

June 2025 – PEO WT Chapter Publication



May and June have been exciting months for the Willowdale-Thornhill (WT) chapter. The chapter hosted events during each month and awarded a scholarship in June.

Following are the details of the WT chapter events hosted:

- **May 2025** Engineering seminar: Artificial Intelligence and Engineering: Threat or Opportunity?
- **June 2025** Engineering STEM Promotional Event: Camp Engies.
- **June 2025** STEM Award: WT Scholarship.

May 2025 Engineering Seminar: Artificial Intelligence and Engineering - Threat or Opportunity

- Held on May 29, 2025, at the Thornhill Community Centre – Fireside Lounge.
- Presenter was Paul Kohn, Head of Operations Canada at Carl Zeiss.
- Paul drew from his 25+ years of leadership experience across the automotive, manufacturing, and tech sectors to showcase how AI is moving from theory to tangible applications.
- The presentation explored the fast-growing impact of AI on the engineering profession. Backed by the projection from PwC that AI could add up to \$15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030 - much of it through engineering innovation - Paul's message resonated strongly: AI isn't coming; it's already here!
- The audience gained firsthand insights into how AI is transforming engineering processes, with real-world examples that sparked both concern and inspiration.

Topics Covered:

- Applications of AI in supply chain optimization and predictive maintenance.
- Emerging technologies like digital twins, generative design, and autonomous systems.
- The shifting roles and expectations for engineers in an AI-driven workplace.
- Critical skills and mindsets needed to stay relevant in the age of intelligent automation.
- Leadership strategies for navigating and embracing AI-driven change.

May 2025 Event Credits

- The event was organized by the WT Programs Committee Chair.
- Credits and thanks to Nabil Ghariani, P.Eng., PTOE, M.S.C.E., M.Ed. for successfully hosting this popular seminar.

Seminar snapshots –May 2025



June 2025 Engineering STEM Promotional Event: Camp Engies

- Camp Engies is a two-day retreat that introduces girls in grades 5-8 to engineering through workshops, speakers, and fun activities led by Canadian women engineers.
- Since its inception, Camp Engies has inspired about 1700 girls from diverse backgrounds and continues this journey.
- The WT chapter has supported Camp Engies since its inception 8 years ago by sponsoring members' daughters to attend this event.

- In 2025, the WT chapter sponsored 11 members' daughters to attend the camp.
- WT Education Committee Chair, Karen Penaranda, P.Eng., continues volunteering as a counselor for the past 4 years to showcase WT chapter support promoting engineering profession.

Camp Engies snapshot – June 2025



Camp Engies Attractions:

- Camp Engies offered a packed-schedule with electrical, mechanical, chemical, environmental, and mining engineering-based activities.
- The participating girls built few amazing engineering products as seen below:



Mechanical catapults



Electrical circuits with LEDs



Mechanical claws

June 2025 STEM Award: PEO WT Chapter Scholarship

- PEO's Regional Chapter Council (RCC) supports with **\$1,500** scholarship for every chapter to award one grade-12 student attending a high-school (within the respective chapter's bounds), who will pursue an engineering degree at an accredited university.

Note: The scholarship format was revised to award one grand recipient for 2025 and onwards.

- The scholarship's is based on objectives to:
 - Foster interest in engineering among high school students
 - Build connections between PEO and future Professional Engineers
 - Provide financial assistance to students pursuing accredited engineering programs
 - Promote a sense of belonging to a respected profession that values high standards, competence, and responsibility
 - Highlight the importance of the P.Eng. license and encourage students to pursue licensure as part of their career development.
- Special thanks to **Dr. Weidong Pei**, Ward 12 TDSB Trustee of Willowdale, who helped us promote the scholarship to our local schools.
 - The WT chapter received eight (8) applications from highly qualified students from the regional boundaries of the chapter.
- The scholarship of \$1500 was won in a close contest by **Ms. Sonia Tang of Newtonbrook Secondary High School**.



Sonia is the co-lead of the Robotics Club for Newtonbrook Secondary High School, and she has played an instrumental role in expanding Newtonbrook's robotics and engineering programs. She has designed and led beginner-friendly programming challenges with hands-on activities that made robotics approachable and exciting for students of all experience levels. Her contributions directly enabled the school to secure critical funding for competition fees, updated robotics components, and the tools needed to build these robots. She was also the school swim team captain for four years and contributed to the team success by winning 10 city championship medals and 13 regional championship medals.

- The evaluation for the scholarship was conducted by Karen Penaranda, P.Eng. (WTPEO – Education Committee Chair) and supported by Alan Lam, P. Eng., Bo Dang, P. Eng and Rony Mathew, P. Eng.

The WTPEO Chapter sincerely thanks all the students who had applied for the scholarship and demonstrated excellent capabilities to pursue engineering in the future.

Upcoming WT chapter summer events in July 2025

- **Licensing Professional Ceremony (LPC):**

Date: Friday July 11, 2025 - 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM (EST).

Location: Thornhill Club - 7994 Yonge St, Thornhill, ON L4J 1W3.

This event will honour 50 New P.Eng. License recipients and their presenters.

- **Annual Summer BBQ - 2025:**

Date & Time: Sunday 13 July 2025, from 11:30 - 16:30 (EST).

Location: Earl Bales Park - picnic area # 4 (address: 4169 Bathurst Street (intersection Sheppard Ave W.), Toronto, ON M3H 3P7).



WT Chapter Publication Credits:

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2. Man Lu, EIT.
3. Rony Mathew, P.Eng. – WT Chapter, Publications Committee Chair.

For enquiries or feedback on this Publication, please connect with the WT Chapter Publications Committee at Publication@wtpeo.org.