a long-time supporter of PEO activities and spoke at the PEO GLP Academy and Congress at PEO headquarters in 2019.

The Brampton Chapter Chair and Chapter GLP Chair **Ravinder Panesar**, P.Eng., provided a summary of the meeting. Mr. Panesar said that MPP Singh “highlighted the issues concerning the region of Peel. She laid emphasis on following Covid protection norms and getting vaccinated.”

It is important for PEO Chapters to use online events and platforms to stay connected with their MPPs.



NDP Deputy Leader **Sara Singh**, MPP (Brampton Centre) (centre) with **Sheref Sabaway**, MPP (PC-Mississauga-Erin Mills) (second from left) at the 2019 East Central and West Central PEO GLP Academy and Congress at PEO headquarters.

## OVER 60 PARTICIPATE IN QUARTERLY PEO CHAPTER GLP REPS CALL



PEO Government Liaison Program (GLP) Reps met for their quarterly call on June 3.

The PEO Quarterly Government Liaison Program (GLP) Reps call was held on June 3. The meeting was chaired by GLC Vice Chair and the GLP Engagement Chair **Jeffrey Lee**, P.Eng.

Over 60 Chairs and representatives participated as well as PEO Councillor **Lorne Cutler**, P.Eng., former PEO President and Whitestone mayor **George Comrie**, P.Eng., former PEO Councillor **Warren Turnbull**, P.Eng., former Kincardine mayor **Glenn Sutton**, P.Eng., GLC Chair **Vicki Hilborn**, P.Eng., PEO Manager, Government Liaison Programs, **Jeannette Chau**, P.Eng., and PEO Government Relations Consultant **Howard Brown**.

Discussed at the meeting was the GLP Representative certification status updates, including the online quiz that was sent out this week with a goal of ensuring that all representatives have a good basic understanding of the program.

Representatives were reminded that the Legislature has adjourned so the MPPs are in their constituencies for the summer and are more available.

Also discussed was how Take Your MPP to Work days are opportunities for MPPs to see the work professional engineers do in the public interest, and to learn more about the role of PEO.

A virtual Summer GLP Representative Meet & Greet will take place at the end of July as a chance for representatives to meet with one another and to share what is happening in individual Chapters.

The next quarterly GLP call will take place on October 5.



## GLP TRIVIA CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS to PEO Willowdale-Thornhill Chapter Chair **Nanda Lwin**, P.Eng., for being the first to submit the correct answer to:

**Question:** Which MPP participated in PEO's Annual General Meeting on May 15?

**Answer:** Attorney General **Doug Downey**, MPP (Barrie- Springwater- Oro-Medonte)

**This week's question:** Which PEO Councillor was interviewed for the last issue of GLP Weekly?

**Join the Contest:** Test your knowledge of the *GLP Weekly* with our weekly trivia question! Send your answers to **Emily Binkley** at [emily@brown-cohen.com](mailto:emily@brown-cohen.com) by Monday, June 14.

*You may only win once in a four-week span.*



**Nanda Lwin**, P.Eng., is the winner of last week's GLP Trivia Contest.

## UPCOMING ONLINE MPP EVENTS

**Every Friday—Virtual Coffee Hour** with **Teresa Armstrong**, MPP (London-Fanshawe), NDP Children and Youth Critic from 3 to 4 PM. To register, visit: <https://www.teresaarmstrong.com/coffeehour>

**Every Saturday—Coffee with your MPP** hosted by **Faisal Hassan**, MPP (York-South Weston), NDP Critic for Youth Opportunities from 3 to 4 PM. To tune in live, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/FaisalHassanNDP/>

**Sunday, June 13 – Building a Stronger Economy Together Townhall** with Green Party Leader **Mike Schreiner**, MPP (Guelph) at 1 PM. To register, visit: <https://gpo.ca/reimagining-ontario/#register>

**Monday, June 28 – An evening with Monte McNaughton**, MPP (Lambton-Kent-Middlesex) from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$500. Please note that PEO cannot cover the cost of this event. To register, visit: <https://ontariopc.ca/events/an-evening-with-monte-mcnaughton/>

If you have any comments, additions or questions about *The GLP Weekly* please do not hesitate to call or email:  
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